



Menucha v'Simcha



A PARSHA WEEKLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

Candle Lighting: 7:08p.m.

Parshas Ki Seitzei 5774

Vol. 10 Issue. 39

DVAR TORAH

Elul: Seize The Moment

By Rabbi Yerachmiel Lichtman

We find ourselves in the month of Elul. The name Elul (in Hebrew) is spelled out in the first letters of the following three *p'sukim*. The first is, **Ani L'dodi Vedodi Li** ("I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine") (*Shir Hashirim*: 6:3). The second is **Ish L'ra'ayhu Umatanos Laevyonim**. ("Sending delicacies to one another and gifts to the poor") (*Esther*: 9:22). The last one is, **Umah Hashem Elokecha Es Levovcha V'es Levav Zarecha**. (And Hashem your G-d will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your children.) (*Devarim*: 30:6). At first glance the three phrases seem to be unrelated. After further reflection, it becomes clear that they each refer to a different aspect of our *avodas Hashem*, specifically during the month of Elul and the *Yomim Noraim*. The first *pasuk*, *Ani Ledodi Vedodi Li* discusses closeness and a special relationship with our Father in Heaven. This is a reference to *tefilla*, prayer, since it is through prayer that our bond is strengthened. The second *pasuk*, *Ish Lera'ayhu Umatanos Laevyonim* symbolizes *tzedaka*; charity. The last *pasuk*, talks about the circumcision of the impurity of the heart. This refers to *teshuva*; repentance. *Teshuva*, *Tefilla* and *Tzedaka* are the 3 things that are said to have the power to tear up the evil decree, as we say in the *Mussaf* prayers of the Days of Awe, "*U'teshuva U'tefila U'tzedaka Ma'avirin Es Roah Hagezairah*". In order to merit the results of our *teshuva*, *tefila* and *tzedaka*, we must begin to work on ourselves in the month of Elul.

There is a passage from the *Chazaras Hashatz* of the *Rosh Hashana* davening that can be explained homiletically in a similar vein. "*Hayom Haras Olam*" "Today is the birthday of the world". The *Netziv* wonders, if the birth of this world took place on *Rosh Hashana*, then when was the pregnancy? He answers that the pregnancy is the month of Elul. Just as a woman feels fetal movement increase as she gets closer to her due date and the birth of the baby, so too one must feel an increase of spiritual movement as he or she gets closer to the day of judgment. We must wake up now, while there is

still time to utilize the days of Elul to merit a favorable judgment.

Rav Yitzchak Hutner zt"l explains that *Teshuva* does not merely mean to become a better person, rather, it means becoming a different person. This idea is found in the *Rambam* (*Hilchos Teshuva Perek 2 Halacha 4*) "*And from the ways of Teshuva for the repenter is to cry out to Hashem in tears and in prayer, to give charity according to his ability, and to distance himself from sins of the past and to change his name as if to say I am a different man and I am not the same person who has done those [evil] deeds in the past*". Rabbi Efraim Wachsmann tells a *mashal* about a fellow who rented a cottage. The accommodations were far from luxurious. The rooms were dirty, the food was hardly desirable, not to mention the insects crawling around. The guest found out about another inn down the road which was a lot nicer and a lot cheaper. He complained to the landlord, and was promised that things would improve. The next morning the food was a lot better, but there were no other improvements with the cottage's interior. Rabbi Wachsmann explains that during the month of Elul we add "some extras" to our day, such as the *shofar*, saying *selichos* etc. but if our changes are only external that is not enough. We have to make internal changes, making us new and different people. May Hashem see all our efforts and may we merit a favorable judgment and *Ksiva Vachasima Tova!*

DVAR HALACHA

Halachos of Elul part 2

By Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

The *minhag* of *B'nei sefard* is to recite *selichos* the entire month of Elul (*Shulchan Aruch* 581:1). *B'nei ashkenaz* begin the Sunday before *Rosh Hashanah*. However, in years that *Rosh Hashanah* falls out on either a Monday or Tuesday, they begin reciting the *selichos* two Sundays before *Rosh Hashanah* (*Rema* 581:1), in order that there should be at



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least 4 days of reciting *selichos* preceding *Rosh Hashanah*. One reason is because we are like a *korbon* (sacrifice) which requires four days of checking for blemishes before being brought. Another reason is that many people have the custom to fast every day of the *Aseres Yemei Teshuva* (Ten Days of Repentance). On four of these ten days it is prohibited to fast [two days *Rosh Hashanah*, *Shabbos Shuva* and *Erev Yom Kippur*]. Therefore we have at least 4 days of *selichos* to compensate for those days. We always start on Sunday in order there is a set day to start (Mishneh Berurah 581:6). This year, *Rosh Hashana* begins on Thursday [September 25th], so we will begin reciting *selichos* Sunday, September 21st.

The common custom is that women do not recite *selichos* (Koveitz Halachos 2:23), however, many do go to *selichos* on the first night [*Motzai Shabbos*] (Koveitz Halachos pg. 28 quoting Rabbi Y. Forchheimer, *shlit"a*). It is proper to educate *k'tanim* (minors) to recite *selichos*. One does not need to wake them up in the middle of the night to recite them (Koveitz Halachos 2:22). An *avel* (mourner) [who is sitting *shivah*] may not go to *shul* to recite *selichos*, except on *Erev Rosh Hashanah* (Rema 581:1). In a *beis avel*, it is permissible to recite *selichos* with *viduy* and *tachanun* (Koveitz Halachos 2:25).

If one is *davening* without a *minyan* he may recite *selichos*, however he must skip the *Yud Gimmel middos* (13 Attributes of Mercy) and the parts that are *Aremaic* (Mishneh Berurah 581:14). An individual does not need to

recite *Ashrei* before *selichos* (Koveitz Halachos 1:17). It is important to note that it is preferable to *daven selichos* in the morning together with a *minyan* rather than at night without a *minyan* (Koveitz Halachos 2:3).

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

As a general rule, it is preferable to say a little with *kavanah* (concentration) than to say a lot without *kavanah* (Shulchan Aruch 1:4). Therefore, someone who finds it difficult to keep up with the pace of the congregation may say less *selichos* "properly" and skip part of the *selichos* (Koveitz Halachos 2:8). In this circumstance, it is preferable to recite a whole *selicha* than to recite parts of multiple *selicha* (Koveitz Halachos 2:fn. 8). Even if one is skipping some of the *selichos*, one must recite the *Yud Gimmel middos* together with the congregation (Koveitz Halachos 2:8). If one is in the middle of reciting a *selicha* 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 is reciting *selichos* 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

Friday, September 5:

7:08 p.m.: Candle Lighting

7:26 p.m.: Shkiya/sunset

Shabbos, September 6:

8:15 a.m.: *Shacharis*

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

Chaburas Chacham Lev

Rabbi Eskenazi's Ramban Shiur

6:00 p.m.: Mincha

7:24 p.m.: Shkiya/ Sunset

8:19 p.m.: Ma'ariv.

8:36 p.m.: 72 minutes

1. **Kiddush this week is sponsored by :** Rabbi Uri and Mrs. Sarah Leah Greenspan, in honor of the birth of their daughter, Chana. They invite the community to the Kiddush at the Kollel following davening.

2. **Annual Yom Tov Bake Sale: Save the Date- September 16, 2014!**

Please join us! Doors open at 7:00 pm, program at 8:15 pm. Guest Speaker- Mrs. Shalva Witty. At the home of Lisa Wachs, 253 Orchard Way, Merion Station, PA. Couvert- \$25. Parve and Dairy Salad Bar.

3. **Annual Pre-Rosh Hashana ~Evening of Inspiration~: Sunday evening, September 21- 8:00 PM.** Join us for a community-wide Evening of Inspira-

tion, as men and women from all segments of our community come together to prepare themselves spiritually for Rosh Hashanah. This year's guest speaker is **Rabbi Menachem Feifer**.

4. **New Halacha Shiur for Women:** First Session: ~September 10th and 17th~ A Two Part Series on Halachos Pertaining to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Send your questions in advance to questions@phillykollel.org and come hear the answers given in depth at a Halachic session with the Rosh Kollel. Wednesday Evenings, 8:15 pm, at The Berkowitz Residence, 303 Bangor Avenue Bala Cynwyd, PA.

BNOS IS BACK!: Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will iy"H begin meeting this Shabbos, Parshas Ki Saitzai, Sept 6th, from 4:30pm - 5:30pm at LMS. Girls 3 yrs. through 6th grade are welcome!

Community News:

Mazel Tov to:

Leon and Malkie Schwartz on the engagement of their son, **Moshe** to **Rivky Miller!** Mazal Tov to the grandmother, **Marilyn Borck!**

Jasmin Nof on her engagement to **Moshe Chaim Shinohara!**

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menuchavesimcha@phillykollel.org

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