



Leiah Moser

In her own labors these past six years, there are many people without whom Leiah would never have reached this milestone. In particular, she would like to thank her parents, Kevin and Noreen Moser, for their unwavering love and support through her many changes; her partner Ross Mattio for being Leiah's own personal *Rashi* on the convoluted *daf* of this tractate called life, and his kids, Yemaya, Emma, Sebastian and Eleanor, for so warmly accepting Leiah into their lives and for all the many things they have taught her. She wishes also to thank all her teachers and mentors at RRC, and the members of all the amazing Jewish communities which she has been privileged to serve.



Tradition teaches that when Rabbi Elazar ben Arach began to interpret the Work of the Chariot before his master Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakai, fire came down from heaven and encircled them and all the trees of the field, who opened up their mouths and began to sing God's praises. An angelic voice answered out of the fire, saying, These indeed are the Work of the Chariot! (B. Hagigah).

Lest we forget, at the time when this occurred, God's holy sanctuary had within living memory been razed to the ground, and the Jewish people were scattered and dispersed. Yet in the Torah taught by Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakai's students, there was such power to set the heart on fire and bring God's light into this world!

This, too, is the challenge of our generation: Amid the trouble and affliction of these difficult times, it is to us to make of our Torah a thread with which to mend a torn and tattered world. May our words be fire, our eyes fill with light, and our hearts open to join with every human being and every living thing engaged in the labor of fostering the holiness of God's creation.