

# TEAM Spirit

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



Friday, January 8, 2010  
Candle Lighting 5:29 PM

פרשת שמות  
שבת מברכים

## ★STAR STUDENTS★

Tzvi Atkin★S.S.  
Rebecca Balgley★T.S.  
Miriam Bisker★T.S.  
Danny Breier★T.S.  
Odaya Cohen★S.S.  
Yafit Cohen★T.S.  
Ariella Fellus★S.S.  
Elisheva Fellus★T.S.  
Cila Ginsparg★S.S.  
Yackov Greenberg★S.S.

Dani Levy★T.S.  
Avraham Homnick★S.S.  
Yitzi Meisels★A.S.  
Tzvi Rubin★S.S.  
Chaya Sharfman★S.S.  
Shira Steinberg★S.S.  
Yaacov Sutton★T.S.  
Atara Weberman★T.S.  
Orel Zaig★T.S.

## T.E.A.M. PLAYERS

Yael Aminov  
Leah Baroukh  
Racheli Breier  
Fayge Deutsch  
Tzivi Elias  
Sora Chana Gruenstein  
Elisheva Homnick  
Tamar Kanter  
Chava Len  
Shoshana Sapirman

Ethan Aronov  
Shalom Deutsch  
Ezra Kirschenbaum  
Yonatan Klecky  
Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz  
Chaim Len  
Avi Nash  
Zevi Roth  
Tzvi Rubin  
Dovi Schwartz  
Simcha Seltzer  
Shaya Steinberg

## THIS SUNDAY NIGHT!

*Toras Emes Academy*

*Annual Dinner*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010  
JUNGLE ISLAND

*Guests of Honor*

DR. & MRS. NORMAN BLOOM

*Rabbinic Leadership Award*

RABBI & MRS. NEAL TURK

*Kesser Shem Tov Award*

MR. & MRS. DAVID GOLDIS

LAST MINUTE RESERVATIONS  
CAN BE CALLED IN  
TO THE TORAS CHAIM OFFICE  
AT 305.944.5344.

## Directions to Jungle Island

Jungle Island is located at 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, off I-395 (MacArthur Causeway), between Downtown Miami and South Beach.

### From I-95

Take I-395 East (MacArthur Causeway) exit 2D. Cross over the bridge and make your first right after the bridge onto Parrot Jungle Trail. Follow the road around and under the bridge to the parking garage on the left-hand side.

### From the East (Miami Beach)

Take I-395 West (MacArthur Causeway), and make the first right turn after Palm Island, next to the Miami Yacht Club. Make the first left turn onto Parrot Jungle Trail and the parking garage will be on the right-hand side.

We hope everyone will come early and enjoy the delightful food and company at the smorgasbord. We will daven Maariv at 6:45 and begin the program immediately after. There will be a self serve coat check adjacent to the Ballroom!

## TV CONTROL OLYMPIC DAY

**M**onday, January 11 is the day for our TV Control activities and BBQ! Those students who completed both the Aseres Yemei Teshuva and Chanukah programs will be invited to participate. Participating students will not be required to wear uniforms this Monday. Lunch will be provided to all TV Controllers.

## MID WINTER VACATION

**S**chool will be closed from **Sunday, January 24** through **Sunday, January 31**. Classes will resume at 8:00 AM on Monday, February 1.

## SAVE THE DATE

**F**amily Fun Day is Sunday, February 7 at TY Park..  
Details to follow.

## PROJECT DERECH

**T**he theme for this week is "When speaking one must be careful not to commit *averos* such as *Onoas Devorim* (hurting with words), *Halbonas Panim* (embarrassing a person), and *Lashon Hora* (saying gossip or slander)."

## NICHUM AVEILIM

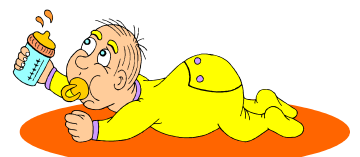
**T**o Rabbi Ezra Sharbani and family on the loss of his mother.

## REFUAH SHELAIMA

- Miriam *bas* Malka
- Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- Bina *bas* Chaya
- Libba *bas* Fayga
- Tova *bas* Rochel
- Rachel Leah *bas* Guta Raizel
- Leah Aviva *bas* Roytza Broyna
- Mordechai *ben* Ora Yehudis
- Yosef *ben* Simcha
- Yossi Yosef *ben* Etti Esther
- Ariel Yosef *ben* Shala
- Ephraim Boruch *ben* Rivka Leah
- Tinok *ben* Rochel Rus
- Shmuel Zelig *ben* Ziesel
- Meir Yehuda *ben* Hinda
- Aharon Hillel *ben* Ruth
- Shmuel Menachem *ben* Zlata Paya

## MAZEL TOV

**T**o Rabbi and Mrs. Heshy Riesel and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their son, our alumnus, Yudi and Ellie Riesel.



**T**o Rabbi and Mrs. Elchonon Goldenberg and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their son, our alumnus, Chaim and Chaya Miriam Goldenberg.

**תינוק**

## CHEVRA KADISHA CLASSES

An advanced class for experienced metaharim will take place this **Wednesday, January 13**. The class is for men and women and takes place from 8:15 - 10:00 PM. It will be held at Levitt-Weinstein Chapels, 18840 West Dixie Highway. A class for beginners will take place after Pesach.

## BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

To date, the General Mills Boxtops for Education Program is going great! Last week we received a check for \$220! Give your children lots of healthy General Mills cereal over the vacation, and some General Mills snacks (in moderation, of course). Look for Boxtops on a variety of other items as well. Collect and save all of the Boxtops and send them in to school with your children. Please bear in mind, the more we collect, the more we are able to do for our school! Grandparents and neighbors love to help collect...don't forget to remind them as well.

## MISHNAYOS LEARNING PROGRAM

Our annual extra-curricular Mishnayos Learning Project is still underway and going strong for all boys in grades 3 through 5. We are extremely proud of the participation thus far. The program ends in just over a month on **Sunday, February 14** so please continue to encourage your boys to participate and help them learn!



## TEHILIM CHAMPS

Yasher Koach to **Elisheva Kalendarev** and **Esti Weinberger**, the first of the first grade girls to finish Sefer Tehilim. Their Morah and classmates are so proud!



## PLEASE CHOOSE "CHOSEN WORDS"!

We hope you are enjoying this year's editions of "The Chosen Words," which appear in this TEAM Spirit newsletter. This inspirational newsletter by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation enhances your homes every other *Erev Shabbos*. **We need your help in order to continue providing this publication!** Please consider partaking in the \$360 sponsorship, in memory, in honor of, or for a *Refuah Shelaima*, which will be printed at the bottom of each Chosen Words that appears in our weekly newsletter for the entire school year.

## **HATZALAH NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

**H**atzalah is Looking for Volunteer Dispatchers. The life-saving efforts of Hatzalah of Miami – Dade will come soon, B'ezras Hashem, to the communities of North Miami Beach and Aventura. Hatzalah is looking for volunteers, men or women, who are available to answer the Hatzalah Hotline and dispatch responders. Hatzalah will provide all necessary training. If you are over 21, mature, calm, reliable, work extremely well under pressure and interested in being part of this Mitzvah please email: [info@miamihatzalah.com](mailto:info@miamihatzalah.com) or Call 305-490-5274.



## **WISHES COME TRUE**

**T**hank you to Dr. and Mrs. Alejandro Froimovich and family for responding to our wish list request with the generous donation of a desktop computer.



## **DAYAN DUNNER SPEAKS AT TORAS EMES**

**T**he fifth grade boys joined with the Middle School students to hear words of inspiration, guidance and Chizuk from HaRav Dayan Aharon Dovid Dunner of London, England. Dayan Dunner is in Miami for the Agudas Yisroel of Florida's Shabbos of Chizuk. We thank Aguda for allowing our students to be in the presence of one of the Gedolei HaDor.



# What Could Be

A museum curator procured a bar of raw iron for \$5. This, he placed into a glass case with the following sign: "This raw iron was purchased for \$5. If you make a horseshoe from it, the value increases to \$10. If you refine it more, you can make \$355 worth of sewing needles from it. If you shape it differently, you can make \$2,000 worth of razor blades. But if you hone it to its maximum potential, you can derive balances and springs for Swiss watches from it. The value of those delicate springs is \$250,000."

And that's just a piece of iron. Imagine applying this logic to the "raw iron" situations of everyday life. How

"What could possibly harbor more potential than a human being invested with a holy neshamah?"

many ordinary tasks could be polished into their finest form and emerge as something greater? You're unhappy with an employee's work. You can insult him, or maybe by bending and working the situation, you can help him learn something. You've been waiting an hour for the dentist. You can fume at the receptionist, or teach yourself patience. You need to get the baby dressed. You can make a perfunctory rush job of it, or you can coo and smile and make the baby feel loved.

Take the theory one step further. What could possibly harbor more potential than a human being invested with a holy neshamah? If we concen-

trate our efforts on bringing out that Divine spark in those around us—with praise, interest in their ideas, help and support—the potential is truly unlimited.

**Shabbos Table Discussion:**

Make a game of naming all the potential uses for a familiar item like a tree or a rock. Use the game as a springboard to discuss maximizing our own potential.

*Adapted from an article in Yated Ne'eman*

# Outside In

*continued from front*

ally means to judge. A person who engages in true tefillah judges himself against the lofty concepts and spiritual aspirations expressed in the words of prayer set by Chazal. He isn't seeking answers; he's seeking purification and understanding of his role as Hashem's servant.

Tefillah comes from outside us, in the prescribed words at the prescribed times. It acts upon our inner selves, lifting us to a higher level. Once that is achieved, we have the strength, the perspective, the right to ask for our needs—the techinos and bakashos of our prayers.

*Adapted from "Delving Within," by Rabbi Elias Schwartz, with permission from Mesorah Publications*

# A.S.A.P.

The guests at a young man's bar mitzvah were surprised by the sudden appearance of the Steipler. He sat down next to the guest of honor, spoke a few words, and left. Naturally, the guests were eager to know what the illustrious figure had said.

The boy explained. Several years earlier, he had been entering the Lederman's Shul on Yom Kippur, carrying a large sefer, which the Steipler mistook to be a Gemara. He gently admonished the boy that now was the time for tefillah, not learning. The boy then showed him that the sefer was a large machzor, not a Gemara. The Steipler regretted the reproach, but the forgiveness of a minor carries no halachic validity. So, the very moment the boy became an adult, the Steipler came to ask forgiveness.

No doubt, the crowd learned as much Torah from that one act as from the most profound words the Steipler could have spoken.

**Shabbos Table Discussion:**

What did the crowd learn from the Steipler's actions?

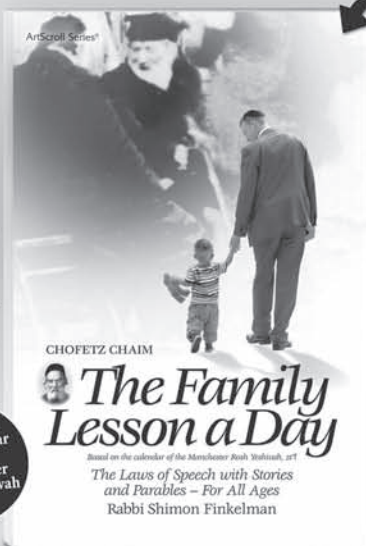
*Adapted from "Five Great Lives," by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, with permission from Mesorah Publications*

There is no family that has taken on the daily learning of Shmiras Haloshon that has not seen a yeshua (salvation), whether for health, shidduchim or children. It always helps in some way."

- The Manchester Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Yehuda Zev Segal זצ"ל Founder, Shmiras Haloshon Yomi

**THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME...  
THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN EASIER WAY**

To bring the blessing of Shmiras Haloshon to your family



Start the new cycle using a brand new sefer for the family

CYCLE STARTS  
Shabbos Rosh  
Chodesh Shevat  
January 16, 2010

engaging,  
refreshing,  
easy to read  
chock full of  
stories and  
parables.

Based on the calendar of the Manchester Rosh Yeshiva זצ"ל

CHOFETZ CHAIM  
**The Family Lesson a Day**  
*The Laws of Speech with Stories and Parables - For All Ages*  
Rabbi Shimon Finkelman

Order your copy today, call 845.325.3505 x 116

The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation - 361 Spook Rock Road, Suffern, NY 10901 - 845-352-3505

Index Reference 410



**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**  
Editor: Shaindy Appelbaum  
Writer: Chana Nestlebaum  
Graphic Artist: Heidi Ort  
Illustrator: Giora Carmi

# Dedications

לע"נ  
ר' יהודה בן ר' ברוך ז"ל  
נלב"ע כ"ד טבת תש"נ  
ואשתו מרת שרה בת ר' צבי ע"ה  
נלב"ע כ"ז טבת תשמ"ח  
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה

**We welcome your comments!**  
Letters to the Editor  
Chosen Words/CCHF  
361 Spook Rock Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

# chosen words

## Personal Growth

### First, the Manna

Before a person can learn Torah, he must fulfill a prerequisite. And that is, derech erez—a refined character. Torah is compared to water; pour it into a faulty vessel, and it simply leaks out. A person cannot be thought of as a talmid chochom if he cheats in business, insults people or succumbs to jealousy, greed and anger.

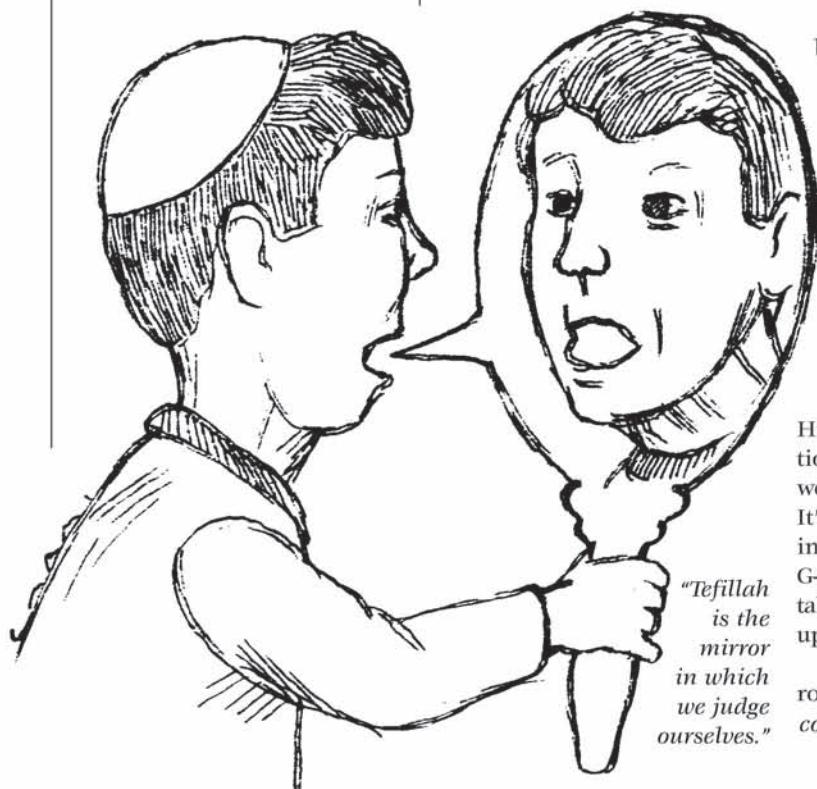
Why not? Because both derech erez and acceptance of the Torah spring from the same source: trust in Hashem. Every positive character trait springs from this trust, and every negative trait takes root in its absence. When a person expresses impatience, jealousy or anger, he is saying: "I'm not getting what I want!" He hasn't yet absorbed the fact that Hashem gives him exactly what he needs. Until a per-

son learns to trust Hashem's rulership of all aspects of life, how can he sincerely commit himself to following Hashem's Torah?

Rabbi Mendel of Rimano finds this lesson in the miracle of the manna. The Jews in the desert had to strengthen their derech erez before they could stand at Mount Sinai, and the manna achieved this through very concrete means. Each person had to gather his own prescribed measure each day. He couldn't take more than he needed; it would spoil. If he took less, Hashem would add to it. The Jews saw how precisely they were fed by Hashem's hand, how He alone took care of their needs.

## Effective Prayer

### Outside In



"Tefillah is the mirror in which we judge ourselves."

## Torah Tools for Personal Growth

### Inspiration



### Ideas



### Excellence



### Success

The trust in Hashem that the manna built within them refined their character, fulfilling the prerequisite of derech erez. They had been forged into perfect vessels, able to accept, and hold for eternity, the Torah they were to receive.

### Shabbos Table Discussion:

Have family members choose various middos and discuss how trust in Hashem affects each of these middos. Adapted from "Lights Along the Way," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, with permission from Mesorah Publications

## Better Relationships

### Evening the Score

Society places a high value on "not letting them get away with it." We learn to admire the person who says, "I don't get mad. I get even," and applaud when the villain gets his comeuppance. But the Talmud teaches that, when we abandon our passion for evening the score in this world, we can score far more valuable points in the World to Come.

The Talmud relates that R' Huna lay so close to death that R' Pappa ordered preparation of his burial shrouds. But R' Huna recovered, and reported what he had seen in his unconscious state: Death had indeed been decreed, but "The Holy One, Blessed is He, instructed, 'Because he does not exact his measure, therefore do not be exacting with him.' As it is written, 'He forgives transgressions and passes over sins' (Michah 7:18)—whose sin does He forgive? One who passes over sins (of others)."

### Shabbos Table Discussion:

What is the difference between dropping a grudge and losing the fight?

Adapted from "Chofetz Chaim: A Lesson a Day," by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman and Rabbi Yitzchok Berkowitz, with permission from Mesorah Publications.

If prayer is our chance to bring our concerns and requests to Hashem, then how can there be uniform times and uniform words to effect this purpose? Shouldn't we speak the words that are in our hearts, that truly reflect our desires? Shouldn't we pray when the need strikes, rather than counting stars and watching the clock?

Rabbi Shamshon Rafael Hirsch answers these questions with a closer look at the word for prayer—"tefillah." It's not, as we sometimes interpret it, our wish list for G-d. It's not something we take from within us and send up to Heaven.

Instead, tefillah, from the root pay-lamed-lamed, actu-

continued on back



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

# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Journal Campaign Update

*Rabbinic Leadership Award*  
*Rabbi & Mrs. Neal Turk*

*Kesser Shem Tov Award*  
*David & Chanu Goldis*

*Guests of Honor*

*Dr. Norman & Naomi Bloom*

*Campaign Goal \$1,000,000 Raised to date \$596,000*

**The Administrative Office will be taking reservations thru Motzei Shabbos. Please leave a message with the financial office voicemail (either Fran or Rashi) with: name, number of attendees and seating preference. Phone number (305)944-5344.**

## **Top 50 Donors**

100,000.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Allan Jacob*

50,000.00 *Anonymous*

50,000.00 *Mrs. Sisel Kfurman*

18,000.00 *Anonymous*

15,000.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan Rubin*

11,000.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Marcos Lapciuc*

10,000.00 *Anonymous*

10,000.00 *Anonymous*

10,000.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Shmuel Katz*

10,000.00 *Anonymous*

10,000.00 *Anonymous*

10,000.00 *Anonymous*

10,000.00 *Anonymous*

7,200.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Ephraim Sobol*

6,000.00 *Anonymous*

6,000.00 *Anonymous*

5,000.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Dan*

5,000.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Gassner*

5,000.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Elliot Hahn*

5,000.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Ari Lampert*

5,000.00 *Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Lehrfield*

5,000.00 *Pesach & Rosa Getzel Foundation*

5,000.00 *Anonymous*

5,000.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Reuven Sandler*

3,600.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Terry Chemtov*

3,600.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Ephraim Katz*

3,600.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Lichtman*

3,600.00 *Mrs. Ethelyn Lieblich*

3,500.00 *Anonymous*

3,000.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Lipton*

2,600.00 *Anonymous*

2,500.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bokor*

2,500.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Michael Chesal*

2,500.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Shlomo Entin*

2,500.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Kacev*

2,500.00 *Rabbi & Mrs. Yisroel Niman*

2,500.00 *Rabbi & Mrs. Mordechai Palgon*

2,500.00 *Pedi-Stat Home Health Services*

2,000.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Hillel Abramson*

2,000.00 *Anonymous*

1,800.00 *Mr. David Adams II*

1,800.00 *Dr. & Dr. Stuart Bernstein*

1,800.00 *Anonymous*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Gary Epstein*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Norman Ginsparg*

1,800.00 *Greenberg Traurig*

1,800.00 *Anonymous*

1,800.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Salomon Imiak*

1,800.00 *Rabbi & Mrs. Eliezer Levy*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Mandel*

1,800.00 *Mr. Steve Pasternack & Mr. Jon Homewood*

1,800.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Zev Raden*

1,800.00 *Regents Park Aventura*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Albert Reichmann*

1,800.00 *Mrs. Ruth Sobol*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Weinberg*

1,800.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Richard Bennett*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Cohen*

1,800.00 *Dr. & Mrs. Brian Galbut*

1,800.00 *Mr. & Mrs. Hillel Herssein*

1,800.00 *Rabbi & Mrs. Binyomin Luban*

*We look forward to having all our friends and parents attend the  
Dinner Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the  
Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island.  
Have a great Shabbos!*