

Youth Visions

Torah in the Twilight Zone -- Lessons from Another Dimension

Submitted for your approval ... 8th, 9th, and 10th graders, watching classic television episodes and relating them to Jewish values. They will travel through many dimensions: a dimension of sight, of sound, of mind. What's that, that signpost up ahead? It's ... Torah in the *Twilight Zone*!

One trimester every year, the Consolidated High School of

Jewish Studies offers Torah in the *Twilight Zone*, where 8th, 9th, and 10th graders get to watch an episode from the original Rod Serling series (1959-1963), and then try to determine the Jewish values that are expressed in the final moral lesson.

Not all the episodes that aired back the mid-20th century had a moral lesson. Some were just

scary. Some just had an ironic twist. But many tried to bring their audience a valuable example of morality.

Take for example, "Dust," the episode that opened this year's Torah in the *Twilight Zone* class. It takes place in the late 19th century American west, where a Mexican-American teenager is scheduled to hang for running over a little girl

in his wagon while drunk. Is he really the bad guy in the story? What about the peddler who sold the rope to the sheriff to hang him? What about the condemned man's desperate father? What does Judaism tell us about the death penalty, about taking advantage of those in need, about deceiving customers in merchandising?

There is also "The Rip Van Winkle Caper," in which four men do wretched and horrible things for their share in stolen gold. What is really the value of gold? In what situations are other things more valuable than gold or money or materials possessions? When did the Jewish people do despicable things for something gold?

In "Eye of the Beholder," we learn that beauty is really defined by the society in which we live. Who



makes those decisions? Why do we follow what society dictates? Do we judge people by their physical beauty? What happened when King David was mesmerized by Bathsheba's beauty?

There will be more episodes and more lessons to learn. "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," "A Penny for Your Thoughts," and "Death's Head Revisited" are among the upcoming episodes. If your teen is in the *Twilight Zone* class, ask them about our fascinating discussion each week, as we venture into unknown territory, in the *Twilight Zone*! ☆



Students watch "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street."



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Packages Delivered to Soldiers of the IDF from Talmud Torah's Teen Club

About two weeks before Chanukah, Talmud Torah's Teen Club packed Chanukah packages for the soldiers of the IDF. The packages contained warm hats,

The packages were organized by the Teen Club's Activity Coordinator, Mushka Weiss. For more information about Teen Club, please visit www.talmud-torah.net/teens. ☆



Israeli soldiers receive their care packages.

scarves, and tons of Chanukah goodies. Dovi Klarberg of Diamonds Direct and former member of the elite Israeli Special Forces Unit gave the teens an inside perspective of what it's like to train and serve in the IDF. The teens were so inspired by the stories that they enclosed personal messages in the Chanukah packages, wishing the soldiers well. The packages were then sent off to Israel to be distributed among the soldiers.

Here is the response from the Chabad representative in Chevron: "The packages were a huge success! The soldiers really loved them, and it was apparent that the teens put in a lot of effort into packing them."



Representatives from Chabad in Israel presented the care packages to the soldiers.



The soldiers were happy to receive the packages no matter how they were delivered.