

DAVID'S DEN
DESIGNER
READY-TO-WEAR
CUSTOM PARTY
AND EVENING WEAR
BY LILY

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MEMBERS OF INDIA'S LOST JEWISH TRIBE VISIT AUSCHWITZ

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הדלקת נרות
ב" כסלו 2 Kislev
Parashat Toldos

4:10 p.m. FIVE TOWNS
4:11 p.m. STATEN ISLAND
4:11 p.m. BROOKLYN
4:11 p.m. TEANECK, NJ
5:11 p.m. MIAMI BEACH, FLA.
3:55 p.m. JERUSALEM



Who will Trump Pick for Secretary of State?

General Petraeus U.N. Ambassador John Bolton Governor Mitt Romney Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

Members of Congress Ask Obama to Hold-Off Action On Israel At The UN

At a press conference on Wednesday, Rep. Trent Franks (R-Arizona), co-chairman of the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus, said he feared that Obama would take steps at the UN – “through action or inaction” – perhaps allowing a resolution at the Security Council to pass with a US abstention.

“It has been the policy of the United

States since the first Bush administration to veto any third-party resolutions which impose action on Israel relating to their peace talks with the Palestinians,” Franks said. “If the UN passes a binding resolution on the peace process, he [Obama] should veto it.

If the Security Council passes sanctions against Israeli settlements,

he should veto it. If the UN votes to recognize Palestinian statehood, he should lobby against the vote and vote against it.”

Congressman from both parties are joining in support for direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians and urging the Obama administration

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Israel's raging fires come under control after massive international response?

SEAN SAVAGE

Improving weather conditions, a massive influx of support from the international community and efforts by Israeli first responders have enabled the Jewish state to get an outburst of raging wildfires under control.

This week's fires are expected to be among the costliest in Israeli history, with unofficial preliminary estimates project-

CONT. ON 4

Israel will respond forcefully to border threats, PM says after strikes on Islamic State

LILACH SHOVAL AND SHLOMO CESANA

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented Monday on the Israeli Air Force (IAF) strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria, saying Israel will not allow any radical jihadist group to get a foothold on its borders.

The IAF mounted two strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria between Sunday and Monday. The air force killed four Islamic State operatives Sunday after the terrorists fired mor-

CONT. ON P5

Fidel Castro and the Jews

Some surprising numbers related to Fidel Castro's relationship with Israel and the Jews

DR. YVETTE ALT MILLER

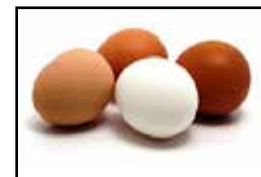
Fidel Castro, who has died at the age of 90, was outspoken in his hatred of Israel. For more than a half century, since seizing power in a military coup in 1959, he led Cuba as a leader of the non-Aligned movement, which sought to isolate and condemn Israel on the international stage. At the same time, Castro

CONT. ON P14

What's the Difference Between Brown and White Eggs?

DR. JOSEPH MERCOLA

Egg production in the U.S. is pretty impressive: 50 billion eggs per year, but unfortunately that large number is achieved through the use of industrial agriculture, namely concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).



CONT. ON P6

Jack Newman, MBA
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SAVAGE
CONT. FROM P1

ing about \$520 million in damage. The direct damage to Israeli homes is reportedly estimated to be more than \$182 million, while destruction to public property such as roads, electrical power systems and other infrastructure amounts to at least \$78 million.

“These damages are on an enormous scale, the likes of which we have not encountered in any natural disaster in Israel’s history—only in wars,” said an official at the Israeli Finance Ministry, Yedioth Ahronoth reported. “The final calculations of the damages caused by the fires—both to the state’s coffers and to the public in general—could only be done weeks after the event. These are very complicated calculations.”

Haifa, Israel’s third-largest city, was under considerable threat from the fires. More than 60,000 people were evacuated Thursday from the city as flames burned nearby. Haifa residents were able to return home Friday after fire crews were able to get the flames under control.

At a special cabinet meeting

Sunday in Haifa, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Israeli first responders for their work to combat the fires.

“I salute all those who took part in dealing with this crisis, in extinguishing the fires, and in guarding life and property,” Netanyahu said. “We have built an impressive ability to fight fires on the ground and from the air and it proved itself. I do not want to imagine what might have happened if we hadn’t built this ability.”

The thousands of fires that erupted across Israel came largely as a result of extremely dry and windy weather conditions, but also from attacks by arsonists, who likely used the weather conditions as a means to inflict heavy damage on the Jewish state.

Netanyahu said that a “considerable number” of the fires were likely ignited by arsonists.

“Every fire that was the result of arson or incitement to arson is terror in every way and we’ll treat it as such,” he said. “Anyone who tries to burn parts of the state of Israel will be severely punished.”

Israeli authorities arrested 23 people on arson charges, Israel

Hayom reported.

Global response

In response to the fires, the international Jewish community stepped up its efforts to provide relief to affected Israelis.

According to the Jewish National Fund, which has launched an emergency response campaign to help Israelis rebuild their homes and forests, the fires destroyed approximately 7,500 acres of forest and 2,700 acres of urban areas. In Haifa alone, 700 homes were damaged, 37 were destroyed and 400 were deemed uninhabitable. At least 569 homes burned down throughout Israel, and 137 people suffered fire-related injuries.

The Jewish Agency for Israel, with help from the Jewish Federations of North America, announced that it will provide immediate financial assistance of \$1,000 per family to Israeli families who cannot return home.

“At trying times like these, world Jewry feels closely connected to what is taking place in Israel and comes to our help without hesitation,” Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky said.

“We are proud of our partners in Jewish communities around the world, and particularly in North America, and appreciate their solidarity when it matters the most.”

The international community, including several of Israel’s Arab and Muslim allies, were instrumental in helping the Jewish state combat the flames.

Egypt, Jordan, Azerbaijan and Turkey all sent firefighting equipment to Israel. The Palestinian Authority (PA) also pitched in, sending several fire trucks to the Jewish state. Netanyahu phoned PA President Mahmoud Abbas to thank him for his assistance, marking a rare direct conversation between the two leaders.

Israeli opposition leader Member of Knesset Isaac Herzog also thanked the Palestinians for their help, saying that “from this tragedy, there is a glimmer of hope that things can be different.”

The show of solidarity from Arab and Muslim allies was a welcome sign for Israel after Arabic-speaking social media users had used the hashtag “Israel is burning” to celebrate the fires that

CONT.ON P5

SHOVAL AND CESANA
CONT. FROM P1

tars and artillery on Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Golan Brigade troops patrolling the Israel-Syria border. Monday's strike targeted an Islamic State post on the southern edge of the Syrian Golan Heights.

The post, an abandoned military installation once used by the United Nations Disengagement

Observer Force stationed in the buffer zone between Israel and Syria, was used by an Islamic State proxy in southern Syria to gain a foothold near the border. The IAF dropped 10 one-ton bombs on the site, leveling the facility and destroying the weapons stored there.

"Over the past few days there have been several attempts to attack Israeli troops on the Israel-Syria border. We mounted a swift,

forceful response and exacted a heavy price from our enemies," Netanyahu said Monday in a weekly meeting of the Likud party.

"We continue to monitor the situation closely and we will enforce the policy I have set: We will not tolerate sporadic fire, we will respond forcefully to any incident, and if need be -- we will strike our enemies before they attack us. We will not allow radical Islam or any other hostile element to impose a terrorist front on us in the Golan Heights," he said.

Speaking at a Yisrael Beiteinu party meeting, Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Israel will respond to any provocation on its borders.

"This is actually the first time when we've encountered an attack by an Islamic State-affiliated cell on our soldiers. We responded the way we always do—in a forceful way," he said. "Let me be clear: We will respond to any provocation, regardless if it is from the Gaza Strip or anywhere else."

Lieberman noted that the IAF does not need to coordinate its operations with Russia, whose air force is involved in the civil war in Syria.

In September 2015, Netanyahu met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, where the two leaders agreed to set up a mechanism to prevent unintended friction between the Israeli and Russian militaries in light of Russia's growing military presence in Syria.

"There's no need to coordinate [Israel's current operations] with anyone," Lieberman said. "Any attack on Israeli soldiers in Israel's sovereign territory is met with a forceful response. Once we identify the source of the fire, we respond. When we don't identify the source, [Syrian President Bashar] Assad's regime is the one responsible. In this case, we identified an Islamic State cell firing from a certain location, fired and destroyed their post."

An IDF Spokesperson's Unit statement said that the Israeli strikes "aimed to prevent the terrorists from becoming a substantial threat in the area. The IDF will continue to spare no effort to defend the Israeli public while maintaining the military's freedom of operation in Israel's sovereign territory, and it will not hesitate to counteract terrorist organizations threatening Israel."

Israel Hayom/JNS.org

SAVAGE
CONT. FROM P4

ravaged the country.

Several of Israel's close allies in Europe, as well as the U.S., also sent firefighting equipment. America dispatched its Boeing 747 Supertanker, the largest aerial firefighting aircraft in the world. The supertanker is capable of carrying up to 19,600 gallons of fire retardant or water.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations expressed gratitude to the countries that assisted Israel.

"Among those nations sending firefighters and equipment were Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cy-

prus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine" and the U.S., the Conference of Presidents said in a press release, noting that Israel "has often responded when other countries faced natural disasters or violent attacks."

"The outpouring of international support for Israel in response to the widespread threats to the safety and property of tens of thousands of Israelis is an example of international cooperation at its best," said Conference of Presidents leaders Stephen M. Greenberg and Malcolm Hoenlein.

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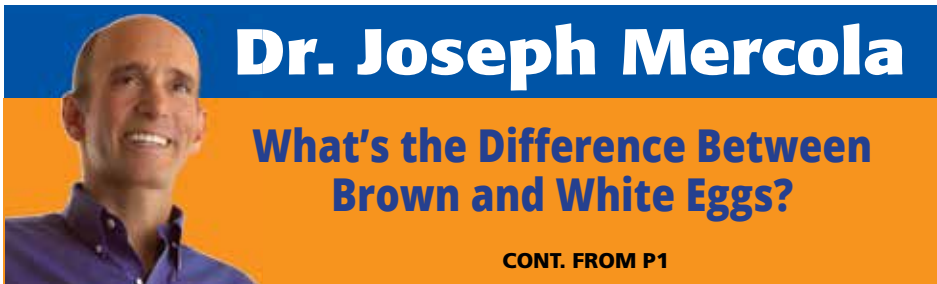
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CONT. FROM P1

About 70 percent of the eggs produced are sold as is, while the rest have their shells removed for conversion into both liquid and dried egg products, sometimes with just the whites (as the yolks have been touted as causing heart disease).

Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and California are the biggest producers, and the U.S. is the largest egg-producing country in the world.

Some people say brown eggs are better for you because they contain more nutrients. Others are convinced they're better for cooking fluffy things like quiches, while white eggs are better for baking cakes. Then there are those who believe just the opposite.

What's the real difference between brown eggs and white eggs? One expert says that there's no difference on the inside, nutrition-wise, whether the egg is brown or

white (although the way the chickens are raised can change that).

Other Factors in Regard to Brown Versus White Eggs

Thickness of the shells is another visually related factor. Some shells are thick and protective and others are thinner.

Some scientists say that whether the egg is brown or white, the thickness is relatively the same and differences have more to do with the age of the chicken. Young chickens typically lay eggs with harder, thicker shells while the older set lay thinner-shelled eggs.

Here's one you probably didn't guess: Chickens that lay white eggs are generally white or light-colored, but the kicker is that they also have white earlobes. Brown eggs are most often laid by red-, brown- or otherwise dark-feathered hens, this time having red earlobes.

Simon Whistler, the face behind

Today I Found Out, an informative YouTube site, explained:

"This is not a universal truth, just a general rule. Further, the chickens' earlobes are really the indicator here, not the feathers, but there is a very strong correlation between earlobe color and feather color, so feather color can be a decent indicator, too.

Ultimately, egg color is determined by genetics, but the earlobe-feather-color thing is a good indicator ...

In the end, red-lobed chickens tend to be larger than their white-lobed counterparts, which is why they eat more. The farmers need to get reimbursed for the extra feed somehow, so they up the price of brown eggs."

Chickens' Diet Differences Affect Taste, Yolk Color and Nutrition

Whistler maintains that if you took a brown-egg-laying chicken that was also brown and raised it on the typical white chicken diet, their eggs would taste identical and be indistinguishable from the other eggs aside from the color of the shell. If the diets are the same, the yolks will even be the same color.

Most CAFO-raised chickens,

whether they lay brown or white eggs, are all getting fed the same thing, perhaps with a slight variance depending on who's running the operation.

If you've ever tasted eggs laid by a pasture-raised chicken, however, you already know there may be a difference in taste between those and cheap, white CAFO eggs with their anemic-looking yolks.

How do you know if the eggs you purchase are good for you? According to the George Mateljan Foundation, a not-for-profit healthy food site:

"Go beyond organic by asking for pasture-raised. Don't get sidetracked by the confusing array of labeling terms.

You are likely to find phrases like 'pasture-raised,' 'pastured,' 'free-range' and 'cage-free' on egg packaging, but labeling laws allow products to display these terms even if the egg-laying chickens spend little or no time outdoors in a pasture setting.

Talk to your grocer or the chicken producer and find out how the chickens were actually raised."

Why Do Most Stores Sell White Eggs?

CONT.ON P7

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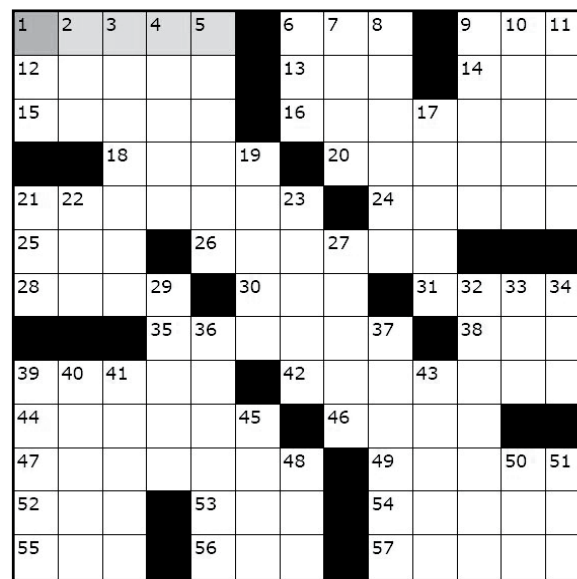
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Moshe's CROSSWORD

By Yochai Ben Yitzchak Dov



Across

- 1) Sheriff's group
- 6) Classified _____
- 9) Actor _____ Akroyd
- 12) Curses
- 13) Actress _____ Farrow
- 14) Id's partner
- 15) Act toward
- 16) Humiliated
- 18) Neighborhood
- 20) "Scarface" gangster
- 21) Type of paint
- 24) Raves
- 25) Rage
- 26) Building cement
- 28) Store
- 30) "Simpsons" bartender
- 31) Walked upon
- 35) Blackboard cleaner
- 38) Wind dir.
- 39) Keaton or Sawyer
- 42) Ralph Waldo _____

Down:

- 1) Plant holder
- 2) Paddle's kin
- 3) Cooking container
- 4) Musical symbol
- 5) Admiration
- 6) Medical org.
- 7) _____ jockey
- 8) African desert
- 9) Evil spirit
- 10) FBI employee

- 11) Lymph _____
- 17) Not together
- 19) Perfume
- 21) Actor _____ Robbins
- 22) Distinctive time
- 23) Got up
- 27) Abounds
- 29) Belief
- 32) Begin again
- 33) Singer Yoko _____
- 34) TV room
- 36) Fight back
- 37) Do again
- 39) Counts calories
- 40) Delhi's country
- 41) Maturing
- 43) Beatle _____ Starr
- 45) Lids
- 48) Forty winks
- 50) Passing grade
- 51) Media mogul _____ Turner

ANSWER TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD ON PAGE 25

MERCOLA
CONT. FROM P6

That explains why, in some regions of the world, white eggs tend to be purchased most often. As previously explained, white-lobed chickens don't cost as much to raise. That makes their eggs less expensive, generally, and leads to the tendency of grocers to buy more white eggs. These, unfortunately, typically come from CAFOs.

As far as good nutrition, it has everything to do with the chicken's diet. Differences in the hen's diet, as well as the way it's raised, will affect the taste of the eggs, the nutrition and even the color of the yolk.

As a matter of fact, eggs from CAFO chickens are not good for you, and in fact are very bad, for a number of reasons. First, they're crowded into unbelievably unsanitary conditions, and some are so packed in with other chickens that their feet barely touch the ground.

They're also a breeding ground for disease. These chickens are usually fed genetically engineered (GE) corn and soybeans instead of their natural diet of green plants, seeds, insects and worms.

This fosters disease, and processing byproducts such as chicken feathers and other animal parts may be regularly added to the feed. To prevent the spread of disease, they're routinely fed antibiotics (although hormones are no longer permitted in American-raised chickens).

How Chickens Are Raised Determines How Healthy Their Eggs Are

The question of whether there's a difference nutritionally between eggs from CAFO-raised chickens fed GE grain supplemented with vitamins and possibly treated with antibiotics, aka, your standard supermarket eggs, or organic, pastured eggs is an important one.

Too often it's believed that there's little difference in nutritional quality. This is patently untrue. It must be noted that while most eggs sold commercially are white and come from white chickens, brown eggs laid by brown chickens are most often found at home-grown operations, Whistler says.

In fact, you can tell if your eggs are free-range or pastured by the color of the egg yolk. Hens allowed to forage in the pasture produce eggs with bright orange yolks. Small, pale yellow yolks are a dead

giveaway your eggs are from caged hens that are not allowed to forage for their natural diet.

Truth or Myth: When Your Doctor Advises Against Eating Eggs

Doctors may allow egg consumption in their meal recommendations, but they sometimes still warn their patients to use caution because eggs (they say) contain high amounts of cholesterol and may increase your heart disease incidence. However, the George Mateljan Foundation notes:

"Interestingly, several recent large-scale diet studies suggest that the cholesterol content of an egg may be less of a concern in relationship to heart disease than previously thought. In these studies, no increased risk of either heart attack or stroke was shown with intake of one to six eggs per week.

Equally interesting was the link between egg intake and increased levels of HDL cholesterol (the 'good' cholesterol) in participants. Not only did egg intake increase the number of HDL molecules, it also improved their composition and allowed them to function more effectively."

It's finally becoming common knowledge that dietary cholesterol from natural sources poses no threat to your health and is actually good for you. In fact, the 2015 U.S. Dietary Guidelines have even removed the cholesterol limit and added egg yolks to the list of recommended protein sources.

With all the focus on keeping their patients from consuming too much cholesterol, many doctors forgot that eggs are an abundant source of vitamins, protein and antioxidants that many Americans are lacking, which is damaging to their health.

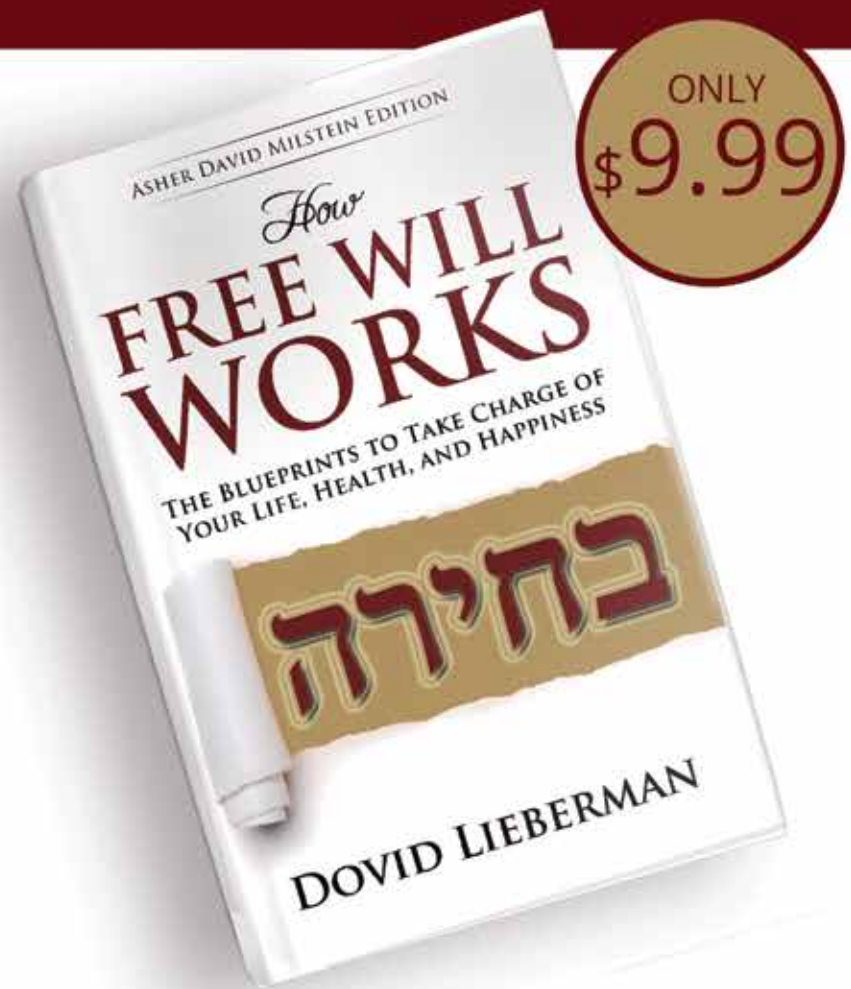
An estimated 90 percent of the U.S. population may be deficient in choline, a B vitamin known for its role in brain development and memory that's linked to low levels. Deficiency symptoms include cognitive problems, low energy and brain fog, but a single egg yolk contains nearly 215 milligrams (mg) of choline.

If you live in an area where you can get the pastured kind, go for it, even if you have to drive a few miles, because the nutrition is worth it. Or, find a local health food store to find a high-quality local egg source.

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

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Roy Neuberger

MEETING ESAV

In a few weeks we will b'ezras Hashem read Parshas Vayishlach, which concludes with the words, "Now these are ... the chiefs of Esav [father of Edom] ... the chief of Magdiel." (Beraishis 36:40-43)

Rashi comments succinctly on this possuk: "Magdiel: hi Roma ... this is Rome." Rashi then refers to Pirchei DeRabbi Eliezer, who says that Magdiel is different from the other descendants of Esav, because the last two letters of his name contain the name of Hashem, indicating that "G-d made it great."

We have a deep problem in this generation.

Some background from my personal experience: I was raised in Manhattan's Upper East Side. You can read a description of my childhood in my book, "From Central Park to Sinai: How I Found My Jewish Soul." Even though the Shoa was in full force, I knew nothing of it. We lived in a cocoon of wealth in a world that still had a tinge of Victorian values. It wasn't that my parents were insensitive – just the opposite! – but we were so divorced from our heritage that anything Jewish seemed completely alien. The sufferings of our people was a world with which – we thought – we had no connection.

After the war, the world began to change, but I still remember a culture of innocence and genteel values. "Derech Eretz Kadma l'Torah." We had the "derech eretz" part, but not the Torah. My parents, both from distinguished Jewish families, just didn't know. So we accepted the traditions and culture of the surrounding nation as if they were our own. It was only that my pintele Yid kept screaming inside me....

That is what saved me from drowning in alien waters.

The culture of Esav/Edom/Rome was and still is the basis of the dominant belief system of the Western world. The influence of Rome spread over Europe and then into the New World. In the "Great Melting Pot" called America, millions of Yidden – nebach! – were absorbed, like our ancestors in Mitzraim (See Rashi on Shem-

os 10:22). Our deep and terrible problem, my friends, is that we had forgotten the vast difference between Yaakov and – lehavdil -- Esav!

When our enemies attack Israel, our immediate response is to cry out to America. These are the people among whom so many of us grew up. Certainly, they need only to be reminded how righteous we are, how civilized we are, how we are "America's friend and the only democracy in the Middle East!" Certainly, when they remember these things, they will rally to our cause!

"Halacha hi ... it is known that Esav hates Yaakov." (Rashi on Beraishis 33:4) We have forgotten that we have only one Friend! "All the nations surround me! In the Name of Hashem I cut them down!" (Tehillim 118)

This week we are introduced to Esav. By what extreme denial of the obvious do we fool ourselves into thinking that he is our friend? How can we delude ourselves like this?

Our terrifying problem is that we have come to believe that Esav's culture is our culture.

The name "Magdiel" suggests "gadol." Rome's culture is powerful, but it is all gashmius which in the end will turn to dust. Rome is above all a builder. It is no accident that Yishmael attacked massive skyscrapers on 9/11. With our own eyes, we saw them turn to dust! Ancient Rome was famous for highways, bridges, siege-works, aqueducts and armies. Rome's contemporary descendants are the builders of great cities, airplanes, rockets ... as well as smart phones, computers, the internet, endless depths of tumah and pits of immorality ... a bottomless trap not only for them, but also for us, G-d forbid, if we allow ourselves to be absorbed into their culture.

Yaakov and Esav have battled from the womb! Yaakov knew that he had to separate himself from Esav. The Tent of Torah is a universe apart from the skyscrapers of Esav. Skyscrapers touch the

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sky, but Torah – lehavdil – penetrates the heavens!

I will once again quote the Malbim from the beginning of my book, 2020 Vision: "In the End of Days, after Bnai Yisroel have returned to their land, the children of Yishmoel and the children of Esav will unite to attack Yerushalayim. They will form a world coalition against the tiny nation of Israel. But something will go wrong with their plan. The religious beliefs of the children of Yishmoel and the children of Esav will clash, and the two nations will collide and destroy each other. This is what is referred to as the War of Gog and Magog. Following this cataclysmic conflict, the Final Redemption of the Jewish People will occur with the coming of Moshiach ben Dovid." (Malbim on Yechezkel 32:17)

Yishmoel and Esav are now on collision course, with worldwide danger to everyone. We are "am levadad yishkon ... a nation that will dwell alone. (Bamidbar 23:9) "In the final war before the coming of Moshiach, all the Jews who fear Hashem will survive. Hashem will say to them, 'All those who are removed from the secular worldly

culture ... you are mine!" (Rabbi Yechezkel Levenshtein, Leket Rishimos as quoted in Redemption Unfolding, page 77)

We are attached to the Al-Mighty G-d. As soon as we separate from Esav and remember that our voice is "the voice of Yaakov" (Beraishis 27:22), we will see the day on which "saviors will ascend Mount Zion to judge Esav's mountain and the kingdom will be Hashem's." (Ovadia 1:21)

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Roy S. Neuberger

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”



Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier

THE AGE OF DISRESPECT PARSHAS TOLDOS

And Lavan and Besuel answered and said, “The matter stemmed from HASHEM. We are unable to speak to you either good or bad.”
— Bereishis 24:50

Eliezer, the servant of Avraham, went to find a wife for Yitzchak. He approached the city of Charan, waited at the well, and asked HASHEM for a sign. “Let it be that the girl who not only gives me water when I ask for it, but says, ‘Not only will I give you to drink, but I will give your camels as well.’ She should be the one that is right for Yitzchak.”

No sooner did he finish speaking than Rivka, the daughter of Besuel, came upon the scene and fulfilled his request exactly as he specified. Eliezer knew that he had found the right one.

He then asked Rivka to take him to her father. As they neared

the house, Rivka’s brother Lavan saw the camels laden with treasures, ran out to greet the new guest and usher him in. Eliezer described the miracles that happened and then asked for approval of the marriage. Lavan and Besuel exclaimed, “It is from HASHEM! How can we stop it?”

Rashi comments that from here we see Lavan’s wickedness. Why did the Torah mention his name first? To teach us that he spoke before his father. This shows us that he was a rasha.

This Rashi is difficult to understand. Why does Lavan’s speaking before his father show that he was wicked? Disrespectful — yes. Rude — certainly. But a rasha?

The answer to this can best be understood from a historical vantage point.

In the 1980’s, a yeshivah student learning in Israel found

himself on a bus, sitting near two secular American Jews. Noticing that one was a bit older than the other, he was surprised to hear them calling each other by their first names. “Bob, did you notice that?” said one. “Hey, Joe, what do you think?” said the other. His surprise deepened when in the course of conversation it became clear that the two were father and son. Dad explained, “I don’t want barriers between us, so we call each other by our first names.”

That wasn’t the way that it used to be. In the 1930’s in America, a teenager wouldn’t dream of calling an adult by his first name, let alone his father. And certainly a child wouldn’t dare open his mouth when his father spoke. It didn’t matter how foul-mouthed the child was, and it didn’t matter how unpolished the father was. Children knew their place, and the idea of a child speaking back to an adult was unheard of.

Things have changed a bit since then. The counter-cultural revolution of the 1960’s brought new attitudes and ideas. Police became “pigs.” Government came to be mistrusted. And anyone over the age of thirty was part of

the problem. While much of the hysteria of those times has passed, one of the relics is that respect is no longer part of the culture. Gone is respect for leaders. Gone is respect for the clergy. Gone is respect for elders. In its place is the cynicism of a new age — an egalitarian age — where we are all equals.

We no longer need to treat institutions with reverence, and we no longer need to treat authority with deference. And so we argue with our doctors. We argue with our lawyers. And we argue with our parents — who don’t really know that much anyway. Welcome to the Age of Disrespect.

This seems to be the answer to this Rashi. In the times of Lavan,

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The Trump Revolution, Israel And American Jews

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The victory of Donald Trump in the U.S. presidential elections will have long-term global repercussions at many levels. It represents a revolt against extreme postmodernism which has undermined the moral fiber of the West and its willingness to defend itself, facilitating the emergence of brutal Islamic terror throughout the world.

Many, if not most, of those who voted for Trump were offended by his vulgarity and aggressive language and did not support all aspects of his policies. They voted for him because they regarded him as the only opportunity to break with the status quo.

The refusal of his antagonists — the self-styled liberal guardians of democracy — to accept the outcome of the election was despicable and unprecedented and contrasts with the acquiescence of the defeated Republicans when Barack Obama won both of his elections.

Whether or not Trump will succeed in restoring America's

former global and political status remains to be seen. We should bear in mind that when Ronald Reagan was elected, the media and much of the "intelligentsia" described him as an idiot and predicted disaster. But he proved to be one of the greatest American presidents.

Trump's victory could have dramatic ramifications for Israel. Of course, pre-election undertakings are never fully implemented, but it is historically unprecedented for Israel to enjoy such a committed pro-Israel incoming president together with massive support from both houses of Congress.

Trump, who literally gushes over Israel, has always been closely associated with Jews in business and politics. Aside from his family, his senior advisers include committed devotees of Israel.

He has repeatedly praised Israel and refers to us as America's greatest ally; he has endorsed Israel's position on defensible borders and stated that he has no objec-

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Rabbi Naphtali Hoff

Establish Clear Work-Home Boundaries

One of the biggest challenges for any employee is to establish clear boundaries separating work from home. Many people fall into this trap regularly, bringing their domestic challenges to the workplace and/or making their homes an extension of the office. While doing so may make sense or feel right in the moment, it can have negative repercussions, particularly if done regularly.

People who bring their personal problems to work can face a number of problems. For starters, depending on how often you do this and the nature of what you share, others around you might start to view you negatively, and may come to classify you as a chronic complainer. To be polite, they might listen with a look of concern on their face and nod their head in agreement. But if you do this too often, people will start to tune you out, walk away as you approach, or silently wish for you to shut up and go somewhere else. Remember that everyone has problems and hardships. They have a hard enough time with their own and certainly don't want to add yours to their list.

In addition, people who bring their problems to work often wind up redirecting their mental strength and energy away from their jobs. Most people can't afford to share their limited energy and bandwidth with their personal life if they are to achieve what is expected of them. Moreover, when you bring outside problems into the workplace, it limits your overall productivity because it kills your focus. This can lead you to make careless mistakes, which cost your employer time and money.

In order to avoid falling into this trap ask yourself some questions:

Will what I am sharing with coworkers solve my problems?

Will it possibly lead people to speak with me less often?

How will it impact my job performance from the view of my boss, supervisors or direct reports?

If you don't like the answers, it probably means that you'd be better served confiding in only the

closest of office friends or zipping it up completely.

As bad as it is to bring your personal life to work, the opposite can be even more damaging. Even if you love your job and approach it each day with passion and purpose, work can still be stressful, exhausting and all-consuming. When you bring it home with you, it encroaches upon your supposed relaxation time. It also takes away from the family/social time that is so crucial or, at the least, may put you in a foul, crabby mood.

How can you avoid falling into the "bring the work home" trap so that you can get the relaxation and quality personal time that you need and deserve?

Begin this process before your workday formally ends. As you near its conclusion, make a list of projects that you still need to complete in order of priority. If not enough time remains in the current workday, map out how you will be able to address these tasks as soon as possible on the next day. Review this list at the beginning of each workday and work towards its completion.

In terms of late day emails, consider leaving them for the next day. Phone calls can go to voice-mail, which you can check just to make sure that there's nothing urgent. In those cases, you will respond accordingly. If the message is not urgent, resolve to take care of it the following day.

As you walk in the front door, be careful not to bring along any problems that will impact your time at home. One way to do this is to hang a "problem hook" by the front door, as illustrated by the following story.

Once there was a young father who was unemployed. A kind old man saw an opportunity to help him. He asked the young man if would like to bring his tools and spend a few days working on repairing an old fence he had around his large property. The latter readily agreed.

The young father had less than a productive first day. His old truck broke down about two miles from the old man's house, forcing

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HOFF
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him to walk. He arrived 45 minutes late. Then the hammer that he had brought broke about half-way through the day. To make matters worse, he severely twisted his ankle towards the end of the day and could barely walk.

The kind old man offered him a ride home. When they had almost reached the house, the young father invited him in to meet his family. As the two men approached the rickety door of the humble home the tired, beat-down worker paused on the porch and touched a large coat hook with both of his hands. When opening the door, the young father completely transformed. A big broad smile came across his face as he hugged his three small happy children and kissed his wife.

Later, as the young man escorted his guest out the door they again passed the large coat

hook. The old man's curiosity got the better of him and he asked his worker about what he had seen him do earlier. He was told as follows: "That's my problem hook. I know I am going to have problems, but one thing I never want to do is bring them home to my wife and children. So I simply hang my problems on the hook before I enter my house. When I leave in the morning I pick them up again." The young father continued. "The odd thing about it is when I pick them up in the morning they don't seem to be as big and heavy as they were when I dropped them off the night before."

Whether choose to hang a problem hook or just identify a symbolic one (such as threshold of your home), such symbolism can help erect an absolute barrier between your work experience and what lies behind the door. Why subject your family to the challenges and stressors from the

past 10 hours of your day? As you enter your home, think about the new opportunities that you will have to connect with those that you really love. Even better, identify the best thing that happened that day and share it right as you enter, even if it was just a good cup of coffee or the fact that the train arrived on time.

If you are completely wound up and need time to decompress, give your spouse a heads up and spend a few minutes alone at first. Some activities that can help you relax include resting, meditation, exercise or a shower.

Of course, not everyone has the luxury of completely shutting down after hours. In that case, try to work with your team at work

to minimize the impact of such intrusions and keep them to a minimum. But don't invite such invasions by checking work email or doing other work-related tasks that can wait until the morning.

When you feel the itch to jump back into work mode, I suggest that you consider the wise words of Steve Blank, author of *The Startup Owner's Manual*. Blank wrote, "When you're gone would you rather have your gravestone say, 'He never missed a meeting' or one that said, 'He was a great father?'"

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.

SHMUZ
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society was still normal. Workers respected bosses. Students respected teachers. Younger people respected older people. As such, there were things that were done and things that were not done. In that world, for a child to answer in his father's presence was outrageous. It simply didn't happen. The only time such a thing could occur was when the child had veered way off course — he had become deviant. And so, Rashi tells us that Lavan's response shows just how wicked he was.

This is especially illustrative because Besuel wasn't known as a paradigm of virtue. He died trying to poison Eliezer in order to steal his money. Yet, even in his home, for a child to answer before his father did was so out of the norm that it could only happen if that

child was wicked.

This concept is relevant to us because while we are a nation, separate and distinct, the reality is that we learn from those around us. And so we need to be mindful of what we consider normal and acceptable behavior. What we see in the world at large isn't normal — and it certainly isn't acceptable. We need to teach our children that this isn't the way. Just because it's done doesn't make it tolerable. There will again come a time when people will look back at such behavior with the appropriate sense of horror, shock, and disbelief.

Rabbi Shafier is the founder of the Shmuz.com – The Shmuz is an engaging, motivating shiur that deals with real life issues. All of the Shmuzin are available free of charge at the www.theShmuz.com or on the Shmuz App for iPhone or Android. For more on this topic please listen to Shmuz #51 - Bitachon and Hishtadlus – Finding the Balance

LEIBLER
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tion to construction in the major settlement blocs and Jerusalem; he called on the Palestinians to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and is opposed to imposed solutions, insisting that the only way to peace is by direct negotiations between the parties; and most importantly, he has made it clear that he totally repudiates President Obama's criticism of Israel for failing to make progress in the peace talks and his application of moral equivalence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Trump committed to moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem — although that is an unfulfilled pre-electoral promise made by many of his predecessors, both Democrat and Republican.

He has also undertaken to confront the Iranian terrorist regime and either terminate the bogus nuclear deal or at least pressure the Iranians to adhere to their commitments.

His vice president-elect, Mike Pence, is a passionately devoted Christian friend of Israel and a seasoned politician who Trump has announced will be his major

adviser and policy formulator (see video address).

And whatever tensions exist between Trump and both of the Republican-controlled houses of Congress, the one issue that they share in common is support of Israel.

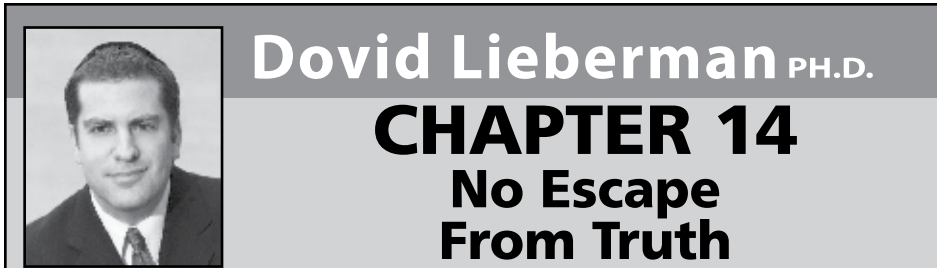
However, none of this should be misinterpreted to mean that the Trump administration will favor annexation or a one-state policy. Trump has made it clear that he still endorses a two-state policy but, in contrast to Obama, he stipulates that it cannot be imposed without providing Israel with defensible borders and all of the security guarantees it requires — an unattainable objective and at present, not even on the horizon.

For this reason, the bombastic declarations by the Israeli Right and particularly Habayit Hayehudi Chairman Naftali Bennett's calls for annexation in the wake of the election results are irresponsible and could be highly counterproductive. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should tell his coalition members to zip their mouths shut and enable him to move forward

CONT.ON P13

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Dovid Lieberman PH.D.

CHAPTER 14
No Escape From Truth

We are more distraught to learn of the injury, or death, G-d forbid, of a young person than we are of that of an elderly person. Loss of life is unequivocally sad, but it is the loss of assumed potential that we find particularly heartbreaking. The wider the gap between potential and (opportunity for) actualization, the sadder it seems. Likewise, the extent to which we fall short of our own potential, the greater the waste and the more distress we experience.

Before we continue, let us make two qualifications: (1) We say “assume” because we cannot presume to know whose mission in life was fulfilled and whose was not. (2) We are speaking of potential, not productivity. To identify worthiness based on productivity is to devalue one as he grows older or becomes incapacitated—an idea antithetical to Torah ideals and values. Moreover, the Shulchan Aruch (“Code of Jewish Law”) explains the halachah that “One person’s life does not take precedence over another’s.” This comes to teach us that even potential is not a benchmark of worth, and that a person lying in a vegetative state has the same “value” and rights as does a person who is endowed with extraordinary potential.

Hashem looked into the Torah and created the world (Zohar 2:161b.) We find that there is no word for entertainment in Lashon HaKodesh (“ancient Hebrew”). The concept itself does not exist. Entertainment is a diversion from reality, and extracting genuine pleasure from something that is not real is not possible. Authentic, sustainable happiness—let alone emotional health—is found in our connection to reality, not in our escape from it.

We should note that modern Hebrew concocted the word bilui, “recreation,” but it is not supported by classic Hebrew. The word is derived from the verb bidur (“to scatter” or “to disperse”) and carries the connotation “to waste.” Likewise, some people engage in high-risk behavior in order to shake them from their lifelessness. They risk death for the jolt—the adrenaline rush—so that they can, at least in the moment, feel alive. There is no word in Hebrew for “adventure,” either, which is an artificial experience meant to simulate a zest for life itself.

Mental health requires an allegiance to reality regardless of the pain or effort involved. Any time we move from the swift current of life, we become less stable because

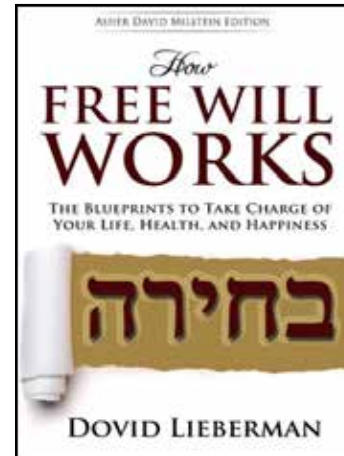
we are disconnecting from truth. Should we move too far into our “own world” even an insignificant event puts our fertile imagination into overdrive, consuming us with mushrooming fear and anxiety. Our lives become filled with “never ending tragedies” that that never actually happen.

Paradoxically, the more neurotic a person is, the more he believes in his ability to see, know, and predict the world around him. In actuality, he is less able to recognize cause-and-effect relationships. To compensate for his impairment, to feel some sense of control, he creates his own associations between action and consequence. Naturally, this compounds his neurosis because when the inevitable breach occurs, he retreats deeper into his assumptions.

Superstition is nothing but a diluted form of paranoia—the desire to make connections where none exist. All of reality is

an undifferentiated facet of the whole, so patterns and connections are everywhere, but when a person cannot see beyond himself, the soul’s desire to make connections is supplanted by the ego’s own self-oriented correlations. Since he cannot find meaning, he invents it. (In fact, psychosis—and, to a lesser degree, neurosis—and prophecy lie at opposite ends of the spectrum. The latter is an all-encompassing perspective, while the former is exceedingly myopic.)

Further compounding the emotional strain is the confusion between affliction and accomplishment—when we make distress the objective, rather than success, and where pain equals progress. While it is true that “According to the effort is the reward,” a person cannot heap challenges on himself. We are rewarded for the effort put forth and the pain endured, but we are



CONT.ON P13

SYNAGOGUE PLANS SEMI-ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Congregation Sons of Israel, located at 111 Irving Place, Woodmere, New York, has planned its semi-annual Blood Drive. The event will take place in the Synagogue on Sunday, December 11, 2016, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Potential donors are asked to eat low fat food and drink fluid before they arrive. They also are not allowed to have received a tattoo for a full year prior to the donation. To be accepted, they must be at least: 110 pounds and Age 16 (requires parental consent) up to 75 (people over 75 require a Doctor’s note). They also must bring Identification with a picture or a

signature. Donors will received a gift, which has been donated by the New York Mets.

As the year concludes, the blood, packed cells, and platelet supplies within Nassau County are diminished and critically needed. Scriptures teach us that “He who saves a single life, it is as if he has saved the world”. People are asked to remember their neighbors during this holiday season and avail them of the greatest gift of all.

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ANSWER TO THIS WEEK’S SUDOKU ON PAGE 36

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by engaging in silent diplomacy with Trump, who has already extended a warm invitation to meet with him.

One of the negative repercussions of the Trump victory is the accelerated erosion of bipartisanship and the growing influence of the radical anti-Israel wing of the Democratic Party. Nothing exemplifies this more than the likeli-

hood of the anti-Israel Muslim Congressman Keith Ellison — who was initially funded by the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations — assuming the role of chairman of the Democratic National Committee, supported by leading Jewish Senator Chuck Schumer. The post was formerly held by pro-Israel Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Simultaneously, anti-Israel Jewish Senator Bernie Sanders is emerging as one of the most powerful forces in the defeated radicalized Democratic Party.

the chutzpah to harness the ADL to condemn the Republicans as “anti-Zionist” because they failed to relate to a two-state solution in their Middle East policy platform.

He condemned Trump for “tolerating” anti-Semites because he declined to dignify the Ku Klux Klan by responding to their expressions of support for him. In fact, thanks to the ADL’s anti-Trump hysteria, anti-Semites and scum like David Duke were brought to the forefront of the mainstream media, a goal which they had sought unsuccessfully to achieve over the past decades. It also encouraged racists and anti-Semites to emerge from their closets.

This contrasts starkly with the muted response to by liberals to Obama’s relationship with Rev. Jeremiah Wright, a paranoid anti-Semite. Not only did Obama attend his sermons with his family, but Wright actually officiated at his wedding and was appointed by him in 2007 to the African American Religious Leadership Committee. He only dissociated himself from Wright’s views after media exposure but refused to disown him personally, relating to him as “an old uncle.” Not even the fier-

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LIEBERMAN
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not compensated for self-inflicted wounds.

Yet all too often, we unconsciously create obstacles to give ourselves the feeling of growth without movement. An example of a common tactic: the file that we absolutely cannot afford to lose, our cellular phone, vehicle registration—just about everything and anything that we can misplace, we will misplace. Essentially, we manufacture a challenge in a controlled environment that, once overcome, gives us a sense of excitement and accomplishment. (In some instances, we create these little challenges because, unconsciously, we want to inconvenience ourselves. Feelings of guilt and self-recrimination cause us to inflict harm upon ourselves. Note that this is the very epitome of self-destruction.)

Some people are miserable even though by all accounts they are making good choices. This is because we each stand on a never-ending ladder whose starting point is irrelevant. We might be capable of climbing easily but choose to be complacent and climb only a few rungs at our leisure. Genuine progress—and therefore self-esteem and emotional health—is assessed only through looking at our effort in relation to our ability. Pioneering psychologist Abraham Maslow succinctly summarizes this point: “If you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all of the days of your life.”

In the next installment we’ll see how living a life with meaning not only brings pleasure and bolsters our emotional, spiritual, and physical health, but it also means that we experience less suffering.



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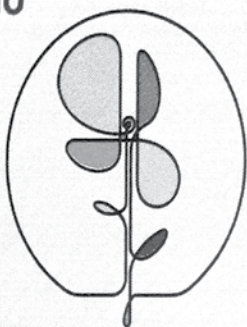
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Saturday/Night - 1 Hour After Shabbat - 12am

REVIEWS | Daniel Keren

New Book Makes Delightful Jewish Sense Out of the "Silly World of Chelm"

"The Silly World of Chelm" by Shepsel and Avraham, Two Lights Publishing, 407 pages, 2016)

Let's admit it! It is a crazy world we live in. Most university educated individuals in America and the rest of Western World are willing to deny the reality of G-d and instead put their trust in Darwin's "Theory" of Evolution, although no concrete proofs have been put to demonstrate that it is anything more than just a theory.

Throughout most of our people's history in galus, (exile) Jews have been bitterly persecuted by Johnny come lately religions that just because of majority population demographics claimed to know the truth and have insulted Klal Yisroel because of our belief in the One true G-d and our steadfast commitment to maintaining our bris, covenant forged

3328 years ago at Har Sinai.

More recently, our brethren were jailed and martyred in the Former Soviet Union for the crime of being Capitalistic lackeys, while being blacklisted in the United States by the House Committee on Un-American Activities for being Communist sympathizers. It doesn't take much for the world to hate Jews and it has been said that this is actually Hashem's antidote to the great danger of assimilation.

Anyway in such a world is it unusual or unexpected that Yidden would try and escape from the pressing difficulties of life by attempting to discover ways to laugh away at our predicaments? There are many schools of Jewish humor and perhaps one of the most beloved is that of the "brilliance" of the great Wise Men of Chelm. Chelm is actually the

name of a Polish town not that far from the Ukrainian border and why this town became the target for jokes going back to the 19th Century has been lost in the passage of time.

Originally written in Yiddish by the literary geniuses of Isaac Bashevis Singer, Ovsey Driz, Aaron Zeitlin and Shlomo Simon, English translations going back to the middle of the last century have made the Wise Men of Chelm beloved and famous to Jews in America.

Yet it was a distinct but beautiful series on Wise Men of Chelm brought to life for many years in a delightful weekly Jewish Press column written by the late Arnold (Avraham) Fine, 1924-2014, perhaps better known for his nostalgic "I Remember When" JP column and illustrated by Howard (Shepsil) Spielman that makes these characters memorable to English-speaking Orthodox and traditional Jews.

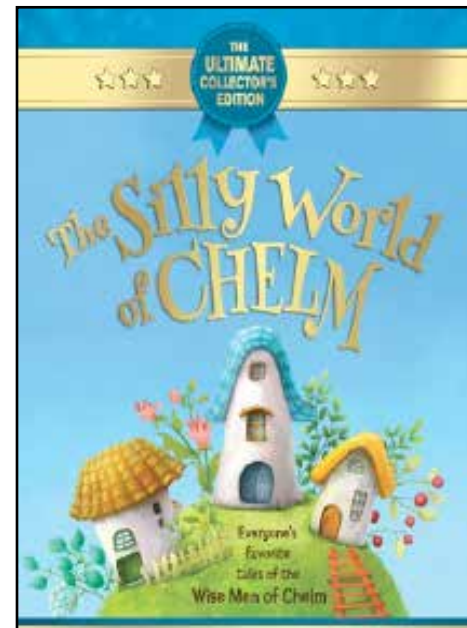
Tens of thousands of Jews in the New York Metropolitan region looked forward each week to these quirky stories about the Wise Men of Chelm that rather than disparaging our rabbis, instead poked humor at the human psyche, especially that belonging to a Jew who even though he is perhaps a silly denizen of Chelm still has a nefesh Elohis with a holy bond to the Abishter, our Father in Heaven that is unbreakable.

If you are like me, you probably have somewhere in the house a few of those Wise Men of Chelm columns cut out from old issues of the Jewish Press that you saved in order to read to your children and if you are really fore-

sighted future grandchildren.'

Now you need not look any more for those yellowed and perhaps faded bits of Jewish journalistic brilliance. Rabbi Zalman Goldstein of the Jewish Learning Group has saved you the effort of looking for those old Jewish Press columns with the publication of his new and fantastic Ultimate Collector's Edition titled "The Silly World of Chelm: Everyone's Favorite Tales of the Wise Men of Chelm."

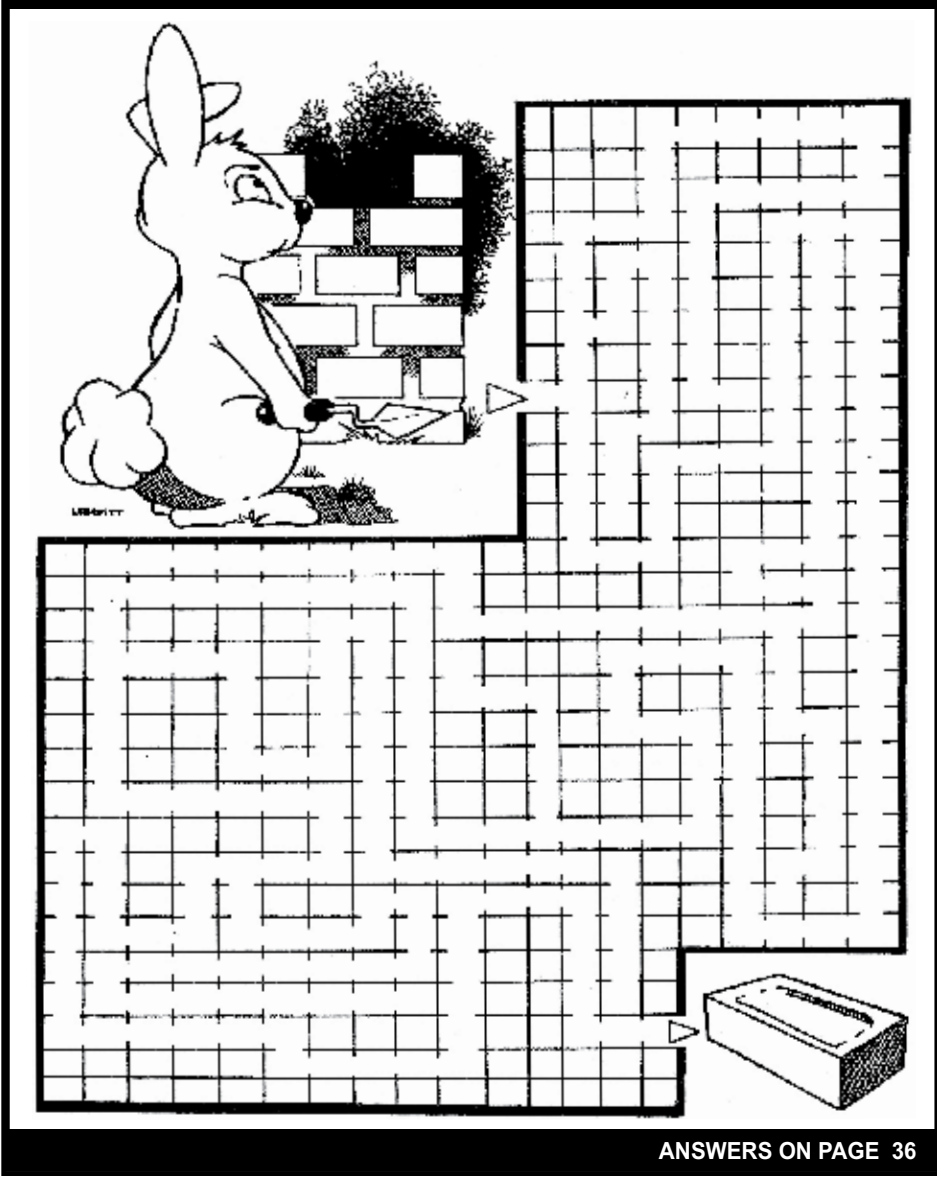
With the permission from The Jewish Press and the Klass family, Rabbi Goldstein with the help of Jerry Greenwald and Chumi Friedman has put together an amazing and delightful anthology of JP "Wise Men of Chelm" columns that will bring back warm memories



to old-time Jewish Press readers as well as joy and good times to first time readers of all ages. You have in this new hard cover volume some 170 classic Wise Men of Chelm stories from the pen of Fine and Spielman that will give many hours of pleasure as you and your family members read these smile creating tales over and over again.

With Chanukah not that far away, this new and soon-to-be classic anthology of the Jewish Press's "The Silly World of Chelm" is a great gift for any Jew you care about, regardless of religious commitment. You can read it to your children or other people's children anytime including at the Shabbos table. "The Silly World of Chelm" can be found in Jewish bookstores or by emailing the publisher at Info@WorldOfChelm.com

MAZE



ANSWERS ON PAGE 36

MILLER CONT. FROM P1

gave some measure of protection to Cuba's small Jewish community. Here are some surprising numbers related to Fidel Castro's Jewish links.

15,000
The approximate number of Jews who called Cuba home in 1959 when

Fidel Castro seized power from military dictator Fulgencio Batista, and installed himself as President.

1,400
Today, Cuba's Jewish population numbers approximately 1,400.

Zero
Amount of arms Israel sold

CONT.ON P18

LEIBLER
CONT. FROM P13

est critics of Trump can suggest any comparable relationship with Duke or any other identifiable anti-Semite. But his critics continue defaming him as a promoter of anti-Semites.

Clearly motivated by a very partisan agenda, they take this to insane levels. A star motif used in Trump's election propaganda was pounced upon by the ADL, claiming that it was a Star of David employed to inflame Jew-hatred. The frenzied ADL also suggested that Trump's condemnation of the power of the international banks (also promoted by Bernie Sanders) was a subtle means of promoting "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion." One has to be either a paranoid delusional or an anti-Semite to genuinely believe that any reference to international banks is a reference to Jews. And to top this, a negative reference to the anti-Israel George Soros — which most Jews would endorse — was also alleged to be anti-Semitic.

Not surprisingly, the hysteria impacted on Jews at the grass roots.

Yet in the wake of the election of a most pro-Israel U.S. government, in which Jews and staunch friends of Israel are likely to assume key positions, with the president's daughter having converted to Judaism and observing an Orthodox religious lifestyle, many Jews have simply lost the plot. A number of Reform and Conservative synagogues actually held special mourning services to bewail the advent of fascism in America. One prominent Conservative rabbi in New York even made a shocking analogy between the Trump victory and the rise of Nazism prior to the Holocaust.

The ultimate obscenity was the hysterical attack on Trump's appointment of the controversial right-wing media executive Steve Bannon as his strategic adviser. Without any credible proof, the ADL accused him of being an anti-Semite who would pave the way for a return to anti-Semitism and white supremacy.

It so happens that Bannon is surrounded by Jews in his media company, Breitbart News. He is known for his fervent support for Israel and his condemnations of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism on campus. One

can disagree with Trump's selection of Bannon, but for Greenblatt and the ADL to smear him as an anti-Semite is beyond the pale. The uproar following this was so great that Greenblatt was ultimately obliged to whisper a withdrawal of this false allegation.

The double standards applied by the ADL is exemplified by the fact that despite the outright anti-Semitism and promotion of BDS against Israel promoted by the Black Lives Matter movement, Greenblatt does not call for Jews to boycott the organization and still refers approvingly to the "positive" aspects of its work, suggesting that only a "small minority" imposed the anti-Semitic aspects of its program. Apparently the ADL adopt very liberal standards to real anti-Semitic groups if they come from the Left.

Greenblatt's use of a revered body created to combat anti-Semitism to promote his own partisan political agenda and even stooping to use allegations of anti-Semitism to slander his opponents is scandalous. He has no place in a mainstream Jewish organization.

American Jewry today stands at a crossroads. Ironically, at a time when possibly the most pro-Israel U.S. administration in history is about to take office, significant sectors of the Jewish community are falsely accusing its leaders of promoting anti-Semitism. It should be noted that other mainstream Jewish bodies, like the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and the American Jewish Committee, did not engage in this campaign and merely called for unity. But the Zionist Organization of America was the only significant Jewish organization protesting against this partisan defamatory campaign.

However, it is obvious that increasing numbers of Reform, Conservative and secular Jews consider Israel low among their priorities and confuse liberalism or "social justice" as a universalist basis for a Jewish commitment with no Jewish content or values. In all likelihood, they will become even more estranged from Israel as they seek to further ingratiate themselves with their liberal friends.

Fortunately, this will be compensated by the intensified support for Israel from committed Jews and Christian friends.

Isi Leibler may be contacted at ileibler@leibler.com

Council of Jewish Organizations hosts and arranges first Staten Island Tour for Hon. Dani Dayan, Israeli Consular General in New York

On Tuesday November 22, 2016, the newly-appointed Israeli Consul General in New York, Hon. Dani Dayan visited with elected officials and business and community leaders, culminating with an open dialogue at Wagner College on the U.S.-Israeli relationship. The tour of Staten Island, the first borough to be visited by the Consul General, was arranged by the Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island by Mendy Mirocznik, President and Scott Maurer, CEO.

District Attorney Michael McMahon hosted the Consul General and his team for a presentation on efforts to combat the borough's drug heroin epidemic. Joe Torres and Gina Gutman from the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation met with Dani Dayan to emphasize the integration of the local economy with New York City regional business and global initiatives.

The evening culminated in a Black Tie VIP Reception at Wagner College, where Mr. Ralph Lamberti, Former Staten Island Borough President, and Dr. Victor Avis, Chair of the Chai Society at Wagner College for serving as the Reception Chairs. The Host Committee consisted of Rabbi Michael Miller, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice-President of JCRC-NY, Richard Guarasci, Wagner College President, Romi and Melvine Cohn, Mordecai and Haline Schwartz, Marc Lebovics, Stephen Greenwald, Charles DeStefano, Esq., Paul Forster, Esq., Charlie Greinsky, Scott Maurer, Chief

Executive Officer and Executive Vice-President, Prof. Lori R. Weintrob, Brian Laline, Executive Editor of the Staten Island Advance, Melissa Rabinovich, Executive Editor, NY-1and Marjorie Steinberg, Esq.

During the interview with Scott Maurer, Consul General Dani Dayan emphasized the importance of the relationship between America and Israel. Maurer proudly reminded the audience of the, "historic relationship between America and Israel." Maurer emphasized and reiterated, "that Israel is the only reliable American ally in the

Middle-East and that relationship will only become stronger as our bond of friendship continues to grow."

Mendy Mirocznik thanked

President Richard Guarasci of Wagner College for opening Wagner College and for hosting Ambassador Dayan. Mirocznik thanked Professor Lori Weintrob and Dr. Ruta Shah-Gordon, Wagner College Vice-President for Internationalization and Intercultural Affairs and Campus Life for their hard work in planning and preparing the event. Mirocznik emphasized that, "COJO stands behind the day that the Holocaust Educational Center at Wagner College will have a home of its own and that COJO is committed to seeing that day and making it happen." Mirocznik concluded by praising Ambassador Dayan for having, "a stellar 100 days" and wished him, "the best in his new capacity" and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Israeli Consulate.



I-R SI COJO President Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik, Israeli Consul General Dani Dayan and Jewish Connection publisher Jerry Markovitz



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Guiding People Who Have Lost Their Way

Alan Magill

I was once at a nursing home and prior to a comedy show I put on there I observed the ending of the following exchange between a daughter of around 55 and a mother of around 85. Exasperated, the daughter said, "It's like this. mom. You see things your way, and I see things my way!" To which Mom responded, "No, that's how you see it!"

The friction between the two was palatable, and that's with the mother appearing to be fully oriented and alert. Adding more challenges to these interactions with family and friends of a certain age is when the individual being visited has dementia. Alzheimers or other cognitive loss. Or they might appear minimally or not aware of the world at all.

In most cases, visiting people in nursing homes and senior venues has a positive value, even if the visitor wonders if it was worth the trip. Even a visit to someone who shows no awareness of your presence can

reap positive dividends. First of all, if you speak with the person and offer tactile stimulation, even if they don't respond you have no way of knowing if they have internalized your visit and what you've done has had a positive affect. Also, just the fact that a minimally responsive person is getting visited raises the awareness of the nursing and other health care staff that this person is of importance to someone and they are deserving of quality care.

Once, in my work as a recreation therapist in a City Nursing Home, I saw a group of people coming out of a residents' room. They looked crestfallen. One of them said, "He didn't even recognize us. He didn't say anything. What's the point in coming?" I felt bad for the resident, whose name was Rocky. I knew he went in and out of being alert and aware and I was concerned that those people – his cousins – would never come back to see him. But if they knew what Rocky said to me a few hours later, they might recon-

sider. I went into his room and saw Rocky sitting up in his bed with a big smile on his face. I said, "What are you so happy about?" He replied, "The tide has turned! My cousins came to visit me."

When visiting people who seem minimally or not connected to reality, be aware that friendly words can be helpful to them. Perhaps they have been left alone for a long time and your visit could be an oasis of warmth for them. Also, if you know what their interests have been over the years, it could be beneficial to remind them of what had been a major part of their life. Sometimes, it could spark a memory and bring them back to the here and now.

Even if it's for a short time, it could be very important for that person.

I once worked with a woman in a nursing home who basically just stared straight ahead and occasionally gave one or two word answers to questions. Once I asked her where she was from and she said, "Sheridan, Wyoming." I asked her what she liked to do there and she said, "fishing." From that point on every time I went in to see her I reminded her of the fishing in Sheridan and she would become animated and talk in short bursts of enthusiasm. Calling the Sheridan, Wyoming Chamber of Commerce helped as they sent me pictures of

CONT.ON P17

Time to Get Serious About the United Nations

Joseph Frager, MD

With the appointment by President Elect Donald Trump of Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley to become the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations it is high time to correct the deplorable Anti-Israel Bias that has been hallmark of the United Nations for close to 70 years. The recent UNESCO declaration of the Temple Mount, the Western Wall and Jerusalem as having no connection whatsoever to the Jewish People made the degree of the flagrant Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic bias by a branch of the United Nations against Israel apparent to all. UNESCO was defunded by the United States by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 for making similar outrageous pronouncements. Since 1948 the United Nations has made over 400 resolutions attacking and demonizing Israel. It seems that the United Nations sole purpose is to blast Israel at every chance it gets. Do you see the United Nations passing a resolution against the perpetrators of the fires that have swept through Israel recently? Where are the daily resolutions against Iran for being the world's chief exporter of Terrorism in the world today? Where has the United Nations been while 500,000 Syrians were murdered? Where are all the resolutions against Syria? Where was the United Nations when the Rwanda Genocide took place? It seems that the United Nations is hyper-focused on Israel. This Anti-Israel Bias

must end. The United States pays the lion's share of the funding for the United Nations-approximately 3 Billion dollars annually which is a fifth of the budget. The United States gives the United Nations another 5 Billion dollars annually for peacekeeping forces. China gives about 8% of the UN Budget and Japan 10%. President Elect Donald Trump and his newly appointed UN Ambassador must once and for all make it clear to the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council that if they continue Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic resolutions, then America will pull back on its funding of the institution. Additionally, America should begin to wield its power and influence by stopping the PLO from pushing for resolutions which call for PLO Statehood without a negotiated Peace. The United Nations has to be refocused upon the real problems in the world like Syria, Iran and ISIS. In the meantime the President Elect and Ambassador Haley must make it abundantly clear that the United Nations should not pass any resolutions against Israel and should not call for a PLO State within pre-1967 borders. President Obama should be instructed in no uncertain terms that a December or a January surprise allowing for PLO Statehood should be off the table. Ambassador Haley has her work cut out for her. I wish her blessings and success.

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MAGILL
CONT. FROM P16

the area which she happily agreed to have put up on her wall.

The past is the key to bringing people into the here and now. There was once a religious man in a nursing home I worked at who, owing to a stroke, sat quietly the whole day. I was new there, so when I went in to see him, after a few greetings I started singing “Shalom Alechem” to him, while gently moving his hand to the song. After a few moments of this, this man started to sing along with me. I didn’t realize how important this was until staff started running into the room, exclaiming, “He speaks! He speaks!”

Once, during Succos, at a Senior Home, I was going around asking people to bench lulav and estrog. Some could do it completely on their own. Many needed some prompting. But there was one woman who just stared at the estrog like it was completely alien to her. This, from a woman, who before her cognitive deficits, had spent many decades of her life actively involved in a religious lifestyle. No matter how much I encouraged her to relate to the lulav and estrog in

front of her, nothing was working. Then it occurred to me that there was a religious song that when I sang it, she sometimes sang along with me to it. I wanted to get her to an oriented place, so I started singing that song and to my delight she started singing with me. To my added delight, now when I held the lulav and estrog in front of her she seemed more aware of what it was about and when I recited the brachah, she repeated it after me.

If a person has lost their way, if you know the way they have traversed, by tapping into it their past interests it might bring their mind to clarity and you can have some enjoyable experiences in the here and now.

If anyone would like to discuss with me the one on one recreation service I offer to people with dementia, Alzheimers and other cognitive loss, I can be reached at pr2hope@aol.com

I am Director of Recreation at Ateret Avot Senior Home of Midwood. 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

STRATEGIES | Rifka Schonfeld

Director of S.O.S. (Strategies For Optimum Success)

Reading Rules!

“Mommy, can you read me the book, again?” Shmuel asked his mother, holding up *The Little Engine That Could*.

“Of course, Shmuel. Let’s do that,” Chevy smiled. She was tired from a long day, but with her four kids huddled around, she was happy to sit and read in the living room.

“Chug, chug, chug. Puff, puff, puff. Ding-dong, ding-dong. The little train rumbled over the track,” Chevy began.

When I talk to parents about reading to their young children, they often tell me how important it is to them because they feel they are educating their children. Of course, that’s an essential benefit of reading, but research has shown that there are multiple advantages to reading to your children when they are young. I have compiled a list below:

Stronger parent-child relationships. With our lives constantly on the move, you need some time to slow down and just quietly be together. Snuggling up with a book lets your family do just that. Plus, instead of seeing reading as a chore in the future, your child will view it as a nurturing activity that brings the family together.

Speech skills. Simply reading books by Dr. Seuss or Maurice Sendak can help your child reinforce the basic sounds that form language. This later helps children with pre-literacy skills as they grow.

Basic book knowledge. Children do not automatically know that books are read from left to right or that you hold a book and turn the pages as you go. As simple as that may seem, this early knowledge will help your children once they start encountering books in school.

Academic excellence. Julie

CONT.ON P19

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Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

PARASHAT TOLDOT
2016-5777

Most people think that Eisav was called “Edom” because he was born all hairy and reddish. Edom is a variation of the word “adom”, which means red. However, the Torah tells us that Eisav was not called Edom until much later in life. Despite the fact that he was born red, he was only called Edom when he was tired and demanded the lentil that Yaakov was preparing, and Eisav referred that dish as “Min HaAdom HaAdom HaZeh” “from the red stuff” [25:30]. Why is demanding red food a more compelling reason to call Eisav by the name Edom than the fact that he was born with a very red complexion?

The Kli Yakar addresses this. He explains that when Eisav was born, even though he looked very red, that was not a valid reason to start calling him Edom. After all, many infants are born red and over a time they develop a normal complexion. However, years later, when Eisav demanded the lentils

from his brother Yaakov, it was a defining moment in Eisav’s life. Eisav didn’t demand “lentils” but instead he called them “the red stuff”. Why did Eisav demand the lentils in such a way? The reason is that Eisav saw the world in “red colored glasses”. He didn’t see lentils, he saw red stuff. His entire mindset was focused on the color red. This not only affected his vision but also his desires. Rashi explains [25; 29] that he was bloodthirsty, and he was tired because he was coming back from murder. Eisav wasn’t called Edom because he was born red he was called Edom because that’s the kind of life he chose for himself.

We can take this idea even a step further. Being born red was an indication that violence and fighting were part of his nature. These were the traits that he was given and he will have a tendency to being a bloodthirsty person. However, that does not mean that he was obligated to live a life

of crime, a life of Edom. Dovid HaMelech was also red, but chose not to live a life of red. Shmuel HaNavi was afraid to anoint Dovid as king because of his red complexion. However, HaShem assured Shmuel that Dovid HaMelech would only kill with the consent of the Sanhedrin. He would only use his “bloodthirsty” nature to fight the enemies of Israel. Dovid didn’t see the world through glasses of red because he was able to channel his desires in a positive way. Eisav, despite being born red and had certain innate desires and traits for blood, still had the ability to lead a productive life. He could have used his violent nature in a constructive way. He didn’t deserve the name Edom as soon as he was born. However, once he demanded, not lentils, but “red stuff”, he showed what his focus was. He showed that he saw the world in red and

blood, and that he wasn’t interested in controlling his desires [to become a Shochet or Mohel]. At that moment he became Edom, a man of red.

We learn from here, that we cannot blame the way we turned out on the way we were born. We cannot blame the way we are on the very innate traits that we were given. Indeed, some people are born with tendencies towards violence, sexual abnormalities, drinking, or gambling, but these can be controlled and even channeled in a positive way. We are masters of our own destiny. “HaKol Bidei Shamayim Chutz Miyirat Shamayim” [Everything is in the hands of Heaven except for fear of Heaven] Berachot 33b. HaShem gave us the tools; it’s up to us to use them.

**Shabbat Shalom from Yerushalayim
Rabbi Aharon Ziegler [Aharonlibby@aol.com]**

MILLER CONT. FROM P14

Cuba in 1959, when Castro sent Jose Ramon Fernandez (later Vice President of Cuba) to Israel to negotiate buying weapons from the Jewish state. Although Israel declined to sell Castro’s government weapons, Israel gave Cuba major civilian assistance, sharing its advanced citrus cultivation knowledge with Cuba for the next ten years.

Three

Number of days of official mourning that Fidel Castro declared after the death of Israeli President Itzhak Ben Zvi in 1963. When Algerian Premier Ahmed Ben Bella warned “Whoever respects a dead Israeli in that way has no right to come to an Arab land”, Castro promptly cancelled a planned visit to Algeria.

Two

The number of Soviet-influenced states who refused to sever ties with Israel after the Six Day War in 1967: Cuba and Romania. (Fidel Castro maintained that he would only cut ties with nations that directly threatened Cuba and resisted pressure to end diplomatic relations.)

Two

The number Latin American nations that granted the PLO terrorist organization full diplomatic status by 1967: Cuba and Nicaragua. Fidel Castro was an enthusiastic supporter of the PLO’s terrorist activities, helping train the group’s terrorists in Jordan and allowing PLO terrorist training camps to operate inside Cuba, helping prepare Israel’s enemies to attack Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide.

CONT.ON 19

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SCHONFELD
CONT. FROM P17

Temple Stan, the director of Early Moments, a company devoted to childhood literacy, writes that “numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education. After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the math, science, and social concepts he’ll be presented with when he begins elementary school?”

Superior concentration and discipline. With so many new cases of ADHD reported each year, it is important to help children learn how to sit still. When children begin reading from a young age, along with comprehension comes more self-discipline, a longer attention span, and better memory retention.

The Reading Rules

Because reading is such an integral part of our education and our lives, it is essential that we get our kids reading. Karen Powers, a writer, teacher, and librarian, provides parents with foolproof rules that she guarantees will get children to love read on their own.

Create the right environment. Just like people cannot learn to cook without the ingredients, so too children cannot learn to read without books. Surround your children with books both in the

home and outside of it. A study done in Australia showed that children who have more than thirty books of their own in the home were more likely to enjoy reading than those who had few books. If you can’t afford to buy a lot of books, check out second-hand and used books stores.

Be a role model. If you want your children to speak respectfully to others, you teach them by speaking respectfully to others. The same goes for reading. If you want to teach your children to read, spend time reading yourself. Let them see you reading and enjoying your time with books. You are a role model for them in everything you do – reading included.

Once you are reading, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the books your children are reading. Additionally, set aside a designated time for reading in your household – maybe getting into bed a half hour early to curl up with a book.

Read to them. As I discussed above, reading to your children has numerous benefits. One of those benefits includes instilling the idea that reading is a nurturing and exciting experience. Everybody loves a story. Even older children enjoy being read to – with dramatic pauses and cliffhangers. The more you read to them, the more they will enjoy reading themselves.

Redefine book. Many parents

only define books as print books or novel; however, the benefits of reading come from sustained reading rather than reading long fictional books. Therefore, as Karen Powers points out, the Guinness Book of World Records, a seemingly simple non-fiction book can be a great way to get boys reading for lengthily periods of time. This, in turn, helps them become reflective about their reading, which develops critical thinking skills.

Don’t be a book snob. There might be books that you feel are low-level or less important than other books that are classics or celebrated. In reality, though, reading low-level books that your children love might help them fall in love with reading. This can lead them to loving reading in general so that they can move onto the classics.

Ask an expert. When you have a medical problem, you see a doctor. If you have a problem with your car, you see a mechanic. And, if you have a problem with reading, it’s best to get advice on books. Of course, there are easy ways to get book advice for free – teachers, librarians, and bookshop

owners. People who read and deal with books on a daily basis are the best to ask for suggestions of books that your children will love.

Make reading routine. We have so many routines in our lives – brushing our teeth morning and night, and washing our hands before we eat. Why not include a reading routine as well? When we make reading part of our daily or weekly schedule, we teach our children to pick up a book without even thinking about it.

Now that you know the benefits of reading and the reading rules, you are armed with some great tools that can help you get your kids reading. It can change their lives!

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.

Register now for an Social Thinking workshop by Michelle Garcia Winner on November 16, 2016. Please call Mrs. Schonfeld at 718-382-5437 for more information.

MILLER
CONT. FROM P18

13

Number of years that Cuban-Jewish diplomat Dr. Ricardo Subirana Y Lobo represented Cuba in Israel, until Castro abruptly ended diplomatic relations with the Jewish state in 1973. Dr. Lobo said at the time he’d had no warning, telling reporters “I have heard nothing from Havana. Good relations have always prevailed between the two countries.”

43

Number of years Israel and Cuba have lacked formal diplomatic relations, ever since Castro severed ties with the Jewish state in 1973.

16

The number of years the infamous “Zionism is Racism” resolution slandering the Jewish state stood in the UN. Cuba was one of the resolution’s initial sponsors in 1975,

and Fidel Castro also resisted its repeal in 1991. (Cuba was one of only 25 hardline nations in voting against the unpopular and deeply damaging resolution; 111 nations voted for its repeal.)

One

The number of kosher butchers in Cuba. Although he brutally repressed private enterprise in Cuba after seizing power in 1959, Fidel Castro did make one surprising exception: he allowed Cuba’s sole kosher butcher shop, in Havana, to remain open. Today, although there is no official kosher certification in Cuba, and no rabbi, the leader of Cuba’s tiny Jewish community runs the butcher shop, slaughtering his own animals and donating the meat to Havana’s three synagogues, which provide free meals to the community.

Five

CONT.ON 21

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FAMILY MATTERS | Dr. Ari Korenblit

Parenting Matters: Helping Children Deal With Death and Tragedy

In light of the horrific tragedy that beset our community, it is critical for all parents to be adequately prepared in helping their children deal with evil and death. Thankfully, many responsible agencies marshaled their resources and quickly intervened in camps, communities, synagogues, Jewish media, etc. where they could assist in a therapeutic fashion. Parents too will revisit their determination to be more vigilant and err on the side of being overprotective. Unfortunately, this event has a long shelf-life and will inevitably surface as campers return home, the long days until school officially starts seem endless, and the thoughts of children are not distracted.

Not telling the truth is extremely harmful no less than endeavoring to misrepresent the truth. Children have an uncanny ability to discern the truth from dishonesty. Even babies are far more perceptive than we give them credit. The best approach is to

offer an explanation about evil and death that resonates with the religious beliefs of the parents. While it is critical to give an honest explanation, it is equally critical to do so only in response to a question. Proffering an explanation can be too overwhelming and even terrifying. Giving a child information he/she did not request or giving too many details, is a terrible mistake. It is best to explore what the child already knows and what his/her thoughts are, before offering any comments.

Children have universal fears in the face of death. They will think: Will my mother or father die? If I am bad will it cause them to die? If I get angry at them will they go away for ever? Will I die? Why didn't anyone prevent the tragedy? What is death? Where does the body or soul go?

Parents should listen vigilantly to any indications from their child that he/she is thinking that their thoughts or actions may have caused the death.

This is not uncommon in children between the ages of three-six. At these ages magical thinking is an active part of their life and it behooves every parent to reassure them that their being bad doesn't bring retaliation and angry and bad thoughts do not make people die. Sadly, many religious school teachers – well-meaning no doubt – are not careful in how they approach a tragedy or death. Too often they will attribute it to evil-doing, sin, gossip, etc. which only reinforces this magical thinking and has the innocent child brand himself as a killer.

Parents need to reassure the child that they will not leave them. They need to hear clearly that the death was not a child's responsibility and

that it did not result from a child's bad thoughts, deeds or wishes.

Similarly, it is not recommended that we shield children from the grieving process. Even attending a funeral, especially of a close relative is fine. Ideally it would be best to wait until the child is about nine. Preferably, the child should be asked if he/she would like to attend the funeral. Children also must see their parents in pain and grief and not attempting a stoic front. Children, like adults know everything at least on an unconscious level.

Dr. Ari Korenblit is a licensed psychotherapist and marriage counselor working with children, adolescents, singles and couples with offices in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Phone consultations are also available. 718-258-3735 dr.arikorenblit@gmail.com

December 5 Yeshiva University Lecture Will Explore Exodus of Jews from Arab Countries

November 29, 2016, New York, NY—To mark the annual commemoration of the exodus of Jews from Arab countries, Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and Sephardic Community Program will partner with the Consulate General of Israel in New York to present a lecture and discussion on the cultural dimensions of modern Jewry in Arab lands. The event will take place on Monday, December 5 at 6 p.m. in Koch Auditorium on the Israel Henry Beren Campus, 245 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10016.

The lecture will be delivered by Dr. Daniel Tsadik, associate professor of Sephardic and Iranian studies, and will highlight certain aspects of the culture of Arab Jews, including their activities in literature, theater, cinema, and sports. "Our journey through these topics will pay tribute to the impressive, multifaceted, lively and creative individuals, communities and societies that lived in Arab lands," he said. Tsadik's research focuses on the modern history of Iran, Shi'ah Islam and Iran's religious minorities.

The event will also feature an address from the Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel, who will share stories from many communities.

"For hundreds of years there existed a vibrant Jewish life in Arab countries where Jews were integral to all aspects of social life and rose to the highest positions in government and in business," said Dayan.

"With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, this historical Jewish presence was almost entirely erased. Each year the Israeli consulate marks the exodus of Jews from Arab countries together with the communities which carry on their traditions."

To RSVP or for more information, email revevents@yu.edu.

Founded in 1886, Yeshiva University brings together the ancient traditions of Jewish law and life and the heritage of Western civilization. More than 6,400 undergraduate and graduate students study at YU's four New York City campuses: the Wilf Campus, Israel Henry Beren Campus, Brookdale Center, and Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus. YU's three undergraduate schools – Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, and Sy Syms School of Business – offer a unique dual program comprised of Jewish studies and liberal arts courses. Its graduate and affiliate schools include Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, The Mordecai D. and Monique C. Katz School of Graduate and Professional Studies, and Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. YU is ranked among the nation's leading academic research institutions.

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ZOA 2016 Award Dinner

Lori "Leah" Yoffe

More than 1200 guests attended the Zionist Organization of America's (ZOA) annual Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award Dinner



L-R ZOA President Mort Klein, Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs Naftali Bennett

on November 20 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. Included were 255 student activists from colleges around the country at donor provided tables.

Honorees were Home Depot's co-founder Bernie Marcus with the Justice Louis D. Brandeis Award; Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon with the Dr. Bob Shillman Award for Outstanding Diplomacy; Professor Alan Dershowitz with the Mortimer Zuckerman Award for Outstanding Pro-Israel Journalism; Congressman Ed Royce with the Dr. Miriam & Sheldon Adelson Defender of Israel Award; and Adina Wolner with the Myron Zimmerman Student Award. Dinner co-chairs were Home Depot co-founder Ken Langone and Michael Leven, leader of the Taglit/Birthright program.

The sold-out gala began with a VIP reception and separate cocktail reception followed by a sit-down dinner program. The national anthems were performed by the

YSTUDS, and Dvar Torah by ZOA Board Member Dr. Alan Mazurek. Minister of Education and Diaspora Affairs Naftali Bennett

addressed the crowd and noted "One cannot occupy his own home." He continued "the real picture is radical Islam and the free world and Israel is at the front lines'..." Israel is the lighthouse in the storm "...we need every Jew to be connected to their roots

and then we will win.' ZOA President Mort Klein welcomed the guests to the 'Academy Awards of the Jewish world.'...'never again may we be Jews of silence'...'ZOA will continue to fight against the Iran deal'...'truth is not a political position.' Congressman Ed Royce remarked he has 'been going to Israel longer than I have been in Congress.' Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the dinner by video.

The evening concluded with an elaborate dessert reception.

About ZOA: ZOA is the oldest and one of the largest pro-Israel organizations in the U.S., educating the public, elected officials, the media, and college/high school students about the ongoing Arab war against Israel. ZOA works to strengthen U.S.-Israel relations through educational activities, public affairs programs and work on Capital Hill, and to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias in the media, in textbooks, in schools and on college campuses.



Honorees, ZOA President, Board and guests.

Israeli Health Minister Rabbi Yaakov Litzman Visits Staten Island

On Sunday 27, 2016, Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, a Member of Knesset and the Israeli Minister of Health visited Staten Island and spoke at the Young of Staten Island. Dr. Louis Emmer, President of the Young Israel welcomed Rabbi Litzman and told the audience, "that Young Israel is proud to host Rabbi Litzman and that the Rabbi's address demonstrates the close bond that Staten Island has with the State of Israel."



Dr. Louis Emmer, President, YI of Staten Island and Rabbi Yaakov Litzman, Israeli Health Minister.

Rabbi Litzman in his remarks advised the audience of, "the need to eat healthy and the need to make

certain that we have proper medical care." The Rabbi explained that his visit, "is to research medical care that would help him improve the Israeli health care system."

Rabbi Mendy Mircroznik, Executive Vice-President of the Rabbinical Alliance of America (RAA/IGUD), and President of the Staten Island Council of Jewish Organizations stated

that, "Rabbi Litzman's visit shows the positive American - Israeli relationship that encompasses humanitarian issues that will only further help both nations advance the quality of life for all people."

MILLER CONT. FROM P19

The number of years USAID contractor Alan Gross was held in Cuban jail for the "crime" of setting up internet access for the Jewish community of Cuba without government permission. Mr. Gross was arrested in 2009, the year after Fidel

Castro gave up the presidency to his brother Raul, but he was still thought to be influential in Cuban politics. After suffering ill health in prison, Mr. Gross was finally released in 2014 as part of a prisoner swap. Three spies sent to the US by Fidel Castro in 2001 were also released.

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מזל טוב
to
Shannah Frisch and Gadi Frenkel
upon their engagement.
We would also like to wish a מזל טוב
to their parents
Steve and Celina Frisch &
Yaakov and Suri Frenkel
and their entire משפחות.
Rochelle and Jerry Markovitz

FARRO PILAF WITH KALE, CURRANTS AND PIGNOLI NUTS

RONNIE FEIN



- 2 tablespoons toasted pignoli nuts
- grated Parmesan cheese

PREPARATION

Wash the kale leaf by leaf to remove any dirt or sand. Remove and discard the thick stems. Chop the leaves and thin stems coarsely and set aside. Heat the olive oil

in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onion and kale and cook, stirring occasionally, for 2-3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook briefly. Stir in the farro, currants, parsley and salt and pepper. Pour in the stock. Bring the liquid to a boil. Boil for one minute. Turn the heat to medium-low, cover the pan and cook for about 25 minutes or until all the liquid has been absorbed. Sprinkle with the pignoli nuts. Spoon into a serving bowl and sprinkle with Parmesan

I love farro in any form. For this recipe I add cheese, kale and pine nuts and serve it hot. Enjoy this farro pilaf on the side of fish for a delicious dinner.

INGREDIENTS

- 6-8 ounces kale
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup farro
- 3 tablespoons currants or raisins
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1-3/4 cups vegetable stock

GREEK-INSPIRED ROASTED EGGPLANT SALAD

SHIFRA KLEIN

This can also serve as a main course option and without the cheese, perfect for a vegan meal. If you love roasted eggplants and Greek salad, you will love this dish.



INGREDIENTS

- 4 small eggplants, sliced in half lengthwise
- ¼ cup oil
- 2 cups prepared Israeli-style couscous (plain or whole wheat)
- 2 Persian cucumbers
- 2 red peppers
- ½ cup parsley

- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ cup feta cheese (optional)
- ½ cup sliced black olives (optional)

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Place eggplant, cut-side down on a parchment-lined baking tray.
3. Drizzle with oil, sprinkle some salt, and roast for thirty minutes, until eggplant is tender.
4. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
5. Combine couscous with cucumbers, peppers, and parsley.
6. Combine lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, salt, and pepper. Pour over couscous mixture.
7. Place couscous mixture atop each eggplant.
8. Top with black olives and/or feta cheese (optional).

The Top Ten Hacks That Will Change Your Life!

RACHELI FRIED

OK, not really. But I needed a clever title for this article about random thoughts and ideas and the title "Random thoughts and Ideas" just didn't have the same punch. Speaking of attention grabbing titles...that's all you see these days on the internet and on magazine covers. My kids crack up every time a new magazine shows up at our house with the same ten articles-just worded in a different way than last time. You have your standard "How to lose 20 pounds fast!", next to the decadent cake or new cookie pop recipe, and the classic "How to get rich while working at home for only 30 minutes a day!" Please. Who still buys that? Fine, I do but only for entertainment purposes. You know...Shabbos afternoon reading of course. Of course.

So what's my random thought today? Well it's raining and practically pitch black outside and it's still an hour before noon. Normally this would get me down but thanks to my sister in law, I have a whole new at-

titude! I have a candle burning, a scarf around my neck and a warm tea-how cozy does that sound? (Work with me here, I'm still new to this whole "I love the Fall!" thing).

Back to the thoughts and Ideas. How many of you started buying things for Chanukah? I did so well on Black Friday and Cyber Monday and it got me thinking...did I really save



money in the long run? I'd like to think so! I mean I generally stuck to buying the things I really needed and maybe one or two things I didn't so much "need" as much as want..but I've "wanted" them forever and finally got them at a crazy good price.

This brings me to my final thought and idea. Gift ideas under \$10. So

many of you mentioned to me about how much you enjoyed my last gift list idea that I decided to give you a few more. The types of gifts that won't break the bank yet will make a nice impact to whomever you choose to gift them to. Have a creative teen? Head to Amazon.com and for only \$7.00 check out their Butterfly Art. Let your teen decorate her room with these colorful and realistic 3-D butterfly stickers. The set includes 19 different butterflies that look amazing together or spread out on the wall. Not sure what to get that fun and talented baker on your list? I came across a "Pizza Garden Gift" at Growums.com. It comes with everything you need including seeds to grow tomatoes, oregano, basil and bell peppers. It's such a fun and educational gift that is the gift that keeps on giving! I know I mentioned ELF or Eyeslipsface.com but I can't stress enough how great they are for checking off that gift list without breaking the bank. A recent set that I came across on their site was their Eyeliner kit that comes with 5 different colored glitter liners and a sharpener all for just \$5! Great for that beauty lover who likes to experiment with new looks. An awesome Dr Toy Award winning toy for the kids is Rory's Story Cubes.

For \$7.50, you can keep a bunch of your kids and their friends busy with these story generating dice. It comes with dice with symbols that can combine when rolled for over 10,000,000 silly story combinations. Guaranteed laughs! Finally, head over to Lush or Lush.com and pick up their luxurious bath bombs for the spa lover..or just someone who love a good bath. At \$7.00 a piece, you can choose from their huge selection of bath bombs which when you drop in the warm water, they dissolve and infuse your bath water with the most relaxing or rejuvenating scents and they even have bombs that release surprises like dried flowers, oils, glitter (for the kids..ok fine..the kid in you;) or tub safe colors that will delight both the young and old. Wrap one or two of those up in cellophane, top with a colorful bow and you have the perfect quick and easy gift for anyone on your list.

My last random thought or idea is that it's time for me to get dinner going so I bid you all adieu. I may not have taught you how to clean your entire home in under five minutes, but I hope this was helpful in getting you going on your Chanukah gift buying. Until next time! XO!

CINNAMON BLUEBERRY BUCKWHEAT CHIA MUFFINS

TAMAR GENGER

This recipe is a mouthful, with blueberries and buckwheat and chia you will get lots of flavor and nutrition in one bite. If you have kasha lying around you can grind it to make buckwheat flour, that is what I did. Recipe adapted from anedible-mosaic.com

INGREDIENTS

- cooking spray for muffin tin
- 1 1/4 cup buckwheat flour
- 3/4 cup white whole wheat flour
- 4 tablespoon chia seeds, ground
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4-1 cup sugar
- 1 cup buttermilk or milk mixed with a tablespoon of lemon juice
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup blueberries



PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 375F; grease a 12-muffin tray with cooking spray and use ramekins or another muffin tray for extra muffins.

Whisk together the flours, ground chia seeds, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl. In another bowl, whisk together the eggs and sugar until well combined. Whisk

in the buttermilk, oil, and vanilla. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients, add the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Stir in the blueberries. Divide the batter between the 14 muffin/ramekin cups and bake until a toothpick inserted inside comes out clean, about 20 to 25 minutes.

Cool completely before removing the muffins from the tray.



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Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

From Chazal and the Ahavas Sholom of Kossov

Toldos-Yaakov and Esav, Two Separate Legacies.

In the beginning of Parshas Toldos we are told of the difficulties Yitzchok and Rivkah were having in conceiving children. They davened to Hashem and Hashem granted their request and Rivkah became pregnant. The Torah then tells us that the Children were struggling inside her womb. The Midrashim tell us that when Rivkah would pass a place of holiness Yaakov was struggling to get out. When she passed by a place of immorality or idolatry, Esav was struggling to get out. Not realizing that she was carrying two children, she was puzzled at how she could bring forth a child who would be prone to two extremes. She goes to inquire of Hashem which the Midrashim tell us was the Yeshivos of Shem and Ever. She is told that she is carrying two children who will be the

fathers of not only two different nations but also of two different missions and heritages. They will never both be strong at the same time but the elder will serve the younger.

The idea that they will never both be strong at the same time is well confirmed by Chazal. In Pesachim 42B we are told regarding chometz Haadomi, Edomite vinegar which is known for its strength. Even in the strength of Vinegar we see this phenomenon only exists when Yaakov is down and Edom is strong. Rav Nachamn Bar Yitzchak brings our verse that one nation will be stronger than the other [olom milom Yeematz] after the Gemara brings a verse in Yechezkel which brings the same point. The Gemara in Megilla 6A that if someone says Kisri

[Rome] and Yerushalayim are both built, do not believe him. If he tells you both are destroyed, do not believe him. But if he tells you one is built and not the other is destroyed, then you should believe him. We see that this is true historically. Whenever Am Yisroel was at the top of their glory as in the Days of Dovid and Shlomo, Edom was a small, unknown country. Whenever we went into exile, Edom's power rose. As we know, Esav's descendants built the Roman Empire which destroyed our second Bais Hamikdash and sent us into exile till this day. Throughout our exile, Christendom, which our great rabbis saw as the continuation of Esav's kingdom, has had the upper hand over us.

But why is it that Esav and Yaakov cannot be strong at the same time? Why can't it be that both will have the power they want? Let Esav have the most powerful military empire and he'll be happy and we will have our Torah world and we will be happy. Why is it put into the nature of the world that this

cannot be?

The Alshich explains that this issue with the following parable. There is a kingdom and a small kingdom. The big kingdom is always afraid of the smaller kingdom getting ahead. The small kingdom has to constantly assert itself to show that it too is a kingdom even if it is small. Esav is the kingdom of evil and Yaakov is the kingdom of kedusha, holiness. Ultimately, Esav will submit to the kedusha of Yaakov. But at that time Esav will not have his kingdom anymore. As is obvious evil and holiness cannot mix or be powerful at the same time.

Rav Yechezkel Levenstein, Zt"l, stated that Esav Represents the yetzer Harah and Yaakov represents the yetzer Tov. These two opposing forces cannot be strong at the same time. Our world is a constant battle between the two and one must conquer the yetzer harah in order to be and eved Hashem. Yaakov and Esav simply personify these

CONT.ON P24

KIRSH

CONT. FROM P23

two forces. [Perhaps Rav Levenstein was making the same point as the Alshich but put it in musar terms while the Alshich used more Kabbala oriented terminology. But the point remains that good and evil cannot mix so Esav and Yaakov can never both be at their peak of power at the same time.]

The Ahavas Sholom of Kossov points out that Yitzchak told Esav that all of the tastes when he gave the brachos to Yaakov. The Midrash explains that Yitzchak tasted all of what was created in the six days of creation. We know that before the sin of eating from the tree knowledge, the eitz hadaas, the world was on a much a higher spiritual level. This higher level manifested itself in that everything physical was of superior quality as well. The sin came about through the temptations of the snake who represents all negative spiritual forces that attempt to drive us away from our true mission of serving Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

The Ahavas Sholom then

points out that Esav also represents the Sitra achara, which includes all of the negative spiritual forces like the snake. This is proven by the fact that the Targum Onkylos states that when the Torah calls Esav an ish tzayid, a man of cunning, a gavar nachshirchan. This can be read as two words nachash yarachon meaning snake etched onto the thigh. [Perhaps this can be understood today in the fact that so many gangs of ruffians use snake and reptilian motifs for their tattoos. There is a seeming metaphysical connection to Esav in these groups.] Yaakov Avinu, on the other hand, represents the fixing of Adam's sin. Yaakov's physical body was similar to the beauty of Adam Harishon as Yaakov was set out to rectify the damage that came from eating from the eitz hadaas which stemmed from the snake. When Yaakov took the brachos from Esav he made it possible for his children to endure living in Esav's kingdom. Furthermore, when Yaakov later bowed down seven times to Esav [Bereishis 33:3], he destroyed the klipos. This was similar this similar to the way Rav destroyed the serpent with

seven heads with seven prostrations. [See Kiddushin 29B.] When Yaakov took the brachos from Esav he was able to restore the spiritual purity of the world before the sin. Yitzchak sensed this when he ate Yaakov's food, he tasted all of the tastes since the beginning of the creation. Through this, Yitzchak was able to see that Yaakov the rightful recipient of the brachos that Yaakov was able to overturn all the curses, allowing him and his descendents to pursue their mission of avodas Hashem.

Inspirations From the Haftara-Toldos

The Haftara for Parshas Toldos is taken from Sefer Malachi 1:1-2:7. From the first few verses we see an obvious connection to the Parsha. The main theme of the Parsha is Yaakov and Esav. Though they were both sons of Yitzchak and Rivkah, they had two completely different and opposing missions and destinies.

In the Haftara we read about how Hashem loves us and not Esav. Esav's arrogance however will not allow him to admit defeat. He will keep coming back to rebuild whatever of his has been destroyed not matter how many times this takes place. But

in the end Esav will be eternally destroyed. The entire world will see him for the evil one he really is. He will be called evil as we see in verse 4 and the nation that Hashem despises.

There is a clear message in this Haftara for us as the Bnai Yaakov. Throughout our history, we see Esav so powerful and seemingly invincible. In the days he was manifested as the Roman Empire, he held the entire world in trepidation of his military power. It was the largest and mightiest empire that the world had ever seen. Neither they nor the rest of the world could imagine that Rome would ever fall. And even after the Roman Empire fell, Esav continued to live on through Christendom. Throughout our exile, we suffered immeasurably from the cruelty of the religion that preaches 'love and brotherhood of all mankind.' Immeasurable blood has been shed in the name of 'saving our souls'. When they saw they could never convince us to join their religion, they resorted to force, as Esav's tactic always was. But in the end it will all be different. Esav will be avenged and will be no more. Yaakov will remain Hashem's eternal inheritance and this will be seen by the entire world.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am addressing this letter to you because you respect daas torah and are read by rabbonim and bnai torah.

Also, I feel compelled to speak out because I am a descendent of David Hamelech.

The Israeli government is considering a normalization law which would give settlements in Yehuda and Shomron the same legal status as any other place in Eretz Yisrael.

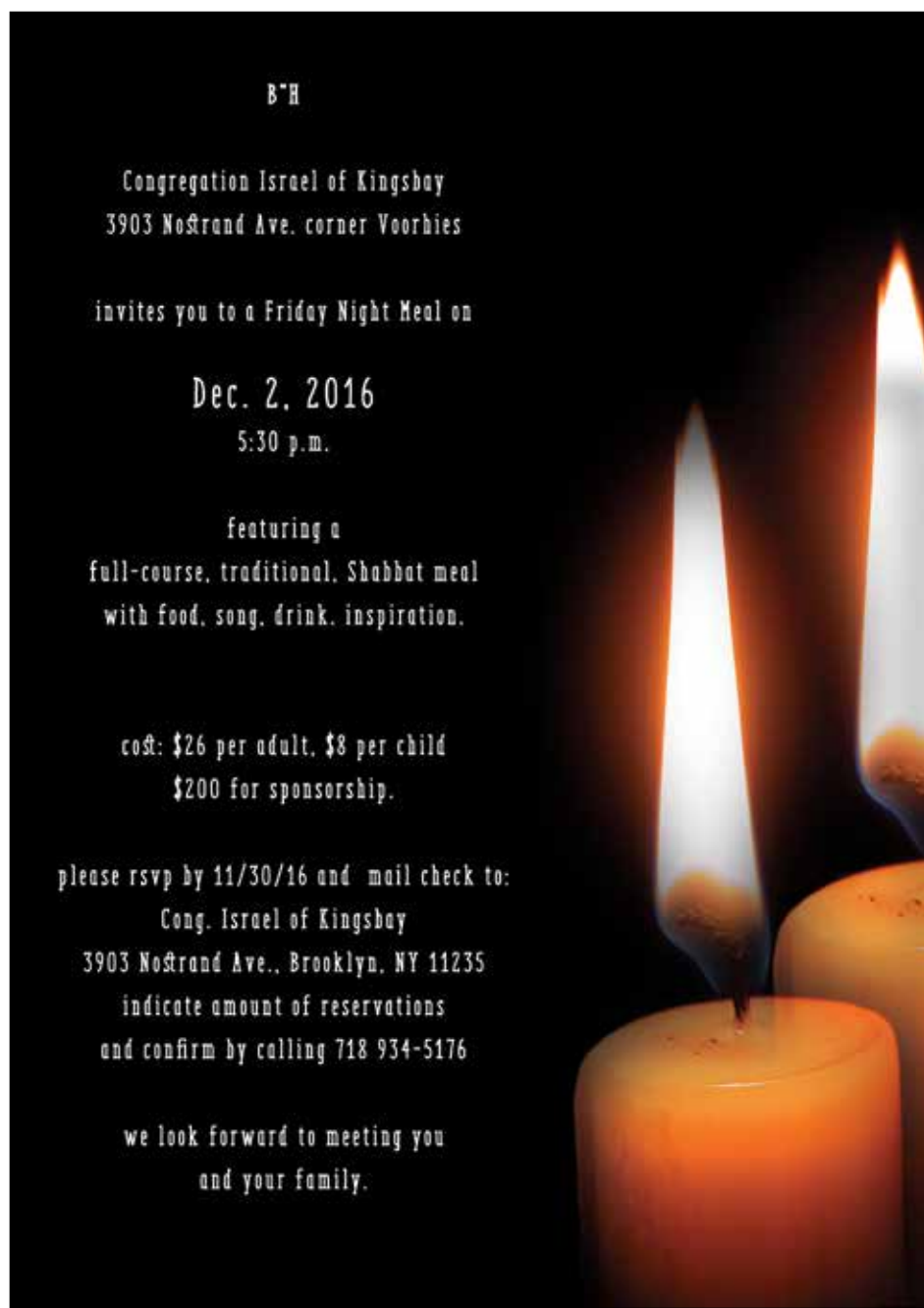
Our rights to all of erez yisrael should be confirmed by citing the first rashi in chumash that when the nations say that we stole the land, we should counter and say that Hashem created the world and gave the land of Israel to the children of Israel.

The Israeli supreme court is objecting to this law. The Israeli populace seems to be fed up with their court. The time may be ripe to introduce a National Jewish Court based on Torah.

We must speak out in favor of the law and against the secular supreme court.

We were silent by Gush Katif.
We must not repeat the mistake.

With best wishes for the geula,
Shmuel Koenig



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RABBI SHMUEL RABINOWITZ,
RABBI OF THE WESTERN WALL AND HOLY SITES

For almost two centuries, the Jewish nation has been torn into different streams. New ideas and trends entered the world stage. Liberalism sanctifies the rights of the individual. Feminism demands equality for women, and so forth. The tear is deep and painful, and the entire nation feels the high and terrible price which we all pay for the separation and divisiveness among groups and sectors.

Despite all this, throughout the years and within all the camps, one common basic principle was maintained – the Western Wall is off limits. In the face of the huge and royal Western Wall stones, which saw our forefathers killing each other in the Temple courtyard, all disputes were dwarfed, and the roaring voices were lowered. As members of one family who go their own way, and who when returning to their grandparents' home, they act in accordance with their childhood traditions – we all agreed to set aside our disagreements and differences,

and at the Western Wall, act as our ancestors did.

No one ever dared turn the Kotel into a ring for demonstrations or conflict. No one ever dared defile the respect sensed by every man and woman coming to worship at the Wall, the remnant of our Temple. Never – until the Women of the Wall decided to use the Western Wall as a public stage for their ideological struggle.

For over two years, I have been calling to and begging the Women of the Wall to leave the Western Wall Plaza and its worshipers alone. The egalitarian and liberal section was built with much public funding, and today it stands desolate, waiting for the worshipers they represent who do not appear. Month after month, the Women of the Wall walk past that plaza and then turn toward the traditional women's section in order to instigate riots that will give them more headlines for their feminist struggle.

On Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan,

the last dam was breached. Representatives of liberal movements, who at the start cooperated with the Prime Minister's attempts to find a solution acceptable to all sides, shirked their historic responsibility to this sensitive site and joined the demonstrators for a provocative march of the Women of the Wall. I do not know how to describe the shame of seeing tens of men and women violently making their way to the traditional women's section while holding Torah scrolls as shields. I do not know how to repair the chilul Hashem, the desecration of God's name, when a street fight breaks out at the gates of the Western Wall and the world sees and listens.

The struggle of the Women of the Wall is not for the Kotel, but for the place of women in every synagogue in the world. They declare this themselves over and over. Taking advantage of the tremendous sensitivity of the Western Wall, the site most precious to all of us, in order to attain this goal – is the same path we suffered with the zealots of the Second Temple who brought the destruction upon us. God forbid we should go down that path again.

Rabbi Moshe Goldberger

Rebbe Noson and the Gifts He Gave Us How to Give

The 'Shiubud'

Some explain that the leaders did encourage all the Jews to give. Thus they felt as if they were also giving. This is a principle that is quoted in R. Noson's name, and it is recorded in six places in Shas: "If A owes B, and B owes C, we take the money from A to pay C." This is called 'The Shiubud', taught by R. Noson.

That is why Rashi quotes R. Noson's name by this teaching about the leaders. They thought it was valid for them when they encouraged others to give as if they also gave. Then they reconsidered and realized, "It is more of a Mitzva when you do it yourself, rather than relying on an agent,"

How often is a person judged?
R. Yosi – every morning,
R. Noson – every moment, Rosh Hasha 16a.

CROSSWORD ANSWER

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The Sentimental Side

Elizabeth Weintraub, L.M.S.W.

The Sentimental Side

Midos and Baseball in Action

In spring, the park near us is often buzzing on Sunday afternoons with the sound of baseball games. From primer to eighth grade, the leagues are full of boys ready to put their energy to good use on the baseball field. Though it has been some years since our family participated, I remember it as competitive, and at times, highly emotional. With the coaches yelling, and the parents biting their nails, (my husband for example, too captivated to sit, always standing and pacing the sidelines) I remember studying how these young boys handled the immense pressure. And I also remember studying the adults, and the behavior they modeled. So much weight was placed on that field. At times taken too seriously (in my opinion).

Sometimes I saw the smaller

underestimated boy hit a homerun, amazing everyone in the park (most of all himself) and leave the field with a giant smile on his face. Other times I saw a boy full of grand expectations of baseball stardom, sink into tears as a strikeout or a missed catch cost his team the game. Occasionally, I saw near tantrums directed at the umpires when a call was seen as misjudged. In this mini sampling of what life has to offer, each game was a full array of emotions on display. Some teammates were supportive and encouraging when a member of their team struck out. Some belittled and degraded their teammate for failing them. Some boys were their own worst critics, harder on themselves than any teammate or coach could ever be. (One Sunday afternoon, following a difficult loss, I remember a parent commenting that his son would now be inconsolable for the

rest of the week.)

While heartbreaking at times to witness the pressure the children were under, be it from themselves or others, it was no doubt an opportunity for them to learn coping skills and ways of handling stress and pressure in life. Moreover, on a deeper level, what a precious time to teach and model for them the midos of a true Ben Yisrael.

Enter baseball coach, Rabbi Avi Feinstein. While we are accustomed to Rabbis and teachers instructing us to behave in a kind and considerate way toward one another, rarely do we see this concept so organically embodied into action. While every coach naturally cheers on his own team, how often does one hear a coach yell out "Wow, that was a great play!" to the kids on the opposing team? I've heard Rabbi Feinstein do that. Amid all the grading and critiquing of classwork, how often do we find teachers who take the time to write narrative focusing on the strengths of each child? Win or loss, Rabbi Feinstein took time and care in a detailed post-game analysis making sure to point out a positive contribution by every player. Win or lose, Rabbi Feinstein always showed appreciation for our opponents by inviting them for sodas after the game. Even if they beat us.

Several weeks ago, I recall being home watching one of the presidential debates on television. One of the questions asked of the candidates at the very end was to simply name a quality they admire in their opponent. I ached for more questions and answers like that.

Immediately I thought about Rabbi Avi Feinstein.

A few weeks later when contemplating this article's topic, I emailed Rabbi Feinstein to ask permission to mention him. Our correspondence was as follows:

My Email: "Had a small but very meaningful request for you... one of the topics I find myself thinking about is the midos I was fortunate enough to witness you model and instill in your baseball teams. I wanted so much to mention this in one of my articles, but would of course ask your permission first. Would you be kind enough to grant your permission, as well as your bracha, for me to mention how inspiring you are as a coach? I would be so grateful. Please let me know.

His reply: I would be honored. Don't know if I am worthy of your kind words though.

You should have Hatzlacha in all of your endeavours and should find that path easy and satisfying.

Maturity and purity of heart personified. What a bracha to have as a coach both in baseball and in life. Kol HaKavod, Rabbi Feinstein for showing us how it's done.

Elizabeth Weintraub, LMSW, is a Social Worker with extensive background in practice areas counseling survivors of violence, trauma and abuse. She is also the NY/NJ Regional Director of "CE You!", innovative Continuing Education seminars for Social Workers and other mental health professionals. Comments, suggestions and questions are always warmly welcomed via email: Elizabeth@ceyou.org. For more information, or to register for a seminar in the New York /New Jersey, Baltimore or Washington D.C. area, please visit WWW.CEYou.org or call 443-278-3907.

The Shadchanus Corner

YAFFA SCHONBACH

Between Parents and Children

As a shadchan, I often find myself in difficult situations. Frequently, the situation stems from the fact that the parents and their children are not always looking for the same things in a Shidduch. True, the parents are probably older and wiser and have seen many more scenarios which they have learned from and want to impart this to their children. I will never make light of this fact. Good, reasonable, caring parents have a great deal of sound advice

to offer. However, the daughter or son in question is not the same being as the parent and therefore may not have the same view of life or the same needs. That fact must be respected. Sometimes, it is a generational thing. Other times, it is just a personality thing. No two people are alike even if they are brought up in the same household by the same parents.

I get many calls from mothers who would like to set up meetings

CONT.ON 29

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SCHONBACH CONT. FROM P28

with me for their daughters/sons. While speaking to the mother on the phone she will give me a vivid description of her daughter/son and what they are looking for in a match. Then comes the big question- “Do you think it would be OK if I came to the meeting with my daughter?” Honestly, that depends. If the son or daughter is mature and has been dating for a while, the answer I generally give is a definite “NO!! I don’t think it should be necessary”. I do make exceptions when the daughter or son is very young (22 or under) and are just starting to date. But I do like to spend some time talking to the daughter/son without the parent present. I often find out that different qualities rank in importance to the parent and the young adult. I always keep in mind that the Shidduch is for the person who is going to have to spend the rest of hi/her lives with the person I am going to set them up with-not

his/her parent? That mantra is my guiding light!

When a 29 year old guy writes on his resume-“ Call my mother!!” I immediately get the feeling that there have to be issues there. It does not speak well for a person who should be independent and know what he is looking for and should be prepared to undertake the search on his own by this time. I feel like screaming “Grow Up!!” But I must admit that much as I am not in favor of it, I have had parents accompany 29 and 30 year olds to the meeting. I can only suggest what I think is appropriate-the final decision is not mine. As is the case with the actual match- I can only make reasonable suggestions-the final decision is up to the person themselves (or to the person and his/her parents as the case may be for some).

I would like to give an illustration of what I am talking about. A while back I was called by a mother who was anxious for me to meet with her daughter. Though

her daughter was very young, the mother was not available to come to the meeting with her daughter as she had wanted. So, I met with only the daughter. She was a lovely young lady. Frum, but very with it! We talked about her priorities. She specifically told me that a black hat was absolutely not a priority for her though she came from a neighborhood where black hats were prevalent. She just wanted a good, frum guy- black hat or not. Keeping this in mind, I called a fellow that I thought would be a good match for her. She was very interested in meeting him. The next morning, I got a call from her mom asking me if I knew if this fellow wore a black hat on Shabbos. I said that I did not know as it did not even occur to me to ask since the daughter had stressed to me how unimportant this was to her. The mother asked if I could ask the fellow whether he wears a black hat or not on Shabbos. I tried to level with the mother without saying in as many words

that your daughter does not care about that (I really am not in the business of starting family feuds) and advising her that perhaps the daughter should go on a date with the guy and she can find that out. The mom insisted that she needed to know in advance. So, I e-mailed the guy the question in as innocent a manner as possible. His answer was very astute- “As a matter of fact, I do wear a black hat on Shabbos, but if that’s what important to her, I am not interested!” When I told the mom what happened, she said “Guess I should have listened to you. I spoiled it, didn’t I. And he does sound like a good guy”.

So though I am sure this mother and no mother wants to spoil opportunities for their children, try to be sure you are on the same page. And also, as I stress in every article- “Don’t sweat the small stuff for a first date!”

(Yaffa Schonbach is a professional shadchan serving the Orthodox Professional Community. She can be reached at: shadchan411@gmail.com)

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Guatemalan president makes historic visit to Israel:

Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales embarked Monday on a historic visit to Israel. "I want to thank you, Mr. President, for your personal support and for the support of your country for Israel on the international stage," Israeli President Reuven Rivlin told Morales, who is making his first visit outside of the Western Hemisphere since taking office in January. "Israel can help greatly in development and innovation in your region and around the world, and we are committed to doing so." Morales visited Israel's Knesset legislature Tuesday. Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein noted Guatemala's critical role in helping establish the state of Israel. "The ties between Israel and Guatemala are deep and historic. Before Israel's establishment, on the eve of the U.N. decision on November 29 [in 1947], we still remember and appreciate the actions of Guatemala's ambassador to the U.N., Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados, who enlisted Latin American states to vote in favor of the partition plan," Edelstein said. "It could be that without Guatemala, the resolution on that fateful day would not have passed, and history would be very different." Morales is a devout evangelical Christian. Shortly after taking office, he visited a synagogue in Guatemala City, where he announced his intention to visit Israel. The Central American leader, who also met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said he looks forward to bolstering agriculture, science, technology and security ties with Israel. "In this visit, we want to deepen the dialogue between the two countries and strengthen bilateral ties," Morales said. "As allies, the excellent relations between our countries will continue."

Palestinian Fatah party unanimously re-elects Mahmoud Abbas as leader:

The Palestinian Fatah political party unanimously re-elected Mahmoud Abbas as the head of

the party at the opening of its first leadership congress in more than seven years. The re-election of the 81-year-old Abbas, who also serves as president of the Palestinian Authority, comes despite growing unpopularity and internal dissent within Palestinian society. Abbas has been increasingly challenged by a younger generation of Palestinian leaders, including exiled rival Mohammad Dahlan, who currently resides in the United Arab Emirates. Later this week, members of Fatah's parliament and central committee will hold elections to determine the future of the party, which largely dominates Palestinian society in the West Bank. "The system from the 1960s no longer works in 2016," Jibril Rajoub, a former Palestinian intelligence chief and Fatah central committee member, told AFP. "We have to take into account the current circumstances. The current system was created when we were in the diaspora and we are now on national soil. It was put in place at a revolutionary stage. Now we have a state," said Rajoub.

Israel approves acquisition of 17 additional F-35 fighter jets:



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Sunday that Israel will purchase 17 additional F-35 fighter jets from the U.S. Israel's diplomatic-security cabinet unanimously approved the acquisition, saying American defense aid funds would be used to finance the deal. Once the deal is completed, Israel's F-35 squadron will include 50 stealth jets. The Israeli cabinet also decided Sunday that one of the jets acquired as part of the latest deal will be used as a test aircraft, on which the Israeli Air Force (IAF) can install and

test new operating and weapon systems. Israeli ministers are believed to already be considering a third purchase, this time for 25 F-35 jets. This acquisition may also include the F-35B STOVL, an advanced stealth takeoff and vertical landing variant aircraft. A senior IAF officer told Israel Hayom that the F-35B STOVL "has many advantages, but some of its unique capabilities come at the expense of other jet capabilities." The IAF, he said, may opt to pass on the third potential acquisition in favor of procuring additional Boeing-manufactured F-15 fighter jets. "The F-15s are tried and true and this might be our last chance to purchase more of them. The F-35 will only prove itself in the future," the officer said.

'Lost' Indian Jews visit Auschwitz death camp for the first time:

Members of India's so-called "lost tribe" of Jews last week visited the site of the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz for the first time. Five members of the Bnei Menashe—who claim to descend from Jews banished

from ancient Israel to India in the 8th century BC—were in Poland as part of a larger visiting group of Israeli students from Abir Yaakov Yeshiva High School in Nahariya. "[Visiting Auschwitz] actually gives me a stronger feeling of love toward Israel. The Holocaust makes Israel even more important to the Jewish people," said Yaniv Hoinge, one of the Bnei Menashe members on the trip. Hoinge and his parents moved from India to Israel in 2012. The family's aliyah was facilitated by Shavei Israel, a nonprofit that calls itself "the only Jewish organization today that is actively reaching out to 'lost Jews' in an effort to facilitate their return [to Israel]." The Bnei Menashe are said to be descendants of Manasseh, one of the 10 "lost tribes" of the ancient Kingdom of Israel. "As part of our efforts to help the Bnei Menashe to return to the Jewish people after being cut off for 27 centuries, we view it as essential to instill them with a better understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust and its central place in Jewish history," Shavei Israel's founder and

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DOVIE'S
CARD GAME 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.

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| BACCARAT | OH, HELL |
| BEGGAR MY | OLD MAID |
| NEIGHBOR | OMAHA |
| BLACKJACK | PINOCHLE |
| CANASTA | POKER |
| CASINO | PYRAMID |
| CONCENTRATION | ROOK |
| CRAZY EIGHTS | SEVEN CARD STUD |
| EUCHRE | SKIP-BO |
| FANTAN | SNAP |
| FIVE CARD DRAW | SPADES |
| FREECELL | SPEED |
| GIN | SPIDER |
| GO FISH | SPIT |
| GOLF | SPOONS |
| HEARTS | TEXAS HOLD 'EM |
| I DOUBT IT | UNO |
| NERTZ | YUKON |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 36

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chairman, Michael Freund, said in a statement. An estimated 1.1 million Jews were killed at Auschwitz during the Holocaust, making it the Nazis' deadliest concentration camp. In 2005, then-Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel Shlomo Amar officially recognized the Bnei Menashe as a lost tribe, and about 1,700 Bnei Menashe members moved to Israel before the Israeli government stopped giving them visas. The government later reversed that policy, enabling Bnei Menashe immigration to resume.

6 teens suspected of arson remanded as Israel's wildfire probe continues:

Six 17-year-old residents of the Galilee village of Jadeidi-Makr, who were arrested last week over their alleged involvement in setting fire to the nearby Ahihud Forest, were denied bail Monday and remanded to Israeli police custody for an additional four days. The suspects were arraigned before the Acre Magistrates' Court. The group was arrested after police detectives noticed a suspicious vehicle leaving a dirt path from the direction of a fire they had spotted in a grove near the forest. The detectives stopped the vehicle and took the six teens inside into custody. Planes were able to extinguish the fire before it spread. According to figures from the Israel Fire and Rescue Services, firefighters battled 1,773 fires in open areas during the week that wildfires raged in the Jewish state. Arson is suspected in at least 25 of the incidents.

Arab social media incite over fires in Israel, link blazes to mosque loudspeaker bill:

The fires raging across Israel, about half of which are believed to be arson, have spurred a flurry of celebratory and inciting social media posts among Palestinians and the broader Arab world. One post on Twitter and other social media platforms stated that "the Jews are praying for rain to put out the fires that are destroying the homes that

they built on the sacred lands of occupied Palestine, and we are praying that 95 benzene will drop from the sky and make the fire stronger." The post was shared hundreds of times and received thousands of "likes," as well as comments including, "The homes of Jews now look like the homes in Gaza and the West Bank after bombings from the occupation army." Another comment read, "From the reports, it seems that some of our Arab brothers in occupied Palestine are behind the wave of fires. If this is indeed the situation, we support the heroes who did this and call on them to continue and on others to join the arson intifada." Social media user Saif Bilal, from the United Arab Emirates, shared photos of the fires and wrote, "Just a few days ago, they outlawed muezzins (loudspeakers) in mosques and now Israel's cities are burning. Israeli citizens will sleep in the streets tonight. May Allah burn all the cities in Israel." The incitement also reached Arab media outlets, which have shared false reports, including claims that Israeli fire-and-rescue teams were helping Jewish residents and abandoning Arab residents. Another false report claimed that "some of the shocking images were of Jewish residents who fled the fires, leaving their children behind."

MK Michael Oren calls on Israelis to 'think twice' about buying French products:

Member of Knesset Michael Oren (Kulanu) encouraged Israelis to "think twice" about purchasing French-made products following a decision by France's government to label Israeli products originating from beyond the 1967 lines differently. "France is labeling Israeli products from Judea, Samaria, and the Golan. Israelis should think twice before buying French products," Oren wrote Sunday on Twitter. The statement by Oren, Israel's former ambassador to the U.S. and currently the deputy minister for diplomacy in the Prime Minister's Office, came days after the French government directed businesses to not use "Made in Israel" labels for products from Israeli companies in Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights. Responding to Oren,

French Ambassador to Israel Halene Le Gal wrote on Twitter, "So you are calling for boycotting French products when in France boycotting Israel is punished by law?" France's decision comes about a year after the European Union issued a non-binding resolution recommending that its member states use labels distinguishing between Israeli products from within and beyond the 1967 lines. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it "condemns the French government decision to implement European Commission directives regarding Israel products originating beyond the Green Line."

Israeli Air Force launches two strikes against Islamic State in Syria:

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) struck Islamic State forces Monday in Syria, Israel's second strike against the jihadist terror group in just more than a day. The IAF had killed four Islamic State terrorists Sunday in Syria

in response to mortar and artillery fire on Israeli troops patrolling along the Israel-Syria border. According to the Israel Defense Forces, Monday's strike targeted an Islamic State post in the southern Syrian Golan Heights. The post is believed to be an abandoned United Nations military installation that had been used by the terror group to gain a foothold near the Israeli border. The IAF dropped 10 one-ton bombs on the site, completely leveling the facility and destroying weapons stored there. "There have been several attempts to attack Israel's forces along the border," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "We will not allow any drizzle [of assaults], and if necessary, we will attack the enemy." Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman echoed Netanyahu's resolve, saying Israel would respond with "full force" in Syria. "Israel is not looking for a fight but when we are faced with provocation—in Gaza, on the Syrian or Lebanese borders—we will respond forcefully, as was done here," Lieberman said.

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| 09:55 | ROME | A 03 |
| 10:15 | MADRID | A 08 |
| 10:20 | MIAMI | B 24 |

JUST A THOUGHT | Aharon E. Wexler

JUST A THOUGHT: ON G-D

The education of children in most Orthodox institutions usually follows the same pattern. First, the child is told about G-d in preschool and taught to sing that:

HaShem is here,
HaShem is there,
HaShem is truly everywhere!

As the years progress, the child is taught some biblical stories and learns to read the Aleph Bet. From there comes the Siddur, Chumash, Rashi, Mishna, and Talmud. Along the way, a whole bunch of laws are taught, usually the ones pertaining to the upcoming holiday season. This comes hand in hand with a complete immersion in Jewish life and ritual. (This part is crucial in the child's development and her later attachment to Yiddishkeit as it concretizes everything learned in school.) Yet, what is rarely ever taught again is the subject of G-d. It's not that G-d is absent from the classroom or home, He is an ever present character in almost all the stories; hovering and pulling the strings. What's missing is an up-

dated discussion about Him using mature terms and ideas. The result being that the child is stunted in her growth and handicapped from developing a theology that is suitable for an adult.

While other subjects like love, relationships, math and literature are constantly updated to suit the child's growing intellect and maturity, G-d is left in that song stage leaving the child with a wrong-headed pantheistic view. While hours a day are spent studying legal texts, very few if any are spent on any theological texts.

When our children become young adults they begin to question what they've been taught and I have found all too often that when it comes to questions about G-d, the issues arise from their childish notions of G-d. In other words, the G-d that they doubt or sometimes even reject, is not the living breathing Sovereign of the Universe, but the juvenile, petty, small G-d of their childhood imaginations. If I was stuck with their stunted view

of G-d, I too would reject Him.

The problem is exacerbated by the false notion that "Jews don't do theology." The study of theology is seen as Christian, something decidedly 'unJewish'. In Yeshiva, I remember, if you were reading the Kuzari, the Guide for the Perplexed, or even Tanach, you kept it under your desk. It wasn't seen as being as respectable as having your Gemara on your 'shtender'. Questions of faith were relegated to weekly one hour informal study groups. They never had a prominent place in the Yeshiva curriculum.

Our Christian friends, lacking a halachic system such as ours, had a lot more time and creativity to develop their faith to produce some outstanding theologians. We Jews have been sorely lacking. It seems like since the mid-20th century, we have seen too few Jewish theologians emerge. We have become too atheological.

Part of the problem is that Orthodox Jews aren't demanding theology, nor from their rabbis nor their booksellers. Why is it that almost every "Ask the Rabbi" column deals with the ins and outs of halacha and not with the balance between the immanence and transcendence of G-d? Where are the questions of theodicy? Is there nothing new to say about Holocaust theology? Forget the halachic implications of a cloned lobster being kosher, what does it say about man's relationship with G-d if he too can create? The more medicine advances and the more we understand the cosmos, G-d shrinks into the background. How do we coax

Him into our lives and make him more of a reality?

One reason for this is that since the mid-20th century, as other sects of Judaism have abandoned halacha, Orthodox Jews have retreated into it; digging their heels into a line of scrimmage to protect it. Yet, by withdrawing into the 4 amot of halacha, Orthodox Jews have abandoned theology as a core subject and by doing so, we have abandoned the forest for the trees.

I know that we are a religion of deed, not creed. And I understand the problem of faith based religions. But what is the point of following the minutia of halacha when there is no relationship being created with G-d? Keeping the mitzvot has become an end unto itself, divorced from G-d or any real sense of covenant with Him. It has been argued before that what ends up happening is that we end up serving the Shulchan Aruch instead of G-d.

A good Jew is often referred to in our literature as a YiraShamayim. This term has been misunderstood in both English and Modern Hebrew as one who 'fears' G-d instead of one who is in 'awe' of G-d. When fear is substituted for awe, the emphasis on halacha makes sense. But instead of following the law because we fear what G-d might do to us if we don't, how about following the laws as expression of a relationship with the wonder and majesty of the divine?

The writer holds a doctorate in Jewish Philosophy and teaches in many post-high school Yeshivot and Midrashot in Jerusalem.

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Rooting for the Laundry
Rabbi Mark Nenner

It was a moment many thought would never happen. A party and celebration 108 years in the making. As the ball settled into to first baseman Anthony Rizzo's glove in the wee hours of Thursday morning, the curse had finally been broken and the Cubs were the Champions of the baseball world. Thousands danced through the streets in jubilation, while others broke down and cried. One fan's sign seemed to say it all, as it read "Now I can die in peace." The city of Chicago had finally got what it was waiting for,

and the drought for the Cubs' fan base had finally been lifted.

Speaking of the fan base, I often wonder which Cubs fans we are talking about. It is very unlikely that their is anyone left on the planet who saw and remembers the last Cub championship. The drought, therefore for those of us who are alive today is for all practical purposes not really as long. According to the 2010 United States Census, the median age of a resident of The Windy City, was

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Alyssa Eliza Elbogen

How Essential Are Essential Oils?

To understand essential (or “volatile”) oils, we must first discuss Herbal Medicine.

Herbal Medicine is the process of extracting the medicinal aspects of various plants; roots, berries, leaves, bark, etc. and administering that medicine to respective patients.

Usually, herbal medicine is administered in teas, tinctures or capsules. Tinctures, the most well-known way of administering herbal medicine, may be extracts in a medium of alcohol, vinegar, wine or glycerin.

Herbal Medicine is one of the most widespread traditions around the world. The botanical naming of the various herbs has allowed botanists world-wide to categorize & better understand herbs, their families & usages. This has crystallized into a well-accepted, concrete & detailed database of the various herbs and their respective medicinal uses. It is truly magical to see how Man has gone around the ‘garden’ and ‘named’ each of the plants so meticulously and in such an organized fashion.

There are countless herbs that have been categorized, and a true Herbalist is one who knows how to maneuver these herbs and how to combine various ones in order to create personalized medicines for each person.

In example, one may suffer from a dry cough in the upper lungs, dry skin, watery eyes, and a foggy mind. An herbalist will create a well-blended tincture as a personalized medicine for that person. It is a wonderful artform and an effective medicine administering technique. However, due to the extensive time it takes to truly get to the bottom of a person’s issues and create these tinctures fresh for a person along with the relatively recent popularization of pharmaceutical medicines, it can be difficult to find a proper Herbalist these days. Still, it is a wonderful form of medicine that we should be encouraged to reconsider.

As we know, the antidote to a poison can be found near the poisonous plant itself. So, too, even in the cities, there are medicinal weeds, trees and so on that creep into our communities as the antidotes to many of our problems. If

we learn to recognize and associate with the plant world around us, we are sure to find free, bountiful medicine just waiting to be discovered.

Essential Oils, otherwise known as “Volatile Oils” are a very pure form of Herbal Medicine in which there is no medium that the medicine is extracted into, rather the volatile oils of the herb are extracted in a number of possible ways, each being a complex and delicate process. Just like with tinctures, there are many levels of purity, strength & freshness of the plants and their respective therapeutic essential oils. There are many, many brands of essential oils claiming to be pure, organic or therapeutic-grade however when tested in a laboratory and compared with other oils, their true potency are revealed. But as I remind customers here at Organic Circle, better to have frozen wheatgrass than none at all. Meaning, as long as the product is organic and pure, it is better to use it than to use nothing at all, even if it could technically be somewhat fresher or of better quality. That being said, it is of course best to find a source for responsibly sourced, organic, dependable essential oils. It is important to trust our sources and even to personally know our sources of these types of sensitive products. It should be clarified that I am not recommending any ingestion of these essential oils, which are incredibly potent. Essential oils carry the medicinal aspect of various herbs and should be used in one of the following ways:

Bath/Inhalation; Use in the bathtub or drop a few drops on a bowl of very hot water and inhale deeply. This is excellent for mental or emotional issues, as the volatile oils will be inhaled and reach the brain.

Massage; Blend a few drops with a carrier oil such as olive, almond, grapeseed, etc. and massage into the skin. The oil will get absorbed into the muscles and into the bloodstream. This is especially important for internal issues such as muscle pain.

Perfume; When you are trying to inhale the oil, you can use it as a perfume in order to smell it throughout the day, such as when you are using it for relaxation



Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg

ARE YOU BLESSED?

Are you blessed? What does it mean to be blessed? In Pirke Avot Ben Zoma asks: Eyzehu ashir? Who is rich? His answer: Hasomeyach b’chelko (One who is happy with his portion). Lou Gehrig—one of the greatest baseball players of all time—on July 4, 1939, shortly after he was diagnosed with ALS, was honored by his fans and teammates at Yankee Stadium. Gehrig stood up and made the most famous speech in baseball history: “Today, I am the luckiest man in the world...” Imagine that—to ...have been handed a death sentence and yet to see one’s good fortune and blessings. Gehrig’s gift was not in his talent or even in his successes on the baseball field; it was in his ability to recognize that he had lived the life he wanted, that he did what he loved, and that he was

surrounded by people who loved him and cared about him. Are there any greater blessings than these? Gehrig ended his speech by saying: “I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth. And I might have been given a bad break, but I’ve got an awful lot to live for.”

A blessing is not so much what we have but the knowledge of knowing that we made a difference in some way with our lives. Life’s blessing is present in our ability to look back and know that there was meaning and purpose in our lives, in the way we lived.

We thank Gd for all our blessings, but the greatest blessing of all is to use the blessings Gd has showered us with in bring light and blessing to the world. And that is up to us. Amen!

purposes.

Diffusers; There are various types of electrical, candle and other types of diffusers, which can fill the immediate environment

with the smell and thereby partial medicinal aspects of the plants.

Wishing us all blessings and guidance on our paths toward vibrant health.

NENNER
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32. People aged 45-64 account for another 18.9 of the population. This means that for the majority of the Cubs fans, their drought feels no longer than those of fans who root for the Texas Rangers or Houston Astros. who haven't won since their inceptions in the early 1960. From this perspective, today's Cubs fans are not alone in their frustration, as their personal frustration has been for a lot less than 107 years.

And let's talk about these Cubs, the players, whose team has not won in 107 years. Who exactly is on this team has not won since then? The members of the famed double play combination "Tinkers to Evers to Chance", are all long gone, as is the entire team who played back then. The average age of a player on the Chicago Cubs, these days is 28.3 years. 1908 is the era that these players' great grandparents lived, an era with which they have absolutely no connection. Do the players really feel the pain of not winning in 107 years. When we talk of the drought, therefore, if it's not about the players, nor does it

apply to the fans, what is all the hoopla really about?

Perhaps we a clue to this mystery is a theory once advanced by the late 20th century philosopher, Jerome Allen Seinfeld. In his groundbreaking work, Seinfeld explores the reasons and motivation behind Fandom. Seinfeld states that it is common practice today, for a star player who is cheered for, to be traded away to another club. Upon returning to play his former team, that individual who is now dressed in the opponent's uniform, is now heavily booed. Similarly, a rival star who is acquired by the team, is often given a standing ovation by the same fans who derided him, when he was with the enemy, just days before. Seinfeld therefore postulates, that we are not really rooting for the individual players, but for those who are currently wearing our team's uniform. The next logical step he concludes, is that in reality, we don't root for the team, we are actually rooting for the laundry. This would help explain the frustrations of the Cubs and their fans despite the lack of connection to the past, it is the uniform or the brand name

that they actually root for; their pain is from the collective memories of fans throughout the ages/

The Torah calls itself "The book of the generations of humankind" Genesis (5:1) and our Rabbis have always taken that to imply that all of the challenges, greatness, frailties and failures of our common ancestor Adam still exist in all of our societies and personalities. The narrative of the Jewish people keeps repeating itself, albeit with different players along filling in along the way. So while Yishmael and Yitzchak are gone from our midst, Netanyahu and Abbas continue to play as rivals at the same game. Anti semitism of the past is alive and well, and we see now that the embers of Europe were never really extinguished. Esther and Haman are long gone, yet the city of Persia still wants to wipe us off the map. And then we have the good guys, the holy and special Jews who inspire and make us realize that we still have a purpose, In a way Jewish History continues to be written, it's just different players who are wearing the laundry.

And yet, our sages have always

taught that each and every human being is different from the other, and no two people have the same talents and ideas. The Talmud tells us that just as no two people are physically alike, - even identical twins have different fingerprints - so too, no two people have the same spiritual intellectual, or emotional constitution. What I can do for the Jewish People, you cannot do, and vice versa. There are no extra Jews in the world. There are no more Abrahams, Isaacs and Jacobs, and therefore although the story repeats itself, each human being throughout our history has made a unique contribution to Jewish life. It is not after all just the clothing but the individual giants and everyday people that keep our faith alive and well.

Perhaps a compromise to these seemingly different perspectives a, can be found in the last passage of the five books of Moses. The Torah in describing Moshe Rabeinu, says " There will never be a man like Moses again" There will never be another Moses, not someone of his humility, not his holiness, not his level of prophecy

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NENNER
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which allowed him to communicate directly with the Almighty. The message is, that no one is replaceable. And yet, the very next verse speaks of Moses' death, which conveys the message that no one is indispensable. The Jewish people have always relied on the unique contributions of every one of its population. Per-

haps the dual message contained herein, is that each generation roots for its own individual players, but as time marches on and each new generation replaces the old, it is the uniform, the ongoing story of the Jewish people, that we continue to cheer for.

The times we as Jews live in today are very difficult ones. Assimilation is on the rise, while birth rates are on the decline. Anti

Semitism is once again very popular, and even here in the United States, the climate is beginning to change. The citizens and land of Israel face mortal danger, and it is very easy to be down and give up. And yet, as we look through the annals of Jewish History, we see that we have faced similar or worse challenges in just about every generation, and somehow, by the narrowest of margins we have

been able to succeed. The Secret? It is our uniform, the unbreakable connection we have to the past, and to the eternal guarantee that as Jews we will yet again, somehow prevail. All we need to do is get ourselves up, wipe the dirt away, and continue to play ball as we have and will since the beginning of mankind and throughout eternity.

The author can be reached at marknenner@gmail.com

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

Cocoa Loco: Chocolate for my skin? Count Me In!

Happy post-election season, Dear Readers. No matter who you voted for, I stand with smooth skin and good health! Today's question comes from sunny West Palm Beach, Florida. Hetty asks: "Dr. P, I know chocolate is healthy, dark chocolate especially. What about using it for our skin? What is the best way to melt the chips? Microwave or double boil-

er?" Hold on there, Dear Reader! Yes, chocolate is fantastic for us, but what's good for our skin is cocoa butter, not your favorite candy bar! However, you present a fantastic topic for today's column: Cocoa butter, a skin saving power house!

As Hetty notes, the antioxidants in dark chocolate can have beneficial effects on our overall wellness, blood pressure, and cholesterol. The benefits are found in the fat of the cocoa bean, cocoa butter, known also as Theobroma oil. But the benefits go beyond

ingestion. This bean butter is also beneficial to our beautiful body wrappers! "How" you ask? Well, if you love all things chocolate, jump right in!

Unlike many chemicals found in traditional body lotions, cocoa butter is actually a food. You can use pure cocoa butter in your cooking in place of butter or other shortenings. It has a mild chocolate flavor that makes it nice in cookies. But more than just tasty treats, ingesting pure cocoa butter can help heal your skin from the inside out. So eat that dark chocolate bar! (If you have any new skin conditions, please see a board certified dermatologist. While I am a doctor, I am not a medical doctor, and cannot offer medical advice.)

If you suffer from seasonal dry skin, cocoa butter should be one of the first things you seek! Cocoa butter is an emollient, meaning it adds moisture to the skin. More importantly, it is also an occlusive ingredient—it actually adds a barrier layer to our sensitive skin. So, Hetty, especially in Florida, where the sun can be fierce, cocoa butter would provide your soft skin with an extra layer of protection. Use your sunscreen, of course, but adding cocoa butter is like bringing your umbrella with you when it looks iffy outside. You might not need it, but it isn't going to hurt. In the case of the cocoa butter, it will even help!

What is the best way to use cocoa butter on your skin? Look for it as the one of the first three ingredients in balm of your choice. The more the better, up to a point. Years ago new mommies were told to smooth pure cocoa butter on places growing with baby, as a way to avoid stretch marks. Unfortunately, recent research shows there is more placebo effect than science supporting the magical properties of 100% cocoa butter sticks. But that does not mean that cocoa butter isn't effective—it just means it will NOT magically reduce stretch marks. The best

thing for preventing stretch marks in pregnancy, it seems, is genetics.

So, use that cocoa butter for your dry winter hands—it melts on contact and provides protection against chapping. Use it in your body wash—the large amounts of Vitamin E found in cocoa butter will protect your birthday suit from the dry winter weather. You can even find skin preparations such as body butters with as much as 100% cocoa butter. These would be great for any skin that needs an anti-inflammatory. Got seasonal dermatitis? Cocoa butter has your back (and front!)

As you see, Dear Hetty in West Palm Beach, the cocoa bean is good for your soul AND your skin! Remember, eat the chocolate bars and use the cocoa butter on your skin. Above all, don't forget Dr. P's mantra: If you can't eat it, don't put it on your skin!

Hadassah Chaya Davies Pardo is Chief Lotionist and owner of Hope-SolidLotion.com. She has a PhD in Communication Studies and 35 years in cosmetology and skin care. She can be reached at hopesolidlotion@gmail.com. Hope Solid Lotion can be found online and at Organic Circle in Brooklyn. Copyright 2016, All Rights Reserved.

UN ACTION CONT. FROM P1

to refrain from taking action at the United Nations over the decades-old conflict.

Palestinian President Abbas, in anticipation of Obama's support declared recently that 2017 would see the creation of a long-awaited Palestinian state and defended his current political strategy of trying to achieve the establishment of a Palestinian state through international diplomacy. Abbas also repeated a claim he made earlier in the United Nations this year that 2017 will be the "year of the end of the Israeli occupation." He added that his party will strengthen "popular peaceful resistance in all of its spheres."

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Tampa Bay Rabbi designs new product - Chanukah Laser Lights - turning homes into Chanukah storytellers for the Festival of Lights

A young Florida Rabbi has developed a novel form of Chanukah decoration – Chanukah Laser Lights. The device projects Chanukah-themed pictures onto one’s home.

“The theme of the holiday is publicizing the miracle of Chanukah with the emphasis on spreading light,” Rabbi Mendy Yarmush says, “Chanukah is known as the festival

of light and I am always looking for new ways to share the message of the Menorah”.

For years, Yarmush would put up large public menorahs around his hometown but was looking for something more. “I wanted to create a way for every Jewish home to tell the Chanukah story. As a child, I was proud go up with my father on a cher-

ry picker to light the public Menorah at City Hall” Says Yarmush “I believe Chanukah Laser Lights enables each child to experience that feeling & proudly share the message of Chanukah from their home.”

Last year at a public Menorah lighting Yarmush saw a professional Laser Show and immediately thought that this needs to be on every Jewish home. His idea – a small laser device that projects Chanukah Menorahs and Dreidels on a wall or home. For months Yarmush worked with several manufacturers to assess projection options. They tested multiple light sources including LED but were not satisfied with the quality of the light, “You could barely see it on the outside of my home” Yarmush said “Quality was my number one concern”

The result, a projector built with a laser light source housed in an aluminum casing to project Menorahs

and Dreidels. It is weather resistant and works in all climates. It comes with a remote control, which customizes the speed setting, provides strobe options, creates the ability to pause the picture & controls a timer.

“Whoever I show it to loves it,” Yarmush says, relishing in the beauty of this creation. “It’s simple, it’s beautiful, and, most importantly, it helps people retell this powerful story”.

“People are looking for ways to share the light of Chanukah,” Yarmush says. “I hope to give as many people the opportunity to share the joy of this special holiday, and inspire them to light up the world with acts of goodness and kindness.”

Chanukah Laser Lights can be found on Amazon.com, or can be ordered directly from the company website at www.chanukahlaserlights.com. Phone:813.731.2977

SEE PHOTO ON PAGE 37

FLATBUSH BASKETBALL LEAGUE WEEK #1 RECAP



After a long hot summer the wait is over. The Flatbush Basketball League is back with another exciting schedule of games that will take us to Purim time. Here we go with the first week of games.

In The Pizza Nosh Division:

Visual Image 39 Advanced Copy Center Ave J 30

Is that a way to treat a new sponsor to the FBL. Welcome back Johnathan Tzubary and his nearly perfect game. He scored 24 of his teams total in a very close game. Mutty Iszack led The Copy guys with 16 .

In the game of the night it was Avenue M Meal Mart over Oh Baby in a classic, Mordechai Lebovits was leading the way for Baby, who led till the last minute.Mordy shared scoring honors with Yitzi Ponzak who both had 11.Yitzi’s clutch shot at

the end and some major misses for Baby cost them this game.Final score Meal Mart of Avenue M 28 Oh Baby 24.

In The Jewish Connection Division:

In an intense game Batmpte Pickles ate up China Glatt in a nail bitter 44-42.Joseph Lichtenstader showed off with 18 points as he led all scorers.Yitzi Devor and Avromi Ehrman combined for 23 for Shulems’ China squad who just fell short.

In the finally of the night ITP 33 Plaza Auto Leasing 28 Motti Kolodney led a balanced attack for The Internet Providers with all his teammates in ths scoring column.Yehudah Katz and Yehoshua Roth combined for 25 in the loss.

Follow your favorite team right here in your favorite newspaper.

The Shmuz Shabbos in Elkins Park, PA

The Elkins Park community felt privileged to host Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier of the Shmuz for a Shabbaton on November 18th-19th.

On Friday night, Rabbi Shafier spoke at an Oneg in the Young Israel of Elkins Park. His shiur on “Understanding Life Settings” focused on the question of “Why are some people blessed with success and others not?” Using the backdrop of a famous event brought in the Talmud, the shmuz focused on some of the big picture issues of life, helping the participants understand “life settings” as they apply to each person.



On Shabbos after lunch, Rabbi Shafier presented his shmuz titled “The Difference Between Emunah and Bitachon”. “How hard should I be working? How seriously should I take medical reports and new findings? When is it appropriate for me to say, “I have done my part; now it is in HASHEM’s hands”? By defining

the difference between emunah - Knowing that HASHEM runs the world - and bitachon, actually trusting in HASHEM, the Shmuz helped put our belief system into practice.

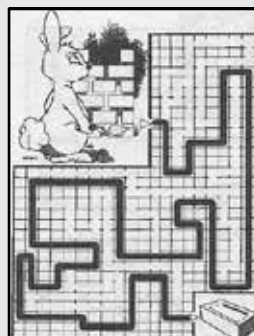
On Motzei Shabbos, Rabbi Shafier ended with a lecture titled “Heroes”. What is the difference between people who have accomplished some extraordinary things and us? Surprisingly, nothing at all. It was a successful and inspirational weekend for the community as they walked away with important life lessons.

The Shmuz is a Torah lecture that offers a worldview on major life issues ranging from working on our middos to learning to be a better spouse, from understanding the meaning of our davening to what our purpose is in this world. Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier has been delivering these lectures across America and beyond for over a decade.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES!

Sudoku Puzzle Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

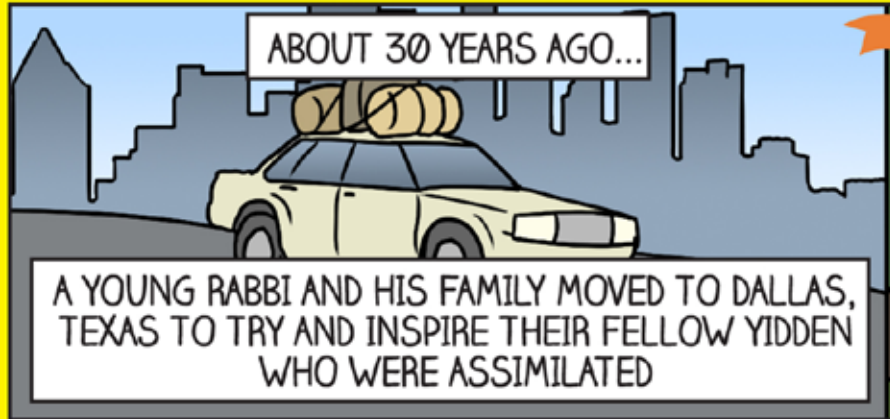


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| S | Y | S | S | P | G | Y | U | K | O | N | L |
| I | P | A | B | A | C | C | A | R | A | T | E |
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| G | O | B | G | N | U | S | P | O | O | N | S |
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Torah Connection

By: Daniel Keren

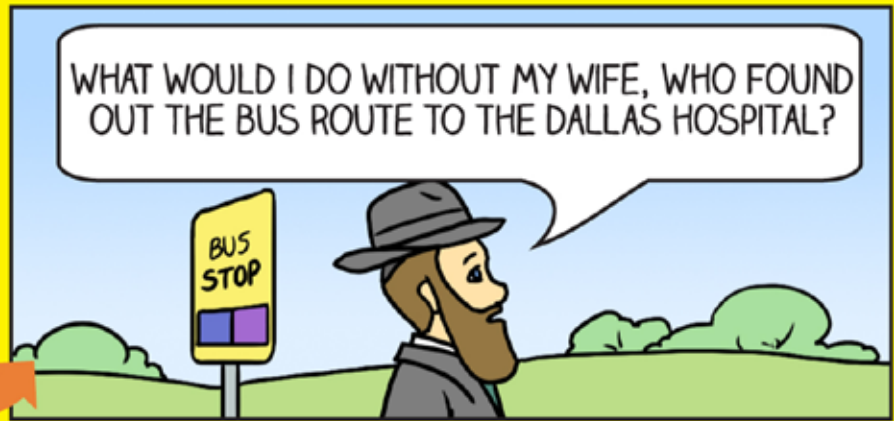
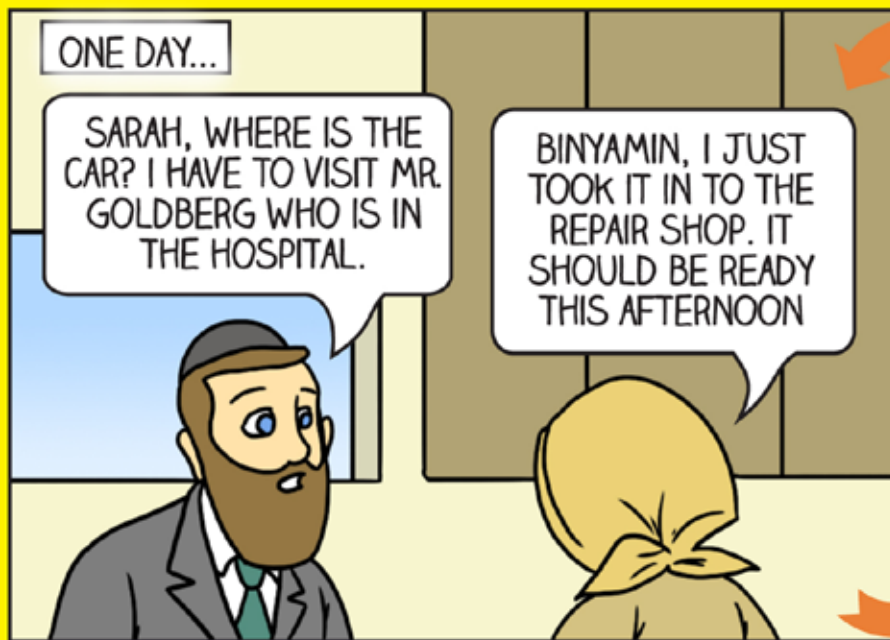
Illustrated By: Tzai R. Pensky



A YOUNG RABBI AND HIS FAMILY MOVED TO DALLAS, TEXAS TO TRY AND INSPIRE THEIR FELLOW YIDDEN WHO WERE ASSIMILATED



AFTER A FEW YEARS OF HAVING THE MINYAN IN THEIR BASEMENT, HE ATTRACTED ENOUGH DEVOTED MEMBERS TO RENT A HOME FOR DAILY AND SHAB-BOS MINYANIM



DANI DAYAN ON STATEN ISLAND



L-R Michael McMahon, SI District Attorney, Israel's consul gen, Dani Dayan, Mendy Mirocznik, COJO President



I-r Scott Maurer, Dani Dayan



CHAZAQ TOUR WITH RABBI DOVID ORLOFSKY - PARTIAL VIEW OF THE CROWD AT CHAZAQ WEST HEMPSTEAD



Chanukah Laser Lights

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 36



With Thanksgiving around the corner, Yeshiva University students reached out to local police officers and firefighters to express heartfelt appreciation for the role they play in keeping New York City safe.



AT THE AGUDAH CONVENTION



Dignitaries From Around the World Visit The Western Wall



Monreal's mayor, Denis Coderre, visits The Kotel



Toronto's mayor, John Tory visits the Kotel with Rabbi Rabinowitz, The Western Wall rabbi



Poland's Prime Minister, Beata Szydlo, visits the Western Wall



Portuguese Foreign Minister Mr. Augustus Santos Silva visited the Western Wall.

MEMBERS OF INDIA'S LOST JEWISH TRIBE VISIT AUSCHWITZ FOR FIRST TIME TO LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST



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"I am very anxious about going to camp and meeting new people."
Dina E.

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Sara Yoheved Rigler

Panama Canal Cruise

- December 29, 2016
Scholar in Residence:
Stephen Savitsky

South America Cruise

- February 12, 2017

Alaska

- June 25, 2017
- August 13, 2017

Mediterranean

- July 2, 2017
- August 13, 2017
- August 20, 2017

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