

Synagogue News

Coronavirus Precautions Reminder

As services resume we would like to remind everyone that face masks and gloves are strongly encouraged during services and during times of singing but are not mandatory unless you are given an Aliya, in which case, a face mask is mandatory. Face masks should be worn after services are over when social distancing is difficult to be kept.

In order to keep with government recommendation of social distancing we would appreciate if members can minimize their movement during services in the synagogue. Please refer to the rules taped to the front door for full information.

Torah Bites By Rabbi Kadoch

Pinehas - Unexpected biases

In this week's Parasha, we learn about the case of the Daughters of Tzelophchad. They approached Moshe in a request for inheritance of a piece of Eretz Yisrael given that their father had died and had no sons to inherit him. Moshe chose to relay their question to God and have Him give the final, former decision. As a result, Hashem ruled they do have rights to the land and it's from this Parasha where we learn all the laws of inheritance when it comes to a Jew's estate.

Many reasons have been given why Moshe chose to "let God decide" on this one. Rashi believes it's due to Moshe's lack of humility when he informed the people that "any difficult case that arises, should be brought forth to me" (see Devarim). He brings a second opinion based on a Medrash that since the Daughters of Tzelophchad were so righteous and loved the land of Israel so much, they deserved that this passage be taught in their name directly from God.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe has a beautiful insight as to why Moshe had to give this judgment call to Hashem. When the daughters approached Moshe with their claim, it was supported with the fact that "our father was not part of Korah's rebellion who banded against God, but rather he died of his own sin." In essence, they were saying that if he had been a part of Korah's cohorts, he wouldn't be privy of a piece of Eretz Yisrael, but since he wasn't, and died of a different sin, the land apportioned to him should remain in his family.

The moment the proof of Korah was used, Moshe now needed to be excluded in the decision making process because there was a slight bias involved. The Lubavitcher Rebbe learns from here how careful we must be when making decisions in order that our biases don't intrude the logical process of decision making. The story of Korah took place 39 years prior to this episode of Benot Tzelophchad. One would assume, that it would have no effect in Moshe's decision making. Yet, Moshe felt this was grounds to push the case over to the One who is immune to bias - The Holy One Blessed is He.

Unifying Our City with the Power of Shmiras Haloshon TORONTO

ONE ONE ONE
HOUR CITY GOAL

JOIN A COMMUNITY WIDE 40-DAY MACHSOM L'FI
FROM 7-8 PM DAILY STARTING MONDAY JUNE 15TH

as a *z'chus* for protection
for our community
and a *refuah* for all *cholim*
in Klal Yisrael



ENDORSED BY

Va'ad HaRabbonim
of Toronto

A **Machsom L'Fi** is a program in which people commit to focusing for a set period of time (i.e. 1 hour) each day on using their power of speech properly as defined in the Torah. During that time, they concentrate on avoiding speaking, hearing, reading or writing *loshon hora* and any other forms of forbidden speech.

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The Shmiras Halashon
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לעי"ג Chaya Faiga Mirel bas HaRav Yechiel Ephraim Fishel ע"ה | Mattil Bas Yosef ע"ה | Asher ben Eliyahu רצ"ל
and לעי"ג those who were *niftar* during the pandemic