



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



SHABBAT TIFERET

This Week in Tiferet

This past week, Tiferet went on its first ever overnight in the beautiful forest of Nes Harim. Our students began the day with a GPS scavenger hunt in Tel Azeka, the site of the battle between David and Goliath. We then pitched tents and enjoyed a barbecue. This was followed a Shana Alef vs Shana Bet basketball game and a kumsitz late into the night led by Rav Ephy Greene. It was a great opportunity for our students to form even closer bonds with each other!

תורת תפארת

One-of-a-Kind Kindness

Rabbi Michael Bramson

Parashat Chayei Sarah

There is a cute anecdote told about the boy who came to school an hour late. When the teacher asked "Why so late"? The boy replied that he was helping an old lady cross the street. "That took an hour?" the teacher asked. "Yes," the boy said, "You see, the lady did not want to cross."

The commentaries ask why Rivkah's chesed was considered so great. After all, the camels and men were thirsty after such a long trip. In his sefer Peninim al HaTorah, Rabbi Scheinbaum shares an interesting insight into chesed with us.

Real chesed is when one helps someone else with what the recipient needs. There are those who do chesed so they can receive a thank you and there are those who do chesed to ease some guilt. True chesed is when you know what someone else needs and you address those needs.

Rivkah was a true baalat chesed, the camels were not going to thank her, they were not going to write her next letter of recommendation and they were not going to give her a monetary prize. This did not matter to Rivkah. She saw what others needed and went beyond the call of duty to provide for them.

Perhaps we can extend this idea to Avraham's insistence on purchasing Maarat Hamachpeila and not simply receiving it as a gift. Receiving it as a gift would have been easy for Avraham but he understood there were others, in fact all the future children of Klal Yisrael, involved in this act. He saw that he needed to do something that would help others; even those not born yet. While it would be easy to simply receive the land as a gift, Avraham made the extra effort to do what would benefit others.

Many of us reading this deal with chesed situations every single day. Whether we live with a roommate, a parent or a spouse we have the opportunity to see what others need and to act upon it. Let us try to go beyond what we think chesed is and try to picture the needs and wants of others from their perspective.

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Elisheva Slovin (5771)
on her engagement to Ariel Sobin!
May they be zochim to build a bayit
ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Leba Rauch (5772, 5773)
on her engagement to Yoni Pollock!
May they be zochim to build a bayit
ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Greatness in a Humble Package Aden Teperman (5774)

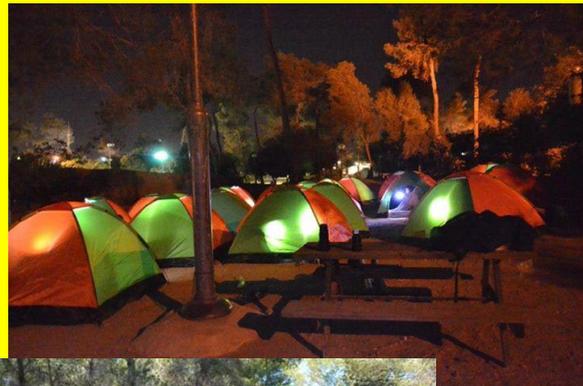
ויבא אברהם לספר לשרה ולבכתה - Avraham came to eulogize Sarah and cry.

The פסוק does not mention why Avraham performed a eulogy, or what he said - only that a eulogy was held. Rashi asks: what was the eulogy? He answers that Avraham spoke about how Sarah was consistently good every day, always constant in her greatness. She treated everyone she met with kavod regardless of their social stature.

The sefer טעם ודעת questions Abraham's eulogy. Because she had so many great qualities to her why did Avraham choose this specific topic to commemorate her memory?

He gives two answers. One, that it is common amongst people to change their ways and conform to social norms, but Sarah never felt the need to conform and always stayed true to what she believed. A second reason Abraham chose this form of commemoration was because some great people think highly of themselves, because of their vast knowledge and abundance of mitzvot. Sarah never thought of herself as better than others. She was the highest form of modesty.

There is certainly a lesson to be learned from Sarah in this week's parshah. Avraham remembering Sarah as a righteous woman with the utmost modesty is the highest form of praise that we should all strive to accomplish in life.



Upcoming Tiferet Alumnae Events

Shabbat, December 7th – Alumnae Shabbaton at Stern College with Rav Azriel Rosner

Thursday, January 9th – Sunday, January 12th – Alumnae Program and Shabbaton in Tiferet