

Vayeitzei 5778 - candle lighting 4:20 p.m.

This week's Highlights is sponsored by:

- George & Hermine Blau

# Hillel Highlights



**OUR CHINESE AUCTION SITE IS NOW LIVE!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT EAST DENVER ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUE (EDOS)

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

FRENCH PROVENCAL BUFFET DINNER AT 6:30 PM

LIVE AUCTION DRAWING AT 7:30 PM

DOOR PRIZES, AMAZING PRIZE PACKAGES

WATCH FOR THE CHINESE AUCTION BROCHURE IN THE MAIL OR

GO TO [WWW.HILLELAUCTION.COM](http://WWW.HILLELAUCTION.COM)

## Views from Hillel Academy

Rosh Chodesh Kislev brings with it the excitement of Chanukah. In preparation, the 7th grade girls performed Maoz Tzur, going through each stanza explaining the meaning and which galus it is referring to. They then had an arts and craft activity making paper dreidels which they filled with "candy wicks" and gave to another girl. The girls included a nice note as well as clues to their identity. Each girl had to "search" for her partner. This fun activity was planned by Yael Abrams, Esti Berkowitz and Chava Leah Fleisher.

The Rosh Chodesh treats, ice cream and toppings, were sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Liberow in honor of their daughters, Mushky and Maryasha, who recently celebrated birthdays.



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A special mazal tov to the 3rd grade bochurim on completing Parshas Chayai Sarah. They celebrated this past Sunday with dancing, d'vrai Torah, and a little nosh, too. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Asaf Shraiber for sponsoring the siyum in memory of Mr. Shraiber's father Yehuda Wolf Ben Yosef.



This 3rd grade boys' class is truly shiteiging. The other morning while waiting for class to begin, they took out their mishnayos and had a chazara session - all on their own initiative!



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Science can be so much fun. The 6th graders are learning about different forces; gravitational, magnetic and are currently studying electrical force. The science experiment they performed involved a homopolar motor which is a direct current electric motor with two magnetic poles. It was also really cool to watch paper clips "twirl" around the battery.



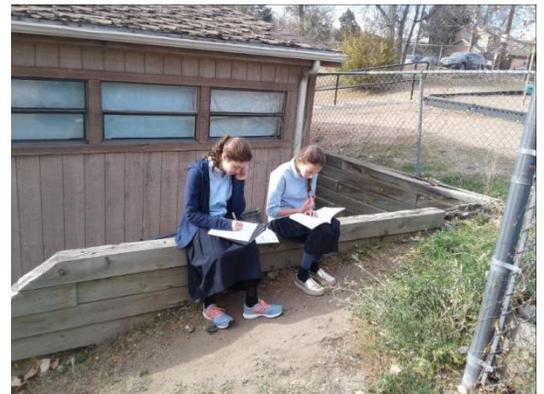
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This year the middle school girls Middos program is concentrating on the concept of Ayin Tov - seeing the good in people and situations. They created a bulletin board showing responses to scenarios in which Ayin Tova could be applied.



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Mrs. Pillette took advantage of one of our Indian Summer days and took her Language Arts class outside to do their work while enjoying the weather.



Kindergarten learned the nekuda patach this week. We became doctors- open up and say aahh for patach!



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## Girls and Ladies Swim at Lakewood Links!

Lakewood Links has recently been renovated and we are excited to offer a Girls and Ladies Swim night on Sunday, November 26th, from 4:45-5:45 pm. The cost is \$5/child or \$15 family max. There will only be 4 swim dates this year so make sure to take advantage of this special opportunity.

As per Lakewood Links safety policy, 1 parent for every 3 children under the age of 6 must be IN THE WATER with the children! You can also designate an older sister (12 years or older) to WATCH the little ones IN the pool.

Lakewood Links - 1295 S. Reed St, Lakewood, CO



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## Spotlight on our Teachers

### Mrs. Rochel Krausz – Preschool

Our goal in Preschool is to provide a welcoming, safe and developmentally appropriate environment for every child. We want the students to develop a positive attitude towards school and be happy and look forward to coming each day. We encourage a love and excitement for Yiddeshkeit, learning, and Mitzvos, through a positive and enjoyable atmosphere. Students work on developing their social skills, and increase their ability to interact with each other positively and age appropriately. We strive to build self esteem and confidence in the children and help them become more independent and responsible.

We begin each morning with a Responsive Classroom morning meeting. The students greet each other with a smile, share experiences with their peers and enjoy team building activities. We continue on to Tzedakah, Mitzvah notes, Davening and “Music and Movement”. Following Circle Time we go on to our favorite time of the day; Group Time! The class is divided into three groups for a lesson, activity, project or game. Each group rotates from one teacher to the next to do all three groups each day. After recess the students discover, learn and play at their own pace within the classroom routine through hands-on, interest-based, multi-sensory activity centers. Students choose which center they would like to go to by using our magnetic center board. The centers include Creative Arts, Dramatic Play, Library, Building Blocks, Science, Music, independent activities addressing pre-reading, pre-writing, fine motor, and visual motor skills such as beading, puzzles, mazes, matching, sorting, lacing, manipulative materials, play dough etc. Student may move their magnet to allow them to switch from center to center until the clean up song goes on. As soon as the music begins they do a great job taking responsibility to put everything back where it belongs, to keep the classroom as nice as it was when they began. We end each day with a closing circle, a chance to review the highlights of the day, say good bye to our friends, and discuss what to look forward to tomorrow!



Preschool pictures continued



**TRAFFIC ALERT** - Denver's roads are getting more and more congested. There were 2 accidents this week involving Hillel parents and staff at Dakota and Holly. After picking up your children, rather than waiting to cross or make a left turn onto Holly from Dakota, a safer alternative is to go up Hudson to Alameda.

***Counselor's Corner***

*PARENTING*

Rules without Relationship  
= Rebellion

Relationship without Rules =  
Chaos

Relationship + Rules =  
Respect + Responsibility

## D'var Torah - Vayeitzei

As Yaakov slept on Har HaMoriah and dreamed his prophetic “Ladder” dream, HaShem folded up all of Eretz Yisrael beneath him and bequeathed the land to him and his progeny. HaShem then promised him: *“And your children shall be as the dust of the earth; and you shall burst out westward and eastward and northward and southward...”* (Breishis28:14). This blessing may be understood both numerically and in terms of influence; HaShem is promising Yaakov that his offspring, when worthy, will be both prolific and have far-ranging influence in the world.

The blessing of *“And your children shall be as the dust of the earth”*, is typically understood as metaphor for fruitfulness. Just as dust cannot be counted, the children of Yaakov will also be numerous beyond numbers. However, comparing us to dust requires an explanation. Surely, if it wished to, the Torah could have used a more flattering image to illustrate its point. What is the significance of dust?

One insight can be gleaned from the nature of dust. Stomping on dust causes it to rise and choke the one who stomps on it. It is the same with us – those who tread and stomp upon us bring doom upon themselves and will invariably pay the price. Haman in ancient Persia and Hitler in modern day Germany are noteworthy examples of this phenomenon.

According to many commentators, dust represents humbleness and an unassuming nature. The nature of our destiny is that the blessings HaShem conferred on Yaakov will take effect specifically at the times that we are at our lowest and most downtrodden. Take our experience in Mitzrayim for an example – the passuk in *Shemos 1:12* clearly states: *“But as much as they (Mitzrayim) would afflict them, so did they multiply and so did they gain strength...”* While one would expect the opposite to be true, our nation functions by a different set of rules.

Why is this so? The *Kli Yakar* explains that it is precisely when we humble ourselves as dust and realize that HaShem is our one and only help that we justify meriting His great blessings. Sometimes, HaShem has to enlist outside forces to remind us that we are but dust and that HaShem is our only hope. When we internalize this truth, we gain His blessings. Not only this, but the transformation from dust to success can happen extremely rapidly. This is indicated in the abrupt transition from *“your children shall be as the dust of the earth”* to *“and you shall burst out westward and eastward and northward and southward.”* HaShem’s salvation occurs in the “twinkling of an eye”.

The converse is also true. When we are successful, we are more inclined to attribute our success to our own prowess and factors other than HaShem. When we act arrogantly and assume credit for our successes, we nudge HaShem out of the equation and leave Him no choice but to reassert Himself. When our nation forgets its “dust” role and begins to assume airs of smugness and entitlement, we run the risk of expulsions and holocaust. This may be the reason why the Golden Age of Jewish Spain was followed by the Inquisition and the Emancipation of Western European Jewry was followed by a Holocaust that emanated from the most seemingly liberal and progressive of those countries.

The conclusion to draw from this discussion seems obvious: We, who daven daily for HaShem’s salvation, must bear in mind that we also hold the key to that salvation. When we behave modestly and humbly and attribute our success to HaShem, we will merit more of it. When, *chas v’shalom*, we begin to feel confident in our success and entitled to it, HaShem will of necessity need to humble us so that we will remember Him. May we merit the spiritual fortitude to understand this construct and to apply its lessons to our daily lives.

**Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum**

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## Hillel Updates

- **Friday Dismissal** is at 1:15 pm for K-8th grades from now until Friday, March 9th. Preschool is always dismissed at 1 pm.
- **Sunday, November 26th** - Ladies and Girls Swim at Lakewood Links from 4:45 to 5:45 pm.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 29 - A Day of Learning** in memory of Mr. Joe Weissbrot, zt"l, sponsored by his children, Nahum and Susie Swinkin.
- **Thank you to Rabbi Aron Yehuda and Esti Schwab** for having sponsored the Boys Breakfast this past week in honor of Rabbi Goldbaum and all their sons' Rabbeim.
- **Mazel tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Tzvi and Bracha Steinberg** upon the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Chaya Nomi to Menachem Shlomo Shain. All are invited to an open house Sheva Brachos to take place, Motzoai Shabbos Parshas VaYishlach, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. David and Sivia Fine and Mr. and Mrs. Allan and Helena Striker at the home of the Fines, 1664 Wolfe St. from 7:45– 10:00 pm.
- **If you would like to receive Avos U'Banim** flyers, updates, info etc, please send an email to [info@merkaztorah.org](mailto:info@merkaztorah.org), to assure they have the correct email address.
- **Are you talented with selling items online?** The school has some Judaic art that we would like to sell. Please contact the office if you want to take on this project. This will qualify for Give or Get hours.

## Community Events

**Shabbos Vayeitzei – Yeshiva Toras Chaim Shabbos of Chizuk Across Denver**, is coming to the South East and West Sides of Denver on November 25th, Shabbos Parshas Vayeitzei. Join the Leil Shabbos Oneg and be inspired by Divrei Torah together with YTC Roshei Yeshiva and Rebbeim. For more information, please call 303.629.8200 or email [yticinfo@ytc.edu](mailto:yticinfo@ytc.edu)

**Tuesday, November 28 - Yeshiva Toras Chaim's 51st Tribute Dinner** at BMH-BJ Hall, 560 Monaco Pkwy, Denver. YTC will be paying tribute to its Legacy Building Partners, securing Torah learning and education in Denver for the coming half-century. Honorees are Zvi & Shoshana Gelt, The MB Glassman Foundation, Larry & Cindy Halpern, Michael & Barbara Katch, Burt & Lee Levy, Ronald & Sandy Schiff, Ari Yeruchem (Andy) Siegel obm, and Morey & Joni Troy. The keynote speaker will be Howard Tzvi Friedman of Baltimore, MD. Cocktails at 5:30 pm, Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm and Program at 7:00 pm followed by dessert.

To place an ad or dinner reservation, or for more information, please visit [www.ytcdenver.org](http://www.ytcdenver.org), email [yticinfo@ytc.edu](mailto:yticinfo@ytc.edu) or call 303-629-8200.

The deadline to submit ads for the Tribute Journal is Tuesday, November 21st.

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# Staff Appreciation Holiday Gift

Each year before Chanukah, the Hillel PTA asks our families for a gift donation of \$10 per child (not \$10/family) which will be distributed to all staff and faculty members in appreciation for all that they do for our students.

Please send in your check to the Hillel Office by Monday, December 4th.

Mark the envelope "PTA Holiday Gift" and don't forget to include your name. If you are sending it in with a child please email the office ([reception@haod.org](mailto:reception@haod.org)) or call 303-333-1511, informing us that your child has the envelope to ensure delivery.

If you have any questions please call Estie Rotstein at 848-299-9994.