



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OU ISRAEL
ABERMAN@OUIsRAEL.ORG

When we moved the OU Israel headquarters from Keren Hayesod Street to Har Hotzvim a little over a year ago, I knew we were gaining something important: space, possibility, a new chapter. But I also knew what we were losing.

For decades, the OU Center was not only an office. It was a place you could feel. You would walk in and see people passing through all day long, coming for a shiur, heading to a woman's program, bumping into friends, stopping to ask a question, picking up a sefer, finding a seat in the library for just ten quiet minutes of Torah. There was a heartbeat in that building. A steady stream of Jews making their way through, each one carrying their own story, their own questions, their own search for meaning and connection.

Now, with our programming spread across Yerushalayim and across the country, we go to the people directly in their communities. I try to visit as many of our communities as possible, to see the learning and the chessed and the growth happening up close. To hear what people are carrying. To witness what OU Israel looks like on the ground, not only in an office, but in real lives.

Still, there was one part of leaving Keren Hayesod that stayed with me in a heavy way. For decades, the Yair Landau Memorial Library was housed inside our building. It was not just shelves and books. It was a living memorial. Yair Landau HY"D fell in battle in 1982. A young man. A hero. And his family chose to dedicate a library in his memory inside the OU Israel Center, filling it with *sefarim* that were used and loved by thousands over the years.

When we moved, we faced a question that did not feel technical. It felt sacred. What do you do with a library like that? You cannot just pack it up and place it somewhere "convenient." These were *sefarim* that carried memory. They carried love. They carried loss. They carried decades of Torah learned, searched for, argued over, and whispered late at night.

We knew one thing: the *sefarim* could not end up in boxes. They could not end up collecting dust. They had to keep doing what they were always meant to do, to be learned, to be held, to be opened, to keep Torah alive in the *zechut* of Yair.

Baruch Hashem, we found a number of places, *yeshivot* and *seminaries*, that were able to receive them. Some *sefarim* went to Yeshivat Merkaz HaRav and Yeshivat Bnei Heichala (YBH). Each place was told clearly: you are not just receiving books. You are receiving *sefarim* from the Yair Landau Memorial Library. And that message carries even more weight today.

We are living in a time when so many families in Am Yisrael are carrying the unbearable reality of sacrifice. The names are different, the years are different, but the heartbreak is not different.

May the Torah learned
from this Torah Tidbits be לַעֲנֵן
and in loving memory of
our dear father

יצחק אייזיק בן שמואל ז"ל

Irwin Rosner ז"ל

נלב"ע כ"ז טבת תש"ס

Elliot and Nechama Rosner

A family that loses a child in battle keeps that child in their family forever. Time may soften certain edges, but it does not erase love, and it does not erase longing.

We made sure that Yair's name would remain attached to these *sefarim*. We requested that his name be placed inside each *sefer* donated, and that each institution put up a plaque so the Landau family could know, with certainty, that Torah is being learned in Yair's memory.

This past Thursday, I was invited to something that gave me a sense of closure I did not realize I needed, the official opening of the Yair Landau Memorial Library in its new home, Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya (MRC). To see the *sefarim* leaving our building in boxes was painful. But to walk into two rooms, one filled with Hebrew *sefarim* and one filled with English *sefarim*, organized, alive, ready to be used, was deeply moving.

The midrasha is led by Rabbi Anthony Manning, a rav who has been teaching in OU Israel programs and OU Israel *shiurim* for about a decade. There was something fitting about that. This was not the library being "moved away." This was the library continuing its life within the wider OU Israel family, within the broader mission of building Torah and building Jewish lives.

But the most powerful part of the evening was not the shelves. It was the Landau family. Yair's siblings spoke with such warmth, such

pain, such love, and it was striking to hear words that were still so raw, even forty-three years later. The loss was not a historical fact to them. It was present. Then I saw something that I will not forget. They had brought children and grandchildren. Some of them arrived in uniform, because they are now serving, some fighting in Gaza themselves. There are

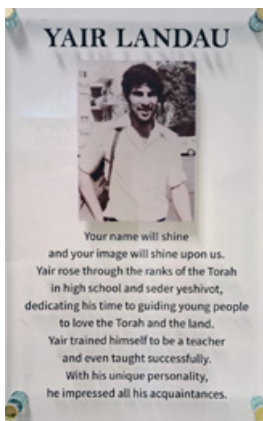
moments when you see the continuity of Am Yisrael in a way that makes your heart tighten. Not as an idea, but as a reality. A family that gave a son, still giving. Still carrying. Still standing.

For me, it sent

a clear message about what OU Israel is here to do. OU Israel has always stood for helping Jews build lives of Torah, meaning, and belonging. Some people connect through a shiur. Some through a community program. Some through NCSY, JLIC, our Teen Centers, the Pearl and Harold Jacob's Zula Outreach Center, Torah Initiatives, the Women's Division, and so much more. We

meet Jews in different places, at different stages, with different backgrounds, and we try to help them take their next step forward.

Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya is doing that kind



לע"נ

RABBI MOSHE CHAIM DOMBEY ז"ל
On the occasion of his 20th yahrzheit

יהי זכרו ברוך

of work. They serve women in their twenties who often come from non-observant backgrounds, but are now committed to *shemirat hamitzvot* and are hungry to learn Torah and build Jewish homes rooted in depth and commitment. They do not force one mold. They expose their students to the richness of Torah learning and help each woman find her path, her community, and her relationship with *HaKodesh Baruch Hu*.

I was also impressed by their Aliyah program, which includes weekly presentations with Nefesh B'Nefesh and other organizations offering practical guidance, and by their married couples program, run in conjunction with Shapell's Yeshiva, with classes for men, women, and couples, along with special *Shabbatonim* and fellowships.

After the event, I met a number of the young women learning at MRC and spoke with them. The conversation was real. Deep. Honest. The kind of conversation that reminds you what Klal Yisrael needs from its young people, and how much future is sitting in front of you in a room like that. I kept thinking that these sefarim are exactly where they belong.

Yes, we live in a world where you can find almost any sefer on an app. But there is still something irreplaceable about holding a sefer in your hands. Turning pages. Writing your name on the inside cover. Coming back to a

thought you underlined years ago. A sefer becomes part of a person's life.

To know that these sefarim will now be opened by young women building their lives of Torah, building their future homes, building the next generation, is a true continuation of Yair Landau's legacy. It is a way for his love of Torah to keep giving life.

So let me suggest something simple for this coming Shabbat. Take a few minutes. Pick up a sefer. Maybe it is a *sefer* from the Yair Landau Memorial Library. Maybe it is not. But let it be real. Let it be intentional. Read one more Dvar Torah. Share one more thought at your table. Learn something small in Yair's memory.

May Yair Landau's neshama have an aliyah, together with the neshamot of all those who have fallen *al kiddush Hashem* in the battles of Am Yisrael and for the speedy recovery for all of our soldiers. And may we merit the day when families no longer need to dedicate libraries, plaques, or rooms in memory of sons lost in war, because there will be peace for Am Yisrael.



Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,




Rabbi Avi Berman

Executive Director, OU Israel

aberman@ouisrael.org

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