



פרשת וישלח

Candle Lighting 5:10 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban  
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**DvarTorah – Burying Our Problems** by Rabbi Binyomin Luban

Issue 4

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Upon leaving the city of Shechem, Yaakov asked the members of his household for their idols, and he buried them in Shechem.

Why did Yaakov have to bury the idols himself? Why couldn't he just tell each member of his household to bury his own idols?

One of the great Mussar personalities of the previous generation answered, perhaps homiletically, that Yaakov was afraid that instead of burying the idols, the members of his household might instead "plant" the idols. To "bury" one's problems is healthy and beneficial to one's self. To "plant" one's problems is unhealthy and dangerous.

What is the difference between burying and planting?

One buries something which is totally dead. When one plants something in the ground, however, it has the potential to give life.

**Dvar Halacha – ברכה over Barack** by Meir Wasserman, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

In the wake of the presidential election, a question arises. There is a special *bracha* said upon seeing a non-jewish king, *Shenasan Mikvodo Libasar Vedam*. Do we also make this *bracha* upon seeing the President of the United States?

In Brachos (58a), R' Yochanan says that "A person should always exert himself and run to greet a king, even a non-Jewish one.

So, is the *bracha* of "*Shenasan Mikvodo Libasar Vedam*" said upon seeing the President of the United States of America? The Chasam Sofer (OC 159) rules that this *bracha* only applies to a

king who possesses the power to put people to death or allow them to live. Rav Moshe Stern ZT"l (Be'er Moshe 2:9) notes that the President doesn't have this ability, which is held by the Supreme Court. According to some Poskim, however, since he can grant clemency, one can even say *Shem Umalchus*, i.e. "*Hashem Elok-ainu Melech Haolam*," upon seeing the President.

Therefore, Rav Stern ZT"l paskens that one should make a *bracha* upon seeing the President, but without *Shem Umalchus*.

## The Weekly Quiz

### Q: What are the names of the three peoples who looked like Avraham?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to [Quiz@ytcteam.org](mailto:Quiz@ytcteam.org)

The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate. Hatzlochah!

### Answer to the previous question:

Q: When can a person daven 6 times in 24 hours?

A: On Yom Kippur, when one forgot or was unable to daven tefillas mincha on erev Yom Kippur and has to say mincha twice

Yasher Koach to Yehuda Mittel of the 9th grade for submitting the correct answer.

## YTC's Presidential Debate and Election by Zev Gassner, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Page 2

Prior to the recent presidential election, students of Yeshiva Toras Chaim participated in a mock debate. Twelve students—six supporting Obama and six supporting Romney—clashed verbally trying to argue for their candidate.

Opening statements were made by Akiva Nemetsky and Netanel Raden. Nemetsky brought to light the failures of Obama in his first term, prominent among them his failure in remedying the economy. He also pointed out the success of Romney as a businessman and as a politician. Raden argued that Obama has helped the economy more than the statistics and numbers indicate. Raden also showed that Romney was unqualified to act as the head of our nation.



Both statements were intellectually honest and truly eloquent.

Next, a

student from each grade argued on a specific issue facing America. Questions were asked by the moderators and answered by the debaters. Students tackled issues concerning the economy, foreign policy and more. Each debater was held to a two-minute time limit, making his task even more challenging. The students spoke well, delivered their points



persuasively, and accurately addressed the issue at hand. After the specific arguments, both campaigns delivered closing statements.

Finally, students were given the opportunity to cast their own votes in a school election. Mitt Romney was victorious by a relatively small margin. Although Romney won, all agreed that the debaters for both sides performed quite



admirably. Additionally, it is important to note that although they argued for a certain candidate, the debaters did not necessarily approve of the candidate for whom they were arguing, further toughening their task.

Mr. Spring, the Social Studies teacher, arranged and headed the debate, along with

the Secular Studies principal, Rabbi Levine. One student remarked, "I think this is a great example of Yeshiva Toras Chaim's attitude toward secular matters. The debate showed how much the Yeshiva cares about keeping their students informed about the secular world around them."

## Save the Date

28th Annual Dinner

4 Shevat, 5773  
Tuesday, January 15,  
2013

Treetop Ballroom at  
Jungle Island  
Miami, Florida

Please send in your journal  
ads today!!

Join Us!

**Yeshiva Toras Chaim**  
Dr. Abe Chames High School

*Open House*  
for Prospective Parents and Students

יום כולו תשע"ג  
Sunday, December 2, 2012, 7:30pm  
1025 NE Miami Gardens Drive  
N. Miami Beach, Florida 33179

*Meet & Greet Our Principals, Faculty & Students*

For questions or to RSVP:  
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