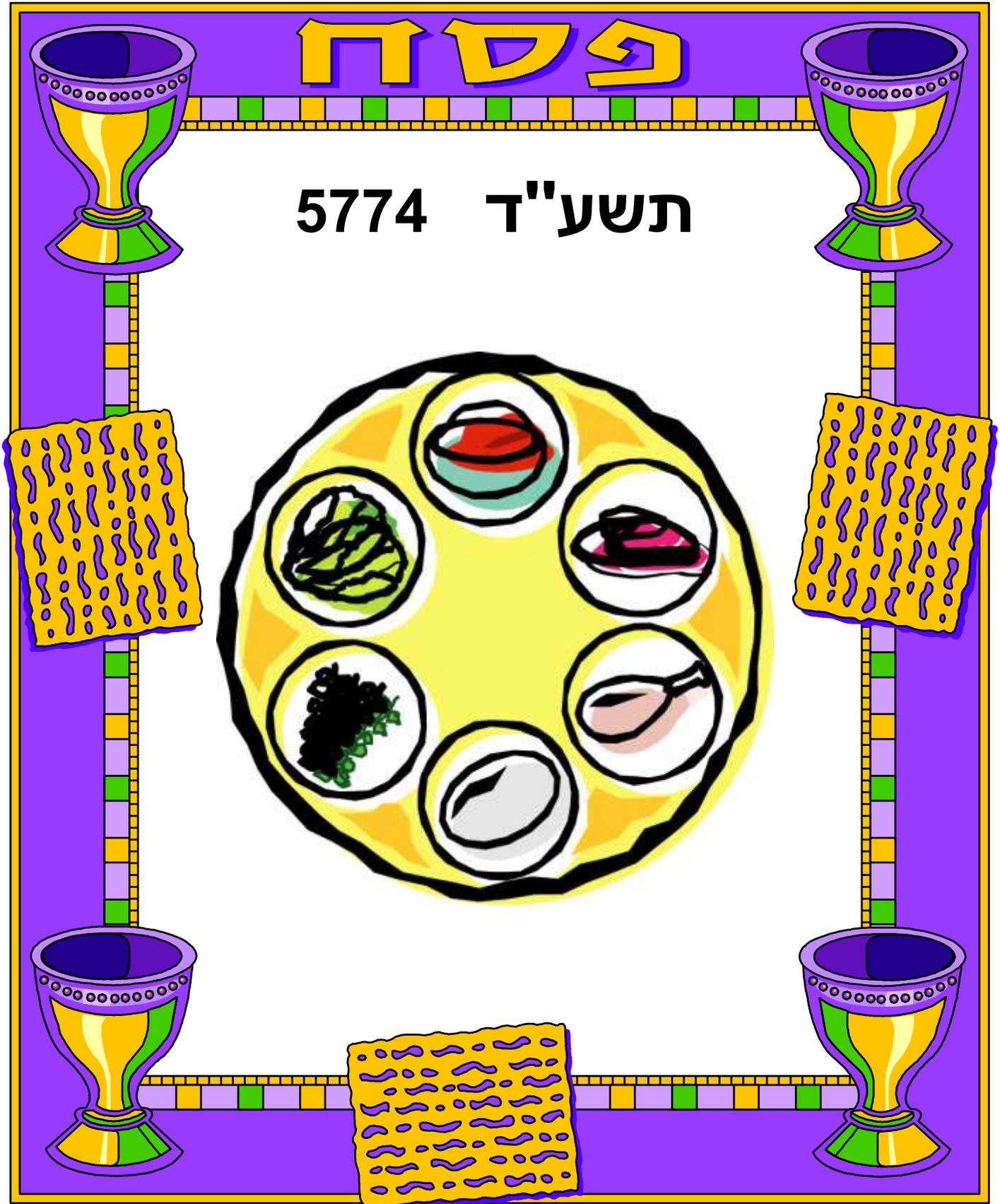


YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM TORAS EMES

TEAM SPIRIT

פסח

תשע"ד 5774

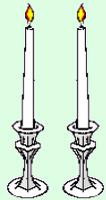


APRIL 9, 2014

## חג כשר ושמח

FRIDAY  
CANDLE LIGHTING

7:24 pm



Enjoy a well-deserved vacation, make the most of an inspiring Pesach holiday, and return to school rested and renewed on **Thursday, April 24** ready to have a productive, final seven weeks of the school year.

SCHOOL RESUMES AT 8:30 AM  
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 24!



## HASMODA & CHEMDA PROJECTS

The boys have received their packets for our Annual Pesach

Hasmoda Program and the girls their CHEMDA packets. We wish you hatzlacha in using your vacation time wisely and productively. Please read the instructions and information carefully.

We are most appreciative of our generous sponsors, The Mann Family, and credit them for the success of this learning program. They have dedicated their sponsorship in honor of:

The wonderful Toras Emes families who helped us welcome our new daughter Carol Esther (bringing us food, taking care of the siblings, driving carpools, and sending her beautiful presents).

Please note: All boys have the opportunity to participate in the Pirchei Hasmoda program as well. These sheets were sent home today and should be returned directly to the address shown on the sponsor sheet.



## PESACH PUSH FOR PUSHKAS

Immediately after Pesach, we will be collecting the YTCTE pushkas that were sent home in the Fall. Keep that in mind as you find coin collections behind the couch (and elsewhere) during your Pesach cleaning!



## SAVE THE DATE

A community-wide project to combat the potential of child molestation is coming to South Florida in mid-May. A team of experts from Magen Yeladim International will be in Miami May 12-14 to present The Safety Kid<sup>®</sup> Child Safety Program. They will conduct training in several schools for administrators, teachers, parents and students. The presentation to Toras Emes parents will take place Monday evening May 12, from 8:00-10:00pm. Clear your calendars now to ensure your participation in this critically important event.



## REFUAH SHELAIMA

Refael Elisha Meir ben Devorah  
Mina Yehudis bas Mesouda  
Dovid Tzvi Aharon ben Alte Rochel  
Dov Berish Nachum ben Esther  
Tinok ben Chana Basya  
Raytz bas Sarah  
Chaim Kalman Klonimus ben Chaya Sara  
Gitcha bas Yetshka  
Yitzchok Shmuel ben Pesha Sarah  
Tzvi Hillel ben Perel  
Tehila bas Shoshana  
Naomi bas Dina  
Tinok ben Tamar Shayna  
Shmuel ben Rachel Nechama

We pray that everyone listed above have a Refuah Shelaima. New names will be compiled beginning with the first newsletter after Pesach vacation.

Please contact Mrs. Zisquit if you would like a name included on the new list.



## MAZEL TOV

To Mr. and Mrs. David Siegel and family on the birth of a son.



To Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Kurlansky and family on the birth of a daughter.

To Rabbi and Mrs. Ephraim Palgon and family on the forthcoming marriage of their son, our alumnus, Yechiel to Talya Rosenzweig.



To Rabbi and Mrs. Shlomo Schwartz and family on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, our alumna and former teacher, Sorah to Rafi Adler.

## SPEND & RAISE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pre Pesach Spend and Raise Program. With your help and support we have sold a record breaking number of cards this month. We could not have done it without each and every one of you.

YTCTE Financial office will be closed from April 9 - April 23. Spend and Raise gift cards will still be available for purchase online.

To order gift cards during this time please place your order online at [www.ytcteam.org/giftcards](http://www.ytcteam.org/giftcards) and your cards can either be mailed to you or you can pick them up in North Miami Beach.



*Pesach 5774*

Dear Parents,

**Roshei HaYeshiva**

Rabbi Binyomin Luban  
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman  
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

**Founding Rosh HaYeshiva**

Rabbi Bentzion Chait

**Principal**

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

**Secular Studies Principal**

Dr. Deborah Lerer

**Assistant Principal**

Rabbi Noam Grossman

**President**

Dr. Allan I. Jacob

**President**

Dr. Jonathan Rubin

**Vice President**

Rabbi Moshe Lehrfield

Tonight, the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, marks the 6<sup>th</sup> Yahrtzeit of our unforgettable *Rosh Yeshiva* and *Rebbe, HaGaon HaRav Alter Chanoch Henach HaKohein Leibowitz, zt'l*, the late *Rosh Yeshiva* of *Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim*. He was the guiding light of our Yeshiva for a quarter century and it is upon his shoulders that much of the growth of the South Florida Torah community rests.

One of the *Rosh Yeshiva zt'l's* hallmark teachings was recognizing and **harnessing the motivating power of man's innate feelings of gratitude, Hakoras HaTov**. As an illustration, the *Rosh HaYeshiva* pointed to *Pharaoh's* reaction to the *Plague of Hail*. In its aftermath, *Pharaoh* said (*Shemos 9:27*): **"This time I have sinned, Hashem is the righteous one, and I and my people are the wicked ones."** The *Riva* (one of the *Baalei Tosafos*) explains that for the first time, this seventh plague evoked the reaction within *Pharaoh* that *Hashem* is right and not *Pharaoh*, while the first six did not because this time *Hashem* showed kindness by warning **the Egyptians about their possessions. Prior to the plague's start Hashem** had told them to move their cattle indoors for protection.

*HaRav Leibowitz zt'l*, asked how could it be that *Pharaoh's* sense of self preservation, the strongest instinct man has did not move him to realize his wickedness after experiencing the devastation of the first six plagues, and yet now the *Plague of Hail* did bring him to that realization? What happened this time to move him? The *Riva* is telling us *Pharaoh* was moved by *Hashem's* caring words and kindness. His warning to the Egyptians to protect their possessions showed caring and concern. This teaches us, the *Rosh HaYeshiva* states, that recognizing and appreciating **kindness can be a greater motivator than concern for one's own safety**. Even a *Pharaoh*, as cruel as he was, as unmoved by threats and destruction to him and his nation as he was, was influenced by *Hashem's* kindness.

continued

We must harness this power for ourselves. To bring ourselves closer to *Hashem*, we can awaken feelings of love for Him by contemplating the unending flow of kindness that *Hashem* showers upon us. At this momentous time of year, when we sit down to our *Seder*, and look around the table to see all the *Bracha* that *Hashem* has brought into our lives, we should immerse ourselves in feelings of gratitude to our creator. Focus on all the things He has blessed us with – health, children, *par-nosah*, material possessions, spiritual accomplishments, intelligence and community, and we will truly re-experience *Yetzias Mitzrayim* as we and our children find ourselves drawn ever closer to *Hakodosh Baruch Hu*.

The legacy of **HaRav Leibowitz zt'l**, is his teachings. His words become ever more relevant with each passing year. His presence and influence in our lives gives us one more reason to be eternally grateful to *Hashem* for His kindness and love for us. *Yehi Zichro Baruch*.

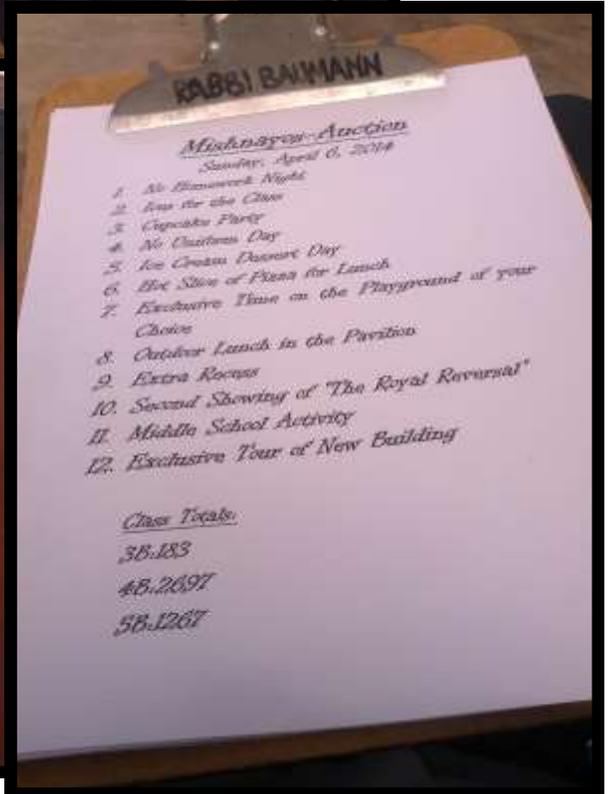
Best wishes for a most meaningful, enjoyable *Pesach*,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rabbi Kalman Baumann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

# MISHNAYOS AUCTION 5774

THANK YOU  
RABBI PALGON!



ישיבה תורת חיים תורת אמת

Bais Medrash Zichron Ezra  
Dr. Abe Chames High School

מוצאי שבת  
חול המועד  
19 Nissan/April 19

שיעור Special  
Given by  
HaRav  
Binyomin Luban,  
שליט"א  
ראש הישיבה

All בני תורה are cordially invited to attend!

מראה מקומות will be available  
on the בימה before שבת.  
שיעור – 10:00-11:00 PM

We wish you a חג כשר ושמח  
and look forward to greeting you.

הנהלת הישיבה

לזכר נשמת

רוחמה עליזה שרה חנה בת משה ע"ה



YESHIVA  
TORAS CHAIM  
TORAS EMES

1025 NE Miami Gardens Drive  
North Miami Beach

# chosen words

A Taste of Pesach

## Z'man Cheiruseinu: Step by Step to Freedom

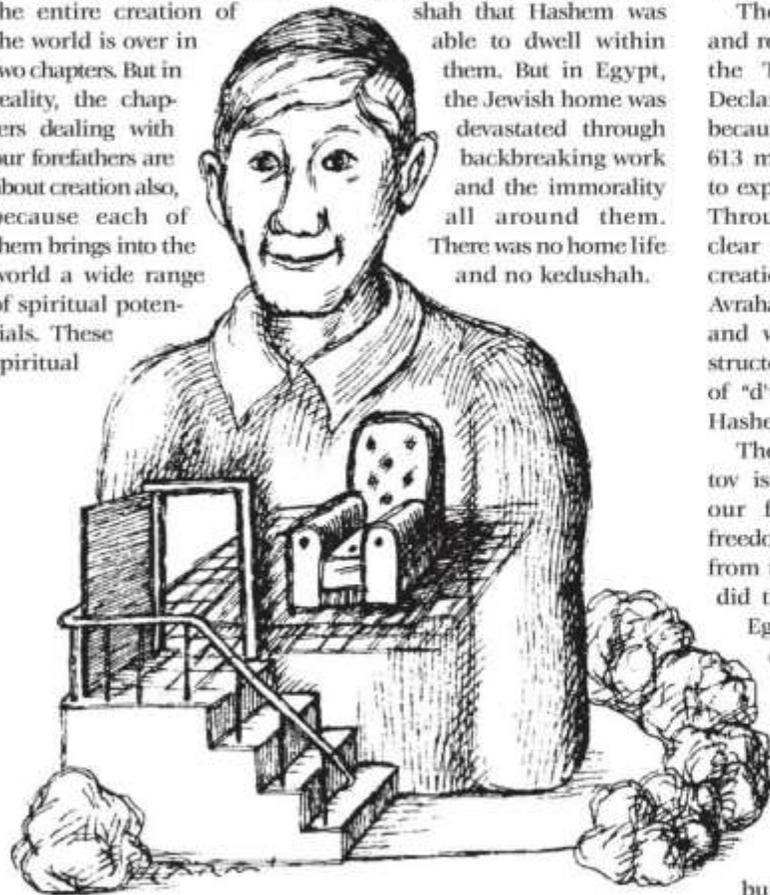
Common wisdom says that all men want to be free. So, it would seem no surprise that the Jews enslaved in Egypt also wanted to be free. But their freedom, rather than bringing them a life of self-indulgence, brought them another all-day, every-day set of obligations and restrictions. Was this freedom? Only when we understand what freedom really is.

Obviously, freedom for the Jews was a lot more complex than simply leaving Egypt. Even if they had been released immediately, they would have remained slaves spiritually. Having sunk to the 49th level of impurity, they had to actively do something to shed this mentality and return to their spiritual inheritance as Jews. Two commandments—slaughtering the lamb and performing bris milah—reversed their steady descent and enabled them to gain a foothold for the spiritual climb to real freedom.

By brazenly sacrificing the lamb, which was worshipped by the Egyptians, the Jews showed their willingness to follow Hashem and put their trust only in Him. By performing bris milah, they signified their willingness to channel their physical powers into serving Hashem. With these acts, they set out toward freedom, but they weren't there yet.

To further understand the meaning of Israel's freedom, we need to take a look at the two books of the Chumash that lead up to and expound upon our redemption. Both books take their name from

an event that, it appears, occupies just a few chapters of the entirety. In Bereishis, the entire creation of the world is over in two chapters. But in reality, the chapters dealing with our forefathers are about creation also, because each of them brings into the world a wide range of spiritual potentials. These spiritual



*"On Pesach we celebrate the freedom to build a home for Hashem within ourselves."*

creations, like the physical creations of the heavens, water, plants and animals, are here for us to harness through our effort.

Similarly, in Shemos, freedom isn't gained in the few chapters related to leaving Egypt. Freedom is gained slowly, in steps, with the wandering through the desert, the giving of the Torah and the building of the Mishkan.

The Ramban teaches that in Bereishis, the forefathers built homes filled with such kedushah that Hashem was able to dwell within them. But in Egypt, the Jewish home was devastated through backbreaking work and the immorality all around them. There was no home life and no kedushah.

book that relates the story of our freedom could be considered complete.

The myriad obligations and restrictions contained in the Torah are really our Declaration of Independence, because it is through these 613 mitzvos that we are able to express who we really are. Through Torah, we gain clear access to the spiritual creations bequeathed to us by Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, and we can proceed, unobstructed, to the highest level of "d'veykus," of cleaving to Hashem.

The message of the yom tov is not just freedom. It's our freedom—the kind of freedom you can reach even from the lowest low point, as did the generation that left Egypt. The kind of freedom they attained is our legacy. Using it, we can tap the pool of spiritual greatness that our forefathers instilled within each Jew. Only when we use our potential, and build for Hashem a home within us, is the story of our freedom really finished.

*Adapted from a taped lecture by Rabbi Yitzchok Kirzner, zrl*

By leaving Egypt, following Hashem through the wilderness and accepting the Torah, the Jews rose high enough to merit Hashem's presence within their homes. At that point, they became worthy of building a Mishkan, which symbolized the return of His presence among them. With the completion of the Mishkan, freedom was truly achieved and the



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

In honor of my Aishes Chayil Riva Leah (Robin) With love, Yosef (Joe) Andisman

# Our VIP's

Pharaoh thought he had a way to still Moshe's incessant demands to free the Jews. Take the men, he said, and go worship your G-d in the wilderness. But that was not what Hashem wanted, because the context for Torah's existence here on earth is the family. The family, with its focus on the chinuch of the children, has been the key to our survival from ancient times to today. There would have been no point to our redemption had we emerged without our children.

An incident from the darkest time in our recent history shows that, even thousands of years after Moshe, we still see our children as our strength. In the depths of Bergen-Belsen, the Bluzhever Rebbe, Rav Yisrael Spira zt"l, searched for every possible way to keep Hashem's light alive. As Pesach approached, he miraculously got permission to procure some flour for matzah and some bricks to build an oven. Unbelievably, it appeared

that even in this dire situation, the taste of Yom Tov would not be totally lost.

All too soon, the officer who had been momentarily kind enough to allow the baking operation became enraged, and destroyed the oven. The Rebbe had succeeded in baking only a few matzos, and they would have to do.

On the night of the seder, the Rebbe gathered with a group of Jews, among them a widow and four children. Faced with the question of how to ration the few available matzos, the consensus was that the Rebbe should surely get a piece, as well as the elders of the group. The widow offered a different view. The children, she said, should get the matzos, because if they survived, they would be the ones to pass Torah onto the next generation. Her view prevailed, and the taste of Pesach was passed to the next generation, in hopes that someday, it could be passed down yet again.

The children understood

what responsibility was attached to this honor of being chosen to eat the precious matzah. The widow later became the Rebbe's wife, and one of these children now serves as his successor.

The seder is one of our most eloquent testimonials to the value of our children, with its entire structure designed as a learning experience. But

even in everyday life, when we review our children's learning with them, or involve them in fulfilling a mitzvah, they absorb the message: "You are essential, vital, irreplaceable. Only through you can the gift of Torah be preserved for the next generation."

*Adapted from "Pesach Perspectives," a taped lecture by Rabbi Paysach Krohn*

## Personal Growth

# Say Thank You

The Pesach seder is an answer. What's the question? There are four of them, usually asked in an uncertain, high-pitched chant by the youngest members of the family. And the remainder of the night is dedicated to showing, telling and singing the story of Hashem's miraculous rescue of our ancestors, and by extension, ourselves, from slavery in Egypt.

This elaborate answer lays down many important building blocks for our relationship to Hashem, on Pesach and throughout the year. One of the chief cornerstones laid down by the seder is that of "hakoras hatov," appreciation for the good Hashem has done for us. When we delve in detail into the many miracles and gifts Hashem gave us—gifts from which we benefit to this day—we realize how deeply our gratitude should run.

From this perspective, the mitzvos we do become more than a means to reap rewards in Heaven, or feel good about ourselves here on earth. They

become motivated by a selfless desire to acknowledge and thank the Source of all our blessings. The seder teaches each person at the table to think, "Hashem, you've done so much for us. What better way is there to thank You than to keep Your mitzvos?"

### Family Project:

One family in Flatbush injects a fresh dose of hakoras hatov into every Shabbos and Yom Tov by having each family member mention, before Kiddush, one thing for which he or she is thankful to Hashem. Even a preschooler can gain perspective from seeing his new toy or his nice Morah as a result of Hashem's goodness.

*Adapted from "A Gift for Yom Tov," by Rabbi Yisroel Miller, with permission from Mesorah Publications*

Index Reference 521



**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

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**We welcome your comments!**  
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Chosen Words/CCHF  
361 Spook Rock Road  
Suffern, NY 10901

# Dedications

לע"נ  
שושנה וויטא בת  
ר' ישראל הלוי ע"ה  
Mrs. Shoshana Appelbaum a"h  
נלב"ע כ"ה ניסן  
שבועי של פסח תשנ"א

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

THIS PESACH BRING *Pesach* TO YOUR HOME

This Yom Tov you will spend at least  
**50 HOURS**  
in conversation with family and friends.  
If you approach this situation  
without planning and forethought,  
you may find it difficult to

**HAVE A LOSHON HORA—FREE  
PESACH**

THREE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

**1** Start each of the 10 Shabbos and Yom Tov meals by reading the Chofetz Chaim's Tefilah for Shmiras Haloshon.

**2** Learn the daily portion of Shmiras Haloshon Yomi at your table.

**3** Designate your Yom Tov meal as a Machsom L'Y"l, where the entire family will avoid loshon hora as a z'chus for a refuah shleimah for someone. There have been amazing yeshuos reported for those in need.

\*You are invited to read Hebrew or English versions of Seder Order. Chaim.  
\*\*To learn your halachos in English, see the back of the booklet. We hereby express our appreciation, with the best of wishes, to donors of the book of Chofetz Chaim's Tefilah for Shmiras Haloshon. Being the best as a leader of Israel is a family tradition. On Shabbos and Yom Tov, Shmiras Haloshon is a family tradition. See the back of the booklet for more information.

ENDORSED BY HAGADON HARAV ARON LIE STEINMAN, SHLITA AND HAGADON HARAV SHMUEL KAMENETSKY, SHLITA

**CHOFETZ CHAIM HERITAGE FOUNDATION**  
THE ZICHRON YA'akov ZVI CENTER FOR THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHOFETZ CHAIM