



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

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

The most prominent and essential service of Rosh Hashana is the blowing of the Shofar. Indeed, the Torah calls Rosh Hashana "Yom Teruah," a day of blowing. The Medrash relates to us the great power of this Mitzvah. When we perform the blowing of the Shofar, "G-d moves from the seat of judgment to the seat of mercy." This means that through the blowing of the Shofar, we arouse G-d's mercy and He judges us not according to strict justice, but rather, with mercy and compassion.

This indeed is a potent effect. How do we understand, however, how such a simple action could have such profound consequences? What is the secret of the Shofar's power?

The Rambam in the Laws of Repentance writes that even though the commandment to blow the Shofar is a Divine decree without a reason provided, there is a hint as to its meaning. The Shofar calls to us to "awake from our spiritual slumber and remember our Maker."

Interestingly, the word "Teruah," aside from its obvious meaning of blowing, has an additional meaning. In Parshas Balak, when the evil Bilaam opens his mouth to cast curses on the nation of Israel, G-d transforms his curses into blessings. Among the blessings that Bilaam proclaims is "He [G-d] did not discern any sin in Jacob [the Jewish People] nor did He [G-d] see any iniquity in Israel. Hashem his G-d is with him, and the *Teruah* of the King is in him." According to Rashi and many commentators, the word Teruah here derives from "Rae'us" and means "love and friendship." Accordingly, the verse is testifying to the great love G-d has for His nation Israel.

Perhaps, when the Torah tells us that Rosh Hashana should be a "Yom Teruah," in addition to instructing us in the Mitzvah, it is hinting at the Shofar's secret. The power of the Shofar lies not in simply blowing or hearing its sound, but in heeding its call to open up our hearts to G-d in love and friendship.

May you and your family be blessed with a happy and sweet New Year!

*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

**Blow the shofar... for our festive day (Tehillim 81:4).**

Since Rosh Hashana is called a festive day, it has the mitzva of simcha as all Yomim Tovim, which requires a person to eat. Therefore, one may not fast on Rosh Hashana (Mordechai Rosh Hashana 708).

One should refrain from eating meat and drinking wine on Rosh Hashana (Magen Avraham, Orach Chaim 597:1).

If there is a mitzva of simcha, wouldn't that require a person to eat meat and drink wine? That is the way we fulfill the mitzva of simcha on all the other Yomim Tovim!

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**Give hear, O Heavens and I will speak (Ha'azinu 32:1).**

**Where is there a hint to the Taryag mitzvos in this posuk?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last issue's riddle:**

**How do we know that one is allowed to bring young children to shul?**

**Answer: The Mitzvah of Hakhel requires bringing them to the Beis HaMikdash, and a shul is a miniature Mikdash.**

## TIMELESS WISDOM

**To hear the sound of the shofar.**

Someone came to daven in the shul of Rav Itzele Blazer. He told Rav Itzele, "I am just coming to ask Hashem for a good year, but I am who I am, I cannot change myself." Rav Itzele responded, "If this is the case, you are worse than the Satan." Confused the man asked for an explanation.

"When the Satan hears the sound of the Shofar he begins to cry, "Now Bnei Yisrael will do teshuva, and Hashem will have mercy on them and bring the redemption." You, though, have less belief in yourself than the Satan has in you. You think you cannot change yourself, whereas the Satan thinks you can, and you will. For that reason you are worse than the Satan."

One should never think he cannot improve.

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am the shortest word in the Torah.
2. I was special for Avraham and Sarah.
3. I refer to Hashem.
4. I have a ledge for those who do teshuva.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. I do not drive you.
2. I move you.
3. I remind you of Akedas Yitzchak.
4. I am for sitting and standing.

### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

**#1 Dots** (I am not a candy; I am for delayed punishment; I am not polka; I can be found on the kiss.)

**#2 Anochi hasteir astir** (I am caused by sinning; I cause destruction; Esther; Hidden.)

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



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

The next raffle will be held on September 30!

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

*The Greater Washington Community Kollel wishes all of its friends, supporters, participants, and the entire community, a sweet New Year.*

*May you and your family be blessed with health, happiness, and all the wishes of your heart.*

**SAVE THE DATE! THE GWCK GALA DINNER WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16!  
GO TO [WWW.GWCKOLLEL.ORG](http://WWW.GWCKOLLEL.ORG) FOR MORE INFO.**

