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Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle™, Inc

Newsletter

#8 Nissan 5777, April 2017

All of us at the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle would like to wish you a Pesach Kasher Ve'sameach!



ABOUT THE ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S CIRCLE (RCWC)

Through the power of story, shared with food, laughter, and love, each woman at the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle joins in the chain of our tradition and is inspired to realise her power in creating the future.

We achieve this by bringing together Jewish women on a monthly basis to hear the story of a fellow woman, participate in a meaningful activity, hear of D'var Torah and celebrate Rosh Chodesh together in a community.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Sunday November 13th the RCWC held its third Annual General Meeting.

In the president's report, Rebbetzin Sara Gutnick started by thanking everyone for their support and their work on the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle in the past three years and especially for their help over the past year. Board members and other honorary position holders, Dvar Torah writers and other volunteers received special mention. Since it is the third year, she shared that the number 3 in Judaism creates a chazakah- of being established with permanence and hopes that this will be the case for the Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle.

She also shared some of our accomplishments over the past year which included: finalising the marketing brochure, hosting a pre-wedding, updating the handbook and protocols, welcoming a new affiliate- The Shiur Group, and providing grants and programs for the affiliate groups.

Finally, she shared some plans for the upcoming year. Some of the things the RCWC hopes to accomplish are: finalising the graphics and the website, engaging new board members and volunteers, and expanding the number of affiliate groups both within Australia and overseas.

If you would like to join us to help us build and grow the organisation, we have a number of opportunities available. We would love to hear from you!

UPDATE ON OUR NEWEST AFFILIATE- THE SHIUR GROUP

We are very excited to officially welcome our newest affiliate, The Shiur Group, to The Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle community! With Miriam Grossbaum and Naomi Rafael in charge, they are already doing great work.

They have hosted events for Av, Elul, Cheshvan, and Shvat. A highlight of their program was their Cheshvan event where Lady Anna Cowan spoke and the participants were invited to wear hats to celebrate "Chag Hasusim" (Cup Day)! Their next event will be for Iyar on April 26th featuring Adina Bankier-Karp.

EXCITING NEWS- WE'RE MOVING TO THE NORTHEAST

We are excited to share that The North Eastern Jewish Centre (Doncaster Shul) will be hosting an event for Iyar, their first Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle event! Contact us if you would like more information about it.

IYAR: THE NEXT ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S CIRCLE EVENTS

There has been a great interest from our affiliates to run events for the month of Iyar. Since Iyar is the month of Pesach Sheini, we are using the theme of "second chances" to help get new affiliates on board.

We are giving our affiliates a "second chance" to sign up for our organisation and receive our generous offer of the fourth event free.

Other benefits of signing up include financial assistance for making your video each month as well as helping and supporting you to ensure your continued and ongoing success.

FROM OUR HANDBOOK

Women's Wisdom - By Elissa Blaser

G-d has bestowed extra gifts on women: an uncanny "woman's intuition", an extra measure of compassion, and an innate desire for modesty.

This spiritual nature builds the other people around into stronger people.

An early example of this was in our experience, as a people, during the crisis of the golden calf in the desert. The men, perceiving a desperate situation, collapsed into a previous weakened state. The women, understanding the temporary nature of the crisis and holding hope for a real future, did not fall alongside. The women held back and did not participate. The crisis passed.

The wisdom of women was enhanced as a result.

We see this paradigm of life played out over and over again in subsequent generations. "The wisdom of women builds the home". Women navigate every day through choppy waters. Delicate, invisible, steadfast work builds families, communities, and institutions.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle tries to show this to women.

What we are saying is - "look around, listen to other women's life tales, and be amazed! The stories will teach, will show lives well lived, tremendous accomplishment, generations born and gone, values transmitted through decades and centuries of time.

It's us. It's the women who are driving forces.

We guide our own lives as well as the lives of those around us. We build ourselves and others, day by day, year by year, until, at the end of life women can see so much that has been built around them.

We need to celebrate each other.

We need to hear about the life journey with its dramatic challenges and its triumphs. We need to understand that women play a major part. Like the wind and rain and sun, women provide the essential elements that allow the world to grow.

How is this done?

By doing the small things every day, over and over again. By understanding and applying grace to the ordinary tasks of living. By knowing that the day is long and full of demand, and that the years fly by. Each day is important. Each day is worthy of a full heart and a dedicated mind. The days add up.

Another "world" is created.

Let us tell each other, let us laugh and cry together. Let us remind each other how events spin around our circle. Let us congratulate the women who can sit back and remember. Let us help each other go on.

Come join us.

STAY TUNED

After Pesach you will be receiving an invitation to join our organisation as a member or an affiliate member.... Stay tuned for more information!

TODAH RABBAH- THANK YOU

There are many areas within the RCWC that would benefit from voluntary assistance whether it is related to graphics, website, editing, creative or grant writing, messages for each month or administration or videos. There is something for everyone.

We would like to thank our Dvar Torah writers for the following months: Kislev – Miriam Abenaim with Shoshana Henenberg assisting with the programming; Adar - Yael Ryan; Nissan - Mina Gordon; Av - Aliza Brown.

A ROSH CHODESH THOUGHT: THE FIRST OF FIRSTS

As we know, Rosh Chodesh marks the beginning of the months. Nissan, the month which we are beginning is the “First Rosh Chodesh” and the one in which we received this special commandment.

On the first of Nissan, two weeks before the Exodus from Egypt, Hashem showed Moshe the new moon and taught him how to set the Jewish calendar. Speaking about Nissan, *Shmot* 12:2 states, “This month shall be for your the head of months, the first of the months of the year.”

The question from this is- Why Nissan? Why was it chosen to be the “first” month of the year according to the Torah?

Nissan is the first month because it is the month that Hashem took us out of Egypt. When we count the months, we need to remember the miracles of being taken out of Egypt.

While asking us to think back to the miracle of being taken out of Egypt, it also gives us the opportunity to think about the other miracles taking place in our lives. From small things like the ability to eat, walk, and talk to the greater miracles like the ability to have children and build community, there is always something to be thankful for.

Chodesh Tov! Have a great month!

DEDICATION

We continue to dedicate this newsletter to Chaya New for an ongoing Refuah Sheleima.

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 # 8 ~ compiled by Elise Loterman

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