

March 5, 2010
19th Adar, 5770



VT TIMES

BOYS DIVISION

The Joys of Adar

By Ben Kiaei

"...misheh, misheh, misheh..."

There is no doubt that the joyous spirit of Adar fills the walls of Valley Torah. Day in and day out, we students search for opportunities to sing, dance and exult, filling the hallways with our voices and echoes of Adar-inspired songs. The unique love for jumping and twisting to the "Rebbe Nachman" can't be found anywhere else; it's as if we're a performing orchestra. We are many, but when we play our music, we are one person creating a smooth and flowing masterpiece. Two weeks ago Friday (February 19), in honor of Adar, we were given the opportunity to release some of our "Adar Energy" with a jam-packed and exciting morning.

After davening, Rabbi Stulberger graced us with one of his enlivening "shmuzim." Then the rejoicing began. Happiness permeated the air as students worked up a sweat dancing to the joyous music emanating from the speakers set-up on campus. Later on, students were treated with snacks to restore some of the "Adar Energy" used in the annual Simcha. When sated, students retreated into their classrooms still singing and dancing. We finally quieted down, but only until our next event: the Purim Chagigah.

The Chagigah-

The ultimate mixture of joyous, soberish dancing and talented singing and music

Newspaper Crew

Avi Dear, Editor
Eli Kawas, Assistant Editor
Elisha Kramer, President of Public Relations
Yoav Anatan, Journalist
Chushim Botach, Journalist
Ben Kiaei, Journalist
Cobe Schwartz, Sports Journalist
Katriel Sigala, Journalist
Avraham Sloves, Journalist
Yosef Yasmeh, Journalist

Student Council

Mordy Mizrahi, President
Damian Rodriguez, VP
Eli Kawas, Secretary
Aryeh Istrin, Treasurer
Aaron Liberman, Historian
Avi Silver, 12th Grade Rep.
Moshe Reich, 11th Grade Rep.
Brian Saeidian, 10th Grade Rep.
Ezra Ebriani, 9th Grade Rep.

A Message From Your President

Throughout last month we have been working tirelessly on installing new waterless urinals in the school, we are currently awaiting approval for the project. Installing these urinals will save an astonishing 6,000 gallons a month! We have also placed four recycling bins throughout the school; we ask that everyone please place their cans and bottles into the bins. We also ask that no one put in garbage or take out any recyclables. Thank you. I have divided the council in half in order to better the school; we have one half working on trips and events and the other half working on our Go Green campaign. We apologize for the delay that Student Council is having on organizing trips, this is the first year we have had a council in Valley Torah and the administration is still getting used to that fact.

Sincerely,

Markus Shlomo Mizrahi,

Valley Torah Student Council President & Student Body Advocate.

Markus Shlomo Mizrahi

wolfpack Baseball: preseason

By Avi Dear

He raised his right hand, extended his index finger, and twirled it in a circular motion. It was the first time the ump ever followed one of Rosenberg's hits with that assurance. Son, he

said, you got yourself a home run. A monster one, at that, it traveled an estimated 350 feet.

The previously loaded bases cleared, all three tapped home plate. Rosenberg trotted around,

barely concealing the smile on his face.

He was met in the dugout by 15 rowdy teammates poised to jump all over him, and one proud father bursting with pride.

Not Only in a Dream

By Avi Dear

This fictional, but entirely possible, situation was adapted from a dream of mine. I dreamt...

...The casino floor was filled with smoke, the air hazy. Dianne Stevens sat in front of the slot machine, her face blank, her mind free of any thought. Surrounding her on all sides were slot players, all with the same expressions, all mindlessly inserting quarter after quarter into the slot machines hoping for a win. Dianne found herself out of quarters. She reached deep into her pocket (both literally and figuratively) and pulled out a five and a one. Dianne slowly stood up, wobbled to another machine, and quickly fed the bills into it to exchange them for her much needed quarters. She walked back to her slot, her eyes fixed on the intricate patterns of the casino floor.

Wait. Who is that little girl sitting next to my slot machine? Ohh, Dianne

*giggled, can't believe I forgot about my own daughter. Sam was Dianne's four year old daughter. The girl's father ran away when she was just a newborn, leaving Dianne to raise her. Not one day passed when Dianne failed to curse the man for dumping all that responsibility on her. Dianne lowered herself into the chair and threw another quarter into the machine... she got nothing, another quarter, nothing. "Mommy, I'm thirsty." Another quarter, another, "mommy," another quarter. The machine made its characteristic jingle, and Dianne frantically collected her winnings: five quarters. *Oh my god! I won, yes!**

"Mommy, I'm thirsty." Dianne took her new quarters and shoved them right back into the machine. Sam continued squirming and tapping her mother on the shoulder. Another quarter, another, another. "Mommy!"

"Okay, okay, jeez. Let's go, babe. Let's go get you something to drink."

Dianne picked up her purse, took Sam by the hand, and walked to the bar in the corner. "I'd like a bottle of water."

"Just one bottle?"

"Yeah."

"Okay...that'll be \$1.29." Dianne fished in her pocket, found a quarter, checked in her purse and found just a few pennies. "uhhh...ma'am?"

"Yeah, just one second." Dianne had only 35 cents. "um, sorry. Well...have a nice day." She grabbed Sam's hand and left the casino. "Wait mommy, where are you going? You forgot my water, I'm really thirsty...Mommy!"...

...This never happened. There was never a Dianne Stevens, nor was there a little Sam. Their story will always remain a mere dream I had. But their plight, Dianne's addiction, those are not just the sad realities of a dream.

CAN WE STAND BY OUR VALUES?

By Avi Dear

It's a loaded topic. There are many unseen factors...sort of like how Hashem was unseen in the megilah. He was there the whole time, orchestrating things, never forsaking His people, but he was hidden.

But that's not the point. The point is that if one has values, values that one is willing to stand by no matter the pain, no matter the personal loss that those specific values engender, they should not be forgotten. They should not be thrown aside.

Although our beloved coach (and I say "our" because he was not only the coach of the ten or so people on the team...but he represented to the school the basketball team we were all

proud of) will miss YU, the team's loyalty, their allegiance, still remains. They vowed to not forget their coach, they stuck by those values.

Although I have never been privileged to play under Coach Meisels, I have seen the fruits of his labor. Not the wins (not to say that there were none, Motti left VT with a winning record). I have seen confused kids wandering through high school who morphed into proud athletes with a purpose. I have seen the birth of leaders. I have seen a challenged kid suddenly become a team captain. I have seen students from other Jewish schools suddenly religiously following the Wolfpack and rejoicing at their success. Maybe because it's not only about winning to him, maybe it's

about raising the next generation, imbuing them with an honor and pride for the frum Jews they are. I have seen a group of athletes infused with core values that they were willing to stand by.

But isn't that what makes it a real value to you? If there are no tests, no pain, if nothing ever tries to shove those values into the ground, then it's quite easy to proudly stand by them. When the decisions get tough—for again, there are unseen factors, unique circumstances for all involved—stand by those values you were taught.

Responses to: A Little RESPECT

In response to your last week's article regarding the interaction between the varsity team and the junior varsity team, as well as the overall image of the j.v. team. I agree with you. I agree that the j.v. does not receive nearly the same level of respect from the fans, the school, or from mostly everyone. However, you must understand something before you make bold claims like that of your previous article. Every single player on the varsity squad has worked hours upon hours, days upon days. They have earned the respect of the community over the years - something the j.v. has yet to accomplish. Yes we have a fancy bus on occasions, but only due to the fact that we have earned it. Do not mistake what I'm saying for an attack on j.v., because the varsity team willingly admits that junior varsity is part of the Wolfpack - part of the family. But I do feel that your misperception has led to feelings of animosity that truly do not exist. I personally have played on j.v. When I was there I paid the same requests that we request you guys to give. I remember multiple games when I would rebound for Dovie Hoffman during half time to help get his shot on. But we practiced outside in the freezing cold three days a week, we were lucky to get a gym to practice in. you should be happy for what you have.

After all the entire reason for the j.v. team is to prepare you for the real deal: varsity. Don't worry fellas, one day when you play varsity ball, you will fully understand exactly what I'm talking about. You, my friend, will get the same respect that we get and will be satisfied.

P.S.

Unarguably, your water boy is phenomenal. But our water boy, the president of the Student Council, Mordy Mizrahi (along with the help of Uzi Bina), simply takes it to the next level.

Sincerely,
David Schrage, A Fellow Family Member

Dear J.V. team,
See you in the playoffs.

-from a Loyal Varsity Fan.
Rephael Rosenberg

R-E-S-P-E-C-T.....
Denied.

-from *another* varsity fan

Complete, Unadulterated Faith In God, Not Man

Based on the words of Rabbi Stulberger and Rabbi Berel Wein

"If you destroy the Jewish people, then erase me from your book." Hashem did not erase Moshe from the Torah, but rather took his name entirely out of one *parshah*: *Tetzaveh*. But why this *parshah*? There are numerous possible answers, but one that both Rabbi Stulberger in his weekly *Shmuz*, and Rabbi Berel Wein focused on, brings to light a concept that, unfortunately, is often forgotten.

The reason why *Tetzaveh*, which closely follows Moshe's *Yahrzeit*, is the *parshah* Hashem chose to leave Moshe's name out, is to teach us that Judaism does not depend on one person. Even the greatest prophet of all time. We do

not *daven* to anyone other than Hashem. If a rabbi which we looked up to committed a shockingly immoral act, that should not shake our *emunah*, but merely prove that all are human.

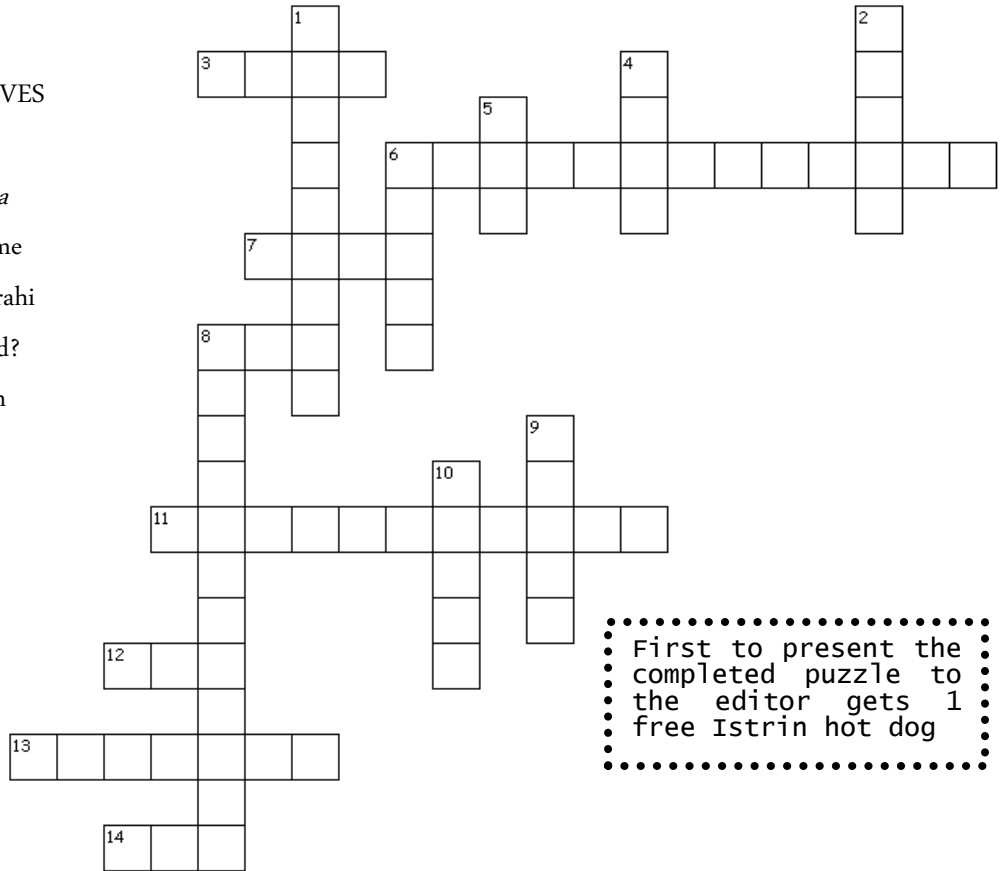
Someone once asked a great rabbi: "What would you do if the Rambam was proven to be entirely false? Many *seforim* and words of Torah and its lessons are based on the teachings of the Rambam?!" The Rabbi answered that he would quietly and politely remove all of the Rambam's *seforim* from the bookshelves and continue living a Torah life. It does not "disprove Judaism," it proves the mortality of man. Child molestations, marketing

body parts, and money laundering are undoubtedly causes of much *chillel Hashem*, but also serve as reminders to all of us not to deify any one human, not to base our faith in man. As Dovid Hamelech said, we should not place our trust in humans, but rather in God and His Torah.

Look to the Rabbis for guidance while keeping in mind that all are mortal except for God. "All humans are subject to sin and failure, temper and error. Worship in the Torah is reserved for God Himself." (Rabbi Wein) When a holy Jew makes a grave error, we must keep our *emunah* intact and look towards God and the Torah.

Across

- 3. _____ Cassatt, a famous artist
- 6. Number of years the Jews served as SLAVES in Egypt (no "and")
- 7. *Mishenichnas* _____ *marbim besimcha*
- 8. Mr. McEntee's student-bestowed nickname
- 11. Student of the week before Mordy Mizrahi
- 12. How many sons of Haman were hanged?
- 13. Class officially starts at nine _____ on Mondays and Thursdays.
- 14. How many soda machines in VT?



.....
 First to present the
 completed puzzle to
 the editor gets 1
 free Istrin hot dog

Down

- 1. Pride And _____
- 2. Feet (without inches) from the pitcher's mound to home plate
- 4. The Whisperings of the _____, By Mr. McEntee
- 5. Rabbi Stulberger's favorite food
- 6. How many entrances to the dining room?
- 8. Is said to have the ability to draw a perfect cricle
- 9. $15^2 - 13^2 + 2^0 - 50 =$ _____

The Rabbi Felt SuDoKu

	3	6				7		5
		1			7			
			5	9				
	1				3			4
4				8				9
5			7					1
				1	6			
			8			2		
6		4				1	8	

Riddle

When you stop and look, you can always see me. If you try to touch me you cannot feel me. I cannot move, but as you near me, I will move away from you.
 ...What am I?

(Riddle submitted by Ben Kiaei)

12517 Chandler Boulevard
 Valley Village, CA
 91607

PHONE:
 (818) 505-7999

See VT Times and other
 Valley Torah happenings
 at VTHSblog.com

Questions, Comments,
 Ideas, Articles?

Email:
avidear5@yahoo.com