

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



Rabbi Avi Berman
Executive Director,
OU Israel

One of the reasons my wife and I decided to move to Givat Ze'ev 15 years ago is the diversity of the community. On a typical Shabbat, I daven at an Ashkenazi shul that also has Sefardim, Persians and Morrocans. This inspires us and helps us set an example for our children that it's important to love each and every Jew despite their background.

Interestingly, while we all daven together during the year, during the Yamim Noraim the Sefardim pick up and leave because we continue davening nusach Ashkenaz. There is something about the tefilot of Elul (Selichot, Rosh Hoshana and Yom Kippur) which gives us a pull to want to daven the same words and tunes that our parents, grandparents and great grandparents did.

Therefore, this year caused great

questions. We have been davening outside in minyanim nearest to our houses, rather than with people who share the same nusach. Since March, my boys and I along with some of our neighbors have had the zechut of helping make a minyan in our yard for a neighbor who is unfortunately not well and saying kaddish for his father z"l. He happens to be Persian while the other neighbors davening in our minyan are Moroccan.

Before Rosh Hashana I spoke to many friends and rabbis about how to proceed with our davening this year. In the end, we davened Ashkenaz for Shacharit and Sefardic for Musaf on day 1 and swapped that order on day 2. Throughout the davening, I heard Shofar blowing and chazanim from multiple minyanim in the neighborhood. It was a beautiful mix of customs from so many different Jewish heritages.

The first night of Rosh Hashana I shared a beautiful thought from a letter written by Rav Eyal Vered about corona and how it caused us to open our eyes and see things differently. I kept thinking of the miracle of modern Israel. Over the past hundreds of years Hashem has been fulfilling the prophecies of kibbutz galuyot from all corners of the world. Did Hashem bring us all together to daven in separate minyanim? Corona is causing us to break down these barriers and come together.

18th yearzeit of our beloved

Yoni Jesner יוני

We will visit his grave on Erev Succot

Friday, October 2nd - 10:00am

Har HaMenuchot - follow Route 9 to end -

Section מ"ח

Yoni - We miss you so much!

This past week OU Israel had the Zechut of welcoming thousands of Jews from all over the world to learn Torah during our second annual Torah Yerushalayim in loving memory of David & Norma Fund Z"l. We were joined by Jews in Israel, N. America, the UK, Australia and even Dubai. Our backgrounds don't matter, we are all inspired by the holy Torah.

As we are about to enter Yom Kippur, we are thinking about Jews who are in need. Unfortunately, this year many of us know more people who have been hit hard financially and need our help as we enter 5781. In addition to helping those in need of physical sustenance, I hope those of you who are in a position to help also open your hearts to those in need of spiritual sustenance. Whether you relate more to sponsoring Torah at the OU Israel Center or helping at-risk teens through our Zula and OU Israel Youth Centers, please consider giving kaparat to the OU Israel family at www.ouisrael.org/donate.

Wishing you, your families and all of Klal Yisrael a Gmar Chatima Tova,



Rabbi Avi Berman

Executive Director, OU Israel

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