



### Message from our Menahel

In the middle of this week's parsha, פרשת וישב, יהודה takes leave of his brothers.

ויהי בעת ההיא וירד יהודה מאת אחיו..."

"It was at that time Yehuda went down from his brothers..."

(פרק ל"ח, א')

רש"י explains that יהודה's brothers took him down from his greatness, from his leadership role, when they saw how distressed יעקב was about יוסף's "death". They said to יהודה, "You said to sell him. Had you said to return him, we would have complied." רש"י's comments, which are based on a מדרש (מ"ד:ג'), are difficult to understand.

חייב מיתה יוסף's brothers had decided that Yosef was and wanted to kill him. יהודה decided to try and save יוסף's life by convincing the brothers to sell יוסף into slavery instead of killing him. The גמרא in (נו:) reveals that יהודה thought to himself that maybe he could at least achieve a partial rescue, הצלה פורתא, for יוסף by having him sold into slavery as opposed to allowing him to be killed. However, when the brothers saw their father's distress over the fate of יוסף, they blamed יהודה for not having advocated יוסף's safe return to יעקב.

Rav Avraham Pam, זצ"ל, questions what else יהודה could have possibly done. After all, the brothers felt halachically justified in killing יוסף. Would they have really listened if יהודה had offered to return יוסף to their father? Obviously, יהודה felt that had he demanded יוסף's complete freedom, his brothers would have rebuffed him. This is based on the premise of the גמרא in (ד:) ראש השנה, "If you grab too much, you end up without anything." Rav Pam answers that יהודה had apparently underestimated his ability to influence his brothers and this was an unfortunate decision.

The story of חנוכה is in direct contrast. The story of חנוכה teaches us a very powerful lesson about attempting to do the 'ה' no matter what the obstacles. The חשמונאים were a small family of כהנים, untrained in military methods, who inspired the rest of ישראל and brought about a tremendous נס that still inspires us today. May our lighting of the מנורה and our celebrating חנוכה bring us closer to 'ה' with the end result heralding the arrival of בימינו משיח צדקינו במהרה.

Have a good Shabbos,

*Benji Kersh*

### MAZEL TOV TO:

~Aaron Rosenkrantz on his Bar Mitzvah.

### Important:

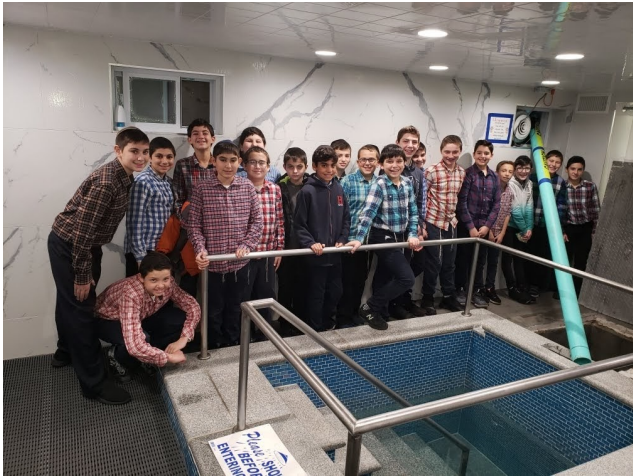
**Due to the Postponement of the Yeshiva's Annual Melave Malka, Yeshiva will begin on Sunday, December 2 at regular time 9:00 A.M.**



- Sunday Dec. 2  
Classes begin at 9:00 A.M.
- Monday, Dec. 3—  
Thursday, Dec. 6  
Chanukah  
4:30 Dismissal for ALL classes
- Friday, Dec. 7—  
Monday, Dec. 10  
Chanukah Vacation  
No Sessions
- Tuesday, Dec. 18  
עשרה בטבת  
12:30 PM Dismissal for ALL classes  
Regular Bus Service

## 7K Mikvah Trip

On the completion of the sugya dealing with mikvah in the Gemara Makkos, **Rabbi Kurz's** class went on a trip to learn about mikvaos first hand. They went to **Rabbi Savitsky's** shul, where the Rav gave them a guided tour of the mikvah in the basement. The trip was concluded with a visit to Benjy's Pizza where each student was treated to lunch.



Under Mrs. Adler's tutelage, Grade 1K learns all about the three states of matter and so did their Pre 1A audience.

## Siyumim Galore

Every class has goals and milestones that they strive to reach. Our first graders finished the first פרק of פרשת בראשית. The classes held a siyum with delicious food and joyous dancing. Similarly, our fourth graders finished פרשת תצוה. The talmidim all brought in goodies to share with the class. Mazel Tov to all the classes and to their Rebbeim.



After learning well over the past month and earning "Rebbe Dollars", Rabbi Bornstein's class took a special trip on Wednesday, November 28, to Toys4U to buy toys with the "Rebbe Dollars" that they earned.

## Reminder!

Chanukah, a time to express one's **הכרת הטוב**, is right around the corner! An email was sent out about the collection of "Chanukah Gelt" Please refer to the email for details .



**Ahron Rohr** won a \$25 gift card for participating in the Machzikei Torah Zichron Yitzchok Learning Program for extra learning learned over Shabbos.

## **Mrs. Leila Valenti**

Mrs. Valenti, who taught our students in YKQ since its inception and had taught in Yeshiva Ohr Yisroel before that, passed away on Wednesday, November 21. Following is Mrs. Grossman's obituary:

Leila Valenti was an extraordinary and heroic woman. We saw heroism in her battle against her disease, we saw it in her determination to come in to teach when she was in terrific pain, we saw it in the smiles she mustered when we visited her in the hospital and we saw it when she insisted on taking her class on a much-anticipated fishing trip last June despite her pain. If we had had any doubt of her courage, we were sure about it when we heard how one summer day she climbed aboard her son's jet ski in her successful effort to save the life of a stranger caught in the ocean undertow.

Many would say there was heroism in her facing 20-25 fourth grade boys who loved to jump out of their seats, who loved to call out answers, who didn't want to do homework or to write a paragraph or to listen during math class. But for Mrs. Valenti, those challenges were the spice of life and succeeding in overcoming those challenges were a labor of love. If ever I felt disappointed in someone's behavior, I would trot up to Mrs. Valenti's fourth grade classroom where structure and courtesy were paramount. It was a joy to watch Mrs. Valenti deliver a lesson in math, crisp and clear, or hear a discourse on politics: politically correct was not in Mrs. Valenti's vocabulary.

In these days where so many wheedle out of responsibility and accountability, Leila taught her boys what it means to take *achrayus* and those of our yeshiva's students who learned that lesson have held on to that lesson for life. I remember being absolutely blown away the first time I watched Mrs. Valenti discipline her students. Recess had begun, and 20 out of 25 boys had gone to the playground to play. There were still five boys with unfinished business. Mrs. Valenti folded her arms across her chest and quietly but firmly asked each, "And what did you do that was wrong?" The child confessed honestly at which point she said, "Will you try not to do that again?" "Yes," the student said, at which point Mrs. Valenti said, "OK, you can go." When they were all released, Mrs. Valenti turned to me and gave a big smile of amusement and enjoyment. "I just can't get angry at them." Students had learned that they must be honest and must take responsibility, lessons that were palatable because they were delivered with love.

Mrs. Valenti's love was so great that I recall a time she called me from her car crying because some boys were teasing a child who many would say had it coming to him. She said, "He might deserve it, but I feel so sorry for him." Along with discipline, she showered her boys with wonderful treats, buying water guns at the end of the year, ordering Chinese food to celebrate the end of The Cricket in Times Square, making all kinds of arts and crafts activities to illustrate the books the students read or the Presidents' Day bulletin board or the essays or fictional accounts they wrote.

Mrs. Valenti came from an unusually kind family. She told us the story of how her parents had taken in five children from a family of neighbors when the mother had to be institutionalized for depression. Mrs. Valenti's father would come home after a long day at work and take the youngest of the five children, the two-year old who had been standing at the window for hours waiting for him, and treat him to a ride in the car. No wonder Mrs. Valenti was who she was.

We are devastated by Leila's death and by the suffering she went through these past months. She taught for close to forty years as the General Studies' teacher for Rabbi Landau's 4L class. The respect that Rabbi Landau and Mrs. Valenti showed each other were a sterling example of how to treat one's fellow man, a lesson in how to be a Kiddush Hashem. There must be a good thousand people who are walking around who learned that lesson. May they never forget it.