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# Dear Editor,

## Dear Chosen Island Diner,

My wife and I are trying to find out who you are.

On the evening of Tuesday, January 2, we were visiting family in the Five Towns and decided to eat at Chosen Island at around 5:30/6PM.

We were enjoying our dinner with our baby daughter (and trying to keep her quiet and not disturb people) and you were seated at a table over from us, enjoying your dinner.

We asked for the bill at the same time as you. The waiter brought ours and then brought yours.

You stood up, turned your back to us, and talked to the waiter but we couldn't hear anything. You then walked with him behind the glass.

Our waiter then came back and announced that there was a mistake with our bill and took it away from us. He came 4-5 minutes later saying that you had paid for our dinner. You were long gone by then.

My wife and I stared at each other in shock, wondering what just happened.

We then went over the waiter and wanted to leave him a tip, he told us, "You already took care of the tip" (we still left him a tip).

We wanted to say thank you. We would also love to know why you did it?

Please email us at zerashim18@gmail.com.

**R & Y from New Jersey**

## Dear Editor,

While I agree with the message of "Seeking more hakaras hatov" in the letters section of the Jan. 12 edition, I think the writer has made a hugely incorrect assumption about many post-yeshiva-tuition parents. Many parents still struggle

for years after their kids have graduated and become independent. Many of their children are, in fact, NOT independent. Many marry young and are in Kollel and are not receiving much, if any, income. Parents are still supporting them. Even if the children are sufficiently income independent, some parents are retired and on a limited budget. Many have enormous medical expenses. If you want a glimpse of how many poor post-tuition parents live in the Five Towns, view how many are receiving Tomchei Shabbat boxes so that they can have a nice Shabbat meal.

Contrary to what the writer stated, yeshiva tuition is *not* the largest monthly expense. The mortgage bill is! This expense can continue for many years after the children have graduated yeshiva.

I agree that those that can afford it should contribute something back to the yeshivot in some way. But, it is grossly wrong and unfair to assume that many people can do so. Some not only can't afford a cent, but they are seeking scholarships at the same yeshiva for their grandchildren.

**Daniel Feldman**

## Dear Editor,

The Gemara in *Yevamos* (62a) says, "The Son of David won't come until all of the souls from Heaven come down into this world." The *Tosephos* *Yeshanim* asks on this Gemara from another Gemara in *Shabbos* (118b) that says, "If the Jewish people hold two consecutive Shabbosim, they would immediately be redeemed." He asks, how could we be redeemed immediately if all the souls from heaven haven't come down yet? A different *Tosephos* answers this by saying that multiple births would occur as we saw in *Mitzrayim*.

*Continued on page 10*

# Readers Poll

Do you understand Yiddish?

**63%**  
No

**37%**  
Yes

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→ Tackling → Transforming → Triumphant

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is a link in the chain for a brighter  
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*It's a chain of success.  
And your responsibility to support it.*

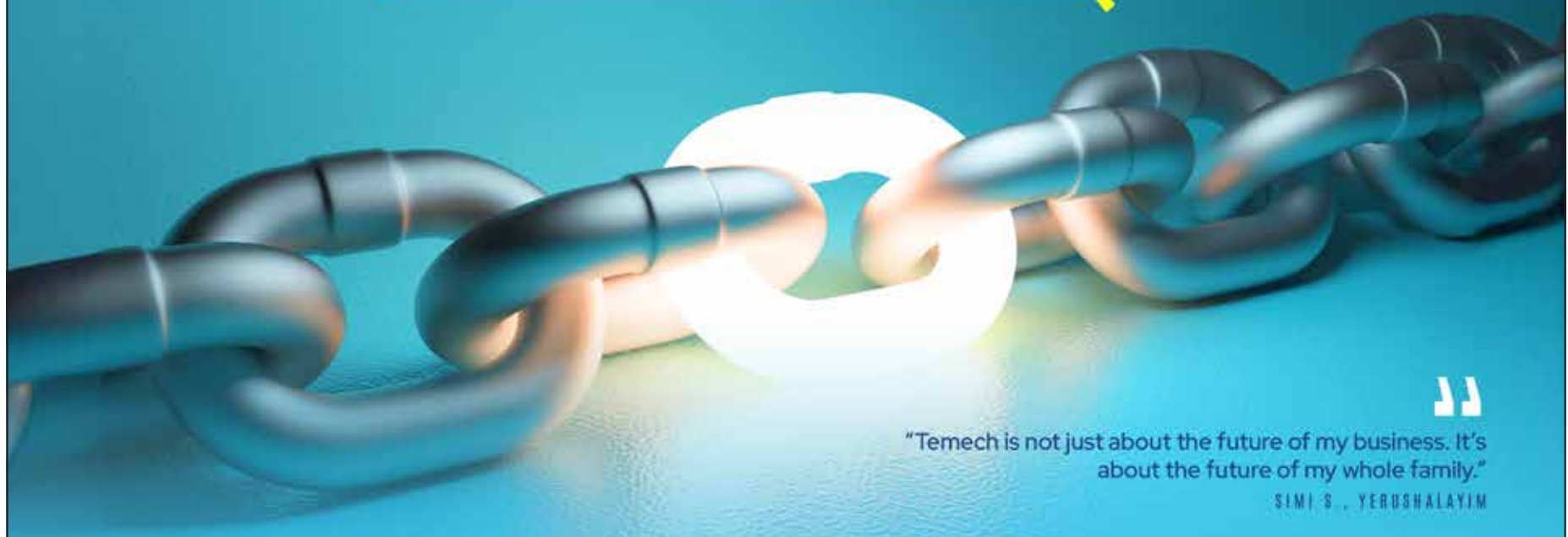
Because now more than ever,  
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# THE STRONGEST LINK

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about the future of my whole family.”

SIMI S. YERUSHALAYIM

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Continued from page 8

From this discussion, one can see the greatness of Shabbos, as it has the power to bring geulah. When the Chofetz Chaim was asked by people for beachos, he would say, “go to” Shabbos, for that is where bracha lies. We saw this firsthand when two kibbutzim that held Shabbos were spared from the October 7th massacre.

It’s no coincidence that after the massacre, Rabbi Zilberstein, shlita, recommended that everyone should take upon themselves two extra things to do for Shabbos.

Shabbos has another boundless quality. The Zohar notes that *chiddushei* Torah arrived at on Shabbos go back to Heaven with the *neshamah yeteira* and are celebrated by G-d and all the souls in heaven. Therefore, on Shabbos, whether you have one new insight, an innovative question that brings greater understanding or achieve greater clarity in a Gemara, in Heaven they will be dancing for you. This would explain one reason why Shabbos is called *mei’ein Olam Habah*, a taste of the Next World, for it is there that everyone sits and experiences the glory of G-d with His Torah.

**Steven Genack**

**Dear Editor,**

It was a surprise to me to read Mrs. Barbara Deutsch’s article “A Summons” in the January 11th issue. It was exactly that day when I had mailed a letter to the Town of Hempstead complaining about a summons received from them because I did not stop for a school bus. Because it was a “second time” I did so, they fined me an even higher amount than the first time, \$ 275, no less.

In my letter I reported that when I received the first such fine I did not remember that episode and thought, incredulous as I was because in over 40 years this had never happened to me, that I might not have noticed driving by a school bus with flashing lights, so I just paid it. This second time, however, a few weeks later, I remembered that the bus was simply waiting at the curb, without the STOP sign and flashing lights. The bus still recorded me passing by but the video does not show that it was using its signals.

Then, after mailing my complaint, I mentioned this in my office, and not one but two people responded, one saying the same just happened to him too; the other mentioning that it had happened to someone she knew.

I paid the fine because I have no witness and thus no chance to win, and

because taking off a day to sit in a court waiting room and lose in the end is not worth the money; perhaps I should not have done so. But I made it clear in my letter that this is not about the money but the integrity of the system. I asked if the school bus has any technical way to assure that the video of a driver passing the bus can only be taken while the flashing lights and STOP sign are activated. I suspect this is not the case.

It appears to me that this is a new method municipalities or counties have discovered as a source of income, and we drivers can be prepared that we are going to receive more of these unjust fines for something we did not do. The authorities know very well that for most of us, there is no way to win and we cannot afford the ordeal of an unsuccessful court appearance.

**Dr. Joseph Donath**

**Dear Editor,**

Migrants being transferred overnight from the Floyd Bennett Field shelter to Madison High School in Brooklyn due to poor weather conditions should come as no surprise to anyone. Everyone already knew that the temporary shelter built at Floyd Bennett Field was not designed to deal with inclement weather, storms and cold winters. Both children and adults living at this and other shelters have never been fully screened, tested and vaccinated as citizens are. Who pays for transportation of migrants back and forth, along with cleaning the school? Never shy around a microphone or camera, 1967 Madison High graduate and Senate Majority leader Charles Schumer is nowhere to be found. He has never visited the border, Floyd Bennett Field or his alma mater to see firsthand how President Biden’s open border policy is destroying our nation. Schumer abandoned his old Madison Brooklyn neighborhood long ago. He has forgotten his old neighborhood roots for the bright lights of Washington elites.

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

**Dear Editor,**

Rejection is painful. When someone you love and care so deeply for rejects you with no explanation the pain is in-

finite. It’s important to have a friend you can trust and feel safe with. How do you keep moving forward when your supposedly good friend hurts you deeply and acts as if you’re invisible other than spitting out hurtful, hostile comments? It’s significantly important to value your self-worth! When you work on your value and your importance, it diminishes the level of intensity.

Second, we must constantly remind ourselves that others cannot break us!! You are strong and loved! Others don’t define your worth. Don’t allow others to dominate you. Look for healthy people and healthy relationships. The pain you are feeling from the rejection needs to be recognized, however, it’s unhealthy to sit in the pain for long. By creating new relationships and believing you are worthy and proud for who you are shrinks the other person in your eyes and toughens you up. Don’t allow others to knock you down! You are much better than that. Unfortunately for them, they are rejecting someone beautiful and respected. Once we get to the point of acceptance, we start to feel free. We start to recognize that there is a lot more beauty around us. We can start to see others that we haven’t really noticed before and start to spread new wings with healthy and positive people.

Bearing a challenge is hard, and no one wants to accept it. We tend to get consumed in the feelings of anger, pain, and resentment. As stated above, it’s important to acknowledge these feelings and process them. After that, we can come to a place of acceptance. Acceptance doesn’t mean that the pain dissipates. Reaching a place of acceptance of the situation is when you feel liberated. Yes, there are moments to feel the pain and that is important, but we need to be careful to not drown in the pain. The beauty of acceptance is that acceptance allows you to achieve greater things. When we accept a situation that is difficult and painful, we can expand our wings and soar higher and further. Challenges in the moment seem to take us down but with support and acceptance we rise to greater heights.

Lift yourself up and soar to the greatest heights!

**Sora Kitay**

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