



Shagririm Balev

Everyone Can Make a Match

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לעילוי נשמת מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

Making Room for Connection

We're all looking for a connection. But how often do we actually give one a chance to happen?

We spend so much time thinking about dating as a process: The right person, the right timing, the right first impression. We analyze conversations, wonder whether there was enough chemistry, and sometimes decide far too quickly that someone isn't for us.

But maybe we've forgotten something important: the power of simply being interested in another person.

Recently, Shagririm Balev was honored to be a part of a beautiful event initiated and hosted by Ariella and Jonathan Eltes at their home. The evening, that brought together over 100 men and women, was created in memory of Ariella's father, Michael Weisz - Meir Yitzchak ben Yosef Eliyahu HaKohen, on his seventh yahrtzeit.

Michael grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Holocaust survivors, and later

moved to Columbus, where he worked tirelessly to build the Jewish community. But the quality Ariella chose to highlight when speaking about her father wasn't just his leadership. It was his ability to connect with people.

He was curious about others, he loved making introductions. He didn't wait for someone else to bring people together; he took the initiative himself.

Ariella shared three lessons she learned from him: Be curious about others, don't sweat the small stuff, and KIS: Keep It Simple.

It's hard to imagine a better philosophy for dating.

Be curious about others. Not every person you meet will be your next date, let alone your spouse. But every person has a story worth hearing. What happens when we stop evaluating someone long enough to actually get to know them? When we ask another question instead of deciding we've already figured them out?

Don't sweat the small stuff. A slightly awkward conversation, a difference in taste, a first impression that wasn't quite what you expected. We all have our preferences, and some things genuinely matter. But sometimes, in our search for the right person, we give the wrong things too much weight and the right things too little room

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to grow.

Keep it simple. You don't need every interaction to be extraordinary. You don't need to know where something is going before you've given it a chance. Sometimes, you just need to show up, be yourself, and let things unfold.

The evening included supper, conversations around rotating tables, a fun, laughter-filled activity that brought everyone together and a hilarious comedy show with Yair Jacobi and Yossi Gavni. BH there was something really special about the atmosphere, and more importantly, it led to a remarkable number of dates and new connections. We can't know exactly what made the difference, but we'd like to think Michael's spirit played an important part.

Perhaps that's the real lesson: we can't control when or how we meet our person, but like Michael and his family, who continue his legacy, we can create opportunities, approach people with genuine interest, and be the ones who make room for meaningful things to begin. ■

♥
**Want to set up your friends?
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Jewish Community Trust



Founded in Israel in 2019 and led by Rav Rimon, **Shagririm Balev** - a social online matchmaking initiative - has taken the dating scene by storm. With over 20,000 candidates and 6,000 Ambassadors, in Israel and the US, Shagririm Balev is averaging a Wedding every 2 days!

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