

Family TORAH JOURNAL

ST. LOUIS KOLLEL

MUSSAR MESSAGE



THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL SHAVUOS MESSAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
RABBI YERACHMIEL FRANK, ST. LOUIS KOLLEL CHAIR OF TALMUDIC LAW AND
TRADITION, ESTABLISHED IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUBIN FELDMAN BY HIS FAMILY

Shavuot is finally upon us, completing the process that was started with *Pesach*. Through counting consistently the days of the *omer*, we have been preparing ourselves for this special holiday—*Shavuot*, the holiday that celebrates the receiving of our most precious gift, the Torah. As one prepares for accepting the Torah, it is an opportune time to work on ourselves which can enhance the spiritual experience of the holiday.

The *pasuk* tells us that when the Jewish people came to Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, “*Vayichan sham yisroel negen hahar*”, the Jewish people encamped opposite the mountain. *Rashi* points out that curiously the word “*vayichan*” (and **he** encamped) is used to refer to the camping. If this verse is referring to the entire Jewish nation, wouldn’t it make more sense to use the plural word “*vayachanu*” (and **they** encamped)? *Rashi* explains that the singular term is used here to indicate that the entire Jewish people camped *k’ish echad b’lev echad*, as one man with one heart. Though they numbered millions of souls, they all came to receive the Torah as one single unit without any strife or disagreement.

The key ingredient in preparation for the receiving of the Torah is *achdus*, unity. Each and every Jew uses their own unique qualities in order to serve Hashem, and unite together and follow His Torah. Throughout the Torah, many references are made about the concept that all Jews are considered brothers and sisters. (Continued on next page)



UPCOMING WEEK'S SCHEDULE: YEAR 3, WEEK 6—BRACHOS 51A

R' Alex Pudles, son-in-law of Murray & EvaGail Bresler

The maggid shiur of the week for the Amud is **R' Daniel Anton**

For more info, or to sign up to get the weekly video shiurim please contact Rabbi Yaakov Berkowitz

MOMENTS OF GREATNESS

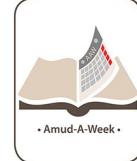
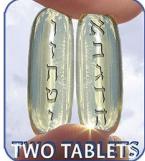
RABBI SHLOMO EISENBERG



Buying on Craigslist can be a big gamble, however, a person can get some great deals on countless different items. Rabbi Noach Muroff, a young, recently married Rebbe in New Haven, needed a desk and the prices on Craigslist couldn't be beat for a used desk. When he was bringing the desk into his house he realized that it wouldn't fit into the door by literally a few inches. This meant he had to take the entire desk apart. When he was taking it apart, he noticed a huge sum of money, \$98,000 to be exact, stuck behind the drawer of the desk.

Rabbi Muroff felt that he only had one choice - to return the money to the rightful owner and make an tremendous Kiddush Hashem. The next day his entire family went to the owners house to return the enormous amount of money. The owner was completely shocked and astonished that a person would have such a high level of integrity and virtue to return the money. She told them that this money was an inheritance she had received, and was lost many years before and she thought that it was thrown out or stolen.

Rabbi Muroff explained, that as an orthodox Jew this was the right thing, and the only thing to do. This story was all over the news including CNN. The sanctification of G-d's name created by Rabbi Muroff is truly unbelievable and inspiring. Now think about this—would you have done the same thing?



This week's Family Torah Journal is sponsored by the Kollel in honor of Board President Mayer Klein's 60th birthday. Mazel Tov Mayer and thanks for all you do on behalf of the Kollel.

ZMANIM: CANDLELIGHTING: 7:50PM SOF ZMAN KRIAS SHEMA: M.A. 8:45AM GRA": 9:21AM

CANDLELIGHTING TIME FOR SHAVUOS NOT BEFORE 8:55PM

ALEF TO TAV: INSIGHTS INTO THE ALEF-BEIS



Letter: Gimel

Numerical value: 3

Spelling: Gimel, yud, mem, lamed

RABBI YAAKOV BERKOWITZ



The shape of the *gimmel* is interesting, and if you use your imagination, you can almost see it as a person in the midst of running; back foot on the ground and front foot up in motion up in the air. This alludes to that which the Talmud teaches us (Tractate *Shabbos* 104a) that the *gimmel* stands for “*gimol dalim*”, be kind to the poor. The way we are to be kind to the poor is not by doing so begrudgingly, but by *running after* the opportunity. The *Midrash* on *Megillas Rus* (on Ch.2 v. 19) teaches us, “*ויתר ממה שבעל הבית עושה עם העני, העני עושה עם בעל הבית*” more that what the wealthy person does for the poor person (by giving him a donation), the poor person does for the wealthy person (facilitating for him merits with which one gains entrance to the World to Come). When we truly appreciate this *Midrash* it will be no wonder why it is so important to “run after” *chessed*, as the true beneficiary is oneself.

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT!



RABBI YITZCHAK KOWALSKY

Q. On motzei Shabbos I went after maariv with the rest of the shul to say kiddush levanah. After I completed it I realized that I never looked at the moon before I said the brachah. Did I fulfill my obligation or do I need to say it again?

A. The brachah of kiddush levanah is classified as a *birchas ha'reiah* - a blessing which one is obligated to recite upon seeing it. Similar to a brachah one recites upon seeing a rainbow, the obligation is only upon actually seeing it. It would therefore seem that if one did not see the moon he is not obligated in the brachah and therefore cannot recite it. However by kiddush levanah, the Misheh Brurah (426:1) rules that even a blind person is obligated to recite it, even though he cannot see it. The reason for this, is that he gets benefit as well, others who can see the moonlight can help guide him in the evening. Also, the brachah of kiddush levanah is in the category of a brachah one recites on the amazing solar system. (See *Biur Halacha* for halachic ruling regarding a blind person.) It would therefore seem that b'dieved if one did not look at the moon before reciting the brachah he does not have to repeat his brachah. For a fascinating shiur on halachos of kiddush levanah see: <https://tinyurl.com/Kiddush-Levanah>.

MUSSAR MESSAGE (CONT.)

The *Chofetz Chaim* elaborates on this concept, that the souls of all Jews are really all one singular unit, and just divided physically into individual bodies. With this all in mind, let us prepare for our own receiving of the Torah using the formula that the Jewish nation used while camping at Mount Sinai. Showing love and concern to every Jew - no matter the background or level of observance, will definitely go along way in helping each of us serve Hashem to everyone's maximum potential.

Rabbi Frank joined the St. Louis Kollel in 1991, and currently serves as the Kollel's Rosh Chabura as well as its Rubin Feldman Chair of Talmudic Law and Tradition. He also serves as the Vice President of Education for Agudas Israel of St. Louis.

KOLLEL KASHA KORNER

RABBI YAAKOV SILVERMAN



Which tragedy mentioned in the Torah, resulted in the annihilation of exactly one quarter of mankind?

Last weeks question: Which tefilla is never recited in shul?

Tefilas HaDerech [Wayfarer's Prayer]

Send in your answer to ysilverman@stlkollel.com

Q. When does one receive the *neshamah yeisera* - the additional soul of Shabbos?

A. The Shaarei Teshuva (OC 56:4) writes that we receive the ruach of Shabbos at the completion of kabbalas Shabbos. The neshama of Shabbos comes when one recites the phrase “*u'phros aleinu succos...*” that is recited before shemoneh esrei of maariv. For further details please consult your local orthodox kabbalist.

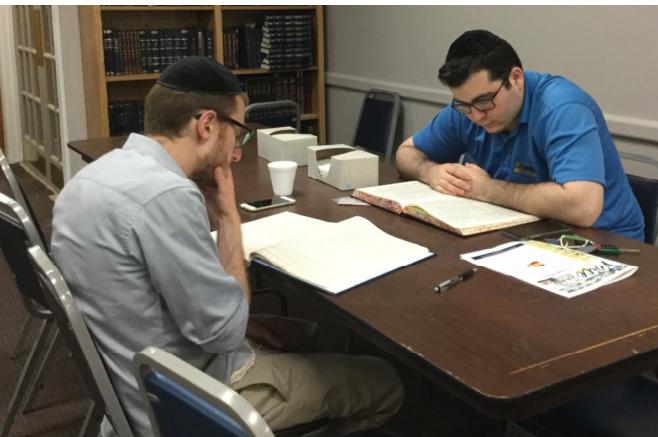
Please consult your Rav for a final ruling.

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SPOTLIGHT ON



MAZEL TOV!! The Kinyan Masechta chabura completed the 2nd perek of Succah. They will be celebrating with a gala Yom Tov seuda at the home of Rabbi Berkowitz. For more information about this exciting chabura, please speak to anyone in the pictures below.



“...Kinyan HaMasechta is the closest I’ve felt to Gemara since being in Yeshiva! Its focus on chazara transforms each sugya into a life of its own! I’m very grateful for having it be such a special part of my daily schedule.”

—Peretz Shlosberg



Eishes Chayil and Missouri Torah Institute
Mesilas Yesharim Women's Series
Featuring Mrs. Toby Goldman
Thursday Morning, May 24th at 9:30 AM
Hosted by Sara Bromberg 7822 Delmar
Sunday Evening, May 27th at 8:15 PM
Hosted by Malka Klein 961 Abbeville
For more info, email cbregman@stlkollel.com



Eishes Chayil of St. Louis
 A DIVISION OF ST. LOUIS KOLLEL
 In Loving Memory of Karen Solomon

New Women's Class! “Koheles”
with Rabbi Yonason Goldson
Sunday Mornings at 11:00 AM
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שבת פרשת בעולות
SHABBOS JUNE 2
Shacharis at 8:50 am



CELEBRATE TORAH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Pre-Shacharis Chumash

Rabbi Tzvi Perlman

Shacharis led by

Rabbi Shaya Mintz

Pre-Mussaf Drasha delivered by

HaRav Menachem Greenblatt

Mussaf led by

Rabbi Moshe Glazer

Following a lavish hot Kiddush, there will be classes delivered by Rabbi Yaakov Berkowitz, Rabbi Yitzchi Kowalsky, Mrs. Shoshana Kowalsky, and Rabbi Yaakov Silverman. Dvar Torah at Shabbos luncheon by Rabbi Shlomo Eisenberg and Rabbi Menachem Tendler.



RSVP TO SHUL OFFICE FOR LUNCHEON ONLY:

(314) 863-7485 - Adults \$18, Kids 5-11 \$14, Under 5 \$4

*Come join U. City Shul and the St. Louis Kollel as
we celebrate our gift of Torah!*

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FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Joshua Rosebloom MD,
MPH, FACOG
Fellow in Maternal-Fetal
Medicine, Washington
University in St. Louis



Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky
Dr. J Lester Zeffren
Chair of Jewish Medical
Ethics, St. Louis Kollel



Uterine Transplants: The Next Frontier or Over The Line?

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ 6pm to 7pm

SSM – ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL 6420 CLAYTON ROAD RICHMOND HEIGHTS

For info email: ykowalsky@stlkollel.com

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