



OUR VIEW

Bais Yaakov Denver-Inspiring Everlasting Growth

By ELISHEVA and MIRYAM MAJOR

We recently enjoyed our last Bais Yaakov Retreat in Winter Park, CO. The highlight of



the trip by far was our Senior Kumzits. Each senior shared what she thought was special about our class and about her experience in Bais Yaakov. One sentiment shared was that when we are together as a class, we are able to be our truest form of ourselves and feel valued as such by our classmates. This is due to the environment at Bais Yaakov.

One girl suggested that we give *brachos* to each other. Each *bracha* that was given somehow contained the hope that we should continue to have a strong connection with Hashem and continue to grow in areas such as *tefillah* and *emunah*, and that we should raise G-d fearing children. This experience made us realize just how lucky we are to go to BYD. Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab have created a unique school in which girls are always striving to better themselves. We believe that this is why the content of the *brochos* given is not surprising. That's Bais Yaakov Denver for you!

Elisheva and Miryam Major, twins, are Denver natives. They are currently seniors at Beth Jacob High School.

To Think Like Hashem

A Chanukah Lesson

By RABBI ARON YEHUDA SCHWAB

Did you ever wonder why people seek advice from leading Torah scholars, even concerning areas such as business, medicine and politics?

Of course we know that such Torah leaders merit Divine inspiration; but there is another reason, which can be understood in the context of the Chanukah story, by exploring a fundamental aspect of the disparity between Torah wisdom and the Greek approach to knowledge.

There is a basic difference in the expressions used when encountering a difficulty in understanding, and this difference reflects the vast chasm between the approach of *Yavan* (Greece) and the approach of Torah. When encountering a difficult passage in classic teachings, a *Yavan*-trained scholar would say, "This doesn't make a bit of sense!" while a student of Torah would say, "I don't understand. This doesn't make a bit of sense-to me." This is because a Torah student learns early on that humility is paramount in the quest to understand Hashem's Torah. Time after time, the Torah student encounters perplexing statements or contradictions that seem impossible to reconcile. Yet as he delves



more deeply into the subject matter, a spirit of humility envelops him as he begins to realize the true profundity of Hashem's wisdom.

The Greeks' approach to wisdom follows Aristotle's principle that man is the ultimate arbiter of truth. Aristotle's approach was that anything can exist only to the extent that the great human mind can comprehend it (see Ramban, Vayikra 16:8).

Zoom into one of the many Talmudic study halls of our generation, pull up a chair, and eavesdrop on some chavrusos studying together. What are they discussing with such intensity? They have focused for the past several hours on the words of an *Acharon* (a Torah scholar of

more recent centuries), who in turn spent decades of his life trying to understand the words of the *Rishonim* (Medieval scholars), who collectively spent hundreds of years clarifying the words of the *Amora'im* (authors of the Talmud), whose generations of scholars dedicated all of their efforts to understanding the teachings of the *Tana'im* (authors of the *Mishnah*), all of whom devoted their lives to comprehending the Words of Hashem Himself.

When we encounter a difficult passage in the Torah or Talmud, we know, based on our own experience, that any shortcoming we perceive lies not in the Torah but within us.

We humbly admit that we must reapply ourselves to the lifelong mission of ironing out the kinks in our thinking processes. We acknowledge that we need to continue to fine-tune our approach until we learn to think like our teachers, who, through their ceaseless efforts, learned how to think like their predecessors, who ultimately taught themselves how to tune in to the "thought process of Hashem."

Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab is Assistant Dean Of Beth Jacob High School

Parlor Meeting Dinner – January 15, 2017

Honoring Five Decades of a Mother and Her Seven Daughters

Ron and Sandy Schiff, co-chairs of Beth Jacob's annual Parlor Meeting Dinner, announce that Beth Jacob will be honoring Mrs. Renee (Judes) Heisler ('80) and her seven daughters at the 49th-Anniversary Parlor Meeting Dinner on Sunday, January 15, 2017. The Heislens have maintained a presence in the school over the course of five decades.

These eight treasured students tell a unique Bais Yaakov story. Renee attended BYD in the 70s and 80s, and she enrolled her oldest, twin daughters in the late 90s. Her other daughters studied in BYD in the 2000s, and her youngest two daughters are currently students at



Parlor meeting Honoree Renee Heisler and her daughters

Bais Yaakov. Together with her husband, Rabbi Yosef Heisler, Renee has raised a family of twelve outstanding children. She has been a teacher par excellence at the Hebrew Academy of Minneapolis for more than three decades, where she has mentored and influenced hundreds of students. As Beth Jacob High School of Denver

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