



TIFERET HASHABBAT

This Week in Tiferet

On Monday, our students were privileged to attend Aish Hatorah's famous **Discovery program** in their World Center in the Old City of Yerushalayim. The program, focusing on strengthening our Emunah and Bitachon in G-d, was inspiring as well as enlightening.

Last week, our alumnae gathered in Stern College for our annual **Alumnae Shabbaton**. Rabbi Elie Mayer joined our former students, who enjoyed a Shabbat filled with Torah, Ruach and reconnecting with the very special Tiferet spirit!

תורת תפארת

Our Lasting Impression of אבינו אברהם Rabbi Simi Sherman Parashat Chayei Sarah

As we bid אברהם farewell, the Torah leaves us with one final episode; a final capstone event in the life of our patriarch. Interestingly, though, the event we are left with seems somewhat less glamorous than what we may have anticipated. The last recorded episode we are left with is the image of אברהם buying מערת המכפלה as a final resting place for שרה. This is the final image and our lasting memory of אברהם.

But why, asks Rabbi Yoseph Dov Soloveichick is this our last glimpse of אברהם? If we were to review אברהם's life in search of his greatest accomplishment, one would hardly have suspected that his purchase of a grave for his wife, שרה, would be at the top of the list. אברהם, against the tide of his own family and community, found Hashem and brought monotheism to the world. אברהם stood firm in his belief in Hashem as he was marched through the כבשן האש. Ultimately, and most recently, אברהם was even willing to bring his beloved son, יצחק, as a sacrifice to fulfill the command of Hashem. Couldn't the Torah have just ended the story of אברהם's life with the עקידה? Wouldn't his passing of this final and most difficult test have been a more fitting final scene for אברהם? And yet, it is the simple image of a real estate purchase that we are left with as our final memory.

Perhaps we may suggest that while אברהם's previous accomplishments demonstrated his ability to act with great strength - גבורה, ultimately אברהם as a person was the quintessential איש החסד. Yes, he performed acts of גבורה throughout his life. But, it was his חסד that defined him. Each of us has certain strengths and abilities that are particular to us and that define us as people. For אברהם it was his חסד. Hence, the final image we are left with is of אברהם performing an act in line with exactly who he was as a person. It is this act of pure חסד של אמת that truly captures who he was and the specific character trait that he passed on to each of us.

Moreover, it is fascinating to note for whom אברהם performed this final act of חסד. One may have suspected that if אברהם is primarily, and above all else, an איש החסד then his

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Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Melissa (Lowinger, 5767) and Ari Stock on the birth of a daughter, Leah Tova! May they be zochim to raise her l'Torah, l'chupa u'l'maasim tovim!

Mazal Tov to Rebecca Newman (5772) on her wedding to Zach Sohn! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Kayla Carmen (5768, 5769) on her wedding to Shlomo Rozen! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

The Life of Sarah Alexandra Lumerman (5775)

This week's parsha is dedicated to Sarah Imainu. We have four Imahot, three avot and a great leader like Moshe Rabeinu; none of them have a parsha dedicated to themselves. Why does Sarah have the merit to have a parsha named after her?

After Sarah dies at 127, it says in that she had a "good life." How could it possibly say that Sarah had a good life?! She had to leave her home, deal with a famine and suffer through years of infertility. She died of the pain and heartache when she thought Avraham was sacrificing her precious and only son! In our eyes, we wouldn't necessarily characterize this as a good life. Even so, in Sarah Imainu's eyes she believed that Hashem was behind everything and that it was all for the best. Sarah Imainu believed so strongly in Hashem that she was willing to look past the bad and straight at the good.

Sarah Imainu has a parasha named after her because her story teaches us an extremely important life lesson. We shouldn't just go through life looking at the negative. We should also look at the positive and look at all the beautiful blessing that Hashem gives us every single day. We should start with "Modeh Ani" because just the fact that we're waking up is a huge miracle in itself. Of course life has its struggles - some bigger than rest, but we should use those struggles and transform them into beauty. Make something positive come out of something so negative. Just like Sarah Imainu took her struggles and used them to build a relationship with Hashem. We too should use our struggles to connect to the Ribono shel Olam and make a difference..

תורת תפארת (המשך)

final performance of תּוֹן should have been something very public and something directed towards strangers and outsiders whom אברהם nevertheless embraced as his own kin. And yet, what we find is that אברהם's last great act of תּוֹן is performed for his dearest and closest companion, שרה. Indeed, תּוֹן towards those who are distant from us is vital to the true fulfillment of our mission as a nation, but at the same time, we cannot lose sight of the potential we each have to perform equally valuable acts of תּוֹן to those closest to us.