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TORAS CHAIM
TORAS EMES
KLURMAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEAM SPIRIT

WALK-A-THON!

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5:47 PM

Friday
February 3, 2023
י"ב שבט תשפ"ג
פרשת בשלח
שבת שירה

Through the
Classroom Door
Page 4-6



EASY GO, EASY COME

Erev Shabbos Parashas Beshalach 5783

Dear Parents,

For the past hundreds of years, our civilization has been searching for ways to make life more convenient, travel speedier and work easier. And indeed, today we live in an age of speedy fixes, instant gratification and incredibly diminished travel times.

Is this a good thing? We all certainly appreciate and rely on these advances, but the Torah shows us there is a significant downside, that has implications for how we live our lives and how we raise our children. **“The implication, as Rashi states, seems to be that being close is a negative factor...”**

This week’s *Parsha* begins by the Torah telling us that when *Bnei Yisroel* left *Mitzrayim*, *Hashem* did not lead them through the land of the *Pelishtim*, - *בכי קרוב הוא* - because it (*Eretz Pelishtim*) was close (*Shemos 13:17*). The implication, as *Rashi* states, seems to be that being close is a negative factor. This is counterintuitive. When you are trying to get from point A to point B, logic would dictate to take the most direct, quick route.

The *Tzeida LaDorech*, one of the *Meforshei Rashi*, (super-commentaries) spells out the problem of something being *קרוב* being close and direct. Because the potential stopover (*Eretz Pelishtim*) is close, that makes it easy to return the way one came. Even though (a destination) being close is an advantage when going there, it is potentially damaging if one would think of retreating back to the starting point. A slightly negative experience while traveling might lead one (in this case, *Bnei Yisroel*) to abandon the journey, especially when it is so easy to return to where they started.

Hashem made the Jewish People struggle with a circuitous route through the desert, to discourage them from easily abandoning the march to *Eretz Yisrael*, and returning to *Mitzrayim* as soon as they encountered a slight obstacle on the way. If the pathway out of their previous location or situation was smooth and easy, that same pathway beckons as soon as the going gets rough. An easy exit would contribute to giving up easily on the mission, by enabling one to quickly scurry back to where he started.

This is certainly true of a physical pathway, but it also applies to any journey in life, especially the road from childhood to adulthood. If a child has things too easy, he may be constantly returning to a childish manner of dealing with things. If *Abba* and *Imma* are very protective and create a sterile environment where the child can never fall and get hurt, is protected to never get sick, to never experience failure in his studies because they always provide answers, this young person may sail through childhood without a scratch, but will just as easily fall back into a pattern of reliance on others to satisfy his needs. **“...there is great benefit for a child to experience the vicissitudes of life...”**

Just as there was great benefit to *Bnei Yisroel* traveling on a circuitous route, which was hard and time-consuming, there is great benefit for a child to experience the vicissitudes of life, at least in moderation, even at an early age. It’s ok to run and jump and then scrape one’s knee. It’s beneficial to play with others, even if he then catches a cold or flu. It’s even productive for a child to misbehave in class and to have to deal with the consequences and learn from the experience.

When parents swoop in and try to preempt the discomfort of a physical or emotional misstep, they are not properly serving their child’s needs. If they don’t allow a child to experience a poor grade due to his lack of effort, they are disabling their child. Rushing to blame others or outside circumstances when perhaps the real issue lies within the child and needs the child to work on fixing it, the parents are doing a clear disservice to their child. Parents walk a tightrope between protecting their children and allowing them to experience enough of life’s vicissitudes that they are fortified for the future. **“Parents walk a tightrope...”**

Our goal as parents is to raise children who will one day be able to manage successfully without us. Let’s make sure that the path we set them on is not controlled to be completely free of obstacles. Let’s be very sure that in their travels to adulthood, they won’t be tempted to run back to the imagined safe bubble of their childhood. Let’s do our best to make sure they reach their destination as strong, independent and capable adults.

Best wishes for a wonderful *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

מזל טוב

To Rabbi and Mrs. Eli Mann and family on the birth of a girl!

To Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Selmar and family on the birth of a girl!

Congratulations to Mr. Magyar on his engagement!

To Mr. and Mrs. Kasriel Bistriz on the bar mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Zevy!

To Mr. and Mrs. Iser Rabinovitz on the bar mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Alberto!

To Mr. and Mrs. Yaakov Elkarif on the bar mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, David!

To Mr. and Mrs. Adam Sasouness and family on the birth of a girl!

To our Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi and Mrs. Yisroel Y. Niman upon the forthcoming wedding of their son, our alumnus, Yechiel to Shira Sherman.

רפואה שלימה

We will be starting a new רפואה שלימה list starting next week. If you'd like to submit a name to be included or if you'd like us to keep a specific name on the list, please email skrieger@ytcte.org.

Chaim Shmuel Ben Leah Yocheved

Yechiel Nosson ben Sara

Dovid Yaakob ben Penina

Meir Michoel ben Rivka

Binyomin Simcha ben Adina Minya

Mina Yehudis bas Masuda Marsel

Nuta Moshe ben Sarah

Fruma Leah bas Raizel

Gittel Bailah bas Eta Esther

Yitzchok Mordechai ben Malka

Yitzchok Meir ben Rivka

Chaim Leib ben Ora Yael

Naftoli Mordechai ben Genendel

Rivka Elisheva Bas Sara

Tzvi Elimelech Meir ben Brana

Dovid Yisroel ben Sima Faiga

Rivkah Elishevah Bas Sara

Tinok ben Chaya

Dovid Chaim Ben Faiga Vityeh

Walkathon Countdown

Last Call for Sponsors!

3 days away! This Monday!

See attached flyer

We will be having a BBQ lunch, If you would like to order for your child/ren please log onto the portal. ytcte.org/lunch.

Calendar Reminders

February 6 - Walk-a-thon

February 7 - Parent Teacher Conferences -PM
Regular Classes

February 10 - Rabbi Yossi Heber z"l

No Classes

Professional Development Day

February 12 - Parent Teacher Conferences

No Classes

February 20 - Early Dismissal at 1:30 PM

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are this coming Tuesday evening, February 7 and Sunday morning, February 12. Please reserve your slot by logging on to the parent portal at ytcte.org/ptc. If you have any questions, email stamir@ytcte.org

After School Sports - Boys

After School Sports have resumed!

Grades 1 - 2 is on Thursdays from 4-5 PM

Grades 3 - 5 is on Tuesdays from 4-5 PM

Please contact Mrs. Sara Tamir with any questions.

stamir@ytcte.org or 305-947-6000 ext 100.

5th Grade Boys Receive their First Gemara!

This past Tuesday evening, the 5th grade boys celebrated the monumental milestone of *Haschalas Gemara!!* The program began with Rabbi Ephraim Friedman, *Shlita*, inspiring the boys to grow and work in learning Torah. Afterwards, there was a video presentation where each boy expressed why he was excited to begin learning *Gemara* and why it was meaningful to him. After the boys heard a few words from Rabbi Grossman and received their *Gemaras* from their *Rebbeim*, they began learning the *Gemara* of *Bava Metzia, Perek Eilu Metzios*. One of the highlights of the program was when the boys, fathers, grandfathers, and *Rebbeim* joined together with festive dancing to live music. The evening ended with some delicious refreshments. Mazel Tov to our boys and may they always maintain so much excitement for learning!



Spotlight on Kodesh Studies

In 'honor' on Pharaoh's birthday last week, Mrs. Fried's classes had a scavenger hunt where they had to find objects that related to Parshas Vayeishev.



Mrs. Kahn's class had a Royal Birthday Party Siyum in honor of finishing *Parshas Vayeshev*!



1G - The first grade girls in Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Rosenberg's classes used eye masks to better understand the *bracha* of פוקח עורים



3G Spotlight

3G-4 - Mrs. Palgon's class completed their unit on mysteries. The girls wrote book reports and made "wanted" signs for the books that they read. Then they shared their reports with one another, making comments, asking questions and giving compliments to one another. Reading can be such fun!



3G-1 & 3G-2: Morah Ioffe's classes made edible trees in honor of Tu B'Shvat. The girls used chocolate and pretzels for the tree and dried fruit for the leaves. Thank you to Mrs. Ginburg for coming in and helping with the yummy project!



3G-4 - Miss Kaiser's students started a "Thank You Hashem" notebook. Every day they think of new ideas to be thankful for. Pictured below, they thanked Hashem for the beautiful weather and did their *Kriah* work outside.





Create a World of Kindness

~ עולם חסד יבנה ~



Granny's Hotline:
863-345-2036

Bikur Cholim

This week we learned that according to the מגמרא we actually take away 1/60th of a person's illness when we visit them. We discussed that this could be true for three reasons:

- There has been a lot of medical research about someone's mood affecting their ability to heal. Doctors say that when a patient has a positive attitude and is hopeful for their recovery, they actually have more of a chance of recovering. Our נאמרים add that when we are מובקרים and lift a person's mood, we are also helping them recover!
- Many מוסתרים stress that a main part of *Bikur Cholim* is davening for a sick person. When we actually see the sick person face to face we are more likely to increase our תפילות for them, which will improve their health.
- The *Chasam Sofer* says that when you sit with a sick person you are עושה בעול עם חבירו - sharing in their pain. When you do this, you are actually taking away some of their pain.

We discussed at our last Kindness Club Meeting, that young girls can't always be מובקרים their own and that we should at least take it upon ourselves to call people to wish them a רפואה שלימה. The girls decorated beautiful *Bikur Cholim* charts with their classmate's phone numbers on them so they can hang it up at home and call their classmates who are sick! Tanta Hilda shared with the girls a touching story about Granny visiting her and doing the mitzvah of *Bikur Cholim* when she was sick. She said that Granny's visit helped make her feel better! Tanta Hilda also shared that the phone calls she received really helped her too!

Bio of a Baal Chessed

Rabbi Yehuda *Kazsire* started *chessed* when he was very young by visiting nursing home residents on Shabbos afternoons and the local Mishkon home for those with special needs. Now he is the head of *Bikur Cholim* of Lakewood, a huge operation that helps the community in so many ways. Rabbi *Kazsire* was especially busy during COVID. He shared that while he usually has 5 - 10 emergencies to deal with each day, during COVID he had 50 - 100. On one particularly hard day he answered 500 phone calls...and that was just him, he had 5 other members working on his team! Like other communities, *Bikur Cholim* of Lakewood gives out 4,000 meals each week and has 18 *Bikur Cholim* pantries in local hospitals.

"Chap" a Chessed!

What can you do to take away part of someone's illness? This week, work on cheering up, davening for (again - we can never daven enough!), or empathizing with someone in pain.

Kindness Club Stars

Hanna Seroya

Rikki Mann

Evy Saka

Shira Assulin

Malky May

Simi May

Aliyah Mayerson

Leah Pomper

Esty Mermelstein

Chedva Goldenberg

Esti Goldenberg

Hadassah Mann

Gaya Langford

Leah Gil

Tehila Kahn

Sara Brodman

Devorah Brodman

Abby Berkson

Ahuva Bernstein

Naomie Cohen

Tehila Levine

Dina Fried

Tova Rubin

Hadassa Drebin

Noya Azoelos

Sarah Miriam Ben-Hur

Talia Handler

Michal Drebin

Adina Sokol

Batsheva Sokol

Yaffa Serle

Avital White

Yael Zaig

Shaylee Barda

Yael Ohana

Sarah Zvida

Ella Gruner

Tehila Kirzner

Basya Fishman

Raffle Winners

Malky May

Evy Saka

Shira Assulin



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EARN A
SCHOOLWIDE
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Kiddush Hashem Hotline

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BNOS

Hollywood: 3-4 PM

Grades 1-5: Aish 4010 N 46th Ave

Miami Beach: 3-4 PM

Grade 1-2: Avigail Stein - 2922 Sherdidan Ave

Grade 3: Sarah Saka - 2340 Prairie Ave

Grade 4-5: Adina Winkler - 3170 Pine Tree Dr

North Miami Beach: 3-4 PM

Kindergarten: Devora Benguigui - 1151 NE 169th Ter

Grade 1: Avigail Steiman - 1160 NE 169th Ter

Grade 2: Chaya Leah Sapoznik - 1020 NE 169th Ter

Grade 3: Rochel Greenbaum - 1101 NE 169th Ter

Grade 4: Tova Peled - 1250 NE 171st Ter

Grade 5: Yocheved Kaganoff - 1380 NE 171st St

Boys
Oneg Shabbos Groups
Grades 1st-5th

| | | |
|--------|------|-----------|
| בישול | 2/4 | 3:00-4:00 |
| יתרו | 2/11 | 3:00-4:00 |
| משפטים | 2/18 | OFF |
| תרומה | 2/25 | 3:00-4:00 |

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Leaders cannot be responsible for your children after Pirchei is over.
Please make the necessary arrangements

chosen words

Personal Growth

The 48 Essential Qualities for Learning

If you want to acquire Torah, all you have to do is study. Right? Surprisingly, Pirkei Avos tells us that study is just one of 48 qualities necessary to successfully acquire Torah, to truly make it yours.

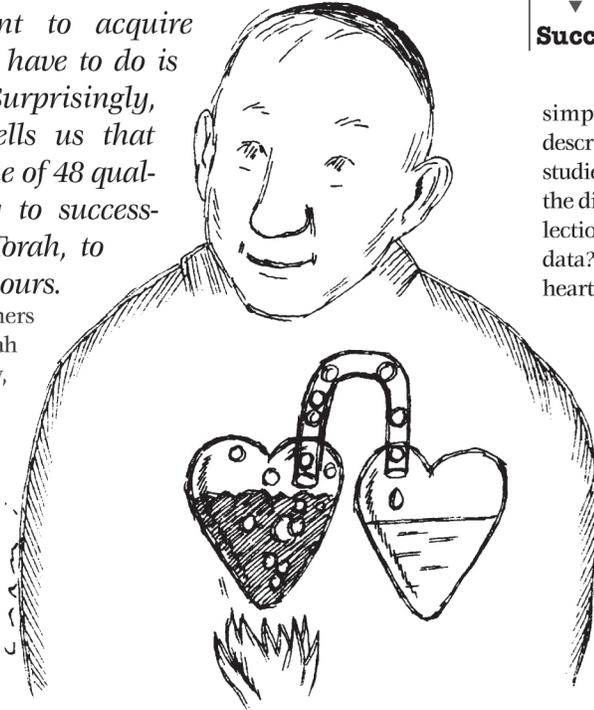
Among the others named in the Mishnah are joy, modesty, slowness to anger, a good heart, and closeness with peers. According to Rav Chaim Volozhiner, you attain Torah in direct proportion to your efforts in developing these traits. Without them, Torah can't be fully grasped.

Quality # 17:

With understanding of the heart, with discernment of the heart

Understanding and discernment are two functions that seem much more at home in the head than in the heart. Yet Pirkei Avos distinctly seats these qualities in the heart. That is because learning Torah means searching for truth. When a person is seeking simple informational knowledge, he can let his brain do all the work. He can accumulate the necessary facts, process them in his mind, synthesize them with all that he already knows, and come away from the experience with some useful piece of learning. Why can't the brain handle the whole job in Torah learning?

First of all, even learning factual information is not as



"By burning away its biases, the heart distills the truth."

Effective Prayer

Bearing Fruit

On Tu B'Shevat, Hashem determines the fate of the trees for the coming year. For people, that fate is far from irrelevant, for it determines the bounty from which we will have occasion to eat. Does that mean that Jewish worship—like that of many other ancient religions—is basically a way of making sure we don't go hungry?

That interpretation would entirely miss the point of Tu B'Shevat. That point is brought out clearly by a tradition, cited in the B'nei Yisasschar, of using this day to pray that one will merit obtaining a beautiful esrog when Succos time comes around. Of all the delicacies

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

simple as the process just described. How many scientific studies have been scuttled by the discovery of a bias in the collection or interpretation of the data? Bias comes from the heart.

If a person's heart is already set, it will not give the mind access to the truth. In the days of the Sanhedrin, when the schools of Hillel and Shammai vied for primacy, Hillel's holdings always *continued on back*

Better Relationships

Paid Chesed

The mother instructed the child, "When you get off the school bus, say thank you to the driver." The child replied incredulously, "But its his job to drive us. He gets paid for it."

The child didn't have the perspective to realize that the driver could have done his job and taken his pay without bothering to learn their names. Or, he could have been less reliable, leaving them to wait in the cold for his arrival.

In most people's minds, there is a dichotomy between doing something for pay and doing a chesed. Yet Hashem constructed the world in such a way that every person has needs that can only be filled by someone else. Whether those needs are filled as a favor or as a job, when they are filled with honesty, competence and caring, a chesed has been performed.

The person who comes right away to repair the refrigerator on Erev Shabbos, the mechanic who does his work honestly, the doctor, the accountant, the teacher—all get paid, yet where would we be without them?

continued on back

one might wish for from the groves and orchards, why are esrogim singled out as the fruit to pray for? The reason is simply because their purpose is not the satisfaction of our taste buds and appetite, but the service of Hashem. By focusing on the esrog, we recognize the higher purpose of all the material gifts and wealth that the world has to offer.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What are some other ways of maintaining a focus on the spiritual value of material items?

Adapted from "The Book of Our Heritage," by Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov, with permission from Feldheim Publishers



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דוד בן נטע הכהן

The Present

Reuven went away to an out-of-town high school at the age of 14, and the adjustment wasn't easy. He came home each Shabbos, delighted to bask in familiar surroundings. Each Friday night he was elated. Shabbos morning he still felt good. By the time Minchah rolled around, his expression had changed. His voice was flat, his shoulders stooped. "Just a few more hours and it's time to pack my bags. Tomorrow I have to get up early, rush to shul and rush to catch the van back to yeshivah," he'd complain.

By projecting himself into the uncomfortable future, Reuven effectively destroyed the present. His worries about

the week to come overtook whatever joy he could have had in the company of family and friends. Not surprisingly, Reuven was a tense person for whom something worrisome was always on the horizon.

"Live totally in the present with a calm attitude." These are nine words of advice that, if followed, lead one away from stress and into serenity. After all, if one can face the present calmly, and at the same time keep one's mood connected solely to what is happening at the moment, there is no room for stress to mount. Even planning for the future—a necessity in any wisely-lived life—can be done from the vantage point of the present.

"Nine words that lead one away from stress and into serenity."

Rabbi Mordechai of Lechovitz related: "From the day I reached a level of understanding, I haven't worried a single time about what will be in a single hour."

Shabbos Table Discussion:

If the present is painful, can focusing on it still promote serenity?

Adapted from "Serenity" by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, with permission from Shaar Press

Paid Chesed

continued from front

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Who are some of the most important people in your life who perform a paid service for you?

Adapted from "Loving Kindness," by Rabbi Fischel Schachter, a project of Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation, published by Mesorah Publications.

48 Qualities

continued from front

dominated. One reason for this was that Hillel quoted Shammai's holdings before presenting his own. More than Hillel wanted to win, he wanted to unearth the truth. He wanted to be sure that Shammai's views were considered fully in their own light. He knew that only in a heart clear of bias could true understanding and discernment take root.

Adapted from "Visions of the Fathers," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, M.D., with permission from Shaar Press

Dedications

לע"נ ר' נטע צבי
בן ר' בן ציון משה ז"ל
נלב"ע ה' שבט תשפ"א
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש
י' אלול תשע"ז
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

We gratefully acknowledge our generous sponsors for making this publication possible.

Shevat Miracles

Adina Efrat went to visit the famous lecturer and talmid chochom, Rabbi Shimon Gutman, after hearing him speak one evening. She had been married for eight years and had only one child. "Please give me a brachah to have more children," she requested.

Rabbi Gutman insisted that such a brachah was not within his abilities. "You need a holy man, someone known to have been answered from Above."

Yet the woman persisted. Finally, Rabbi Gutman disclosed that his own daughter, who had been married for 10 years, had never borne a child. Citing the Gemara that a person who prays for another in his situation will be answered first, he suggested that Mrs. Efrat pray for his daughter, and he would pray for her.

Five years later, on 15 Shevat, Rabbi Gutman's daughter gave birth to a little girl, two weeks after her due date. A few days later, he received a letter from Mrs. Efrat with the joyous news that she had given birth to a little boy. The birth, she noted, had occurred two weeks early—on 15 Shevat.

Adapted from "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt," by Rabbi Shmuel Waldman, with permission from Feldheim Publishers

Note: All names have been changed.

Index Reference 746



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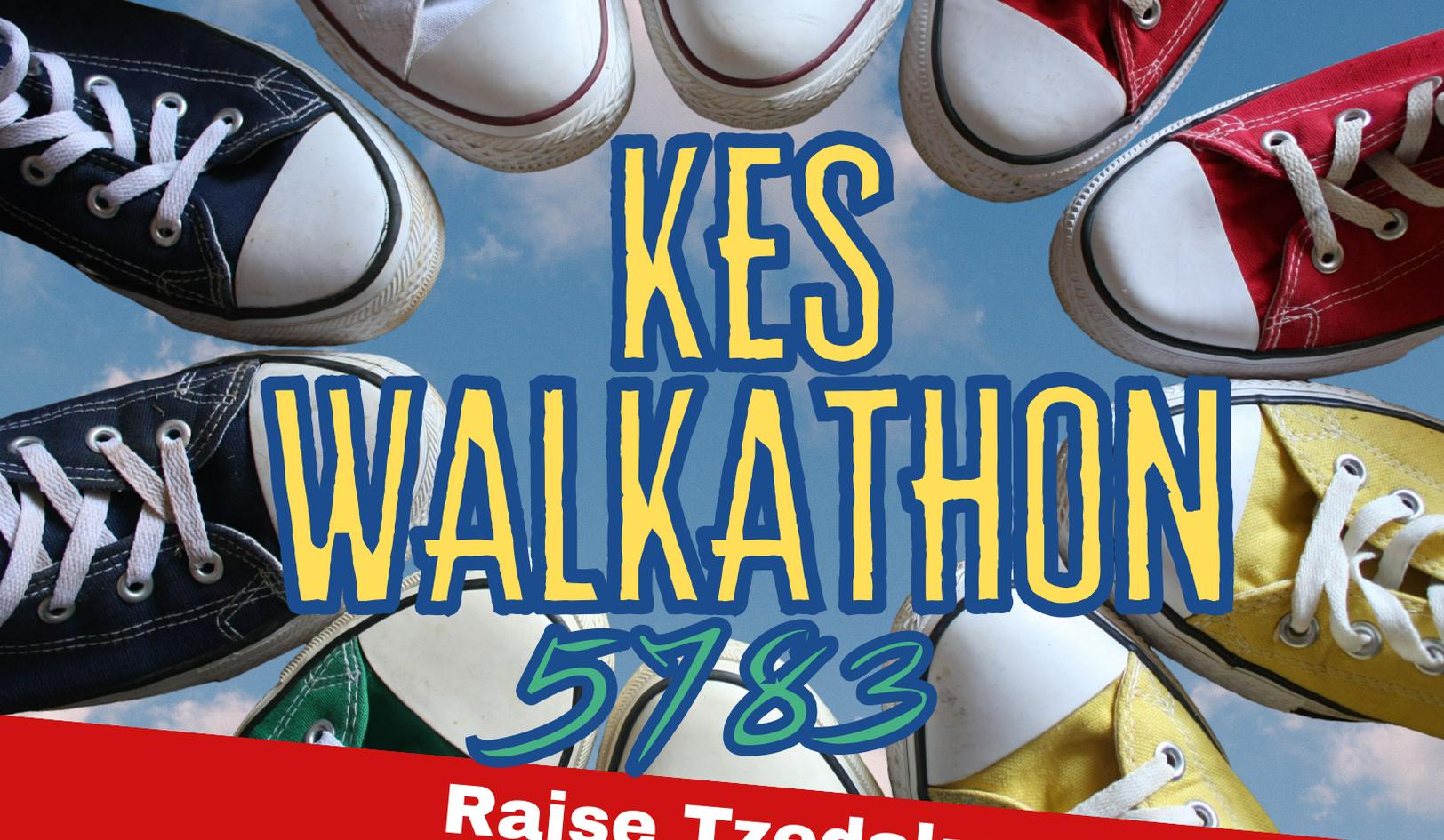


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