

THOUGHTS AND NEWS FROM OHR SHLOMO

A Short and Insightful Newsletter From Ohr Shlomo Yeshiva High School

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi and Mrs. Berman**, and **Nachman** (11th), on the marriage of their son **Yaakov**! May they be zoche to build a Bayis Ne'eman B'Yisrael.

Mazel Tov the **Mr. and Mrs. Zavurov**, and to **Meir** (11th), on the birth of grandson! תזכו להכניסו בבריתו של אברהם אבינו בעתו ובזמנו!

Mazel Tov to **Shalom Reid** (12th) and **Oren Sharon** (12th) on completing the entire Maseches Nazir! A tremendous Mazel Tov to their parents! May you merit finishing many more Masechtos!

כוס תנחומין

The entire Ohr Shlomo family mourns the passing of **Rabbi Yitzchok Rosenberg ז"ל**, the father of **Mrs. Devora Rovt**, and grandfather of **Dovi** ('22). Rabbi Rosenberg was a tremendous trailblazer in the field of Kiruv as National Director of NCSY, and continued teaching and learning Torah until the day of his final illness. His memory lives on in his family, students, and Klal Yisrael.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ירושלים.



OHR SHLOMO
Yeshiva High School

A Thought on Parshas Shoftim

ולא־תִקַּח שֹׁחַד
You may not take a bribe (16:19)

Among the many laws discussed in this week's Parsha is the law restricting a judge from the impropriety of taking a bribe. The stain of bribery or of any attempt to influence the judicial system is recognized by all ethical and moral societies as causing its immediate and certain downfall. In fact the Torah takes the sin a step further and notes, "כִּי הַשֹּׁחַד יְעוֹרֵר עֵינֵי חֲכָמִים וְיִסְלֹף דְּבָרֵי צַדִּיקִים, For bribery blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." In short, it entirely extinguishes the light of purity and holiness from a self-respecting Torah scholar.

Rabbeinu Yosef Chaim in **Ben Ish Chai** takes an alternative approach to our passuk in the form of a hinted lesson contained in the word שֹׁחַד.

In the first Perek of **Pirkei Avos** we find two seemingly conflicting statements. In one Mishna we learn, "על...הוא היה אומר, על", שלשה דברים העולם עומד, על התורה ועל העבודה ועל גמילות חסדים, **Shimon HaTzaddik**...would always say that the world stands upon 3 things: Torah, Divine Service, and Bestowing Kindnesses." Later we learn something similar, "על שלשה דברים, על גמליאל אומר, על שלשה דברים, רבן שמעון בן גמליאל אומר, על שלשה דברים, **R. Shimon b. Gamliel** said that the world stands upon 3 things: Judgement, Truth, and Peace." How could both be true? Does the world stand upon the 3 things listed by Shimon HaTzaddik or the 3 listed by R. Shimon b. Gamliel? Additionally, in Shimon HaTzaddik's list we find the term גמילות חסדים, Bestowing Kindnesses. Why is it stated in the plural - kindnesses, and not simply 'kindness'?

The **Ben Ish Chai** explains that the term חסדים actually refers to 2 different forms of kindness: חסד of the body and חסד of one's money. Thus in the first list there are actually 4 things that the world

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Brooklyn - 7:00

Lakewood - 7:01

Monsey - 7:01

Woodmere - 6:59

Ramat Beit Shemesh - 6:19

Yerushalayim - 6:20

Ohr Shlomo Media

To listen to Rabbi Milstein's latest podcast, [click here](#)

To listen to Rabbi Zakheim's latest podcast, [click here](#)

[Click here for a beautiful video about a fresh start to a new school year.](#)

Sponsor a Day of Learning

Dedicate a day of learning for a Yaartzzeit, Birthday, or any other occasion by clicking [here](#)

Dedications are available [here](#)

To sponsor the newsletter, please [contact us](#) at newsletter.osy@gmail.com

Ohr Shlomo Yeshiva High School is a 501(c)3 Tax Deductible Organization

stands upon, Torah, Divine Service, and the 2 forms of kindness. The later list of R. Shimon b. Gamliel only contains 3 things, Judgement, Truth, and Peace.

Why the discrepancy? In truth, there is the world and **the** world. In the first Mishna we are referring the Heavenly Realm, שמים. This world requires 4 legs, like a solid table, signifying its import and value. The material world, ארץ, that we live in can be sustained by 3 legs, stable but temporary.

When we wear Tefillin on our heads, the Tefillin have the letter ש on each side, one with 3 sides and one - uniquely - with 4 sides. **The 3-sided ש hints to the 3-legged material world. The 4-sided ש hints to the 4-legged spiritual world.**

We must remember - especially at this precious moment of the Month of Elul - to commit ourselves to our double service, of the 3 and the 4. This is the hint of our passuk, וְלֹא־תִקַּח שָׁחַד, Do not take שָׁחַד. What is שָׁחַד? It is ש' חָד, one ש, only one side of the Tefillin. One who focuses only on ש' חָד, is at great risk of being blind to our true service, כִּי הַשָּׁחַד יַעֲוֶה עֵינֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים וְיִסְלַף דְּבָרֵי צְדִיקִים.

The Year begins!

With joy, excitement, warmth, and wonder, this week brought the first steps of Ohr Shlomo '24-'25. Our students walked in with a lightness in their step, with huge smiles - surprising to see on a first day of school.

Orientation began with some words from **Rabbi Zakheim** about צדק צדק תרדף, looking towards a future when we can say, "Yes! I was great on September 4th, 2024. But now, one year later, I am even better." Our Menahel, **Rabbi Milstein** spoke about starting out on the right foot, recognizing the Brachos and joy every day brings. Our General Studies Principal, **Rabbi Dr. Engelberg** illustrated the surprising benefits of Academic Excellence, pushing our students to always work hard and achieve greatness. With that our students ran to class, and the year began!

With eyes filled with joy and tears, we wish a צאתכם שלום to our students who have gone to Eretz Yisroel. Some going for the first time, and others returning for their 2nd, 3rd, and even 4th years. We miss you all and are SO PROUD OF YOU! Baruch Hashem, our Alumni in the United States have been visiting us at Yeshiva, and continue to be a constant source of joy and NACHAS.

As always we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters around the world and specifically in Eretz Yisrael. Wishing everyone a beautiful Shabbos! Good Shabbos!

This week at Ohr Shlomo...



...and a bit more...

