

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN
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Last week, in the lead up to the elections, one of my sons was volunteering for one of the political parties to help bring in votes. Suddenly my phone rang with his number, but when I answered, it was someone else on the line. Within a few seconds I recognized the voice, and he said, "Avi, I can't believe it! I saw this kid and said to myself, this must be a Berman. He talks like a Berman, he walks like a Berman, and he looks just like a Berman!" My wife and I brought up our children to be unique and their own individuals, but clearly, some things are just up to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*.

We see this in this week's *parsha*. When Avraham sends Eliezer to find a wife for his son Yitzchak, Eliezer is looking for the very same qualities in Rivka that he had seen in Avraham for so many years. Those qualities come through clearly in the words the Torah uses to describe Rivka's behavior: the fact that she runs to give water to his camels, the way she does it by herself, and the modesty with which she does it. Eliezer could see right away, out of that resemblance, that this was the right *shidduch* for his master's son.

This past week I was in Toronto meeting with our dear friends and supporters and also spoke to the beautiful community of Mishkan Avraham. Over Shabbat and on Sunday, I made sure to take time to meet with former NCSYers of mine who grew up in Vancouver. I met them when they were in high school, and today, *Baruch Hashem*, they have all grown into incredible individuals. Some are married and some are not yet, but all of them bring me tremendous pride and *nachat*.

I was sitting with one of these young men, who is on the journey of trying to find his own *shidduch*. He told me that he tries to read my column every week, so I asked him, "*Nu*, what should I write about this week?" He shared that he had recently come out of a relationship of several months that, unfortunately, did not work out. Then he said, "You know, *Parshat Chayei Sarah* always gives me hope. I look at it and I see the first *shidduch*. I really believe that if more people get involved, and more people care, and more people do something, then *be'ezrat Hashem*, I'll be able to find my *shidduch* as well." I promised him that I would write about it.

Recently, the clocks changed and we gained an extra hour. What do we do with our extra hour? Most of us don't take advantage of this extra time at all. But not Rabbi Yoni Lavi, a rabbi in Petach Tikva and a very dear and close friend of mine

Mazal Tov to
Adele Muskin
on your 90th birthday!
Your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren join in wishing you continued nachat and good health and many more smachot!

who leads the anonymous hotline for teens at risk in Israel, Chaverim Makshevim. Several years ago, he thought of an amazing initiative. The idea is simple: take the extra hour you get when the clocks change, sit down with your spouse and with your friends, and start thinking about the *shidduchim* you can make.

I recently spoke to Rabbi Lavi about this initiative. He told me that it is now in its seventh year, and that it has grown and expanded from year to year. At first it was a general invitation to use that hour for *shidduchim*, along with all sorts of tips on how to go about it. Later he was joined by Tzuriel Gabizon of Project 252. Tzuriel had gone out on 252 dates before he finally got married, and he went on to found an organization by that name that connects people. Together they upgraded the initiative and opened dedicated groups for the occasion: not only groups within a community or a family, but special groups for ages 20-30 and 30-40, a group for English speakers, a group for those looking for a second chapter, and so on. In recent years, some 20,000 people have been in these groups, and every year they receive feedback about more and more *shidduchim* that have come out of it.

Rabbi Lavi told me that some people have said, "For a whole year I didn't receive a single suggestion, and suddenly tonight, three came in." And even when nothing comes of it, he said, the very fact that people see that others remember them and care about them gives them tremendous strength.

Rabbi Lavi added that people can join the groups now, and they may well gain something from it, but the groups are really



opened only once a year, when everyone posts their details, with an occasional reopening once or twice during the year. The main activity takes place in that one hour on Motzei Shabbat when the clocks go back to winter time. As Chazal teach, "*yesh koneh olamo b'sha'ah achat*," there are those who acquire their entire world in a single hour (Avoda Zara 10b). How will you use that extra hour gained by changing the clocks?

I add all of this to the incredibly positive feedback I have been receiving since we started running the Shagririm Balev column in Torah Tidbits. The OUs partnership with Shagririm Balev goes far beyond a weekly article. It is an active, impactful movement creating real opportunities for marriage-minded singles. The topic of *shidduchim* is so important. If *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* took the effort to include the story of the first *shidduch* in the Torah, He is

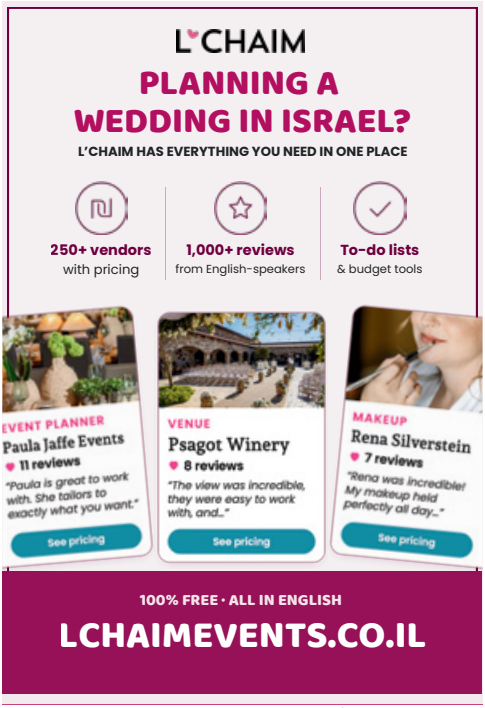
Mazal tov to
הלל דב סולומונט
Hillel Dov Solomont
Upon becoming Bar Mitzva
With our love and blessings
Solomont & Stadler Families

clearly telling us to concern ourselves with this *mitzvah* and that real effort should be invested in bringing people together.

So I am adding my voice in support of Shagririm Balev, Project 252, Rabbi Yoni Lavi's initiative, and the many other great initiatives taking place around the world that bring *simcha* to *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*, to mothers and fathers, and to so many incredibly holy Jews by bringing them together. *Be'ezrat Hashem*, I look forward to dancing at many weddings and to seeing many, many more Jewish homes being built. *Am Yisrael chai*!

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

Rabbi Avi Berman
Executive Director, OU Israel





Hilchot Shabbat Q&A

with Rabbi Eli Ozarowski



Question: We often have pull-apart challah for the Shabbat meal on Friday night. If some of the rolls in the pull-apart challah are still connected and whole, can they be used as lechem mishneh for lunch?

Answer: No. The individual rolls in a pull-apart challah do not count as separate loaves for lechem mishneh.

Explanation: The mitzvah of lechem mishneh requires reciting Hamotzi on two whole challahs or rolls (Shulchan Aruch, O.C. 274:1). The poskim discuss whether two challahs that were baked separately but merged together during baking may still be considered two separate loaves for this purpose. Some consider them two separate challahs even while they remain attached (Shemirat Shabbat Kehilchatah 55:6), while others consider them one challah until they are separated (Chut Shani, Shabbat, ch. 85).

However, a pull-apart challah is different, since its individual rolls are deliberately formed and baked together with the intention that they remain connected as one challah. Therefore, even if some of the individual rolls remain distinguishable, they are all considered part of one challah and cannot be counted as separate loaves for lechem mishneh. Thus, even if three out of eight rolls remain connected, they cannot be counted as a separate challah, either individually or together, even as one of the two loaves needed for lechem mishneh.