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On the plus side, Edan Alexander, another face on the poster, was recently freed, and returned to his home in Tenafly, NJ.

Over the last few days, I watched several documentaries about October 7th including an excellent one on Paramount+ where it explains the Nova Festival in depth – what specifically happened before, during, and after the music festivals, the personalities of the attendees, their lives, and even body camera footage from Hamas shooting those innocent lives. And more.

One survivor emphasized how Hersh was an extremely adventurous person; he would have very well been someone I would have liked to befriend myself.

That documentary was emotional to see, as you actually saw the disaster that Hamas created. I never cried before during films or TV shows, but I did while watching this.

A bunch of things that I was trying to de-clutter went right into the garbage.

But that sign of *OUR* (yes, our) hostages is remaining inside a drawer – most likely forever and ever.

Around the winter, across the street from where I work, I put up stickers of the hostages. Within a matter of weeks, they were all ripped – EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM – including one of a Thai national who is neither Jewish or Israeli.

I'm annoyed that the world sadly thinks the hostages are clutter, so I preserved them.

**Sincerely,
Hostages are not clutter**

Dear Editor,

The brilliant, soft-spoken voice of Rabbi Zvi Berkowitz continues to deliver pearls of wisdom from the Ner Israel Baltimore campus. That he knows all of

Shas with clarity is just one aspect of his persona, the other being that his middos are equally as pure. Just to mention one thought I heard recently. Though it relates to the Days of Judgement, it's really applicable all year-round.

In resolving different Gemaras, he explains that on Rosh Hashanah we are judged on our Olam Haba and Gehinnom status. If we are bnei Olam Haba, then G-d decides the amount of *yissurim*, suffering, to give us in this world for the next year, to purge us of any sins remaining. If one has a Gehinnom status, then G-d decides how much pleasure a person will get in this world to pay him back now. The good news is that the ten days of repentance can change one's Olam Haba and Gehinnom status and affect the year going forward.

These beautiful words inspire us to become people of Olam Haba focusing on teshuvah so that if we have to endure anything, it's cleaning us for the ultimate place of rest.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

To the boy who wrote into the dating panel that he may not be ready to date, methinks that he thinks too much. Sometimes we don't know we're ready until we jump into the pool. While consulting with his friends, family, and rabbis, if they all feel that he's mature and considerate to others, then marriage is the next step.

Don't let fear prevent you from starting the next stage in life.

Find yourself a good life coach or therapist who can help guide you in this next stage and help you get over your fears.

The only way to get over your fears is to go through them.

Y. Klass

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