

APRIL 20, 2012

TEAM Spirit

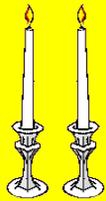
STAR STUDENTS

פרשת שמיוני

שבת מברכים

CANDLE
LIGHTING

7:28 pm



Gavriel Aminov – T.S.
 Avi Cohen – T.S.
 Yoseph Zundel Dubinsky – S.S.
 Shmueli Feigenbaum – T.S.
 Asher Goldenberg – S.S.
 Yackov Greenberg – S.S.
 Daniel Heiney – S.S.
 Leo Kanter – T.S.
 Natan Mizrahi – T.S.
 Ailee Shanes – S.S.
 Shaya Steinberg – T.S. & S.S.

Leehee Akrish – S.S.
 Ellee Benchetrit – S.S.
 Gabriella Chattah – T.S.
 Dina Ellenbogen – S.S.
 Shira Feldman – T.S.
 Tamar Feldman – S.S.
 Chaya Ora Goldenberg – T.S.
 Chaya Mushka Greenberg – T.S.
 Naomi Kalchman – T.S.
 Rebecca Katz – S.S.
 Adi Prynck – T.S.
 Aliza Zeines – T.S.

WELCOME BACK!

We hope that everyone enjoyed a restful, uplifting and inspiring Pesach break. It is a pleasure to see the students back at school refreshed from their time away and with renewed enthusiasm for learning.

May the next eight weeks of school be productive and fruitful for everyone at Toras Emes.

TEAM PLAYERS

Daniel Akrish
 Yehuda Bloom
 Dani Franklin
 Daniel Heiney
 Leo Kanter
 Dovid Kaplan
 Yehuda Kon
 Yehuda Lehrfield
 Meir Liberman
 Yakov Schwab

Ellee Benchetrit
 Tamar Brody
 Fayge Deutsch
 Cila Ginsparg
 Shira Goldenberg
 Naomi Kalchman
 Tziporah Pam
 Adi Prynck
 Naomi Rubinov
 Batia Segal
 Ayelet Siev
 Alysa Suissa
 Aliza Turner
 Yael Ungar

HASMODA PROJECT

We are so proud of the many students who participated in our Pesach Hasmoda Program. If you have not already done so, please send in your completed charts on Monday.



ASSEMBLIES

Our next assemblies will take place this Thursday, April 26 featuring 5G and 5B. All students must wear official uniforms on Thursday—including white knee socks for the girls. **Girls' assembly at 1:30, boys' assembly at 2:45.**

Please note: We request that only women attend the girls assembly as it will be a singing performance. Thank you.

CHINESE AUCTION

We are eagerly anticipating the Chinese Auction which will take place, IY" H, on Sunday, May 6. Booklets are available in the office.



READY, SET.....WALK!

Thursday, May 10 is the date for our special Lag B'Omer festivities, including a walkathon and a BBQ. All students are to come to school in a hat of their choice. We can't wait to see the creative creations that will adorn and protect our children from the sun!



As always, parents are invited to participate with us, as well as to help with the walkathon and BBQ in various capacities. Volunteers are needed in the morning. If you would like to help, please call the school office. Further information including sponsor sheets and BBQ order forms will be forthcoming.

YEDIOS HATORAH

Testing will take place this Tuesday, April 24.

Hatzlocha Rabba!



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.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Ariella Sarah bas Elisheva Malka

Leah Golda bas Esther Frimmet

Chaya Michelle bas Ene

Penina bas Ashira

Bracha Elka bas Mariasha Rivka



R' Chaim Yisroel ben Chana Tziril (Rav Belsky, Shlita)

R' Yosef Shalom ben Chaya Musha (Rav Elyashiv, Shlita)

R' Yaakov Chai ben Margalit (Rav Yosef, Shlita)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

We want to remind all parents that regular registration is over as of April 27. Registrations received after April 27 will be assessed at the late registration fee of \$600 per child. In addition, please note that if you have not registered yet, your child may be at risk of losing his place in the class. Please be sure to register this coming week!

Additionally, as a reminder, anyone requesting Tuition Reduction please go to our website at ytcteam.org/facts and follow the link to the FACTS website. All forms need to be filed online by May 15. After that date, registered students for whom tuition reduction is being requested but have not submitted the accompanying paperwork to FACTS will lose their priority status and are at risk **of** losing their spot in the class to a new student. The tuition reduction addendum must be sent to FACTS as well. Please do not send it back to our office. (If you have no internet access, please contact the office at (305) 944-5344 ext. 221 for a tuition reduction form.)

NICHUM AVEILIM

To Mrs. Raquel Franklin and family on the loss of her father.

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Meir Shaffren and family on the birth of a son.

To Rabbi and Mrs. Avrohom Anton and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, our alumnus, Tzvi.

SALAD FROM OUR GARDEN!

The third grade girls enjoyed the fruits of their labor on Thursday as they picked vegetables from our garden and prepared a beautiful and delicious salad. See attached photos.

PROJECT S. I. R.



3 first graders perform "Katy's Missing Frog"

for their class . What a delight!

3G SALAD PARTY





**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 Shemini 5772

Dear Parents,

This week's Parsha details the tragic demise of **Aharon HaKohein's** sons, *Nadav and Avihu* during the dedication ceremonies for the *Mishkan*. Various reasons for this punishment are given, among them a surprising one in the *Medrash Tanchuma (Shemini 524)*: They were punished for each acting alone, and not consulting with each other.

The difficulty with this is readily apparent. What would have been accomplished by consulting with each other? They both had the same opinion (that it was justified to bring this extra fire). If so, there would seemingly be no benefit in discussing it with each other – so what did they do wrong!?

We glean from this an important insight into human dynamics. Even when two people have the same opinion, when they discuss it, their point of view could change. How does such a thing happen? Apparently, when I hear my opinion coming out of **someone else's mouth, it's not the same as when I hear it from my own mouth. I gain a level of objectivity when it's your opinion that I don't have when it's my opinion.** *Nadav and Avihu* would each have reconsidered their idea, if they heard it expressed by their brother.

This has significant ramifications for us. Forming opinions is the basis of how we act in life. When we are left to our own devices, we are subject to a strong degree of subjectivity, as everything is colored through the lens of our self-interest. By bouncing ideas off each other, discussing and sharing impressions and opinions with our spouse or trusted friend or mentor, we can achieve a much more reliable and objective conclusion.

This is especially true in the area of child rearing. Not only do we need to spend time thinking about our children's needs, which the *Chofetz Chaim* considers an absolute obligation for parents, the actual discussion of analyzing the problem and figuring out a solution, is critical to leading our children along the best possible path.

With the final stretch of the school year upon us, now is a good time to check in on your child(ren)'s current academic status and overall personal development. There may be a need for action, or for making a major decision about your child's future. Consult, discuss, deliberate and share your concerns with trusted confidantes. If necessary, seek the best professional guidance available, and proceed with a course of action that has been shared and analyzed together with others, thereby working to ensure the ultimate success of our children.

May we all share in a wonderful Shabbos,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

chosen words

Personal Growth

Teaching Your Children

Pesach is a learning experience. The seder's very essence is captured in the words "v'higad'ta l'vincha," and you should tell your children.

The Torah points out that simply "telling" isn't enough; you have to tell it so that it's absorbed. Every aspect of the seder from the four questions to the afikomen is designed to provoke the child's curiosity and excitement, so that he'll know for himself, on the deepest level, that Hashem, our G-d, led us from slavery to freedom and made us His people.

Every parent is a teacher on Pesach and every other day of the year as well. The lessons we teach—love of Hashem and His Torah, respect for His creation—are the essential lessons in life. They're too important to approach without a "lesson plan," and fortunately, the Torah has one for us to follow.

This is found in *Parshas Beha'aloscha*, which describes how the Kohen was to light the menorah in the Mishkan. The word "*beha'aloscha*" literally means, "when you lift up." Rashi explains that this word hints at two halachos: first, that the Kohen had to hold the flame to the wick until the new flame was strong enough to sustain itself and rise up; and second, that the Kohen had to stand on an elevated platform to prepare the wicks, so that he could be high enough to peer deeply into the menorah to check and remove any residue that might remain and diminish the brightness of the new day's light.

Our Sages explain that the menorah represents the light of Torah. To pass that light to a child, the teacher must ignite the child's own love of learning, so that he can sustain the flame when the teacher is no longer with him. To do that, the teacher must emulate the Kohen, and position himself where he can accurately assess the

Effective Prayer

Inside Each Word

We pray in words. Their meaning may seem apparent, but in actuality, many words encompass a world of deeper meaning. When we comprehend this deeper world, we enable ourselves to pray from a deeper place in our souls.

The Prayer for Dew, said on the first day of Pesach, is a brief, little-understood prayer that demonstrates this depth of hidden mean-

Torah Tools for Personal

Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

child's needs and clear away any obstructions.

If we want to be a source of light for the children in our lives, the Torah tells us, "Climb the steps!" Make the effort to study the child's inner workings. Assess his needs, watch for obstructions, and remain with him until the flame is sure and

continued on back

Family Project

The Magic of Zemiros

What parent spends enough time with his or her children? Today, not many. Fortunately, the Shabbos table gives Jewish families a unique, unhurried time and place to enjoy this precious commodity.

Unfortunately, sometimes this opportunity is missed. Why? Because for various reasons, many families leave zemiros off the agenda. Some feel it's more important to speak divrei Torah. Some prefer to discuss shul politics. Some long for naptime.

But what an opportunity these families leave behind! Rabbi Yissocher Frand tells the story of a *tabmid chochom* whose children didn't turn out as he had hoped. However, the children of his neighbor, a layman, were gems. "How did it happen?" the *tabmid chochom* wondered out loud. And he answered himself, "While I was sitting learning Rambam, he was singing with his children."

The lesson, Rabbi Frand points out, is that no amount of learning sticks if it isn't motivated by the joy of the mitzvos—and nothing conveys joy like singing. There's no better way for parents to insure their children's love of Shabbos than to sing out loud and clear, on key or off, all together.

Tell Us: What does your family do to get each of its members involved in the Shabbos table? Adapted from "*Rabbi Yissocher Frand in Print*," with permission from Mesorah Publications



We learn from the Menorah how to teach our children

ing. On the obvious level, we seem to simply be asking Hashem for the moisture needed to nourish healthy crops. But look at what those words contain. In the first stanza, we ask for dew that will bring "*rov dagan v'serosh*," an abundance of grain and wine. Those three words carry within them the brachah that Yitzchok gave Yaakov: "And Hashem should give you the dew of the heaven, the fat of the land and an abundance of grain and wine." This was a brachah for everything from our basic needs (grain) to the luxuries of life (wine), for all generations to come.

The very next line says, "Establish the city of Your desire." This alludes to the prophet Yeshaya's words that Yerushalayim will someday no longer be forlorn, because it will be called "*Cheftzi Ba* (My desire is you)." This *continued on back*



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

Kicking the Habit

Third in a Series on Loshon Hora-Free Living

How long can the average person go without speaking loshon hora?

The Chofetz Chaim said most people believe the maximum is a day or two, after which they would inevitably fall back into their old ways. But that's not so, he argued, because gossip is a habit, and bad habits can be broken.

Once a person starts learning about *shmiras haloshon*, the motivation to kick the loshon hora habit becomes overpowering. With literally hundreds or even thousands of individual, serious aveiros springing from one conversation gone wrong, it obviously pays to keep any conversation from going wrong.

Think of the smoker. He enjoys his habit, it doesn't seem to be doing him any harm, and he can't imagine ever stopping. That is, until he begins to have trouble breathing, his heart weakens and he finds himself coughing his way through the day.

Once he understands what smoking is really doing to him, he finds the motivation to break the habit. The longer he goes without smoking, the more accustomed his mind and body become to the new situation. The urge lessens, and the battle becomes less pitched. Eventually, there is no more battle.

Like the smoker, the first step for the loshon hora speaker is awareness. When he understands what loshon hora is doing to him, he can't partake in it the same way anymore. Instead of blithely speaking what's on his mind, he begins to listen to an inner voice that says, "Maybe you should leave this unsaid."

At first, of course, he may slip back into old habits. The Chofetz Chaim says it's essential to keep one's determination, even if the yetzer hara wins a round. Don't despair; don't become frustrated. Just keep giving yourself strength to

continue your effort, knowing that the longer your run of success, the easier *shmiras haloshon* is to maintain. With knowledge of what the Torah wants from us and real resolve to keep reaching for that standard, the Chofetz Chaim tells us we will ultimately succeed.

Adapted from "The Chofetz Chaim: A Lesson a Day," by Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz and Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Teaching

continued from front
steady. When we do this, with Hashem's help, we can succeed in our quintessential role—instilling in the child a knowledge and love of Hashem and His creation.

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

Inside Each Word

continued from front
is a powerful statement of love—we are the object of Hashem's desire. "I want you," He says to His people. This ardent love carries Hashem's promise to restore his forlorn city and nation. All of this, and more, is in a simple prayer for dew.

Learn About It: Use one of the many available commentaries to investigate the deeper meanings of a prayer. Then focus on those hidden meanings to bring new depth, and new heights, to your tefillah.

Adapted from "Candlelight," by Mr. Avi Shulman with permission from Mesorah Publications

Dedications

This issue is dedicated in loving memory of our dear aunt,
Mrs. Shoshana Schur a"h,
Chicago, Illinois

לניצ

ששנה רייטל בת אהלים ע"ה
נלביע כיה ניסן תשס"א
תנצב"ה

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

Cleaning the Palace

The Joy of Teshuvah

People often think of doing teshuvah as a depressing process in which we focus on how far we've fallen short of our potential. But the Baal Shem Tov taught that, on the contrary, teshuvah should bring joy.

He told the story of a *chazan* who, surprisingly, used a lively melody for the "Al Chait" said on Yom Kippur. The *chazan* explained: "If I had the job of cleaning out the palace and beautifying it for the king, would I not be happy that I had the good fortune to do this? When I confess my sins, I rid myself of that which is objectionable to G-d, and I make myself into a more hospitable receptacle in which the Divine spirit can reside. Is this not a cause for joy?"

Adapted from "Dearer Than Life," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski M.D., with permission from Shaar Press

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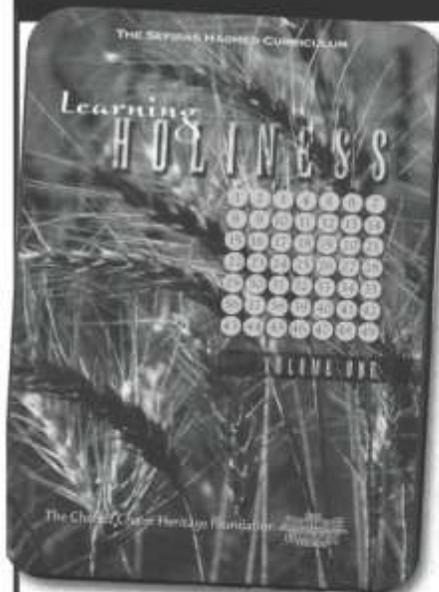
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We welcome your comments!

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- Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin 4:8 (37a)

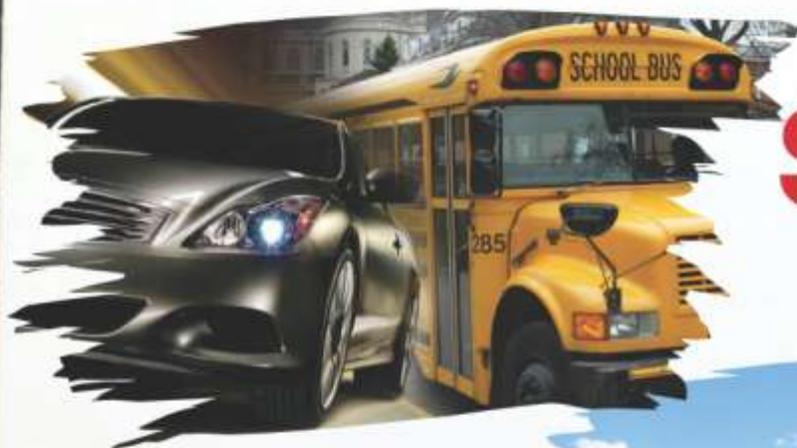


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