



# Akivaton



Snif This Week is at 4:35 PM!!! | פורים שמח!!!!

## Shabbat Zmanim LMS

- Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/  
Maariv.....5:50 pm
- Shacharit.....7:15/9/9:15 am
- Snif.....4:35 pm
- Mincha.....5:35 pm
- Maariv.....6:50 pm
- Shabbat Ends.....6:55 pm
- Megillah.....7:15/10 pm

## Upcoming Events

- o March 10 @8:30 pm Bnei Akiva tisch at the Ben-gal's house for all high schoolers.
- o March 11 NCSY/Bnei Akiva Purim Party after Shabbat at Kohelet Yeshiva High School.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to inspire and empower Jewish Youth with a deep commitment to the Jewish people, the Land of Israel, and the Torah.



Madrichim and Chanichim at the Tu'Bshvat event

## Dvar Torah

*By Gavriel Chasky*

Purim seems to be a relatively straight forward story. We hear the same story every year from 3rd grade until adulthood and it can be hard to take a step back and think about the characters in the story.

In the middle of the megillah Achashverosh locks himself in his chamber. The law at the time said that one who enters the chamber takes their life into their own hands. Esther is prepared to risk talking to the king. Achashverosh famously points the scepter at her and says, you may have anything you would like up to half the kingdom! This seems like the best time to say to the king, I am Jewish and there was genocide decreed against my people! Instead, she does not seize the moment. But why? Esther has the perfect opportunity to tell Achashverosh that he should not kill the Jews, but she doesn't tell him because Achashverosh had already given his seal of approval to Haman and telling the king that she is a Jew would not help.



## Bnei Akiva Spotlight: The Spero Family

### Q: How long has your family been involved in Bnei Akiva?

A. Locally, we have been involved since our eldest started going to Moshava at the age of 10 and also when snif began here for him. I do not remember exactly when that was, but Moshava for Netanel was in 2002. For me, I was involved in BA in Cleveland since I was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade as a chanich, madrich, rosh chevrayeh aleph, rosh chevrayeh bet and ultimately mazkir galil for the Cleveland. I also want to Camp Stone for over 10 years.

### Q: What do you like most about Bnei Akiva?

A. We have always felt very strongly about the idea of Torah Va Avodah and religious Zionism. That having this hashkafa, in a religious and fun place to engage intellectually and socially for us and our kids is great.

### Q: How many words of תורה do you know by heart?

I believe that I still know all of them or almost all of them.

Let's look at Haman for a second now. Haman gives 3 reasons as to why mass genocide should be executed upon the Jews. Reason number one, they are scattered across the Persian empire. Reason two, they have their own laws. Reason three, they do not keep the king's laws. The first two points are seemingly not compelling reasons for killing the Jews, so why would he mention them? These three ideas combined, however, make a very good argument against the Jews. When Haman says that they are scattered and that they have their own laws, he is saying that they are not like the peoples of the other 127 provinces but rather they are an assimilated group of people that do not have land. On top of that they do not keep the king's laws. All in all his argument proves fruitful and he is able to cast a lot for when the Jews would be exterminated.

Another story mentioned in the megillah is that there was a banquet that lasted for half a year. Achashverosh, during one of the parties, took Vashti out of her chamber and asked her to display her beauty in front of all the men there. There are many that will say that Achashverosh was crazy and drunk, but maybe there is a different answer to be given. Perhaps the reason Achashverosh threw parties was to keep the leaders of the 127 provinces he ruled over loyal to him. He displayed Vashti to show his glorious kingdom off to all of his loyal and governors and princes. The governors seeing the glory of Persia on display at this party would surely stay loyal.

Once you take a second look at something, you realize that there is more to it than meets the eye. Esther may have seemed to miss her opportunity when she didn't quickly reveal that she was Jewish, but her plan eventually unfolded successfully. Haman brought what sounded like unreasonable arguments, but eventually succeeded in getting his decree passed. Achashverosh seemed merely ostentatious when he threw his grand parties, but he had his reasons for doing so. The Megillah teaches us that the obvious reaction may not always be the right one. God's plans may not always make sense to us at first but they eventually come to fruition.

## Contact us

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