

## Rambam Record Parshat Shemot

### Rambam Mesivta Celebrates 26th Annual Family Learn-A-Thon

What is a better day than January 1st to bring fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and brothers to the Mesivta to Daven and learn together? For a quarter of a century, Rambam has been holding this special program on days when family members are "off" and have "free time."

Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, Rambam's Rosh Mesivta, spoke about the significance of the message that parents send when they come to learn when there are signs they could easily read telling them they could be "off."

And it wasn't just fathers who showed up to make that statement!

The Rambam Women's League and mothers make sure to be there at 7:30 in the morning to provide the much-needed background and logistical support for the day. Moms also were the chefs of the morning as they prepared the eggs and waffles catered by Grapevine Events.

The morning began in typical fashion with an 8 o'clock Minyan as well as a Sephardic Minyan.

Following Davening, Rabbi Friedman shared a dvar Torah on the leadership of Moshe Rabeinu and Aharon HaKohein. He quoted Rashi and spoke about the fact that despite the fact that they had gathered many community leaders with them to approach Pharaoh in order to free Klal Yisrael, those very same leaders abandoned Moshe and Aharon as they approached the King's Palace. Despite the fact that they were left alone, Moshe and Aharon proceeded with their mission and did not let social pressure or any other factors deter them. "A true leader leads, forges ahead, and is not dissuaded by the fact that popular opinion does not support his efforts. A leader is motivated by doing the right thing."

The crowd of over 200 people proceeded to the gym, where tables and breakfast were set up.

The Women's League, headed by **Mrs. Judy Azose** and **Mrs. Carolyn Deutsch** along with their team of volunteers coordinated a sumptuous breakfast.

The caterer for the day was **Grapevine Events** headed by **Dani Polotski**, a Rambam alumnus, Class of 1998.

After breakfast, the family chavrusa learning began followed by **Rabbi Max Anteby**, noted Senior Lecturer for Aish HaTorah who presented an informative, compelling,

and inspiring shiur on the basis of Torah M'Sinai.

He discussed the unique significance of a national revelation and explained why the claim of such an event could never be duplicated. "It is impossible to lie to someone about their own experiences," said Rabbi Anteby, "consequently no one could get away with making such a claim unless it was actually true. The Torah was and is the only source of such a claim."

He went on to explain that despite our being in exile for 2000 years, scattered in countries throughout the world, every single Sefer Torah is exactly the same and differs at most on one letter for the spelling of one word which differs between the Ashkenazic and Sephardic tradition. A question and answer period followed and the talmidim and their families enjoyed a meaningful morning learning together with plenty of "food for thought."







**Masmidim: Extra Learning Opportunities Abound at Rambam.**

The morning begins with a 7:45AM optional shiur before Schacharis. Approximately 40 more boys choose to participate in lunch and evening learning as well. This group, which forms the core of Rambam's Masmidim Program, stands out for their commitment to learning Lishma, even when not required to do so.

The Rambam Administration chose to honor those boys and their parents with a

special presentation at the January 1st Family Learn-A-Thon.

The Masmidim and their family members were called up and presented with plaques which read, "Special Recognition for enhancing the atmosphere of the Bais Medrash during the Masmidim hours and for being the personification of the concept of "Lishma."

Their Rebbeim stood proudly next to them and their family's sharing the nachas of this well-deserved tribute.



