



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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The places we inhabit throughout our lives - where we live, where we go to school, where we serve in the army - expose us to the diverse tapestry of this beautiful country. When I was in high school, I had the tremendous privilege of studying at Or Etzion, located in Mercaz Shapira near Kiryat Malachi. Long before the thriving American community currently growing in Kiryat Malachi called Carmei HaNadiv, Kiryat Malachi was a small, developing community, distinguished by a single traffic light.

That lone traffic light was significant. It qualified the town as a city large enough to offer driving tests. As I learned then, without a traffic light, a place couldn't be considered substantial enough to provide driving instruction. After all, how could students experience real traffic conditions? Consequently, the vast

majority of us boys studying at Or Etzion got our licenses in Kiryat Malachi rather than in the cities where our families lived. When people asked where we got our licenses, we would joke and say "Los Angeles," which is a kind of translation of "Kiryat Malachi."

Learning to drive means truly knowing a neighborhood. You navigate every street, master U-turns, know the shortcuts and the stop signs, and discover the rhythms of a place you might otherwise not explore. Kiryat Malachi became one of those cities for me. It was also a hang out place for us teenagers. When yeshiva dinners weren't so great, a bunch of us would get together, get permission from our madrich, and after night seder we'd go to Kiryat Malachi for dinner. In this way, my friends and I developed a very warm relationship with the city of Kiryat Malachi.

Every so often, as an adult, I return to Kiryat Malachi, and there are two things that get me emotional when I come back. First of all, we have a very active OU Israel Teen Center in Kiryat Malachi, one that has been there for many years at this point. So long, in fact, that I've had the *zechut* of being invited to weddings of alumni from our Kiryat Malachi Teen Center, and even to be honored with reciting a *bracha* under the *chuppah*.

The Teen Center has *baruch Hashem* been so successful that the current mayor of Kiryat Malachi, Eliyahu Zohar, and his *mankal* have asked us to focus our activities in the "San Diego" neighborhood. This is a neighborhood in dire need of help. While Kiryat Malachi

May the Torah learned from this
issue of Torah Tidbits be לעינ

צבי בן יוסף קלמן ז"ל
Hilton Dwolatzky ז"ל

on his first *yahrzeit*
אב 18 מנחם – August 18

**Sorely missed
and fondly remembered by all**

*His loving wife Shelley,
children, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren*

**Meeting at Tel Regev cemetery
Monday, August 18th at 16:30**

as a whole is a town with tremendous potential, filled with incredible people, over the years it hasn't received the help and assistance it should have from the organizations that work in this space. While some are there doing vital work, we try to do our small part in impacting the teens of Kiryat Malachi. *Baruch Hashem* our alumni are becoming contributing citizens of Israel in the IDF, Yeshivot, national service, businesses, and beyond.

Whenever I return there and see the results of our team's hard work, it's truly remarkable and warms my heart every single time. Thanks to the partnership of our generous supporters, OU Israel was recently able to renovate a beautiful new Teen Center there. It serves over a hundred teenagers coming both from the San Diego neighborhood and other neighborhoods across Kiryat Malachi.

A few weeks ago, the leadership of the OU in New York came to visit. We knew this would be the perfect time to plan a grand opening of the center. We didn't give them much time to rest. The day our Executive Vice President and COO Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph landed, and the moment Yoni Cohen, our Chief of Staff, Hadar Weiss our Chief institutional advancement officer, and Mimi Jankowitz, our Director of Friends of OU Israel based in Florida, came to town, we hit the ground running and went to the beautiful opening ceremony with the town leadership, and everyone there who have really been there for us.

The Mayor himself, who everyone calls Lalo, actually grew up in the San Diego neighborhood, and sees what is needed to help his



hometown grow as he was able to grow from it. Today, his amazing success means he is able to do wonderful work and develop the city he loves. There's nothing more symbolic

In loving memory of
our dear Mother and Grandmother

JULIA KAHAN a"h

אסתר יהודית

בת חיים שלמה ע"ה

On her 18th Yartzeit - כ"א מנחם אב

**May the Torah learned from this
issue be in her merit.**

**Channie Kahan, Elizabeth Kahan
Ledee, Yonatan Ledee,
Yitzchak Ledee & Zev Ledee**

than when you have somebody from the town that's able to show the youth of his city what they can achieve if they put their minds and hearts to it.

There's another aspect of Kiryat Malachi today that gets me excited. Right across the street from the entrance to Kiryat Malachi is an industrial area. In that industrial area, there's a famous factory called Ben & Jerry's Israel, which has fought hard in order to make sure that they can legally continue distributing (OU-certified) Ben & Jerry's ice cream. This is an amazing factory, who are able to make a product beloved all over the country. They have ensured that many of the flavors are *chalay yisrael*.

Since OU Israel certifies the factory, we had the opportunity while in Kiryat Malachi to take OU leadership to see the factory and see how the delicious ice cream is made, explaining the different *halachic* challenges of ice cream production and how we work to make sure that the ice cream is OU.

We were able to demonstrate an important point that the leadership of course already knows but it is so important the public knows as well. The OU Kashrut division is purely for the benefit of the community. The profits from supervising Kosher food are not going to anybody's pocket, but just the opposite - they go towards the needs of the community literally across the block from the factory.

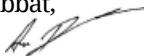
That juxtaposition of these two events in one day was such an important message. It made me think about one of the great things about our incredible but small country - a Teen Center on one side of the street and a factory on the other are united by the OU. It's not just in Kiryat Malachi. We could go to Nahariya and see from the Tivol factory

(certified by the OU) the Teen Center we have in Nahariya across the street. Or go to Akko, to the OU-certified Zoglovek factory, and see the Teen Center we have nearby. Or go to the Osem factory or the Elite factory in Sderot and see our Teen Center in Sderot across the street. The same is true for many, many cities across the country.

Every profit that comes from Kashrut goes right back into the Jewish community and helps make such a tremendous change in society. This is such an important message. That's why I tell all the factory owners that we'd like them to make sure that the OU on their products is nice and big, because there are hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people around the world who go to the supermarket and look for the OU symbol. The OU means not only a gold standard of Kosher supervision, but also the understanding of a sense of social responsibility that we have to all of our brothers and sisters to make sure that people get the assistance that they need.

B'ezrat Hashem, with your support, by buying OU products, and your help convincing producers and food makers to get the OU if they don't have it, you are also supporting the many incredible initiatives that the OU is doing in Israel and the world.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



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