

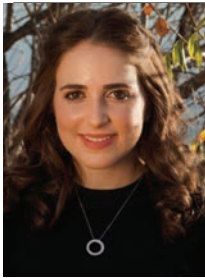


MY VIEW

My Uniform

BY CHAYA KRAUSZ

Sometimes I imagine myself as a princess with a ruffled pink gown and a sparkling silver tiara. I know that at age seventeen I shouldn't be playing make believe anymore, but this is not just a childish game. I am a princess. It's true that I don't wear a puffy bejeweled dress and a dazzling tiara, but instead I wear the outfit of a true bas melech. My princess dress is a freshly pressed blouse with a gray pleated skirt. Whenever I wear my Bais Yaakov uniform, I feel dignified and proud, knowing that I am representing something special.



Throughout my past three years in Bais Yaakov of Denver, one of the most important things I have gained is pride in being a Bas Yisroel. I have learned that a Bais Yaakov girl is not defined by the grades she achieves or the facts that she can memorize, but by her tznius and refinement. A Bais Yaakov girl is someone who carries herself with the pride of a princess. These are qualities I learned through the modeling of my teachers, and that of my mother who was also a student at Bais Yaakov. As I prepare to graduate BYD, joining the many others who have graduated before me in the last fifty years, I am confident that my royal carriage will get me far in life.

Chaya Krausz will be a 2018 BYD graduate.

BY RABBI ARON YEHUDA SCHWAB

Chinuch habanos, providing a Torah education for Jewish girls, is a cornerstone of the stability and continuity of the Jewish People. This past year, Frau Sarah Schenirer's Bais Yaakov movement celebrated its 100th anniversary. Launched in 1917, Frau Schenirer's prescience, innovation, and courage created an educational system for Jewish girls, rescuing the future of the Jewish People from the tide of Enlightenment and assimilation. Her efforts created cadres of women who would become the wives, mothers, teachers, professionals and leaders of the Jewish People, and paved the way for the explosive growth of the Torah world that we have witnessed in the decades following World War II.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bais Yaakov of Denver, established by my parents, Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab. Their goal, to bring Frau Schenirer's vision to the mountain region of the United States, has been a constant during the past fifty years. Under their able leadership, the school grew to become a vital educational hub to the regional and international Jewish communities. Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab's efforts have ensured the promise of a Jewish future for Colorado and for the hun-

dreds of women, families, and communities their work has impacted.

Having grown up witnessing my parents' work on behalf of the Jewish People, I can unequivocally state that their dedication is nothing short of epic. My siblings and I oftentimes wonder what fuels them to work endless hours, to never stop thinking about Bais Yaakov, to have



the welfare of the school and its students on their minds virtually every waking minute. We have come to the conclusion and firmly believe that it is the nachas from the more than 800 alumna and their families that drives their never-ending pursuit of educational excellence. It is the knowledge that their work has changed the face of Klal Yisrael that pushes them to constantly strive for new heights in

inspiring the precious daughters of our nation to carry the torch of their heritage with commitment and confidence. It is the realization that the future of the Jewish People depends, in no small measure, on their fortitude that has led them to empower generations for a half-century.

Bais Yaakov now steps into its second half-century as a warm and caring environment that is both a home and a beacon of inspiration, providing a wholesome out-of-town Torah education, preparing its students for empowered Torah lives. History continues its inexorable grind forward, society undergoes drastic changes, technology revolutionizes the lives of humanity, but our Torah remains eternal and unchanging. As Sarah Schenirer realized more than a century ago, the future and the hope of our People hinges upon our ability to nurture and inculcate the precious daughters of Klal Yisrael with that Torah. Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab have been empowering generations for a half-century, and the path they have fashioned ensures that Bais Yaakov's glorious past will continue to empower future generations toward a glorious future.

Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab serves as the school's Assistant Dean.

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Ronnie and Sandy Schiff, chairs, announce Beth Jacob High School of Denver's 50th Anniversary Gala event. This special evening, Sunday, January 14th at the Doubletree Hotel, 4040 Quebec St., will honor Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab, the educational founders of Bais Yaakov, internationally recognized as pioneers in girls' Torah education.

A pre-event dinner is scheduled for 5:15 pm. Minimum suggested donation for the dinner is \$1100. A Gala Buffet Reception will begin at 6:45 pm, with a special 50th Anniversary program at 7:30 pm. The program will feature noted guest speaker Rabbi Nosson Scherman, author, speaker and General Editor for Artscroll/Mesorah Publications. A video presentation focusing on Bais Yaakov's half-century of educational excellence will also be presented. Admission for the Gala Buffet Reception is \$75 per person.

For reservations and information, visit www.bjhs.org, email reservations@bjhs.org, or call 303-893-1333

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These Walls From a Dream... To Silver... To Gold

BY MRS. ALIZA CHERNITZKY

The Bais Yaakov Denver school building walls first embraced me over 25 years ago as I first stepped over its threshold to enjoy the weekly Shabbos Bnos activities. How I looked up to those big, smart Bais Yaakov girls! Would I ever be like them one day?

I had a rough 7th grade year. In hindsight, it was due to my immature perception of various things. Whatever the case was, at the time I was in no way willing to return for 8th grade and was exploring a variety of options, each different in the trajectory it would lead me on. One of my options was Bais Yaakov of Denver. But would Rabbi Schwab take me a year early? These were my thoughts as I walked up the front stairs leading to the building, checked my reflection in the glass doors, entered these walls and nervously proceeded to Rabbi Schwab's office for my interview. The questions he asked me made it clear that he knew my strong as well as weak points, including some of the "collateral damage" I'd accrued from the rough year. Yet what is remarkable to me is that he looked not at who I was then, but instead who I could be. With gratitude I was accepted.

My 9th grade year was the silver anniversary of BYD. I remember the fitting



Mrs. Aliza Chernitzky: "He looked, not at who I was then, but instead who I could be."

yearbook theme was "Koh Somar L'Vais Yaakov", the words with which Hashem instructed Moshé to teach Torah to the Jewish women prior to teaching the men. A most fitting theme, especially since the numerical value of "Koh" equals twenty-five.

It was within these walls that I spent my critical and life-altering teenage years. It was within these walls that friendships were born and nurtured, laughter shared and tears shed. It was within these walls that hidden talents were discovered and developed. These walls housed me as I was exposed to learning on a level not previously experienced, and ideas were conveyed

to me that made me wonder, think, ask more questions, discuss, and ultimately inculcate into the very fiber of my being. It was within these walls that the thought dawned on me: "There is obviously purpose to life. What is my purpose? What do I want to do with my life?" And these walls contained the very people who could help me answer those crucial questions.

After an inspiring and growth filled year in seminary I realized that there was nothing I was more passionate about than returning to these walls to attempt to spark the flame in new generations that was sparked in me. These walls saw me as a young bride, then a mother of young children, and today, thank G-d, a mother of teenagers. Children to whom the legacy received within these walls is transmitted with love and enthusiasm.

Year after year I have been blessed to return to the magic contained within these walls. Today I am exceedingly grateful to not only continue to teach but to also serve as Educational Assistant at Bais Yaakov, a position that allows me to be involved in chinuch habanos on a much deeper level.

As BYD celebrates its Golden Jubilee, I reflect back on the past twenty-five years. So much in the world has changed, but these walls remain the same steadfast

sanctuary they have always been, declaring uncompromising commitment to true Torah living. As one of our alumnae, Irit Kaufman, said so eloquently at her graduation Shabbos, "Bais Yaakov Denver is where you become the best version of yourself." Thank you Bais Yaakov for teaching me, and all of us who have walked through these walls, who we can truly be.

Mrs. Aliza Chernitzky serves as Bais Yaakov's Educational Assistant and is a proud graduate of the class of '96

Attention BYD Alumni!

There will be a New York reunion this year in June. Stay tuned for more details in future editions of the Batya!

Batya

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A publication of **Beth Jacob High School**

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Beth Jacob High School is a beneficiary of the Allied Jewish Federation, Rose Community Foundation, Harry H. Beren Trust, ACE (Alliance for Choice in Education), and the M.B. Glassman Foundation.

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ALUMNI REMEMBER

“We Have a Mission”

BY MRS. CHANA FORD

Fifty years after joining Beth Jacob, the original graduating class of Bais Yaakov of Denver still remembers their time in the school with fondness. Two members of that class, Mrs. Goldie Feder Silverstein and Mrs. Miriam Sonnenblick Lewin, currently of Jerusalem, recorded some of their recollections for the Batya.

Then, as now, girls came from all over to take advantage of the unique chinuch Bais Yaakov provided. Mrs. Lewin came to Denver from San Francisco, a city with a small Jewish community and few educational resources. “Going to public school, I felt my Jewish chinuch was sorely lacking. When I came to BYD, I was enveloped with warmth, caring, and chesed. All the staff members cared about each and every student. Jewish principles like *hachnosas orchim*, *bikur cholim*, and visiting the aged began to penetrate my being. I saw the importance of being part of the *kehila*, each one trying to contribute their part. As we were ‘building’ the school, we were equally being ‘rebuilt.’”

For Mrs. Silverstein, the opportunity to be on board from the beginning is one that she too recalls with pride. “The experience of being a pioneer in a new endeavor goes beyond words. We knew our input on activities, on decisions like uniform choice, and starting Student Council all made a difference.”

Mrs. Lewin remembers that pervasive energy as well. “There was always a lot of contagious excitement and positive spirit at Bais Yaakov. There were many times that we had a lot of fun—like on our school trips



to Estes Park, and in our many extracurricular activities. These activities enhanced our learning and helped every girl shine in one area or another.” Mrs. Silverstein agrees, saying, “Memories of our first appearance at Bais Yaakov Convention, our first Shabbaton, our performance at the first Annual dinner are ones that last forever.”

Of course, it wasn’t only fun and games. Bais Yaakov of Denver has always provided a rigorous course of academics. The two women remember their classes warmly, though, with both seeing the courses they took as vehicles propelling them forward in their lives. “There were more serious times,” writes Mrs. Lewin, “when we had a lot of schoolwork and tests, but we felt a sense of camaraderie with the other girls and this helped buffer any hardships. Most of us developed close relationships with Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab, and Rabbi Lauer. The

whole BYD experience helped us grow and develop in Yiddishkeit, interpersonally, and in many other ways.” Mrs. Silverstein echoes the sentiment recalling, “The lessons that I learned in classes, as well as what I learned from the wonderful role models, have helped me throughout my years in chinuch, as a teacher and principal.”

All good things come to an end, however, and eventually that first class graduated and moved on. But though they left the physical building of Bais Yaakov, those women would be the first to tell you that a BYD alumnus doesn’t ever truly leave. Mrs. Lewin closed with this message to all students past, present and future:

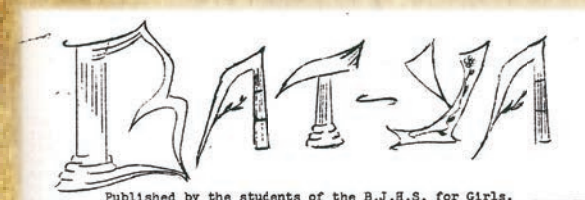
“I think that since we were *zoche* to get a Bais Yaakov education, we have a mission. We need to take what we received and pass it on. We are not finished products—Bais Yaakov instilled in us the need to keep learning our whole lives. We need to open our eyes, and see where we can help. We need to realize that we are not only living our own private lives, but we need to see how we can contribute to making our communities better.

“To those of you who are at BYD currently, maximize your time there, because you are privileged to get such an education. Cherish the lessons you are learning, because they will set you on the right path and stand you in good stead throughout your lifetimes.”

Mrs. Chana Perton Ford is an English and Jewish History teacher at Bais Yaakov, and a proud graduate of '08.

What’s in a Name?

An Editorial from Batya’s First Issue, Jan. 1969



One man can move the world.

During a flight of ambition, one individual possesses great power. The establishment of Beth Jacob in Denver has proven this to be true. Only ten girls and we maintain a school with all the activities and advantages of any other girl’s high school. Our publication, the “Batya”, is an attempt to acquaint the Denver community with our school and its accomplishments.

The name “Batya” is derived from the combined Hebrew words of “Bas” “Ya” - the daughter of G-D. We, the Beth Jacob students, are striving toward reaching greater religious heights, while also advancing in the secular world. We are truly attempting to be worthy daughters in Israel.

“Ya” also has the numerical value of ten. Ten daughters - just a handful - with their pioneer spirit, set out to lay the groundwork for this Bais Yaakov.

And ten girls have and will succeed.

Notice our letterhead. It too lends itself to our name. Our letters have been built around stone columns. This signifies our role in the Jewish community of Denver. The girls at Beth Jacob are the pillars and foundation of Torah education for girls in the West.

Ten grateful girls now turn with sincere appreciation to their principal, Rabbi Myer J. Schwab, to whom this publication is dedicated. One man uprooted himself and his family from his home in New York, and with great hopes set out to build something where before nothing had stood. Who else, but you, Rabbi Schwab, could have endured those months when we felt so drained of hope? And who else could have maintained a smile that seemed to say “fight on”? Rabbi Schwab, we are forever grateful for your untiring efforts and your patient understanding. It is to you that we attribute the success of our school and the publication of this paper.

We thank you.

Written by Cheryl Beren Feldberger, OBM

Are You a BYD Alumnus or Staff Member Who has Published a Book?

A display of books produced by Bais Yaakov staff and students has been set up in the Study Hall. Mrs. Schwab is looking for additional contributions. If you have a book you’ve published, please consider sending a copy to the school. It is our hope these books will serve as an inspiration for our students!

Tasty Tradition

BY DEENA SANDOCK ABRAHAM



This is a special year as Beth Jacob High School celebrates its 50th year. I remember clearly when I was a senior and the program for our graduation stated “twentieth commencement exercises.” At that time, twenty seemed like such an impressive number. I felt such pride in those twenty years as they represented an impressive amount of time that the school had existed. And now the number is fifty. What is twenty compared to fifty?

Over the course of fifty years there have surely been many changes made at BJHS. But, at the same time, many things have stayed the same time. When I was in Denver for my daughter’s graduation in 2014, twenty-four years after my own graduation, those similarities thrilled me. It was so nice to see things that were the same, things

that were being done the same way. Traditions.

Chanukah is a great time of year to think about traditions. Nowadays, frying foods in oil isn’t something that we do every day. In fact many avoid frying food in oil at all. We are all aware that frying is not a healthy option for food preparation. But on Chanukah we follow the traditional custom, purchase a plethora of oil, make latkas, make doughnuts, and maybe even make more latkas.

While potato latkas are certainly the most beloved in my home, these sweet potato latkas in the recipe below come in second place. They are lightly sweetened in addition to the natural sweetness of the sweet potato. This recipe does not yield a latka quite as crispy as the more common potato version. But, if you want to try something a bit different you might consider this delicious recipe.

SWEET POTATO LATKAS

2 c. shredded sweet potatoes
2 eggs, beaten
2 Tbsp. matza meal



2 Tbsp. brown sugar
½ tsp. ginger
Salt, to taste
Oil, for frying

In a mixing bowl, combine the shredded sweet potatoes, eggs, matza meal, brown sugar, ginger, and salt. Pour enough oil in a frying pan to cover the bottom of the pan generously. Heat the oil. Fry tablespoon-sized amount of the batter, slightly flattened, on each side until golden brown. When done, remove from the pan and drain on brown paper bags. Add more oil to the pan as needed.

Deena Sandock Abraham is a 1990 BJHS graduate.

FIRST QUARTER DEAN’S LIST

MICHAL ABRAMS
RACHEL BADALOV
BAILA BERKOWITZ
BRACHA BERKOWITZ
TALI CARMONA
ADINA DERR
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CHARNA STEINBERG
NECHAMA WASSERMAN
MIRIAM WILEN

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Shoshana Meyer Ort '08

Shoshana Ort, a graduate of Bais Yaakov of Denver, is currently a teacher and a guidance counselor. After completing high school and seminary, Shoshana received a degree in social work, afterward proceeding to work in various health centers. Presently, Shoshana lives in Denver with her husband Dovi and daughter Henny, teaching Chumash at Bais Yaakov in the morning and serving as a guidance counselor at Hillel Academy during the afternoon.

Ever grateful for everything Bais Yaakov has done for her, Shoshana is happy to be able to work in Bais Yaakov and show her gratitude for all their support. Shoshana constantly thanks Bais Yaakov for all they taught her, saying that it was her Bais Yaakov education which lead her to be



Does your washing machine eat up socks? Or is it the dryer that turns one sock of each pair into lint? Why is it that only one sock disappears? There is a theory that its mate is under the bed and by the time you discover it, the original single will have been tossed into the trash, so again you are left with one sock. Unless both disappear at the same time, in which case we may not ever notice the disappearance, you are always left with just one sock.

And where do the teaspoons disappear to? Does the dishwasher too have an insatiable appetite like the washing machine? It happens to forks and knives too. When was the last time you compared the number of knives to the rest of your cut-

lery? You may want to check!

And while we are on the topic of mysterious disappearances; where does the time go? Before you turn around it is Shabbos again. Where did the week go? And before you turn around it’s a new year again. Where did the year go?

Ironically, when you anticipate an event to take place, the time crawls slowly. When will the bell ring to signal the end of the boring class? When will the baby be born? When will the baby start to talk? To walk? When will my children get married? When will the guests arrive? When will they leave? When will the dentist finish drilling? When? When? When?

At times like these I employ a trick that I call “counter clockwise”. When asking yourself “When will the guests arrive,” start thinking: before the guests arrive I still need to finish X, Y, and Z. This way, the

time flies as you try to finish your “to do” list.

“When will the guests leave?” Start thinking: While the guests are here I have to ask them all the questions I meant to find out answers to. Or, “while she is here I need to show her a few more of my gourmet dishes for which I’m famous.”

For “when will the baby start talking?” Think about a few more days of quiet and what you need to accomplish before she starts talking and never stops!

When you employ this technique, before you know, time flies and you are back to the original question; where did the time disappear? But at least, this time it was to your benefit!

Mrs. Schwab is the religious studies principal of Beth Jacob High School.

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. BRURIA SCHWAB

The Mystery of the Missing Sock