SCHEDULE

שבת קדש

Mincha & Candles Erev Shabbos 4:34 PM Daf Yomi 7:30 AM Shacharis-Followed by Kiddush 8:30 AM 9:20 גר"א 8:38 מ"א -Sof Zman K"S-Mincha 2:15 PM 4:25 PM Mincha -

Followed by Shalosh Seudos

Maariv -5:42 PM

Father/Son Learning 6:45 PM

Weekday Minyanim

Sunday

Shacharis I 6:50 AM Daf Yomi 7:30 AM Shacharis II 8:30 AM Mincha / Maariy 4:35 PM

Weekdays

Daf Yomi 5:45 AM

Shacharis:

Monday, Thurs. 6:40 AM Tue., Wed., Friday 6:35 AM

Mincha (Mon-Thurs) 1:45 PM MINCHA/MAARIV— 4:35 PM

Daf Yomi (Take II) 9:00 PM Maariv (Monday-Thursday) 9:45 PM

Avos U'Banim This Week: 6:45 PM

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Shul Contacts

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Rabbi Teichman

410-570-3333 or ravzt@hotmail.com

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Issue#356

Blessed Souls

As Rivkah is about to take leave to meet her future husband, Lavan and family bestow a parting blessing upon the new bride.

"Our sister, may you come to be thousands of myriads, and may your offspring inherit the gate of its foes." (בראשית כד ס'

It is customary among many Jewish communities that prior to the Chuppa when the Chosson places the veil over the face of the Kallah the Rabbis and prominent members of the community confer this very same blessing upon the young bride.

How strange that we echo a prayer millennia later that was authored by the conniving Lavan.

There are two other references in our portion to other 'blessed souls'.

In the prelude to the dispatching of Eliezer to find a wife for Yitzchok the Torah attests that G-d (שם שם א), blessed Avrohom with everything.

Some suggest this refers to his having being blessed with a son. Others claim it alludes to his not being burdened with a daughter and the impossible task of finding an appropriate mate. Another opines that on the contrary, 'everything' intimates his been blessed with a daughter who was actually named BaKo!! (ב"ב ש:)

The obvious mystery here is why didn't the Torah simply express its intent and state clearly whether the blessing of 'everything' is having a son, or not having a daughter or being blessed with a daughter by the name of BaKol?

Our last blessed individual is Eliezer the loyal servant of Avraham.

After recounting to Lavan the remarkable Divine Providence in his encounter with Rivkah at the well, Lavan summons Eliezer with the words (אָבוא ברוך ד' (שם שם לא), "Come. O Blessed of G-d!"

The Midrash teaches that although Eliezer was a descendant of Canaan whose offspring had been accursed forever by his grandfather Noach, at this moment Eliezer became a party a Blessed one.

What happened particularly now that warranted this blessing and of what significance is this to the story?

The events in the portion of Chayei Sarah are most pivotal in determining who would be worthy to continue the legacy of Avraham and Sarah.

Perhaps the Torah is seeking to subtly portray three character traits that are critical to succeed in bearing this great mission.

In life it really makes no difference whether one merits a son, a daughter, or none, the vital issue is how one accepts his lot. The Torah wasn't interested in telling us the precise object Avraham was blessed with, what matters is that he felt he had everything either way. He made the most of what he was granted and perceived it as a blessing.

Eliezer being the primary disciple of Avraham took this attitude to the next level.

Eliezer too had a daughter who he felt was worthy of Yitzchok's hand in marriage. He intimated to Avraham as much. Avraham nevertheless instructed Eliezer to seek a suitable mate among his own family. When Eliezer discovers Rivkah his enthusiastic and genuine response of joy betrayed any taint of disappointment any other human being in his situation would have felt at this discovery.

It was precisely this ability Eliezer had absorbed in the home of Avraham, never to feel letdown despite dashed hopes, that reflected his sterling moral character he received as being part of this legacy.

Finally Rivkah displays perhaps the most importantly quality of all.

Here she is a sister of the sinister Lavan, a man whose only greedy interest lies in the rewards and riches that await him. A duplicitous villain who would murder his own kin bestows a 'kindly' blessing. The Midrash avers that Lavan's actual intent in this wedding toast to his dear sister was that her future son Esav would vanquish his enemy Yaakov! Rather than dismissing this evil brother's blessing she accepts it. Instead of letting this sentiment represent her family's dark past and corrupt hopes she is determined to turn these qualities on its face. She will take the adversity of her dark background and prove that she indeed will become thousands and myriads that will defeat the foes that oppose the true legacy of Avraham.

It all starts with an ability to see 'everything' as a blessing. It continues with a strength of character to never be letdown even in the face of failed goals. The full expression of this attitude however is evident when we can take our adversity and transform it into strength and greatness.

The Holy Arizal reveals that the essence of Eliezer is later reincarnated into the soul of Calev who would mightily fend off the negativity of the Spies. He would eventually marry Miriam another courageous warrior who opposed the army of pessimists who were willing to give up in face of the Egyptian oppressors. They together would beget the family of royalty, the family of David.

The Zohar states that the well that Rivkah showed her mettle by, was the very same Well of Miriam that sustained the Jews through the difficult terrain of the desert.

Avraham bequeathed our nation a strength of character that would enable us to counter the many arduous challenges we would face in the long journey to redemption.

We must see 'everything' in a positive light. We must never be phased by disappointment. We must take the proverbial bull by its horns and create peace and blessing in our lives.

This is the most poignant blessing we can confer on a young bride as she sets out on life.

If we succeed we will merit to see the fullest expression of our greatness embodied in the Moshiach Ben Dovid who will bring us to the final redemption.

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##HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Ariella Berner, Uri Meth, Ari Schwartz, Evan Pachino, Yitzchak Burk, Frank Berger

##HAPPY amoversary!!!

Shua & Zali Bier

This information is provided by YOU through the member database.

Don't deprive yourself, please be sure to update you info

MEMBER Spotlight

More than just hello!

This Week: Shua & Zali Bier
Originally from: Bnai Brak (S) Toronto (Z)
Occupation: Attorney (S), Child Care (Z)
Interesting Fact: Did u catch the Bnai Brak part!
The rest of the gang: Eitan (5) Rena (4) Maya (1.5)

Member Trivia:

How many seats did we get in the Shul last week?

Last Weeks Answer: Shabbos Mevarchim "Av" was the Jirst Shabbos ever at Ohel Moshe

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