

OLD BUSINESS

Last week's Megila Morsels (which you might have seen, or not) 'reported' an interesting balance in the number of occurrences of names in the Megila. There was a slight error in one of the numbers, and the corrected version packs a punch.

Mordechai's name occurs 58 times in The Megila. Haman (54) and Zeresh (4) combine to 58. Evenly match foes, shall we say. Esther (55) + Hadassah (1) + HAMALKA (without her name, twice) also comes to 58. Side point (but maybe not), 58 is the numeric value of CHEIN, charm, grace, inner beauty - a word used six times in the Megila in connection with Esther. Achashveirosh occurs 29 times, that's half of 58. (Rabbi NK suggested that the number results from his offer to give Esther up to half his kingdom.) Or, we can double his number because his name almost always is paired with HaMelech.

NEW BUSINESS

DavkaWriter (the word processor with which all of Torah Tidbits is prepared for printing - IMO, no program handles Hebrew and English better) has good searching and counting abilities, and had been used for the original counting of names. But the main work was done on AlHaTorah.org. Found this...

Esther - 55 times + one for Hadassah.
Sarai+Sara - 55 times + once for Yiska.

What connects them? The number 127