



# CHOVERET CHINUCH #9 5784

We Are Family



*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](mailto:aberman@bneiakiva.org)*

Hi Madrichim,

We just recently celebrated a special day in Israel known as Yom Hamishpacha, Family Day. In this Choveret, we delve into the profound significance of this day. We will discover that it was established in honor of a remarkable woman, Henrietta Szold, whose legacy continues to inspire. Exploring her life and myriad contributions to Jewish communities worldwide, we gain insights into her enduring impact. Furthermore, we'll reflect on the profound value of the Mitzvah of 'Kibud Horim', underscoring the importance of honoring and respecting our parents.

All the best

Shani Becker

# Week One

Recently, Israel celebrated Family Day, known as Yom Hamishpacha. This special day highlights the significance of family and community bonds. It's celebrated on the first of Adar, to honor the memory of Henrietta Szold, a prominent woman who passed away on that very day.



Let's explore Henrietta Szold's remarkable life.



Henrietta was born in 1860 in Baltimore, Maryland, to a family who had immigrated from Hungary. As the eldest child, she played a vital role in caring for her younger siblings. After completing her schooling, she witnessed the struggles faced by Jewish immigrants in America, particularly Russian Jews. Determined to make a difference, she founded an evening school to help them learn English.

But Henrietta's commitment didn't end there. With a passion for writing and a deep love for her community, she established the first Zionist Association in Baltimore, advocating for the Jewish people and their homeland.

In 1909, Henrietta visited Eretz Yisrael and was deeply moved by the poverty and illness plaguing Jewish communities. Upon her return to the United States, she dedicated herself to helping Eretz Yisrael, founding the Hadassah Organization on Purim 1912. Their mission was to improve health and well-being in Israel. Through fundraising efforts, they were able to send the first group of doctors to Yerushalayim, laying the foundation for the healthcare system that would eventually support the State of Israel.

Henrietta moved to Israel in 1920 and continued her work with Hadassah, establishing hospitals, nursing schools, and projects to assist those in need. At the age of 73, she was asked to run Aliyat Hanoar, a program that brought German youth to Israel and set them up to study and work the land. Under her leadership, the organization flourished, providing refuge to over 30,000 children



and teens fleeing Nazi Germany, ultimately saving their lives and giving them tools to succeed.

Henrietta Szold was a kind and caring person who made a big difference in what would soon be the Israeli state. She did not have any children of her own, but as she took care of so many, Israel remembers her as “the mother of the settlement,” and Family Day is celebrated in her honor. In addition, many places in Israel have been named after her to honor her legacy.

### **For more info on Henrietta:**

The Women of Zionism | History of Israel Explained | Unpacked

Watch from 2:59 - 4:13



### **Discussion Points:**

- What qualities do you think made Henrietta successful in her work, and how could you apply those qualities to your own life?
- How might celebrating Yom Mishpacha, Family Day on the day Henrietta passed away help to honor her legacy and the importance she placed on family and community?
- How do you think Henrietta’s early experiences, such as helping her family and witnessing the struggles of immigrants, shaped her later actions and decisions?



### **Games and Activities:**

- Association
  - Down, Down, Up
- 
- **Associations:**  
Distribute folded notes to each participant, instructing them not to share the contents. One participant at a time reads aloud the word or sentence on their note and shares their immediate thoughts or associations. Unbeknownst to them, everyone’s notes contain the same phrase: “to be part of a family.” After each participant shares, discuss how each person’s perspective on family is unique, yet underscores the significance of familial bonds.

- **Down Down Up:**

*This game shows the importance of eye contact, and through that the connection people have with one another and the positive impact they can have.*

Have the Chanichim stand in a circle, looking down. The Madrich says the words “down, down, up”. When the Madrich says “down” all eyes must go down to your shoes. “Up” means everyone needs to look up and look at the eyes of a friend in the circle. If two Chanichim are looking at each other they need to switch places. Alternatively, if two Chanichim look at each other they are out.

## Week Two



**Question:** Why is it so important to respect our parents?

The Sefer HaChinuch, Mitzvah 33 says: It is fitting for a person to acknowledge and return kindness to people who were good to him, and not to be ungrateful. Being ungrateful is a bad trait both in the eyes of God and in the eyes of man. Regarding a person’s relationship to his parents, he owes them a great debt, for they are the ones who provided him with his very life, took care of him when he was a helpless baby and worked hard to bring him up. It is appropriate to honor them in every way and give every benefit he can give them. Honoring one’s parents and recognizing the importance of thanking those who gave us so much, can lead the thinking person to honor Hashem when we consider that He is the One providing for our lives and the whole world we live in.

The Mitzvah of Kibud Horim, respecting our parents, is one of the Mitzvot in the Ten Commandments, teaching us that it is a basic and crucial Mitzvah. Like the Sefer HaChinuch says, this Mitzvah is for us to show our gratitude to our parents for raising us, and through that teaching, we will be able to show our gratitude to Hashem for the life he gave us.



There are many ways in which we must respect our parents. Some examples include:

- Not calling your parents by their names
- Not sitting in your parent's seat
- Not waking your parents when they are sleeping...



### Story Time

Let's hear a story about a man with special respect for his mother:

Once, there lived an old, frail woman who was so weak that she couldn't even get into or out of bed by herself. Despite her son being a well-known and respected man, and wealthy with many maids to care for the house, he insisted on personally tending to his mother's needs. Every day, he would assist her in getting in and out of bed by bending down, for her to step on his back.

One Shabbat, feeling slightly better, the mother expressed her desire to take a short walk outside. Delighted, her son helped her out of the house, and she enjoyed the fresh air, sunlight, and nature after being confined indoors for so long.

However, disaster struck when her shoe tore, leaving her with one bare foot. Concerned for his mother's well-being and unable to repair the shoe, the son improvised. He knelt down and put his palm down on the ground for his mother to step on. He did this step after step, bending down the whole way home, and having her step on his palm, so she would avoid bruising her feet, or stepping on any sharp objects. In this way, he ensured his mother made it home safely.



A few days later, the son fell ill and his students came to visit him. When they asked the old mother about her son's condition, she pleaded for their prayers, explaining how her son's extreme respect for her led him to carry her on his palm when her shoe tore on Shabbat.

Impressed by his devotion, the students reminded the mother that even though her son's actions were admirable, there is still room left to do even more to honor one's parents according to the Torah.

The son in this story was Rabbi Tarphon, a well known Tana, one of the sages of the Mishna. He lived at the end of the second Beit Hamikdash.

**Source:** Bavli Kidushin 31b



### **Discussion Points:**

- Why is it important to honor and care for our parents as they age?
- What are some other ways individuals can show respect for their parents and elders in their daily lives?
- Does it change the story knowing that the boy is Rabbi Tarphon?



### **Games and Activities:**

- Rules of the House
  - Rules of the House
  - Relay Race
- **Rules of the House:**

Have the Chanichim throw a ball to one another, each Chanich who receives the ball needs to share a rule that they have in their house. To make it more of a challenge have the Chanichim pass the ball around faster, needing to answer faster.
- **Relay Race**

Dividing the Chanichim into two groups, and have them stand in a line. The first representative from each line will run towards the Madrich and propose an idea for an act they can perform later that day to express gratitude and appreciation to their parents. The Madrich will hear the ideas and approve only the practical and serious ones. Once approved, the Chanich will return to their line, and the next Chanich in line will approach the Madrich. The line in which all Chanichim return to their starting position first wins. We will then repeat the chosen ideas aloud so all Chanichim can hear and select one to implement.

(Examples of ideas include making dinner for mom, writing a detailed thank-you letter to parents, helping put younger siblings to bed, arranging things as requested by mom, or organizing younger siblings to prepare a surprise for the parents.)

<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>
<b>To be part of a family</b>	<b>To be part of a family</b>