



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

### IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Charged with the epic mission of freeing the Jewish people from Egypt, Moshe journeys from Midian with his wife Tzipora and their two sons. Aaron, upon meeting Moshe en route to Egypt with his family, urges him to send them back to Midian and spare them the travails of the servitude. With the Exodus now completed, Yisro, Moshe's father-in-law, takes Tzipora and her two sons and sets out to join the Jews in the desert and reunite the family. The Torah proceeds to give us the names of the two sons. Moshe named his firstborn "Gershom" after the fact that he had been "a stranger in a foreign land." His second son he named "Eliezer" because he was "saved from the sword of Paroh."

Naming Eliezer as he did is quite understandable — Moshe was immensely grateful to G-d for interceding and saving him from Paroh's wrath. But what was he commemorating with the name Gershom? The fact that Moshe resided as a stranger in Midian hardly seems like something to memorialize.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein answers that while living in Midian Moshe was afforded the opportunity not only to be absorbed and successful in the local society, but to be a leader, commensurate with his prodigious talents. Moshe, however, steeled himself against the allure of assimilation and conducted himself as a "stranger," allowing him to maintain his allegiance to his people and traditions. Moshe publicly demonstrated his gratitude to G-d for helping him to attain the necessary strength of character and named his first son Gershom — "I have lived in a foreign land, but I remained a stranger."

We have much to be thankful for the wonderful country in which we live and the freedoms that it affords. We know only too well not to take that for granted. Yet, at the same time we must be certain to carry on the spirit of Moshe and realize that we are part of something wondrous and eternal, transcending all borders.

*Have a wonderful Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

If you would like to sign up to receive the weekly "Shabbos Delights" by email, please send an email to [info@gwckollel.org](mailto:info@gwckollel.org).

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

**"...they shall bring every major matter to you, and every minor matter they shall judge..." (18:22)**

**"The difficult thing they would bring to Moshe and the minor thing they themselves would judge..." (18:26)**

Why does the Torah change the terminology from "major" to "difficult"?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**What similarity is there between Shimshon Hagibor and Matan Torah?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

**How many months in the Jewish calendar have something special on the fifteenth of the month? What are they?**

**Answer:** Five: Tishrei - Sukkos, Shevat - Tu B'Shevat, Adar - Purim katan, Nisan - Pesach, Av - Tu B'Av.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

**Honor your father and your mother, so that your days will be lengthened... (20:12)**

On a flight back to the United States from Israel, Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetsky was accompanied by his son Rabbi Avraham Kamenetsky, and by one of his granddaughters. Sitting in the seat next to Reb Yaakov was one of the heads of the Histadrut (the Israeli Labor Federation). The two discussed many issues, among them difficult passages in Tanach, throughout the flight. All the while Reb Yaakov's son and granddaughter came regularly to see if he needed anything. Reb Yaakov's seat-mate couldn't contain his amazement. "Rabbi," he said, "I rarely see my grandchildren, and certainly do not enjoy that type of relationship with them; I don't think I ever would receive such loving treatment from my children and grandchildren. Tell me, Rabbi, what is the secret of your close connection with your family?" Reb Yaakov replied, "For those who believe in Darwin and his theory of random evolution, every successive generation is more refined and developed than its predecessors. Why, then, should the young honor the old? However, in our tradition, every earlier generation is closer to the Sinai experience and the source of our specialness as a people. My children and grandchildren look up to me because it is through me that they have a connection to our people."

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. I was two yet I was four.
2. I am in the front of the Shul.
3. I was rock hard.
4. I am not related to the Ipad.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. Smokey
2. Quaking
3. Lightning
4. Noisy

#### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

**#1 Mon/Manna** (I was unknown and a test; I am remembered with Challah; don't keep me around)

**#2 Oz Yoshir** (I am said daily; I indicate resurrection; my prophecy was greater than the Prophets; I appear as a wall)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Esther Stiber**

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  
**550 LEGO GIFT CARD!**

Please visit [www.gwckollel.org](http://www.gwckollel.org) to submit your answers.

**The next raffle will be January 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

### Open to the Community!

Join the Kollel at Young Israel Shomrai Emunah for an Inspirational Shabbos – Connecting through Torah, Tefillah, and Song. Featuring guest baal tefillah Simcha Leiner, a catered Friday Night family dinner, and thought provoking lectures by the Kollel Scholars. Shabbos Parshas Tetzaveh, February 7-8.

For more information, contact Rabbi Zakem at [yzakem@gwckollel.org](mailto:yzakem@gwckollel.org).