

Connections

A Project of the Shluchim Office

PARSHAS MIKEITZ
CHOF ZAYIN KISLEV 5765

Connecting Tzeirei Hashluchim around the World!

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 10

א פריילכן חנוכה Wishes you and your family ילדי השלוחים



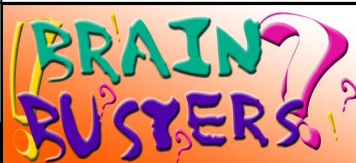
PARSHAS MIKEITZ

The Blum family was driving home late one night from an out-of-town wedding. After three hours of traveling the car started to make strange noises. Mrs. Blum looked at her husband worriedly. "What is that?" she asked in a hushed tone, not wanting to wake up the children who were asleep in the back seat. "I'm not sure," he answered. "Last week when I had the car checked, Jimmy said everything looked fine. I'll take it in again tomorrow and check it out." "We are only an hour away from home," Mrs. Blum whispered. "I hope we make it." Mr. Blum did not have a chance to answer. Suddenly the noises became louder, and then the car stalled. "Oh no!" blurted Mrs. Blum exclaimed out loud. "Stuck on the highway in the middle of the night with a car full of kids..." "What happened?" "Why did we stop?" One by one the children awoke, rubbing their eyes and looking around in the dark, confused. Mr. Blum went out to check the engine and Mrs. Blum explained to the children what had happened. "What are we going to do?" "Can we go to a motel?" The children were talking nervously as their father called from under the hood, "Where is the cell phone?" "Whom are you going to call at this late hour?" Mrs. Blum asked.

"I'll call Jimmy. We have no choice," Mr. Blum answered. "I can't figure out what's wrong. He knows our car best. Besides, he gave me his word that everything was fine. I hope he won't be too upset. It's dangerous to leave the car here. We are stalled on a curve, and if they don't see us, people driving behind us may not be able to stop in time." Mr. Blum used the loud speaker on his phone so that his hands would be free to work on the car. Soon everyone could hear Jimmy giving step-by-step instructions. At last, it seemed that the problem was solved. "Now, be very careful," Jimmy was saying. "You told me you are stalled on the curve of a hill. The problem with your car may cause it to roll downhill as soon as you let the brake go. Let me review what I said once more." Jimmy went over his instructions. "Now, Mr. Blum, you've got it. Do step one, then two and three. Ready?" But instead of a reply, all Jimmy heard on the phone were some words in a language he couldn't understand.

We know what Mr. Blum was saying. He was following Yaakov Avinu's example in a time of trouble. In this week's parshah, we read about the famine that caused Yaakov to send his sons down with Binyamin to Mitzrayim against Yaakov's wishes. This was a difficult time, as Yaakov said, "I lost Yosef, and Shimon was taken captive, and I am afraid of losing Binyamin." There were steps to be taken to try to avoid the danger that might await them while they would be seeking food in Mitzrayim. Yaakov's instructions to his sons included bringing gifts and taking extra money. Finally he said, "All that is left to do now is to daven to HaShem and ask for His help." A Jew must always do what has to be done to solve a problem. Action should be taken. Through these actions HaShem will send us His help. But our tefillos are most important. It is our tefillos that bring HaShem to respond to our difficulty and to send His help.

From 'Please tell me what the Rebbe Said' (Adapted from Likkutei Sichos, Vol. XXV, p. 227)



"Connections" Newsletter
is a weekly publication produced by
Chinuch Yaldei Hashluchim
connections@shluchim.org

#1 is 10 times 4, #'s 2 and 3 are 10 times more,
add 4 to #6 and you will find #4, divide #4 by 2 to get #5
Who am I?

6 5 4 3 2 1

(hint: I'm connected to Chanukah)

Please send your answers to connections@shluchim.org

The answer to last week's brain buster is Shemesh

Congratulations to Sheina and Shaya Liberow, Barranquilla, Colombia for solving the brain buster.



FROM THE DESK OF... DR. GETZEL

Dear kids,

Firstly, I want to give a big yasher koach to all of you who joined in the Yud Tes Kislev farbrengen/phone rally. It was great hearing your voices saying the pesukim and singing ...פדה ושלום נפשי from all around the world!

I am so excited about Chanukah. I can't wait to go out into the streets and light up the darkness. Remember the magical flashlights that Yankel and I had on our flight to New York? Well, each one of you has your own flashlight, too! All Chassidim are lamplighters and our mission is to light up the world by teaching people about torah and mitzvos.

Mrs. Getzel just sent me to the supermarket to buy potatoes, olive oil, and Chanukah candles. There I was, walking around the store with my full shopping carts and everyone was staring at me. People came over to me and asked if I was stocking up for a hunger! "No, no", I told them, laughing, "the potatoes are for Mrs. Getzel's famous Chanukah latkes, you have to come to our Chanukah party to taste them." Luckily, I had brought along some brochures which Yankel and Mirel gave out to each person who stopped us. You know something, one of the best places to do mitzvoim is the supermarket! A little girl came over to us and asked if we were expecting a black-out. Now this question really shocked us. "What?" Yankel, Mirel and I blurted out at once. "Well, why would you need so many candles," the puzzled girl asked. "To light the menorah, of course", Mirel said. We invited the girl and her mother to our Chanukah party, too.

You're not going to believe what happened next. The store manager saw so many people coming over to us that he asked us to make an announcement over the loud speaker. We were overjoyed. We marched to the front of the store and invited everyone to come to our Chanukah party!

The amazing thing about Chanukah is that we can go out into the streets and literally light up the darkness with our menorah lightings and Chanukah parties. I hope you all have a great Chanukah. Please write to me and tell me about the wonderful programs you did to "light up the night" of golus and bring Moshiach Now!

Dr. Getzel



DR. GETZEL'S MAILBOX

Dr. Getzel receives many letters in his mailbox at connections@shluchim.org

here is one of them:

Dear Dr. Getzel,

We made jelly doughnuts. We made clay Menorahs to light on Chanukah. We're gonna have a big Menorah lighting at the mall. We're going to have a big party, we're going light the Menorah there. Chaya Mushka is wearing a special outfit.

Love, Simcha Rochel Age 6 Duluth Minnesota



**ROSH CHODESH TEVES IS ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13.**

- I remembered to say Ya'aleh V'Yavoh in Shemoneh Esrei and in bentsching
- I remembered to say Hallel after Shemoneh Esrei.
- I remembered to daven Musaf.
- I remembered to say Borchy Nafshi on page 79 after the Shir Shel Yom.
- I didn't sew or do any laundry.



Levi Greenberg, age 9

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

My father once got a call from a Jew named Jeffrey who said to my father: "Rabbi please help me! I'm a baseball Red Sox fan and for 70 years they didn't win the World Series. Rabbi please pray that they should win!" My father offered Jeffrey that he would write to the Rebbe if he would agreed to do some mitzvot. Jeffrey agreed.

Although my father thought it was very strange to write to the Rebbe about such a gasmiyus thing like baseball he decided to write in anyway. My father wrote to the Rebbe that there is a Jew who is a Red Sox fan and the Red Sox did not win for 70 years and in his eyes it is very important. He added that maybe if the Red Sox win it will affect his yiddisheit.

Sure enough the Red Sox won the games and even played in the World Series. Today, Jeffrey is doing a lot of mitzvot including saying Shema and lighting Shabbat candles with his daughter.

Sara Rivka Sontroks, age 9

SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

It was so amazing to join all of you for the Yud Tes Kislev farbrengen on the phone. I felt privileged to say a possuk from my corner of the world and have it reach Australia. It was a taste of being with the Rebbe for a rally. Truthfully, it was a taste of Moshiach.

I can't wait for the next rally in Yerushalayim!
(But next time, remember to press 6!)

Hey kids, send us a short paragraph about your shlichus and we will publish it in our future "connections"!

Please include your name, age, and location.

E-mail us at: connections@shluchim.org



POCKET CALENDAR

26 KISLEV

The first edition of the Tanya (printed on 20 Kislev in Slavita) was delivered to the Alter Rebbe. The Alter Rebbe had the Tanya printed since many of the handwritten manuscripts that were going around contained mistakes.

It is also the day of the Rashab's bris in 5621/1860. The Tzemach Tzedek (his grandfather) delayed the bris for a month and instructed that it should be done in private, just like the second luchos were given.

27 KISLEV

The Alter Rebbe was released from his second imprisonment in the Tainy, Soviet prison in 5661/1800. However, some people feel that he was actually released on the 29th of Kislev.

(Days in Chabad)



Chanukah Tidbits

1. We spin the dreidel from the top, unlike the פריס gragger which is rotated from the bottom, because the miracle of Chanukah was clearly from Above, in a manner that was higher than nature.
2. The 25th of Kislev, the first day of Chanukah, is the same day that the Jews who left מצרים finished building the משכן in the wilderness.
3. The miracle of חנוכה took place long after the Torah was given, but it is hinted in the 25th word of the Torah, – “אור” ‘Ohr’, meaning ‘Light.’ Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on the 25th day of Kislev.
4. MANY CHASSIDIM HAVE THE CUSTOM OF MAKING SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS AND GIVING OUT EXTRA CHANUKA GELT ON THE 5TH NIGHT OF CHANUKA. THE REBBE EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS BECAUSE THE 5TH NIGHT OF CHANUKA IS THE DARKEST, SINCE IT IS THE ONLY NIGHT OF A YOM TOV THAT CAN NEVER FALL OUT ON SHABBOS, AND WE MUST DO OUR JOB OF ILLUMINATING IT, NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE IN THE WORLD.

(Taken from Virtualchanukah.com)

ARE YOU A PARSHA EXPERT?

QUESTION: Parshas Mikeitz is always read during Chanukah. What connection does the parshah have to Chanukah?

ANSWER: The following are some of the hints to Chanukah in this parshah:

1) According to halacha, the Menorah is placed on the left side of the doorpost, opposite the mezuzah, which is on the right. In the pasuk "ויהי מקץ שנתים", the word "שנתים" is a roshei teivos for ימין מזוזה □ (on the left kindle the candles, on the right place the mezuzah).

2) In ועל הנסים, the word "יד" – "hand" – is mentioned five times: "You delivered the mighty into the hand of the weak, the many into the hand of the few, the impure into the hand of the pure, the wicked into the hand of the righteous, and wanton sinners into the hand of those who occupy themselves with Your Torah." A hint for this may be found in the pasuk, "Binyamin's portion was five hands (times) as much as theirs" (43:34).

3) Throughout the Torah, at the end of every פרשה, the number of פסוקים in the פרשה is written. At the end of Parshat Mikeitz, besides the number of pesukim, we are also told that the פרשה contains 2,025 words. Why is it necessary to know the amount of words? Parshas Mikeitz is usually read during the week of Chanukah. The 2,025 words in the parshah can serve as a hint for the Yom Tov of Chanukah. During Chanukah we light candles for eight nights. The mitzvah can be fulfilled with only one candle each night for the entire household. In Hebrew a word for candle is "נר" which has the numerical value of 250. Eight times 250 equals 2,000. The event of lighting candles starts on the 25th day in the month of Kislev. Thus, 2,025 alludes to the 25th of Kislev and eight candles.

(EXCERPTED FROM VEDIBARTA BAM)



Stories of our Rabbeim

A Chanukah Story

It was the first night of Chanukah. Rabbi Baruch of Mezibuz, the son of the Baal Shem Tov, stood with a group of his Chasidim. With great concentration, he said the brocha over lighting the Chanukah Menorah and lit the first candle. The Chanukah candle was burning steadily when Rabbi Baruch and his Chasidim sat down around the menorah to sing Chanukah songs. Suddenly, the flame began to shake and leap. It seemed to dance around in irritation. And then, the flame just disappeared. The candle didn't go out; no smoke arose. It was as if the flame flew away to another place.

The Rebbe's assistant stood up to relight the Chanukah candles. But the Rebbe stopped him. "The Chanukah flame will return to us," he told his surprised Chasidim. "It has gone on an important mission," said the Rebbe quietly, mysteriously. Rabbi Baruch instructed his Chasidim to continue singing and discussing Torah thoughts. Close to midnight, a cry startled everyone. The Chasid who was sitting next to the menorah called out, "Rebbe, the flame has returned!" Within moments, the group heard the faint sounds of a wagon. One of the Rebbe's Chasidim entered the house. His clothes were torn, his hair messy, it was obviously painful for him to walk. But in direct contrast to his appearance, his eyes shone with happiness.

"Just a few days ago, I left my house to come to our holy Rebbe for the Chanukah celebration," began the Chasid. "This is not the first time I have come to the Rebbe, and I know the way well from my many journeys. But this time, my traveling was very slow. I became worried that I would not arrive in time so I decided to travel day and night and eventually I would reach Mezibuz. This was a foolish thing to do. But I realized that too late. Last night, a gang of robbers stopped me. They were overjoyed to find me. They were certain that if I was traveling at night I must be a very successful merchant who had important business to attend to which could not wait. They insisted that I give them all of my money.

"They would not believe me when I told them I only had the few coins which were in my bag. They cross-examined me and tortured me so that I would reveal where the rest of my money was. I, of course, had nothing to tell them. After many hours of torture they sent me to a dark cellar. When their leader came to me, I tried to explain to him the great joy that one experiences when with the Rebbe and how important it had been to me to be with the Rebbe for Chanukah. It would seem that my words entered his heart or, perhaps, after he saw that all the tortures were futile, he began to believe me. Whatever the case, he told me:

"I see that you are a person who believes in G-d and longs for his Rabbi. Go on your way. But be advised that the path through this forest is very dangerous. It is filled with wild beasts. Even we do not travel through it alone. If you succeed in making it through the forest, take your handkerchief and throw it in the ditch on the side of the road just after the signpost for the city. I will send a messenger tomorrow to see if it is there. In this way I will know that you have reached your destination. And, if you have, I promise you that I will leave my band of robbers and change my ways.' I became frightened again But what choice did I have? When I thought of lighting the Chanukah candles with the Rebbe, though, I was strengthened. I gathered my horse and wagon and continued my journey through the pitch-black forest.

"Not long after I began traveling, I saw ahead of me a pack of wild wolves. My horse refused to go any further. Suddenly, a tiny flame appeared in front of my horse and began leaping about. The flame went forward and the horse advanced. The rest of the way, the animals on all sides ran from before us as if the flame drove them away. This flame was with me until I arrived here. I threw my handkerchief in the ditch, and who knows? Maybe in the merit of this Chanukah candle, the band of criminals will return to a better path." The Chasid finished his story. And so the group of Chasidim understood to where their Rebbe's Chanukah flame had mysteriously disappeared.

(L'Chaim Weekly)



HEY KIDS! WE WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR CHANUKAH ON SHLICHUS! SEND US A REPORT TO: CONNECTIONS@SHLUCHIM.ORG

Dr. Getzel



B"H

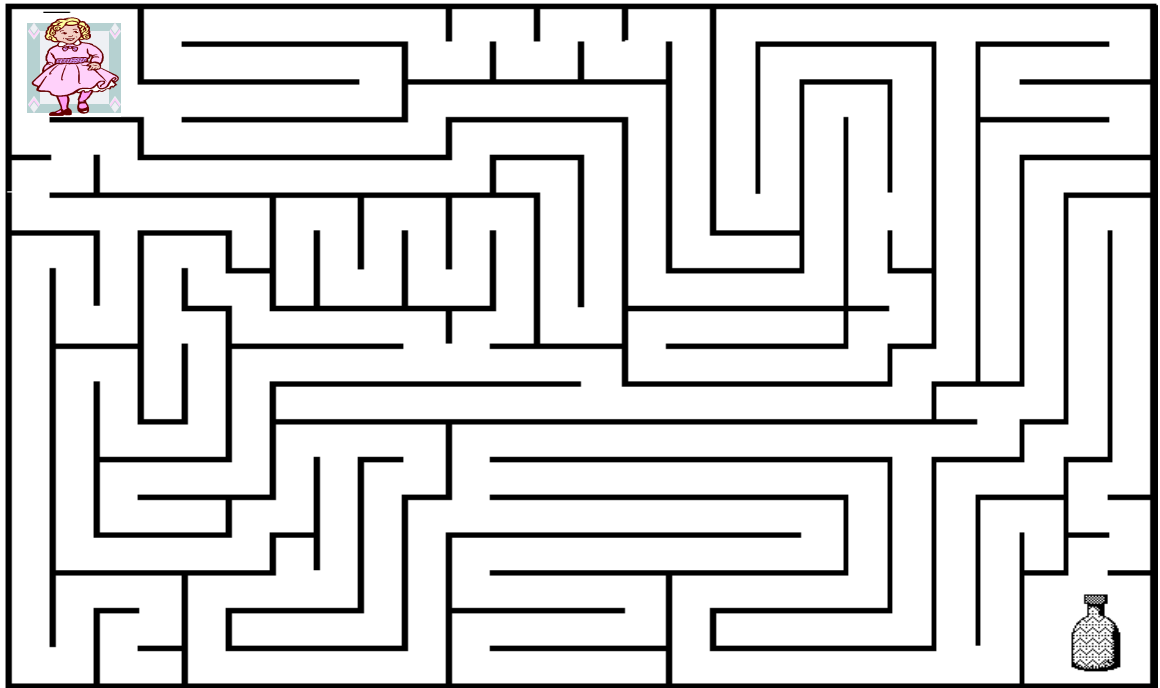
Level 1: Ages 6-8

Kids! Complete the fun sheet below about **חנוכה** below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 no later than Wednesday, December 15th, **ג' טבת**. We will **א"ה** be making a raffle from the correct answers and mailing prizes to the winners!

Congratulations to Devorah Freundlich 7, Beijing, China for winning last week!

Help Chanie find the jug of oil:

Chanukah Maze



Chanukah Word Find

Find the following words in the word find:

- CANDLE**
- CHANUKAH**
- DREIDEL**
- EIGHT**
- GELT**
- GIMEL**
- HALLEL**
- HAY**
- KISLEV**
- LATKE**
- MENORAH**
- NUN**
- OIL**
- SHIN**
- TEMPLE**

G	Z	L	A	T	K	E	N	U	N
E	X	H	A	R	O	N	E	M	T
L	L	I	O	N	U	U	D	L	H
T	H	S	C	P	L	X	T	E	G
T	E	M	P	L	E	N	C	L	I
Y	A	G	I	M	E	L	U	L	E
A	W	C	H	A	N	U	K	A	H
H	L	E	D	I	E	R	D	H	O
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	H	I	N
Z	O	Z	W	V	E	L	S	I	K

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

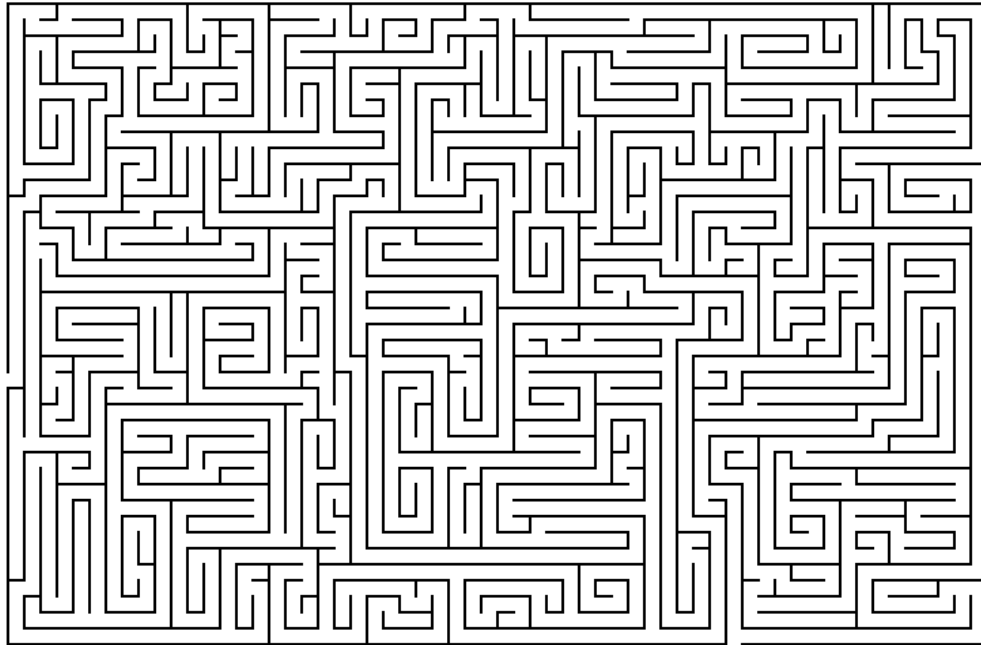
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Level 2: Ages 9-12

Kids! Complete the fun sheet below about **חנוכה** below, and fax it to the Shluchim Office at (718) 221-0985 no later than Wednesday, December 15th, **ג' סבת**. We will **איה** be making a raffle from the correct answers and mailing prizes to the winners!

Chanukah Maze



Congratulations to Yossi Klein, 10 from Memphis, Tennessee for winning last week!

Bring the olive oil jug to light the Menorah!



Chanukah Word Find

Find the following words in the word find:

- CANDLE
- CHANUKAH
- DREIDEL
- EIGHT
- GELT
- GIMEL
- HALLEL
- HAMMER
- HAY
- KISLEV
- LATKE
- MACCABEE
- MENORAH
- MODIN
- NUN
- OLIVE OIL
- SHAMASH
- SHIN
- SYRIANS
- TEMPLE

O	L	I	V	E	O	I	L	A	T	K	E
H	A	F	R	E	I	L	I	G	C	I	H
H	A	L	L	E	L	S	E	N	E	S	C
S	H	M	E	A	N	I	H	S	L	L	N
A	U	K	M	A	C	C	A	B	E	E	T
M	H	A	I	E	E	T	K	E	D	V	O
A	A	R	G	L	R	A	U	I	I	L	L
H	Y	T	P	D	N	U	N	G	E	H	N
S	E	M	E	N	O	R	A	H	R	I	Y
A	E	L	D	A	E	I	H	T	D	H	A
T	S	H	L	C	U	C	C	O	H	I	M
M	O	S	H	I	A	C	M	H	N	O	W

Use the remaining letters to spell the following sentence:

 -----!

Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____