



## DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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Life is filled with habits and routines. Most of the things we do today, we're likely to do tomorrow. Naturally, over time, what was once exciting and new to us becomes part of our lives and much less interesting to us than when we first started.

For example, our son Mordechai Tzemach put on his *tefillin* for the first time a few weeks ago. I gave him a *beracha* that the excitement that he had on the first day of putting on *tefillin* should continue every single day in his life when he puts on *tefillin*. Nevertheless, it's a reality of life. There are certain moments that stick out as unique for the first time we do them. The first time you drove a car. The first time you recited Eishet Chayil with your spouse on a Friday night. The first time you learned that amazing Torah idea that you cherish. As time goes by, those feelings typically fade.

Yet, there's another element that I've

started to realize needs to be added to this understanding. There are some things that I'm finding that even though I do them every year, they actually get better every single year, more exciting, and more inspiring.

Perhaps getting older does that to a person, and I'm appreciating life more than a younger individual would. But I think it's more than that. Perhaps it's that *Klal Yisrael* is changing and growing, moving closer and closer to the *geulah shelema*, and so there is newness in communal events even if I've experienced them before. Maybe it's the fact that more and more Jews are living in Israel every single day, that more Jewish babies are being born in the Land of Israel, that there's more Torah being learned in *Eretz Yisrael*, that there's more and more soldiers willing to give their lives for the Jewish people, that more of the hostages are coming home (even though it pains us that 50 of our brothers and sisters are still being held in captivity). Since certain things are changing in *Klal Yisrael*, perhaps that is what is changing my emotional state and what I'm experiencing.

One of the things that keeps improving for me is going every year to the OU NCSY Kollel kumzitz at the Kotel as Tisha B'Av ebbs away. The songs that we're singing, these *shirei neshama*, have such a deeper meaning and reach, so much higher than they did in the past. Even more inspiring and exciting is seeing the younger

ברוך דיין האמת

OU Israel mourns the passing of

**Marvin Sussman ז"ל**

Beloved husband of

Mrs. Aviva Sussman

Children in Israel:

Avi & Rina from Raanana

and JJ & Aliza from Modiin

As well as his children in the U.S.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

*The OU Israel Family*

generation that comes to sing at the Kotel. These are teenagers who are walking in from all over, young adults who we might expect to say, “It’s a fast, I just want to lie down,” and yet they are coming and saying, “No. I want *kedusha*. I want to be at the Kotel and truly mourn our destruction and exile. I want to yearn for a Beit HaMikdash. I want to be one of the tens of thousands of Jews gathering at the Kotel, waiting to see the Beit HaMikdash be built.” It’s so clear they want to sing from their *neshamah*.

Joining these teens are many *olim*, some very recent *olim*, many of whom came over to introduce themselves to me. It is always so impressive to see the mayor of Yerushalayim, Moshe Lion, come and join together with all of us. A reader of the Torah Tidbits by the name of Joey Joseph came over to me just to thank me. He said, “The way you wrote in Torah Tidbits about the kumzitz at the Kotel together with NCSY, I said, I have to experience it. And wow! Thank you for encouraging me to come.”

There are no words that can properly explain how incredibly uplifting this experience is. To see OU board members, including Yonatan Frankel and his son who made Aliyah to Ramat Beit Shemesh a few years ago, and OU Israel President Stuart Hershkowitz, sitting right next to the mayor of Yerushalayim, singing together to the *Ribono Shel Olam*, songs like *Acheinu*, begging *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* to please get our brothers and sisters out of Gaza, to release these hostages, to give *Klal Yisrael*



the power in *Shema Koleinu* and for the heavenly gates to open to our prayers, it’s simply unbelievable. To sing together and ask that we have the *siyata d’shmaya* and the strength necessary to defeat our enemies and to make the Land of Israel a place that can continue being a light unto the nations, it’s all so incredibly uplifting. It was very special to me that my sons Tzvi Yehuda (who is joining the army this Tuesday, and I’m sure I’ll write about that) and Yechezkel joined this year, as they do every year.

Add to the beautiful singing our very location, where we are. For so many Jews to gather at the place where the world was created, from the *Even Hashetiya*, with such a high level of spirituality literally meters away from us on Har Habayit, which gives spiritual strength to the entire world, you can’t help but say to yourself, “I can’t believe how lucky I am to be able to stand here and be a part of this remarkable moment.”

The people I saw and spoke to gave me such pride in what we’re doing at the OU. Some of the NCSY Chai girls who attended

my Friday night *shiur* at the Shabbaton in Chispin just a few weeks ago came over to me, and I was amazed that they remembered what I spoke about and were able to continue discussing it with me there at the Kotel. Fathers and mothers of Camp Dror campers came over to me and told me how much their child appreciated camp.

It was so clear to me the impact that the OU is having in so many different ways, in so many different places, for so many different individuals. This is our purpose; it's ultimately what the OU was created for. It was created in order to make sure that we are working day in and day out for the future of the Jewish people, both in North America as well as in Israel.

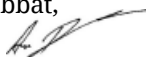
*Baruch Hashem*, the OU has been active in the Land of Israel for almost 50 years, and not a day goes by without us continuing to have such a deep impact and influence for so many. Yet, we have to acknowledge that this important work could not happen without you, your feedback, your support.

To have over 56,000 people that viewed the Tisha B'Av video that we put out on YouTube, with the incredible work of Nina Broder, our director of social media, together with Rabbi Shlomo Katz, that is so inspiring to see. This is a video that was geared to making sure *Klal Yisrael* can feel closer and closer to the Beit HaMikdash on Tisha B'Av, and so many people were that much closer because of it. The feedback we have received has been completely positive and we thank you for it.

Thank you all for the strength that you give us, your encouragement, your financial support, and may we *b'ezerat Hashem* be able to continue to inspire *Klal Yisrael* for many more years.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of us an enjoyable summer, a summer that allows all of us to spend time with our loved ones. After all, Elul is just around the corner, so let's make sure to take advantage of the time, and we should all be happy, healthy, and safe.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Rabbi Avi Berman  
Executive Director, OU Israel

In loving memory of  
our dear Mother, Grandmother  
& Great Grandmother

**ANNA BEER** a"h

**חנה טובא בת**

**יעקב וסימה מרים** ע"ה

on her 9<sup>th</sup> Yahrtzeit - כ' מנחם אב

May the Torah learned  
from this issue be in her merit

*Cooki & Howie Maisel, Efrat*  
*Lenny & Penny Beer, Cleveland*  
*Ester Sara Carroll, Norfolk*



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