

The Pardes Center for Jewish Educators presents

# An Interactive PARSHA EXPERIENCE



**Parsha:** Terumah

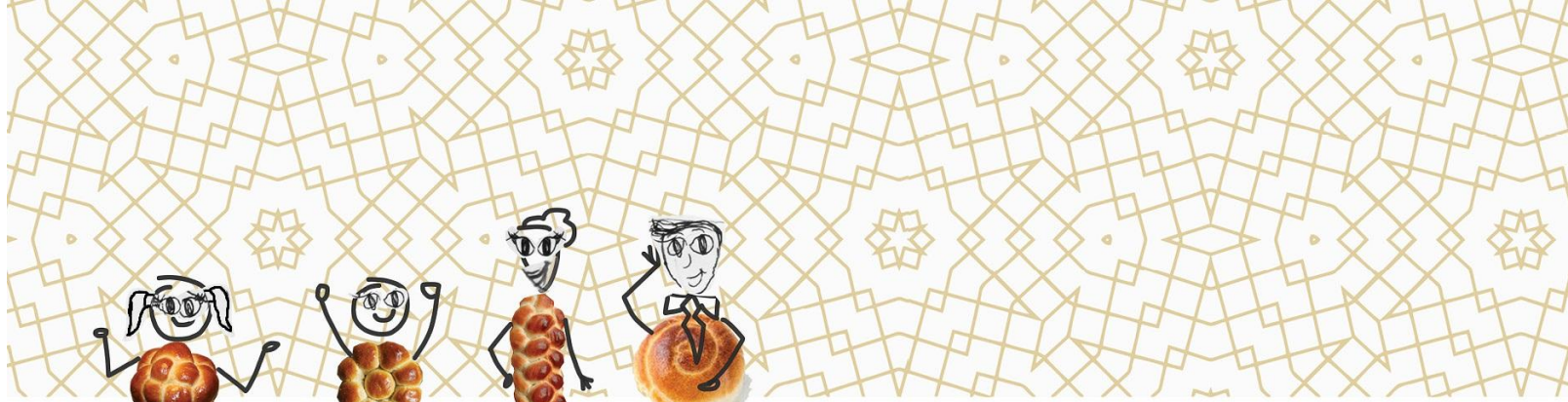
**Title:** Giving from Our Hearts

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## The Parsha at First Glance

### Spotlight on the Parsha:

At the end of last week's *parsha*, Moshe went up to the heavens to learn from God for 40 days and nights. So at the beginning of this week's *parsha*, *Parshat Terumah*, while Moshe and God are together, God instructs Moshe to collect donations - gifts - from *Bnei Yisrael* so that they can build a *mishkan* - a



tabernacle. The mishkan will be a very special place where the *kohanim*, the priests from the tribe of Levi, will connect to God, on behalf of all of the people, by offering different kinds of sacrifices.

God asks Moshe to collect the following specialty items from Bnei Yisrael: “gold, silver, and copper; blue, purple, and red yarns, fine linen, and goats’ hair; reddened ram skins, and orange-dyed skins, and acacia wood; oil for the lamp, spices for the anointing oil and for the aromatic incense; lapis lazuli and other stones for setting in the *ephod* and the breastplate.” Basically, these are all kinds of precious metals, fancy colorful fabrics, and gorgeous jewels that will be used to decorate and beautify the mishkan.

### Zooming In:

The words that God uses when He tells Moshe to start collecting donations so that Bnei Yisrael can build the mishkan are the following:

Tell Bnei Yisrael to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for Me from every person <b>whose heart so moves him.</b>	דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְיִקְחוּ-לִי תְרוּמָה: מֵאֵת כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּנוּ לִבּוֹ תִקְחוּ אֶת-תְּרוּמָתִי.
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### Questions for Consideration:

- What do you think God means when He says that Moshe should accept gifts for the mishkan from people whose “hearts move them”? What does it sound like it means for a heart to be “moved”?
- Why do you think God only wants gifts for the mishkan from people who really want to give them?



## The Parsha Through Another Lens

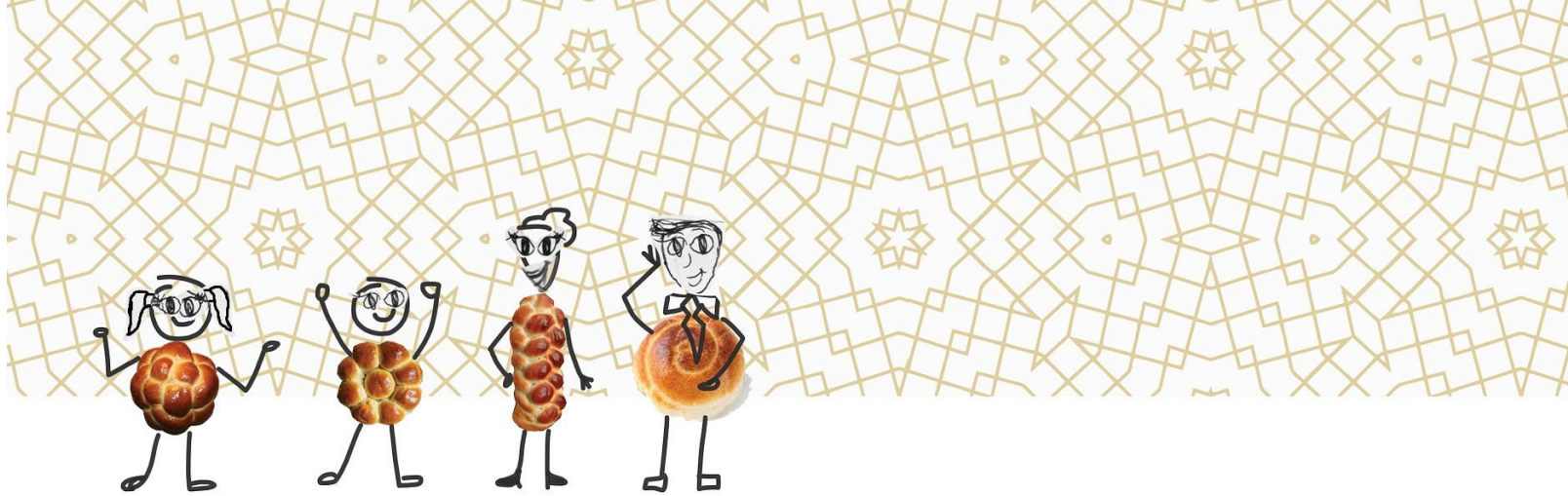
### Game On: Play Dreidel in February

Even though the holiday of Hanukkah ended about two months ago, pull out your dreidels and some jelly beans/M&Ms/raisins/chocolate chips, and play a few rounds of the game. To remind you, these are the rules:

- Each player starts with an equal number of candy pieces. At the beginning of each round, all players put one candy piece into the center “pot.” In addition, every time the pot is empty or has only one candy piece left, each player should put one in the pot.
- In turn, each player should spin the dreidel. Depending on which letter they land on, they give or get candy pieces from the pot.
  - If the player lands on a נ (nun), they do nothing - they neither get nor give.
  - If the player lands on a ג (gimmel), they get all of the candy pieces that are in the pot.
  - If the player lands on a ה (heh), they get half of the candy pieces that are in the pot. (If there is an odd number of pieces, they get half plus one.)
  - If the player lands on a ש (shin) or פ (peh) - in Israel the dreidels have פ and outside of Israel they have ש - the player puts two candy pieces into the pot.

Focus on the experience of landing on פ/ש.

Discuss: how did it feel to have to put your candy pieces into the pot? In other words, what does it feel like when you are forced to give something away that you did not choose to give? Does that feel good in your heart? Why or why not?



Next, try to come up with a board game, card game, a story you know, or other such experience in which one gives something away only when they want to do so.

Discuss: how does that feel - to give something away when you are choosing to give it away? Does that feel good in your heart? Why or why not?

### Word of the Week:

As we learned earlier, the way the Torah says “you shall accept gifts for Me from every person **whose heart so moves him**” is:

”מֵאֵת כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּנוּ לְבוֹ תִקְחוּ אֶת-תְּרוּמָתִי.”

The root of the word יִדְבְּנוּ is נ.ד.ב. A modern Hebrew word from that same root is להתנדב, which means to volunteer.

Discuss: What does it mean to volunteer? What do people usually volunteer (their time, their energy, their talents, etc.)? Have you ever volunteered? If so, how did that feel in your heart?

It seems that God, in preparing Bnei Yisrael to build the mishkan, understands that the giving of מתנדבים - that of volunteers, people who give freely, based on their own generosity - is the very best kind of giving! This is a lesson God teaches Moshe, and in our reading of Parshat Terumah, teaches us too.

## Shabbat Shalom!