



MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

Dear Chevra

Welcome to our minyan! We hope that you had a good week and wish you a relaxing and re“Jew”venating Shabbat. In this week’s parsha, we see Avraham involved with a variety of inter-personal relationships. After eulogizing Sarah, Avraham has dealings with Bnei Chet and Efron, sends Eliezer to find a wife for Yitzchak and arranges Yitzchak and Rivka’s wedding, and marries Ketura at the end of the parsha.

At a time so soon following Sarah’s death, we would think Avraham would have preferred to be alone and take some time for personal reflection and introspection. However, we see that Avraham, after finishing mourning for Sarah, engages immediately with the outside world.

Despite the various benefits of solitude, Avraham teaches us the importance of being involved in society and contributing to it. Obviously, being alone has its time and place; the great sages of the kabala speak about the concept of hitbodedut – time alone with G-d. But even there, halachic obligations such as davening with a minyan are still placed on the individual. Humanity needs to feel connected!

A community is not merely a group of people that happens to live in the same area and have various technical things in common which drew them there. The Zohar HaKadosh

teaches that people with whom we come into contact are closely spiritually connected to us, and that no meetings are coincidental. Rav Chaim Vital in Sha’ar HaGilgulim quotes his teacher the Ari z”l who said that many of the people around them were the same people they had contact with in previous lifetimes. Their neshamot came from similar roots and were trying to assist each other in attaining tikkun. It is not by chance that a community forms!

Throughout Jewish history, the Jew has strived to find meaning in every moment of his and her life and to enhance every moment with purpose and kedusha. That challenge exists within a kehilla too. Practically, that means getting to know each other better: making sure we know the names of the people sitting around us, learning each others’ talents and sharing experiences, reaching out to each other in times of need; becoming chaverim – the root of which is chibbur, a connection on the highest of levels.

We would like to encourage everyone to take part in our “Meals for 8” program next Shabbat. May we all enjoy having the kedusha of Shabbat enhance our relationship with Hashem and with our fellow man, through divrei Torah, zemirot and meaningful conversation around the Shabbat table.

Shabbat shalom,
Rav Shmuel and Taly

MEALS FOR 8

SEE DETAILS AT THE BACK

the parallel drawn between Avraham’s purchase of a burial plot and marriage is jarring. It seems incongruous to establish laws governing the joyous, festive event of marriage on the basis of the painful experience of Avraham’s loss of his beloved wife. What deeper message might this parallel convey?

Rav Elyahu Baruch Shulman (www.yutorah.org/showShiur.cfm?shiurID=706307) suggested that this gezeira shava perhaps reflects the nature of what true commitment means. When a groom betroths his bride under the canopy, he declares his commitment to her for a lifetime – and even beyond. The association between marriage and Avraham’s efforts to secure a proper burial plot for Sara reminds us that true commitment binds a person even under trying circumstances, during difficult times, when hardship strikes. A commitment that expresses itself only under favourable conditions is not a true commitment at all. Being committed means exerting oneself despite the difficulty entailed, being prepared to forgo on one’s own personal interests on behalf of the person or object of his commitment, even under the most trying conditions.

This lesson applies to everything to which a person commits himself, be it family members, friends, community, Kelal Yisrael, and certainly God. A person who is faithful to the Torah only when he finds observance convenient, when it does not demand too much exertion or sacrifice, can hardly be described as a committed Jew. The committed Jew dedicates himself to Torah and mitzvot not only “at the wedding,” so-to-speak, at times of joy and festivity, but also under the much harsher conditions of Avraham’s purchase of Ma’arat HaMachpela, when a person faces hardship and personal loss.

TRUE DEVOTION BY DAVID SILVERBERG

In the beginning of Masechet Kiddushin, Chazal derive the concept of kiddushei kesef – betrothal through money or an object of value – from the opening section of Parashat Chayei-Sara. Based on parallel terminology employed in the context Avraham’s purchase of Machpela (“kach mimeni” – 23:13) and regarding betrothal (“ki yikach” – Devarim 22:13), the Gemara

establishes that just as Avraham acquired Ma’arat HaMachpela through the transfer of money, so too kiddushin (betrothal) is effectuated through the transfer of money (or an object of value).

On one level, this inference, which is an instance of the tool in halachic exegesis known as gezeira shava, is a purely technical one, whereby a similar term in two different contexts allows for applying a law relevant to one context to the other. Nevertheless,



MEALS FOR 8 NEXT WEEK
AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY:
SHABBAT PARASHAT TOLDOT
NOVEMBER 25TH
WE WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY A LONG LASTING TRADITION OF FRIDAY NIGHT "MEALS FOR EIGHT".
THIS SHABBAT WILL BE ABOUT "COUPLES HOSTING SINGLES"
COUPLES WHO WOULD LIKE TO HOST AND SINGLES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE HOSTED ARE WELCOME TO SEND AN EMAIL TO:
GALI@TALI.ORG.IL
EVENTS COMMITTEE

MEALS FOR 8 בשבוע הבא
בימים אלה של קהילה מתחדשת ופנים חדשות רבות בינינו:
שבת, פרשת תולדות
25 בנובמבר
נשמח אם תצטרפו אלינו למסורת ארוכה של סעודת ליל שבת "MEALS FOR EIGHT".
שבת זו היא בסימן "זוגות מארחים רווקים"
זוגות המעוניינים לארח ורווקים המעוניינים להתארח, אנא שלחו אימייל ל:
GALI@TALI.ORG.IL
EVENTS COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*IF ANYONE NEEDS A PLACE FOR LUNCH, OR IF ANYONE HAS A SPARE PLACE AT THEIR TABLE, PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL AND TALI BLOOM AFTER SHUL, AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE EVERYONE.

*FOR COMMENTS ON THE PARSHA PAGE OR QUESTIONS FOR RAV BLOOM PLEASE E-MAIL: RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A DVAR TORAH TO THE PARSHA PAGE – IN HEBREW OR ENGLISH – PLEASE SEND IT TO RAV BLOOM BY MONDAY.

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS WEEKLY PARSHA PAGE IN MEMORY OF A CLOSE ONE OR IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY WILSON AT: TAMMYWILSON@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT GALI DORN AT: GALI@TALI.ORG.IL

SHABBAT SHALOM FROM THE LATE LATE MINYAN

פרשת השבוע בעברית
אם מישהו או מישהי מחברי המניין מוכנים להתחייב לתרגם את דף פרשת השבוע כל שבוע עד ליום רביעי בבוקר, אנא צרו קשר עם תמי וילסון: 02-5671289

CHANUKA PARTY! DECEMBER 20TH

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR LAYENING- PLEASE CONTACT YEHUDA ON 052-665-7077 YSHALPER@GMAIL.COM
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INVITE ANYONE – MEN OR WOMEN – TO GIVE THE DVAR HALACHA IN SHUL. PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL OR TALI TO ORGANISE WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO BE SPEAKING.