

WOMEN'S WEALTH

Ortal (Shklaz) Sharp
KDHSVP 1999
Chartered Accountant



What work do you do and why did you choose this field?

I have always enjoyed working with numbers and problem solving which, after school, drove my decision to study to be an accountant. I am a Chartered Accountant specialising in corporate finance. I advise companies on acquisitions, disposals, balance sheet restructuring and capital raising. In this role I am constantly learning and find overcoming new challenges very rewarding.

Are women more emotional about money? Is this a bad thing?

I think it is important to view money and its uses in a healthy manner. It is there to cover our basic needs being food, clothes, shelter, and it is there to be enjoyed. I believe the items we spend money on are enjoyed even more when money is appreciated. Both women and men require the same foundation when it comes to money, being hard work, discipline, and ability to budget. Both sexes are equally capable. I view the emotional element of money as wanting to

donate money in the form of tzedakah or any other form of giving. At the end of the day, giving is what makes us all better human beings. I am happy for women to be deemed as more emotional if this is the interpretation - which is definitely not a bad thing.

What is something that women can do today to make wise financial decisions?

Save! There are various ways to save including putting money aside at the end of every month, taking advantage of sales and benefiting from loyalty programmes. Specific actions we can all do, where possible, are as follows;

- Don't accept the first quote, always obtain a 2nd/3rd quote
- Avoid going food shopping more than twice, and if possible, once a week. I find the more I walk into the shops the more I end up spending
- Try buy clothes for your kids during sale season for future years
- Make a real effort to understand banks' and retailers' loyalty programmes. There is money to be saved by simply swiping the correct card at retailers

What Jewish woman (past or present) inspires you and why?

There is no question that my Ima and Safta have inspired me to be the woman I am today and the woman I hope my daughter will become. My Safta is a holocaust survivor who recovered from that period in her life to inspire my Ima. My Ima arrived in South Africa from Israel speaking very little English but never let that stop her from inspiring me and my siblings to be the best version of ourselves. I am the woman I am today because of her calm and inspiring self.

They both truly embody Dr Edith Eger's view that there are no crises, just opportunities. Our lives are not so much about our accomplishments, but the way we perceive and handle that which happens to us.

[RETURN TO NEWSLETTER](#)