

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



RABBI AVI BERMAN
Executive Director, OU Israel



With our mission to inspire *Am Yisrael* both within and beyond the borders of Israel, OU Israel has invested a tremendous amount into creating diverse channels through which *Klal Yisrael* can access *Torah*. In-person and virtual shiurim are offered weekly on topics ranging from *tefillah*, to *Talmud*, and even *safrus*. For those looking for experiences outdoors, we host *tiyulim* around the country for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Torah Tidbits is yet another one of the channels we created to bring the weekly *parsha* to life for readers of all ages. Since its founding, the publication has grown tremendously into an 80-page magazine spread featuring *divrei Torah* from anywhere between 15 to 20 educators exploring a variety of topics. Whether it be Rabbi Tradburks' weekly *Aliya by Aliya Sedra Summary* column, a deep dive into the beauty of *tefillah* with Rebbitzin Ozarowski, an overview of the laws of *kashrut* by Rabbi Friedman, or a weekly comic for teens by Netanel Epstein.

In recent weeks I was approached by two readers who shared the ways in which Torah Tidbits has enriched their lives.

One of our New York-based readers shared that although he himself is, "a classic New York Modern Orthodox Jewish businessman," his wife is a practicing Conservative Jew, while his son is a *chassid*.

This man shared that Torah Tidbits is the one piece of *Torah* that all members of his household can learn together - and they do so every *Shabbat*. "It is both a *Torah* experience, and a bonding experience for our family."

Another reader, based in Israel, approached me to share that she never had the opportunity to learn in a Jewish day school, high school, seminary or college. "At this point in my life, my weeks are hectic and I don't have the time to begin teaching myself the skills to learn *Torah* in depth. My *limud Torah* every week is Torah Tidbits, and I spend my *Shabbat* reading every issue from cover to cover."

Beyond local programming, as part of the global OU network, OU Israel brings global initiatives to life for participants in *Eretz Yisrael*. In 2020 Rebbetzin Dr. Adina Shmidman, Director of the OU Women's Initiative launched *Torat Imecha Nach Yomi - OU Torah*, a global series in which women from all backgrounds and skill sets can learn and complete *Nevi'im* and *Ketuvim* every two years. Each *sefer*, taught by a different female scholar, is broken down into daily segments, distributed via a 10-minute daily podcast that is shared via email and available on the *Torat Imecha* app. The program has attracted thousands of women from around the world, and a few hundred in Israel.

As *Am Yisrael* living in the Land of Israel we have the unique *zechut* to learn about

our history in the very places where the stories took place. For *Torat Imecha Nach Yomi* participants living in and visiting Israel, OU Israel's L'ayla program hosts a *Yom Iyun* following the *siyum* of each *sefer*. The *Yom Iyun* includes a morning session featuring four different speakers who review major themes and insights in the *sefer*, followed by a complementary *tiyul* to bring the ideas to life.

This past week, *Torat Imecha Nach Yomi* participants finished learning *sefer Yechezkel*. Women gathered from all over Israel at the OU Israel center for the L'ayla *Yom Iyun*, organized by Rebbitzin Zemira Ozarowski. To help participants experience the *nevuot*

of Yechezkel that discuss the rebuilding of the Beit HaMikdash, Rabbanit Shani Taragin led a *tiyul* around the Old City and in the Machon Hamikdash center. The *tiyul* was filled to the max - some women had been avid



participants of the *Torat Imecha Nach Yomi* program, while others had not yet started. With such a learned group of women, the Machon Hamikdash tour went on for over two hours, in contrast to the 30-minutes typically allotted for each group. We are thrilled by the turnout this year and wish each and every participant a *yasher koach!*

For women interested in learning more about the various programs offered by OU Israel's L'ayla Women's Learning Initiative, visit: <https://www.ouisrael.org/layla/>. If you'd like to join the *Torat Imecha Nach Yomi* program, you can find classes online via <https://outorah.org/series/4046/>, the

Torat Imecha app, or wherever you listen to your podcasts.

As the OU Israel team plans for 2023 and determines budget allocations I remain grateful to those who continue to support our efforts. Your appreciation and support of Torah Tidbits and OU Israel Center programs allow us to build upon the past year's successes and broaden our impact in the year ahead. Thank you to the OU Israel team, and the countless educators who make the time every week to share their passion and wisdom with *Am Yisrael* via our programs.

Every December the OU Israel team runs the "Enable Torah to Thrive" campaign,

providing members of *Klal Yisrael* from around the world the opportunity to have a direct hand in fortifying the future of the Jewish people in Israel. To make a donation, please visit [https://upreaching.com/ouisrael/OUIsrael-In-](https://upreaching.com/ouisrael/OUIsrael-Inspiring)

[Inspiring](https://upreaching.com/ouisrael/OUIsrael-Inspiring). In the meantime, please continue sharing your experiences with my colleagues. Your stories give my team the *chizuk* we need to tackle the year ahead with added fervor.

May we continue to inspire one another in our *Torah* learning and reach new heights in the coming year.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Avi Berman".

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