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Pesach is a time of family, lively sedarim, chol ha'moed trips, and, for many, new clothes. Unfortunately, there is a large population of Jews that cannot afford many of life's basic necessities, let alone luxuries. To help ease the burden for some, a group of girls from Shalhevet High School went on an amazing chesed trip to Bobbie's Place in Brooklyn. Bobbie's Place is a children's clothing store that distributes new clothing to children for free in honor of the chagim. Started 17 years ago by Mrs. Michal Schick, Bobbie's Place has expanded from a basement gemach to four store locations and serves over 8.000 children. Mrs. Schick started this store in memory of her husband's grandmother, whom they called Bobbie. Her mission is to give each child a real shopping experience and provide them with a new,



Shalhevet girls help out at Bobbie's Place

cute, and stylish outfit for the chagim. She hopes that each child whose parents cannot afford a new or nice outfit can "go shopping" and feel like everyone else. The stores have rows of clothing, sales clerks, fitting rooms, and even numbers for the amount of items they are trying on. Furthermore, the store contains checkout registers so that the children do not know their parents are not paying. The Shalhevet students helped organize and stock the racks with new clothes. They hung and sorted the clothes by size and color to provide a clean and fresh look for the "customers" to enjoy. Ninth-grader Leah Feder stated, "This place is so cool! I want to volunteer here again!" Ninth-grader Hadassah Fertig commented, "It was so amazing that they provide all types of clothing for all ages and sizes, including skirts, shirts, dresses, ties, and more!" All of the girls had a great time and were thankful to participate in a very unique *tzedakah* organization. •

## Spousal Bereavement Group At JCC

The objective of this six-week group session is to provide support for the recently bereaved in a caring and warm atmosphere. There will be the opportunity to work through grief, examine feelings, and discover inner strengths. A new group session will begin Wednesday, **April 22**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the JCC of the Greater Five Towns, 207 Grove Avenue in Cedarhurst. Preregistration is required. For more information or to register, please call Judy Goldberg, LMSW, at 516-569-6733, ext. 24. Fee: \$45 for six-week session. ❖



## Well Of Fortune

The following story is relevant to a recently learned *daf*:

It once happened that when *Bnei Yisrael* came up on pilgrimage (*oleh regel*) to Yerushalayim, there was no water available for drinking. Thereupon, Nakdimon *ben* Gurion approached a certain lord and said to him: "Loan me 12 wells of water for the pilgrims, and I will repay you 12 wells of water; and if I do not, I will give you instead 12 talents of silver." The lord agreed, and they set a date for (re)payment.

When the time came for repayment and no rain had yet fallen, the lord sent a message to Nakdimon in the morning: "Send me either the water or the money of mine that you have." Nakdimon replied, "I still have time; all day, in its entirety, is mine." At midday, the lord again sent him a message: "Send me either the water or the money of mine that you have." Nakdimon replied, "I still have time left today."

Late in the afternoon, the lord again sent him the message demanding payment of the water or the money. Nakdimon again replied, "I still have time left today." Thereupon the lord sneeringly said, "The whole year has passed and rain has not fallen; now [in the short time remaining] rain will fall?" Thereupon he repaired in a happy mood to the baths.

(The *Maharsha* explains that his intent was possibly to ridicule Nakdimon and the Jewish people, as if to say, "You don't even have enough water to drink, and I have plenty—enough even to bathe in.")

Meanwhile, while the lord had gone gleefully to the baths, Nakdimon entered the *Beis HaMikdash* sadly. He wrapped himself and stood in prayer: "Master of the Universe! It is revealed and known before You that I have not done this for my honor nor for the honor of my father's house, but for Your honor have I done this, in order that water be available for the pilgrims."

Immediately, the sky became overcast with clouds and there was a downpour of rain until the 12 wells were filled with water to a level higher than they were the year before. As the lord came out of the baths, Nakdimon ben Gurion came out from the Beis HaMikdash. The two met, and Nakdimon said to the lord, "Give me the money for the additional water of mine that you have."

The latter replied, "I know that the Holy One, Blessed Be He, disturbed the world only for your sake, yet my claim against you for the money still holds, for the sun had already set—the rain that fell is mine

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RAV PINCHUS WEINBERGER



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