



# HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

BY REBBETZIN DR. ADINA  
SHMIDMAN  
DIRECTOR,  
OU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



# From Half a Shekel to Shared Responsibility

Shabbat Shekalim introduces one of the Torah's most deceptively simple mitzvot: everyone gives the same half-shekel. Not more if you are wealthy, not less if you are struggling. The Mishkan, and later the Beit HaMikdash, is sustained not by a few benefactors, but by collective participation. Sacred space is built through shared responsibility.

The Haftorah from Melachim II, chapter 12 brings that principle to life. King Yoash ascends the throne at a fragile moment of renewal. The Beit HaMikdash still stands, but years of neglect have taken their toll. Funds are collected - obligatory gifts, vowed offerings, voluntary donations, yet nothing is repaired. That gap - between contribution and impact - lies at the heart of the story.

## Ohel Leah Synagogue, Hong Kong Deputy Rabbinical Couple

A warm and welcoming community is looking for a young couple (full-time positions) who are enthusiastic, friendly, and open to the adventure of living in Hong Kong. Each spouse will hold a separate position, contributing uniquely to the community.



For full details please scan the QR Code.

Please send your resume to:  
[applications@ohelleah.org](mailto:applications@ohelleah.org)

The half-shekel establishes equality, but the Haftorah presses further. Equality alone does not sustain sacred space. When Yoash places a collection box in the Beit Hamikdash, responsibility shifts. The people give not only because they must, but because they understand that the future of the Mikdash depends on them.

This is unity at its strongest: not uniformity, but shared ownership. No one assumes the work belongs to someone else. The Beit HaMikdash is sustained by "us." The funds are not used for ornamentation, but for beams and walls - the work that keeps the Mikdash standing. Repairing what is broken is not secondary to avodah; it is avodah.

Shabbat Shekalim asks us to think beyond how much we give. Do we show up only for



moments of inspiration or also for the steady work that keeps something standing?

This is not only the story of the Mikdash. It is the story of every sacred space we build together.

It is the story of Torat Imecha Nach Yomi.

Thousands of women learning a chapter a day, across cities and time zones, creating something lasting through consistency and care. Page by page, sefer by sefer,

### Ideal Candidates:

- Enthusiastic and passionate couple.
- Familiarity with Sephardic traditions and culture a plus.
- Proficient in English (native-like command), with additional fluency in French and/or Hebrew.
- Strong desire to engage and inspire youth.
- Experience in educational programming and community outreach.

a structure rises. When we gather for a siyum, we are not marking an ending, but celebrating what shared commitment can build.

This, too, is a kind of Mikdash.

The half-shekel reminds us that no one builds alone.

The Haftorah reminds us that holiness endures when everyone takes responsibility.

Shekalim leaves us with one question:

What are we helping to sustain? ■



 **CL WELLNESS**  
BEAUTY SPA

**MANICURE & MASSAGE**  
“Where Beauty Meets Healing.”

Expert Nail Services, Relaxing Spa Massages & Body Treatments.

Experience a Little Bit of America in Jerusalem.

At our Spa, we pride ourselves on exceptional customer service and a luxurious, welcoming environment.

053 462 5851

**SCAN FOR APPOINTMENT**



PLEASE JOIN LANDER COLLEGE FOR WOMEN AT OUR  
Annual

# MELAVA MALKA



FEATURING DIVREI CHIZUK FROM  
**RABBI ZEV**  
**LEFF**  
RAV OF MOSHAV MATTISYAHU

 MOTZEI SHABBAT,  
FEBRUARY 21, 8:30PM

 KAHAL CHASSIDIM  
RECHAVIA

 FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

RSVP by February 18, 2026 to Lauren Inger at 055-253-5942 or [linger@touro.edu](mailto:linger@touro.edu)

  

HOSTED BY:  
DEAN MARIAN STOLTZ-LOIKE AND THE LANDER COLLEGE FOR WOMEN  
THE ANNA RUTH AND MARK HASTEN SCHOOL IN CONJUNCTION WITH 4G AND NCSY ALUMNI