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Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 7:36 PM
To: Shulamith Z Berger <sberger@yu.edu>
Subject: [EXT] - Social Media Distancing

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"SOCIAL MEDIA DISTANCING" HAPPENING NOW!

CHIZUK FOR TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES!

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What's the real message that He's sending us?

Does He only want our social distancing,
or also social media distancing?

"There's a high probability that this is the cause (of the virus) and the teshuva has to be along these lines: and that is the use of technology unnecessarily - in general, and smartphones particularly... To stop this mageifa we have to do something difficult; in order to get rid of such a gezeira, we must sacrifice..."

R' Moshe Hillel Hirsch



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*This kabbola is bli neder, and for one year or any amount of time you specify

To hear messages from many Gedolim on coronavirus & technology, call:



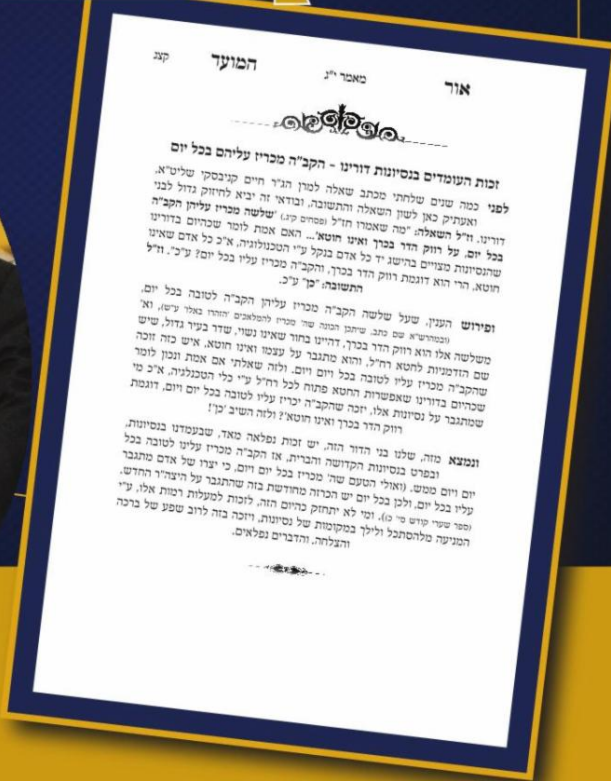
IN THIS ZECHUS MAY WE BE ZOCHÉ TO REFUOS AND YESHUOS SPEEDILY!

חיזוק נפלא לבני דורינו

ממון חרה'ג ר' חיים קניבסקי שליט"א

"Those who **withstand the challenges** posed by today's technological devices, and does not sin with them, they are zoche that every day a **bas kol** comes out from shomayim in their favor."

Harav Chaim Kanievsky shlit"a



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The Storm of Technology.....	2
Chomosayich.....	3
The Jewish Mother.....	4
My Message from Citifield.....	5
R' Ephraim Wachsmann's song.....	6
Yiddish songs.....	10 - 15

4-2 STORIES FOR MEN

4-3 STORIES FOR WOMEN

5-1 HOTLINE UPDATES

1-1 SPEECHES BY RABBONIM AND MECHANCHIM:

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R' YISSOCHOR FRAND <i>Who is Your Master, You or Your Phone?</i>	2
R' MORDECHAI KIRSHEBAUM <i>Please be swani! Understanding our children's digital challenges</i>	3
R' MATISYOHU SALOMON <i>The Wild Last Dance Before the Coming of Mashiach</i>	4
R' EPHRAIM WACHSMAN <i>Major Address at the Citi Field Asifa</i>	5
R' YOSEF VIENER <i>Family Security - Protection from The Silent Killer</i>	6
R' ELYA BRUDNY <i>Focusing on the Future of Klal Yisroel</i>	7
R' GERSHON MILLER <i>A Heartfelt Cry to Today's Parents & Mechanchim</i>	8
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New!

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R' YISRAEL ELIEZER KAUFMAN, OF 'TALK 'N TECH' (INTERVIEW) <i>The Advantages of a Kosher Phone</i>	5
R' SIMCHA KLEIN <i>How to Minimize the Smartphone Pull</i>	6
R' DR. ZEV BROWN <i>Understanding our Children's Struggles</i>	7
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New!

The SMART CHOICES NEWSLETTER



IN-DEPTH COVERAGE OF TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES & TRIUMPHS

NISSAN 5780 // ISSUE 2

COVID-19 ISSUE

INSPIRATION | INFORMATION | AWARENESS

Rav Asher Arieli Shlit" a Delivers a Rare, Moving Address Regarding the Coronavirus



Rav Asher Arieli Shlit" a, the famed *maggid shiur* at the Mir Yeshiva of Yerushalayim, delivered a heartfelt call in

response to the current Coronavirus pandemic. He stressed that while each individual must undertake to do *teshuvah* on a personal level, nevertheless, there are certain areas where we, as a *klal*, must focus.

To hear this speech (Yiddish), call the **Smart Choices Hotline** at 732.400.9003, option 1 – 1 – 45. ■



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Smart Choices presents hundreds of hours of inspirational speeches to hear from the comfort of your home!

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For a list of Coronavirus speeches & other hotline numbers, see back page.

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- Page 4 – R' Elya Ber Wachtfogel Shlit" a on Coronavirus
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- Page 6-7 – Updated Smart Choices Hotline List

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The SMART CHOICES NEWSLETTER



IN-DEPTH COVERAGE OF TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES & TRIUMPHS

ELUL 5779 // ISSUE 1

INTRODUCTORY ISSUE

INSPIRATION | INFORMATION | AWARENESS

Triumphed & Moving Forward



INTRODUCTION FROM SMART CHOICES

As Smart Choices enters its fourth year of *avodas hakodesh*, we can't help but marvel at the great strides that were made in our *kehillos* towards the goal of safeguarding ourselves and our children from the dangers of Internet and technology. Communities, schools, and thousands of individuals have been roused to make concrete changes to protect what is most precious to us: our purity.

Yet, so much more remains to be done – and can be done! In the course of our efforts, we were amazed and inspired to see how so many among us do not need to be forced into action. They genuinely strive to do *ratzon Hashem*. After hearing a simple explanation of the dangers involved and the steps that need to be taken to avert them, they immediately address the issues on their own, without further prodding. All it takes is an understanding of the dynamics of the internet and the various technological devices, along with proper guidance, and, invariably, they eagerly rise to the challenge.

With this in mind, Smart Choices announces the launching of our newsletter, which will *b'ezras Hashem* provide up to date material regarding the latest hi-tech developments, international news on internet protection, *divrei chizuk*, and helpful tips to enable us to keep the light of purity strong in the midst of the darkness that threatens the technological generation. ■

Letter from the Rosh Hayeshiva Introducing The Smart Choices Newsletter [Back Page](#)

EDITORIAL

"Technology Awareness" has become a catchphrase in the *frum* community in recent years. Ever since the *asifah* in Citi Field in 2012, the challenge posed by modern technology has been at the forefront of the Torah world's consciousness. By now, TAG headquarters dot the international landscape of *frum* Jewry, and many institutions consider properly filtered devices a natural prerequisite for families who wish to join their ranks.

During this period, the primary issue dominating the public interchange was the spiritual danger of unfiltered access to anything and everything the world has to offer. The understanding that being a mere double click away from a host of inappropriate images, videos, and literature poses a spiritual threat to ourselves and our families — is obvious and uncontested.

However, technology continues to evolve. The digital world is making advances at breakneck speed, constantly redefining so many basic aspects of the world as we have always known it. Many of us still remember the car phone as a novelty. Certainly, many of us once considered the game of Snake to be the most fascinating feature the cellular phone had to offer. Today, just a few short years later, those devices are considered as archaic

Cont. page 6

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"THE EXPLOSION HAPPENED; PEOPLE JUST DON'T REALIZE IT YET."

(Quoted from the Mashgiach R' Matisyahu Salomon shlit" a, 7 years ago)

Lakewood today is Boruch Hashem a vibrant Torah community. Thousands of *tinokos shel bais raban* and *yeshiva bochorim* fill our Yeshivos. The quality of many of these *bochorim* is unbelievable, with *talmidim* learning with great *iyun* and finishing and knowing *mesechtos*. The dream of "My son the doctor, my son the lawyer," of yesteryear has been replaced by "My son the *talmid chacham*, my son the *lamdan*, my son the *masmid*." Many are moving to Lakewood to take advantage of the numerous wonderful *chinuch* opportunities.

However, more and more *mechanchim* are beginning to realize the effects of the explosion that the Mashgiach saw seven years ago. We do not wish to discuss in public the devastating tragedies that have befallen to all too many of our youth; however, we must discuss the challenges of regular *talmidim* and even *metzujanim*. **Digital technology has invaded our homes and our lives. People don't just go online, they live online.** From laptops to tablets to smart phones... Technology is where people are spending a good portion of their time. And our children are watching...

People say, "But what could be wrong? I have filters!" We must look at the effect this excessive technology use is having on our children, the future of Klal Yisroel, **even when the filters are in place.** Are we providing our children with an emotional bulwark against the allures of technology? Do our actions portray to our children our own ambivalence towards our reliance on the minefield of digital technology? A home where the attitude portrayed to children is that technology is convenient, technology is great, and technology is enjoyable... "Just look at this *geshmake* clip..." and, "You have to see this amazing video..." A home where the day Tatty gets a new phone is a Yom Tov in the family... **The children of such a home will face overwhelming temptations!**

Too many people naively believe, "My child is a Tzaddik; he would never do anything wrong." That may be true in a normal situation; however, faced with overwhelming temptation, who can be so confident? A recent Oxford University study states that **filters are overwhelmingly ineffective in safeguarding children,** and our experience at TAG bears this out. A fifth grade Rebbi in one of the mainstream Lakewood *chadorim* found that 80% of his *talmidim* whose parents have smart phones had figured out the password. Many more kids than we would like to admit are spending their evenings playing online games with their friends Moishy and Mendy, as well as Shawn and Sharon, or watching music videos and clips... **The neshamos of these children are, unfortunately, far far different then the neshamos of those children who are not online.**

Let's do it for our children!

**"It has become quite obvious that no filter is foolproof.
This is particularly true in regard to our precious youth."**

(quoted from the Mashgiach R' Matisyahu Salomon shlit" a)



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to: SMARTCHOICES@YESHIVANET.COM

To hear hundreds of powerful chizuk speeches, including over 30 messages from Gedolim about coronavirus, call: 732-400-9003

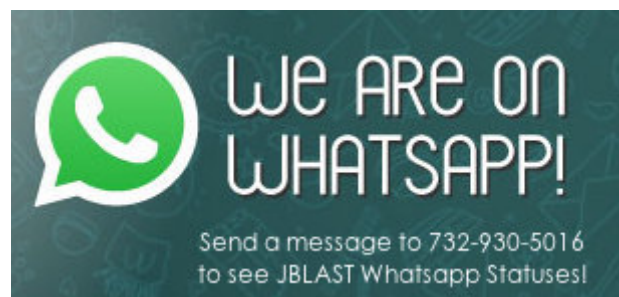
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