



The Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

The Mitzvah of Sefiras Ha'omer, given in our Parsha, corresponds to the present holiday cycle. From the second day of Pesach – the day we bring the Omer offering – we begin a daily count for 49 days. The counting culminates in the day of Shavuos, the day of Matan Torah - the giving of the Torah.

What is the meaning of this count? What are its lessons?

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch comments that the Torah is communicating to us the following. Although subsequent to the Exodus the Jewish nation was already liberated from the tyranny of slavery, freedom and independence gained, the nation was still only at the beginning of their national destiny. Our mission was only realized at the foot of Sinai, when we received the Torah. Thus, we count towards that objective, each and every Jew, demonstrating our pining and longing for our special treasure.

It is here, in this simple Mitzvah of Sefiras Ha'omer, that our historic calling is conveyed. We could attain freedom and independence, prosperity and success, security and even our very own homeland, but without the Torah, we are not whole and complete.

Let us utilize the special days of Sefiras Ha'omer to prepare and uplift ourselves so that we could proudly proclaim, like our forebearers before us, **נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע** – we will do and we will heed!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

These are the appointed festivals of Hashem/ moadei Hashem... (23:4)

The One who sanctifies Bnai Yisroel and the times/zmanim (Tefilla l'sholosh r'golim).

Why do we use the word z'manim in davening and not the word moadim? The word moadim is used in the Torah, while the word z'manim does not seem to be used anywhere.

PARSHA RIDDLE

An eye for an eye... (24:20)

The monetary value of the eye must be paid (Bava Kamma 83b).

Where is this hinted to in the posuk?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Why was Og, the King of Boshon, named Og?

Answer: He met Avrohom while he was baking Oogos, cakes of Matzos (Tosfos Nida 61a).

TIMELESS WISDOM

The son of an Israelite women went out... pronounced the Name and blasphemed... (24:10-11)

From where did he go out that caused him to transgress such a grievous sin? He left the courthouse. His father was an Egyptian, and his mother was from the tribe of Don. He wanted to set up his tent in the section of Don. They turned him away because his father was not from Don. Left all alone with nowhere to go, he sinned (Rashi).

Rebbi Yehoshua ben Prachya had a student who was not acting properly and he sent him away. A little while later, the student came back and asked to be re-accepted. When he came back the Rebbe was in the middle of saying Shema. He motioned to the student to wait a minute. Misunderstanding the Rebbe's motion, he thought he was being dismissed. Feeling totally rejected, he went and bowed to an idol (Sota 47a).

Rav Sholom Vallach related the following incident: "I recently met a young married man who related the following touching story. 'I had a small position in a Yeshiva, and one day I was asked to speak to the bochurim. I told them I am not a speaker, but they insisted. When I got up to speak I remembered that my Rebbe, Rav Yaakov Neiman zt"l, would begin all his speeches with the words, "My dear boys" so I decided to do the same. I cannot recall what I spoke about, but after the speech a bochur approached me with tear laden eyes and said that this was the first time he heard himself referred to as "a dear boy." He was always criticized for being late, and for not being as productive as others. He was constantly asked what will be with his future. The boy was never told that he was a dear boy, and that he was good. With that he broke into tears.

Why am I remembering this story now? I just met this boy. He is a grown man, and a respected Rebbe. When I saw him, he ran over to me and told me, "Rebbe, I owe everything I am to you. It is because of those three words you said, "My dear boys," that I was spared from my feeling of dejection.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am not to say.
2. I was for the Mon.
3. Tenth of an eifa.
4. For the new from the new.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am for the animal.
2. I am for the Kohen.
3. I am the same backward and forward.
4. If my middle loses its leg I'd become water.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Sheker - Lie (Keep far; I have no feet; I am not for your bed; I am not a knot, rather...)

#2 Peah / Payos (I am for the field, your head, and the poor; I am not for cut.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Betzalel Komarow

To see the complete list of those who answered correctly, visit the Kollel website.

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

**Win a
Razor
Pro XX
Scooter**

Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The next raffle will be May 27th!

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Greater Washington Community Kollel, in conjunction with Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, invites men and women of the community to a Jewish Ethics lecture by Rabbi Mordechai Rhine entitled "Jokes and Accidents in Tort Law."

The lecture will be presented at Shomrai Emunah,
1132 Arcola Avenue, Sunday, May 18th at 9:30 AM