



# ASHREINews

מקץ



## The Light

### A Timeless Message from Rabbi Nachum Muschel, zt"l, Dean Emeritus

The first thing that the Torah records in the process of creation was the light. *וַיִּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר*. Hashem said, 'Let there be light' and there was light." In all other subsequent creations, the Torah confirmed the transition from *what Hashem said* to "*and there was*" with the phrase *וַיְהִי כֵן*—"and it was so." At the creation of light, however, the Torah made an exception, stating, *וַיְהִי-אֹר*. Based on that unique description associated with light, our *חכמים* (Sages) reasoned that the light that came into being

was not the light that Hashem originally intended. By saying, *וַיְהִי-אֹר* instead of *וַיְהִי-כֵן* the Torah implies that it was a somewhat different light from that which G-d intended. The question persists: Where is the light that G-d intended? Was there a change from plan to reality?

Our *חכמים* elucidate that the original light was so powerful, so diversified and radiant, so far reaching in its application, that it was too dangerous to leave in the hands of potentially sinful human beings. Simply stated, mankind was not yet ready for such a superior gift. Using the power of that unusual light, mankind could conceivably abuse its blessing and convert it into implements of degradation and destruction. That is why Hashem hid the intended light for *באים צדיקים לעתיד לבא* - for the righteous yet to come. Ever since the creation of that light, עם ישראל - the Jewish people has found itself searching for its hidden sparks. We look for them in our Torah and in the *דרך ה'* - Torah way that was entrusted to us. To this end, we live the guiding words of:

"enlighten our eyes in Your Torah, and make our heart cling to Your commandments." The secular world is also searching for the power of that *אור הגנוז* - the "hidden light" in the exploding science of cyberspace. Sparks of that light may



account for the force that enables us today to transmit sights and sounds *ועד קצהו העולם* - from one end of the world to the other. Presently, however, we also know how potentially corruptive this force can be. As we study the chronology of our nation that survived from the day of creation to today's Chanukah light, we find that light creative of an illumination envisioned in the words of our daily Tfila: *אור חדש על ציון תאיר* - "Cause a new light to shine on Zion."

Help us Hashem, to find that new light! We are the heirs of Mattityahu, of Yehuda, of those Hashmonaim! They found a source of light that was miraculously charged with the rays emanating from Zion. It is this light that accompanies us on every step of our wandering. And when darkness envelopes us, and fear and despair captures our beings, we take a little oil, *שמן זית זך* strike a match, make a bracha: *להדליק נר*

Thus, we create real *אור* - meaning **light**, rather than *אור* - suggestive of **fire** capable of destruction. Our *נר* can, and will go on to illuminate darkened roads creating pathways to reveal light yet to be captured; knowing that *אין לנו רשות להשתמש בהם* - that we must use our talents, our insights, our *קדושה* and *אמונה* for building the עם ישראל of *נצח*!

Sparks of that light are fortunately attainable today in the halls of ASHAR. Here, the *אור תורה* reveals *אור הגנוז*. Here the promise of *אור חדש על ציון תאיר* is pursued with vigor and determination. May this dedication and commitment hasten the day when we all will be fortunate to see the *התגלות* of the new light which can be entrusted to mankind in the spirit of *והלכו גוים לאורך* "and the nations of the world will follow you on your enlightened path."

No School Sunday & Monday • No Bus Wednesday

Reprinted with love: ASHREINews, December 11, 2009

A publication of ASHAR

360 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956 • (845) 357-1515 • fax (845) 357-1516 • www.ashar.org

# GIRLS



4G Chocolate Truffles



1G art

6G at Mrs. Weber's House



Ice Cream Party for Excellent Bentching



# GIRLS



GRAND & ESSEX



Chanukah has been a time of great fun and spirit in the Girls Division! We kicked off the week with a big sister/little sister cookie making craft. Mr. Elbaum from Grand and Essex in Bergenfeld and Mrs. Elbaum (4G teacher) came in on Tuesday to make delicious latkes with the girls. Wednesday's concert was a hit and Thursday afternoon concluded with the Maccabia games! The entire week was a blast! Thanks to the 8th grade girls who lead the school in a great program and to our own Mrs. Jacobson and the entire Girls Division Staff who went above and beyond this year. Happy Chanukah!

# BOYS

## Riddle of the Week

### Who am I?

1. For the Mavoi, I am no good. 2. I do not work for a Sukkah.
3. I could invalidate your Menorah. 4. I was for the pit.

1. I was for the arms of the Menorah. 2. I was for the cows.
3. I am for Shemitah. 4. I was for the wheat

### Last week's answers: Yosef, Menorah

(Add and cover embarrassment, I am flame, I protected my mother, I lost my coat twice.)

(I am not a Sukkah, but above 20 is too high, I cannot be circular, I am similar to one in the Beis Hamikdash, I am to be seen.)



4th Grade Chanukah Party at Rabbi Braunfeld's house!!



ASHAR's Father-Son Learning program last Sunday  
Thank you to all who came and made it a fun and meaningful morning!





## ASHAR's Dreidel Olympics – Turning the Greek Ideals Upside Down!

The Greeks glorified the body. At ASHAR we aim to glorify the **holy** with Torah, music, dance, dreidel, food and *achdus*! The Boys Division rocked the school with their annual Chanukah Chagigah, including: a choir performance, comic skits, divrei torah, karaoke slam, and shas milim remix. Thank you Rabbi Shmuel Freedland for a truly great party!!

# PTA

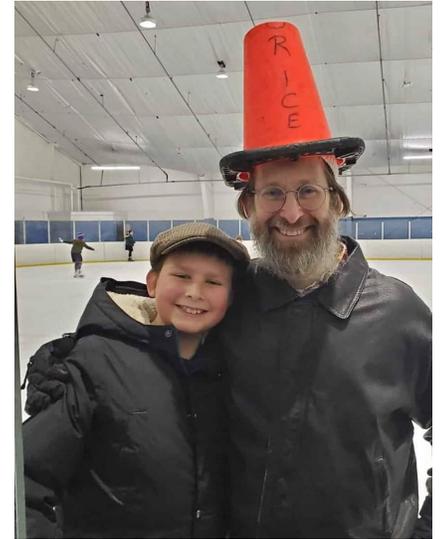
The PTA would like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to our many sponsors who made this week of treats and concert possible!



## ice skating



## gelt



## donuts



פרנס היום

ט' טבת ♦ January 6

לע"נ

מיכל אהובה בת גד ויהודית

*Ahuva First a'h*

on her 4th yahrzeit

Sponsored by Judy Cabessa



Avi Fonfeder (7B)  
on your Bar Mitzvah!

Dovi Gershuny (7B)  
on your Bar Mitzvah!

Rivky Malik (T2 Assistant)  
on your engagement!

concert





# MONSEY SWIM SCHOOL

**\*free for members,  
\$35 for non-  
members\***

## CLASSES FOR WOMEN

### Water Aerobics

#### Times:

#### Sunday

10:30am-11:15am

11:15am-12:00pm

12:00pm-12:45pm

8:30pm-9:15pm

9:15pm-10:00pm

#### Monday

9:15pm-10:00pm

10:00pm-10:45pm

**YEARLY MEMBERSHIPS  
NOW ON SALE!**



### ANNUAL FAMILY SWIM PASS

REG. \$1000

**NOW \$450**

### ANNUAL SINGLE SWIM PASS

REG. \$450

**NOW \$200**

## SEPARATE MENS & WOMENS HOURS!

### Mens Hours:

Sun: 3pm - 6:30pm & 10pm - 12am

Mon: 12:15pm - 2:30pm

Tue: 9pm - 12am

Thur: 9pm - 12am

Motzai Shabbos: 8:05pm - 12am

### Womens Hours:

Sun: 9:15am - 3pm & 6:30pm - 10pm

Mon: 9:15pm - 12am

Wed: 12:15pm - 2:30pm & 9:00pm - 12am

Motzai Shabbos: 1 hr after zman - 8pm

**845.578.1888 | MONSEYSWIMSCHOOL.COM**



Kaila Kirsch 5G

I have a little dreidel  
I made it out of glass  
and when my family used it  
it was a blast.

Sophia Landau

I have a little dreidel  
I made it out of glue  
And when it's dry and ready  
I'm gonna play and you can play  
too.

Arielle Bennett

I have a little dreidel  
I made it out of tissue  
and when I tried to spin it  
I had a little issue.

Phillip Ackerman 3B

Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel  
I made you out of pajamas  
When I tried to spin you  
I really went bananas.

Rafi Shenberger 3B

I had a little dreidel  
I made it out of trees  
and when I tried to spin it  
It hit me in the knees.





The Boys Varsity Basketball Team, together with Coach Josh Friedman, won their game last Saturday night, against RPRY 43-38.

The Sharks took a bite out of RPRY, scoring 14 pts/1st quarter, 9 pts/2nd quarter, 5 pts/3rd quarter and clinching the win with 15 pts in the 4th quarter!

**Next game January 5th, 2020 , 1:30pm @ WDS. See you there!!**



**CAMP REGESH!**

**2020**

*"that special feeling of summer..."*

**CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!**

**"SLEEP-AT-HOME" CAMP EXPERIENCE**

- 19 ACRES OF MAGNIFICENT CAMP GROUNDS!
- 3 MASSIVE PRISTINE POOLS
- DAILY SWIM INSTRUCTION
- SANDY BEACH & BOATING LAKE
- ROPES COURSE AND ZIP LINE
- ARCHERY, PEDAL CARTS
- TAILORED PLAYING FIELDS
- COURTS GALORE!
- AWESOME PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES!

**LEGENDARY WARM AND CARING STAFF!**

**RENOWNED CAMP DIRECTORS:**

PRESCHOOL: MRS. DAVIDA FRIED  
 BOYS: RABBI MOSHE AUSLANDER  
 GIRLS: MRS. CHAYA AIDY LIFF

**TWEEN GIRLS DIVISION**  
**TWEEN BOYS DIVISION**

**RAKEFOT!** **ROMEIM**

**SPECIAL ASHAR DISCOUNT**

CONTACT: 917.681.7641  
 DEENA.MOSCOVITZ@GMAIL.COM

845.357.9423 | INFO@REGESHOONLINE.COM | WWW.REGESHOONLINE.COM

# ASHAR PARENT MEETING AND MELAVE MALKA



**Motzei Shabbos, January 4th, 7:45 PM**

Please join us for a delicious Melave Malka (dairy),  
brief school update by professional and lay leadership,  
and a special presentation by  
**Dr. Isaac Schechter, ASHAR Consulting Psychologist:**

**“Just a minute...I’m busy”**  
*Being present in an era of distraction*



Dr. Schechter, a recognized leader in emotional and behavioral health care in the Jewish community, is a clinical psychologist and Director of Achieve Behavioral Health at Bikur Cholim in Monsey New York. He launched the Institute for Applied Research and Community Collaboration (ARCC), a unique institute whose mission is to conduct, analyze and disseminate rigorous research on psychiatric, psychological and social issues of the frum community in an effort to empirically base and guide decision making, resource allocation and program development.