



## DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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One of the great challenges of summer here in Israel, in pretty much every home with teenagers, is what will get them out of bed in the morning. School is out and there is nowhere to be at seven or eight in the morning. All over Israel, parents and teens struggle to make mornings productive ones.

Truth be told, even growing up, I never liked sleeping in. This helped me tremendously in consistently getting to *minyan* in the morning. I grew up as a teen in Har Nof, and there were minyanim until 10:30am. Now as an adult with teen kids, I can say that one of the great blessings of Givat Ze'ev is that the latest *minyan* is 8:00am; telling yourself you'll catch the next one is not an option here. So I go, and *Baruch Hashem*, my children go (almost always). They understand that getting up and doing good will benefit them so much more than staying in bed.

Before the advent of electricity, people would go to sleep when it got dark, and they'd wake up with the morning light. That's why our evening prayer optimally begins when it

gets dark, and our morning prayer optimally begins just as the sun rises. This is natural timing for our day.

While some worry about getting their kids to *minyan* on time, others are dealing with far more profound challenges. And therefore, one team at OU Israel keeps very different hours: the dedicated staff of our Yerushalayim-based Pearl & Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center. During the summer, they expand their year-round mission through Ohel Yehudi, the tent we build on the beaches of the Kinneret. Every summer thousands of Israeli religious teenagers flock to the Kinneret, pitch tents and spend days there. Some come just for an enjoyable outing, but others come for the party scene. Some teens are also exposed there, for the first time in their lives, to things they might not be ready to handle. Whether alcohol and other substances, or being preyed upon by others, because of our Ohel Yehudi, they know there is somewhere to go to get advice and receive help.

I went out there to visit this past week. Every visit there for me is a meaningful experience. Just this past week I went up North and spent from nine at night until the early hours of the morning in our Ohel Yehudi on Kursi Beach. I felt so connected to what was going on and seeing how much we were helping the teens there.

I sat down and listened to the Ohel Yehudi team, who filled me in on some of the complex and painful cases they are handling. These are exactly the kinds of scenarios they come prepared and trained for. They have

**May the Torah learned  
from this issue of Torah Tidbits  
be לע"נ my father**

**משה בן צבי ז"ל**  
**Moshe Goldstein ז"ל**  
on his 34<sup>th</sup> yearzeit, 3 Elul

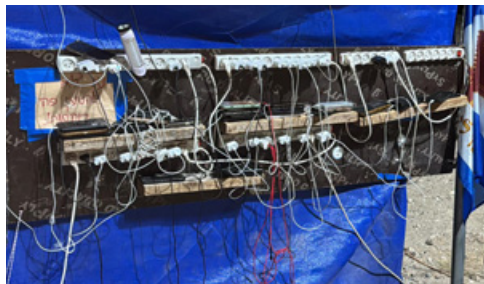
**Harriet Goldstein - Mark  
Grandsons, great-grandchildren  
and great-great-grandchildren**

social services on speed dial and they know when to call the police, because a number of the situations they encounter are beyond what a tent on a beach can hold. What is remarkable is that the vast majority of our team are volunteers. They come back week after week, working tirelessly to make sure these teens get what they need.

The moment that crystallized it all for me was standing there and looking at the charging stations. We bring up a truckload of equipment and build an entire tent, a kitchen, sleeping quarters for our staff. It becomes a small campus, and everyone flocks to it. They come because somebody is injured on the beach, or because somebody has had too much to drink, or because somebody lost their phone. And they come because they are going through something and they want to talk to an adult who can relate to them, who is there with them on the beach, who has come down and sat on the sand beside them and is giving them real attention, guidance and love.

But Ohel Yehudi also set up charging stations; if a beach goer's phone is running out of battery, they can leave their phone to charge. I stood there watching it pull in teens and giving them a space - an excuse - to feel safe and breathe. I said to myself, this is what it is all about. Not the outlet itself. It's what the charging station symbolizes. When a person is at home, there is a plug in nearly every corner. Nobody panics about a battery at home. You only start to worry when you are out in the field, hiking, walking through a city, and you suddenly notice how low you are running. Then you have to start thinking of where to plug in.

These teenagers are out in the field. Over the summer they are cut off from their teachers, their *madrichim*, their community, their



rabbi in *shul*. So they come to Ohel Yehudi not only to charge a phone but to recharge themselves. Some ask for emotional or professional

In loving memory of  
**Eliezer (Larry) Yellin ז"ל**  
**אליעזר בן חיים מנחם מנדל ז"ל**  
 on his third Yahrtzeit ח' אלול

May the Torah learned  
 from this issue be in his merit  
*The Yellin and Weingarten families*

help. Many simply sit on the low benches while someone pulls out a guitar or hand drum, and they sing, talk to an advisor, hear a *dvar Torah*, and receive the unconditional love and attention they need. They may go an entire day without any spiritual or social charge, but they know that when they come back to the beach, the OU will be there, twenty-four hours a day. Our team is there, women and men, bringing their own kids with them (it is the summer, after all), just to help others. And these kids see their parents' passion and they watch them come back to volunteer every single summer. That has a tremendous impact on them as well.

*Baruch Hashem*, we have raised the funds we need for this tent, some from OU Kashrut profits, the rest from private donors. But the real point is the good in saving lives. This team is there to protect them, and I thank *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* that we are in a position to watch over these youths, both our *olim* and native Israelis.

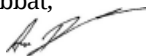
In this week's *parsha* we read of the *Egla Arufa*. The elders of the nearest city wash their hands and declare, "*Yadeinu lo shafchu et hadam hazeh*," our hands did not spill this blood (Devarim 21:7). Would it occur to us that the elders of the court are murderers? The *Mishna* explains they are declaring something else: that this man was not sent on his way without

food, or left to travel without an escort.

The question the *Egla Arufa* puts to us is whether we are watching the road, whether we are taking responsibility for our brothers and sisters who are out there without the safety of their own homes. On that beach, we can honestly look up to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and say we went out to the field and provided food, escorting them, so that these boys and girls would not come to harm as much as we can.

With the right support we will continue for many more weeks and expand to other beaches. Thank you to all who have supported us until today, and to all who will begin from today. This is truly life-saving. We cannot do it alone. Please be our partners in saving the future of *Klal Yisrael*.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Rabbi Avi Berman

Executive Director, OU Israel

<https://givechak.co.il/OUIsrael?ref=r3>

### Please Note:

#### Advertising Deadlines over the Chagim

**Issue #1674 (August 21-22) Ki Teitze**

» Monday **AM** August 17<sup>th</sup>

**Issue # 1675 (August 28-29) Ki Tavo**

» Monday **AM** August 24<sup>th</sup>

**Issue #1676 (September 4-5) Nitzavim, Vayeilech**

» Thursday **AM** August 27<sup>th</sup>

**Issue # 1677 (September 11-12) Rosh Hashana**

» Thursday **AM** September 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Issue #1678 (September 18-19)**

**Shabbat Haazinu-Shuva, YomKippur, all of Sukkot**

» Wednesday **AM** September 9<sup>th</sup>

**Issue #1679 (October 9-10) Bereshit**

» Monday **AM** October 5<sup>th</sup>

Call or email Ita Rochel

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May the Torah learning  
from this issue  
be in memory of and לעילוי נשמת

**Ze'ev Blumenthal ז"ל**  
and his daughter  
**Aviva a"h**

sadly missed  
by *Judith Lipman*