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## Dear Editor,

#### Dear Editor.

The exuberant, poetic and pristine words in this week's parsha, "k'tinok ha'borieach mi'beis ha'sefer — Klal Yisrael left Har Sinai joyfully like a child running away from school," unfortunately paint a negative picture of the Jewish nation. They ran from Har Sinai, not desiring to be burdened by the Torah. Is there any solace or opportunity in these words, however, that we can apply in our approach to Torah and winning the current war?

The Chasam Sofer gives an opening. He asks why this running away is framed as *puranos*, troubles, but not as an *aveira*, sin. Furthermore, why is the next pasuk that acts as a separator, "*Vay'hi binsoa ha'Aron*."

He answers that in general *aveiros* aren't paid back immediately. However, *puranos*, troubles, such as Bnei Yisrael abandoning the Torah with enthusiasm, gives our enemies immediate dominion over us, as when we are *porek ol*, nations of the world dominate us. Therefore, we are reminded in the next verse, "*Vay'hi binsoa ha'Aron*," that the *Aron* has the ability to scatter our enemies to bring victory.

Never before has the need for running to the Torah like an innocent child been needed. Chazal's poetic language urges us to approach the Torah with the purity and enthusiasm of a child. In this way, our enemies can be uprooted, as we are clutching the *Aron*, the greatest weapon that exists in the world.

### Steven Genack

#### Dear Editor,

The results of California's minimum wage law shouldn't be surprising to anyone with even a basic grasp of economics. The law has already caused a surge in restaurant prices, a decline in foot traffic, and a significant rise in unemployment.

The reason the minimum wage law almost always hurts the very workers it was intended to benefit is because of one of the most important principles of economics, called the Law of Demand: the more expensive a product or service becomes, people will buy less of it.

Think of wages as a price – it's the price of labor, and when the government artificially raises the price of labor, fewer workers will be hired. Make labor more expensive, and you'll end up with a surplus of unemployed workers who were probably better off before the minimum wage law went into effect.

As the late economist Milton Friedman once said, "How is a person better off unemployed at a dollar-sixty an hour than employed at a dollar-fifty?"

#### Rafi Metz

#### Dear Editor,

We recently reviewed in Parshas Nasso the laws regarding nazirus. The corresponding haftorah, taken from Shoftim: 13, further elaborates on this concept of nazirus, with the birth of Shimshon, to Manoach and his wife. I would like to recommend a fabulous book to your readers, discussing the life of Queen Helene of Abiabene who converted to Judaism and accepted upon herself to become a "nazira." It is an intriguing story, and the historical backdrop, the difficult days before the destruction of the Bayis Sheini, is depicted fabulously well. This book, appropriately entitled, "Nazirah," has been skillfully authored by Tzirel Greenberg and is published by Israel Bookshop.

Another terrific book, a work of historical fiction, that I'd like to recommend

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# Readers Poll

Which sunscreen do you prefer to use: spray or lotion?

**73%** Spray

27%
Lotion