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Rabbi and Mrs.
Jonah and Blanche Gewirtz
of Silver Spring, MD
In honor of our children and
grandchildren who give us
much reason to be proud.

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A publication dedicated to Harbotzas Torah

Zmanim for שבת

Wesley Hills, NY

- 5:03 - הדלקת נרות
- 5:21 - שקיעה
- 8:58 - זק"ש מ"א
- 9:34 - זק"ש גר"א
- 10:36 - סוף זמן תפילה
- 5:23 - שקיעה
- 6:05 - צאת הכוכבים
- 6:35 - צאת 72

Times courtesy of MyZmanim.com

אגוטען שבת!

Did You Know?

The design of the Menorah is full of meaning and symbolism. Among the representations are:

7 branches of the menorah –

-7 continents of the world

-7 chachmos incorporated in Torah

-7 Heavenly bodies (Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury, Moon) that guide Earth

The Sun corresponds to the central branch of the Menorah, which is why it was created on the fourth day, with three days on either side of it.

The 22 cups of the menorah –

-22 letters of the ב' - א

-22 parts of the world (air, fire, water, 7 heavenly bodies, 12 signs of the zodiac)

-22 portions of a person (head, heart, kidneys, 7 orifices of the head, twelve limbs/organs)

In 1984, a study was done on the Harvard Business School graduating class of 1964. While all members of the class stated that at graduation they had had clear goals to accomplish in life, only 5% of them had taken the time to write them down. 95% of this group had achieved those goals 20 years later. Of the 95% who did not bother to write down their goals in 1964, only 5% had achieved their expected goals. An earlier study done by Yale University found that only 3% of the 1953 graduating class had written goals. Twenty years later, in 1973, this 3% of the Yale graduates had accomplished more than the other 97% combined.

Thought of the week:

If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.

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”וראה ועשה בתבניתם אשר אתה מראה בהר.”
(שמות כה:מ)

“See and make, according to their form that you are shown on the mountain.”

Why does the Torah say that Moshe should see the forms he is being shown and then make the vessels for the Mishkan when earlier, HaShem told him to make them (25:9) “Like all I shall show you, the forms of the Mishkan and the vessels”?

Perhaps that is Rashi's question as well, and why he explains that this posuk tells us that Moshe had difficulty in the construction of the Menorah until HaShem showed him the form of a Menorah made out of fire. The repetition is for the purpose of highlighting the difficulty.

The Ibn Ezra adds that this “seeing” refers to seeing with the heart, in other words, to using wisdom to discern how to make each vessel from a single block of gold. Again, that may be why it is repeated.

The Sifsei Chachomim asks that Rashi implies that after being shown the Menorah of fire, Moshe made it, while earlier, Rashi said that Moshe threw it into the fire and it formed itself. He answers that initially, because of the difficulty Moshe had in grasping how to make the Menorah, HaShem showed him one made out of fire. When that wasn't enough, Moshe cast the gold into the fire and the Menorah was formed by itself.

The wording of the posuk and Rashi is very specific and meaningful. Moshe had a difficulty in understanding how to make the Menorah. HaShem showed him one of fire. The intent here was that being able to visualize it would be the first step to actually creating it. As long as the Menorah was a jumble of flowers and cups in Moshe's mind, there was no way he could build it. He first had to envision the finished product and then work his way backwards from there.

Once he knew what he wanted to end up with, he would be able to solve the puzzles of how to perform each step in the process and he would then be able to make it. In this case, there were still challenges and questions, but because he did all he could, HaShem completed it for him.

R' Gifter z”l gave a moshol for goals. He said that there was a ladder for which the king had offered a prize to whoever could climb it. Many came and tried but as they climbed, they saw that the rungs got farther and farther apart and there was no way to reach the top. Most gave up but one fellow persisted. As he reach the highest rung, from which it was humanly impossible to move further, he felt a large magnet pulling the rung he was on upwards. He reached the top and received the reward.

We all have things to accomplish in life. Some goals are attainable; some may be just beyond our grasp. However, we must still try. The first step to that is to visualize in our minds what we wish to accomplish. Once we set a concrete goal, we have much more chance of realizing it. And, if our goals are righteous, Torah-oriented and spiritual, as symbolized by the Menorah, then if we make the effort, HaShem will bless us with success and complete the work for us. Best of all, we will get full credit for our accomplishments.

As a boy, “Max” was serious and dedicated to learning. He was a bright boy, but had one thing that would stand him in good stead more than anything else. He had clear goals.

Like many children these days, Max had photos of great Tzaddikim on his wall. The Vilna Gaon, the Chasam Sofer, and others. Then he had one more frame that was empty. In it were written the words, “Why not me?”

His goals were solid and so was his success. Today, it is his picture, the photo of R' Mordechai Gifter z”l, which hangs on the walls of other men and boys who wish to emulate him.