



Dr. Abe Chames High School
SPOTLIGHT



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ראשי הישיבה

Candle Lighting 6:31

Issue # 2

Dvar Torah – The Power of Chesed - by Rabbi Yaakov Fried



Every day we are offered the opportunity to do acts of *chesed*. Some acts of *chesed* are done with great hardship and expense, while other acts of *chesed* are done simply with no effort. An act of *chesed* has a double reward.

They are the Mitzva of doing the *chesed* and the *zechus* one gets from it.

The *Ramban* explains that Lot had a *zechus* to be saved from the destruction of *Sodom*. He went out of his way to stay near the holiness of *Avraham* for many years. In fact, the only reason why Lot settled in *Sodom* was because *Avraham* suggested to him to move out.

This seems remarkable. One could ask: Was it really *Avraham's* fault that Lot ended up in *Sodom*? After all, it was Lot's fault that he had to separate from *Avraham* because Lot didn't stop his shepherds from grazing in other people's

fields. Furthermore, Lot decided by himself that he would move to *Sodom*. He could've gone in any direction and *Avraham* would've been nearby to protect him. It was Lot's choice to leave the sphere of *Avraham's* influence and live among the *reshaim* of *Sodom*. There is a *Chazal* that also ascribes ulterior motives to explain why Lot went with *Avraham* in the first place. Lot was hoping to one day inherit his uncle's possessions. Wouldn't this be enough to taint the *chesed* Lot did to *Avraham*?

Nevertheless, this imperfect *chesed* was enough to give Lot a *zechus* to be saved from a major catastrophe and in order for *Avraham* not to be blamed for his death.

We see from here the power of a *chesed*. If a tainted *chesed* could accomplish so much for Lot, surely a pure *chesed* we do especially for a great person whose influence we are still under, will be a *zechus* for us. May the *zechus* of doing *chesed* help bring the *Geulah Shleimah*.

Dvar Halacha – Drinking Water - by Yosef Brass 11th Grade

The Gemorah in *Brachos* (35a) says, "It is forbidden to enjoy anything from this world without a *bracha*." This is the source for the *brachos* that we make before eating and drinking. Water, however, is a unique food because it neither has a pleasurable taste nor provides nourishment. One recites a *bracha* on water when it is consumed to quench one's thirst, as this is clearly pleasurable. If water is consumed for other reasons, however, one does not make a *bracha* before or after drinking.

Therefore, one who drinks water in order to swallow a pill or clear his throat makes no *bracha*. So too, someone who has a doubt as to whether he was *chayiv* in a *bracha achrona* should avoid drinking water to create this obligation, since the water consumed is not for pleasure and would not create any obligation. The *Da'as Torah* rules that one who drinks water to avoid becoming thirsty makes a *bracha*, even though at the time he drinks, he receives no benefit.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: A man went to visit his friend in the hospital and cheered him up. Years later, when this man died and went to get judged for his Mitzvos and Aveiros, the Mitzvah of doing Bikur Cholim was not on his scale. What was the reason why?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.org

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

Last Weeks Question:

Q: After Noach got off the Teivah, he drank wine and got drunk. Where did he get the grapes from to make the wine?

A: Gan Eden

North Campus Dedication - by Jonathan Kestenbaum, 11th Grade

This past Sunday, the students of Dr. Abe Chames High School and the members of our community came together for the dedication of our campus by the Klurman family in honor of Samuel Aba and Sisel Klurman.

The dedication began with an introduction by the emcee, Rabbi Moshe Lehrfeild. Before bringing our Rosh Hayaeshiva, Rabbi Niman, up to the stage to speak, Rabbi Lehrfeild gave a few brief, yet warm words about how meaningful the dedication is to the community. Rabbi Niman began by saying how impressed he was by Mr. Klurman's caring sensitivity the first time they met over twenty years earlier.

Samuel Aba Klurman supported and took great care of the Yeshiva before his passing. Since he passed away, his wife, Sisel has carried on the same dedication that her late husband put in to the Yeshiva.

After Rabbi Niman, Karen Elcayam, the granddaughter of the honorees, came to speak. She spoke about her grandfather's

modesty and the love both of her grandparents had towards the Yeshiva. After her powerful words and insight the mayor of North Miami Beach, George Vallejo, came up to the podium. He spoke



about the time just a few months ago when he was on campus for the groundbreaking of the new dorm. He had said "I will help with more things, with whatever you, the yeshiva, need to do." He also said that many people gained from the support given by the Klurman family. He finished his speech

saying "if there is ever a problem, all you have to do is give me a call."

Following this, came a video presentation about Mr. and Mrs. Klurman, including interviews with the family. The last person up to address the audience was the Klurman's grandson, Matan ben Aviv. He said it was an honor to be there and also to be a part of something that began in the early 1990's. Back then, his grandparents had dreamed of having a gym on the middle school campus, a dream which will come to fruition in the next few months. He then said to us that all the progress we

have made over the years is based upon the rabbeim and the talmidim's hard work. The ceremony concluded with lively singing and dancing along with refreshments.

PSAT Examination - by Moshe Pesach Grossman, 11th Grade

On Wednesday, the students of DACHS took the PSAT exam. The PSAT exam offers students a chance to shine by testing their knowledge in reading comprehension, mathematics and writing, and comparing them to students around the country. There are many benefits to the PSAT, such as being able to secure a valuable scholarship for college by getting a top

score. Even if one does not get a score high enough to earn a scholarship, students can be finalists, semifinalists, or honorable mentions. Taking the PSAT also helps students prepare for the longer SAT and ACT exams. Taking the two hour PSAT prepares one to be able to sit down and concentrate completely when taking these four hour tests. In addition, the PSAT helps

students familiarize themselves with the types of questions that will appear on the SAT and ACT. The wording and question types may seem different from what we've all seen in school, but the PSAT helps students prepare for them.