REUVEN REVIEW



YOUR WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN... כד חשון תשע"ט ⊈ 5:32p.m.

Vol. 6 Issue #4 November 2, 2018



Mrs. Leibovic's Fifth Grade Working On A Beat-The-Clock Math Challenge



Reminder: Move Clock Back One Hour

N'shei Opportunity

Please call or text Peshie Needleman at 845-494-2360 to sponsor next month's *Rosh Chodesh* treats in honor of a special occasion such as your son's birthday, a *yahrtzeit* or to express *hakara hatov* to an exemplary Rebbe.

Mazel Tov

Rabbi and Rebbetzin Senter – on their daughter's engagement to Eli Jaffa







Winners at the Friday, Matnas Shabbos Program



HR REUVEN 121NT TWO

Mesivta Open House

Motzei Shabbos, Parshas Vayechi December 22 We look forward to greeting you!

Third Grade Mesibas Haschalas Mishnayos



Eliezer Dovid Baldinger, Shlomo Bessler, Chanoch Book, Yaakov Meir Gilden, Shloimy Goldstein, Chaim Gavriel Herskovich, Moshe Lorber, Daniel Peikes, Davi Robinson, Tzvi Schwab, Moshe Tzvi Czegledi, Shalom Yaakov Frances, Ezra Yehudah Gold, Shlomo Zalman Gottlieb, Yehuda Baruch Saperstein, Ben Zion Shuster, Yehoshua Dahan, Mayer Friedman, Moishy Herman, Dov Ives, Elchonon Zalman Kamensky, Tzvi Karp, Azriel Laster,

Yehuda Lichstein, Rafi Perry, Daniel Rosen, Moshe Zev Schachter, Avraham Yaakov Schuster, Dovi Silber



P Aryeh Leib Lipszyc 2 Dovid Benjamin ³ Eliezer Adams 6 Moshe Newhouse 7 Ezra Yehuda Gold 8 Yehoshua Dahan



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Parenting in the Parsha

פרשת חיי שרה

Loss and Found

* editor's note: This piece was written before the tragic events of Pittsburgh last Shabbos. While it does not specifically address that horror, it does provide a framework for considering how to confront the challenge of guiding our children in the face of tragedy.

ויבא אברהם לספד לשרה ולבכתה

Avrohom proceeded to mourn for Sarah and to bewail her.

ונ"ל עוד כי היה הכתוב ראוי שיאמר ויבא אברהם ויצחק לספוד לשרה ולבכותה, כי בודאי ראוי היה יצחק לספוד לאמו הצדקת ולבכות עליה, שהרי החיוב בו גדול מאד יותר ממה שהוא באברהם, ועוד שהיא אהבתו אהבה יתרה שילדה אותו על דרך הפלא, והיתה נפשה קשורה בנפשו.

אבל יתכן לומר שלא ידע יצחק באותו הפרק שמתה אמו, כי לפי שמיתתה היתה בשבילו בשמועת העקדה, על כן העלימו ממנו מיתתה ולא הגידו לו. ומן הטעם הזה לא ראינו שיזכירנו הכתוב ליצחק כלל לא במיתתה ולא בקבורתה

It seems to me, as well, that it would have been fit to write "and Avrohom and Yitzchok came to eulogize Sarah and to cry for her," for it was certainly appropriate for Yitzchok to eulogize his righteous mother and to mourn for her, for the obligation was far greater upon him than upon Avrohom. Also, she loved him greatly as she bore him miraculously and her soul was bound in his.

But, it is possible to say that Yitzchok did not know at that time that his mother had died. Since her death was due to him in the news of the Akeidah, they therefore hid her death from him and did not inform him. It is for that reason that we do not see the *possuk* mentioning Yitzchok at all, not in connection with her death, nor with her burial.

Rabbeinu Bachya

טוב לָלֶכֶת אָל־בֵּית־אֵׁבֶל מִלֶּכֶת אֶל־בֵּית מִשְׁמֶה בַּאֲשֶׁר הָוּא סוף כָּל־הָאָדָם וְהַחֵי יִתֵּן אֶל־לִבְּוֹ:

Koheles 7:2

"You never regret going to a funeral"

Meghan Leahy, The Washington Post, November 8, 2017

Where was Yitzchok? It's a rather obvious question and yet it is rarely addressed, simply because the question is ignored by the classical commentators on the page of the *chumash*. Where was Yitzchok?

The Torah tells us of the death of Sarah *Imeinu* and of Avraham's mourning and eulogizing her. It also tells us of the struggle that Avrohom endured in trying to provide his wife the proper burial. Does Yitzchok play a role in any of this? Was he actively involved in the burial? Did he eulogize his mother? If he did, why is his name so conspicuously absent from the story?

Rabbeinu Bachya offers that Yitzchok is not mentioned because he was, in fact, not there. He did not take part in the funeral services or the burial of his mother. He did not participate because he did not know that she had died. And, he was not informed that she had died because her death was a direct result of the *Akeidah*, and there was concern that the news of her death would be more than he could bear.

Death is traumatic, and there are often circumstances where news of a death is properly concealed from a loved one in order to shield him or her from the trauma. A death in the family is traumatic for all, and can be very unsettling for a child. When death does visit, parents often struggle with how to deal with the children. What should they tell them? Should children go to the funeral? The cemetery? What about a *shiva* visit?

Children are comfortable in routine and predictability. Instability is destabilizing in a child's life, and more so in some children than in others. Except in cases of sudden, unexpected tragedy, the days, weeks and months leading up to the death of a family member are often filled with instability and lack of familiar routine as family members rally around the ill relative. In that time period, it is important to do as much as possible to keep children's routines as normal and regular as they can be. If parents can arrange to be home for children's arrival from school and/or

for bedtime and schedule hospital visits in between, that is great. If they cannot, they should elicit help from friends, neighbors, family, and Bais Yaakov girls in need of *chessed* hours who can keep the children regular in their schedules, their school work and their routines.

Children are all too aware when something is amiss, and their anxiety only grows when they are left in the dark. If you are dealing with a crisis, and your child is old enough to recognize that something is wrong, let the child know, on his or her level, what is happening. Offer and encourage the child to visit a loved one who is ill, preparing the child properly for what he will see and experience. Be prepared to patiently and matter-of-factly address your child's questions and concerns. Children have a lot to ask as they try to make sense of the world around them.

Know your child. If he or she is prone to anxiety or has suffered stress from prior trauma, then it probably makes more sense for the child not to go. Have that conversation with the child, and explain what is happening and why their visit might not be advised.

If a loved one passes away, parents are often confused about what to do with young children and funerals. Some helpful guidelines:

Children who are too young to grasp what is happening should be left in the care of a competent sitter. Bringing them along is a source of distraction and tension in an already difficult situation.

Older children who are aware, should be prepared properly for what will happen at a funeral and should be given the opportunity to attend if they desire. Funerals provide closure, comfort, and a structure for response to death for adults, and children are at least as emotionally in need as the adults in their lives.

Parents who are dealing with the loss of a more distant relative (a great-aunt or uncle, or perhaps the parent's own grandparent) may have the mental space to be able to attend their child's needs during the course of a funeral. When a parent is dealing with his or her own overwhelming grief, it is impossible for that parent to find the mental space to attend the child's needs. In that case, assign to the child a trusted adult with whom your child is comfortable for the duration of the funeral. This should be someone whom your child trusts and whom you can trust to stay by the child's side, to patiently explain to the child what is happening and to answer the child's questions. Do not leave a child to fend for him or herself at a funeral. It is simply too frightening, too foreign and too overwhelming for the child to be able to process. And, once again, know your child. If the child will be better off staying home, then that is the correct path. But, try to avoid projecting your own fears and insecurities on the child and concentrate on what will be best for him or her in the long run.

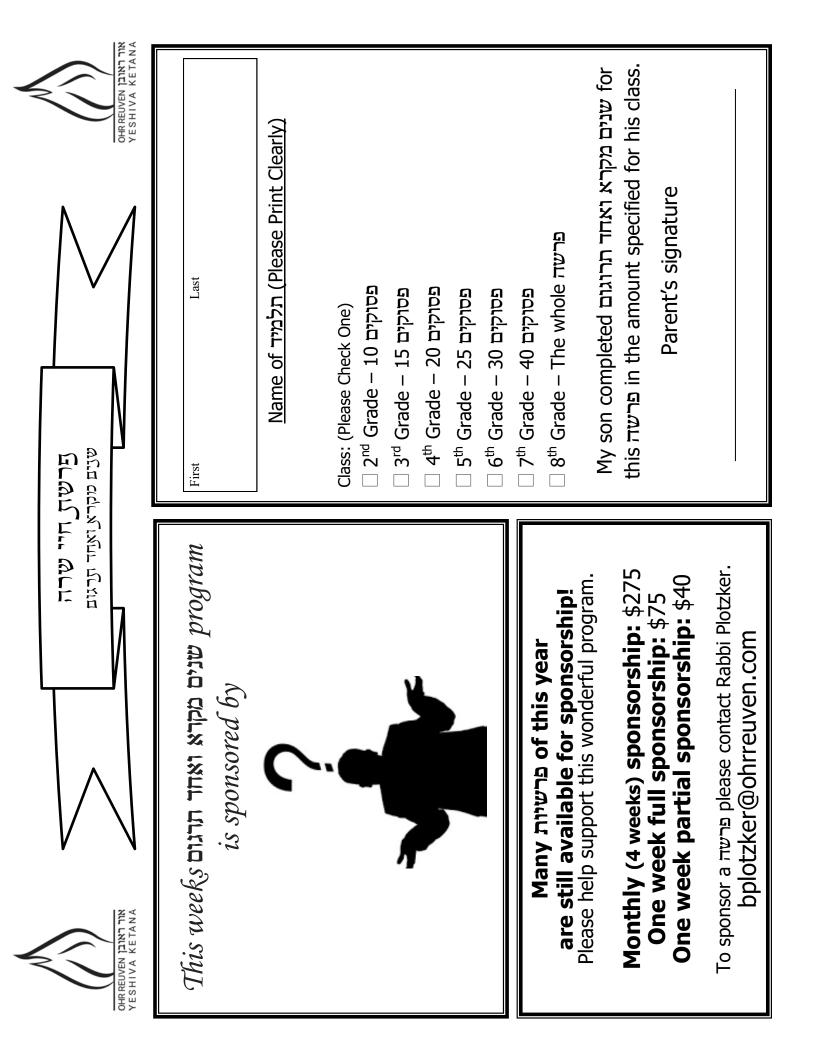
For children under ten years, the funeral is sufficient and the cemetery is probably beyond their capacity. Have a trusted adult take the child back from the funeral and let the child know exactly what will be happening with the *niftar*. Explain, in child-friendly terms, concepts of the body and soul and *shomayim* and *gan eden*. Sometimes the child may insist on going to the cemetery as well. Weigh the decision carefully and clearly explain to the child what will transpire at the cemetery. If the child will fare better being able to see the burial for himself, bring him and his trusted adult along. When in doubt, the rule of thumb should be to leave children under ten out of the burial process.

Older children should be brought to the cemetery, to see, hear and understand the process. They need to be trained and educated to take part in all of life's rituals and to become comfortable with them. Here too, there are exceptions where a particularly anxious older child would best be left at home. The rule of thumb with children over the age of *bar-mitzvah* is, when in doubt, encourage them to come, but never force. Once again, if you are occupied, make sure there is a trusted adult, even for older children.

Children who are old enough to sit respectfully should be brought to be *menachem avel*. It is an important part of *chinuch* as they learn how to take an active part in one of the most essential *chessed* rituals within our society. Here too, prepare the child as to the procedures, protocols, *halachos*, and structure of a *shiva* house. There is no need for children to have a prolonged visit, and often a short visit is recommended.

In the aftermath of death and burial, be open and honest with your child about your own feelings. It is important for children to see that sadness and grief are normal and are OK. Help your child cope and deal with the grief that he is feeling. Check in with your child to see how he or she is feeling and monitor the child to see that he is able to return to the normal routine of life. If you are concerned that your child needs to talk to someone, tap into the resources in the community and get the child the professional help that he or she needs.

Part of our job as parents is to balance the need to protect our children from trauma with the need to prepare them to cope with trauma. The way of the world is such that death is a part of life, and we need to serve in our capacity as parents, training our children for that contingency, even while dealing with our own trauma and pain. Avrohom did so with Yizchok, and we must do the same.



Congratulations to Meir Rubin on winning the Breakaway Basketball hoop from our last box top prize.

Our next box top collection day will be this Wednesday

November 7

We will now be collecting box tops during morning recess.

New Collection procedure !!!

Please bring your box top sheet to the box top collectors by the upstairs office during morning recess. Not only will you be entered into a raffle for a lego set but you will get a treat for every filled sheet you submit.

(Your box tops sheet is your raffle ticket so please make sure to write your name on the sheet)

Please only send box tops that are not expired.

Keep Clipping Box Tops!

*Special Thanks to the Pollock Family for sponsoring the November Box Top Raffle prize.

** Kleenex now places the boxtops on the outer plastic wrapping.

Earn cash for your school with Box Tops.	BUY Buy Box Tops products. You can find pink Box Tops on hundreds of items. Each Box Tops clip is worth 10¢ for your child's school.	CLIP Clip the Box Tops from the packages. Make sure they're not expired!	SEND Send the Box Tops to school on collection sheets like this one.	EARN Earn cash for your school: Your school's Box Tops Coordinator will submit the Box Tops and your school will receive a check to use for whatever it needs.
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NOR TOPS				

Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet – please submit them separately. To see more ways to earn cash for your child's school, including a complete list of participating products, go to BTFE.com.

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For more information or for sponsorship opportunities please call Rabbi Eliyohu Goldberg 347.420.0906 or email egoldberg417@gmail.com

