

Parashat Pekudei

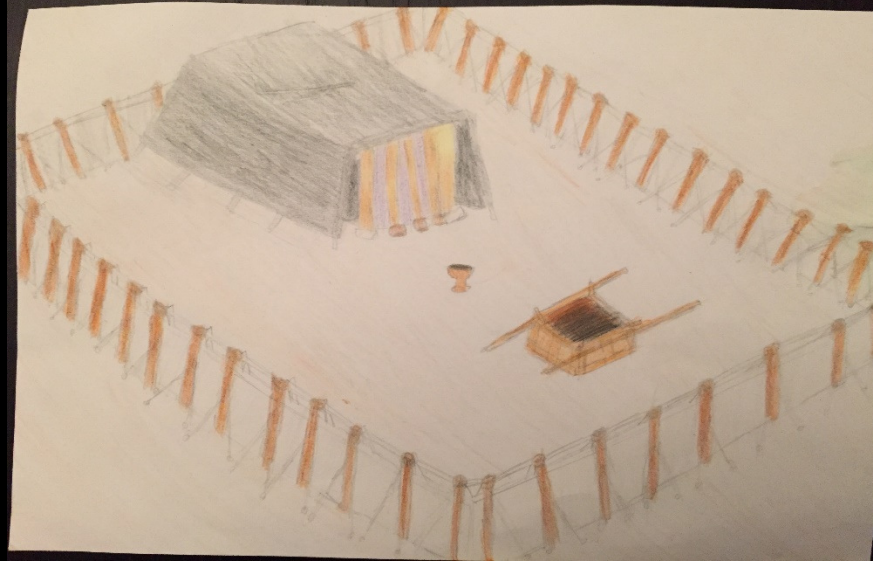
Exodus 38:21-31; 39: 1; 40: 34-38

Avery Morris

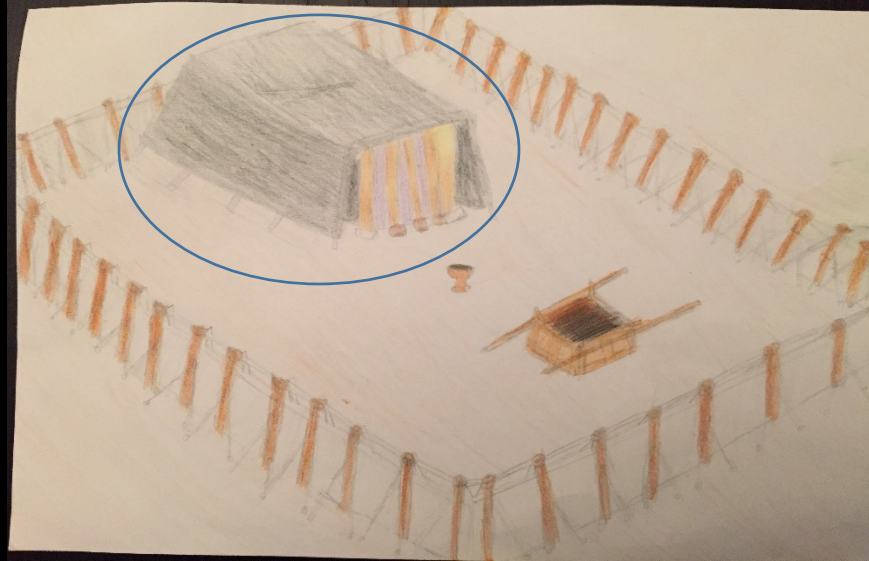
March 12, 2016

Drawings by Avery Morris

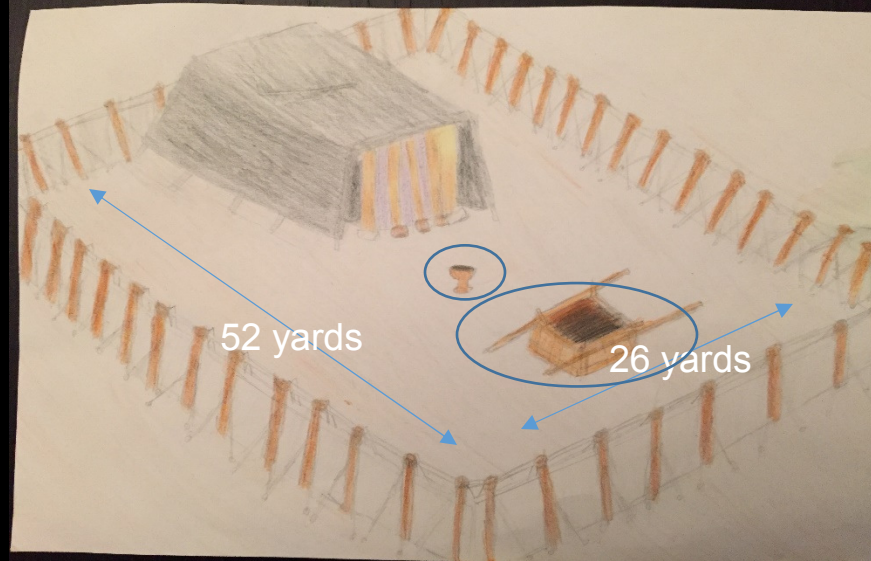
(Produced by Temple Adas Shalom-Harford Jewish Center,
Havre de Grace, Maryland)



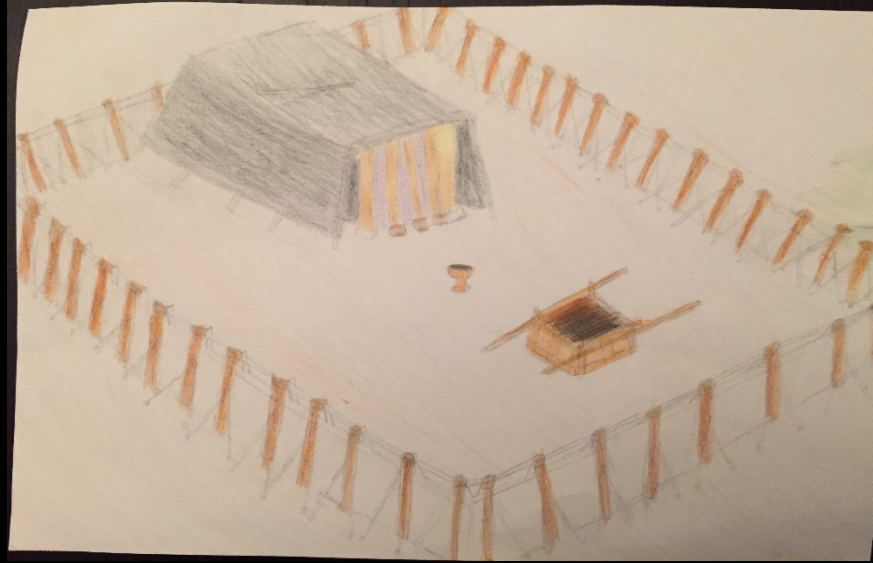
- The Mishkan (tabernacle) was a portable sanctuary that the Children of Israel carried with them during their wanderings in the wilderness
- It was the place where the spirit of God dwelled.
- It was also the place that the children of Israel brought animal sacrifices to God, and where the tablets of the ten commandments were kept.
- The Tabernacle was divided into two parts, the tent of meeting and the courtyard.



- The tent of meeting was about 48 by 16 Feet (About the size of a large living room)
- It was divided into two parts.
- One part, the Holy of Holies, housed the tablets of the Ten Commandments. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and he could do so only on Yom Kippur
- The other part, termed the kodesh (holy), contained a gold menorah and a gold table. The priests burned incense here twice a day on the incense altar.

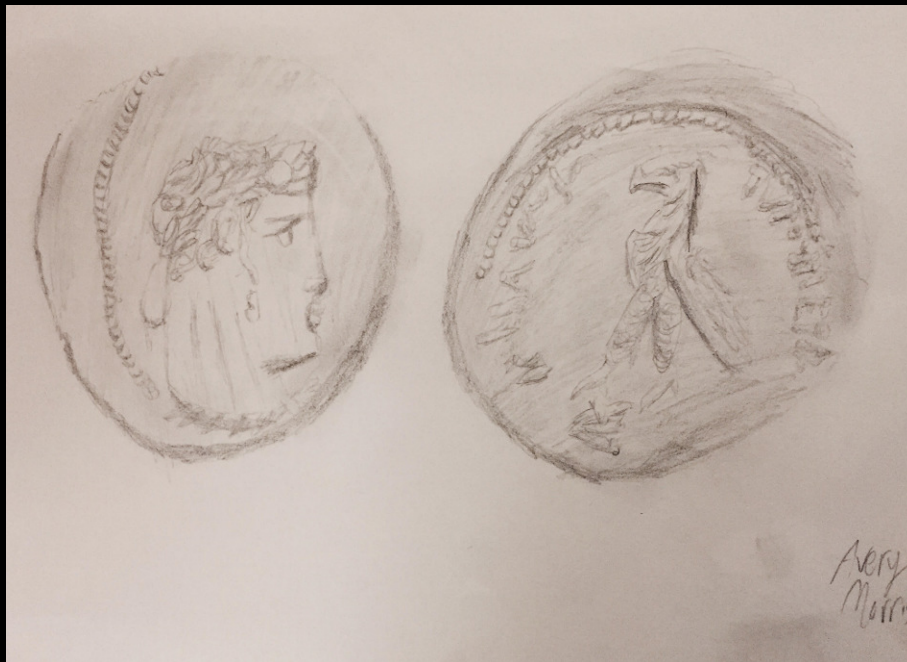


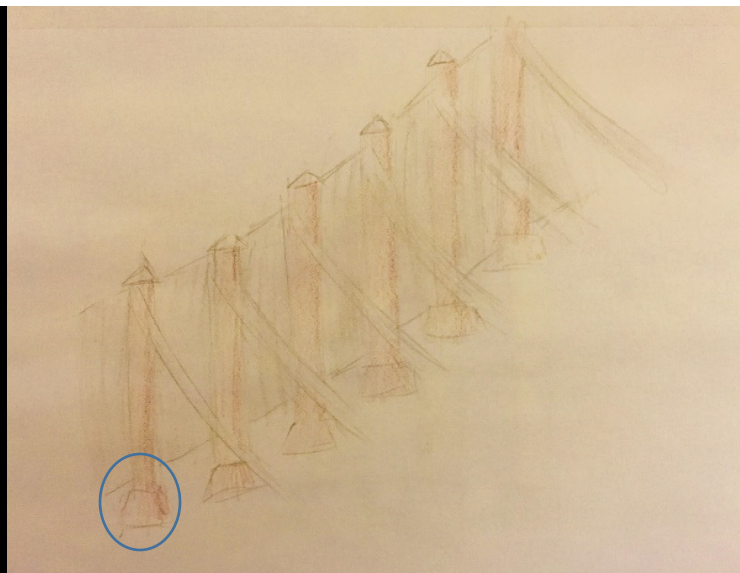
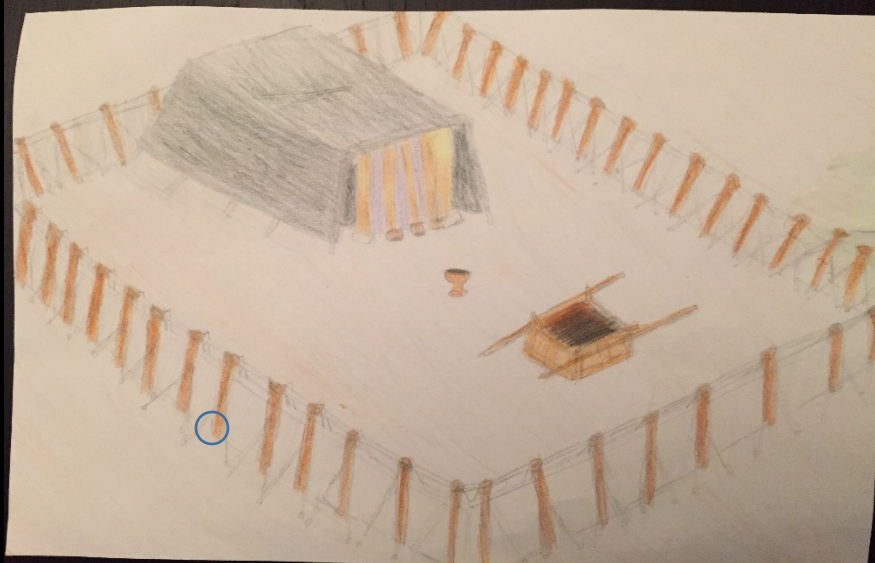
- The courtyard was about 52 yards by 26 yards (About a quarter of the total area of a football field, including endzones)
- Within the courtyard was the bronze altar for animal sacrifices and the basin for washing hands
- The courtyard was surrounded by a fence.



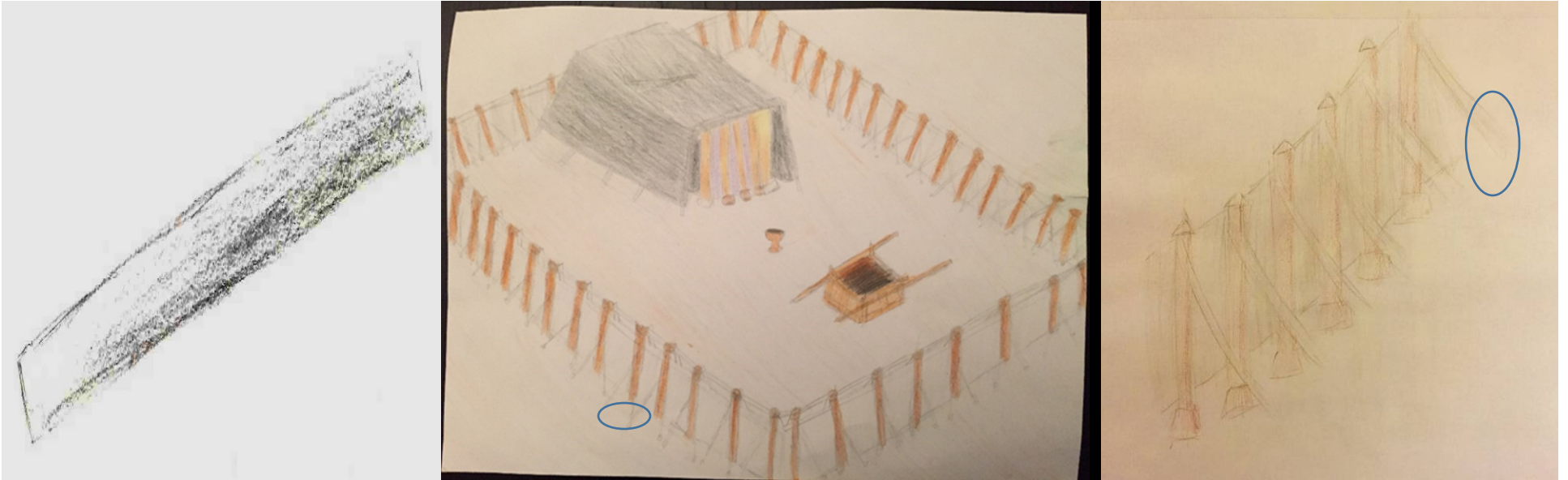
- This Torah reading provides some of the details of how the tabernacle was constructed.

- Talent and shekel are measures of weight:
- A talent is about 150 pounds
- A shekel is about an ounce. A shekel is also a coin of that weight.

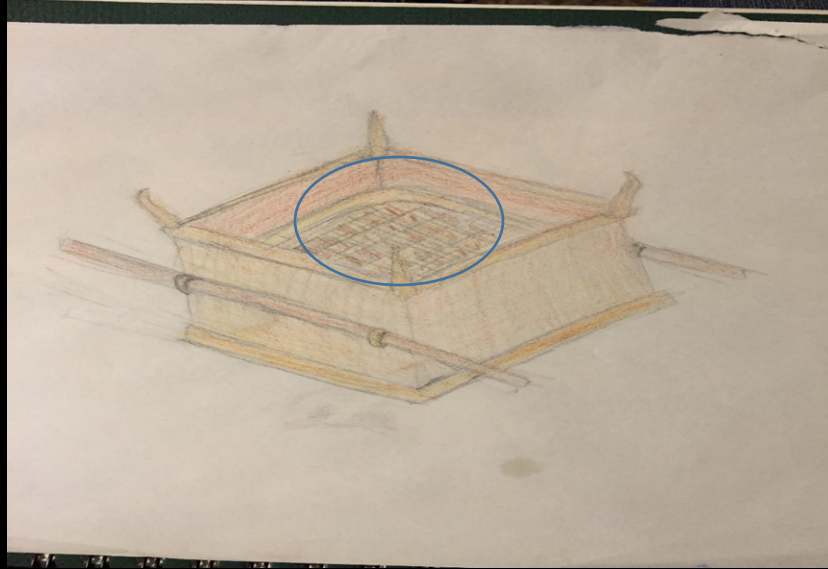




- Sockets: The walls of the courtyard and of the tent of meeting were made of wooden boards. The boards sat in sockets, which kept them from falling down.



- Pins: The pins were stakes that anchored the ropes that helped hold up the walls of the courtyard, much like the stakes of a modern tent.



- Grating: The bronze ark on which the animal sacrifices took place had a grating. The animal to be sacrificed was killed, then its carcass was put on the grating. Underneath the grating was the fire to burn the sacrifice (much like a modern day grill)

- Aaron, Moses' brother, was the first High Priest

