

Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR | 12 |
| COMMUNITY | |
| Readers' Poll | 12 |
| Community Happenings | 56 |
|  | 98 |
| NEWS | |
| Global | 16 |
| National | 46 |
| That's Odd | 50 |
| ISRAEL | |
| Israel News | 34 |
| Biden Shouldn't Get Away With Granting A Victory to Hamas by Jonathan S. Tobin | 136 |
| The Appalling Tactics of the "Free Palestine" Movement by Bret Stephens | 138 |
| JEWISH THOUGHT | |
| Rabbi Wein on the Parsha | 96 |
| True Victory by Rav Moshe Weinberger | 98 |
| Time & Its Transcendent Connection to Pesach by Rabbi Shmuel Reichman | 100 |
| Delving into the Daf by Rabbi Avrohom Sebrov | 102 |
| Headlines and Halacha by Rabbi Yair Hoffman | 104 |
| PEOPLE | |
| From Tehran to the Five Towns by Malkie Schulman | 106 |
| Inspiration Nation | 112 |
| The Israeli Navy by Avi Heiligman | 143 |
| HEALTH & FITNESS | |
| Healthy Habits for a Happy Pesach by Tehila Soskel, RDN, CDN | 122 |
| FOOD & LEISURE | |
| Real Life Pesach Cooking | 124 |
| The Aussie Gourmet: Salmon Cauliflower Rice Bowl | 127 |
|  | 102 |
| LIFESTYLES | |
| Dating Dialogue, Moderated by Jennifer Mann, LCSW | 114 |
| Parenting Pearls | 118 |
| School of Thought | 120 |
| JWOW! | 123 |
| Mind Your Business | 128 |
| Your Money | 150 |
| HUMOR | |
| Centerfold | 94 |
| POLITICAL CROSSFIRE | |
| Notable Quotes | 130 |
| How Ukraine's Tech Army is Taking the Fight to Russia by David Ignatius | 139 |
| Princess Reema, Bandar's Daughter, Navigates Rough Waters in Washington by Kate Kelly | 140 |
| Zelensky: "We are Trying to Find Some Way Not to Retreat" by David Ignatius | 142 |
| CLASSIFIEDS | 144 |

Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,

Many rabbonim have analyzed the spiritual significance of Monday's eclipse — especially since it occurred just a few days after another phenomenon, an earthquake, hit New Jersey and shook the tri-state for a few seconds.

There was, though, a key difference between the two events.

The earthquake, which registered 4.8 on the Richter scale, was fully unexpected, and for many people evoked fear and confusion.

On the other hand, the eclipse, which was predicted years before, brought out diametrically opposed emotions.

Amid the continuing war against Hamas, the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, and the persistent divisiveness in this nation, millions of people gathered along the "path of totality" crossing several states, including upstate New York, to watch the eclipse with closeness to the natural work of Hashem — and to each other as fellow human beings sharing a sense of awe and fascination.

Even in the five boroughs, where the moon's shadow blocked out the sun 11 percent short of totality, tens of thousands of people came together in parks, museums, and science centers to watch together as the sun slowly "disappeared."

There were no protests, political confrontations, or name-calling.

As I viewed the event on the sidewalk in my Flatbush neighborhood, perfect strangers commented how "amazing" and "fascinating" the sight was. Several of them, who hadn't gotten the special glasses, asked me if I could let them use mine for a few seconds to view the once-in-a-generation phenomenon. I was glad to do it — especially since it could only enhance appreciation of Hashem's handiwork.

The eclipse, from beginning to end, lasted less than 40 minutes.

Hopefully the feelings stirred by it, will last much longer.

David J. Glenn

Dear Editor,

Our first Av intersected with the colossal *mitzvah* of *milah*. Avraham was trembling until he realized that upon doing *milah* (*Nedarim* 32a) he would be considered complete.

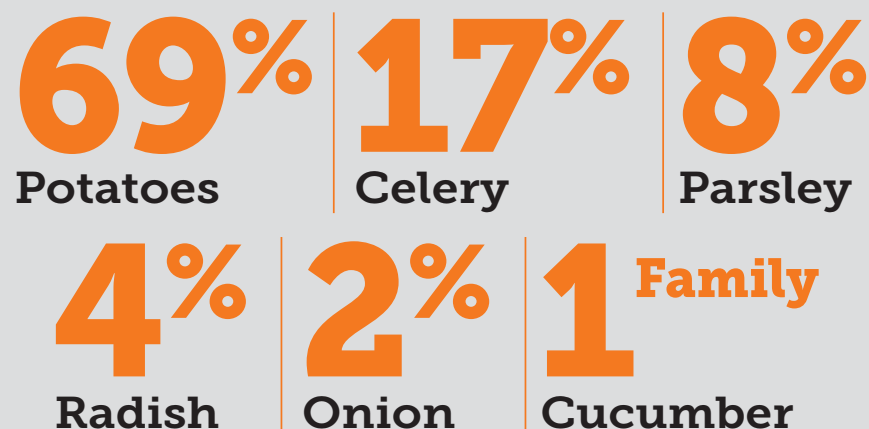
How is it that *milah* brings completeness?

Tanus Rufus asked (*Tanchuma, Tazria* 5) Rabbi Akiva why Jews aren't born circumcised. Rabbi Akiva answered that the *mitzvos* are given to refine and purify a person and therefore it is up to man to complete himself.

Continued on page 14

Readers Poll

What vegetable does your family use for karpas?



And this rectification is possible if we examine another verse where the notion of *orlah* is mentioned. The Israelites are commanded (Deuteronomy 10:16), “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.” The Ramban explains that this circumcision refers to the uncovering of the heart – to see and accept the truth. The *mitzvos* can only fully refine us if we’re willing to listen and absorb the realities from the Torah and our sages on how to correctly incorporate them into our beings.

Rabbi Aharon Lopinasky uses the *menorah* to exhibit how we must be complete people, the reason why *milah* was given. The *menorah* was carved out of one complete piece and then chiseled into its shape. So too, we must be one complete piece, carving ourselves into full rectification. Only then can we be a vessel to bring forth G-d’s light into the world.

One bad *middah* terminates completeness, whether it be a grab for power, egoistic movements or weak belief.

Like *milah* that’s on the eighth day, the eighth *sefira* is *hod*, glory. In our travels toward completeness and in ultimately capturing it, we bring G-d’s

glory to the world.

This in turn exhibits G-d’s completeness and brings peace amongst the nations, as *shalom*, peace, comes through being *shalem*, complete.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

The Biden Administration continues its interference in Israeli politics and is attempting to bring down the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu in the middle of the Gaza war. As the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) are poised to begin Rafah operations which includes relocating 1.5 million Palestinians, the Biden Administration is focusing on splitting the country with riots. They are headed by Ami Dror, who is the leading “rioter” and is in touch with the White House according to his WhatsApp group chat.

There are four components to the U.S. program to destroy the government of Israel: 1) the use of the UN Security Council; 2) actions in Gaza; 3) pressure on government ministers; and 4) mass protests in Israel. Actions have already been happening. The U.S. enabled the Security Council to vote for an immediate cease fire by abstaining from the vote and not vetoing it. Over the weekend there were

mass protests in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem from those in support of bringing the hostages home at any cost. Also, the IDF announced it was withdrawing all but one of its brigades from southern Gaza. There is a sensitivity surrounding Rafah because it is Hamas’ last stand and the remaining hostages, if alive, are probably there.

If Prime Minister Netanyahu is not allowed by the U.S. and world community to finish the job, then Israel may not only lose the war but may cease to exist.

Jan Henock

Woodmere, NY

Dear Editor,

I cannot agree more with educator Etti Siegel, who writes about Pesach prep and how it affects the people in our home.

Every year, I make a very detailed list of things that have to be done in our house for Pesach. It’s very detailed – I write out each drawer and closet in every room. But then I show it to my kids and they each get to decide what works for them to do in each room. This way, they know they are being part of something bigger and know that they are setting themselves up for success by choosing tasks that they feel will work for me. Of course, there are times when some kids will choose only

“easy” jobs. I may ask them to take on something else to help bring in Pesach.

Of course, hard work is rewarded, and we all go out to eat together as a family when the kitchen is turned over and the cooking is about to begin!

Gila Jankowitz

Dear Editor,

Now that all the yeshiva boys and seminary girls are back from Israel, it is good for the community to be reminded about driving and parking etiquette.

There are going to be a lot more cars on the streets over the next week or so. Drivers, be careful and be alert. Also, be considerate! Don’t double park or even sit in your car double parked. It creates a traffic jam behind you. When coming back to your car, don’t idle in the car for a long time; let others take your spot – a mitzvah! Keep your phones hands-free when you drive.

Pedestrians, be careful crossing streets. Cross at the crosswalk. Watch young children. Don’t text on your phones as you’re walking. Be alert.

We’re all busy this season but we can make it a safe one as we enter yom tov!

Chana R.

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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

What fun things do you do at your Pesach Seder to get the kids more involved?

Send us your ideas, and your answer may
be featured in an upcoming issue of TJH.

Email: editor@fivetownsjewishhome.com