



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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We have a popular phrase here in Israel, “after the *chagim*.” When things come up during the *chagim*, we say we will get to them after the holidays. Then the day after *Simchat Torah*, it seems that we have so many things that sneak up on us when the *chagim* are over.

There are two important OU Israel events for “after the *chagim*” that have been in the making for a long time. The first is our annual OU staff Shabbaton in Givat Washington that occurred this past Shabbat, *parshat Lech Lecha*. The second is the big move from our current building on Keren HaYesod street in Rechavia, where we have been for the last 25 years, to our new OU in Israel headquarters in Har Hotzvim. Meanwhile, we continue to expand our programming,

coming directly to more English-speaking communities in Yerushalayim: Rechavia, Baka, Arnona, Ramot and a new Women’s Hub on Radak Street. *Baruch Hashem*, we have been very busy.

Especially in light of current events, the staff Shabbaton was so crucial – a time to spend with our friends and colleagues. It was an inspiring Shabbat, with over four hundred in attendance (including families). Each year after the Shabbaton I always think, “Nothing can top this. No other Shabbaton will ever be this inspiring, this impactful and this successful.” And then the next year’s Shabbaton happens, and it raises the bar.

The success of this Shabbaton can be measured in a few ways. I see how many stay up late Friday night, sacrificing sleep, so they can attend the *shiurim* and discussions. The programming rooms are jam-packed until way after midnight. I see how *vatikin Shacharit* on Shabbat morning, which starts at 5:00am, is filled with approximately 150 men and 50 women *davening* with great *kavanah*.

We were joined by several illustrious rabbis. We were graced with the presence of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu and his Rebbetzin Tova Eliyahu. Also in attendance was Rabbi Yoni Lavi, who originated the concept of *Chaverim Makshivim*, a hotline we took over and invested in as a service for teens across the country. This hotline has been a real answer for teens who are unfortunately going through a very difficult and distressing time because of the war. Additionally, OU Israel

**In memory of our beloved
and sorely missed parents,
aunt and uncle, grandparents
and great-grandparents**

Arnold Becker ז"ל

אהרן בן משה ז"ל

on his 18th Yahrzeit - ט"ו בחשוון

and

I. Judith Becker א"ה

יהודית בת אפרים ע"ה

on her 11th Yahrzeit - ט"ו בתשרי

**The family will be meeting
at the Kvarim - Har Tamir
Chelka Taf Gimel
This Friday morning
November 15, at 9:30am**



President Stuart Hershkowitz and his wife Dr. Claire Hershkowitz joined us for Shabbat, as did Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph, Executive Vice President and COO of the OU worldwide, who came from New York to be with us.

It was also an honor that part of OU Israel's Kashrut team joined the Shabbaton: Rabbi Ezra Friedman, Rabbi Yonatan Korach, and Rabbi Yisroel Breisch. They all work tirelessly to partner with thousands of food manufacturers, businesses, wineries, and restaurants, to bring OU's Kashrut certification to them. These businesses understand that our Kashrut certification is known, is of a high standard, and is ethical; a Kashrut that takes its profits and puts it towards the myriad community programs the OU runs for *Am Yisrael*. This stellar reputation is all

because of our amazing OU Israel Kashrut team.

I am writing these words as I get ready to fly to America to speak on behalf of OU Israel, just a few hours after saying *havdalah* at the Shabbaton. I am still on such a spiritual high from the amazing experience. The number of hours I slept over Shabbat can be counted on one hand, and yet, it was one of the most invigorating Shabbatot of my life.

Last year, we unfortunately had to cancel our staff Shabbaton because of the beginning of the war. Everyone asked me if we would be holding it this year, and I kept thinking how crucial it was. I knew it had to happen because it is a tremendous source of *chizuk* and *kedushah*, and it gives us so

many *kochot* for the year. Our OU Israel team can look around the room and see a family, all people working hard for the Jewish nation.

On a personal note, I take great pride in bringing my family to the Shabbaton. My children can experience the inspiration, the grace and kindness that everyone has with each other, and they can know what an incredible place OU Israel is. My belief is that this Shabbaton has had the power to recharge all of our collective batteries, and



**משפחת או יו ישראל שולחת תנחומים
לאלעד לוי ומשפחתו על פטירת
אמו ע"ה**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

that we can return to our programming with renewed spirit and knowledge of what we are doing for *Klal Yisrael*.

Earlier in this article I shared that the second big “after the *chagim*” event is our upcoming headquarters move, coupled with our expansion to more communities. On that note, I want to invite all women to the grand opening of OU Israel’s Women’s Division Hub this upcoming Monday evening, November 18 (see ad for more details). The Women’s Hub programming will include: the ATID *midra-sha* evening for young *olot*, the Dorot inter-generational choir, Rebbetzin Shira Smiles’ weekly *parsha shiur*, parenting classes, our mother-daughter pre-*chagim* program, the Bat Mitzvah and Beyond program, NextGen monthly events, Women’s Performance Community events and more. I encourage all women to check it out and make it part of your weekly schedule.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

Rabbi Avi Berman
Executive Director, OU Israel
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May the Torah learned
from this issue of Torah Tidbits
be לע"נ and in loving memory of

שמח שרון פריסר ע"ה
Sharon Preiser a"h

תש"כ - תשע"ה, 1960-2015

ט"ז מרחשון - On her ninth Yahrzeit

Beloved daughter, wife, sister,
mother, and grandmother

On behalf of the Rubins, Polly
and Preiser Families



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