



As you know, one of my goals with this weekly Torah Tidbits is to create a two-way stream of communication with you, our readers. I appreciate the opportunity to share what's happening in the OU Israel world and personal experiences, and I encourage you to contact me with your ideas and feedback. In response to my sharing that I had Covid last week, a number of you wrote to me wishing me a Refuah Sheleima (B"H I am out of Bidud and feeling much better) and sharing a sentiment which I have received numerous times since starting this column; that this article adds a personal touch to Torah Tidbits.

While I appreciate and thank you for this feedback, I find this remark to be very appropriate. In interacting with the Torah Tidbits staff and volunteers each week, I feel that the entire Torah Tidbits publication is personalized to our readership. A weekly, English publication geared towards the Torah oriented population

is unique in and of itself, and the work of Rabbi Goldscheider, Ita Rochel, Zahava, Yael, Toni, and our hundreds of volunteers adds even more of a personal touch. Unlike other weekly Parsha publications that are distributed by mass distribution companies, Torah Tidbits is distributed by dedicated and loving volunteers that know the exact number of copies needed in each community every week. From the writers, to those submitting cover photos, to the Mazel Tov, Yahrzeits, and dedications, we try our best to provide our readership with a personal touch in addition to quality Divrei Torah. We have the readership in mind when putting together Torah Tidbits each week. We hope that these efforts, in addition to my article, come across as you enjoy Torah Tidbits every Shabbat.

This week marked a momentous occasion for my family. My oldest son (second to join the army) enlisted in the IDF. When a child or sibling joins the army, it is a very personal experience. You think about their accomplishments and everything you and they did to arrive at this day. Yet, this time a picture helped me focus on the wider group of people going through this experience together.

I accompanied my son to Givat HaTachmoshet where he and the other soldiers were told to meet. When I dropped him

In loving memory of my mother

Pearl Katz a"h

פעסה בת אפרים זאב ע"ה

Memphis, Tennessee

On her 20th Yahrzeit - 18 Elul

Ronnie Katz

off I saw a couple that we know who happened to also be bringing their second son to enlist in the IDF. This boy's mother and I have known each other for 20 years since I am close friends with her brother. Among other things, her brother and I ran NCSY Shabbatons together 20 years ago when these boys were just a few years old. Seeing their son again after not seeing him for so many years and watching him join an elite army unit showed me that we are all in it together.

Whether we know each other or not, our children joining the IDF are part of a broader group of Jews from all over Israel (and abroad) who were raised with the passion, dedication, and desire to defend the Jewish people. While I knew this intellectually, receiving a picture of my son and this boy sitting next to each other on the bus to their next stop really brought the idea home and was very emotional for me.

On the note of the IDF, we wish a Refuah Sheleima to the soldier Barel Shmueli (Barel ben Nitza) who was critically injured on the Gaza border this week. Let's daven for him and all the other soldiers in need of recovery.

With Rosh Hashanah only a few weeks

away, we are in full swing preparing for OU Israel's 3rd Annual Torah Yerushalayim in loving memory of David & Norma Fund Z"L. This past week, we have been working on shifting everything to a virtual program. While we would have loved to have presented this program in-person and seen so many faces together, we recognize the need to put everyone's health and safety at the forefront, and our virtual program is designed to uplift your Aseret Yemei Teshuva and prepare you for a more inspired Yom Kippur.

We are excited to share that in addition to Yamim Noraim related topics, we will be offering special Shiurim to help you prepare for Shemita and Sukkot. While it is still August and summer mode, especially for Ashkenazim who haven't started reciting Selichot yet, please take a moment to mark the date of 6 Tishrei, September 12 and register for Torah Yerushalayim (see the ad in this Torah Tidbits). Looking forward to sharing this virtual worldwide Torah experience together with you.

Wishing you an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Avi,

Executive Director, OU Israel

aberman@ouisrael.org

לעילוי נשמת

In loving memory of

בן-ציון בן נחום דב ויהודית ז"ל
Benjamin Spigelman z"l

כ"א אלול - on his 35th yahrzeit

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