

Continued from page 8

Dear Editor,

Last week, with my two-year-old toddler in the back seat, I accepted my curbside food order that I called into a restaurant. After putting the food on the seat next to me, my son said, "French fries." For the next twenty minutes, I gave him fry by fry, grabbing a few for myself, until they were almost all finished.

The experience yielded some thoughts. It occurred to me that Avraham met Shem and, according to the Midrash, asked him on what merit his family was saved. And Shem explained that it was because they were involved in doing chessed to the animals with no rest. In kind, Avraham added onto this chessed by attending to the physical and spiritual needs of his generation. Also, I thought of this week's pasha, regarding Rivka's extreme language when she realizes she has two conflicting embryos in her womb. She said life is not worth it anymore, and according to the Ramban, she no longer wanted to live. And later she again said my life isn't worth it if Yaakov takes a local wife.

Both these episodes, with Avraham and Rivka, involve the continuation of civilization. And in order to achieve it, chessed as well as an extreme concern that one's child follows a good path is required.

Indeed, it was a deep French fries moment.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

The front page of the November 12, 2020 edition of the Jewish Home is a colossal chillul Hashem. Your decision to use the appellation *zt"l* in connection with the death of Rav Dovid Feinstein and use the appellation of only *z"l* in connection with the death of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks demeans the Torah and shows a lack of respect for true talmidei chachamim. I note that following the death of Rav Adin Steinsaltz, *zt"l*, other publications and rabbinic commentators also refused to append *zt"l* to his name. The fact that these great Torah luminaries are not revered by the chareidi world or that ArtScroll has not made them the subject of cookie cutter biographies should not be the determining factor as to whether they deserve the hon-

or of having *zt"l* after their names. They are certainly unanimous choices for the Rabbinic Hall of Fame and deserve recognition by all Torah Jews.

**Respectfully,
Sol Liss
West Hempstead, NY**

Dear Editor,

I thank Gary Wadler for commenting on my letter regarding our civil rights in the time of Covid. I will assume many in the community believe similarly – that government restrictions are hindering our freedoms. It was stated that curbing business, schools, camps, restaurants, visiting friends and traveling are akin to dictatorship, not democracy.

If people are passing this evil disease from one to another with little regard to well-publicized health protocols, it is necessary for Americans to make sacrifices for the good of all. Many are upset that Donald Trump lost. That I cannot change. Yet his cavalier attitude to Covid has caused many millions of Americans to flaunt science, causing the grave spike in cases, nationwide. Ask yourselves, why do you agree with turning a blind eye?

During WWII, all Americans had to sacrifice, ration and work together in that severe crisis of total war. We are again in a war.

Could we have prevailed if some shoe manufacturers had said, "No, I'm not going to make military boots. I want to continue making ladies' shoes!"

Could we have won if Ford, Chrysler, GM and Studebaker had said, "No, no way we're gonna stop making passenger cars just because you want tanks and airplanes!"

Vaccines are on their way, yet, till then, we are in this together. And, to paraphrase from my earlier letter: demanding your civil rights, without understanding your responsibilities to others around you and your need to sacrifice for the long term good of all, isn't freedom. It's selfishness.

**Jay Brick
Long Beach, NY**

Dear Editor,

Two years ago, thousands of Jewish children were thrown out of yeshiva for not receiving the MMR vaccine.

The parents tried to speak out about their concerns but were silenced and disgraced all over the papers, Jewish and secular news outlets, shuls and elsewhere. The community was silent as this small group galvanized to defend religious exemption in New York – something that was a safeguard to our religious freedom and all other freedoms. The right to our own bodies based on our religious beliefs. The right not to be subjected to the dictates of those who may not have our best interests in mind or just may not know what's best for us, certainly not individually. Maybe not even Cuomo does, or the CDC, not even the WHO.

Since then, the world has been turned upside down. A virus. An ongoing lockdown. Riots.

Blatant anti-Semitism and corruption.

Looking at this latest election, some people are extremely surprised and shocked as the wall of lies comes tumbling down and some are not that shocked. Some people tried to call out the facade a long time ago.

These events are supernatural in their synchronicity.

I believe Hashem has brought the world to a grand crescendo for something great and good to be revealed and teshuva is in order. It is time to apologize to the thousands of families who were mocked and shut out and whose lives were so affected by this repeat of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza.

Many of the families were forced to homeschool. Many had to move. Families were put under huge stress, and shalom bayis was strained, for some possibly irreparably. Most of these families continue to suffer humiliation and hardship. It's time for Klal Yisrael to come clean of this sin. To admit that it was wrong to go along with the media narrative and throw Jewish children out of the community. And to try to right this wrong. Maybe these families were not lying and did not deserve the public shaming they received. Maybe the media was lying.

Our gedolim, including R' Chaim Kanievsky, R' Shmuel Kaminetsky and R' Malkiel Kotler, advised against it but somehow their words were drowned out.

I believe this will, *iy"H*, open the door to the redemption.

**Signed,
I Want Moshiach**

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