

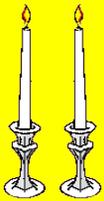
TEAM Spirit

STAR STUDENTS

פרשת אמר

CANDLE LIGHTING

7:39 pm



Dovid Alber – S.S.
 Ephraim Berkowitz – T.S.
 Avraham Brass – S.S.
 Gavi Feigenbaum – T.S.
 Tzvi Lehrer – T.S.
 Yosef Nemani – S.S.
 Binyamin Rubinov – S.S.
 Aryeh Sova – T.S.
 Tzvi Winter – T.S.
 Akiva Yeshurun – T.S.

Avia Bennett – S.S.
 Aliza Bokor – S.S.
 Naomi Bursztyn – T.S.
 Shoshana Cohen – T.S.
 Debbie Nash – S.S.
 Rivka Jablon – T.S.
 Kayla Lefkowitz – T.S.
 Elisheva Sharfman – T.S.
 Yael Ungar – S.S.
 Tamara Yeshurun – S.S.

REMINDER:

STANDARDIZED

TESTING

THIS WEEK

Monday—Friday

May 14—18

TEAM PLAYERS

Jacob Benchetrit
 Gavriel Feigenbaum
 Benjy Heller
 Benny Kanoff
 Abraham Kanter
 Gershon Maya
 Menachem Oumanski
 Noam Peleg
 Ailee Shanes
 Yisrael Winter

Leah Baroukh
 Avia Bennett
 Miriam Bisker
 Leah Corcos
 Tamar Feldman
 Rivka Jablon
 Sophie Jacobs
 Sofia Leonoff
 Yael Lesnik
 Avital Nightingale
 Sara Seltzer
 Fraidy Thav
 Yocheved Sharbani
 Rivky Stern

“I AM IN CONTROL!”

With Lag B'Omer

already behind us, we are past the mid-way point of our TV/Video/DVD Control program. The participants in the second week of TV Control were excited to receive their pen/flashlight gifts starting today.

We are proud of our many students who are participating in this project, and we're rooting for all of you to continue the momentum and reach that finish line through the end of Iyar.

Please continue to encourage your children.... your continual reassurance that they are participating in a wonderful project is the best reinforcement of all!



WE WERE READY, WE GOT SET.....AND WE WALKED!

Our Lag B'Omer walkathon, barbecue and fun activities were thoroughly enjoyed by our students, teachers, administrators, staff and parents.

We extend our gratitude to all of the parents and friends who were involved by **volunteering and helping to carry out the day's festivities** both at the park and at school. You truly make our school events the successes that they are. Thank you to Mr. Mendy Breier, Mrs. Devorah Cohen, Mr. Ginsburg, Mrs. Itzkowitz, Mrs. Oropesa, Mrs. Shaffren, and Mrs. Turner.

Please keep your eyes open for copies of the sponsor sheets, which will be sent home with the children next week to enable them to collect their pledges.



AVOID ALL APPOINTMENTS

Our standardized testing week will run from this Monday, May 14 through Friday, May 18. Please mark your calendars and make an extra special effort to avoid outside appointments for your children during school hours this week.



KIDS FOR KOSHER FOOD BANK

The need for basic food items and other daily necessities is ongoing. Those in need make an appointment to shop, and are not seen by any other shopper. The **Food Bank depends on everyone's** participation to help combat hunger in our community—one meal, one person at a time. For the month of May the specific requests are **Parmalat's milk, peanut butter, egg noodles, and honey.** Keep in mind that all the food must be either OU, Chaf-K, O-K, or Star-K certified, making it suitable for any family. Thank you for your continued help. *Yasher Koach!*



TEHILLIM CHAMP

Yasher Koach to
Evelyn Gill, our
newest Tehillim

Champ! Her classmates and Morah are so proud
of her!



DON'T DEHYDRATE

We cannot stress
enough the
importance of bringing
a water bottle to
school every day—
due to the return of
the hot, humid Florida
weather. We are insisting that all students bring
a water bottle to school with them on days that
they have PE. Thank you for your cooperation.



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

Ayalah Sima bas Limor

Rachel Leah bas Sara

Yehudis bas Chaya Perel

Nechama Perel bas Rochel Leah

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)

Shalom Dovid ben Bracha Margalit



MAZEL TOV

To Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Sobol and family on
the Bar Mitzvah of their son, our alumnus,
Boaz.

SAVE THE DATE!
MONDAY, MAY 21

EXCITING PRE-SHAVUOS

WOMEN'S EVENING OF INSPIRATION

5B ELECTIVES

One of this year's 5B electives is "Introduction to Hatzalah" by Mr. Zalmy Cohen. The boys are introduced to certain basic concepts in anatomy including pulse, heartbeat, and blood pressure. This hands on program has been very popular with the boys and they can't wait to learn more!!





TORAS EMES
ACADEMY OF MIAMI
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 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 Emor 5772

Dear Parents,

Although we may be far away from *CitiField* in New York, most of us have undoubtedly heard that in a week from Sunday a massive gathering of Jews from the *Torah* community is being planned at the behest of the leaders of the *Torah* world. The expressed purpose is to confront what has been called the great challenge of our generation – the exposure to non-Jewish values that is magnified to an unimaginable degree through the medium of the digital universe.

I am not addressing my thoughts to the gathering or the issue of the internet per se. Obviously, those of us who follow *Daas Torah*, the guidance of our Torah leaders, understand that their perspective is far deeper, broader, and more objective than the rest of us. Even in those areas where we fail to see what they see, we put our trust in them and in their guidance and direction. What I am addressing in regards to this event, is the types of reaction that it has generated in our community, most notably on blogs and in print.

Numerous voices have been raised in opposition, in doubting the effectiveness of **proposals and with downright derision of the motives of the organizers, R'L.** Suddenly, it seems everyone knows better than our *Gedolim*, and somehow the same *Tzaddikim* who we run to for *Brachos* when we need a *Yeshua* (**salvation**) **don't get** credit as Rabbinic leaders for having the same level of common sense as the man on the street.

Is this some terrifying new phenomenon signaling a crumbling of our *Torah* infrastructure? Are we so far gone that the opinion of a 25 year old grad student has as much validity as the measured deliberations of committees of great *Rabbonim* and *Roshei Yeshiva* whose every waking moment is devoted to *Torah* learning and to guiding hundreds of students and congregants, and who push themselves even **further to help people they don't know, and for no compensation?**

-continued-

The good news (and bad news) is that this is nothing new. *Moshe Rabbeinu* himself **stated: "...just a little more and they will stone me."** (*Shemos 17:4*) The people were parched from thirst and they blamed *Moshe*. (see *Ibn Ezra*) Who was *Moshe* talking about? The Jews who just experienced all the miracles of the *Exodus*! We can easily imagine the bloggers and commentators having a field day with this Rabbi named *Moshe*. What was he thinking by endangering the welfare of three million people with some misguided scheme to escape into an uninhabitable desert and rely on **miracles? It's irresponsible and ignorant of modern scientific and medical knowledge.** He probably is hoping the people will die out so all the wealth they **stole from Egypt will be his...!**

It doesn't take too much insight to realize that it's a natural tendency to sit back and criticize those who do great things. When a person feels unsure of himself, he has a much harder time accepting greatness in others. One who is truly self assured can appreciate the good in others. This in turn allows one to retain his objectivity in judging the words and actions of others. The Jews in the desert were not taken to task for their words and complaints, because their loss of objectivity came about because of thirst, a basic need that when not satisfied can cause anyone to lose balance. We, however, will be liable if we are unable or unwilling to listen objectively to the words of our *Gedolim*. **That's because deep down we may be** hiding something or have some hidden agenda that closes our eyes and ears to our *Torah* **leaders' guidance. We are liable, because we can do something about our** attitudes and mindsets.

We need to recognize this phenomenon and not get swept up in it. Not every problem has a solution, but to criticize those who try to do something, who act with honesty, sincerity, *Daas Torah* and a searing pain over what has befallen so many families and individuals, is to demonstrate a covering up of our feelings of guilt by **faulting those who we perceive as criticizing us. It's a lot easier to ascribe naiveté** and simplicity to others rather than to look ourselves squarely in the mirror and say; **I'm not perfect, perhaps I need to examine** my behavior and to change my ways. Criticizing others is the escape hatch when our guilt confronts us – we must seize this opportunity for a serious introspection. We must not get side tracked into petty discussions and into setting ourselves up as judge and jury. We are part of *Klal Yisrael* and we have a challenge, one perhaps greater and more threatening than anything our forefathers ever experienced. The way a *Torah* Jew rises to such a challenge is to increase *Torah* learning and *Mitzvah* observance, study of *Mussar* to **strengthen one's faith in Hashem** and greater acts of *Chesed* and sensitivity to those around us.

Best wishes for an uplifting, introspective *Shabbos*,



Rabbi Kalman Baumann

LAG B'OMER 5772





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 # 15:

Claiming no credit for himself

Leah believed deeply that a Jew must strive and grow, and she lived her belief. She worked hard to improve upon her observance of Shabbos, adapted stringent standards of modesty and guarded with a vengeance her times for davening.

Most people failed to meet Leah's high standards. Her husband didn't learn enough. Her children were irresponsible. Her neighbors spoke loshon hora and her rabbi was too timid to set people straight. Those who met Leah knew one thing: They didn't want to be like her.

Across the street was Rivka. She, too, had a deep commitment to growth. She, too, tried to upgrade her standards of dress and her mitzvah observance. She, too, made time to daven. But only Rivka knew of Rivka's efforts. All others saw was an unassuming woman who seemed to genuinely like everyone. Those who met Rivka hoped that some of this woman's saintliness might rub off on them.

Pirkei Avos teaches that one who acquires Torah becomes "beloved." But everyone knows of a Leah—someone whose fervor seems to stand in the way of becoming beloved.

The difference between Leah and Rivka is this: Rivka has also

"We elevate ourselves far higher by seeking no credit for our spiritual growth."



Effective Prayer

Our Wish List

Ari loves to lend a hand. He's always on the lookout for a chance to offer a ride or loan a few dollars. Moshe is willing to lend a hand, but only if you ask him. Morah Sarah loves teaching. Morah Rachel can't wait until the dismissal bell rings.

What might be an imposition to some people is a pleasure to

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration

Ideas

Excellence

Success

adopted the trait of "claiming no credit." She strives quietly, not for the sake of superiority, but solely for the sake of Hashem. Toward others, she acts with the love and concern every Jew deserves. Those who meet Leah sense her self-righteousness. Those who meet Rivka sense—and love—her true righteousness.

Adapted from "Visions of the Fathers" by Rabbi Abraham Teverski, with permission from Mesorah Publications

those who feel love for that task. Because it's their pleasure, they seek it out. And because they can seek it out, it comes to pervade their lives. In the final blessing

before the Shema, we present

Hashem with a wish list. "Instill understanding in our hearts, the ability to understand and elucidate, to listen, to learn,

to teach, to guard and to do all the words of your Torah's

Better Relationships

The Family Treasure

"Ask Uncle Yossi to speak to him," Miriam pleaded with her aunt. "Everyone listens to Uncle Yossi." Somehow, Uncle Yossi knew just how to talk to people. Now, with the family worried about Miriam's brother's failing grades, and her parents unable to get through to him, Uncle Yossi seemed to be the only hope.

What was Uncle Yossi's secret? He embodied the spirit of Lag B'Omer. Kabbalah teaches that each day of the omer is connected to a different character trait, and Lag B'Omer derives its trait from Aaron HaKohen.

Aaron greeted everyone in a pleasant way. Sensing friendship from this righteous man, the potential wrongdoer would be loath to disappoint such a friend. Even when Aaron admonished someone, his manner would convey his underlying love and respect for that person.

Sefirah marks the death of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students, whose sin was a lack of respect for each other. Lag B'Omer is the counterbalance—the day the dying ceased—a day saturated with the spirit of Aaron HaKohen. By absorbing that spirit, we each come closer to becoming a treasured, trusted friend.

continued on back



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

Starting Over

There was a saintly old man who poured his soul into teaching Torah to the most brilliant students of the generation.

Students came from afar to immerse themselves in this rarefied environment and learn from the revered Rabbi Akiva. However, despite the brilliance of the teacher and the diligence of his students, this yeshiva never coalesced into a unified whole. It never grew to be greater than the sum of its parts, though each part was great in itself.

One day, an illness began coursing through the student body. In the end, all 24,000 students had passed away, and the sage was left alone. He had dedicated himself to implanting Torah into the best minds of the generation, and then, the entire planting had perished.

It was on the thirty-third day of the counting of the omer that the dying stopped. And that, we are told, is why we celebrate

Lag B'Omer. But how is the end-result of a plague—that there was no one left to die—reason for celebration?

We rejoice because Rabbi Akiva refused to despair.

Instead, he rededicated himself to his mission and fulfilled it. Explains Rav Gedaliah Schorr: "Even if one has not learned properly...on Lag B'Omer he should...take a lesson from Rabbi Akiva....He developed five new disciples, among them Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, and it was through them that Torah was disseminated among Israel....So too, a Jew should not let past failures and difficult situations lead him to despair..."

By grasping the Torah even

"We rejoice because Rabbi Akiva refused to despair."

more tightly, and seeking Hashem even more ardently, says Rav Schorr, a Jew can always find his strength.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

How does grief differ from despair?

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

Treasure

continued from front

Shabbos Table Discussion:

How do you convey disapproval of someone's actions while still conveying love and respect?

Adapted from "Lag B'Omer, Its Observance, Laws and Significance," compiled by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman, used with permission from Mesorah Publications

Wish List

continued from front

teaching with love."

Overarching all the aspects of Torah learning is the final word, "love." We ask Hashem to help us love his Torah, because through loving it, we will be eager to hear, learn, teach, guard and perform ever more of it. Learning will be our pleasure.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Is there value in learning for someone who isn't motivated by love? What is the value?

Adapted from "Delving Within" by Rabbi Elias Schwartz, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Dedications

לע"ג

הרה"ג ר' חיים משה יהודה

בן ירמיהו הכהן זצ"ל

נ.ל.ב.ע. ג' אייר

יעקב בן בציון משה ז"ל

נ.ל.ב.ע. ו' אייר

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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

The Autograph

In his old age, the illustrious Rav Yaakov Kaminetzky, having suffered a stroke, lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Rabbi and Mrs. Hirsch Diskind, in Baltimore. A student at the nearby Yeshiva Ner Yisrael came to attend to the tzaddik's needs each night.

One morning, as the young man prepared to leave, the Diskinds presented him with a copy of Rav Kaminetzky's newly printed book as a token of thanks. The young man requested Rav Yaakov's signature on it, but Mrs. Diskind held out little hope that her father would have the strength.

The next morning, as the young man prepared to leave again, Mrs. Diskind pointed out the book on the table. "Yaakov Kaminetzky" was painstakingly written upon the flyleaf. "He asked me for paper and practiced several times to make sure it would be legible," Mrs. Diskind reported.

Keenly sensitive to the feelings of the young man who spent his nights at his side, Rav Yaakov mustered his last remaining bits of strength to express his gratitude.

Adapted from "In the Footsteps of the Maggid," by Rabbi Paysach J. Krohn, with permission from Mesorah Publications

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Chosen Words is a biweekly publication of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation

HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, Chairman Rabbinical Board

Rav Naftoli Jaeger, shlita, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor

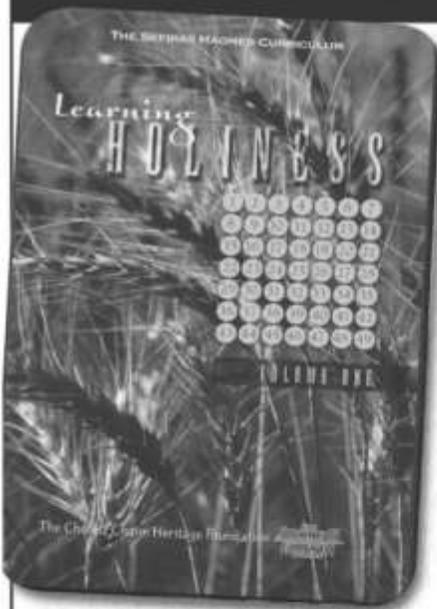
361 Spook Rock Road
Suffern, NY 10901

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

We welcome your comments!

Letters to the Editor
Chosen Words/CCHF
361 Spook Rock Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901
Email: cwords@cchfusa.org

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Mrs. Perl Abramovitz

Creator of the popular "Victory" series & noted Binah columnist

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