**Parshas Vayeira – ויפקח ה' את עיניה**

**Hindsight Is 20/20 Vision**

Having lost all hope of finding water in the barren desert,הגרleft Yishmael to die of thirst. It was then that Hashem opened her eyes, ותרא באר מים, and she saw the well of water. This was not a well that was created in response to Yishmael’s dire straits. The well was always there. Yet, הגרwas unable to see it, till the Eibishter opened her eyes to see it. Hence the סגולהfor locating lost or misplaced belongings – אמר ר' בנימין הכל בחזקת סומין עד שהקב"ה מאיר את עיניהם, all people are assumed to be blind, till Hashem lights up their eyes, like Hashem did for הגר. It isn’t that the item is gone. We just can’t find it until the Eibishter directs us to see it or find it in its current location.

The Mayan HaShavua tells the story of R’ Michel Feinstein zt”l, who had a daughter that suffered from asthma, ר"ל.She always had a nebulizer handy, to help her with her frequently severe attacks. There were always several nebulizers around, so there wouldn’t be any delay in getting her the relief she needed. One time, she had a particularly severe attack and there was no machine to be found. No matter where anyone looked, they just could not find a machine in time. Unfortunately, she could no longer breathe adequately and she passed away, לא עלינו.

R’ Yaakov Galinsky zt”l, heard from the Aveilim during the Shiva, that strangely enough, after it was too late, they found three nebulizers right next to her bed. How could they have been missed? If only someone would have noticed them, her life may have been saved. They were blinded. Hashem didn’t open their eyes to see, like he did for הגר. RavGalinsky related that he once heard from the LomzaMashgiach that it seems contradictory. On the one hand, we are מאמין באמונה שלימה שהבורא יתברך שמו עשה ועושה ויעשה לכל המעשים. If it happened or is going to happen, it’s only because the Ribono shel Olam makes it happen. Yet, we live our lives with the understanding that if we want something to go right, we have to make our own השתדלות, our own effort to direct our fate.

In truth, explained the Mashgiach, you can only have what is destined for you. Nobody can attain or achieve or acquire more than what the Eibishter means for him to have. Nor can anyone take away from someone anything that was meant for him. השתדלות and Tefilah will lead you to the future that is in your hands to achieve. It’s the Eibishter’s decree that our pre-determined חלקwill come to us, if we make the effort to get it. However, when it comes to reflecting on the past, all we know is שהבורא יתברך שמו עשה ועושה ויעשה לכל המעשים – if it happened, it’s because the Eibishter wanted it to happen exactly that way. There is no room to consider that perhaps things could have been different. The Eibishter makes all the decisions. For what lays ahead, we hope for the best. For the past, we are מאמיןthat the Eibishter did for the best.

May Hashem open our eyes to see his ברכהand ישועה, with Chesed and Rachamim.

Have a wonderful Shabbos, yk

L’RavchaD’Milsa Weekly Almanac

Thursday, Parshas Vayeira -16 MarCheshvan

**KristalNacht** (1938). 1,547 Synagogues were burned; more than 10,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed. 1,300 Yidden were murdered. 20,000 were interred in concentration camps.

**Rav Elazar Menachem Mann Shach** (1894?-2001). Born in Vaboilnick, Lithuania, and left for Ponevezh (38km away) at age 7. Learned at Slabodka under RavYechezkel Bernstein (DivreiYechezkel), then under the Alter (RavNossonTzviFinkel, and developed a close relationship with RavIsserZalman Meltzer, whose niece RavShach eventually married. In 1927, he served as Rosh Mesivta at Kletzk under RavAharon Kotler, holding the same position at Novardok from 1932-34. In 1951, he started his career as Rosh Yeshiva at Ponevezh under Rav Yosef Kahanemen.

**R’ Shlomo Carlebach** (1925-1994), the foremost Jewish songwriter in the 2nd half of the 20th century, who used his music to inspire Jews around the world. Over his 69 years, he lived in Manhattan, San Francisco, Toronto and MoshavOrModiin, Israel. In a recording career that stretched over 30 years, Reb Shlomo sang his songs on more than 25 albums. Shlomo Carlebach was born in Berlin, where his father, Naftali, was an Orthodox leader. The family, which fled the Nazis in 1933, lived in Switzerland before coming to New York in 1939. His father became the rabbi of a small synagogue on West 79th Street, Congregation Kehlilath Jacob; Shlomo Carlebach and his twin brother, Eli Chaim, took over the synagogue after their father's death in 1967. He studied at the Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in Brooklyn and at the BaisMedrashGavoah in Lakewood, N.J. From 1951 to 1954, he worked as a traveling emissary of the Grand Rabbi of Lubavitch, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. His singing career began in Greenwich Village, where he met Bob Dylan and other folk singers, and moved to Berkeley for the 1966 Folk Festival. After his appearance, he decided to remain in the Bay Area to reach out to what he called "lost Jewish souls," runaways and drug addicted youth.

Erev Shabbos Kodesh Parshas Vayeira- 17 MarCheshvan

The 40 day rain of the Mabul Began. (1657)

Shabbos Kodesh Parshas Vayeira- 18 Cheshvan

**RavYishayahBardaky** (1862). R' Bardaky was born in Pinsk and taught Torah there, but he decided to settle in EretzYisrael after his first wife died. When the ship carrying R' Bardaky, his son, Shmuel Akiva, and his daughter, neared the port of Akko, it was wrecked, and all the passengers were thrown into the sea. R' Bardaky, however, was a powerful swimmer, and, with his two children on his back, he swam ashore. Upon reaching Yerushalayim, R' Bardaky was appointed head of the Ashkenazic community. He also was appointed vice-consul of the Austrian Empire.

**RavNachumPertzovitz** (Partzovitz), Rosh Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim (1986). At the age of 9, he attended Ramailles Yeshiva in Vilna, and became close to its rosh yeshiva, Rav Shlomo Heiman.

**Rav Meir Kahane** (1932-1990), assassinated November 5, 1990 on a visit to New York City. Born in Brooklyn, NY, to Rabbi Charles Kahane, who was involved in the Revisionist Zionist movement, and was a close friend of Zev (Vladimir) Jabotinsky. Meir was active in Betar, the militant revisionist youth movement. Kahane received a degree in International Law from New York University, and ordination from the Mir Yeshiva in Brooklyn. He edited the Jewish Press, and served as a pulpit rabbi and teacher in New York until the mid-1960s. His life's work, however, started in 1968, when he founded the Jewish Defense League (JDL), setting out to change the image of the Jew from "weak and vulnerable" to one of a "mighty fighter, who strikes back fiercely against tyrants." Kahane and his family moved to Israel in 1971, where he founded the militantly anti-Arab Kach party. His son, Binyamin Zev Kahane was murdered by Arab extremists in 2001, as he traveled with his family in the West Bank.