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ה' כסלו תשע"א

פרשת ויצא

Candle Lighting 5:14 PM

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Dvar Torah - Looking the Other Way

The Torah tells us that when Yaakov Avinu arrived in Charan, he chanced upon shepherds herding their sheep from the field in the middle of the day. Yaakov first inquired from them about his location and whether Lavan lived nearby. The shepherds told him that he was in Charan, that Lavan indeed lived nearby and that his daughter, Rachel, was at that moment on her way to the well where Yaakov was. Yaakov then asked them why they were bringing the sheep in from the field so early in the day.

This is puzzling. Yaakov came to Charan by the request of his father with a sacred duty to find a wife for himself from the family of Lavan. After an arduous trip, he is so near to his goal, Rachel is even in view, but instead of rushing to greet her, he pauses to ask the shepherds about their sheep. What was so important that it could distract Yaakov from his mission?

The Seforno comments that Yaakov's third question emanated from a perception that the shepherds were cheating their employers. To cheat and steal were so anathematic to Yaakov, that despite the importance of his mission, he couldn't bear to witness it and be silent.

In today's world, we are surrounded by *sheker*. At times it is so easy to "turn the other way" when we see dishonesty around us. We may even think to ourselves, "I would get involved, but it will take up too much of my precious time. After all, it's not like I'm doing anything wrong." We see from Yaakov that we must stand up for what is right. It is our duty to strengthen ourselves and be sure that we are never complacent when confronted with dishonesty.

Dvar Halacha – Kashrus for Pets?

One may not derive benefit from the cooked combination of meat and milk. This prohibition would also preclude giving such a forbidden mixture to one's pet. This prohibition, however, only applies to a mixture of the meat and milk of kosher animals such as beef, goat and sheep. It would not apply to pig or horse meat.

Since many of today's pet foods contain both milk and meat, and are cooked together as part of the canning process, pet food can be very problematic. However, it is permitted to feed to animals a combination of

chicken and milk, or pork and milk, even if the mixture is cooked, because that prohibition is D'Rabanan, and it is not forbidden to derive benefit from.

Therefore, one must ascertain the ingredients of the pet food. If the pet food has meat or animal fat, combined with milk, casein or whey, it may not be used. If, however, it is labeled as chicken or horse-meat, the combination would be permissible to feed to one's pet.

YTC Spotlight

The Weekly Quiz

Which Parsha in the Torah contains the highest number of named births, and how many named births are recorded in that Parsha?

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!

WWII Veteran and Concentration Camp Liberator Speaks at YTC

By Mattisyahu Nightingale, Grade 11



On Tuesday, November 3rd, the Yeshiva, in conjunction with Project Mesorah, had the privilege to host and listen to Sergeant Allen

Moskin, a World War II veteran and concentration camp liberator, speak about his experiences and memories of the harsh times he endured. In a highly detailed and graphic description, Sgt. Allen captivated the audience by telling over many powerful anecdotes and reflecting upon the horrors he witnessed at Gunkirchen, a sub-camp of the German death camp Mauthausen.

Sgt. Moskin said, "It took me over fifty years to speak about my past because I was so fearful of bringing back all the bad memories." He essentially "locked up [his] brain and threw away the key." The large

amount of Holocaust deniers that have emerged in the past decade has moved him to speak out publicly about his experiences.

"It was one of the most inspiring talks I have ever heard. He spoke about how war really is, with many true heroes left unacknowledged," said YTC student Shlomo Kalchman.



After Sgt. Moskin's moving lecture, Mr. Aharon Halpern, a survivor of the camp which Sgt. Moskin liberated, gave some

brief statements in an emotional encounter with the Sergeant. The program concluded with the presentation of *Hakaras Hatov* awards to Sgt. Moskin and Halpern, by YTC students Jaime Benson and Avidor Gerstenfeld.



Sgt. Moskin left the crowd with the hope and prayer "that one day, prejudice will end and people will judge others by their qualities and character rather than as members of any particular group".



YTC Blood Drive a Kiddush HaShem

By Chaim Benson, Grade 11



Everyone has seen the Bloodmobile around town, but recently the massive bus was seen on the campus of Yeshiva Toras Chaim. The bus pulled on to campus at 10:00 A.M. and the blood started flowing freely. Many members of the Yeshiva's family helped make the blood drive a success, leaving the director of the Community Blood Center of South Florida, Paula Edenburg, asking, "When can we come back?" Usually, a blood drive is considered a success if 10 pints of blood are collected. 10th, 11th and 12th graders (with parents

consent), teachers from the Yeshiva, members of the Bais Medrash, attendees of Rabbi Sharfman's Sunday Shiur for Ba'alei Batim and other members of the North Miami Beach community, as well as people from other communities, all helped to collect close to 40 pints of blood. There was such an outpouring of donations that the first blood truck soon ran out of

collection supplies. Another Bloodmobile was called to the school to help collect the extra blood. The second bus stayed for an extra two hours to accommodate the continuous flow of donors. Each donor also received special giveaways. The most beautiful part of the blood drive was the Kiddush Hashem it created. Yasher Koach to all.

