



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

### **Presented by Rabbi Menachem Winter, Rosh Kollel**

#### **From our archives**

Following the culmination of the Exodus and their miraculous salvation at the Yam Suf (Sea of Reeds), the Jewish nation marches on to Har Sinai and thereafter to their eventual destination - the Land of Israel. At Refidim, the nation of Amalek launches an unprovoked attack. Moshe charges his disciple, Yehoshua, with leading the nation into battle. Moshe ascends a hill overlooking the battlefield and raises his hands heavenward. When his hands remained in that position, the Israelites were able to dominate Amalek, but when Moshe grew fatigued and lowered his hands, Amalek gained the upper hand. Moshe's hands were then supported by Aharon and Chur, and under Yehoshua's command, Amalek was dealt a decisive blow.

The Mishna in Rosh Hashanah (3:8) asks, "Was it indeed Moshe's hands that determined the outcome of the battle?" The Mishna answers that Moshe's hands were simply a directional signal. Moshe was communicating to the nation that when they cast their hearts and minds heavenward they would be given the strength and blessing to prevail in battle. Connected to G-d and cognizant of His role in their hoped for success, they were victorious.

This narrative is rich with lessons to be cultivated and applied to our everyday lives. I would like to share two that were striking to me. First, while it is certainly incumbent upon us to engage in hishtadlus - efforts based on the natural order to protect ourselves - we must always remain aware of what truly determines our security. Neighborhood watch groups, self-defense courses, and the procurement of advanced weaponry for our soldiers may be appropriate and necessary. But we must always cast our hearts and minds heavenward, and not forget that it is our Father above who truly protects us.

Secondly, we might convince ourselves that we are people of deep conviction and belief, unsusceptible to having our faith wander. Moshe teaches us, however, not to be so complacent. The clash of iron and "fog of war" could distract us from even our deep-held faith, necessitating the physical reminder of Moshe's hands to redirect our thoughts. We will be well-served to find ways to constantly deepen our faith, whether it be a mentor, book, or the contemplation of a magnificent sunrise.

**Wishing you a Good Shabbos!**

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## TABLE TALK

### Point to Ponder

**Moshe took the bones of Yosef with him... (13, 19)**

In regards to Moshe, the verse says, "The wise hearted will grab mitzvos" (Mishlei 10, 8). All of Bnai Yisroel were busy with gold and silver (collecting money from the Egyptians), while Moshe was busy with retrieving the bones of Yosef. (Shemos Rabba 20, 19)

**Please speak in the ears of the people: Let each man request from his friend and each woman from her friend silver and gold vessels. (Bo 11, 2)**

As the collection of the gold and silver was commanded by Hashem, it is also a mitzva. If so, why was Moshe considered as the only one performing a mitzva?

### Parsha Riddle

**Which tzaddikim in our history are recorded as having split bodies of water?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

**What did the plague of Blood have in common with the plague of Darkness?**

**Answer: During the plague of Blood, when a Jew and an Egyptian drank out of the same cup, the Egyptian would taste blood and the Jew would taste water. Similarly, when a Jew and an Egyptian would sit in the same room during the plague of Darkness, the Jew had light, while the Egyptian couldn't see.**

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Beshalach, the Torah relates that after Moses sang the Song of the Sea with the Children of Israel, Miriam led the women in a similar expression of thanks to and praise of Hashem, involving music and dancing. The Talmud characterizes Miriam as a great and influential leader (Megillah 14a, Sotah 12a), and the Bible itself seems to rank her at the same level as her more prominent brothers: "For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent Moses, Aaron and Miriam before you." (Micah 6:4)

The early halachic tradition has little to say on the general question of female leadership, with the most important ruling being a single brief statement of Maimonides: "We do not appoint a woman as a monarch, as it says 'You shall surely set over yourself a king' (Devarim 17:15) – and not a queen, and similarly with regard to all positions of authority in Israel, we appoint only men." (Melachim 1:5) Various later authorities have pointed out that while the first part of Maimonides's ruling, regarding monarchs, is found in the Sifre, the second part, regarding other positions, has no clear source, and that other medieval authorities may not accept this expansion of the exclusion of women (R. David Tzvi Hoffmann's letter regarding active and passive female suffrage; Shut. Mishpetei Uziel CM:6; Shut. Igros Moshe YD 2:44). Nevertheless, most authorities accept Maimonides's position as normative, and some therefore maintain that women should generally not hold positions of public authority (R. Hoffmann; Shut. Avnei Cheifetz 1:6), or even serve as synagogue presidents (Igros Moshe #45). Others disagree and assert that there is no technical halachic objection to women holding positions of public authority. Among the latter, some concede that the appointment of women is at least contrary to Jewish custom and ethics (Shut. Seridei Eish 2:52, and see also 3:105), whereas others deny even that (Mishpetei Uziel).

PRESENTED BY  
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

## KIDS KORNER

### Who Am I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. Daily.
2. What is this?
3. I became worms.
4. I was for forty years.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I was worldwide.
2. I was "torn."
3. I was for passage.
4. I am not sweet potato soup.

#### Last Week's Answers

**#1 Locusts (Arbeh)** (We finished the remainder, We made it dark, We were not four, Gone with the wind.)

**#2 Plague of the Firstborn** (I was punctual, I am called "plague," I did not include Pharaoh, I make some fast.)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

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Visit [gwckollel.org](http://gwckollel.org) to submit your answers.

**Answer as many as you can. Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!**

THE NEXT  
RAFFLE WILL BE  
Feb 11.

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**The Mitzvah of Emunah: What do I have to believe?**

Rabbi Moshe Walter.  
For men and women.

Sunday, Feb 16 at 9:30am at YIS'E 1132 Arcola Ave.

### Upcoming Events

### Rockville Lunch & Learn

**Libel, Slander & Defamation in the Internet Age**

Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman  
For men and women

Wednesday, Feb 12, 12:30-1:30pm at B'ECO.

Complimentary lunch served, RSVP required to [info@gwckollel.org](mailto:info@gwckollel.org).