

Purim Edition

Dr. Abe Chames High School

SPOTLIGHT



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Candle Lighting 7:12 PM

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Dvar Torah – Mordechai’s Greatness, by Rabbi Yisrael Ruck



The Gemara in Bava Kama: Pei Beis amud Beis, records the famous story where two members of the Hashmonean family fought for rulership, one within the walls of Yerushalayim and the other from outside. Each day coins were lowered in a basket over the walls to pay for lambs raised in baskets back over the wall for the Korban Tamid. When informed that the Korbanos of the people protected those within the walls of Yerushalayim, the other side sent over a pig. At that the Rabbis said “cursed is a man who raises (owns) pigs...” The statement made me wonder, if this was the case, how could there be a case of the pig rummaging in the garbage dump if cursed is one who owns a pig? Believe it or not, that same question is asked in other cases in the Gemara dealing with a pig, but it was not asked in regard to our Gemara.... But, I’m digressing from the topic of Purim. The Gemara there continues that at that time the barley for the Korban Omer, and the wheat for the Shte Ha’Lechem (the two bread offerings) were scarce and had to be searched for (Maharsha says most was burned by the Romans). The Gemara in Menachos tells us that when grain could not be located, a mute man used hand signals and “charades” to tell them where some might be located, and a man by the name of Mordechai translated and deciphered what the man meant. Rashi says that this man Mordechai was

of the same time period as King Achashverosh! Tosfos in Bava Kama questions this on the basis that it would be a “teima gedolah” (huge wonder). If Mordechai could have lived from the time of the Hashmonean until the time of Achashverosh (I find it a huge wonder that Tosfos doesn’t say it was impossible, and just calls it a huge wonder!) Tosfos therefore explains that anyone with expertise in interpreting signs, and languages, was called Mordechai. In fact the Gemara there continues with a story where Mordechai figured out what bird offerings three women meant to bring, based on what they said. Tosfos (ibid) concludes that in this bird story, the Mordechai referred to appears to mamish be Mordechai himself, as the Gemara there says that Psachya was in charge of bird offerings, and Psachya is Mordechai. Why is he called Psachya? Because he could “open up” matters that were in need of interpretation and he would explain them, plus he knew all seventy languages (Maharsha: which was needed to understand what bird offerings people meant to bring).

The lessons contained are numerous, but suffice it to say that we should better appreciate who Mordechai was, and just his knowledge of languages alone helped much in Halacha (he certainly could have told us what “Maveh” in our first Mishnah means!!) and as we know from the story of Bigsan and Seresh, he used his knowledge of languages to help save our nation! (or maybe he interpreted their plot from their “hand-signal charades?”)

Happy Purim!

Dvar Halacha – “Vinahapochu” - by Eli Sugerman, 11th Grade

Everyone knows that by the holiday of Purim there is an inyan of “vinahapochu”. This means that everything is backwards and reversed. The Baruch Haman says that according to this, the universal minhag of booing at Haman’s name is wrong. He says that when Haman wrote the Megillah just after the events that unfolded in the Purim story, in order to emphasize the fact that the tides

were totally turned, he switched both his and Mordechai Ha’rasha’s name as well as Ester Ha’rasha’s and Vashti Ha’malca’s name in the Megillah. He therefore concludes that when Mordechai’s name is read by the ba’al koreh is when we should boo, not at Haman ha’tzadik, thereby fulfilling the amazing Mitzvah of Purim, to the fullest extent.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: Who in *Tanach* killed their wife because of their friend and their friend because of their wife?

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 five miracles occurred on the *Mizbeach* when the fire descended from *Shomayim* in the first *Beis HaMikdash*?

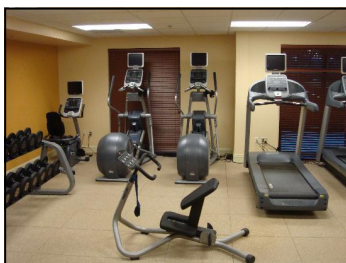
- A:** 1) The fire had the shape of a lion.
 2) It was bright like a Sun
 3) It was solid.
 4) It could burn liquids
 5) It only produced smoke when burning a *Korban*. Otherwise, it did not produce smoke.

Rohr Middle School Moves Into New Building - by Dovid Halbstein, 11th Grade

This past Monday, Rohr Middle school moved from their location on 163rd Street to a

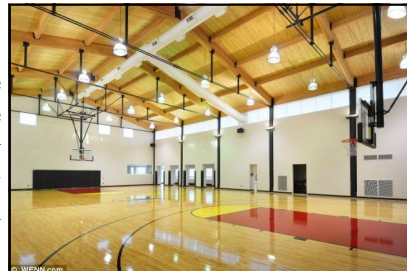


beautiful new campus just off Collins Avenue in Miami Beach, because of a generous donation by Sheldon Adelson, Jewish billionaire. The previous building project under construction to be



finished within the year, which Rohr was supposed to move into at the start of the 2014 school year, will be given over to the elementary school to use, now that Rohr has moved into the newer and recently donated building.

The campus consists of a 5 story building with its own subterranean parking lot which holds 175 parking spaces. Additionally, it has an indoor double sized gym where the boys can play sports and other recreational activities. The building has 56 classrooms, 2 auditoriums, a lunch room, 3 teacher's rooms, a media center, a fitness room, and a large and spacious *Beis Medresh*. The campus dedication will be on Sunday, April 6, and it will be dedicated to Rabbi Ephraim Palgon in honor of his tenure at Rohr Middle School, doing all the hard work necessary for the



middle school kids, and prepare them for their high school years. If anybody would like to donate money to the yeshiva, go to ytcteam.org and click on donate. All donations will greatly be appreciated, seeing that the Yeshiva would still like to add a few additions to the building. May they be *zocheh* to many years of learning and growing.



Annual Purim Chagiga Has been Moved - by the administration

As of an incident that occurred on Thursday we are sorry to announce that the Purim Chagiga will be moved this year. As some students may know the power on the campus was shut off for many hours on Sunday so that the construction workers could run power into the new



dorm. Now that news just came out that the power will have to be shut off again on Sunday do to the fact that one of the main lines on the campus was severed. According to one of the workers if the power is not turned off and the problem is not fixed by Sunday then it could result in a fire causing serious injuries. So if you had planned to go to the 2014 Yeshiva Toras Chaim Purim Chagiga then you can still go to the Purim Chagiga if you show up to Miami International Airport on



Motzei Shabbos and go to the spirit counter and you show them this article they will give you a free ticket to Mock airport in Lakewood. When you get there a bus will bring you to a the Capitol Hotel where the Purim Chagiga will be.

If you have not yet realized that these articles are fake, you have already fulfilled the Mitzvah of Purim