



Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle™, Inc

Newsletter

#11 Elul 5778, August 2018

ELUL

The King is in the Field

Elul, the month before Rosh Hashanah is a time where many are worrying about the holidays: What will they cook? How many guests should they have? How much honey is too much? It's easy to get lost in details and miss the opportunity Elul represents.

Elul is known as the month of return, mercy and forgiveness. After the mourning periods in Tammuz and Av, Elul is a time of connecting with Hashem, for reflection and teshuva (repentance).

Elul is noted by the Sages to be an acronym of a phrase in Song of



Songs: Ani ledodi vedodi li - I am to my Beloved and my Beloved is to me. This beautiful phrase evokes imagery of a kind of close relationship we all strive to have with our loved ones. How much more so when we realise that the 'I' is the Nation of Israel and the 'Beloved' is Hashem.

In Elul it is us (the 'I') who have a unique opportunity to take initiative and approach Hashem with our wants and needs.

The Alter Rebbe, wrote that the bond between Hashem and the Jewish

people is akin to a king and his subjects. He described Elul as a time that the King (Hashem) is in the field and by Yom Kippur, He is firmly ensconced in His Palace.

What does this mean for us? Imagine a mortal king, strolling through his fields. Whilst it is still up to his subjects to take that initial step, the king is accessible and approachable.

In contrast, by Yom Kippur the King (Hashem) is in His

palace, on His throne.

Approaching the King in all his Glory and Majesty at this

point is a formal process.

It is this distinction which illustrates the opportunity that Elul represents. Hashem is in the field, ready and waiting for us to approach. He is waiting for us to ask for what we need, to ask for acceptance of our teshuvah, and like so many before us, to pray for the coming of Moshiach.

Elul is our time to take that first step towards our Beloved, for He will surely reciprocate for one simple reason - we are His.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

by Elissa Blaser

Linking the Generations -through the power of story

What remains of a lifetime?
What was spent and what was saved?
What was left to pass onto the next generation?

These are lofty questions. When most is said and done, and we are relaxed in our easy chairs, secure in our older age, what will we have to say?

These are the lessons we are looking for in the Linking the Generations project as we ask women with experience and wisdom of a life well-lived "tell us your life story and the story of your family".

We will be garnering the wisdom of each woman.

For we have learned: "chochmat nashim banta beyta". the wisdom of the woman builds the life around her. It sustains the members of her family.

What is that wisdom?

What can we learn from it?

Reflections. Memories. Inspiration.

Linking the Generations gives us the opportunity to listen to reflections and memories and be inspired by the first-hand experiences of the ladies who can look back and tell us: "These were the circumstances that came to me, this is how I managed to live and mould the circumstances."

Elissa Blaser, co-founder, former board member and major sponsor of the RCWC, now serves as Honorary Member from her home in New York. She enjoys writing and has taken pen to paper about our new RCWC project. (see next page)

LINKING THE GENERATIONS

Through the power of story

The RCWC is going live with our seniors' project! Named Linking the Generations; through the power of story we gain much from the reflections, memories and inspiration of the senior ladies in our community. Passing down stories, wisdom and experiences between the generations is a concept as old as time, and the RCWC will record these events to create a lasting legacy for our community.

The RCWC has been fortunate to partner with a generous benefactor who shares our vision for this worthwhile endeavor. This partnership will enable the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle to

facilitate this project in order to strengthen the bonds within our community, bringing together young and old, whilst promoting Jewish values and customs.

Our plan is to connect the generations through seniors'



groups and aged care facilities, implementing exciting programs and events, which will spark the imagination of all.

If this project sounds like something you would like to get involved with, please contact us

within the next two weeks! We have the funding, and now is the time to put your hand up! Perhaps you and your daughter would like to get involved and have your mother/grandmother center stage at one of our events? We are looking for motivated women who want to make a difference and engage with the senior members of our community!

For more information and how to get involved, please do contact the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle by August 23 – contact details below.

THE SHIUR GROUP

Elul event

The Shiur Group has organised what is sure to be another wonderful event to celebrate Rosh Chodesh Elul on Sunday, 12 August.

The theme of the Elul event is "Lefum Tzara Agra" – According to the effort is the reward. How fitting, given that Elul is the time we prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We focus on the spiritual preparations and hope to inspire all attendees that through a bit of effort,

self-transformation is possible.

Raizel Fogel will be sharing her story for the evening. As the matriarch of a large family and balancing running a busy catering business, Raizel has much to share about life, love and business.

Raizel also has a passion for helping people especially in the medical sphere. She volunteers her services as a doula and also

gives new mums much needed respite in her home. I am looking forward to hearing how this busy lady manages her time, family, business and passion!

Each guest will receive a small jar of honey, a reminder of the sweet reward we will all merit these High Holidays.

The event will be on Sunday 12 August at 7.45pm – 9.30pm. Cover charge: \$5

Please contact Miriam Grossbaum through the RCWC with any enquiries.



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN

Renew your subscription now for early bird specials!

To all our wonderful and valued affiliates of the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle - we want to thank you for joining with us in providing opportunities to empower women and build connections in a nurturing and interactive environment in the last year.

To all our new friends and organisations considering an affiliation with the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle, now is the time to put those plans into action!

As we approach the New Year, joining or renewing your subscription with the RCWC for

the year 5779 is an even better proposition than before! We have a wonderful plan ahead for our affiliates for this new year with fresh ideas, generous gifts and grants, programs and activities. We have the revised Handbooks, Protocols and the Agreement Form and other new material available for your perusal. The video process will be easier to implement and liaising between the RCWC Inc and the affiliate has been fine-tuned.

It is an exciting time for all of us at the RCWC with the growth of our community and the launch

of our new project: 'Linking the Generations; through the power of story', aimed at our senior women for which we have received a generous grant for.

We do have an early bird special in line with our generous gifts and grants: Complete the subscription process in the second week of Elul, by Friday August 24th, and we will provide the photography for all your events for the year!

We hope to hear from you very soon. For more information please contact the RCWC.

DEDICATION

This newsletter is dedicated to a dear friend of the Editor for a *refuah shelaima*. A wonderful mother and friend, this lady is a true inspiration, an embodiment of living Torah Emes.

Find out more about dedicating a Newsletter to a loved one or for a special occasion, please visit:

www.rcwc.com.au/donate/



The Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle, a trademarked organisation empowering and nurturing women and creating lasting legacies, is sponsored in loving memory of Mr. Max Blaser by his family. It has been incorporated into the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission ACNC. This newsletter is for anyone associated with the RCWC in any capacity - whether you are a member of the Board, an Affiliate, a volunteer, a service provider OR you would like to join in any capacity.

Newsletter ~ compiled and edited by Rochel Ulanovsky

For all queries: Rebbetzin Sara Gutnick info@RCWC.com.au 0419 525 955

Please do not hesitate to contact us! If you prefer not to be on our mailing list please let us know. Copyright restrictions apply. Please ask permission to reproduce any part of this newsletter.