



Parshat Miketz, December 3, 2021

The Week in Review

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It has been an eventful week at Lindenbaum! Starting with an amazing student-led Thanksgiving dinner, chock-full of activities and festivities, and going all the way through Chanukah celebrations, us girls have been kept busy busy busy with learning and fun! Leah Cohen made us laugh through Thanksgiving dinner with her hilarious Lindenbaum Kahoot, and Rav Brofsky starred as the closing act with his mishmar about the halachic permissibility of Thanksgiving. Spoiler alert, it's allowed.

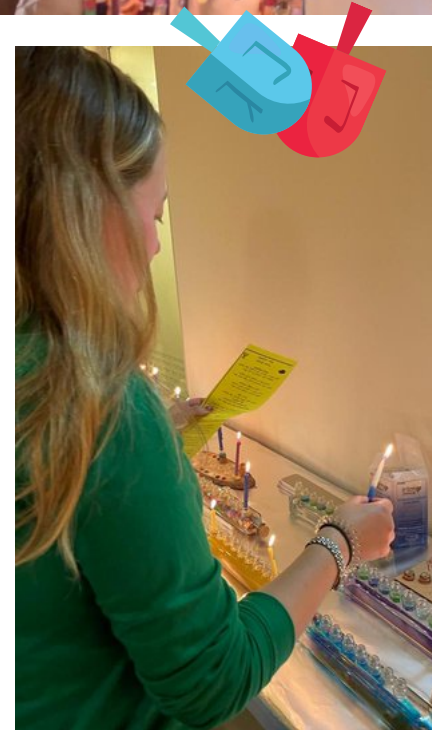
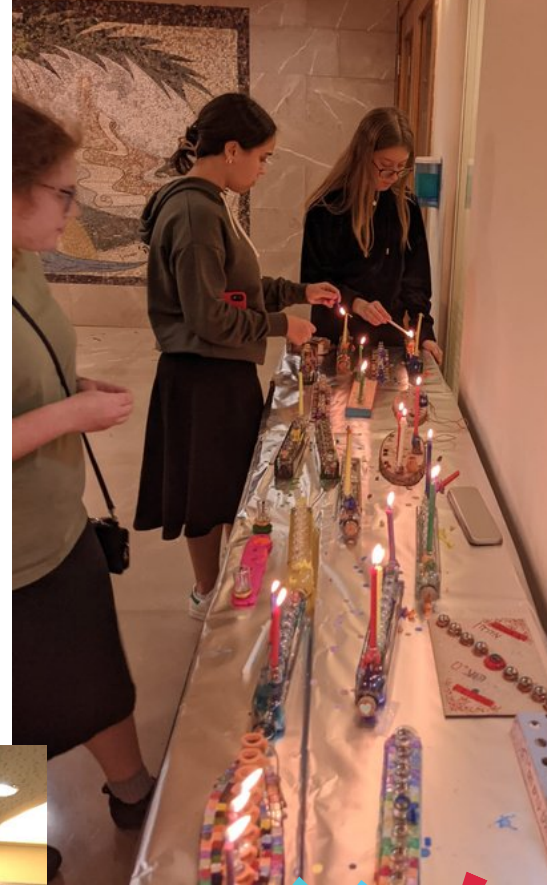
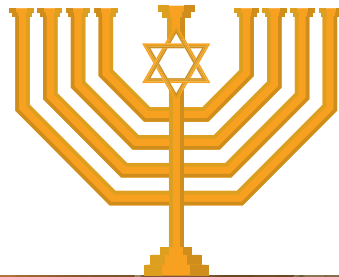
Sunday evening, after a midrasha-wide candle lighting —complete with dancing and sufganiyot—the Chanukah committee ran a classy tzedaka auction and raffle, with prizes donated by students and staff. Highlights include: a ride to the grocery store with Merav, a cholent party with Rav Brofsky, laundry service from Abby Kogan, and a cooking lesson with our Syrian contingent.

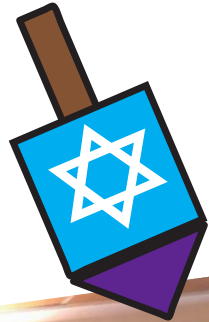
The festivities continued! Merav hosted a fondue-Sufganiyot party on Monday, and on Tuesday, after Noa Brasch's musical Hallel and Sami Gubin's siyum on Masechet Sotah, each Gemara shiur had a Chanukah party at their ram's house. Afterwards, we split up and went to different elder care facilities to sing songs with the elderly and provide them with some much-appreciated Chanukah ruach.

We are all looking forward to spending Shabbos Chanukah in Tzfat!



Midrasha-wide Candle Lighting





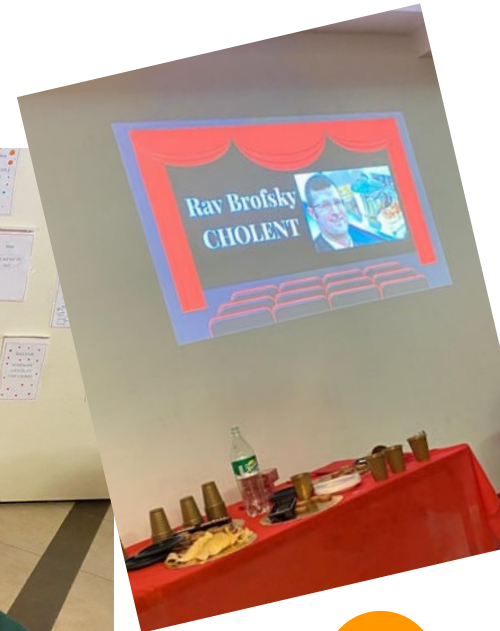




Chanuka Auction!









Fondue Sufganiyot party with Merav



Teacher Feature

Shira Melnick

interviews

Rav Yoni Rosensweig



When asked to interview Rav Yoni (my Gemara Ra'm) I decided our class חנוכה מסיבה would be the perfect opportunity to get the answers. To set the scene, the class was sitting around his dining room table, all chiming in on his responses as well as occasional comments coming from his family, who were graciously helping make us a morning feast of latkes and more...

A little bit about you and your family - where you live, how old are your children?

We live in Beit Shemesh, I have been married to Ilana for 21 years and together we have five children: Batzion (19) Yitzchak (17) Hadas (15) Ariel (12) and Nava (10)

Your favorite thing to learn?

Rav Yoni jokingly replied saying "I dislike this question." I speculate because he didn't want pick only one answer. Yet soon he decides, saying "Put me down for Halacha." Elaborating, he explains, "I enjoy the process of seeing how Halacha develops from ancient source to the modern age and how we apply principles that were put together thousands of years ago, in a modern setting. It's not the bottom line- it's the process of creating it. What interests me is how it materialises."

What in your opinion makes Midreshet Lindenbaum special?

He starts by teasing that “the classic answer is the students.” But is determined to find “a non-corny answer.” He then came to a reply with a smile. “It must be the beit midrash - the midrasha has a thriving beit midrash, that is able to supply the girls with the opportunity to develop on their own, rather than sit statically in a class. It allows them to create their own independence, a way of thinking, a way of learning. It adds a lot to their year.”

Your favorite memory from sem/yeshiva?

Once again he makes us all laugh commenting “I don’t have any memories from sem.” He studied in Yeshiva for 7 years, so I’m sure there were many fond memories to chose from. “I guess, in shiur aleph, I used to do mishmar every Thursday night and learn. It was so special as it gave me an ability to invest in Torah learning in a different atmosphere; one in which it was quieter.” He explained the importance of this time for him as “he knows he cannot recreate this time.” Today he has access to much of what he experienced at yeshiva, “this however was unique.”

A hobby of yours?

The class all immediately suggested that it would be his research into Halacha in regards to one's mental health. (A topic in which he is soon publishing a book). He insists however, that that’s not a hobby. Rather, he explains that he enjoys to hike Shvil Yisrael - a demanding hike, stretching from the north of Israel to south. He continues to illustrate that he enjoys it because “it’s challenging; it allows you to see parts of Israel that you wouldn’t see otherwise.” After all, you are going past “the entirety of Israel.” Nava (his youngest) chirped up at this point explaining how he even bought a hiking stick for it, but it goes unused.

With that, we had concluded the official question-asking and spent the rest of the **מסיבה** making Chanukah sugar cookies. Our class was grateful to the Rosensweig family for their hospitality and some of the best latkes I’ve ever had.



Bayit Cham at the Ramim's homes





Chessed at Beit Sababa and Melabev



D'var Torah from our Students

Ruby Alford
Melbourne, Australia
Yavneh

Last week in Parshat Vayeshev, we see Yosef's incredible caliber when he helps interpret the dreams of the baker and the butler. Yosef has just been through some really rough events that must have been extremely overwhelming. He's bullied by his brothers, dumped in a pit, sold into slavery, and then falsely accused of sleeping with Potifar's wife, and is consequently thrown in jail. Yet during all of these unfortunate events, Yosef stays humble and doesn't lash out. Not only does he not complain, but he goes out of his way to help others that he sees in distress. When he is put in jail, he sees that there are two other people who are quite obviously upset, and he instantly attempts to help them. We learn from this how caring Yosef is. Even when he is at his lowest point, he still makes room for others and wants to do his best to help the people around him.

In this week's parsha, Yosef is rewarded and becomes second in command to Pharaoh. He interprets Pharaoh's dreams and helps save Mitzrayim by storing food for the big famine that's about to hit for 7 years. During the famine, Yosef's brothers arrive in Mitzrayim on their hands and knees begging for food. Now this is the question. Will Yosef continue to act in a respectful and kind way like he has done during his time in Mitzrayim, or will he lash out and let his emotions get the best of him?

Yosef's harsh reaction is quite confusing. Rabbi Menachem Leibtag breaks it down quite interestingly, explaining that Yosef has a plan. The first stage is that when the brothers come to Yosef, he hides his identity from them and accuses them of being spies. Rav Yoel Bin Nun suggests that he makes this accusation to create the opportunity to ask more questions about their family. He does so after seeing that Binyamin is not with the brothers on their first trip to Egypt, causing Yosef to worry that Bnei Rachel have been rejected from the family. He therefore disguises his concern for Binyamin by accusing the brothers of being spies, so they won't become suspicious by Yosef's obsession with their family. He hopes that once Binyamin comes to Yosef, he will be able to pull him aside and get the answers he needs from him.

The second part of the plan comes when Yosef puts money in the brothers' sacks – why does he do this? Abravanel simply explains that Yosef wanted them to do teshuvah. However, if this is correct, why then does Yosef test them a second time by putting the silver cup in Binyamin's bag? This doesn't seem like Yosef's personality to tease them when he has already heard them admit their guilt (Bereshit 42:21-23). In fact, it looks like Yosef is playing the role of God and deciding to test and confuse the brothers even further. How does this fit with the Yosef we have seen until now?

Rav Leibtag explains that when Yosef sees his brothers bowing down to him for the first time, he is instantly reminded of his childhood dreams. It is at that moment that he realizes that his family must reunite. Yosef doesn't need to play the role of God, but rather the role of leader - just like he saw in his dreams. It is here where we see that Yosef acts true to himself by responding in the way that he does. He cannot reveal himself to his brothers because that would utterly embarrass them due to their shame over what they had done, possibly creating more of a divide between them. Yosef also can't say anything to his father Yaakov, because he would be extremely angry at his sons, which would tear apart the family even further. Yosef understands that he needs to stay quiet to save the peace within his family, so he creates a scenario that will help bond them together. By putting the cup in Binyamin's bag, Yosef gives them a difficult test which will force the brothers to forfeit their lives for their brother, instantly bringing them closer together. Yosef also gives them an opportunity to prove to themselves that they have done teshuva and are good men (which we will see in next week's parsha).

From here we see that Yosef's caring personality remains intact. He is always thinking of others as he creates this intricate plan to support his family and unite them together without seriously embarrassing them. We learn from Yosef that not only is it extremely important for us to strive to have a unified nation but in life, no matter the situation, we should always be thinking of others.

Shabbat Shalom, Chodesh Tov & Chanukah Sameach!