



# THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, Pennsylvania, USA

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky

Dear Parents,

It's not often that a Nobel Laureate comes to town. So when Elie Weisel was invited by Wilkes University to speak at the Kirby Center, it presented a unique opportunity to our community. In addition, teenagers from the local community were invited to meet Mr. Weisel at the Westmoreland Club earlier that day.

I could not help noting that this event took place on the same week that we read the Torah portion of Toldot. Perhaps the most famous episode is the birth of Esav and his twin brother, Yaakov (Esau and Jacob). These two brothers were as opposite as one can imagine. Esav was the hunter, who also used his cunning to fool his father into thinking he was a righteous son. Esav was also a thief, murderer and rapist. Yaakov, on the other hand, was a refined and noble person. Learned in the ways of Abraham and Isaac, Yaakov was a deep, contemplative person.

The Talmud says that there is a principle that "Esav hates Yaakov." This means that in every generation, there will be a foe of the Jewish people. It is a given in Jewish life, historically, presently, and even unto the future (until the Messiah arrives). The reasons for this are many and profound.

At the most basic level, our enemies have the ability to harm us because we do not merit the Divine protection due to our own sins and shortfalls. As the Midrash (Talmudic writings which explain the deeper understanding of the Torah) explains, Esav and Yaakov will vie for superiority. When one is strong, the other is weaker. Thus, if we live as Jews are commanded, then we will have supremacy over our enemies. If we deviate from the ways of the Torah, we will be subject to much suffering at the hands of our adversaries.

Not to take away from Elie Wiesel's presentation, but outside of living by the guidelines set forth in the Torah, nothing will prevent our potential misfortune. While the Jewish people can never disappear completely, there are many unpleasantities that could befall us that could make life difficult if not dangerous. Ultimately, following G-d's will is the best protection.

One of the ways we serve G-d is by glorifying Him (Hebrew – *Kiddush Hashem*) with our actions. I am pleased to inform everyone what a spectacular job our students did and how impressive they were as they worked with the Wilkes University students these last two weeks. The Wilkes students walked away with an appreciation for the manner in which our students behaved and learned.

**A very special thank you to Mrs. Barbara Welch, Middle School language arts teacher, for coordinating this program each year.**

How we conduct ourselves with our fellow man speaks volumes to others about our religious values. The message we impart is far more meaningful than the nuances of our ritual actions. Taking a lesson from our forefather, Avraham, we can spread the message of the Torah by acting in an upstanding manner, respecting the dignity of others and ourselves so that we are the kind of people G-d expects us to be.

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbi Raphael J. Nemetsky

**Have you signed up for conferences on December 1?**

**The Shabbaton for Grades 1—4 will be held in January.**

### REMINDER

UHI will once again participate in Chai Lifeline. Please bring new unwrapped, toys which will be presented to children who are seriously ill.

*The family of Dror Levi would like to thank the UHI Family for their kindness and support during his recent bereavement.*

To date, UHI has earned 14,283 points!  
TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 25 Grandparents & Family Day 1/2 Day
- Nov. 26, Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Vacation
- Dec. 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences 1/2 Day
- Dec. 5 Book Fair & Chanukah Workshop JCC