

# TEAM Spirit

TORAS EMES  
ACADEMY OF MIAMI  
Samuel Aba & Sisel Klurman  
Elementary School  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Friday, October 30, 2009  
Candle Lighting 6:24 PM

פרשת לך לך

## ★ STAR STUDENTS ★

Tehila Alfassy★S.S.  
Natalie Aronov★T.S.  
Elke Sara Benchetrit★T.S.  
Zev Bistriz★S.S.  
Naomi Bursztyn★T.S.  
Tzivi Elias★S.S.  
Tzvi Flamholtz★T.S.

Yechiel Goldman★S.S.  
Avrumi Gruenstein★S.S.  
Baruch Haimov★S.S.  
Avraham Kanter★T.S.  
Moshe Kessler★T.S.  
Shmuel Len★T.S.  
Brendel Jablon★S.S.  
Yossi Rosenberg★S.S.

Esti Schwartz★S.S.  
Yocheved Miriam Sapirman★T.S.  
Mordechai Shapiro★T.S.  
Shoshana Shapiro★S.S.  
Rivky Stern★ T.S.  
Dovi Wakszul★T.S.  
Yosef ChaimYachnes★T.S.

**Standard Time**

**"Fall Back"**

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN BACK  
YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR  
THIS MOTZEI SHABBOS.**

## TURKS TO BE HONORED AT ANNUAL DINNER

The Yeshiva is excited to announce that Rabbi & Mrs. Neal & Laura Turk will be presented with the Rabbinic Leadership Award at our upcoming dinner in January. Rabbi & Mrs. Turk have made an indelible imprint on our Yeshiva and the entire community and have always been in the forefront of efforts to support and further the goals of Toras Emes/Toras Chaim. Please look for further details and information as our Journal/Dinner Campaign goes into high gear.

REMINDER

**FRIDAY DISMISSALS WILL TAKE  
PLACE 1/2 HOUR EARLIER  
BEGINNING NEXT FRIDAY -  
AT 2:00 PM.**

Pre-school Dismissal 1:30 pm.

## PROJECT DERECH

Project DERECH is well underway! We are on our second week of Derech Eretz B'dibbur (Speech). This week we are working on **Speaking in a Soft Tone**. We're learning about it through stories, poems and skits. We have received many notes regarding the wonderful behavior of some of our students. Please keep on sending those great reports - they're encouraging for the students and give us great nachas! Please see the attached Derech Passes - examples of the great job our students are doing.

## REFUAH SHELAIMA

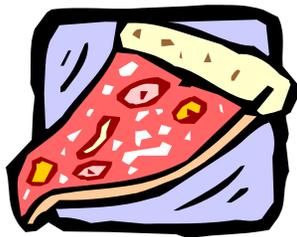
- Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- Chaya Yachet Elka *bas* Chana Rochel
- Bina *bas* Chaya
- Liba *bas* Fayga
- Chaim *ben* Breindel Bracha
- Mordechai *ben* Ora Yehudis
- Yosef *ben* Simcha
- Yossi Yosef *ben* Etti Esther

## HASMODA

We are so proud of **Shoshana Sapirman** in 4G and **Yocheved Miram Sapirman** in 5G who received gift certificates for their outstanding accomplishments in the Sukkos Hasmoda program. Yasher Koach! All participants were notified of their total points and were able to select their hard earned rewards. The prizes will arrive shortly, IY"H.

## PIZZA

Order forms were sent home today for the next pizza cycle, which begins next Friday, November 6. If you would like your child(ren) to receive pizza please fill out the order form and send it in with payment by Tuesday. If you would like your child to purchase canteen items with their pizza (chips and seltzer @ .50 each), please remember to give him or her an extra dollar on Fridays.



## MEDICAL FORMS DUE

Anyone who still needs to bring in medical forms must do so by the November 16 deadline.

## GENERAL MILLS BOXTOPS

We thank you so much for your participation in this easy and lucrative project. Although the deadline was today, please continue to collect box tops! The collection will continue throughout the year, so do not throw away any box tops! Yasher Koach and thank you for the continued incredible success of this project!

## FLOWERS FOR SALE

The Rohr Middle School students are selling beautiful floral bouquets for Shabbos on a weekly basis. Flowers will be sold at both the ECE and Elementary carpools. Your purchase will support the eighth grade boys' fundraising efforts on behalf of their graduation trip.

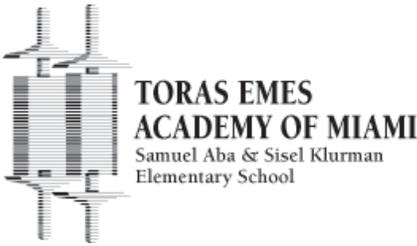


## SWINE FLU UPDATE

Reports are surfacing of flu cases within our community and possibly our school families. The CDC has made suggestions for schools, which include isolating a student who exhibits flu-like symptoms. Parents will be called to take their child home right away.

One important rule for parents to follow is to **stay home when sick**. Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs.

These recommendations are based upon the assumption that the current flu cases are not more severe than the ones this past spring. If they become more severe, then additional, stricter measures will be called for.



Rabbi Kalman Baumann  
*Principal*

Dr. Deborah Lerer  
*Secular Studies Principal*

Rabbi Noam Grossman  
*Assistant Principal*

Mrs. Naomi Bloom  
*Early Childhood Director*

Erev Shabbos Parshas Lech Lecha  
Oct. 30, 2009

Dear Parents,

Last week we discussed the pitfalls of over emphasizing criticism of the outside world, and how it might, unwittingly, be responsible for creating critical, cynical children. What should be the approach, the right balance to protect our children from inappropriate influences without creating a disregard for other human beings?

The answer lies in *Chumash Bereishis*. In his very insightful introduction to *Sefer Bereishis*, The *Netziv* (*HaRav Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin- Sefer Haamek Davar*) explains why *Chazal* refer to *Breishis* as *Sefer HaYashar*. The *Netziv* says this refers to *Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov*, who were called *Yesharim*, straight ones, by none other than *Bilaam*, the prophet of the non-Jewish world. The singular facet that *Bilaam* so admires in the *Avos*, and regrets not possessing himself, is their *Derech Eretz*, as demonstrated by *Yashrus*, their straightness. The *Netziv* comments that this refers specifically to their dealings with the non-Jewish world, as epitomized by *Avraham's* pleading for the survival of *Sodom*, *Yitzchak's* repeated non-confrontational approach to *Avimelech and Yaakov's* mild and respectful encounter with *Lavan*.

Let's analyze the mindset of the *Avos*. Who, more than they, abhorred *Avoda Zara* and the cruelty of *Sodom, Avimelech and Lavan*? They devoted every fiber of their being to combat the philosophies and behavior of these people. Their life's work of serving *Hashem* was precisely what these individuals and communities tried their utmost to denigrate, ridicule and destroy. And yet, it was the *Avos* themselves who showed extraordinary concern for the survival and self-dignity of their enemies.

This is the approach we are striving to teach our children. We oppose philosophies, ideas and practices that are antithetical to Torah with great sacrifice and passion. At the same time we recognize that it is *Hashem's* will that these people are alive, and unless they are threatening us physically, we must not wish them bodily harm, rejoice when they suffer or cause them pain.

This should make it easy. We care about the wellbeing of all mankind, albeit on different levels of concern. When we hear news reports of terrorist attacks or natural disasters in places far from any Jews, we should still cringe. When we witness or hear of any human suffering, it should bother us. By following this approach, we will raise caring, sensitive children who are proud to be Torah committed Jews, and kind and compassionate human beings.

Have a wonderful Shabbos,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rabbi Kalman Baumann'.

Rabbi Kalman Baumann  
Principal

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Yehuda says "Good morning" to everyone we pass on the way. And Yehuda says "Hi Adina" when his sister wakes up in the morning

I reviewed the precept of "greeting" with:

Name: Yehuda Kon Gr. 1

Parent's Signature: Dorel Kon

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

When Yossi came into the house on Friday, he said "hello" with a smile!

I reviewed the precept of "greeting" with:

Name: Yossi Cohen Gr. 3B

Parent's Signature: [Signature]



DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Lea behaved nicely at the movies.

I reviewed the precept of "greeting" with:

Name: Lea Resel Gr. 2G

Parent's Signature: [Signature]

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Yecheiel smiled at his uncle when he came home from school.

I reviewed the precept of "greeting" with:

Name: Yecheiel Goldman Gr. 1

Parent's Signature: Joy Col

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

Abby greeted her Abba with a nice big hug + kiss + smile when she came home from work!

I reviewed the precept of "greeting" with:

Name: Abby Dennis Gr. 2G

Parent's Signature: Joyanna Dennis

It made him feel so good!

Good job Abby!

DERECH PASS

"יקימך ה' לו לעם קדוש ... והלכת בדרכיו."

תזוי שאל נחמץ בדיבור. TZVI ASKED NICELY TO GO TO SHUL AND RECEIVED THE ANSWER WEZ

I reviewed the precept of "greeting" with:

Name: TZVI ANTON Gr. 5

Parent's Signature: [Signature]

# chosen words

## Personal Growth

### Against the Grain

Our history overflows with stories of mesiras nefesh—the sacrifices Jews have made in the name of Hashem and His Torah—from the ultimate sacrifice of dying as a Kiddush Hashem, to the lesser but still remarkable sacrifices of poverty, hunger, emigrating to strange lands, sending children to learn in distant cities, all for the sake of keeping Hashem's Torah. Most Jews born in post-war America cannot begin to imagine what previous generations have willingly endured.

Yet, even here in our comfortable, accommodating environment, mesiras nefesh is still the road to spiritual greatness, and we can still reach for it. Avraham Avinu shows us how. The Akeidas Yitzchak was one of Hashem's ten tests of Avraham. Yet, it is the only episode the Torah specifically calls a "test" (Bereishis 22:1). Why is the akeidah singled out? The word "to test" in Hebrew can also mean, "to raise." The Rebbe of Slonim explains that mesiras nefesh means subjugating one's will to Hashem's will.

Avraham surely had to subjugate his will in order to sacrifice his beloved son, and when he did so, he was "raised" to a higher level of greatness.

Rav Eliyahu Dessler notes that a person's nefesh is his innate nature—the sum total of his traits. Rabbi Shmuel Strickman of Yeshiva Darchei Torah applies this definition to understand what mesiras nefesh means to us today. It is the conquering of our inner nature in order to perform Hashem's will. We aren't, boruch Hashem, facing the Inquisition or the Cossaks or World War II. But

## Effective Prayer

### Real Might

The beginning of the Shemoneh Esrei enumerates many of Hashem's qualities, the first of which is "gibor,"

when we overcome laziness to learn Torah, or stinginess to give tzedakah, or vanity to reflect modesty, we are doing what Hashem has called upon our generation to do. These are the tests that pave our particular path to greatness.

**To Do:** Think of a mitzvah you can undertake that would be "mesiras nefesh" for you, and resolve to do it.

—CCHF

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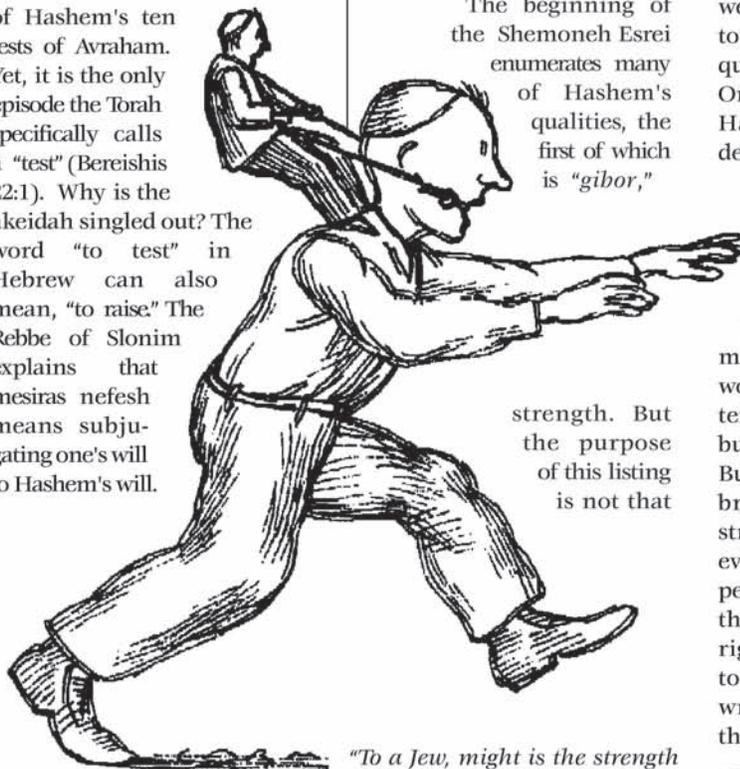
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—CCHF

strength. But the purpose of this listing is not that

continued on back



"To a Jew, might is the strength to control oneself."

## Torah Tools for Personal Growth

### Inspiration

#### ▼ Ideas

#### ▼ Excellence

#### ▼ Success

## Better Relationships

### The Best Protection

The Midrash (Bereishis Rabba 70:4) tells us that on the road to Lavan's house, Yaakov prayed for Hashem to keep him from speaking loshon hora. Fleeing from the wrath of his brother, and into the arms of his wily uncle, didn't Yaakov have more pressing needs to pray for?

The Chofetz Chaim finds two lessons in this Midrash. The first is that, when a person enters into a dangerous situation, he should be especially careful not to speak loshon hora. Knowing that he is in special need of Hashem's assistance, he must be careful to speak of others with compassion, which will bring Hashem's compassion upon himself.

Secondly, the Chofetz Chaim learns that when we find ourselves in a situation that could lead us into loshon hora, we should pray to Hashem to help us restrain ourselves. Yaakov knew living in Lavan's household would present him with many sit-

continued on back



Published for **Toras Emes Academy of Miami** by the **Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation**

Dedicated in the z'chus of a Refuah Shleima for Chaya Yachet Elka bas Chana Rachel

# Sh-sh-sh-sh-sh-sh-sh

The media have dubbed our era “the information age,” and the up-to-date among us are wired to the world through fax, cell-phone, texting and e-mail, beside the old stand-bys of telephone and “snail mail.” It’s not uncommon to see people in constant communication, while driving, walking down the street, sitting at a wedding or a PTA meeting. It’s progress. But is it good? Pirkei Avos offers a startling

proposal: “All my days, I was raised among the sages, and I have found nothing better for the body than silence,” says Rabban Shimon (1:17).

“Silence lets you hear the sound of your soul.”

Silence is not just the absence of talk and noise. It’s not just “dead air time” that needs to be filled with chatter. King

Solomon advises in Mishlei (19:2) that a person should not be “without knowledge of the soul.” Silence is a powerful tool for gaining that knowledge. Only when the

mind is quiet and the ears and tongue are at rest can the quiet voice of the soul be heard. A person who spends his every waking hour communicating with others deprives himself of the priceless moments of silence that put him in communication with himself.

**Shabbos Table Discussion:**

How can you find more time for silence, yet still be a friendly, outgoing person? *Adapted from “Ethics from Sinai,” by Rabbi Irving Bunim, with permission from Feldheim Publishers*

## Real Might

*continued from front*

Hashem the *Gibor*, we seek to conquer our own negative impulses and awaken in ourselves the quality of real might.

**Shabbos Table Discussion:**

Why do qualities like patience and perseverance come under the definition of “*gibor*?”

*Adapted from “Shemoneh Esrei,” by Rabbi Avraham Chaim Feuer, with permission from Mesorah Publications*

## Best Protection

*continued from front*

situations conducive to *loshon hora*, so he prayed for Hashem’s assistance in avoiding it.

**To do:** Take time each morning to say the Chofetz Chaim’s special prayer for protection against speaking and hearing *loshon hora*.

*Adapted from “Love Your Neighbor,” by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, with permission from the author*

## Dedications

In honor of all those who participate in the **MORNING MACHSOM L’FI**

CALL 212 444 9898 TO JOIN THE MORNING MACHSOM

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

# Our Sifrei Torah

In Vilna after World War II, a few survivors of the Nazi horror made their way to a shul to pray on Simchas Torah. Though they managed to get through the service, there was a major gap—the Germans had removed all the Torah scrolls, leaving nothing with which to make *hakofos*.

After a while, a man and woman unfamiliar to the minyan entered the shul with their two young children. Instinctively, the men knew what they should do. They had found their Torah scrolls. Each took a turn carrying a child as they circled the shul for *hakofos*.

Each understood that the children were the embodiment of the Torah they would learn, live and bring into the world. As long as they had children in whom Torah would live, they had their Sifrei Torah.

**Think About It:**

Not only children, but every Jew represents Torah to the world. “When you walk outside, be careful, because you may be the only Torah some people ever get to see.”

*Adapted from a lecture by Rabbi Paysach Krohn at Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation’s 1998 High School Machsom L’fi Gathering*

Index Reference 405



**Chosen Words is a biweekly publication of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation**

*HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board*  
*Rav Naftoli Jaeger, shlita, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor*

**Chosen Words**

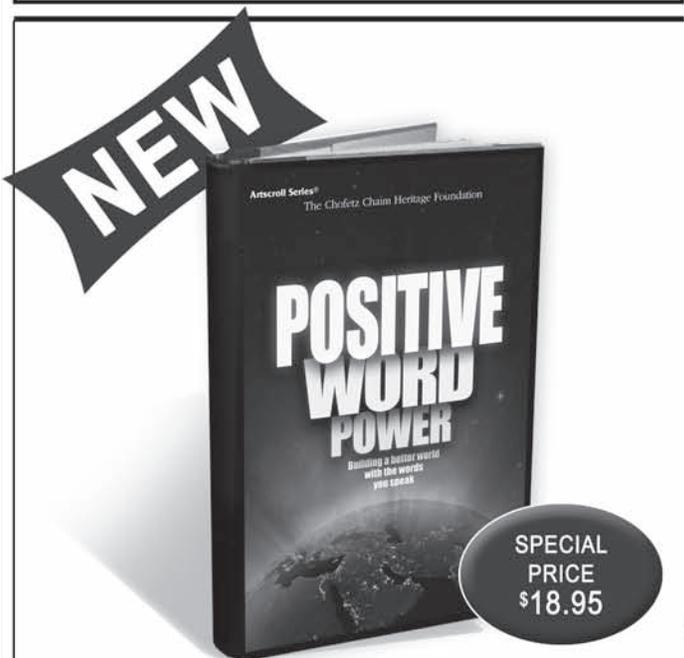
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*Graphic Artist: Heidi Ort*  
*Illustrator: Giora Carmi*

**We welcome your comments!**

Letters to the Editor  
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361 Spook Rock Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

“It is worthwhile for a person to learn Mussar throughout his life even if its only benefit is to prevent him just once from uttering a remark of *loshon hora*.”

—Rabbi Yisrael Salanter



Our words are our most valuable – and most powerful – possession. **Positive Word Power**, based on the classic work, *The Power of Words*, by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, shows us how to use our words to nurture and uplift. In beautifully crafted daily lessons that use everyday, real-life situations, **Positive Word Power** examines the terrifying effects of *ona’as devarim*, hurtful speech. The book explores our on-the-spot daily interactions, and helps us build within ourselves the power to enrich our relationships, to avoid being a source of pain and darkness, and instead, light up the world we create all around us

**CALL NOW TO ORDER**  
**(845) 352-3505 ext.116**

2nd annual

# Toras Emes Chanukah Boutique

Where: Toras Emes Social Hall  
1051 North Miami Beach Blvd.

When: Wednesday, December 2, 2009  
7 pm - 10 pm

Fashion and Contemporary Jewelry, Apparel , Books, Judaica,  
Home, Accessories, and many more fun and unique gifts!

Get all your Chanukah gifts under one roof and help support  
local small businesses.

Some of the proceeds to benefit Toras Emes.

Vendor opportunities still available please call:  
Bryna (786) 252- 1074  
or Devorah (646) 238- 4877  
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# TORAS EMES ACADEMY OF MIAMI

November 2009

מרחשון - כסלו תש"ע

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 י"ד STANDARD TIME BEGINS TURN BACK CLOCK 	2 ט"ו	3 ט"ז	4 י"ז	5 י"ח SUMMER REVIEW LUNCHEON	6 י"ט BEGIN 2:00 PM FRIDAY DISMISSAL Candle Lighting 5:19	7 כ ו"א
8 כ"א	9 כ"ב	10 כ"ג	11 כ"ד	12 כ"ה	13 כ"ו 1 <sup>ST</sup> MARKING PERIOD ENDS Candle Lighting 5:16	14 כ"ז חיי שרה ברכת החודש
15 כ"ח	16 כ"ט	17 ל ראש חודש	18 א ראש חודש	19 ב MISHNAYOS PROJECT BEGINS	20 ג Candle Lighting 5:13	21 ד תולדות
22 ה NO CLASSES PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 9:00-12:00	23 ו CLASSES 8:00-1:00 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AFTERNOON & EVENING	24 ז	25 ח ASSEMBLIES OFFICIAL UNIFORM Girls 1:30 Boys 2:45	26 ט CLASSES 9:10 - 12:10 THANKSGIVING	27 י CLASSES 9:10 - 12:10 Candle Lighting 5:12	28 י"א ו"צ
29 י"ב MISHNAYOS KICK-OFF BRUNCH	30 י"ג					