



CHOVERET CHINUCH #13 5784

Remembrance and Celebration



The Choveret Chinuch is a project of Bnei Akiva of the US and Canada's Chinuch department. For comments or questions, please reach out to Rav Avishai Berman at aberman@bneiakiva.org

Hi Madrichim,

This week's Choveret is centered around the upcoming remembrance days. In commemoration of Yom Hashoah, we will discuss Yad Vashem and learn about the 'Righteous Among the Nations' - individuals who, despite not being Jewish, courageously endangered themselves to save Jews during the Holocaust. The following week, we will focus on Nefesh B'nefesh in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. We will see what the organization's mission is and all it has accomplished.

Shabbat Shalom,
Shani Becker



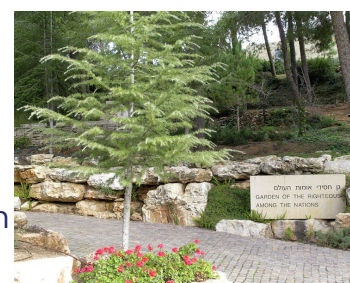
Week One:

Every year we commemorate Yom Hashoah, a day that we remember the Holocaust, where six million Jews were systematically persecuted and murdered by the Nazis during the Second World War. This day not only honors the memory of the victims but also focuses on the concept that hate can lead to terrible outcomes.



Yad Vashem is a Holocaust museum located in Yerushalayim. It's a place where people can learn about the lives of Jews in Europe before, during, and after the Holocaust. The museum has different sections that talk about different parts of the war. One unique part of the museum is dedicated to honoring people who weren't Jewish at all, but who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. These brave individuals are known as "The Righteous Among the Nations" (In Hebrew known as Chasidei Umot Ha-olam). The Chasidei Umot Ha-olam got this honor/title if they rescued or sheltered Jews during a time of need, knowing that their own lives were in danger by doing so and not expecting a reward of any kind to follow.

Yad Vashem has a special garden dedicated to them, where each tree represents one of these heroes. A tree symbolizes life, growth, fruits, and rebirth. This symbol was chosen to show that these Chasidei Umot Ha-olam didn't just save one life, but also the generations that followed the person who was saved. Like it says in the Mishna in Sanhedrin 4:5 "כל המציל נפש אחת - כאילו הציל עולם ומלואו."



A short story about Chasidei Umot Ha-olam:

In the southeastern region of France, near the Swiss border, lies a small village named Le Chambon-sur-Ligne. In the middle of the Second World War, the local priest, Reverend Andre Trokuma, made a heartfelt plea to the villagers, urging them to aid the persecuted Jews fleeing from the Nazis. Remarkably, the entire village responded that they would help unconditionally. Because the village was used to having visitors, they were able to provide a place to stay for Jewish children and

adults who needed it. Their assistance extended to hiding Jews, providing them with forged documents, and helping them cross the border to safety in Switzerland and Spain.

Despite the secret nature of their activities, their efforts eventually drew the attention of the authorities. In February 1943, Reverend Trokuma, along with two other individuals involved in the rescue efforts, were taken and held captive for several weeks. Despite intense interrogations, they refused to betray their cause, and the rescue operations continued within the village.

Approximately 5,000 Jews were saved with the courageous assistance of the villagers! In recognition of their extraordinary bravery, in 1990, 70 families from the village who had actively participated in the rescue efforts were honored as “Righteous Among the Nations” in a moving ceremony. They were presented with medals and certificates as tokens of appreciation. Additionally, the city council received a certificate of honor, and a monument was placed in the village in tribute to their remarkable acts of humanity and compassion.



Discussion Points:

- What qualities and values made the Chasidei Umot Ha-olam help Jews?
- Why is the story of Le Chambon-sur-Ligne considered remarkable?
- What lessons can we learn from the villagers’ actions during the Second World War?
- What is the significance of a tree planted in the honor of the Chasidei Umot Ha-olam?
- Can you think of a connection to Judaism?



Ideas For Activities:

- Pass the Current
- Truth or lie

Pass the Current:

This game comes to show the Chanichim that a reaction from one person can affect

many others. Chanichim form a circle by sitting or standing and holding hands. A designated starter begins by pressing the hand of the person next to them with their right hand, passing on the “current.” The current continues around the circle in the direction of the right hand. Pressing with the left hand reverses the direction of the current, sending it back the way it came. The objective is to maintain the flow of the current without it breaking, requiring everyone’s focus and concentration.

Truth or lie:

The Chasidei Umot Ha-olam needed to come up with a lot of pretend stories to save the Jews. (Saying this person isn’t Jewish, this person is my relative)

Prepare before shabbat cards of different categories:

Family	Hobbies
School	Home
Summer Plans	Things I love to do
Free Time	Things I’m afraid of

Tell a lie
Tell a lie
Tell a lie
Tell a lie
Tell a lie
Tell a truth
Tell a truth
Tell a truth
Tell a truth
Tell a truth

Print out these cards and turn them over. Have each Chanich pick up one card from each pile and without showing anyone create either a truthful sentence or a lie based on the cards they chose. Then the other Chanichim need to guess whether it was the truth or a lie. *To make it more exciting you can play with points.

Week Two:



This year on Yom Haatzmaut, we are celebrating 76 years since Israel became a country! Happy birthday Medinat Yisrael!!!

Israel holds a unique place in Jewish history as a homeland that offers safety and sanctity. Throughout history, Jews have sought refuge in Israel, and today, we have the privilege to celebrate living in this cherished land. Nefesh B’Nefesh is an organization dedicated to assisting Jews in making aliyah, further emphasizing the importance of Israel as a home for the Jewish people.



Nefesh B’Nefesh is an organization that helps people from the United States and Canada make Aliyah. It was started by Rabbi Yehoshua Fass and Tony Gelbart after Rabbi Fass lost a family member in a terrorist attack in Israel in 2001. They noticed that many people wanted to move to Israel but were worried about the challenges they might face. So, they created Nefesh B’Nefesh to help make the process easier.

The organization’s goal is to reduce the obstacles that people might face when moving to Israel, like financial, professional, logistical, and social challenges. They work with the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Government of Israel, and other Jewish organizations to help people of all ages before and after they move to Israel. They offer resources like help finding a job, navigating the Israeli system, and providing support and counseling.



Since 2002, Nefesh B’Nefesh has helped more than 80,000 people move to Israel. In 2011, Rabbi Yehoshua Fass received an award on behalf of the organization for their work supporting Aliyah.



Learn more here:

Nefesh B’Nefesh: 20 Years of Growth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci7CXEB8Uvo>



Despite the challenging conditions during wartime in Israel, Nefesh B’nefesh came up with some initiatives to help Olim and their families:

- **Operation hug** - Nefesh B’nefesh has been providing free flights for parents of lone soldiers over the past few months. This allows them to visit their children who are serving on the front lines of the war.
- **Shuk Olim** - This is an online initiative designed to support Olim businesses across Israel. They facilitate the purchase of food, art pieces, and accessories from vendors located throughout the country.
- **Physician volunteers** - Recognizing the increased need for medical professionals in Israel, Nefesh B’nefesh partnered with the Israeli Ministry of Health to create a database that includes thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish physicians from around the world who are willing to volunteer in Israel. Most volunteers commit to two weeks, although some opt to extend their stay to provide longer-term assistance.



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Ideas For Activities:

- Run Back Home
- Memory Game

Run Back Home:

All the Chanichim sit in a circle, with one Chanich positioned in the center. The Chanich in the center poses a question to any of the others in the circle. The Chanich who is questioned must respond using the answer of the participant seated to their left. For instance, if asked, “What’s your mother’s name?”, the answer should be the name of the mother of the person sitting to their left. If the respondent provides an incorrect answer, the group chants “run - back - home” and everyone changes places. The Chanich who ends up without a seat becomes the new questioner in the center, continuing the game.

Memory game:

Have the Chanichim sit in a circle. Each person takes a turn saying, “I’m making aliya and I’m bringing...” The first person starts with an item that begins with the letter A. The next person repeats what the first person said and adds an item that starts with the letter B. Continue through the alphabet, with each person adding an item that starts with the next letter. The game becomes more challenging as it progresses.