ESSENCE OF ESTER

PERSONALS
The Charners cordially invite everyone to an open house Vort in honor of Shirah’s engagement to Shimmy Sternfield.

Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010
Time: 2:30 – 4:30
Location: Charner Homestead
10704 Huntwood Dr.
in White Oak

CHEMDAS NEWS
➢ Point Accumulation Deadline: May 17th at 3:29:59, a mere 31 days away.


➢ Chemdas Sr. (3rd-6th) Trip – Thursday, June 10, 2010
(The latter is a change from last week).
Dear Parents,

At the forefront of all our minds is the very sudden, stunning, and tragic passing of Rabbi Anemer, ZT’L. The monumental loss of such a Gadol from our midst is truly numbing and impossible to deal with at this time. From Rabbi Anemer’s dynamic leadership of our community for over half a century, to the institutions he founded and supported, to his international reputation as a Posek, to his integrity and uncompromising principles, to his personal greatness in Talmud Torah, to his teaching of Torah to thousands, to his intimate relationships with so many people, to his caring so deeply about all of us, and so much more, we must pause to reflect upon the communal and personal deep debts of gratitude we all owe to him. Rabbi Anemer was also a major link in the chain of Mesorah to the Gedolei Yisrael of the last generation. The void created locally and internationally by his Petirah can not be adequately filled. May Hashem comfort Mrs. Anemer, the entire family, all of us, and all of Klal Yisrael, and may we soon be reunited with Rabbi Anemer and all our loved ones with the coming of Moshiach.

Klausenberger Rebbe served as an inspiration through his Mesirus Nefesh for others and his commitment to Shemiras Mitzvos during the darkest of times. After the war, the Rebbe’s determination to rebuild has resulted in a real flowering of Torah and Chasidus. Mr. Lifschitz also included incidents involving “simple Jews” whose self-sacrifice for Torah should serve as models for “simple Jews” such as ourselves. Many thanks to Mr. Lifschitz for his moving presentation, especially after arriving that A.M. on a “red eye” flight from far away.

Calendrical Anticipations

Sunday, April 18 – 5th/6th Shiurim.
Monday, April 19 – Yom HaZikaron.
Tuesday, April 20 – Yom HaAtzmaut.
Wednesday, April 21 – Ben Atzmaut.
Thursday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 20th, 21st, and 22nd - Full post – 3:30 schedule.
Wednesday, April 28 –
✓ Pesach Sheini.
✓ Barring a blizzard, the Md Science Center is scheduled to come.
Thursday, April 29 – 4B/G to Historic St. Mary’s City, as a culmination of their year-long Maryland unit. Kids should Daven at home.
   8:00 Departure
   5:00 Return
Friday, April 30 - Second Annual TSGW Grandparents’ Day from 9:30-12:00.
Sunday, May 2 – Lag B’Omer.
Wednesday and Thursday, May 5th and 6th – Picture Art will be here to take individual and class pictures.

Week of May 10 – Standardized Testing for 3rd and 5th Grades.

Wednesday, May 12 – Yom Yerushalayim.

Thursday, May 13 – Annual Mishmar attendees trip to Baysox game after Mishmar. This includes all members of the male gender in Grades 4-6 and those 4th-6th young ladies who stay on Tuesday and/or Thursday for Rabbi Samberg’s class. As in past years, our PTA will sponsor a deli supper (following Mishmar) and the bus to transport us back and forth. Admission is $4.50 per child. We do need adult chaperones and a few vans to handle our overflow SRO crowd. Please let us know if you can come. If your son/daughter will be coming and/or if you can join us with a van, please fill out the form below.

Details:
• 4:45 – Supper.
• 5:30 - Leave for game from school.
• 9:45 - Estimated time of return to school. Call school voice mail (301-962-8003 ext. 2) after 9:00 to find out more exact timing.

Important Notice: The stadium does NOT allow anyone to bring in food.

Friday, May 14 – First ever TSWG Math Fair.

Monday, May 17 – Chemdas point accumulation deadline (a mere 38 days away.)


Tuesday and Wednesday, June 1 and 2 – 6B Graduation Trip.

Wednesday and Thursday, June 2 and 3 – 6G Graduation Trip.

Thursday, June 3 – Chemdas Jr. (1st and 2nd) Trip.

CHANGE: Thursday, June 10 – Chemdas Sr. (3rd-6th Trip.

We extend condolences to:
• Yael Cortell and family, upon the passing of her father, Z’L.
• Rachelle Myers and family, upon the passing of her mother, Z’L.
• Rabbi Yair Friedman and family, upon the passing of his grandfather, Z’L.

May Hashem comfort them among the mourners of Tziyon and Yerushalyim.

We wish a Refuah Shelaimah to:
• Eli Rutstein’s father.
• Mrs. Masha Schore.
• Mrs. Lisette Young.
• Chanoch Kanovsky’s father.
• Mrs. Rivka Winter’s father.

We extend a heartfelt Mazel Tov to:
• Aliza and Josh Hollander, Zicey and Yosef Shalom, and their entire family, upon the birth of a boy.
• Shoshana Myers, her parents, Rachelle and Cory; her siblings, Aharon Yaakov and Rena Leah; and her entire family, upon her becoming a Bas Mitzvah.

They may continue to be blessed with Simachos.

We express Hakaras HaTov to:
• Simmy Pollock, for covering the front desk on Sunday.
• Sharon Graff for coordinating, Shani Leiman for purchasing and Shlepping, and all the following for sponsoring Rosh Chodesh Iyar treats:
• The Eizenstat Family, in honor of Bracha’s birthday.
• The Friedman Family, עלזר ר חירז יוסב בר איייזר אייזר.
• Friends, with wishes for a Gut Chodesh.
• The Gewirtz Family in honor of Shayna’s last year at the Torah School, with a big thank you to Rabbi Charner, Mrs. Malka, and all the wonderful teachers and staff.
• The Kavanagh Family, in honor of the birthdays of Avi and Rosie.
• Mr. and Mrs. Meier Kotek in honor of the Kotek family’s Iyar birthdays.
• The Pines Family, in honor of Dovid’s birthday.
• The Samberg Family, in honor of the birthdays of Yehuda, Asher, and Efraht.
• Rabbi and Mrs. Singer, with Hakaras Hatov to the Torah School staff and in honor of Chaim’s birthday.

Mrs. Naomi Schwartz, for coordinating and everyone who sends in Snider's receipts. We just received a check from Snider's for $225.00.

3M Assembly

Today, we had our third 3M (Monthly Middometer Medalist) assembly of the year! The following youngsters were singled out primarily for demonstrating HaKaros HaTov (our Middah du jour during Adar and Nissan) and also for Middos studied in previous months’.

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<td>Meira Levin</td>
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<td>Avishai Tuchinsky Cohen</td>
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<td>Ruthie Seidemann</td>
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<td>Chaiky Backman</td>
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<td>Ariella Cohn</td>
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<td>Nessa Femeau</td>
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Many thanks to Shirah Charner for the certificates and to our office staff for putting it all together.

Our newest Middah focus, O’na’as Devorim, being careful not to say hurtful things, was introduced by Rabbi Samberg and company. In fact, Grades 3-6 saw a DVD this week which graphically showed the potential long-term damage of insulting others.

Yesterday, we had our annual CCHF Tehillim hook-up for 5th and 6th Grades. We, together with 12,000 children nationally, recited Tehillim for the Matzav in Eretz Yisrael and for Cholei Yisrael. May all our entreaties be answered positively.

Handbook Excerpt Dept.

On page 18 of the official 2009-2010 TSGW Handbook, it states:

**Illness**

In order to keep illness to a minimum, please keep your child at home if he/she is
sick. If you are not sure whether or not your child is contagious, please call your pediatrician. You should keep your child at home if he/she has:

- a fever - keep him/her at home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours;
- a persistent cough or a recurrent sore throat, especially if the child has been exposed to strep;
- strep - keep the child at home until he/she has been on an antibiotic for 24 hours;

We require this for the physical well-being of our children. We ask all parents to be fully cooperative with these expectations.

Today’s Attachments:

- Classroom Close-ups by Mrs. Esther Leigh.
- Chosen Words.
- SOVEYA Newsletter.
- Ooroo LaTefillah.

A FEW DOIN’S

- 5G celebrated their completion of Parashas Bo, with each young lady presenting a D’var Torah. Their food theme was the Makkos.
- 1G have really gotten into their study of Chumash. In a beautiful sequence, one girl pointed out that the letters of Hashem’s name have the Shoresh of חכם, which can mean was, is, or will be. The next Talmidah suggested that that is because Hashem is eternal (but she didn’t use the word eternal).
- Chaiky Backman’s letter to the editor was published in The Current Events newsletter. There was even a full response to her from the editors.
- In Science, we’re studying weather (I like the current patterns), food chains, the rock cycle, life cycles of trees, and animal habitats.
- In Social Studies, we’re creating state posters, writing country reports, examining globes, “traveling” on the Ark from England to Md., learning about settlers in Md. in the 1600’s, and discussing people with “special needs”.
- Math Topics include: decimals, solid and plane geometry, division, arrays, perimeters, area, geometry understood through kinesthetic “Simon Says”, and graphing data (on line graphs, double bar graphs, stem and leaf tables).
- Kids have also been fascinated by apostrophes for possessives and contractions.
- In Shmuel Aleph, 6B/6G have discovered some of the outstanding traits of Dovid HaMelech: humility, absolute self-control, Zerizus, Zehirus, Mesirus Nefesh for Klal Yisrael – just to name a few.
- 5B have learned, in Gemarrah, about when and how to make up a “skipped” Tefillah.
- 2B acted out the incident of the Mal’a’chim coming to Lot in Sedom.
- Weekly Pirkei Avos topics are being included in lessons. 1G are making booklets of each Mishnah they cover.
- For lovers of the game “Set,” 1B used this format for reviewing Shoroshim.
- 1B are putting together recipes for their Fantastic Fruits Cookbook.

Have a terrific Shabbos!
Dear Parents of Mishmar Attendees,

Please fill out the permission slip below and return to school A.S.A.P.

Mishmar Trip Permission Slip

I hereby give permission to my child/children, ____________________________, to go on the Mishmar trip to the Bowie Baysox game on Thursday, May 13.

☐ Enclosed is $4.50 to cover the cost of the ticket.

☐ I can come.

☐ I can drive and take ___ children, with seatbelts for all of them.

Date __________________________

Phone #_______________________

Parent’s Signature ____________________________________________
Enter our room and you will notice a colorful garden of flowers hanging on the back bulletin board. Attached to each flower is a picture of a child involved in an activity.

This is our מילרוב, garden of verbs.

In order to build the girls’ knowledge of Hebrew verbs, we introduce a new verb each week. Every girl has a spiral bound מילר workbook, and on each page of the workbook is a blank flower and lines. The petals of the flower contain lines on which the girls write the verb in וה in either זכור, זיכר, זכירה, זכרת.

The class starts off this activity by playing a simple version of hangman. The Talmidos guess letters of the 'a-' until they have guessed all three letters of the verb. In the center of the flower they write the three letters that comprise the verb, and, on the line underneath it, they write the translation of the verb. For example, the verb יאכזב will be written on the top line in the petal and the word eat will be written under it on the second line in the petal.

We then sing a song (To The Tune Of B.I.N.G.O.) using the verb in all four of its conjugations. It goes something like this: יאכזב יאכזב יאכזב יאכזב. Eating, eating, eating. We try to act out the verbs, as well. The verb, in all four forms is written on the board, and the students then write it into their workbook using one petal for each variation. They write it in their neatest handwriting and then get ready to write sentences.

At this point, the girls are usually very eager and excited to share a sentence with the class using one of the versions. This gives them an opportunity to utilize their Ivrit skills to produce a good sentence. In the beginning of the year, the sentences all began with names or titles of people. As the year progresses and the class increases its Hebrew knowledge, the sentences are becoming more varied, as the young ladies use pronouns as sentence starters. It is incredible to see how the girls are learning to consistently match a pronoun in Hebrew to its correct verb form.

As there are four ways to say each verb in וה, four youngsters get a chance to share a sentence for each verb. Each girl says her sentence out loud as I write it on the board, and the class members copy it into their workbooks. As a girl is dictating her sentence to me, I try to encourage her to further develop it by asking her questions about her sentence. For example, I will ask her זכור או זכרת?, and she will try to continue her sentence and add more details to it. The girls are all very proud of their sentences and wish we would write some more.

Of course, there are other opportunities in our day for the girls to have first hand experiences in זיכרון, such as in center time andזהויות lessons and this is just another way to tie together all that they are learning.
Berachah of the Week

“Who firms man’s footsteps.”
The simple meaning of this blessing is that we thank Hashem for our ability to walk.

Although we do not consider the ability to walk to be remarkable, this Berachah should give us pause to change our perspective. We must recognize the fact that every step we take involves an intricate operation of muscles, bones, joints, and balance. Furthermore, we must be grateful that we have this capability, especially in light of the fact that some people don’t. Those who can’t walk say this blessing in thanks for others who can walk and, thereby, help them.

An additional thought is found in “My Prayer” (pg. 35):
This blessing has yet a wider and deeper meaning. It reminds us that man’s movements, though they are quite free and voluntary, have a deeper purpose connected with Divine Providence. This will become clear when we trace the text of this blessing to its original source in Psalms 37:27, which reads “The steps of man are directed by G-d, and He (he) delights in his (His) way.” The saintly Baal Shem Tov, who gave us a deeper insight into the meaning of Divine Providence, explained this passage to mean that, when a Jew goes about his personal business, there is really a more important - spiritual - purpose in his moving about from place to place and meeting different people. This is especially true when one goes to a new city or country, whether on a visit or for a permanent change. The more important reason or purpose is connected with something more than his own good. It may be for the purpose of doing someone else a favor, materially or spiritually, or to spread a good influence, or to show a good example of conduct, or strengthen and spread Torah and Mitzvos in his environment; or all of these combined.

A Project of the
Torah School of Greater Washington
Prevention is the Best Medicine

Torah thought on health and wellness:

The sefer Ta’amei HaMinhagim (page 251) writes that the Jewish month of Iyar is a time for refuah (healing). However, a person can overeat even the right foods. The chicken might taste really good, but our body only needs one portion. Appropriate quantities mean not eating too much, or too little. Both overflowing our tank, and under filling it, have serious ramifications.

Additionally, he cites the B’nai Yissaschar, who teaches that most weakness and illness come from foods which are harmful to a person’s nature or composition. The Rambam (Hilchos De’os 4:15) writes likewise. See also Kitzur Shulchan Aruch chapter 32.

The mahn began to fall in this month (on the 16th day of Iyar 2448). It was the perfect food, from which no sickness, pain or even waste matter resulted (as Dovid HaMelech refers to it in Sefer Tehillim—“lechem abirim”). It even cured those who were ill. Therefore, HaShem left the curative nature of the month in effect for all generations. Accordingly, Iyar is a time of segulah l’refuah.

The mahn was the perfect amount with the ideal nutrients – and its taste was as exquisite as the spiritual level of the consumer. So how can we best replicate that experience with the foods available to us? How can we fine tune our eating behaviors to keep ourselves in the best physical and spiritual condition – and not damage our bodies and souls through improper eating, thus requiring a necessary refuah (G-d forbid).

Our bodies are finely tuned, extremely complex mechanisms. They thrive with proper care, and can be easily damaged through insufficient, or inappropriate handling. This is most clear in regard to our eating – for food is the fuel that sustains us, giving us vitality and energy to maximize our day. A car is not going to go very far, or very fast, without the right amount and right type of gasoline.

Good eating habits have three components – appropriate choices, appropriate quantities and appropriate times of the day. The right choices mean that we select foods based on our bodies’ needs more so than on our immediate cravings. HaShem blessed us with a bountiful selection of healthy choices (proteins, grains, vegetables, fruits) that we can prepare in delicious ways. There’s no excuse for not being able to get a geshmak and gezunt at the same time.

However, a person can overeat even the right foods. The chicken might taste really good, but our body only needs one portion. Appropriate quantities mean not eating too much, or too little. Both overflowing our tank, and under filling it, have serious ramifications.

And lastly, we can have a handle on the right choices and amounts, but push off our eating until late in the morning, or late at night – both of which are not beneficial. Breakfast is exactly that – we are breaking a fast from having not eaten since the night before. Our bodies desperately need nutrition soon after waking in order to have ample energy to start the day. Getting off on the wrong foot often results in trying to catch up by unhealthy snacking throughout the day.

Our bodies need a proper breakfast, lunch and dinner at the proper times – ideally four to six hours apart. Eating late at night is the last thing a person needs. If we go to sleep on a full stomach, why are we often uncomfortable and not feeling fully rested in the morning? Because we are causing our bodies to do highly conflicting tasks – to spend significant energy to digest a full meal at the same time as trying to gain valuable rest while sleeping. The two don’t work hand in hand. Proper digestion doesn’t occur, and proper rest is not a result.

Iyar is the perfect time to adjust our behaviors with food so we don’t have to end up seeking a refuah as a consequence of our actions – but rather treat our bodies in the way in which HaShem directs us, for prevention is truly the best medicine. Good שבת.
**SUGAR: A PRIMARY CAUSE FOR HEART DISEASE**

A book by a leading cardiologist identifies sugar as one of the chief causes of heart disease. "Most people think of high cholesterol as the main culprit, but sugar blows cholesterol out of the water," says Dr. Stephen T. Sinatra, co-author of *Reverse Heart Disease Now.* "Sugar inflames blood vessels, which leads to clotting, pre-diabetic insulin resistance, diabetes, metabolic syndrome and obesity."

His suggestion: avoid high glycemic foods. High glycemic index foods (such as simple carbohydrates) will increase the body's sugar levels rapidly whereas low glycemic index foods will increase the body's sugar levels slowly. The goal is to choose the foods with complex carbohydrates over ones with simple carbohydrates. How do you do that?

On the Nutrition Facts label, find the Total Carbohydrates section, which has either two or three categories: Dietary fiber, Sugars, Other carbohydrates.

**Total carbohydrates:** Tells you how many grams of carbohydrates are in each serving and the percentage of the Daily Value this represents. This number includes starches, complex carbohydrates, dietary fiber, added sugar sweeteners, and non-digestible additives. The following three carbohydrates all add up to the total carb value.

**Dietary fiber:** Represents the number of grams of fiber in each serving.

**Sugars:** This figure represents the number of grams of added sweeteners, which may appear in the ingredients list as: sugar, corn syrup, honey, brown sugar, and so on.

**Other carbohydrates:** This line reveals the number of grams of complex carbohydrates, not including fiber, but including non-digestible additives, such as stabilizers and thickening agents. Theoretically, this number should reflect the amount of the more nutritious sugars - ones naturally present in the food.

Reading between the lines. As a general guide, the greater the discrepancy between "total carbohydrates" and "sugar," on the label, the more nutritious carbohydrates the food contains. This means that the package contains more of the food's natural sugars than added sugars. The closer the number of grams of "sugar" is to the "total carbohydrates" in each serving, the closer the food gets to the junk quality. The "total carbs" minus the "sugar" value is particularly helpful in comparing the nutritional value of cereals. For example, a serving of regular All-Bran contains 24 grams of total carbohydrates and 6 grams of sugars, resulting in 18 grams of potentially healthy carbohydrates. A serving of Fruit Loops, on the other hand, contains 28 grams of total carbohydrates, 15 grams of which are sugars - over 50 percent of the total carbohydrates in Fruit Loops are added sweeteners, versus 25 percent in All-Bran.

**BANANA ICE CREAM**

**Ingredients:** 4 large frozen bananas (cut up), 2 cups (16 oz.) milk or plain yogurt

**Directions:** Remove frozen bananas from the freezer and allow to slightly thaw for two minutes. Put bananas in a food processor or blender with the milk or yogurt and process into a nice thick cream. No need to add sweeteners - bananas have plenty of natural sugar.

Yields 4 servings

**BARLEY SALAD**

**Ingredients:** 1 cup barley (cooked), 1 cup garbanzo beans, 2 cups cucumber and peppers (chopped), 2 T olive oil, Salt and pepper to taste

Mix ingredients and enjoy!
Masterpiece

The work of both hearts

The words of the Sh'ma direct us to love Hashem, "with all your heart." This phrase, according to the Sifri, means that we must love Him with "both" of our hearts—the yetzer tov and the yetzer hara as well. But how does a person put his inclination toward sin into the service of Hashem? The Dubnow Maggid explained with this allegory:

In a certain kingdom, a magnificent diamond was unearthed. The king became obsessed with having this stone as the centerpiece of his crown. But when the stone was brought to him, his hopes were shattered, because clearly visible along the side of the diamond was a large crack.

The royal jeweler called upon every available diamond expert, and each pronounced that, in order to perfect the stone, it would have to be cut into smaller gems. Finally, one more jeweler arrived at the palace, and upon examining the diamond, informed the king that with one day and one night of work, he could transform the stone into a jewel worthy of the crown.

The suspense ended the next morning, when the king was invited to view the finished product. The cutter had polished the diamond to perfection. The crack, still visible along the side, had been incorporated as the stem of an etched rose—the king's coat of arms. The flaw had been transformed into the distinctive feature of a masterpiece.

There is no human inclination that doesn't have, intrinsic within it, the potential to be turned toward the service of Hashem. It's our job to work with what we've got, with an eye toward shaping ourselves into a masterpiece for the King.

Effective Prayer

Making Good Time

As we awaken each morning, we face a mystery. What will this day bring? Success or failure? Good news or bad? Happiness or grief? "The end of a matter is good from the beginning," Koheles teaches. In other words, how something starts out often determines how it will end. For the Jew, the day starts with prayer.

Following the wisdom of Koheles, a day in which one arrives at shul on time and begins his prayers in a calm, prepared state, is a day in which everything else will follow suit. During the life of Rabbi Eliah Lupian, a group of eminent Torah scholars organized themselves into a society, and agreed to certain guidelines. Among these was, "to arrive on time for Shacharis."

Better Relationships

Fraudulent Friendship

David was the center of attention in the group standing outside shul. Everyone was interested in his story—a dramatic one about his next-door neighbor's trials getting his son into yeshivah. The story had it all—a suspenseful plot, villains, heroes. David's audience stood spellbound as he related how his neighbor had poured his heart out. It was at times such as this that David felt so appreciated and accepted by his friends.

What David didn't realize, however, was that no one in his audience would trust him. They would never discuss their problems or reveal their feelings, because they well knew that their story, too, would eventually become part of David's repertoire.

The speaker may feel like he's gaining friends because of the short-term attention he attracts. But the real ticket to friendship is trust, something that a person known to speak loshon hora automatically forfeits. People may give David their ear, but they will never give him their heart.

Adapted from "Chofetz Chaim: A Lesson a Day," by Rabbi Shimon Pinkelman and Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz, a project of the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation and Mesorah Publications

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"Arrive on time for the morning prayer and the day goes upward from there."
Do As I Do

The law offices of Einhorn, Einhorn & Valdez were, as one secretary put it, "a tension convention." The phones never stopped ringing, the partners never stopped demanding and criticizing; the secretaries were expressions of near-desperation. Clients unlucky enough to spend time in the waiting room felt like unexpected guests in the middle of a family feud.

Then one day, in walked Mrs. Weiss, the new secretary. About a decade older than most of the secretaries, she had raised eight children and now was back in the workforce and raring to go. The non-stop phone, the cranky partners, the constant pressure didn't seem to rattle her at all.

"How do you stay so calm?" one secretary asked Mrs. Weiss. "What's the big deal?" she answered. "So it's hectic. My house, when the children were small, was twice as hectic. So people are a little rude and cranky. But they don't compare to a three-year-old. And here, after I'm done, I go home. And I get paid. I like it."

Mrs. Weiss was like an open window in a dark, stuffy room. Through her, everyone caught a glimpse of the sun that was still shining, a breath of the air that still smelled sweet. Einhorn, Einhorn and Valdez suddenly became a nice—if busy—place to work. Even the partners felt compelled to speak politely in Mrs. Weiss' kind, motherly presence.

Our lives intersect with hundreds of others, sometimes casually, sometimes closely. At each intersection, we have an impact. We can and do give others—our co-workers, children, students—valuable life lessons, without a word of advice.

Shabbos Table Discussion:
If you were stuck waiting in a long line, what perspective could you adopt that would set a good example to those around you?

Adapted from "Anger, the Inner Teacher," by Rabbi Zelig Fliskin, with permission from the author

Making Good Time
continued from front page of prayers. Rav Eliyahu explained that, as men devoted to learning, they knew their learning could only bear fruit if the day started the right way.

Arriving on time also expresses a person's sense of priorities. Just as a person rushes to get to work on time, he should feel the same urgency to arrive at shul on time. Doing so demonstrates that he recognizes the real Source of his sustenance.

Adapted from "Rav Eliyahu," by Rabbi David J. Schlossberg, with permission from Mesorah Publications

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Impact

Leonard Fruhman of Dallas knew little about Judaism when he visited Israel in 1986. Visiting the Kosel as a sightseer, he found himself inexplicably moved to pray, in whatever way he could. Soon he noticed a Yerushalmi Jew standing beside him, swaying gently, blissfully reciting Tehillim from a worn-out sefer. He envied the man's rapture as he connected with Hashem, and wished he could somehow have a piece of it. Even if he could just give the man some money...but no, that would be an intrusion upon his prayers.

Upon arriving back in Dallas, Leonard was still driven to connect somehow to the holy Yerushalmi. Little did Rabbi Aryeh Rodin of the Young Israel know at that time why this friendly stranger named Leonard Fruhman walked in off the street and presented his shul with $3,000, the first of many generous donations. As for the Yerushalmi, he will only discover in the World to Come the impact he had in Dallas.

You never know who's watching.

Adapted from "Echoes of the Maggid," by Rabbi Paysach J. Krohn, with permission from Mesorah Publications

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