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CLASSIFIEDS

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Dear Editor,

Dear "Abba,"

I don't know who you are, but as a rebbi — thank you.

Your letter, recently published, was a breath of fresh air. You expressed what so many of us in chinuch feel but are often hesitant to say. You reminded parents how much a thoughtful note, a kind word, or a small or large gift can uplift those of us who devote our days (and nights) to their children.

You put into words what we sometimes wish people understood — and you said it with warmth, respect, and a sense of partnership. You did a great service to Klal Yisrael, and I can only hope your children took your message to heart.

If I may, I'd like to humbly add one small point to your beautifully crafted letter — something that's easy to overlook but means the world.

After you write that note or send that package to your child's rebbi or morah, consider forwarding a short email or message to the menahel, principal, or administrator as well. Just a sentence or two: "We're so grateful for what Morah Ploni is doing with our daughter." It doesn't need to be long — it just needs to be said.

Most yeshivos — baruch Hashem — have administrations that stand behind their staff. But sometimes, when a parent raises a concern (sometimes rightly so), it can feel like the loudest voices shape the picture. Your positive feedback helps make sure that the broader support — the silent majority — is also heard.

And one more point: Everything you encouraged in your letter — the hakaras hatov, the thank you notes, the gestures of appreciation — shouldn't wait until June. Do it throughout the year. A compliment in Kislev can carry a rebbi through Adar.

A small gift or kind message at orientation, Chanukah, Purim, or after a particularly hard day of learning — it matters. And it means more than you'll ever know.

Someone recently told me a story that took place many years ago, out of town, about a mechanech who left the classroom to work in food service. After his first catered event, the host came over to thank him profusely. The former rebbi was taken aback — not because the host said thank you, but because he had forgotten that in other fields...people do.

Baruch Hashem, today, things have changed. Many parents and schools go out of their way to express appreciation. But even so, your letter was a beautiful reminder — not to assume, not to delay, and not to let a moment of gratitude slip by.

So from this rebbi, and on behalf of so many of my colleagues:

Thank you for seeing us.

Thank you for saying it.

And thank you, above all, for reminding others to do the same.

**With heartfelt appreciation,
A Grateful Rebbi**

Dear Editor,

There's a concept to learn Pirkei Avot in the summer, which I vividly remember doing with my late relative, Rav Avrohom Genechovsky, zt"l. There's a powerful Mishna that captures two stories and one piece of advice that he gave. The Mishnah (2:12) says, "Rabbi Yossi said: let the money of your fellow man be as precious to you as your own, prepare yourself to study Torah for it is not an inheritance to you, and let all your deeds be for the sake of Heaven."

Continued on page 12

Readers Poll

Would you prefer to travel for 3.5 hours in traffic to your destination or to travel for four hours without traffic?

82%

No Traffic

18%

Shorter Time

Continued from page 10

Regarding caring for others' money, he once encountered a young man on the bus in Yerushalayim who was headed to the Kotel. He asked him how he planned on performing kriyah. Seeing that a plan was needed, Rav Avrohom brought the young man to his yeshiva where they exchanged shirts, because one need not tear if the shirt is borrowed. It was said that in the shiur that day Rav Avrohom took extra precautions not to cause any damage to the shirt.

In regard to studying Torah because it's not an inheritance, he said that when one starts learning, it will be very difficult, and one won't find a taste for it, but once one progresses, the learning will be as sweet as honey.

And in terms of one's actions being solely for G-d, he had a son who passed away at an early age. The rebbeztin wanted to have a picture of him on their mantel. Rav Avrohom only agreed if on the bottom of the picture it said the verse, "You must love G-d with all your heart and soul." This way Rav Avrohom would never taint his love for G-d, who ordained the passing of his son. Everything was for G-d.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

Summer has arrived. Long Island and Queens are filled with fantastic beaches and hiking trails. Here are some tips to make the most of beaches and hiking trails:

If you're hiking, know what type of terrain the hiking path is by downloading a trail map of your route before going. Most places such as state or national parks have maps on their website. Alltrails.com is an excellent site containing a comprehensive database of trails showing contours. This way you can see elevation changes on your path.

You should never wear sandals, crocs or other open shoes when hiking in the forest. These paths require sturdy shoes that will both support and cushion your feet against rocks and twigs, plus, ideally, let you walk through muddy and damp slippery trails. Similarly, beaches are sometimes filled with trash. Avoid open shoes on the beach, as well. The last thing you want is to have a pop top blow out your flip-flop, as Jimmy Buffet did.

I don't like waves, so I avoid ocean beaches, generally. The North Shore beaches such as Sunken Meadow and Wildwood are wonderful North Shore State beaches offering calmer waters that don't get sharks or rip currents. I recom-

mend using the beaches on weekdays, if possible, as the crowd is far lighter than during weekends.

Seniors should know that all NY State parks have free entry on weekdays only. A car needs one senior who does not have to be the driver. This allows all passengers free entry. NY State parks on Long Island include Jones Beach, Robert Moses, Sunken Meadow, Wildwood, Hempstead Lake, Valley Stream, Planting Fields, and Bayard Cutting Arboretum.

Regardless of where you are walking or hiking, dress properly. Even though they are warm, you should wear long pants for forest trail hiking. This minimizes getting ticks, poison ivy/oak rashes or thorn/thistle scrapes. Always wear a sunhat or cap and plenty of sunscreen. Carry plenty of water especially when hiking.

Know the weather forecast. Our area can get severe storms. Lightning can travel many miles, and it strikes randomly. When you hear thunder, it's time to get into a shelter or your car. Don't wait until the rain starts and risk being a lightning victim.

For more suggestions and ideas, visit my blog <https://triptipsandhikehints.blogspot.com/>. Happy journeys and have a great and safe summer.

Daniel Feldman

Dear Editor,

I disagree with the editorial by a "Republican activist" disparaging the Republican nominee for NYC Mayor, Curtis Sliwa. Portraying Curtis Sliwa as anti-Semitic is a gross mischaracterization. Curtis Sliwa is a loud voice in NYC fighting the lies of the anti-Israel mob. Watch his speech at Cooper Union. He has a long record of advocating for the Jewish community including protecting Crown Heights with the Guardian Angels following the 1991 riots, and warning about the dangers of antisemitism, and encouraging Jewish activism at a rally for Israel in Eisenhower Park in 2002.

If the criteria for being friends of the Jewish community is supporting welfare payments for able-bodied men who only study Torah, then most people would not qualify. Republican activists should be promoting Republican policies of limited, responsible government, law and order, and traditional values. Democrats continue to move further to the left, and have failed NY with socialist, pro-criminal policies (much of which was signed into law by Andrew Cuomo). We need to elect Republicans to save NY.

Sincerely,

Moshe Tassalman

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