



# כוכב הצפון

## NEWSLETTER

NORTH SHORE HEBREW ACADEMY

**EDITOR: MICHELLE RUTTA****FRIDAY NIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:51 PM** הדלקת נרות:**SHABBAT ENDS: 7:57 PM** זמן הבדלה:**Parashat Nitzavim-Vayeilech**

## IN THIS TOGETHER:

### A Shabbat Message from Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Kobrin

"We're all in this together" was one of the phrases that quickly became overused last April. These words soon became an excuse, it seemed, to sell cleaning products, electronic devices, and even cars. At what point does the idea of community, of shared values, become vapid or false? The answer has to do with how we define a true community.



This week's Torah reading of Netzavim-Vayeilech begins with the image of an entire community literally standing together: *atem nitzavim hayom kulchem*, "you stand here today, all of you." The Torah then describes the entire community, from noblest personage to lowliest worker: *rosheichem, shivteichem, zikneichem...* *me-chotev eitzecha ad sho'ev mei-mecha*, "your leaders, your elders... from the wood chopper to the water carrier." And why is this community all standing together? *Le-ovrecha be-vrit Hashem Elokecha*, "to enter into the covenant with God." In *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, journalist Bari Weiss points out that we are not a "religion" or an "ethnicity." We are really "a civilization" and "a people." We share common history, texts, culture, and experience.

I heard a Bar Mitzvah boy speak this week on our dual relationship with Hashem: we relate to Him both as individuals and as a group -- as members of that civilization, that people. Rabbi Nafali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin writes that each person has a different level of responsibility within the community (some, for example, are tribal elders; some, on the other hand, carry water), but each person, no matter who they are or what they do, contributes to the world's overall status in the eyes of God. As we prepare for Rosh HaShana in earnest, we cannot only think about whether we have been individually good and in what direction we have tipped our personal scales. We also need to think about the direction in which we are helping tip the world's scales: is it *le-kaf chov*, towards the negative, or *le-kaf zechut*, towards the positive?

Each of us has a responsibility towards the rest of us. Nineteen years ago, on 9/11 and during the days that followed, we saw how even the most cynical New Yorkers were able to go beyond themselves and create a real community of shared values and of care. Our own school community has also demonstrated such concern for others. While I remain concerned that some families are not maintaining the standards that we are working so hard to keep up in school, I am extremely proud of the families who contacted me this week, nervous that there may have been an exposure to the virus in their extended family, and wanting to keep their children home out of concern that other students might be exposed. Each day that we are open is a victory for our entire community. As a people, we fundamentally understand the connection that we all share. We are truly in this together, and by remaining vigilant together, we will see each other through.

Shabbat shalom.

## THANK YOU!

The PTA thanks **Lorraine Ganjian** for her tremendous efforts in organizing our school opening lice check. Thank you also to our volunteers: **Sharleen Bassalali, Sara Feldschreiber, Talia Rabizadeh, Peri Santodonato, Rachel Spinner** and **Abby Weiss**.

## MEET OUR CHERRY LANE SOCIAL WORKER, MRS. SARA BERLIN, LCSW



Hello Parents and Students!

I am overjoyed to be at North Shore Hebrew Academy (Cherry Lane) for the second year as I meet once again some familiar faces as well as some new ones!

I hope you and your family had a healthy and safe summer. It is my hope that this school year will be full of successful experiences for all students.

In an effort to support each of your children with the transition back to school in this new reality, I went around to each class to welcome back the students and hand out "Calm Kits" and discussed different skills they can use to help stay relaxed and calm.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns about your child.

You can reach me by Email: [sberlin@nsha.org](mailto:sberlin@nsha.org) or Phone: (516) 487-8687 x170

## NSHA OPEN SCHOOL NIGHT CALENDAR

We are looking forward to greeting parents virtually at our various divisions' Open School Nights on Zoom. Please see below for the upcoming schedule:

**1st and 2nd Grade** Open School Night: Monday, September 14th

**Middle School** Open School Night: Tuesday, September 15th

**Early Childhood** Open School Night: Wednesday, September 16th

**3rd Grade** Open School Night: Tuesday, September 22nd

**4th and 5th Grade** Open School Night: Wednesday, September 23rd

## D'VAR TORAH: FOCUSING ON THE GOOD

### By Rabbi Simon Basalely

Shabbat, March 7th, 2020 – Parshat Zachor – that was the last time our communities had the bustling feel of synagogues being filled with families – parents and children together praying in one building. We are now six months past that point and, unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions most of our children, especially the younger ones, are unable to attend Beit Knesset with us. How does this shift in Jewish life and routine impact the education of our children? I would like to attempt to explore that question with an insight into this week's Parsha.

The Torah commands us (פרק ל"א פסוקים י"ב-י"ג) in the second of the two parshiyot to be read this week that once every seven years the Jewish people are to gather together at the Bet HaMikdash, the holy temple, to hear the Torah being read by the Jewish king. This ceremony is known as the Hakhel, literally, gathering, ceremony. The Torah continues to tell us the purpose of this Mitzvah: so that the people will listen to the words of the Torah being read, learn from it, come to fear G-d and follow His commandments.

The Torah identifies who the attendees are at this Hakhel ceremony: "הקהל את העם, האנשים, הנשים והטף" – "Gather the nation: the men, women and children..." Rashi on this Pasuk asks a very well-known question. We can understand very well the necessity of attendance by men and women, but why were the children commanded to attend? Was this only due to a shortage in babysitters (maybe it was hard to get good help even back in those days)? Rashi famously explains that the טף, the very young children, were brought in order to give reward to those who brought them. What does Rashi mean by this? Clearly, there was some benefit to the children to be



there, otherwise the Torah wouldn't make a point of telling the parents to bring them. It is unlikely that this was some arbitrary request to be able to give more reward to people. The children were not of age to be able to process the information they were hearing – so what benefit was there for them?

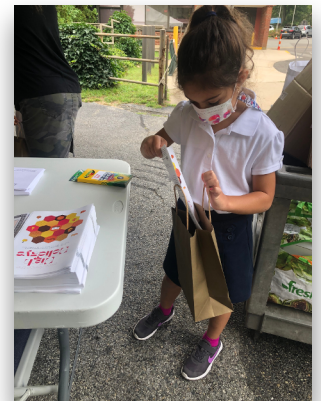
Rav Simcha Zissel of Kelm, one of the giants of the Mussar movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, suggests a fascinating answer to this question which I believe has tremendous ramifications for us as parents and educators. Rav Simcha Zissel says that, of course the children weren't going to understand what they were hearing and not only that, perhaps they would even be slightly disruptive to their parents' experience, but, nevertheless, providing the children with the incredible religious experience of being with tens if not hundreds of thousands of their fellow Jews and hearing the king read from the Torah scroll was such an important experiential event for the child that even if he was going to be disruptive and even if he wasn't going to understand what was being read, it was still essential for him to be there and for his parents to make sure that he was there. Education is not just a function of words and texts or even ideas, but it is also, and perhaps more importantly, a function of experiences. Many of us know from our own childhoods that much of what we remember from our very early religious development and what we carry with us into our adult life is not so much the text of what we learned when we were in pre-school and early grade school, but the experience of being with a parent or grandparent in shul, going to the rabbi in shul after Tefilah on Friday night for a Beracha or meeting an important rabbi who was visiting our town for a short time. The Mitzvah of Hakhel reinforces the importance of the experiential in our educating of our children.

Our communal situation precludes most of us from taking our children to Bet Knesset and experiencing Judaism in that way, but that doesn't mean that we can't find other ways to create those religious experiences ourselves. Rosh Hashana gives us the opportunity to find ways to safely involve our children in hearing Shofar (perhaps an outdoor Shofar blowing), and experiencing Tashlich. Sukkot is our time to make sure that sitting in the Sukkah and shaking the lulav and etrog are part of our children's daily routines and part of the fabric of the holiday for them. Although we no longer have the Hakhel ceremony, these - and many of the other 'experiences' which the Torah provides for us around this time of the year – are the tools we can use to keep our children engaged experientially with Jewish living until we can all, as families, BeEzrat Hashem, safely reenter our places of prayer.

## STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR OFF WITH CHESED!



Our **first grade** students packaged over 75 Rosh Hashana gift bags for senior citizens affiliated with the Bronx Jewish Community Council (BJCC) who will unfortunately be spending Rosh Hashana alone. Each gift bag included honey, tea biscuits, pre-cut apples and some sweets. Students also decorated greeting cards and notes of wishes for a sweet new year. Thank you to **Niti Minkove, BJCC's Director of Volunteers** for providing us with this meaningful opportunity to pack in some good deeds before the year ends.





## DAYS OF LEARNING AT NSHA

We are proud to announce that a Day of Learning on **Thursday September 3rd** took place across all of our campuses sponsored by North Shore Hebrew Academy, in memory of Irwin Luxenberg z"l, beloved husband of Joan and beloved father of our past NSHA President, Arthur and (Randi) Luxenberg, and beloved grandparent of Liz ('11) and Steven Lipner and Jaq ('13) and Jonathan Spiegel.

We are proud to announce that a Day of Learning on **Tuesday September 8th** at our Cherry Lane Campus was sponsored by June Sachs, in memory of Mrs. Judy Weinstein z"l, former parent and wife of our former Board member and alumnus Jerrald Weinstein '62, and beloved mother of Rachael Wren '90 (and Ra'anan Eichler), Ari Weinstein (and Erica Michelstein) and Dov '96 and Lisa Weinstein, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction and beloved grandmother of Aaron (Grade 1), Eitan (Nursery), Emma, Adam and Alex.

We are proud to announce that a Day of Learning on **Wednesday September 9th** at our Middle School Campus was sponsored by North Shore Hebrew Academy, in memory of Arline Rosenzweig z"l, beloved mother and mother-in-law of Rabbi Dale (and Ellen) Polakoff.

**By sponsoring a Day of Learning you can help our students experience the mitzvah of studying in the merit of another person, a mitzvah that we hope they will continue to practice throughout their lives. Funds raised through this special program go directly to provide additional educational programs for the benefit of our children.**

If you would like to sponsor a Day of Learning to commemorate a yahrzeit or honor a parent, teachers, leader, or friend, please visit <https://www.nsha.org/dayoflearning>

If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Flatow at [aflatow@nsha.org](mailto:aflatow@nsha.org) or 516-487-8687 ext. 133.

## NSHA PTA LUNCH PROGRAM

**DEADLINE TO ORDER: SEPTEMBER 18TH**

**FOOD PROGRAM STARTS: OCTOBER 12**



### *nsha pta* LUNCH PROGRAM

*lose the bento, let the PTA serve you*

WEEKLY MENU	PRICE LIST *
<b>MONDAY:</b> Choice of Mac & Cheese or Plain Pasta With Side of Sauce Side of Steamed Broccoli & Carrots * by Elite Pizza	<b>TODDLER- K:</b> MONDAY \$125 TUESDAY \$150 WEDNESDAY \$100 THURSDAY \$125 FULL WEEK \$500
<b>TUESDAY:</b> (NSHA Meat Day) Platter of Chicken Fingers Side of Yellow Rice & Israeli Salad *by Amal Caterers, Sesame/nut free	<b>1ST- 5TH GRADE:</b> MONDAY \$160 TUESDAY \$230 WEDNESDAY \$110 THURSDAY \$125 FULL WEEK \$625
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> Choice of 1 or 2 Slices of Pizza *by Elite Pizza	<b>6TH- 8TH GRADE:</b> MONDAY \$180 TUESDAY \$280 WEDNESDAY \$110 THURSDAY \$130 FULL WEEK \$700
<b>THURSDAY:</b> Choice of Cream Cheese or Plain Bagel With Side of Butter Side of Fresh Cut Fruit & Vegetables (Bagel is Whole Wheat) *by Bagel Mentch	

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**  
-Lunch program is completely sesame/nut free  
-The lunch program will begin AFTER the Chagim, October 12th  
-There will be NO refunds of the lunch program, no exceptions  
-All lunch will be served in individual portion containers, and will not be handled by anyone besides your child  
-Please contact Lisa Parker with any questions (917) 861-5815

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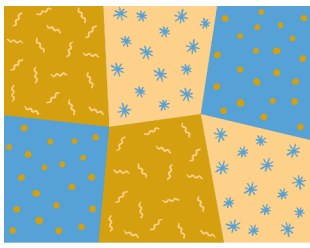
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# nsha

A WEEK IN PICTURES

