

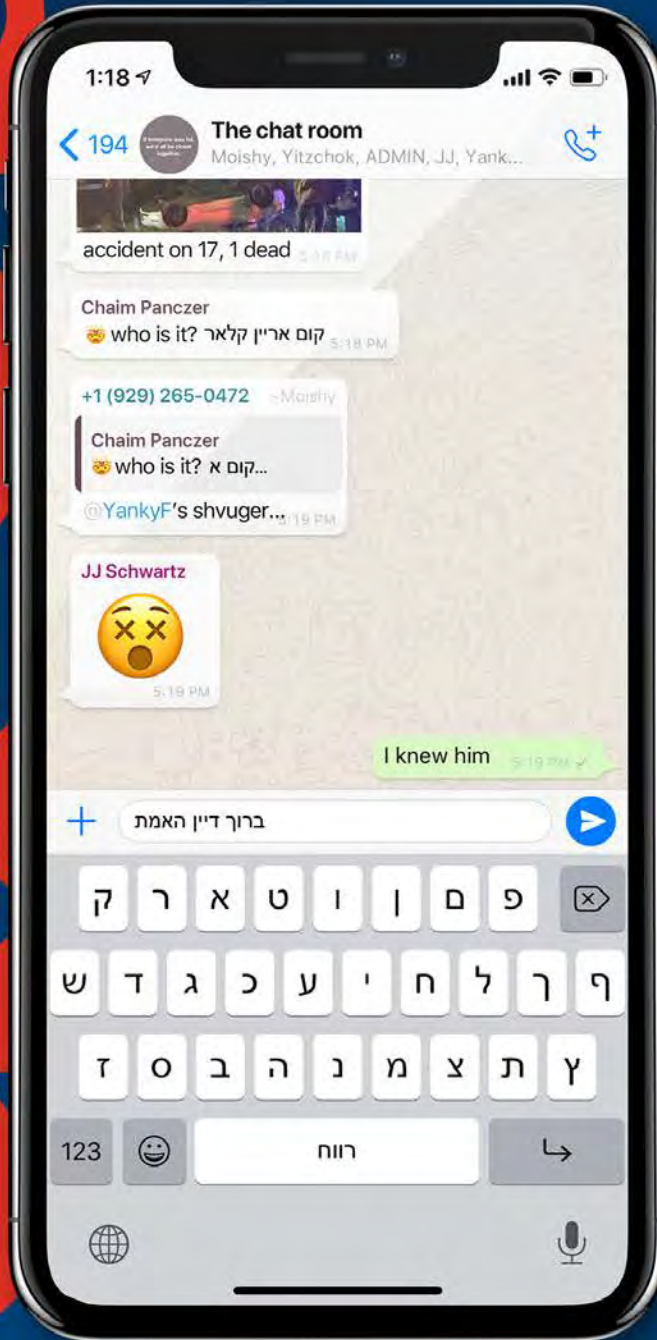
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all about  
bus safety

volunteers  
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allergies  
& bullying



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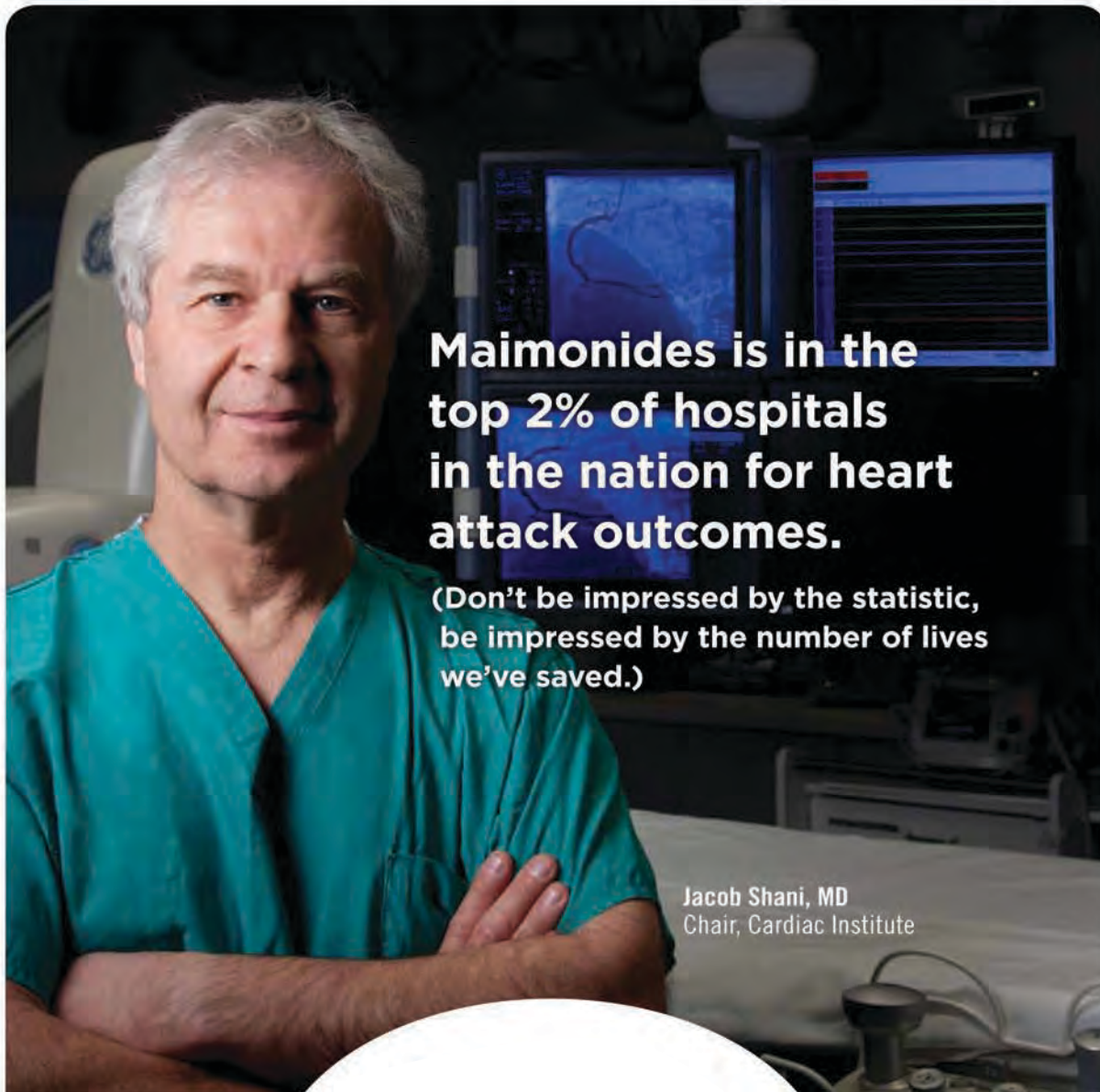
what  
would  
you do?

FEATURE  
ARTICLE

THE  
PUSH  
TO  
POST

Shattered  
families,  
ruined lives.





**Maimonides is in the top 2% of hospitals in the nation for heart attack outcomes.**

**(Don't be impressed by the statistic, be impressed by the number of lives we've saved.)**

Jacob Shani, MD  
Chair, Cardiac Institute

# Maimonides

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So while being ranked among the top 2% for heart attack outcomes nationwide by the U.S. government means a lot to us, what it means to you is that Maimonides gives you a better chance of surviving a heart attack than 98% of all other hospitals in the U.S.

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# WELCOME

*Did you know that more than **190** children were orphaned this year?*

.....

*Did you know that this year alone, there were over **2500** deaths in the communities Misaskim services?*

.....

*Did you know that a great number of mourners find out about their loss through social media?*

.....

*Did you know that **60%** of childhood accidents occur with school buses?*

Dear Readers,

As the summer winds down and we prepare for Yomim Noraim, it is natural for us to segue into reflection mode. At Misaskim, there's a lot for us to reflect on. The summer months have provided a much needed vacation for many children, and they are now ready to dive into a new school year.

At the same time, the summer months are trying months for many parents, and for us at Misaskim as well. It is hard to contain children when fun and play beckon: They seek to break boundaries and discover freedom - and they don't always make responsible decisions.

As the primary responders to death and tragedy in our community, we see way more pain than we'd like to see. We see how hopeless people feel when a family member dies. We see how lost orphans become. We see how death devastates families. We see how repercussions of a tragedy impact lives forever. And unfortunately, we also sometimes see how negligence destroys a family. That's why we feel so strongly about bringing safety awareness to the community. Aside from the services we've created to deal with the situations described above, Misaskim is dedicated to preventing tragedies by spreading the proper awareness about all things safety. We want to keep all of Klal Yisroel out of harm's way.

The Rambam tells us that any action which results in endangering life is tantamount to the violation of the mitzvah of V'nishmartem Meod L'nafshoseichem.

Unfortunately, we've seen an abnormal amount of tragic deaths this summer. Each one pains us tremendously, and each one gets us thinking about how we can prevent another tragedy.

We are counting on each one of our readers to become an ambassador for safety. We want each one of you to help in the collective effort of becoming a more safety-conscious community that doesn't leave things to chance; a community that sets the proper safeguards in place and makes all effort to stick to those safeguards.

In this magazine you will find safety tips and insights, as well as a new perspective on what Misaskim actually does. In this magazine you will learn about the many ways that Misaskim cares.

While Misaskim is called upon during times of tragedy and death, it's most heartfelt wish is to provide services that prolong life.

*Wishing all of Klal Yisroel a K'sivah V'chasima Tova,  
**Yankie Meyer***

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WHAT BETTER WAY TO START A NEW  
YEAR THAN TO DAVEN TOGETHER WITH

# 50,000 CHILDREN WORLDWIDE?

This year, Misaskim will host the 25th Tehillim Asifah, where children from 400 yeshivas and schools will join together at the same time.

**ד' תשרי תש"פ**  
**October 3, 2019**  
**At 1:00 PM**

Join live at [Misaskim.org](http://Misaskim.org)



SHATTERED FAMILIES.  
RUINED LIVES.

# THE PUSH TO POST





**Moishe was just in the right place at the right time. Oh, and his phone was in his hand, which was important, because the entire event lasted less than five minutes.**

Moishe had always had a keen eye for irony. And though he wasn't one for conflict or drama, this caught his heart because it was nuanced, and fraught with neighborhood tension.

He recorded the scene deftly, standing still amid the raging debate.

At first he captured mostly backs and raised voices, but as he stepped closer to the curb, he got a better view of the silver Honda Odyssey driving off from the NYPD tow truck.

All around him, people's raised voices were arguing. "Just leave," someone urged the driver.

"No, don't go."

"His car is already on the truck."

Moishe didn't get involved. He just filmed the young man getting into his minivan, driving off the back of the tow truck and, when the space in front of him opened up, revving his engine and speeding away from the scene.

He pressed the little share button. Tapped WhatsApp. Pulled up his most important contacts, among them his brother Sruly. Sruly was at his job, but that's the thing about the CEO position: an element of boredom. Under the video clip, Moishe typed, "Check This Out."

Send. That satisfying ding as the clip landed in Sruly's phone. Less than thirty seconds later, the video had two blue checks; Sruly had seen it. What Moishe didn't know, as he slipped his phone into his pocket, was that his brother had already posted it on his own Whatsapp. And Moishe didn't know that one of Sruly's contacts worked for one of the popular social media sites, scouting for content.

As Moishe crossed the avenue, his video was already up on Jewish news accounts.

By the time he got to his own parked car, pulled out his phone again and mounted it on the magnetic phone holder, the video had already amassed over four hundred views and thirteen comments.

"Crazy NYPD. They don't stop towing."

"Jews make their own rules."

"Let me see what you would do when you get towed because of an alternative-side parking, cleaning regulation sign."

"They only target us because they know we don't put up a fight."

"Chillul Hashem."

"Not a smart idea to post this on social media. NYPD will have an easy way to find the car and the driver," said "@Sam Smith," and ten people "liked" his comment.

@SamSmith was right.

Not even four hours later, the car and its driver – congratulating himself for avoiding an expensive towing fine, when he'd just parked for less than five minutes without paying attention to the signs – was wanted.

He was arrested 2 days later and given a free ride to NYPD 66th Precinct.

That's when Misaskim was called in.

Misaskim is called in as first responders in cases of tragedy and crisis. This wasn't the first time they were called in to help someone being held for a crime whose evidence was found largely on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp.

The Rambam writes that one who informs on a fellow Jew, "Ein lo chelek l'Olam Haba." It seems innocent at the time when something is happening and we record it, send it, post it. But it's not. We may be incriminating our fellow Jew.

There was that time a driver found himself behind a yellow school bus right in front of the Vizhnitz cheder. The school bus could have pulled into a parking spot, but it was easier for the driver, as well as the children, to stop the bus right in the middle of the road.

Not so for the driver behind the bus, already seven minutes late to punch in, and drumming nervously on his steering wheel. He made the quick, wrong decision to pull into the empty spot the bus might have pulled into, drive up onto the sidewalk, carefully navigate the entire length of the wide sidewalk, and go back onto the street in front of the bus.

In retrospect, it wasn't his best decision of the day. Then again, he was still pre-coffee.

Avoiding the youngsters who had spilled out of the bus and onto the staircase of the school building, the late driver continued on his way, irritated but relieved. His car bumped back onto the street, turned a corner, and the moment was over.



He was arrested two days later.

It wasn't based on what he did. Luckily, nobody got hurt and he would have gotten away without incident. But footage of the incident, showing his blue car and its license plate, had been posted and went viral on social media.

Within minutes the video was accruing views, climbing to ten thousand. And the comments came in fast, furious, and self-righteous with indignation.

He could have killed these kids, @mns2310 tagged @alwayshungry.

Manslaughter! said @balaboostawithaparnooah.

Chassidishe idiot. Waiting for tragedy to happen. What a chillul Hashem, said @hg9992.

This comment got some heat, two people defending chassidim by saying that bad behavior was not exclusive to one group.

The world is crazy @gregory said.

Hope he was arrested. He could have killed someone @malka said.

In truth, Malka and the eight people who liked her comment got their wish.

The driver was arrested. His license was suspended.

And once again, Misaskim was urgently summoned to assist in the pidyon shvu'im of this father and breadwinner. Misaskim is not here to void an arrest. Pulling on the connections Misaskim has with law enforcement agencies, they aim to expedite the process of seeing a judge.

The entire sefer Chofetz Chaim, written regarding speech, is magnified when it comes to social media. It's ten times worse. Before you've hung up the phone a million people have seen it.

The Chofetz Chaim writes about negative speech, that once released from one's mouth, the words scatter and can never be retrieved. Today, that capacity is magnified to a global level, where something you recorded one minute ago, can go viral and be seen by millions a minute later.

But many people are not aware of the power that social media has.

All the Jewish News media outlets are manned by representatives of the secular media outlets such as the New York Post, Channel 7 and others who wait to pounce on any newsworthy bit.

Everything you record, share, and post is seen by the big news channels who look for just these accounts to provide them tip-offs on the most happening stories.

"I get called by journalists every single day," says Rabbi Meyer. They call Misaskim for the scoop on all the stories they've seen on the Jewish media outlets. 'Give us the details on this one,' they ask. 'What exactly

## IF SOMEONE IS SICK, CRITICALLY ILL, OR DYING, DO I HAVE TO BE THE FIRST PERSON TO SAY I KNEW?

happened there?'

And it's all there — the funny, the bad, and the ugly — all irrefutable, all captured by a fellow Jew who, at the very best, has put his brother into the jaws of social media, the jaws that chew and spit venom, hatred, and biases. At the worst, the protagonists in these clips end up behind bars, in incidents that would have gone completely unnoticed had the entire online sphere not been demanding justice.

"And why shouldn't he be behind bars?" people ask of Misaskim, when the noble organization performs the mitzvah of pidyon shvu'im, and facilitates the release of these and other traffic offenders.

"Why shouldn't he learn his lesson?" demand the pontificators on Instagram, who, shielded by the comfortable anonymity of social media, conveniently forget that they, too, have at least once in their lifetimes engaged in reckless, irresponsible behavior, and were relieved when privacy allowed them to forget.

"Why do we, in the Maariv on Motzaei Yom Kippur, ask for Selach Lanu, forgiveness, once again? Aren't we pure then?" asks Rabbi Meyer.

But no. We are human beings with foibles and weaknesses, and yes, by the time five minutes after Neilah roll around, we may not have held the proper kavanah. We are all innocent and we are all imperfect — and we all deserve respect.

On Yom Kippur, we ask to be forgiven for the sins we commit on a constant, regular basis. A guy who makes an honest mistake, who is not perpetually engaging in criminal activity, does he deserve to be arrested? Do we want to be the one who caused another person to be arrested for a mistake he made?

If only the spread of our transgressions were the most damaging of social media's power.

But it is not.

It was a late winter night, well past midnight when

the accident happened. A car on a highway, a deer suddenly sprinting into the road, a swerve, hitting a tree.

The driver and passenger were critically injured.

At home were his young wife and children. Across town were his parents. Misaskim was called in to contact the patients' family and get them to the hospital as quickly as possible.

Misaskim staff are trained in doing notifications in these situations as well, to the family in a gentle, compassionate way, to minimize the trauma of receiving such news.

In the face of a devastating news, the first few minutes are the ones that will decide how this story is received and processed.

That night, in the freezing darkness, Rabbi Meyer knocked on the door to wake up the family.

"Who's there," she asked in the intercom.

"Yankie Meyer."

It took five minutes for the woman to come downstairs and open the door. That was all right. But what she said next wasn't.

"I decided to log onto the Jewish news sites. I knew that whatever you are coming to tell me, the information would already be there."

She wasn't the only one to find out about a life altering personal event from our trusty news sites. When news travels in seconds, the latest reality is that family are sometimes the last to find out.

Simcha Shain has been a Hatzalah paramedic for over twenty-five years. He is the Camp Simcha staff paramedic and the founder of ParaFlight, a patient flight transportation service. In his work, he's been privy to a lot of info, some of it heartbreaking in nature.

In his own company, he abides by confidentiality laws, and goes above and beyond to protect the privacy of those in crisis.

But that's not a sensitivity ingrained in a generation new to social media. "Unfortunately, people are so quick to spread the news of

misfortune." In our haste to be the first person or news group to break the news, we trample over those whose lives have been irreparably damaged by its content.

Simcha was driving a mother and father to the hospital, whose child was about to undergo a lung transplant. On the way from Lakewood to NYC, he was informed that the child had gone into cardiac arrest and passed away.

How do you tell parents something like this? He figured he wouldn't, he would take them to the hospital, allowing them to process the loss when they arrived.

As he was driving, however, text message after WhatsApp came pouring in. He ignored his phone as best as he could, but when a call from an unfamiliar number came in, he answered the phone.

It was the chevra kaddisha. "Are you on speaker?" the man on the other end asked.

"No, I'm not."

"The news is out that this child is no longer alive. Every WhatsApp group has already posted it. You have two minutes to tell the parents before they find out."

So he did. He had no choice but to break the news right there in the car to the parents that their child had died.

"I already knew," the father said. "Someone posted it on a WhatsApp group I'm on. I just... couldn't say anything."

"I also knew," the mother said. "I just got it on my women's group."

These parents found out about their son's death from their local WhatsApp group. It's been three months since the passing of their child but the father can't look the admin of his group in the eye. And the admin has no idea that he was the one who broke the news of a child's death to that child's



parents, in the most inhumane way.

This is increasingly happening in tragedies in which not all members of the family are present. The world knows the moment it happens.

“Recently, we had to tell parents that their child had drowned and unfortunately passed away” Rabbi Meyer recounts.

Misaskim went to the parents’ home. The mother was home; the father was not. He was going to tell them together, so he asked for her husband’s whereabouts and someone went to get the father of the child who was no longer alive.

But as he waited, text after text alerted him to this truth; everyone else already knew — except for the child’s own parents.

On the other side of the spectrum, Simcha Shain talks about his experience in Virginia Beach, where he and others spearheaded a search mission for Rabbi Reuven Bauman, alav hashalom.

Yossi Margaretten from Rockland Chaveirim was there when they found a possible ID. He didn’t say a word. For three hours he sat in his car and waited until they had a positive ID... and the family had been informed. He didn’t tell volunteers to end the search. He didn’t let anyone other than the family know. He kept this information from leaking out to anyone who would take information away before the identity was confirmed and the family were taken care to.

Why can’t we wait??

Why are likes, algorithms, and the desperation to be the first news outlet to post fresh content to thousands of strangers so much more important than sensitivity and compassion for parents who have just lost a child?

The danger of social media is that it has stripped humankind of its dignity. It has robbed us of compassion. It has allowed us to forget our humanity altogether.

The push to post — and be the first one to post — is such that in the heat of rushing ever-new content out, we trample over the most vulnerable of human states, where even highly trained professionals walk with the utmost care.

It’s an innocent game. Whereas before social media, we might have said, “I was there. I saw it with my own eyes,” to express the proximity, the level of involvement, perhaps even the compassion, today a video does all of that. When we post, we might share the story with the first degree of love, horror, and connection. But the second-degree people who watch were not there, did not feel, and are merely feasting their eyes on swipe after swipe of this calamity, that happening, this failure, that disaster, before clicking off their phone with dry eyes.

What would happen if, before any news story is posted, the ramifications for all involved would be seriously considered? Or, if the urge to share is overwhelming, we’d wait one hour — just one hour while the body is still warm — to make sure the family already knows, before tapping send. Pressing send on a WhatsApp or social media post is akin to taking a megaphone and announcing someone’s tragedy in the street, only far more potent. So before pulling the trigger, stop for a moment to consider this: if this story were happening to a member of your family, what would you want posted?

If someone is sick, critically ill, or dying, do I have to be the first person to say I knew? Pull out a sefer Tehillim and say some prakim if you must do something. We have to be so careful with every text, post, tweet, WhatsApp. The ramifications are viral.

When Misaskim posts the information of families sitting shivah, they don’t do it before asking the family, “Is there someone who doesn’t know about the death?” Perhaps an elderly father doesn’t know. Perhaps a sister who isn’t able to sit shivah has been spared the details until the last day. If someone has been deliberately kept out of the loop, it isn’t worth the death notice, on the slight chance that they might see the news via a newspaper announcement.

Sensitivity is key, especially in the face of death.

Even in the event of a family simchah, the hurt can be inadvertent when the entire world is privy to our story. Simcha Shain talks about engagements that are posted the second they happen. While the parents of the young couple may have still been too preoccupied to inform all of the siblings, grandparents, and family members, pictures are already circulating on everyone’s device. The time lapse between reality and social media is almost nil.

The push to post is real. It’s our way of communication.

In a world that rewards curiosity and engagement — and punitively relegates the news stragglers into oblivion — churning our relevant media is the survival of every social media account that provides our entertainment. If we could, however, collectively create a code of conduct in which we agree to do no harm, perhaps hour-old news might still be relevant.

If, as individuals, we find ourselves in the midst of a happening, and in possession of exciting footage, and yet we still decide to ask ourselves this question: How would those pictured here feel with this image of themselves circulating, then perhaps we can turn our social media into safe media.



# THE PITFALLS OF POSTING

A discussion with Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser

Let's frame this discussion with this pasuk from Mishlei (11:2): "When willful wickedness comes, then comes disgrace, but with the modest is wisdom — v'es tznuim chochmah."

"Tznuim chochmah —Those who are modest have great wisdom."

The first breach of modesty is in posting what may be private. While it may not be private to me, if it is about someone else, it is private. The Chofetz Chaim writes about the difference between what is known to people and what is not. If something is unknown it is considered private, and a person has a right to his privacy.

The desire to post has become a drive just like any other. It is a taavah that, once we are posting, has captured our attention, and we keep looking for another thing to post, for something else we can add. It turns into something hard to stop.

When something private has been exposed to the public, the person who posted it may say, "I never intended this to hurt you," but an apology won't stop the spread, and can't reverse the damage.

Another branch of posting was impossible until fairly recently. But now groups, organizations, and individuals can be cyberbullied or cyberharassed into taking an action or withholding, simply by being threatened via social media.

The flip side of tragedy is any personal event that has now been spread beyond the parameters of privacy. A couple goes out on a date. Those who see them already record the meeting, as they imagine the couple is probably going to get engaged. They pass on the picture and now the information is public. This has countless times spoiled a simchah. Family who didn't know, now want to weigh in. People who are aware that this is happening but didn't yet take place are able to "warn" either side of things they may not know.

Posting erroneous piskei halachah, or relying on what one sees another individual do has now taken on added weight. An individual called me and told me something

he had done. "Did you ask a she'eilah if this was allowed?" I asked, knowing this was against halachah.

"I saw someone post that that's what he did," he told me. But upon further reflection, he was basing his actions on the decisions of someone who came from a group whose mission is to disregard standard halachah.

"In the time of the Rambam, missionaries wrote a book. People didn't think it posed a threat, believing that anyone who saw it would know it was heresy. The Rambam said it was a threat, however. When someone reads a book, it has a strong influence on him, no matter who wrote it. Social media has a way of normalizing things that are not halachic. This is a very serious matter.

"A lot of the posts being consumed have devarim bateilim, not appropriate content, cynicism, and sarcasm. It's become so common and we have become so accustomed, it's like it has gotten its own heter based on its prevalence. But the truth is, we need to spread positivity. There is enough negativity and challenge in the world. Most people are tzibrochen and tziklapt, walking the tightrope of life. We don't need added drama.

Further, people hiding behind the smokecreen of social media pose as Yosef hatzaddik, the Vilna Gaon, and the Baal Shem Tov. This 'gives' them clout to knock, disparage, and offer commentary on great roshei yeshivah, tzaddikim, and organizations. And the innocent people who read it, are exposed to the sarcasm and think, I always thought they were great people but maybe I didn't know. I must have been misinformed."

"When we disparage an organization, yeshivah, or community, we are hurting each individual member of that collective in one fell swoop. That's the danger of the mongering on social media. If you are going to post on social media, be brief. The more words, the more content, the greater opportunity to be nichshal.

"The world needs chizuk. How careful one must be in issuing sharp commentary. On the issue of tochachah, how to deliver rebuke, there are entire sefarim on how to deliver the words gently, carefully. How can we be sure that our words are not hurting anyone?

"Every blade of grass has a malach that whispers to it to grow. Let us at least have the same vigilance. For every letter and image that we post, let us ask ourselves if our Creator would want this to grow — before hitting send.

"When Misaskim posts important information regarding kavod hameis, they are posting another kiddush Hashem and another kiddush Hashem. They are respected in Klal Yisrael and in the highest courts and government offices. This is how we should approach social media."

שְׁתַּחֲדֵשׁ עֲלֵינוּ  
שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה

100% SWEET  
—  
100% PURE

FOR THOSE WITH HIGHER STANDARDS

GEFEN

**GEFEN**

For those with higher standards<sup>SM</sup>

# STEP IN



**An inside view to one of America's  
largest chesed organization.**

# STEPPING IN SINCE 2005

## 2005

A group of individuals dealing with the klal saw the need for an organization that would assist families when they face death. In 2005 Misaskim is founded and sends out its first delivery in March.



## 2007

In just two short years, Misaskim is fully established and servicing almost every community within the tri-state area.



## 2008

Misaskim is the number people call after a death, but who will the broken widows and orphans call when everyone's routine is back to normal? Once again Misaskim stepped in and founded project Yedid, a division to assist and support the family members of the deceased. In 2008, the first successful chol hamoed trip was arranged for 228 yesomim.

# 8,256

AVEILIM SERVICED THIS PAST YEAR....

### PARTIAL ANNUAL BUDGET

Rent for 9 Warehouses	\$180,000
Insurance, gas and maintenance of 15 vehicles	\$100,000
119 Meisei Mitzva brought to Kevura in 2018	\$350,000





## 2010

Misaskim has become the household name in the community for all law enforcement and coroners in the tri-state area. In addition, Misaskim has also become a household name with branches in Manchester, Los Angeles, Toronto, Baltimore, Greater Washington and more.



## 2012

With it's established trusted relationships with law enforcement we were tasked with coordinating the security for 2 of the largest gatherings of yidden in this century; the Internet Asifa at Citifield and the Siyum Hashas at the Met Life Stadium.

## 2018

Project YediD keeps expanding. As the community kept growing so did the day to day needs of orphaned families. Be it a simcha or a handyman no request is too insignificant to the amazing volunteers. All this and more is done to comfort and help the orphans and almanos with no consideration to costs and time constraints.

## 2019

We unfortunately hear of heartbreaking news way too often. While doing their absolute best to make sure no family is left alone and lost after a tragedy Misaskim's annual budget has exceeded a record breaking 3 million dollars.

IN 2018

**AUTOPSIES  
PREVENTED**

**252**

**9**

WAREHOUSES IN  
THE TRI-STATE AREA

**361**

volunteers

**15**

**MISASKIM  
TRUCKS** ON  
THE ROAD



# YESOMIM

## BRINGING THEIR SMILE BACK!

The last shivah chair is folded, the last candle flickers, but the pain, loneliness and helplessness is only just beginning.

That's why Misaskim established Project Yedid - a year round support system for over 2000 orphans and widows with a budget that exceeds

**\$1,000,000.00**

### CHOL HAMOED SUKKOS

Yom tov is a time where the loss of a family member is magnified. Where it concerns the bereaved families you can count on Misaskim to take a load off. Widows do not have to worry about how to entertain their family on chol hamoed. By arranging transportation and distributing snacks these families can leave their pain behind for a day. Children enjoy fun filled activities like airbrushing, creating wax figures and an uplifting simchas beis hashoeva with a catered Yom Tov meal fit for a king served in our 4000 sq ft sukkah.

.....  
Cost: **\$105,000**

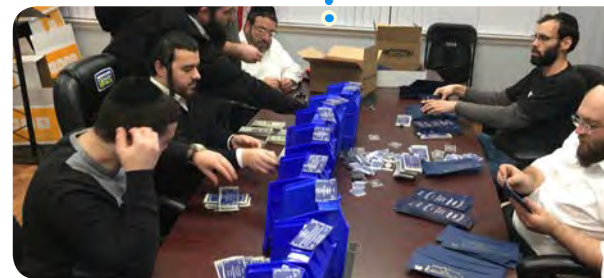


CARING FOR YESOMIM

### CHANUKAH GELT

Cost: **\$182,000**  
.....

A dollar won't blow their pain away, but if it's \$10 gebentched by a gadol it does have the power to light up their night. At a time when it's all about family, tremendous effort is put into alleviating the pain of those who are broken hearted. Each child received \$50 spending money to use as they wish. With an abundance of gifts and toys magnificently packaged and delivered Project Yedid is truly able to shine light into their lives.



### CHOL HAMOED PESACH TRIPS

Cost: **\$75,000**  
.....

Chol Hamoed Pesach is another time of year that Project Yedid steps in to give orphans and their families peace of mind. With generosity and kindness they do all the planning necessary down to the minutest detail to give these families the most enjoyable and unforgettable trip.

## PURIM SEUDOS

Cost: **\$150,000**

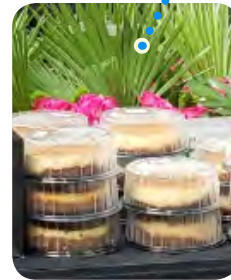
Do they always have to be the guests of others? With the amazing program for Purim seudos, Misaskim has empowered countless widows and given true meaning to happiness to these families. By sending out elegant invites and making personalized phone calls, the volunteers worked hard to give families a memorable Purim in which they were the hosts. Gourmet menus catering to allergies and different hashgachas were delivered fresh on erev Purim with cutlery, tablecloths, drinks and more.



## SHAVUOS PACKAGES

Erev Shavuos, a luxurious cheesecake, a rich bouquet of flowers and a lot of care gets delivered to every orphaned family in the tri-state area on the Misaskims list.

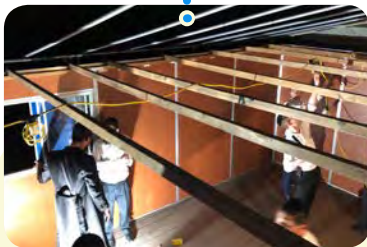
Cost: **\$36,000**



## EMERGENCY FUND

Cost: **\$400,000**

When it's hard to move on and almanos don't know who to turn to for help, Misaskim will always be there. Whether it's a need for new shoes, arranging a family simcha or urgent home renovations the emergency fund helps over 2000 orphans and widows relieve some of their daily stress.



## CAMP FUND & PACKAGES

An escape. A safe haven. That's what sleepaway camp is to these orphans. It's a few weeks where they can forget everything else and just be themselves. The serenity and happy smiles come with an expensive price tag that many can't afford. The Project Yedid camp fund paid tuition for many of these children and delivered 450 care packages to kids starting sleepaway and day camp.

Cost: **\$100,000**

# VOLUNTEERS THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR MAKING THE UNIMAGINABLE POSSIBLE. MISASKIM: A STEP STEP

Chesky Tabak



#B17

We got a call erev Shavuot from an almanah that her power had gone out and her air conditioning wasn't working. She wanted to know if we can send her a portable air conditioner. Five volunteers were sent down to see how they could help, amongst them electricians.

The electricians drew their own power lines and hooked up all 5 air conditioners which Misaskim volunteers had donated. While there, they heard the kids talking about one of the children who had broken her foot a few days earlier but hadn't had it checked out yet. Misaskim arranged for the child to be seen by the chief orthopedist at Maimonides Hospital, where the little patient got top care.

Immediately after Shavuot Misaskim called Con Edison and made sure that the electricity went back up.

Jaime B.



#DL-17

It was April 6, 2019 - the day before my daughter was set to get married. With a list of things prepared for me to do and the anxiousness of the wedding ahead of me - the last thing I was expecting was to see a text requesting a new delivery of shivah chairs for the house of my dear friend who had lost his wife. Despite my responsibilities and the difficulty involved in doing this delivery, I B"H did the delivery the next day. As someone who defines himself as a Misaskim volunteer - I try never to let things get in the way of the wonderful opportunities to do chesed. It was a whirlwind day with a great mix of emotions but to step in when the going gets tough was never a question in my mind.

**David K.**



**#L31**

I was involved in the recent tragic case - the drowning of a 9 y/o boy at Sahara Sam's Water Park. The Misaskim family stepped in right at the beginning to do what's necessary. Words cannot properly describe the impact we made. I think it would be best to quote some of what Dr. Oz Henig, A Jewish ER Doctor at the Virtua Voorhees Hospital wrote to us... "A heartfelt yasher koach on a true act of chesed last night. Not only did this group help a Jewish soul in need, but the sheer volume of support left such an impact on the medical staff at Virtua, it truly made a shem tov for the Jewish people.... The chesed shown last night left such an impact that I wanted to pass along these sentiments, especially to a group that does a thankless job and does so with such enthusiasm and love... It's an honor and privilege to be part of such a remarkable group of people."

**Meir Fink**



**#W49**

On erev Shabbos I was with a family who was sitting shivah for their young child who'd tragically died in an accident. When I asked the child's mother where the water urn is, so that I could put up hot water for Shabbos, she replied that she didn't have one. It had broken a couple of years back, and they couldn't find the money to replace it. Right then and there I went out and bought an urn and a toaster (which had also broken years earlier and hadn't been replaced due to lack of funds).

After Shabbos, the mother told me, with tears in her eyes, that for a long time Shabbos morning had been her 'time to relax' with a hot coffee and something good to read. With the loss of her urn, that tradition had ended. The Shabbos Misaskim bought the urn for her was the first time in YEARS she could have a coffee again on Shabbos morning.

**Meir F.**



**#L-16**

We once had a large family that the father was sick for quite a few years. He was niftar on a Thursday afternoon. Obviously we brought in a big team and turned the house over, and I mean everything... from cleaning, stocking, organizing, moving furniture, ordering food... everything so they can sit shivah there properly. There are 2 things that really stand out... 1) We put together a full Shabbos food order for them. I asked the buchar if there's anything in particular that he would like. He answered me and said "I've been eating neighbors chicken for the last 7 years, I'd like some good takeout!" "You bet!" Was my response. Chopped liver or sautéed? Pastrami or corned beef... etc. They had a Shabbos they'll never forget 2) When we unloaded the house to the back porch we saw the patio door was falling apart we asked the almana if we can fix it. She told us that she was so preoccupied with her husband the past few years and could never get around to it, and would really appreciate it. The next day one our volunteers was eyeing a poster in shul campaigning to help this family. Someone standing next to him looking at the same poster quipped "why do they make these massive campaigns?" He turns around and says "I don't know the answer, but I can tell you that they're door is falling apart and needs to be replaced so maybe you'd like to sponsor their patio door?" The guy was caught off guard and says "you know what, yes!" The morning after shivah the new door was installed!

**Shimon S.**



**#RM-45**

We recently had a shivah delivery here in Monsey where a young father passed away. Many times in such situations we know it will be more than just a shivah setup, and this was no exception. We were 5 volunteers and we got to work cleaning up, organizing, and getting the house into shape with the utmost sensitivity and care.

**David S.**



**#B-54**

We were setting up a shivah house where there had been a fire several weeks earlier in which both parents were unfortunately lost. A family member offered the use of his house for shiva but it was under construction. The main room was filled from floor to ceiling with construction material and debris. We had an hour and half until the family would be back from the levaya to get the house in order. We cleared the room, installed lighting, put in carpet and curtains and transformed the place so that the family could sit shivah with dignity.

**David B.**



**#DL-19**

We had a young mother of 4 niftar in Deal, and a lot of people sitting shivah. When we went to the house to set it up, we noticed the AC system was not working correctly. We reached out to our Misaskim partners in Lakewood who were able to get someone to come to the house at midnight. It took 2 hours to fix the issue and they also brought in an outside ac unit and set it up to keep the house air conditioned.

**Sruly Hayum**



**#B24**

Erev Shabbos a simple request came in. An almanah told us that her children don't have bikes for the summer. By Sunday afternoon she had two bikes, a scooter and 3 helmets.

**Myer F.**



**#L-11**

Our dear volunteer Dovid K, a busy father and Rabbi has taken upon himself to host a weekly Thursday gathering for the yesomim in his area! I believe this is called "stepping in."

**Shimmy S.**



**#KJ17**

### **Shimmy's Events**

I recently got a call from R' Yankie Meyer to assist him with a unique Mitzvah. A young boy who recently lost his mother was becoming Bar Mitzvah and Misaskim was called for help. Let me tell you, this Bar Mitzvah was next level. We had the opportunity to be mesameach a yasom with a gorgeous Bar Mitzvah which he won't forget for a long time. It is hard to describe the emotions of the night. We were all flying high.... the family... the staff... but this is what we do. R' Yankie Meyer has set an example for all of us that when it comes to chesed we don't say no.

**Dovi K.**



**#B-19**

I was dispatching one Wednesday night and we got a call regarding a mes mitzvah. The body was lying in a morgue in San Mateo, CA for almost a month while they were trying to find a relative to claim the body. They finally found a cousin in New York who called us to help. We immediately called our Misaskim partners in Los Angeles, CA which is about 375 miles - a 7 hour drive from San Mateo. They immediately drove out there, brought the body back, and B"H by Friday morning - 36 hours later this mes mitzvah had a proper tahara and kevarah.

**Mechel Steinmetz**



**#W29**

We were on a call for a huge delivery of shivah supplies for a young family who had lost their parent. The children were agitated and looked hungry. We placed an order at the local restaurant for lots of pizza, French fries and ice cream for them.

# Technology Helping NYC Officials Nab Speeders & Scofflaws

By: Sandy Eller

**Y**ou might be driving along city streets minding your own business, but these days, chances are excellent that somewhere along the way there are cameras picking up your vehicle's information and, very possibly, passing it along to law enforcement.

Legislation signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo on Mother's Day made dramatic changes to New York City's school zone speed camera program. While the cameras had been previously photographing offenders during variable hours on school days only, the new program will have speed cameras operating from 6 AM to 10 PM all year long. The initiative will also increase the number of school zones from 140 to 750 and will allow for cameras to be installed anywhere within a quarter mile radius of a school, a significantly larger area than before.

40 to 60 new cameras are scheduled to be installed each month through the end of 2021, bringing the total number up to approximately 2,000 cameras, the largest such network in the nation, reported The New York Times. Car owners whose vehicles are photographed going more than 10 miles per hour over the speed limit, which is typically 25 miles per hour in the five boroughs, would receive \$50 tickets in the mail.

Critics have blasted the new cameras, categorizing them as profit centers for New York City that will have little effect on pedestrian and school safety. More than 5.2 million violations were issued through last

year, bringing \$228 million in fines into the city's coffers.

While speed cameras will only be photographing those who drive too fast, license plate readers that collect data on thousands of plates daily have also been popping up all over the city. Originally installed at area bridges and tunnels in the wake of 9/11, license plate readers are part of law enforcement's Domain Awareness System, collecting significant amounts of live data through a variety of sources. According to The Daily News, every precinct in New York City has at least one squad car equipped with the technology, with 16 million license plates scanned into its database as of 2013 and images kept on record for up to five years. Plates that are captured are compared against a list of those that have been flagged for a variety of reasons, sending out an alert if a match occurs.

At a joint operations center meeting with the NYPD, Misaskim coordinator Meir Weill found out just how accurate the system is. Using his license plate as an example, it took just 30 seconds for the NYPD to produce an accurate record of every license plate reader he had passed within a 48 hour time period, including actual photographs.

License plate readers will be in operation at all tollbooths once the rollout of cashless tolling has been completed and will close existing loopholes, giving authorities the ability to catch scofflaws. Toll evaders and those who have a significant amount of unpaid tickets will be flagged and could potentially be pulled over and arrested.

A family is about to sit  
shiva but the house hasn't  
been cleaned in weeks..

An almana is sitting home  
with her children on Purim..

# WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Once Misaskim enters  
the door to a shiva house,  
we cannot simply ignore  
what we see, we cannot  
just fold the chairs and  
walk out of their lives.







SEPTEN  
MBER,  
24 - 26

[WWW.RAYZE.IT/MISASKIM](http://WWW.RAYZE.IT/MISASKIM)



STAY **SAFE** ON  
THE  
**SCHOOL**  
**BUS**

By: Sarah Massry

**Dear student that almost missed your bus:**

*I witnessed a very dangerous sight this morning.*

*It began on a crisp, sunny morning. I was on my way to work when a school bus in front of me stopped and put on its red flashing lights. Of course, I stopped to wait. And then I waited some more. Apparently, the student was not at his stop, so a line of cars waited as well. At last the bus removed the flashing lights and began to pull away. Then you came running down the block, waving your hands.*

*In your attempt to make the bus, you ran into the street, in front of my car, behind the bus, and then in front of the bus. I was frightened. Would the driver see you? I was scared to look. Thankfully, the driver noticed you and stopped the bus in time. Thankfully, the other cars stopped as well. Baruch Hashem you made it to school that day. I shudder to think what could have happened if the driver had not seen you. The morning would have had a very different- and traumatic- outcome.*

*Please be careful! I know how hectic mornings can be, but safety should be a priority. Try to leave your home with enough time to wait safely. Even if you are running late, never run after a bus, and never run into the street. It's just not worth it. Your parents would rather drive you to school than deal with a terrible emergency, chas v'shalom.*

*May Hashem protect you and all of Klal Yisroel and may you have a very successful- and safe- year!*

*From the driver behind your school bus*

Each morning, the roads in the United States are speckled with yellow as 480,000 school buses weave through the streets, transporting 26 million children to school. From New York to California, and from Maine to Florida, school busses have the exact same color.

Is it yellow? Or orange? Neither! They're not pure yellow (like the color of lemons), but they're not orange either. School busses are a yellowish, orange color. They have an official name: 'National School Bus Glossy Yellow'. We refer to school busses as yellow because school busses used to be pure yellow.

School buses are convenient for parents, and helpful with the rush-hour traffic, because they keep so many cars off the road. More so, school busses are very safe! They've been rated as the safest type of road vehicle on the road. There are far less school bus crashes than car crashes.

School buses have been designed with special safety features to protect their precious passengers.

The bright yellow bus color (that stands out on the road), flashing red lights, and built in stop signs, help the other drivers see the bus and remind them to be careful when driving near the bus and to watch out for the children getting on and off of the bus.

The cross view mirrors help the bus driver drive safely. And the protective cushions and high back seats protect the children on the bus.

Have you ever wondered why there are no seat belts on a bus? According to the law cars must have seat belts, but busses don't have to. That's because busses are so big and heavy, that in the case of a bus crash chas v'shalom, the passengers experience much less crash force and stay safer than a car crash.

These safety features are most effective when the students, parents, and drivers do their part to ensure the passengers' safety. After all, a few moments of caution can prevent tragedy!

# 1

## STUDENTS' SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES:

- 1 When walking to the bus stop, always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the side of the road that is facing traffic.
- 2 Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early. Be sure to wait in a safe spot, away from the street. Try to stay at least three feet away from the curb.
- 3 If you need to cross: Wait for the bus to stop completely and put on the flashing lights. Then look three ways: left, right, and left again, to make sure that no cars are coming.
- 4 Never cross right in front of the bus because the driver may not be able to see you. Walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus until you can see the driver. When possible, make eye contact with the driver and wait for him to signal for you to cross.
- 5 Never cross the street from behind the school bus.
- 6 Listen to the bus driver and follow his rules.
- 7 Don't speak loudly or make loud noises that could distract the driver.
- 8 Remain seated on the bus, and do not stand up until the bus has come to a complete stop.

9 Never bend down near or underneath the school bus because the bus driver may not be able to see you.

10 Never put your head, arms or hands out the bus window.

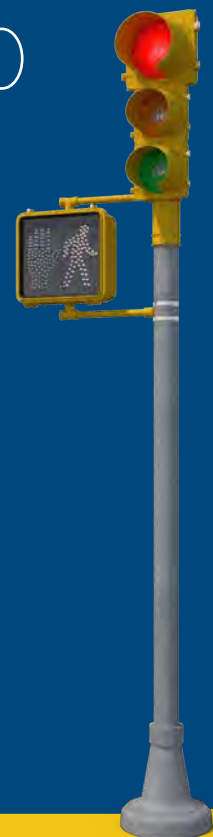
11 Keep aisles clear of briefcases.

12 When returning from school, be sure to get off at the correct stop. Do not go anywhere else without your parents' permission.

13 Never talk to strangers at the bus stop. If you miss the bus, do not take a ride from a stranger.

### FUN FACT

The law protects students that are getting on and off busses. It is illegal to pass a school bus. Passing a school bus is one of the worst violations a driver can do- it's even worse than reckless driving!



## 2 PARENTS' SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES:

- 1 Review the safety rules with your children. Make sure they know where to wait and how to cross safely. Demonstrate proper safety procedures.
- 2 Pack all of your children's belongings into a briefcase to avoid the possibility of items dropping under or near the bus.
- 3 Walk with your younger children to the bus stop and wait with them until the bus arrives.
- 4 Make sure that your children are waiting in a safe spot and that drivers can see the kids at your bus stop.
- 5 Parents- and all drivers- should be careful when driving near school busses. Slow down and stop if you're driving near a school bus that is flashing yellow or red lights.
- 6 Remind your children to always get off at the correct stop. If alternative plans must be made, a procedure should be put into place with the school.
- 7 When waiting for your children to return home, always wait on the correct side of the street.
- 8 Have an efficient procedure to avoid delays so that the cars behind the bus do not have to wait for an excessive amount of time.

### FUN FACT

Kids have been riding on school buses- or school buggies- for 133 years! The first school busses were horse drawn carriages known as 'school hacks.' They were made by Wayne Works in 1886.



### FUN FACT

What is the color of a school bus? Is it yellow or is it orange? It's not pure yellow (like the color of lemons) and it's not orange either. School busses are a yellowish, orange color. We refer to school busses as yellow because school busses used to be pure yellow.



# 3 DRIVERS' SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES:

- 1 Slow down and stop if you're driving near another school bus that is flashing yellow or red lights.
- 2 Always pull over to the side of the road and ensure that the children cross safely. Never allow students to cross from behind the bus.
- 3 Follow the speed limit and slowdown in school zones and near bus stops. Stop at all railroad crossings.
- 4 Be alert and look out for kids who are near the school bus.
- 5 Be sure that the children are seated before driving away.
- 6 Make sure the children are in a safe location before turning off the lights and driving away.
- 7 Before parking their busses for the evening, check to make sure that there are no sleeping children on the bus.

## FUN FACT

Have you ever wondered why there are no seat belts on a bus? According to the law cars must have seat belts, but busses don't have to. That's because busses are so big and heavy, that in the case of a bus crash chas v'shalom, the passengers experience much less crash force and stay safer than a car crash.



## FUN FACT

All vehicles—even emergency vehicles—are required to stop when school buses flash their red lights. Even fire trucks, ambulances, and police cars must stop!



## FUN FACT

The average school bus transports 54 student passengers.



## FUN FACT

In Japan there are school buses decorated with all kinds of interesting designs. There are some busses that look like trains and some that are decorated with Hello Kitty!



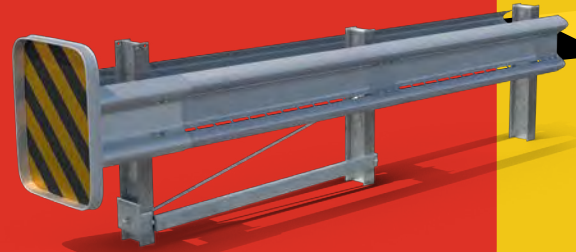
## FUN FACT

Bus drivers need a special kind of license called a commercial driver's license (CDL). Before getting this license they need to practice driving a bus.



## FUN FACT

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has rated school buses as the safest type of road vehicle on the road!



## FUN FACT

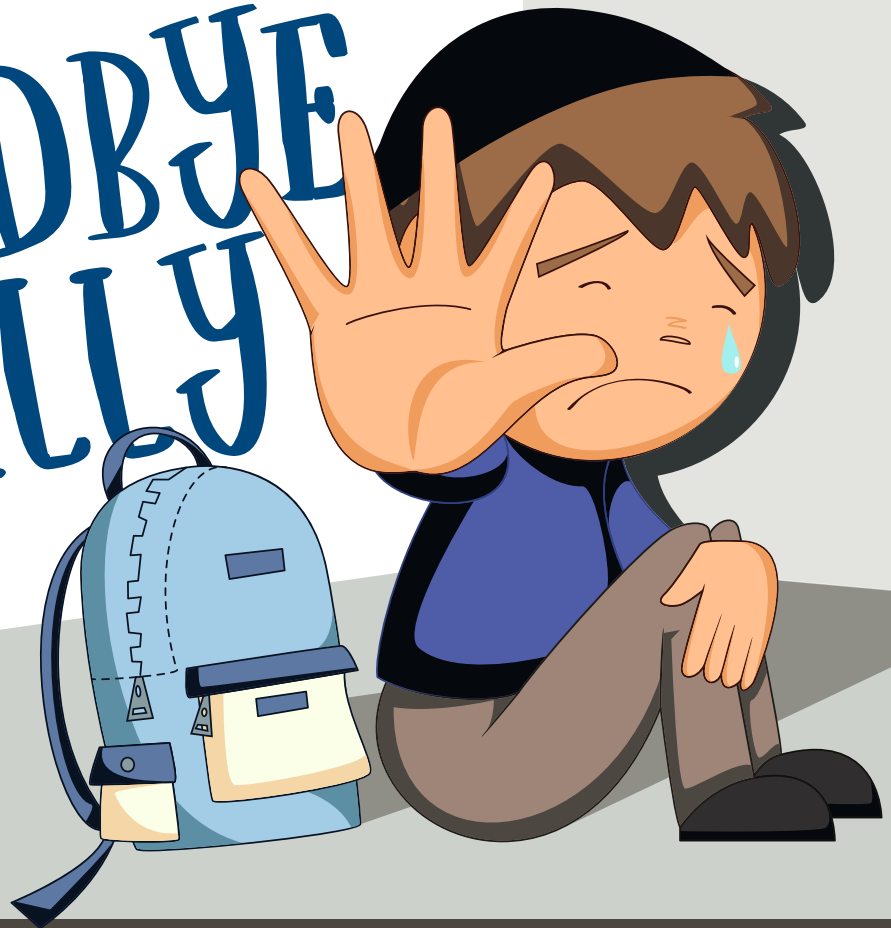
Busses in America have a standard color with an official name. It's called the 'National School Bus Glossy Yellow'



## FUN FACT

There are more than 50,000 school buses in New York!

# GOODBYE BULLY



Yoel covered behind the open classroom door. He clutched his lunch bag to his chest.

"I'M HUNGRY!" Ari yelled. "WHERE'S YOEL?"

Yoel closed his eyes and crouched lower.

Mendy and Chaim noticed Yoel hiding behind the door. Mendy smirked. Ari whipped his head back to see what Mendy was smiling at.

He saw Yoel.

He grabbed Yoel's lunch bag and rummaged through it. He took out a container of blueberries.

"Oooh," Ari crooned. "You brought me blueberries today. How'd you know that's my favorite, huh?"

"That's...that's mine," Yoel whimpered. "My mother packed it for me."

Ari popped open the lid and took a handful of blueberries.

"Not anymore," Ari said, his mouth full of

berries. "You don't deserve good food."

Yoel, tears streaming down his cheeks, slinked to his desk.

"Crybaby!" Ari called after him.

Mendy shoved his hands into his pocket and looked away. Chaim laughed nervously.

If you were standing there, what would you do?

Hard question, isn't it? We all hope we could be the knight in shining armor. We would jump up and help poor Yoel. We would demand that Ari give Yoel back his snack. But, it's not so easy. Most of us would be scared to get involved because then maybe Ari would start up with us!

To see what you can do to help, let's define bullying.

In any bullying situation, there is a bully and a victim. Usually, there are also bystanders, people who are watching the bully and the victim.



# WHAT IS A BULLY?

A bully is someone who is mean to someone again and again and again.  
A person is a bully when he does one or all of the following three things:

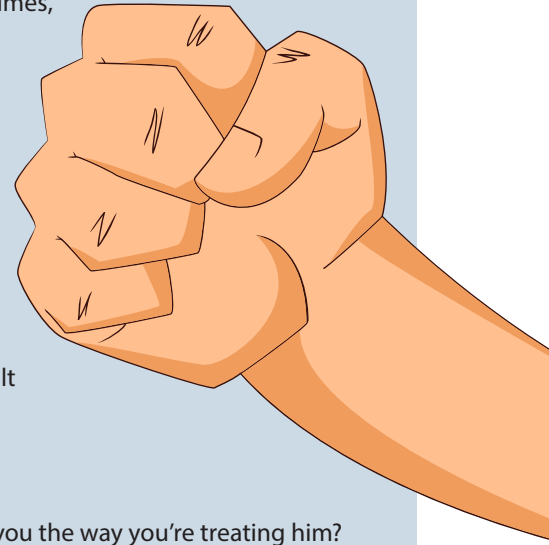
- 1 He hurts his (or her) victim physically (hit, punch, take away stuff etc.).
- 2 He hurts him emotionally (makes him feel bad).
- 3 He isolates his victim (does not let him join a group or does not let anyone include him in their group).

Anyone can be a bully. A bully will tease, spread rumors or embarrass his victim. He will do his best to humiliate and make his victim cry, get angry or fight. Sometimes, a group of bullies will gang up against another group or one person.

## ARE YOU A BULLY?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I often tease, spread rumors or say mean things about someone behind their backs?
- Do I often threaten to hurt someone or actually hit them?
- Do I exclude someone from my games or activities?
- Sometimes, it's hard to see ourselves as the bully. However, if your actions or words hurt other people, then you might be a bully. Talk to a trusted adult to help you figure out why you're bullying. Some ways to stop bullying are:
  - Get involved with helping others.
  - Keep busy with different activities.
  - Put yourself in your victim's shoes. How would you feel if someone treated you the way you're treating him?
  - This one is a toughie, but an apology to your victim will help him, as well as you, heal.



# WHAT IS A VICTIM?

Being hurt, humiliated or physically attacked again and again turns you into a victim. You may feel afraid, sad and helpless. Your friends (if you have any) might not be brave enough to stop your bully and that adds to your sadness because bullying makes you feel so alone.

## ARE YOU A VICTIM?

If you are, remember that there are ways to deal with a bully! You have a right to feel and be safe. No one is allowed to hurt or humiliate you. Tell your parent or an adult you trust, like a teacher or principal. They want to help you. Always remember that the bully is wrong and you are not! Be proud and never let the bully make you feel small! You might think that things will never get better. Well, kiddo, they will!

To help yourself, try this:



1. Get an adult involved. Bullies are scared to bully you in front of adults.
2. Always stay calm and cool.
3. Never show a negative reaction like tears, anger, yelling, etc.
4. If you're too hurt to answer coolly, then calmly walk away.
5. Never fight back!
6. Keep strong. No one, but you, can define who you are!

# WHAT IS A BYSTANDER?

A bystander is someone who stands by while someone is being bullied. He does nothing to help the victim. An upstander is someone who stands up to the bully and sticks up for the victim. However, you should be an “upstander” and stop the bully only if it’s safe to do so. The best would be if you can get an adult involved right away.

Bullies often bully because they think everyone around them thinks they’re cool when they’re tough and mean to others. You can tell them that you don’t think it’s nice to be a bully!

Remember the story with Yoel and Ari that we read about at the beginning? Well, now that you know more about bullying, what would you do if you saw what happened?

- If you’re not scared of Ari, you can say: “Hey Ari! You can’t take Yoel’s food. Give it back to him!”
- If you’re scared of Ari, do not get involved, but do tell a trusted adult.
- Be extra kind to Yoel! Show him that you care and that will show Ari that Yoel has your support!
- It takes a lot of courage and bravery to stand up to a bully. But, if you can be the one to tell the bully to stop being mean, then you’ll be a hero, buddy!

## THE BIG QUESTION IS: WHY DO PEOPLE BULLY?

## THE ANSWER: POWER

People who bully are looking for power and control. They will pick on someone who appears weak and will try to make the victim feel tiny and helpless. Any negative reaction from the victim will boost the bully’s power. If the victim

cries, gets angry or tries to fight back, he just gave his bully more power.

We can use a balloon as an example. When you blow up a balloon, you have to keep blowing air into the balloon until it gets nice and round, right?

Well, a bully is like the balloon. He’s looking to puff himself up. Who will be the one to blow air inside of him? Aha! He finds someone he thinks looks weak and helpless. He teases his victim. The victim cries or fights back. That is the air the bully was waiting for! He just got himself a bit puffer. When the bully is ready for some more air, he comes back to the victim and humiliates him again. The victim cries more, or yells at him to stop! Tada! The bully got blown up even more! The victim’s tears and yells will keep blowing up the bully, so the

bully will keep coming back for more air!

If you’re being bullied, never, ever show any negative reaction! Remember no anger, tears, begging or fighting back. Always keep cool and calm. Keeping yourself neutral will take a lot of self-control but it will bust the bully’s power balloon!

Take this example:

Betsy the Bully: Hey, Gila! The dress you’re wearing looks like it came from your Bubby’s closet!

Gila (almost in tears): It’s not! I bought it in Teen Queen yesterday! You’re mean!

Betsy the Bully: Ha! Teen Queen is the nerdiest place to shop! No wonder you look so weird!

Gila (in tears): I’m not weird! You’re always so nasty to me!

Betsy the Bully saunters off with her friends in laughter.

Betsy the Bully just walked off with a whole lot of power. Gila feels quite miserable. Betsy the Bully will certainly keep bullying Gila.

Now let's see the same example with Gila not showing any negative reaction:

Betsy the Bully: Hey, Gila! The dress you're wearing looks like it came from your Bubby's closet!

Gila (cool and calm): Really?

Betsy the Bully: You bet! You always dress so weird!

Gila (still cool and calm): Thanks for sharing that.

Betsy the Bully: Sure! Anytime!

And she saunters off with her friends.

Betsy certainly didn't gain any power in this interaction. Gila kept her power and dignity. If Gila keeps responding in a neutral way with words like: "Oh?" "Really?" "Thanks for sharing!" "Okay, good to know", then Betsy the Bully will not pick on her for too long.

If you're brave and funny, you can try one more reaction that experts in bullying Izzy Kalman and Brooks Gibbs prefer.

Betsy the Bully: Hey, Gila! The dress you're wearing looks like it came from your Bubby's closet!

Gila (cool and calm): It does, doesn't it? Betsy, you always look so good in your clothes!

Betsy the Bully (fixing her belt): Yeah, I do! Not like you, Gila.

Gila (cool and calm): I know! I'm a bit of a dunce when it comes to clothes. I wish I'd have your talent. But hey, not everyone can be as put together as you!

Betsy the Bully (swelling with pride): Yeah! I'm quite the expert. Thanks!

And she saunters off with her friends.

Do you see what happened here? Gila, by staying cool and calm and even feeding Betsy her power, gained control of the situation in a sneaky but very powerful way. This is not easy to pull off and will need lots of practice with a trusted adult but works wonderfully because the bully will not only stop bullying you but can even become your friend!

You should only respond calmly to a bully if your bully is not being physically abusive. If the bully is hurting you or grabbing things from you- always involve a trusted adult, like a teacher, parent etc.

Always be prepared because bullying can happen anywhere. It can happen at school, on the playground, in camp, or even at home. The rules are:

If the bully is being hurtful with words, respond coolly or walk away calmly.

If the bully is hurting you physically, always try to move away and quickly involve an adult! Do not stay there and respond calmly because you'll get hurt!

If bullying can be anywhere, is there anything you can do to prevent it?

Yup, there sure are! Here are some tips:

Stay away from bullies. If someone keeps bullying you or others, stay far, far away from him or her.

If you need to be next to the bully, try to stick to an adult. Bullies don't usually bully in front of adults.

Even if you feel small and worthless never let the bully see that! Pick your chin up and act confident. Soon, you'll become confident!

Try to walk and spend time with friends (especially when you know that your bully will be around) so the bully doesn't catch you when you have no support!

Folks, keeping cool like a cucumber when you're being bullied is certainly not easy shmeezy. It's hard work and requires loads of practice with an adult or friend. But, go for it because no one has a right to bully you. You are strong and powerful and boy, can you do this!

Keep cool and watch your bully deflate!



ALL ABOUT



# ALLERGENS



## HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT ANYONE BEING ALLERGIC TO... A LADYBUG?!

Yup, it seems that more and more people in the US are having this problem. There's a certain chemical, isopropyl methoxy pyrazine (IPMP), that a ladybug produces in its blood to keep predators away. Seems that humans don't like this chemical either!

Are you allergic to something? If you are or someone you know is, then you know that allergies aren't that much fun.

## WHAT ARE ALLERGIES?

Hashem created the human body with an immune system. The immune system is like a huge army of tiny cells. Every time a germ that doesn't belong in the body (like bacteria or a virus) enters, these little guys will take out their weapons and boy, will they fight! When someone has an allergy, it means that the immune system overreacts. They will fight harmless things, like grass, animals, food or anything else the body thinks is its enemy!

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COMMON ALLERGIES?

People can be allergic to anything! Pollen is a big trigger. Insect bites, bee stings, animal fur, dust mites, grass and mold are quite the norm. The three most common food allergies are peanuts, eggs and milk.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT A PERSON IS HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION?

Every person can have a different reaction. Some reactions are:

- rash · hives · itchy eyes · runny or stuffed nose · stomach upset · vomiting · diarrhea · sneezing · asthma (difficulty breathing)

Anaphylaxis is a very serious reaction that must be dealt with immediately or the person can die!

## YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF THE EPI-PEN. AN EPI-PEN IS...

...used on people who have an allergic reaction that is very severe. Their throat, face or mouth can swell up and they will be unable to breathe. This is called anaphylaxis. An epi-pen (which contains medicine) must be injected into their body and they must receive emergency care immediately. If you suspect someone is experiencing this, call 911 right away!

So, you think you might have an allergy, what's next? An allergist can help you figure out what you're allergic to. There are two ways to do this:

A blood test.

A scratch test or a skin test. This is a quick way to determine if someone has an allergy. An allergist does this by scratching the person's skin, usually the arm, and putting on some of the food or pollen or whatever the doctor suspects the person may be allergic to. If the skin becomes red and bumpy, bingo! An allergy is confirmed!





## IF YOU OR YOUR FRIEND HAS AN ALLERGY

**CHECK** labels carefully if you're allergic to food. Even if you usually eat this food, check the packaging each time as the company may have changed the ingredients.

**KNOW** what your triggers are and avoid them.

**TREAT** the symptoms with medication, creams, lotions etc.

**WATCH** your symptoms carefully. Get emergency help if symptoms worsen.

**CARRY** an epi-pen with you at all times if your reactions can get severe.

### INTERESTING FACTS:

*Did you know that the older a person gets, the less likely he is to have an allergy?*

## SEE HOW ONE SCHOOL TOOK ACTION

When a girl with the peanut allergy entered kindergarten, the administration recognized that it had a challenge on its hands.

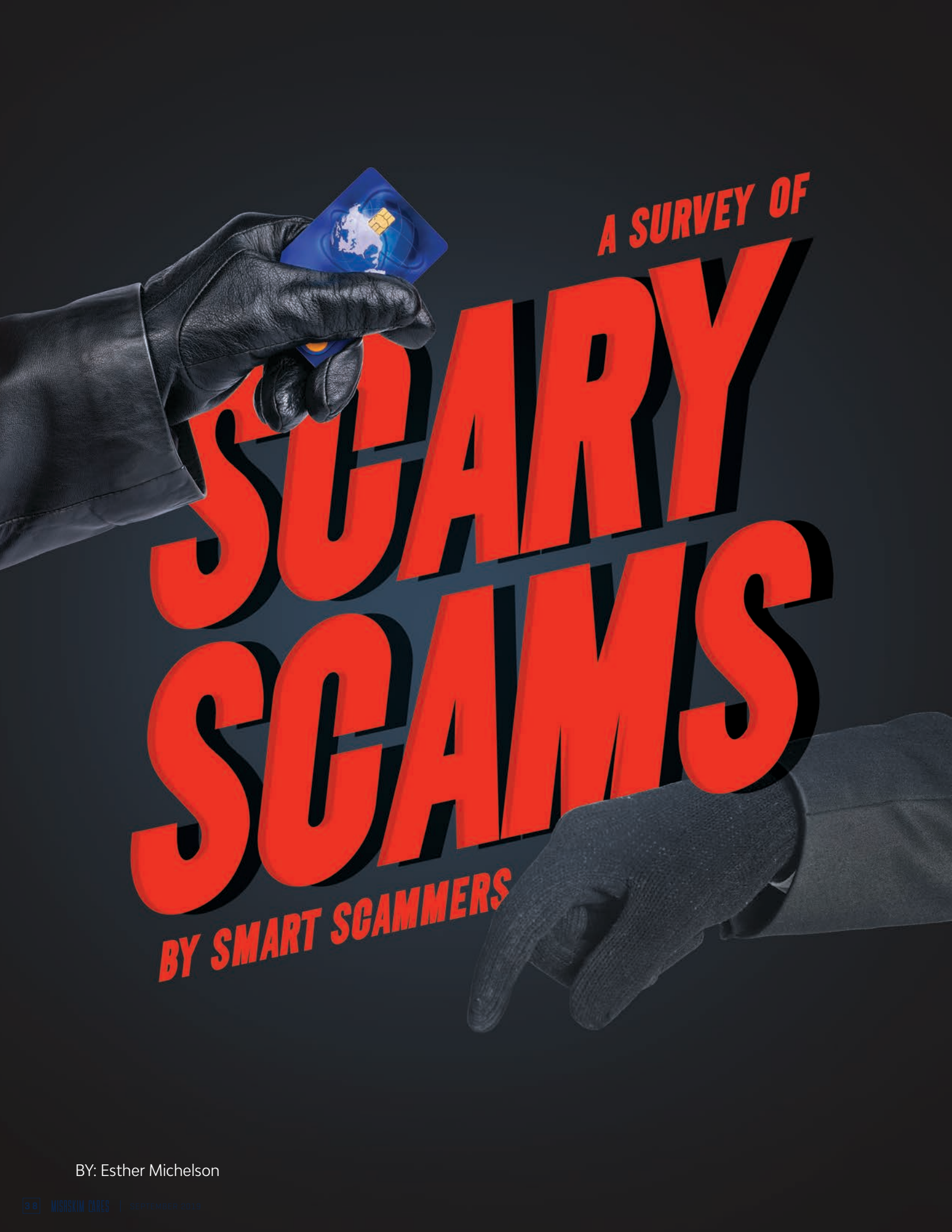
This severely allergic child would have a reaction even if she was only standing beside someone who was eating peanuts. A peanut-free zone was first established in the kindergarten and preschool, which are separate from the other grades. When the girl entered first grade, the policy became school-wide. This year, as the girl enters fifth grade, another girl with peanut allergy is starting kindergarten.

Banning peanuts and peanut products is more complex than it sounds. Many homemade, bakery and processed snacks contain peanuts or unrefined peanut oil, or are prepared on equipment that has come into contact with peanuts. The administration undertook a thorough investigation of all commercially sold foods and snacks and disseminated a list of the problematic ones.

Every year before the start of school, the mother of the older girl with peanut allergy is invited to present a fifteen-minute refresher course on the topic to the entire staff. For the first few weeks of school, teachers will be busy checking lunch boxes and reminding girls who forgot to leave their peanut snacks at home. School newsletters and parental missives mention the issue frequently. Every fire extinguisher cabinet throughout the school building is equipped with an emergency kit containing two EpiPens (a self-injecting, measured dose of epinephrine that halts an allergic reaction) and instructions on how to use them. Since the two girls with the peanut allergies are of different ages, they require different doses; thus the inclusion of two different EpiPens in each kit.

Only on two occasions has the staff had to administer an antihistamine to counter a moderate allergic reaction.

**ABOUT 6 MILLION CHILDREN IN THE US HAVE FOOD ALLERGIES!**



A SURVEY OF

# SCARY SCAMS

BY SMART SCAMMERS

BY: Esther Michelson

*Hello, I'm calling from the Police Benevolent Association. We are asking you to please open your heart and contribute something to a special fund for the widows and orphans of fallen police officers.*

*Did you ever receive such a call? I did. But I, with my big heart and all, hung up with a curt good bye. Please! Since when does the Police Benevolence Association call random strangers for tzedakah? Sorry, scammer, I saw through that one!*

Some calls, though, are a bit harder to smell the dead rat hanging by its legs on the other side of the line.

*Here's a conversation a Boro Park Bubby had with a Con Ed caller:*

*This is Lucy from Con Ed. How are you today?*

*Bubby: I'm fine, thank you. How can I help you?*

*Lucy: Well, we're offering a \$20 refund to senior citizens and you qualify for it.*

*Bubby: Oh, that's nice.*

*Lucy: Let me have your account number, please, and I'll pull up your account.*

*Err...Uh, wouldn't they have my account number on hand if they called me from Con Ed?*

*Bubby: I'm sorry, but it's not accessible. Good bye.*

Scammers come in all stripes and colors, some sneakier than others. If you were a scammer you'd need to be pretty smart to get people to hand over their money, just like that. There are lots of creative ideas these thieves come up with to dip into your wallet without coming on as a true thief, the kind you'd run away from.

Scammers are smart, but so are you. With just a little bit of awareness you can expose their cover and keep your cash in your account. There are plenty of things you can use your assets for other than handing them over to full-time scheming scammers!

Here are a few examples of common phone calls you might get:

*This is the IRS. We have here on record that you owe back taxes. You need to pay now or your property will be seized or a warrant will be issued for your arrest.*

It sounds real. It sounds scary. The IRS is not to be messed with! Your heart starts to pound. What should you do?!

The answer? Here's the golden rule of thumb: Nobody calling from an official bonafide institution will ask you for money over the phone! Here—I'm going to write it again in bold: **Nobody calling from an official bonafide institution will ask you for money over the phone!**

**SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO THE NEXT TIME YOU GET A CALL SUCH AS THIS?**

Hi, I'm calling from NYU hospital. Your cousin Kalman was in an accident and needs immediate surgery. The doctor cannot proceed until payment is provided.

Answer: Keep calm. Put the caller on hold and call Kalman. More than likely, he's perfectly fine (or even annoyed that you are calling him at the oddest of hours). You can also call Chaveirim, Shomrim, or even the hospital to verify that it's just a scam.

One quick-thinking recipient of such a call kept the caller on hold while he tried to contact his uncle whom the caller claimed was being held hostage for ransom. While he was reaching out

to his relatives to find out if the information was true, he questioned the caller about the nature of his hostage. Everything seemed to line up (yikes!) until he asked what his uncle was wearing. Jeans. His uncle is a rabbi and wears no such attire!

Remember Lucy from "Con Ed"? How do we know she was a scammer? Because after hanging up, the lucky senior who was offered a refund called Con Ed to verify that the call was a scam. The fellow who picked up laughed and said, "N-o-pe, sorry ma'am, we don't offer refunds just like that."

In today's day and age, scammers have lots of choices other than phone calls through which to get your credit card information or account number. Many versions of email scams have been making their way into people's inboxes. They come from your "brother," "rabbi," "cousin," "boss"—anyone with a name you might recognize—and they present truly compelling reasons for you to cough up. One email was even sent out from "Chase fraud department," except that if you looked at the email address it was sent from you'd see that it ain't no "Chase" chasin' after you but someone who wants your money. And "all they need"... ta-dah!... is your login information. Look before you leap to give over your personal information. If something doesn't sound right, it probably isn't—even if, and especially if, it makes your heart go thump! thump!

What should you do if you receive a bewildering email in your inbox? Keep calm. Verify that it's a scam. Rule of thumb reminder: No official institution will ask for your information just like that! Not by phone, email, or social media.

So whether you get a call that you won the lottery and all you have to do is provide payment to cover fees (you wish, I know, but sorry, it ain't true); whether you are told that your Uncle Harry is under arrest and you are needed asap to pay his bail money; or a utility company says your bill is past due and that if you don't pay now your service will be cut off, IT'S ALL A SCAM! Hang up!

And if someone unexpectedly shows up at your doorstep to service your home, put your social graces aside and don't let him in unless he shows you a legitimate badge and you call the company to verify that he's legit. More than likely,

he's a professional thief who is looking for a way into your home so he can take a look around and, yeah, leave with his pockets loaded with your possessions.

Scammers are smart, but so are you. With awareness and healthy caution, perhaps together we can send those no-goodniks scrambling around for an old fashioned job that'll earn them some clean cash. But until then, if any of the above scenarios becomes a reality in your own personal life, keep calm and carry on: it's only a scam.

**MISASKIM  
MEMO**

**PECULIAR  
PHONE CALL?  
BEWILDERING  
EMAIL?**

*If you have your doubts:*

1. Put the caller on hold; in the case of an email, refrain from replying.
2. Call your local Shomrim.
3. Follow the guidelines they give you.

**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING, SAY  
SOMETHING \***

Be kind to your community. If you are the recipient of any new or updated versions of scam attempts, tell your friends and family. The more you publicize them, the more people you save from aggravation!



# IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS



FROM  
SHOMRIM

## BEFORE LEAVING FOR YOM TOV OR VACATION

- Carefully check gates and window locks.
- Verify that the alarm and its designated central station system are fully functional.
- Designate a neighbor or friend to take in your mail and/or newspapers that may be left at your doorstep.
- Install time clocks in rooms that face the front or back of your residence, and set them to turn on lights at random times.
- Leave a spare key with a trusted neighbor or family member.
- Store all jewelry and silver in a safe place.



## WHEN LEAVING YOUR CHILDREN WITH A BABY SITTER

- Make sure you know how to contact the baby sitter by cell phone.
- Make sure to instruct the baby sitter regarding what to do in case of an emergency.
- When you are away from home, always provide emergency services numbers, as well as your own contact numbers.
- Post the address of your home and other important information next to the telephone.



## YOUR CAR

- Remove your portable navigation system. Either store it in the trunk of your car or take it with you. Remove the navigation holster from the dashboard or window, since thieves can smash a window on the assumption that the system is under the seat or in a compartment.
- Never leave something that looks valuable on the seat.
- Always keep your car locked and alarmed.



## IN YOUR HOUSE

- Keep the door and windows locked when you leave the house.
- If you hire cleaning help, NEVER leave that person alone.



## CHILDREN'S SAFETY

- Always have someone watching the children while they are playing. Children can easily wander off, giving rise to a missing child situation.
- Instruct your children NEVER to accept a ride from anyone without your permission.
- They should NEVER walk over to a car to speak to someone whom they don't know.
- They should NEVER accept any food or presents from people who look friendly.
- Review your address and telephone number with young children. In the event they get lost, they will be able to give that information to Shomrim or to the police.
- Label the inside of your children's clothing with tags that list his or her name, address, and telephone number. If you prefer, you can place a sticker on the inner side of a belt, on a shirt next to the company's label, or on a sticker inside the shoe.



## SHABBOS AFTERNOON AND MOTZEI SHABBOS EVENTS

- Make sure you know exactly where your children will be, with whom they are going, with whom they are coming home, and at what time.
- Never allow children to use public transportation without your permission.
- Never allow children to ride in a car service unaccompanied by a responsible person.



The Shomrim Organizations wish you and your family a healthy and safe year.





**The only thing you need to check for:**



*Not just  
sparkling.*  
Dazzling.



BARTENURA

**FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN**

Misaskim  
5805 16th Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11204



**WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU DO?**

**[WWW.RAYZE.IT/MISASKIM](http://WWW.RAYZE.IT/MISASKIM)**