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STATEN ISLAND HATZOLAH FAMILY FUN DAY

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הדלקת נרות
כ" אלול 20 ELUL
Parashat Ki Tavo

6:31 P.M. FIVE TOWNS
6:33 P.M. STATEN ISLAND
6:32 P.M. BROOKLYN
6:32 P.M. TEANECK, NJ
6:57 P.M. MIAMI BEACH, FLA.
5:54 P.M. JERUSALEM



PM BENJAMIN NETANYAHU MEETING PRESIDENT OBAMA AT THE UN SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

NEW YORK BOMBING SUSPECT SAID HE RECEIVED DIRECTIONS FROM 'TERRORIST LEADERS TO ATTACK NON-BELIEVERS'

Ahmad Khan Rahami, the NY bombing suspect said that he had obtained directives from "terrorist leaders... to attack non-believers where they live".

The bomber's journal divulged that he blamed the US of slaughtering Islamist fighters in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and the Palestinian territories. The file ends with: "The sounds of the bombs will be heard in the streets. Gun shots to your police. Death To Your OPPRESSION."

Rahami was on Tuesday night arraigned by federal prosecutors with four counts, including the use of weapons of mass destruction and bombing a public place.

His wife, Asia Bibi Rahami, left the US shortly before Saturday's attacks and was stopped in the United Arab Emirates, it was reported. She is cooperating with investigators, a US official told CNN, and has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

The number of wounded in Saturday night's bomb attack in Manhattan was revised up from 29 to 31 and included a Briton. A second bomb nearby did not detonate and there were two further unsuccessful attempted bombings in New Jersey on Saturday and Sunday.

Officials said they believed Rahami had bought ingredients for the bombs on eBay.

According to the court complaint,

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Does the U.S.-Israel military aid deal put to rest years of strained relations under Obama?

SEAN SAVAGE

The United States and Israel made history on Thursday signing the largest ever military assistance package between the two allies. The agreement was hailed by many as a means to ensure the Jewish state will securely meet the challenges of a dangerous and unstable Middle East over the next decade.

However, after years of seemingly strained relations between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President

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My Early Experiences in Israel

RICHARD H. SCHWARTZ, PH.D.

After writing, in my first article, about why my wife Loretta and I made aliyah and, in my second one, how we overcame difficulties to do so, this article will focus on some of my experiences in the first six weeks of my aliyah.

One of the highlights was attending the wedding of Yeira Jayson, granddaughter of Arlene and Joel Goldberg at kibbutz Ramat Rachel on September 12. The event was out of doors in a large, spectacular setting. Davening minchah before the wedding ceremony amid such beautiful

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Oldest Man Alive to Celebrate his Bar Mitzvah

Yisrael Kristal is turning 113 years old.

Mazel tov!

DR. YVETTE ALT MILLER

Most boys celebrate their bar mitzvah when they turn 13. Yisrael Kristal, the world's oldest man, plans to celebrate the day he became a bar mitzvah a century late, when he turns 113. Over

CONT. ON P43

Zika Spraying Enriches Chemical Companies While Endangering Public Health

DR. JOSEPH MERCOLA

As you may recall, the Zika virus made big headlines back in January and February when the Brazilian government blamed Zika-carrying mosquitoes for an uptick in reports of microcephaly, a condition in which



CONT. ON P8

THIS TUESDAY!

מעמד תפילה אדיד בראדין ויום לימוד ותפילה עולמי

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This Tuesday, 24 Elul / September 27, 7am - 2pm

Photos from the 2015 International Yom Limud & Tefilla



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This coming Tuesday, 24 Elul, Sept. 27th, will mark the yartzheit of the Chofetz Chaim. On this special day, join with thousands of daily Daf HaYomi B'Halacha participants, by learning the daily Mishnah Berurah and Mussar limud.

Hundreds of Yeshivos, Kollelim, Bais Yaakovs, Seminaries and companies around the world have committed to join and participate in the "International Yom Limud and Tefillah" on 24 Elul, Sept. 27th. This will coincide with a special unity mission to the Chofetz Chaim's Kever in Radin led by a delegation of prominent Chassidish, Litvish and Sefardic Gedolim and Rabbanim.

Join with Yidden from across the globe who will beseech Hakadosh Baruch Hu to spare us from any hardships, and bentsh Klal Yisrael with a שנת גאולה וישועה.

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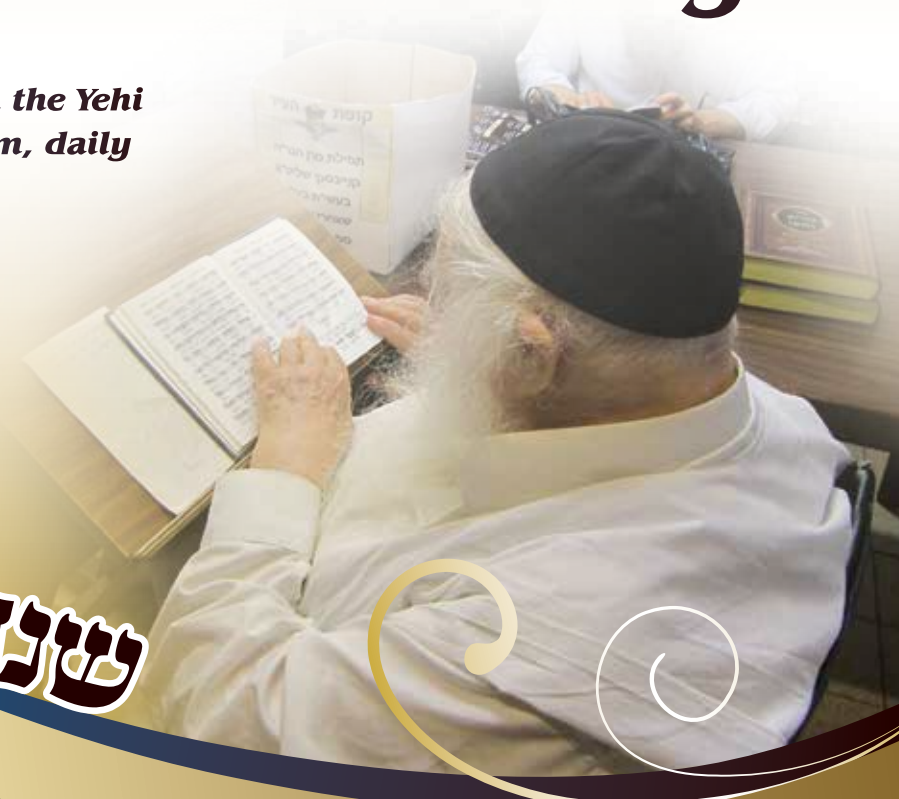
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A REASON

ALAN MAGILL

Wanting to improve ourselves is a topic on our minds in Elul. We want to stop bad behaviors and develop more good ones. Knowing that Hashem is close to us now, we have a great incentive to benefit from His desire that we return to Him. But even with everything pointing in the direction of doing Tschuva many of us know hard it is, though not impossible, to make changes that last. So if we have a hard time changing ourselves, why do we think that it would somehow be easier to change other people?

Like pomegranates filled with seeds, people are filled with ideas of WHAT OTHERS NEED TO DO to make their lives better. And in a significant amount of cases they might be absolutely right. But in general, people don't like to be told about their shortcomings. And they certainly don't want to be told what to do. When I was around 20 a friend of mine and I were going on a vacation. Right before we left he had

a big argument with his mother. Trying to change the mood, as he walked out the door, she said, "Have a good time." He replied, "Don't tell me what to do!"

A good way to help others is to look at the ways we are best able to help ourselves. People, for instance, may be walking around with a general idea that they need to lose weight but they're not willing to make a concerted effort. Until they have a REASON to. Their doctor has told them their blood pressure is skyrocketing... they're beginning to date and they want to feel better about their appearance...their job calls for more physical exertion and it's hard to with all those added pounds. With a strong understanding of the benefit of affecting a change there is a better chance of doing it.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander. If you need a good reason to change a behavior, then why wouldn't other people need a good reason to change behaviors that you deem

are unhealthy for them (and they make think it is unhealthy for them as well). Let's say you're concerned about a family member of a certain age who lives alone and doesn't want to go out. In fact, they sometimes don't get out of bed until noon. You could encourage them, cajole them, or get angry with them about why they're shutting themselves off from the world. But this could only make matters worse. What if that person is depressed, feels fatigued or just doesn't want to be involved with the world. Your well-meaning words could sound like criticism to them.

However, if you could find a REASON that they can relate to on why getting out of bed earlier and doing something constructive with their lives would be beneficial to them, then there's a better chance they'll act on it. Let's say this shut off person loves classical music. They love Beethoven. You hear about a movie about Beethoven and his work that is being shown in a local library. Tell the person about it. Don't demand they go. Say you would love to go with them. Maybe now you'll see some movement. If not, you

could buy a Beethoven album and bring it over to listen with them.

Once, in a senior home, a woman, who had just gotten back from the hospital and was in a sad mood state, was taken out of bed, put in a wheelchair and taken to the lobby for some social stimulation. I'll call her Leah. She looked so tired. When people talked with her she gave short answers with closed eyes. A supervisor walked by and said, in a demanding tone, "Leah, open your eyes." Her eyes remained closed. The recreation director seeing this thought this harsh tone was the wrong approach. Rather than to tell her to open her eyes, give her a reason to open her eyes. He has had success with saying to her, something like, "Leah, do you want to see a picture from the newspaper when you marched in our Israeli parade." Those eyes opened right away. "Sure," she said, and she focused on the article.

Another "encourager" that I think doesn't work well is to say to a person with a serious expression on their face, "Smile!" It's like you're taking them to task for not being more jovial. Rather

CONT.ON P15

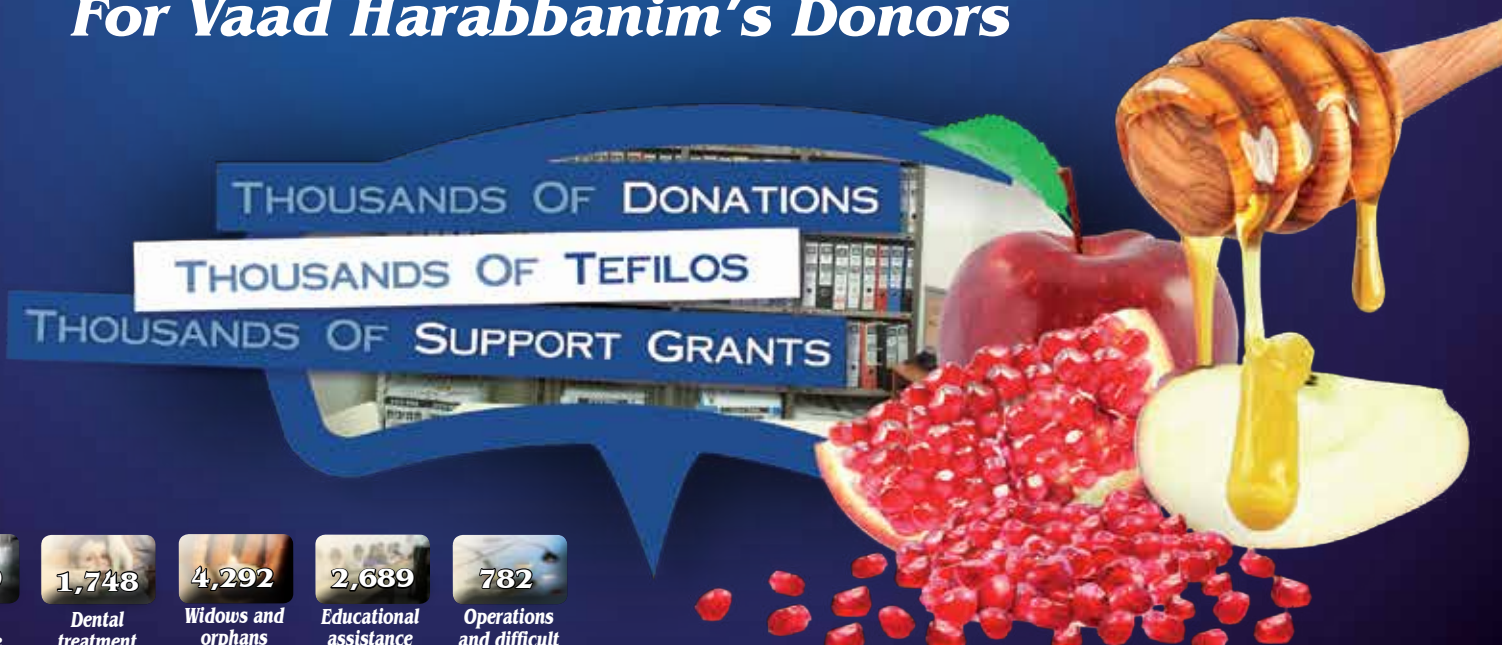


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Worldwide Yom Limud and Tefillah on Yahrtzeit of the Chofetz Chaim

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CHAIM GOLD

The yahrtzeit of the Chofetz Chaim is a special eis ratzon, a remarkably opportune time to invoke rachamei shomayim. This year, on Tuesday, 24 Elul/September 27, Klal Yisroel will utilize this eis ratzon by engaging in an International Yom Limud and Tefillah. Jews from all over the world will recite specific chapters of Tehillim and learn segments from the two seminal seforim written by the Chofetz Chaim, the Mishnah Berurah and the Sefer Chofetz Chaim.

The Yom Limud and Tefillah, being held under the auspices of Dirshu and its kiruv arm, Acheinu, is designed to reach out with a message of achdus to all Jews from across the spectrum and at all levels of observance, promoting Torah learning and

tefillah. There is so much strife in the world, so much polarization and heated rhetoric. Combining sur meirah with aseh tov the Yom Limud and Tefillah has been designated as a day when all Jews are urged to make a special effort to avoid discord, lashon hara as well as any form of gossip and learn the seforim of the Chofetz Chaim.

The Optimum Hakaras Hatov: Perpetuating the Legacy

Indeed, Yidden the world over owe a profound sense of hakaras hatov to the Chofetz Chaim for bestowing two gifts, the Mishnah Berurah and the Sefer Chofetz Chaim, upon us. Last year, Hagaon HaRav Shlomo Kanievsky, shlita, Rosh Yeshivas Kiryas Melech and a son of HaGaon HaRav Chaim Kanievsky, shlita,

addressed this issue in the aftermath of the visit to Radin, by a large group of Gedolei Yisroel. From Radin the delegation went



Kriyas HaTorah in the former building of the Chofetz Chaim's Yeshiva during a previous visit to Radin

to the Volozhiner yeshiva. In front of the Volozhiner yeshiva, Rav Kanievsky said, "The feeling that we must have as we approach the holy kever of Rav Chaim Volozhiner is an overwhelming one

of hakaras hatov. The greatest way to express that hakaras hatov is to continue his legacy by perpetuating the derech of the yeshivos begun with Volozhin, educating our bachurim in that derech and supporting the yeshivos hakedoshos." We can extrapolate from Rav Kanievsky's message that the optimum expression of our hakaras hatov to the Chofetz Chaim for gifting Klal Yisrael with his seforim - such integral parts of our lives - would be to follow in his ways, learn his Mishnah

Berurah and become familiar with the laws of lashon hara and permitted speech and be constantly cognizant of what comes out of our mouths. This is truly the essence of the Yom Limud and Tefillah, a

day to bring the Chofetz Chaim's Torah, tefillah and message of Ahavas Yisroel and achdus to us all.

CONT.ON P19

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SAVAGE CONT. FROM P1

Barack Obama, does the deal sweep aside this history as Obama's term in office comes to an end?

"I think it is a message of deterrence to Israel's enemies in the Middle East," David Makovsky, a former U.S. senior advisor on Israeli-Palestinian negotiations told JNS.org. "Whatever U.S.-Israel policies differences there have been over the past several years, there now is a rock solid long term commitment to Israel's security. There's no adversary in the Middle East that has a commitment in advance of \$38 billion dollars in support."

The new ten-year security deal, known as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which covers fiscal year 2019 to 2028, stands at \$38 billion or \$3.8 billion per year. The deal surpasses the current \$30 billion MOU signed in 2007 under former President George W. Bush that expires in September 2018.

According to the White House, the agreement "will permit Israel to update the lion's share of its fighter aircraft fleet - including through the acquisition of additional F-35s - increase its missile defense, and

acquire other defense capabilities needed to meet its threat environment."

Calling the agreement "historic," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it allows Israel to continue to maintain its military edge.

"This unprecedented agreement will ensure Israel maintains a strategic military edge over the next decade, which is the largest military aid package ever given to any other nation," he said.

Netanyahu added the "agreement will help Israel continue to build its armed forces and continue to improve our anti-missile defense systems...which of course are a very important achievement for Israel."

Hailed as a victory

The agreement was also widely praised by leading American Jewish organizations.

Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Malcolm Hoenlein said the agreement "sends an important message to the entire region of the Middle

East of the enduring strength of the U.S.- Israel special relation-

CONT.ON P18

SCHWARTZ
CONT. FROM P1

scenery was really special.

This was the first wedding in Israel that Loretta and I attended after our daughter Devorah married Ariel over 20 years ago in Jerusalem, and we hope it will be the first of many smachot (Jewish celebrations) that we attend.

There were many friends of the couple there and they made the event super lively, with tireless non-stop dancing. One of my grandsons was there as a friend of the groom and when I gave him a hug near the end of the wedding I found his shirt soaking wet from all his dancing. During the ceremony the band played brief bursts of stirring music inspiring the young people to jump up and down enthusiastically. One difference in the ceremony was that the groom broke the glass as a remembrance of the destruction of Jerusalem before sheva brachot, rather than at the end of the ceremony, as occurs in the U.S. I was told that this was to avoid the shouting out of mazal tov after commemorating such a sad event.

The bride was beautiful, the groom was handsome, and they

made a nice couple. The ruach (spirit) was amazing, and a good time was had by all. One slight complaint is that, as is true at all too many simchas, the music was very loud.

Loretta and I look forward to the forthcoming marriage of Alex Reich on September 18, after the deadline for this article. Since there will be many former Staten Islanders at that simcha, I plan to interview them and report on how they are doing in my next article.

Since I am a big fan of Carlebach tunes, another highlight was an incredible Carlebach kabbalat Shabbat minyan in Beit Shemesh, a "unity" event that brings people from various synagogues together, with some Hasidism attending along with many modern-Orthodox Jews. Many young people attend and the enthusiastic singing and dancing is beyond anything I have ever seen at a synagogue service. In general I have found the davening on Shabbats and holidays far more inspiring than in the United States.

Another special event was attending a simchat bat, a welcoming ceremony for twin great granddaughters of Albie and

Sheila Zachter. It was wonderful seeing them at the event. Before returning to the U.S., we had the pleasure of showing Albie and Sheila, along with their daughter Shari, our apartment and setting at our Protea Hills "retirement village in nature," when they came to visit us before joining other family members for a dinner at a nearby restaurant.

We also had the pleasure of sharing a lunch at the Protea Hills dining room with Alice and Rabbi Norman Novick. We really enjoyed a great visit with them. Aviva and Menachum Futter attended a talk I gave about vegetarianism/veganism at Protea. Loretta and I were delighted to learn that they are moving here in a few weeks. Shachar and Miriam Loshinsky came by, too. We've met so many people here at Protea B'Har (Protea Hills) and being the 'small world' that it is, it's amazing how many mutual friends and relatives we have in common.

We have been learning of additional benefits at Protea Hills. Every night there is an interesting event, such as a talk, concert, dancing, singing performance, or a movie. One evening we were

taken to Little Israel. The park was closed to everyone except for Protea residents and staff and their families (we were encouraged to invite our children, grandchildren, etc.) Loretta & I had been there several years ago during the daytime. This was a whole different experience. We saw a play and Protea provided free refreshments. Seeing the exhibits at night was also special.

The swimming pool, whirlpool and sauna are great. I've been taking advantage of them about four or five times a week. Loretta goes to aerobic exercise class four or five times a week. In the midst of all the adjusting of living in a new country we've dealt with opening a bank account, registering with Kupat Cholim and having a meeting with the Department of Immigration. One thing that helps is that Protea Hills provides a free shuttle bus service twice daily that goes to and from a mall in Mevotzeret Tzion (only ten minutes away), kupat cholim, Binyanei Ha'uma (across from the Jerusalem central bus station, and a stop in central Jerusalem.

After a long and frustrating

CONT.ON P44



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CONT. FROM P1

babies are born with unusually small heads.

Like many other nations, the U.S. overreacted to the news by increasing states' mosquito eradication efforts. Some early models estimated that 200 million Americans, about 60 percent of the U.S. population, would become infected with Zika this summer — estimates that were clearly vastly overblown.

Sounds just like President Bush who 11 years ago claimed that over 200 million would not only get infected with Bird Flu but would actually die from it. They must have figured most people forgot about this and it was time for another scare to sell more chemicals and vaccines.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics reveal we've come nowhere near such numbers.

The two states with the high-

est rates of laboratory-confirmed Zika infections, New York and Florida, have had 625 and 507 cases respectively so far. New York accounts for 23 percent of all U.S. cases; Florida accounts for 19 percent of the total.

It's worth noting though that the vast majority of all Zika cases in the U.S. occurred during travel elsewhere. Florida alone had 35 cases of locally acquired infections. All other states report zero locally-acquired cases.

Among the U.S. territories, Puerto Rico was worst beset, with 13,791 locally-acquired cases as of August 31, 2016. The U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa report 221 and 47 locally-acquired cases respectively.

Call for DDT Has (Fortunately) Been Left Unanswered

As the Zika scare grew to a fever pitch, groups like the Manhattan Institute and various journal-

ists for prominent media outlets started calling for the return of DDT6 to address the mosquito problem. For example, in a June 6 article, The New York Post wrote:

"The Zika virus outbreak makes it clearer than ever: It's time to end the ban on DDT — a ban that was never sensible in the first place, but now is downright unjustifiable."

Never mind the fact that DDT passes freely through the placenta during pregnancy, where it gains direct access to the developing fetus and its brain. DDT has also been linked to decreased fertility, premature delivery, Alzheimer's and even microcephaly, making this recommendation about as ignorant as it gets.

Fortunately, the ban on DDT has not been lifted. However, there's no shortage of other dangerous insecticides on the market, and they've been heavily employed in many states.

Florida and New York Being Heavily Sprayed

In Miami-Dade County, Florida, the aerial spraying campaign against Zika-carrying mosquitoes has been referred to as a "blitz" that "could be one for the record

books if the [CDC] records it as a success." The area began spraying the insecticide Naled from low-flying planes on August 4.

Naled is banned in the European Union (EU), and when residents in Puerto Rico found out the CDC was going to use the chemical against Zika-carrying mosquitoes there, the streets filled with protesters. Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla finally forced the CDC to take the shipments back.

Concerned residents took to the streets in Wynwood, Miami, as well, but it didn't have much of an impact.

Neighborhoods in Queens and Brooklyn, New York, were doused with Duet and Anvil insecticides from trucks on the nights of August 31 and September 1, 2016, to combat mosquitoes known to carry either the Zika or West Nile virus (Asian Tiger, Aedes Aegypti and Culex mosquitoes). Duet has also been used in Orange County, California.

Duet contains two pyrethroid pesticides, Sumithrin and Prallethrin, plus a synergistic compound called piperonyl butoxide (PBO),

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Moshe's CROSSWORD By Yochai Ben Yitzchak Dov

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- Sugar _____ Leonard
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- Beet's color
- Greek letter
- NH time zone

Down

- Owl's question?
- Musical genre
- Kind of power
- Infamous emperor
- Stakes
- In good shape
- With ice cream (3 wds.)
- Federal _____ Bank
- Not false
- Relieve

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD ON PAGE 31

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which boosts the effectiveness of the former two.

Sumethrin is an endocrine disruptor, neurotoxin and likely carcinogen, and PBO has been shown to be harmful to the fetal brain, causing “profound developmental defects in children exposed in utero.”

According to recent research, children living in areas exposed to annual aerial spraying of pyrethroids (such as Duet and Anvil) have a 25 percent higher risk of autism compared to areas where mosquito control is done primarily through pellets distributed on the ground.

This suggests the method of application can make a big difference when it comes to human health. In another study, exposure to pyrethroids during the third trimester increased the chances of the child having autism by 87 percent.

Low-flying helicopters also released pellets of Altosid and VectoBac over four New York City boroughs earlier this summer, including Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and The Bronx. As noted by The Vaccine Reaction:

“What might be of particular concern to the New York City’s residents is the ironic possibility that using these chemicals against mosquitoes to control the perceived threat of the Zika virus could actually have the effect of creating a serious local health crisis where there was previously none.

While the CDC seems convinced that Zika is behind the microcephaly cases in Brazil ... other organizations such as Médicos de Pueblos Fumigados (Physicians in the Crop-Sprayed Villages) of Argentina ... has argued that an insect growth regulator similar to Altosid may be responsible for the microcephaly cases.”

Aerial Spraying Is Not an Effective Strategy for Controlling Zika

Many have also argued that aerial sprayings against the Zika-carrying mosquito *Aedes aegypti* is futile, exposing the population to toxic chemicals for no good reason.

These tiny black and white striped mosquitoes have a very limited range of flight, and since it’s so difficult to catch them airborne, insecticidal sprays and foggers are mostly useless for con-

trolling them. Reporting on recent research, WebMD writes:

“Female mosquitoes can transmit the Zika virus to their eggs and offspring, and this may make it harder to contain outbreaks, a new lab study suggests. Control programs that focus only on adult mosquitoes may not halt Zika’s spread, the researchers warned ...

“Spraying affects adults, but it does not usually kill the immature forms — the eggs and larvae,” said [study co-author Dr. Robert] Tesh. As a result, ‘spraying will reduce transmission, but it may not eliminate the virus’ ...”

CDC Relies on Unpublished Data to Support Aerial Spraying

Curiously, CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden defended the use of aerial insecticide sprayings in a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) citing a non-peer-reviewed presentation by a New Orleans mosquito control board employee named Brendan Carter.

According to Carter, aerial disbursement of “ultra-low volumes of insecticide” reduced caged *Aedes aegypti* by more than 90 percent in a New Orleans field trial. However, as reported by Kaiser Health News:

“Carter earned his master’s degree in 2014 from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine ... Even so, other experts in mosquito-borne diseases were unconvinced when asked about Carter’s finding as described in Frieden’s commentary for JAMA.

‘I know of no published reports that support this figure,’ said Durland Fish, [Ph.D.] a Yale University professor emeritus of microbial diseases as well as a professor of forestry and environmental studies there.

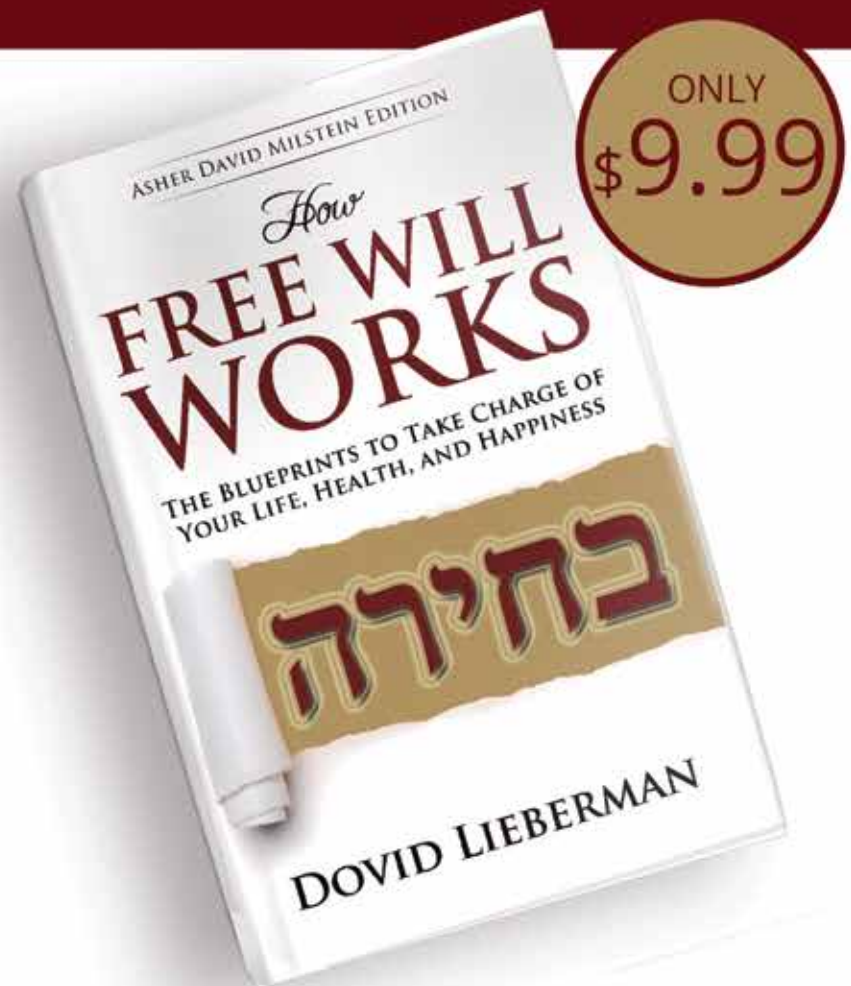
Fish worked with public officials in Dominica in 2014 to counter chikungunya virus, another disease spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. “This is a domestic mosquito, meaning they live inside the house — in closets, under the bed, in the sink. Spraying outside won’t be very effective,” he said.”

Micro-Mist May Work by Entering Your Home, but Is That Wise?

Many others agree with Fish’s conclusion, noting there’s virtually no scientific evidence to support the use of aerial spraying to control *Aedes* mosquitoes.

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Roy Neuberger

THE WORLD KNOWS MOSHIACH IS COMING

“The Little sister – she prepares her prayers and proclaims her praises. O G-d, please heal her ailments now. Let the year and its curses conclude ... Let the year and its blessings begin!” (Achos Katanah) As we approach Rosh Hashana, I would like to reflect on the dramatic and rather frightening year which is ending. Let’s begin by reminding ourselves that every occurrence in the world is “I’tova,” for the good. We are heading soon, without doubt, toward the greatest event since Creation, namely the Geulah Shelemah, in which the world will be transformed. We will, with G-d’s help, soon see with our own eyes the return of all Am Yisroel to achdus, Torah and Eretz Yisroel.

However, birth pangs are difficult, and the birth of the Geulah Shelemah must be prodigious. This is what we must prepare ourselves for as we contemplate the coming year. We will get there, with G-d’s help, and it will be very, very good, but we had better buckle our seat belts!

The Chofetz Chaim reportedly said, “Moshiach must come very soon, because soon there won’t be anybody for whom to come... He can’t come to everyone: one has to be fitting and prepared to merit greeting him...” (Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein zt”l in Redemption Unfolding, p. 92).

We have seen over the past few years the nations of the world uniting against us. In previous crises, there has always been a sanctuary for us in times of trouble. Even in the terrible days of the Shoah, there were islands of safety, provided a Jew could get there. “However, in [the] final war of which the prophets spoke, all of the nations will rise up against us...” (Redemption Unfolding, p. 94) This echoes the Malbim’s comment, quoted at the beginning of my book 2020 Vision, that Esav and Yishmael will join hands against us after we have returned to Eretz Yisroel.

“Gog and Magog have a gematria of seventy, which corresponds to

the seventy nations.” (Midrash Tanchuma, Korach 12)

This phenomenon corresponds also to the archetypal Golus, which of course is Mitzraim. During that period, Am Yisroel was together as one nation, entirely within Biblical Egypt, completely surrounded by our enemies. There was no possibility of escape unless by supernatural means.

But that, of course, is precisely what happened!

Similarly, during the events of Purim, we were completely surrounded by our enemy, since Achashverosh ruled “from Hodu to Cush, one hundred twenty seven provinces” (Esther 1:1), which is explained as the entire world. Rabbi Moshe Shapira Shlita”h commented as follows: “Chazal compared the king who will rise up at the end of history to Haman. Like Haman, he will have control over the entire world. There will be no way to be saved from his attack [by natural means], just as in the miracle of Purim.” (Redemption Unfolding, page 95)

Redemptions occur in proportion to the magnitude of the preceding Golus. I will remind you of an amazing droshe I heard (Talmud Yerushalmi (Pesachim 10:1 and the Be’er Miriam; see Artscroll Interlinear Haggadah page 50 footnote): We remove drops of wine from our cup during the Seder. These drops are compared to the Exodus from Egypt, but the wine which remains in the cup is compared to the Final Redemption. The difference in magnitude is staggering! In Biblical Egypt, only one king was toppled; in the Final Redemption every king will fall. “Hashem will be the King over all the land; on that day Hashem will be One and His Name will be One.” (Zecharia 14:9, Aleinu)

Why is everyone lining up against us now? We are surrounded wherever we dwell, but think about who is against us. Do they love each other? No, they passionately hate each other. Why then are

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they united? There is only one reason, and it proves our point.

My friends, our enemies are united, even overcoming their own self-hatred, because they all know that Moshiach ben Dovid is standing on the doorstep! The nations all know that their period of hegemony is ending and the day is near when “He will let us hear, in His compassion, for a second time before the eyes of all the living ... ‘I am Hashem your G-d.’” (Mussaf Kedusha, see Yeshiah 11:11)

This year, our job is to be so close to our Father in Heaven and so good to each other that we shake heaven and earth with our heartfelt teshuva. Hashem wants this! Even if we lack merit, Our Father wants to redeem us! We reaffirm every day that we know He will bring a redeemer to the children of the Patriarchs’ children “for the sake of His Name with love!” (Shemoneh Esreh)

This year we must release ourselves from slavery to the surrounding culture and place ourselves completely under the rulership of the King of Kings. It

has to become real to us that no earthly power whatsoever, no army and no government, is capable of saving us. As the Mishnah starkly puts it, “In the period which will precede the coming of Moshiach [there will be nothing whatsoever upon which to lean, except] upon our Father in Heaven!” (Sota 49b)

This is not theory. These are the stark facts of life. This Rosh Hashana we have to crown Hashem Melech in every facet of our lives. Our entire future is at stake.

May we all merit a ksiva v’chassima tova!

Roy Neuberger’s latest book is WORKING TOWARD MOSHIACH. His book 2020 VISION is available in ENGLISH, HEBREW, SPANISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN & GEORGIAN. Roy is also the author of FROM CENTRAL PARK TO SINAI: How I Found My Jewish Soul, available in ENGLISH, HEBREW, RUSSIAN & GEORGIAN, and WORLDSTORM: Finding Meaning & Direction Amidst Today’s World Crisis. ROY AND HIS WIFE LEAH SPEAK PUBLICLY ON TOPICS RELATED TO HIS BOOKS AND ARTICLES. Email: roy@2020vision.co.il. Website: www.2020vision.co.il.

“THE SHMUZ”



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“And it shall be if you listen to the voice of HASHEM, your G-d, to keep and to perform all of His commandments that I command you this day... Blessed are you in your coming and blessed shall you be in your going.”

— Devarim 28:1-6

The destiny of the Jewish people

In this moving address, Moshe Rabbeinu once again defines the path of the Jewish people. “If you will listen to the ways of the Torah, all the blessings will come to you...”

The Targum defines “if you will listen,” as “if you will accept,” meaning, if you accept the word of HASHEM to guard his mitzvos and do them, then everything else will follow. You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the field. You will have children, livestock,

healthy crops, and abundance. And finally, “You will be blessed in your coming and your going.” Rashi explains this last phrase to mean that you will leave the world as clean of sin as you were when you came into the world.

This Rashi is difficult to understand. A man who leaves this earth as clean of sin as when he entered is a complete tzaddik — a level that is difficult to even envision. How can Rashi say that all we need to do in order to reach that lofty level is to fully accept HASHEM’s mitzvos?

The answer to this can best be understood with a mashal.

A change in perspective
 Imagine we take a man from the sixteenth century and bring him into our world — into your living room on the day that you

are moving. He watches as a team of men moves the contents of your house into a truck parked in the driveway. First he sees them carry out the heavy furniture: the dressers, the beds, the dining room table, and the breakfast. Next come boxes and boxes of clothing and dishes, pots and pans, toys and books.

He stands watching, his mouth agape. In his life he hasn’t seen this much abundance, certainly not as the possessions of one family. After the whole house is emptied out, the movers enter the truck, and one gets behind the wheel. At that point, the man can no longer contain himself. “How do you intend to move this huge wagon with everything in it?” he cries out. “It will take a team of four, maybe six horses!”

Likely, you would find great difficulty in explaining to him that one man, by pressing his foot on the accelerator, will harness the power of the engine with a power output of hundreds of horses. In his world, he has never seen anything like this, and he has no basis for comparison.

Upper world systems
 This seems to be the answer to our question.

HASHEM created the physical world with systems and laws governing them. So, too, He created the spiritual world with rules and procedures that control it. And as in the physical world, there are powerful engines that can accomplish what hundreds of men can’t. In the spiritual world, there are techniques and structures that can achieve astonishing results.

The Targum is revealing to us one of the powerful systems of the upper worlds. When a person resolves with all of his heart and

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However,

Joseph Conlon, spokesman for the American Mosquito Control Association, is not on that list.

According to Conlon, the idea that aerial spraying against *Aedes* mosquitoes doesn't work is an outdated notion, since Naled can now be sprayed in a micro-fine mist, "capable of wafting into homes through screen doors and bathroom vents." But what about the residents, including infants and pregnant women, inside those homes who then breathe in this super-fine mist?

Naled, an organophosphate insecticide is known to interfere with cholinesterase activity, an enzyme essential for the proper working of your nervous system. Organophosphates as a group are also linked with shortened pregnancies, lowered IQ and increased risk of attention deficit disorder (ADD).

According to the Extension Toxicology Network, "Naled is moderately to highly toxic by ingestion, inhalation and dermal adsorption. Vapors or fumes of Naled are corrosive to the mucous

membranes lining the mouth, throat and lungs, and inhalation may cause severe irritation."

It is also readily absorbed through your skin and should be immediately washed off if contact occurs. High temperatures and/or UV light enhances its toxicity — an added concern when sprayed in hot and sunny areas like Florida.

I live in Florida full-time now and this is a significant issue for me personally. This is one of the reasons why I use my infrared sauna three times a week to help me detox not only from these admitted exposures but also from all the other ones that we have no idea of but nevertheless have exposure to.

Naled Decimates Bee Populations in South Carolina

Naled was also sprayed in Dorchester County, South Carolina, in the morning hours between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on August 28, 2016 — with devastating consequences. In one Summerville apiary, 46 hives totaling 2.5 million bees died that same morning. Many other beekeepers also claim massive losses. As reported by The Washington Post:

"[T]o the bee farmers, the reason is already clear. Their bees had been poisoned by Dorchester's own insecticide efforts, casualties in the war on disease-carrying mosquitoes ... Given the current concerns of West Nile virus and Zika ... Dorchester decided to try something different ... It marked a departure from Dorchester County's usual ground-based efforts. For the first time, an airplane dispensed Naled in a fine mist, raining insect death from above ..."

Naled is known to be highly toxic to bees, which is why counties that use it will typically spray it at night, when honey bees are not out foraging. Provided they have sufficient warning, beekeepers can also shield their hives to prevent exposure. According to Dorchester County administrator Jason Ward, all but one beekeeper on the county's contact list was notified of the spraying.

However, many local beekeepers were not on the county's list to begin with, and the county only requested a more complete list from the Lowcountry Beekeepers Association after the fact. In a WCSC-TV interview, local beekeeper Juanita Stanley said: "Had I known, I would have been camping on the steps doing whatever I had to do, screaming, 'No you can't do this.'"

Florida Governor Has Financial Stake in Zika Mosquito Control

Considering the limited risks of Zika and the significant risks of aerial insecticides on critical pollinators like bees and human health, one wonders what's really driving the decision process. When you start to dig, you'll often find financial

incentives. In Florida, people are now wondering whether Governor Rick Scott may have a personal stake in unleashing chemical warfare.

On June 23, 2016, Scott allocated \$26.2 million in state emergency funds to combat Zika. As it turns out, an undisclosed conflict of interest could potentially have influenced this generous release of funds. According to Florida Bulldog:

"... Rick Scott has an undisclosed financial interest in a Zika mosquito control company in which his wife, Florida First Lady Ann Scott, owns a multi-million

dollar stake through a private investment firm she co-owns. The company is Mosquito Control Services LLC of Metairie, LA. According to its website,

MCS 'is a fully-certified team of mosquito control experts — licensed throughout the Gulf Coast, including Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida' ... It is not known whether MCS, whose services include monitoring and aerial spraying, stands to benefit from Florida government funds ... MCS did not respond to two requests for comment."

Is Zika Being Hyped to Save Toxic Insecticides From Being Banned?

In a recent Health Nut News article, Erin Elizabeth pieces together a long list of events and players suggesting the real reason for the Zika hype may be related to the fact that the primary chemical weapons against Zika — Naled and Malathion — are both up for re-evaluation at the EPA under a special provision of the Endangered Species Act. If found to harm endangered species, they will be banned — unless there's sufficient political pressure to keep them on the market, that is.

Moreover, the Clean Water Act stipulates you must have a NPDES permit³⁴ in order to be "allowed" to discharge pollutants into U.S. waters. Insecticides are a significant water pollutant, and mosquito control applications that result in water discharges must have an NPDES permit, which includes limits on the discharges and has certain monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure the chemical does not hurt water quality and human health.

Should Naled and/or Malathion be found harmful to endangered species, operators would not likely be able to get an NPDES permit for the chemicals even if they somehow were not outright banned under the Endangered Species Act.

Interestingly enough, the American Mosquito Control Association has lobbied Congress to pass HR 935, which would exempt mosquito control operations from the NPDES permit requirement altogether, allowing them to discharge whatever chemical without limits, monitoring or reporting requirements.

When Congress remained unreceptive to the idea, HR 935

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MERCOLA
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was suddenly renamed the “Zika Control Act.” Once Congress comes back from recess, they could potentially be forced to vote yes on this disastrous bill if there’s sufficient panic about Zika.

The Senate is also scheduled to vote on whether to set aside another \$1.1 BILLION in funding to fight Zika — a virus that so far has not seriously harmed a single person in the U.S., and has not conclusively been proven responsible for the microcephaly cases in Brazil either. In short, this whole thing appears to be little more than a gift to the chemical industry at the expense of public health. As noted by Erin:

“The American Mosquito Control Association and the chemical companies can only benefit from huge hype and fear surrounding Zika. They NEED the populace to fear Zika so that Congress is forced to approve a terrible bill that would pollute/erode the Clean Water Act and eventually allow for Malathion and Naled [to] continue to be used despite data showing their effect on endangered species.”

Some States Now Offer Free Mosquito Repellents

In related news, in addition to boosting mosquito sprayings across entire neighborhoods, some states have decided to hand out free mosquito repellents. Universal Studios, Walt Disney World and SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida, now offer free bug repellents to visitors and, in Texas, pregnant women on Medicaid are eligible to receive free DEET mosquito repellent at pharmacies without a prescription.

However, DEET is by no means harmless. On the contrary, DEET has been shown to harm brain and nervous system function and is so poisonous that even the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) says you should wash it off your skin when you return indoors, avoid breathing it in and not spray it directly on your face. Why focus on distributing a highly toxic chemical to pregnant women rather than giving them something that’s actually safe?

Neem-based products, for example, are a viable alternative that can keep mosquitos at bay without risking your and your baby’s health. Citronella oil and geraniol can also be used, and both are safe for the whole family, including infants. Products containing either 20 percent picaridin or 30 percent oil of lemon and eucalyptus have also been shown to outperform DEET in tests.

Picaridin resembles the natural compound piperine, an essential oil in black pepper. Lemon eucalyptus oil and picaridin are not actual repellents; they primarily work by masking the environmental cues that mosquitoes use to locate their target. Side effects of both picaridin and lemon eucalyptus include potential skin or eye irritation, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states picaridin should not be used on children under age 3. Still, they’re both likely FAR safer than DEET!

Biological Warfare Is a Risky Game

Are we doing the right thing by waging war against pests with toxic chemicals? It needs to be understood that there’s a price to pay, both in human and environmental health. We’re poisoning our world, and ourselves, in the name of protecting public health. There’s something inherently wrong with that position. Some are quick to say we have no other options. But this isn’t necessarily true.

In the short term, there are safer options to guard against mosquitos than aerial insecticides

and topical DEET. But we also need to take a much wider view. What’s needed is the political and societal will to make necessary changes, and this involves fully embracing ecologically sound, regenerative methods of agriculture. Why? Because when nature is in balance, pests fail to gain the upper hand. They still exist, but they’re kept in check naturally.

It may not be as effective as releasing a potent toxin, but if we keep going the way we’re headed, we’re just going to encounter more of the same problems. Is it really worth putting our children’s

health and future at risk? Is it worth decimating pollinators, on which our food supply depends? I believe the answer is no, but at the very least, we need a more open discussion about what we’re doing and what the options are. We also need to implement more farsighted solutions.

Again, this is all based on the likely flawed assumption that what the media, CDC and public health authorities are saying about Zika is true.

Dr. Mercola is the founder of the world’s most visited natural health web site, Mercola.com

SHMUZ
CONT. FROM P11

soul to serve HASHEM, he puts into operation powerful forces that catapult him forward toward the completion of that acceptance. These forces now drive him toward spiritual perfection. He can veer off and he can resist the pull, but that force has been put into place, and assuming that he doesn’t negate it, he will be pulled to reach that lofty level. If he allows these influences to do what they have been created to do, he will reach dizzying heights, leaving this earth without sin.

This concept is very applicable, as we often find ourselves

looking at the levels of greatness outlined in the Torah and wonder how we can even aspire to reach such heights. This Rashi teaches us that all we need to do is start the process. Our job is to completely and totally accept the mitzvos before and beyond everything else. When we do so, HASHEM helps, and powerful forces propel us on a path toward perfection.

For more on this topic please listen to Shmuz #197 The Teshuva Shmuz 5770 – Limiting Beliefs

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BOMBING SUSPECT
CONT. FROM P1

Rahami’s journal included a passage that said: “You [USA Government] continue your [unintelligible] slaughter[er]” against the mujahideen, or holy warriors, “be it Afghanistan, Iraq, Sham [Syria], Palestine ...”

Another section stated concern at the possibility of being caught before being able to carry out a suicide attack and the desire to be a martyr, the complaint said. It added that another part included a reference, on

a page that is largely unintelligible, to “pipe bombs” and a “pressure-cooker bomb”, and declared: “In the streets they plan to run a mile.”

Before the federal charges were filed, Rahami, 28, was already being held on \$5.2 million (£4 million) bail, charged with the attempted murder of police officers during the shootout that led to his capture on Monday outside a bar in Linden, New Jersey.

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Dovid Lieberman PH.D.

**CHAPTER 6
Wisdom Springs Eternal**

The Hebrew word for mel-ech (“king”) is understood as an acronym for mo’ach (“brain”), lev (“heart”), and kaveid (“liver”). A king must exercise great wisdom and self-discipline and should be in complete control of these three organs. The order of the words in the acronym also alludes to a hierarchy of priorities. The brain or intellect must rule the heart, which represents emotions, and the liver, which represents a person’s base desires, must be subservient to his thoughts and feelings.

The Torah elucidates what life experience confirms: The decision-making process should be intellectual, with our emotions reinforcing our choices and infusing them with passion, inspiring us to take action and to follow through.

INTELLECT WITHOUT EMOTION

He was known in medical literature as Elliot and became a

famous figure in brain research on suffering damage to the frontal lobes of his brain as the result of a tumor. Although he enjoyed a superior IQ, he would become lost in triviality and foolish pursuits. After a battery of tests, his physician, leading scientist Dr. Antonio Damasio, realized that Elliot was incapable of emotional expression. While intellectually he could weigh the pros and cons of any decision, when it came time to actually make a decision he found himself completely lost. Dr. Damasio states, “His decision-making landscape was hopelessly flat.” In his book *Descartes’ Error*, Damasio describes trying to set up an appointment with Elliot:

I suggested two alternative dates, both in the coming month and just a few days apart from each other. The patient pulled out his appointment book and began consulting the calendar.

The behavior that ensued, which was witnessed by several investigators, was remarkable. For the better part of a half hour, the patient enumerated reasons for and against each of the two dates: previous engagements, proximity to other engagements, possible meteorological conditions, virtually anything that one could think about concerning a simple date. [He was] walking us through a tiresome cost-benefit analysis, an endless outlining and fruitless comparison of options and possible consequences.

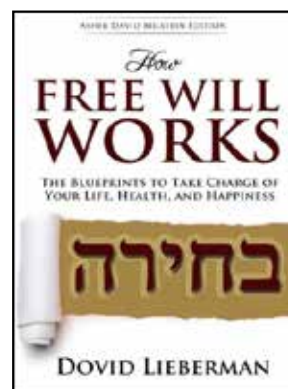
It took enormous discipline to listen to all of this without pounding on the table and telling him to stop.

Indeed, it did stop. All it took was for Damasio to interrupt the man’s deliberations and assign him a date and time to return. Without hesitating, the patient said, “That’s fine,” and went on his way.

When there is no drive that mobilizes our passion, we have nothing to reinforce the intellec-

tual process that moves us in one direction or the other—this is one of the primary functions that emotions serve. We need emotions, but when we lead with our feelings, our intellect then fortifies a distorted conclusion. This

truism is expressed in the Aleinu prayer: “You are to know this day, and take to your heart that Hashem [Hashem] is the only Hashem.” First, we are to understand intellectually and, afterward, align our emotions to our intellect.

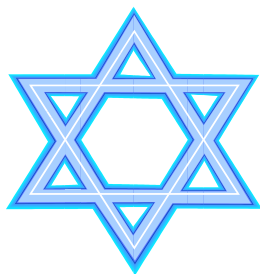


INTELLIGENCE VERSUS WISDOM

Many of us have had the experience of trying to explain an objectively obvious point to someone who firmly disagrees with us. We persist in the belief that if we just present a rational argument and explain the facts clearly and logically, he will arrive at the only natural conclusion and see things as we do.

(This thinking is reminiscent of

CONT.ON P15



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		5	7				4	9

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK’S SUDOKU ON PAGE 44

LIEBERMAN
CONT. FROM P14

the person who, when in conversation with someone who does not know his language, speaks slower and louder, enunciating each word with animated facial expressions. On one level, he recognizes that the other person does not understand a single word that he utters, but his emotional self cannot fathom how this can be when the words seem so clear to him.)

We must cease believing that we are only one perfectly crafted sentence away from helping this person realize the error of his ways. Attempting to reason with such a person is often futile, if he cannot see past his own emotion-

ally charged point of view. We are looking for reason in an infrastructure devoid of wisdom. What causes a person to deviate from sound evaluation and judgment? Again, to the degree that the ego is engaged, we unconsciously distort (or consciously ignore) reality and are pulled toward the less responsible choice. Therefore, in any given situation, it's quite possible for a smart person to make an astonishingly poor decision, while his less-intelligent counterpart will make the wiser, more prudent choice.

In the next installment we'll continue this conversation and discover why it is that intelligence does not make a person rational.

MAGILL
CONT. FROM P4

than telling someone to smile, demanding that they smile, I think it is far better to give them a reason to smile. Tell them a joke. A humorous story. Show them a picture of sweet children.

Wishing everyone a sweet, happy and healthy year and all the best. And may you find the ways to bring out positive changes in yourselves and encourage it in others.

I can be reached at pr2hope@aol.com I am Director of Recreation at Ateret Avot Senior Home of Midwood . The Shabbos Pirkei Avos shiur for women that I organize is scheduled to run through the Shabbos before Rosh Hashana at Congregation Tomchei Torah, 1966 Ocean Avenue, between N and O, Midwood, Brooklyn. This summer series features a variety of speakers and meets either in the Downstairs Social Hall or the Upstairs Ladies Section. I do customized picture/poems at reasonable rates. I also offer "The Hip Bone's Connected to the Funny Bone" humor program which includes jokes, stories, skits, improvisations and information on the health benefits of laughter.

**WISHING EVERYONE
A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
New Year**



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Isi Leibler

Shame on the ADL

Irrespective of one's personal opinion of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's videotaped remarks on Palestinian "ethnic cleansing" of Jews from any future Palestinian state, Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt's scornful public condemnation is simply beyond the pale.

On numerous occasions over the past few months, I have expressed incredulity and anger at the statements of Greenblatt for determinedly tilting the ADL policy away from its primary mandate of combating anti-Semitism and steering it toward partisan social action issues.

The latest example of this was his kumbaya remarks to a J Street audience when he effectively endorsed moral equivalence between Israelis and Palestinians, complained of our failure to recognize the legitimacy of the Palestinian narrative, questioned Israel's democratic structure, engaged in partisan electoral politics and condemned the Republican platform as "anti-Zionist for omitting a two-state structure, and insisted that groups supporting the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, which he admittedly condemns, are "animated by a desire for justice."

Greenblatt also continues to align the ADL with the Black Lives Matter movement, despite that the movement has accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and genocide and called on black institutions to support BDS. He refuses to disassociate from them and continues to promote Black Lives Matter in the ADL's educational and family discussion guides in schools and elsewhere. He considers that this organization, despite its anti-Semitism, is promoting "critical civil rights issues that merit attention" and that only "a small minority of the leaders" are responsible for the anti-Semitic campaigns.

Greenblatt, formerly employed in the Obama administration, does not seem to appreciate that his current organization — which has a charity budget in excess of \$50 million — has a primary role to resist the growing tide of anti-Israelism and anti-Semitism that is sweeping the United States, especially on college campuses. Instead, in what is utterly unprecedented from a purportedly mainstream American Jewish organization, he has publicly excoriated the position adopted by the demo-

cratically elected head of the Israeli government. Netanyahu's video was, as expected, criticized within Israel by the traditional left wing, but endorsed by the vast majority of Israelis.

Netanyahu simply stated facts. The Palestinians have made it eminently clear again and again that a Palestinian state would be Judenrein. One only has to review the ethnic-cleansing policy adopted by the Jordanians in 1948 when Jews were expelled from east Jerusalem and the Etzion Bloc.

Despite the slick PR of Palestinian spokesmen denying that this is the case to naïve Western audiences, there is no question in the mind of anyone who understands the situation that Jews would not be tolerated in any Palestinian hegemony -- and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has publicly said it repeatedly.

The Palestinian Authority officially supports this approach and I can only express regret that, presumably out of sensitivities to liberal Americans who refuse to confront this reality, it took so long for Netanyahu to shine the spotlight on this despicable abomination. After all, this highlights the outrageous fact that the Palestinians seek to delegitimize a Jewish presence throughout the biblical homeland. Other than some Muslim countries, there is no place in the world today where Jews are prohibited from living.

Netanyahu is paving the way for Israel's response to a predictable United Nations assault on its policies later in the year. The reference to Israel's Arab citizens makes the valid point that, despite the inevitable upheavals during the 1948 war when the nascent Jewish state was invaded by the combined armies of multiple Arab states, at no stage has Israel engaged in systematic ethnic cleansing of its Arab inhabitants.

Not surprisingly, the U.S. State Department responded that "using this type of terminology is inappropriate and unhelpful" and reiterated that settlement construction was an obstacle to peace. In so doing, they failed to address the legitimate question raised by Netanyahu as to whether they accept that a Palestinian state should be Judenrein.

American Jews can agree or disagree with Netanyahu. But for the

CONT.ON P18

REVIEWS | Daniel Keren

Recalling the Legacy of the Founder of the Bais Yaakov Movement in America

“Rebbetzin Vichna Kaplan: The Founder of the Bais Yaakov Movement in America” by Rebbetzin Danielle S. Leibowitz with Devora Gliksman, 579 pages, Feldheim Publishers, 2016)

In 1964 LOOK Magazine published a cover story on “The Vanishing Jew,” which focused on all branches of American Judaism. At that time few people thought there was any brighter future for Orthodox Jewry outside of insular Chassidic communities as Satmar in Williamsburg. But what was happening under the radar screen was a resurgence of Jewish pride and commitment in the then newly established day schools, yeshivas. And perhaps more importantly in the Bais Yaakov movement that was preparing new generations of strongly committed Jewish wives and mothers.

Today almost three generations later, the landscape of American Jewry is vastly different. Unfortunately for our assimilated brethren, the prediction of LOOK Magazine seems to be still on target and that is why so many different segments of Orthodox Jewry (i.e. NCSY, Chabad, Project Inspire, etc.) are making valiant efforts to reach out to secular Jews before it is too late.

To understand why Orthodox Jewry in America [and for that matter around the world] is predicted to become the majority once more of the world Jewish population, it would behoove one to read the new biography of Rebbetzin Vichna Kaplan by one of her talmidos – Rebbetzin Danielle S. Leibowitz with assistance by the talented writer Ms. Devora Gliksman that was just this year published by Feldheim Publish-

ers to mark the 30th yahrtzeit of this incredible woman and Jewish heroine.

Everyone talks of the amazing creation of the Kollel concept [where married men study instead of going to work] in the United States made famous by Rabbi Aharon Kotler at the Beth Medrash Govoha in Lakewood and copied since in dozens of communities across America, Canada and even Mexico. But it was only possible because Rebbetzin Kaplan prepared a few generations of American-born girls to grow up with the strong desire of marrying a learning boy and making sacrifices in material pleasures in order to make that vision a possibility.

Who was Rebbetzin Kaplan? Orphaned of both her parents at a young age of 11, she was raised by her uncle and aunt – Rabbi Yisroel Yaakov and Rebbetzin Chaya Bluma Lubchansky in Baranowitz. Although it was an extremely poor home, especially by later American values, it was however extremely rich in a spiritual beauty that infused the young Vichna and influenced her life thereafter.

This tribute to Rebbetzin Kaplan’s legacy in America, of course includes significant chapters on the two most important people who influenced the founder of the Bais Yaakov movement in America. The first was Frau Sarah Schenirer who viewing the increasing dramatic spiritual demise of Jewish girls in Poland circa World War I came up with the idea of establishing special Bais Yaakov schools to educate girls and young ladies to the beauty and vitality of leading a Torah-true life. At the age of 16 Vichna enrolled in Frau Schenirer’s original Bais Yaakov teacher’s seminary in Cracow and became one of her closest students and confidants. After graduating with a teacher’s diploma she was sent to teach at the Bais Yaakov school in Brisk where she did quite well, gaining the admiration of even the Brisker Rav.

And the second most important influence was Rabbi Boruch Kaplan who became her husband. One of the conditions for his marrying her was that she come to America where his parents had immigrated. When she asked her uncle for his advice on a visit back to Baranowitz, he said visibly upset, “Please ask the Brisker Rav what he thinks. I cannot imagine that he will sanction a frum young couple settling in the treife medinah.

“So the question went back to Brisk.

“The Brisker Rav’s reaction was unlike anything Vichna expected.

“For a boy like Boruch Kaplan,’ he declared, ‘you have my permission to go anywhere in the world.’”

The Kaplans were married in 1937 and together had

13 children. There were already a number of Bais Yaakov style elementary schools in America but no high school for girls. One year later, Mrs. Kaplan who had permission from the Bais Yaakov movement in Poland, opened the first such high school in America with just eight student around her dining room table in Williamsburg. Slowly and often very slowly, her high school gained more acceptance and opened a Boro Park division in 1958 that eventually superseded the original Williamsburg location.

Today hundreds, if not thousands of graduates of the high school and the teachers seminary established by Rebbetzin Kaplan with the help of her husband Rabbi Kaplan have contributed over the last few decades to the renaissance of Torah-Judaism in America and elsewhere in the world.

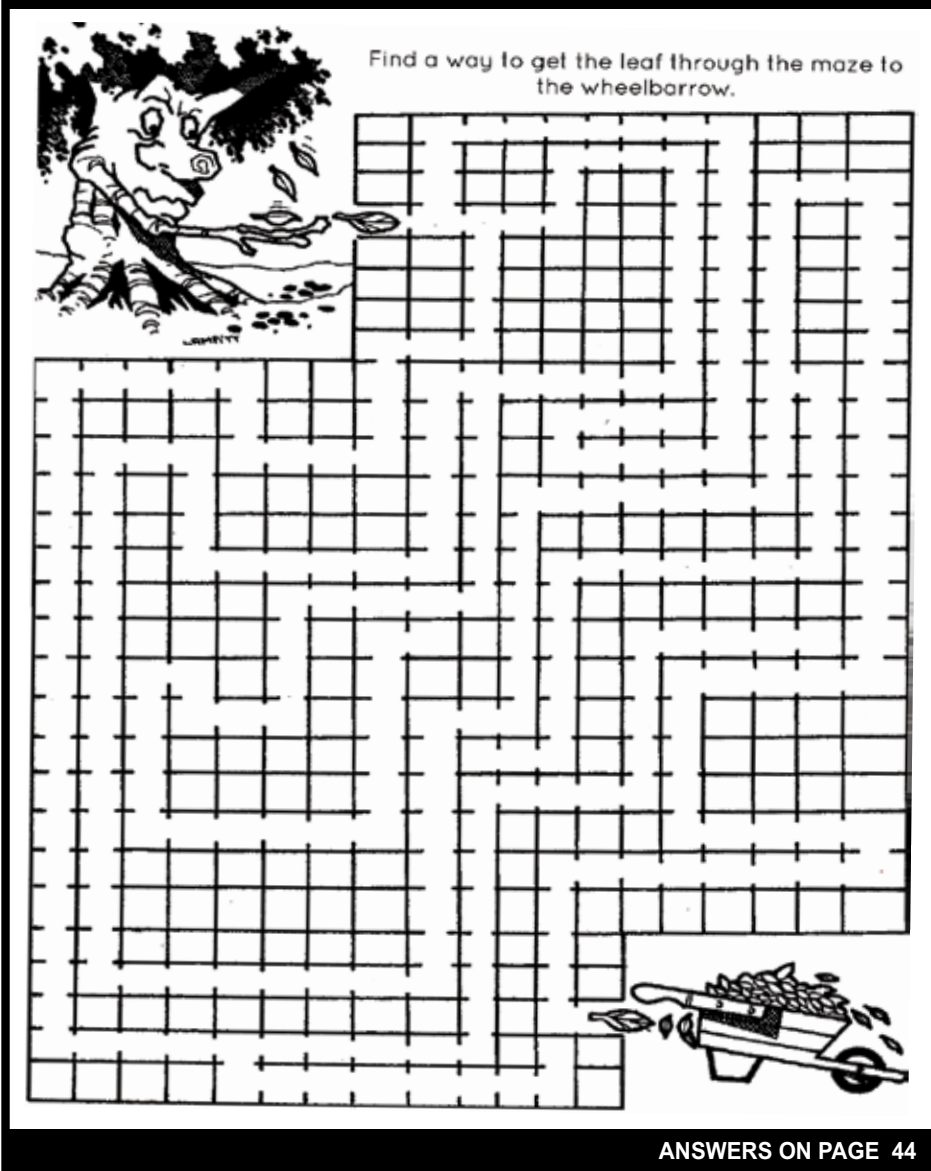
I thought I would end with this excerpt from the new Feldheim tribute to Rebbetzin Kaplan:

“Laiky’ was acting inappropriately on a class trip. Rebbetzin Kaplan walked over to the girl and took her aside. ‘I am very sorry,’ she told her, ‘but you must go home immediately. And you may not come back to school.’

“This was highly unusual.



MAZE



ANSWERS ON PAGE 44

CONT.ON P17

KEREN
CONT. FROM P16

Rebbetzin Kaplan took on some of the hardest cases around, and she practically never expelled a girl. But even compassionate Rebbetzin Kaplan sometimes had to draw the line.

“That evening, an elderly gentleman bent with age or hardships (or both), came to Bais Yakov. He had a long beard, very uncommon in America during

those years, a sign of a deeply religious person. He stood in front of Rebbetzin Kaplan and began to cry.

“Rebbetzin Kaplan, my older daughter has gone off somewhere with a gentile. It does not look like my son is turning out any better. My Laiky is my only hope – my only chance that I will Yiddishe doros in this world. Please take her back. Give her another chance.”

“Rebbetzin Kaplan was moved, but torn. How could she accept this girl back? What if her behavior negatively affected other girls?

“Rebbetzin Kaplan, I beg you, just one more chance,” the man pleaded.

“Rebbetzin Kaplan cautiously readmitted ‘Laiky’ – who went on to raise a beautiful family and gave her father many Yiddish doros. For years afterward, when-

ever we had difficulty with a girl and were considering expulsion, Rebbetzin Kaplan would say: “Remember Laiky?”

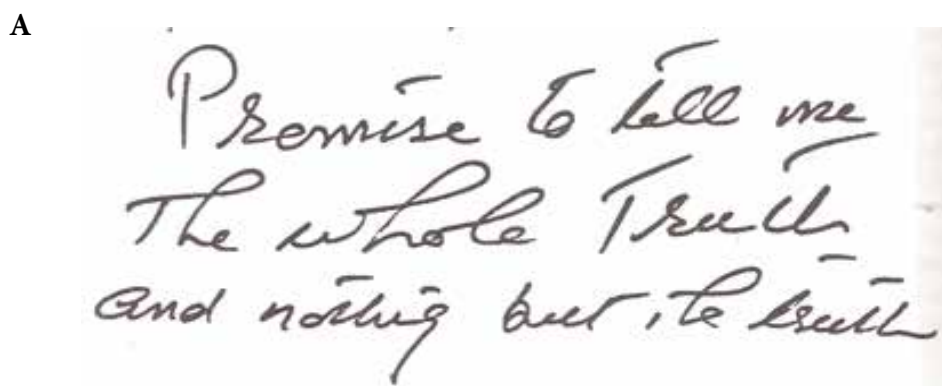
“Rebbetzin Vichna Kaplan: The Founder of the Bais Yaakov Movement in America” by Rebbetzin Danielle S. Leibowitz with Devorah Glikzman is available in Jewish bookstores or by contacting the publisher by calling (800) or clicking www.feldheim.com

FAMILY MATTERS | Dr. Ari Korenblit
HANDWRITING MATTERS

This article explores the science of Graphology, interpreting handwriting to reveal the personality of the writer. Essentially, it is the brain that is actually doing the writing. If one switches hands, puts a twig between their toes at the beach, places a pencil in their mouth, or use any means to write, the primary aspects of the writing remain the very same. The slant of the lines and the letters, the relative size of the script, the formation of the letters, the space between the letters and the words, and hundreds of others indices will not change! To the untrained eye it might seem to be different, but -- like a fingerprint -- it is still uniquely attributable to the same writer. So too. many will say their handwriting or signature is different. However, the many variables that constitute our handwriting, varies very little.

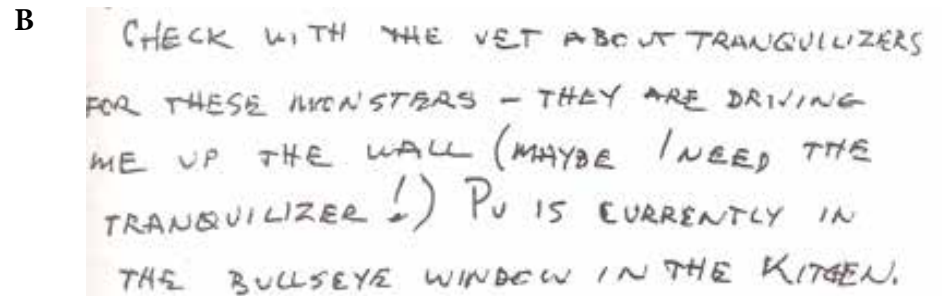
See if you have The Write Stuff:

Which is the handwriting of an absolute bully who loves to throw around his bad temper, and which is handwriting of a Prima Dona who has an explosive anger?



This is the handwriting of an outright bully. He tends to cause a sullen atmosphere full of tension and fear. He treats others with hostile arrogance and contempt. If someone stands up to him, he will quickly back down.

The large size indicate a large ego. The angles attest to strong drive and little flexibility and softness. The heavy pressure and pastosity (the great shading of the lines), show the great amount of feelings that go into every aspect of his life. The strong right slant show the intensity of his movement. The club-like formations are like clubs in his hand. The i-dots and the t-crossings are like daggers and knives. Some oval letters are stems are retraced, meaning a constriction, no outlet, and an inevitable outburst when the feelings can sufficiently built-up. The t-bars that fly off the stem and letters h and l in the word whole seem to burst aside, and are indications of a maniacal personality, who cannot control his moods or outbursts.



This is the handwriting of a Prima Donna, who will react whenever he feels anything untoward is thrown at him. He can explode when he feels in any way psychologically threatened or thwarted. His parents who acceded to his childish temper tantrums, begot this monster. Those same temper tantrums which served his than, serve him now. He can be quite charming and even constructive in an admiring surrounding. However, it an atmosphere of criticism, he can wax intolerant. he an never work successfully in a group or part of a team.

The heavy pressure and muddy pastosity indicate strong emotions and feelings. The angular strokes show a harshness, without and soft edges. The baseline is rather uneven, and the stems of some letters jerk to the right and to the left, showing a lack of inner control. Since this is a print writing with only upper-case letters, this deduction is even more pronounced, since there is greater control exerted when prouncing. The use of only upper-case is a further indication of an inflated personality. The middle-zone is very dominant indicating a preoccupation with his ego and daily life matters. The absence of an upper zone shows a lack of reasoning ability and a conscience that can intervene. The large space between words show a one who prefers little social contact due to a desire for privacy, insularity and insensitivity to others. The large punctuation – “!” shows a sense of drama that abounds. The persona pronoun “I” shows a sense of independence, and the wild right-slant shows a further dramatic lack of stability. The downward-slant on the t-bars indicate a desire to dominate. The very jerky rhythm in the writing, further show an uncontrolled nature and extreme impatience.

Dr. Ari Korenblit is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice, a graphologist/handwriting expert, a forensic graphologist and a Supreme Court-certified document examiner. He lectures on and teaches handwriting analysis, and analyzes handwriting for self understanding, personnel selection, shidduchim, forgeries, etc. He can be contacted at 212-721-4608 or dr.arikorenblit@gmail.com.



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SAVAGE
CONT. FROM P1

ship.”

“It underscores to those who have tried to portray a fraying in the fabric of the relationship that the two countries have the strongest security and intelligence cooperation and an enduring commitment to mutual support,” he said.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) also called the agreement a “milestone” in U.S.-Israel relations.

“Strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel has long been a critical component of the U.S.-Israel relationship built solidly on shared interests and values,” AJC CEO David Harris said. “The vital assistance provided by the MOU will reinforce that bilateral cooperation, and assure Israel’s qualitative military edge against very clear threats to both Israel and the U.S. in the most volatile region of the world.”

While the deal was widely praised by Israeli and American leaders, it also includes a number of notable changes from the existing military aid agreement that may fuel questions over the deal.

Previously, Israel obtained additional funding for its missile defense program on an ad hoc basis from Congress. Under the new agreement, this funding, roughly \$5 billion, will be included in the agreement and committed towards missile defense assistance, therefore eliminating Israeli lobbying with Congress.

“The supplement on missile defense says that Israel can only seek more funding during ‘significant conflict.’ How that is defined could be a sticking point in the future,” Jonathan Schanzer, vice president of research at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, told JNS.org.

This includes an end to Israel’s ability to use the military aid within its own defense industry, which currently stands at nearly 26 percent, as well as Israel’s ability to lobby Congress for additional funding for its missile defense program.

“This part likely means the relationship between Israel and Congress is going to change. Not necessarily for the worse, but it will be less about transaction and more about policy and targeting Israelis enemies than talking about what

Israel needs,” Schanzer said.

Maintaining the edge

Additionally the agreement also maintains Israel qualitative military edge (QME) over its adversaries in the Middle East. However, as a result of the Iran nuclear deal last year, the United States has been providing increased military assistance to other Middle East allies, such as Saudi Arabia, which the Pentagon recently announced a \$1.15 billion deal to provide the Sunni Arab country with more than 130 tanks, 20 armored recovery vehicles and other equipment.

Schanzer believes this may cause a future conflict for the U.S. and Israel concerning the QME.

“When you look at how Israel’s adversaries are buying weapons hand over fist from the U.S., this becomes a potential challenge for Israel moving forward.”

The agreement between the U.S. and Israel comes after nearly 10 months of laborious negotiations that underscored the tense relationship between Obama and Netanyahu over the past several years. Both leaders had a range of disputes, most famously on the Iran nuclear deal as well as over peace negotiations with the Palestinians and Israeli construction in the disputed territories.

Tense relations

This strained relationship was compounded by reports over the last several months that indicated Netanyahu could wait for the outcome of the upcoming U.S. presidential election before signing the deal, and deny Obama the opportunity to preside over an agreement of this magnitude. Ultimately, however, Netanyahu signed the deal.

Makovsky believes it was important for Netanyahu to enter the agreement with Obama to bolster

the bipartisan consensus on Israel.

“For Netanyahu, this was important to have this is done under Obama’s signature,” said Makovsky, who serves as distinguished fellow and director of the Project on Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. “People question bipartisanship when it comes to the U.S.-Israel relationship and here you have a liberal democrat president who’s signing off on ten more years of military support for Israel.”

For Obama, Makovsky contends, signing the deal was an opportunity to thwart criticism of his stance towards Israel before leaving office early next year.

“For him it was very important as well,” Makovsky said. “In his eyes, there is a wall between policy disagreements and support for hardware for Israel. He views this agreement as that he followed through on that distinction.”

“They [the Obama administration] take a lot of pride on their levels of security assistance and from their perspective, they see this as a validation of that distinction that [Obama] has drawn.”

However, Schanzer doesn’t believe this is the final chapter in Obama’s legacy on Israel and there are possible punitive measures that Obama may yet embrace, especially in regards to Israeli settlements, before his term ends early next year.

“The common view at the State Department is that all options are on the table,” Schanzer said. “This may mean a U.N. Security Council resolution or even sanctions against entities in the U.S. that support settlements. There are a range of actions that can be taken for the president to show a balance. This is not the president’s legacy full stop.”

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LEIBLER
CONT. FROM P15

head of the ADL, a major Jewish organization, to condemn Netanyahu in the journal Foreign Policy, and accuse him of choosing “to raise an inappropriate straw man regarding Palestinian policy toward Israeli settlements” was unprecedented and totally unacceptable. He stated further that “like the term ‘genocide,’ the term ‘ethnic cleansing’ should be restricted to actually describing the atrocity it suggests — rather than distorted to suit political ends.” Despite all the evidence to the contrary, he emphatically repudiated Netanyahu’s charge

that the Palestinians seek ethnic cleansing.

Under such circumstances, one would have expected that every major Jewish organization would dissociate itself from Greenblatt’s statement, noting that it is not the role of an organization whose primary objective is combating anti-Semitism to engage in public condemnations of views expressed by the democratically elected leader of Israel. But aside from the Zionist Organization of America, a curtain of silence has again enveloped the major Jewish organizations.

It would seem that in the post

CONT.ON P44

DIRSHU
CONT. FROM P6

Visits to Radin, Mir and Kovno

The climax of the Yom Limud and Tefillah will be a visit by a group of Gedolei Rabbanim to Radin who will daven at the kever of the Chofetz Chaim and at the Yeshiva of Radin on behalf of Klal Yisrael. Rabbanim slated to attend include HaGaon HaRav Chizkiyahu Yosef Mishkovsky, shlita, a close talmid of the Rosh Yeshiva, HaGaon HaRav Aharon Leib Shteinman, shlita, and menahel ruchani of Yeshiva Orchos Torah, HaGaon HaRav Shmuel Eliezer Stern, shlita, Rav of Western Bnei Brak and a close talmid of HaGaon HaRav Shmuel Wosner, zt"l, HaGaon HaRav Avraham Salim, shlita, Rosh Yeshivas Me'or HaTorah, HaGaon HaRav Aryeh Zilberstein, shlita, Rav of the Gerer Community in Bnei Brak, HaGaon HaRav Simcha Hakohen Kook, shlita, Rav of Rechovot, and HaGaon HaRav Shimon Galei, shlita, Rav of the Osem Complex in Bnei Brak.

The distinguished delegation will also journey to the town of Mir where they will daven at the kevarim of the great Mirer Mashgiach, HaGaon HaRav Yeruchem Levovitz, zt"l, and the Rav of Mir, HaGaon HaRav Tzvi Hirsch Kamai, zt"l. Tefillos will also be recited at the kever achim at the Ninth Fort in Kovno, where HaGaon HaRav Elchonon Wasserman, hy"d, was murdered al kiddush Hashem.

Without a doubt the climax of the journey will be the tefillos and words of hisorerus at the kever of the Chofetz Chaim to be delivered by Rav Aryeh Zilberstein, Rav Avraham Salim and the ne'ilah shmuess by Rav Mishkovsky.

Generating a Tremendous Atmosphere of Goodwill and Achdus in Klal Yisrael

This year's Yom Limud and Tefillah is the second such event. Last year's event attracted some 500,000 Jews worldwide. This year, organizers hope to reach well past that goal, tapping into the innate feeling of every Jewish neshamah, that extraordinary times such as the ones in which we live, with threats from within and without call, for a concentrated effort in tefillah and achdus to invoke rachamei shomayim in the zechus of the heilige Chofetz Chaim who was so moser nefesh to promote these ideals among

Klal Yisroel.

Hundreds of yeshivos, chadorim, schools, shuls and even individual businesses from across America, Eretz Yisrael, Europe, South America, South Africa and Australia, have signed up to participate in the yom tefillah on Tuesday 24 Elul/September 27. They will recite two chapters of Tehillim and learn the daily limud of Daf HaYomi B'Halacha, as well as select halachos from the sefer Chofetz Chaim.

The anticipated Yom Limud and Tefillah has already begun generating a tremendous atmosphere of goodwill and achdus amongst Klal Yisrael. A peek into just a few of the institutions in America that have signed up to participate and take advantage of the auspicious time to daven with so many likeminded Yidden attests to that achdus.

The partial list includes Shaagas Aryeh – Lakewood, NJ, Yeshiva Ohr Eliyahu – Los Angeles, CA, Yeshiva Derech HaTorah – Cleveland, OH, Yeshiva Torat Emes – Houston, TX, Torah Day School of Phoenix, Torah Day School of Atlanta, Talmudical Academy - Baltimore, Yeshiva High School of Arizona, Torah Day School of Dallas, Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael – Boston, Torah Academy of Boston, Providence Hebrew Day School, New England Academy of Torah, and the Providence Community Kollel. Some of the participating shuls are, Mevakshei Hashem – Brooklyn, NY, Ahavas Yisrael – Cleveland, OH, Beis Medrash Kol Aryeh – Lakewood, NJ, Satmar Beis Medrash – Lakewood, NJ, Zichron Schneur – Lakewood, NJ and Beis Medrash of Westgate of Lakewood. These are in addition to the hundreds of similar institutions across the length and breadth of Eretz Yisroel and many locales in Europe, the Former Soviet Union, Mexico, South America, Canada, South Africa and Australia.

"The Nazis are Gone, the Communists are Gone, but the Chofetz Chaim and His Mishnah Berurah are Eternal!"

Another closing of circles, as it were, will be the Daf HaYomi B'Halacha shiur in the Chofetz Chaim's sefer Mishnah Berurah

delivered by Rav Dovid Hofstедter at the Radin Yeshiva established by the Chofetz Chaim. A shiur in the seforim written by the Chofetz Chaim, in the yeshiva founded by the Chofetz Chaim some 75 years after Radin's Jews were killed by the Nazi's, embodies the ideal of 'Netzach Yisroel



lo yishaker.' Indeed, at a previous journey to the Chofetz Chaim's kever, Rav Hofstedter said, "Hitler destroyed so much of European Jewry. He thought he could wipe them out, but he didn't. The Communists tried to destroy the Jewish religion. They caused a tremendous churban, but they still did not succeed. The Nazis are

gone, the Communists are gone, but the Chofetz Chaim and his Mishnah Berurah are eternal!"

Join Klal Yisrael This Tuesday, 24 Elul/September 27!

We are living in truly perilous times. Even in the United States there is a certain sense of instability, as we are in the throes of

a tumultuous and nasty presidential election. There is civil unrest as well as the threat of terrorism at home and abroad that can have severe ramifications. At this uncertain juncture we are in dire need of tremendous rachamei shomayim. Now is the time to join together with

untold numbers of Jews all over the world to daven for Klal Yisrael. The yahrtzeit of the Chofetz Chaim is a remarkably auspicious time to invoke Divine mercy.

Now is the time to Join with Klal Yisrael in the Yom Limud and Tefillah this Tuesday, 24 Elul/September 27 and tap into this unique eis ratzon!

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New Year, New Life: A (Re-) Conversion Story for Rosh Hashanah

ALMA GOTTLIEB

What does it mean to celebrate a new year?

For many Jews, the period surrounding Rosh Hashanah offers a culturally sanctioned opportunity to rethink the past year's successes and pleasures as well as frustrations and regrets. That calendrical structure offers some helpful emotional boundaries. For example, it allows any pain and guilt we might feel about our actions or reactions of the past to be restricted to a year, and avoid letting negative emotions get out of control.

But sometimes, our lives take a turn for the more ambitious, and circumstances demand a longer-term look at our past and future. Such is the case with Carlos Spinola.

This month, Carlos Spinola, age 52, just completed his formal conversion to conservative Judaism. The path that led him to this life-changing ceremony is a long one. Depending on how far back

we want to look, we can say that it dates back to two years ago, when Carlos (along with eight others) enrolled in a weekly course for potential converts to Judaism at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, RI.

But the seed was planted much earlier. Carlos emigrated from the Cape Verde Islands to the US in 1994. Soon after arriving, he encountered Jews—he thought, for the first time. One thing led to another, and Carlos found his interest in Judaism piqued. He became trained by Rabbi Ethan Adler (spiritual leader of the Congregation Beth David in Narragansett, RI) as a volunteer working with elderly Jews at senior citizens' homes and centers around Rhode Island. That proved a tremendously fulfilling experience, and Carlos delved more deeply into the Jewish community.

But even that twenty-two-year journey pales by comparison with the long arc of history that surely

underlay the curiosity and attraction that Carlos felt in first meeting American Jews.

Even for Ashkenazi Jews who know little about the early history of Sephardic Jews, the name "Spinoza" might ring a bell. One of the most important European philosophers of the early modern period, Baruch Spinoza is widely credited with helping to usher in the "Enlightenment" period of Western philosophy and culture. = Part of a Jewish family that fled the anti-Semitism that was ravaging Iberia through the Inquisition (first Spain, then Portugal) beginning in the late 15th century, Spinoza's ancestors fled the peninsula, and he was raised in Amsterdam. In the 17th century, the comparatively tolerant city was one of the urban centers that helped forge global ties across the Atlantic—in good part, from trans-Atlantic networks created by Sephardic Jews expelled from the Iberian peninsula.

The family name, "Spinoza," has several spellings—including "Spinola." Carlos Spinola likely has roots in some branch of this illustrious family (although he has not yet traced the exact connection).

Although Carlos' conversion ceremony had a certain air of finality to it, like any rite de passage, it was actually the culmination of a three-part process.

As the great folklorist, Arnold van Gennep, pointed out a century ago, all life-cycle rituals contain three basic components: separa-

tion (from the community and family); "liminality" (a period of strangeness and creativity, when normal routines may be turned upside-down); and reintegration (back into the community and family, but with a new identity). For Carlos Spinola, the period of "separation" began in 2014, when he made the decision to begin formal training in Judaism, with the goal of completing a formal conversion. His "liminal" period encompassed the next two years, when he was neither Catholic (his former religion) nor yet formally Jewish. Last week, Carlos experienced the third and final component to his life-cycle ritual: the formal conversion to Conservative Judaism. In his case, that included a surgical circumcision, a ritual immersion in the community mikveh behind the JCC, a special temple service at Temple Emanu-El in Providence in honor of his new identity, and the signing of documents attesting to all the above.

But Carlos' life journey back to his family's Jewish identity is by no means stopping with his conversion. His next step? He has already begun paperwork to make aliyah.

Meanwhile, enjoy these visual glimpses documenting the path that brought him to the new year, and new life, that Carlos is celebrating this Rosh Hashanah.

Alma Gottlieb is Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Gender and Women's Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Visiting Scholar in Anthropology, Brown University

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Jewish Optimism

RABBI ELIYAHU SAFRAN

Doom and gloom! That is how the Jewish cynic views the authentic Jewish life. Confining. Legalistic. Obligatory.

A downer!

So many somber remembrances. So many burdens and obligations.

Praying three times a day. Fasts. Study. Moral teachings to learn. The self to improve.

"Why can't I just be accepted for what I am," asks the Jewish cynic.

"Why can't I just observe the New Year on the first of Tishrei or, better yet, on the tenth? That gives me plenty of time to pray, reflect and make amends. All without disrupting my regular tennis game. Why must Jews be expected to begin their

preparation thirty days before the teshuva journey begins?"

From the second day of Rosh Chodesh Elul we sound the shofar, recite Psalm 27, L'Dovid HaShem Ori, and awake in the predawn hours to recite Selichot. Sefardim and Yemenites recite Selichot all of Elul!

Why must Jews be so serious? All this introspection! All this sin and misdeeds! You can't convince the Jewish cynic that all this attention to improving one's spiritual well-being isn't downright depressing.

So it appears to those who view the glass as half empty.

The pessimist looks at the half

CONT.ON P26

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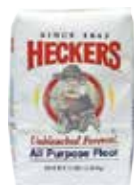


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Rum Raisin Cinnamon Swirl Challah

SHANNON SARNA

This is the kind of challah that feels almost like a dessert, particularly because of the cinnamon swirl inside – truly something special to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

- Ingredients:**
 1 cup raisins
 ½ cup warm water
 ½ cup dark rum
 1 ½ tablespoons active dry yeast

- 1 teaspoon sugar
 1 ¼ cups lukewarm water
 4 ½ cups unbleached all-purpose flour
 ½ tablespoon salt
 ½ tablespoon cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
 ½ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
 ½ cup vegetable oil
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 2 eggs
 ½ cup (1 stick) margarine, at room temperature
 ½ cup packed brown sugar
 2 teaspoons cinnamon
 Pinch of salt
 1 egg + 1 teaspoon water + 1 teaspoon honey
 Thick sea salt (optional)

Preparation:

1. The night before or 2 hours before you are ready to bake your challah, place raisins, warm water, and rum into a bowl. Allow to sit while raisins absorb liquid and plump. When ready to make the dough, drain raisins and set aside.
2. In a small bowl, place yeast, 1 teaspoon sugar, and lukewarm water. Allow to sit around 10 minutes, until it becomes foamy on top.
3. In a large bowl or stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, mix together 1 ½ cups flour, salt,

sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. After the water-yeast mixture has become foamy, add to flour mixture along with oil and vanilla. Mix thoroughly.
 4. Add another cup of flour and eggs and mix until smooth. Switch to the dough hook attachment if you are using a stand mixer.
 5. Add another 1-1 ½ cups flour, mixing thoroughly, and then remove from bowl and place on a floured surface. Knead remaining flour into dough, continuing

to knead for around 5 minutes.
 6. Place dough in a greased bowl and cover with a damp towel. Allow to rise 3-4 hours, punching down at least once if

possible.
 7. In another small bowl, mix together softened margarine, brown sugar, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, and pinch of salt.
 8. Divide dough evenly in half and then roll each portion out into a rectangle around ½-inch thick. Spread brown sugar mixture in an even layer all over dough, leaving a ½ inch border all the way around. Sprinkle reserved raisins over the brown sugar mixture.



CONT.ON P25

Carrot-Apple Slaw with Acacia Honey and Orange Juice Vinaigrette

JESS BRANNEN

Ingredients:

- 1 sweet red apple
 1 Granny Smith apple
 3 cups matchstick carrots
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 2 tablespoons Savannah Bee Company Acacia Honey
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 2 tablespoons orange juice
 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
 1 teaspoon orange zest
 Pinch of salt and pepper



- matchstick-sized) and toss them together with the lemon juice.
 2. In another smaller bowl, combine Acacia Honey, olive oil, orange juice, cider vinegar, orange zest, salt and pepper. Mix well, then pour over the apples and carrots.
 3. Toss in any extra toppings you like, (feta and dried cranberries are great) and refrigerate until time to serve.

Show off that slaw!

- Tips:**
 Adding in fresh herbs is always a great choice.
 Substitute in bell peppers, raisins, whatever you think will work!

Preparation:

1. In one large bowl, julienne the apples and carrots (if not already

Fall Beauty Report

RACHELI FRIED

We made it! The kids are tucked away in school and are getting used to the routine. They have already taken quite a few tests and have had their share of homework. The little Rosh Hashana projects have enough time to dry this year before the kids bring them home-no drippy messes desperately trying to make it in time to be displayed at the table!

This year, the calendar allows us some breathing room-and I'm LOVING it! I feel like I can ring in the New Year like a mentch. We have enough time to buy our ingredients ahead of time to make some freezer ready, make-ahead extra batches of challah and cakes and even some meats and sides so that we can relax and won't fall asleep at the table from the pre-Yom Tov marathon. Why can't we do this every year? It has my vote.

We even have time to think

about staying on trend and even though it's still in the mid to high 70s, I've already busted out my cranberry and wine colored accessories and lip shades. I'm slowly but surely transitioning these faves into my wardrobe



and makeup routines. (I'll hold out on the oh so chic blanket scarves just a little while longer.) What should we look out for while shopping for the season? Here are the top hottest picks from the people that make the rules. You know, the "trendy rule" people...

whoever they may be. The ones that brought back the "ever so flattering" chunky heels that I donated ages ago because skinny heels were all the rage. At least they are easier to walk in...

Starting with skin, keep that beautiful Summer glow going with moisturizing, illuminating primers for that inner "I woke up this way" youthful radiance. As the weather turns cooler and crisper, our skin tends to dry out, so keep that moisturizing habit going. Frame that gorgeous glowing face with beautiful, bold brows using a thin pencil and some brow powder and top it all off with clear mascara gel to keep it all neat. Smoky eyes are always in, but now is the time to add those gold, deeper browns and bronze shades. Experiment with green and touches of deep wine-have fun with it! Don't forget to keep that inner corner light to avoid looking tired and overdone. When going heavier on eyes, always stick to a nude or lighter shade on the lips because fall does not equal clown makeup and going heavy and bold on

both eyes and lips will look overdone. I personally love my deeper rich tones on the lips so I have been reaching for my lighter eye shadows for now with a rich brown/black eyeliner to define my eyes. A little trick for aging skin-especially for those with deep laugh lines...play up your eyes more and downplay the lip area to bring the eye up and take the attention away from the lines. Perfect that cat eye and apply eye makeup in an upward motion to give the illusion of a face-lift. Hi-light the brow bone with a light shade and use that same color in the inner corner. Top it off with two coats of lengthening, volumizing mascara and put a little extra attention to the outer corners for that eye opening affect. To take your lip look from day to night, keep it matte for day and sweep on a lighter shade of gloss in the center on your lips for a full, pouty look for night. Have fun, play and get your inner creativity going. Don't be intimidated-you got this! Happy Fall! xoxo

RUM RASIN CHALLAH

CONT. FROM P24

9. Working quickly, start rolling up the dough towards you. Try to keep the roll relatively tight as you go. Pinch the ends and tuck under when you finish.
10. Create a pinwheel-shaped challah by snaking the dough around and around in a circle around itself. When finished, tuck the end under the challah neatly and pinch lightly. This doesn't have to be perfect.

11. Preheat oven to 350°F.
12. Allow challah to rise another 30-60 minutes, or until you can see the size has grown and challah seems light.
13. In a small bowl, beat 1 egg with 1 teaspoon honey, and 1 teaspoon water. Brush egg wash liberally over challah. Sprinkle with thick sea salt if desired.
14. Bake challah around 24-26 minutes or until golden brown and the middle of the challah no longer seems gooey.

Spicy Sweet Tofu Stir Fry

CALLIE BLOUNT

A special technique-that involves soaking most of the moisture out of the tofu-gives a crisp and tasty edge to this Spicy Sweet Tofu Stir Fry. The sauce itself is a bit addictive, so I challenge you and your family to not eat this whole dish at once!

Ingredients:

Stiry Fry:

1 (14 ounce) package firm or extra firm tofu
Cooking spray
2 cups roughly chopped green beans
1 cup diagonally sliced carrots
1 cup sliced red bell pepper
1 cup sliced orange bell pepper
2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil for sautéing (you can also use peanut or coconut)

Sauce:

1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce (I like tamari because it's gluten-free)
1/2 tsp dried ginger
1/2 tsp Sriracha
2 tablespoons white sugar
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon cornstarch
Optional: white rice; chopped peanuts or additional Sriracha for topping



ever your heart desires.
3. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray, and arrange chopped tofu on the pan. Bake for 15 minutes, flip over your tofu cubes to ensure even color, then bake for 15 more minutes. This will dry out the tofu and give it a more meat-like texture.
4. Once the tofu is golden brown and a bit tough and firm, remove it from the oven and set it out to dry a bit more while you prep your vegetables. Ideally, it would set out another 45 minutes or maybe longer.

I don't recommend refrigerating it overnight, as it will be too chewy.
5. If serving over rice, start the rice at this point.
6. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together all of the sauce ingredients, then set them aside.
7. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat, add oil and swirl to coat the bottom of your pan. Then add (your beautifully chopped) veggies and toss to coat. Cook for 5-7 minutes, stirring often. When the vegetables have some color and have softened a bit (just feel them with your spoon or spatula; they should have some give to them), add the sauce, and stir. It should bubble and thicken. Then add the tofu and stir to coat.
8. Cook the mixture for 3-5 minutes, stirring often. Try your best to not overcook this; taste it every minute or so to make sure your veggies stay on the crisp side. When veggies are cooked to your preferred doneness, remove from heat.
9. Serve your stir fry as is or over rice for a more filling meal. Enjoy and revel in your delicious, knife-wielding success. Bravo!

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F and begin drying your tofu. Remove it from the package, drain, and place it between two thick towels folded into the shape of the tofu. Then place it on a paper-towel lined plate or bowl and top it with something heavy like an iron skillet.
2. Let it dry for about 15 minutes, changing your towels if they get too wet. Once dry, chop the tofu (with your awesome knife) into roughly 1-inch cubes or rectangles, which-

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Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

From Rashi, Sifsai Chachamim and Toras Chaim of Kossov

KI SAVO- Avanim Shleimos, Complete Stones, Complete Words of Prayer

In Devarim 27:2-8 we are told about the stones to be put up on Har Eival. This was to be done as soon as we crossed the Yarden River. Rashi quotes the Gemara in Sota that tells us that there were actually three sets of stones placed. One set was placed in the Yarden River, one in Gilgal and the third on Har Eival. The Sifsai Chachamim clarifies that although we do not see in the Chumash a command for three sets of stones, nevertheless, we are told in Sefer Yehoshua Chapter 4 that twelve stones were placed in the Yarden where the Kohanim walked as they carried the Aron and the twelve in Gilgal when Am Yisroel entered Eretz Yisroel. The twelve in Har Eival we are told about over here. Our Mesorah is that there were three sets of stones. The Sifsai Chachamim simply clarifies how we are to see it from here and Sefer Yehoshua.

We are also told that the

stones contained the words of the Torah Baer Haitaiv which Rashi explains to mean in all seventy languages. The Sifsai Chachamim clarifies for us that this applied specifically to the stones on Har Eival. There is discussion among the Torah Commentators regarding exactly how the entire Torah was to fit on these stones in seventy languages. Some say it was just the mitzvos of the Torah and not all five books and some say it was the entire five books and it was accomplished miraculously.

In verse 8 we are told to build an altar of complete stones and not use any iron tools. This prohibition of using iron in the construction applied to any altar we had in our history. Chazal tell us that iron, being used chiefly for weapons, shortens man's life and the altar prolongs man's life and the two do not belong together.

The Toras Chaim of Ko-

CONT.ON P26

SAFRAN

CONT. FROM P20

filled glass and bemoans that it is half empty. "Oh poor me! There is only half a glass. It is very nearly empty." The optimist looks at the very same glass and rejoices that it is half full.

Which of the two is correct? Both see the same glass and acknowledge its same physical properties. But one speaks out of despair while the other enjoys the benefit of living in a state of optimism and hope.

Contrary to the cynic and pessimist, the optimist has the truer perspective on Judaism. The "glass half full" shows us the power of that period from Rosh Chodes through the conclusion of Days of Awe and holiness, Shmini Atzeret. When we open our siddurim, we discover the most optimistic of all Psalms, selected specifically for this awesome period – Psalm 27. The Midrash teaches that the words L'Dovid HaShem Ori, the Lord is my life, refer to Rosh Hashanah while v'yishi, and aid, reflects on Yom Kippur. Ki yitzpeneni b'suko, He will hide me within His tabernacle, speaks of Sukkot.

A quick glance through the

psalm is enough to find all the words that conjure up hope, optimism, happiness, and strength. Begin with the first posuk and go through the kapitel, light, aid, stronghold, not fear, confident, desire, dwell in the house of the Lord, pleasantness, shelter, safe, high, sing, chant, gracious, seek you My presence, help, care, teach, guide, land of the living, hope, strong, brave.

Fourteen short verses. Twenty-four optimistic words and phrases.

God's name appears thirteen times in the psalm, once each for the thirteen gates of rachamim – mercy and hope – which are open to us during the month of Elul.

The commentaries divide the psalm into two distinct parts. Verses 1-6 express the clearly stated hope of David to "dwell in the house of the Lord" and to "behold His pleasantness." The second set of verses, verses 7-14, are a call for help on behalf of all Jews. It is a call reminiscent of the sign put up by Breslaver Chassidim on the gate to their ghetto during the Second World War: Yiden, Zeit Zich Nisht M'Yaesh -


CONT.ON P27

KIRSH

CONT. FROM P25

ssov extends the altar to be built on Har Eival to Our Tefilos to Hashem. The letters of the Aleph-beis are the 'stones' or building blocks of our tefillos. They must be perfect and complete. In the case of our prayers, this means they must be recited clearly and with proper thoughts. The attribute of Hashem's kingship, malchus is also called even,stone. The first three words in verse 8, Avanim Shliemos tivneh, complete stones you shall build, is an acronym for Hashem Sfasai Tiftach. Hashem


open my lips, which we recite at the start of every shmone esrei. Though we do not have the Bais Hamikdash and the altar today, we still can proclaim Hashem's kingship in the world. This is accomplished by davening slowly, carefully and with inner fire. Truly, all of our tefillos that were recited by Klal Yisroel throughout our centuries of exile and the tears cried reciting them are adding up to a beautiful tapestry of spiritual merits that will bring about the rebuilding of our Bais Hamikdash. May we merit seeing it rebuilt speedily in our days. Amen.




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SAFRAN
CONT. FROM P26

Jews, Don't Give Up!"

That is not pessimism. That is strength and hope! That is looking at half a glass and seeing fullness, not emptiness. Pessimism is not Jews who daven or who guard the Sabbath. Pessimism is Jews who are not davening, who are not learning. Pessimism is Jews who are assimilating and intermarrying. Pessimism is Jews more concerned with their tennis game than their souls

Listen to these words, twice a day for nearly fifty days, – hope in the Lord, be strong, and let your heart be brave; yes, hope in the Lord.

That is optimism!

The Malbim, notes that of all the pleas set before God during the Yamim Noraim, there is one which will enable the Jew to overcome all other spiritual obstacles, the one that asks that he become totally one with God. "The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Each Jew is to yearn for the I-Thou relationship with God, for oneness with God, for then, "even though an army were arrayed against me, my heart would not fear; though

war shall arise against me, still would I be confident."

Among the students coming for a new year at a college was a young man who hobbled on crutches, a young man who was particularly friendly and optimistic. During the year, he won many academic honors along with the respect of his classmates. One day a classmate asked the cause of his deformity.

With a shrug, the young man said, "Infantile paralysis."

This intrigued the classmate and so he asked, "With a misfortune like that, how can you face the world so confidently?"

The young man leaned on his crutches and smiled. "Oh," he replied, "the disease never touched my heart."

The world is filled with problems and challenges. There are serious issues that we must resolve, difficult questions to answer, and seemingly impossible crises to tackle – but let us be as the young man and not let those things touch our hearts.

For the Jew, the glass is always half full for it is God who has poured it.

Hope. Be strong. Be brave.

Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu Safran is an educator, author and lecturer.

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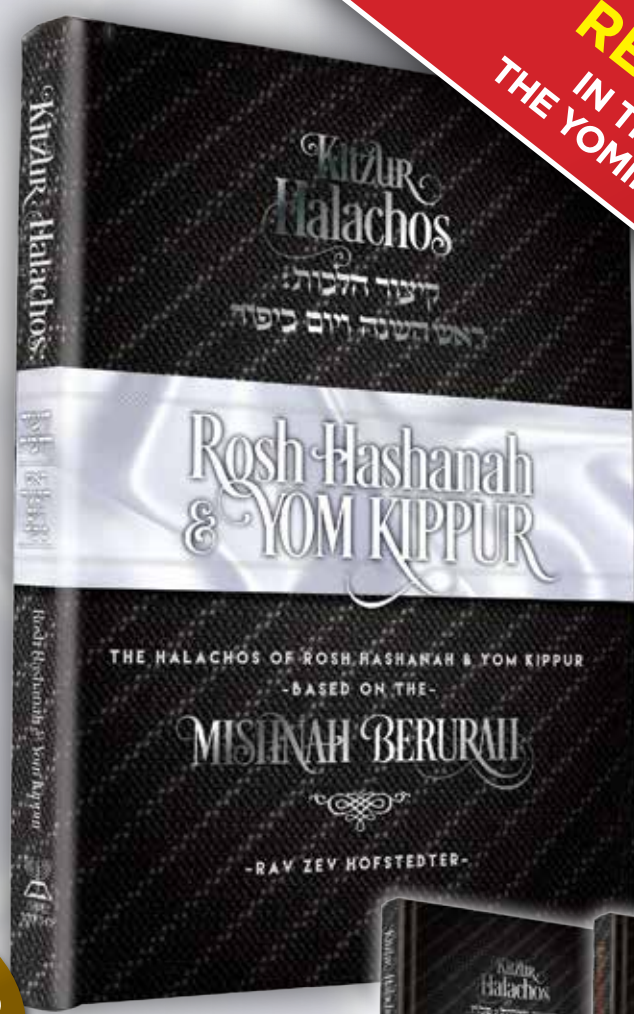
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Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

**PARASHAT KI TAVO
2016 - 5776**

This parasha begins with the Mitzvah of bringing bikkurim [first fruit] to the Beit Hamikdash, along with the declaration of the farmer in which he thanks HaShem for the goodness He bestowed upon him- as an individual and as a nation. The pesukim [26:1-11] discuss the national problems and ultimate success of the nation, culminating in the entry into Eretz Yisrael. It also discusses the happiness the individual should feel with the fruit that has grown in his field along with the other blessings he has received.

The Torah then continues in a different direction, moving to the very harsh section of the Toh'cha'cha, the rebuke and curses the nation could incur for sinful behavior. One of the sins

is "because you did not serve HaShem, with happiness and a good heart from an abundance of all". [28:47]. Rashi explains this to mean, that after having so much, it is sinful not to properly express hakarat hatov [appreciation for the good one receives]

This particular aveira[sin] has plagued us since the beginning of time. Adam HaRishon when confronted by HaShem for transgressing the command against eating from the Eitz HaDaa, shrugs off the guilt by claiming it was partially Gd's fault for "The woman whom You gave to be with me-she gave me of the tree, and I ate" [Bereishit 3:12]. Rashi notes, here we find the first instance of ingratitude in the world. Imagine, Gd gave him a beautiful gift, a wife to be with

him, and instead of expressing gratitude to HaShem, he blames HaShem for his shortcoming. For that he was ejected from Gan Eiden.

In days of Moshe, in the wilderness, Gd presented our people with a miraculous food, the Mann, which satisfied everyone's taste and wishes, so what could be better than that? Yet, our people cried and complained, saying, "Who will feed us meat? We remember [while in slavery] the fish we ate [in Egypt], the cucumbers... But now, our life is parched, there is nothing but the Mann [Bamidbar 11:4-6]. Again ingratitude! Are we any different today, in the 21st century?"

Our parasha, which is so relevant for the month of Elul is teaching us about the Mitzvah of Bikkurim. The Mitzvah is MEIVI VE'KOREI, not only to meivi- bring fruits but to korei declare our gratitude to Hashem. Gratitude must be expressed and verbalized, loud and clear and as

often as possible for our personal and national benefits. On a personal level there is so much to express thanks for, starting with being alive, having our health, being able to walk, talk, eat, see, smell, smile, and the list goes on and on. And even if we are not in perfect health and are limited in some areas, look at all things we are not lacking. Look not at the empty parts of the glass, but to its full parts. On a national gratitude we must express thanks for having a viable Medinat Yisrael, a "Land that HaShem seeks out, the eyes of Gd are always upon it, from beginning of the year to year's end" [Devarim 11: 12], a strong Israeli army and an opportunity to learn Torah and observe Mitzvot to the highest level than ever before. This year let us not fail in the Mitzvah of Gratitude to HaShem. Life is short; appreciate every day- VE'KOREI!

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A TALE OF THREE FRIENDS

YITZCHOK STEIN

His hands trembled as the soldiers arrived with the summons. It was hard to say what was worse; the actual words or the written decree. It did not matter. He felt his heart shake as he read the order. The charges were serious. He was to come to court by a prescribed time. He was in deep trouble with the government. He was at least allowed to stay home under the watchful eyes of the guards. The accused gently closed the door. The fear fought with his ability to think. But there was no choice. Wallowing in self-pity would not help. He needed to plan. He needed to have an advocate. He needed someone who would vouch for him before the judge. Whom could he ask?

The accused had three close friends. He had no doubt in his mind that all three would empathize with his predicament and stand with him on his day in court. Messages were quickly dispatched. To his great surprise, his first friend refused to come along at all. It was a hard thing to swallow. Hadn't he spent years of his life in close camaraderie with this friend? Why he had put it so much into their brotherhood! The rejection was shocking and depressing.

Now the second friend was different. He showed loyalty and concern. The third friend had also agreed to come along to see if he could help in any way. Truth be told, the third friend wasn't the one he spent much time with. He really didn't put much effort into their relationship. It was more of an 'acquaintance' type of association. But if this acquaintance was willing to defend him, why stop him?

The ominous day dawned. Not that he was able to sleep much since the day of the summons. A coach was called and both friends climbed in. It was a dreary ride. The wheels squeaked and he felt every bump. The sweat was soaking his garments. His friends looked on sympathetically as they arrived at the court house.

He was the first to climb out of the carriage holding the door

for his friends. As soon as one of them saw the ominous sign of the court building, he ran away. The accused was in total shock. After all, he had invested so much time and effort in their relationship. What to do now? He anxiously looked at his remaining friend; the one he barely spent time with.

This was the fellow that had really been the occasional acquaintance of his life. With an air of confidence he entered the courtroom with the accused. He beseeched the judge for mercy. He mentioned every positive deed and any meritorious act the defendant had ever done. The acquaintance presented the judge with the best defense possible and he won an acquittal for the accused! Indeed the third 'friend' proved to be the most loyal and caring person of all!

At some point in a person's sojourn on Earth, a summons from the King comes. It might take as long as one hundred and twenty years to appear, but there is no way out of it. No one is exempted from an appearance before Hashem on their personal Day of Judgment. The story above is everyone's story. Everyone needs advocates to defend themselves before the Heavenly Court.

What better advocate can one find than the 'close friends' a person has met in his life? For many people, their 'closest friend' is the monies and possessions they have spent their life amassing. How many hours does a person spend traveling back and forth from work? How much time does one take planning and expanding one's business? How much effort does a person put into increasing profits, getting a raise, winning the lottery, and calculating the best way to beat his competitors? How much work and overtime does one put in? How much care does one have for one's home, car, and possessions etc.? But that 'friend' does not accompany a person before the Heavenly Court. He doesn't even escort the person beyond his last moment of life!

What about the second

'friend'? What about the family and children one has worked so hard to support, to provide them with the best? How much effort and thought does one put into his family? But on the Day of Judgment, the most one's love ones can do is accompany the person to his burial. But this 'second friend' does not go with the person to his appointment with the Heavenly court.

Who is left? The acquaintance, the one most people spend little time with.? He is usually the person you know and perhaps nod

at or speak to occasionally. Torah and mitzvos that one spends a few minutes here and there doing. By being preoccupied with the first two friends, the accused has not spent that much time with the acquaintance! Yet it is this vey acquaintance who becomes the loyal friend who fights for the accused. He points to every morsel of time the defendant spent in following the mitzvos and learning Torah. Consider how the acquaintance is successful and the accused is exonerated and becomes able to receive reward in the World to Come!!.

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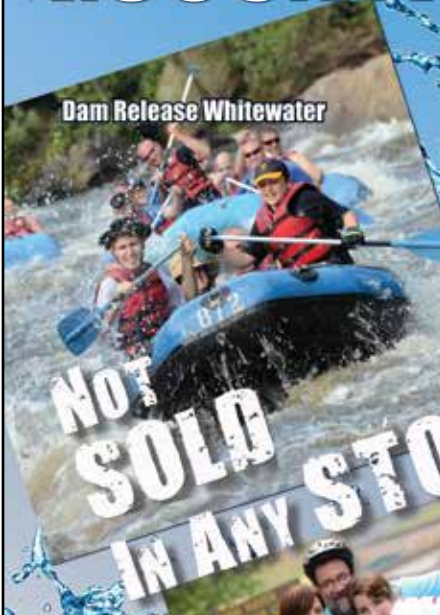
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STRATEGIES | Rifka Schonfeld

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BOYS IN THE BACK EQUALIZING EDUCATION

Think about the perfect student: that student sits quietly, takes notes, and participates when called on. Now, were you imagining a boy or a girl? Chances are, your image of a “perfect” student was a female student. Why? The attributes I mentioned – sitting quietly, participating when called on, and taking notes are noncognitive skills. Noncognitive skills have nothing to do with a child’s intelligence and include: attentiveness, persistence, eagerness to learn, and the ability to sit still and work independently. Cristina Hoff Summers pointed out in a February article for The New York Times, “As most parents know, girls tend to develop these skills earlier and more naturally than boys.”

In essence, the whole system of education in our country is “rigged” against boys. And because of this, regardless of their intellectual ability, boys receive lower grades than girls. In fact, Summers points out that teachers tend to rate boys as

less proficient in all skills (math, reading, writing) than girls, but on standardized tests, those same boys will score the same or better than the girls.

Saying that our education system is biased against boys might be true, but you could argue that our workplaces which require people to sit and focus for long periods of time are also rigged against boys and their later mastery of those essential noncognitive skills.

While that’s true, what’s also true is that as boys grow older, they have longer attention spans, can sit still for longer, and gain a greater ability to work independently. Therefore, boys lose out at the beginning of their schooling, putting them at a disadvantage before they gain those critical noncognitive skills. So, how can we, as parents and educators, make the learning process less unbalanced for our boys? Can we move them out of the back of the classroom?

I believe we can. Here are some suggestions to help move our boys to the head of the class:

More boy-friendly reading assignments. In literacy education, there are often books that are labeled “boy books” or “girl books.” And, yep, you guessed it – most books that are incorporated into curricula would typically be labeled “girl books.” Instead of the more classic works of literature, curricula should include science fiction, fantasy, sports, and espionage genres. Even if the boys have not yet fully developed their “noncognitive skills” they will be more likely to read subjects that interest them. Of course, this does not mean that all books should be geared towards boys; rather, more books should be selected with their interests in mind.

More recess. Boys and girls need time to run around and shed their excess energy. In fact, research shows that children are able to better concentrate after they have done some exercise. So, how do you maximize boys’ learning? You let them run around the recess yard first. When they get back into class, their brains will be primed to learn.

More hands-on learning. While it’s true that boys lag behind girls in noncognitive skills such as sitting still and attending, this is no indication of their intelligence. Therefore, if we create hands-on learning opportunities (which do not rely on sitting still), we will be giving these boys a method through which to learn without relying on those noncognitive skills. For example, instead of talking about the lifecycle and anatomy of a plant, dissect a seed and use that hands-on activity as a jumping off point for discussion.

Single-sex classrooms. Our yeshivahs have single-sex classrooms, but just having a single-sex classroom is not enough to ensure that boys will learn up to their capabilities. That single-sex classroom must be taught with the above knowledge: boys read different material, they need to run around a little, and they benefit from hands-on learning. Our classrooms and schools are already separate. Now, we need to make an effort to teach to our boys’ strengths.

Boys and Reading

Boys do not read at nearly the same level as girls. Reading Rockets, an organization devoted to promoting lifelong learning, states the situation bluntly:

The statistics are consistent: Young male readers lag behind

their female counterparts. According to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) in 2001, fourth-grade girls in all of the 30-plus participating countries scored higher in reading literacy than fourth-grade boys by a statistically significant amount.

Why do we care so much about reading? Why is it important to get our boys reading to their greatest potential? The most basic reason is that reading is the most important skill that people have in order to enhance their intelligence. Through reading, people improve their vocabularies and memories, become better writers, and even relieve stress. On a more practical level, literacy levels are correlated with financial success. In sum, we need to ensure that our boys are reading because their lives will be more fulfilling, relaxed, and comfortable.

Boys and ADHD

Another, often less discussed issue with boys’ reading is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). We all know that reading takes concentration – without it – you can’t get to the end of a sentence. What many people don’t realize is that while ADHD is a common behavioral disorder that affects between 8-10% of school age children, boys are three times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with ADHD.

Of course, only a tiny fraction of boys have ADHD, but this fraction is significantly larger than the fraction of girls that have ADHD. This can also account for the differences in proficiency in boys’ and girls’ reading scores. Therefore, if your child son is unable to focus, is easily distracted, and often fidgets, consider getting him tested for ADHD. His lack of reading skills could be attributed to a surmountable learning disability.

Let’s get those boys out of the back of the classroom and living up to their fullest potential!

An acclaimed educator and education consultant, Mrs. Rifka Schonfeld has served the Jewish community for close to thirty years. She founded and directs the widely acclaimed educational program, SOS, servicing all grade levels in secular as well as Hebrew studies. A kria and reading specialist, she has given dynamic workshops and has set up reading labs in many schools. In addition, she offers evaluations G.E.D. preparation, social skills training and shidduch coaching, focusing on building self-esteem and self-awareness. She can be reached at 718-382-5437 or at rifkaschonfeld@gmail.com. You can view the web at rifkaschonfeldsos.com.

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Rabbi Jonathan Gewirtz

"The Observant Jew"

MAKE IT MEMORABLE

Most people remember where they were when Kennedy was shot, or when they heard that an airplane had crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. The event was so pivotal that the initial memory of that knowledge was ingrained into their psyches.

If someone was in a very bad accident, or had some traumatic event take place, that might also trigger deep-rooted emotions that create memories. Then, when it is alluded to, they find themselves back in the moment, able to recreate even minute details.

But what if you want to help someone remember something without possibly giving them post-traumatic stress disorder? How can you make a memory? Sure, you could take it to the other extreme and give the six-year old a pony for her birthday, but that's not necessarily a memory that will help her later on in life.

I want to suggest some examples. Perhaps you'll find a technique or two that work for you.

1. Repetition. The Dubno Maggid explains the verse in Tehillim "He'emanti ki adaber, that I believed even as I said." He says the more you say something, the more you believe it.

When I was in my early teens, my grandfather would take me for haircuts. As I admired the barber's handiwork in the mirror, my grandfather would say, "The best part is that the Tefillen will fit much better on the head now." I would chuckle to myself knowing that the best part of the haircut was how good my hair looked! (I sort of remember having hair.)

Now, years later, my grandfather is not alive to take me for haircuts, but when I put on my Tefillen the day after one, I clearly hear his voice and can't help but agree how wonderful it is that the Tefillen fit better now. Say some-

thing again, and then again, and you might create a memory.

2. Unusualness. As I write this, I'm surprised my spellcheck didn't tell me unusualness isn't a word, but it's a good thing because I plan to keep it here. Sometimes a memory can be made by something that is incongruous, but not necessarily in a bad way. A woman related to me that her son was in the ATM vestibule outside a Monsey bank late one evening and there happened to be several Jewish men there at the same time.

A fellow answered her son's question about the ATM and then walked out. A few seconds later, he walked back in and said, "Since we have a group of Jews together, we should have a Dvar Torah!" He proceeded to say a short one, then turned and left. "Only in Monsey!" the woman said, but don't you think her son might remember and feel for the rest of his life, "When you have a group of Jews together you should have a Dvar Torah"? Look for the opportunity to create memorable circumstances by utilizing the extraordinary.

3. Memory Cues. People training to remember large quantities of data may use a technique called

a memory tree in which you take something very familiar, such as your bedroom or office, and assign different things to each item or place in that room. Envisioning a huge stack of folders balanced delicately on a doorknob might remind you about the report you need to take to school or work before you open the door to leave.

Another cue is linking to something you will do anyway, such as davening. R' Moshe Meir Weiss says that when giving a class to Baalei Batim, working folk, a great topic is davening. They might not come across the halachic topic you speak about, but if you discuss the meaning behind a certain prayer, they'll remember it the next time they recite it.

I still remember something my father said at my Sheva Brachos because it was a Midrash tied to a line in Kabolas Shabbos. It may not be every time, but often on Friday night when I say that phrase, I remember the compliment my father gave me so long ago.

The last thing to mention is that you should carefully choose

CONT.ON P39

CROSSWORD ANSWER

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Doc Flow GO, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/19/16 location: Richmond County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC, SSNY shall mail a copy to: Doc Flow Go 505 Willow Rd East #2, Staten Island, NY 10314. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity

MILEAN CONSULTING L.L.C. Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 5/4/2016. Off. Loc.: Richmond Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to MILEAN CONSULTING LLC, 484 Mountainview Avenue, Staten Island , NY 10314. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Absolutely Brilliant Creations, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY 08/01/2016. Off. Loc.: Richmond Co. SSNY designated agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 96 Lorrain Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity

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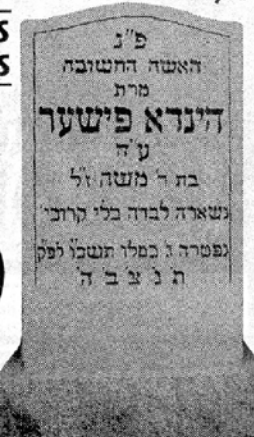
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Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg

G-D HAS A PLAN FOR ALL OF US

Judaism teaches that Gd loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives. It's easy to agree when we like the plan. But what do you do when the plan isn't what you expected?

We know that Gd doesn't always answer our prayers the way we would like. What do we do when Gd doesn't come through for us? How do we keep hope alive when life itself seems to take a wrong turn down a dead-end street? What if all that we hold dear is suddenly snatched away—if our friends desert us, if our job is gone, if our health disappears, if death comes unbidden to our door. These things do happen. What then?

We are led to face a difficult but undeniable reality that sometimes Gd's plan is different from what we expected. So what then?

On Rosh Hashanah the fea-

tured character in our Torah readings is Abraham. Let's take a look at his life and how he faced his disappointments. Abraham left his comfortable home in Mesopotamia—leaving behind wealth, prestige, family and community—to follow Gd's call. What happened when he finally got to Canaan? There was no welcome sign, no discount coupons from the merchants, no housewarming party, no visit from the welcome wagon. Nobody expected him and nobody cared that he had come. Gd promised that the land would be his...but he had to scratch out an existence...living in tents!

Hundreds of years would pass before the promise was fulfilled. Abraham never saw it happen. Neither did Isaac his son, nor Jacob his grandson. Yes Gd has a plan for us and the world, but sometimes He works across the generations to accomplish His

purposes. While we're worried about which dress or suit to wear for Yom Tov, Gd acts globally—his timetable is not the same as ours.

Not only did Abraham not have a red carpet greeting him, just after he arrived, the land was stricken with a famine. What's up with that? Here's a man who has sacrificed everything to follow Gd. He comes to the land that Gd promised would be his...and now there's a famine? How do you explain that? As it turns out, Abraham ends up going down to Egypt during the famine where he gets in trouble because he lies about Sarah to Pharaoh. It doesn't make any sense. Why the famine and why the test?

The answer is, the test is the whole point. After all that Abraham has been through, after all he sacrificed for Gd—home, family, prestige, wealth—you would think that Gd would give him a period of peace and quiet. But life is rarely that simple for any of us. Life often sends trouble just when things are going well in order to teach us. But if we lose our job, our marriage, our friends, our reputation, our wealth, our home, our health...what then?

Instead of complaining at every trial and saying "Why me?" we would be better off to follow the advice of the Talmud (Brachot 5a) and ask: "Gd, what are you trying to teach me through this? What is the purpose of what's happening to me?" Every difficult situation gives us the opportunity to become a student of Gd or a hapless victim.

Every difficult situation gives us the opportunity to become a student of Gd or a hapless victim. Each lesson is unique to the circumstances, but a crucial lesson underlying every disappointment is: When the famine comes—when disappointment sets in—remember that Gd will never abandon you! For example, if you get a rejection letter. It's just a no. But maybe it's "No, not now;" or "No, not this;" or "No, move in a different direction." Gd didn't abandon you with this rejection. Look for the hidden message in it.

In today's Torah reading, we read about the miraculous birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. It was about 25 years since arriving in Canaan, since Gd had 1st promised Abraham that his children would be as numer-

ous as the "stars in the sky"—25 year of waiting and hoping and anticipating. Can you imagine the disappointment every month? So time and again Gd appeared to him to remind him of His promise. I'm sure he often wondered why Gd was taking so long. But he and Sarah never gave up, even though that as they were getting older and older, they were getting less and less likely to be able to have a child.

For me the most important verse from this passage is in the beginning: "Gd remembered Sarah, as he had promised, and Gd did for Sarah as He had spoken." Did you notice where Gd is in that verse? He's at the beginning and He's at the end. Gd is always at the beginning and at the end—and all the way through! Gd will never abandon us. He'll see us though everything. That's how it happened that Sarah got pregnant at 90 and why Abraham was changing diapers at the age of 100.

The story of Isaac's birth teaches us that Gd is never early and He's never late. He doesn't work according to our timetable. What was the lesson in Abraham and Sarah's 25-year agonizing wait? Perhaps it was to demonstrate the power of Gd and that He always keeps His promises. And when Abraham held little Isaac in his arms, he then knew that nothing was too hard for Gd. They named their child Yitzchak, "laughter." It was both a statement of total joy and a reminder that Gd's promises are no laughing matter.

We Jews have a long history of seeing Gd keeping His promises—even if it means intervening in the natural order of things. We saw it when Moses led us out of Egypt with the plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea; when He brought us to the Promised Land and we conquered it despite enemies who were larger and stronger; when the Maccabees defeated the mighty Syrian Greeks; again and again in our time with the creation and defense of the State of Israel. Gd keeps His promises to the Jewish people!

Has God made a promise to you? If so, you may be sure that he will keep it. You may waver, but He won't. It may not come in your time or in the way you imagined, but it will come. If your eyes fill with tears of disappointment

CONT.ON P35

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Rabbi Naphtali Hoff

MAXIMIZING OUR SPIRITUAL ROI

ROI (return on investment) is something that we think about routinely. Investors want to know what type of return they can expect to receive on their money. Students want to know the benefit of pursuing specialized education. People

in challenged relationships seek to understand what they can expect to gain from their investment of time and resources into therapy or other interventions.

In most cases, ROI is measured by the Bottom Line. If the effort and

investment result in a meaningful profit or gain, then it is considered to be worthwhile. If not, then the ROI is said to be negligible and the enterprise not worthy of future outlay. However, there is one notable exception to this rule. It relates particularly to this time of year, when we stand before our Maker in solemn hope that we will experience a positive judgment.

Rav Dessler (Michtav M'Eliyahu, Vol II, pp. 96-97) writes that our judgment rides not on our "bottom line" actions, but on the inner desires and motivators that exist within our hearts. He supports his argument by citing Ramban in Parashas Emor, who writes that Rosh Hashana is a "yom hadin b'rachamim" and Yom Kippur a "yom harachamim b'din."

The explanation to Ramban's words, says Rav Dessler, is as follows. Despite the seriousness of Rosh Hashana, we have the capacity to stir divine mercy on that holy day by demonstrating such qualities of giving and compassion towards others. Conversely, we have the ability to transform the compassionate day of Yom Kippur into one of strict judgment if we are unable to engage in meaningful change.

This explanation helps us better understand the roles and relationship between Hashem's attributes of din and rachamim (strict justice and mercy, respectively). Typically, we perceive these two attributes as mutually independent elements of divine justice. Hashem either chooses to judge a person strictly or He applies compassionate mercy, and softens the severity of the true judgment against sinners.

However, this understanding is wholly inaccurate. Rashi, commenting on the first verse in the Torah, questions why it is that throughout the entire first chapter of Genesis only the name "Elokim" – the divine name used to express strict justice – is used when referencing the Creator. Yet, at the beginning of the following chapter (2:4ff), the

combined term of "Hashem Elokim" is utilized (a term indicating that not only had rachamim become incorporated into Hashem's mode of judgment, but had even bypassed din as the primary means of ruling). Rashi's response provides us with a new insight into our discussion.

In the beginning it was His intention to create (the world) with the Divine Standard of Justice, but he perceived that the world would not endure, so He preceded it with the Divine Standard of Mercy, allying it with the Divine Standard of Justice. (Rashi to Bereishis 1:1)

Since the earliest stages of creation, Hashem deemed it necessary for din and rachamim to be melded together to form one complete entity, working together harmoniously in response to Man's misdeeds.

But how does this work? How can din and rachamim be used in conjunction with one another to achieve a desired result?

Rav Dessler (Michtav M'Eliyahu, Volume 1, p.8ff) explains this idea through the use of the following example. Suppose that there are two young men who each rob a bank of the same amount of money. One was raised in a crime riddled community without proper parenting and guidance. The other comes from an upstanding home; now, he has fallen in with the wrong crowd, and has turned to a life of crime.

The judge, who happened to be a roommate with the second thief's father during law school, rules that the first thief must spend two years in prison. His friend's son, however, is required to pay a small fine and contribute 200 hours of communal service.

At first glance, this inconsistency in judgment would appear to be highly inappropriate. After all, they committed the same crime. If anything, logic would dictate that the criminal from the depressed neighborhood should be treated with more clemency, while the one who was raised in an upscale setting should be reprimanded more severe-

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ROSENBERG CONT. FROM P34

remember the words of the Psalm 126—the Shir hamaalot psalm we sing before benching—“Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.”

The Psalm refers to the Jewish exiles to Babylonia after the destruction of the 1st Temple in 586 BCE. The Jews then could only see the pain of exile and their deep disappointment. Only over time would they understand that Gd had not abandoned them. In fact He blessed them in their exile and changed Jewish life forever for the better with the creation of the synagogue, the yeshiva and the Talmud.

The prophet Jeremiah (29:11) tells us: “For I know the plans (thoughts) that I am planning for you, says Gd, plans of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

But if you accept that what Gd plans for you is only for your good, what do you do when you don't like the circumstances of your life and it seems as if those circumstances aren't going to change anytime soon? You may be in a bad place in part because of your own foolish choices and now you feel guilty. But Gd is saying to you, “Stop kicking yourself! You are where you are because I put you there.” That's huge!

Even if your problems are caused by others through betrayal,

incompetence, or breach of trust, Gd somehow knows that you need to experience these disappointments and then life has brought them to you. And so let me say it again: You are where you are because Gd put you there! In time of trouble, if you understand this truth, it can save you from despair and disappointment. Gd always loves you no matter what. He will never leave you. Even if you can't see it, He has a plan and a purpose for you.

And one more thing: Gd has your back! One of the 1st anti-Semites in history was Balak. Balak saw that he couldn't defeat the Jews militarily and so he decided to defeat them spiritually by hiring the heathen prophet Bilaam to curse them. It's an elaborate story, the end of which is that Bilaam's attempts at cursing the Jews were turned into blessings—especially the famous blessing, Ma tovu ohalecha Yaakov, “How good are your tents, 'O Jacob.”

The amazing thing about this story for me is that the Jewish people had absolutely no idea that it was happening. The interaction between Balak and Bilam and the attempted curses that turn into blessings takes place on cliffs that oversee the Jewish camp. But the Jews below had no idea that, at that time, Gd was shielding them from harm, turning the curses into blessings. It's a great example of how Gd has our backs!

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JNS.ORG: FULL NEWS COVERAGE

IDF says B'Tselem waging delegitimization campaign against Israeli military:

The military on Monday issued a strong condemnation of the B'Tselem human rights organization, saying its most recent report on IDF investigations into alleged wrongdoings by Israeli forces during the 2014 Gaza conflict was "another step in the delegitimization campaign B'Tselem is waging against the Israeli legal system in general, and the military justice system in particular." B'Tselem's new report accused military decision-makers of opting for operational policies that resulted in the "unprecedented killing" of Palestinian civilians, further alleging the IDF is using "an extensive cover-up mechanism" to dismiss claims brought against Israeli soldiers. The group's report argues that "investigations into incidents that took place during Operation Protective Edge engaged mainly in the creation of false representation of a functioning system, one ostensibly seeking the truth, while those truly responsible for violations [of the rules of war] are not investigated. All that is done is conducting superficial reviews pertaining to individual events devoid of context." The report claims that nearly two-thirds of Palestinian casualties during the military campaigns were civilians, including 526 minors. Hundreds of Palestinians were killed in airstrikes on residential areas, "raising suspicions that Israel violated international humanitarian law." The IDF said in a statement, "The report suffers from extreme bias and unprofessionalism, and it appears that when trying to paint the Israeli legal system as flawed, B'Tselem believes the end justifies the means. "The report either ignores vast information released by Israel with the aim of promoting transparency, or presents this information in a distorted manner. The report also demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the reality of fighting in the Gaza Strip, and unprofessionalism in the interpretation and implementation of the laws of war in this complex reality."

UN adopts declaration on refugees:

The United Nations General

Assembly on Monday adopted a declaration aimed at saving lives and protecting the rights of 21.3 million refugees and migrants globally. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted by all 193 members of the U.N. General Assembly at the first-ever Summit for Refugees and Migrants. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the declaration means that "more children can attend school, more workers can securely seek jobs abroad, instead of being at the mercy of criminal smugglers, and more people will have real choices about whether to move once we end conflict, sustain peace and increase opportunities at home." Through this declaration, world leaders committed to implementing a number of plans such as beginning negotiations for an international conference, adopting a global initiative for safe migration in 2018 and ensuring members states share the burden and responsibility for supporting refugees. "I will be urging member states to maintain their high levels of ambition throughout these processes, and to always reach for the higher ground," H.E. Peter Thomson, president of the U.N. General Assembly said. "The fate of millions of refugees and migrants rests with us."

Fisherman's house from Ottoman period discovered on Ashkelon beach:

A fisherman's house from the Ottoman period was uncovered in an archeological excavation on the beach in Ashkelon, the Israel Antiquities Authority revealed Tuesday. Two of the buildings discovered were used as a fisherman's house and a watch tower on a hilltop overlooking the beach and Mediterranean Sea. "This is the first time that a building was exposed in Ashkelon that we can attribute with certainty to the fishing industry," excavation directors Federico Kobrin and Haim Mamliya said in a prepared statement. The excavation was conducted by young residents of Ashkelon at the initiative of the Ashkelon Economic Company and led by the Israel Antiquities Authority as a way to educate local youth about their past history. "The young people participated in uncovering part of their city's past; they labored diligently and conscientiously,

showed their interest and curiosity regarding the finds, and it was a pleasure to work with them," Kobrin said.

Amid new terror attacks, Israel increases security ahead of High Holidays:

Following a period of relative calm in recent weeks, multiple new terror attacks took place in the Jewish state since Friday, leading Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to issue an assessment of Israeli security ahead of the High Holidays. "This morning and over the weekend there were several attempts to attack IDF soldiers and security forces personnel," Netanyahu said. "I commend the quick reactions of the soldiers and police personnel, and I send – on behalf of the entire Cabinet – my best wishes for a recovery to the wounded." In the latest incident on Monday, two Palestinian terrorists attempted to stab Israeli border police officers at the Cave of the Patriarchs. The officers shot and

killed both men. In another incident earlier on Monday, a resident of eastern Jerusalem stabbed two police officers before one of the officers neutralized the attacker. Both officers were wounded and taken to the hospital for treatment. On Sunday, a Palestinian terrorist infiltrated the Judean Jewish village of Efrat, where he stabbed and injured an IDF officer. A second soldier shot the terrorist. On Friday, a Jordanian man also tried to stab an Israeli border policeman at the Damascus gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. Two Palestinian terrorists also attempted a car-ramming attack on IDF soldiers using a truck at the entrance to the Kiryat Arba Israeli village near Hebron. Separately, a bus traveling between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim was pelted with rocks and glass bottles filled with paint. And an IDF soldier was lightly wounded in another stabbing attack at a junction near Hebron. On Sunday, Netanyahu increased security around the country, especially in Jerusalem's Old City, around the Temple Mount and in Judea and Samaria. He also

CONT.ON P37

DOVIE'S CONSTRUCTIVE WORD SEARCH

How to solve a search and Find Puzzle
The words can be located in the diagram by reading forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. All words will be found in a straight line with no letters being skipped. As you find each word, circle it in the diagram and cross it off the word list. Letters may be used more than once and words will often overlap. All the letters in the diagram may not be used.

W	E	M	I	L	I	T	I	A	H	A	V
N	E	T	H	E	N	B	I	L	L	P	O
O	F	R	D	E	V	R	E	S	E	R	I
I	G	H	S	T	S	W	H	T	A	T	W
T	T	N	E	M	T	C	I	D	N	I	E
U	O	N	E	E	Y	T	R	E	B	I	L
C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	I	O	N
E	T	A	L	O	I	V	D	I	S	A	T
S	G	B	N	I	L	E	P	M	O	C	I
O	E	N	U	M	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
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P	E	T	U	R	Y	R	F	R	E	F	A
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| DENY | PROBABLE |
| ENUMERATION | PROCESS |
| EXCEED | PROPERTY |
| GRIEVANCE | PROSECUTION |
| IMPOSED | REDRESS |
| INDICTMENT | RESERVED |
| INFAMOUS | SECURITY |
| INFLECT | SEIZURE |
| INFRINGE | VIOULATE |

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ordered an increase in social media monitoring to prevent Palestinian incitement. "Ahead of the Tishrei holidays, the risk threshold has risen," Netanyahu said. "The IDF and the Israel Police are boosting their forces. The security forces are on heightened alert and I will meet with them today in order to ensure that we will be ready to defend our people during this sensitive period."

U.S. Senators urge Obama to veto anti-Israel UN resolutions:

A bipartisan group of 88 U.S. senators sent a letter to President Barack Obama on Monday urging him to veto any anti-Israel resolutions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict brought in front of the United Nations Security Council before his term ends. The pro-Israel lobby group, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), initiated and sponsored the letter with leading efforts by Sens. Michael Rounds (R-S.D.) and Kristen Gillibrand (D-N.Y.). Hours after the statement was released, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) said he supported the "spirit" of the letter but did not sign it because he rejects the idea that a "two-state solution" is the "only" resolution. Eleven others who did not sign the bipartisan letter are: Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Tom Carper (D-Del.), Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Tom Cotton (R-Ariz.) and Ben Sasse (R-Neb.). The letter states, "We urge you to continue longstanding U.S. policy and make it clear that you will veto any one-sided UNSC resolution that may be offered in the coming months. Any such resolution, whether focused on settlements or other final status issues, will ultimately make it more difficult for Israelis and Palestinians to resolve the conflict." The senators also wrote the only way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is through direct negotiations leading to a two-state solution. The letter also reminded Obama about former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice, who vetoed a U.N. resolution that was one-sided in February 2011 as proof that "even well intentioned initiatives" at the U.N. could "risk locking the parties into positions that will make it more difficult to return to the negotiation

table and make the compromises necessary for peace."

Afghani man suspected in NYC bombing arrested after shootout:

Following a shootout with New Jersey police on Monday, authorities arrested Ahmad Khan Rahami, 28, a naturalized American of Afghani descent, in connection with the spate bombings in New York City and New Jersey over the weekend. The shootout and arrest came after the FBI circulated his photograph. Rahami, an Elizabeth, New Jersey resident, was suspected in an explosion using a homemade pressure cooker in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood on Saturday night that injured at least 29 people. He is also believed to be connected to another unexploded pressure cooker bomb found nearby in Manhattan as well as a pipe bomb that exploded in a garbage bin in Seaside Heights, New Jersey on Saturday that appeared to target a charity race for members of the U.S. Marine Corps. On Sunday night, authorities also found five pipe bombs near a train station in Elizabeth, New Jersey that they believe are connected Rahami, who lived a short distance away. Following the announcement of Rahami as a suspect on Monday, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who has pointedly avoided calling the attacks terrorism, said that the investigation is "definitely leading" in the direction of terrorism. "I want to be very clear that this individual could be armed and dangerous," Mayor de Blasio said on Monday morning. "Anyone seeing him should call 911 immediately." New York Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo, who also had previously ruled out any connection to international terrorism, said on Monday the investigation suggests there may be a foreign element to the Manhattan bombing. In another incident on Saturday, a man who made reference to Allah and asked at least one person if they were a Muslim, stabbed and wounded nine people inside a Minnesota mall. On Sunday, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack. Authorities are still investigating the apparent terror attack there.

Palestinian cleric at Al-Aqsa Mosque prays destruction of America, Russia:

A Palestinian Muslim cleric

prayed to Allah to "vanquish American and Russia" in an address last week at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Jerusalem Post reported. "Oh America, let me tell you about the day when the call to prayer will be heard from atop the White House, from atop the red palace in the Kremlin in Moscow," Abdallah Ayed said in a video posted online and translated from Arabic by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). Ayed said they will shout "Allah akbar" (Arabic for God is great) from the top of the White House and Kremlin "because Allah promised us both places, Allah promised the prophet Muhammad that Islam would rule the entire land. Ayed ended his prayer asking to bring the caliphate soon and return to a Muslim religious and governmental rule.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's American Associates elects new leader:

Toni Young is the new president of American Associates, Ben-

Gurion University of the Negev (AABGU), an initiative based in New York City supporting the university and Negev community. Young, an author, has served on the national boards of the Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. "I'm excited about this new challenge and look forward to building upon and expanding the initiatives that Lloyd Goldman and other former AABGU presidents and board members have developed so successfully," said Young, formerly the first female president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. Young replaces New York real estate mogul Lloyd Goldman, who served as AABGU president for four years. "I'm particularly thrilled to serve during the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 2020 Vision 50th Anniversary Campaign," she said. "I plan to increase connections between the American community and BGU, and bring in new friends and supporters who understand the miracle we are creating in the Negev desert and how important BGU is to the success of Israel."

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REBOUND HYPERACTIVITY: IS THE PRICE TOO HIGH?

As the stimulant debate drags on, I would like to clarify some key points. Firstly, though ADHD is over-diagnosed, there are definitely children with real neurological imbalances, who need more-than-average help to develop. Secondly, some children do seem to respond in a satisfactory or even positive manner to stimulants. Many parents claim that stimulants were “lifesaving” for their whole family. Many teachers assert that medicated children become much better all-around students.

Having said this, there is one crucial problem: every psychoactive drug carries a huge element of risk. Are people properly educated about the actual risks of these drugs or are they only informed of the potential benefits? Are well-documented side effects being ignored or even blamed on the patient, when they (all-too-commonly) occur?

According to psychiatrist and drug expert Peter Breggin, M.D., “Psychiatric drugs are much more dangerous than many consumers and even physicians realize. All of these drugs produce numerous serious and potentially fatal adverse reactions, and most are capable of causing withdrawal problems... We are appalled by the widespread use of stimulants to control and suppress the behavior of children diagnosed with ADHD... In actuality, stimulants subdue behavior by impairing mental function. They often cause the very problems they are supposed to correct.” *

One of the main ways that stimulants “cause the problem they are meant to correct” is through rebound hyperactivity, a withdrawal reaction where, as the drug wears off, the child becomes more hyperactive than he was

before initiating medication. For many children, this occurs on a daily basis, during the evening hours. This drug-induced reaction is often mistaken for the child’s ADHD. However, drugs often complicate the picture, making it unclear which symptoms are from the child, and which are the withdrawal effects of the drug.

Unanticipated Drug Reactions

In an extreme example of unanticipated drug reactions, a mother shared the following story with me a few years ago:

“My daughter, Shuli was very happy in school until 3rd grade, when her teacher contacted us concerned that Shuli (who is very talkative and friendly but is by no means an “A” student) had ADHD. She referred us to a top neurologist, who gave us the diagnosis, along with a prescription. Being conscientious parents, we immediately began administering the medication, according to doctor’s orders. Shockingly, our sweet and happy daughter soon began to experience frightening hallucinations, and complained that she was feeling a tremendous amount of physical and psychological pain! At one point she told us that her suffering was so unbearable that she wanted to jump off the roof! Terrified, we called the psychiatrist, who was on vacation, and did not return our calls. In desperation, my husband decided to discontinue Shuli’s medicine. I don’t know if this was the right thing to do, but we felt we had no choice. Baruch Hashem, Shuli came back to herself. I was totally unprepared for a “harmless” medicine used to improve learning and behavior, to cause such dangerous side effects!”

I do not suggest that the above story is illustrative of the way most children react to stimulants. Such extreme reactions occur in only a small minority of children. However, there is no way to predict how an individual will react beforehand, and with all the scientifically documented evidence of psychiatric drug risks, we are playing with fire.

There is a wealth of information on psychiatric drugs available, and every parent can and should get informed about the real effects these drugs can have, before initiating them. The fact that some people do not experience side

effects is no indication of overall safety. I highly recommend any book by Peter R. Breggin, M.D. who has been called, “the conscience of modern psychiatry”, as a good place to start.

Many doctors are unaware of relatively common drug side-effects. I do not claim to be an expert on this subject. However, over the years, many of my patients have told me about their difficult experiences with psychiatric drugs. I have repeatedly heard the same story of doctors denying side effects that are clearly indicated in package inserts. Doctors sometimes react in surprise when patients report distressing symptoms from their medications, making patients feel as if there must be something wrong with them for experiencing side-effects.

Fortune-Telling

While the vast majority of educators are in favor of drugging children, many parents have an instinctual aversion to administering mind-altering drugs to their offspring. What accounts for the disparity between these two groups? Who truly has the child’s best interest in mind? Some parents suppress their misgivings and give their children stimulants because they have been frightened by the following predictions:

Prediction: “Children who are not treated (with pharmaceuticals) for ADHD can become ‘kids at risk’. They may go off the derech and end up on the street, where they will resort to illicit drugs.”

I addressed the above statement to Rabbi Leib Kelemen, chinuch expert and author of many books, including “To Kindle a Soul” (about chinuch).

Rabbi Leib Kelemen’s Response: “The claim that failure to medicate ADHD children heightens the chances of a child using street drugs is false. Rather, it is the failure to assist ADHD children in their struggle for academic and social success that drives children to use street drugs. Kids who feel great about themselves don’t turn to drugs, and there are many ways to help kids with ADHD overcome their challenge and feel great about themselves. Stimulant medications help some but not all kids with ADHD. And peer-

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ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR 5777

Shalom U'Vracha / Greeting and Blessings

I hope this letter finds you and your families well G-d willing well. With the High Holiday approaching, it means that a year has, thank you G-d, past. It is thus appropriate to assess; what is it that we did good, this past year, and strengthen that and continue. To see what we did not good and attempt to stop it and correct it. To see what we should and could have done but missed and do in the upcoming year, G-d willing.

This past year we had classes, Wednesday evenings in our shul CIKB on the Zohar, the classic work on mysticism written by Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, in it I believe we can find guidance for a true self evaluation. Describing the judgment of Rosh Hashana it writes: "On that day of Rosh Hashana, there comes together various forces, who wish to judge the world, some that point to the faults and others who point to the merits, it is thus best for each person to (privately) specify their wrong doings. For he who admits their guilt (and is embarrassed by it) their judgment is given over directly to G-d, He alone will then judge that person and always judges towards good.....this was the way of King David .. King Solomon. G-d will then not allow any prosecutor to speak, He will forgive, as it is written;

"One who admits guilt and abandons (his bad ways) achieves compassion" (Proverbs)- (Zohar Pinchas pages 161-162).

This teaching of the Zohar gives hope to everyone and is a show of G-'s great and true love for each of us. For it teaches, that regardless of what our past behavior was, whether deserving by the letter of the law or not, G-d has the ability to forgive and does so. Yet for this, we must turn to Him alone, to be honest, not to hide from Him what we are and did. Then G-d shall show compassion.

Another idea the Zohar teaches is how the 3 different sounds of the Shofar correspond to the 3 Patriarchs of our People and their merits. The Tekeah: Simple Sound corresponds to: Abraham, and the merit of Kindness. The Shevarim : the Broken Sound, corresponds to: Isaac, and the merit of Prayer. The Teruah : the Staccato Sound, corresponds to: Jacob, and the merit of Torah study.

This year in the Hebrew calendar is TOF SHEN AYIN ZAYIN; 5777 years from G-d's creation. I believe this hints to what this year needs to, and will accomplish G-d willing. And that is an increase in Ahavat Yisroel; loving your fellow Jew as yourself, for the letters spell out: Te'he Shnas Aravim Zeh Lo 'Zeh - It

shall be a year where we are sweet, responsible and blended together as one G-d willing, for we are all His children equally.

In addition, the number 7 is repeated 3 times; 5777, Jewish tradition teaches that the number 7 is beloved; Sabbath is the 7th day of the week. Moses was 7th from Abraham. David was the 7th Shepherd. There are 7 weeks between Passover and Shavout. 7 guests who come to the Sukka. Shmita is the 7th year. 7 heavens, 7 colors in a rainbow, 7 notes in music. Yet 7, also represents "Teva" - nature, while 8 represent the supernatural, "Nes" miracles. Let this year of 5777 be the

last New Year in Golus -exile and a prelude to the year 5778, the number 8 and redemption. As is written that G-d will split the Euphrates into 7 wadis to make a highway for His people as He did when they left the land of Egypt (Isaiah 11:15-16) in order to redeem His people. May we merit it this year with the coming of Moshiach and the rebuilding of the Beth Hamikdash in a compassionate and joyous way. Amen. With best wishes for a Sweet Good New Year in every which way! V'Amen

Sincerely

RYW

CIKB of South Brooklyn
to reach me email rabbiyw@yahoo.com

GEWIRTZ CONT. FROM P31

what you want your children to remember. Is it you yelling at them or telling them you're busy? Or would you rather they remember that you love them, are proud of them, and have deep values and principles to impart to them?

Make your choice, then give your children and the people you meet a reason to look back through their mind's eye with a smile and say, "I'll never forget the time when..." or "I'll always

remember how my father/friend/teacher..." You will create memories in people's lives. Make sure they're worth remembering.

Jonathan Gewirtz is an inspirational writer and speaker whose work has appeared in publications around the world. You can find him at www.facebook.com/RabbiGewirtz, and follow him on Instagram @RabbiGewirtz or Twitter @RabbiJGewirtz. He also operates JewishSpeechWriter.com, where you can order a custom-made speech for your next special occasion. Sign up for the Migdal Ohr, his weekly PDF Dvar Torah in English. E-mail info@JewishSpeechWriter.com and put **Subscribe** in the subject.

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reviewed studies show that attending to a child's diet, exercise, and sleep also helps. Retraining parents and teachers also helps. What doesn't help is clouding the discussion with terrifying threats of what will happen if we try anything besides meds first. Terror is not conducive to rational decision making."

Get the Facts

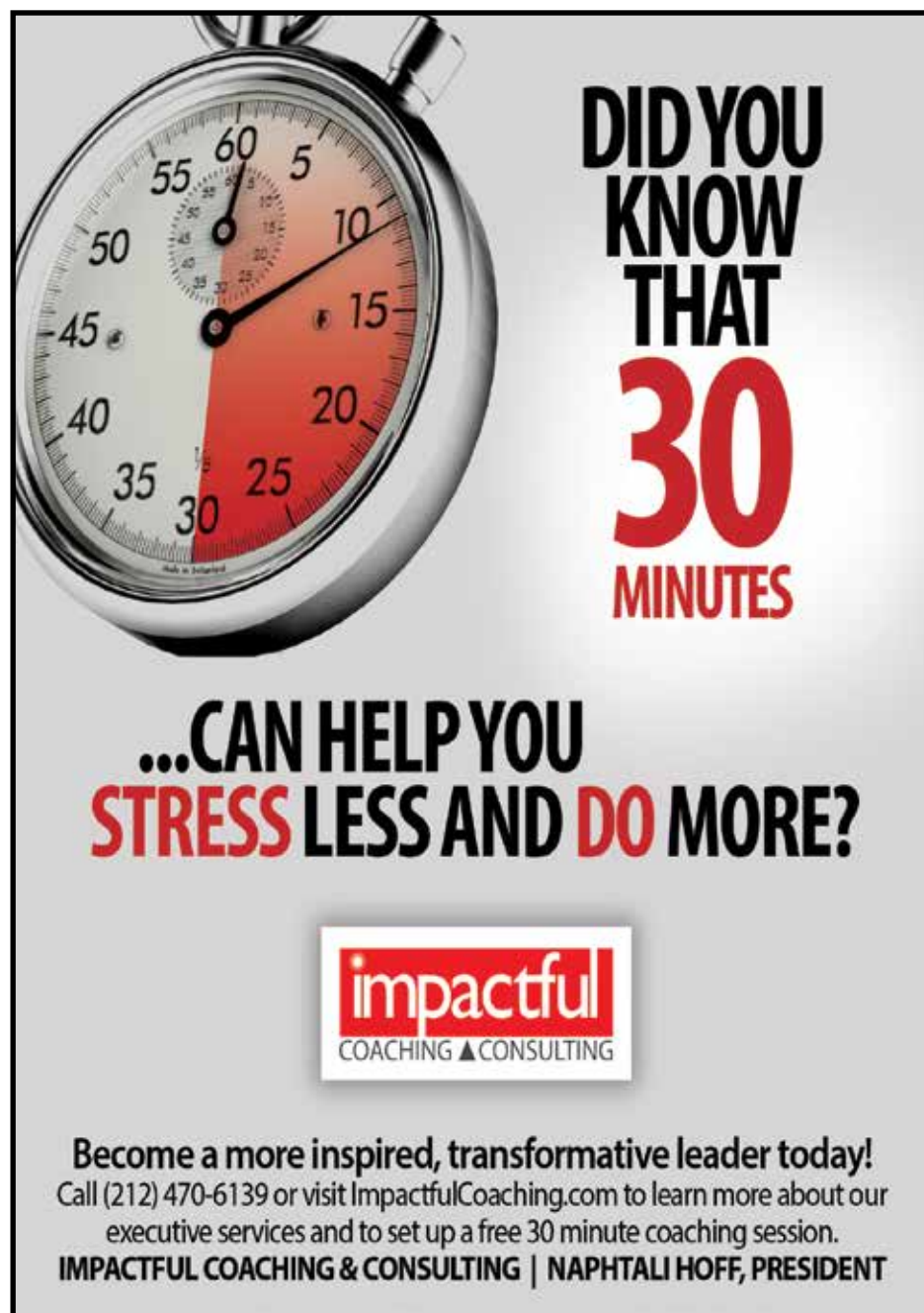
If one is clearly informed about the real risks of psychiatric drugs, and they still want to use them, that is their prerogative. On the other hand, parents are often pressured to unwittingly undertake these risks to prevent some future catastrophe. How ironic that

we are giving children drugs to prevent them from taking drugs! When you are knowledgeable about the real effects of psychiatric drugs, guilt-inducing scare tactics will no longer work on you.

Next week: What can you do for your child to reduce hyperactivity?

*Excerpted from the book, "Your Drug May Be Your Problem" by Peter R. Breggin, M.D. and David Cohen, Ph.D.

Yael Tusk, M.S.O.M. is a general practitioner of Chinese Medicine in Jerusalem. She has been treating both adults and children for over a decade. She is a medical researcher who specializes in uncovering medical myths and empowering people to take control of their health. Feel free to contact her at yael-tusk@gmail.com to schedule a phone consultation or to receive her free newsletter. Look out for her upcoming myth-busting book on health!



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HOFF
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ly. Certainly, the judge would want to avoid any possible accusations of impropriety by letting his friend's son off easy.

Rav Dessler explains that the proper objective of justice is not to punish criminals or sinners for their misdeeds. Rather, the goal must be to correct the crime or transgression so that they are not repeated in the future. In the case of the second criminal, who was raised in a home that valued proper conduct and respect for the law, this objective can best be achieved through a more lenient approach. This particular young man understands deep down what is right. With some additional guidance and a return to a strong, healthy environment, he can be redirected along the proper path. Under these circumstances, even "justice" would agree that leniency offers the best means of turning this young man around. Time in the penitentiary would only exacerbate the problem.

The first criminal, on the other hand, does not possess a clear sense of proper social conduct. From his perspective, crime is a way of life, a means of survival. To allow him im-

mediately back on the street would almost guarantee future repetition of criminal activity, which could result in even more dire results. Here, "mercy" would advocate for a stricter punishment, to suffer more today with the hope of a better tomorrow.

Hashem studies our desires and judges us accordingly. He asks, "What benefit will there be for him if I were to grant him the blessings that he seeks? What is the potential ROI to such a response?" If Hashem can discern a true desire for growth and teshuva within us, then He will see the investment as more worthwhile. If not, then He may see the best recourse to be something very different than what we request, chas v'shalom.

As we approach Hashem in the coming weeks, we should aspire to give Him every opportunity to view us as individuals and a community who are on an upwards trajectory, deserving of inscription in the Book of Life.

I wish us all a k'siva v'chasima tova.

Rabbi Naphtali Hoff, PsyD, is an executive coach and President of Impactful Coaching and Consulting. He can be reached at 212.470.6139 or at nhoff@impactfulcoaching.com.

The (not so) Long Distance Relationship

Elizabeth Weintraub, L.M.S.W.

A dear friend once mentioned to me how the two most special times of her life were being engaged and being pregnant. Why specifically these times? "Being engaged or being pregnant", she said, "is a state of mind, looking forward. And because you are looking forward with a bit of distance ahead, you tend to think of only the good things. Being engaged for example, looking forward to the wedding, building a home with a beautifully set Shabbos table, looking forward to the nachas ahead. Being engaged, you're not thinking about the laundry, or the dirty dishes. You aren't thinking about the disagreements that are always bound to happen at one time or another in a marriage. It is a time when we choose to see the good. Only the good" She went on to explain similar thoughts about being pregnant. "It is a time when you are excited in anticipation of a new life that will soon join your family.

You are looking at baby clothes, imagining how cute and cuddly the new baby will be, envisioning the moments spent peacefully in the rocking chair. Not thinking about the debilitating lack of sleep or the mountains of dirty diapers, or the screaming tantrums. When there's distance ahead, you only see the good".

While we all know that along with great joy, marriage, children and families bring great challenges which frankly can lead to some of the more difficult moments in life. Yet, perhaps my friend was on to something. Maybe there is something about distance and time that bring out the optimist in us. The part of us that wants to focus only on the good.

I now wondered if this concept would apply to the past as well. Does adding distance bring a brighter outlook? Years ago, my

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WEINTRAUB
CONT. FROM P40

cousin took great time and effort to construct a family tree which he had emailed to all of us. After collecting pictures from everyone, our spouses and children, the finished product was the most complete record of our family to date.

(Referred to in Social Work as a “Genogram”, a family tree is known as a useful therapeutic tool which may help reveal sources of anxiety or other natural or learned emotional tendencies. However,

it can be argued the further back one goes into the Genogram discovering ancestors not known to a client first hand, the less likely a negative or painful association would be evoked.)

So, taking another look, up at the top of our tree, the first pictures were of a Rabbi Avrahm Yosef Milstein and his wife Fraidel. Approximate birthdates, the mid 1800s, in the Ukraine. As someone who grew up with little affiliation, how interesting to be descended from a Rabbi and Rebbitzin of such distinc-

tion. This time I study their faces, wondering what they might have been like to interact with. His long white beard and cantorial-like cap, her perfectly placed kerchief tightly framing her round, weary face. I gaze deeper, trying to study every detail, but as is the case with old photos when I zoom in too close, all I see are the pixels, reminding me that sometimes things are better with a little distance. I think about my own path into Torah observance and wonder if this would bring them nachas. ... No thought about if they argued, or

how they disciplined their children, perhaps if I lived with them I would have found them much too strict or oppressive.

No, instead I wonder what they would say about the choices I make and how they would have addressed the same problems. I long to have their ear, or even their shoulder to cry on. They look loving and wise. A few generations of distance, and all I can see is the good that must have been in them. They are distant, and so are their flaws.

CONT.ON P43

What's in Your Lotion? Dr. Hadassah Chaya Davies Pardo ROSH HASHANAH EDITION

Dear Readers,

We have, thank Gd, reached the time of year where we assess our past behaviors and actions in hopes of making changes in the upcoming year. Some call these ‘resolutions,’ and are sincere in their desire to promote healthy behaviors in the future. However, these commitments to change, even with the best of intentions, are often discarded after a short period of time, because old habits die hard. What can we do? Well-maintained skin is important to our overall health. So what commitments should we keep to make sure our birthday suit lasts as long as we do?

“If you can’t eat it, don’t put it on your skin.” This is the first step to good skin. Check the ingredients on your favorite lotion—what do you see? If you can’t pronounce the names, put that salve back on the shelf! Don’t be surprised to see things like propylene glycol, the active ingredient in antifreeze, in that body butter you just got at the mall. Synthetic ingredients are attractive to the chemical companies making the lotions because they are inexpensive, but don’t benefit our long term health.

“Drink your water.” The second step to silky skin is making sure you are well hydrated. Take another look at that lotion on your counter. What is first ingredient? Most lotions you pick up at your local dealer will include AQUA—water, as the main ingredient. Your amazing body wrapper is 64% water. Feeding it liquid from the inside as well as lotioning on the outside will help your

skin feel more elastic and look less wrinkly. The next time you stare at your visage in the mirror and decide you need Botox, try drinking 16 ounces of water and see what happens. Studies show over time drinking an extra two cups a day will help your facial skin plump up and will fill in wrinkles. Costs much less than Botox. Your forehead will move, too!

“Buy organic.” The third step in stepping up your skincare regime is moving your shopping cart to the Organic section. There is a small, but quickly growing, number of organic skincare and cosmetic companies. Organic cosmetics are free from GMOs (as we discussed last time) and other things we shouldn’t have in our facial gels and body liniments. Remember, ingredients such as phthalates (an estrogen disrupter) can be disguised in non-organic items as ‘fragrance.’ Glycol Ethers, another ingredient found in creamy cosmetics, can cause fertility issues in unborn children! If giant companies can hide ingredients like these in products we put on our skin, we must educate ourselves against such attacks! Stick to organic products. If you can’t eat strictly organic, at least make an effort to use organic skincare potions. The difference in price may not even be that great. Many organic cosmeceutical companies are happy to show you how their products are actually superior in the long run.

Three simple steps, Dear Readers, to beautiful, healthy skin. Admittedly, this is not an exclusive list. There are many more

steps you can take if you are truly committed to having the healthiest skin on the block. However, I want you to keep your commitment for longer than a month, a week, or even a year. I’m asking you to take these three simple steps today. To begin, decide that your Gd given package is worthy of your hard work. Then put this plan into action. If you can’t eat

it, keep it away from your mouth, drink your water, and stick to organic when it comes to the stuff that’s literally keeping you together. May 5777 be a year of good health and great skin!

Dr. Hadassah Chaya Davies Pardo is the Owner and Chief Lotionist at Hopesolidlotion.com. You can find Hope Solid Lotion online, or at Organic Circle in Brooklyn. Reach her at hopesolidlotion@gmail.com.

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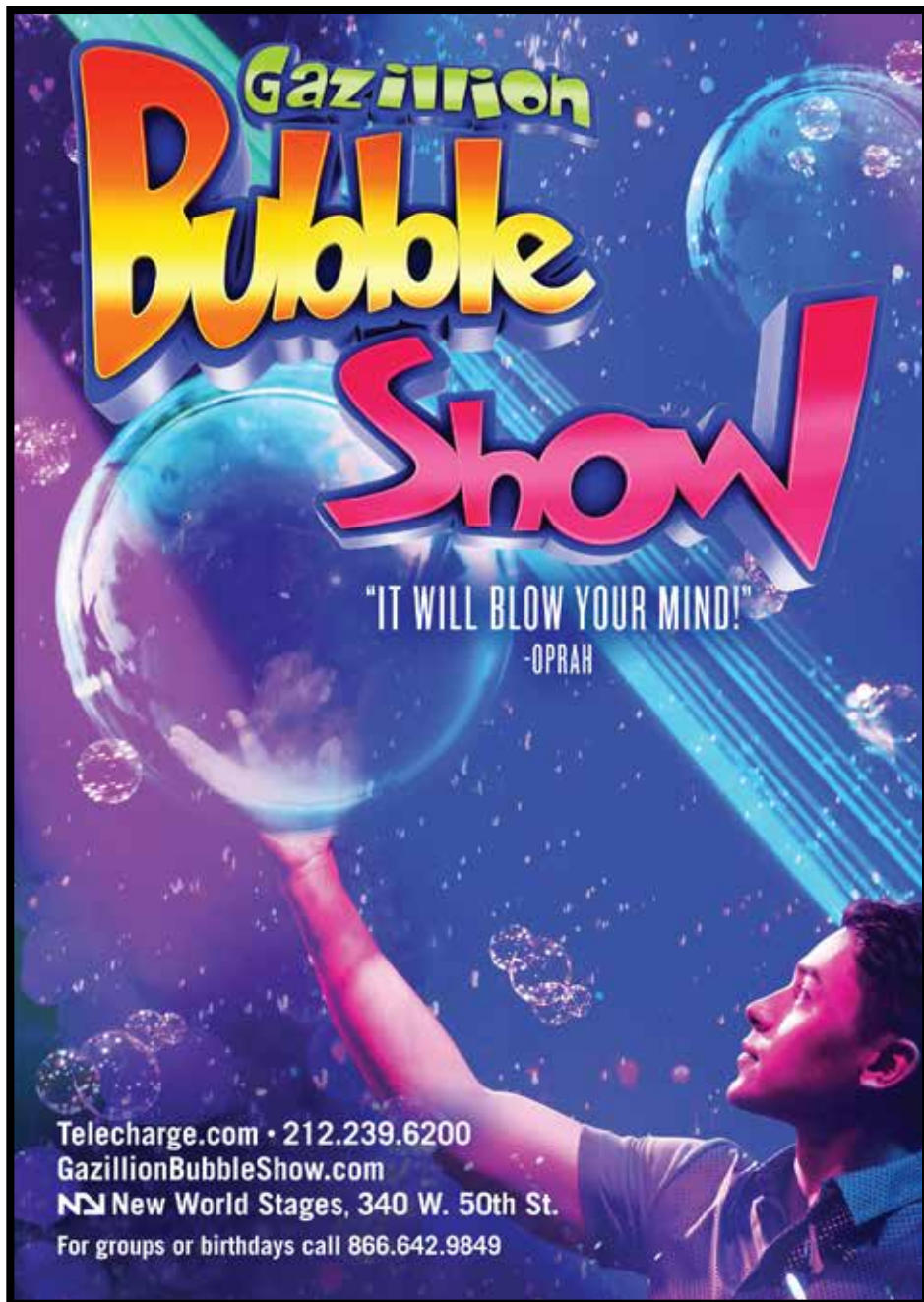
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 applying all of the Torah's rules,
 while studying.
 Our effectiveness will increase,
 and our learning will become
 more enjoyable. You can get
 completely absorbed in your
 study, your focus and satisfaction
 will grow.
 When we focus on 'now' - this
 special gift that Hashem is helping
 us with, we can be more relaxed,
 creative and efficient.

~~~~~  
 There is a preface to utilizing the  
 'now.' In Avos, we are taught first:  
 "If I am not for myself, who will

be for me?" This comes first!

~~~~~  
 Review, Review!
 The Mitzva to review one's stud-
 ies 'now,' is so significant that the
 Talmud, Sanhedrin 99a, states:
 "One who studies Torah without
 review is like one who plants with-
 out harvesting!"
 No farmer would walk away from
 his field after all of his hard work
 and forget to reap the harvest.
 The Torah has 5 Chumoshim.
 The fifth, Devarim, is called Mish-
 neh Torah, a review of the Torah.
 Hashem's Torah has a built-in
 lesson to spend one-fifth of your
 time reviewing your lessons.

~~~~~  
 With Hashem's Torah, there is  
 a solution for every challenge...  
 without it, there is a challenge for  
 every solution.

## Free Email Copies of the Shabbos Stories Anthology for Rosh Hashanah And Yom Kippur Now Available

Every year for the past seven years, Daniel Keren of Flatbush has been emailing for free Shabbos Stories for the Parsha that subscribers can read at the Shabbos table or any day of the week to gain inspiration. In the beginning it was sent to just a few dozen acquaintances but gradually and mostly from word of mouth has grown to almost 800 subscribers throughout not only the Tri-State area, but also to other parts of North America, Israel, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and wherever Jews may find themselves including the Phillipines, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Siberia.

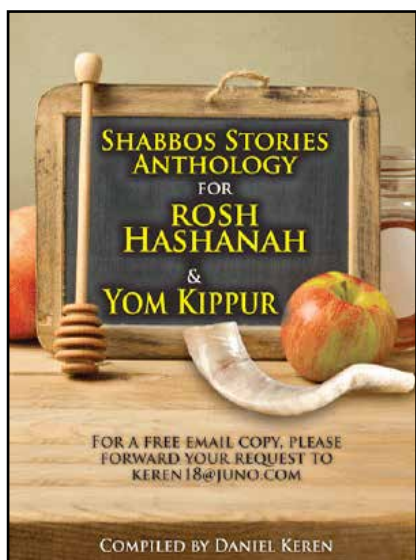
In addition about a half year ago the Jewish Heritage for

the Blind began including the Shabbos for the Parsha stories in a new Extra Large Print literary venture they mail out to their clients titled "Lekavod Shabbos." The

Shabbos Stories for the Parsha are also now available on the www.parshasheets.com website that is also emailed to thousands of people around the globe.

Special issues of the Shabbos Stories have been printed for both Rosh Hashanah

and Yom Kippur going back to 5770/2009. Now a special 277-page anthology has been put together of all those past Yomim Noraim issues. For your free email copy, please forward your request to keren18@juno.com



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**MILLER**  
CONT. FROM P1

a hundred friends and relatives plan to visit him at his home in Haifa and celebrate with him.

Born on September 15, 1903, in the town of Zarnow, Poland, Yisrael grew up in a religious family. His father was a Torah scholar, and Yisrael attended

Jewish school as a child. "He's happy" is how Yisrael's daughter, Shulamit Kuperstoch of Haifa described her father. (Click here to read Aish.com's interview.) "This is the most important thing to be in every situation."

Throughout his long life, Yisrael's overriding faith and trust have sustained him, even in the most terrible times.

Yisrael's idyllic childhood was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I, when he was eleven years old. Yisrael's father was drafted into the Russian army to fight, and died soon after. Yisrael's mother had passed away when Yisrael was eight and Yisrael was raised

by his uncle.

In 1920, Yisrael moved to the town of Lodz to work in his family's candy business, and in 1928 he married a Chaja Feige Frucht. The couple had two children.

Their lives were upended by the outbreak of World War II. The Kirstals were forced to live in Lodz's infamous overcrowded, unsanitary

Jewish ghetto. There, both their children perished. In 1944, Yisrael and Chaja were deported to Auschwitz, where Chaja was murdered. Liberated the following year, Yisrael weighed only 81 pounds.

Somehow he found the strength to rebuild. "I believe

that everything is determined from Above and we shall never know the reasons why," he told reporters soon after being named the world's oldest man in 2015. "There have been smarter, stronger and better-looking men than me who are no longer alive.

All that is left for us to do is to keep on working as hard as we can and rebuild what is lost."



Yisrael never lost his faith. He married a fellow Holocaust survivor, Batsheva, and together they made aliyah, settling in Haifa, where they raised their two children.

Yisrael revived his candy business, making confections and selling them from a kiosk. Today, in addition to his children and grandchildren, Yisrael has, thank God, over 20 great-grandchildren.

In the coming weeks, as Yisrael celebrates his 113th birthday, they will be among the hundred-plus family and friends coming to Haifa to celebrate with him. "They will bless him and sing with him and dance with him and give out candies.... We are excited, we're happy, it is a great honor to celebrate his bar mitzvah. He has children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren

and cousins and everyone is coming," explained his daughter Shulamit.

Yisrael has said that he plans to have an aliyah on a Torah reading during a weekday morning service to mark the occasion. Although he has been a bar mitzvah for a century, he will finally enjoy the party that so many bar mitzvah boys receive.

His daughter describes Yisrael as an optimist who enjoys making others happy. "The Holocaust did not affect his beliefs.... He believes was saved because that's what God wanted. He is not an angry person, he is not someone who seeks an accounting. He believes everything has a reason in the world."

Aish.com

**WEINTRAUB**  
CONT. FROM P41

The warmth inspired by this distance seems universal. Often at friends houses, I'll study the pictures of the great-great Bubbe and Zaide placed so proudly on their wall or mantle. The television ads for popular services like "Ancestry.com" illustrate just how prevalent seeking out past generations really is.

Maybe the distance of just one single generation is all it takes. I remember once seeing a bumper sticker on a car in front of me that read "If I knew how much fun grandkids were, I would have had them first!". And maybe you've noticed what a difference a little distance can make when it comes to a simcha. If you are hosting a simcha, do you tend to be preoccupied with the actual production? Are you busy making sure everyone got their place cards, and the music and benches are in order? Compare it with the simcha of a close relative such as a cousin. You get to enjoy the gathering of many of the very same family and friends, yet since you are not the official host, it is often a much more relaxing event.

With Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur only days away, it is curious to ponder the question of distance and its role in our own relationships with Hashem. It is interesting to note that during the time most known for bringing us closest to Hashem, our davening still reflects the concept of distance and its ability to soften

our imperfections calling attention not only to ourselves in the present, but to the righteous deeds of previous generations long ago, as well as the thoughts of future generations, "our children and our infants" recited in Avienu Malkeinu as we ask for forgiveness and compassion in the new year.

Perhaps seeing only the good afforded by distance of future events, is the joy in knowing the potential of what is ahead leading us to focus on the positive. And as for the distant past, perhaps knowing that we indeed carry the midot of Avraham, Yitzchak, Yaakov, Sarah, Rivka, Rachel and Leah in our very DNA leads us back to our distant roots in order to replenish and recharge our neshamos.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, may our past mitzvot and our infinite potential for chesed serve to highlight only the good in all of us, meriting that all Klal Yisroel be inscribed for health, happiness and peace in the year ahead.

This article is dedicated in loving memory to my teacher, Jerry Jacobson.

**Elizabeth Weintraub is a Social Worker with extensive background in practice areas supporting survivors of trauma and abuse. She is also the NY/NJ Regional Director of "CE You!", innovative Continuing Education seminars for Social Workers, mental health and medical professionals.**

Questions and thoughts on contemporary mental health topics welcomed via email: [Elizabeth@ceyou.org](mailto:Elizabeth@ceyou.org)  
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**LEIBLER**  
CONT. FROM P18

Abe Foxman era, the ADL board has knowingly empowered an individual whose outlook is not only liberal but effectively represents an echo chamber of left-wing Democratic politics. In fact, despite Greenblatt's protestations of love for Israel and reiteration that the U.S.-Israel nexus is strong,

especially after finalization of the defense agreement, the ADL's approach to Israel is similar to that of J Street, having no hesitation in telling Israelis that it knows better than they do what is good for them.

This is a worrisome situation. American Jews should inform the

ADL board that by enabling their CEO to make such partisan statements, they are causing enormous harm to Israel during this critical period when retaining U.S. public opinion is of crucial importance.

If the ADL fails to act, American Jews should question whether they should continue supporting what was

until recently a venerable mainstream Jewish organization, which has now been hijacked by a CEO whose outlook has more in common with J Street and less with combating anti-Semitism and supporting the embattled Jewish state.

Isi Leibler may be contacted at [ileibler@leibler.com](mailto:ileibler@leibler.com)

**SCHWARTZ**  
CONT. FROM P7

delay, our lift finally reached our apartment on our six-week anniversary. While, as indicated in my last article, we got rid of a tremendous amount of clothing, books, and items before moving, we still found it to be a long and difficult process unpacking and deciding where to place things. Fortunately, while we have not completely unpacked, it looks like all our items arrived and there was nothing damaged. Our two daughters and their husbands and our grandchildren were very helpful during this time.

Amidst all the busyness of getting settled in a new country, I still have found some time to continue my activism. During my brief stay, in addition to my vegetarian talk at Protea, I have had two letters published in the Jerusalem Post, been interviewed for an online podcast and for a posting at a website, and made about eight blog postings at the Times of Israel and at Jewcology.


Looking forward to additional activities and adventures to let you know about in future articles.

**Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus, College of Staten Island  
Author of *Judaism and Vegetarianism, Judaism and Global Survival, Mathematics and Global Survival, and Who Stole My Religion? Revitalizing Judaism and Applying Jewish Values to Help Heal Our Imperiled Planet*, and 200 articles at [JewishVeg.com/schwartz](http://JewishVeg.com/schwartz)  
President Emeritus, Jewish Vegetarians of North America ([www.JewishVeg.com](http://www.JewishVeg.com)); President, Society Of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians (SERV); Associate producer of *A SACRED DUTY* ([www.aSacredDuty.com](http://www.aSacredDuty.com)); "Like" JVNA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/JewishVeg](http://www.facebook.com/JewishVeg)

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**ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES!**

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 |

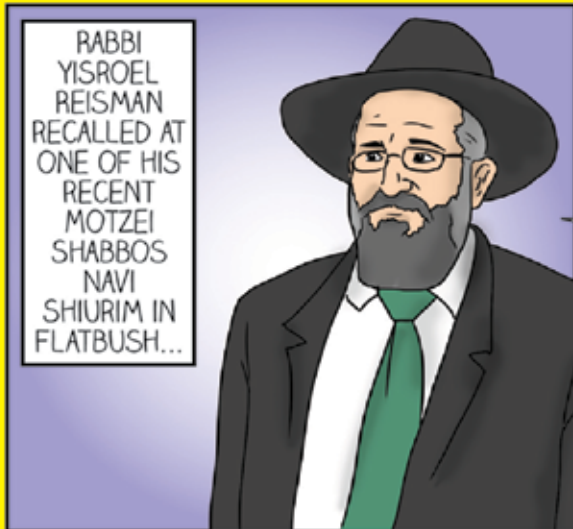
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I G H S T S W H T A T W  
T T E M E T C P D N I E  
U O N E E Y E S S E B E L  
G O N S E P T U D I O N  
S T A L O I V D I S A T  
G B N I E E P M O O J  
O S E U M E R A T I O N  
R E G I L P L O C T N F  
S T U R V P F R E A  
E B D A R F E N S C R M  
P U O R I E N E V N O C  
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H E D S E S T P V S  
B E R I X S G A L E S  
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I E P S E O D I E B A  
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**Maze**

# Torah Connection

By: Daniel Keren

Illustrated By: Tzai R. Pensky



## IDF LONE SOLDIERS GATHER FOR FIDF FUN DAY AT ISRAELI WATERPARK



## QUEENS RABBANIM GREET ISRAEL'S MINISTER OF JUSTICE AYELET SHAKED:



(L-R) Event Chair Dr. Joseph Frager; Rabbi Chaim Schwartz, Exec. Dir., Vaad HaRabbonim of Queens; Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld, YI Kew Gardens Hills; event co-Chair Dr. Paul Brody; Rabbi Shlomo Appel of Jamaica Estates; Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked at event commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, as well as the upcoming 25th Yartzheit of PM Menachem Begin z"l on the 2nd day of Adar Sheni.

**350 GATHER FOR WESTCHESTER FIDF BENEFIT**



TIMES OF ISRAEL'S MIDDLE EAST ANALYST, AVI ISSACHAROFF, INTERVIEWING "THE GREEN PRINCE," MOSAB HASSAN YOUSEF, AT SATURDAY'S FIDF WESTCHESTER ANNUAL DINNER.

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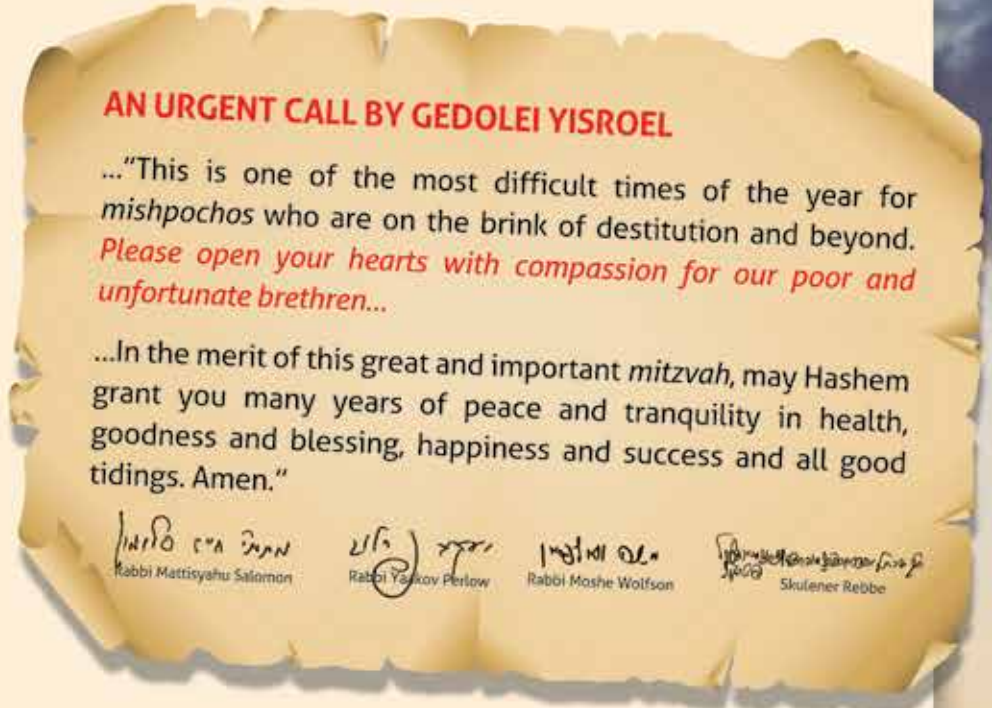
These Aniyei Ircho have no money for food, clothing or rent. They are people you might know very well -- or at least think you know very well ...

**... They could be in your Daf Yomi shiur ... They could be your tenant, your neighbor, your cousin, or your brother. They put up a brave front. They act as if everything is normal. They are too proud or too frightened to reach out for help.**

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