



Throwing kids out of Yeshiva

Show# 129 | August 5th 2017

Brooklyn, NY - My Message For Tisha Ba'v: Judge Ruchie Freier: Reflections From The Bench On Judging Our Children

Brooklyn, NY - I remember seven years ago when I first met 14 year old Malky Klein a”h. She was sitting across me in the Seforim Room in my home. She pensive yet pretty, wearing a long skirt and dressed *B’Tznius*. Malky was wearing the uniform of the school that had expelled her because she was hurt and ashamed and did not want anyone to know that she had no school.

Her parents were worried as she was experiencing challenges; no high school wanted to accept her. Since Malky’s passing, many people are coming forward attacking the “system” and warning us of the dire consequences. What people don’t know is the missing piece to this story.

During the early years of my community service, I began advocating for kids at risk and formed B’Derech focusing on adolescent Youth at Risk, primarily boys in the Chassidish Community. My previous articles appeared here on VIN share my early experience.

One night, in late 2010, my aunt, Miriam Schwartz, called me. “Ruchie, you must help me get my good friend Rifka Klein’s daughter into high school.” My aunt explained that she knows this girl and her family for years and they were wonderful people. She explained there was a meeting tonight at a certain high school that Mrs. Klein was afraid to attend because if the other mothers see her, they would protest.

After meeting with Malky and her parents, I had several conversations with their Rav, the Krulla Rebbe of Williamsburg. He was concerned and supportive and offered to assist me in helping the Klein family with whom he was close with.

I pleaded with the principal, a kindhearted and righteous person, who was opening a new high school to accept Malky. She was reluctant because there was negative information out there.

I advocated and ultimately the principal acquiesced. But, it was only after she quietly told me that several mothers were calling her exclaiming that if Malky Klein is accepted, they will take their daughters out of the school.

In fact, the principal said that one of the mothers explained that she was related to the Kleins and thus had first hand information of what transpires in their home and strongly urged the Rebbetzin not to accept Malky. This required my investigation which revealed that no such cousin existed. This is merely one example of the exaggerated and/or false reports that were made by mothers in the class.

While Malky was truly grateful to be accepted into the school, she longed to be with her friends and dreamed of joining them. When Malky completed 9th grade, she was still hopeful that if she worked with tutors and tried harder, and got better grades in 10th grade, she would be able to transfer for 11th grade.

Malky personally wrote letters to other school principals and begged to be given the chance, all to no avail. Alas, despite all her efforts she cried to her parents "What it takes girls in my class seconds to learn, takes me hours. If this is what it means to be a good girl, it's not for me!" And that was the beginning of the tragic end for Malky. A sweet girl, who was so misunderstood and hurt, despite the unconditional love of her wonderful parents.

Too see the whole article *[click here](#)*

תלמוד בבלי מסכת עירובין דף נד עמוד ב

רבי פרידא הוה ליה ההוא תלמידא דהוה תני ליה ארבע מאה זימני וגמר. יומא חד בעיוה למלתא דמצוה, תנא ליה ולא גמר. אמר ליה: האידנא מאי שנא? אמר ליה: מדהיא שעתא דאמרו ליה למר איכא מילתא דמצוה - אסחאי לדעתאי, וכל שעתא אמינא, השתא קאי מר, השתא קאי מר. אמר ליה: הב דעתך ואתני לך. הדר תנא ליה ארבע מאה זימני [אחריני] נפקא בת קלא ואמרה ליה: ניחא לך דליספו לך ארבע מאה שני, או דתיזכו את ודרך לעלמא דאתי? אמר: דניזכו אנא ודריי לעלמא דאתי. אמר להן הקדוש ברוך הוא: תנו לו זו זו.

Selected emails from our listeners

Reb Dovid,

Many great points by you and your guests, I'd like to add two more.

1) The tuition agreement is between the school and the PARENTS. What right do they have to pull the kids in-holding them ransom against the parents. By accepting the kid they are taking responsibility for them, the parents obligation to the school is unrelated. Sending the kids home to twist the parents arm is blackmail!

2) Does this happen in Israel? Yes, it does. I was recently involved with a family from one of the known Yerushalmi Kehillos, living in Beit Shemesh that could not afford the approx. \$700 a month for their 4 boys in cheder. After a few months of the debt accumulating the Cheder sent the boys home. (I don't think they cruelly singled them out in middle of the day and sent them home like the story you mentioned, I think they just called and said stay home)

For most of the past year I helped raise the tuition- every Jewish child is ENTITLED to a Jewish education. Recently, I have been unable to raise the money, they are once again threatening to send the kids home.

For the record, I was told that this Kehilla's branch in Yerushalayim does not have this policy, but in Beit Shemesh they do. The Cheder might say, if they make exceptions for everyone the Cheder will close. And what's wrong with that? Yiddische Kinder will be without an education, so to prevent that they send kids home and deprive them of their education. Ironic.

I appreciate your bringing awareness to the issue. If you have an Eitza, please share.

Shlomo O.

I really appreciate your podcasts and the attention that you are bringing to these issues. 2 follow ups that I would appreciate you discuss.

1) I definitely agree that schools need to be more aware of the kids of our generation and not bury a child for their different makeup and lack of ability to sit through class and for the "check box". However, I think you should try and do a podcast with possible solutions. A podcast not just with the issues but with ideas for help. The ideas that you are hinting to cost money. To have art, music classes etc. are expensive. On one hand we complain about tuition costs but then we ask for more types of classes and more individual attention. The "modern orthodox" schools have these things but double the tuition. I would appreciate to hear professional's ideas for solutions.

2) I believe some of these issues of drugs and alcohol is caused by the excessive drinking that is in our communities these days. Go to your average Kiddush and it's mind boggling the amount of alcohol flowing. Just this past week I know of a few bungalow colonies who had a Nachamu concert and had a BAR! What are we teaching our children! I would appreciate a podcast discussing this issue. Your show is super popular these days and I hear people all over talking about it. To me this just proves that people want to have an outlet to discuss. People want these issues brought to attention. I believe you discussing the Kiddush club and the constant need for alcohol will go a long way. Are there so many people who need alcohol to hide their pain?

Much Hatzlocha on your continued contribution to society!

Sholom Schneider

Selected audio from our listeners

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Comments on the last two shows (2) *[click here](#)*

Chasidishe schools policies *[click here](#)*