

TEAM Spirit

Friday, January 7, 2011
Candle Lighting 5:27 PM

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



פרשת בא

TEAM PLAYERS

★STAR STUDENTS★

Shira Adar - T.S.	Shlomo Alfassy - T.S.
Chana Alber - S.S.	Reuven Evgi - T.S.
Yael Aminov - T.S.	Moti Froimovich - S.S.
Racheli Bernstein - T.S.	Mendy Itzkowitz - S.S.
Gabi Chattah - S.S.	Binyamin Kanoff - T.S.
Leah Corcos - S.S.	Yehuda Kon - T.S.
Chani Dreyfuss - S.S.	Yehuda Lehrfield - S.S.
Daniella Katz - T.S.	Yenon Moshe Sharaby - S.S.
Tamar Mindick - S.S.	Michael Shmueli - T.S.
Yardena Reboh - T.S.	Joey Tokayer - S.S.
Lea Riesel - S.S.	
Yael Ungar - S.S.	

Shifra Braunschweiger	Shuey Braunschweiger
Tamar Brody	Daniel Chattah
Naomi Bursztyn	Daniel Danan
Raquel Elgavi	Yehuda Gassner
Tamar Feldman	Shua Jeger
Atara Laks	Avraham Homnick
Rivka Lefkowitz	Moshe Kaploun
Avital Nightingale	Michel Korff
Elisheva Sharfman	Elias Mizrahi
Rivka Sheinkopf	Aryeh Leib Thav
Meital Weisskoff	
Nechama Wolwick	

THIS SUNDAY NIGHT!

Yeshiva Toras Chaim
Toras Emes Academy
26th Annual Dinner
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011
JUNGLE ISLAND
Guests of Honor

MR. AND MRS.
MARCOS & TIFFANY LAPCIUC
Kesser Shem Tov Award
MR. AND MRS.
AARON & RANDY GROFFMAN

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 toward Watson Island/Jungle Island. 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.

PARENTING CLASSES

The final parenting class in our series takes place this Sunday at 10:30AM.

CALLING ALL MOTHERS & GRANDMOTHERS!

Please make sure to join us next Sunday, January 16 for an opportunity to bond with your daughters at our Mother-Daughter Luncheon in the Toras Emes Social Hall. This exciting event will surely be a memorable one for all in attendance. Invitations are on the way!

ASSEMBLIES

This month's assemblies, featuring Mrs. Palgon's fifth grade girls and Rabbi Schwartz's second grade boys, were enjoyed by all in attendance on Thursday. Both classes educated and entertained their audiences with special Tu B'Shevat performances—complete with fascinating details of this unique day. *Yasher Koach* to Rabbi Dovid Sharfman and Rabbi Avi Goldman for their inspiring *Divrei Torah*.

KONEI OLAM

Welcome to the USA!! We began our visit to America in Washington D.C. This is where we are starting to learn about *Chessed*. Look out for the **House of Kindness Contest**.....

STAY IN TOUCH!!!!

In our constant effort to maintain the most efficient communication between school and home, we are excited about a new system which allows us to text messages to your cellphones. If you would like to receive reminders of timely school events (such as official uniform days) please call the school office with the pertinent information.

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Yisroel Niman and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their daughter, our alumna, Shiffy and Moshe Goldberger.



To Mr. and Mrs. David Buzaglo and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Mordechi.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- ◆ Sara Nechama *bas* Chaya Yehudis
- ◆ Moshe *ben* Miriam
- ◆ Shlomo Leib *ben* Miriam
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Asna
- ◆ Yosef *ben* Allegria
- ◆ Tzvi Hersh *ben* Chana Bayla
- ◆ Yaakov Leib *ben* Feiga
- ◆ Baruch Mordechai *ben* Tessel
- ◆ Yocheved *bas* Tzirel
- ◆ Penina *bas* Ashira
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga *bas* Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Shayna Batya *bas* Sara

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Weekly Parsha Class

Thursday mornings 9:15-10:00AM

In Rabbi Baumann's Office (Girls' Bldg.)

Girls' JAG

Tuesday 4-5 PM for girls in grades 1-3.

Miss Gruenstein at 786.357.0210

Boys' After School Sports

Monday & Thursday, 4-5PM

Coach Melamed 786.356.8063

Mr. Harkavy 631.612.7532

5G PLAYS CHESS!!

“Hmm...where can I move? That was the thought that floated around the girls in 5G’s heads as they played chess at recess. The Westing Game is the novel they are reading which inspired them to play chess with their friends. The girls are in suspense about the ending of the novel, because it is a wonderful mystery! Now everyone has something to look forward to in 5G.





Research Club



• Who was the first President to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

• What is the average life span for a snake?

• Benjamin Franklin organized the Junto in 1727. What was it?

These are some of the questions our student researchers have to answer.
How did you do answering them?

Congratulations to the students below who have reached new milestones!
Keep looking it up!

4G	4G	4G	4G	4G	4G	5G	5G
<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Navigator III</i> 2,500 points	<i>Commander I</i> 3,000 points
Rivky Stern	Shira Feldman	Adi Akrish	Sara Salame	Tzivia Elias	Tzipporah Leah Greenberg	Sara Winter	Shoshana Sapirman
Yasmin Reboh	Miriam Dreyfuss	Raizy Dudovitz	Esther Pam	Shaina Druin	Sivan Zaig		
Tamar Mindick	Rivka Sheinkopf	Tehila Palgon	Sofia Shirel Leonoff	Leah Baroukh			
Yocheved Krispin	Arielle Chemtov	Nechama Wulwick	Naomi Kalchman	Alysa Suissa			
Ariella Fellus	Hadara Balgley	Batia Segal	Gita Glazer	Sara Seltzer			

4B	4B	4B	5B	5B	5B	5B	5B
<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Library Maven</i> 500 points	<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Navigator I</i> 1,500 points	<i>Specialist I</i> 4,500 points	<i>Specialist II</i> 5,000 points	<i>Specialist III</i> 5,500 points
Efrem Wasserman	Noam Peleg	David Grinman	Shaya Schwab	Yonatan El-Gad	Eli Sandhaus	Eli Sandhaus	Eli Sandhaus
Yaacov Sutton	Natan Oropesa	Yackov Greenberg	Avner Yishai Yeshurum	Zev Bistriz			
Gavriel Aminov	Yehuda Gassner	Jacob Benchetrit	Josh Herzek				
		Dani Franklin	Rubin Evgi				

Keep up the good work, everyone!
Warm Southern regards,
Ms. Grossman, Librarian/Computer Teacher



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

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

Dr. Deborah Lerer
Secular Studies Principal

Rabbi Noam Grossman
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Naomi Bloom
Early Childhood Director

Erev Shabbos Parashas Bo 5771

Dear Parents - *The following letter, written by Rabbi Baruch Hilsenrath, Headmaster of Magen David Yeshiva in Brooklyn, a highly respected educator and colleague, addresses an issue of great importance.*

Reflections on the Blizzard of 2010

How we gazed in awe as the storm picked up in intensity, blinded by its ferocious nature and magnitude. Notable was how people reacted. Most stood on the side observing and criticizing. How could leadership allow this to happen? How incompetent, don't people know how to handle themselves during a time of crisis? Yet others, rather than shoveling criticism, actually joined with their neighbors and united to provide that extra "push" that enabled those in turmoil to move forward and to arrive at their intended destination. Oh, you were thinking about the snowstorm of last week. I was referring to a much more hazardous blizzard that has affected our lives and our community. This storm is much more difficult to clean up, and I am intensely concerned about the impact that this ever present "weather" will have upon our children. Allow me to explain.

One of the finest attributes of our community was a sense of private dignity and guarded modesty when it came to sharing information with the public. Family issues were contained, and if shared, were mentioned in whispering conversations of "secrets" not to be retold. Although sharing information concerning others was never permitted according to Jewish Law, at least there was a sense of shame if the secret was ever divulged. Our community protected itself by retaining the highest standard of discretion and never ever used the written word that might disparage others.

This past month, Time Magazine chose as its Person of the Year, Mark Zuckerberg, the 26 year old founder of Facebook. Presently, there are 550 million members on Facebook, growing at a rate of 700,000 new members a day. My concern is that we have entered a world where privacy for ourselves and for our children is a value that is eroding before our very eyes and that the addictive blizzard of "sharing everything" is upon our doorsteps and we do not even see that it has arrived.

Time Magazine states:

But there is another danger, which is that instead of feeling forced to share, we won't be able to stop ourselves from sharing — that we will willingly, compulsively violate our own privacy. Relationships on Facebook have a seductive, addictive quality that can erode and even replace real-world relationships. Friendships multiply with gratifying speed, and the emotional stakes stay soothingly low; where there isn't much privacy, there can't be much intimacy either. It's like an emotional Ponzi scheme, where you keep putting energy in and getting it back tenfold, even though the dividends start to feel a little fake.

The above stated reality leaves our children and ourselves addicted to commenting about everyone and everything. It is not simply Facebook, but this tendency is reflective of technology in general. We view it as progressive to be the first to change our BBM* “status” to share the latest news or the latest gossip. Our children BBM or instant message for many more hours than they study or engage in live conversations with another human being. One student told me that he has a plastic bag to place his Blackberry in when he takes a shower so that he will not miss any messages! Have you found it difficult to have a conversation with anyone without being rudely interrupted by either your phone or the other person’s latest technological device? How does technology affect the quality of: your supper table; a ride in the car with your children; or a conversation with your spouse?

I created a word recently that I believe is a partial antidote to our current crisis and the ever present “Blizzard of Sharing” which gained in intensity in 2010 and will only get worse in 2011 unless we pause and take stock of where we are headed. For you see, whereas most stand on the side and shovel their criticism at whomever and whatever, others reflect and use this energy to create a more positive future for our community and for our children. They get into the middle of the traffic of life and offer a much-needed “push” with words and actions of comfort and support.

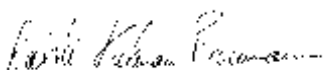
The word I created is “pausitive,” the state of mind of putting life on hold, **pausing** and asking if my words are **positively** affecting others. It is the 2-second pause before I press the send button to ask myself: “is this necessary; am I a role model for my child; or am I in a state where “I can’t help myself from sharing?” To be clear, positive criticism, when delivered sincerely and properly, should be welcomed by any growing person or institution.

Dignity and privacy are core values that we must retain. Hashem paused when He created the world. We call this Shabbat, the day of not simply rest, but of reflection. The Rabbis encourage us to bring a little of Shabbat into everyday of the week. Let us become a bit “pausitive” in our communications: **pause, positive** and send.

Please share your thoughts at pausitive@mdyschool.com. I would very much like to form a committee of interested parents to join together to develop practical, positive strategies to help us clean up the mess.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Dr. Baruch Hilsenrath

*Thank you to Mr. Terry Chemtov for passing along this gem of a letter.
Good Shabbos to all.
Looking forward to greeting you at the Yeshiva’s Dinner this Sunday.*



Rabbi Kalman Baumann

* BBM—BlackBerry Messenger

*26th Annual Dinner & Journal Campaign
Journal Ad Update*

Guests of Honor

Mr. & Mrs. Marcos & Tiffany Lapciuc

Kesser Shem Tov Award

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron & Randy Groffman

Campaign Goal \$1,000,000 Raised to date \$742,288

*We would like to thank all our parents who have participated in our
26th Annual Journal Campaign*

*We look forward to greeting you all at our Dinner
this Sunday, January 9th
Jungle Island Treetop Ballroom
Miami, Florida*

Cocktails 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

*Reservations will be taken at the Yeshiva Toras Chaim office through Friday
afternoon 2:00PM or leave a message on the voice mail and we will pick up
any additional reservations Motzei Shabbos*

(305) 944-5344

Have a Great Shabbos

chosen words

Personal Growth

The 48 Essential Qualities for Learning

If you want to acquire Torah, all you have to do is study. Right? Surprisingly, Pirkei Avos tells us that study is just one of 48 qualities necessary to successfully acquire Torah, to truly make it yours.

Among the others named in the Mishnah are joy, modesty, slowness to anger, a good heart and closeness with peers.

According to Rav Chaim Volozhiner, you attain Torah in direct proportion to your efforts in developing these traits. Without them, Torah can't be fully grasped.

Quality # 14: Knowing One's Place

Rabbi Stein had an encyclopedic knowledge of Talmud and halachah. People called from around the world to ask him delicate, complex questions, involving medical ethics, business, psychology, even questions of life and death. His grasp of Torah created in him a depth of wisdom that was perceived by all. So naturally, when his community's yeshivah planned its fundraising dinner, Rabbi Stein was asked to be the key speaker.

"I'm sorry," he responded. "But I'm not a public speaker. I'll be happy to say a few words, but if you're looking for someone who will really reach the audience, ask Rabbi Berger."

Weeks later, after Rabbi Berger finished his smashing successful address, a member of the audience approached him with a difficult halachic question. "I'm sorry," replied Rabbi Berger, "but I think Rabbi Stein would be much better qualified to help you."

A person who knows his strengths and weaknesses, who knows his assets and deficits, is a person in whom Torah can grow. Because he knows his strengths, he understands his

responsibilities. And because he knows his weaknesses, he understands when to be quiet, when to step aside, when to defer to higher wisdom.

For Torah to be truly assimilated into the soul, it can't be blocked by false humility or undue self-assurance. The one who Pirkei Avos calls "hamakir es mekomo," "one who knows his place," has made a place for Torah within himself.

Adapted from a taped lecture by Rabbi Noach Weinberg, Ohr Somayach

Effective Prayer

Practicing Perfection

In the days of the Beis Hamikdash, a non-Jew who desired to bring a sacrifice to Hashem had a choice. He could bring it to the Beis Hamikdash, where an unblemished offering would be required. Or, he could offer it at his own altar, where an imperfect animal would suffice. Those who chose the former experienced a far more elevated state, a bit of which lingered within them.

Jews, however, had no option but to bring their offering to the Beis Hamikdash, where perfection was required. A Jew, Hashem was telling us, has no option but to reach for perfection.

Today, in the absence of the Beis Hamikdash, the opportunity to experience this uplift resides in shul. There, we can bring

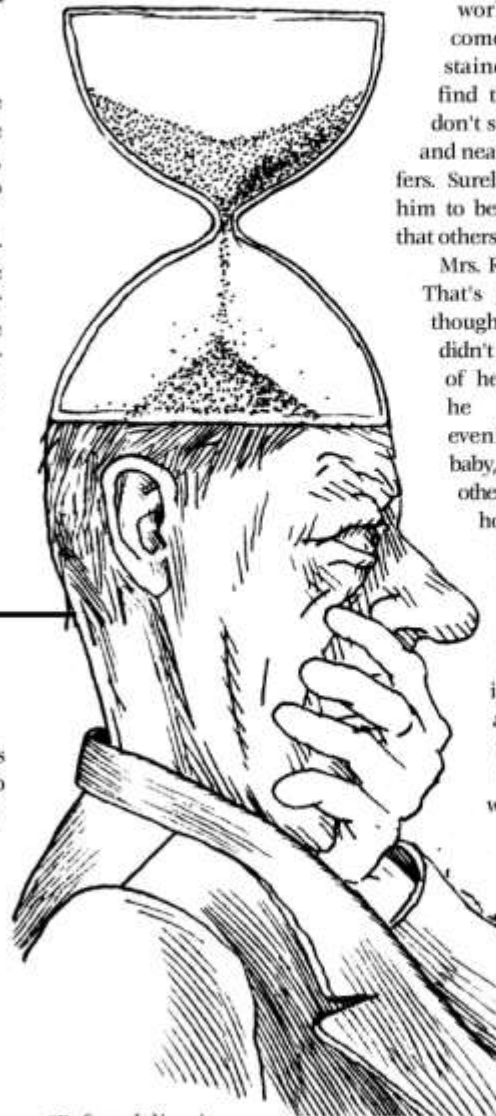
Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration

Ideas

Excellence

Success



"Before delivering a rebuke to anyone, we must pause long enough to try, as Hillel advised, 'to stand in his place.'"

Hashem the perfect offering of our hearts, our most sincere and ardent tefillos. One who rationalizes, "I'm not the type to daven like that. I'm no tzaddik," misses his chance to experience, even *continued on back*

Better Relationships

Cause To Pause

"Mrs. Rubin," said the teacher, "I can't help but notice that your son's homework sheets often come in wrinkled and stained. You know, I find that when parents don't stress responsibility and neatness, the child suffers. Surely you don't want him to be the type of child that others are going to tease."

Mrs. Rubin was crushed. That's what the teacher thought of her—that she didn't take proper care of her children. Could he see her each evening, juggling a baby, a toddler, and the other children in need of homework help, refereeing, or just a sympathetic ear?

All this she did gladly, pouring ceaseless effort into maintaining a happy, if somewhat chaotic, household. So the homework got dirty? Mrs. Rubin was grateful that it got done!

The teacher obviously thought he was offering good counsel. But his approach would have been different had he *continued on back*


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Dedicated L'ilui Nishmas Reva Esther bas Tzvi Hersch HaLevi a'h

Outside-In

Rivka had to admit it. When the baby woke up in the morning, at the cheery hour of 6 a.m., she was not feeling very maternal. She would sluggishly scuff her way into the baby's room, lift her like a bag of potatoes, sling her over her shoulder and take her to the kitchen for her cereal. On top of tired, Rivka felt guilty. A baby should see a smile first thing in the morning, she thought. A baby should hear a happy voice.

Finally, guilt overcame fatigue. The next morning, when the plaintive sounds of "Mama, Mama" emanated from the baby's room, Rivka decided to pretend, for the baby's sake, that this was fun. "Good morn-

ing, my Chayala!" she said sweetly, her lips positioned into an approximation of a smile. She lifted the baby tenderly and narrated to her, "We're going to have some cereal. Delicious cereal, come with Mommy!" Her inner voice was still crying, "Sleep! Sleep," but that voice was being muffled by the new, happy Mom. Soon, her fatigue was forgotten, and her

baby's smiles were turning Rivka's act into reality.

Can a person change his inner attitude by changing his outer actions? The Torah says, definitively, "yes." If one truly wants a positive attitude toward something, but the feeling won't come, he can and should pretend. "If a person's desire ... is not strong enough, he should

"Can a person change his inner attitude by changing his outer actions?"

willfully act with zeal so that his desire will become a natural instinct, because outer movements stir inner ones," says Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato in *Mesilas Yeshtarim*.

It most likely won't happen instantly, but given a consistent effort, attitudes can and do change.

To Do: Think of an attitude you would like to change, and apply Rabbi Luzzato's advice.

Adapted from "Success," by Rabbi Moshe Gans, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Perfection

continued from front

temporarily, what that kind of devotion feels like. If he drops his preconceptions, opens his heart and lets the tefillah flow, he will give Hashem a perfect offering, and walk away with a touch of holiness that will elevate his life.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Why do people "hold back" in prayer?

Adapted from "What's Wrong With Being Human," by Rabbi Yisroel Miller, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Cause To Pause

continued from front

considered the words of Hillel: "Don't judge your friend until you reach his place." In fact, you can never really "reach his place," because you can never live through the experiences that brought him to that place. Yet Hillel doesn't tell us to remain silent when we should speak. He simply gives us cause to pause—and think hard—before we utter a word of rebuke.

—CCHF

Dedications

לעיני
 הרבנות רבקה בת
 הרב מנחם מנחם יוסף עיני
 נכדה של מנחם הרבץ חיים זצוקל
 נלבוע ראש חדש שבט תשס"ח
 תנצבת.

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

All I Ask

The word most often used to describe the Torah of Rav Aharon Kotler, zt'l, the Rosh Yeshiva of Bais Medrash Gevocha in Lakewood, is "bren," a burning desire to learn Torah and serve Hashem. Just how deep that desire ran was illustrated in the following episode.

In 1956, Rav Aharon was in Jerusalem for an Agudas Yisrael convention. He had agreed to officiate at the wedding of a former student who was living in the city. The wedding was held at a hall near what was then the Jordanian border. As the guests began washing for the seudah, Jordanian artillery began to boom. Everyone ducked for cover and began what they assumed might be their final prayers.

"Tatte, Ich vill Dir noch badinenen," Rav Aharon pleaded. "Father, I want to serve you yet longer!" No other desire—not to enjoy more of life, not to the desire to be spared pain—superceded this one overriding desire to keep serving Hashem.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What would you have said to Hashem in these circumstances?

Adapted from an article in Yated Ne'eman, March 12, 1999, with permission from the publisher

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of the Torah written l'zecher nishmas the Chofetz Chaim zt'l by Jews worldwide

FEBRUARY 2011

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Reserve a letter for yourself or as a zechus for a loved one

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