



YESHIVA
TORAS CHAIM
TORAS EMES

TEAM SPIRIT



Happy Chanukah!

Miami Candle Lighting
5:16 PM
פרשת וישב

Friday
December 20, 2019
כ"ב כסלו תש"פ

Through The
Classroom Door...

Pgs 4-5

The Week Ahead

Chanukah Toy Drive – See page 10

Friday, December 27 - Monday December 30th
Chanukah Break- No School

Registration 2019/20

Dear Parents,

It's time to register your children for next year!

We are expecting to have limited space and will fill up our classes early this year. The deadline for our current families to have priority is **Wednesday January 1st**, after which registration will be open equally to new families. Please go to ytcte.org/register to reserve your spot.

Don't forget! If you would like to register a new sibling, or have a son transitioning to RMS or DACHS, an application needs to be completed at ytcte.org/apply. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us in the admission office at [305-947 9477](tel:305-947-9477) or admission@ytcte.org.

מזל טוב

To Mr. and Mrs. Shlomo Meir Yashar and family on the birth of a girl.

TAG office now open!

To make an appointment please call (561) 614-4686 or email info@tagsouthflorida.org, or going to the new website www.tagsouthflorida.org



An Important Chanukah Safety Message From Hatzalah



THE MENORAH IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION.

It is, however, important to ensure the safety of your family and avoid fire hazards when lighting your menorah.

- Choose a menorah that's sturdy and made of fire-safe materials.
- Clear the table from all flammable materials like papers and plastic items where you put your menorah.
- Never put your menorah in closed areas like spaces between cabinets or bookshelves.
- If you are to display your menorah in your window, make sure that your curtains are not too close to the candle's flames.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Do not let children or pets play around the area where the menorah is placed.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher in your home for emergency use.
- Don't use PRE-FILLED PLASTIC CUPS.
- Know where your fire extinguisher is located! WATER WILL NOT PUT OUT AN OIL FIRE.

**In case of fire,
CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!**

רפואה שלימה

Yussel ben Hinda Leah

Chana bas Shani

Bentzion ben Nomi Rachel Margalit

Avigail Bracha bas Rivka

Leora Rochel bas Chaya Raizel

Yochanan Baruch ben Fruma Etta

Mina Yehudis bas Marsoudi Marsel

Nechama Aidel Malka bas Sara Leah

Ezra Chaim ben Rivka

Binyamin Simcha ben Adina Minya

Raiselle bas Pessel

Yosef Binyamin ben Kochava

Fradel Rivka bas Chana

Yitzchok ben Fraida

Baruch Gavriel ben Miriam

Tinok ben Rochel

Basha Pesha bas Gittel

Mordechai Shalom ben Ateret Hodaya

Chaya bas Miriam

Simcha Chaya bas Sarah

Yosef Akiva ben Yocheved



Season of Heroes

Dear Parents,

Erev Shabbos Parashas Vayeishev 5780

This is the season of heroes. Between the heroes of this week's *Parsha*, *Yosef* and *Tamar*, the heroes of the *Chanuka* saga – the *Chashmonaim*, and the heroes of our times - modern day parents raising a Torah family - we can learn and be inspired to greater heroism, strength and fortitude.

What all these heroes have in common is their rising above the many rationalizations that they could have justifiably brought to bear to excuse their behavior had they chosen to not follow the path of courage and heroism.

Yosef was faced with the extraordinary trial of *Aishes Potiphar*, seduction at the hands of his master's wife (*Bereishis 39:7-13*). He could have easily rationalized that he was torn away from his family and roots at a young age, alone in a land of immorality, how could he defy her when his livelihood was at stake? How could he be expected to be so holy when his older brothers were ready to commit murder (of *Yosef*)?

Tamar was prepared to give up her life and that of her unborn twins to avoid embarrassing *Yehuda* (*Bereishis 38:25, Brachos 43B*). Add to that the fact that one of the twins was to be the progenitor of the *Malchus Beis Dovid* (Davidic dynasty) and ultimately *Mashiach*. She could easily have rationalized that this was too great a price to pay for preserving another's honor.

The *Chashmonaim* were not under previous obligation to leave their homes and start a rebellion. They were faced with the same challenges as everyone else. They could have rationalized that they were doing the best they can, that they would ignore the Hellenists and Greeks as long as possible. When it turned out that the Greeks were just too powerful to ignore they could have justified giving up and going along with the prevailing culture.

Without even realizing it, these parents reject the many justifications that could be made...

Modern day parents who cling to the Torah, who gladly sacrifice financial advancement to bear the burden that *frum* Jews bear are modern day heroes. This is especially true when the *Mesiras Nefesh* includes providing a (costly) Torah education to their children. Keeping *Shabbos* is not a question. Without even realizing it, these parents reject the many rationalizations that could be made to justify a different course in life.

When we are faced with challenges, our conscious thought usually goes immediately to justify taking the easy way out. When we know we should be eating healthy, how does it happen that we consume an entire pint of ice cream? When we fully believe we should be attending minyan, how do we end up not getting up in time? The answer is – we rationalize. We find a good reason to justify our failure to do what we really know is the right thing to do.

What many consider the challenge of our generation – digital distraction and internet overexposure also brings out the rationalizations. There are dozens of legitimate reasons why we need to be so preoccupied with our devices. We need it for *Parnassah*, for learning, for *Chesed*, for safety, etc. etc. However, do we need it all the time? Do we need it unfiltered? Do our children need it?

The overwhelming majority of children who grow up in our homes remain *Shomer Shabbos* throughout life. Why? Because they grew up in a home, and saw parents who could have rationalized away the need for strict *Shabbos* observance yet chose not to. The justifications of *Parnassah*, social status and convenience were all brushed aside because there was a stronger conviction. Witnessing and experiencing this 'heroism' makes a deep and lasting impact on children.

When considering what to do about technology, we need to understand that the same forces that apply to *Shemiras Shabbos* apply in this realm. Justifications abound, but can we muster up a deeper conviction, that our children's future health, cognitive ability and spiritual strength are riding on our decisions and actions? When we show strength in this area, we directly enhance our children's ability to stand strong and act heroically.

May the heroes of the *Chanuka* season inspire us to think clearly, feel inspired and act courageously. Our children are watching and learning.

Best wishes for an uplifting Shabbos and illuminating Chanuka,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

What all these heroes have in common is their rising above the many rationalizations ...

When we show strength in this area, we directly enhance our children's ability to stand strong and act heroically.

5G Boston Tea Party!

In 5G class we learned about the Boston Tea Party and various other events that lead to the Revolutionary War. After our lesson which culminated with the Schoolhouse Rock classic "No More Kings", we had a fancy tea party of our own. While practicing our table manners, working on our posture and keeping our elbows off of the table, we enjoyed tea with sugar cubes and lemon and dined on finger sandwiches, all while wearing formal white gloves. A jolly good time was had by all.



Art Studio! Pop Up Chanukah Cards!



3G-2

3G-2 worked on biography book reports. Come visit our Hall of Fame and meet all of the important people about whom they learned.



Granny!

Dearest KES Sugarplums,
 I am getting such wonderful reports of how hard you girls are working at trying your best and not giving up! You are true "Ameilus Champions"! I know you girls don't even need any "magical headbands" to help you try, you are really amazing! I am so proud of each and every one of you! Keep up the great work and I hope to see you soon! Have a good Shabbos and a Freilichen Chanukah!
 Love,
 Granny

- Meital Ioffe
- Esther Weiss
- Shevy Sommer
- Michali Gordon
- Layla Friedman
- Ahuva Rubin
- Leah Pomper
- Tehilla Kirzner
- Shirel Naftali
- Zahava Levine
- Yael Levine
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- Noa Lamet
- Sarah Friedlander
- Leeba Stohl
- Noa Suissa
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- Abigail Bar
- Gittel Leah Greenbaum
- Mindy Ellman
- Esther Argy
- Rita Levy

- Baila Klugman
- Olivia Yashar
- Ruti Ness
- Tamar Schiff
- Adar Zaig
- Ayala Prync

Mazel tov to our Winners!

- Olivia Yashar
- Shirel Naftali
- Gittel Leah Greenbaum



chosen words

A Gift for Chanukah

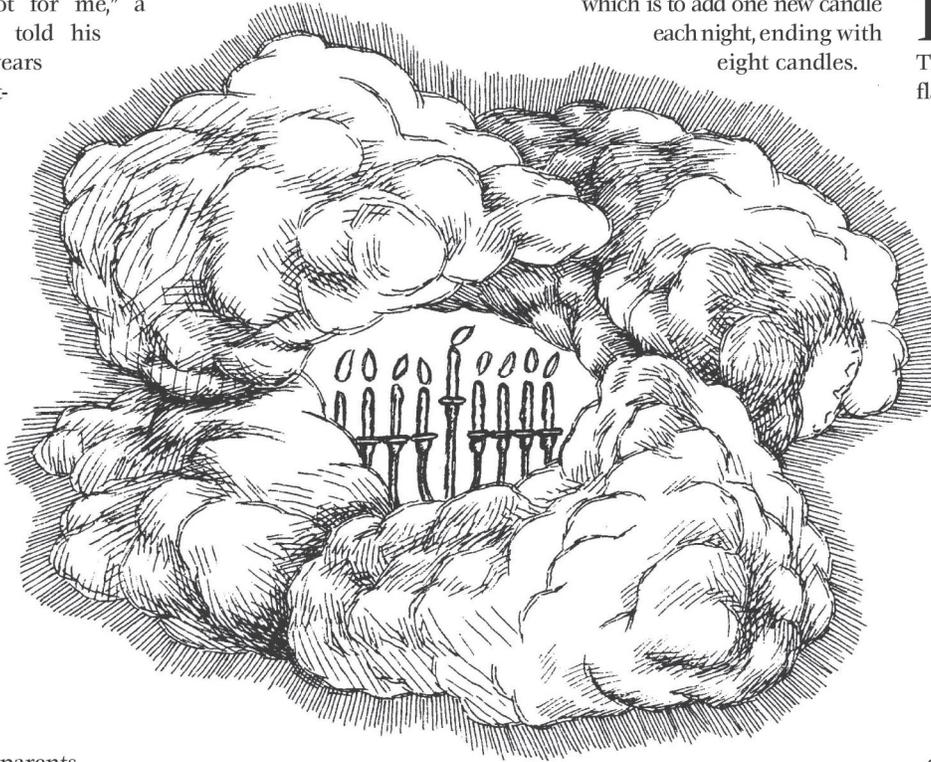
Fire and Light

Learning's not for me," a young man told his rebbe many years ago. Their heart-to-heart discussion was about the wide-open question of what direction the student would take after high school. Little by little, the boy had been losing interest in yeshivah. His religious life had devolved to a bare minimum, characterized chiefly by resigned acquiescence.

The boy's parents were hearing advice from all quarters; most centered on sending him to a program in Israel designed for the "at risk" population. His rebbe, however, had another idea. "You're going to do what you want eventually," he told his student. "But just for this summer, I think a young man with your intelligence should give Lakewood a try."

So, with the rebbe's behind-the-scenes string-pulling, this most unlikely prospect was packed off to Lakewood's Beis Medrash Gevocha which, even then, was one of the world's premier learning centers. There, he was surrounded by hundreds of serious young men, most several years older than he, who were totally immersed in the world of learning. Against all expectations, the light from this blaze of Torah leaked into the boy's darkened heart and illuminated

which is to add one new candle each night, ending with eight candles.



"Chanukah's lights show us that the Torah's illumination has the power to penetrate the darkness that surrounds it."

it completely.

But how could Torah find a home in this boy's heart? If it was filled with cynicism, with yearning toward the material, secular world, how did Torah insinuate itself? Chanukah comes to tell us that Torah can take root, even if the soil is still rife with weeds.

This message arises out of the debate between Hillel and Shammai as to the proper way to light the candles. Shammai held that one should light eight candles on the first night, and then one less on each subsequent night, ending with one lone candle on the last night. Obviously, the Jewish people in our times do not adhere to that formula, but follow Hillel's prescription,

the root of this debate is the question of what the fire of Chanukah lights represents. To Shammai, the fire's premier purpose was to consume. It symbolized the Maccabim's success in burning away the evil that had taken hold of the Jewish people. The diminishing fire of each succeeding night represented the gradual triumph over evil. Each night, there was less to burn. Hillel, on the other hand, saw the flame primarily as the source of light—the metaphor for Torah. By holding that the light should be increased each night, he conveyed the message that the rededication symbolized by Chanukah brings ever-increasing holiness into the world.

In truth, Chanukah lights symbolize both heat and light. They must be made of a real flame that consumes—electric menorahs won't do. Yet, it is equally important that they illuminate. They must be placed where they can be seen. The debate really narrows down to the question of which of these two attributes is more important. To Shammai, burning out the evil had to come first; pure Torah could not emanate from an impure environment. Some one who learned Torah in the context of alien ideas would only twist it to meet his preconceptions. But to Hillel, the light of Torah could stream through any little break in the clouds and eventually dissipate them. The light took precedence over the fire; illumination took precedence over burning.

We follow Hillel's practice. In doing so, we teach ourselves that even if we are far from pure, far from perfect, we can and must keep adding light to our lives and our world.

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

Adding a Candle

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." It's what we tell our children when their attempts to tie their own shoes end in tears and tangles. It's what we tell our students when the learning comes hard. It's what we tell ourselves when we fail to keep to some commitment or meet a standard we have set for ourselves.

But "try, try again" all by itself will almost always lead to "try, try again" again—not the hoped-for success. That is, unless the next try is different, something beyond the previous effort. When we keep trying the same things in the same way, we end up with the same results. We have to do more than pick ourselves up and trot right back over to the same starting line. Renewing an effort means adding something new to it—a different strategy, a new tool, a greater amount of energy, more support from those around us.

It is this concept of renewal that comes through in the lighting of the Chanukah candles. We celebrate a miracle of eight

days' duration, and conceivably, the Sages could have deemed the proper commemoration to be the lighting of all eight candles each night. Instead, a new candle is added each night, illustrating that Klal Yisrael's relationship with Hashem was renewed through the miracle of Chanukah, not by simply returning to the prior state of affairs, but by adding new dimensions of commitment and belief. Klal Yisrael became something new, something more than it had been before the Hellenist influence began to take hold. Otherwise, it would have quickly slipped back to its deteriorated state.

This lesson in the meaning of renewal has an impact on every effort at self-improvement. A person who decides, for instance, to avoid flaring up in anger, will find himself doing little more than storing up rage for his next explosion, unless he makes some significant change, such as avoiding situations that typically lead to a tantrum. The "added candle" might be something as simple as

getting more sleep. Someone who decides to spend more time with her children won't succeed until she alters her priorities to accommodate that change. The "added candle" might be as simple as letting the answering machine pick up the telephone.

As the glow of the candles intensifies each night, we see yet another miracle represented by Chanukah. It's a celebration of a miraculous victory. It's a celebration of a miraculous occurrence

in the days of the Beis Hamikdash. And, it's a celebration of the everyday miracle Hashem has placed within every person's grasp—the unique human ability to move past our limitations and recreate ourselves.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

What role do mistakes and failures play in our effort to "add a candle?"

Adapted from "Growing Each Day," by Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, with permission from Mesorah Publications

Better Relationships

Good As New

Until their first argument, the newlywed couple's love for each other was a seamless fabric of perfection. But life isn't perfect, and inevitably, the young wife discovered that her sweet-natured husband could sometimes be demanding. The young man discovered that his easy-going wife knew how to sulk. They fought. Feelings were wounded. Even after all the apologies were made, the fabric of their relationship showed some snags, some frayed spots, some loosely stitched-up holes.

When the Jewish people strayed after the Hellenists, their relationship with Hashem also sustained damage. It also frayed and tore. But Hashem did not allow it to remain in disrepair. Once Klal Yisrael rediscovered its pure love of Hashem, the fabric of the relationship returned to seamless perfection. There was no diminution of Klal Yisrael's status in Hashem's

eyes. We were once again His beloved young bride, free of flaws and innocent of sin.

Rav Pam explains that this is why the Chashmonaim were able to find one jug of pure oil. There was no halachic reason why, under the circumstances, the menorah couldn't have been lit with impure oil. Hashem saved the Chashmonaim one pure jug so that Klal Yisrael would know that it had been restored completely to its former, pure status. The lights continue to convey that message today—that the love of Hashem for His people is eternal and unchanging. He is there for us, arms open wide, whenever we turn to Him.

Shabbos Table Discussion:

How can we emulate this aspect of Hashem's nature in our own lives?

Adapted from "Atarah L'Melech," by Rav Avraham Pam, zt'l

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Dedications

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בן שמואל ז"ל
Reb Herschel Waldman z"l
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לע"נ חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
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ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

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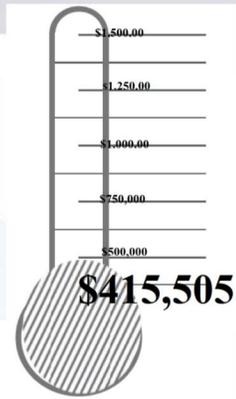
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GIRLS' OFFICE
BOYS' OFFICE
RMS OFFICE

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER
26TH

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We encourage all parents to participate by placing your personal ad, or by soliciting ads/ pledges from friends, families and business acquaintances. Personal or solicited ads/pledges will be applied to your give or get obligation. Anyone who donates or raises \$1,000 in paid ads or pledges will receive two complimentary tickets to the dinner.
We look forward to having all our parents and friends at the Dinner.

BNOS US MIAMI BEACH
5780

BS"D
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23 KISLEV
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VAYAYSHEV
3:00-4:00

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2nd Grade
Tova Rubin
17601 NE 9TH AVE

3rd Grade
Esther Dreyfuss
940 NE Miami Gardens DR

4th Grade
Rochel Sokol
17751 NE 9TH CT

5th Grade
Chani Volk
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3:15-4:15
23 Kislev

Bnos Heads:
Faigy Braun: 786-452-6241
Rachelli Neuhaus: 786-762-7810

Please Be Prompt For Pickup.
Good Shabbos!

1st Grade
Talia Handler
3711 Chase Ave

2nd & 3rd
Ruchi Dahan
3757 Prairie Ave

4th & 5th
Malky & Sara Batya Aizenberg
3490 Prairie Ave

Schedule 2019

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North Miami Beach

ויצא	12 / 7	No Pirchei
וישלח	12 / 14	3:30-4:30
וישב	12 / 21	3:30-4:30
מקץ	12 / 28	No Pirchei
ויגיש	1 / 4	3:30-4:30

Leaders cannot be responsible for your children after Pirchei is over. Please make the necessary arrangements.

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8:15 pm

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Admission Free of Charge

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For further information: 305.947.6000 x 400

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