

חג השבועות תשע"ב

זמן מתן תורתנו



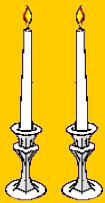
MAY 24, 2012

TEAM Spirit

STAR STUDENTS

פרשת במדבר

FRIDAY
CANDLE
LIGHTING
7:46 pm



Yoseph Baroukh – S.S.
Dovid Bisker – T.S.
Yoseph Zundel Dubinsky – T.S.
Avos Greenberg
Benjy Heller – T.S. & S.S.
Dovid Kaplan – S.S.
Sholom Marcus – S.S.
Natan Oropesa – T.S.
Noam Richmond – T.S.
Yitzi Siegel – T.S.
Aryeh Sova – S.S.
Joey Tokayer – S.S.

Miriam Balgley – T.S.
Racheli Bernstein – S.S.
Racheli Breier – S.S.
Sarah Leah Buzaglo – T.S.
Shira Feldman – S.S.
Chaya Mushka Greenberg – T.S.
Avital Nightingale – T.S.
Chaviva Pam – T.S. & S.S.
Elisheva Sharfman – S.S.
Maayan Wolpov – T.S.
Tamara Yeshurun – T.S.

TEAM PLAYERS

Yosef Alber
Jacob Benchetrit
Asher Greenberg
Reuven Dovid Lefkowitz
Tzvi Lehrer
Yehuda Lehrfield
Sholom Marcus
Reuven Shaffren
Simcha Shaffren
Nochi Zeines

Odaya Cohen
Chani Dreyfuss
Batsheva Druin
Raizy Dudovitz
Ariella Fellus
Tamar Hyman
Yael Kanoff
Daniella Katz
Yokheved Krispin
Esti Newman
Lea Riesel
Batsheva Roth
Esti Stern
Sivan Zaig

חג שבועות שמח!

PLEASE NOTE:

CLASSES RESUME AT

9:00 AM ON TUESDAY, MAY 29

Gates will be opened at 8:30 am

ASSEMBLIES

Our final monthly assemblies of the year were a great culmination to all the hugely popular performances we enjoyed over the last 9 months. The first grade girls, under the direction of Mrs. Atkin (and Miss Mitrani), presented a play about being kind to others.

Mrs. Ehrenreich's first grade boys (with able assistance from Mrs. Avrahami and Mrs. Atkin) entertained their audience with a tribute to the 50 states of the USA—just in time for Memorial Day!

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Y. Dreyfuss and Rabbi N. Grossman for their inspiring and informative Divrei Torah. See attached pictures of 1B in costume.

F. Y. I.

The elementary school will, **IY"H, begin the 2012-2013 school year on Thursday, August 30.** It will be a regular school day with hours from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.



PLEASE COLLECT YOUR WALKATHON PLEDGES!

Please take care of redeeming all uncollected pledges so that all accounts can be settled before the summer vacation. Soliciting pledges and walking are only part of



the job...the final responsibility is to gather and bring in the pledge money. Please make a special commitment to take care of this right away so that we can redeem our pledge to the needy families in our community. Yasher Koach to the boys of 2B whose class solicited the most pledges (per capita) and a special Yasher Koach to Yehuda Bloom, the top pledge solicitor in school!

Don't forget... Everyone who brings in all their pledges (minimum of \$35) before the end of the school year will receive a beautiful Toras Emes cap—perfect for summer vacation!

"I AM IN CONTROL!"

The final phase of our TV/Video/DVD Program is now finished. *Yasher Koach* to all the students who successfully completed the program. We are proud to announce that

we have reached and surpassed our school wide goal and we achieved a total of 4,784 days of being "in control." **What a great spring board to the special Yom Tov of Kabbolas HaTorah!**



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. Salomon and Dr. Raquel Nash and family on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their daughter Ili and Dovid Rotkoff.



3B/3G ENRICHMENT LEARNED ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC THEORY!

We formed hypotheses, regarding what would happen based on what we knew about volcanoes and information we read. Then we built and exploded our volcano—one with baking soda and vinegar, one with diet coke and Mentos. We proved and disproved our hypotheses and came to conclusions and had a great time while we did!



3G SIYUM /PRE-SHAVUOS ACTIVITY





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 Bamidbar, Erev Shavuos 5772

Dear Parents,

At a recent gathering, I ran across an old friend with whom I had not had contact for many years. He is a *Baal Teshuva*, born and raised in a small town in the Deep South, who raised his own children in a larger Jewish community. When I inquired about his family, he proudly listed off his twenty- and thirty-something children, and the Yeshivas they or their husbands are learning in, namely Mir, Lakewood and Ponevezh. I saw the glow on his face and told him what a rich man he is.

We all share that wealth. The greatest gift mankind has ever received after life itself, is the Torah that the Jewish People have a special portion in. Perhaps our greatest challenge is taking this gift for granted. The *Yom Tov of Shavuos* is our once a year opportunity to rekindle the excitement for Torah that is buried somewhere inside us.

To gain this perspective one needs look no further than at the many families in our community who come knocking at the door of our school seeking to enroll their children. There are many reasons why they come, but at the bottom of it all, these families are attracted to Toras Emes because we have what they are seeking – TORAH! There are, *Baruch Hashem*, so many families in our community who are searching for more Torah – they want more Torah learning, they want more *Midos Tovos* and they want more meaning in their lives. Their greatest wish is to raise children who will embody a healthy balance of passion for *Yiddishkeit* with *Menschlichkeit* and a strong educational foundation to succeed in life.

As we approach the *Yom Tov of Shavuos*, we would do well to stop and reflect upon **this greatest gift that is ever present in our and our family's lives. We commemorate receiving *Hashem's* Torah as an everlasting heritage for our people. We need to stop and consider "how fortunate we are, how good is our portion," that we have the Torah and that we have the wherewithal to hand this most priceless legacy to our most precious treasures - our children.**

continued

2.

Let this *Shavuos* be a time of renewed appreciation for the blessing of being Torah Jews, together with a redoubled commitment to be the best parents and role models we can.

Have a wonderful *Shabbos* and a *rejewwenating Shavuos*,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rabbi Kalman Baumann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

1B SALUTES THE 50 STATES OF THE U.S.A.





Research Club



- What is the largest organ in the body?
- Who was the only First Lady born in a foreign country?
- What sea captain commanded the first expedition that sailed around the world? His voyage provided the first positive proof that the Earth was round.

These are some of the questions our student researchers must answer.

How did you do answering them?

Congratulations to the students below who have reached new milestones!

4G	4G	4G	5G
<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Navigator I</i> 1,500 points	<i>Navigator I</i> 1,500 points	<i>Commander III</i> 4,000 points
Arielle Serwatien	Cila Ginsparg	Yocheved Sobol	Alysa Suissa
	Lea Riesel	Hadara Balgley	
	Abby Dennis	Naomi Bursztyn	

4B	4B	4B	4B	4B	4B
<i>Explorer</i> 1,000 points	<i>Navigator I</i> 1,500 points	<i>Navigator I</i> 1,500 points	<i>Navigator II</i> 2,000 points	<i>Specialist I</i> 4,500 points	<i>Voyager I</i> 6,000 points
Avraham Homnick	Avraham Homnick	Meir Liberman	Yitzi Eisenberger	Akiva Yeshurun	Ariel Hahn
	Dovid Kaplan	Sholom Marcus			

Keep looking it up!

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

chosen words

Awakening to Shavuos

Receiving the Torah Again

On the first Shavuos, there was thunder and lightning, the voice of Hashem, and miracles beyond anything we could imagine. Certainly there are rituals that could have been commanded to help us remember this awesome event. But there aren't. We don't blow the shofar; we don't dance with the Torah. Beyond the halachos relevant to all yamim tovim, there are no specific Shavuos mitzvos. Isn't it at least as important as our redemption from Egypt, which we relive through the seder?

Rav Aaron Kotler zt"l answers that the exodus from Egypt was a one-time event. We relive it each year to keep it alive for each generation. But the giving of the Torah is never in the past. It's today and every day. It can't be commemorated, because it's still happening. Each year, on Shavuos night, a vast sea of learning in Jewish communities throughout the world reenergizes the original "na'aseh v'nishma," both for Klal Yisrael and for each individual Jew.

Just as the Jews in the desert purified themselves in preparation for Matan Torah, we, today, ascend to a higher level of purity on Shavuos. The 49-day period of Sefirah is a framework of time in which we can climb the 49 levels of purity, simultaneously discarding the 49 levels of impurity.

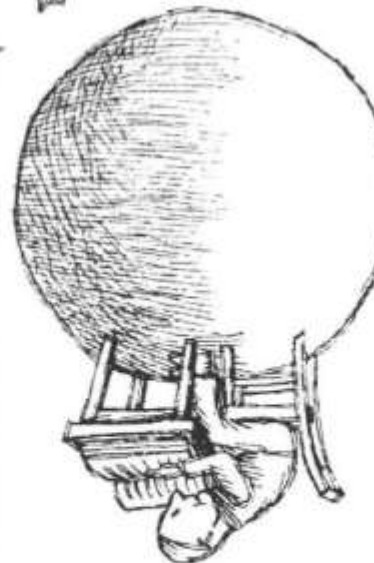
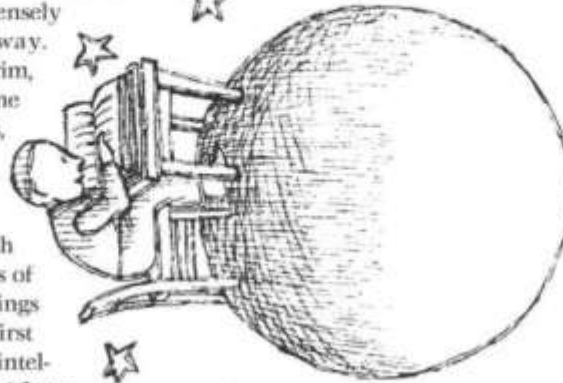
But the purity we achieve in those days is fragile. King David says in Tehillim (51:12) "Create for me a pure heart, O G-d, and a steadfast spirit renew within me." The process of attaining purity is divided into two steps—reaching a pure state, and making it steadfast. While

Sefirah establishes our purity, it's the all-night immersion in Torah on Shavuos that makes it "steadfast," to endure throughout the year.

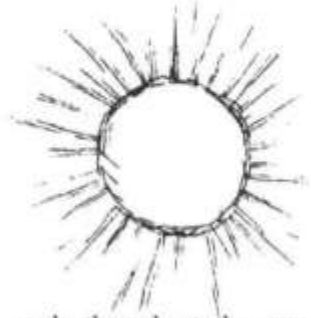
Learning on Shavuos night works its wonders on Klal Yisrael as a whole, as Jews throughout the world pour their united efforts into bringing Torah into the world. And it works upon the individual in an intensely personal way. Chag Habikurim, another name for Shavuos, is a time of rejuvenation that brings forth the first fruits of nature; it brings forth the first fruits of the intellect as well. Those who put their energy into learning on that night find their exhaustion lifted and their understanding deepened. It's a night of new insights and original perspectives on the Torah's ever-flowing spring of wisdom.

Tikkun Leil Shavuos also expresses our unquenchable thirst for Torah. To build an appetite for matzah, we have to refrain from eating it prior to Pesach. But to build an appetite for Torah, we do just the opposite. We immerse ourselves in learning; the more we learn, the more we want to learn, and the more we are able to learn.

On the practical level, learning on Shavuos night offers a chance to review the progress



"From sun-down to sun-up, Shavuos learning has a power of its own."



made throughout the year. Before we receive the Torah anew, we reckon what we have done with it over the year gone by. Having made that accounting, we can focus our energy on what we'll do with it in the year to come.

But on a grander level, Tikkun Leil Shavuos underscores our yearning for Moshiach. We know that, although his arrival is guaranteed, it can be hastened through Torah learning. The statement in Pesachim (6b) says, "There is no earlier or later in Torah." This is usually interpreted to mean that the events of the Torah are not necessarily related in chronological order. But there is another interpretation: Through Torah learning, Jews can alter the decrees that determine when in history various events will occur. By making an all-out, all-night commitment to Torah on Shavuos night, we can fast-forward history and hasten the arrival of Moshiach.

To Do: Think of a way you can add some new element to your learning in the coming year.

Adapted from "The Three Festivals: Ideas and Insights of the Sfas Emes," with permission from Mesorah Publications.

TORAS EMEs
 YEMINA TORAS CHAIM
 Published for Toras Emes Academy of Miami by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation

Earth-Shaking

The businessman comes home late, eats some dinner and thinks about relaxing for awhile and going to bed. Instead, he opens a sefer and with whatever mental energy he has left, he learns. And he wonders: "What's my little bit of learning worth?" The young mother finally gets the kitchen cleaned up and the baby up and the baby wonders, "Does anyone even notice what I do?" The sixth grader, no star pupil, studies for hours knowing the best he could hope for is a B. And he wonders, "What's the use of all my work?" Most of us feel that our struggles amount to nothing really earth-shaking.

Megillas Rus teaches the opposite. All of these efforts, all of these small gestures and achievements, have an untold

impact. If anyone could have felt bested and overshadowed by those around her, it was Rus. There she was, a Moabite princess, struggling to scrape together sustenance for herself and her elderly mother-in-law, Naomi, dwelling in a strange land where her royal pedigree was worthless. What was her pitiful struggle worth?

Rus did what duty demanded—she stood by Naomi. Boaz, too, saw his duty and did it, redeeming Rus from poverty and making her his wife. Both rejected the easy way out in favor of the right path, and as inconsequential as their actions may have seemed here on earth, in Heaven their names were ablaze with light. Never could they have known that, through their seemingly insignificant struggles, they

"Small gestures and achievements have untold impact."

would merit establishing the family tree bearing King Dovid, King Shlomo and, in a time to come, Moshiach. Their seemingly ordinary deeds became part of Hashem's Torah, and are related on the very day the Torah was given.

Although we may feel our deeds are nothing of note,

the Midrash teaches that our struggles to do right are recorded by Eliyahu Hanavi, and signed by Hashem and Moshiach. Each time we choose duty over convenience, right over wrong, it's something earth-shaking.

Adapted from "The Shavuot Handbook," with permission from Mesorah Publications

Better Relationships

Seeing the Thunder

What does the word "Shabbos" mean to someone who's never experienced one? Or "arba minim" to someone who's never held them? Obviously, keeping the Torah properly depends on having some visual reality attached to the mitzvos and halachos.

The Torah tells us that the people of Israel "roim es hakolos," they "saw the thunder" that accompanied the giving of the Torah. They saw what one would normally hear. The Mechilta explains that as Hashem spoke, living letters soared through the air and engraved themselves upon the tablet so that the whole nation literally saw the Torah's voice. This miracle held a message—that Torah must be seen, not just contemplated. By seeing the living words of the Torah, the people learned that "Shabbos," or "arba minim," or "chessed" were concepts that could only become real by becoming visible.

By taking this step—creating a visual experience of receiving the Torah—Hashem taught us how Torah should be taught. Just as a child could never

accurately define "cat" or "red" without having seen them, neither can he understand the concrete elements of a mitzvah without having a visual touchstone. The story. The hands-on experience. The picture. These are the tools that turn abstract spiritual wisdom into concrete concepts that children can absorb and live by.

For adults, too, seeing is believing. To accept the Torah as individuals, we also have to "see the thunder," and put the sound of the Torah's words into the visible, palpable facts of our lives.

Adapted with permission from a taped lecture by Rabbi Michel Twerski of Milwaukee's Congregation Beth Jehudah

Index Referent 472



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

HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlitá, Chairman Rabbinical Board

Rav Nafoli Jaeger, shlitá, Rabbinical Editorial Supervisor

361 Spook Rock Road
Suffern, NY 10901

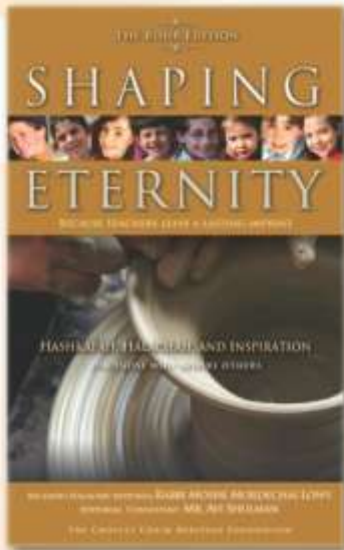
Chosen Words
Editor: Shaindy Appelbaum
Writer: Chana Nestlebaum
Graphic Artist: Heidi Ort
Illustrator: Giora Carmi

✉ We welcome your comments!
Letters to the Editor
Chosen Words/CCHF
361 Spook Rock Rd.
Suffern, NY 10901
Email: cwords@cchfusa.org

NOW IN ITS SECOND PRINTING!

For Educators

(And Everyone with Children in Their Lives)



Distributed by Feldheim Publishers

AVAILABLE AT ALL JEWISH BOOKSTORES

CALL TODAY TO ORDER YOUR COPY!
845 352 3505 ext. 101

THE CHOFETZ CHAIM HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Dedications

לע"נ
דבורה בת יצחק הלוי ע"ה
ג.ל.ב.ע. ס' סיון

Dedicated in loving memory
of Dorothy Shindler
By Judy Z. Lane and Jerry Lane

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