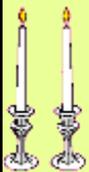


TEAM Spirit

STAR STUDENTS

פרשת ויגש



CANDLE
LIGHTING
5:16 pm

Rebecca Balgley – S.S.
Lea Berkowitz – S.S.
Racheli Breier – T.S.
Chani Dreyfuss – T.S.
Shoshana Blima Goldenberg – T.S.
Tessie Koot – S.S.
Debbie Nash – S.S.
Rina Esther Pollack – T.S.
Abigail Rubinov – S.S.
Esti Weinberger – S.S.
Mindel Weinberger – T.S.

Yehuda Bloom – S.S.
Avraham Brass – T.S.
Danny Breier – S.S.
Ariel Chattah – S.S.
Yoseph Zundel Dubinsky – T.S.
Dovid Feldman – S.S.
Netanel Hendel – S.S.
Shua Jeger – T.S.
Dovid Koskas – T.S.
David Leubitz – T.S.
Yehuda Segal - S.S.
Shmuel Vaiselberg - S.S.
Moshe Waisman – S.S.

PLEASE NOTE:

ASARA B'TEVES —

DECEMBER 23

Regular Sunday sessions.

DECEMBER 25

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS
REGULAR M. B. BUS SERVICE

TEAM PLAYERS

28TH ANNUAL DINNER & JOURNAL CAMPAIGN

Tuesday, January 15
Treetop Ballroom
.... It's the ONLY
place to be!

Coty Benarroch
Chani Dreyfuss
Avigayil Feld
Hadassa Grossman
Avital Gutfreund
Tamar Hyman
Daniella Katz
Kayla Lefkowitz
Yael Lesnik
Ruth Libson
Chaviva Pam
Adi Prync
Ayelet Siev
Fraidy Thav

Yoseph Baroukh
Yoseph Zundel Dubinsky
Mendel Druin
Ephraim Dudovitz
Avos Greenberg
Ezra Kirschenbaum
Yehuda Lehrfield
Aharon Liberman
Yehuda Rubinov
Tzvi Stern

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

Dear Parents:

I am writing to let you know that now is the time to submit applications for your children who will be new Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Toras Emes applicants (eg. Nursery, Pre-K...) for the 2013-2014 school year. We are very excited that we have received many inquiries from families outside of YTC/TE, but as always we would like to extend a sibling priority to our current families.

Please contact our office of admissions ([305-947-7779](tel:305-947-7779) [X310](mailto:hpam@ytcteam.org) or hpam@ytcteam.org) to request an application as soon as possible. In order to receive priority for siblings, we must receive your child's application by Monday, January 14, 2013.

Thank You,
Mrs. Hadassa Pam
Director of Admissions

SCIENCE NEWS

The long awaited chemicals to make "elephant toothpaste" finally arrived! Potassium Iodide is mixed with dish soap and 30% hydrogen peroxide (not the kind from the drugstore) to create a steady stream of foam that looks like someone squeezed out toothpaste. For the next two weeks we will be experimenting with changing variables and observing changes to the outcome.

Many thanks to Fraidy Thav for sharing her new microscope with 5G, and also to the Breier family for the donation of a bowling ball (it was over 12 lbs. and it sank beautifully!) Mrs. Weisskoff found an 11 lb. ball and, in spite of being almost as heavy as the other ball, it surprisingly floated. Density is the key! If anyone has an old 12 lb. ball we are still open to donations.

Science posters are due next week. We will be displaying them around the school and also saving the most magnificent ones for the Science Fair in March.

See pictures on following page.

LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found boxes are overflowing with sweatshirts, jackets, sweaters and even lunchboxes. We will keep these items in school until winter vacation, so please claim your belongings before they are gone. Since many sweatshirts look alike, please check the outerwear that your child brings **home from school to make sure it doesn't have another child's name on it.**



“ELEPHANT TOOTHPASTE”



רפואה שלמה

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Leah bas Rochel

Leah bas Freida

Shifra Pua bas Rochel

Mordechai Yehuda ben Esther Rochel

Chaim Berel ben Shoshana

Binyomin ben Sarah

Yosef ben Rus

Baruch ben Esther

Rochel bas Rivka Leah

Ariella Sara bas Elisheva Malka

Yehuda Pinchas ben Asna

Shlomo Meir ben Aviya Nechama

Malka Rivka bas Devorah

Shoshana bas Miriam

Mordechai Yisroel ben Zisa Sara

Chaya Shaina Sara bas Chana Esther

Meir Yitzchok ben Pessel

Rochel Gittel bas Yehudis Etil

Leah Lilach bas Sara Chana

Peretz ben Gittel

Aryeh Meir ben Aidel Fraidel

Yaakov ben Malka

Miriam bas Itzilah Aida

Rafael Menachem Meir ben Raizel Aidel

Devorah bas Victoria

Naftuli ben Rivka

Dovid ben Golda

Yitzchak ben Taiba

Penina bas Ashira

Batsheva bas Leah



MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Heshy Riesel and family on the birth of a grandson, born to their son, our alumnus, Yudi and Elly Riesel.



SAVE THE DATE!

Girls Galore Brunch & More

Sunday, January 13

10:30-12:30

KIDS FOR KOSHER FOOD BANK

For the month of January the specific requests are macaroni and cheese boxes, apple juice, canned fruit, and toiletries such as toothpaste and toothbrushes. 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!*



RAISING G.R.E.A.T. CHILDREN

Rabbi Baumann's Parenting Class takes place every Tuesday morning, 8:45-9:30 AM, in the Library.

Please join us!

This week's topic:

Empathic Listening - Part 2



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 Vayeeqash 5773

Dear Parents,

Along with the rest of the American educational community, we are shocked at the horrific crime and tragic loss of life last Friday in an elementary school in Connecticut. The senselessness of the act and the circumstances in which it occurred make it incomprehensible. Our hearts go out to the victims and our prayers to their families to find healing and solace.

When something of this magnitude occurs, after absorbing the facts and feeling the pain of fellow human beings, our thoughts turn to the impact such an event has on our children, and what if, G-d forbid, such a dangerous situation should arise in our school or community.

Throughout this week, our teachers have kept their eyes and ears open to pick up any notes of distress or concern on the part of our children. *Baruch Hashem*, there was seemingly minimal fallout among the elementary and early childhood students but where necessary, teachers and Mrs. Marlowe, our school counselor, responded with appropriate forthrightness and reassurance. If your children are sharing some distress with you, you do need to listen and respond utilizing the same guidelines we presented merely a few weeks ago at the height of Operation Pillar of Defense in Eretz Yisrael, which itself came only two weeks after Hurricane Sandy.

-continued-

- Try and keep routines as normal as possible. Children gain security from the predictability of routine, including attending school
- Parents and adults need to first deal with and assess their own responses to crisis and stress.
- Be honest with children and share with them as much information as they are developmentally able to handle
- Limit exposure to television and the news. **Images make a deep impact, continuous exposure can be harmful.**
- **Listen to the children's fears and concerns. Listening and really understanding what the child's concerns are is more important than simply talking. If it's not clear what is underlying the child's question(s), ask "What made you think of that?"**
- Reassure children that *Hashem* runs the world, and that everything that happens, is for the best.
- Point out that the world is a good place, but that there are people who do bad things.
- Reassure them that they are safe, surrounded by loving adults at home and in school who keep them safe from harm.

Our second responsibility is to take all reasonable precautions to avoid such a circumstance from arising in our school. I want to reassure you that security concerns have been a major priority at Toras Emes for the past many years, and the security of our campus has been greatly enhanced in the recent past.

- Access to our campus is through locked gates. Pass cards, entry codes or buzzing in by intercom are the only means of access during the school day.
- There are surveillance cameras throughout the campus, monitored in each of the offices. Our security officer walks the entire campus several times a day to monitor the entire area.
- Administrators, maintenance, and P.E. personnel are equipped with walkie-talkies throughout the day keeping them in contact with each other and the offices. Any report of suspicious persons or activity is investigated immediately by our security officer.
- We conduct evacuation drills regularly – our response time is excellent.
- Written lockdown procedures have been in place for years.

When it comes to security, there is always more that can be done. We are taking further measures now, in light of the events, and greater levels of security are built in to the campus redesign plans, taking place along with the construction of the new classroom building.

- Lockdown drills will be conducted periodically
- Lockdown procedures are being enhanced, additional training of staff will take place shortly and additional locks/hardware are being installed to further secure doors during a lockdown.
- **Visual exposure of the boys' playground will be eliminated through the planting of bushes along the fences.**

Looking ahead to enhancements that the redesigned campus will bring:

- Carpools will take place on campus, greatly reducing exposure to passing cars and people.
- There will be access to the buildings from one point only. Two layers of security will separate outsiders from the children. This includes when the children are outside at recess. (Girls and ECE)
- Additional and improved surveillance cameras will be installed.

Parents play a key role in security by cooperating with school procedures to always report to the office when visiting, by not sending an unknown (to the school) relative, friend or neighbor to pick up a child without informing the school, following staff instructions during carpool and parking in designated areas only, when visiting the school.

The safety and security of our children is paramount. Nevertheless, that requires balancing with the need to create and maintain a joyous, comfortable and beautiful learning and playing environment for students and staff alike. We appreciate your support, cooperation and input as we continuously work on enhancing the security of our campus.

May *Hashem* protect us, our children and our world.

Best wishes for a reassuring, comforting Shabbos,


Rabbi Kalman Baumann

28th Annual Dinner & Journal Campaign

Journal Update – December 20, 2012

Guests of Honor

Dr. & Mrs. Richard & Jody Bennett

Kesser Shem Tov Award

Dr. & Mrs. Stan & Marla Frohlinger

Kesser Torah Award

Mr. & Mrs. Chaim & Samantha Hirsch

*Accepted in Loving Memory of Chaim's Beloved Father
Raphael Mordechai Ben Yitzchak (Marwin) Hirsch ז"ל*

Campaign Goal \$1,000,000 Raised to date \$305,200.00

50,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,500.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Irving Moskowitz</i>
18,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,500.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kanoff</i>
18,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,500.00	<i>Mrs. Ethelyn Liebllich</i>
15,000.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan Rubin</i>	2,500.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Yisroel Y. Niman</i>
11,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Marcos Lapciuc</i>	2,500.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Steven Weisberg</i>
10,200.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,500.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Gary Yarus</i>
10,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>
10,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,000.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Niman</i>
10,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	2,000.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Fred Wittlin</i>
10,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,800.00	<i>Anonymous</i>
10,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,800.00	<i>Claridge House Nursing Home</i>
8,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,800.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Yitzi Lebensburger</i>
6,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,800.00	<i>Regents Park Aventura</i>
5,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,800.00	<i>Regents Park of Boca Raton</i>
5,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,500.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Blumberg</i>
5,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Steven Meiner</i>
5,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kaskel</i>	1,000.00	<i>Anonymous</i>
5,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Jay Schechter</i>	1,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Yosef Berelowitz</i>
3,600.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,000.00	<i>Mr. David Chait</i>
3,600.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Jeger</i>	1,000.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Bentzion Chait</i>
3,600.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Lipton</i>	1,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mort Fertel</i>
3,600.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Jules Trump</i>	1,000.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Peter Gassner</i>
3,000.00	<i>Drs. Stuart & Marcy Bernstein</i>	1,000.00	<i>Mr. James Hellring</i>
2,600.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Paul Feldman</i>	1,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Solomon Herzenborn</i>
2,500.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	1,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Jaroslawicz</i>
2,500.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Mario Berkowitz</i>	1,000.00	<i>Grand Rabbi & Rebbetzin YA Korff</i>

1,000.00	<i>Madison Title Agency, Llc</i>	180.00	<i>Ms. Shoshana Davis</i>
1,000.00	<i>Mrs. Vivian Naimer</i>	180.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Wally Fingerer</i>
1,000.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Naftali Niman</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Aharon Franklin</i>
1,000.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Barry Silverman</i>	180.00	<i>Mrs. Ruth Gibber</i>
875.00	<i>Anonymous Foundation</i>	180.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Moises Haratz</i>
750.00	<i>Mrs. Evelyn Ellenbogen</i>	180.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Burton Hutman</i>
620.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Barry Lynn</i>	180.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Jacobs</i>
540.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Emil Klein</i>
540.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Ephraim Friedman</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. Mordechai Lach</i>
540.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Gruenstein</i>	180.00	<i>MikyahCalendar.com</i>
540.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mingel</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. Brian Pfefferman</i>
500.00	<i>Mrs. Rachel Kalisch</i>	180.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Howard Seif</i>
500.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kramer</i>	180.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Ethan Siev</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Ari Averbuch</i>	180.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Label Steinhart</i>
360.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Robert Bergida</i>	180.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Ben Sugarman</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Salomon Btesh</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Tate</i>
360.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Edward Davis</i>	180.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. David Tepper</i>
360.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov Dreyfuss</i>	180.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Zvi Turk</i>
360.00	<i>Mrs. Lisa Farmer</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Meir Vilenski</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mauricio Gluck</i>	180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Binyomin Yovits</i>
360.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Akiva Grunblatt</i>	118.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Elliot Freedman</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Sander Hirth</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Warren Berney</i>
360.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. David Lehrfield</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Ari Bernstein</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. Luis Padron</i>	100.00	<i>Drs. Brilliant, Rothenberg & Meister DDS</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Rogatinsky</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Shamir Buzzini</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Ms. Bobby Rosenberg</i>	100.00	<i>Drs. Alvin & Tamara Cohen</i>
360.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Strahlberg</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Bernardo Coiffman</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Urlich</i>	100.00	<i>Drs. Joel & Barbara Coplowitz</i>
360.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Yaakov Waldman</i>	100.00	<i>Ms. Nancy Finkelstein</i>
300.00	<i>Anonymous</i>	100.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Robert Galbut</i>
250.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Yehuda Alber</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. David Ginsberg</i>
250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Tuvia Aronovitch</i>	100.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Steven Gittler</i>
250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Marc Birnbaum</i>	100.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Peretz Goldenberg</i>
250.00	<i>Gohill Orthodontics</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Shofy Greenberger</i>
250.00	<i>The Hon Judge & Mrs. Robert Grover</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Carter Hale</i>
250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hoffman</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. John Kaiserman</i>
250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Menachem Zev Kramer</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Aviel Raab</i>
250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Kurlansky</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joel Rosenblatt</i>
250.00	<i>Pediatric Associates</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Roth</i>
250.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Chesky Schwartz</i>	100.00	<i>Mrs. Bea Rubenfeld</i>
250.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shuman</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Sacks</i>
180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Bennett</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Salver</i>
180.00	<i>Ms. Judie Berger</i>	100.00	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Michael Salzhauer</i>
180.00	<i>Mr. Yitzchok Brandriss</i>	100.00	<i>Mr. Henry Schmidt</i>
180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Yehuda Chamani</i>	100.00	<i>Taylor Reese & Associates</i>
180.00	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Uri Cohen</i>	100.00	<i>Rabbi & Mrs. Gershon Teigman</i>
180.00	<i>Drs. Jeffrey & Judith Dach</i>	100.00	<i>Dr. Mark Weiss</i>

We encourage all parents to participate in this campaign by placing their personal ad and by soliciting friends, family and business acquaintances. Personal or solicited ads will be applied towards your Give/Get obligation.

Anyone who raises \$1,000 will receive two complimentary tickets to the Dinner.

We look forward to having all our parents attend the Dinner Tuesday, January 15th at the Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island. Invitations will follow in the mail.

YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM TORAS EMES

28th Annual Dinner

GUESTS OF HONOR DR. & MRS. RICHARD & JODY BENNETT

KESSER SHEM TOV AWARD DR. & MRS. STAN & MARLA FROHLINGER

KESSER TORAH AWARD MR. & MRS. CHAIM & SAMANTHA HIRSCH
ACCEPTED IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHAIM'S BELOVED FATHER,
RAPHAEL MORDECHAI BEN YITZCHAK (MARVIN) HIRSCH ר'ע

4 SHEVAT, 5773 ♦ TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

TREETOP BALLROOM AT JUNGLE ISLAND | MIAMI, FLORIDA

ADVERTISER INFORMATION

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

BUSINESS PHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

AD SOLICITED BY _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED PLEASE BILL ME CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Billing Address _____

Billing Zip Code _____

Signature _____

JOURNAL ADS

2 Facing Pages

- Founders Page \$50,000
- Testimonial Page 36,000
- Dedication Page 25,000
- Benefactor Page 18,000
- Sponsor Page 10,000

Single Page

- Diamond Page 7,200
- Emerald Page 5,000
- Platinum Page 3,600
- Gold Page 2,500
- Silver Page 1,800
- Bronze Page *1,000
- Deluxe Page 540
- Full Page 360
- Half Page 250
- Quarter Page 180
- Greeting (Name Only) 100

**Receive 2 complimentary dinner tickets with ads of \$1,000 or bigger*

AD COPY

chosen words

Personal Growth

Long-Term Investment

A man needs to rent a car. He inquires and finds out that the price will be \$500. If the rental is for a month, the price is a good one. If the rental is for a day, \$500 is outrageous. In deciding what something is worth, one considers how long it will last. Yet all material acquisitions are only of limited use to a person. The limit is the person's life-span.

Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin offered a parable to put material acquisitions into perspective: Within the city of Luz, according to the Midrash, the Angel of Death held no power. People would live extraordinarily long lives, until, weary of living, they would leave Luz and pass into the Next World.

In the parable, a Luz resident meets a normal mortal. The man from Luz is curious about how one lives with the prospect of death—relatively speaking—right around the corner. "What do you live in?" he asks. "Luz houses have to last hundreds and hundreds of years. You can probably make due with some orange crates." He is surprised to learn of the extremes to which mortals go to construct their temporary abode.

"And what about clothes?" he asks. "You probably don't bother too much with the style and quality." Again, he is astounded to find out that, even with but a few decades to spend on earth, a good portion of the time is spent perfecting personal appearances.

Prior to the Exodus, Hashem commanded the Jews to "borrow" their Egyptian neighbors' vessels for the trip. Meanwhile Moshe was collecting a greater treasure—Yosef's bones, which were to be transported to Eretz Yisrael for burial. For this, the Midrash praises Moshe's wisdom

and goodness. The goodness in this chessed is obvious, but where is the wisdom? Chazal define wisdom as the ability to see the long-range results of one's actions. Moshe, in his wisdom, turned away from acquiring objects whose value would ultimately perish, in favor of acquiring a mitzvah that would be his for eternity.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

How do we decide what is an appropriate level of quality to seek in a purchase?

Adapted from "Rabbi Frand in Print," by Rabbi Yissocher Frand, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Effective Prayer

Now's the Time

A child takes her first steps. The parents and siblings applaud and exclaim over her remarkable feat. It's time for smiles and hugs. And it's time for prayer. At a moment like this, one can turn to Hashem and offer a heartfelt prayer that the child's steps will take her on the right path, that she'll be welcomed where her feet take her, that she'll learn to run to do Hashem's will.

If a person is on the look-out for occasions to pray, they will occur often. As a husband leaves for work in the morning, there's a perfect moment to pray for his success, or for him

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence

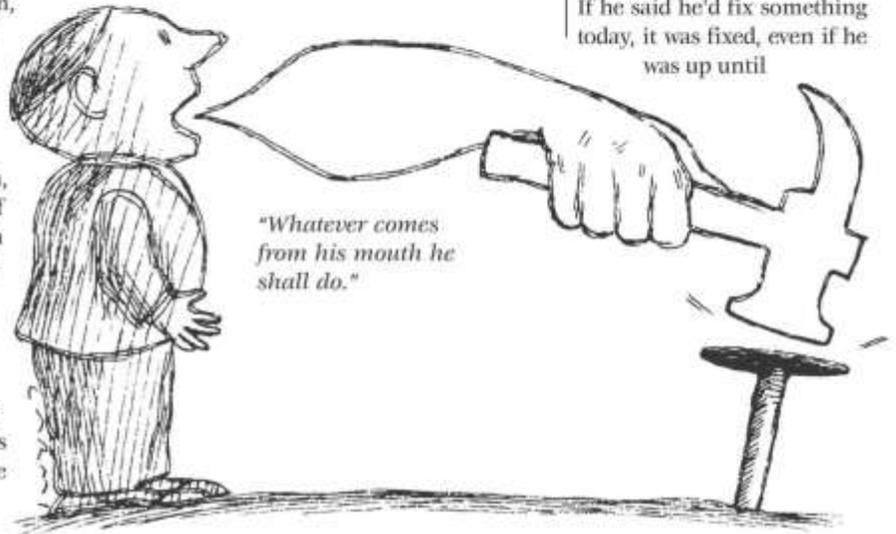


Success

Better Relationships

As Good As Done

"Said is done." That was my father's saying," Leah recalled. "If he told you he was going to be there at noon, he'd be there at noon. If he said he'd fix something today, it was fixed, even if he was up until



midnight fixing it."

But that was the old-fashioned way, she had to admit. Nowadays, you can always find an excuse. The car didn't start, the baby was napping, my computer was down, I was tired, I was busy, I forgot. Promises flowed freely in her family, with barely an expectation of fulfillment. Thus, the main vehicle for communication in the family—the spoken word—was itself a broken-down item.

continued on back



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

Adapted from "Prayerfully Yours," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, MD, with permission from Shaar Press

Secret Identity

"What he does in his private life doesn't matter. Look what he's accomplished for the country...the company...the organization...the school..." This is a philosophy that runs directly against the Jewish concept of goodness. In fact, all the outward appearances of dignity and goodness cannot save a person whose private behavior flies in the Torah's face.

Who is this person? Perhaps he treats his friends like royalty, but terrorizes his secretary. Or distributes candy in shul, but behaves like a tyrant to his own children. Or deals honestly in his own community, but imperceptibly cheats his business clients. His character is sterling when it's on display, but black

with tarnish when he perceives no disapproving eyes.

If there's one thing the Torah despises, it's private transgressions. They are the subject of no less than four curses spelled out in Devarim: "Cursed is the man who: makes a graven image ...and places it in secret; makes light of his father and mother; moves the property line of

his friend; smites his friend in secret. Each of these sins is done in secret, obviously with the hope of impunity. Yet that very hope indicates a clear lack in this person's spiritual awareness. The neighbors may not see. But where does this person believe Hashem is at that moment?

Every person's life involves a running battle between his

"His character is sterling only when it's on display."

Inner Freedom

On Erev Pesach, 1978, Yosef Mendelovich sat gaunt and ragged in his Soviet prison cell. He prepared to light a candle made of stray drops of oil, slivers of wax and string. This would accomplish Bedikas Chometz. For karpas, he had a bit of greenery forced from an onion he had salvaged. His maror was the mustard from a mustard plaster that the prison infirmary had given him—and he had never used—to soothe his aching back. The wine was waiting in an old jar—raisins soaked in water that, he prayed, might have fermented.

He was celebrating freedom within the walls of a prison, and his freedom was real. He knew who he was and what he wanted. He knew what he had to do, and he did it without fear or doubt. Self-awareness is the root of real freedom, because without it, a person can have the whole wide world open before him and still not find a direction in which to go.

Adapted from "Freedom and Self-Awareness" by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf, with permission from Aish HaTorah

lowest and highest urges. The curse doesn't accrue to one who fights this battle; it only comes to one who retreats from the battle and indulges his lowest inclinations. For one who engages the enemy and fights it, constantly assessing his setbacks and formulating new strategies, life does not lead to curses; it leads to greatness.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Is there any positive value to keeping negative traits private rather than displaying them? Under what circumstances?

Adapted from "Don't Look Down" by Rabbi Michael Haber, with permission from Shaar Press

As Good As Done

continued from front

If families, friends, neighbors and business associates cannot rely on the integrity of the words they speak to each other, the world of human interaction is critically wounded. That is why the Torah urges us to weigh carefully the pledges and promises we make. "According to whatever comes from his mouth, he shall do," says Bamidbar (30:3).

Obviously, this means that whatever one promises, one should give his best effort to fulfill. But it also means that we must make our promises carefully, with the expectation that we will have to keep them. "Said is done" is not an outdated saying. It's the Torah's up-to-the-minute advice on sowing, nurturing and reaping the rewards of trust.

—CCHF

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