



Dr. Abe Chames High School
SPOTLIGHT



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Candle Lighting 5:16

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Dvar Torah – Hakoras Hatov, by Rabbi Yisrael Y. Niman, Rosh Hayeshiva



We all understand the propriety of Hakoras Hatov - recognizing the chesed or assistance that someone provided for you. But if someone was not Makir Tov, did he just miss the opportunity of the mitzvah and its reward, or is there

possibly some other detrimental effect on his spiritual well being?

The posuk says that "A new king arose, one who didn't know Yosef". The Medrash compares this situation to someone who stoned the king's friend, which prompted the king to have him killed out of concern that tomorrow he will kill the king himself. So too, if Pharaoh who in reality knew Yosef, could totally ignore all that Yosef did for him and Mitzrayim, then tomorrow he will be able to forget about Hashem and deny His existence; i.e. not recognizing a human being's chesed to you, can eventually lead to a denial

of Hashem's existence.

Chazal tell us that Pharaoh resisted the people's desire to subjugate the Jews, and was only reinstated 3 months later when he finally decided to go along with their plans. Pharaoh obviously had tremendous Hakoras Hatov, and even lost his kingship because of it. Only 3 months later did he succumb to the pressure and his desire to once again be king. Nevertheless his eventual succumbing indicates such a lack of Hakoras Hatov that he is prone to denying even Hashem!

This is a powerful message to us regarding the necessity for Hakoras Hatov on the highest level, so that our belief and trust in Hashem will not be weakened. Additionally, we cannot assume that our possible lack of an appreciation of one person, will not affect our appreciation of everyone else. We must constantly be on the alert to ensure that we are being Makir Tov where appropriate, so that all of Hashem's daily chasodim to us don't remain unappreciated and ignored.

Dvar Halacha – Learning Torah, Wherever One May Be - by Zev Klein, 9th Grade

There is a מצוה to say דברי תורה at every meal. The משנה in פרקי אבות (ג:ד) teaches us that if there are 3 or more people sitting down to a meal together and they don't include דברי תורה in their discussions, then it is considered as if they ate from a meal of עבודה זרה. In contrast, if they did speak words of תורה, it's considered as if they ate from the מזבח. The next משנה teaches us that if someone is traveling and doesn't use the free time to learn תורה as we say every day

in Shema, "ובלכתך בדרך" there is a very strong judgment against him in שמים. In addition, we learn from משנה ג' that where people are 'talking in learning' the שכינה lives amongst them.

We see from these משניות the importance of including דברי תורה in everything we do and wherever we go. In particular, when we have spare time we should make an extra effort to use our time most productively and learn תורה.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: Which two people in Tanach left one royal family to join another? Additionally, Which ones did they leave and then go to?

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: Which letter(s) of the Alef Bais is/are not in any of the Shevatim's names and why?

A: Ches"and Tes,"which spells Cheit. The fact that Ches"and Tes"are not in any of their names hints to the fact that all the Shevatim were righteous and clean of sin. ("Tzadi" and "Kuf" are included in Yosef Hatzadik.)

Yasher Koach to Eli Sugarman for correctly answering last week's question.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary is pleased to announce its Dinner Journal/Building Campaign

This week's spotlight...

Amud HaTorah Award

Mr. & Mrs. David & Doris Buzaglo

Mr. and Mrs. David and Doris Buzaglo are passionate about bringing Sefardic, Moroccan, tradition to the Highland Lakes-Aventura area. In a quest to bring honor to the memory of his parents, David has established a magnificent shul, building it from the ground up, with his own skilled hands. He together with his wife, Doris, see to all the operations of the shul themselves. It is certainly a full time job! Besides the weekly Shabbos davening, and of course, the Chagim, they plan various activities for the neighboring families such as Shabbatonim, Shiurim, ladies Tehilim gatherings, as well as Lunch and Learn seminars.

Doris works in the Shipping Industry, and manages maritime equipment. As hectic as her day job is, "it's nothing compared to the work she does for the shul and the school." Doris believes that chesed is something we are supposed to do for others, quietly, and without fanfare. "We help because we are part of the community". Doris has volunteered to make the YTCTE Shalach Manos baskets for many years now, and always responds with a "yes" when asked to lend a hand.

Their daughter Sarah Leah, currently in 5th grade at Toras Emes, is very involved in leading davening for the younger children in shul. Their son Mordechai Ben, is currently in the 10th grade at DACHS. At the Rohr Middle School, Mordechai Ben championed and worked fervently for a sefardic minyan. He has since carried on the tradition in our DACHS division which now has a sefardic minyan every Rosh Chodesh. To quote their mother Doris, "our children are a product of the school." Their latest project, which they are very proud of, is a Torah Dedication in Memory of Rav Ovadiah Yosef, ZT"l. They are spearheading a fundraising campaign to perpetuate the legacy of this holy Tzadik. We are truly fortunate to have such visionaries in our community, connecting their rich, past mesorah to the future generations here in North Dade.

Holocaust Survivors Visit DACHS - by Moshe Pesach Grossman, 11th Grade

This past Friday, on Asara B'Teves, the high school was privileged to have two Holocaust survivors come in and tell over their inspiring stories, Mr. Moshe Weinberger and Mr. David Grunberger. The first speaker, Mr. Grunberger, told us something that all the students could relate to. He went through the horrors of the Holocaust at the age of sixteen, around the same age as most of the students here.

Mr. Grunberger grew up in a small, peaceful town and was a Talmid of the Satmer Rebbe when the Holocaust began. At first, Mr. Grunberger was placed in a ghetto, where he ended up living for one and a half years. The ghetto was horrendous. Inside the ghetto the people had to drink snow off of each other's backs in order to survive.

The only food afforded to the ghetto's inhabitants was small amounts of potatoes.

Later, Mr. Grunberger was sent to Auschwitz. When he got there, Mr. Grunberger was separated from his parents, never to see them again. The Germans afforded him minimal food and forced him to live in brutally inhumane conditions. Then, they forced him to dig ditches when he first got to the concentration camp, but as a result of being sick, was given an 'easier' job to clean the bathrooms.

After having to suffer through one year of this torture, the Jews in Auschwitz were liberated by General Patton. Mr. Grunberger was placed in a hospital to recover from severe undernourishment. While in the hospital, Mr. Grunberger was informed by a fellow survivor that

his family members had all been killed. In spite of all that happened to him, Mr. Grunberger eventually made his way to America, where he continues to live as a devoted Jew.

Our second speaker, Mr. Weinberger was a very young child when he went through the Holocaust. Our problems pale in comparison to the horrors Mr. Weinberger had to endure in the ghetto and concentration camp. We should learn from people like Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Grunberger that if they were able to overcome significant odds and be here to speak with us as religious Jews, we should be able to conquer our own problems and live productive and inspired lives.