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LETTERS

THE BEFORE AND AFTER

Misaskim means a lot

In reference to "Finding Light in Darkness,"
Issue 328

Dear Editor:

There have been many times while reading your amazing articles on Shabbos that I would say to myself that I am definitely going to write a letter about this or that. However, come Motzaei Shabbos, the would-be letter would be long forgotten. But this time I was determined not to forget.

When *chesed* organizations become the norm in our community, we forget what it was like beforehand and we may take them for granted. Both of my parents passed away prior to the founding of Misaskim. Let me describe the scenario of an Isru Chag Pesach *levayah*, probably the last one of the day, and a Friday to boot.

There were no "shivah chairs" to be had anymore. Anywhere. We were given corrugated boxes to sit on. My elderly father and uncles sat on my couch without the pillows to make it lower. It was not very comfortable with random springs poking up. I was in my fifth month. We made the best of it. Finally my cousins ran off to Home Depot and found only three white plastic chairs, because it was before the summer season. They borrowed a saw and sawed off half the legs to shorten them.

Someone called a chair rental place to deliver chairs and a coat-rack for a *mechitzah*. Someone else knew someone who knew

someone who had a small *sefer Torah*. After *shivah*, the chair rental place handed me an invoice. "Oh...I have to pay... Okay...where's the checkbook?"

I know Misaskim isn't just about chairs. It's also the peace of mind that someone else is helping you arrange things when you are out of sorts and otherwise pre-occupied, emotionally, physically and financially. We should never need their services anymore, but after experiencing the "before," I can only appreciate what their services mean to us all.

Raizy S.

FOOD STORE, SHOE STARE

Fancy feet for a small one

In reference to "Streets of Life," Issue 309

Dear Rabbi Kamenetzky:

I enjoy your columns very much. I want to share with you a short incident that just took place.

I was in a kosher food store and saw a woman with a little girl who looked about my daughter's age. This little girl was wearing gorgeous shoes that I knew my daughter would love. I stopped the woman and asked where she got the shoes.

She said, "Prada." That probably doesn't mean anything to you, but Prada shoes can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

I gave a thin smile and said thank you. (This is nowhere even close to our price range.)

Q My son graduated Kitah Alef (Grade 1) and he still can't read. What is the cause? To whom can I turn to for help?

email your question to letstalk@encoresupport.org



Answered by Benzion Kiwak, MSED, SBL
Encore Reading Specialist on EncoreSupport.org

