



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

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

Sefer Devarim begins with the nation on the banks of the Jordan River, finally poised to cross the river and enter the Land. Moshe, in the last few weeks of his life, prepares the people for the inevitable temptations and challenges they would encounter in their new life. Drawing on their past missteps in the desert, Moshe fortifies them with faith in G-d and warns against deviating from a path of righteousness and goodness. Interestingly, Moshe does not explicitly reference their sins, but alludes to them by means of mentioning the places where they occurred. This, Rashi tells us, citing the Medrash, is in order to preserve the people's dignity.

This explanation is very puzzling. We see many instances, even in Sefer Devarim itself, where Moshe explicitly mentions the past errors of the nation. Why is Moshe specifically concerned over the people's dignity here?

The Ohr Chodosh proposes a very insightful and relevant answer. True, Moshe would eventually rebuke the people and refer to their errors directly. But when initiating this undertaking to admonish the people and call attention to their lapses, it was necessary to begin in the gentlest of ways. Once the people felt Moshe's love and saw his concern for their dignity, a powerful and enduring bond was formed. They understood that he was urging them as a caring father. Confident now that his words would be accepted as such, Moshe was able to be more direct in drawing attention to their misdeeds.

As community leaders, educators, or parents, we are often called on to discipline or rebuke our charges. Success is determined by first forming a loving bond with our congregants, students, or children. When they feel our devotion to their welfare and concern for their dignity, our words will have its desired effect.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!  
*Rabbi Menachem Winter*

## TABLE TALK

### POINT TO PONDER

**These are the words that Moshe spoke to all of Yisrael... (1:1)**

*Didn't Moshe say he was not a man of words? Once Moshe merited receiving the Torah his speech impediment was healed (Devarim Rabba 1:1).*

*All of Klal Yisrael were healed when they stood at Har Sinai (Mechilta Yisro 20:15).*

Shouldn't Moshe have been healed previously along with Bnai Yisrael when they stood at the foot of Har Sinai?

### PARSHA RIDDLE

**On which date was the Bais Hamikdash destroyed?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

**Last issue's riddle:**

**When is Tisha B'Av not Tisha B'Av?**

**Answer: When it is pushed off until Asara B'Av / the 10<sup>th</sup> of Av.**

## TIMELESS WISDOM

**Provide for yourselves distinguished men, who are wise, understanding... va'asimeim / and I shall appoint them as your heads (1:13).**

*Moshe told Bnai Yisrael, if you do not listen to the leaders, then the word asimeim will be read asheimeim, your destruction will be on your heads (Devorim Rabba 1:8).*

One Erev Shabbos, Rav Aaron Kotler, was learning through a Torah thought from the Chasam Sofer. After spending a long while trying to reconcile the many questions he had on the Chasam Sofer's opinion, he decided to disagree. In his sharpness, Rav Aaron harshly voiced his position against the Chasam Sofer.

That night two incidents occurred, and two members of Rav Aaron's family were hurt. He took that as a punishment for not according the Chasam Sofer the proper honor.

From that point on, Rav Aaron always viewed the arguing with the Gedolim as not merely as a disgrace to the Torah scholars, but as a threat to the existence of Klal Yisrael.

## KIDS KORNER

### WHO AM I?

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!

#### #1 WHO AM I ?

1. "Vayishman" refers to me.
2. I cause rebellion.
3. Di Zahav
4. I was used for the Ba'al.

#### #2 WHO AM I ?

1. I am a giant.
2. I am the refugee.
3. I am not a cake.
4. I am from the fallen ones.

#### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

**#1 Kohen Gadol** (My death is prayed for; I must remain holy; I was anointed; I have more clothes.)

**#2 The month of Av** (I start being sad; I later become happy; I will become a time for rejoicing; I am the eleventh.)

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Yehuda Samberg**

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

## KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

**The Kollel Elul Semester begins Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>!**

**Stay tuned for exciting updates on new programs and learning opportunities.**

**SAVE THE DATE!  
THE GWCK GALA DINNER  
WILL BE SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 16!**