

# DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



**RABBI AVI BERMAN**  
Executive Director, OU Israel



I find it interesting that when people ask me when I made Aliyah and I answer 36 years ago, they often respond by telling me Kol Hakavod. I always make a point to say that I was 9 years old when my parents told me our family was making Aliyah. My parents were the altruistic ones who left their businesses, sold their house, said goodbye to all of their families and friends in America, and moved to the Land that was promised to their forefathers in this week's Parsha of Lech Lecha. Just like Avraham Avinu had never stepped foot in Israel prior to coming here, so too my parents had not been to Israel prior to our Aliyah flight. Any Kol Hakavod which people give me is focused in the wrong direction. They get 100% credit for my siblings and I making Aliyah and Baruch Hashem celebrating 36 years as Israeli citizens.

Seeing what my parents went through

May the Torah learned  
from this issue of TT  
be in loving memory of **Sharon (Rubin) Preiser** לעי"נ ע"ה

On her sixth *yahrzeit*  
16 MarCheshvon (Oct. 22)

*Parents: Blossom and Israel Rubin*

*Sister: Eileen Polly*

*Husband: Uriel Preiser*

*Children, Grandchildren, Nieces: & Nephews*

*Sons-In-law & Daughters-In-Law*

and hearing the stories of other special Jews that took the Avraham Avinu test and made Aliyah from all four corners of the world makes it evident why the Israeli government established a day called Yom HaAliyah. Every single Oleh has his/her own story of challenges and triumphs to share, and our country would not be what it is today without the dedication and passion of the Olim. Tremendous credit goes to those that take upon themselves to help others make Aliyah, including our very own OU Israel Center, Pearl & Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center, NCSY, Yachad, JLIC, Camp Dror, and many other organizations that work tirelessly to help Jews from all over the world make Aliyah.

We at OU Israel take great pride in our partnership with the Jerusalem Municipality and our joint initiatives to ensure English-speaking Olim to Yerushalayim are able to successfully integrate. I'd like to give a special thank you to Pini Glinke-witz, Director of the Municipal Absorption Authority at the Municipality of Jerusalem, for his dedication and passion to this mission. In recognition of Yom HaAliyah, OU Israel is proud to partner with the Jerusalem Municipality on a month long Chodesh HaAliyah initiative. Highlights of this initiative will include special Shiurim and articles

**\*note change of time**

Shabbat afternoon Parsha shiur with  
Rabbi Chanoch Yeres at **4:30pm** in the  
back garden of the OU Israel Center

focused on topics related to Aliyah and numerous additional lectures and activities for Olim. (Keep up to date with our ads in Torah Tidbits.)

I am also excited to share a special new website aimed at helping teens maximize their Aliyah experience: [www.teensurvival-guidealiyah.com](http://www.teensurvival-guidealiyah.com). This website was created by teen Olah Tzipora Felsenthal who writes that “The vision for this website is to have a tool in place to combat difficulties that teens will encounter throughout their journey of aliyah. My hope is for teenage olim to have a positive experience, one of success and pleasure, feeling as they truly belong here in Israel.”

Knowing her father, Rabbi Dave Felsenthal, I am not surprised that Tzipora took the initiative to create this website. I met Rabbi Dave when I was the regional director of the Pacific Northwest region of NCSY nearly 20 years ago. His love and passion for NCSY and Israel was something which was evident from the moment you met him. He and his family are among the many Olim who are positively impacting the State of Israel after taking the Avraham Avinu test.

I encourage all of you to visit this Teen Survival Guide for Aliyah website to learn more about the challenges and successes of teen Olim and to share with those you know who could benefit from it. Not only that, but I recommend you think about ways that you – with your individual skills and relationships – can be helpful to others making Aliyah. Sometimes it's helping a new Oleh understand their electric or arnona bill, sometimes it's helping a new Oleh with homework, and other times it's simply inviting them to join you for a shiur

or a cup of coffee. Let's constantly think outside of the box with ways that we can all help others.

OU Israel is extremely proud of a new resource for English-speaking Olim – the OU Kosher Israel Guide 5782 – 2021/22 which was published by our Gustave & Carol Jacobs Center for Kashrut Education in conjunction with OU Kashrut. Tremendous credit goes to Rabbi Ezra Friedman (Editor), Ita Rochel Russek (Assistant Editor), Yael Haufmann (Graphic Designer), Rabbi Yisachar Dov Krakowski (Director, OU Kosher Israel Department), and the many others who worked tirelessly on this guide. As you will see when you read it, it addresses many Kashrut questions and topics (including Shemitah) that Olim and visitors face when it comes to understanding Kashrut in Israel. I encourage you to view it online here: [www.ouisrael.org/kashrut](http://www.ouisrael.org/kashrut) or obtain a hard copy at the OU Israel Center or by asking your Torah Tidbits distributor.

Wishing you an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Avi,

Executive Director, OU Israel

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May the Torah learned from  
this TT be ל"ע and in loving memory of

**Fred and Doris (Lieder) Goldsmith**

אורי שרגא בן יהודה דוד ז"ל  
(ח' חשוון, תשנ"ז)  
רייזל דינה בת יוסף ע"ה  
(כ' חשוון, תשס"ד)

*Their daughters, Faye, Maureen, Rosi and Esti  
Silton, Friedman, Lennon and Martin families*