

# NEWSLETTER

**SHABBOS TIMES**

Candle Lighting: 8:20pm  
Shabbos Ends: 9:27pm

**HAYSTACK ON FIRE**

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**AROUND CHEDER**

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

As Term 4 in the Cheder winds to a close, we see spectacular evidence of why the Cheder exists. Children relentlessly learning Tanya b'al peh in every nook and cranny of the Cheder building and at all times of the school day. Shluchim energising our cherished talmidim with programs, mitzas and farbrengens. Grand luncheons honouring Yud Daled and Yud Tes Kislev with characteristic Cheder chayus. And, the icing on the cake: the printing of a special Cheder Tanya accompanied by inspirational presentations and videos and unrestrained dancing to the rhythm of Rabbi Knapp's electric guitar. As one of our most senior teachers put it in connection with the Yud Tes Kislev seudah, "the most pleasing [aspect] was seeing how every single boy, poshut, enjoyed the Chassidishe atmosphere and niggunim. This is what chinuh al taharas ha kodesh is all about. A credit to all their mechanchim." Indeed. There are other schools which possess facilities and resources which we might justifiably envy. But what our school possesses, in full measure, is a

soul guided by the teachings of the Rebbe which is fanned to a point of glorious expression, by our highly skilled and devoted teachers and staff members. It is to them we pay tribute; it is to them we express our profound and heartfelt appreciation for the investment of their highest faculties into the development of our children as authentic chassidim. Not just dedicated to the Rebbe himself, but more significantly, to what the Rebbe passionately wants – the transformation of a world shrouded in darkness and pain to the paradise which exists behind the ugly façade. So we take this opportunity to wish all of our parents and talmidim, a freilichen Chanukah and a healthy and productive summer. And to the teachers and other staff members, blessings for a restorative break in service of activating in the new school year one of Chanukah's most important themes – increasing in davening, increasing in learning and increasing in acts of goodness and kindness. Good Shabbos and Moshiach NOW! **Eliezer**

# LIKE A HAYSTACK ON FIRE

By: Rabbi Ovadia Antian

In the second possuk of this week's Parsha, the Torah tells us: "אלה תולדות יעקב - יוסף" - "These are the progeny of Yaakov - Yoisef". The introductory description referencing Yoisef raises wonder; "תולדות" means progeny, seemingly including all of Yaakov's children. Why then does the possuk only mention Yoisef, instead of listing all the descendants of

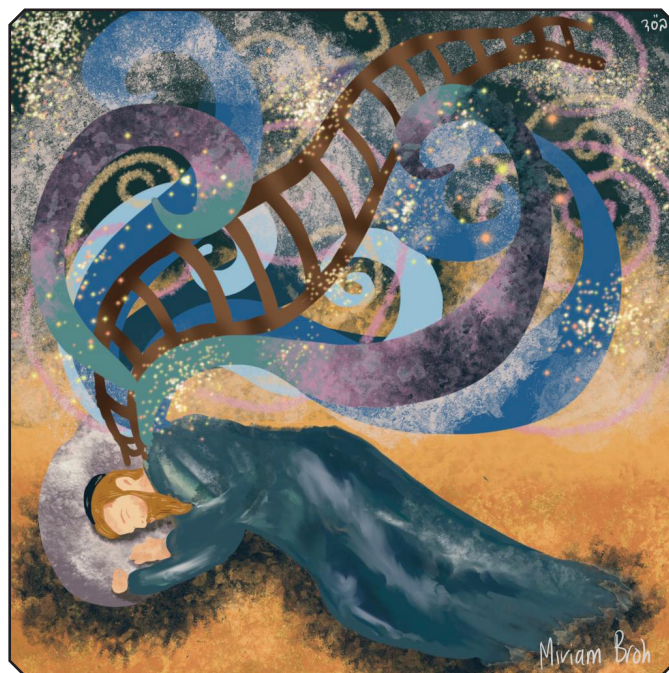
Yaakov? A Rashi Yoshon commenting on this verse explains: The conquering (transforming) of Esav is the very purpose for Yaakov's existence, but when Yaakov saw all the Alufim (Heads of Houses) of Esav enumerated at the end of Parshas Vayishlach, he wondered: who is capable of conquering all of these? This task seems

insurmountable! The answer to this doubt of Yaakov is brought right at the beginning of our parsha - that יוסף, - the salvation will come from Yoisef. Rashi connects this with the Haftorah of last week's parsha, where the Novi Ovadia prophesises, "והי בית יעקב אש ובית יוסף להבה ובית עשו לקש" - that the house of Yaakov will be fire, and the house of Yoisef a flame; and the house of Esav will be like straw. The Novi continues to explain that this fire and flame of Yaakov and Yoisef will consume the straw house of Esav. Another interesting aspect of the story of Yaakov that emphasises this same point, came in the middle of last week's parsha, where we saw how

Yaakov departed from Lavan to confront Esav only after Yoisef was born. Why was Yoisef's birth an important factor in confronting Esav? The reason for this according to Chassidus, is that Beis Yaakov being a fire is a symbol of the most basic expression of our נפש אלוקית, which is compared to a fire. But think of it as the pilot light on your stove top. In

order to really cook something, the pilot light is not enough - you need to turn that pilot light into a full flame. We all have that "בית יעקב" "pilot light" inside - this is the most basic level of our Emunah. It's our innate faith and connection, and it exists within each and every one of us. But if we want to transform our נפש

קדושה into קדושה, we need to turn that pilot light into a full flame - think בית יוסף. We need to study Torah and perform Mitzvos with immense passion. Then and only then will we be able to consume the house of Esav - our animal soul and the materialism of this world, and turn it all into קדושה.



**Rabbi Ovadia Antian** is a Shliach of the Rebbe, working as the director of Mateh Moshiach and the Eden Jewish Library. Rabbi Antian is the proud father of one of our students in Bnos Chana.





## The Rebbe On Chinuch

Summer “vacation” should not be “empty” time (Continued)

Even though this is not the school year, when time is filled by being in a yeshiva or school and learning through sefarim, there are other ways for the time to be filled with true content. In many aspects it is possible to have even a greater impact on the child. For example: [A child learns] when externally it seems that the child is being told a story, but the content of the story is a lesson, and even more so - one of chassidische content. Another way [to make the extra time meaningful] is to show a child that his playing can involve toys that emphasise the importance of tzedaka, or helping another, etc. For

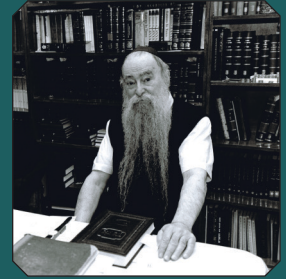
example, one can play a game of searching for “treasure”, which emphasises how each Yid need to search for the “treasure” hidden within the world and within each Yid. The Baal Shem Tov teaches on the verse, “כי תהיו אתם, ארץ הפך” that Hashem tells each and every person of Yisroel, and to the entire nation of Yisroel, that each of them is a whole world that has precious stones and pearls spiritually-the most precious thing that there could be, true preciousness and importance, spiritually and literally. Each Yid is given a holy shlichus to reveal this “treasure” within himself and within all Jews around him.

# What I learned From Reb Arel

## The Yeshuvnik

Reb Arel would often speak about an individual living in the times of the Rebbe Rashab who was known as the Yeshuvnik. Literally, this would suggest that he had originally been raised, or was now living, on a yishuv (a settlement of some description). Ironically, the Yeshuvnik had never in his entire life been near a yishuv. His appellation came not from environmental considerations but rather as an expression of his disposition. Specifically, the Yeshuvnik would never make a decision about anything in life, regardless of how trivial or serious, without experiencing yeshivas ha daas (a settled mind). You could ask the Yeshuvnik whether he was willing to be the tenth man in a minyan. Or you could enquire of him whether he was planning to travel to the Rebbe for Tishrei, and his answer would always be the same: 'I need to settle my mind before I can respond'. This singular characteristic was an expression of one of the most important teachings to

be found in Tanya. Namely, that the mind rules over the heart. Decision making has to be the product of mindful reflection rather than emotional impetuosity. Or put a different way, the nefesh Elohis which is to be found in the mind has a natural superiority over the nefesh ha behemis which is lodged in a person's heart. The key to being a yeshuvnik is the choice to pause before decision making. Jews are good at this. We spend our entire life pausing – before we move something on Shabbos (is it muktseh), before we buy something at a supermarket (is it Kosher), before we eat food (what brocha should we make). What made the Yeshuvnik such an impressive ambassador of this practice, is that he applied this approach to all forms of decision making, recognising that Gd's will can be fulfilled in everything that we do: but only if we stop and settle our mind first.



## Farbrengen in honour of Yud Tes Kislev in St Kilda Shul





# SPECIAL TRIP TO GAN CHAYOS



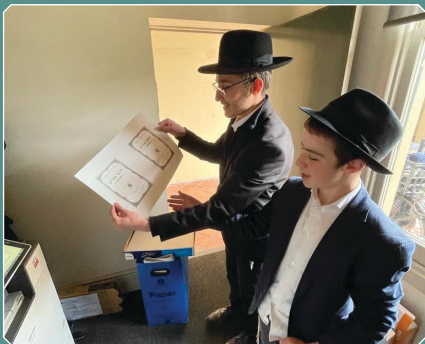


We would like to wish a big Mazal Tov to the Year 8 Bochorim who learned and made a Siyum on Maseches Makkos this week, and a big Yasher Koach to their teacher R' Hendel for everything (including the catering of the event). Indeed, a grand Seuda was organized to commemorate the occasion in which parents and special guests attended to

share in the Simcha. Additionally, 7 Bochorim also completed a Perek of Gemoroh on their own time, this is a great start for their career as Yeshiva Bochorim: Nerya Aharon, Berel Stern, Aizik Shachter, Yossi Raskin, Mentchy Tayar, Levi Engel and Eli Kornhauser, congratulations on your big achievements thus far.







THE PRINTING OF A SPECIAL CHEDER TANYA. In honor of 19/20 Kislev, a historic event took place at Cheder where we printed a Tanya for the first time and that the actual printing was initiated by Hatomim Levi Raskin.

The event was marked by a Dvar malchus, talks by special guests, Haschola of Tanya, dancing accompanied by live music and refreshments with Lechayims. May the Zchus of fulfilling the Rebbe's teachings bring the Geula BBAKY"R.

# HAKHEL CHAI'NIK

By The Shluchim

**T**oo-tooo-tooo-tooo-tooo-toooooo! Wow, there's so much to speak about this week, and being that I'm a hakhel trumpet, I'm getting really excited to tell you all about all the hakhels that happened this week, and I'm so happy and excited that I can't even hold myself in from just bl- too-too-too-too-too-huff-puff-huff-wait-TOO-OO-OOO! – and tooting all over the place all about it, oh and did I mention that I'm really excited? So turns out this week we were really packing it in, I guess we wanted to leave off on a good note (F#m is my personal favourite), because I really didn't have a second to stop and think and take a breath so I could blow better! Whew! Blowing a trumpet is way harder than it looks. Trust me. But anyway, I'm getting carried away again. That always happens to me. Remind me next time so I don't do it. So let's get back to the-hey, wait a second, what's going on?! Oh boy, I'm literally actually getting carried away, like someone just picked me up and is taking me with him-Yikes! Where are we going? I hope it's somewhere cool! I shut my eyes tight, and when I finally opened them we were by ... guess what? You got it - it was a Hakhel! Phew, at least I felt at home. So turns out it was

a really shturemdike farbrengen for Yud Tes Kislev in the Reichers' house. So that was fun, we sang niggunim, got all inspired and stuff, and then we got up and danced and had a whole lotta fun. Oh, and did I mention that it was fun? So I thought that was pretty hakhel-y, but then the next day totally bowled me over. We came to this nice big Shule (I know, they spell it with an extra E. Not sure why. They must be Oholei-Torah-Chai'niks or something. Like the shluchim) with funny pictures on the walls, but that doesn't matter, right? And then there were so many more people than last night! I totally felt like hiding in the corner, but then it hit me – this is also a Hakhel, and an even bigger one! WOOHOO! I felt like jumping up and down and inside out and – TOOOOOOOOOT-TOOT-TOOT-TOO-TOO-TOO-TOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOT! – sorry about that. So yeah that was Hakhel #2, and there was good food as well so I always go for that. And then the next day back in Cheder even more Hakhels - we Hakheled about printing a tanya, and that was a whole big celebration too, we sang Perek Lamed Beis – I was tooting along! – and we danced a whole lot too (we seem to be doing a lot of that recently) and turns out – I didn't even

know this – but we actually printed a Tanya in Cheder on the very same day the Tanya was ever printed for the very first time in 5557 – on Chof Kislev!! Cool beans mate! Then we played a Hakhel scavenger hunt – I had to run all over the place, I'm still not even sure what I was looking for! I think Mr Paul told me to say Shema, and then Mr Withers told me the Alter Rebbe is alive, wow it's amazing how Chassidish the Cheder is, all our different teachers know about these things! And then just as I was getting the hang of it, someone else finished already. Oh well, I had fun anyway! Then that evening we had our final Hakhel for the year (at least by the time I'm writing this), Hakhel #6 (6? I dunno I lost count I'm so ti-zzzzz...) and a bunch of Yr 8s said stories from Gemara, and that was very inspiring and everyone was like “wow these kids are totally awesome, look at them shtureming away and all that, I think they really look like real yeshiva Bochorim! Woohoo!” I was really—  
Editor's note: We had to cut Hakhel trumpet's message short this week, because he was totally losing track of time and was just going nonstop, but we wish everyone a Gezunten Zummer and we'll see you all soon in the Beis Hamikdash!”

## Geviner Vinkl

Hakhel fact - Did you know? The king was the one to read the Torah during the Hakhel gathering, now the Rebbe tells us to make the Hakhel gathering to read the Torah - every Yid is a kink!

### WEEKLY FRAGEH

Rashi says that Hashem took the entire Eretz Yisroel and folded it up under Yaakov Avinu. If so, where was Yitzchak then?!