



**Sukkot
Simchat Torah**

*By: Rabanit
K. Sarah Cohen*

SIMCHAT TORAH

Throughout Sukot, special offerings were brought in the Mishkan in the Bet Hamikdash. Chachamim taught us that the seventy special bull sacrifices brought on Sukot were for the benefit of the seventy nations of the world.

On Shemini Atzeret, the chag that appears to be the eighth day of Sukot, only one bull sacrifice was brought. Shemini Atzeret is a chag that Hashem gave the Jewish people as a send-off of sorts. It is one last time for the Jewish nation to rejoice with Hashem before the long stretch until Pesach.

The Dubno Magid (a"h) explains by means of a parable why one special offering was brought on this day which is dedicated to the Jewish nation.

A wealthy man went on a long journey. While on his trip, he purchased many gifts for his family back home. Upon his return, he distributed the presents. He showered his stepchildren the many gifts, while to each of his own children he gave a few small presents.

He did this based on the following rationale:

"My stepchildren will be happy now only with presents. However, my children should be happy because I have returned. Although I want them to have gifts, I do not want the joy of receiving

the presents to overshadow the joy they should feel upon my return. Therefore, I will give them some small gifts."

In order to bring joy to the nations of the world, Hashem felt it was necessary to command the offering of a large amount of sacrifices. Since it is the offerings on their behalf alone that bring them joy, the nations were given seventy sacrifices. However, the Jewish people experience great joy just knowing that they are in the company of Hashem.

On Shemini Atzeret, when Hashem wants to rejoice with us one last time, all we need is one sacrifice to compliment the joy that already exists. This joy extends to Simchat Torah, the day that follows Shemini Atzeret in the galut.

Reb Naftoli from Ropshitz (a"h) once met a simple man who taught him what is considered an amazing lesson about joy.

On Simchat Torah one year, he saw a man who appeared to be enjoying the day's celebration. His mouth did not stop singing and his legs would not stop dancing. He was totally immersed in the joy of the celebration of completing the Torah.

Reb Naftoli thought however, that it was unusual that the man was a simple porter, who knew little of Torah and its study. Reb Naftoli called him over and asked him why he was celebrating with such fervor? Did he learn so much this year that his celebration should be so enthusiastic?



SHIDUCHIM

Sarah bat Leah

Leah bat Devorah Bashya

Rivka bat Leah

Aziza Devorah Mariasha
bat

Esther Rivkah

Sarah bat Ettel Chaya

Anat bat Nili

Chaim Shaya
ben
Malkah BraynahAvraham Hershel
ben
Malkah BraynaMordechai Eliyahu
ben
Chanah

The porter's answer impressed Reb Naftoli.

He said "Rebbe, how can my brother make a simchah and I not be happy?!"

Hopefully we will all celebrate Simchat Torah as a celebration of our own accomplishments. Even if that is not the case, we should celebrate together with our brothers and sisters, and hope that next year the joy will be personal as well.

However, although we celebrate, there the complete joy is missing as we are still in exile.

The Prince of Mannheim once approached the Netziv (a"h) with the following question: "Every year at the Seder on Pesach, Jewish children ask their father "Mah Nishtanah?..." Why is this night different from all other nights?.... Pesach is not the only time Jews perform unusual commandments. On Sukot, the Jews move out of their comfortable homes and dwell outdoors in a hut. Shouldn't this cause a child to ask Ma Nishtana on Sukot as well?"

The Netziv smiled and responded saying, "The observances on Pesach are truly different. A child sees actions that are not in accordance with Jewish life. The entire family sits, reclining together at the table with tranquility and performing actions of truly free people. All actions are performed deliberately and with precision and order. This causes a child to wonder 'what is going on?' How is it possible that Jews can live with order, peace, and tranquility?

"However, on Sukot, the child sees the family leaving their home, taking shelter in the Sukah. For a Jewish child, this is not a strange sight. He knows that the Jews are treated as a lowly nation by others. He knows that the Jews have been forced to constantly wander in exile. He knows that the Jews have never considered their house their permanent home because they may have to move in a single moment in order to flee persecution. For the child, leaving the home is not a strange sight. Therefore, the child does not ask 'Mah Nishtanah?' on Sukot."

May it be Hashem's will that next Sukot, asking the Mah Nishtanah will be appropriate for the occasion.

THE CARPENTER

Roy Trevors hired a carpenter to help restore his old farmhouse. After he had just finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

While Roy drove the carpenter home, he sat in stone silence. On arriving, he invited Roy in to meet his family. As they walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was now adorned with a big smile. He hugged his two small children and gave his wife the most beautiful "hello" Roy had ever heard.

Afterward, when he walked him to the car, they passed the tree and Roy's curiosity got the better of him. He asked him about what he had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."



WE TOO MUST WEEP

Let me not live a life that's free of the many "things" I wish I would not see
But how can I ever hope to heal the wounds of others that I do not feel?

If my eyes are dry and I rarely weep, how do I know when the hurt is deep?
If my heart is caged and it never bleeds, how can I tell what my brother needs?

For when our ears are deaf to the crying plea - and we close our eyes refusing to see
And we steel our own hearts and harden our mind, and count it a weakness whenever we're kind.

We are no longer following Hashem's way or seeking His guidance from day to day
For, without our challenges and burdens to bear, we dance through a life that is trivial and fair
And chasing the rainbow we have no desire, for roads that are rough and realms that are higher
I do not ask to be spared from the heartache, Dear G-d,
for the heart that is hurt reaps the richest reward.

And Hashem enters that heart which is broken with sorrow, as He opens the door
to a - Brighter tomorrow.

For only through tears can we recognize the suffering that lies in the other's eyes.
And know that we finally feel with our heart and mind.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Join our Amazon Shopping Incentive and help Ohel Sara continue to do its good work.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Ohel Sara Congregation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Just click on the link below to start your shopping on Amazon so that you can help Ohel Sara continue its good work.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0152784>

SMALL ACTION - BIG RESULT

The Gemara of Sukah quotes an ancient saying: "An opening in the roof the size of a small coin, will result in a large area of sunlight on the floor."

Try it as an experiment. Take a board and drill a small hole in it the size of a dime. Then, in a dark room, beam a flashlight through the hole at a wall about twelve feet from the board. You will notice that the small dime-sized beam, expands to a large circle on the wall.

This ancient saying may be brought up to date when it is applied to space travel. The computer technicians on Earth monitor the journeys of rockets as they travel to their far-off destinations - and they make adjustments to the fraction of a degree. They know that a course which is off slightly when close to Earth will produce a great deviation from the intended destination after the ship has traveled thousands of miles through outer space.

The lesson to learn from this is that you should not limit your judgment of behavior based exclusively upon the present. As time goes by, a small deed will become magnified and result in a greatly exaggerated version of the seed planted today.

Someone who ignores negative behavior in a child (if the child tells a lie or steals from another) will eventually see that act develop into a negative behavior pattern that may be difficult to uproot once the child grows up.

When we do a small act of kindness, that act can change the course of the recipient's life and land him thousands of miles from where his original course might have deposited him were it not for the reaction to his kindness.

Continued on page 6

PARSHAT BREISHIT

This coming week we will be introduced to a formidable foe who greets us upon our entry into this world and attempts to accompany our every action throughout our mortal existence. He is known as the Yetzer Hara, the Evil Inclination.

After Kayin has an inferior offering rejected, he is extremely disturbed. Hashem speaks with him frankly about the nature of his act and the hidden beast that undermines our good intentions, the Yetzer Hara. "Surely, if you improve yourself, you will be forgiven. But if you do not improve yourself, sin crouches at the door. Its desire is toward you, yet you can conquer it" (Breishit 4:7).

Though the imagery of sin crouching in wait seems quite menacing, the allegorical allusion to an evil force blocking a doorway lends a simile to a story that may be quite applicable to the lessons of the finale of any sport season. It may even be a lesson to those of us who have our ears glued to the rumblings of the subway, shuttling high-flying frivolity from the Bronx to Queens.

Rabbi Sholom Schwadron had noticed that one of the students at the yeshiva was missing on Sunday and Monday. Tuesday morning he approached him, inquiring as to the reason for his absence. "I know you for two years. You never missed a day of yeshiva. I am certain that something important is happening. Please tell me what's going on."

The boy did not want to say, but after prodding, the boy finally blurted out. "I would tell, but, Rebbe, you just wouldn't understand."

"Try me," begged Reb Sholom, "I promise I will try my hardest to appreciate what you tell me."

"Here goes," responded the student. "I missed yeshivah because I was at the Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer finals. In fact, I probably won't be in yeshivah tomorrow as well. It's the final day of the championship."

Rav Schwadron was not at all condescending. Instead, he furrowed his brow in interest. "I am sure that this game of soccer must be quite exciting. Tell me, how do you play this game? What is the object? How do you win?"

"Well," began the student filled with excitement, "There are eleven players and the object is to kick a ball into the large goal. No one but the goalkeeper can move the ball with his hands or arms!"

Rav Schwadron's face lit up! He knew this young boy was a good student and wanted to accommodate him. "Oh! Is that all? So just go there, kick the ball in the goal, and come back to yeshivah!"

The boy laughed. "Rebbe, you don't understand! The opposing team also has eleven men and a goalkeeper, and their job is to stop our team from getting the ball into their goal!"

"Tell me," Rav Schwadron whispered, "These other men, the other team, are they there all day and night?"

"Of course not!" laughed the student. "They go home at night!" What was the Rabbi driving at? He wondered.

Rav Schwadron huddled close and in all seriousness continued with his brilliant plan. "Why don't you sneak into the stadium in the evening and kick the ball into the goal when they are not looking! Then you can win and return to yeshivah!"

The boy replied in a frustrating tone. "Oy! Rebbe! You don't understand. You don't score if the other team is not trying to stop you! It's no kuntz to kick a ball into an empty net if there is no one trying to stop you!"

"Ah!" cried Reb Schwadron in absolute victory. "Now think! Listen to what you just said! It's no kuntz to come to the yeshivah when nothing is trying to hold you back! It's when the urge to skip class is there that the Yetzer Hara crouches in the goal and that's when it's most difficult to score. But that is when you really score points. Come tomorrow, and you can't imagine how much that is worth in Hashem's scorecard!"

Needless to say, the boy understood the message and was there the next day the first in class!

The Torah tells us not only about the nature of the Yetzer Hara as an adversary, but rather as our ultimate challenger. He stands crouched in the door, ready to block any shot and spring on a near hit. Our job is to realize that we must overcome him when the urge is the greatest. Because when it is most difficult to do the right thing that is the time we really meet and even score, the goal!

**ATTENTION LADIES**

Call us to host a learning group in your community.

(347) 430-5700

Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen will be speaking on the following dates:

Date: Oct 18, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Oct 31, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: To Be Announced

**SPECIAL GATHERING IN HONOR OF
RACHEL IMEINU'S YAHRTZEIT**

Date: Nov 15, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Motzei Shabat, Nov. 18, 2017

Time: 8:00pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY
**Special Melaveh Malkah In Honor Of
Rosh Chodesh Kislev**

Date: Nov 29, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Dec 6, 2017

Time: 9:15pm

Place: On The Radio - Instructions to Follow
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE SHIUR

Date: Dec 18, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: To Be Announced

**CHANUKAH PARTY IN HONOR OF
ROSH CHODESH KISLEV**

Date: Dec 27, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

ANNOUNCEMENT

Audio-visual shiurim of

Rabanit

Kineret Sarah Cohen

Are Now Available For Viewing At

www.torahanytime.com

Instructions: Register for free and click on the "Ladies" tab at the top of the Home Page. Scroll down and look for Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen. Underneath the image for the Rabanit, click on the "**follow**" tab if you want to be notified via email or text about a shiur that has become available for viewing.

Shiur To Post Wed. Night
Oct. 18, 2017

Noach

Lessons For The Generation

Log on and enjoy the live lectures and be inspired.



QUOTABLE QUOTES

** "You cannot push a river but you can go with the flow." **

** "You never lose by loving. You only lose when holding back." **

** "Nothing changes - if nothing changes."

SMALL ACTION - BIG RESULT

Continued

If we make another person feel positively about Torah and Yahadut - even in a small, nearly imperceptible way - we can be sure that the person will grow positive feelings towards Hashem and his people.

As we prepare to launch an action, let us take a moment to consider where this rocket will land many years from now. We should not limit our actions to ones that will bring us instant gratification. It is important to blast off in a positive direction to hit a good target upon landing.

I would like to wish you all a Ptikah Tovah and a year filled with berachot and yeshuot. May we merit to experience Hashem's kindness and compassion. May we merit to be filled with His light so that our road towards Torah and mitzvot is clear.

May we enjoy a year of joy as we usher in a new era of redemption and witness the coming of Mashiach this year B'ezrat Hashem.

With All My Love,
K. Sarah Cohen



SPECIAL DEDICATION

This week's newsletter is dedicated in memory of my dear and holy Rabbi who was plucked away from us 15 years ago, on the first day of Simchat Bet Ha'sho'evah, in the holy Sukah amid the dancing. This left the kehilah shocked and without leadership.

Baruch Hashem that today, his son, Aharon leads the congregation - but we can never forget the teachings, the righteousness and love the Rav had for his talmidim and talmidot.

*Ha'Rav Moshe Chai
ben
Aharon & Shulamit Siman Tov (a"h)*

18 Tishrei

May all his teachings that we apply in our life bring him nachat in shamayim. And may his righteousness and love for every Jew continue to be the engine which moves our organization.

May he be a melitz yosher to all Am Yisrael.

SUKOT PACKAGES
STILL NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE!!



Ohel Sara will still be delivering Sukkot Packages during Chol Ha'moed to boost the spirits of so many women who are unfortunately entering Simchat Torah feeling sad, dejected and alone.

Help us to bring simchah to these women while simultaneously donating to our worthy organization.

The Sukot Packages consist of a bottle of wine, a bottle of honey, two candles, two rolls, a Tefilat Todah, and a warm and encouraging letter from me.

Each package is **\$36 (twice chai)** and will be delivered throughout Aseret Yemei Teshvah and after Yom Kipur.

Help us bring a smile to another Bat Melech

To Donate A Package Follow The Instructions Below:

1. Log onto **www.ohelsara.com** and click on the "Donate" button of your choice
2. Call our offices at **(347) 430-5700** to donate via credit card



Newsletter Dedication

Sara Bat Mimon Ha'Kohen (A"H)

Ohel Sara is named after this tzadikah (my grandmother). May the inspiration that women draw from this weekly newsletter benefit her neshamah in Gan Eden and may we all be redeemed as a result.



Ohel Sara wishes all it's readers a Shabbat Shalom u'Mevorach!

Candlelighting Time

6:00PM
NY TIME



You can now make a donation
to Ohel Sara through Paypal:

yourtrustedcoach@gmail.com

Indicate that money is for Ohel Sara.

Ohel Sara Congregation

c/o Cohen | 902 Ocean Parkway #6D | Brooklyn, NY 11230

www.ohelsara.com ▲ 347.430.5700 ▲ info@ohelsara.com