



January 8, 2010

כ"ב טבת תש"ע

## פרשת שמות

Candle Lighting 5:28 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban  
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman  
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

ראשי הישיבה

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### Dvar Torah - The Influence of Society by Rabbi Yaakov Dreyfuss



We often underestimate the influence our surroundings can have on us. There is a tendency to say to one's self, "I can handle the pressure I feel from those around me. I am strong enough to overcome it." The Torah teaches that one's environment indeed can have a significant impact on his behavior.

In this week's *Parsha*, the Torah enumerates the eleven sons of Yaakov Avinu who came down to Egypt and then says, "ויוסף היה במצרים - Yosef was in Egypt." Rashi interprets this to praise Yosef in that he retained the same level of purity and righteousness that he acquired in his father's house throughout his difficult sojourn amidst the decadence of Egyptian culture.

It is indeed noteworthy that the Torah chooses this as praise for Yosef. Shouldn't one expect that Yosef, the "ben zekunim," who Rashi himself learns

that at the tender age of 17 had acquired all of his saintly father Yaakov's Torah, would preserve his *kedusha* despite whatever those around him were involved in? Rather, we see that even a great *tzadik* such as Yosef could be influenced by his surroundings.

We also see that Yosef persevered. He was able to retain his father's Torah and keep himself from being effected by those around him. It was indeed possible for him to be exposed to this foreign culture and, undoubtedly though great effort, maintain his purity and righteousness.

The lesson for us is two-fold. First, we must be aware of the dangers that are posed by the values of those around us. We are quite susceptible to being tempted to compromise our Torah values, even if in a small way. Second, we see that it is possible to overcome the influence of society and not dilute our values. Let us make it a priority to minimize our association with those who would have a negative influence on us, and redouble our efforts to maintain our *kedusha*.

### Help Get YTC Moving!

We are in great need of a 12-passenger van. If you or someone you know would be interested in donating or dedicating one, please contact our office at 305-944-5344.

YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM  
TORAS EMES ACADEMY OF MIAMI

25th

24 TEVES, 5770  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010  
JUNGLE ISLAND, MIAMI, FLORIDA

Annual Dinner

RABBINIC LEADERSHIP AWARD  
RABBI AND MRS. NEAL TURK

KESSER SHEM TOV AWARD  
MR. AND MRS. DAVID GOLDIS

GUESTS OF HONOR  
DR. AND MRS. NORMAN BLOOM



### Dvar Halacha – Remembering Shabbos

by Meir Palgon, Grade 11

According to the Sefer HaChinuch, the 26<sup>th</sup> *mitzvah* in the Torah is to remember Shabbos. The most obvious way we fulfill this *mitzvah* is on Shabbos itself, through *kiddush*, *tefilah* and *havdalah*. We can also fulfill this *mitzvah* on a daily basis. We do so when we recite the *yom* in *davening* by

counting the days of the week by their relationship to Shabbos. Since Shabbos is the seventh day of the week, by saying, "Today is the first day in the counting of the Shabbos.", we are recalling Shabbos as well, thereby fulfilling the *mitzvah d'oraysa* of זכור את יום השבת לקדשו.

## Top 5 Reasons to Come to Our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner!

**5. Enjoy and Relax** amidst the calm, tropical atmosphere of the Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island!

**4. Indulge Yourself** with the exquisite culinary offerings of our lavish smorgasbord and fine dinner cuisine prepared by Mark Hayes.

**3. Pay tribute** our most deserving awardees, Rabbi & Mrs. Neal Turk, and Mr. & Mrs. David Goldis, and our Guests of Honor, Dr. & Mrs. Norman Bloom, for their outstanding contributions to Torah in South Florida.

**2. Show your appreciation** and support for the hard-working rabbeim, teachers and staff of the Yeshiva.

**1. Stand up and be counted** among the supporters of the largest Yeshiva of its kind in the Southeastern United States.

## YTC Spotlight

### Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier Visits YTC



Last week Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier, Founder and Director of Tiferes B'nei Torah and of TheShmuz.com visited YTC and spoke

to the boys about the importance of role models. He quoted the Gemorah (Yuma 35b) which states that when a person passes away and comes to the Heavenly Tribunal, he will not be able to excuse himself by saying, "I was too rich or too poor to learn Torah." Hashem will ask him, "Were you poorer than Hillel or richer than Rabbi Elazar Ben Charsom?" Rabbi Shafier asked what difference it makes whether one was poorer than Hillel or not. One should be



judged against his own potential, not that of Hillel! He answered that each one of us has tremendous inner potential that might go undiscovered if we don't realize it's there. By analyzing the life of Hillel and Rabbi Elazar ben Charsom - how they were able to study Torah under extreme circumstances, we can discover hid-

den talents and abilities within ourselves. In essence, that the purpose of a hero: to be a model of what we can become if we give it our all. Rabbi Shafier encouraged all the *talmidim* to choose proper role models to emulate in order to uncover and maximize their full potential.

### The Beauty of a YTC Shabbaton



The goal of any Yeshiva is not only to teach Torah, but also to transform the *talmidim* into *B'nei Torah*. This happens through in-

tensive *Limud HaTorah* and *mussar* in the classroom, as well as interaction with *rabbeim*, *chaveirim* and *Bais Medrash bochurim* outside of the classroom. When one combines the *assifas chaveirim* - getting together as a class - with the *kedusha* and *ruach* of Shabbos, one has a truly dynamic experience. This is the essence of a YTC Shabbaton. So far this year, various classes have experienced *Shabba-*

*tons* in Palm Beach Gardens and North Miami Beach. This week, Rabbi Dreyfuss' 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in a Shabbaton in East Boca. YTC 9<sup>th</sup> grader Avner Glatt remarked, "We eat together in Yeshiva all the time, but to get together as a class and share a Shabbos seuda in my Rebbe's home is really special."

