



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

In deference to their spiritual stature and special Temple duties, G-d commands Moshe to count the Levites separately from the rest of the nation. In contrast to the national census that was limited to the ages of twenty to sixty years, all the Levites would be counted. Additionally, the Levites would be counted a second time – from the ages of thirty to fifty years, corresponding to the years of eligibility for the Temple service.

Upon completion of the Tribal census, the Torah testifies, "Moshe counted them *by the word of G-d* as he had been commanded." Rashi, in explanation of the words "by the word of G-d," cites a Midrash. Moshe, commanded by G-d to count the entire tribe of Levi, including the suckling infants, felt it was improper to enter the private residences to conduct the census. Moshe inquired of G-d as to what should be done. In response, G-d instructed Moshe "You do your part and I will do Mine." Moshe stood outside of the tents whereupon a heavenly voice called out the number of babies inside.

Though miraculous in nature, this extraordinary Midrash has great relevance and application for us. Often, we are occupied with an important matter – be it a spiritual endeavor, securing a livelihood, or advocating on behalf of our children. Impassioned by the significance of the issue and focused on a satisfactory resolution, we may inadvertently infringe on the rights of those around us, or bruise the feelings of others.

The certainty of our cause should not be a reason to be insensitive to our friends and neighbors. When we come upon the boundaries of *derech erez* and propriety, it is there that we must stop and say "we have done ours." Surely, G-d in turn, will do His.

**Have a wonderful Shabbos!**

***Rabbi Menachem Winter***

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

#### **Hashem spoke to Moshe in the wilderness of Sinai... (1:1)**

Why specifically in the wilderness of Sinai? From here we derive that the Torah was given by way of three things: 1) Fire, 2) Water, 3) In the Desert. Fire, as the posuk says, "Har Sinai was burning with fire"; Water, as the posuk says, "Also the clouds were dripping water"; and "In the desert," as the posuk says "Hashem spoke to Moshe in the wilderness of Sinai..." Why was the Torah given with these items? To teach us that just as these things are free, so too everyone is able to learn Torah (Bamidbar Rabba 1:6).

As only one item was derived from this posuk, why does the medrash say "From here we derive that the Torah was given by way of three things?"

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**How was it possible to have more than a year between one Shavuot and the next one, even without a leap year?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

#### **Last issue's riddle:**

How is it possible for two people to be in the same room davening the same shemoneh esrei, with one being obligated to repeat it, while the other is not obligated to repeat it?

**Answer:** If someone from the diaspora is in Eretz Yisrael and on the last day of his Yom Tov (which is already after Yom Tov for those in Eretz Yisrael) he davens a weekday davening as all of the residents of Eretz Yisrael in the room.

## TIMELESS WISDOM

### **...Every man to his work and to his burden (4:19).**

There was a wealthy man in the city of Brisk who refused to help out the poor people in the city. The Gabbai tzedaka approached the Rav, the Bais HaLevi, and asked him to speak with the man. The Bais HaLevi waited for the opportune time, which came Yom Kippur night after davening. As was the custom in Brisk, the Torah scholars would stay in shul for Yom Kippur night and would learn until shacharis. The Bais HaLevi noticed that this man was also sitting down to learn for the night. The Bais HaLevi approached the man and asked him, "Do you normally stay awake during the night?" The man answered, "No, but I know that saying Tehillim is a great merit, and I am looking for merits to protect me." The Bais HaLevi followed up with a question. "If a soldier deserts his troops and goes to fight alongside the enemy, what do they do to him?" The man responded, "They will kill him for treason." Continued the Bais HaLevi, "And if he remains with his troops, but on his own changes from his division of cavalry to the other division of tanks, what will they do to him?" Again the man answered, "He is endangering the army by not serving the post that has been handed to him, and will also be tried for treason."

The Bais HaLevi concluded his questioning by asking the man, "Do you know why I asked you these questions? Tomorrow is judgment day, and we all want to merit a good judgment. Hashem has given us all our strengths and abilities with which to serve him. It is very commendable that you wish to stay awake all night, like the Torah Scholars. But you cannot forget about the abilities that Hashem gave you. Hashem blessed you with wealth, which means you have the obligation to help support the less fortunate. That is the post that Hashem designated for you. If you forsake it and try to switch posts, then you are deserving of the death penalty. You must commit to fulfill your position if you want to be meritorious in judgment tomorrow."

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

#### **#1 WHO AM I ?**

1. I pre-dated the world.
2. I am written in black, yet I was a blue print.
3. I am for all.
4. I am named for Moshe.

#### **#2 WHO AM I ?**

1. I can cause a plague.
2. Use money.
3. For me some use a posuk.
4. Don't confuse me with royalty.

#### **LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS**

**#1 Torah** (I am walking, but my legs don't move; I am similar to water; I am to teach; I am for night and day.)

**#2 Lag B'Omer** (I cause fires; I am not a log of wood; I unite nusach Ashkenaz and Sefard; I am glory of glory.)

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Nitai Levi**

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 A  
Razor  
Pro XX  
Scooter**

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

**The next raffle will be May 27<sup>th</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

**Join Rabbi Schwartz for pre-shacharis inspiration!**

**"A Taste of Tefillah" meets weekday mornings, 5 minutes before the 6:25 shacharis minyan at SEHC. Get inspired for davening with a short thought about prayer and the words of our tefillos! Monday - Friday, 6:20 AM.**