

# DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



## Rabbi Avi Berman Executive Director, OU Israel

When we first began discussing our annual Torah Tidbits Appreciation Campaign, we did not know how it would fare this year due to Corona. I am tremendously grateful to share that thanks to the generosity of our readership, we raised more than past years and reached approximately 150,000 NIS. On behalf of myself and the Torah Tidbits staff, I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We were very open about the fact that we needed to raise funds to enable us to continue to publish Torah Tidbits each week, and you heeded the call, helping spread Torah worldwide.

While I feel truly blessed that our readership is so connected that they want to be involved in the Mitzvah of supporting this Torah publication, I can't say I am surprised. Year after year, you have given generously to this campaign, and especially during times of crises we all realize how important Torah is to us in general, and Torah Tidbits in particular.

I am thankful for how much of a greater

appreciation this campaign gave me for Torah Tidbits and for you, our dear readers. As you know, campaign donors of 360 NIS and above were entered into a raffle to win a Silver Menorah from Hazorfim, valued at 21,000 NIS. Imagine my surprise when we called to tell the winner of this grand prize, and she responded, "Thank you but I am not interested. I made a donation to support Torah Tidbits, and the only prize I want is to receive Torah Tidbits every Friday." Wow.

Next, I called the winner of the 2,000 NIS voucher for Polar Air. Imagine my shock when I received a similar response. "I just donated because I want to learn Torah. You should give the prize to someone else." These responses made me realize just how valuable Torah Tidbits is to you - and it is a reminder to me just how valuable you all are to me and the TT staff and volunteers. You encourage us to keep making TT better so we can continue to enhance your Shabbatot. "טוב לי תורה פיר מאלפי זהב וכסף"

On a different note, I wanted to share a beautiful simcha I attended this past Motzei Shabbat. The engagement of Shmuel Hart, a *ben bayit* of our family and a wonderful young man whom I first met when he was three years old in school with my oldest son when my family went to Vancouver for Shelichut to run NCSY there.



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He and my son remained friends over the years, and after three and a half years of studying in Israeli Yeshivot and serving in the IDF as a Chayah boded, he made Aliyah on his own this past January. His Kallah, Reut Rappaport is part of the OU family, as her very special parents went on shelichut for the OU as well, as OU-JLIC educators on the Yale campus. Wishing this young couple a hearty Mazel Tov as they set out to establish a Jewish family in Israel was absolutely heartwarming, reminding me of the power of shelichut and the power of staying in touch (I am in awe of the special friendships he and my sons share despite living halfway across the world most of their lives). Mazel Tov to Shmuel and Reut as well as their dear parents Dr. Alexander Hart and Dr. Kathryn Selby and Rabbi Jason and Meira Rappaport. With limited face to face smachot this year, it was truly a blessing to share in this wonderful occasion.



Avi  
Executive Director, OU Israel

May the learning in this issue  
be dedicated in loving memory

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our dear father

**Jack Beer z"l**

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