CHEVRAH CONNECTIONS

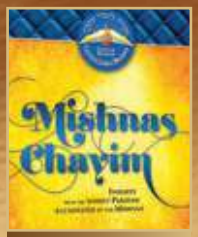
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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Mishnah & Gemara Study
- Better Than a Segulah – Torah study as a merit for success
- Kaddish & Yizkor recital
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PUBLICATIONS

Books

- The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah
- Cremation or Burial? A Jewish View
- Mishnas Chayim
- Mishnah Memoirs

Video

- Nichum V'Nechamah / To Comfort and Be Comforted – A Guide to the Mitzvah of Nichum Aveilim

Blog

- Comfort, Courage & Clarity by Mrs. Miriam Ribiat

Other Publications

- Mishnayos Charts
- Mishnah Study Reminder Cards
- Final Prayers
- Prayers to Be Said at a Grave
- Hakafos Companion
- Mishnah Review Charts
- MIshnayos Poster
- Tefillah Card

In the Works: Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's Latest Projects

Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah is branching out in many new and exciting directions; in particular, we have taken on the task of introducing children and teens to the concept of *aliyas neshamah* and are further enhancing our services for those sitting *shivah*. So many projects are on the table and nearing completion, and we are gratified to share some of the details with you.

Aliyas Neshamah Curriculum



Spearheaded and written by Mrs. Robin Meyerson, a highly successful marketing professional, the content of Rabbi Tzvi Hebel's book *The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah* (Judaica Press) is currently being transformed into a full curriculum for educators to present to children and teens. The curriculum is split up into several lessons based on the ideas in the book and includes appropriate worksheets and handouts. These can be presented in tandem with teaching *parshiyos* Chayei Sarah and Vayechi, both of which discuss the concepts of death, burial and the afterlife. Separate programs are being created for lower and upper elementary-school students, as well as for teens.

This program allows children to digest and assimilate ideas that are crucial to coping with loss and to understanding one's role in this world as it relates to the next. It is extremely valuable to do this in a regular setting as opposed to during a time of crisis and emotional upheaval, and ultimately, these lessons will last a lifetime and inspire students to connect to their past loved ones and to express themselves in individual meaningful ways. The curriculum has been set up to allow students to easily implement projects *l'ilui nishmas* a loved one or Torah scholar, as well as to share their knowledge and ideas with family members.

I Lost Someone Special



The loss of a loved one can leave children not just sad but bewildered. *I Lost Someone Special* is a soon-to-be-released picture book by acclaimed author Mrs. Bracha Goetz and beautifully illustrated by Mrs. Chani Judowitz, which introduces young children to the concept of remaining linked to one who has passed away by doing mitzvos and learning Torah as a merit for the soul. These ideas are sensitively handled and can be tremendously comforting to children.

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Setting our "Sites" High

Informative, interactive, moving, educational, simple to use – every one of these descriptions portrays Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's newly designed website, which was carefully planned to incorporate viewers' feedback and the many new options now available. Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's original website was launched eight years ago, to allow greater access to its many resources; with its inception, the organization was able to reach a much wider base of people with its wealth of material about tapping into the merit of Torah study and prayer.

With Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's incredible growth since that time, it became clear that a more user-friendly interface, which would include not only the same quality material as before, but also the new products and audiovisual programs, would greatly enhance the visitor's experience.

The site's homepage offers a basic overview of all the categories of services offered, with tabs to reach each one; visitors can choose from "Learning L'zecher Nishmas," "Better Than a Segulah," "Nichum Aveilim" and "Videos and Testimonials." Running alongside this focal point is a list of the *yahrtzeits* of Torah sages taking place during the current week. Further down, viewers can access the newest Mishnas Chayim Torah thought on that week's *parshah*, as well as the Mishnas Chayim installments from all previous years on the same *parshah*. Those wishing to receive Mishnas Chayim weekly via email can sign up here. And viewers can now access the full Mishnas Chayim archives from the site, for any *parshah* or topic desired.

Those looking for information about programs *l'zecher nishmas* can easily select a service or easily move on to view something else. This section also includes stories and sources; visitors can listen as renowned storyteller Rabbi Mayer Erps narrates true occurrences showing the power of Torah study. They can also view and print sources for why we perform deeds and learn *l'zecher nishmas*.

For those looking for guidance while performing the mitzvah of *nichum aveilim* or trying to find meaning during a time of loss, the Nichum Aveilim section offers not only basic information and services, but also direct access to To Comfort and Be Comforted, the revolutionary DVD program addressing the mitzvah of *nichum aveilim*. Viewers can choose to watch and listen to any or all of the thirty-six renowned speakers, including Rabbi Paysach Krohn, Rabbi Yaakov Bender, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Eytan Feiner, Rebbetzin Tehilla Jaeger and many more.

making the merit of Torah study and prayer accessible to all

Looking for information about earning merit for a personal need? Visit the The Better Than a Segulah section. Whether it is good health, a *shidduch*, the blessing of children or financial success that one is seeking, what greater source of *berachah* is there than the eternal source of *berachah* – Torah itself? This program is based on the idea that although *segulahs* might be wonderful, when all is said and done, if they don't 'work,' what is one left with? When sponsoring a program of learning, no matter what, the tremendous merit of Torah and supporting Torah scholars remains a *zechus* for the supporter forever. Since its launch seven years ago, the Better Than a Segulah Program has benefited thousands people from communities around the world and with a myriad of needs.

Also included are all publications and free services, along with full-color photos and concise descriptions, as well as clear instructions on how to obtain them. Viewers will notice that at all times, the can easily return to the homepage, as well as easily contact someone in the Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah office.

Through its years of growth, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's goal has not changed. As always, the organization is dedicated to making the merit of Torah study and prayer accessible to all, as well as to providing for the needs of the departed and their loved ones. **ChevrahLomdeiMisnah.org** is a powerful tool that is enabling this goal to come to fruition.



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Shivah Kit

Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah has joined together with NASCK (National Association of Chevrah Kaddisha) in developing a comprehensive *shivah* kit. The kit will include the *nichum aveilim* DVD, *To Comfort and be Comforted*; *The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah* by Rabbi Tzvi Hebel; a Mishnah chart and reminder notes to keep record of what is being learned *l'ilui nishmas* the *niftar*; and a poster for the door of the place where *shivah* is being observed, upon which pointers for enhancing and elevating the mitzvah of *nichum aveilim* are listed and the daily schedule and other important information can be posted. The kits will be available for distribution to those sitting shivah through individual *chevros kaddisha*.



To Comfort and Be Comforted in Book Format

About one year ago, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah and NASCK produced *Nichum V'Nechamah: To Comfort and Be Comforted*, an expertly and sensitively crafted audiovisual guide to performing the mitzvah of *nichum aveilim* properly, as well as a powerful vehicle of *nechamah* for people in different circumstances of aveilus. The DVD contains fifteen hours of interviews with rabbis and professionals, as well as with laypeople who have suffered a range of tragedies. The speakers offer *halachic* guidance about performing the mitzvah of *nichum aveilim* and *chizzuk* and perspective to the bereaved and those who care for them.

Now, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah is working to allow greater access to these valued words by offering them in book format. Each and every speaker's message will be offered in this text, providing yet another resource for hope and guidance to those grappling with loss.



Mishnayos Review Charts

The Talmud tells us that one who learns and does not review is likened to one who plants and does not reap. In the interest of inculcating this concept in children from a young age, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah has created attractive Mishnayos Chazzarah Charts, which can be used to plot students' progress, to maximize long-term retention and in conjunction with incentive programs. The large-print format allows the chart to be used for multiple reviews and can be custom-tailored for whatever *masechta* is being studied. Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah is pleased to play a part in this fundamental learning program with this new venture.

Mishnah Poster



The beautifully designed, full-color, laminated Shishah Sidrei Mishnah poster made its debut before Sukkos and enhanced many a *sukkah* wall. It is also available year-round as a valuable educational resource and classroom aide. The poster includes every *masechta* of the Mishnah listed according to *seder*. A vivid photo collage illustrates such concepts as *chalitzah, eilu metzios* (finding lost objects), *bikkurim, korbanos* and many others.

Wherever it is displayed, the poster can be used as a springboard for family or classroom discussions. It has already received enthusiastic reviews from parents and educators, as it is utilized to engage viewers' curiosity and review key concepts.

Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah
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Save the Date!

TRIPLE SIYUM HASHAS

to be held
for the first *yahrtzeit* of

EYAL YIFRAH
NAFTALI FRAENKEL
GILAD SHAAR

on June 21 at 6:30 PM
at Estréia Restaurant
978 River Avenue
Lakewood NJ 08701



In Memory of the Three Slain Boys

Following the tri-fold completion of Shishah Sidrei Mishnah by Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah for the *shloshim* of Eyal Yifrah, Naftali Fraenkel and Gilad Shaar, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah began a campaign to complete the **entire Talmud three times** for the first *yahrtzeit* of the boys and is well on its way to achieving this goal. At the *shloshim siyum*, a representative of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah spoke briefly, explaining that these three boys gave their lives *al Kiddush Hashem*. The only thing we can now give to them is the Torah study that they can no longer engage in on their own. Indeed, it has been heartwarming to see the unified outpouring of support for this project from Jews around the world.

The Mishnas Chayim Revolution

Mishnas Chayim. The name has become synonymous with fascinating, often surprising, always superbly presented *divrei Torah* on the *parshah*. After a brief hiatus, Mishnas Chayim is back and more easily accessible than ever through the newly designed CLM website or by email, straight to your inbox. Expertly crafted by distinguished Torah scholar and author Rabbi Tzvi Hebel, every week another masterpiece is presented to enhance your understanding of the *parshah* and your Shabbos table.

Each edition of Mishnas Chayim presents a Torah thought relating to the weekly *parshah*, which ties into a specific selection from the Mishnah. These fascinating pieces address such diverse topics as "The Dawn of Time: What Was on the Menu?" "The Torah Perspective on Royalty" and "The Fate of the Ten Lost Tribes." Sources for material are included in the text of the articles for those who wish to do further research on a topic.

"The concept behind Mishnas Chayim is that people are always looking for something to learn or share about the weekly *sedrah*, and the Mishnaic sources are rich with material that can provide new insight into these topics," explains Rabbi Moshe Haikins, Founder and President of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah. "The beauty of this project is that a really diverse group of people are able to enjoy the content. We designed the publication to be accessible to readers even with weaker backgrounds and at the same time to offer something new to those who are well versed in the commentaries."

While each week a brand-new piece is offered, all articles written since Mishnas Chayim's inception are easily accessible on Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's website. Also very popular is Mishnas Chayim in book format, which includes a large selection of *divrei Torah* from the weekly publications and can be used to jumpstart a speech or to stimulate discussion in the classroom or other educational setting.

The feedback we consistently receive speaks for itself: "I read Mishnas Chayim thinking I know what to expect, and I am always surprised and amazed. Sometimes it's a new twist on a familiar subject, sometimes a great story. Thanks for bringing Mishnas Chayim back!"

