



April 26, 2010

י"א אייר תש"ע

פרשת אחרי מות-קדושים

Candle Lighting 7:30 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

ראשי הישיבה

Inside this Issue:

- Dvar Torah 1
- Dvar Halacha 1
- Internet Safety Program 2

Dvar Torah - Acquiring Holiness

This week's *Parsha* exhorts us, "קדושים תהיו" - *Be holy.*" How does one achieve holiness? Does he have to deprive himself of all worldly pleasures to do so? Must he cut himself off from friends and relatives? Rashi tells us that wherever you find barriers against immorality, you will find holiness. It seems that guarding oneself against immorality is a significant step towards bringing *kedusha* into one's life.

We find an illustration of this concept in *Parshas Vayeira*. After Avimelech returned Sara to Avrohom Avinu, Avimelech asked Avrohom why he obfuscated by informing his guards that Sara was his sister. Avrohom responds that he saw no fear of G-d in Avimelech's kingdom, and therefore was concerned he might be killed so that Sara could be taken by another man. Rashi explains that Avrohom's perception regarding Avimelech's subjects came from the question he was asked as he entered the city. Avrohom was asked what relationship he had with Sara. As a traveler, the appropriate questions to ask would have been regard-

ing whether or not he is hungry, or does he need assistance with lodging. The fact that the guards asked about Sara showed Avrohom that their fear of G-d was lacking.

We see from here an important concept. Avrohom was able to ascertain a nation's relationship to G-d based upon their sensitivity to immorality. A nation close to G-d would have had protections against immorality, and the culture would have been one that eschewed inquiring about a traveler's female companion. The fact that they asked about

Sara not only spoke to their vigilance in regards to immorality, but also to their relationship to G-d in general.

Let us bring holiness into our lives by shoring up our barriers against immorality. By doing so, not only are we protecting our virtue; we are enhancing our relationship with Hashem himself, קדושים תהיו כי קודש אני.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Toras Emes requests the honor of your presence as we dedicate

The Dr. Abe Chames High School

in memory of our most beloved

Dr. Abe Chames ז"ל

אברהם זאב בן עקב ז"ל

ג' סיון תש"ע | Sunday morning, May 16, 2010

11:30 AM at the Yeshiva

1025 Northeast Miami Gardens Drive

North Miami Beach, Florida

Please join us for this momentous occasion.



Help Make Our Shabbos!

The Yeshiva is in need of a sponsor for new laminated benchers. Please call our office for dedication opportunities at 305-944-5344.

Yasher Koach to Rabbi & Mrs. Meir Shaffren for donating a new becher. Thank You!



Dvar Halacha – *כותב מלאכה* of *כותב* by Joey Laniado, Grade 11

One of the prohibited מלאכות on Shabbos is the *Melacha* of כותב, writing. The *אב מלאכה* is writing at least two letters. Drawing pictures is a *כותב תולדה*.

The Torah only forbids writing something in a way that is permanent; temporary writing was forbidden by the *Rabbanan*. This would prohibit one from writing with a finger on a wet surface, as in the condensation on a wet bottle. However, one is permitted to draw letters in the air with one's finger, as this is not writing at all.

The *Rabbanan* prohibited business dealing on Shabbos

because one may come to write down a transaction. Furthermore, gifts are not allowed to be given on Shabbos for the same reason, unless they are for a *mitzva* or acquired before or after Shabbos.

One is also not allowed to pay an employee for a job performed on Shabbos, unless he is continuing a job that was started before Shabbos and is paid by the task rather than by the hour. This circumstance is permitted because you are including his payment in a larger deal that extends beyond Shabbos itself.

The Weekly Quiz

What was Avrohom Avinu's mother's name?

Answers may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.net. The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate. Hatzlochah!

Answer to last week's quiz:

Q: What word in the weekday davening has the highest gematria?

A: קדוש לבנה in שתתקדש has a gematria of 1504! Congratulations to Binyomin Goldenberg of our 11th grade for submitting the highest number!



5 Exciting, Action-Packed Weeks of Learning, Trips, Sports and a Wide Variety of Activities in a Warm Torah Environment

For further information, please call the Yeshiva office at 305-944-5344 or email us at MasmidMiami@ytcteam.org

YTC Spotlight

Hundreds Gather to Keep Kids Safe Online

This past Wednesday night, hundreds of concerned parents from all over South Florida came together to focus on the growing issue of Internet safety. The program, entitled *The Community-Wide Internet Safety Program – The Parents' Role in the Safety of our Children*, was sponsored by many area Yeshivos and Day Schools, including Yeshiva Toras Chaim / Toras Emes.



The program featured three outstanding presentations from renowned Jewish leaders and experts. The first presenter was Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser, *Shlit"u*, Rov of K'hal Bais Yitzchok and noted Torah personality, lecturer and author. Rabbi Goldwasser pointed out that, "on the Internet, there are many *michsholim* (stumbling blocks), and therefore we need great *shmira* (safeguard). A person needs an agency, maybe their Rov or Rebbetzin, to see what sites they are visiting. A person needs a filter as well."

Rabbi Goldwasser also remarked, "We have gone through great efforts to build homes of *kedusha* and *tahara*. We have built communities with Yeshivos and *Kollelim*. It had become difficult for the Satan to penetrate our homes. The computer has become the way for the Satan to enter our homes, and if it isn't the computer, then it is the (cellular) phone."

Rabbi Goldwasser was followed by Dr. David Pelcovitz. Dr. Pelcovitz holds the Gwendolyn and Joseph Straus Chair in Psychology and Jewish Education at Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, where he is also the Special Assistant to the President. Serving

for over two decades as Director of Psychology at North Shore University Hospital-NYU School of Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, at NYU School of Medicine, he has consulted extensively with the Jewish community in the United States, Europe and Israel on a wide range of issues facing children and adolescents.



Dr. Pelcovitz spoke about the effect that the Internet, and modern technology in general, is having on the relationships between parents and their children. "When speaking to our children, we need to give them our full attention and minimize distractions. Parents are not *mechanchim* (teachers), they are *mashpe'im* (role models). We have to be careful what we do because they are watching and learning. Have you ever spoken to someone and they're there, but not there? We need to model full-face, eye to eye contact with our children. Good communication skills are the building blocks of mature, stable relationships."

Dr. Pelcovitz also spoke about the need to set limits with young children and adolescents, as well as the necessity to open up a mature dialogue with our kids as far as what is acceptable and unacceptable use of technology.

The final speaker was Rabbi Norman Lowenthal. Rabbi Lowenthal is a guidance counselor at the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore as well as a clinical social worker and psychotherapist. He gave practical advice as to how to protect our children from predators, peer



victimization and cyber-bullying.

Rabbi Lowenthal also spoke about the spiritual threats that the Internet can bring into the home. He remarked that kids who are exposed to inappropriate material on the Internet may "come to feel guilt, and that guilt can lead to anger, that anger can lead to resentment, and the resentment can lead to cynicism. Today's teens may be more sophisticated than in the past, but they aren't more mature. Set limits. Talk to your kids about what they may and may not do online."



The evening ended with Rabbi Lowenthal strongly urging the crowd to take action based on what they heard, "Block Internet access for young children; install a filter and carefully monitor older children physically and with accountability software like WebChaver."

The sponsoring schools strongly urge all parents to sign up for accountability software. This simple step can go a long way in protecting families from the dangers of the Internet.