



With the passing of Pesach, excitement abounds as teachers and administrators redouble their efforts towards ensuring that the final months of the school year prove especially productive. With Hashem's help, we will strive to keep students motivated, focused and happy until year's end!

Rav Yoel Schwartz, noted author and Rav of the Nachal Chareidi Israeli military program, suggests that the criteria for kosher animals delineated in Parshas Shemini symbolize the desired balance between the past and future so essential for a healthy present. Kosher animals must be *ma'aleh geirah*- possess multiple stomach chambers that allow for swallowed food to be regurgitated and swallowed again. This process represents the past- recycling the old. Jews, both individuals and institutions, must always remain firmly anchored in the past. But there is a second *siman* required of kosher animals: split hooves. Split hooves make walking easier and thus facilitate more efficient and rapid forward motion. For an

## Menahel's Message "Back to the Future"



animal to be deemed acceptable, both criteria are necessary, because while we must always remain firmly rooted in our past, the past should never paralyze. A Jew must always look ahead, and have the courage to forge forward when prudent.

The month of Nissan is a festive one, generally precluding *tachanun*, eulogies or other somber events. Many explain that the festive tone is rooted solely in the majority of the month hosting the millennia-old events of Pesach and the dedication of the Mishkan. The Arukh HaShulkhan, however, disagrees, postulating that not unlike kosher animals, Nissan in fact balances the past and future. While the earlier portion of the month celebrates events of the past- Chanukas HaMishkan and Pesach- the latter portion following Pesach stands on its own merit, as the period most likely to usher in the penultimate future event: the arrival of Moshiach, *bimheira b'yameinu*.

*Shabbat Shalom!*

-Rabbi Ari Jacobson  
Menahel/Dean

## Important Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

### ECP Rosh Chodesh Assembly

Please dress your child in a white top and dark bottom.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

### Yom Hazikaron School Observance

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut School Observance

ECP Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program

Please dress your child in blue and white

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

### Lag Ba'Omer School Observance

MONDAY, MAY 10

### Yom Yerushalayim School Observance

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

### ASHAR Virtual Dinner



## Mrs. Jacqueline Borgen

Principal of Early Childhood and First Grade

We were so happy to welcome all the children back to school this week, and were overwhelmed with all the beautiful notes parents sent to school with their children. On behalf of the teachers, I would like to thank you for taking the time to acknowledge all the work the teachers put into planning your children's daily activities. Their interactive lessons, creative projects, excitement about the Chagim, and true love for the children, infuse our children with love and excitement for the Chagim, Yiddishkeit and all of Hashem's mitzvot. In this week's newsletter I would like to share with you some of the letters we received.

## In preparation for Yom Ha'Atzmaut



Kindergarten learned about Eretz Yisrael with a floor sized map!

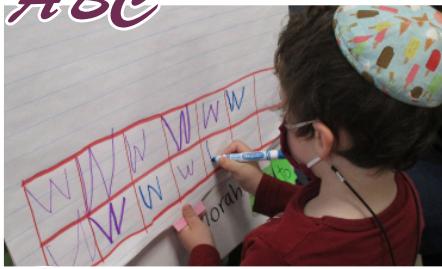


They created their own maps of Israel.

## Chalau U'duash



## ABC



## Alef Bet



## Counting Omer



## Spring



Going on a Spring walk.



## Music & Movement



“ I just wanted to tell you what an amazing job Charni and Bassie did preparing Aryeh for Pesach! He really knew a lot and was extremely eager to share everything with us! Even at my cousins' house he wasn't shy and announced before each part of the Haggadah what we were going to do. Everyone was very impressed by how much he knew and his projects and Haggadah. It really enhanced our yomtov to sit and talk with him about it. Thanks so much!

- Nechama Friedman

“ Atara did so many mitzvot over Pesach, we were so proud of her! She said mah nishtana at the seder so beautifully and read her haggadah for everyone. She had matzah and charoset and sat with everyone so nicely. She gave us and her grandparents so much nachat. She had beautiful Pesach projects and knew so much. We were so proud!! We are so thankful she has such amazing morahs who prepared her so well!

- Mommy & Daddy

“ We loved Kaylee's haggadah so much and enjoyed hearing all the songs and everything she knew. We appreciate all your hard work.

- Yocheved Lipman

“ Yaakov had a wonderful Pesach. He sang all his songs at the seder beautifully. He loved telling us about the Pesach story especially the makot. Thank you for the beautiful haggadah, he loved showing it to us.

# We love to hear your feedback! Nachas Notes

“ I couldn't wait for school to start, I have to share with you the joy and Nachas we got from Daniel, he knew it all! And when I say it all it's not an overstatement! Every single step, every song, every detail! Kol hakavod to you!!! Thank you for teaching him so well!!

“ Kayla was AMAZING over Pesach! She said the Mah Nishtana perfectly. She drank grape juice, and told us about the 4 sons. Her haggadah was beautiful and we were so proud of how much she knew! She also found the afikoman! Thank you for preparing her so well!

“ Coby made the Schwartz family seder so amazing!! He sang all the songs from his haggadah and sang the mah nishtana. We are so proud of how much he learned!!

- Mommy & Abba Schwartz

“ Emma was the big star of the Pesach seder. She sang the mah nishtana and sang all her Pesach songs and told us stories. We were so impressed how much she knew and how excited she was to share it. We are so proud of how nicely Emma behaved over Pesach. Great job!

- Mommy & Daddy

“ We were so proud of Ari's behavior at both the seders! He knew all of the songs, the mah nishtana, and made sure to follow along in the haggadah the entire time. Ari also helped set up the seder plate and put everything on the table. Thank you for teaching him so well!

- Mommy & Abba

“ Julie was amazing over yom tov! We were super impressed with how much she knew at the seder! She followed along in her haggadah, sang each and every song loud and proud, and knew every single question her daddy asked her!

- Mommy Millman

“ Atara said the whole mah nishtana perfectly. She amazed us. She also knew the whole haggadah and all the makot as well as tons of songs. This helped her really enjoy the seder! Thank you.

“ At only 3 years old we were pleasantly surprised by how much Zacky learned about Pesach! He knew the Mah Nishtana perfectly, he sang it loud and proud at the seder! He followed along in his haggadah and was eager to participate in the seder order- and tell everyone what comes next! We shepped so much Nachat as we listened to him sing along to so many different songs! We are so proud of him!

- Mommy Millman

“ To our Dear Morahs,

We all enjoyed Chesky's Hagaddah. It was so sweet and enjoyable seeing the kids in the pictures. Chesky knew so much, was so excited, and sang so beautifully with his brothers. Thank you so much for putting in so much effort in the kids!

- Malky and Motty Samet

# Mrs. Debby Jacobson

Principal of Girls Division



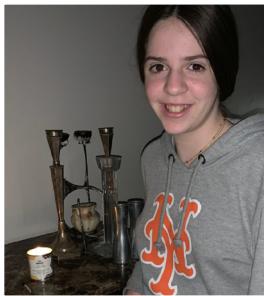
How do you teach events that defy knowledge, experiences that go beyond imagination? How do you tell children, big and small, that society could lose its mind and start murdering its own soul and its own future? How do you unveil horrors without offering at the same time some measure of hope? Hope in what? In whom? In progress, in science and literature and God?

- Elie Wiesel

This past Thursday, Yom HaShoah, we memorialized the kedoshim of the Holocaust. When creating a program about the Holocaust, one must balance the gore and horrors with the inclination to oversimplify the subject matter. The ASHAR Girls Division middle school participated in an interdisciplinary program which was both rigorous and inspiring. Together with their peers, the girls followed the lives of Jews before the war, during the war and after the war. The end product was truly amazing.

Please take a moment to preview the links shared during the presentation. May all of the girls' tefillos and Torah learning on Yom HaShoah stand as a zechus for the millions of kedoshim that died so many years ago.

[www.ashar.org/yomhashoah](http://www.ashar.org/yomhashoah)



Each student in Middle School received a ner neshama inscribed with the name of a Holocaust kadosh to light in their memory.



Middle school girls created representations of life in a European shtetl before, during, and after the Holocaust. Each floor of the house represents a different era.



**Dr. Mengele**

Dr. Mengele was a Nazi doctor at the Auschwitz extermination camp. Mengele had the power to select which prisoners would be processed for gassing and which would be spared the experience for his experiments. Mengele's main goal was to experiment on twins and find out the unknown about them. He did these experiments because he thought that it would help to more produce Aryan looking children. He took innocent people and did whatever was "necessary" for his experiments. He did not care if it would give the health of the the prisoners one second thought. Mengele never got conclusive data on his experiments and he was considered to be cruel and extremely useless. Following the war Mengele fled Europe was neither apprehended nor penalized for horrid unspeakable crimes.



4th Grade worked on pictures of the Statue of Liberty in Art.



Select girls from 8G presented PowerPoints on Holocaust literature they read.

# Riddle of the Week ? WHO AM I?

I am for food and nowadays I could be for phones; I could even be for a sheitel;  
I have many symbols. Submit answer in your SMVT sheet for a chance to win a prize!

Last Week's Answer: **Karpas** "I can mean "hard work"; less than an olive; wash for me; don't confuse me with your salary"

To commemorate Yom HaShoah the Middle School boys had a program in which they watched a moving story of a Holocaust survivor, reminding us that all Jews are brothers. They then heard stories of the unbreakable Jewish spirit from Rabbi Twerski, our 5th grade rebbe, and ended with the moving and inspiring melody in memory the holy "Aish Kodesh" Rebbe, Grand Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira of Piaseczna, Poland. The boys sang along with this inspiring and very meaningful nigun.



#YOMHASHOAH



Each student in Middle School received a ner neshama inscribed with the name of a Holocaust kadosh to light in their memory.

## HOW FAR WILL YOU GO?

<b>תורה חוץ לסדר</b>		<b>Torah Chutz L'Seder Form</b>
WHO Name _____	Grade _____	
WHEN (cycle day of the week)		שבת
SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI		
<b>WHAT</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>שנים טהור וטהר</b> - (Double Points for All)		
Reading the Pasuk once yourself and reading the English translation once – 2 points PER Minute.		
# of points _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kriah</b>		
1 point (2 points for 2b) for every minute of reading out-loud		
# of points _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>מישנה</b>		
Reading/Saying over a <i>Mishnah</i> and translating it 1 point per minute (2 points/min for 4B)		
# of points _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>חומש</b>		
Learning <i>Chumash</i> out loud 1 point per minute (2 points for 3b).		
# of points _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>גמרא</b>		
2 points per 1 minute of learning <i>Gemarah</i>		
# of points _____		
Total # of points _____		
Rebbi OR Parent Signature _____		

The class with the most points, goes to Urban Air or High Exposure!



4B celebrated their siyum for Parshat Vayishlach with a bowling trip.



Mazel Tov Baruch Yosef Kushner (5B) on winning the haggadah raffle



4B Sunday siyum on Masechta brachos

**Mrs. Mindy Reifer**

Director of Curriculum



**Mrs. Jennah Schuh**

Assistant Principal



# What We Are Writing

## The Wave and Animal Farm

By: Leora Cohn (8G)



“Strength in discipline,” “Strength in community,” “Strength in action” chanted the brainwashed high school students. Communism is a political theory established by the German philosopher Karl Marx. He was trying to create a utopia in which property and wealth were owned by the public and not by individuals. Opposingly it morphed into a way to take away one's freedom of opportunity, and brainwashed them to be part of a

group that they believe is doing good for the world, no matter if it was or wasn't. In the story *Animal Farm*, the movie *The Wave*, the country of North Korea, and Nazi Germany dictatorship is brought out in many distinctive ways that severely affected the people or animals living through it.

*The Wave*, *Animal Farm*, North Korea, and Nazi Germany all have mottos that contribute to the brainwashing that dictatorship is trying to instill in its people. For example, in *Animal Farm* Napoleon created a motto, “Four legs good two legs bad” and the more the animals repeated this motto the more they believed it for themselves that all humans were evil. In *The Wave*, Mr. Ross made his students recite the mottos “Strength in discipline,” “Strength in community,” “Strength in action” which at some point they all started to believe. Kim Jong Un put the idea in North Korean citizens that Americans are stupid and that became one of their many mottos against Americans. Eventually, the inhabitants of the country really believed that Americans are the enemy and they should do anything in their control to get rid of them. Lastly, the Nazis in Germany used mottos such as ‘Nasty Jews’ that brainwashed German men, women, and children that Jews weren't even human. As you can see chanting mottos on repeat can very often convince singular people and even entire nations that what they are saying is true.

*The Wave*, *Animal Farm*, North Korea, and Nazi Germany all had very controlling and powerful leaders that ironically ruled unequally, and used fear to control their people while promoting equality for all. In fact, in *Animal Farm*, Napoleon terrorized all the animals by killing every animal involved in snowball shenanigans. This terrified the animals and none of them were comfortable with doing or even saying anything against Napoleon. In *The Wave*, the very first day Mr. Ross started his experiment all the students did exactly what he said right away and when one student (Lori) went against his ideas and wrote about it in the school newspaper she was shut down before she could even make her argument. This created a picture in everyone's head that they too were unable to rebel. Kim Jong Un of North Korea was so controlling that he made Koreans call him, “Dear Respected,” and anyone who tried to escape the country would almost definitely die. Hitler, the ruler of the Nazis in Germany, created a cruel and brutal environment that the Nazi soldiers were way too scared to disobey. As you can see Napoleon, Mr. Ross, Kim Jong Un, and Hitler were all frightening and controlling leaders that terrorized their people.

Another similarity in *Animal Farm*, *The Wave*, North Korea, and Nazi Germany is that they all have some form of body guards that carry out whatever their leaders want of them. In *Animal Farm* the dogs posed as Napoleon's bodyguards and did whatever he told them to, for example they performed all the killings. In *The Wave*, Robert, one of Mr. Ross's students, also acted as his bodyguard, by being his assistant and telling off anyone going against the wave. Similarly in North Korea Kim, Jong Un has many personal body guards to protect him. Likewise Hitler had the entire Nazi army fulfill his duties of torturing and eradicating the Jews. As you can see the communist leaders in *Animal Farm*, *The Wave*, North Korea, and Nazi Germany all had body guards who executed their plans. These bodyguards did this because it made them feel part of something bigger than themselves.

Clearly, communism did not play out as it was planned to, instead of being an equal way to unite a group of people, it realistically brainwashed and persuaded its users to do whatever it took to stay part of and contribute to their group, even if it would hurt themselves and the people around them. In fact *Animal Farm*, *The Wave*, North Korea, and Nazi Germany all started out as a way to create equality for all its inhabitants, but all their leaders were given an unhealthy ratio of power and communism created excuses for them to hurt each other. All in all, dictatorship is a form of government that can ruin communities and this is clearly demonstrated throughout *The Wave*, *Animal Farm*, North Korea, and Nazi Germany.



ו' ניסן • March 19

Friday's Torah learning is sponsored by Cheryl Weinstein & family

לע"נ

in loving memory of

# Rochel bas Avraham a"h

***Great Great-Grandmother of Raizy (7G), Faigy (4G)  
and Aryeh (NC) Friedman***

*May our children's learning serve as an aliya for her neshama.*

- Please bring in sports balls for outdoor recess!



- Don't forget to label all items that you send with your child.

- For any students that are unable to attend school, we offer grab and go lunches. Pickup daily at the front door. Mon-Thurs 1:00-2:00 PM, Fri 12:30-1:30 PM



- For any dismissal messages, please email [dismissal@ashar.org](mailto:dismissal@ashar.org) before 2:30 PM.

# Mazel Tov!



Have any good news to share?  
email [mgoldman@ashar.org](mailto:mgoldman@ashar.org)

**Rabbi Chaitovsky**  
on the birth of a granddaughter

**Mrs. Miriam Vekselberg**  
on the birth of a grandson

**Mrs. Rena Kanarek**  
on the birth of a grandson

**Dr. and Mrs. Friedman**  
on the engagement of their  
daughter Eliana to Moshe Eisen



Yom Ha'Atzmaut 5781

# Life of a Ben-Torah in the IDF: Commitment, Opportunities and Challenges

## Rabbi Joshua Lehman

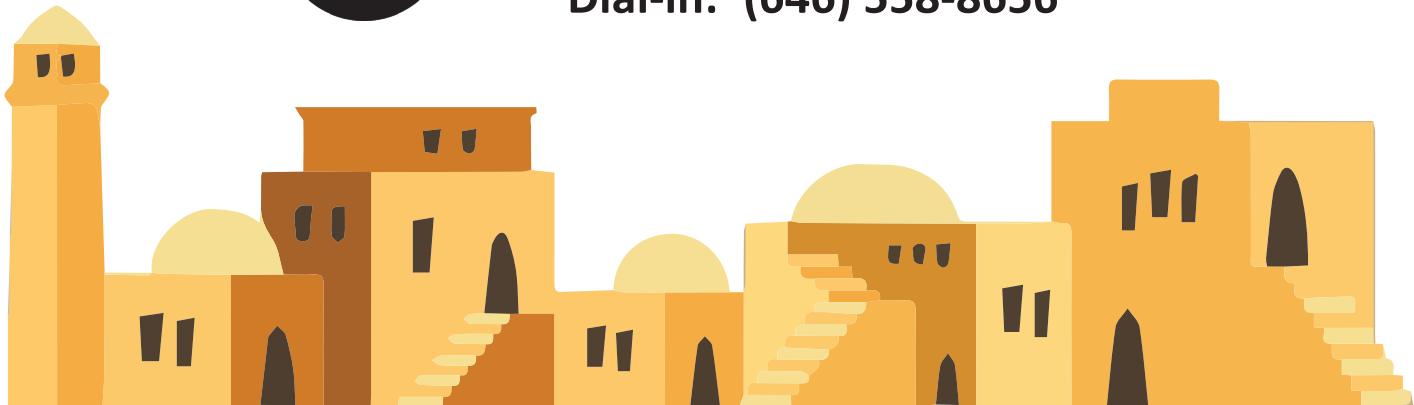
Graduate, Yeshivat Hakotel Hesder Program  
Incoming Campus Rabbi, University of Maryland

An ASHAR graduate (Class of '09), Josh Lehman grew up in the Young Israel of Monsey and Wesley Hills community prior to making Aliyah. He served in an IDF Kfir combat unit, and is currently completing his *semicha* studies under Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon. Please join us for an enjoyable evening of inspiration!

**Wednesday evening, April 14, 2021 at 8:15 PM**



**Zoom ID: 845 357 1515  
Password: Ashar2020  
Dial-in: (646) 558-8656**



### Synagogue Sponsors:

Ahavat Yisrael of Wesley Hills, Community Synagogue of Monsey, Cong. Bais Torah,  
Cong. Ohaiv Yisroel of Blueberry Hill, Kehillas Bais Yehudah, Young Israel of Monsey and Wesley Hills



# Virtual Dinner

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST-EVER

## ASHAR VIRTUAL DINNER

WEDNESDAY

ד"ח סיוון

MAY • 12

HONORING ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLE  
REBBEIM, MOROT AND TEACHERS  
FOR THEIR SELFLESS DEDICATION  
OVER THE PAST YEAR.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO



Don-E and Miryam Benovitz  
GUESTS OF HONOR



Shragi and Itta Lazarus  
PARENTS OF THE YEAR



Morah Miriam Wachs  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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[www.ashar.org/dinner](http://www.ashar.org/dinner)