

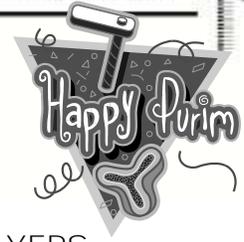
# TEAM Spirit

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

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Friday, March 18, 2011  
Candle Lighting 7:12 PM

פרשת צו  
פרשת זכור



★STAR STUDENTS★

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Tehila Alfassy – T.S.         | Gavriel Aminov – S.S.      |
| Natalie Aronov – S.S.         | Zev Bistriz – S.S.         |
| Pnina Bergida – S.S.          | Danny Breier – T.S.        |
| Miriam Bisker – S.S.          | Yonatan Klecky - T.S.      |
| Naomi Bursztyn – S.S.         | Gershon Maya – T.S.        |
| Chani Dreyfuss – T.S.         | Natan Mizrahi – S.S.       |
| Batsheva Druin – T.S.         | Yosef Nemani – T.S. & S.S. |
| Shaindel Farmer               | Noam Peleg – T.S.          |
| Chaya Mushka Greenberg – T.S. | David Sharbani – S.S.      |
| Brendel Jablon – T.S.         |                            |
| Yocheved Krispin – S.S.       |                            |
| Avigail Levine – T.S. & S.S.  |                            |
| Tamar Mindick – T.S.          |                            |

TEAM PLAYERS

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Shira Adar        | Jacob Benchetrit  |
| Miriam Balgley    | Yonatan El-Gad    |
| Gabriella Chattah | Shmuel Feigenbaum |
| Abby Dennis       | Yehuda Lehrfield  |
| Chana Dreyfuss    | Ezra Pomper       |
| Riki Grossbard    | Yehuda Pomper     |
| Tamar Hyman       | Aaron Rosenberg   |
| Daniella Katz     | Yossi Rosenberg   |
| Sofia Leonoff     | Shelomo Sutton    |
| Lea Riesel        | Hillel Weinberger |
| Rivka Sapirman    |                   |
| Meital Weisskoff  |                   |

Monday,  
March 21  
**SHUSHAN  
PURIM**



Sessions 9:00-2:00

Come in original Costumes for a  
Parade & Contest

Carnival

Talent Show

Pre-order BBQ



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

We appreciate all who came out in support of our new facilities at the zoning hearing Monday night. The proposal for our new buildings passed unanimously at the Planning and Zoning meeting! We need only one more approval from City Council (our elected officials) to draw up full plans and build. That meeting will be at the same location in the coming weeks. We will inform you when that is scheduled, as we will need your help again.



KONEI OLAM

This week in Russia we found some Babushka dolls! We learned about how people resemble these dolls. Just like the dolls, people have many layers to them. This awareness makes us sensitive to the feelings of others.

## ASSEMBLIES

Our assemblies this past Tuesday were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance. The third grade girls performed an original production (in rhyme!) by Mrs. Cohen about what happens when an entire town is not careful with reciting Brachos. Mrs. Palgon's third grade boys entertained their audience with the play "The Magic Yarmulka" - a delightful story about how a special yarmulke transformed someone's life. Yasher Koach to Rabbi Baumann and Rabbi Alber for their inspiring Divrei Torah.

Please mark your calendars for our next monthly assemblies, which are scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, when we look forward to presentations by 2G-R, 2B, and 4B.

## REGISTRATION 2011-12

Thank you to all those who submitted their completed registration packet in time for the early bird deadline. If you were not able to register yet, we strongly encourage you to register as soon as possible so as to reserve a spot for your child(ren), and to avail yourself of the largest possible tuition reduction available to you. Please be reminded that after April 6th the registration fee increases. As a reminder, in order to facilitate immediate processing, tuition reduction forms and supporting documentation need to be returned together with the registration and fees.

## OD YOSEF CHAI



Yasher Koach to all of our students and parents who did such a tremendous job collecting Matanos L'Evyonim for Od Yosef Chai.

We are proud to report that as we go to press (Friday, 11AM) our collection is over \$3,000 and counting. Tizku L'Mitzvos!

## MAZEL TOV

To Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Heller and family on the birth of a son and to grandparents, Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Lehrfield & Dr. and Mrs. Dov Heller. Special Mazel Tov to great grandparents, Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid Lehrfield.



## REFUAH SHELAIMA

- ◆ Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Leba
- ◆ Tziporah Feiga *bas* Sima Shaindel
- ◆ Rachel *bas* Bryna
- ◆ Aliza Sara *bas* Chaya Freida
- ◆ Racheli Maya *bas* Shoshana
- ◆ Atara Kreindl Chava *bas* Roiza
- ◆ Leon *ben* Esther
- ◆ Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Asna
- ◆ Aryeh Leib *ben* Genendel

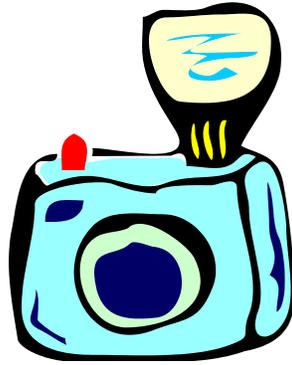
## SCIENCE FAIR NEWS



If you have not yet purchased a Science board, they are available in the office for \$5 each. Bear in mind that the fourth and fifth grade Science Fair projects are due on Wednesday, March 29. The Science Fair has been rescheduled for April 4-6. Awards assemblies will take place on April 6.

## THANK YOU!

The first grade girls would like to thank Mrs. Perry Feldman for going “above and beyond” in her photographic assistance with both the Siddur and Chumash parties. In addition to photographing all the girls, Mrs. Feldman presented each student with framed photos to commemorate both events, as well as online access to other poses and photos. The first grade boys would also like to express their gratitude to Mr. Carlos Chattah for providing DVDs to every student to commemorate this milestone in their lives. We really appreciate your generosity and effort!



## 4G “TURNABOUT” EVENT

A very unique and heartwarming event took place this week in the fourth grade girls’ class, celebrating the efforts and positive “turnabout” the girls have achieved in their interpersonal relations. Initiated and guided by our school counselor, Mrs. Batsheva Marlowe, each girl stated her feelings about the renewed positive interactions among the class members. The importance of this occasion was underscored by the presence of the teachers, principals and the fact that every single fourth grader had at least one parent present. The delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all and everyone left with a feeling of confidence in the girls’ continuing efforts to keep improving in their Bein Adam L’Chaveiro attitudes and actions.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

### Weekly Parsha Class

Thursday mornings 9:15-10:00AM

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

### Homework Club

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 4-5PM

Miss Rottman [tobirottman@gmail.com](mailto:tobirottman@gmail.com)

### Boys’ After School Sports

Monday & Thursday, 4-5PM

Coach Melamed 786.356.8063

Mr. Harkavy 631.612.7532

### JAG is back!

Tuesday (1G-3G) & Wednesday (4G&5G), 4:10-5:10PM

Mrs. Selmar 305.479.7269



**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 Tzav, Parashas Zachor, Purim 5771*

Dear Parents,

Purim provides an opportunity to analyze parenting from a different perspective. In this instance at least, you have permission to read your children's mail...!

Dear Children,

I know many of you have become worried that your parents have been learning too much about parenting. They've been reading weekly letters, perhaps articles and books, and some have even gone to parenting classes. Yikes! Since all you kids have a side of you that wants to make trouble, having parents who know how to keep you in line and even inspire you to behave properly at all times, poses quite a threat to being little Mr. or Miss Troublemaker. Now, don't get me wrong. Some of you have nothing to worry about. After all, your parents are moody, inconsistent and never follow through on their threats. All you need to do (and you already do it quite well) is learn to read their moods – know when to make a mess, be annoying or uncooperative and nothing will happen to you. You also know how to keep whining for what you want and know full well they can't stand up to you for long. If you're fortunate enough to have parents who set a bad example, like talking in shul, always coming late, not keeping their word or not offering to help people obviously in need – then you're in great shape! Trouble will be your middle name, without even trying! I don't need to give you any advice.

I'm speaking instead, to those of you who for the most part have fair and consistent expectations placed on you, reliable follow up and a nice relationship with your parents. How are you kids going to be able to make TROUBLE like your lucky friends?? Let's say you want to annoy your little sister by hiding her favorite doll or your older sister by listening in on her conversations. Your parents will get involved right away, stay calm, listen to all sides, empathize with everyone's feelings and then give you, in a fair and reasonable manner, what you got coming for such inappropriate behavior. Annoying sisters just lost most of its attraction. Let's say you just don't want to stop playing when your mother calls you for supper, so you ignore her. I'll bet you think you can sneak inside in a little while and she just won't notice, or she'll throw her hands up and do nothing about it. Guess what – your Mom is probably going to let you know she's aware of what you did and she'll remember tomorrow to not let you go outside before supper. Sorry. Perhaps you were fooling around and accidentally knocked over an expensive lamp. No way you're going to admit it. You make up some story about what happened. You know you don't stand a chance when you see your mother is more upset about your not telling the truth than she is about her favorite lamp.

I'm afraid I have to admit I have no advice for you guys with those effective parents. You'll never make it to the Troublemakers Hall of Fame. You'll never even get close. So kids, my message to you is enjoy being your parents' children – because as time goes on they'll only improve their attitude even more and master additional techniques in how to raise you properly. And watch out – before you know it– you'll be an Aba or Ima yourself, IY'H. And with such good role models you'll probably do a great job yourself!

Purim Sameach – enjoy your wonderful parents!!

Rabbi Kalman Baumann



# ❖ Research Club

- How much schooling did Benjamin Franklin have?
- Which state has the most border states?
- What is the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon?

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!

<b>5B</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>5B</b>	<b>5B</b>
<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Navigators I</i> 1,500 points	<i>Voyager I</i> 6,000 points	<i>Voyager II</i> 6,500 points
Yaakov Alfassy	Daniel Danan	Eli Sandhaus	Eli Sandhaus
Shuie Braunshweiger	Ezra Pomper		
Uriel Heiney			

Keep looking it up!

<b>4G</b>	<b>4G</b>	<b>4G</b>	<b>5G</b>	<b>5G</b>
<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Commander I</i> 3,000 points
Adi Akrish	Miriam Dreyfuss	Tzipporah Leah Greenberg	Eliana Haimov	Sora Gruenstein
Arielle Chemtov	Shira Feldman	Rivky Stern		

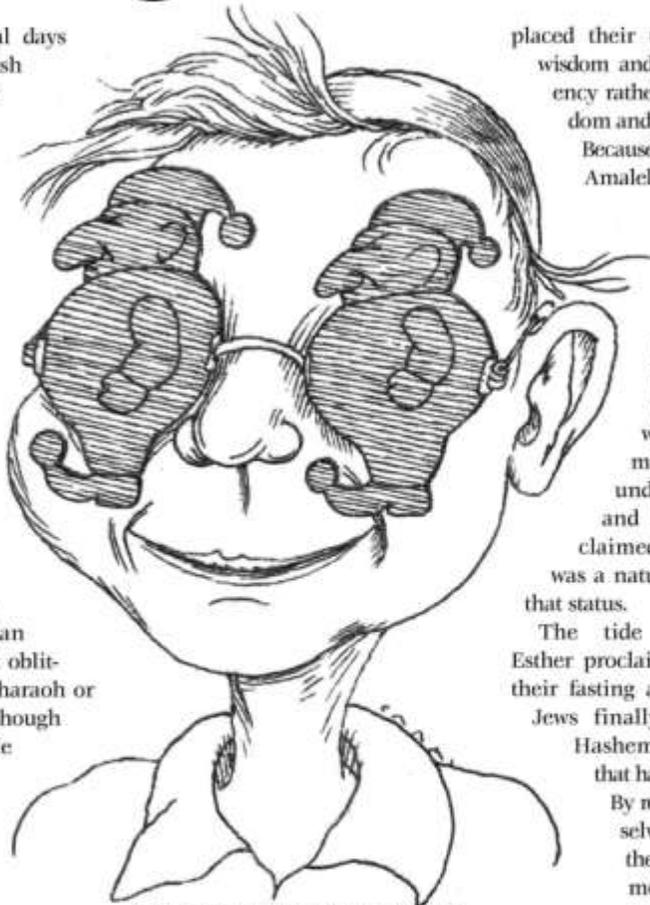
# chosen words

## The Spirit of Purim

# Seeing Heaven's View

There are several days on the Jewish calendar that mark historic dramas, complete with real villains. On Chanukah, it's the Greeks. On Pesach, the Egyptians. On Tisha B'Av, the Babylonians and Romans. But in none of these cases does our antagonism rise to the level of the pure, unforgiving hatred with which Klal Yisrael is commanded to revile Amalek, the nation from which Haman descended. We don't obliterate the name of Pharaoh or Nebuchadnezzar, although each was responsible for far more long-term suffering than Haman was able to inflict. Only Amalek's name are we obligated to erase.

Why does Amalek warrant such unique, complete rejection? The sentiment is commanded in the verse from the Torah: "You shall erase the remembrance of Amalek from under the Heavens." The mitzvah arises from the attack Amalek waged against the Jews as they emerged from Egypt. Amalek's evil certainly proved itself in its attack against an exhausted mass of civilians. But that alone doesn't explain the need to forever obliterate its name. The explanation lies in understanding what the attack illustrated about Amalek's nature. Who would dare to attack a people



*"On Purim we shed the Amalek perspective that blinds us to Hashem."*

Hashem Himself had rescued and was guiding, step-by-step, through the desert? Only a people who refused to recognize the Divine Hand in the progress of history.

To Amalek, the Exodus was a series of dramatic, yet natural events, each with a perfectly normal, earth-bound explanation. In Haman's time, the Jews had fallen into the Amalek mind-set, thinking of their history in terms of politics rather than Divine Providence. They demonstrated their attitude by ignoring Mordechai's admonitions against attending King Achashverosh's feast. They

placed their trust in popular wisdom and political expediency rather than Torah wisdom and faith in Hashem.

Because they adopted Amalek's view that fate is a result of natural events, they fell under the rule of natural law and the power of Haman the Amaleki. They were an exiled minority living under a gentile king, and the decree proclaimed against them was a natural outgrowth of that status.

The tide turned when Esther proclaimed the fast. In their fasting and praying, the Jews finally acknowledged Hashem's hand in all that had befallen them.

By reconnecting themselves to their source, they once again merited Divine protection. The decree was then annulled.

So vital was the fast as a prerequisite to salvation that, to this day, if the fast falls on a Shabbos, it is pushed back, rather than ahead as it is with all other fasts, so that it will always precede Purim.

Rejection of Amalek is a rejection of blindness to Hashem's active involvement in our world. Seeking Hashem's presence and perceiving it in our lives, are the essential concepts at the heart of every Jew's belief. The Megillah maps out this truth by following the thread of events over a period of ten years, making plain the Divine Hand that pulled the strings. Because the story

of Purim so forcefully delineates Hashem's role in the seemingly mundane details of history, every Jew—man, woman and child—must hear the Megillah.

But why does the mitzvah command that Amalek's name be erased "from under the heavens?" The answer is simple. The ideology of Amalek can only exist "under the heavens"—here on earth where Hashem's hand is veiled, where faith and wisdom are needed to perceive it. In the Heavens themselves, there's no question. All is revealed, all is obvious, and the truth is plain to see.

Today, one would be hard-pressed to find on earth one certifiable Amaleki. Yet we still have the mitzvah to erase them. And we fulfill that mitzvah, not only when we "klap Haman," but every time we look a little deeper into the events of our lives, perceive that there is a Divine plan, and ask ourselves, "What is Hashem trying to tell me?"

*Adapted from "Ohr Gedalyahu," by Rabbi Gedaliah Schorr, zt"l, Rosh Yeshivas Torah Vodaath.*



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

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

# Power Unleashed

Nobody seeks the kind of dire straits that catapult a person toward heroism. But we learn from Mordechai and Esther that the potential is there, inside each of us, to rise to greatness. The key is to know that Hashem has a purpose for everything that happens, and to aim our response at discerning and fulfilling that purpose.

Mordechai and Esther are the exemplars of this perspective. Mordechai's name in Aramaic is the compound of two words—*mera dachya*—a spice that releases its pungent fragrance only when crushed. Esther is *Hadassah*, stemming from *hadas*, the myrtle. The leaves of this plant have little fragrance when whole, but when bruised and crushed, they release a pleasant, sweet aroma.

**“The key is to aim our response at fulfilling Hashem’s purpose.”**

These two people were already paragons of their generation before the events leading to Purim began. But the decree against the Jews put them, as leaders, under the most extreme pressure, with the lives of their entire nation resting on their decisions. Mordechai knew from the moment Esther became queen that Hashem had something in store for her. He counseled her to keep her ancestry a secret, so that when the moment was right, she would have the power to act. On Esther's part, she maintained her silence for nine long years, waiting patiently until Hashem's plan would unravel itself for her. Under pressure, their essence was unleashed, their heroism revealed.

While it's true that no one would seek to be in either

Mordechai's or Esther's position, duress is certainly a factor in everyone's life. The small pressures and bruises of work, family and community life are the forces that can unleash our strengths, if we let patience,

wisdom and perspective guide our response.

**Shabbos Table Discussion:**

What qualities allow people to shine in a crisis?

*Adapted from “Heart to Heart Talks” by Rabbi Pinchas Scheinberg, with permission from Mesorah Publications*

**Personal Growth**

## Restoring the Shine

The fact that Jews still observe the many rituals commanded in the Torah—down to the last detail of halachah—seems a miracle when one considers the constantly recurring attempts at repression throughout our history. But Haman, unlike other enemies of Klal Yisrael, didn't aim his decree at observances like Torah learning or bris milah. Instead, he chose the direct route—to annihilate Judaism by eliminating the Jews.

When his particular brand of persecution failed, we learn from the Megillah that “*Layehudim hoyisah orah v'simchah v'sasson vikar*,” “To the Jews there was light and joy, rejoicing and preciousness.” The Gemara expounds on this verse: “The light is Torah; the joy is Yom Tov; the rejoicing is bris milah and the preciousness is tefillin.” Yet we know from the Megillah that none of these observances had been attacked. Why are we told that they were restored?

Rav Shimon Schwab, zt”l, explains that while the observances themselves persisted during Haman's persecution, they were each robbed of an essential element. Jews learned, but in the darkness surrounding them, they couldn't perceive Torah's light. They kept Yom Tov, but with a

death sentence hanging over their heads, it naturally lost its joy. Bris milah was no longer an occasion for rejoicing, because the parents couldn't look forward to their baby's future. And while tefillin were still donned each day, they lost the preciousness they had held as a sign between Hashem and Klal Yisrael.

The Gemara is telling us that without the love and joy integral to these enduring rituals, they are as lost to us as if they had been banned by decree. On the first Purim, our victory restored the essence to each mitzvah. But it wasn't a one-time event; every Purim is an opportunity to reinvest these mitzvos with their full essence. Then we, too, can experience first hand the “light, joy, rejoicing and preciousness” at the heart of every Jew's life.

**Shabbos Table Discussion:**

What are some ways to increase your emotional connection to a mitzvah?

*Adapted from “Ma'ayan Beis Hashoeivah,” by Rabbi Shimon Schwab zt”l with permission from Mesorah Publications*

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*HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board*  
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*Michael Rothschild, Director*  
361 Spook Rock Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

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