

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT MIKEITZ

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The Message Behind a Candle Light



**NINA
FOUX**

Youth Director
@ Hendon United
Synagogue

The Sfat Emet (Rabbi Yehuda Aryeh Leib Alter, 1847-1905) quotes his grandfather, the Chidushei HaRim (Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Alter, 1799-1866), on a puzzling statement in the Talmud (Shabbat 23b): "If a person makes the lighting of candles - for Chanukah and for Shabbat - a regular feature of their life, their children will

be *talmidei chachamim* (Torah scholars)."

This statement cries out for explanation for it comes across as a total *non-sequitur*: what does lighting the candles have to do with the righteousness of one's children?

The Chidushei HaRim answers this question by pointing out that lighting candles in the context of mitzvot can convey a vital message to one's children (and to oneself!). That message is: even in a setting of habit and routine, one can be elevated in their service. How? By bringing to

bear the illumination and *hitchadshut* (freshness) that newly lit candles symbolise. Even when we do something often, we can still elevate it, infuse it with meaning and make it special every time.

Shielded from the deadening power of habit, a person (and their progeny) can reach higher levels of spirituality. This can positively impact the potential *talmidei chachamim*, the children, in two ways –via the children directly, and also indirectly via the impact on the potential facilitators, the parents.

Parasha Wordsearch

I	S	M	D	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	T
Z	Z	E	R	R	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	U
L	C	N	E	S	E	S	E	J	D	M	B	N
I	E	O	D	B	K	I	Q	Z	P	U	Z	H
O	L	R	A	S	A	I	D	L	Y	S	Q	G
L	E	A	G	T	D	C	E	E	T	L	L	U
S	B	H	E	F	F	L	C	H	L	U	D	O
L	R	E	J	I	L	X	G	A	W	B	O	D
H	A	E	I	G	X	I	O	L	M	W	W	O
K	T	T	Y	G	L	C	A	N	D	L	E	S
N	I	T	K	A	H	M	Z	N	Y	D	M	A
D	O	Y	C	E	R	T	K	K	R	P	Z	V
M	N	D	E	F	S	P	S	N	C	H	B	M

CANDLES
CELEBRATION
DOUGHNUT
DREIDEL
EIGHT
FESTIVAL
GIFTS
LATKES

LIGHTS
MACCABEES
MENORAH
MIRACLE
OIL
PRAYERS
TEMPLE

