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# YIOP TODAY

JAN. 2024

טבת- שבט תשפ"ד



Rabbi Shaya Katz

How well do we truly know our past? We grow up hearing stories about our parents' generation, or our grandparents' generation, and we know what they went through in the 30's and 40's, but there's a limit to our understanding.

As the *Torah* transitions from the stories of our forefathers to the Jewish people's enslavement in Egypt, we are told of one, presumably significant shift: "And a new king arose in Egypt, who did not know *Yosef*" (1:8). Are we meant to believe that his entire ordeal, of the boy who was sold and rose to power, imprisoned and then re-hired, tasked with saving Egypt from its destroyed economy, who acted as second in command for decades of his life, was simply forgotten? Surely, it does not literally mean he knew nothing about him.

Rather, *Chazal* (*Sotah* 11) suggest that this was not a lapse in memory. It was instead, according to *Rav* and *Shmuel*, one of two possible interpretations: First, one may claim that this king "knew" *Yosef*, but not personally. This was a "new king", who had yet to serve in any political capacity. Of course he knew *of Yosef*, but he didn't have a personal, meaningful understanding of what *Yosef* meant to Egypt, because he didn't directly experience his leadership. On the other hand, one could interpret that this was the same old *Paroh* from before, but he acted *as if Yosef* did not mean anything to him, that he decreed new enactments which were detrimental to the Jewish people, ignoring the system that *Yosef* had set up.

There is, however, a big difference between these two interpretations. The first, which explains that this "new king" did not personally *know Yosef*, cannot possibly begin to know him now that he's passed. In some ways, that ignorance is beyond his control. Sure, he can read about *Yosef* in the history books, ask the older

(continued on next page)



generation what he was like, but he will never truly know who Yosef was. The only way would be to meet *Yosef* personally. The second interpretation, that the king *acted as if he did not know Yosef*, places the responsibility solely on him, for turning a blind eye to the truth, for deliberately shifting his values in opposition to what he once knew and benefitted from. Even if he knew *Yosef* personally, he still betrayed what he knew.

The events of October 7 have brought these two phenomena to the fore. For many of us, hearing, seeing, following the atrocities against our brothers and sisters, friends and cousins, has changed our experience of being Jewish in the modern world. We grew up hearing the stories, but not seeing them. We grew up knowing what happened but not experiencing it. For the first time in most modern Jews' lives, we caught a glimpse of those stories, first-hand. Through the response to the attacks around the world, we, too, are beginning to experience what it means to live in a world where people unjustly view us as a problem (to put it mildly). We say "never again" no only in reference to Germany in the 40's, but also to Israel, today. Whereas we "did not know", now we have an idea.

At the same time, unfortunately, many people have chosen to "not know *Yosef*" in the other way. They do know the past hardships, persecutions, and bullying we've had to endure for millennia. They understand what antisemitism is and what it leads to, but they nonetheless choose to ignore it, in favor of other ideals. This not only applies to the scary newfound hatred of Jewish, it could apply to our own apathy as well. We know our history but assume it won't happen. We grow comfortable with our routines and neglect what the Jewish people are going through. The present moment is a rallying cry to understand and care about the consequences of this conflict. Stay engaged, stay aware, no matter how long the conflict lasts.

As we transition from the end of *Bereishit*, the triumph of our forefathers, to *Sefer Shemot*, the enslavement of the Jewish people, let us not forget these two approaches. We can either appreciate our present by what we know has happened in the past, or we can feign ignorance, despite knowing better. The Jewish people will keep fighting, and we will hopefully remain vigilant in our efforts- of *chesed*, *Torah*, & *tefilah*. We can never allow this to become our new normal, lest the normal become even worse.

Rabbi Katz



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Rabbi Netanel Wiederblank will be joining us for Shabbos, January 5-6 iyH.** R' Wiederblank is a *Maggid Shiur* at Yeshiva University in *Gemara & Halacha*, and teaches Jewish Philosophy to the *Semicha* students at RIETS. His recent 2-volume book "Illuminating Jewish Thought" is a 1,400-page overview of many far-reaching philosophical debates of Judaism-Friday night *Oneg*, *Shabbos* morning *drasha*, *Shabbos* afternoon *shiur*, and a Q & A during Seudah Shlisheet. More details to follow.  
**Save the Date: Annual New Member Melava Malka will take place February 10th.** Join us as we welcome our new members and play trivia. Make reservations on our website, YIOP.org or by calling 248-967-3655.

## TRIBUTES IN DECEMBER

**To:** Wayne & Debbie Lusky, *Mazel Tov* on the birth of their grandson  
**From:** Stuart & Janelle Teger  
**To:** The Speiser family in memory of Stella Schindler  
**From:** Shiffy Jubas  
**To:** Pearl Schon in memory of her brother, Jerome Ferleger  
**From:** The family of David & Lottie Tanzman  
**To:** Avy Schreiber in memory of his mother, Rita Schreiber  
**From:** The family of David & Lottie Tanzman, Gail Berkove, Ephraim & Rose Zinberg, Marty & Sarah Kornblum  
**To:** Rabbi Shaya & Rikki Katz, *Mazel Tov* on all your success  
**From:** David & Judy Karp & family  
**To:** Moshe & Cathy Plawecki, *Mazel Tov* on the birth of their son  
**From:** Milt Neuman

## EDUCATION FUND TRIBUTES

**To:** Moshe & Cathy Plawecki, *Mazel Tov* on the birth of their son  
**From:** Leonard & Shoshana Pollack

For tributes,  
call the office,  
(248) 967-3655

## TZEDAKAH CORNER

YIOP gave to these charities in December including:



30 TEP  
Yad Yisroel \$250

## OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES

**To Avy Schreiber** on the loss of his mother, Rita Schreiber.  
**To Pearl Schon** on the loss of her brother, Jerome Ferleger.



## MAZEL TOV

To **Jeremy & Hilary DuBois** on the birth of their son.  
 To **Mordechai & Shayna Goldner** on the birth of their son.  
 To **Gil & Chani Stebbins** on the engagement of their son Jordan to Yaffa Shekhter of Hollywood, FL.  
 To **Moshe & Cathy Plawecki** on the birth of their son.  
 To **Leah & Sara Ungar** on winning the Iron Blech competition.  
 To **Abby Wolfson** for the most popular vote at the Iron Blech.  
 To **Jessica Naiman** on the best decoration at the Iron Blech.  
 To **Leonard & Shoshana Pollack** on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their grandson, Tzvi Pollack, son of Elie & Esty Pollack of Cleveland.  
 To **Shiffy Jubas** on the engagement of her daughter, Sandra to David Fischman of Toronto.  
 To **Jack & Chanah Waterstone** on the birth of their grandson to Yitzi & Chagat Elbinger of *Beit Shemesh*.

## TODAH RABBAH

To **Our Kiddush Sponsors**: Yisroel & Lily Mondroe, Leonard & Shoshana Pollack, Yossi & Jessica Naiman  
 To **Our Early Minyan Kiddush Sponsors**: Marc & Cheryl Jerusalem, Steven & Pia Katz, the Eizen Family, Rick & Bruryia Schwarcz  
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 To **Our Beit Midrash Sponsors**: Stuart & Janelle Teger  
 To **Our Daf Yomi Sponsors**: Aaron & Melissa Schon, Henry & Rose Brystowski  
 To **Our Tikkun Sponsors**: Sol & Chavie Zeiler  
 To **Kerry Silver** for fixing our locks.  
 To **Jerry Begel** for donating a *Sefer* in loving memory of his father-in-law, Milton Stearn  
 To **Our Breakfast Sponsors**: Milt Neuman, David & Adina Barth  
 To **Our Iron Blech Volunteers**: Adina & David Barth, Mayer & Sarita Fox, Milt Neuman, Mikey & Shayna Stebbins. *Yasher Koach* to our chairperson, **Gil Stebbins**.  
 To **Daniel & Shoshana Kohn** for donating a *Sefer* in memory of Bert & Rita Schreiber.

## YIOP HA'BONIM MEMBERS

Adina & David Barth	Dr. Steven Lorch
Melissa & William Berlin	Milt Neuman
Sharon & Steven Cohen	Sherrill Platt
Miriam Falcon מרים פאלק	Shoshana & Dr. Leonard Pollack
Samantha & David Faust	Dr. Mintzi Schramm
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Rebecca & Gil Feldman	Shelley & Ruvi Singal
Sarita & Mayer Fox	Chani & Gil Stebbins
Ronald Herman	Sandra & Dr. Sylvan Stern
Shiffy Jubas	Malke & Gary Torgow
Margery & Dr. Howard Klausner	Leah & Dr. David Ungar
Shoshana & Daniel Kohn	

-Becoming a *Ha'Bonim* member demonstrates your commitment to further enhance the fiscal and spiritual viability of YIOP. Please contact the *Shul* office at (248) 967-3655 with questions.

The YIOP website now accepts online payments. Whether making a donation or paying for an event, you can make the payment at [yiop.org/donate](http://yiop.org/donate)

In this section, I hope to highlight some reading material people may find insightful or meaningful. Each month will feature a *sefer* I use/have used and a book I'm reading/have read.

### On the Rabbi's...

#### ...Shtender

#### The Torah Shleimah, by R' Menachem Mendel Kasher

is a comprehensive, encyclopedic collection of different *Midrashim* on any given *pasuk*. In the footnotes, he beautifully traces the textual inconsistencies between different versions of the same idea, often offering ways to reconcile or explain them in a way that elucidates their true meaning.

#### ...Nightstand

#### Adam Grant's new book "Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things",

analyzes the ways in which we hold ourselves back, and how we can unlock our better selves through changing our perspectives. The thrust of the book discusses how we mistakenly see success as the result of natural talent or circumstance, but in reality it has much more to do with the character one develops.

#### ...Podcast App

#### 1840 with Yossi Klein Halevi

This recent discussion between R' Dovid Bashevkin and Halevi beautifully -and scarily- frames the Israel conflict in a broader sense than simply "they hit us, let's hit them". Halevi grapples with bigger questions we don't like asking: What is the purpose of the State of Israel, and how should we achieve that purpose?



# Young Israel of Oak Park

## January 2024

שבת-שבת תשפ"ד

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> כ טבת Early Minyan 6:40AM Shacharit 8AM Holiday Shiur 9AM Minchah 4:50PM Beit Midrash 7PM & 8PM	<b>2</b> כא טבת Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Parshah Shiur 1:30PM Minchah 4:50PM	<b>3</b> כב טבת Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 4:50PM Halachah Shiur 7PM	<b>4</b> כג טבת Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 4:50PM Peshischa Shiur 5:25PM	<b>5</b> כד טבת Scholar-in-Residence Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Candle lighting 4:55PM Minchah 5PM	<b>6</b> כה טבת-שמות Scholar-in-Residence Early Minyan 8:15AM Shacharit 9AM Daf Yomi 3:30PM Shiur 4:05PM Minchah 4:50PM Shabbat Ends 6:02PM
<b>7</b> כו טבת Early Minyan 6:40AM I Believe 7:15AM Shacharit 8AM Daf Yomi 8:45AM Minchah 4:55PM	<b>8</b> כז טבת Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 4:55PM Beit Midrash 7PM & 8PM	<b>9</b> כח טבת Early Minyan 6:15PM Shacharit 7AM Parshah Shiur 1:30PM Minchah 4:55PM	<b>10</b> כט טבת Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 4:55PM Halachah Shiur 7PM	<b>11</b> א שבט-ראש חדש Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 4:55PM Peshischa Shiur 5:30PM	<b>12</b> ב שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Candle lighting 5:03PM Minchah 5:05PM	<b>13</b> ג שבט-וארא Early Minyan 8:15AM Shacharit 9AM Daf Yomi 3:40PM Shiur 4:15PM Minchah 5PM Shabbat Ends 6:09PM
<b>14</b> ד שבט Early Minyan 6:40AM I Believe 7:15AM Shacharit 8AM Daf Yomi 8:45AM Minchah 5:05PM	<b>15</b> ה שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:05PM Beit Midrash 7PM & 8PM	<b>16</b> ו שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Parshah Shiur 1:30PM Minchah 5:05PM	<b>17</b> ז שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:05PM Halacha Shiur 7PM	<b>18</b> ח שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:05PM Peshischa Shiur 5:40PM	<b>19</b> ט שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Candle lighting 5:11PM Minchah 5:15PM	<b>20</b> י שבט-בא Early Minyan 8:15AM Shacharit 9AM Daf Yomi 3:45PM Shiur 4:20PM Minchah 5:05PM Shabbat Ends 6:16PM
<b>21</b> יא שבט Early Minyan 6:40AM I Believe 7:15AM Shacharit 8AM Daf Yomi 8:45AM Minchah 5:15PM	<b>22</b> יב שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:15PM Beit Midrash 7PM & 8PM	<b>23</b> יג שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Parshah Shiur 1:30PM Minchah 5:15PM	<b>24</b> יד שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:15PM Halacha Shiur 7PM	<b>25</b> טו שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:15PM Peshischa Shiur 5:50PM	<b>26</b> טז שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Candle lighting 5:21PM Minchah 5:25PM	<b>27</b> יז שבט בשלח-שבת שירה Early Minyan 8:15AM Shacharit 9AM Daf Yomi 3:55PM Shiur 4:30PM Minchah 5:15PM Shabbat Ends 6:25PM
<b>28</b> יח שבט Early Minyan 6:40AM I Believe 7:15AM Shacharit 8AM Daf Yomi 8:45AM Minchah 5:20PM	<b>29</b> יט שבט Early Minyan 6:10AM Shacharit 8AM Holiday Shiur 9AM Minchah 5:20PM Beit Midrash 7PM & 8PM	<b>30</b> כ שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Parshah Shiur 1:30PM Minchah 5:20PM	<b>31</b> כא שבט Early Minyan 6:15AM Shacharit 7AM Minchah 5:20PM Halacha Shiur 7PM			