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# Dear Editor,

**Dear Editor,**

The “yom tov” of “7-11” is rapidly approaching. It is predicted that thousands of people will make the annual pilgrimage to 7-11 stores to participate in the ritual free Slurpee. Young and old, black, yellow and white, Christian, Muslim, and Jew will travel blocks to journey to this festive occasion. Hundreds of plastic straws and domed plastic lids will adorn this festive elixir! Please, please, please do not throw on the ground or put in garbage cans. As heavy as they may be, please carry these home and place in your recycling container. Better yet, if you're old enough not to spill, do not take a straw or lid. Wishing everyone a “chag sameach!”

**Joseph M. Varon**

*Past Chairperson, New York State Marine Education Association West Hempstead, New York*

**Dear Editor,**

Reb Tzvi Kushelevsky, 88, and his rebbetzin, 57, are on the circuit discussing the recent birth of their son. Reb Tzvi said that when Moshe said to G-d he had a lisp and couldn't redeem the people, the response he received was, “Ani Hashem.” And indeed, Moshe was successful. Reb Tzvi emphasized that it's important when davening to realize you're in the Kodsh HaKodashim with only G-d, outside the influence and opinions of others. He also said that you have to honestly believe your prayer will come true.

All these years he davened, he was certain he would have a child, and he just saw it as a test. He now looks forward to his son Eliyahu greeting Moshiach.

**Steven Genack**

**Dear Editor,**

Your article on mental illness was extremely validating for me, as it hit a raw nerve.

I have been so frustrated by the lack of progress I see in my husband who I recommended for therapy a few years ago.

When the article said that there was a trend of success of one therapist with only many of his clients while the non-motivated ones he did not work well with, I thought, this is my husband's therapist! He is that good therapist working with an unmotivated client who is therefore unsuccessful!

I thought to myself, there needs to be a caveat presented by therapists when clients first reach out. The therapist needs to open before anything else, “Where did you get my number from?” If the answer is, “My wife.” (even if another name was the original referral), the therapist MUST (by the *chiyuv* of *midvar sheker tirschak*, by the *chiyuv* of being honest in business), politely but firmly decline to provide the services. He should even confirm by asking point blank that this whole idea was not a wife recommendation before proceeding.

Similarly to how we approach a *ger*, we need absolute, 100% certainty that the client is motivated, internally, to change. If he's being sent by his wife, it is nearly 100% certain that he feels compelled and controlled and has little to gain.

Unfortunately, I'm quite stuck right now with strong feelings of anger and resentment towards this therapist, although I know there is another side and another picture that I don't see or relate to. I know that my husband enjoys speaking, although when he says that there is

# Readers Poll

Do you need to use goggles when you swim underwater?

57%  
Yes

43%  
No