

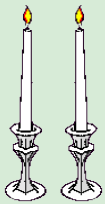
TEAM Spirit

STAR STUDENTS

פרשת יתרו

CANDLE LIGHTING

5:46 pm



Netanel Dovid Corcos
 Zachy Dennis - S.S.
 Joseph Feldman - S.S.
 Avrami Flamholtz - T.S,
 Shlomo Goldenberg - S.S.
 Michel Korff - S.S.
 Tzvi Lehrer - S.S.
 Benyamin Mendoza - T.S.
 Aaron Rosenberg - T.S.
 Yehuda Rubinov - T.S.
 Yitzi Siegel - T.S.
 Tzvi Stern - S.S.
 Shelomo Sutton - T.S.

Esther Simcha Botton - T.S.
 Tamar Brody - S.S.
 Meira Entin - T.S.
 Bracha Getzel - T.S.
 Evelyn Gill - T.S.
 Tamar Hyman - T.S.
 Rebecca Katz - S.S.
 Adina Kon - S.S.
 Tessie Koot - T.S.
 Simcha Leonoff - T.S.
 Sarah Rosenberg - S.S.
 Abigail Shapiro - T.S. & S.S.
 Hannah Shapiro - S.S.
 Fraidy Thav - S.S.
 Eden Zabari - S.S.

TEAM PLAYERS

NO SCHOOL
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 8
 RABBI YOSSI
 HEBER
TEACHERS'
 INSTITUTE

Shalom Deutsch
 Joseph Feldman
 Akiva Jeger
 Benjy Lasry
 Shalom Marcus
 Benyamin Mendoza
 Shmueli Nadel
 Binyomin Privalsky
 Aaron Rosenberg
 Tzvi Stern

Tehila Alfassy
 Miriam Berkowitz
 Tzivia Ahava Botton
 Devorah Cohen
 Elisheva Franklin
 Sonia Ginsburg
 Shira Goldenberg
 Tehila Klecky
 Tziporah Pam
 Rivky Sapirman
 Abigail Shapiro
 Yocheved Sharbani
 Racheli Sova
Ma'ayan Tzur

PLEASE NOTE:

FAMILY FUN DAY

HAS BEEN POSTPONED AND
WILL NOT TAKE PLACE THIS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3.



PESACH CANDY SALE



The Pesach Candy Sale is ending. All orders should be turned in to the office by the deadline on this Tuesday, February 5. Please remember to return the top two pages of the order form in the envelope with the money collected. Check that all orders and tallies are correct, prize **selections are clearly marked, your child's name and grade is written clearly and that the amount collected corresponds with your order.** Keep the bottom page in a safe place at home so you will know who to deliver the candy to when it arrives.

רפואה שלמה

Ariel Rivka bas Yocheved
Yehuda Pinchas ben Asna
Leah Devorah bas Rachel
Yoel Efraim ben Baila
Tinok ben Sarah Rachel
Avraham Shlomo ben Ita
Yosef ben Rus

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs.
Moshe

Gruenstein and family
on the engagement of
their daughter, our
alumna, Gitty to Aryeh Mandel of Lakewood.



To Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchak Selmar and
family on the birth of a granddaughter,
born to their son
Yaakov, our alumnus,
and Breindy Selmar.



To Rabbi and Mrs.
Zvi Rosenbaum
and family on the birth of a granddaughter,
born to their son, our alumnus, Shlomo and
Laya Rosenbaum.

To Rabbi and Mrs.
Ephraim Shapiro
and family on the
birth of a boy.



LOST AND FOUND

To minimize lost items in the future, please make sure to clearly label everything you send to school with your



child's name. 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.

KIDS FOR KOSHER FOOD BANK



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 February the specific requests are rice, peanut butter, Purim Hamentashen, raisins, tuna and salmon. 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!* Please bring your donations to the school office.

GENERAL MILLS BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please collect Boxtops and bring them to school before the February 20 deadline.



Boxtops can be found on all types of products and the more we collect, the more we are able to do for our school. The Boxtops for Education program is ongoing, so please keep collecting and we can continue to benefit throughout the year.

5G TRAVEL LOG ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Congratulations to all 5G girls! They enjoyed researching all their states for their travel logs and made beautiful oral presentations to their classmates and their parents.

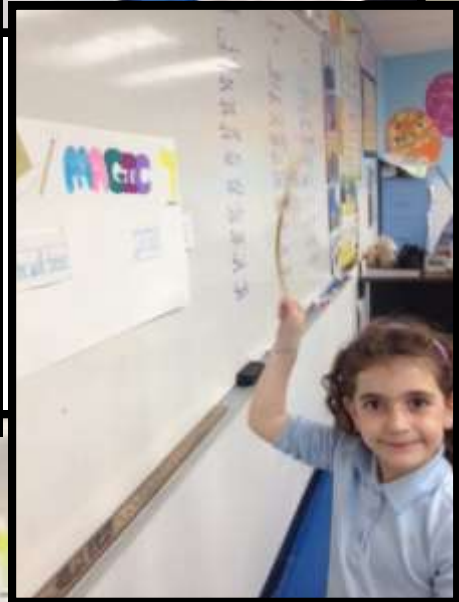
RAISING G.R.E.A.T. CHILDREN

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

Please join us!

This week's topic:
ISSUES WITH SIBLINGS - PART 2

FIRST GRADE GIRLS LEARN
ABOUT THE "MAGIC" VAV!





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 Yisro 5773

Dear Parents,

Our three-year old Nursery students, along with their older counterparts, are coming home **this Shabbos well aware of 'Little Har Sinai'**. The prerequisite of humility for *Kabbolas HaTorah* (acceptance of the Torah) is a universally recognized Jewish value. In fact, the *Kli Yakar* comments on the *Pasuk's (Shemos 19:2)* switching from plural to a singular description **of the Jewish People's encampment around Har Sinai** – ...*Vayeechun Shom Yisrael Neced HaHar*, was to point out that they made peace with each other upon seeing and recognizing the lowly stature of *Har Sinai* relative to other mountains. This was because they realized that *Hashem* desires humility and submission – otherwise the greatest event in human history would have been staged in a more grandiose setting. By recognizing the value of humility, they were able to make peace with each other, and put aside their quarrels and envy, which stem from a self-centered desire for honor and power.

How do we teach humility to our children? Isn't humility a contradiction to self-esteem?

These are excellent questions. Inculcating the value of being submissive when appropriate, and being assertive when called for, lies at the center of healthy human social development. *Moshe Rabbeinu* was the humblest person who ever lived, yet this same humble man acted decisively, boldly and firmly when he shattered the tablets in full view of his rebellious followers at the incident of the Golden Calf, and subsequently rallied and saved the rest of *Klal Yisroel* at a moment of great danger.

Teaching humility to our children is first and foremost accomplished through proper role modeling. How do we refer to others at our dinner table, how do we greet strangers, especially *Meshulachim* at the door, how much deference do we show to our *Rabbonim*, **do we speak respectfully about authority figures in our, and especially our children's lives? Do we appropriately deflect *Kovod* that comes our way? Do we verbalize our appreciation to *Hashem* for the good things in our lives, and do we accept and submit when things don't go the way we hope for?**

-continued-

Won't greater humility lessen our children's self-esteem? Nothing could be further from the truth. Humility is not self-denigration and feeling lowly. True humility is **recognizing one's own self-worth, and valuing one's talents and abilities, together with a realization that all of one's attributes are a gift from Hashem, and that a** person owes every attribute and accomplishment to *Hashem*. Only a person who is self-confident and self-assured can integrate such a worldview without feeling diminished. We are great, because *Hashem* has endowed us with greatness – therefore we humbly submit to His will and to the realization that we can take credit only for our efforts in spiritual growth – everything else we have is a gift from *Hashem*.

A truly humble person is a happy person, satisfied with his lot in life who harnesses ***Hashem's*** gifts to reach greater spiritual heights. Leading our children on such a path is the key to their success in life and to an enduring peace and love among all of *Klal Yisroel* and indeed, mankind.

Have an uplifting Shabbos,



Rabbi Kalman Baumann

chosen words

Personal Growth

Positive ID

Watching the group of young men spill down the street in the early hours of the morning, anyone could tell where they had been. Their voices were loud, their faces were flushed and their gait was so wobbly that they were basically holding each other upright. And, there was a bar on the block.

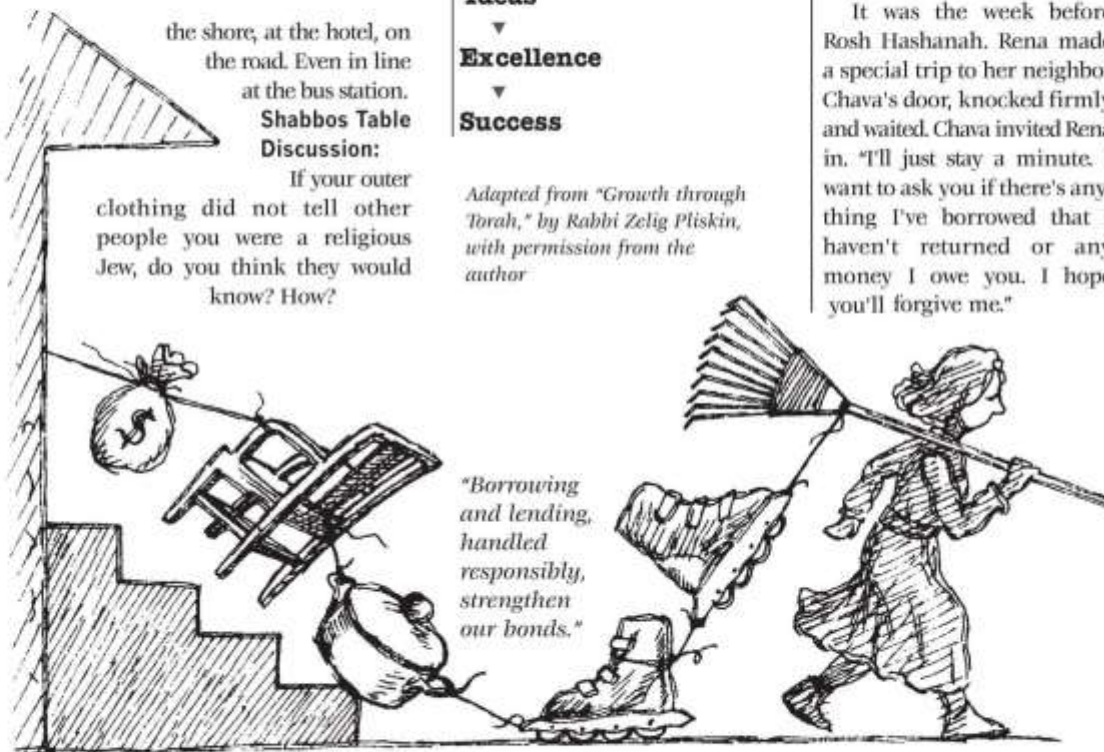
A person's demeanor speaks of the environment from which he has come. Waiting in line to board a bus from Manhattan to New Jersey, one can easily tell the story behind most of the passengers. There are construction workers, tired, sunburned, dressed in work clothes. There are ladies heading home from a shopping spree, clutching their Saks Fifth Avenue bags. There are businessmen and women in office attire, cellphoning home or reading the afternoon newspaper.

What should a Jew's demeanor say? What should others be able to deduce from the facial expressions, tone of voice, behavior and dress of one whose environment is the yeshivah, the shul, the "bayis ne'eman?" In Parshas Vayakheil, the Torah says, "And the entire congregation of the children of Israel went out from the presence of Moshe." Rav Eliyahu Lopian, in *Lev Eliyahu*, says this verse expresses the fact that the people's entire demeanor reflected where they had just been. They exuded holiness and spiritual elevation. This, too, should be the impression made by anyone whose environment is imbued with Torah. A sanctity and inner beauty should come through—even in the country, on

the shore, at the hotel, on the road. Even in line at the bus station.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

If your outer clothing did not tell other people you were a religious Jew, do you think they would know? How?



"Borrowing and lending, handled responsibly, strengthen our bonds."

Torah Tools for Personal Growth

Inspiration



Ideas



Excellence



Success

Adapted from "Growth through Torah," by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, with permission from the author

Better Relationships

The List

It was the week before Rosh Hashanah. Rena made a special trip to her neighbor Chava's door, knocked firmly and waited. Chava invited Rena in. "I'll just stay a minute. I want to ask you if there's anything I've borrowed that I haven't returned or any money I owe you. I hope you'll forgive me."

Effective Prayer

Believing

A child needs \$5 for a school project. He comes to his father and asks, certain that his father has what he needs and will be happy to give it to him. Another child in the class approaches his father for the \$5. This child is not sure if his father has the money or if he is willing to give it. But he knows he can't get anything if he doesn't ask.

Rav Eliyahu Lopian sees these two mind-sets as the difference between tefillah and tefillah sheleimah (complete prayer). The Talmud tells of a situation in which two men are being brought to their deaths. They both pray for salvation, yet one is answered and the other is not. The question is asked: Why is one man's prayer not answered? The startling answer given is that this man lacked "kavannah," or concentration.

How could a person on his way

to his death let his mind wander? Rav Lopian explains that the man who was saved prayed with the full belief that Hashem heard him, could save him and would save him. The other man also prayed with passion, but he came to Hashem like the second child came to his father: "Perhaps I'll be answered, or perhaps I won't, but I won't know unless I ask."

With the grave difficulties besetting Klal Yisrael today, we bear an obligation to cry out to Hashem for help. We can only fulfill our role effectively if we instill deep in our hearts the sense that each of our voices is heard by our Father, who has the means to bring salvation, and will bring it.

Adapted from a lecture by Rabbi Matisyahu Salomon, Mashgiach of Beis Medrash Gevoha, Lakewood, NJ.

Chava, smiling sweetly, extracted a folded-up paper from a basket near the doorway. "Well, let's see. You didn't return the seven yams I lent you last Succos. Your son has my son's rollerblades. In October I loaned you a rake, which came back broken. And in December, the same thing happened with my ice scraper. There's \$20 for the groceries I bought for you when you were sick in February and..."

continued on back



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

Revival

There's a secular saying that describes a frightening situation: "I died a thousand deaths." And indeed, in the Torah, there is more than one way to be counted as lifeless. Of one who is mired in poverty, it is said, "He is considered as if he is dead." Childlessness is also likened to death, as is loneliness: "Either companionship of death," states the Talmud. Despair is a lack of hope, and a lack of hope is a lack of life.

Yet all these trying situations provide every Jew with an opportunity to accomplish one of Hashem's most miraculous feats—techiyas hameisim, restoring someone to life. This is the deed with which Serach bas Asher was credited, and it earned her the reward of being

one of only nine people who have ascended alive to Gan Eden. Even before her smooth sail into the Next World, she merited an unusually long life.

"A lack of hope is a lack of life."

She was among the 70 souls who migrated to Egypt with Yaakov, and she lived to see the reign of King David.

Why was she so richly rewarded? The answer is that she brought Yaakov back to life. It was her gentle, melodic song that informed Yaakov that Yosef was still alive. In bringing him this news—gently enough for him to absorb it and rejoice in it—she rescued him from the mourning that had weighed upon his heart since Yosef's disappearance.

In our dealings with those in despair, we, too, can effect a revival. Giving someone hope—

a job opportunity; information on a good doctor or new treatment; an introduction to a prospective spouse—dissipates the gloom. Even if one's suggestion doesn't work out, it indicates that there are possibilities to explore and people who care. This alone can restore a person to life.

Adapted from "One of Our Most Amazing Women," by Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss, with permission from the author.

The List

continued from front

People who would never dream of stealing or borrowing without permission often do just that by borrowing and forgetting to return. Pirkei Avos (2:17) advises, "Let your fellow's money be as dear to you as your own." If Rena would have been keeping a list of what she owed others, rather than Chava having to keep one out of self-defense, the list would no doubt have been much shorter. Loaning is a vehicle of chessed. Abused, it carries us to grievance and strife. Used well, it binds us together.

To Do: Keep a list of everything you borrow. Cross items off as soon as they are returned.

Adapted from "Salt, Pepper and Eternity," compiled by Shaindel Weinbach, edited by Tzvia Ehrlich-Klein, used with permission from Targum Press

Dedications

As a zechus for
מרדכי נ"י
and
שמחה נ"י

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

The Business Plan

For decades, the man's father had run a successful store in one location. The son inherited the store and ran it exactly as his father had, but for some unknown reason, sales began to decline. Customer traffic thinned out and the bottom line began to plunge toward zero. The man went to his rebbe for advice.

"What did your father do when there were no customers?" the rebbe inquired.

"He would open a Gemara and learn," the man answered.

"And you?" he asked.

The son shrugged and replied, "Well, what should I tell you, rebbe? I usually read the newspaper."

"The case is quite clear," the rebbe pronounced. "The yetzer hara kept sending your father customers to distract him from his Torah learning. In your situation, the yetzer hara has no incentive."

Shabbos Table Discussion:

Does this mean that one should never take a break?

Adapted from "Freedom of the Soul Haggadah," by Rabbi David Goldwasser, with permission from The Judaica Press, Inc.

Index Reference 490



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

SAVE THE DATE!

**CHOFETZ CHAIM
HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

7th Annual Dinner

Tuesday, February 19th
Museum of Jewish Heritage
46 Battery Park Place

To place an ad and for reservations,
please call **845 352 3505 EXT 113**