

The Spring Hill Times

Spreading Hashem's goodness all around the world

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ISSUE 83

| PARSHAS VAEIRA

| TEVES 5783



Thank You Hashem for making us Your beloved nation!

HASHEM GIVES GIRL GRAPEFRUIT TO ENJOY

Rivka,* a young girl from Wickliffe, Ohio, was so excited when her mother bought a whole bag of grapefruits for her to enjoy! She really enjoyed the delicious smell of the grapefruit while cutting it up! She then enjoyed so much eating it! She was so thankful to Hashem!



CHILD FROM LAKEWOOD LOVES HASHEM

It was Shabbos, and Shira,* a seven-year-old girl from Lakewood, New Jersey, realized that she had left her electronic toy outside.

It was cloudy, foggy and a little rainy over Shabbos, yet she did not bring the toy inside! And she was happy about it!

Baruch Hashem after Shabbos, the toy was still working!

Just another small reminder that Klal Yisrael, young and old alike, love Hashem and His Mitzvos more than anything else on earth!

MAN THANKS HASHEM

R' Moshe* bought a raffle ticket from an organization. He won a free pizza pie for his whole family.

He took the voucher and went to pick up the pizza.

There was a very strong wind blowing outside as he left the store, and it blew the box of pizza away. The pie fell on the

Continued on page 4

READING POSITIVE NEWS WILL HELP YOU:

- Love Hashem more.
- Do more mitzvos.
- Be a happier person.
- Be a healthier person.
- Be a calmer person.
- Be a better parent.
- Be a better friend.
- Live longer!

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The Spring Hill Times

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Hashem

Under the guidance of:

Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

Publisher / Editor:

Yitzchok I. Kaufman

Finance Director:

Yoni Kohn

Contributors:

R' Zevy Golombeck

R' Yosef Moshe Mizrachi

R' Label Lam

R' Yaakov Lubin

R' Mattis Edelson

R' Nesanel Yoel Safran

R' Y. Friedman*

R' Shalom Yedidya Klatzko

R' Nesanel Landesman

R' Sruli Yelen

T. Bauman

Yaakov Berliner*

Graphics:

R. Berger

Rachelli N.

Comics:

N.L. Ross

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Making a simcha? Have a Yartzeit or just want to tell Hashem how much you love Him?

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צייטל בת שלום אריה, נפתלי בן יעקב.

A LETTER OF BRACHA AND CHIZUK FROM THE ZIKNEI RO-SHEI YESHIVA IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HARAV SHMUEL KAMENSKY SHLITA

AND

HARAV ELYA BER WACHTFOGEL SHLITA

הגני בזה להכיר ולהוקיר ולהודיע בשער בת רבים פעולותיו הברוכות של המכ"ע המפורסם והנודע "ספרינג היל טיימס", אשר מטרתו להפיץ אהבת ה' ואהבת ישראל וכל כולו בנוי על טהרת הקודש ללא שום ידיעות חיצוניות מאומות העולם, וכל מטרתו להביא לידיעת הציבור הרחב הדברים הטובים שהקב"ה עושה לנו בכל יום - נפלאותיך וטובותיך שבכל עת ערב ובוקר וצהריים.

מאז הווסדו ועד עתה כבר נתפרסם ברחבי תבל - וכל איש אשר רוח התורה נושבת בו - ויראת שמים נוגע בלבבו - קוראו בשקיקה ומביאו לתוך ביתו לזכות את נפש ביתו - כיון שכל כולו מביע רוממותו והדרתו של עם ישראל בהנהגותיהם בין אדם לחבירו - ולהראות טובת ה' על עמו באספקלריא של תורה.

אך במקום גדולתו שם אתה מוצא את גרעונו הכספי, כאשר הוצאותיו עולים מדי חודש בחדשו ושבת בשבתו - ואין לו אפשרות לכסות את עצמו - שהרי אין בו שום פרסומת - כי כל כולו נתיסד ללא השפעות חיצוניות, ע"כ אחלה נא פני אחי ורעי לעמוד לימין העוסקים והמסייעים בדבר זה - כדי שיוכלו להמשיך ביתר שאת וביתר עז - לפרסם בגאון בעוז ותעצומות את דבר ה' - ולמצוה גדולה ייחשב לכל התומכים - ויזכו לברכה המשולשת בני חיי ומזונא רויחי להם וכל אשר להם.

דיוויד רוק
שלום וברכה
למחברת
שלום וברכה

WEEKLY NEWS ROUNDUP

Continued from page 1 floor with the cheesy side down. He had to throw it out.

He thanked Hashem for giving the pie to him and for taking it away! He accepted it with happiness!!!

P.S. A couple of days later, R' Moshe heard that the hechsher was taken away from the pizza store! The owner was using cheese that was not Chalav Yisrael!

Now he was extra thankful that his pizza got blown away by the wind!! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

HASHEM GIVES BOY A SCOOTER

R' Shmuel* made a contest with his child and promised him a scooter.

However, when the time came to buy his son the scooter, he did not have the money.

The next day, R' Shmuel received a call from a friend of his.

"I have a lot of things that I'm giving away. Do you want to come and see if there is anything you want?"

He went, and lo and behold, they had a scooter that they were giving away.

It looked brand new and his son was so excited! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

GIRL TURNS TO HASHEM

Yocheved K., a girl from Lakewood, New Jersey, went to the dentist.

Her dentist told her that she was going to need root canal work. She never had a root canal before, and was very nervous about it.

She went back a few weeks later to the dentist and he said she still needed the root canal. He recommended using a different dentist to perform the procedure.

On the way home from the dentist, she said, "Hashem You are the Kol Yachul and can do anything! If You make my root canal go away, then I would be careful with washing my hands and doing Negal Vassur."

A week later, she went to the other dentist to get the root canal done and the dentist said that it was just a small cavity and no root canal needed to be done!!!

HASHEM HELPS PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS COME TO OIFRUF

Dovid's* Oifruf was in New York. His parents and

חכם לב

יקח מצות!

The Spring Hill Times is looking for someone to help translate parts of newspaper into Hebrew.

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grandparents live in Canada.

Due to the snowy weather that Hashem brought and the holidays, there were many flights canceled.

When his a parents and grandparents got to the Toronto airport, they learned that Air Canada canceled many flights including theirs. There were many stranded people on long lines waiting to speak to the airline people and to get onto flights.

The airline representatives told everyone that there was nothing they could do. The online system was not working.

The mother of the chosson tried to figure out how to get a flight for her, her husband and her parents - the grandparents of the chosson.

While she was wandering around the Canadian section of the airport, she mistakenly entered the American side of the airport.

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She met an airline official and told him her dilemma. The airline official gave her tickets for the whole family.

All of a sudden, she got surrounded by security because she was in the wrong side of the airport. They escorted her back to the Canadian side.

When she came to her husband and parents with the tickets, she realized that her parents' tickets were on standby and they weren't secured a seat.

So, this time her husband started wandering around the airport in search of

someone who could help.

He passed by long lines of people and airline officials who were telling them that they could not help.

Then, out of the blue, he saw an airline official by a desk with no lines! He went over and told him his dilemma. The official gave him new tickets on the spot!

After this long delay, they finally flew to New York and arrived at their location for the oifruf just an hour before Shabbos!

(Editor's note: Please check with your Rav before trav-

eling so close to Shabbos)

What a miracle!!

Imagine how different the simcha would have been if the parents and grandparents wouldn't be by the oifruf!

Hashem in His infinite kindness was watching out for them particularly out of all the hundreds of stranded passengers to help them make it to the simcha!!

Thank You Hashem!!!

YID IS MECHZEK IN BENCHING

A Yid took upon himself to be mechazek in Birchas

HASHGACHA PRATIS IN THE BEIS MEDRASH

HASHEM LOVES BOCHUR!

A bochur in Yeshvia Sha'aeri Chaim (Far Rockaway, NY) needed to check up the Maharshal in Meseches Kiddushin 5a.

He opened the gemara exactly there!

A similar story was called in by a yeshiva bochur:

He needed to check up a Rambam in *וּמִתְּחִלָּה* and he opened to the exact place

he needed!

A similar story just happened to the Spring Hill Times editor:

I was learning with my 8-year-old son by Avos Ubanim. We wanted to check up the Malbim on a pasuk in the end of parshas Bo.

My son opened the chumash to that exact page!

HASHEM LOVES OUR LEARNING!

Chaim* was learning Ram-

bam and

was having a hard time understanding it. He looked all over and couldn't find the p'shat. The next day, b'hashgacha pratis he woke up late and went to daven at a later minyan than he usually does. Next to his seat was a sefer on the Rambam and he looked inside and it said a p'shat on the piece he didn't understand! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

WEEKLY NEWS ROUNDUP

Hamazon but he didn't know how to apply it.

He was walking down the street and saw a sign from an organization that gives chizuk to people on this subject.

One of their ideas was to set a timer for three minutes and even if one finishes benching he should not get up until the timer rings. That way he won't rush because he knows that he can't go anywhere for those three minutes.

He decided to try it. B"H it worked wonders! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

HASHGACHA PRATIS

A Yid had a blender and its motor broke. He decided to throw out the blender but keep the parts.

A few days later, his daughter called him up and said that she was missing parts of a blender. He had exactly those parts special for her!

[Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

INSULTS ARE GOLD!

Girls in a class in Ashkelon got into an argument. One of the girls got insulted and started crying.

The teacher saw and went over to her. She told the

girl that she has a relative who hasn't had children for many years. "Could you please forgive and daven for this relative?"

Ten months later this relative of the teacher had a baby!!! [Kav Hashgacha Pratis]

THROW YOUR BURDEN TO HASHEM

Rav Yaakov Nevenzal from Beit Shemesh, a youngerman from Yeshivas Mir in Yerushalayim, related:

It was during Selichos, Monday, 23 Elul 5782, I was sitting in a shul in Beis Yisrael and learning, bein hasedarim.

Suddenly, I heard someone say to an avreich, "On Wednesday morning there will be a bris here for twins!"

He explained that his nephew, Reb Yosef from Beit Shemesh, the father of the twin boys, wants the famous tzadik Rav Yaakov Meir Shechter shlit"a to be the mohel, and therefore he wants to make the effort of going to Yerushalayim for the bris.

Hearing this news, I went over to the man who was talking and told him, "My brother told me yesterday that his chavrusa told him

that there is a very wealthy Jew who is here in the country from abroad. He's willing to pay a large sum of money in order to be sandak at a bris this week. Do you think your nephew will be interested?"

"The money will certainly interest him," said his uncle. "He lives very simply, and it will undoubtedly help him a lot.

The question was whether he'll agree to give the honor of being sandak to someone he doesn't know."

I decided to get involved. I called my brother and told him to call his chavrusa, who would call his friend, who got the number he had seen in a small ad, until we reached the wealthy Jew from abroad.

He was in Tzefas, and he wanted to meet the father of the twins within several hours, at the Waldorf Astoria in Yerushalayim.

I asked for the meeting to take place instead at the home of the baal simchah in Beit Shemesh, on Ben Ish Chai street, and permission was granted.

The father, Reb Yosef, hurried to buy some rugelach and drinks in honor of his guest.

The meeting took place at

WEEKLY NEWS ROUNDUP

midnight, and I was present.

The rich man brought along his younger friend, also a wealthy Jew, and the two arrived at Reb Yosef's tiny rental apartment. When they asked him to turn on the air conditioner, they were informed that the air conditioner had broken down quite some time ago and had been serving as an ornamental object in the house.

When they asked about parnassah, they discovered that Reb Yosef, the tzaddik, sat and learned from the wee hours of the morning at the central beis medrash "Anshei Tzaddik" on Abba Shaul street in Beit Shemesh. During the day, he was a regular avreich. His wife, the tzaddekes, worked as a waitress, so that the simchahs in the area would be graced by modest, G-d-fearing waitresses. This was their situation, and they had seven wonderful children, ken yirbu.

The meeting left everyone impressed, and all that was left to do was to ask a Rav whether to agree to the proposal, to allow the wealthy Jew to serve as sandak.

This wealthy Jew also had fine yichus and a wide, generous heart.

The gaon and tzaddik Reb Yaakov Meir Shechter shlit"a said that, taking into account the open hashgacha that had led to the meeting, it was indeed a sign that these wealthy Jews were meant to receive the honor. The grandfathers, on their end, relinquished their rights to be sandak, as they had been honored at previous brisim.

Now all that was left was to arrange for a seudas mitzvah.

The minute the wealthy Jews entered the picture, the whole story was transformed.

The sandak asked that the seudah be a lavish one, that many guests be invited for the great simchah, and that every guest receive a portion that cost 50 dollars.

During the simchah, one of the guests stood up and related that the twins had been born on the eighteenth of Elul, a great day for Am Yisrael, the day of the birth of the holy Baal Shem Tov.

Hearing this, the sandak caught his head in his

hands and shouted, "Chai Elul! That's my birthday! And today is the 25th of Elul – that was the day of my bris!"

He became so emotional that at that moment he committed to increasing his gift to the family exponentially.

After the bris, the sandak paid for all the expenses, and he and his friend surprised the father of the twins by handing him \$30,000 in cash, as well as a double stroller and several other choice items. They also asked to stay in touch with him in order to pay for the bar mitzvahs and weddings of the twins!!

Reb Yosef related that whenever they had been in difficult financial straits and had debts, he would tell his wife, "We will cast our burden on Hashem, and Hashem will do the rest – He will sustain us."

Indeed, Reb Yosef was now zocheh to pay off all his debts. He was zocheh to see with his own eyes that those who trust in Hashem will not be shamed. [Kav Hashgacha Pratis Newsletter]



LIVING WITH HASHEM

By Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

MAN LEARNS IN KOLLEL

A Yid told me an a story that happened with his grandfather 50 years ago.

His grandfather was sitting and learning in Kollel in New York.

He once had a bunch of college students at his house and they asked him what he does for a living.

He replied that he learns in Kollel, and that he honestly does not know how he makes ends meet, but Baruch Hashem he is well taken care of.

The college students were so surprised. They had learned from their professors that one needs to be a breadwinner and know where the money is coming from. One must be realistic and practical...

One of the college students decided to challenge him and he said, "I bet that in five years from now you will not

be in Kollel anymore. It's simply impossible to live this way and in five years you'll understand that."

This took place during Elul.

Five years went by and it was Elul again.

He was in the train station, and he met up with this college student!

The student remembered what he had happened and said, "Okay, its five years later, what are you doing now? What type of job did you get?"

He said, "Believe it or not I'm still in Kollel! Hashem is taking care of me!"

NOTHING IS TOO SMALL FOR HASHEM!

R' Chaim* heard on a shiur from R' Avigdor Miller that 'Nothing is too small or petty to daven and ask Hashem for'.

He applied this to his daily life and every time he needs a parking spot he thinks about this line

from R' Avigdor Miller and davens to Hashem for a spot.

He said that it works like magic, and he sees open Siata Dishmaya!

This week he was in the busiest spot in Boro Park, and he davened for Hashem for parking spot. Just then a car pulled out and he got the perfect spot!

HASHEM LOVES MAN

On Motzoei Shabbos, I went to get my mail from the mailbox. I found a very large bill that I had to pay.

Later that night, my friend asked if he could come visit me. When he came, he said that he was appreciative towards me for helping him out. He then handed me a check for an amount of money that was more than the bill I had to pay!

(This friend of mine never gave me money before!)

The strawberry on the cake is, that that Motzoei Shabbos, a Yid from

LIVING WITH HASHEM

By Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

Eretz Yisroel, R' Amram Dovid Sternbach told me that he went special to the Kosel to daven that Hashem should show me open love, care and rachmanus!

Indeed, that night I saw open love from Hakadosh Baruch Hu!

HASHEM SENDS FAMILY CLOTHING

Mrs. Kamenetzky* needed to buy new clothing for a few of her children.

But she did not have enough time, money and energy to go shopping...

She turned straight to Hashem and said, "Hashem, You are the Kol Yachol, You don't need me to go shopping. You could give me clothing for my kids without me going out."

Later that day, she got a phone call from one of her siblings. "I was going through all my kid's clothing and I have a garbage bag full of clothes that they are not wearing or grew out of. Do you want them...?"

BABY FALLS ASLEEP

Mrs. Mandel* was trying to put her baby to sleep, but was not succeeding.

She called 'A Life with Bitachon' for chizuk and listened to that day's story.

She wanted to listen to another story, and she tried putting in the number for the day before, but B'Hashgacha Pratis it went to a different day's story instead.

The story she heard was about a yungerman who was having a hard time putting his child to sleep. He was Mechazek in Bitachon that it's Hashem who puts babies to sleep. After that realization, the baby fell asleep!

Mrs. Mandel* was awed! That was exactly what she needed to hear! She tried the same method that the yungerman used, and B"H, a few minutes later the baby was sound asleep!

HASHEM HELPS GIRL IN SCHOOL COME

HOME

A high school student from Bais Shaindel, Lakewood, New Jersey, missed her bus.

None of the teachers in school lived in her area and she was desperate to find a ride home.

She turned to Hashem and had Bitachon that He would find her a ride home.

Just then, a different teacher, who is from her neighborhood, stopped by in school for just a couple of minutes to do something.

The student asked her if she was going right back home. She said that she was, and gladly offered her a ride!

FAMILY RELIES ON HASHEM

The Mark* family from Beit Shemesh needed money to buy some things.

Mr. Mark said that they should just rely on Hashem and a Yeshua would come.

LIVING WITH HASHEM

By Rabbi Zevy Golombeck

As he was saying this, there was a knock on the door. He opened the door and there stood a Yid who handed them an envelope with money!

THE POWER OF BITACHON

A yungerman from Eretz Yisrael, came last year to Rav Yehuda Mandel on the second night of Chanukah for a Bracha.

He and his wife had been married many years and still had not been blessed with a child.

Rav Yehuda turned to the two light on the menorah and said, "You see these two light? They are going to be our 2 witnesses that in exactly one year from now, you will have a child."

A year later, this year the second night of Chanuka, they had their first baby!!!!

HASHEM IS OUR MEDICINE SUPPLIER

A women went to the pharmacy, but was told "Sorry, there's no more antibiotic left."

She said to herself, "Why was there yesterday? Because Hashem wanted them to have it. Hashem could make them have it now too."

Just then the pharmacist said, "We just found the last one that was hidden!!!"

HASHGACHA PRATIS

Mrs. Schwartz's mixer broke.

She decided to go to the store to buy a new one and buy some other things she needed.

When she went shopping she totally forgot about the mixer...

When she went to pay, she saw on the counter a broken mixer. Someone returned a broken mixer, and she realized "Oh, that reminds me! I had to buy a mixer!"

B"H she was able to buy the mixer and didn't need to make another trip to get it.

A LIFE OF BITACHON HOTLINE

By Rabbi Golombeck

- 1 Today's YESOD/Vort on Bitachon
 - 2 Today's STORY of Bitachon
 - 3 ANSWERS to Questions asked (Answers to 4 new questions each day)
 - 4 This week's connection of Bitachon to the PARSHAH
 - 5 QUOTE from Sefer "Bitachon Weekly"
 - 6 Summary of Rabbi Yehudah Mandel's Thursday VAAD
 - 7 Today's STORY how Bitachon helped someone through a Nisayon
 - 8 ARCHIVES (proceed as regular: 1 for Yesod/Vort section, 2 for story etc.) Press 8 again for Listening Instructions
 - 9 RECORD your Questions, Stories & Comments
- * Back to previous menu
- 0 SONGS of Emunah & Bitachon (To listen continuously to all the songs, First press 8 and then 0)

SYSTEM INSTRUCTIONS

1 15 sec. back	2 Pause	3 15 sec. forward
4 1 min. back	5 Raise volume	6 1 min. forward
7 3 min. back	8 Lower volume	9 3 min. forward
* Back to Prev. Menu	0 Bookmark save	# Bookmark Continue

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Lakewood.....732-719-3898
Monsey845-470-5577
Five Boroughs929-470-5577
England03-303-502-368
Australia (3) 99-997-300
Canada647-498-7700

BEAUTIFUL QUOTES

"Peace of mind is one of the greatest gifts that the Torah can bestow upon you."

Rav Avigdor Miller Speaks Vol 1, Page 66

"If you want to prepare for the World to Come, you have to do some shopping; you have to work, to make preparations."

Ibid. Page 69

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"The purpose of all creation is for us to become aware of Hakadosh Baruch Hu and come close to Him."

Open Your Eyes - Page 325

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"It would be worth coming to this world just for the opportunity to have tefil-

lin placed on you."

"Zichru Toras Moshe - Parshas Shemos

"The Steipler zatz"l says that all great things in תחנות start off with unending pain and struggles."

Rav Yehuda Mandel - Bitachon Weekly, Parshas Shemos

"People who are always discussing the latest sickness and all the world's unhappy situations are c"v looking for trouble. 'Cherdas adam yitein mokeish'.

You may not realize it, but everything you see and hear and talk about, affects you subconsciously. Fill your mind with תורה and תשובה and discussing the goodness of the world, and your own מעלות. This gives Hakadosh Baruch Hu nachas and you are heading for a happy life BS"D."

Ibid.

"The only thing that gets

me places in life is my loving caring Father the Ribono Shel Olam!"

Rabbi Zevy Golombeck - A Life with Bitachon, Yesod 1449

"Hakadosh Baruch I know you want me to be happy... I know for sure the yeshuah is going to come!"

Ibid Yesod 1452.

"All my life I never knowingly caused hurt to another human being."

Reb Moshe, Page 438

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MAN FINDS USB

One day, I lost a Torah USB that was worth \$1,000. I was not

able to get this USB anywhere and I had gained so much from it.

After searching everywhere, I was heartbroken and feeling very down.

I decided to make a Kabbalah and told my whole family that if Hashem, Who can do anything, helps me find the USB, I would be mefarsem this nes in the Spring Hill Times.

A few days later, the thought popped into my head to look again in my wife's car. I looked in the car and there sitting under the carpet, where my wife, my daughter and I already looked a bunch of times, was the precious USB!

A reader

HASHGACHA PRATIS STORY

We know that Hashem doesn't test us with what we cannot handle. I have been repeating these words in my head very often since my recent marriage.

During my first marriage, I lived in my hometown. My first husband passed away suddenly in a car crash over a

year ago. My friend suggested a shidduch idea a few months after his death that was ideal, except for the fact that marrying him would force my daughter and myself to move out of town.

My elderly mother lives near where my first home was, in an assisted living. The facility is shomer Shabbos, kosher and has excellent amenities and programming. Her aides are mostly paid through New York Medicaid. She has a win-win situation except that I no longer live near her. I now live almost a two-hour drive away. My brother (my only sibling) lives in Israel. When I lived nearby, I visited her almost every day. Despite the distance, I now visit her twice a week.

I tried moving her close to me, but the options in my new area aren't as good as in her current residence. Additionally, as I am out of state, I cannot easily get her on Medicaid here. Even if I do get her on Medicaid in my new state, I was told by several experts in the field that she wouldn't get as much care as she is currently receiving.

So, I repeat to myself "Hashem won't test me with what I cannot handle," and pray that He really won't.

Two weeks ago, on my ride to New York, my mother's aide called and said that my mother was wheezing and coughing. The facility wanted to do a Covid test on her. I allowed it. Two tests were administered, and they both came

back positive. I informed the aide that I was on my way.

I called a knowledgeable friend for the best course of action.

I wanted her to have the best care possible.

My friend suggested calling South Nassau Community Hospital. She advised to make sure they have the monoclonal antibody transfusion available, otherwise it would be a wasted trip. The operator transferred me to someone whose answering machine went on. Instead of leaving a message, I decided to call Achiezer. Achiezer is an organization in the Far Rockaway/Five Towns area that helps people in many ways. As its name is "achi," my brother; "ezer," I'll help, it is an invaluable resource for the area.

They gave me a number of an organization that arranges nurse practitioners to visit Covid stricken individuals to give them monoclonal antibody transfusions. Several minutes after I left a message, I received a call back from a woman in Far Rockaway who was available to come as possible. I immediately offered that I could pick her up and bring her to my mother and then drive her home. The drive was 5 minutes away and over a small bridge with a toll. She thanked me and said she'd call me when she was ready.

B"H she was able to give my mother the transfusion and recommended Mucinex for

my mother's congestion. A week later she was feeling back to normal.

As I drove home later that day and throughout the week, I couldn't stop marveling how Hashem gave me a test that I was able to handle.

First, the Covid test was conducted on a day that I happened to be traveling to see my mother.

Second, I easily got through to Achiezer and their advice was good.

Third, I reached the number Achiezer gave me for the transfusion easily. Later in the week, I was told that others who needed this service had a hard time getting through to this number/organization.

Fourth, because I was traveling in anyway, I had my car, so I was able to offer to drive the nurse practitioner to help my mother and drive her home.

Fifth, I didn't have to ask anyone for favors. I was able to take care of my mother's needs - driving the nurse practitioner and getting Mucinex for my mother.

Sixth, I had more than enough money on my bridge card to go back and forth 3x in helping my mother.

I can't thank Hashem enough for being able to take care of my mother despite living so far away. I still reassure myself that "Hashem won't give me a test that I can't handle."

A reader

ROAD OPENS

This past Erev Shabbos (Parshas Mikeitz) I had to do a small delivery on the way home for the store that I work for. As I was going home, I realized that I forgot to do it and take a different highway than I usually do, so I make a detour to get there.

After I dropped it off, I followed my GPS to get home and it brought me through a route that I usually take but was closed off because of the rain from the night before.

Right when I got there they opened the road and let my car through!

A reader

GATES OPEN

My husband and I were going to fly out of town to spend Shabbos Chanuka with our son and his family. We moved up our flight from 8 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. because the forecast said that it would be terribly windy and they might cancel our flight.

But that meant it would be very tight getting to the airport.

We had to check in a suitcase. My husband dropped me off first and took our car to long-term parking.

There was so much traffic in the airport itself that I was afraid he wouldn't make it in

time for the flight. I strengthened myself in Emunah and Bitachon and kept saying, "HaKol Yachol."

It was getting later and later, and my husband still wasn't there! I did NOT want to travel without him, and then wonder if he had been able to get a later flight or not...

I was already on the plane when my husband finally came running and panting to the gate but it was locked! And they never, ever, open up once they lock the gate!

But my husband asked them if maybe he could go on anyway. "We already gave away your seat," they said. "You can ask the person at the computer."

So my husband asked if his seat was still open, and it was.

"Please, my wife is on the plane, and I still have my seat..." he asked. Then the lady said, "OK, but you're the last one."

And she unlocked the gate (!!!) and let him go on!! This has never happened before!! HaKol Yachol!! I am still in awe of the way Hashem held up the entire flight just so my husband should be able to fly with me! Hashem loves me!

A reader





We mentioned the unusual stamina of the tongue, that it doesn't feel tired or strained even after eating, chewing and licking for an extended period of time. A person could have a meal for a while and would not feel tired even though the tongue is working the whole time.

This point is much more pronounced by speech. Because even though a person does not eat for a few consecutive hours, we sometimes can talk or schmooze for hours on end. And our tongue, which is mobile the whole time when we are talking, moves around and does not feel tired at the end of prolonged speech.

This phenomenon is particularly special because like we mentioned earlier, the group of muscles which make up the tongue, are different than other groups of muscles, they are not attached to any bone. There is no 'backbone' as we can call it, something holding it strong and giving it body. We would expect that the tongue which has muscles which are separated from any bone would tire more quickly, for sure more quickly than other muscles that are attached to a bone. Yet, Hashem made it that the



"Hashem wanted to give people enjoyment so He created taste buds."

tongue is able to speak, eat, chew and lick for long periods of time without tiring.

We will look into a new topic now, closely related to the tongue – the taste buds. We all eat, and we must eat because it is vital for us to stay alive.

Hashem could have made eating an action which is totally devoid of pleasure. Like other actions that keep us alive – breathing and our heartbeat – it doesn't give us any pleasure.

Hashem wanted to give people enjoyment so He created taste buds. This changes the act of eating from being a responsibility and a necessity to an act of pleasure.

Occasionally, Hashem takes away this pleasure, such as when we have a big cold and we can't taste things. Of course then we will still eat to stay healthy, but we can clearly feel the difference from the usual enjoyment and pleasure that we have.

Such times are meant to remind us of the wonderful gift that we have called taste. We shouldn't take it for granted. We shouldn't have to occasionally lose our taste to remember that we are constantly living with something so unique and special.

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The



Bitachon Perspective

WRITTEN BY: R' SHALOM YEDIDYA KLATZKO

Q. In the minyan where I daven, the ba'al tefillah is a chiuiv, and he davens notably slower than the average pace. People tried telling him to daven a little quicker because of tircha d'tzibura, but the chazan refuses to change his speed. Because the chazan davens so slowly, davening ends late and my whole morning is thrown off schedule. This is making me very resentful towards him, and davening in a different minyan is not an option. What is the emunah and bitachon perspective about this?

A. What is it that's bothering you? You feel that if only the chazan would agree to daven quicker, you would have more time and you would be able to accomplish more. All because the chazan is being stubborn, you are being held back and you're not able to do things you could've done otherwise.

But you must hammer into your awareness the words of the Chovos Halavavos: [Sha'ar Habitchon Perek 4]: התועלת והנוק לא יהיה מן הברואים, כי אם ברשות הבורא יתברך, Benefit and

harm do not come from people, rather from The Creator.

If you are being delayed, it's because Hashem decreed that you should be delayed. If it wouldn't be the chazan davening slowly, Hashem would make some other reason for you to be late. For example, you could get caught in traffic, or you could get stuck behind a slow-moving truck.

When you understand this, you will come to the realization that the fact that you have a slow chazan is actually a bracha from Hashem! Since you were predestined to be late, instead of making you get stuck on the road, Hashem is causing you to spend that time sitting in shul – an act for which each moment is a mitzva!

Furthermore, the Steipler teaches that it was nigzar on Rosh Hashana the amount of pain and frustration each person is supposed to experience throughout the coming year. When performing a mitzva is accompanied by difficulty or frustration, he thereby discharges

his quota of suffering in this manner.

Since Hashem loves you so much, He is making you receive your portion of frustration by having you daven in a slow minyan, and as a result you are being spared from car accidents and trips to the hospital!

Your ba'al tefillah is not inconveniencing you; on the contrary, he is a messenger sent from Hashem to spare you from forms of suffering which you wouldn't even want to think about. When you realize that, not only won't you be angry at him, you will actually feel very grateful for the great service which he is doing for you.

Q. My granddaughter just had a baby boy and will soon be making a bris. I was hoping that she would name him after my father, who does not have anyone named after him. My father was so dear to me, and it would mean so much to me for my great-grandson to be named after him.

However, I was told that she does not plan

Q&A WITH R' ZEVI GOLOMBECK

The



Bitachon Perspective

Continued

to name her son after my father because she doesn't like that name. This is hurting me to no end. No one is named after my father, and I really want my father's name to be remembered. Should I insist that they name the baby after my father in order to defend his honor? What is the emunah and bitachon perspective about this?

A. In Novhardok they taught that whenever a person finds that something is bothering him, he should do birur hamiddos – he must zoom into his emotions and discern what is really bothering him. After discovering the root of his issue, he can address it and learn the proper way of dealing with it.

In your situation, why does it bother you so much that the baby will not be named after your father? One possibility is that you know what a great z'chus it is when someone has a descendant named after him. This causes his name to be remembered and his neshama will have an aliyah. Therefore, you

are pained that your father will be deprived of this z'chus.

If this is what's bothering you, you should know that your father's neshama will have a far greater aliyah if you see to it that a machlokes does not arise over naming the child.

If you are looking to give your father kavod and to increase his z'chusim, you should know that the greatest z'chus you could do for him is not to make an issue over the name. In shamayim, his name will live on and be honored for that fact: that a machlokes was not made over naming the baby after him.

However, if you will be completely honest with yourself, you will probably discover that what's actually bothering you is not about your father's kavod. Rather what's bothering you is your own kavod! If no one names their child after your father, you perceive it as a lack of reverence towards you.

If this is the case you should know that the issue is not about your

father. Rather, it's about yourself!

When a person is pained over his kavod, he should tell himself the words of the Mesilas Yesharim [Perek 22]: hakavod hevel havalim – 'pride is vanity of vanities'. Chazal tell us that when a person is overly obsessed with his kavod, the result is: מוציאין את האדם מן העולם – it takes a person out of this world. Worrying over kavod causes so much emotional stress, it can take a toll on a person's health and make him leave the world prematurely, R"L.

Realize, what is it that's stressing you out so much? Hevel havalim – kavod which is fleeting and meaningless!

If you are looking for kavod, don't look for the artificial kavod of people saying, "Wow, this was your father's name". Rather, go for the true kavod; rise above your nature and don't make machlokes. By doing this you will get the true kavod – approval from Hashem.

In addition, by not making an issue out of nam-

Q&A WITH R' ZEVI GOLOMBECK

The



Bitachon Perspective

Continued

ing the baby, you will earn respect from people as well. People will admire you as an ish shalom, a role model for peace. This is the way Hashem set up the world: When a person tries to avoid kavod, he is the one who eventually gets recognition in the eyes of people.

Q. I was at a family Melava Malka with all my chashuva brothers-in-law. One person said over a shtikel Torah, and everyone was discussing his chid-dush. They were asking kashyos and bringing ra'ayos, and everyone was involved – besides for me.

I try to learn as best as I can, but I am nowhere near the level of learning of my other brothers-in-law, and I didn't understand one word that was said! I felt so insignificant compared to all my chashuva brothers-in-law, and I left the Melava Malka feeling like two-cents. What is the emunah and bitachon perspective about this?

A. The Gemara says that

when someone learns to the best of his abilities, even if he does not have the greatest mind and does not accomplish so much, he will get the same reward as someone who is very gifted and accomplished much more.

If it is not achievement that makes a person choshuv, what is it that makes someone important?

The Mesilas Yesharim teaches that the amount that a person includes Hashem in his actions is what determines what level he is on.

The most basic form of bringing Hashem into our lives is to live with bitachon. To this end, the Vilna Gaon teaches that the most important virtue is to live with bitachon; this is the core essence of all the mitzvos. When someone lives his life according to the principles of bitachon in Hashem, he is more than the person who is great in Torah but is lacking in bitachon.

Therefore, if you want to be truly choshuv, start working on living with

Hakadosh Baruch Hu. The first thing you should do is to say, "Hakadosh Baruch Hu, I'm so happy with the way you made me. I know that You are perfect and the way You made me is perfect, and I will learn Torah and serve You as best as I can on my level."

Certainly, you must try to advance in your learning to the best of your abilities. However, you must know that the talents you were given and the circumstances that you are in were given to you by Hashem to enable you to become the best person you can.

The Vilna Gaon teaches further that if a person tries to learn to the best of his abilities and he wishes to learn even more, לעתיד לבא he will be taught all the Torah he wanted to know!

To receive the full Bitachon Perspective, please contact klatzkoshalom@gmail.com

Chizuk Corner

The unbelievable power of a good word

By R' Y. Friedman

In Parshas Shemos we are introduced to our great leader Moshe Rabbeinu. When did Moshe rise to greatness? The Seforim teach us that the first words the Torah uses to describe Moshe speaks volumes: "Vayigdal Moshe Vayeitzei el echav Vayar bisivlosum."

That is when his career of greatness started.

Moshe was a free person. Firstly, he was from Shevet Levi who were exempt from slavery. Secondly, he was part of Pharaoh's household (which is astonishing when you think about it). But instead of enjoying his freedom, he left his comfort zone and went to share in the burden of his fellow Yidden.

If you look in the Midrash you will see a lengthy description of how Moshe cried with them and how he consoled them. Chazal tell us that Moshe went even further and he was able to get one day off of their back breaking labor and the day he chose was Shabbos. The Passuk emphasizes "vayeitzei el echav". We see that he viewed Klal Yisroel as his beloved brothers.

I believe that this is the key for us as well. If we view all Yidden as brothers, then we will share in their sorrows and we will rejoice with their Simchos, just like we do for a blood relative.

However, as the saying goes, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." Let's flash-

back to his mother the great Tzadekes Yocheved and his sister Miriam, who were also known as Shifra and Puah. Rashi explains that the reason why they got these names was due to the great chessed that they did with the babies.



We see from the Torah that they did their Chessed with such beauty and splendor which is built into their names, and with utmost Mesiras nefesh as well. They literally put their lives on the line to save the babies from death. How were they able to give so much energy into so many babies and to be Moser Nefesh for other people's babies.

The answer is simple. They looked at all these babies as their children and therefore they were able to be so devoted to Klal Yisroel. It was from this that they were Zoche to have leaders come from them, because this is the foundation for leadership as we see in Moshe Rabbeinu.

However, I believe that it goes even deeper than that. When Basya the daughter of Pharaoh retrieved Moshe from the water, she realized that she needed a Jewish

woman to feed the baby. Miriam went to get her mother, and the Torah says "vatikra es eim hayeled" - she went to call the mother of the child.

However, when Yocheved was ready to feed Moshe it says "Vatikach Ha'isha" - the woman took the child and fed him. Rav Shalom Schwadron asks the obvious question. Why is the Torah switching from the mother of the child to - "the woman".

Before we bring this answer let me bring it out with a story that happened to Rav Shalom Schwadron himself (it's possible that Rav Shalom brought this story to bring out the answer).

When Rav Shalom was a youngerman, his son fell ill and Rav Shalom headed to the local doctor to try to heal him. On the way to the doctor he met Reb Isaac Sher and he asked Rav Shalom what he was doing. He explained that his son was ill and he was taking him to the doctor. His Rebbe looked at him in the eye and said "so the mother bear is taking care of the baby bear?"

Reb Shalom looked at him bewildered. His Rebbe smiled and said, that every animal takes care of it's young, so how are we better than the animals? The answer is, that we are superior because when we love and take care of our children, we are doing the great Mitzva of Chessed with Hashem's children. That's our Gadlus.

Chizuk Corner

By: R' Y. Friedman

Continued

The feelings of love we have to our children is from Hashem, so that we should follow in His ways and be a rachum like He is.

Says Rav Shalom, obviously Yocheved loved Moshe like every mother loves their child. She also loved him because he is Hashem's child, a tzelem Elokim, and that's why it says "the woman" to emphasize that even had he not been her child she would have fed him to be kind with Hashem's child. Rav Shalom ends off that Hashem said, "Oh you are taking care of my child, then you need to get paid for it," and indeed she was paid by Basya as it says in the Passuk.

Now we can understand how Yocheved and Miriam were able to be so devoted to the many babies that they tended to, because they loved Hashem's children.

This kind of love was in Moshe Rabbeinu as well, as we see how much he loved every Yid unconditionally. He also put his life on the line to save the Yid that was beaten by the Mitzri. Now we can also understand why Moshe was the right person to be the leader of Klal Yisroel. A person that has such a tremendous heart and realizes that everyone is his brother, he can lead Klal Yisroel.

We had another leader at that time and that was Aron Hakohen. Aron was known for his tremendous heart. His love for Moshe was leg-

endary. Rav Meilich Biderman brings that the Simcha that Aron experienced when he heard that Moshe was going to become the leader was so great that it could not be put into words.

There was a Chassidische composer that said that sometimes while he was experiencing such a high in Simcha he couldn't express himself with words, so he just made a Niggun. The Niggun can talk where words cannot. This is the concept we are discussing.

I once heard a fascinating Pshat in the Chazal that says that 'if Aron would have heard Hashem tell Moshe "vroacha visomach bilibo, he would have greeted Moshe with musical instruments':

Aron Hakohen had a heart of gold and he didn't think that Moshe had any concern that perhaps Aron would be jealous of him. But if he would have known that Hashem was consoling Moshe, then he too would have tried to be Mechazek Moshe and come out with instruments to show his great joy. However, he didn't realize that it was needed.

Rav Shalom Schwadron points out that we see tremendous gadlus in Moshe Rabbeinu. We mentioned earlier how Moshe was so pained by the plight of his brethren. So when Hashem asked him to take out the Bnei Yisrael he should have jumped at the opportunity

and headed to Mitzrayim. However, he understood that if Aharon is going to have chalishas hada'as he did not want to do it. This in itself proved that he is worthy to be the leader.

Where does such tremendous love come from? It came from his mother and from the tremendous love that he had for Hashem and his children. Indeed it was befitting for Aron to lead us in the Midbar and to carry the Choshen Hamishpat.

Let us learn from our leaders to treat every Yid like our very own brother. As Rav Avigdor Miller would constantly remind us to verbalize constantly "I love that Yid". We should make them feel so good, that they will also start feeling that they are our brothers as well.

In this Zechus, Hashem will bring back all our lost brothers on this side of the Sambatyon and on the other side, and he will take us back because after all we are his precious children. Hashem will then say, "You showed My children your love and chizuk, I will show you what real love and chizuk feels like". "Vaescha eschem al kanfei nisharim V'ovee eschem ailei". I will carry you on the wings of an eagle and I will bring you to me - to the Bais Hamikdash Hashlishis. Amein!

GROWING FROM OUR GEDOLIM #11

WRITTEN BY: RABBI MATIS EDELSON

MIDDOS CHESSED EMUNAH AHAVAS YISROEL
AHAVAS HATORAH MITZVOS TEFILAH TZEDAKAH

From Stolbische to Bolshie Kabanie

Rav Yitzchok Zilber (1917-2004) was a big Talmid Chochom who lived in Communist Russia, and amidst all the hatred against religion, he risked his life to live a life of Torah and Mitzvos. He survived KGB persecution, and imprisonment in a Soviet labor camp. When he managed to leave Russia, he dedicated his life to bringing Russian Yidden back to Yiddishkeit. His spellbinding life story is told in the book "To Remain A Jew".

In the early 1940's, when he was a young man, Rav Yitzchok Zilber had a job teaching in a school in the Russian village of Stolbische. His parents lived in Kazan, and he visited them at times, staying overnight, and then made the 12-mile trip back to Stolbische on foot. One winter morning in 1942, Reb Yitzchak left Kazan at 5:00am to return to Stolbische. In those war years, all they had to eat was bread, and it was strictly rationed by the government. The poverty was extreme, and people had literally nothing to eat. He was expecting to receive his share of bread when he arrived in Stolbische, so he did not eat anything before he left Kazan. It was extremely cold, -43F, and it was snowing.



Rav Yitzchak Zilber

He ran the entire 12 twelve miles to Stolbische like a mad man and made it there in 3 hours. When he arrived in Stolbische, he found out that they had not baked bread that day, as no wood was delivered due to the extreme cold. No students came to the school either, so he had no teaching to do that day. But he was not free to go home, as the Russian government did not like their teachers to be idle. He was given the task to go to the nearby village of Bolshie Kabanie, which was 3 miles from Stolbische, to register students for the next school year.

He set out on his trek through the knee-high snow, and not being able to see the path to go on, he got lost. The wind howled, and a heavy snow was falling. He had to jump through the snow just in order to keep going. He hadn't eaten the whole day, and he felt his strength leaving him. The cold was so intense, and he was so hungry and weak, he had a powerful urge to lay down in the snow, but he knew that he would it would be life threatening to do that. He felt he could not go further, so he started to daven to Hashem. He said, "Ribono Shel Olam, I am an only child, please have mercy on my parents and grandparents and save my life!" Suddenly he put his hand into his pocket and felt a hard object wrapped in paper. He took it out and found a piece of halva! For 3 years, he had not seen any butter or sugar, and now he had halva? He had no idea how such a luxury ended up in his pocket. (He found out later that his mother had bought it from a neighbor, and since it was the only food they had in the house, she put it into his pocket.) He ate it and decided to fight to the end. He jumped and jumped through the snow, and miraculously found the path, and made it to the village. He saw clearly how Hashem hears our tefillos.

For comments, please call/text 732-800-1893, or email, matisedelson@gmail.com

In any situation we may be
Hashem is at our side
Even when we don't see
So instead of complaining what could've, should've
Or would've been
Let's just trust that Hashem is doing the best
One day all will come together
We will see Hashem's real plan with Mashiach pretty soon
Until then, let's hang on and try to enjoy life stress free
A happier person we surely will end up to be!

SIXTY SECONDS OF INSPIRATION

With Rabbi Label Lam - Monsey, New York



Make Shabbos Happy!

Somebody told me a story recently, that there was a Rav who couldn't help but notice that his congregation was not focused on davening during davening. They were busy with their “toys,” and he wanted to get their attention.

So, he told them a story, that he was walking one day, and he heard a cry, and he went to find out the source of the cry, and he discovered a crying Tallis. He asked the

Tallis, “Why are you crying?” and the Tallis said, “Because my owner went on vacation. He took his baseball cap, his sunglasses, his Jaguar—and he left me behind.”

The rabbi told the Tallis, “Don't worry, someday he's going to go on a long vacation, into the next world, and you are all that he's going to take with him.”

We don't want to make Shabbos cry. We want to make Shabbos happy - very happy - because we're going to be together forever and ever.

Good Shabbos!

LIVING WITH APPRECIATION

By: R' Daniel Shasha

Rav Yisrael Zev Gustman tz'tl, the late Rosh Yeshiva of Netzach Yisrael, had the interesting practice of regularly watering the plants and trees outside his Yeshivah. He always insisted on doing this himself and never allowed any of his talmidim to assist him.

Those who observed him were always so curious why such an esteemed Rosh Yeshivah was always so insistent on doing this. After all, he was known for being an enormous masmid and lamdan whose every second was ever so precious.

Rav Gustman explained to them why this was so important to him. He said how in his younger years his Rebbi, Rabbi Chaim Ozer Grodinsky, taught him which plants in the forest were edible and which ones were poisonous. At the time he didn't understand why this was necessary, but years later when he was fleeing from the Germans and hiding in the forest, this advice came very handy, and he was able to survive by eating edible plants.

Out of gratitude to the plants which helped sustain him throughout those difficult years, he took upon himself to water them regularly. Despite his esteemed stature and busy schedule, he would never deviate from

expressing his appreciation.

The source for this inspiring practice of showing our appreciation to objects we benefited from is actually from our parashah.

Although Moshe carried out most of the plagues, Hashem did not ask him to carry out the first three plagues: blood, frogs, and lice. The Midrash (Shemos Rabbah 9:10 & 10:7) explains that Moshe personally benefited from the river, since when he was a

Moshe did not carry out the first three plagues out of gratitude for the river and the earth for benefiting him.

baby, he was placed in a basket on the water and Basya saved him.

Moreover, Moshe benefited from the earth, when he used it to bury the Egyptian taskmaster whom he killed upon seeing him harming a fellow Jew. Therefore, because of Moshe's gratitude to the river and the earth, Aharon carried out these three plagues instead.

We can ask why was this necessary. After all, the water and earth have no feelings why did Moshe have to show apprecia-

tion towards them?

Rav Shlomo Wolbe zatz'l (AleI Shur vol.2 p.279) explains that the reason Moshe didn't carry out these plagues, was not because of any harm that the objects might feel, but due to any damage that he might cause to his own character. Since he benefited from them, he didn't want to take an active role in carrying out the plagues which involved the earth and the river, out of gratitude to Hashem that they were used to help him.

Rav Matisyahu Solomon shlita (Matnas Chayim Haggadah p 16) asks a fascinating question. It was quickly discovered that Moshe killed the Egyptian man, so how useful was the earth in burying him after all?

Rav Matisyahu explains, that even though it was only a short while until it was discovered, Moshe still needs to show appreciation for those few moments of security the earth helped provide!

We see how the obligation of hakaras hatov has no limits.

This article is an excerpt from the weekly 'Living Appreciation Newsletter.' For feedback or to subscribe please email livingappreciation@gmail.com



To Share My Share I From Hashem's Daily Shiur.

By: R' Moshe Davidson - A Rebbi in Brooklyn, New York

The Perplexes Game

As explained in the Merriam - Webster Dictionary

Per-plex vb : to disturb mentally /esp confused

Per-plexed adj

1: filled with uncertainty :puzzled

2 :full of difficulty :COMPLICATED

I have struggled with the rowdy and wild behavior of children in the classroom at recess time.

It usually starts with simple walking, following each other, then jokingly or disturbingly, it starts to become a chase.

Another child joins then another, and before you know it, it's chaos.

Desks and chairs get shoved aside, and some times it becomes a class game, or fight.

I then return to the classroom /war zone.

"Here we go again."

Getting the room back in order, getting the children seated, getting the story straight, getting the children to say "I'm sorry", getting a band-aid

for the injured, and finally getting everyone and everything back to a normal relaxed setting.

Then goes the recording in the roll book of those who participated in the rowdiness, and those who stayed away



abstaining to get shlepped into the whirlwind of the fun /fight.

The reward and punishment for each is also hard to measure.

I have tried different types of things, speaking, and explaining how to have a relationship with others at indoor recess times, in a relaxed and calm environment." Boys It is enjoyable and safe" etc.

"The running, shouting, chasing challenging, games should

be left for the outdoor recess time."

It was sometimes, somewhat helpful.

Playing music, or stories sometimes helps but sometimes just irritates the children.

Reward for the quiet playing helps, but has it's own drawbacks.

Punishment for wild play works well, but it's sometimes hard to determine who is the one to punish.

Who is at fault. The instigator, the brainstormer, the one who took it to the next level, the teator, the first one that 'got physical', the retaliater. The list goes on and on.

How severe the punishment should be. What's considered to be a good excuse. What describes exactly a mistake or a purposeful act. It gets nitty-gritty.

A few years ago I tried to offer them games that were easy to use and pack away in a short time. It had to be a little challenging, simple and short.

Continued on next page

To Share, My Share From Hashem's Daily Shiur.

Continued It worked. I supplied the kugelech and card games, starting with UNO and then Top Trumps, אויבער חכם and some others.

The games were played nicely and quietly and the children socialized beautifully.

The card games amassed over the years and I have a nice collection. We added different types of card games. Cover Your Assets, Banana Split, Rat a Tat Cat etc.

We also have Checkers, and Connect Four which doesn't always fit into the 15 minutes of the indoor recess. This is all besides the two huge plastic storage containers packed with board games for the longer recess when they're forced to play indoors because of the weather conditions outside.

Eventually we needed something new .

So this is what I did for the class this year.

I reinvested the first few nice tips of the year in to all types of perplexus games large and small. We rotate them for one

row per day.

The rest of the class either watch or play with their own perplexus games that they bring from their own homes.

I also brought from my home a huge pile of heimishe comic books for children to read. They barely use that much.

I received huge dividends from this investment.

The Perplexus games are a great success B"H.

It is however beyond my understanding and comprehension to make sense of the enjoyment of this particular game.

To me it looks so teasing, confusing, puzzling, frustrating, bewildering, and seemingly pointless.

There must be something exhilarating to reach the end of the maze and labyrinth.

The greater the challenge the more you get to appreciate your success.

What I am perplexed about all this is the willingness to take on the challenge and the commitment to keep on trying the different types of this

challenging game until the child succeeds, in getting to the end!

I'm sure that it's a good lesson for themselves.

I would like to thank Hashem for such a eye opening phenomenon that hopefully will have an impact and a long lasting impression on me.

Hashem should help me and others learn from this to appreciate challenges and confusion. To rise up to the challenge and take it on, even if it does not work out well at first. Not to get frustrated at setbacks and when things fall through.

If we are going to focus on the goal, like my talmidim are teaching me, then we'll be able to make it work one day. I wish I could learn from them also to enjoy the actual challenge, and laugh together with the "krechrtz, like they do, when the ball falls through.

!אז ימלא.. שחוק פינגו..... היינו שמחים

AYIN ^{עין}טובה TOVA

By: R' Nesanel Landesman

Suggestions for the lady who dropped a precious dish she received from her Bubby:

- Shani should learn from here that nothing lasts forever and therefore try to enjoy whatever you have while you have it and the enjoyment will be more and after it leaves or finishes you feel good that you got the best of it.
- Hapach nishbar v'anachnu nimlatnu. Maybe this has saved Shani from other tzaros.
- The kli had done its job for the family and everything it needed to do in the world, so it didn't need to exist anymore.
- The dish was old and fragile and was probably going to break soon. Realizing this, Shani was happy that it broke in her hands as she would not have been so forgiving if it had broken when someone else was holding it.
- B"H no one got hurt.
- She will now wish to have a different reminder of her beloved bubby and will write down some of her memories. Those memories will be much more precious than the dish.
- Hashem only does things for our good.
- Better than breaking a leg.
- Maybe she will get an even better gift now.
- R' Zevy Golombeck suggested:
- There was a lady who was over a hundred years old and when asked how she was אריכת to זוכה ימים, she said that when she was young a dish broke in her home. Her mother jumped up and with a שמחה exclaimed גם זו לטובה. Her mother explained that everything Hashem does is for our benefit. She used this formula through years in Siberia and continued to use it her whole life.

CASE OF THE WEEK:

Fourteen- year- old Rivky could tell something was up when her best friend, Baila, called and said that they needed to speak right away. When Baila came over, she told Rivky that her family was moving away, far away to a different part of the country. They sat and cried for a long time.

Help Rivky and Baila have ayin tova for their situation.

Please send your suggestions for the AYIN TOVA CASE to:
ayintovanewsletter@gmail.com
Or call [Israeli daytime hours only]:
USA: 831-244-6019
EY: 052-760-5409.

Suggestions will BE"H be printed in the issue for Parshas Beshalach

LET US IMAGINE

Let us imagine the following scene that is taking place in the next world:

"Avraham the son of Yitzchok, please step forth."

R' Avraham walks shakily into the center of the room. All his actions from his lifetime are going to be judged.

"Mitzvos, please come forth," calls out a voice.

All of a sudden, thousands of malachim come forth and they start piling all his mitzvos onto the scale:

Every Shabbos that he kept. Every minute he learned Torah. Every second he was wearing tzitzis. Every time he said, "Thank you." Every bracha he made...

Then R' Avraham sees them putting on the mitzvah of when he put a smile on Mr. Applehouse's face who was sick in a hospital in Los Angeles. That encouragement gave Mr. Applehouse the ability to recover! All of Mr. Applehouse's mitzvos, maasim tovim and tzedakos were put on the scale.

"What's going on?!?! I never visited a hospital in Los Angeles! I never even went to Los Angeles! I have no idea who this Mr. Applehouse is! Is this the Olam HaEmes???"

Next, he sees them piling up a mitzvah that the Berman family from Cincinnati started keeping Shabbos because of him. They eventually became frum because of him! All their mitzvos; their tzitzis, their shofar, their sukkos are piled up on his scale...



"What is this? I never went to Cincinnati!!! Never in my life did I ever work in Kiruv!"

Next he sees them putting on that he saved 90 boys from South Africa from going off the derech.

All their mitzvos and their children mitzvos, until the end of all the generations, are piled on the scale...

"What is happening? I was never ever in South Africa!!! I never did this! You have the wrong guy!!"

But the malachim just ignore him...

They put on the scale the 350,000,000,000 times he put smiles on the faces of people who were going through a

hard time...

"This makes no sense," says R' Avraham to himself.

He sees them piling up the 1,320,000 children who were mechazek, thousands of times each, in bitachon because of him.

The scale needs to be enlarged to hold all those mitzvos...

What is this?? I never met these children! Is this the world of truth??"

He see them piling up onto the scale billions of words of limud Hatorah. Words of Torah from Yidden all around the globe.

"Why?? I never met those people in my life! Why am I getting credit for this???"

The next mitzvah was that he restored peace in families in Belgium, Brazil and Australia.

"What are you talking about?" I was never in Belgium! I was never in Brazil! I was never in Australia! I was never a marriage counselor! I cannot believe this! Am I really in the Olam HaEmes?"

Then the malachim pile on the billions of times that people loved Hashem and their fellow Yid, because of him...

LET US IMAGINE

They piled on the thousands of times he stood up like a lion and defended Klal Yisrael. Besides for the unbelievable pleasure he gave Hashem, he brought so much chesed and rachamim to Klal Yisrael! Thousands of tragedies averted. Hundreds of sick people were cured...

"You have the wrong person," he felt like screaming...

The enormous mountain on the scale keeps on growing higher and higher... He can't even see the top...

Next they piled on all the times he made millions of Yidden perform mitzvos with

joy...

"You made millions of people realize and feel how wonderful Hashem is...."

You were mekadesh Hashem's name over the entire world like never before in history...."

And trillions of malachim run to put all those zechusim on the scale...

Next he sees malachim putting on the zechus that he has brought Mashiach...

R' Avraham, just stands there with his mouth wide open in disbelief shaking his head side to side. "No no, I never did this. It's not me..."

on his right and pleads with him, "Please I beg you tell me what's going on. I never did this. I was a simple guy who just sat and learned most of my life. I almost never left my hometown... This is all one huge mistake..."

"Don't you remember that you once signed up to the Spring Hill Times to give them \$10 every month?!?! Asked the malach.

"Yes, I remember... Ohhhhh, now everything makes sense! But I set it up so many years ago," protested R' Avraham.

"Makes no difference," said the malach.

"But I totally forgot about it! I didn't even feel it coming out of my account. It was only \$10 dollars."

"Makes no difference," said the malach, "you had your part in the Spring Hill Times."

"Wow! So all these trillions of mitzvos are really mine? I'm a trillionaire! I'm so lucky!"

A thought quickly passed through his mind, "Imagine if I would have signed up for \$25 a month... Imagine if..." But he quickly brushed it away...

And with a heart bursting of joy he continued on to his most stunning wonderful place.... THE END

GRAB THIS MITZVAH!



The Spring Hill Times is looking for volunteers to help distribute the newspaper to various locations (including nursing homes) around Lakewood.

**Please contact:
call/text Yoni Kohn 732-597-8546**

He then hears an exciting announcement, "Please take R' Avraham ben Yitzchok to the beautiful resting place he has made for himself."

The band starts playing the most beautiful joyful music he has ever heard... A stunning red carpet studded with diamonds shining as bright as the sun, is laid out in front of him... All the tzaddikim, the Avos, Moshe Rabbeinu, Dovid Hamelech... and the malachim come to escort him...

He turns to the malach



At our Urgent Care: Pain becomes Gain. Aches turn into Cupcakes. Worries become snow flurries. Annoy turns into Joy. Flu becomes a Peanut Chew. A Cold turns into Gold. Hurt becomes Comfort.

PATIENT:

The soda in the soda machine in my Yeshiva just went up in price. It costs now 75 cents! I wish it would be only 50 cents like it was until now. Please help!



Dr. Avi Giggle M.D.




IMPORTANT HEALTH TIPS TO REMEMBER

All pleasures in this world are just mashalim for what's waiting for you in the next world!

Stuff your pockets with as many mitzvos as you can...



I'm prescribing for you 5 medications:

1. Thank Hashem from the bottom of your heart that you have the privilege to be in a yeshiva and can learn His Torah uninterrupted!
2. Take the opportunity to realize that everything in this world is just temporary.
3. Think about all the delicious million-flavored-sodas (mashol) you will be getting in the next world!
4. Thank Hashem for all the years that they cost only 50 cents!
5. Don't stop thanking Hashem for giving you parents who give you money...

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

By Sruli Yelen - Lakewood, New Jersey



Rav Yisrael Belsky zatzal



The Ponovezeh Rav zatzal

The Spring Hill Times is carrying a load of \$7,500 of expenses a month!



Your \$5/\$10/15 a month will mean so much to us!

Call/text today: 845-327-5041
Email: thespringhilltimes@gmail.com

**SMART. SECURITY. PEACE OF MIND.
THE CHEF'S INSURANCE!**

Do you find baking stressful? Are you always worried whether the cookies will turn out alright? Are you always afraid that the cholent might burn? Always mixing up the salt and sugar?
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

- ✓ We reimburse all damaged food up to \$1,000,000.
- ✓ We replace your food item within 10 minutes! Or we give you the monetary value!
- ✓ We cover spills!
- ✓ Never have a disappointed hungry family!!!
- ✓ Bake and cook with confidence!



Don't enter the kitchen without it!

Don't forget to ask about our special 'Leil Shishi/Shabbos Cholent Theft Insurance Plan'.

Plans starting at *ONLY* \$239.99 a week*!

*Per bachur in family

Rates starting at *ONLY* \$399.99 a month!



WOULD OFFER THE SPRING HILL TIMES \$1,000,000 TO PUT IN AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THEM, WE WILL TELL THEM A RESOUNDING:

NO!!!!

IF APPLE WOULD OFFER THE SPRING HILL TIMES \$100,000,000 TO ADVERTISE THEM WE WOULD CLOSE OUR EARS AND TELL THEM:

NO!!!!

IF COCA COLA WOULD OFFER THE SPRING HILL TIMES \$1,000,000,000 TO ADVERTISE THEM WE WOULD CLOSE OUR EYES AND EARS AND SAY:

NO!!!!

BUT IF A HEILIGE YID WANTS TO DONATE \$5/\$10/\$15/\$20 A MONTH WE WILL SAY:

YES!!!!

The Spring Hill Times says 'Yes' to:

- ✓ Hashem
 - ✓ Shabbos Kodesh
- Will you also??**

THE SPRING HILL TIMES WEATHER STATION








Weather Reports Brought to you by:
Meteorologist Velvel Honig

It makes no difference what the temperatures will be or what conditions await us



the weather Hashem gives us is always beautiful and perfect!

Rockland County, New York

Monday 23 Teves	Tuesday 24 Teves	Wednesday 25 Teves	Thursday 26 Teves	Erev Shabbos 27 Teves	Shabbos 28 Teves	Sunday 29 Teves
Low 28°F High 45°F Sunny!	36°F 42°F Mostly Cloudy!!	36°F 47°F Partly Cloudy!!	38°F 40°F Rain! Yummm	31°F 45°F Mostly cloudy!	30°F 41°F Partly cloudy!	34°F 44°F P.M. Showers!
						
The weather will be perfect to think about Hashem while passing the Mezuzah!	It will be a wonderful day to thank Hashem for giving you lunch!	There will be perfect weather to have in mind while davening that you are standing by the Kodshei Kodshim!	Perfect day to realize how much Hashem gives you!	Perfect day for jumping up and down from excitement while brushing your hat for Shabbos!	Stunning weather! Perfect to celebrate Hashem's Shabbos with beautiful zemiros!	Beautiful weather! Will be a great day to be help another Yid!

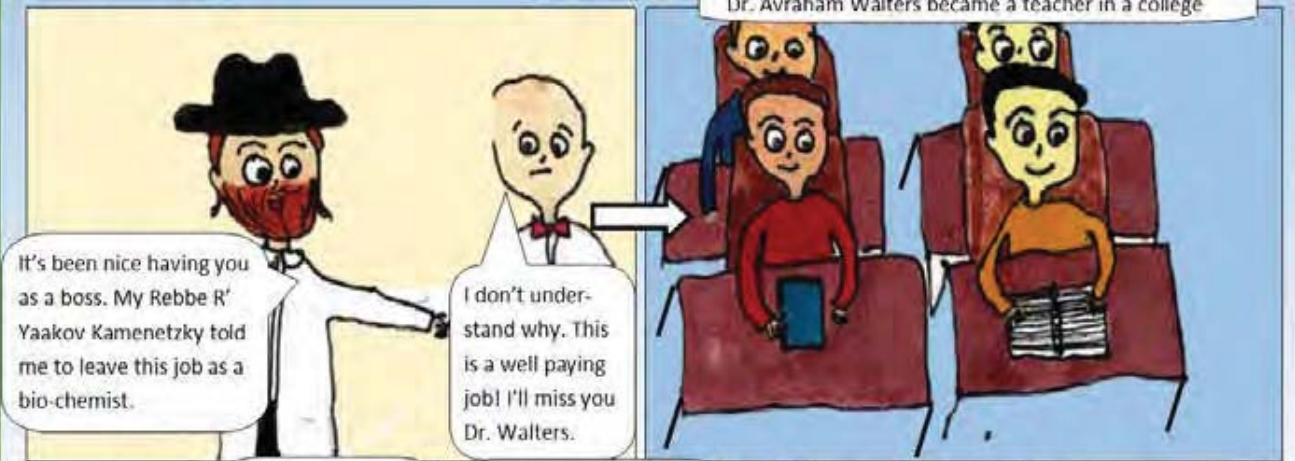
Please note: This is based upon the forecast at time of print. Actual results might vary...

Illustrated by: Nechama Liba Ross - Detroit, MI

The Neis Chase



Dr. Avraham Walters became a teacher in a college



It's been nice having you as a boss. My Rebbe R' Yaakov Kamenetzky told me to leave this job as a bio-chemist.

I don't understand why. This is a well paying job! I'll miss you Dr. Walters.



One day after work

Hello Avraham how was your day?

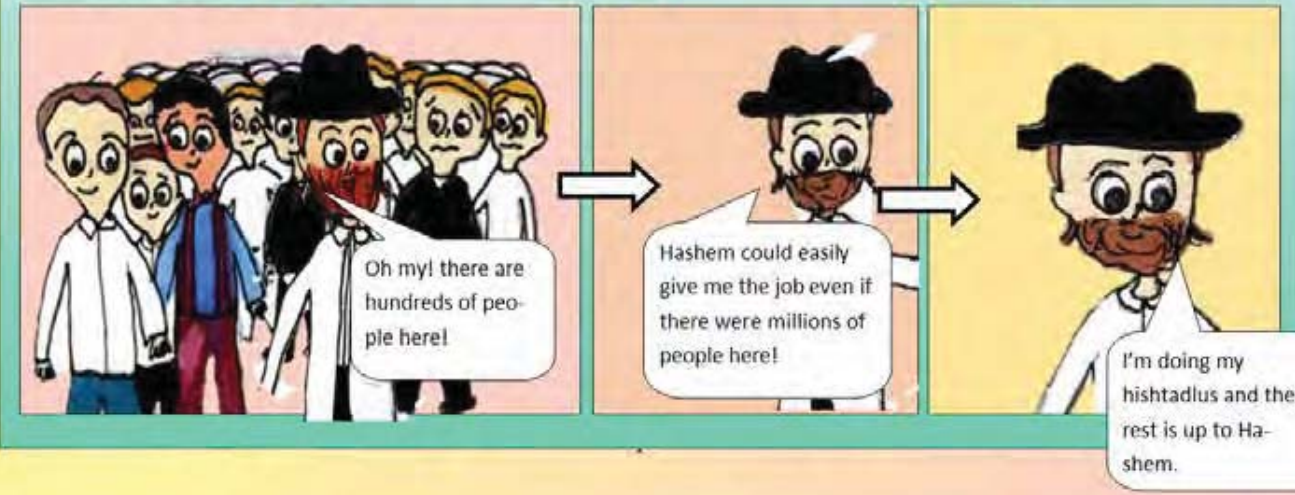
Avraham I saw an ad for a high paying government job and I left it on the table for you.

Baruch Hashem!!

I'll go and take the test to try to get the job.

The day of the test

Here I am at the government office.

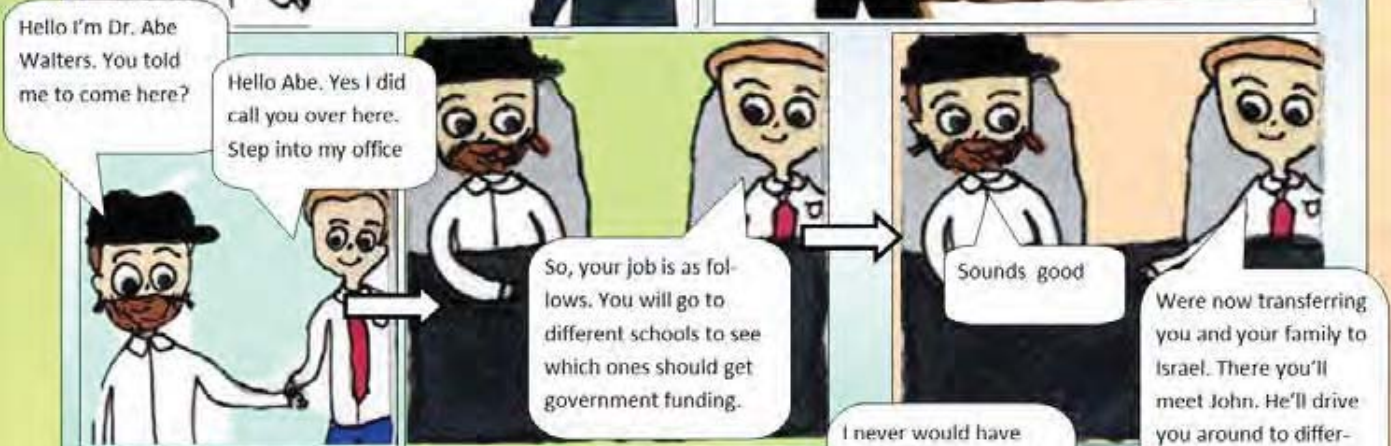


Oh my! there are hundreds of people here!

Hashem could easily give me the job even if there were millions of people here!

I'm doing my hishtadlus and the rest is up to Hashem.

The Neis Chase



To Be Continued BE"H

Just Look At What Hashem Made For You!

By Leiby Berger - Jackson, New Jersey

It's a stunning
world!



It's a wonderful
world!

HASHEM HAS HIS WAYS

By: Shoshana Raizel Kaufman

Chapter 3

Recap: David and Moishy find an ad in a newspaper that you call up a number, pay five dollars and go into a raffle to win a thousand dollars. There are a hundred winners. By mistake, Abba called the wrong number.

“Let's just have Emuna in Hashem that everything should come out all right. Maybe we will win a raffle”, said Dina. “Let's sing Hakol Yachol”, suggested Rikky. “Yes”, said Mordy excitedly. So the whole family started singing Hakol Yachol.

The next day they got a phone call. “Hello”, Chaya picked up. “Thank you to all the people that donated to tzedaka”, the man on the phone said. “We will now be picking out the winner. The winner is... the Goldring family!!!! If your last name is Goldring, please drive to 123 Phyllis Terrace in Lakewood, New Jersey to pick up your prize of \$100,000!”

“We won, we won”, Chaya ran all around the house telling everyone. “I told you Hashem has his ways” said Ima.

THE END!

NEW CONTEST!

ופתאום יבא!

IMAGINE...

It's a regular day of school/camp, at work, at the grocery, in the hospital c"v or any other setting, when suddenly the wonderful news comes in... Mashiach has come!

1. Draw a scene of people's reactions when they hear the news.

OR

2. Write a story describing people's reaction to the news.

3...2...1...DRAWING TIME!

CUT AND SEND IN ALONG WITH ENTRY:

NAME: _____

AGE _____ PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Sponsored

לעלוי נשמת הבחור יהודה אריה בן ר' זאב אליעזר נ"י

GUIDELINES:

- . Your drawing should be on a size 8½ x 11 paper. Portrait oriented.
- . The winners will be chosen by a raffle (3 winners!)
- . Deadline: Needs to be in by Wednesday Parshas Beshalach, the 10th of Shevat (February 1, '23)

Mail to: 178 Coles Way, Lakewood, NJ, 08701

Scan and Email: nachmanrothenberg@gmail.com

WIN EXCITING PRIZES!

Grand Prize!!!

Build and own a beautiful 3D
Baís Hamikdash Model!!!



Second and third place winners can choose
from one of these beautiful books!



YES! HASHEM LOVES YOU!

When R Yitzchak Tuvia Weiss Z”L was 10 years old, he was living in Europe during the time of the Holocaust. His life was saved by the Kinder-transport.

England had arranged that 10,000 children should be transported from Europe to England where they would be safe from the raging wars in Europe. This operation was exclusively for children and their families were not invited to come along.

One day, the king of England, who was very proud of his work, wanted to go and meet all the children who they had transported. This was a big affair and the teachers of all the children gave the kids very strict instructions about how the ceremony would take place.

They said that everyone would have to line up very neatly and straight. They would not be able to move out of line, they would not be able to talk or even move their hands or feet. They would have to be on their utmost best behavior and show proper respect to the king.

They made sure to stress that if anyone does go against the rules, they would be in very serious trouble.

The day arrived, and the children lined up in perfect order to wait for the arrival of the king. Finally, the sounds of trumpets were heard, and the king came fully armed with guards all around him.

The king started moving down the line of children meeting them and having great pleasure. The children did not budge and they quietly saluted the king as instructed.

Yitzchak Tuvia was waiting patiently on the

line, but when he saw the king, he jumped out of line and went over to the king. Of course, the principle and all the teachers started screaming at him to get back in line.

But the king said that he is the king and in charge and he would let this boy speak.

Young Yitzchak Tuvia said to the king, “Thank you king for saving my life, I am forever grateful! However, my family is still suffering daily in Europe with so much danger.

Please King, can you find my family and give them visas that they too can come join me in England?”

The king said that he would take care of them.

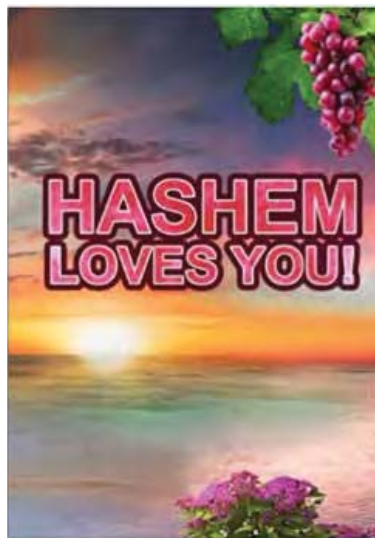
When they got back to school, the teachers severely reprimanded Yitzchak Tuvia for going out of line and showing disrespect to the king. But he got over the disgrace a little later.

Two weeks later, he was called into the principle’s office again.

The principle said that the king left a message that he followed up with his promise and he found his family! He issued his whole family visas, and he would be able to meet them in England!

This is a true story with a very powerful lesson. Hashem is our king, and He is with us every single second of the day. Hashem is with us all the time and we have the opportunity to daven to Him whenever we want!

We just need to jump out of line and ask! And no one can stop us! If we recognize that He loves us and takes care of us, that power can turn around anything!



Taken from the 'Hashem Loves You Hotline'

267-833-0596

Updated daily!

THE OLAM HABA BAKERY

We have the largest selection of the most delicious and healthy bakery items!

TODAY'S SPECIALS:

*Yummy Vanilla
Rugelach!*

*Price: Just
hold it in and
don't say that
lashon hara
that you so
much want to
say!*



Our Store's Terms:

We DO NOT accept money!

We DO accept Torah!

We DO accept Mitzvos!

We DO accept Ma'asim

Tovim!

We DO accept Tzedakah!

כשר למהדרין
נעשה מקמה ישן

*"We know that
there is a big ban-
quet hall waiting,
and we are going
to enjoy the meal
there forever and
ever!" (Rav Avig-
der Miller)*



5^{Weekly} Thank You's

By: R' Simcha Elefant - Yerushalayim
Ir Hakodesh

Thank You Hashem for Drying Racks! So that we have a neat place to hang clothing that can't go in the dryer.

Thank You Hashem for Sweaters! So that we can stay warm and not feel cold!

Thank You Hashem for Rabbeim/Rabbonim to guide us in the right way!

Thank You Hashem for Doorbells! It lets people in the house know you're there without having to bang down the door...

Thank You Hashem for Phonebooks! So that we have all the numbers and contacts in one organized place.

לזכות משה יהדה בן שושנה





THEN **&** NOW

Want to eat pickles?

1800's:

Need to go buy a cucumber and then put it in the jar with spices to pickle it... Then you needed to wait a few days... Then divide it up between your 7 children...



Today:

Just go to your local supermarket. And choose between half sour, sour, dill, pickled in brine or pickled in vinegar. Buy as much as you need! All ready to eat! You just need to open the can! Thank You Hashem! We love You Hashem!



All the delicious pleasures in this world cannot compare to even one second in Olam Haba! Just keep on grabbing more and more mitzvos...



**A BEAUTIFUL NEW HOTLINE
JUST OPENED UP!**

It's the
'Hashem Loves You Hotline'
Call today! **267-833-0596**

Are you a recipient of Hashem's goodness?
 Did you see, experience or hear special Hashgacha Pratis?
Did you or anyone in your Beis Medrash experience hashgacha pratis while learning?

TELL US ABOUT IT!



TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT IT!



Call/text: 845-327-5041

**To Leave message 24/6 please call:
 385-381-0977**

Email: the springhilltimes@gmail.com

לכות רפואה שלמה
 אסתר בת רחיוא וז"ל מלכה בת בתשנ"ב
 לעילוי נשמות
 שרה בת ר' ישראל מיכל בת מרדכי שמריהו

Daughters of the King

Call 718.907.6888
Listen, Learn and
Win great prizes!

Remember to leave a message with
 your name, address, and phone #
 after the tone.

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Yaakov Yehoshua Wicentowsky (Lakewood, New Jersey) upon the marriage of their son Mordechai to Tzippy Gradman, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Yisrael Aryeh Gradman (Monsey, New York)!

Special Mazel Tov to the grandparents Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid Wicentwosky (Monsey, New York)!

NIFLAOS HABOREI RIDDLES

By: T. Bauman

I am always very hungry.
There are few things I cannot eat.
In fact if I would not have food,
That would lead to my defeat.
I get wilder as I eat more,
Thirsty, I don't get.
In fact I really don't enjoy
Getting the slightest bit of wet.

©

I am necessary for some mitzvos
Just to name a few -
Shabbos and Chanukah
and Pesach prepping too.
If we were playing hot and cold,
You would be so hot.
Because you surely know my name -
It is true, is it not?

Find the answer somewhere on this page

BE THE ONE TO INSPIRE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YIDDEN! BECOME PART OF THIS WONDERFUL NEWSPAPER!

The Spring Hill Times is looking for volunteers to:

1. Write all about the wonderful benefits Hashem has put into food.
2. Send in pictures of gedolim from the past.
3. Send in pictures of Hashem's beautiful world.
4. Send in good news that's being reported (e.g. latest medical breakthrough. Latest discovery in science...)
5. Make illustrations for comics.
6. Type up messages.

Please call/text 845-327-5041
Email: thespringhilltimes@gmail.com

You can hear stories from the Spring Hill Times being read on the Cheishek HaTorah Hotline.

845-720-4040 Ext 6

Updated every Motzai Shabbos!

Riddle Corner #22

I am a rare type of a creature, with a very unique feature. That's why during Makas Arov I was found, still together with my foreign ground! Who am I?

Leave your answer on the Chaishek HaTorah Line 845-720-4040 x9 by Sunday 7PM EST to be entered into a raffle for a Sefer. (The answer and winner will be announced on x14 #22)

***WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF BUILDING, FOR
HASHEM, THE MOST MAGNIFICENT NEWSPA-
PER THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!***



The Spring Hill Times is run almost entirely by volunteers!

YET WE HAVE OVER \$7500 MONTHLY EXPENSES

THANKS TO HASHEM WE HAVE ABOUT \$1100 COMING IN MONTHLY BUT WE

STILL NEED SO MUCH MORE!

PLEASE HELP US WITH JUST \$5/\$10 A MONTH

1.

**Call/text our fundraiser
today:** Yoni Kohn 732-
597-8546

**Or Call/text the Spring
Hill Times Editor today:**

845-327-5041

email: thespringhill-
times@gmail.com

2.

Write out checks to:
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Write in Memo: Spring
Hill Times

Mail to: 122 7th St.
Lakewood, New Jersey

08701

3.

Zelle to:

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Write in memo: Spring
Hill Times

4.

**Or through our secure
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**Chocolate! Yum....
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The Time is Now!

By: R' Yosef Moshe Mizrachi

If you were given the choice to live in any generation since the creation of the world, which would you choose to live in? You might choose the Dor De'ah, who walked through Krias Yam Suf and heard Hashem speak at Har Sinai. Maybe the generation of Shlomo Hamelech when the first house of Hashem was built would be a good choice. While the Yidden who lived during those time periods surely reached high levels of serving Hashem, we in our generation have a certain advantage over everyone else. In Da'as Torah, Parshas Shelach, Rav Yerucham Levovitz zatzal explains that the value and power of one's mitzvos is in a direct proportion to the tumah and resistance he faces. Therefore, in our generation today, where there is much more tumah and struggles than ever before, our mitzvos have immense value. It pays to live in our generation!

Rav Yerucham writes that when the Arizal told Rav Chaim Vital the greatness of Rav Chaim's neshama, and that it had sparks of some of the greatest tzadikim, Rav Chaim did not understand. "How can that be that my neshama is so great? I cannot accomplish one drop of what those earlier tzadikim were able to do?" The Arizal responded, "The greatness of a person is measured in relation to his situation and current time. Years ago, they were much closer to Har Sinai, and there was more kedusha in the world. True, they did greater mitzvos than you do, but nowadays (in the early 1500s), there is more tumah in the world. It is harder to serve Hashem. One of your deeds today is equal to the many mitzvos that they did in their times!

Surely if you lived in their times, you would be great even on their standards!"

Whatever we manage to serve Hashem with in our generation has exponential worth. We should not ignore or look down on our smallest attempts and desires to serve Hashem, for each one is precious!

The following mashal illustrates this point that serving Hashem in today's times is so valuable in the face of such resistance and tumah. There was once a prince who was captured by the neighboring enemy. The prince was held in a cold dungeon and had little food to eat. One day, he heard someone whisper his name. Through the prison bars, the prince saw that the whisper was uttered by one of his father's guards. The guard sneaked into enemy lines to check up on the prince. From out of his sleeve, he removed an old loaf of bread and gave it to the grateful prince. Sometime later, the guard returned, this time smuggling in a small, worn-out pillow for the prince. Eventually, the prince was freed, and he returned to the palace. All the royal servants threw a welcome party and brought gifts for the prince. One brought him a large diamond, and another brought him a beautiful painting. After receiving the gifts, the prince pointed to his trusty guard and said, "He gave me the best gift of all! The diamond is nice, but I can get my own. I can also hire an artist to draw a picture for me. But that old loaf of bread and that small pillow were truly priceless in my time of need!"

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach!

L'iluy Nishmat Zecharia Ben Aharon, Sarah Bat Yaakov, Shmuel Ben Meir, and Sarah Rivka Bat Aharon Yehuda

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