



*Message from our Menahel*

In this week's parsha, פרשת בא, the תורה tells us about the mitzvah of קידוש החודש:

"...החדש הזה לכם ראש חדשים..."

"This month shall be for you the beginning of the months..."

(פרק י"ב, ב')

The first mitzvah given to the entire כלל ישראל as they are about to leave the galus of מצרים is קידוש החודש. כלל ישראל is given the task of setting the yearly cycle of ימים טובים and measuring time.

The ספורנו comments, "From now on the months will be yours ( כלל ישראל) to do with them as you wish." Rav Avraham Pam, זצ"ל, explains that there is a significance to כלל ישראל receiving the mitzvah of קידוש החודש as their first mitzvah as a nation of freed slaves. A slave's days and nights belong to his master; he has no time to call his own. Freedom represents the capacity to use time as one deems necessary without being dependent on the needs and requests of one's master.

Now, the new nation of בני ישראל that was about to receive the תורה had to be sure to invest their time wisely in pursuit of מצות. Rav Pam explains, "If a person had a large sum of money to invest, he would consider the risks and gains of several investments and ultimately choose the best investment with the least amount of risk and greatest potential for profit. So, too, a Torah Jew must calculate his time and make the most effective use of this precious gift ה' has given us.

In popular culture they like to say, "Time is money," but we, כלל ישראל, say, "Time is life." Once time is gone, we can never get it back. When Rav Yaakov Kaminetsky's oldest son, Rav Binyomin Kaminetsky, זצ"ל, became a בר מצוה, Rav Yaakov, זצ"ל, gave him a gift wrapped box as a present. Rav Yaakov told his son that the gift inside the box is very unique and you must use it wisely. If it is squandered, it can never be regained or made up. When Rav Binyomin opened the box, it contained a watch. Rav Yaakov had given his son, Rav Binyomin, the gift of time.

This message is crucial for our children. We must demonstrate through our actions and make sure our precious children understand the true value of time and always use it to its fullest potential. May we continue to transmit this beautiful message to our families until the arrival of משיח צדקינו במהרה בימינו אמן.

A Guten Shabbos,

Rabbi Binyamin Kessler

**MAZEL TOV TO:**

~Rabbi and Mrs. Tzvi Klitnick (1st Grade Rebbe) on the engagement of their son.

~Mr. and Mrs. Mordechai Ehrenkranz on the birth of a son.

Important Reminder:

The 22nd Annual Yeshiva Dinner will take place on **פרשת Motzei Shabbos בשלה**, February 8th, at 8:30 pm in the Great Neck Synagogue. To make a reservation, you may do so by calling the yeshiva office at (718) 969-1000.



**Sunday Feb. 9**

Professional Development  
**12:30 P.M. Dismissal for all Classes**

**Sunday Feb. 16**

Rebbe- Parent Conferences  
**12:30 P.M. Dismissal for all Classes**  
Conferences begin at 12:45 P.M.

**Monday Feb. 17**

Legal Holiday  
**2:00 P.M. Dismissal for all Classes**

**No Bus Service**

**Tuesday Feb. 18**

Parent- Teacher Conferences  
**4:30 P.M. Dismissal for all Classes**  
Conferences begin at 6:30 P.M.  
**Regular Bus Service**

### Hakaras Hatov

Wednesday, January 29, **ג' שבט**, was the yahrtzeit of one of our founding benefactors, **משה דוד בן ר' חיים צבי ז"ל**, Mr. David Kupperman. In honor of his yahrtzeit, the Yeshiva ordered a special treat for the grade 6-7 talmidim who made berachos **לזכר ונשמתו**. At lunch, **Rabbi Kessler** spoke about Mr. Kupperman: who he was, his love for Torah and his role in founding our Yeshiva. Mr. Kupperman's presence is still very much felt in the yeshiva on a daily basis. Mrs. Kupperman is still involved in the Yeshiva, and we wish her a **רפואה שלימה** and good health **עד מאה ועשרים שנה**.

### שנים מקרא Celebration

As **ספר בראשית** came to a close, the first part of our weekly **שנים מקרא** program did as well. An outstanding number of talmidim completed every **פרשה** thus far. Their hard work and dedication was rewarded in addition to their weekly treats. The third through fifth grade talmidim enjoyed pizza, french fries and soda and the talmidim in sixth through eighth grades enjoyed a delicious lunch from Carlos and Gabby's. The Yeshiva is very proud of all our talmidim who participated in our **שנים מקרא** program on **ספר בראשית**. Keep on participating as we look forward to the **ספר שמות** on **סיון**.

### Say ברכות Out Loud!

As the month of Shevat began, so did the Yeshiva's **ברכות** Program. Our **תלמידים** in grades PreIA–5 are encouraged and reminded to make all their **ברכות** on food out loud. This is especially stressed at lunch time. We ask parents to participate in this program by reminding their son(s) to make their **ברכות** aloud at home too. The **תלמידים** have shown their eagerness in this program and **ברכות** are heard throughout the day, loudly and clearly.



Mrs. Kemp, our art teacher, is teaching our fifth graders drawing. What a treat to watch the boys discover talents they had no idea they possessed!

### Mitzrayim Magic Show

Both PreIA and 2nd grade classes were treated to a "Mitzrayim Magic Show". The classes gathered in the Shul for this great event. The program opened up with the famous Kinnim dance. This was followed with **Rabbi Bornstein**, **Rabbi Fogel**, and **Rabbi Jungreis** wowing the talmidim with amazing magic tricks that would put **פרעה's** advisors to shame. The **תלמידים** had an enjoyable time.



### Rabbi Dovid Chait Speaks

On Monday, **ראש חודש שבט**, January 27, grades 7 and 8 were privileged to hear words of chizuk from **Rabbi Dovid Chait Shlit"א**, the Rosh Hayeshiva of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim in Eretz Yisroel. The Rosh Hayeshiva spoke about the importance of directing our energy in to growing in our **עבודת ה'** and not allowing the outside influences hold to us back from reaching that goal. He then gave all the boys a bracha that they should have much hatzlacha in their learning.

