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cast light over the darkness. People are connecting more to their Jewish roots. Let's help them learn about the people and events of October 7!

In light of the above, why then have not some of the more chassidish and yeshivish communities brought in soldiers, family members of hostages or even some of the rescued hostages themselves to come and speak? Of course, I wish "kol hakavod" for those who have. I understand there are varying opinions about the State of Israel, rallies and protests, but where does it say a rescued hostage can't speak at your shul or school?

I was privileged and enlightened to attend a number of lectures featuring soldiers, hostage families and rabbonim speaking about October 7: their experiences, the intricate halachos involved, and what they are doing to ensure this never happens again, *rachmona latzlon*. These voices should be amplified in more neighborhoods. No one township has a monopoly on such events. And those that have hosted, have seen a broad cloth of Jews who were moved and inspired by attending. Why not you? Why not now? None of the events I attended were held close to home: I walked or drove for miles. Each word hit close to home!

While any program would have to accommodate the sensitivities of a particular locale, I'm sure the same individuals who were brave enough to go to the press, shuls and events can come to your community as well. Additionally, separate events can be held for men and women. Despite varying schedules, costs and logistics, there is someone out there who can speak to your group. Perhaps a reservist from your neighborhood is back home from the war. A community member might be related to a hostage. It could very well be that the person next to you brought a lawsuit over post-October 7 antisemitism.

It is important to raise awareness of the current matzav, bring forth hope based on the good work being done on behalf of *acheinu kol beis Yisroel*, and to raise the scepter of Hashem's crowning glory through *achdus*. In this way, the hostages will *b'eZRas Hashem* be rescued soon, their wounds healed, and all of us will be reunited with the coming of *Mashiach* soon.

Chaim Yehuda Meyer

Dear Editor,

Did you ever think that opening the Gemara can take away your headache? So says the Gemara in Eruvin (54a).

But how do you open it and how does it work? Any first step is nearly impossible. Having the fortitude to start is the greatest challenge in life. But as one

rav said, where does the Torah give an exemption to a person just because they are not in the mood to learn? Once the Gemara is cracked open, you delve into the most sophisticated body of thought that captures the mind with all its faculties. No room is left to feel anything else, no less a headache.

This is how Rav Ovadia Yosef could tell his surgeon to begin cutting without anesthesia, once he saw Rav Ovadia engrossed in the page.

The benefits are not merely an absolution from pain but an accumulation of thousands of mitzvos, as the Chofetz Chaim tallied the math of each word of Torah.

Vayetzei, take a step, go out of your pain, and into the page for incalculable eternity.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

We have been part of a group of local residents who have been volunteering at the Israel Chesed Center for the past 13+ months. We are writing to express our appreciation to The Jewish Home for your coverage of the Chesed Center and its events.

As long-time residents of the 5T/FR community, we have seen all of the changes in the community over the years, and have benefited from its growth as an Orthodox community and the slew of organizations that have emerged to assist our neighbors and friends. Hatzalah, Achiezer, a myriad of shuls and schools, the Chevra Kadisha and various other entities are all amazing, yet typically they are manned by a small group of volunteers who are skilled in a specific discipline.

The Israel Chesed Center has emerged as a place where everyone – from young children to senior citizens – can engage in myriad acts of chesed that stretch over 6,000 miles, all the way to Eretz Yisrael!

But more than that... The Chesed Center is for every member of our community, regardless of "hashkafa," nusach, level of observance or experience in Jewish communal matters. In our years in this wonderful neighborhood, there has never been an organization that has created, fostered and cultivated *achdus* in our diverse community like the Chesed Center has.

There is something for everyone at the Chesed Center – packing gear, running an event, sending encouragement from afar, all in an effort to support *chayalim*, widows and orphans, displaced families and any Jew who has been impacted by the War.

Join us at the Chesed Center to truly feel that you are part of the War Effort!

Yours truly,

**Sheila and Alan Shapiro
Aviva and Zev Golombeck**