

THE CLANTON PARK HERALD

A monthly newsletter, intended to provide timely and pertinent information to *shul* members

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From the Rav...

WHO WILL HELP PUT OUT THE FIRE?

Allow me to share one of the Chafetz Chaim's more famous parables with you and let us see if and how it's meaning still resonates.

A wealthy man visited a town in which he had a large financial interest. He was soon recognized and then invited into a resident's home for a hot cup of tea. Imagine his shock when upon lifting the drink to his lips, he noticed a layer of sand resting on the bottom of the glass

"What's this?" the visitor asked "Do you always drink your tea this way?" The embarrassed hosts quickly began explaining, "Yes, we realize how awful this is, but the water here is full of sand particles. What are we to do?" "How silly," replied the visitor, "buy some filters and sift out the sand; the water will then be crystal clear". The embarrassed townsfolk did just as they were told. They set up a filtering system and from that point in time and on, they were the beneficiaries of clear, filtered water.

A few weeks later, the wealthy man heard that a fire had consumed a large part of that very same town. When he rushed there to check on his holdings he was horrified to see that they, too, had gone up in smoke. He wondered aloud about how the fire could have spread so far, so wide, so fast. The townsfolk responded to his query by explaining that when the fire had started, they had indeed rushed to get water. But they soon realized that they did not have enough filters with which to purify all the necessary water. Given that the water could not be filtered, they had no choice but to stand back and watch as the conflagration consumed the city. "How ridiculous!" was the retort. "To put out a fire you use any water at hand!"

My friends, this story speaks about the conflagration confronting large swaths of our world. No, we are not all victims of this conflagration. The readers of this article, the residents of this community are living in the best of *galus* times. *Yeshivos*, Jewish learning and a sincere appreciation for *yiddishkeit* are all becoming increasingly *au courant* in both the qualitative and the quantitative senses. And yet, paradoxically, today's Jews are also experiencing

the worst of religious times. Ever-increasing numbers of Jews are sliding further and further into assimilation and into intermarriage, further and further away from any and all forms of Jewish identification. A few of us have become so strong while the vast majority of us have become so weak.

Our week's *parasha* reminds us that we, the fortunate, strong few have responsibilities to those weaker sections of *klal yisrael*; it tells us that the strong dare not abandon the weak. "*Ve'im yimat ha'bayis mi'hiyos me'seh, ve'lukach hu u'shecheino.*" "If your family cannot consume an offering in its entirety, then join together with your neighbour and bring the offering together" (Shemos 12, 4). Rabbi Shimshon Rafael Hirsch notes that this idea of intra-communal responsibility seemed to be an integral part of *yetzi'as mitzrayim*. An idea that finds further expression later on in *possuk* 6, when we are told that all of *klal yisrael* joins together to slaughter their *korban Pesach* in the very same place at the very same time.

Yes, it behooves us to realize that we are all connected, that we have a shared destiny, that someone else's assimilation is our tragedy. And it behooves us to realize that each one of us, can, in ways large and small, make a difference. We can share insights about the majesty of *frum* life with a secular co-worker. We can invite the irreligious family that lives next door to a Shabbos Meal. Yes, it is true that opening these conversational doors, inviting guests of this sort can and does create predicaments. These guests may very well ask us questions about Jewish law and rituals. And we might not have all the answers. We might not have spent years in yeshiva; our level of Jewish education might not be the very best. Our waters of knowledge might have a little sand mixed into them. They might need a little filtering. Nevertheless in times such as ours, everyone who has a little bit of Torah water is obligated to share it with others. Yes, there is a fire burning and to put out a fire you use any water at hand.

Mazel Tovs

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Michael and Naomi Levi, on the birth of their daughter, Chana Leora.

Drs. Heshy and Esther Sturm, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Josh.

Rabbi and Rebbetzin Yehoshua Weber, on the upcoming (*parashas* Yisro) bar mitzvah of their son, Chaim Aharon. The family would like to remind everyone that the entire *kahillah* is invited to attend.

Motti Kopstick, on his recent engagement to Tracey Smith, of Vancouver.

Aaron and Bertha Lang, on the engagement of their son, Yehuda Lang to Ester Binson of Montreal.

Gerry and Madeline Greenberg, on the engagement of their son, Immanuel, to Gemma Rosenhead of London, England. Mazel tov, as well, to the grandmother, Mozelle Kanner.

Leslie and Annette Rosenthal on the birth of their grandson, Tzvi, to their children, Amir and Ella Rosenthal.

Nathan and Vera Elzas, on the birth of their grandson, Yitzchak Aryeh, to their children, Akiva and Rochelle Shawel, in Miami. Mazel tov, as well, to the other grandparents, David and Goldie Shawel.

Pearl Hochman Isaac and George Isaac, on the birth of their grandson, Yehoshua Heschel, to their children, Hadassa and Shlomo Moskovits. Mazel tov, as well, to the great-grandmother, Sara Hochman.

David and Esther Taub, on the birth of their granddaughter, to their children, Eli and Shira Taub, in Israel. Mazel tov as well to the great-grandmother, Piri Newman.

Morris and Margaret Perl, on the engagement of their grandson, Josh Salmon, son of Dr. Peter and Ros Salmon to Yael Diamond, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Aubie Diamond. Mazel tov, as well, to the other grandparents: Allan and Esther Salmon, Miriam and David Diamond, and Mrs. Evelyn Rivers

Shul News and Rules



Get Ready for the Second Annual Clanton Park Purim Shpiel... join the cast and crew in producing another smash hit! Anyone interested in getting involved, please contact Ken Stollon at 416-638-6521.

Yasher Koach... to Sidney Woolf, for facilitating the building of the new security fence around the *shul*.

Youth News

The girls' programming last *Motzei Shabbos* was a huge success!! The younger girls in grades 1-4 decorated beautiful *b'samim* boxes. The completed projects were very creative and original. The girls in grades 5-8 made funky "*b'samim* stars" and used their creativity to create cool *Havdalah* candles.

Although we are saddened with the departure of Shabbos, I'm sure the parents will now look forward to using their new *Havdalah* kits! All of the girls enjoyed a *Melave Malka*, with pizza, music, games, laughter and even some dancing! Everyone had a great time. Special thanks to King Kosher Pizza for providing us with the pizza and to Shira Shields and Aviva Kurtz for helping the programs run smoothly.

Attention parents: More and more girls are coming out to each program. Make sure your daughters don't miss out on the fun! Please encourage them to attend.

Details for the February event will be coming out soon; stay tuned!!

The Shemos Quiz No. 1

by Dr. Leibe Warner

- 1) Name two people who lived 137 years.
- 2) Identify an Egyptian man that the Torah clearly states was buried in the land of Egypt.
- 3) Identify a *passuk* that has six consecutive words that each begin with the Hebrew letter *aleph*.
- 4) Where are "forty years" mentioned?
- 5) Identify a *passuk*, where the first word is the same as the last word of the previous *passuk*.
- 6) Identify a member of *B'nai Yisrael* who was alive at the time of the parting of *Yam Suf*, but did not witness the event.

7) The expression “lo tuchcal” (“you will not be able”) was said twice to Moshe. Identify both instances.

8) What is the largest number mentioned in *Chumash Shemos*?

9) The expression “ad bo hashemesh” (“until sunset”) appears twice. Identify each instance.

10) If a person steals a sheep and slaughter is, what is the penalty? BONUS: Name someone in *Nach* who quoted the above penalty.

Send your correct answers (after *Shabbos*) to bulletin@clantonpark.com, and your name will be entered into a draw for a gift certificate to **Negev Books**. Also, go to the *shul* website to see the answers to last bulletin's quiz.

Prayer of a Registered Nurse

Excerpt of a speech delivered by Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Weinrib, Executive Vice President of the Orthodox Union.
Submitted by Dr. Allan Seidenfeld

In a recent *shiur* you said that many people complain to you: “I said Tehillim for so and so who was ill, but it didn't help. The person died.” They wanted to know the point of their prayers.

Let me share the following ideas with you. When people pray for a sick person they are not just praying for one thing – life or death. They should include in their *tefilos* the following thoughts:

- 1) They should pray that the person does not suffer any pain.
 - 2) They should pray that the person is treated gently and with dignity by medical staff.
 - 3) They should pray that the person is free from severe anxiety as they go through their illness.
 - 4) They should pray that the veins on the person are easy to find for the I.V.'s.
 - 5) They should pray that the person can eat and not vomit back their nourishment.
 - 6) They should pray that the medications and treatments should be the correct ones.
 - 7) They should pray for the patient's emotional and physical strength to fight the illness.
 - 8) They should pray that the person is not abandoned in their time of *tzuros*.
 - 9) They should pray that the person's family members can hold up under the strain.
 - 10) They should pray that the correct decisions (medical) and ethical ones are made by the facility, physical therapist and Doctor.
- If you pray for all of the above things for a sick person, you will find that many of your *tefilos* will

be answered by Hashem. As you told us in *shiurim* about *tefilos*, our *tefilos* have to mature with age. We must see more of the whole picture of the experience of a critically ill person.

The World Zionist Congress

Submitted by Professor Leo Davids, on behalf of Mizrachi

In approximately five months, delegates from all over the Jewish world will congregate in Jerusalem for the 35th World Zionist Congress. Why is this event important for you here in Toronto and why is it important that you support the efforts of Mizrachi and the United Torah Coalition in maximizing the number of *halachically* observant delegates to attend this congress?

The 35th World Zionist Congress - The Parliament of the Jewish People
The coming Congress will choose the leadership of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency. These men and women will establish priorities and policies that will affect you and every Jew throughout the world. Over \$1 billion over four years for Jewish education, *Aliyah*, and Outreach is at stake. Many different points of view and interests, especially in the realm of the religious character of the State of Israel, will be represented. During this period of internal and external strife, those committed to Israel's *neshama*, to an Israel dedicated to the values we received at Sinai, must be especially concerned about the Congress. Representatives who will stand up for Torah must be elected.

You select the people sent to represent the voice of Canadian Jewry

Voting from around the world will decide on who gets to go to the Congress and who will not. The Canadian delegation will be chosen by a "one-man-one vote" election held during the spring of 2006. If you vote for representatives from the United Torah Coalition slate you will protect the 3,000 year old traditions of our people. If you don't vote, the values you hold dear will be jeopardized.

Programs such as those affiliated with NCSY, extensive outreach in deprived countries, *Shelichim* for Jewish day schools, the development of new communities across Israel, and Israel summer programs are partially made possible through the partnership and generous funding that will be the direct consequences of the outcome of this upcoming Canadian election for delegates to the World Zionist Congress.

Vote for the soul of Israel.

When you receive your ballot to vote, please do not put it aside. Follow the direction and submit your ballot for the United Torah coalition. If you

have any questions or need help with voting, call Mizrahi at 416-630-9266, or e-mail us at utc@rogers.com.

A Passuk You Can Count On

by Dr. Leibe Warner

It is well known that when we are counting men for a *minyán*, we do not count directly, but instead count the ten-word *passuk* from *Tehillim*: “Hoshea es amecha uvoruch es nachlasecha. Ureamim v’nasaim ad-haolam”.

I was asked recently why we quote this *passuk*, and not another *passuk* with ten words. An answer can be given that the word “nasaim,” besides meaning “carry” also means “to count” (for example, “*nasso es rosh*” Bamidbar 4:22). The three letters in order, in our *passuk*, following “nasaim” are *ayin*, *dalet* and *heh*, which spell the word “*edah*”.

In *parashas Shelach*, Hashem says: “Ad masai l’aida harsh hazos?”

Rashi says (based on Megillah 23b) that the *edah* refers to the then bad *meraglim*. Therefore, he states, an *edah* refers to ten.

Thus, the *passuk* in *Tehillim* is telling us in a coded form to count ten people. In contrast to the bad *meraglim* who perished, the *passuk* contains a prayer for a blessing from Hashem that our counting of *minyanim* should last forever.

Report from Eretz Yisrael (continued from last issue)

Submitted by Morris Sosnovitch

Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world. Twenty-four per cent of Israel’s workforce holds university degrees, ranking third in the industrial-ized world, after the United States and Holland, and twelve per cent hold advanced degrees.

Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin - 109 per 10,000 people --as well as one of the highest per capita rates of patents filed.

In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of startup companies in the world. In absolute terms, Israel has the largest number of startup companies than any other country in the world, except the U.S.

With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and startups, Israel has the highest concentration of hi-tech companies in the world -- apart from the Silicon Valley, U.S.A.

Israel has the highest average living standards in the Middle East. The per capita income in 2000 was over \$17,500, exceeding that of the UK.

Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship -- and the highest rate among women and among people over 55 -- in the world.

Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity. (Hundreds of thousands from the former Soviet Union.)

Israel has the world’s second highest per capita of new books. Israel has more museums per capita than any other country.

Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, made more remarkable because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert.

Israeli scientists developed the first fully computerized, no-radiation, diagnostic instrumentation for breast cancer.

An Israeli company developed a computerized system for ensuring proper administration of medications, thus removing human error from medical treatment. Every year in U.S. hospitals, 7,000 patients die from treatment mistakes.

Israel’s Givun Imaging developed the first ingestible video camera, so small it fits inside a pill. Used to view the small intestine from the inside, cancer and digestive disorders.

A new acne treatment developed in Israel, the Clear Light device, produces a high-intensity, ultraviolet-light-free, narrow-band blue light that causes acne bacteria to self-destruct -- all without damaging surrounding skin or tissue.

An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale, solar-powered and fully functional electricity generating plant, in southern California’s Mojave desert.

All the above while engaged in regular wars with an implacable enemy that seeks its destruction, and an economy continuously under strain by having to spend more per capita on its own protection than any other country on earth.