Motzei Shabbat VaYechi 5752 – 45th Wedding Anniversary Sugar

This week's parsha deals in large measure with Yaacov's blessing of his sons before his leaving this world for the world of truth. But the parsha actually starts off with Yaacov blessing his grandsons, Efraim and Menashe. Yaacov places his hands on their heads and blesses them in the words familiar to us from bedtime K'riyat Sh'ma: המלאך הגואל אותי – May the angel protect me, and concludes with the blessing, short and to the point and which has been used for generations throughout Jewish history:

ישימך אלקים כאפרים וכמנשה May G-d make you as Efraim and Menashe.

But the verse says: "And He blessed Yosef". How so? It is Yosef's **sons** that are actually receiving the blessing. The Zohar tells us that the blessing of the sons is in fact a blessing for Yosef, for there is no one more blessed than one who has sons such as these.

Several years ago, when one of the every-so-often debates on "Who is a Jew" was taking place, as usual the arguments swirled around the mother. Is she or isn't she? Barbara, in her infinite wisdom, proudly announced – why look at the mother? Look at the grandchildren! If the grandchildren are learning Torah, then the parents and the grandparents are Jewish, and did/are continuing to do one good job at raising a Jewish family. Or, as the Zohar says, when you see grandchildren behaving like this, it is the parents and the grandparents who are blessed.

This is further emphasized in the Kedusha d'sidra (U'va l'Zion)

> רוחי אשר עליך ודברי אשר שמתי בפיך לא ימושו מפיך ומפי זרעך ומפי זרע זרעך אמר ה' מעתה ועד עולם

"My spirit that is upon you and my words that I have place in your mouth, shall not be withdrawn from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring, said G-d, from this moment and forever."

Much can be said about parents – this is not the place. But, in our minds, we owe and incalculable debt to our parents and all previous generations who did not break rank, who kept the faith – in all senses of the work – and through their foresight and steadfastness made this evening's celebration possible.

The coming together of 3 generations – the living together – has been very beneficial to all concerned.

You – Mommy and Daddy/Savta and Sabba – have been an inspiration for all of us. To the same degree that we and our children are a blessing for you, you are a source of blessing for us.

יברככם ה' וישמרכם May Hashem bless you and keep you

We are already planning your 50th celebration!

Since the grandchildren are a direct result of the grandparents, we would like to ask Yosef to give a Dvar Torah.