

ST. LOUIS KOLLEL Family TORAH JOURNAL

MUSSAR MOMENT

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL MUSSAR MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY RABBI YERACHMIEL FRANK



There is a *mishnah* in Mesechet Avos Divrei Nossan that states “Do not distance yourself from something that doesn’t have a set limit or work that doesn’t have an end.” The Chofetz Chaim explains this statement based on the claim of the *yetzer hara* who claims “Is it worth doing Torah and *mitzvos* if they have no limit or end, and you won’t possibly be able to do every aspect?”

To this, the Chofetz Chaim brings an analogy from the daily activities in the world. Imagine someone sees a person running to to his job or business in order to make a living and says, “Where are you running? Do you think you will achieve great wealth like the rich people in the world?” Of course the answer is obvious — “Just because I will not become wealthy, shouldn’t I do whatever I can to earn a living for myself and my family?”

The Chofetz Chaim says that when it comes to Torah, *mitzvos*, and *avodas Hashem*, even if we will not become the biggest rabbi or *tzadik*, there is still tremendous rewards in The World to Come for every single *mitzvah* that we do.

This is a valuable lesson, especially at this time of the year, as we prepare for Rosh Hashana, the day of judgement. Rosh Hashana is the day where we are looking for merits that will tip the scale for a sweet and happy year

(continued on next page)

MOMENTS OF GREATNESS

RABBI SHLOMO EISENBERG



Every young little league baseball player dreams of making it to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. There was one team that had the privilege to make it all the way to the finals and compete to be the World Champions. The stadium was packed with fans, friends and even hundreds of reporters. The game had just begun and it was only the top half of the first inning when the opposing team scored an unbelievable eighteen runs. It seemed like the other team was doomed, as it would be almost impossible to make such a comeback down eighteen. During the break between innings, a reporter leaned over the left field fence and screamed at the outfielder. “Hey, what do you think about being down eighteen runs so early in the game?” Without hesitating, the young lad responded sincerely, “Why should I be down? My team hasn’t even got a chance to hit yet!”

The boy got it right. We can never give up. Elul is here and we have this golden opportunity to change and improve our lives, no matter how many struggles we face and challenges we have going against us.



UPCOMING WEEK'S SCHEDULE YEAR 3, WEEK 21 — BERACHOS 57B

Rabbi Daniel Sentell
R' Tani Cohen

Maggid shiur for the Amud — Rabbi Daniel Freund

For more info or to sign up to get the weekly video shiurim, please contact Rabbi Yaakov Berkowitz



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ZMANIM CANDLELIGHTING: 7:34 PM SOF ZMAN KRIAS SHEMA MA: 8:57AM GRA: 9:40 AM
SHABBOS ENDS 8:40 RABBEINU TAM: 9:05 PM

ALEF TO TAV: INSIGHTS INTO THE ALEF-BEIS

RABBI YAAKOV BERKOWITZ



LETTER: LAMED

NUMERICAL VALUE: 30

SPELLING: LAMED, MEM, DALET

The letter lamed has the numerical value of 30, and means to learn. The first student of Torah was Moshe who studied from Hashem, and he then taught the Torah to the Jewish people. These teachings of Moshe have been transmitted from teacher to student and parent to child from then until today. Moshe was the ultimate student, to study from G-d Almighty, and he was also the preeminent teacher, in essence the teacher of all Jews, of all generations. This can be seen in the numerical values of the letter. Lamed, with a numerical value of 30, plus all the numbers in its sequence equals the same numerical value as Moshe. $(30+31+32+33+34+35+36+37+38+39 = 345)$ (משה — $40+300+5 = 345$)

The letter lamed encourages us to follow in the footsteps of the greatest leader of all time, Moshe, and be a consummate learner, and at the same token, a superb teacher, passing on our knowledge and values to the next generation.

MUSSAR MESSAGE CONT.

for ourselves, families, communities, and Jews throughout the world, to recognize the preciousness of every fulfillment of the will of Hashem.

Rabbi Yerachmiel Frank has been with the St. Louis Kollel since its inception. He has distinguished himself in the Beis Medrash and the community as a highly regarded individual and is currently the Rosh Chabura of the Kollel. He is also the Chair of Talmudic Law & Tradition established in loving memory of Rubin Feldman by Mrs. Gloria Feldman and family.

KOLLEL KASHA KORNER

RABBI YAAKOV SILVERMAN



How is it possible that there could be three people davening in the same minyan and one answers amen 26 times to the chazzan's repetition of Sh'mona Esrei, one answers 22 times and one only three?

Last week's riddle: Which two healthy people do not sit on the floor or a low stool before chatzos on the 9th of Av?

Answer: The person that gets Hagbah during Shacharis and a sandek at a bris.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT



RABBI YITZCHAK KOWALSKY

Q Does one have to deface dolls that he purchased for his children, so that they should not be mistaken for idols?

A The Shulchan Aruch (YD 141:4) codifies the halacha that it is prohibited for one to make or purchase images of man. Nonetheless the Chochmas Adam (85:6) writes that nowadays it is permitted to own dolls. The rationale given is that, it is not common for an idol worshipper to serve a doll. The prohibition would still be in effect if it looks like an idol. (cf. Shu"t Oz Nidbaru who writes that it is considered a meritorious act to disfigure, even slightly) the doll.)

Q I heard that it's appropriate to taste the Shabbos food before Shabbos. Do all the dishes need to be tasted, or is it sufficient if just my wife tastes, or do I need to taste as well?

A The Beis Yosef (OC 286) brings this minhag to taste the food before Shabbos and brings a source from our davening for it. From the wording of the Mishneh Brurah (250:2) it would seem that it would be sufficient for one member of the household to taste all the Shabbos foods to insure that they are thoroughly cooked and spiced. The Shu"t Nishmas Shabbos (1:135) brings that Tzadikim (based on Kabbalistic writings) are careful to at least taste one of foods prior to Shabbos.

For final rulings please consult your Rav.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



AUGUST
19

NHBZ Sisterhood presents the 3rd Annual
DINE 'N' STYLE
Fashion Show & Luncheon
FALLING FOR FASHION



Sunday, August 19, at NHBZ

Shopping opens 10:00am;
Lunch & Show at 12:00pm
Registration Now Open – \$20
(RSVP by August 12, please)
call NHBZ – 314-991-2100, ext. 3
email FashionShow@nhbz.org

Visit the Kollel Bookstore table!



AUGUST
23

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Hotel Influenza



What are the ethics of experimenting new treatments on otherwise healthy patients. Join **Dr. Scott Kaar** and **Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky** for an intriguing discussion. The answers may surprise you!

Thursday, August 23
6 PM-7 PM
SSM – St. Mary's Hospital 6420 Clayton Road
For more info, email ykowsky@stlkollel.com



AUGUST
30



Tee Off With Torah and Turf™ at Topgolf

Thursday, August 30th starting at 7:30PM
at Topgolf

16851 N. Outer 40 Rd, Chesterfield, MO 63005

A TNT Pre-Registration Event





OCTOBER
21



STL JEWISH LIGHT
MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT
MILES & MILES OF TILES

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