



WINTER 5778
2018

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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A Message From The Rabbi ...

Intuiting Others' Needs

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

Many single people have preconceived notions about what type of person they should marry. The best advice for these people as they navigate the world of dating is: let go of these ideas! Until you've found it, you really never know what is going to click.

Eliezer, Avraham's servant, seems to have missed this class when he was in matchmaking school. When he arrives in Aram-Naharaim, he murmurs a prayer to God with oddly specific instructions: והיה הנער, אשר אמר אליה הטי נא כדך ואשתה, ואמרה שתה, וגם גמליך אשקה ויהי הכחש ליצחק, ובה אדע, כי עשית חסד עם אדני. If she doesn't respond to my request for water with "drink and I will also water your camels," she is not the one. How can he think that any girl will follow an exact script? Wasn't he setting himself up for failure?

I think we can find the beginning of an answer in Rashi's surprising comment here: If the maiden indeed responds in the prescribed manner, that indicates that she is worthy of entering Avraham's house. Now, why does Rashi put the focus on Avraham here? Why not say "worthy of being the new matriarch after Sarah" or "worthy of being Yitzchak's wife?"

I think it is because Avraham had a specifically high level of kindness, which perhaps did not rub off on the other members of the household. He did it with a certain alacrity and thoughtfulness. Remember the episode with the three angels at the beginning of Parashat Vayera. They never asked for a thing. When Avraham asked Sarah to bake loaves, note that he had to instruct her to hurry – he could not rely on her to hurry on her own volition. Then he stood there as a waiter to see if the angels would need anything else.

Eliezer knew that this trait was essential for the Jewish people, since their hallmark is excellence in kind and good deeds. In order to pass on this trait to the subsequent generations, Yitzchak needed to marry a girl who surpassed his level of חסד, who reached the level of his father Avraham.

(continued next page)

We have many opportunities to do **חסד** with our friends, family, and community. Do we, begrudgingly or not, assist when explicitly asked, or do we follow our ancestors' Avraham and Rivkah's footsteps and proactively seek out ways we can help others? If we do the latter, it makes Eliezer's super-specific request for a shidduch worth it, and we realize his goal of ensuring that this wonderful trait of lovingkindness be passed down in the Jewish people for all time. 🙏

Shul Events:

The shul would like to thank **Cantor Shmuel Gilbert**, ba'al musaf for the fifth year, **Cantor Nafi Schwarzenberger**, ba'al shacharit, and **Avi Heinberg**, ba'al tokea, who led most meaningful tefillah for our services on **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**.

On **Sunday, Nov 19**, we were able to celebrate a major event in the history of the shul: welcoming our new Torah scroll with a joyous **Hachnasat Sefer Torah**. **Rabbi Hoffman** spoke about his choices of ink that will not fade or crack and of full parchment or gvil. Various people sat next to Rabbi Hoffman as he finished filling in the last letters of the sefer. Then came hagbahah and the dressing of the Torah, followed by dancing on 187th Street. Finally, **Rabbi Schwartz** and **Rabbi Bloch** spoke about the importance of the occasion, which ended with light refreshments. Many thanks to all who made this happen, especially **Morris Whitcup**, who also spearheaded a fundraising drive – still in progress – to help pay for the new Torah. A memorable simcha for all!

REMEMBER!

You still can participate by sponsoring a Sefer, Parshah, Maftir, special section, verse, or letter.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!

The submission form can be found on our website

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מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the birth of a great granddaughter, and to the grandparents, **Michele & Shmuel Jacobs**, and to the parents, **Dvorah & Yosef Chaim Weiss**

To **Dvora Hersh** on the wedding of her daughter **Shanna & Joel Mann**

To **Ina Sondheim** on the birth of a great grandson, and to the grandparents, **Debby Sondheim Distenfeld & Arthur Adler**, and to the parents, **Esther & Yehuda Adler**; the baby boy was born on the yahrzeit of his great grandfather, **Heinz Sondheim** o'h

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the birth of a great grandson, **Yisroel Meyer**, and to the grandparents, **Michele & Shmuel Jacobs**, and to the parents, **Yocheved & Ari Jacobs**

To **Joseph & Sarah Ainbinder** on the birth of a grandson, **Yair Avraham**, and to the parents, **Gila Chaya & Moshe Mordechai Ainbinder**

To **Ruthie & David Skochil** on the presentation by their son **Meir Raphael ben David** of his wimpel at Breuer's

To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the birth of a great granddaughter, **Hilda**, and to the grandparents, **Judith & Lawrence Rossman**, and to the parents, **Aliza & Josh Rossman**

To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the birth of a great grandson, **Karl Alfred**, and to the grandparents, **Naomi & Yechiel Faham**, and to the parents, **Regina & David Faham**

Welcome New Members:

Mordecai & Leslie Segall
Myriam Reiss

Kiddush Sponsors:

Sept 16, Nitzavim-Vayelech: **Margot Fein** on the yahrzeit of her grandmother, **Anna Ossip Finestone** (Channah Sorah bat Yisroel)

Sept 23, Shabbat Shuva/HaAzinu: **Rabbi Yaakov & Giti Hoffman** in honor of the birth of their daughter **Rachel**

Oct 13, Simchat Torah: **Sonya Jacobs** on the yahrzeit of her father-in-law, **Rav Shmuel Jacobs**, and in memory of her husband, **Meyer Jacobs**

Oct 14, Bereishit: **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 12th yahrzeit of **Dr. Michelle Daman Wasserman**

Oct 21, Noach: **David & Ruthie Skochil** in honor of David's being Chatan Bereshit and in celebration of their 8th wedding anniversary

Oct 28, Lech Lecha: **Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** in celebration of the 1st birthday of their granddaughter **Rivka Gregor**

Nov 11, Chayei Sara: **Daniel & Shera Serrulha**

Nov 18, Toldot: **Laura & Morris Whitcup** in celebration of the upcoming marriage of their nephew **Donny Treitel** to **Yael Chaggai**

Nov 25, Vayetzei: **Bob & Tamsin Wolf** in honor of **Mordecai & Leslie Segall**

Dec 2, Vayishlach: **Dvora Hersh** in honor of the wedding of her daughter **Shanna** and **Joel Mann**

Dec 9, Vayeshev: **Morris & Laura Whitcup** in honor of **Chava Treitel**'s recently being named one of the top seven teachers in Israel

Dec 16, Miketz: **Rabbi Yaakov & Giti Hoffman** in honor of the Rabbi's being Chatan Torah

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush,
please call the Shul office (212) 923-4407

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Winter 5778

Zmanim subject to change: please consult the website and weekly e-mails for the latest times

SHABBAT PARASHAT SHEMOT

JANUARY 5-6

Candle Lighting	4:24
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:30
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:25
Maariv/Havdalah	5:28

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT VAERA

JANUARY 12-13

Candle Lighting	4:31
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:30
Maariv/Havdalah	5:35

SHABBAT PARASHAT BO JANUARY 19-20

Candle Lighting	4:39
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:45
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:40
Maariv/Havdalah	5:42

SHABBAT PARASHAT BESHALACH

JANUARY 26-27

Candle Lighting	4:48
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:55
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:45
Maariv/Havdalah	5:50

SHABBAT PARASHAT YITRO FEBRUARY 2-3

Candle Lighting	4:56
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:05

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:55
Maariv/Havdalah	5:58

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT SHEKALIM MISHPATIM

FEBRUARY 9-10

Candle Lighting	5:05
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:10
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:05
Maariv/Havdalah	6:06

SHABBAT PARASHAT TERUMAH

FEBRUARY 16-17

Candle Lighting	5:13
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:15
Maariv/Havdalah	6:14

SHABBAT ZACHOR PARASHAT TETZAVEH

FEBRUARY 23-24

Candle Lighting	5:22
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:30
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:20
Maariv/Havdalah	6:22

TAANIT ESTHER/ EREV PURIM

WEDNESDAY, FEB 28

Fast begins	5:00 am
Mincha	5:25 pm

PURIM!
WEDNESDAY, FEB 28 –
THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Maariv	6:20
Shacharit	8:10

SHABBAT PARASHAT
KI TISA
MARCH 2-3

Candle Lighting	5:30
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:35
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	5:30
Maariv/Havdalah	6:30

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT PARAH
VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI
MARCH 9-10

Candle Lighting	5:38
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:45
Shacharit (note early start)	8:30
Mincha	5:35
Maariv/Havdalah	6:37

ROSH CHODESH NISAN
SHABBAT HACHODESH
PARASHAT VAYIKRA
MARCH 16-17

Candle Lighting	6:45
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:55
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:45
Maariv/Havdalah	7:45

SHABBAT HAGADOL
PARASHAT TZAV
MARCH 23-24

Candle Lighting	6:53
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:30
Maariv/Havdalah	7:53

Happy
Purim!

Condolences to:

We regret to inform you of the passing of **Gerhard Salinger** o"n, long-time supporter and friend of our shul.

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The Eruv

Information about the boundaries of the Washington Heights and YU Eruvin can be found at http://images.shulcloud.com/131/attachments/6279_DOC082112-003.pdf.

Note that the eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.

Find the CURRENT STATUS of both eruvim at <http://www.mtsinaishul.com/>, or call 646-450-ERUV, or send a text message (SMS) to 412-213-8991. If only the YU eruv is listed as unchecked, check www.yueruv.org closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.



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