



Menucha v'Simcha



A PARSHA WEEKLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

Candle Lighting: 7:04

Parshas Ki Savo 5772

Vol. 8 Issue 18

DVAR TORAH

Condition: NEW

By Rabbi Yosef Prupas

As we get closer to *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* we all have different reactions. Some of us become really nervous wondering how we will fare while on trial during the Days of Judgment, while others prefer not thinking about it. Fortunately, and not coincidentally, this week's Parsha contains words of comfort and encouragement that can direct us in the right course in our preparation for the High Holidays. There are two verses that are usually invoked that inspire a lesson that perhaps this year can be reexamined with a fresh approach.

In the first verse (26, 16) Moshe tells the Jewish Nation, "This day, Hashem, your G-d, commands you to perform..." Rashi comments that the verse says "This day," to convey to us that "each day [the commandment] should be new in your eyes as if you were commanded that day." Similarly, later in the *Parsha*, Rashi comments on the verse (27:9) "This day you have become a people," that "every day [the commandments] shall be in your eyes as if you had entered the covenant that day." The commentaries explain both verses are coming to teach us that our covenant and its *mitzvos* should not become routine. Perhaps we can add a new perspective to the above, based on what can be accomplished with *Teshuva*. Rabbi Meir Belsky, *shlit"a* in his book "Citadel and Tower" quotes a *Yalkut Shimoni* (*Bamidbar* 29:1) which states: "Says R'Tachlifa Kisiri by all other sacrifices the verse writes "and you have offered," whereas here (by the sacrifices of *Rosh Hashanah*) it is written "and you shall make..." [Why is this so?] Says The Holy One Blessed He, "since you have come before Me today [*Rosh Hashanah*] and you have been acquitted consider it as if "today" you were made, as if today you were formed a new creation..." From this *Yalkut* we can infer that if *Teshuva* accomplished the recreation of a person, this would also mean that he received all the commandments anew that day. Therefore instead of looking back at the year with an attitude of resignation, it is better to harness the power of *Teshuva*, become a new person, and fulfill the commandments with a fresh start. And *Teshuva* can occur each day as we strive to be better people. Hence the concept that "each day [the commandments] should be new in your eyes as if you were commanded that day."

But we ask ourselves how can genuine repentance be accomplished? We may be able to get forgiveness from G-d, but from all the people we've wronged it might not be so easy. And we are told that if we haven't received forgiveness from our fellow man even repentance of *Yom Kippur* won't help us. Even if we do remember which friend we wronged, do we have the inner strength to ask for forgiveness!?

The answer lies in a very encouraging *Meshech Chochma* at the end of this week's Parsha. He first explains that an initial effort would be required from the Jewish People to vanquish *Amalek*, and then with the right level of trust in G-d, the rest of the battle would be accomplished by G-d. The *Meshech Chochma* then goes on to say that this procedure is also applicable to our battle with the *Yetzer Horah* and *Teshuva*. If one makes sincere initial effort towards repentance, Hashem will help with the rest. He will even place the thought in the minds of our friends to forgive us. May we take that step forward and merit a *Shana Tovah*



DVAR HALACHA

The Laws of *Selichos*

Adapted from the *shiurim* of Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

B'nei ashkenaz begin the Sunday before *Rosh Hashanah*. In years that *Rosh Hashanah* falls out on either a Monday or Tuesday [like this year], they begin reciting the *slichos* 2 Sundays before *Rosh Hashanah*. (Rama 581:1)

The reason is that there should be at least 4 days of reciting *slichos* [preceding *Rosh Hashanah*]. One reason is because we are compared to a *karbon*/ sacrifice that requires 4 days of checking for blemishes before being brought. Another reason is many people have the custom to fast every day of the *Aseres Yemei Teshuva*/ Ten Days of Repentance. On 4 of these 10 days it is prohibited to fast [2 days *Rosh Hashanah*, *Shabbos Shuva*, and *Erev Yom Kippur*]. Therefore we have at least 4 days of *slichos* to compensate for those days. (Mishneh Berura 581:6) We always start on Sunday, so that there is a set day to start. (Mishneh Berura 581:6)

The Shulchan Aruch [581:1] writes that the ideal time to recite *slichos* is during the last 3 [*halachic*] hours of the night



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since then it is an *es ratzon*. (Mishneh Berura 581: introduction) Any time after *chatzos* (midnight) is also *l'chatchila*. (Igros Moshe OC 2:105, Koveitz Halachos [Piskei Reb Shmuel Kamenetsky *shlit"a*] 2:2) One may not recite *slichos* before *chatzos* [except for on *Yom Kippur*]. (Mishneh Berura 565:12) The custom of many congregations recite *slichos* after it is already day. (Aruch Hashulchan 581:4) Even though the best time to recite *slichos* is at night, it is preferable to *daven slichos* in the morning with a *minyan* than at night without a *minyan*. (Koveitz Halachos 2:3)

One is permitted to recite *slichos* without a *minyan*, however he must skip the *yud gimmel middos*/ 13 attributes of mercy and the parts that are Aramaic. (Mishneh Berura 581:14) An individual does not need to recite *Ashrei* before *slichos*. (Koveitz Halachos 1:17)

One must recite *birchas hatorah* before reciting *slichos*. (Mishneh Berura 46:27) Even if one arrived late, and if by saying *birchas hatorah* he will inevitably miss even more of *slichos*, he should nevertheless recite *birchas hatorah* first. (Koveitz Halachos 2:7)

As a general rule, it is preferable to say a little with concentration than to say a lot without concentration. (Tur & Shulchan Aruch OC 2) Therefore, someone who finds it difficult to keep up with the pace of

the congregation may say less *slichos* "properly" and skip part of the *slichos*. (Koveitz Halachos 2:8) In this circumstance, it is preferable to recite a whole *slichah* than to recite parts of multiple *slichos*. (Koveitz Halachos 2:ftnt. 8) However, even if one is skipping some of the *slichos*, one must recite the *yud gimmel middos* together with the congregation. (Koveitz Halachos 2:8)

If one is in the middle of reciting a *slichah* when the congregation reaches the *yud gimmel middos*, he should skip to the *yud gimmel middos* and say it together with the congregation. (Koveitz Halachos 2:20)

If one who arrives late to *shul*, it is preferable to begin *slichos* at the *slichah* that the congregation is currently reciting. (Koveitz Halachos 2:9 & ftnt. 10 quoting Orchos Rabbeinu 2:RH:11) However, if he wants to start at the beginning he may. (Koveitz Halachos 2:ftnt. 10) He does not need to begin *slichos* with saying *Ashrei*. (Koveitz Halachos 2:9)

If one is reciting *slichos* and the congregation is reciting *tachanun*, he should skip to *tachanun* and does not have to make up what he skipped. (Koveitz Halachos 2:34)

Kollel News

1. This Shabbos at the Kollel

Friday, September 7:

7:04 p.m.: Candle Lighting

7:22 p.m.: Shkiya/Sunset

Shabbos, September 8:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

Rabbi Eskenazi's Ramban Shiur

9:10/ 9:46 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

6:00 p.m.: Mincha

7:20 p.m.: Shkiya/Sunset

8:32 p.m.: 72 Minutes

Sunday, September 9:

7:15 a.m.: Selichos

2. Save The Date! Pre-Rosh Hashana Community-wide Evening of Inspiration: The Sixth Annual Community-wide Pre-Rosh Hashana Evening of Inspiration will once again be held at the Kollel this year. The program will feature short, inspirational speeches by *Rabbanim* to help us prepare for the *Yomim Nora'im*, Days of Awe. The event, which is for men and women, will take place at the Kollel on **Thursday, September 13, from 8:45 PM - 10:00 PM**, followed by Maariv. This year's speakers are: **Rabbi Yechiel Biberfeld**, Rosh Kollel; **Rabbi Mordechai Terebelo**, Ahavas Torah **Special Guest Speaker: Rabbi Rephael Moshe Gettinger**, Rosh Hayeshiva, Yeshivas Medrash Chaim, Lakewood, NJ.

3. Save the Date! Annual Pre-Yom Tov Women's Bake Sale Event: The Kollel Women's Annual Yom Tov Bake Sale Event will take place on Thursday, September 20, 2012 **Guest Lecturer: Mrs. Debbie Greenblatt Senior Lecturer, Gateways Organization.** Doors open at 7:00 PM. Program 8:15 PM. At the home of Mrs. Jessica Erlbaum 354 Sycamore Avenue in Merion Station. Couvert: \$25.00. Parve and Dairy Salad Bar.

4. Rosh Hashanah Scroll of Merit and Memorial Scroll Programs

Earn merits before the Yomim Nora'im towards being inscribed for a happy sweet new year by supporting the Kollel's ongoing Torah study, shiurim and programs for men and women of all ages in our community. A Scroll of Merit and a Memorial Scroll will be displayed over the High Holidays on our new digital donor board located in our front lobby. For a donation of \$100, you can be listed or you can memorialize a loved one on these Scrolls. For more information, please contact Rabbi Zeffren at yoelz@phillykollel.org.

5. Innovative First Seder Program Off to a Great Start!- Bais Medrash Program For Men:

The First Seder program has begun and is now in full swing.... Attendance has been in the double digits. Please visit the newly launched firstseder.org. Choose the photos tab and see for yourself. For more details, please contact Rabbi Greenspan at firstseder@gmail.com.

6. Community Wide Teshuva Initiative

In Memory of Philip and Yudie Borck, a"h IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN - Join Today!! The Lower Merion community-wide initiative, is designed to bring us together to make use of the power of *teshuvah* by way of studying a 5-minute-a-day lesson from the best-selling book by Rabbi Heshy Kleinman. The program is in full swing and runs from *Rosh Chodesh Elul*, Shabbos, August 18th through Yom Kippur 5773 and is dedicated in memory of our dear community members, Mr. Philip Borck, z"l and his beloved son Yudie Borck, z"l. There is no cost to join and a free book will be distributed to all participants. To sign up and for more information, please visit <http://powerofteshuvahlm.weebly.com/>

7. Yomim Noraim 5773: The times that the Kollel will be saying selichos are now available on our website, phillykollel.org by choosing the "Yomim Noraim 5773" tab. You can also sign-up for *Yomim Noraim* seats at this time.

8. Rabbi Frand's Annual Teshuva Drasha: Rabbi Yissocher Frand's Annual Teshuva Drasha will be broadcast on Monday evening, September 24th at 9:00 p.m., followed by Maariv at 10:00 p.m. The shiur will be shown for men and women at the Philadelphia Community Kollel. Suggested Donation: \$5. Students Free.

9. Rabbi and Mrs. Deutscher invite you to a Kiddush this Shabbos , Parshas Ki Savo, celebrating the birth of their daughter, Aliza Leah. The Kiddush will take place at their home, 116 Birch Avenue from 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM Shabbos morning. The Kollel Rabbis and Staff wish a hearty mazel tov to the Deutschers and wish them to be zoche to raise her to Torah, chuppah and ma'asim tovim.

If you would like to receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to sponsor an issue of Menucha Vesimcha in someone's honor / memory, please contact the editor at: menuchavesimcha@phillykollel.org

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