

# DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



**RABBI AVI BERMAN**

Executive Director, OU Israel



My wife and I knew that when our son joined the IDF, he would not be home for all of the Chagim. Yet, this holiday season (due to Covid related reasons), our son Shlomo ended up being on his base for Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah. Before Rosh HaShana, my Tzadeket wife prepared all of the Simanim we usually have and I drove to the airport to take it to another soldier who had been home for Shabbat and was on his way back to the base. This was our small way of giving Shlomo a piece of home for Rosh Hashana.

When it came to Sukkot, he showed me the base's Sukkah on a video call. I commented that I was impressed that not only did the IDF ensure that the soldiers on a remote base up north have a Kosher Sukkah, but they made sure to decorate it as well. At that point, Shlomo explained that while the IDF Rabbanut put up the Sukkah, caring visitors were responsible for the decorations. Shlomo told me that two cars of volunteers came from Nahariya and Beer Sheva to bring goodies and Sukkah decorations for the Chag. Three girls got out of

one of the cars and decorated the Sukkah for the Chayalim. Shlomo also told me about another caring woman who travels nearly an hour to their base each week to bring snacks and refreshments.

I know that there are many Jews who regularly drop off food for our soldiers at the Pina Chama in Gush Etzion as well as at IDF blockades and bases throughout Israel. As a father of Chayalim, these gestures are even more meaningful to me (and all other parents of soldiers) than in the past. **All I can say is "Mi KeAmcha Yisrael"**. This unity and the above and beyond care Jews have for each other is ultimately the secret of our nation's success. Holding my 4 minim this year, I thought about this woman and Jews from the North, South, Center, and around the world looking out for each other, and I thanked Hashem for the incredible nation that we are blessed to be a part of.

Another beautiful aspect of our nation is the Shabbat/Yuntif table. This past month, we were blessed with many family meals around the table. Sharing Divrei Torah, stories, and aspirations for the year. The holidays themselves and their unique

Condolences to  
Daniella Krauthamer and family  
on the passing of her mother  
**Doris Krauthamer a"h**

תמקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

In loving memory of  
**Vivian Chesner a"h**

On her 10th yahrzeit

ראש חודש מרחשון  
א' מרחשון

*From the Rosner family*

customs and foods brought a certain level of excitement, particularly for younger kids. The round challot and simanim on Rosh HaShana, the mood of the Seudah Mafseket before Yom Kippur, and the outdoor setting with the walls of the Sukkah and Schach.

How do we bring this excitement with us throughout the year? Positive and engaging discussions around the Shabbat/Yuntif table are one of the most powerful and important chinuch tools that we have. If we find our children getting bored at the Shabbat table, we know something needs to change; it should be exciting, enjoyable, fun and enthusiastic. One way to do this is by preparing in advance - or having everyone think on the spot - ideas connected to the weekly Parsha, questions that came up during the week, and recent stories that occurred are a good starting point. But sometimes, we have a hard time identifying what our children find to be engaging.

I recently received a unique book from a very special Jew that can help us keep our Shabbat tables exciting. David Woolf is a dear friend from Toronto (and has and continues to be an instrumental player, along with Rabbi Dr. Sholom Gold, in cultivating and strengthening the relationship between Canadian Jews and OU Israel for many, many years). He came to my office before Sukkot on a recent visit to Israel, and gave me a beautiful gift – a book he authored entitled Torah IQ: The Great Torah Riddle Book. Torah IQ features over 1,500 questions and answers on Parshat HaShavua, Jewish

holidays, Halachot, and general Torah trivia. This book was a delight in creating interesting and animated discussions around our Shabbat/Yuntif table over Sukkot, and I highly recommend it as a way to enhance your Shabbat table and Torah knowledge.

Wishing each of you a year of happiness, health, and the Geulah Sheleima. Have an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat.



Avi,

Executive Director, OU Israel

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## SHIUR SPONSORS

**Tuesday, October 5** - Rabbi Goldin's shiur was sponsored

in memory of our dad **Dovid ben Avram Abish z"l** whose yahrzeit was isru chag (day after Simchat Torah here). **Debbie & Peter Abelow, Judy & Shmuel Davidovics and Phyllis & Sandy Zlotnick**

**Sunday, October 10** - Rabbi Adler's shiur is sponsored by an anonymous donor

**Monday, October 11** - Rabbi Goldscheider's and Rabbi Herschler's shiurim are sponsored by an anonymous donor

**Tuesday, October 12** - Rabbi Goldin's shiur is sponsored by an anonymous donor

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**Rabbi Taub's weekly Parshat HaShavua Shiur** is sponsored by **The Jewish Legacy Foundation**

In memory of my parents  
**Irene and Pincus Flaum z"l**  
*Tamar Iancu*