

Candle Lighting: 4:30

**Parshas Vayeira 5772**

Vol. 8 Issue 2

By: Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

**Modest Results**

*“They (the ministering angels) said to him, ‘Where is Sarah your wife?’ And he said, ‘Behold!-in the tent!’ And he said, ‘I will surely return to you at this time next year, and behold Sarah your wife will have a son.’” (Bereishis 18:9-10)*

Rashi cites a *gemarah* in Bava Metzia (87a) which explains the rationale behind the angels’ inquiry of Sarah’s location. The *gemarah* tells us that in reality the angels were fully aware of Sarah’s whereabouts. Why then did they prompt Avraham to tell them that which they already knew? Rav Yehudah, in the name of Rav, says that they did this in order to endear Sarah to her husband. The angels hoped that Avraham’s response of Sarah being in the tent would enhance his sense of admiration for his wife. The fact that Sarah did not come out to dine with or wait on male guests, but modestly kept out of view, would help Avraham recognize how special his wife truly was.

Rav Chaim Shmulevitz (1902-1979, *Rosh Yeshiva of the Mirrer Yeshiva*), *z”l*, explains that although Avraham and Sarah were already married for many years and both exceedingly saintly, nevertheless there was still the need to constantly generate endearment between husband and wife. In order to help Avraham accomplish this, the angels asked him the whereabouts of his wife Sarah. Thus, we see the importance of working to keep the relationship between husband and wife that of continuous endearment and admiration for one another.

Additionally, the Ben Ish Chai (1832-1909, *Rabbi Yosef Chaim*), *z”l*, comments, the reason why Avraham would eventually merit having a son was largely due to Sarah’s exceptional attribute of modesty. In order to notify Avraham of what motivated Hashem to bless them with a child at such an elderly age, the angels therefore inquired about Sarah’s location. This would help Avraham understand what merited him to be blessed with having the son he had yearned and more importantly, help him rec-

ognize to what magnitude the trait of modesty holds in the eyes of Hashem.

**First: Aid**

*“So Hashem said, ‘Because the outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah has become great, and because their sin has been very grave, I will descend and see: If they act in accordance with its outcry which has come to Me- then destruction! And if not, I will know.’” (Bereishis 18:20)*

It is written in the book of *Yechezkiel*, “Behold, this was the sin of (the people of) Sodom... they did not strengthen the hand of the poor and the needy.”(*Yechezkiel 16:49*) We learn from here that the ‘great outcry’ stated in the *pasuk* by Hashem is actually referring to the lack of charitable acts carried out by the nations of Sodom and Gomorrah.

This, however, is difficult to comprehend. The story of the destruction of Sodom preempted the giving of the Torah by many centuries. How is it possible for an entire nation to be punished by death for transgressing a commandment that they were never even commanded to guard? The only laws that were required to be guarded at that time were the seven Noahide laws; charitable acts were not one of them?

Rabbi Elchonon Wasserman (1874 – 1941, *a prominent Rabbi and Rosh Yeshiva in pre-World War II Europe*) *z”l*, attempts to clarify the issue. When the *pasuk* in *Yechezkiel* attributes the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah on the lack of executing acts of kindness, it is not referring to what essentially caused their annihilation. Rather, it is identifying the preventative measures that could have been taken to stop the destruction from taking place altogether. Although the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were not instructed to be kind and generous, if they would have realized on their own the importance of being compassionate to others, Hashem, in return, would have overlooked their despicable transgressions and ultimately spared them of their demise.

## Kollel News

### 1. This Shabbos at the Kollel: Parshas Vayeira

#### Thursday, November 10:

**8:15 p.m.:** Rabbi Biberfeld's Gemarah Yoma Shiur

**PLEASE NOTE: NO 9:00 PM Maariv throughout the Winter**

**9:00 - 10:00 p.m.:**

Rabbi Frand's Weekly Parsha Shiur

**9:00-10:00 p.m.:** Kollel Erev

**10:00 p.m.:** *Maariv*

#### Friday, November 11:

**8:25-8:50 a.m.:**

Rabbi Prupas's Chumash Shiur

**4:30 p.m.:** Candle Lighting

**4:38 p.m.:** *Shkiya/Sunset*

#### Shabbos, November 12:

**8:15 a.m.:** Shacharis

**Chaburas Chacham Lev**

**8:37/ 9:13 a.m.:** Latest Krias Shema

**4:07 p.m.:** Mincha

**4:47 p.m.:** *Shkiya/Sunset*

**5:42 p.m.:** Maariv

**5:59 p.m.:** 72 Minutes

**6:30 p.m.:** Masmid Program

**This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. David and Ellen Weiss in honor of Rabbi and Mrs. Sruli and Rivka Schwartz**

### 2. Philadelphia Community Kollel's Eleventh Annual Dinner

Please join us in "Uniting Through Torah" at the Philadelphia Community Kollel's Eleventh Annual Dinner to be held Sunday, January 8th, 2011 at the Lower Merion Synagogue. We feel privileged to honor a diverse array of community members who share the Kollel's ideal of real commitment to learning and teaching Torah.

#### **Guests of Honor**

Dr. Leon and Tova  
& Wertheimer

#### **Chavrusa of the Year Award**

Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher  
Jonathan & Jed Zaslow

Please join us in paying tribute to our worthy honorees and to the Kollel's impact on our community by attending the upcoming dinner and by placing an ad in the dinner journal. Contact the Kollel at 610-668-9557 for an Ad and RSVP blank. May your support of Torah learning give you the blessings of Torah.

### 3. New Yom Tov Series Shiur!

Come join Rabbi Chaim Zev Kranz who will give a four-part series in preparation for Chanukah. He will explain the background and pertinent laws of the holiday, giving just the right flavor to this beautiful Yom Tov.

**Because Chanukah is so much more than dreidels!**

When: **Monday's- November 21, 28 December 5, 12**

Time: **9:00 PM**

Where: **At the Kollel in the R' Leib and Rachel Kohn Shiur Room**

**4. Dirshu's Daf Hayomi B'Halacha Shiur Time Change** The Dirshu shiur will now be from **8:25 pm to 9:00 pm. The Shiur will be given on Sunday through Wednesday. There will no longer be a Shiur on Thursday.** For more information, please

contact Rabbi Greenspan at: 732-407-3178 or Greenspan@yeshivanet.com

### 5. Masmid Program 5772

You're invited to a new season of the Arthur and Gail Morgenstern Motzaei Shabbos Boys

' Masmid Program 5772!

The new season will begin on Motzaei Shabbos, November 5, 2011.

\*Great Learning! - \*Pizza! - \*Prizes! - \*Stories! - \*Grand prize raffle to be drawn at the end of each session!

FIRST SESSION:

Nov. 5 (\*Special Plus Program) 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Nov. 12, 19, 26 Dec. 3,10,17,31 6:30-7:30 p.m.

(Please note: There will be no program on Dec. 24th)

SECOND SESSION:

Jan. 7,14,21,28 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Feb. 4,11,18,25 7:30-8:30 p.m.

### 6. The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation presents a new Audio-Visual Presentation for Women: Rise and Shine

The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation presents an unforgettable evening: **RISE and SHINE**

*Wisdom, Inspiration, and Tips for rising above the challenges of your family, home, and life.*

Admission: \$12.00 Time: 8:15 p.m. Place: The Kollel 364 Montgomery Avenue

### **Community News**

\***Bnos of Bala Cynwyd** will iy"H meet this Shabbos, Parshas Vayera, November 12th, from 2:45pm - 3:45pm at LMS. If your daughter attends Bnos, please pay your yearly \$36 membership if you have not done so already. Contact Meira Friedman for more info (610-617-9529).

\***Torah Youth:** 2:45 - 3:45 pm in the LMS Social Hall. Grades Koinh. If you would like to help sponsor a Shabbos or want more information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or [SilverDol-lar@verizon.net](mailto:SilverDol-lar@verizon.net)

### Mazel Tov To:

**Dr. and Mrs. David Chase** on the recent Bar Mitzvah of their son, Baruch!

**Rabbi and Mrs. Shraga Sherman** on the engagement of their daughter!

**Rabbi Gedaliah and Dr. Ruth Feldman** on the birth of a granddaughter, Elisheva Chaya, born to Noam and Shana Feldman!

**Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Ellen Braffman** on the birth of a grandson born to Rabbi and Mrs. Yaakov Brafman!

**Mr. and Mrs. Marc and Debbie Frankel** on the engagement of their daughter, Rachel!

**Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Alina Greenberg** on the birth of a baby boy!

**Mr. and Mrs. Lion and Sara Sassoon** on the birth of a baby boy!

### Condolences To:

**Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Vera Moreen** on the passing of their beloved mother and mother-in-law, Mrs. Cecilia Basch.

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@verizon.net](mailto:menuchavesimcha@verizon.net)

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**Good Shabbos!**