

## Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

## The Shabbos Lights

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

During this month we read in the Torah about the first marriage recorded in scriptures — that of Yitzchok and Rivkah. Abraham after the death of his wife Sarah sends his servant Eliezer to his birthplace to find there a wife fitting for his son. Through divine ways Eliezer ascertains that Rivkah is the destined bride, and brings her back to Yitzchok.

Recording their actual marriage, Scripture states: "Yitzchok brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother, and married her." Rashi, the commentator par excellence on Scripture, comments on the words "the tent of Sarah his mother" that: "He brought her into the tent and behold, she was Sarah his mother. That is to say, she became like his mother Sarah. For as long as Sarah lived there was a light burning (in the tent) from one

Shabbos eve to the next; there was always a blessing in the dough; and a cloud was hanging over the tent. Since her death, these had ceased, and when Rivkah came they returned."

We can learn a wonderful lesson from the above. Yitzchok married Rivkah only after he saw that her Shabbos lights burnt "from one Shabbos eve to the next", clearly indicating that Rivkah kindled Shabbos lights before her marriage. Moreover, Rashi is of the opinion that Rivkah was three years old when she married, an age when a Jew is not obligated in the observance of mitzvos. Nevertheless, she still fulfilled the Mitzvah of Shabbos lights.

Furthermore, even without Rivkah's lights there would still have been Shabbos lights in the house. Avraham kept the entire Torah, including the Rabbinic commandments; the

halacha requires that if the wife does not kindle Shabbos lights (for whatever reason), the man must do so. We must therefore conclude that after Sarah's passing, Avraham (and Yitzchok) kindled the Shabbos lights every Shabbos eve. Yet Rivkah, although only three years old then, did not content herself with Avraham's lighting and lit her own.

This is a clear directive that not only girls of Bas Mitzvah age should kindle Shabbos lights, but even younger girls, from three years of age (if they are capable of understanding its meaning), should be brought up and educated in the mitzvah of kindling the Shabbos lights. This applies also when the mother (or others) lights.

As noted above, Avraham himself kindled the Shabbos lights; yet they did not miraculously burn "from one Shabbos eve to the next." This shows the wonderful power in the mitzvah of kindling the Shabbos lights by Jewish daughters, even by a three year old. Every Jewish girl is called a daughter of Sarah, Rivkah, Rochel and Leah, and through her lighting, the whole house is illuminated the entire week.

The difference is that Sarah's and Rivkah's lights openly illuminated the house, for the actual light miraculously burned from one Shabbos eve to the next. But in reality, the same thing occurs with everyone who kindles the Shabbos lights. Although we cannot physically see it, every girl who is a daughter of Sarah, Rivkah, Rochel and Leah has the same power — that the illumination coming from the mitzvah of her Shabbos lighting influences the whole week.

## L'Chaim

By Nathaniel S. Greenwood,  
Federation Social  
Services Director

Jewish families and individuals of all ages and various types continue to have special needs even after such a calamity as a great fire.

Although our offices and their contents were totally destroyed, we were given an immediate offer for a temporary base at Temple Beth Shalom where we resided temporarily. Rabbi Seigel and his congregation have been extremely supportive of us, as has the greater community and we hope to respond by offering the community continued service of the highest caliber.

As we explore and assess the needs and interests of this community, our department has already begun to widen its

services.

We offer therapy and counseling, evaluation and referral for individuals, couples and families with a wide range of problems or diagnoses. Although we may deal with long term cases, we place an emphasis on defining issues and arranging for solving problems as well as possible within a small number of sessions agreed upon or contracted by the client and therapist. We also offer a range of consulting services to organizations and business as well as to families and individuals. And we maintain our work in conjunction with Senior Citizens and vocational/career development.

In upcoming issues, I look forward to highlighting aspects of our services and their place in the community.



The temporary home of Federation and Social Services courtesy of H & S Lumber at 506 W. Summit. The "for lease" sign will be replaced with a CJF sign.



Gazelles roam the hills of Israel in the north. (Credit: Gail Rubin)

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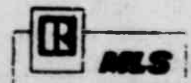
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