A SENSE OF UNITY

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And Moshe gathered the entire assembly of Bnei Yisrael and said to them: ‘These are the things that God commanded, to do them.’’ Shemos 35:1 regarding lighting a fire on Shabbos is actually a hint of warning against allowing the fire of strife and discord which can rage among people. The Torah is coming to warn the people to guard themselves specifically on Shabbos, when they are idle from work, and not to fight among each other on this holy day. Here, Moshe instructed the people to use the opportunity of having the Shabbos and “to gather” and develop a sense of unity. Now this goal of gathering together was not something that Moshe himself was able to do, but it was something which Moshe had to encourage and thereby guide the people to appreciate and aim to achieve. Moshe spoke and instructed the people, but it was up to them to follow his encouragement and develop mutual respect and love for each other.

Rashi explains that Moshe did this on the morrow of Yom Kippur. On Yom Kippur itself the nation experienced a mood of peace and tranquility among themselves and with each other. The next day, there was a danger that they might revert back to their old ways of falling prey to strife and petty arguments. This is why Moshe took the opportunity to draw from the spirit of Yom Kippur and to have the people extend this sense of togetherness further.

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SHABBOS IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

said the Holy One, blessed be He, to Moshe: “Gather together large groups and expound before them in public the laws of Shabbos.” - Yalkut Shimonai

Why does the Torah emphasize the concept of Shabbos to such a degree? We see that the observance of Shabbos is prominently accentuated, as we find (Shemos 20:8): “Remember the Shabbos”, and (Devarim 5:12): “For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day it shall be holy for you, a day of complete rest for God.” Shemos 35:2 And Moshe instructed the people to use the opportunity of having the Shabbos and “to gather” and develop a sense of unity.

The Dubno Maggid illustrates with a parable. A wealthy man had several sons who were ill. He hired a special doctor to stay with them in the house and to attend to their health needs. The doctor was well-liked by the father, as his efforts were successful. This situation continued intact as long as the sons kept to the guidelines which the doctor prescribed.

Once, the sons contracted a dangerous disease, and the doctor administered certain medicines to cure their symptoms. When the father noticed that his sons were suffering, and that they refused to take the medicines that the doctor had given, he became upset with the doctor for not coming up with an acceptable solution to his sons’ illness. The doctor was quick to defend himself. “Why are you angry with me?
It is your sons who are rejecting the very potion which will cure them!” The father explained his frustration to the doctor. “That is precisely my problem! You see, if there were no doctor, and if there were no cure, then I would unfortunately have to resign myself to accepting my sons’ suffering. However, I see that there is a capable doctor, and I see that there is a cure! This is why I am especially hurt as I watch the situation deteriorate!”

God has given us wonderful festivals, with the Shabbos itself as the cornerstone of the holy days of the year. These days and weeks have within their power to protect us and cure us, individually and collectively, from the many maladies of the soul to which we might be exposed during the weekdays.

Let us learn this lesson, and intensify our appreciation of the Shabbos and the festivals, and let us increase our involvement and participation in the mitzvos of these days to the fullest.

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A PROPER POSITION

Why did Moshe need to proclaim the appointment of Betzalel to his position before the Jewish people? The emphasis of the Torah in Moshe’s specifically calling the attention of the nation and announcing to them to take note of Betzalel indicates that there was something special about this particular event.

When Moshe first informed the Jewish people that Betzalel was to be the architect of the Mishkan, they were disturbed that Moshe seemed to be keeping all honorable positions within his own family. Here, too, according to the Midrash, Betzalel was the grandson of his sister, Miriam, and Chur, her husband. It is for this reason that Moshe made a point of clearly explaining that the appointment was directly from Hashem.

When Moshe was originally told to construct the Mishkan, he was under the impression that he personally was to erect the entire structure by himself. It is for this reason that there, too, in Hashem’s informing Moshe of Betzalel’s participation, we find this emphasis utilized. In 31:2 we find that Hashem told Moshe, “See, I have called by name Betzalel the son of Uri, the son of Chur.” Hashem declared that the righteous Chur had died in attempting to stop the people from building the Golden Calf, and it was only fitting that his grandson Betzalel should be instrumental in building the Mishkan, which served as an atonement for it.

In both situations, then, we find that the emphasis in introducing Betzalel is used in order to clarify to the listeners that their impressions of Betzalel’s not being fit were incorrect, and that Betzalel was indeed proper for his role.

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THE MISHKAN AS A CORRECTION FOR THE GOLDEN CALF

The campaign to collect materials for the Mishkan resulted in a tremendous response and a generous outpouring of giving on the part of the nation. The volume of goods collected had quickly matched and was about to exceed the full amount necessary to build the Mishkan, and Moshe was alerted that the goal had been achieved. Moshe issued a command that no one should bring any more donations to the Mishkan, and the mission was completed.

We might wonder why Moshe determined that people should cease their offerings just because the materials were fully supplied. The halacha certainly allows people to donate goods to the Mishkan at any time. Items that are needed are used as they are, and any surplus is generally sold and the cash value is kept as funds for יישוב ערים and for the upkeep and maintenance of the facility. Why did Moshe not encourage further donations and simply have people realize that it would be appreciated and used as part of this fund?

Rabbi Yehoshua Rokeach, the Rebbe of Belz, explains that this particular collection to build the Mishkan was not simply a communal effort to construct a place of worship. The command to build the Mishkan was a direct response to the debacle of the Golden Calf, and it was designed specifically as an atonement for it. Every effort and each donation represented a gesture of remorse, restitution and resolve on the part of a people who were wholly ba’alei teshuva. This is a delicate situation, and
it requires a sensitive balance to determine the precise formula to achieve. A ba’al teshuva must be asked to correct his past, but to demand too much is oppressive and counterproductive. A true gadol must be consulted to instruct a ba’al teshuva and to guide him along his way, and this is why the collectors approached Moshe when they noticed that the necessary materials had been collected.

Moshe, in fact, told the nation that they had done their part and that they could rest assured that their efforts were adequate. This stage of teshuva had been successful, as evidenced by this process being brought to a close.

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**STUDYING THE MISHKAN’S DETAILS**

Rabbeinu Bachya notes that the Torah elaborates in its description of the details and intricate measurements of the Mishkan. We find lists of all its hooks, rings and bars, as well as the precise length, width and height of the building materials and coverings. Although at the moment we do not have a Mishkan, the study of these portions is a great mitzvah, and the reward for doing so reaches to the very heavens. This is Torah, and we must be devoted to its study. The Gemara (Menachos 110a) tells us that the study of the portions of the offerings is also quite essential for us. We are assured that anyone who pursues the study of the Torah of the offerings diligently is given credit as if he actually brought these offerings upon the Altar. This is also true regarding the study of the building of the Mishkan and the Beis HaMikdash. As we strive to understand every detail listed here, and as we delve into the simple and esoteric symbolisms which are indicated behind each detail, we show ourselves to be worthy of great reward for our efforts.

It is in reference to this study that David HaMelech writes (Tehillim 48:13,14):

“Walk about Tzion and encircle it, count its towers. Mark well in your hearts her ramparts, raise up her palaces, that you may recount it to succeeding generations.” The encircling of Tzion allegorically refers to the intense pursuit of its study, both in terms of superficial review of its laws and physical layout as well as in-depth research of the symbolic and esoteric concepts which it represents. In the merit of our interest and our involvement, we hope to have the Divine Presence return, and that we will soon see a complete fulfillment of the verse (Tehillim 48:15): “For this is God, our God, forever and ever; He will guide us beyond death.”

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**Halachic Corner**

Zmanim for Parashas Vayakhel 5779

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We learn in Mishlei (10:8): “Someone who is wise of heart will seize mitzvos, but one of foolish lips will become weary.” This can be explained with a parable.

In the ledger of a small retail business, an entry may represent either a profit or a loss of just a few dollars. But for a large wholesaler, recording small profits or gains might be a waste of time and energy. The entries in a wholesaler’s ledgers represent hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of dollars either lost or gained. Any knowledgeable businessman who studied such figures would understand their significance. The owner of a huge corporation, however, uses a different standard. In his ledger, each notation represents net gains or losses in the hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of dollars. Nothing less has much significance to him.

The same is true of Hashem’s ledger - our holy Torah. Each “entry” - any of the 613 mitzvos - represents something of priceless value, something that no amount of money can buy. A wise person understands this, so he seizes every opportunity to perform a mitzvah. A foolish person, however, does not fathom the greatness of Torah and the inestimable value of its mitzvos. He approaches mitzvos with laziness and allows countless opportunities to pass him by.

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Halachic Corner is dedicated by Benyomin Freeman in memory of his father, Gedalia Freeman, whose dedication to quality education for his family began their eighteen-year relationship with HTC. May his memory be for a blessing.

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Questions for Thought and Study

1. How do we know that one who keeps Shabbos will have a special “glow”?
   See Baal HaTurim 35:1

2. Why do we mention that Bnei Yisrael departed from Moshe’s presence after he spoke to them regarding donations to the Mishkan?
   See Ohr HaChaim 35:20

3. From where did the ""הנה גבעה"" - the shosham stones and the stones to fill [the Ephod] - come? Who brought them to the desert for the Mishkan?
   See Targum Yonasan 25:37 based on Yoma 75a

4. Where was the gathering place for all Bnei Yisrael to bring materials for the Mishkan?
   See Ramban 36:3

5. Why is the נדיב (Ark) mentioned three times in the section regarding the נדיב?
   See Ohr HaChaim 37:5

6. Of which material were the נדיב and אב (the laver and its base) made? Why was Moshe hesitant to use this material?
   See Ramban 38:8

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This Week Likutei Peshatim is Sponsored

- Hebrew Theological College’s Gourmet Torah at Shaltotts Bistro will take place this Thursday, March 7, 12:35-1:15. Rabbi Yaakov Sussman will speak on “The Mishkan’s Shechina: A Lesson for Shabbos, Purim and Our Daily Lives”. Complimentary appetizers as well as a discounted menu available for shirur participants. Men and women invited to attend. For more info: Rabbi Joshua Zissok at 847-982-2500 or zissok@htc.edu.

- Rabbi Zvi Zimmerman, will be speaking at the Edith Tessler Rosh Chodesh Project for Women, Thursday, March 7th, at 1:30 PM, at Shaltotts Bistro, 7016 Carpenter Rd., Skokie. Blitstein Institute presents this stimulating and thought-provoking lecture to women of the community. Coffee, tea and treats will be served. Come before the lecture and receive 10% off your lunch order.

- Join us for the “not to be missed” Blitstein Institute’s only fundraiser for the year. “The Annual Winter Event” will take place Motzaei Shabbos, March 9th, at 8:30 PM, at the home of Gershon and Beth Rassman, 6039 North Bernard Avenue, Chicago.

- This incredible Blitstein evening will have a world-renowned master illusionist, a presentation from Koval Distillery on how this kosher company began in Chicago, samples from Chicago women pastry and party entrepreneurs, wine tasting with Shalom, and personal Chicago winter photographic portraits. A gorgeous buffet, with new offerings catered by Shaltotts Bistro, will be a highlight of the evening. Please RSVP to Mrs. Mann 773-973-0241.

- Reserve your complimentary tickets for the Fasman Yeshiva High School student-produced Holocaust film, “Names Not Numbers”, a movie in the making. Tuesday, March 26, 7-30 PM, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. Call 847-982-2500 x1121 or email fhys@htc.edu to reserve your ticket. Sponsorships are available and greatly appreciated.

- Yeshivas Hakayitz 2019 enrollment is open for campers who will be entering 6th through 11th grades. Dates: July 2nd - July 29th. For application and all related camp information, please visit yhk.htc.edu. To reach Rabbi Yosef Polstein call 847-982-2500 ext. 1125, or yhk@htc.edu.


- Park Plaza Senior Living Community enriches the quality of life for our residents through daily shirurim, live music, lectures, also has beautiful facilities that offer: daily, weekly and long term or for your simcha. For more information, visit our website at www.park-plaza.org or contact Adina at 773-465-6700 or at adina@park-plaza.org.

- TAG Chicago is here to help! Offering filtering solutions for smart phones, tablets and computers. We offer free volunteer assistance to keep your devices safe. Visit tagchicago.org, call 847-920-8245 or email Help@TAGChicago.org to book your appointment. 8150 Central Park, Ste 1805. 1:05 PM, 30 minute shiur; 1:35 Mincha; 1:47, 5 minute dvar Torah. Shiurim led by: Monday- HTC- Rabbi Pinchas Zusis; Wednesday- TBD; Thursday- Chabad- Rabbi Avrohom Kagan. Info: 312-984-1041.

- Reserve your ticket. Sponsorships are available and greatly appreciated.

- Please RSVP to Mrs. Mann 773-973-0241.

- Questions for Thought and Study

1. Why do we mention that Bnei Yisrael departed from Moshe’s presence after he spoke to them regarding donations to the Mishkan?
2. From where did the ""הנה גבעה"" - the shosham stones and the stones to fill [the Ephod] - come? Who brought them to the desert for the Mishkan?
3. Where was the gathering place for all Bnei Yisrael to bring materials for the Mishkan?
4. Why is the נדיב (Ark) mentioned three times in the section regarding the נדיב?
5. Of which material were the נדיב and אב (the laver and its base) made? Why was Moshe hesitant to use this material?
Registration for 2019 Skokie Youth Baseball is open! Skokie Youth is a Shomer Shabbos league for children between Nursery through 9th grade. You do not have to be a Skokie resident to play! The season goes from April through June. Register online at skokieyouth.org. Registration closes March 24th. Questions? Email us at Info@skokieyouth.org.

CPF is back for the 11th year! Founded in 2009, the Chicago Purim Fund is a united effort of Rabbonim and community lay leaders committed to playing an active role in helping the silently struggling members of our community. Having distributed on Purim over $1.8 million in the past ten years, the Purim Fund has already made a significant impact. Visit www.cpfund.org to donate.

Congregation Pulei Zedek is pleased to announce that their annual Melave Malkah will be held Motzaei Shabbos, March 9, 2019, at 8:30 PM, in the Social Hall of the shul at 2801 W. Albion. Come and bring your friends for an enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Simcha Link is excited and grateful for two engagements! Mazal tov to Chavi Cherrick and Yaakov Pruzensky and to their families on their engagement. Also, mazal tov to Shira Meystel and Naftali Blonder and to their families on their engagement. May HaKadosh Baruch Hu grant them all birkas kol tuv.

Simcha Link is a service of Chicago Chessed Fund. Please feel free to contact one of our shadchanim: Mrs. Shelly Adler 847-679-0496 or at simchalink.org; Mrs. Freyda Leah Falik getwigged@gmail.com; Mrs. Estie Karman aaronkarman@gmail.com; Rabbi Tzdek Katz tzodekkatz@gmail.com; Mrs. Sora Chana Krupenia sora@chicago.org; Mrs. Rikviz Levitin shadchan@gmail@gmail.com 773-942-4638; Mrs. Faith Shabat yayafaith@aol.com text 773-600-0350; Mrs. Nina Siegal ninasiel@gmail.net at.net 773-465-6399.

Spring Sports Registration is open at the BHICJ! Offerings include: Boys – Baseball, T-Ball, and Basketball leagues. Girls – 3 on 3 Basketball and Gymnastics, Enrichment Classes: Lil Dribblers, Ninja Classes, Adult Tot Sports, Total Sports, and more! Check out Adult Pickle Ball! Go to www.jccchicago.org for more information or email wisinger@jccchicago.org.

Thank you British Swim School for partnering with the Bernard Horwich JCC! The quality of instruction has been outstanding and the feedback has been equally positive! Group and private swim lessons are offered both co-ed and single gendered. British Swim School will also be the provider of our lessons for Apachi Rogers Park Day Camp! For more information go to www.bsschicago.com or call 708-613-5179.

The JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival is back in 2019 (March 1-17) with 43 beautiful films being shown at theaters across the city and suburbs, including ArchLight and Cinemark Theaters, the Music Box Theatre and special screenings at the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Times, tickets and info about special events can be found at jccfilmfest.org.

This Wednesday, March 6th! Jewish men and women of all backgrounds, from across Chicagoland, will come together for “CommUNITY Learning” – presented Torah study and Jewish unity. 17 organizations are joining together to host this kiddush Hashem! 8-9 PM at Bernard Weinger JCC in Northbrook. Study material provided. Bring a chavrusa or we can match you up! Let us know you’ll attend – jcommunitylearning@gmail.com or 773-656-4244. Don’t miss this rare opportunity!

This Sunday, March 3rd, is JDBY-YTT’s Annual Event at the Crowne Plaza O’Hare. Come and experience JDBY-YTT’s spirit of innovation in chumash at an interactive multimedia exhibition. Buffet reception and exhibition walk-through. The Event will be from 6:30-9:00 PM. Complimentary self-parking will be available. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Congratulations to the Madaraigos Midwest WMBL. High School Girls Basketball League for a wonderful season. Congrats to the Dimensions Kosher Catering Team for winning the championship! Thank you to all of our girls team Coaches and Sponsors this year: Chicago Jewish Home, Dimensions Kosher Catering, Eved, Marci’s Boot Camp, Mattress King and Ovitsky Vision Care.

Join Madaraigos Midwest for their 10th Anniversary Dinner on March 27th, 2019, at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling, showing recognition to our founders: Mr. Shua Ray and Mr. Nachy Shabat. Special Rabbinic Visionary award to Rabbi Chaim Twerski. To register or place an ad please go to https://madaraigosmidwest.org/dinner.

DisCOVER why we COVER! All ladies are invited to a special two-part learning series, “Tzniut Unveiled”, with Mrs. Lynn Kraft. Part Two: “Between Burkas and Bikinis: AdDRESSing the Dimensions Kosher Catering Team for winning the championship! Thank you to all of our girls team Coaches and Sponsors this year: Chicago Jewish Home, Dimensions Kosher Catering, Eved, Marci’s Boot Camp, Mattress King and Ovitsky Vision Care.

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The Walder Science Center invites you to hear presentations from the research of this year’s talented high school winners of the International Jerusalem Science Contest. The contestants competed through a series of 7 lectures, exams, and an in-depth research project in Molecular Biology. Join us Monday evening, March 4th, in the social hall of Adas Yeshurun—3050 Touhy Avenue. Complimentary sushi buffet at 6:30, followed by keynote presentations from 7:00-8:00 PM.
• The Solomon and Dora Einhorn Glenbrook Mikvah would like to thank Rabbi Aaron Kraft and the Fellows of the YU Torah Mitzion Kollel for taking a tour of our facility this week. The Kollel has been learning hilchos mikvah and got to witness the halachic and practical intricacies of what it takes to build a state-of-the-art mikvah first hand! We also uncapped the boros for the first time in a year to inspect the mei geshomim (rainwater) inside.

• This Shabbos marks the 5th yahrtzeit of Rabbi Daniel Schanowitz, Regional Dir., Lubavitch Chabad of IL. Special kiddush & guest speaker: Bais Menachem- Rabbi Mendy Chitrik. Askhenazi Chief Rabbi, Turkey; Bnei Ruven- Rabbi Efraim Mintz, Rohr Jewish Learning Inst. Int’l; F.R.E.E.- Rabbi Laime Wilhelm, Rosh Yeshiva, Tomchei Tmimim, Morristown; Chabad of Northbrook- Rabbi Shalom Lubin, Cong. Shaya Ahavas Torah, Parsippany; Chabad Israeli Center- Rabbi Sheuer Askhenazi, Central Syn., Rishon Litzion.

• Yachad is looking forward to its Biennial Hartman Family Shabbaton at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton, Downers Grove. March 8-10. Keynotes by Dr. Rose Novick and Rabbi Yosef Shagalow, programming for families, siblings and Yachad members and day camp for kids. Beautiful venue, gourmet food (under cRc supervision), kosher entertainment and much more. Registration closes Sunday, March 3. Contact cohene@ou.org with inquiries. #BecauseEveryoneBelongs

• Fulfill the mitzvah of matanot l’evyonim through The ARK. Your matanot l’evyonim donation will go directly to local Jews in need on Purim day, in accordance with halacha. The ARK will be open 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 21 (Purim day). Donations can be made in person at either office, 6450 N. California (Chicago) or 3100 Dunde, Ste. 802 (Northbrook), online at www.arkchicago.org/donate/purim, or via phone at 773-681-8980.

• It is with great pride that the Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov High School administration and staff wish a mazal tov to Atara Bachrach, a senior in our school, for being recognized as the Volunteer of the Year Award by Libenu. We are so proud to have our student involved in providing a much-needed service for our community. Mazal tov Atara!

• Eli Cohen wishes Marmel Accounting, LLC hatzlacha in offering tax return preparation for the upcoming tax season for individuals and small businesses.

• To all the individuals and organizations who assisted with the levaya, and shiva of our mother and grandmother, Hilda R. Rapoport, מיה, especially coordinating and preparing meals and facilitating minyanim -- our sincere thanks and gratitude. We were comforted and inspired by the warmth, caring and selfless efforts of the Skokie and West Rogers Park communities. Tizku L’mitzvot. - Gitelle Rapoport Szylowiski, Ashira Ozarowski, and Chaya Schwartz, and extended families.

• By Annette Cooper, Ilene & Phil Finkel, Rachel Leah & Hershel Belkin, and families, in memory of our husband, father, zaidie, and great-zaidie, Seymour Cooper, מיה, on the occasion of his 15th yahrtzeit on 12 Adar. He was a role model for us all. May his memory be for a blessing. (Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie)

• In loving memory of our dear Uncle Yidel, Yehuda Leib ben Shlomo, מיה, on the occasion of his 22nd yahrtzeit on 24 Adar Beis. May his memory be a blessing. - The Russel family.

• By David & Pamela Blatt in loving memory of her mother, Sylvia Tantillo, מיה, on the occasion of her twenty-first yahrtzeit on 25 Adar.

• By Elaine Stein and family in loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Gertrude Berson, מיה, on the occasion of her yahrtzeit on 25 Adar. (Adas Yeshurun)

• By Phyllis & Steve Brody in loving memory of his mother, Rose Brody, מיה, on the occasion of her yahrtzeit on 29 Adar.

• In loving memory of our dear son and brother, David Kandelman, מיה, on his 8th yahrtzeit on Aleph Adar II. We miss him every day. - Barbara & Robert Kandelman, Joey & Stephanie Kandelman, Mark Kandelman, and Benji & Elana Kandelman.

• Likutei Peshatim is endowed by Les & Ethel Sutker in loving memory of Max and Mary Sutker and Louis and Lillian Klein, מיה. May their memory be for a blessing.

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Answers:
1. The placement of the commandment of Shabbos at the beginning of this week’s parasha follows the end of last week’s parasha, which describes how Moshe’s face shone after he descended from Har Sinai. This suggests that one who keeps Shabbos will have a special glow as well.

2. This was to show that all Bnei Yisrael left as one, determined and eager to gather the necessary donations.

3. According to the Gemara the princes mentioned in the parasha gathered these unique stones from Fishon and brought them to the desert for each day with the the princes gathered them to bring them to the Mishkan. The clouds went to Gan Eden to gather oil and spices for the special incense.

4. On the first day of gathering, everything was brought to Moshe’s tent. Then all the craftsmen and took the materials from Moshe. On the following days, Moshe instructed Bnei Yisrael to take the material directly to the craftsmen. When too much material was gathered, the craftsmen informed Moshe that there was no longer a need for donations.

5. There were actually three Arks. Two were made of gold and were the inner and outer layers. The middle layer was made of acacia wood.

6. The laver and its base were made completely from the mirrors that the women donated, the ones that they used to adorn themselves. The women did this to turn their husbands away from the evil inclination to sin. Moshe was concerned about using something totally connected to the yetzer hara, until Hashem told him that this was appropriate.

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