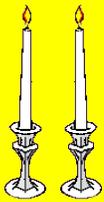


JANUARY 6, 2012

TEAM Spirit

פרשת ויחי



CANDLE
LIGHTING

5:25 pm

THIS SUNDAY NIGHT!

Toras E mes A cademy

27th A nnual Dinner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012

6:00 PM

JUNGLE ISLAND

Honoring

MR. & MRS.

IRVING & ROSLYN SEIDEL ע"ה

Harbotzas HaTorah A ward

RABBI & MRS. DOVID SHARFMAN

Y oung Leadership A ward

MR. & MRS. CHAIM ROTH

STAR STUDENTS

Esther Simcha Botton – T.S.
Batsheva Druin – S.S.
Raizy Dudovitz – T.S.
Zissel Leah Goldsmith – S.S.
Sophie Jacobs – T.S.
Naomi Klecky – S.S.
Kayla Lefkowitz – S.S.
Sophie Leonoff – T.S.
Ella Liberman – S.S.
Tziporah Pam – T.S.
Rivky Sapirman – T.S.
Batia Segal – S.S.
Arielle Serwatien – T.S.

Daniel Akrish – T.S.
Ezra Berger – T.S.
Ezra Bistriz
Simcha Bistriz – S.S.
Moshe Uriel Botton – T.S.
Mendel Druin – T.S.
Yosef Zundel Dubinsky – S.S.
Yitzi Eisenberger – S.S.
Dovid Grinman – T.S.
Akiva Jeger – S.S.
Meir Liberman – T.S.
Natan Oropesa – S.S.
Aryeh Sova – S.S.
Yaacov Suissa – T.S.

TEAM PLAYERS

David Bisker
Yossi Cohen
Adam Dennis
Gavriel Feigenbaum
Avrumi Flamholtz
Yehuda Gassner
Asher Greenberg
Simcha Shaffren
Areyh Leib Thav
Hillel Weinberger

Adi Akrish
Yael Aminov
Miriam Balgley
Pnina Bergida
Aliza Bokor
Gabriella Chattah
Shaina Druin
Raizy Dudovitz
Shira Goldenberg
Sophie Jacobs
Daniella Katz
Malky Koot
Elisheva Raab
Batsheva Roth

27th ANNUAL JOURNAL DINNER

It's hard to believe that our journal campaign has come to a close. We thank you all for your efforts and look forward to seeing you all on Sunday evening as we pay tribute to our most worthy honorees. If you have not yet made your reservations and/or communicated your seating preference, please do so ASAP by calling us at [305-944-5344 x 223](tel:305-944-5344), or by emailing us at dinner@ytcteam.org. Have a GREAT Shabbos and see you at the dinner!

DINNER INFORMATION

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 (follow the Watson Island sign), next to the Miami Yacht Club. Make the first left turn onto Parrot Jungle Trail and the parking garage will be on the right-hand side.

Please note:

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.

TEHILLIM CHAMPS

Yasher Koach to Leehee Akrish, Shoshana Cohen, Peshah Dreyfuss, Evelyn Gill, Sonia Ginsburg, Ahuva Grossman, Abby Heller, and Chaviva Pam, the first of the first grade girls to begin Sefer Tehillim. Their Morah and classmates are so proud!



PIZZA

Today marked the beginning of the new cycle for pizza orders which runs through the end of February. If you have not yet ordered and would like to do so,



order forms are available in the boys' and girls' offices. Please be reminded that seltzer, water, and chips can be purchased for \$.50 each.

CHEVRA KADISHA CLASS

Advanced class for experienced *metaharim* will take place on January 16 at Levitt-Weinstein, 18840 West Dixie Highway, at 8:15PM.

PLEASE CHOOSE "CHOSEN WORDS"!

We hope you are enjoying this year's editions of "The **Chosen Words**," which appear in this TEAM Spirit newsletter. This inspirational newsletter by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation enhances your homes every other *Erev Shabbos*. We need your help in order to continue providing this publication! Please consider partaking in the \$360 sponsorship, in memory, in honor of, or for a *Refuah Shelaima*, which will be printed at the bottom of each Chosen Words that appears in our weekly newsletter for the entire school year.

MAZEL TOV

To our founding Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi and Mrs. Bentzion Chait and family on the engagement of their daughter, our alumna, Rananah to Avraham Moshe Ackerman of Kew Gardens Hills.



To Mr. and Mrs. Gil Zaig and family on the birth of a daughter.



To Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bursztyn and family on the marriage of their daughter, our alumna, Dina Feldstein to Moshe Rechthand.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Ruchama Aliza Sara Chana *bas* Esther Liba

Bracha Elka *bas* Maryasha Rivka

Zev Meir *ben* Yael Sara

Rivka *bas* Sarah Raizel

Yosef Simcha *ben* Zaka Basya

Yehuda Pinchas *ben* Osna

Leah Golda *bas* Esther Frimet

Ephraim Yankel *ben* Gnesha

Yosef Shalom *ben* Chaya Musha

(Rav Eliyashiv, Shlita)

Asher *ben* Gittel

Chaim Zev *ben* Faiga Toiba

Hadassah Leah *bas* Shoshana

Tzvi Zelig *ben* Chasa Rochel

Yitzchak *ben* Blima

Chava *bas* Sara

Shayna Ra'achel *bas* Chaya Bryna

PARSHA WITH THE PRINCIPAL

Rabbi Baumann's weekly Parashas HaShavua class takes place every Thursday, 8:45-9:30 am, in the main office. All are welcome to attend.

PLEASE NOTE:

Mother-Daughter Intergenerational Luncheon has been postponed and rescheduled for March 4.

5B TRIP TO GREYNOLDS PARK

This Wednesday, the fifth grade boys celebrated their monumental achievement of completing their Lashon Hatov board by going on a fabulous trip to Greynolds Park. The boys left to the park shortly after Davening and had a series of activities including relay races, tug-of-war, and a long distance throw. The final event was a football game. Afterwards, the boys ate their lunch and came back. The boys were celebrating their accomplishments in Bein Adam L'chaveiro and there was a real feeling of camaraderie and friendship among the boys. May the boys continue to grow and develop in all areas!! Special thanks to our parent drivers Mr. Zalmy Cohen, Mrs. Janessa Wasserman, Mrs. Nechama Bistriz and Mrs. Helene Gassner.





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

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

Rabbi Noam Grossman
Assistant Principal

Dr. Deborah Lerer
Secular Studies Principal

Mrs. Naomi Bloom
Early Childhood Director

Erev Shabbos Parashas Vayechi 5772

Dear Parents,

Once a year, our Yeshiva takes the opportunity to reflect upon our growth and accomplishments, and to focus on our dreams and aspirations for the future. The occasion of an Annual Dinner is more than just a fundraising event, as critically important as that may be. It provides a focal point for all those who share in the mission and vision of an institution whose *raison d'être* is learning and living Torah, to show support for and draw inspiration from what dedicated individuals can accomplish by working together. Equally important, it heightens our awareness of what an enormous potential for greatness lies within each of our own children.

When considering what is each individual's role and responsibility for a large communal entity such as ours, we would do well to consider how *Yosef HaTzaddik* handled his **responsibilities, as recorded in last week's Parsha**. The Torah describes how *Yosef*, the Viceroy of Egypt, distributed food to the people of Egypt, the world, and his own family, during the famine. Interestingly, as pointed out by *Rav Zalman Sorotzkin zt'l*, the Torah uses different words to describe how *Yosef* provided food to his own family, as opposed to meeting the needs of the Egyptians. Concerning his own family, the Torah uses the word *Vayechalkail* to denote his feeding and providing for them, which means just that – providing for their needs. When it comes to the Egyptians, a few *Pesukim* later, **the Torah's word is *Vayenahaleim***, meaning he lead them – he made conditions and requirements as prerequisites to feeding them.

The way we help family is without preconditions and without demands – we help because we are so close. Our help is unconditional and without being judgmental. We are responsible, we feel responsible, so therefore we provide. When it comes to outsiders, however, we relate very differently. We make preconditions and stipulations before providing help. If you meet my criterion, I help you – **if not, you're on your own.**

2.

This is important to keep in mind when it comes to the needs of our children's yeshiva, which we should view as "family." We have the opportunity to show how we view that place where we entrust our most valued 'belongings' – our children. If we begin to look for and focus on shortcomings or weakness, some aspects of the yeshiva will inevitably fall short of our highest expectations . And thereafter, we might curtail our assistance. Then we are showing that we relate to the Yeshiva, its *Rebbeim*, **teachers and students, as outsiders. If, on the other hand, the Yeshiva's needs are like my family's needs, we will find the ability to act in a most generous fashion, because – that's how one relates to family.**

Last-minute reservations for the dinner can still be made. Besides, there is no such thing as a 'last-minute donation.' **It's always the right moment when it comes to supporting Torah. Now is the time to decide how we view our Yeshiva- is it just another cause that I'll support when it fits exactly into my worldview and conducts itself 100% the way I want , or is it part of my extended family, to which I'm devoted** in its time of need. Critique and suggestions for improvement are welcomed and taken seriously, but they should not serve as a rationale for depriving the 650 *talmidim* and *talmidos* of our Yeshiva of the means necessary for their continued successful development.

Looking forward to greeting you at the dinner and always anticipating sharing *Nachas* as we strive together to give our children the very best *Chinuch* possible.

Best wishes for a most rewarding Shabbos,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rabbi Kalman Baumann". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

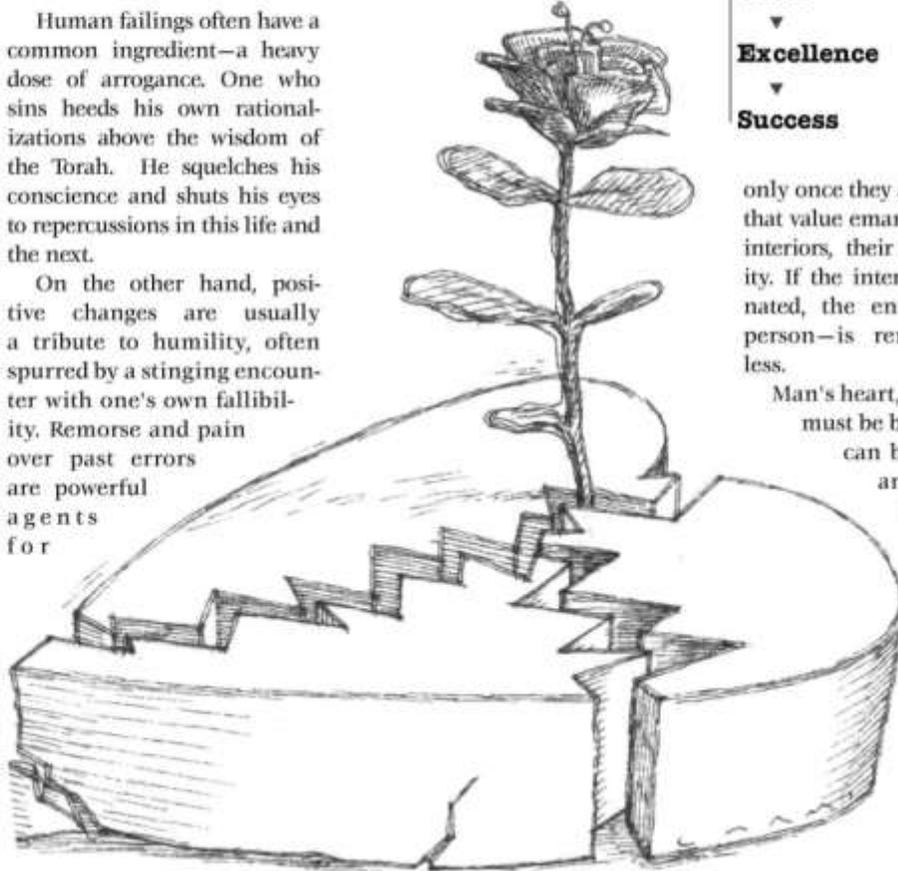
chosen words

Personal Growth

Down to Earth

Human failings often have a common ingredient—a heavy dose of arrogance. One who sins heeds his own rationalizations above the wisdom of the Torah. He squelches his conscience and shuts his eyes to repercussions in this life and the next.

On the other hand, positive changes are usually a tribute to humility, often spurred by a stinging encounter with one's own fallibility. Remorse and pain over past errors are powerful agents for



"Teshuvah and renewal bloom from a heart broken by regret for one's sins."

ushering humility into our hearts. We learn from our mistakes.

The Torah shows us that this process is integral to human nature. It demonstrates the point through the laws pertaining to earthen vessels that have been made impure through contact with a carcass.

If the carcass falls inside the earthen vessel, the vessel can't be purified in a mikvah. It must be broken; then it can be reconstituted. On the other hand, a metal vessel can be purified by a simple dip in a mikvah.

The Kotzker Rebbe sees in this a parallel to man. Like the earthen vessel, we are made of a worthless raw material—the dust of the earth. Both the vessel and the person acquire value

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

only once they are formed, and that value emanates from their interiors, their holding capacity. If the interior is contaminated, the entire vessel—or person—is rendered worthless.

Man's heart, like the vessel, must be broken before it can be reconstituted and restored to its purpose

*continued
on back*

Better Relationships

Unsung Hero

One word you'd never hear out of Shlomo's mouth was "sorry." Ever fearful of the slightest erosion of his pride, Shlomo simply wouldn't permit himself to see his own failings. If something he said or did hurt others, it was their own fault for provoking him or being oversensitive.

Leah never apologized either, for a different reason. Doing something wrong was so deeply embarrassing and painful to her that she couldn't bear to verbalize it. Her fear of an angry or hurt response to her apology prevented her from ever making one.

Both of these common attitudes toward the words "I'm sorry" demonstrate that apologizing takes courage. Shlomo needs courage to acknowledge his mistakes and realize that they don't destroy his value. Leah needs courage to confront the other person's hurt.

The image of a person begging forgiveness doesn't usually bring to mind the word "hero," but heroic it is. Real courage is what it takes to admit we've caused damage, and to put our ego on the line to alleviate the pain.

Shabbat Table Discussion:

Should you apologize even when you're right?

Adapted from "Courage," by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, with permission from Mesorah Publications



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Effective Prayer

If You Please

Prior to a Yom Tov, a group of Gerrer chassidim paid a visit to their Rebbe. The visitors, laden with personal woes, hoped the Rebbe could advise them on how to merit Hashem's help. The Rebbe's counsel was simple: When they recited Hallel during the Yom Tov tefillos, they should concentrate on the words "Ana Hashem,"—"Please, Hashem."

The chassidim followed the Rebbe's advice and poured their hearts into the verses "Please, Hashem, save me," and "Please, Hashem, grant me success." Yet

their burdens remained heavy upon them. So, they returned to the Rebbe to report that the strategy wasn't effective.

"You misunderstood," the Rebbe replied. "To merit Hashem's help, one must concentrate fully on the words "Ana, Hashem, ki ani av'decha," "Please, Hashem, for I am your servant."

Through tefillah, we identify ourselves fully as Hashem's servants. Then He, in turn, takes care of His devoted servants' needs.

—CCHF

An Intelligence Operation

Adding Value to a Mitzvah

Shira Rosenberg's eight children had healthy appetites. But Shira's husband's advertising firm was having a far from healthy year. Fortunately, the neighborhood grocer was a kindhearted man who saw no reason to put pressure on the already strained family.

"My husband is pitching a new account this week," Shira told the grocer. "It looks good. So I hope within a month or so we'll be able to pay this whole thing off."

"No problem," said the grocer, as he packed up another week's worth of groceries and stashed the bill in an overstuffed envelope marked "credit."

Standing nearby in the aisle was Leah Friedman. She couldn't help overhear-

ing the conversation, and was shocked to find out that her neighbor was having trouble putting food on the table. As the grocer tallied her own order, Leah asked, "How much do the Rosenbergs owe? I want to pay it off for them." And she did.

"Praiseworthy is he who cares wisely for the poor."

"Praiseworthy is he who cares wisely for the poor," Tehillim exhorts. We know we must care for the needs of the poor, but this verse tells us that we must do so with sensitivity and wisdom. There are many ways to give—as a loan that can later be forgiven, as an investment in someone's business, as a tuition scholarship, a gift certificate, an anonymous donation. Only by carefully considering the needs of the recipient can the giver make his act of tzedakah fully "praiseworthy."

Shabbat Table Discussion:

How can you decide exactly what kind of help a person needs?

Adapted from "The Tzedakah Treasury," by Rabbi Avraham Chaim Feuer, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Down to Earth

continued from front

as a container for the neshamah. "A heart broken and humble, Hashem, you will not despise," says King David. This is where real teshuvah begins.

Shabbat Table Discussion: What does it mean, practically, to be heartbroken over a sin?

Adapted from "Likutei Basar Likutei," by Rabbi Samuel Alter with permission from Feldheim

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

Out of Harm's Way

Rav Yisrael Salanter, the founder of the mussar movement, was an exemplar of ethical behavior—a person totally above suspicion. One day, he visited a wealthy member of his community to discuss an important matter. A large pile of money was laying on the table before Rav Yisrael. In the midst of the conversation, the man was called from the room for an urgent message.

When the man returned, Rav Yisrael was gone. He wasn't in the room, or anywhere in the house. The man opened the front door to continue his search, and there he found the revered rabbi waiting. Rav Yisrael explained that, with so much money on the table in front of him, he felt it would be better to leave the room and avoid temptation. A master of self-restraint, Rav Yisrael still concluded that he shouldn't consider himself immune to money's powerful allure.

Shabbat Table Discussion:

Did Rav Yisrael really think he'd be tempted to steal? If not, why did he leave?

Adapted from "Living on the Edge," by Rabbi David Goldwasser, with permission from Judaica Press

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Journal Update January 5, 2012*

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Mashgiach Ruchani, Bais Medrash Zichron Ezra*

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In Loving Memory of their Beloved Father
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Campaign Goal \$1,000,000 Raised to date \$676,500.00

*We thank all parents who participated in this campaign by placing
their personal ad and by soliciting friends, family and business
acquaintances.*

*We look forward to having all our parents attend the dinner
Sunday, January 8th at the Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island.
If you haven't already made your dinner reservations please call
our administrative offices at 305-944-5344 Ext 223 or email
us at ads@ytcteam.org*

Thanks again for all your help and have a great Shabbos!