

# ASHREINews



## Do Mitzvot with Enthusiasm

by Rabbi Dani Staum

During my years in Yeshiva Shaarei Torah a mentally unstable fellow named Moshe would circulate at times. He even sat in on a high-level gemara shiur and would offer his (nonsensical) comments. He was a pleasant person so no one was too bothered by him.

On one occasion a group of high school boys were making a video about earthquakes, part of a project for their earth science class. They interviewed Moshe, asking him, "Where is the best place to be in case of an earthquake?" He thought for a second and replied, "You really want to know? Yerushalayim!"

What about during a power outage? What's the last place you'd like to be if the electricity goes out? I would venture to think a moving elevator. Getting stuck in a cramped dark confined room with no idea of what's happening outside can undoubtedly be panic provoking.

A few months ago, I was in a yeshiva when that was exactly what happened. One afternoon a powerful fast-moving storm crossed our area and knocked out the electricity. At first no one realized that someone was stuck in the elevator. But shortly after, two burly, well-equipped firemen hastily entered the building, pick axes in hand, and headed towards the sealed elevator. A crowd of excited students gathered in the dark hall and listened as one of the firemen rapped on the door and called out. Pressing his ear to the door, the fireman was able to hear a woman respond that she was trapped in the elevator. She had been heading up to the offices on the top floor when the power went out. The elevator was stuck halfway between the floor beneath the yeshiva and the floor that the yeshiva occupied.

It took the firemen a few minutes but they soon pried open the doors and helped pull the woman out of the elevator to the excited applause of the young spectators who were then shoed back into their classrooms. (cont. p. 2)



ASHAR

cordially invites you to a reception and presentation of

## Names, Not Numbers: A Movie in the Making

A Holocaust Memorial Film Project by Members of the Class of 2017



זכור



Sunday, May 21, 2017 / 25 Iyyar 5777

7:00 PM

ASHAR

360 New Hempstead Road

New City, NY 10956

R.S.V.P. [www.ashar.org/nnn](http://www.ashar.org/nnn)



(Rabbi Staum, cont. from p. 1)

This week I had the pleasure of attending the Chumash seudah of our son Avi, who is b'h now concluding Pre-1A. It was a beautiful event, with his numerous classmates seated alongside him on stage. It was stirring to see how each of the children sang on cue, passionately bellowing the words of the Chumash and the songs they were taught about the sweetness of Torah.

There was not a child up there who doesn't want to ascend the rungs of Torah greatness and be a source of nachas for his parents and teachers. But unfortunately, in every class there are a few students whose growth 'gets stuck.' They feel shut out and stuck in place, even as they watch classmates continue to rise. There are many labels used to explain those individual power outages, ranging from auditory processing, ADHD, dyspraxia, dyslexia, low IQ, lack of motivation, social/emotional/familial issues, etc. But the common denominator is that those stuck children often cry out wordlessly and inaudibly.

Then there are those special educators who can hear those cries and have the unique, priceless gift of being able to reach every student. They are the ones who can pry open those sealed doors and manually hoist their students toward feeling a sense of accomplishment.

There isn't an educator in any of our schools who isn't a hero. Teaching is the most valuable and integral profession we have, despite the fact that teachers are often underpaid and underappreciated. But those educators who can reach students deemed 'unreachable' are our superheroes.

As the school-year begins to wind down, let's take a moment to salute the greatest heroes we have, the ones with whom we have entrusted the education of our greatest treasures!

*Thanks to Zevi Samet, Class 8B, for volunteering to help in the lunchroom on Friday. Much appreciated!*

## Yediot Klaliyot STARS

5B: Pe'er Friedman; Naftali Frankel; Oliver Teicher; 6B: Shmuel Feuer, Binyamin Golani, Avi Blachman, Tuli Schmelczer; 7B: Shimshy Gordon, Eitan Nissel, Aaron Korchnoy, Nachi Reifer, Yoel Schmutter; 8B Eli Gershuny, Jared Kornblum, Moshe Jacobson, Manny Koenig



*Classes 4B and 5B on Lag B'Omer outing to Zukor Park, volunteering with Keep Rockland Beautiful*



Yossi Glantz and Yoel Schmutter awarded for reviewing all the Gemara the class learned throughout the year, every day of Pesach.

**ASHAR's 8th graders** spent an afternoon at Eldorado Elementary School in Chestnut Ridge. They were invited to give a presentation about the Names Not Numbers program and their experiences learning about the Holocaust as part of ASHAR's 8th grade curriculum.

No one knew what to expect as the presentation got underway. After an inspiring introduction by Rabbi Jacobson, the children presented what they had prepared, and then the floor was opened to Eldorado students to ask questions. The questions varied from the rise of Hitler and his personal life to the life of children during the Holocaust. Thanks to their teachers Mrs. Stacy Granata and Mrs. Mindy Reifer, ASHAR's students were well prepared. ASHAR students felt proud of the Kiddush Hashem they created and the efforts to build bridges with the local public school community.

Personally, I was so proud of each and every one of the eighth graders and felt such pride in being part of the ASHAR family.

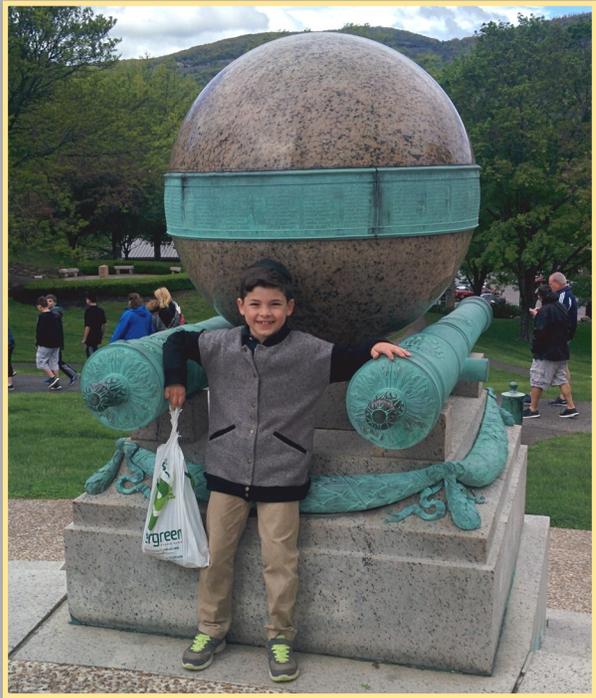
If you have not done so, please register to join us at Sunday's event; [www.ashar.org/NNN](http://www.ashar.org/NNN)

Looking forward to greeting you!

Mrs. Debby Jacobson



**Lag B'Omer outings:** 3B & 8B at West Point; 4-6G Special Ed. Program at Elmwood School; 7-8G at with HaMaspik, then all girls enjoyed Orchard Hill Park, and BBQ at the Jacobson's house.



Classes 7B and 8B run  
Lag B'Omer carnival for  
Early Childhood and  
elementary classes.



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# Please join us for this year's final **GENERAL PARENT MEETING**



Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 PM

ASHAR Lunchroom

***EXCITING UPDATE:***

**ASHAR 2017-18 & BEYOND**

Come learn about changes to our  
Girls and Boys Divisions!

- 2016-2017 wrap-up
- Board of Directors elections
- Financial report

# Celebrate Israel Parade



**Be there... join us... as we celebrate Israel's 69th year  
on Sunday, June 4, 2017.**

**ASHAR will salute, "Israel: All Together—BeYachad"**

**ASHAR Marching Group: Students in grades 3-8**

**Priority bus seating given to 3rd-8th graders and parent chaperones.**

**Dress Code: Good Walking Shoes and**

**Boys: black pants / Girls: black skirt. We will supply all marchers with appropriate tee shirts.**

Please note:

- 1) There is no charge for Bus Transportation to the Parade. ASHAR students will be taken by bus to and from the Parade. If you would like to help sponsor buses and props for the Parade please send a check to the office in an envelope marked "**ASHAR—Parade Sponsorship.**"
- 2) ASHAR's step-off time is 11:50 a.m. The step-off location is W53th Street bet. 5th Ave. and 6th Ave. Buses will leave ASHAR promptly at 9:45 a.m. sharp.

**Please return the permission slip below to the office by Thursday, 5/25.**

My child(ren) will participate in the Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Please check off if your child will be taking the bus to and / or from the parade.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Bus: \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Bus: \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Bus: \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to be a parent chaperone.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please return this form by Thurs., 5/25—we want full participation!**