

## MAZAL TOV TO RABBI FRIEDLER ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF HIS SON!

Shabbat Va'eira  
Shabbat Starts 4:30pm Shabbat Ends: 5:34pm

### Dvar Torah: Parshat Va'eira

By: Jonathan Babadzhyanov



In this week's parsha we see Yosef imprisoned and being able to escape his sentence by interpreting dreams. Rashi says we are able to learn a value lesson about faith from Yosef. When the sar ha'mashkim is released from prison, Yosef asks his cellmate to remember him in front of Pharaoh. The commentators relay that for these two words, telling someone 'remember me', Yosef was punished by Hashem with an additional two years in prison. The obvious question is: why was Yosef punished? He was merely doing his diligence to be released. He was doing what any person would do in that situation, so why then was he punished?

Rashi answers that it's okay for people to ask for favors. It's okay to ask to be remembered. It's okay for Yosef to try anything to escape early. However, we must never rely or trust in man. We learn from Yosef that we must always rely on Hashem. We can work and seek help, but we must only fully trust and put all of our faith in only Hashem.

This becomes a powerful message with everything going on around us, everything happening to Jews in America, Jews in Israel. We can seek assistance, we can be scared or nervous, but we must always believe that this is part of Hashem's plan for us.

### What Makes Us Ezra:

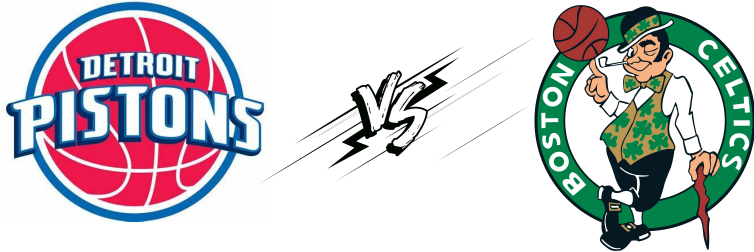
By: Nathaniel Matat

Every teacher knows the challenge of having a student retain information, but this challenge becomes even more difficult for Rabbis and Morot, where the goal and fuel of a real religious teacher is for the students to apply these ideals in practice. Not only for faintly remembering them and occasionally applying robotically, but to express eagerness in being able to connect to G-d and to Judaism through the 613 mitzvot. This all goes to show that words alone are not enough to inspire a person into changing.

Ezra's solution? Through Shabbatons and other outside of school programs, a new and significantly more effective form of education occurs. What learning from a paper or a board misses, these events replace. The seemingly endless string of laws or ideals in class is now translated into an incredible experience with your best friends and is unforgettable even until adulthood. After an incredibly uplifting shabbaton in West Hempstead three weeks ago, one student told me that "Shabbaton was the most moving one he ever kept and was very fun." This now set a precedent for his attitude to future sabbaths to be enjoyable. Anyone who closely analyzed the impact this had on the attendees understood that this was an enormous success in chinuch (education of Jewish values) because it reached the level where you kept the laws of shabbat with the support of your friends and enjoyed being hosted with random Jews that actually treated us as close as family members. In other words, this event embodied the ideals we usually learnt from papers and books. Lastly, what was arguably the magnum opus of the experience was when two girls shared their own deeply personal situations and how the Shabbat with Ezra moved them into a more positive outlook on their lives and on religion. It is worth noting that their speeches were so moving that even the owner of the pool place we went to couldn't help but listen attentively even though he had a business to run. Thank you for reading, and may we all continue to progress on our own personal chinuch as well as continue to progress as a school.

## Sports: Pistons can't stop Losing!

By: Shimon Kusayev



The Detroit Pistons in the 2024 NBA season have a record of 2-28 and are 15th in the Eastern Conference. The Pistons have tied the all time losing streak in NBA history; a record that was tied by several other teams. The Boston Celtics sent the Pistons to 28 straight losses during the game in the 2nd quarter the Boston Celtics were down over double digits to the dreadful Pistons. The Piston players have lost hope after losing their 28th straight game, especially their starting point guard and potential star, Cade Cunningham, who had over 30 points against the Celtics and played amazing for his team. On December 30th the Detroit Pistons broke the curse of 28 straight losses winning against the Toronto Raptors by 2 points.

## Entertainment: WONKA

By: Allen Muradov



“Wonka” is a 2023 fantasy/musical movie directed by Paul King. In “Wonka,” we follow the story of how Willy Wonka opened his first shop while the chocolate cartel was trying to stop him. Even though “Wonka” is called a prequel, it has nothing to do with any of the two previous Willy Wonka films that have come before. As a Willy Wonka fan, I definitely would’ve loved if they went more in-depth on how Willy Wonka became the weird, wacky, and fun chocolatier that we all know and love. However, I definitely do agree that the movie is fun and entertaining, and I loved how the story was also expressed through music and not just plain and simple dialogue. This movie, in a sense, is very similar to real life because it shows that you should never give up on your dreams, no matter what obstacles you may face throughout your journey.

## Restaurant Review: Fortune

By: Alan Yakubov



The restaurant “Fortune” is a very popular Chinese cuisine that has extremely tasty and traditional food. They serve an immense variety of chicken, beef, noodles, and much more. They are a small, glatt kosher restaurant located at 90-21 63rd Dr, Queens, NY 11374 but average a 4.1 out of 5 in their reviews. The food there is incredible and they have an amazing and courteous staff. They are open from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm every week except Fridays and Saturdays. Some of the reviews include, but are not limited to; “really delicious food, the beef egg rolls were delicious, I was very pleased with the food. “ all in all, Fortune is a very delicious place to have some nice food with your family and it is a good choice when you want something that is not too expensive that still tastes amazing.

## Teacher Interview with Mr. Miska:

By: Regina Fatakhova

1) **When have you felt the most challenged and what helped you overcome it?**

“After not knowing what career I wanted to go into and struggling to find out what I wanted to do, I discovered my passion for writing and that helped me overcome it.”

2) **What did you fear most growing up?**

“Failure...and snakes.”

3) **If you could trade places with one celebrity for a day, who would it be and why?**

“Peter Griffin, because people already say I look like him..”



## Current Events:

By:Paulina Khaitov

As the new year comes, we all wish that the war between Israel and Hamas would already be over. According to the Israeli military, they will start withdrawing thousands of their troops from the Gaza Strip to scale back on their operations. This was because the death toll in Gaza was starting to rise. Despite the plan to withdraw troops,, the war between Israel and Hamas remains intense, Daniel Hagari says. This movement was done to alleviate economic burdens and help the nation gather strength to continue fighting. President Biden's national security advisors met with Ron Dermer, Netanyahu's advisor, to discuss having a different approach to the war. The suggested plan was to “maximize focus on high-value Hamas targets”. Going forward, there will be more precise strikes, specifically targeting the leadership and militants of Hamas. Additionally, thousands of Israeli residents who fled their homes at the start of the war will soon be able to return back safely.

## Fashion Corner:

By: Rafaela Fatakhova



New Year, new style! Shop the latest shoe brands with their latest release and best sellers. Nikes new best sellers, the Air Jordan 3 Retros. Nike's most popular demand right now is the Nike sportswear tech fleece windrunner, currently selling for a full price range of \$145. Nike's newest release the “Air Jordan 1 High Method of Make.” It has already made 253 sales in 7 days selling for the price of \$155. But not only is Nike the top selling shoe brand, the brand “Ugg” is quickly selling fast. It's currently known for its “Womens Tashmen Suede Braid Accent Embroidered Clog Slippers” in colors chestnut and black both selling for a price range of \$110.00.



**An inspiring West Hempstead shabbaton ends with some billiards**

# Ezra Times



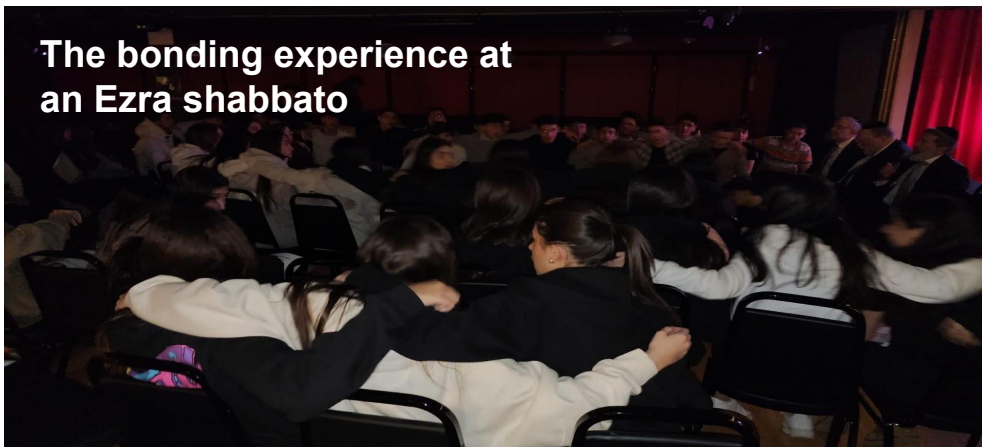
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Issue: January, 2024

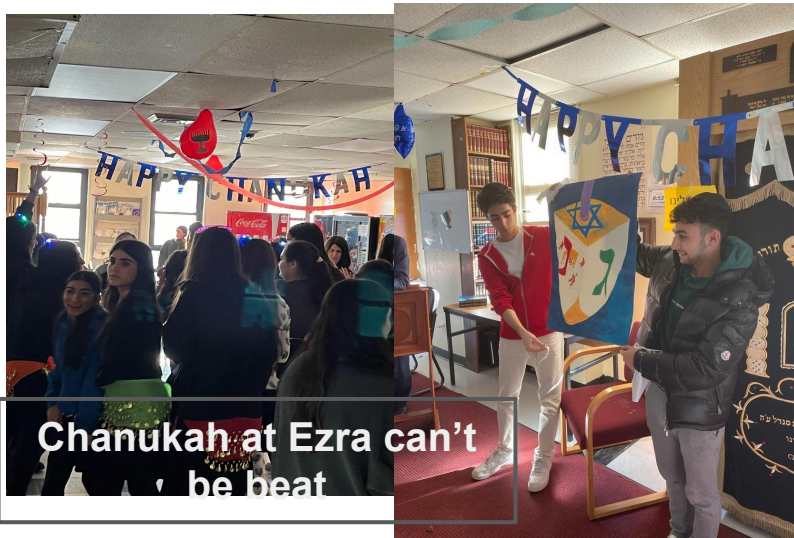
Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.



Ezra enjoys an incredible trip to Urban Air!



The bonding experience at an Ezra shabbato



Chanukah at Ezra can't be beat



HAFTR chess team narrowly beats Ezra 8-6