



# Contents

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</b>  | <b>10</b>  |
| <b>COMMUNITY</b>  |            |
| Readers' Poll   | 10         |
| Community Happenings  | 50         |
| <b>NEWS</b>   |            |
| Global  | 16         |
| National  | 30         |
| That's Odd  | 44         |
|    |            |
| <b>ISRAEL</b>   |            |
| Israel News   | 26         |
| My Israel Home  | 110        |
| <b>JEWISH THOUGHT</b>   |            |
| Rabbi Wein on the Parsha  | 94         |
| The Joyous Autumn of Life<br>by Rav Moshe Weinberger                                | 96         |
| The True Sukkos Miracle by Rabbi Yaakov Feitman                                     | 98         |
| The Sanctity of the Beis Hamikdash in the Sukkah by Rabbi Daniel Glatstein          | 100        |
| A Year of Sukkah Building by Rabbi Yaakov Klein                                     | 104        |
| Filling the Empty Space by Rabbi Benny Berlin                                       | 106        |
| Delving into the Daf by Rabbi Avrohom Sebrov  | 108        |
| Headlines and Halacha by Rabbi Yair Hoffman   | 109        |
| <b>PEOPLE</b>   |            |
| The Wandering Jew   | 112        |
| A Mother of 12 in the Halls of Power by Malkie Schulman                             | 118        |
| A Hero Rises from a Burning Tank by Daniel Steibel                                  | 124        |
| The Battle at Mitla Pass by Avi Heiligman   | 176        |
| <b>HEALTH &amp; FITNESS</b>   |            |
| Staying Strong Over Sukkos by Aliza Beer, MS RD                                     | 158        |
| <b>FOOD &amp; LEISURE</b>   |            |
| A Simply Sukkos by Rivky Kleiman  | 160        |
| The Aussie Gourmet: Sukkos Soup   | 166        |
|  |            |
| <b>TJH CHOL HAMOED GUIDE</b>  | <b>130</b> |
| <b>LIFESTYLES</b>   |            |
| Dating Dialogue, Moderated<br>by Jennifer Mann, LCSW                                | 148        |
| Parenting Pearls  | 152        |
| School of Thought   | 154        |
| Keys to a Happy Home<br>by Slovie Jungreis-Wolff                                    | 156        |
| Mind Your Business  | 167        |
| Your Money  | 182        |
| Sukkos from Dor to Dor by Rivki D. Rosenwald Esq., CLC, SDS                         | 183        |
| <b>HUMOR</b>  |            |
| Centerfold  | 90         |
| <b>POLITICAL CROSSFIRE</b>  |            |
| Notable Quotes  | 168        |
| New York's Rent Laws are a Gross Violation of Property Rights<br>by George F. Will  | 172        |
| Gen. Milley's Resignation Leaves Behind Big Shoes to Fill by David Ignatius         | 174        |
| Azerbaijan Waited For Its Opening on Nagorno-Karabakh by David Ignatius             | 175        |
| <b>CLASSIFIEDS</b>  | <b>177</b> |

# Dear Editor,

**Dear Editor,**

The article by Susan Schwamm about Uri Kaufman's book on the Yom Kippur War and its past and future ramifications was informative. Much like a childhood trauma, the meaning and ramifications of the Yom Kippur War revisits us every year. With ten thousand casualties and a military victory, along with a political loss of the Sinai Peninsula in exchange for cold peace with Egypt, the ramifications are less than clear.

What was clear is that the war that appeared to come unexpectedly to the public was, in fact, the product of many errors and disastrous decisions made by the IDF. The Military Intelligence failures in detecting that a war was imminent, and their refusal to believe that Egypt would attack on a limited fashion, is in hindsight difficult to fathom. The refusal to authorize a first strike, which could have at its initiation changed the tide of the war and saved hundreds of lives, was another significant failure. The failure of the Israeli Air Force to prioritize bombing sorties in assistance of the ground troops, left the soldiers, many of whom were Hesder students in the North alone in fighting a bare-knuckled battle with overwhelming Syrian forces, as they desperately worked to hold the line.

In the South, the failure of the Air Force to assist meant that the Bar Lev fortifications on the Suez Canal were overrun and were left alone to defend the Canal in a manner that was never envisioned. Those fortifications then became killing fields as hastily improvised Israeli tank forces lacking necessary artillery and air cover came to assist, only to be wiped out by Egyptian forces with the new Sagger Missiles who had studied IDF war doctrine and were prepared for the

counterattack.

There is much to learn from the war, and perhaps a full reckoning and a full declassification of all documentation on the war would be helpful. In the end, the miracle was that despite the failures of their leadership, individual soldiers gave all that they had and held the line until the reservists were able to assist. What we have is due to their sacrifice.

**Jacob Silver**  
**Woodmere, NY**

**Dear Editor,**

It is sad when we only recall the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the Yom Kippur War fifty years after it took place. Why don't we remember these heroes – and all the others who died fighting for Israel and our brothers and sisters – all year long? They paid the ultimate price so we can enjoy our "trips" to the Holy Land and can daven at kivrei tzaddikim and at the Kotel. It is only because they suffered and sacrificed that we can stroll into the airport and tour the Land.

**Laya H.**

**Dear Editor,**

Did you ever encounter someone who had to respond to 12,000 emails? I discovered this person recently upon sending him an email. After answering my questions, I had one more follow-up, to which he responded that he gets 200 emails a day and still has 12,000 awaiting a response. This is Rabbi YY Jacobson who is shouldering the burdens of the klal. After listening to a specific shiur of his, I realized why he is this person. He said that at the root of the word *rachamim*, you find the word *rechem*, a womb. He said we must be a womb to others and open our

*Continued on page 12*

## Readers Poll

Do any members of your family sleep in the sukkah?

**58%**

No

**42%**

Yes



“A new address,  
the same  
commitment:  
*preserving  
and growing  
your wealth.*”

*Jacob Rosenberg,  
Partner*

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Continued from page 10

hearts to their problems. He said that instead of placing blame and expecting perfection from our spouses, children and friends, we should realize that everyone has problems and vulnerabilities, but it's through being vulnerable with ourselves and others that many of today's problems can be solved.

The sukkah is an incredible phenomenon that holds many under a temporary roof, symbolizing our time is limited but also a structure that indicates that we must open our spaces to others. We ask for David's Sukkah to be rebuilt for when that occurs, there will be total peace among ourselves and with others, but to get there, we must fill the open spaces with empathy and the volition to feel the problems of others.

**Steven Genack**

**Dear Editor,**

In my letter on September 5, I reported how Mayor Eric Adams of NYC welcomed the illegals who came from the State of Texas. Standing next to the bus, he handed out welcome packages including clothing, food, money, and free housing in better NYC hotels. After the ongoing influx, he re-allocated the illegals to the suburbs and set up, among other locations, huge tents at Creedmoor in Queens and Randall's Island, a former playground for NYC kids.

Now, just a year later, he is starting to panic. He is looking for a way out and pointing fingers at everybody besides himself, the main culprit. He places particular blame on Governor Abbott of Texas whom he calls a madman, Governor Hochul of New York State, and President Biden.

During a recent community meeting at PS91 at the Westside, he called out his frustration by stating, "Never in my life I had a problem that I didn't see an ending to. I don't see an ending to this more than 100,000 migrants last year. This issue will destroy NYC. The influx of 10,000 migrants per month will impact all communities. Overall, it will create a 12 billion dollar deficit."

Next to Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Atlanta – all run by Democratic mayors – it is New York City that people are reluctant to visit, work, and live anymore. The only one to blame for this mess in NYC is you, Mr. Mayor. You were supposed to run the city, but you turned it into a ghost town.

Eliminate the status "sanctuary city." It doesn't work! Stop the continuing influx of illegals!

I can only reinforce Judge Jeanine saying at The Five recent Fox show: "Roll up your sleeves and start dealing with reality."

**Heinz Mayer**

**Dear Editor,**

There is no cause for celebration by President Biden and Congress now that our national debt exceeds \$33 trillion. This averages \$98,616 per citizen or \$255,253 per taxpayer. (Source: September 22, 2023 National Debt Clock).

There are thousands of employees who are familiar with the details of our federal budget. How difficult can it be to find billions in savings? This could assist in reducing our periodic raising of the debt ceiling.

Millions of Americans cut their household budgets to make ends meet. It is time for Washington to live within its available existing revenues without excessive borrowing, just like millions of ordinary citizens. We should return to pre COVID-19 spending levels of \$1.47 trillion annually.

The President and Congress have forgotten the old saying: a penny saved is a penny earned. Americans should send both of them a penny to remind them that it is not a sin to save. Unless we change our ways, America is on the road to losing our status as the world's No. 1 superpower to China. Just like mighty ancient Rome before the collapse, we are going down the path to become the world's super-debtor.

**Sincerely,**  
**Larry Penner**  
**Great Neck, NY**

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## Make your voice heard!

Be part of TJH's weekly poll.

Email the editor to be included in the weekly poll at  
Editor@FiveTownsJewishHome.com