

HBHG TEAM NEWSLETTER



OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE

Please contact us [@jfshbhgteam via Instagram with any questions, suggestions, if you would like to promote an event, announcements or to write a comment piece for the newsletter. Our DMs are always open!](https://www.instagram.com/jfshbhgteam)



WRITE FOR US!

SOCIETIES THIS WEEK

Debating Society
Feminist Society
History Society
JiEP Lunch and Learn
Maths and Physics Society
Music Society
Philosophy Society
Politics Society
For more info [click here](#) or go to our instagram @jfshbhgteam

Writing is an essential outlet for one to truly explore an area of interest on a deeper level, as well as come to learn new ideas and concepts. As a team, we feel passionate about creating a student community (albeit virtually) in which everyone feels encouraged to use writing as a means to project their voice and contribute to the JFS as a whole. Whether this be through a Dvar Torah or a comment piece, we urge all students and teachers to partake in the newsletter! With our weekly Dvar Torah, it is key in considering the true meaning behind the week's parasha and how it maintains its relevance to our modern day life. More broadly, the comment piece could range from a wide spectrum of subjects, from topical current affairs to areas of interest, specific to the writer! If you are interested in submitting a newsletter entry, contact us via email or DM us on Instagram [@jfshbhgteam](https://www.instagram.com/jfshbhgteam)

COMMENT PIECE BY MILLIE BENSIMON

Women in STEM

Asking the average person to think of somebody who works in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) almost always causes them to think of a male. It is rare that someone will think of a blonde-haired and blue-eyed girl at the forefront of brain surgery.

Society holds dangerous stereotypes which cause barriers for women - and we must glorify revolutionary STEMettes for their position in such a male-dominated field. Especially those such as Sophie Germain who was a mathematician in the 17/1800's, a time period where women going out to work was almost unheard of.

Whether they have been pressured by a TV advert or a self-fulfilling prophecy, women are indubitably faced with the barriers of sexism and a glass ceiling, especially in STEM. It is increasingly important we filter society to showcase the works of excellent mathematicians, scientists and doctors who are women; so, we can have many blossoming girls who spent their childhood playtime playing doctors rather than with barbies, just like I did.

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN STEM

Marie Curie

We all know the name of this physicist and chemist, but do you recall Marie Curie's contributions to science? The Polish scientist studied at the Sorbonne, where she became the head of the physics lab there in the early 1900s — when women really did not teach science at European universities — and pioneered research in radioactivity. She and her husband jointly won the Nobel Prize in 1903.

Rosalind Franklin

Born in 1920, Franklin was a British biophysicist known for revolutionary work discovering DNA, as well as understanding X-rays and molecular structure.

Elizabeth Blackwell

Born in 1821, Blackwell was the first woman to graduate from medical school in the United States (Geneva Medical College in upstate New York), became an activist for poor women's health, and went on to found a medical school for women in England.



D'VAR TORAH BY EDEN FIELD

Parashat Mishpatim

Amid the complex laws relating to the treatment of slaves, personal injury and property, one command in particular stands out, by virtue of its repetition and sheer moral power.

Do not ill-treat a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in Egypt. (Exodus 22:20)

Do not oppress a stranger; you yourselves know how it feels to be a stranger [literally, “you know the soul of a stranger”], because you were strangers in Egypt. (Ex. 23:9)

Most striking to me is the emphasis on ‘stranger’. Why is the commandment directed to treatment of ‘strangers’, as opposed to all human beings?

According to Nachmanides, the commandment has two dimensions. Firstly, he explores the relative powerlessness of the stranger. They are not surrounded by family, friends, neighbours, a community of those ready to come to their defense. Consequently, the Torah warns against mistreating them because G-d has made Himself protector of those who have no one else to protect. This is the political dimension of the command. The second reason is the psychological vulnerability of the stranger. The stranger is one who lives outside the normal securities of home and belonging. He or she is, or feels, alone and, throughout the Torah, G-d is especially sensitive to the sigh of the oppressed, the feelings of the rejected, the cry of the unheard. That is the emotive dimension of the command.

The message of these pasukim resonate to this day. The phenomenon of xenophobia sweeps the modern world, thus proving the pertinence of the Torah’s commandment in regard to hatred of the stranger. As Jews, we have endured years of suffering at the hand of being branded ‘outsiders’, reinforcing our need to use the force of history and memory to stand up to modern hatred and prejudice.

Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat is coming in at 16:55 on the 12th and going out at 18:00 on the 13th.

FINAL WORDS OF THE WEEK

We've completed the first half of the spring term and we are halfway through the school year. As we enter the half term holiday, it is important that we acknowledge how amazingly we have all done to reach this point. I'm sure that online school has not been easy for many of us and to have completed this term is a true accomplishment.

During half term, we should concentrate on getting some well-deserved rest, to catch up on some work and sleep and we hope to see you all after we come back from the break.

**Stay safe and Shabbat Shalom,
from your HBHG Team**

Chloe Fouladbaksh

Eden Field

Chloe Miller

Jake Gilbert

Daniel Grossman

Saadiah Klein

