

**Cincinnati Hebrew Day School**  
**Samuel and Rachel Boymel Campus**  
**Newsletter**  
**Friday, 24 Kislev ~ 5770 December 11, 2009**

***PARSHAS: Vayeshev***

**Friday Night Candle Lighting 4:55 p.m.**

**Havdala 5:57 p.m.**

Dear Parents and Friends:

“And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, so they hated him, and they could not speak with him peacefully.”

In this week’s parsha, we read about the rift between Joseph and his brothers – one that not only led to Joseph being sold into slavery, but also to the eventual formation of the Jewish people in Egypt. As the rift gathered steam, the Torah indicates to us that the brothers could not speak peacefully with Joseph.

Rashi comments, “From what is stated to their (the brothers) discredit, we may learn something to their credit, that they did not say one thing with their mouth and think differently in the heart.”

Rashi gives the brothers credit for not pretending to be friendly with Joseph while secretly hating him, but still considers it a discredit for not speaking with Joseph, Rabbi Yonason Eybeschutz (1690-1764, Kakow-Altona) explains why it was wrong for them not to speak to him given the fact that they hated him. It is human nature, he explains, for dislike of another person to grow with the passage of time. Without any intervening positive interactions, “dislike” commonly evolves into full-blown hatred.

This would explain the unfortunately reality of people going to their graves with unresolved family feuds that started out as minor squabbles. Issues that could have been resolved earlier on, somehow became insurmountable mountains. Instead of allowing the issue to fester, the offended person could have said, “you know, I was really hurt by what you said/did/didn’t do. I really wish you wouldn’t have said/done that.” The other party would then have the opportunity to apologize, offer a legitimate explanation, say he wouldn’t do it again, or simply say that he did not mean to be offensive. The fight could have ended right there, saving years of bitterness and alienation.

It is possibly for this reason that the Torah prohibition “Do not hate your brother in your heart” is immediately followed with, “You shall surely rebuke your fellow.” (Lev. 19:17) The Torah seems to imply that if one hates his brother in his heart, he is setting himself up for an eternity of enmity. If you don’t hold the anger in your heart and respectfully rebuke the person, the situation could be resolved without lingering hatred.

This, according to Rabbi Eybeschutz, is the discredit referred to by Rashi regarding Joseph’s brothers. When the Torah testifies that, “and they could not speak with him peacefully,” it is in effect saying that if they would have spoken to him, even openly telling him what bothered them, it could have been L’shalom, for peace, thus dissolving their enmity. Since they were unwilling to engage Joseph in any sort of dialogue, they ended up increasing their hatred towards him, and eventually sold him into slavery.

After arriving from Europe, one of the preeminent leaders of American Jewry, Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetsky (1891-1986), served as a congregational Rabi in various communities, including a stint in Toronto. While there, the extremely grateful congregation presented him with a beautiful silver Kiddush cup as a gift. Shortly thereafter, a congregant happened to see him bring the silver cup to a pawn shop! When the membership learned of this, they were understandably distressed. How insulting was it for him to sell the congregation’s gift!

A congregant was designated to approach the Rabbi to express their displeasure. To the congregant’s pleasant surprise, Rabbi Kamenetsky explained that he was having the cup assessed to find how much tax he owed for it. As the gift was given in recognition of his service, he considered it taxable income. In addition to the impressive testimony this provides regarding Rabbi Kamenetsky’s integrity, it also shows us the importance of talking things out, and how much resentment and hurt can be avoided if we would simply talk “L’shalom” for the sake of peace.

*Written by Rabbi Leiby Burnham,*

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## Safety Corner

With the holiday of Chanukah upon us, it is important for all of us to remember that safety is a priority when it comes to lighting candles. Burn centers in Israel note that Chanukah is one of the highest points of the year for burn victims amongst children. Please take utmost care when lighting your menorahs. The following list is by no means exhaustive, but gives a few basic guidelines:

1. Keep children away from candles while they are being lit; take special care of children with long hair.
2. Never let small children hold candles, matches or flammable liquids.
3. Menorahs should rest on trays, which are inflammable or are covered with aluminum foil.
4. Never leave small children in the vicinity of burning candles, which are unsupervised by an adult.
5. If lighting the candles by the front entrance or window will leave the candles potentially accessible to small children, it is better to light them in another location altogether.
6. Although many have a custom where children have their own menorahs, it is definitely not required by halacha. This should be taken into consideration if the presence of many menorahs presents an increased likelihood of children’s access to the menorahs
7. Make sure that the surface upon which your menorah is placed is sturdy. A wobbly stand can easily cause a menorah to tip over. This is especially dangerous if you are using oil, which can spill and burn.
8. If you are lighting your menorah next to a window, make sure that there are no drapes or curtains in close proximity.
9. If your candles have burned for the required amount of time (approximately 30 minutes after nighttime), they can be extinguished. Certainly, this should be done if you will be leaving the house
10. Make sure that smoke detectors are properly installed throughout your house, and check that fresh batteries are inserted.

## School News

**RAFFLE 5770 NEWFLASH!-We are thrilled to announce that all families that sell all ten of their tickets will be entered into a special raffle to win an exquisite ladies Raymond Weil diamond studded watch valued at \$2250!**

**IMPORTANT RAFFLE NEWS! MANY THANKS TO THE BRAMY, COHEN, FERTEL GOLDBERG, M. KIBEL, KLAFTER, KERNERMAN, OTTENSOSER, PREIS, ROBINSON, ROSEDALE, SCHERER, SMITH, TRAVIS, WILHEIM AND YOUNGER FAMILIES WHO HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN TICKETS IN!!!** Please keep up your much-appreciated efforts selling tickets! **As soon as you have collected any monies for tickets, please drop them off at the office with Pam Burns.** Remember, the family that sells the most tickets will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Krogers. Please contact Tamar Smith with any questions you may have at 531-0155 or [tamarsmith@cinci.rr.com](mailto:tamarsmith@cinci.rr.com). Hatzlacha Rabah!

### **What’s New In The Classroom?**

In Mrs Fishman's class the students learned all about the story and halachos of Chanukah. They practiced reading words with *shins* and *sins* that share dots on top with the neighboring letters in the words. In kesiva they learned how to write letters *ayin* and *lamed*. They are very excited that they started learning pre-Chumash skills with their new books, Lashon Hatorah.

In Ivrit with Mrs. Schwartzbaum, the first grade class finished a unit on parts of the body. This unit focused on the head and face--words such as *peh*, *lashon*, *einayim*, and *santer*. We also added more pages to our dictionaries.

In Rabbi Berger’s second grade class the students have been studying Avram's travels at the beginning of parshas Lech Lecha. In Ivrit they have just began a unit on clothing. In the third grade class the students are about to complete parshas Vayeitze next week, and looking forward to their second siyum. The next Ivrit unit will be on colors and will include color games they will play on Chanukah. Both grades finished the laws of Chanukah and will be learning the story and customs next week.

In Mrs. Duff’s class, the 1st graders had an exciting week in science! We began the week learning about solids, liquids and gases. We also explored with bubbles to learn about gases, conducted an experiment to compare whether dish soap or hand soap bubbles lasted longer and we looked at the differences between what was left over when salt water and tap water evaporated. In math we began a unit that focuses on shapes and solids and in spelling we are reviewing all of the short vowel sounds. It's been a busy, but very fun week!

Mrs. Debow’s 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes celebrated their lesson the Boston Tea Party this week by having their own class tea party. The classes took notes, drank tea, ate cookies and learned about their country’s fight for independence.

**REMINDER: Retake Picture Day has been postponed. We will inform you of the retake day.**

### **SHERUT LEUMI VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

The “Israel Club” for the boys met on Tuesday. The theme was about the Israeli flag. The boys did a baking project and had a tasty, good time. The girls’ Israel Club met on Thursday. Their activity was about Chanuka.

The children turned in their Menorot for the contest that will be held on Tuesday after the Shuk. All of the menorot are beautiful!

The Sherut Leumi volunteers have been extremely busy organizing everything for the Chanuka carnival - a.k.a. Shuk Chanuka and for the activity to be held at Golf Manor Synagogue.

If you can contribute a dessert or other refreshment for the Women’s Rosh Chodesh party at Chana Weisberg’s house, please contact Nof or Shiraz.

The correct answer winners for the Chanuka riddle this week are: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Esther Alden, Sarit Benzaquen, Sarah Motzen, Ayala Rosedale, Chana Mina Toron, and Zahava Zuroff. 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Hadas Schreiber. 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Moshe Alden, Akiva Kirschner, Yisroel Moshe Weisberg. Well done!

### **SHABBOS ACTIVITIES**

**Pirchei** this Shabbos will be for Group 2---Grades 3-5 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Please do NOT send your son early.

**WOMEN'S HALACHA CLASS** with Rabbi Robinson will **not** take place this Sunday (December 13).

**"Thanksgiving on Chanukah"**, the next WOMEN'S CLASS with Rabbi Cobi Robinson will take place this Shabbos (December 12) 3:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Aviva Minster (6661 Meadow Ridge Ln.).

**Parsha Class-** Every Shabbos, Paula Weinberg teaches a Parshas Hashavua class at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Aviva Minster, 6661 Meadowridge Lane. An "Ahavas Yisroel" chabura follows the class. Call Paula at 631-7227, if you have any questions.

**Ladies Parsha Shiur-** Rabbi Cobi Robinson shiur is scheduled for Shabbos parshas Vayeshev, December 12, at the home of Aviva Minster, 6661 Meadow Ridge at 3:30 PM. The title is "Thanksgiving on Chanukah".

**BNOS** - There will be **BNOS** this Shabbos from 3:30 to 4:30

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Girls' Chanuka Production This Monday!** - All girls and women are invited to the 3rd through 8th grade girls' annual Chanuka production. It is scheduled for Monday evening, December 14, 7:30 pm, at the JCC--doors open at 7:15. See attached flyer for more information.

**Volunteers needed** - to pick up card catalog units for our library (a mini-van should be large enough for this, but this job may require some lifting) from a public school location. A lady in the community to daven with our 6th-8th grade girls every morning (or perhaps even some mornings, on a consistent basis) from 8:00-8:30 a.m. This would be a nice opportunity for a lady who wants to enhance her own morning davening by setting a time and place for Tefillah. Anyone interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Rabbi Kernerman at school.

**PTA Chanukah Party-** Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>- Fun for the whole family! There will be food (doughnuts, latkes, etc). More details to follow. The PTA is looking for more parent volunteers for this event; if available, please contact Michal Kernerman at 351-2932.

**Yaacov's Place** - The Chanukah sale is going on now. 20% off all English titles. Open additional hours this week. Motzo'ei Shabbos 7:30 – 9:00 PM, Sunday night 9:00 – 9:45 PM.

**Bar Mitzvah** - Please join us for kiddush in honor of the **Bar Mitzvah** of our dear son **Naftali Yaacov Behrman**. It will take place **Shabbos Chanukah** Parshas Vayeshev **December 12<sup>th</sup>** at CZE. Your presence will enhance the simcha. We look forward to celebrating together.

If you are interested in advertising your business in the 2010 Community Information Refrigerator Magnet (with a target audience of over 400 people) please email [plotskers@gmail.com](mailto:plotskers@gmail.com) or call 513-826-0037. All proceeds go to Tzedaka.

**Iyun Tefillah class** with Elana Plotsker is scheduled for this Sunday at 11:15 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Ilene Raubvogel. Topic: Shema Yisroel and Boruch Shaim.

**Save the Date** Rabbi Yinon Kalazan from Arachim is returning to Cincinnati as part of an Achim Shabbaton. There will be a shiur for all women Shabbos afternoon, January 2. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Rabbi Schwartzbaum at 276-6054 or [israeliachim@ymail.com](mailto:israeliachim@ymail.com).

**The school is looking for sheets for the bed in the nurse's station.** If you have any twin size sheets to donate, please bring them to the school office. Also, if you would be able to wash a load of sheets once every two weeks or so, please let Pam know. Thank you!

**Save the Date!! FAMILY BINGO NIGHT! Sunday, January 10 at the Mayerson JCC, 5:30-8pm. Check your mailboxes after Chanukah for more information!**

**Camp Ashreinu's** Girls' and Preschool Division reunion is approaching. Only 3 weeks away. Please see flyer in the school bulletin for all details and/or call Mrs. Tova Scherer for any questions.

**KINNERET CAFE IS NOW OPEN MOTZEI SHABBOS FROM 7:00-11:00 p.m.** Come in and check out our reduced pricing on many of our menu items. Don't forget that Tuesday is our \$5 Falafel Special - and Thursday is our \$10 Large Pizza Special.

**Save the Date:** There WILL be a Midwest Agudah Convention this year! December 24-27. Stay tuned for more details.

The Iyud Tefillah class is scheduled for this Sunday at the home of Mrs. Ilene Raubvogel from 11:15-12. The topic is kavanah in Krias Shma.

**Cholim List** The updated cholim list for Tevet is attached to this week's newsletter. Also, ladies, if you would like to join the Women's Tehillim Group to join in the mitzvah of daily recitation of Tehillim in the zechus of a refuah for the cholim, call or e-mail Gayle (631-5293, [gjstat@juno.com](mailto:gjstat@juno.com)).

**RITSS G.O.** is looking for some extra "sheitel heads" (the Styrofoam type). If you have any "heads" that we can use, please call Atara Minster @ 513-254-2511 or Rivka Wilhelm @ 513-508-2104. Thanks!

**Take 'N Bake for Teves: CHOLIM** The next scheduled Take 'N Bake will be next Friday, December 11 (or Thursday night after tzeis). To participate this month and/or add names, please contact Michal Mendelsberg ([mmendelsberg@gmail.com](mailto:mmendelsberg@gmail.com) or 513-351-6637) by Tuesday, December 8.

**Beginner's Chumash class for adults.** This will be a traditional beginner's Chumash class, teaching adults how to translate the words and understand the simple meaning of the verses according to Rashi's explanations. Basic reading ability would maximize your benefit from the class but non-readers would benefit as well. Separate classes for men and women. Please call Rabbi Karp 307-2386 or [JewishEducate@gmail.com](mailto:JewishEducate@gmail.com)

**Hoxworth Blood Center** – there will be a blood drive Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Mayerson JCC, 8485 ridge Road. To schedule an appointment, please go online to [www.hoxworth.org/group/jcc](http://www.hoxworth.org/group/jcc). Any questions call Alyson Yates at 558-1518. Your blood donation can save three lives.

**Volunteer Day a Smashing Success!** A tremendous thank you and yasher koach to the MANY parents who participated in Sunday's volunteer day. The school looks fantastic! Many areas were reorganized to create more storage space, hallways were cleaned and decluttered, and the letters on the school building look great. Thank you to Mrs. Galit Benzaquen, Mrs. Kayla Berger, Mrs. Sharon Brame, Mrs. Esther Daniel, Drs. Ingrid and Jeff Epstein, Mrs. Rivky Fertel, Mrs. Yiska Simcha Guigui, Mrs. Avigaille Katz, Rabbi and Mrs. Kernerman, Mrs. Tova Kirschner, Mr. Michael and Mrs. Jan Maltinsky, Mrs. Leah Politzer, Mrs. Rivka Preis, Mrs. Atara Robinson, Mr. Scott and Mrs. Pammy Samuelson, Mrs. Cricket Schwartzberg, Mr. Elliot Smith, Mrs. Rachel Sollofe, Mr. Ira Younger, Rabbi Raffie Zuroff.

CHDS has a sofa to give away, in fair condition. If anyone is interested in having it, please contact the office.

**Mazel Tov to:**  
the Weinschneider family on moving into their new house.

On behalf of the staff, Shabbat Shalom – Gut Shabbos,

Rabbi Yuval Kernerman, Principal

Mrs. Susan Shapiro, Director of Curriculum