

Misaskim Cares

A PUBLIC SERVICE PUBLICATION | SPRING 5773 | VOL. IX



The Ultimate Test:
A mother's *emunah*
is a beacon of light
in the darkness
of her grief.

Hospital Transfers:
What you need to
know about
transferring a
critically ill family
member.

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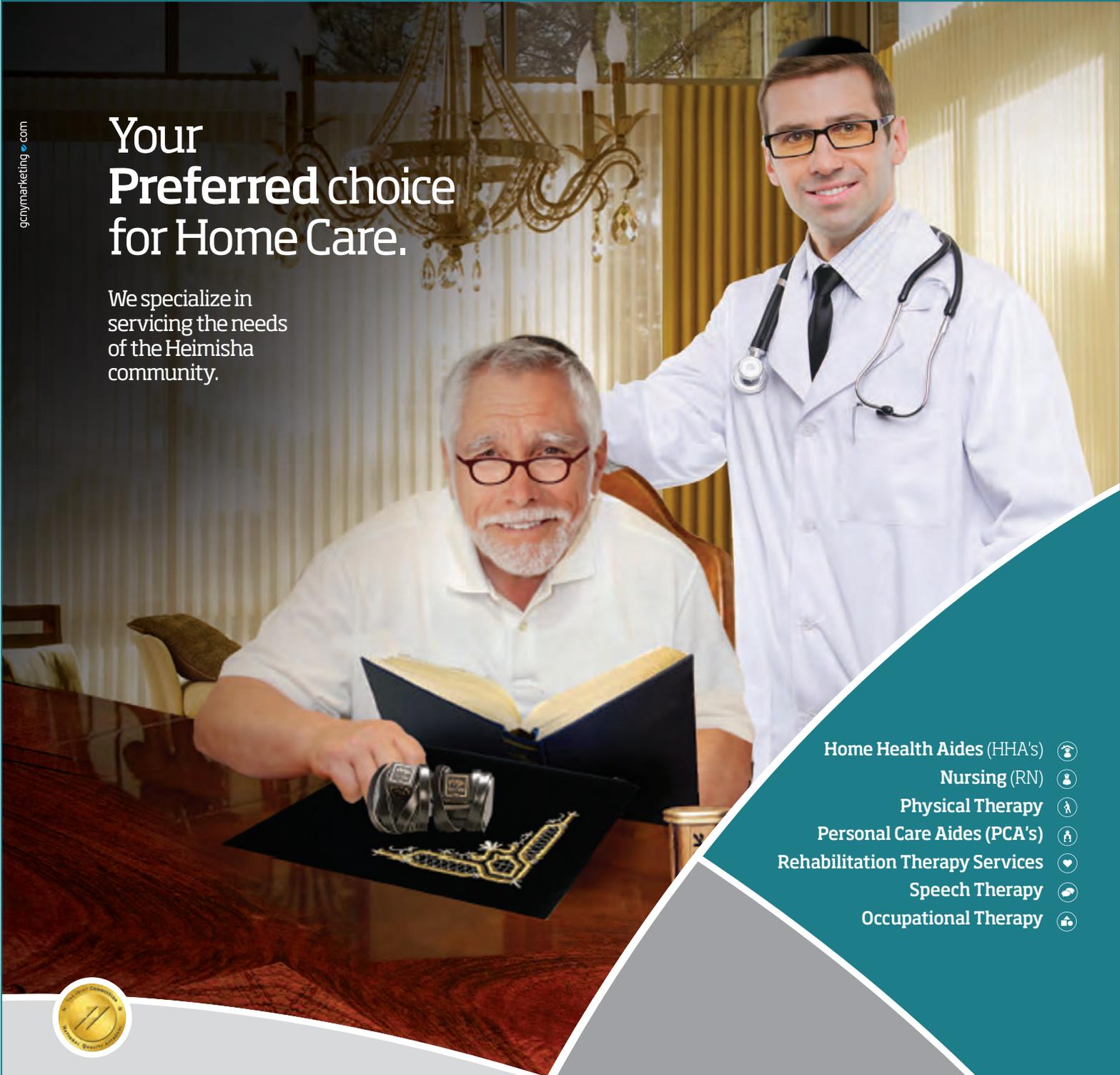


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Misaskim Cares

Welcome to Misaskim's new Pesach edition of **Misaskim Cares**, formerly known as Gates of Chesed.

Misaskim volunteers perform numerous community-related services throughout the year. We provide assistance for grieving families, communicate with law enforcement personnel, and deal with families in crisis. As a result, the organization has developed a unique understanding of the numerous serious safety and security gaps within our communities that need to be addressed.

In addition, we are privy to a variety of serious health, legal, home, and medical-emergency situations that surface again and again. We feel that it is essential, therefore, to bring these matters to the attention of the public by publishing the **Misaskim Cares** Pesach Edition.

Sadly, even though Misaskim works tirelessly to preserve the safety of all in our communities, we occasionally do have to deal with tragic losses. We would therefore also like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the powerful lessons of *emunah* we have witnessed this year.

We urge you to reflect on the important messages that appear in this publication. We believe that they can make a difference in your physical and emotional wellbeing this Yom Tov—and in ours as well.



Sincerely,
The Misaskim Board
info@misaskim.org

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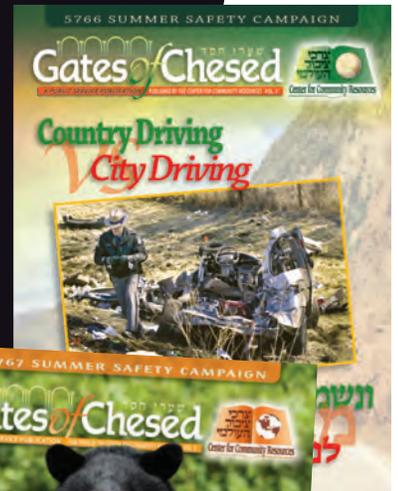
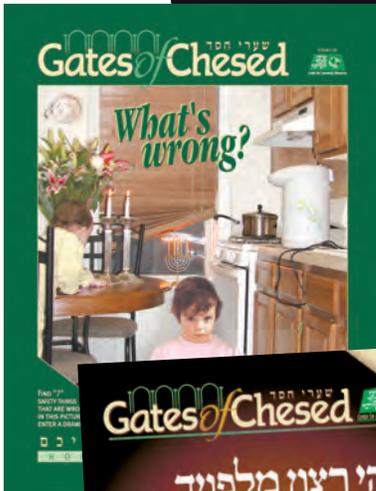
Misaskim Cares

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Formerly Gates of Chesed

Misaskim invites you to partner with us in bringing these safety messages to every home in the communities we represent. Limited sponsorship opportunities are available in our upcoming Misaskim Cares summer issue.

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Nisin, 5773

As we all busily prepare our homes *l'kavod Pesach*, we look forward with anticipation to the Yom Tov itself and its special message of *hisorrerus*.

The Shem M'Shmuel points out that the miracle of *Krias Yam Suf* took place at night; the *Shira* was sung during the day.

Our sages tell us that the world is compared to night – it is a time of darkness, confusion and obscurity, when one's mind is not so clear. It is a time when one needs to strengthen his *emunah* to lead him through the night. That is why we say "*Emes V'emunah*" at *Maariv*.

When Klal Yisroel had to go into the waters of the *Yam Suf* it required great *mesiras nefesh*. Chazal tell us that when one is facing a *nisayon*, he needs an extra boost in his *emunah* for the essence of his convictions is being challenged. It says (*Bereishis 22:4*), "*Vayisa Avraham es einav vayar es hamakom meirachok*." It is explained that Avraham saw himself far away from *hamakom* – Hashem. That is the definition of night.

But when Bnai Yisroel sang *Shirah*, during the day, they were on the highest *madreigoh*, where everyone drew from the *ruach hakodesh* and said the words of the *Shirah b'peh echad*.

We are living in a *galus* of confusion, a time when we need daily infusions of *emes v'emunah*. It is a time when Klal Yisroel is in need of great *chizuk*.

It is, indeed, fortunate that with the guidance of our Torah leaders we can intensify and heighten our *emunas chachamim* and embrace absolute *emunah b'Hashem*.

A group of *Chassidim* once joined the Kotzker at his Pesach Seder table to see how he conducted himself. When the time came for *Shefoch Chamascha*, the Kotzker instructed one of the *Chassidim* to go open the door. The *Chassid* quickly ran to the door, immediately opened it, and then returned to the table. However, the Kotzker noted that he looked disappointed. When he asked him why he was upset, the *Chassid* replied that he had not seen Eliyahu HaNavi come through the door. The Kotzker said, "How foolish you are. Eliyahu HaNavi doesn't come through the door; he comes through the mind. He comes in through the Jewish heart."

In the *zechus* of our *emunah* may we soon see the *geulah shleimah b'mheiroh b'yameinu amen*.

Rav Dovid Goldwasser



STOP THE BAL TASHCHIS!

בס"ד

Translation of excerpt, from a letter signed by Gedolei Yisroel:

Unfortunately, it is common practice today, at most catered simchos and seudos mitzvah, that massive amounts of food (often purchased with much financial strain) are discarded. Often, tens, even hundreds, of perfectly good challoos and rolls, untouched portions of chicken, fish and meat are thrown in the garbage. The sins of bal tashchis (wasting that which is useful) and bizayon ochlin (treating with disrespect the food Hashem has given) are all but forgotten.

At the same time, there are many poor families (among them widows and orphans) yeshivos and schools who could benefit immensely from this food.

Which Jew would not want that the leftover food of his simcha benefit the poor or a mosad hachinuch? What a great zechus this would be, aside from ensuring that the sin of bal tashchis will not be transgressed.

Below some ideas are presented as to how we can put an end to this senseless wasting. May much beracha come upon all those who take action to prevent waste at their simchos and events.

Practical Tips:

Instead of serving full portions to each guest, waiters should place an empty plate before each guest and serve each type of food separately, only to those who want it (French service). Whatever remains on the serving tray can then be returned to the kitchen and packed up to be given away. (Some are under the impression that serving this way costs more, but experience has shown that, it is actually easier for waiters, and many caterers do not charge more.)

Instead of giving each guest a large challah (which most people cannot finish), small and large rolls should be placed in a basket in the center of the table, so that those who want to "wash and bentch" can take what they want.

Arrange with your caterer in advance that the headwaiter should be given strict orders to adhere to the above guidelines, and that all leftover food should be packaged in aluminum pans and refrigerated so that it can be used later.

Names that appeared on the original letter

משה וואלפסאן
משיג'יח ישיבה תורה ודעת
ורב דביהמ"ד אמונת ישראל

יחזקאל ראטה
אבד"ק קארסלבורג

✂ Cut and save for your next simchas!

Baalei simcha can either take the food home or distribute it. Following are phone numbers of organizations and private people who will take your leftovers and distribute them to mosdos or the needy.

Your childrens Yeshivos or schools (especially the smaller ones), might be very excited, with the leftovers of your simcha!

Neighborhood	Telephone	Pick up • catered only • with good Hashgacha • not very small quantities
Boro Park - הנספת אורחים	718-686-2750 Ext. 3	Will pick up
Boro Park/Flatbush	917-763-6697	Will pick up
Williamsburg - מספקי מזון	718-907-1950	Will pick up
BP/Flatbush - S.T.O.P.	347-782-3940	Will pick up
Monsey	917-692-3137	Will pick up
BP/Will./Flatbush/Crown Hts Lakewood/ Monsey	917-776-5642	Will pick up Flowers & Cakes only
Boro Park/Kensington	718-436-2305	Will not pick up
Boro Park/Kensington	718-436-3024	Will not pick up

"This was how chassidim and pious people behaved, they did not destroy even a mustard seed. It bothered them to see waste and destruction, and they would expend every effort to save anything from destruction." - Sefer Hachinuch, Miztvah 529

For your comments, or to join in this project, please call: 718,972,5017, if no answer, leave a message or Fax: 718,437,9746



The Ultimate Test

The Dash

by Linda Ellis

*I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone,
from the beginning ... to the end.*

*He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke of the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.*

*For that dash represents all the time
that she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.*

*For it matters not, how much we own,
the cars ... the house... the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.*

*So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
that can still be rearranged.*

.....

*So, when your eulogy is being read,
with your life's actions to rehash ...
would you be proud of the things they say
about how you spent YOUR dash?*

(The complete poem is available at <http://lindaellis.net/the-dash/>)



Did you ever stop to think about how, indeed, you are spending your dash? For Brooklyn teenager Sarah this question was so intriguing that upon first hearing this poem, she immediately obtained her own copy and shared it with her parents and friends. Tragically, Sarah's dash ended abruptly – only days after she shared this poem with her family. Her young life was cut short by the screech of brakes on a winter afternoon, leaving her family and community in unbearable mourning.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash...

Pretty and popular, Sarah was a fun-loving, friendly high school student growing up in her close-knit Brooklyn community. Typical teenager that she was, her cheerful countenance and unassuming ways hid the depth of character and deep emunah that were the essence of her personality.

Just days before her shocking petirah, Sarah was selected by her high school principal to deliver a dvar Torah on that week's haftarah (see sidebar) before the entire student body. With the help of her father, Sarah diligently prepared the dvar Torah. However, upon facing her audience, she was overcome by sudden severe stage fright and to her horror, dissolved into a fit of teenage giggles. Nonetheless, she plunged ahead and read the dvar Torah, punctuated by giggles. She returned home that day in a high state of agitation.

Sarah shared her distress with her mother, who assured her that the family would love to hear the dvar Torah at the Shabbos table. Still smarting with

humiliation, Sarah refused, and announced that she had shredded it and no longer had a copy in her possession.

It was the next Sunday that she persistently requested from her friend to give her a copy of "The Dash." Sarah was so moved that she insisted on obtaining her own copy of the poem that very day. That evening, she shared the poem with her family at the dinner table. Her parents were moved and surprised at the profound effect the poem had on Sarah. They were also somewhat concerned by what they considered to be morbid thoughts for a fifteen year old.

On Monday, Sarah spent much of her day preparing a photo collage for a close friend. She awoke early Tuesday morning to type a letter to accompany the gift (this from a teenager dubbed by her mother as the "Queen of Sleep!"). That done, she left for school to take a midterm exam.

Her friends reported later that at school, Sarah discussed the topic of sudden death via car accidents with her friends. Displaying maturity beyond her

"עוֹז וְהוֹדָר לְבוּשָׁה וְתִשְׁחַק לַיּוֹם אַחֲרָיו"

Sarah's Dvar Torah

SARAH SAID THIS DVAR TORAH TO THE STUDENTS OF
BET YAAKOV ATERET TORAH HIGH SCHOOL ON FRIDAY כ"ט שבט

THIS WEEK'S HAFTARAH IS TAKEN FROM SEFER YEchezkel פרק כ"ט AND IT SAYS:

"ביום ההוא אצמיח קרן לבית ישראל"

THE AVNEI EZEL SAYS: THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IS COMPARED TO A GROWING PLANT. JUST AS A PLANT WHOSE SEED MUST ROT BEFORE IT SPROUTS, THE GEULAH IS ALSO IN THE GROWING PROCESS. WHILE THE SEED IS ROTTING, ONE MIGHT GIVE UP HOPE OF THE SEED EVER BECOMING A PLANT AND SPROUTING.

SIMILARLY, THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WILL COME IN A TIME THAT THEY ARE ON A VERY LOW LEVEL, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY LOST ALL HOPE OF SALVATION. THIS IS WHY THE NAVI USES THE TERM אצמיח קרן לבית ישראל. צמיחה IS GROWING.

WE USE THIS TERM IN TEFILLA: **"מלך ממיט ומחיה ומצמיח ישועה ונאמן אתה להחיות מתים"** HASHEM BRINGS DEATH AND GIVES LIFE AND CAUSES SALVATION TO SPROUT; HASHEM IS FAITHFUL TO RESURRECT THE DEAD.

THE GROWING OF THE PLANT AFTER THE SEED TOTALLY ROTS IS A PROOF OF TECHIYAT HAMETIM. EVEN THOUGH A NIFTAR IS BURIED AND ITS BODY DECOMPOSES, THEY WILL STILL BE REVIVED AT TECHIYAT HAMETIM.

WE ARE IN GALUT FOR CLOSE TO 2,000 YEARS. IT SEEMS AS IF THERE IS NO END. BUT REALLY WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, WE ARE CLOSER TO THE SPROUTING OF THE GEULAH - ישועה קרן ומצמיח

THIS GALUT IS EXTREMELY LONG AND PAINFUL BUT WE MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT HASHEM DID NOT FORGET ABOUT US AND THE YESHUAH WILL COME - במהרה בימנו אמן

The dvar Torah

This dvar Torah was prepared by Sarah together with her father. However, the translation to English from Hebrew was done by Sarah herself and the final poignant paragraph was hers alone.

years, she announced with her rock solid *bitachon*, “When Hashem decides, He takes you – and I’m not afraid.” Premonition, perhaps?

Her friends also related that on that Tuesday, someone caused her great embarrassment. Instead of lashing out at her tormentor, she just said quietly that “being embarrassed is *mechaper*” and moved on without further ado.

Midterm over, Sarah returned home. At 2:00 on this very typical Tuesday in January, Sarah’s mother spoke to her daughter by phone and requested that Sarah wash the lettuce for dinner. Although anxious to leave the house to study with a friend for next day’s exam, Sarah agreed, and indeed washed the lettuce. While washing the lettuce, Sarah called her close friends and told them how much she loved them. She also thanked them for being her friend. Thus she merited that her final acts were those of *kibud eim* and *chesed*.

For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged...

Sarah’s mother received the horrifying phone call soon after her daughter left the house. It was the principal, informing her that Sarah had been in an accident. In the emergency room, amid the doctors’ frantic efforts to save her daughter, Sarah’s mother desperately said *Tehillim*, begging Hashem for a miracle. When the doctors sorrowfully admitted defeat, Sarah’s distraught mother surrendered completely to her grief.

Sarah’s mother relates how at that moment, Hashem sent her a message via Sarah’s principal. “She said to me, ‘*Gufah ha’adam ainah ha’adam*’ — A person’s body is not the actual person.’ As she said those words to me, they triggered much of what I had learned in the past. In that instant, I stood up and said, ‘Hashem is in control. Hashem is in control and we accept.’” A Jewish mother’s private *Akeidas Yitzchok*.

Remembering that special dash might only last a little while....

Sarah’s parents made the decision to fly to Eretz Yisrael for *kvurah*. Sarah’s mother explains in her soft voice, “Sarah had a very strong desire to go to Israel. She begged us to take her to Eretz Yisroel on her vacation. And in the end, we did take her to Eretz Yisroel. Yes, we took her, for her *levayah* and her *kvurah*.”

Sarah’s mother continues. “When we came home from the hospital, the first thing we saw was the lettuce that she had washed. Then my husband said he wanted the copy of ‘The Dash’ that Sarah herself had rewritten. As we looked through her bag for the

Although she was overwhelmed with her midterm exams on her final Sunday evening, Sarah closed her books and went to “her family” to assist them.

poem, we found the collage she had made for her friend. We also found her *dvar Torah*, which she in fact had not shredded, and was now here to be *menachem* us. Sarah’s friend brought us the copy of ‘The Dash’. Sarah wrote her own eulogy. ‘The Dash’ was her eulogy.”

Sarah’s mother’s *emunah* is a beacon of light in the darkness of her overwhelming grief. “We know that before the *neshama* is born, it sees its life and it sees its death. It sees its family and friends and it accepts the way that it will live and die. Sarah accepted it, so I, too, accept.”

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth...

Sarah’s family searched for a spiritual connection between Sarah’s

dvar Torah which speaks about *techias hameisim* and the coming of Moshiach, and the poem that meant so much to Sarah in her final days. A friend connected them to Rabbi Paysach Krohn, who published the book in which Sarah’s friend first read the poem, for insight on the matter.

Rabbi Krohn connected the dots immediately. Sarah’s mother repeats his words, saying, “The *passuk* says *oz vhadar lvusha vatischak lyom acharon* – she was dressed in her beautifully *tzniusdik* school uniform, and *vatischak lyom acharon* – she was laughing as she recited her *dvar Torah* because her *neshamah* knew what was going to happen and believed in *techias hameisim* and the coming of Moshiach.”

Amid tears, Sarah’s mother elaborates on the connection. “Sarah’s *mazal* knew, and this *nechamah* was from her. Hashem prepared her to share this *nechamah* with us in advance.”

Sarah’s Beautiful Dash

...If we could just slow down enough to consider what’s true and real...Despite her youth, Sarah knew what was real. Sarah’s real meant doing *chesed* for others. In school, although Sarah was not required to participate in the *chesed* program, she nonetheless chose to participate by assisting not only one but two families who needed a helpful hand. Indeed, although she was overwhelmed with her midterm exams on her final Sunday evening, she

closed her books and went to “her family” to assist them.

...and love the people in our lives like we’ve never loved before...Sarah’s mother recalls with tears Sarah’s last *chesed* to her loved ones- the washed lettuce.

“I’m sure **everybody**
will be striving to
make their dash
worthwhile
the way Sarah did.”

...If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile...Sarah’s friends have taken the message of “The Dash” to heart. As an eternal *zchus* for her precious *neshamah*, these young girls are now amassing acts of *chesed* in her memory and yes, treating each other with respect and more often wearing a smile.

Sarah’s mother also recalls with emotion the heartfelt outpouring of *chesed* that poured forth from their

community in the aftermath of the tragedy. “I knew all this *chesed* existed, but I had never seen it. Sadly, with a broken heart Hashem is now showing us.”

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars ... the house... the cash..

No, it matters not how much we own at all. All that matters is each individual’s private dash. As Sarah’s mother says “I’m sure everybody will be striving to make their dash worthwhile the way Sarah did.”

As we gather around our Pesach Seder tables, Jews the world over will lift their wineglasses of redemption high and praise the One who performed miracles for our forefathers and ourselves. ...Who took us from *yagon l’simcha, mavel l’yom tov, umafelah l’or gadol....*

He will surely take us during this Chodesh Nissan to greet Moshiach and reunite us with our departed loved ones. And Sarah’s loving mother concludes, “And Sarah will be there.” 🕯



**WE ALL WANT THE
GEULAH
WHAT CAN WE DO?**

- 1** הוי דן את חברך לכף זכות
JUDGE OTHERS FAVORABLY
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Grapefruit:

the Unexpected Culprit.

A report in the Canadian Medical Association Journal warns about the dangers of consuming grapefruit while taking certain medications. The research behind this report was conducted by Dr. David Bailey, a scientist at the Lawson Health Research Institute in London, Ontario. Dr. Bailey accidentally discovered the interaction between certain medications and grapefruit more than two decades ago. The basis for the current report stems from the introduction during the past four years of many new medications that can cause serious health problems when combined with grapefruit.

Dr. Bailey explains that grapefruits contain natural chemicals called furanocoumarins (pronounced: fyur-eye-nah-kuh-mahrinz) that can dramatically increase the potency of certain orally administered drugs. Furanocoumarins cause this effect by

inhibiting an enzyme in the gastrointestinal tract that normally inactivates a high percentage of the oral dose before the drug enters the bloodstream. Without the action of this enzyme, the drug enters the blood stream at full potency, thereby precipitating a potentially dangerous drug overdose.

"Taking one tablet of certain medications with a glass of grapefruit juice can be equivalent to taking 20 tablets with a glass of water," Bailey said. "This is unintentional overdosing. So it's not surprising that these levels in the bloodstream can go from what we call therapeutic to toxic."

Eighty-five drugs that interact negatively with grapefruit are listed in Dr. Bailey's recent report. Forty-three of those drugs can have life-threatening side effects, including sudden death from cardiac arrest. Other drugs can lead to acute kidney

failure, respiratory failure, gastrointestinal bleeding, and bone marrow suppression. Some of the offending drugs are used extensively for the treatment of cancer, infection, high cholesterol levels, cardiovascular disease, psychiatric disorders, pain, organ transplantation, urinary tract disorders and the common cold. A selected list of interacting drugs accompanies this article.

Grapefruit is not the only fruit that can pose a dangerous potential when mixed with these drugs. Other citrus fruits, including limes, Seville oranges, and pomelos will cause a similar reaction. Some varieties of sweet oranges such as Navel or Valencia do not contain furanocoumarins, and are safe to consume while taking these medications. According to Dr. Bailey, eating as little as one whole grapefruit or drinking a little more

than 6 ounces of grapefruit juice is enough to trigger a reaction in those taking the problematic medications. Moreover, the danger exists not only when the patient actually ingests grapefruit together with the affected medications, but also when the grapefruit is consumed during the time when the patient is being treated with the medication.

Individuals over the age of 45 are at the greatest risk of unintentional overdose because they are the ones for whom drugs are most often prescribed. They also typically enjoy drinking grapefruit juice. By publicizing the risk of consuming grapefruit products in conjunction with certain medications, Dr. Bailey hopes to create awareness and thus prevent patients from suffering life-threatening consequences. †

What an accident!

It was widely reported that Dr. David Bailey discovered the interaction between grapefruit and certain medications unexpectedly! We, at Misaskim, were curious to learn more about the accident that led to such a significant outcome. Misaskim was able to reach Dr. Bailey who told us that he had always been interested in the study of drug interactions in humans. About 20 years ago, while he had been researching the effects of mixing felodipine — a drug used to control blood pressure — with alcohol, Dr. Bailey and his team used grapefruit juice to mask the taste of the alcohol.

“The results of this study eventually led us to discover that it was the grapefruit juice that had increased the amount of drug absorbed by the bloodstream by four times,” Dr. Bailey told Misaskim. “It wasn’t something that we could have predicted.”

Dr. Bailey’s research was the first to show that a food could markedly impair an important means that humans have for eliminating drugs from the body.

Did You Know?

Grapefruits are not the only natural foods that can cause adverse effects when mixed with medications. Bananas and spinach can also cause unwanted side-effects when taken together with medications.

Bananas: Bananas are rich in potassium and can interact with ACE inhibitors.

ACE inhibitors are medicines that work to lower blood pressure or treat heart failure. They relax the blood vessels so blood flows more smoothly and the heart can pump blood better. However, ACE inhibitors can increase the amount of potassium in your body. Excessive ingestion of potassium via foods that are rich in potassium can raise the potassium level. Too much potassium can be harmful and can cause an irregular heartbeat and heart palpitations. Other foods that are rich in potassium are oranges, green leafy vegetables, and salt substitutes that contain potassium.

Spinach: Spinach, along with its cousin—broccoli, has a high Vitamin K content and can interact with the oral anticoagulant, warfarin.

Oral anticoagulants are also called “blood thinners.” They lower the chance of blood clots forming or growing larger in your blood or blood vessels. Oral anticoagulants are used to treat those who suffer from certain types of irregular heartbeat, who have prosthetic heart valves, or who have had a heart attack. Oral anticoagulants also treat blood clots that have formed in the veins of the legs or lungs. Ingesting foods high in Vitamin K can nullify the effect of warfarin.

Selected drugs that interact with grapefruit:

Anti-cancer

- Crizotinib.
- Dasatinib.
- Erlotinib.
- Everolimus.
- Lapatinib.
- Nilotinib.
- Pazopanib.
- Sunitinib.
- Vandetanib.
- Venurafenib.

Anti-infective

- Erythromycin.
- Halofantrine.
- Maraviroc.
- Primaquine.
- Quinine.
- Rilpivirine.

Anti-cholesterol

- Atorvastatin.
- Lovastatin.
- Simvastatin.

Cardiovascular

- Amiodarone.
- Apixaban.
- Clopidogrel.
- Dronedarone.
- Eplerenone.
- Felodipine.
- Nifedipine.
- Quinidine.
- Rivaroxaban.
- Ticagrelor.

Central nervous system

- Alfentanil (oral).
- Buspirone.
- Dextromethorphan.
- Fentanyl (oral).
- Ketamine (oral).
- Lurasidone.
- Oxycodone.
- Pimozide.
- Quetiapine.
- Triazolam.
- Ziprasidone.

Gastrointestinal

- Domperidone.

Immunosuppressants

- Cyclosporine.
- Everolimus.
- Sirolimus.
- Tacrolimus.

Urinary tract

- Darifenacin
- Fesoterodine
- Solifenacin
- Silodosin
- Tamsulosin



Take Charge: Know Your Rights as a Hospital Patient

The setting is the Intensive Care Unit of a prestigious Manhattan hospital. Family members are huddled around the bedside of their elderly father. Attached to machines, are intravenous lines and pipes; their father is clearly very critically ill. A discussion is already underway as to whether to attach the patient to a respirator to assist him with his breathing. A physician enters and softly and sympathetically discusses his intention to move the patient out of the ICU to a regular unit. He also rejects the use of a respirator, saying, “Why do you want to put your father on a respirator and put him through Auschwitz again”?

Imaginary scene? Hardly. Due to legislation passed in Albany in recent years, the setting above has become a common occurrence in almost all New York hospitals. Although few situations are as difficult and painful to consider as the thought of a beloved family member hospitalized in an “end of life” situation, there are also very few situations as important, and about which it is necessary to educate oneself in advance. In this way, if the type of situation described above does arise, the patient’s family will be empowered to successfully resist hospital pressure and will be able to ensure that Jewish law is strictly followed.

Chayim Aruchim

To clarify some of the crucial issues involved, **Misaskim Cares** spoke with Agudath Israel of America’s Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz. In 2011, Agudah created Chayim

Aruchim, an organization that “endeavors to serve as a vital resource in championing, promoting, and ensuring the implementation of preferences of Torah-observant patients’ care decisions in compliance with Halachah”.

To that end, Chayim Aruchim has successfully lobbied state officials to require hospitals to follow Jewish law when it is insisted upon by the religious patients. They also encourage members of the community to sign a Halachic Medical Directive, which helps ensure that all health care decisions for a patient will be made according to Halachah.

Second Opinion?

According to Rabbi Lefkowitz, the scenario described above would immediately raise red flags for the well-informed family member. “Any time hospital staff suggests

particular patient’s condition, or he may direct the family to one of the dedicated medical referral agencies in our community for assistance.

Palliative Care and DNRs

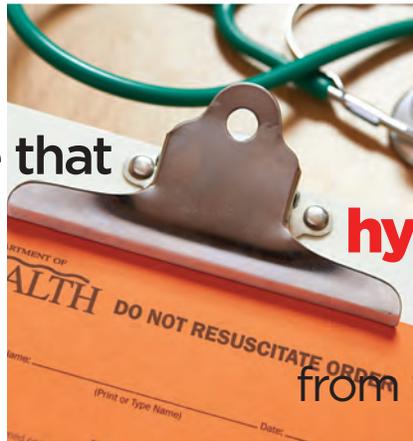
According to Rabbi Lefkowitz, palliative care is a term used “when the decision has been made [by a Rav] to stop aggressively treating the underlying illness, and the patient is treated only for pain and for medical issues not directly related to the patient’s specific illness.”

However, hospital patients

they are withholding hydration and nutrition from their “dying” relative because “it is better for the patient.” Family members must be aware that withholding hydration and nutrition is not halachically allowed without a heter from the Rav involved in the case.

The same policy holds true for DNRs as well. A DNR order is a document which directs hospital staff not to resuscitate a patient if his or her breathing or heartbeat stops. Some hospitals will pressure patients or family members to sign a DNR upon admission or when a patient’s condition deteriorates. Although a DNR order is halachically allowed under some very specific circumstances, it may absolutely

Family members must be aware that withholding hydration & nutrition is not halachically allowed without a heter from the Rav involved in the case.



lessening a critically ill patient’s care, moving him to a unit with less care, or even discusses discharging him, that is a signal that a second opinion is needed as soon as possible.”

In such a situation, family members should exercise caution, resist hospital pressure, and refuse to sign any hospital directives without the guidance of a Rav who is an expert in both medical science and Halachah. The Rav must be a fully- involved member of the patient’s team and ultimately advise in all medical decisions.

The Rav involved will often deem it necessary for a second physician to be consulted for an additional professional opinion. The Rav may recommend a doctor whom he knows possesses expertise in this

should be aware that it is the policy of many hospitals to send their palliative care staff to speak to patients and convince them to cease aggressive care and accept palliative care instead. They may encourage family members “to be compassionate and let their loved one die peacefully.” However, Rabbi Lefkowitz emphasizes that families must resist all pressure because “the decision whether or not a patient accepts palliative care or aggressive care is a halachic question and must be dealt by a *Posek* who is an expert in both science and Halachah.”

In addition, hospital staff may at times inform family members that

not be signed without permission from a Rav with expertise in these critical issues.

The emotional pain and stress that family members experience when a beloved relative is critically ill can cause them to be more vulnerable to supposedly compassionate and professional advice from hospital staff members. Educating oneself in advance and being armed with information will ensure that if *chas v’shalom* the need does arise, Halachah will be followed meticulously and the patient’s needs will be addressed the Torah way. ¹



Transporting a Patient

From One Hospital to Another

We spoke to Mr. Michael Vatch, CEO of SeniorCare Emergency Medical Services (EMS), located in New York City. SeniorCare EMS provides fully-trained paramedics and fully-equipped ambulances for both short and long-distance patient transfers. The company also coordinates air ambulance services and provides specialty care for the critically ill.

Mr. Vatch explains that there are two basic types of transfers: the transfer that is carried out on the advice of a physician, in a situation when further care is needed; or, the transfer that is decided upon even if the doctor believes that the available care is adequate, because the patient or the family feels otherwise. This second type of transfer is known in the field as [acting] Against Medical Advice (AMA) and it involves unique concerns and ramifications.

Misaskim: Why might a doctor want a patient to be transported from one medical facility to another?

Mr. Vatch: Usually this occurs when the care provided at one facility does not meet the patient's needs. For example, there are certain hospitals that provide specialized care in areas such as cardiac surgery, pediatric surgery, or neurosurgery. In those kinds of situations, optimal medical protocol may indicate that the patient should be transported to a hospital that offers a higher level of care.

Misaskim: Are there conditions that prevent a patient from being transferred?

Mr. Vatch: Yes. The patient's blood pressure is typically the most critical factor. If a patient is not hemo-dynamically stable or if the blood pressure is too low, it is inadvisable to make the transfer, unless there's absolutely no other choice. Sometimes, a patient suffers from a very, very complicated respiratory issue involving very significant ventilator settings which cannot necessarily be supported in an ambulance environment. This type of situation also precludes patient transport.

That being said, we can transport patients today who in the past would have been too unstable for transport. We transport patients on intra-aortic balloon pumps, which are specialized pumps that actually take over the workload of the heart. Ventilator transports and IV infusion pump transports are now commonplace as long as the transfer team has the right equipment and the right training.

Misaskim: If a patient is being transported, what should the

family's primary concern be?

Mr. Vatch: Patient safety is always the primary concern, and one of the most important components of patient safety is continuity of care. It is important to make sure that a receiving doctor is available at the facility to which the patient is being transported. In the case of a hospital-to-hospital transfer of an ICU or critical-care unit patient, for example, the physicians at both hospitals must be involved to ensure that the patient is being transferred to the best available

members be concerned about when transporting a patient?

Mr. Vatch: Financial clearance is important. It is extremely difficult to pay out-of-pocket for a hospital stay because it is very, very costly – a couple of thousand dollars a day, if not more. Make sure, therefore, to find insurance that will cover all costs related to the new admission before the transfer is made.

By and large, if the patient is being transferred in order to undergo a procedure that cannot be



facility and that he or she will be receiving the best possible care.

In AMA situations which are being undertaken at the family's own behest and not on the advice of a physician, it is critical to ensure that a connection has been made with a specific doctor of choice at the new facility. It is a bad idea to leave one facility without having made arrangements with an accepting doctor who is aware of the patient's condition at the second facility.

Misaskim: What else should family

performed at the original hospital, there should be no issue at all in arranging for insurance to cover the new admission. But in an AMA situation you certainly want to make sure before the transfer that insurance will cover admission into the new hospital. Obviously, in an emergency situation, this procedure will have to be carried out after the transfer, but if at all possible, both financial and medical clearance should be arranged ahead of time.

Misaskim: What should a family look for when choosing a qualified

transportation provider?

Mr. Vatch: Within New York State, all ambulance services must be certified by the New York State Department of Health. The consumer can usually rest assured that the hospital has done its homework and engages only providers that are competent. That being said, the patient is not mandated to use any particular service. The patient is free to choose any service. The fact that the facility has an agreement with any one particular ambulance service does not mean that the patient or his family cannot engage another service. However, it is important to ensure that the service you select is certified by the Department of Health and that, if the transfer requires paramedics, they are New York City REMAC (Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee) certified.

One other thing to take into consideration when it comes to critical care transfers is that not all paramedics are trained to the critical care level. The critical care paramedic has received specialized training that is above and beyond routine state certification. Very few ambulance services in the city have certified critical care paramedics; we are one of them. We actually have ten critical care paramedics on our staff, and they have advanced training to use those devices we mentioned earlier such as intra-aortic balloon pumps. They also know how to administer and maintain multiple medications that are not given by standard paramedics.

In short, when a patient is in critical condition and is being moved from one critical care unit to another and is on multiple IV medications, or on

any kind of critical care device, one certainly wants to make sure that the transfer team has critical care paramedic training.

Misaskim: Are there any special considerations when planning an interstate transfer?

Mr. Vatch: The number one consideration is going to be the time factor. Stable and uncomplicated patients can usually endure multi-hour transports. However, if the patient will be traveling in an ambulance for longer than five hours, and if he or she has significant care needs i.e. oxygen, IV, etc., one has to consider how



long the oxygen as well as any other supplies will last. If the transfer is going to take more than five hours, it might be more efficient to transfer the patient by air, via plane or helicopter.

In addition, the patient's nutritional needs must be considered. While it may be possible to provide sufficient nutrition for the patient for two or three hours of travel, it might be more challenging if the trip will take longer. If the patient transfer will take more than five hours, it is imperative that adequate nutritional resources and needed medications be available to the patient.

Misaskim: What are the most common interstate transfers you deal with? Are these patients usually transported by ground or by air?

Mr. Vatch: Locally, the most common transfers take place between New York and New Jersey and ground transportation is usually used. We also travel to Boston using ground transportation on a regular basis. The most common long-distance interstate transports in the Northeast take place between Florida and New York.

A significant number of people go to Florida from New York during the winter. Should a medical need arise, many of them choose to return to New York because those who manage their medical care—in some cases their children, and in others, their doctors—are located here. Transports that require a stretcher are almost exclusively carried out by air ambulance

We have provided ground transport to and from Florida in the case of very, very simple uncomplicated situations. Typically, in such cases, there is a specific issue that precludes the patient's traveling by plane. Either the expense is too great, or the patient absolutely doesn't want to go on a plane, and can tolerate being in an ambulance all those hours. We do not recommend this mode of transport simply because it is not healthy to be immobile for such a long period of time, but if necessary, we can accommodate such requests.

I have been asked before why we cannot transport a patient on a regular commercial flight. Within the US, domestic air carriers are not equipped for, and do not allow, stretchers. So if a patient needs to be transported within the 50 states, he

or she will have to travel via an air ambulance — a small jet plane that is set up like a critical care unit and is stocked with oxygen and all the equipment normally found in an ICU or in a critical care ambulance.

Misaskim: *What special considerations are involved when carrying out international patient transfers?*

Mr. Vatch: Mr. Vatch: Some, but not all, international commercial air carriers do allow for stretcher patients. EL AL is one of the major airlines that does accept stretchers regularly and they're very accommodating. Some of the European carriers allow for stretchers as well. Each international air carrier that provides stretcher service has its own medical desk to deal with medical issues. For example, at EL AL, it is required that the patient has to be reviewed by the EL AL team. They will want to know about the patient's medical condition and who the medical personnel are going to be. EL AL supplies power and oxygen on its planes. The medical team provides the rest of the medical equipment. Of course a

sending and receiving physician are needed to sign off on the transport.

Misaskim: *How much does a long-distance transport typically cost?*

Mr. Vatch: Domestically, it all depends on distance and location. For example the price from Florida to New York ranges from \$12,000 to \$16,000. From the West Coast the cost would be even higher. Travelling internationally to Israel on a stretcher with EL AL would cost between \$18,000 and \$22,000. The price is high because EL AL actually converts two rows of seats into an ICU for the medical team.

Misaskim: *What legal ramifications should be considered when determining the necessity of transporting a patient AMA? Does insurance cover AMA transports?*

Mr. Vatch: Legally, patient care and decisions about patient care are dependent on the wishes of the patient. There's no question about that. But there is one small caveat, and that is that if the physician feels that the patient does not have the mental capacity to understand the risks involved in a course of action,

then the doctor can overrule the patient and hold him or her in his custody. It's very rare, but it can happen. Additionally, in order for a family member to assume the role of decision maker in these situations, a health care proxy is required.

Patients can make their own decision to move from point A to point B, but the insurance companies do not have to go along with that. For example, if a patient wants to leave a hospital in Brooklyn that can provide the right kind of care to go to a hospital in Manhattan, the insurance company is certainly not going to cover the cost of the transport, and they or may not cover the cost of the admission.

Legally any hospital that receives Medicare and Medicaid funds must accept a patient who comes to the Emergency Room. However, that doesn't mean that the patient won't be held accountable for the bill. The hospital will have to treat the patient, but the insurance company does not have to pay for the admission. 

PATIENT SAFETY IS ALWAYS THE PRIMARY CONCERN





Childhood Burns: When Does the ACS Investigate

According to statistics provided by the American Burn Association, about 3,500 Americans lose their lives and over 40,000 more are injured each year from all types of burn injuries including flame burns, scald burns, and chemical burns.

In an exclusive interview with Dr. Michael Cooper, director of The Jerome L. Finkelstein M.D. Regional Burn Center at Staten Island University Hospital (a division of the NorthShore LIJ Health System), Dr. Cooper discussed the higher incidence of pediatric burn injuries that occur during holiday seasons in the Jewish community. In his remarks, he lauded the community's efforts in recent years to educate parents about the significant dangers that abound during the frenzy of preparation that precedes our Yomim Tovim. "When we started the burn unit in 1998, we saw a tremendous increase during the holiday season. However over the last several years I think the community is doing a great job in getting the word out. So now, even though there's an increase it's not as significant as before.

The Burn Center at SIUH

The Burn Center at Staten Island University Hospital was created in 1998 by the world renowned burn specialist, Dr. Jerome Finkelstein. Combining deep compassion and expert burn care, Dr. Finkelstein and Dr. Cooper instituted policies that transformed the way burn injuries are treated at hospitals nationwide. Today, Staten Island's Burn Center is one of the top Burn Centers in America, treating approximately 400 patients a year (one third of whom are children). This number represents double the amount of patients treated at most other burn centers in the country.

Dr. Finkelstein operated his Burn Center based on family focused care, recognizing that in addition to the medical care which the patient receives, the immediate family needs a level of support and emotional care as well. "We realize that our pediatric patients are often very afraid, the parents are under stress, and that besides caring for the burn, there are a whole host of other issues that may need to be addressed."

To that end, the Burn Center implemented changes in standard hospital policy, instituting extended 24-hour visiting privileges. "We insisted on 24 hour visiting," explains Dr. Cooper, "because we knew that limited visiting hours would not work for many religious patients coming from Brooklyn. It wasn't long before 24-hour visiting was extended to the entire hospital, with many hospitals across the country following suit.

Family Friendly

Upon Dr. Finkelstein's sudden passing in 2007, Dr. Cooper became the new director of the

Burn Center and continued to build upon the policies that his predecessor had initiated. Included in the Center's policy are the twin goals of working on healing the entire family, as well as making families feel that they are trusted partners in the healing process.

Dr. Cooper explains that upon admission to the Center, the a staff member will inquire in a non-threatening manner about the nature of the accident that caused the burn.

Suspicion of child abuse is the rare exception rather than the rule at Staten Island's Burn Center. "In my experience, the vast majority of children who are burned are the victims of accidents that have resulted from momentary lapses of appropriate supervision, and not abuse," says Dr. Cooper. In fact, more than 98 percent of the cases are not reported to any child welfare agency at all.

Dr. Cooper elaborates on the red flags which might, on rare occasions, spur a member of the staff to report the incident. "Red flags start flying if there are inconsistencies in what we're being told, if the parent changes



"The one message I have for parents is to be vigilant about letting your guard down. Due to their extreme busyness around the holiday, people may be less careful about implementing the safeguards that they normally use to keep their children safe,"

Dr. Michael Cooper

the story, or if the injury is one that is not in consonance with the child's age. In such situations, we are mandated to report our findings to the appropriate authorities."

Dr. Cooper stresses however, that the hospital's primary goal is to treat the burn and return the patient to normal life. He and his colleagues work hard to educate the staff in the emergency department and other units in the hospital that most incidents are accidents and not active abuse. Jewish families in particular may be more prone to burns since we have Shabbos and Yom Tov during which flames may be left on for a day or more.

All the parents interviewed for this article maintain that they were never accused of wrongdoing by any member of the staff. Mrs. Rechi Goldenberg, a Brooklyn mother whose toddler was scalded by a spilled cup of steaming coffee, confirms Dr. Cooper's words. "From the first moment when my child was first admitted to the hospital, and during his entire two week stay, we never felt that we were under suspicion for child abuse or neglect. In fact, the entire staff was very warm and

helpful throughout our ordeal, it made this very difficult period a bit easier to bear."

Prevention and First Aid

According to Dr. Cooper, scald burns are the most common types of pediatric burn injuries. He notes though, that during holiday seasons, different types of burns tend to increase slightly. During the week of Chanuka, for example, more flame burns may occur.



DR. MICHAEL COOPER

Similarly, in the pre- Pesach period, there is usually an upswing of chemical burns caused by cleaning agents such as St. Moritz.

It is important to note that the emergency response to burns may differ depending on what type of burn has occurred. In general, because flame burns are hotter, they will cause a deeper burn than scalding or chemical burns. For flame and scald burns, Dr. Cooper recommends immediately removing any hot clothing that may be covering the injured area, and applying a cool, moist compress or towel to cool the burn. Of course, it is imperative to call Hatzolah or to seek proper medical attention as soon as possible.

Chemical burns though, are unique in the fact that unless the

area is irrigated properly, the chemical will continue to burn the affected skin. Dr. Cooper emphasizes that chemical burns (Jewish housewives, listen up!) should be irrigated with cool, NOT cold water “on the lower end two hours, on the upper end a full six hours”. The chemicals need to be flushed out of the skin completely for the burning to stop and for healing to begin. Again, it’s imperative to immediately seek medical attention so that the burn can be treated properly.

Obviously, as with most accidents and mishaps, an ounce of prevention goes a long way to preventing burns, especially in children. Dr. Cooper repeatedly emphasizes the need for vigilance during the busy holiday season. “The one message I have for parents is to be vigilant about

letting your guard down. Due to their extreme busyness around the holidays, people may be less careful about implementing the safeguards that they normally use to keep their children safe.” He also specified the absolute necessity of keeping harmful cleaning agents in an upper cupboard at all times.

Another word of caution emphasizes the danger inherent in making private “biur chametz” fires on Erev Pesach. In one incident, several children in one family were injured when the fire they built in their backyard suddenly flared out of control. Public community fires are generally safer than private fires, provided that each child in attendance is carefully supervised by a responsible adult. ❗

Bikur Cholim at Work in Staten Island

The Jewish community in Staten Island works together with Satmar Bikur Cholim and the hospital to lessen the stress families suffer when a loved one is hospitalized. Rabbi Avi Feinstein, chaplain of the hospital, explained the services that are provided for the religious community.

The Bikur Cholim room in the hospital is fully stocked with kosher staples such as sandwiches, cake, and drinks. On Fridays Chasudim will deliver additional food to the Bikur Cholim Room. Hot water urns, meat and dairy microwaves, and a wide array of seforim are also available. In addition, a *minyan* for *mincha* takes place each day at 1:40. Kosher pizza, takeout, and a Chinese restaurant are a ten minute drive from the hospital. All establishments are under the supervision of the Vaad Harabonim of Staten Island.

Rabbi Feinstein emphasizes the need to always double check that the kosher meals provided by the hospital have proper kashrus certification. He explains that although the entrees are always kosher, the hospital staff can at times make mistakes with the breads, side dishes, or drinks.

Unfortunately, (or rather fortunately!) there is no *minyan* in the hospital on Shabbos and the closest Chabad shul is at least a 45-minute walk away. Various organizations donate Shabbos food for patients and their families, which can be placed in the warmer in the Bikur Cholim room before Shabbos. Bikur Cholim also arranges for cots to be set up in a conference room for families of patients who wish to stay with their loved ones for Shabbos.

Many thanks to Mark Weiss for his valuable input regarding the Bikur Cholim Services provided in the hospital. Kosher dairy food can be bought at his restaurant, The Dairy Palace, which is located 10 minutes away from the hospital at 2210 Victory Boulevard, phone number (718) 761-5200

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DRORFREE.ORG



A True Friend in Need

Finally, the last law-enforcement vehicle pulls away; the tumult ceases; the gossip and whispers of neighbors and friends peter out; all that is left is overwhelming isolation, confusion, bewilderment, regrets, and despair. When a family is thrust into the terrifying reality of arrest and incarceration, of courtrooms complete with attorneys and judges, of a grim future of months or years of a life on hold, the darkness can seem impenetrable.

Enter DROR. DROR is an organization with heart. With quiet compassion, always non-judgmental, the dedicated volunteers at DROR step in and extend a steady hand of friendship combined with practical assistance and emotional support. DROR helps to make sense of the unfathomable, and remains at the side of the inmate and his family until life returns to normal.

A Need Fulfilled

Years ago, the thought of a fellow community member being arrested and charged with a crime was almost unthinkable. Unfortunately, this formerly rare phenomenon seems to have become a more common occurrence. While it is true that most crimes are misdemeanors such as cases of unsuspecting drivers driving with suspended licenses, there are unfortunately, situations in which individuals are charged with more serious state or federal crimes.

There have always been dedicated askanim

who have constantly dedicated themselves unstintingly to providing assistance to people in need of legal advice. These same caring individuals have also worked with prison officials to arrange to provide for an inmate's religious needs. Recently, however, the activists saw the need to streamline all aid under one umbrella organization, thereby making it easier for people to reach out for necessary services in time of need.

DROR was created under the guidance of prominent rabbanim, with additional

volunteers recruited to ensure that assistance is provided efficiently and effectively. Working together, askanim can swing into action immediately upon being notified that a community member has found himself on the wrong side of the law.

Legal Support

The proper legal support usually makes all the difference in the outcome of a person's case. In the same way that a medical referral agency connects patients to physicians with expertise in their particular condition, so, too, DROR has contacts with expert attorneys in various legal fields, and can immediately forge a connection between attorney and prospective client.

In a conversation with **Misaskim Cares**, legal experts at DROR explained that services provided by Legal Aid attorneys are often useful for initial legal proceedings. The United States Constitution deems the government responsible to ensure due process for every person accused of a crime, which includes the right to legal representation regardless of financial ability to retain a lawyer.

Legal Aid lawyers are employed by the government and are assigned to any defendant appearing without a private lawyer.

According to DROR, most Legal Aid attorneys are efficient and capable of getting clients released with or without posting bail. Following the initial proceedings, DROR continues to actively enlist the most expert attorney possible to continue all legal proceedings in the case.

The DROR team is there for the accused throughout his legal ordeal until he is cleared of the charges against him, or until his prison sentence is completed and he is home again with his family.

In addition to providing legal advice to people already charged with a crime, DROR maintains a phone line dedicated to helping people who have suddenly become aware that business practices they have engaged in are actually illegal. A DROR volunteer cited a situation in which a Jewish woman had been selling certain merchandise online, blissfully unaware that she was dabbling in a market fraught with regulations. After years of business, she learned that she had been breaking the law for years. She called DROR in a panic, desperate for advice. DROR connected her to a lawyer experienced in this

type of litigation who helped her straighten out the mess with the government, thus restoring her peace of mind.

Cases like this bring great satisfaction to the team at DROR. Knowing that they have saved a mother and indeed an entire family from an unpleasant encounter with the United States legal system gives them the encouragement they need to continue their work for the community.

Religious Needs

The askanim at DROR work tirelessly to see that inmates are provided with all their religious needs. All necessary religious items are provided by DROR to local prisons that house religious inmates. They provide prisoners with sefarim, talleisim and tefillin, Shabbos items, and Pesach matzot.

In addition, DROR also ensures that a chaplain is in contact with inmates throughout their incarceration. If necessary, DROR can arrange for rabbanim to meet with an inmate privately in prison to guide him in the many halachic issues that tend to arise during a prison term.

The DROR team is dedicated to injecting some light into the dreary lives of Jewish inmates. To that end, volunteers prepare Tu B'Shvat packages, mishloach manos packages on Purim, and other holiday packages to be delivered to their fellow community members behind bars. This is a true chesed as all items must be pre-approved



by prison authorities, and inmate's visitors are not allowed to bring anything into the prison. DROR also arranges for practically every Jewish publication and magazine to be delivered to the prisons so that the inmates can feel connected to the Jewish world.

One of the organization's "crown jewels" is its incredible Torah learning program recently initiated by DROR's rabbanim. As described on the DROR website, the Yeshivas Kollel Harav Maram M'Rottenberg is a program in which "learning material is provided, and tests are assigned and graded. These give the prisoners a feeling of purpose and accomplishment. Harav Maram M'Rottenberg helps prisoners advance their Torah studies, grow spiritually, and keep psychologically sound."

Family Support

Few traumas can compare to the turbulence suffered by a family when the father and breadwinner suddenly disappears from their lives. His glaring absence leaves a gaping hole that cannot be healed. The people at DROR are painfully aware that the family members of the accused suffer intensely and are in desperate need of support.

DROR volunteers move quickly to provide comfort and support when the need beckons. They do whatever is necessary to ease the

plight of the family. Often, a family is left suddenly destitute when the primary breadwinner is incarcerated. With the help of generous members of the community, DROR arranges for financial support to provide for the family's needs until the spouse and father returns home and is gainfully employed.

To help ease the loneliness, volunteers arrange for rides for family members to visit their relative in prison. They also help arrange therapy for children and families and drive family members to appointments when necessary.

DROR teams continuously attempt to ease the feeling of isolation for family members by sponsoring a plethora of programs. From support groups to *chol hamoed* trips, from Chanuka gatherings and Purim events to weekly phone shiurim for teenagers, DROR remains at the family's side, lending a listening ear and offering a steady shoulder to lean on during difficult times. †

The dedicated team at DROR can be reached at 718-280-1510, by email at office@DRORfree.org, or for emergencies only at 855-DROR-911. May the dream of all DROR volunteers be realized that the need for this organization should cease and that everyone should experience the true meaning of a life of DROR- freedom.



When the Axe Falls...

Our contact at DROR lists a few points that the community needs to be aware of. At the time of arrest it is important to know that one is within one's rights to remain silent. Anything said can, and usually will, be used against one at a later time. Talking and acting in a friendly manner with arresting officers won't help one's case in any event, and may actually cause more legal trouble down the line.

In addition, DROR stresses the need for family members to ask the officers where the prisoner is being taken. It is of utmost importance to know the location as soon as possible so that help can be extended immediately. The longer the wait, the harder it is to efficiently initiate the necessary assistance.

The final and vitally important point is to call DROR **without delay**. Use the numbers listed above to access all the resources DROR can provide during this intensely difficult time.

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שנת תשע"ג / 2013

ברכת האילנות

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A comprehensive listing of fruit trees in our communities throughout the U.S.A. and Canada.

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SEE הלכה פסק ON PAGE 34

ברוך אתה ה' אלֵהינו מֵלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁלֵא חֶסֶר בְּעוֹלָמוֹ בְּלוֹם, וּבְרָא בּוֹ בְרִיּוֹת טוֹבוֹת, וְאֵילָנוֹת טוֹבוֹת, לְהַנּוֹת בָּהֶם בְּנֵי אָדָם:

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CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

162 North Alta Vista Blvd Avocado, Esrog, Lemon Tree
 606 North Alta Vista Blvd - Front Apple, Lemon Tree
 6101 Bluehall Ave. Apricot, Fig, Grapefruit, 2 Lemon, 2 Orange, Plum, 2 Tangerine Trees
 1069 S. Corning St. - Backyard Lemon & Orange Trees
 342 North Detroit St. - Side Orange Tree
 314 North Formosa Ave. - Front Plum Tree
 101 North Fuller Ave.
 535 North Stanley Ave. - Back Lemon, Orange Tree
 5851 Rhodes Ave. - Front Apple, Grapefruit, Nectarine, Orange, Tangerine Tree

San Diego

4728 63 St. Backyard Pomegranate Tree

COLORADO

Denver

5100 West 17 Ave. - Front & Back- Apple, Crab Apple, Pear, Plum Tree

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

133 West Park Ave. - Front Apple, Mulberry Tree
 467 Ellsworth Ave. - Front 4 Cherry Trees

Stamford

1886 and 1906 Bedford Street

FLORIDA

North Miami Beach

188 Hollywood Ave. Plum Tree
 17505 North East 7 Court

ILLINOIS

Lincolnwood

6649 N. St. Louis - Front Yard - Berry Tree - Flowers Bloom End of Nissan

Peterson park

6319 N. Central Park - Backyard Apple, Cherry, Pear Trees
 6040 N. Lawndale - Backyard Blueberry Bushes
 6137 N. Lawndale - Backyard
 6305 N. Monticello Ave. - Front

Skokie

Crain & Hamlin - Northwest Corner on Pkwy
 Monticello & Crain - Southeast Corner

West Rogers Park

2725 W. Birchwood - Yard - can be seen from alley - Pear Tree
 2754 W. Esles - Yard - can be seen from alley - Pear, Wild Pear Tree
 2848 Fargo Yard - Cherry Tree - Blooms late May/early June
 6630 N. Francisco - Front Yard
 6704 N. Francisco - Yard Apple Tree
 6737 N. Francisco - Yard Cherry Tree
 2841 W. Greenleaf - Backyard Apple Tree

6551 N. Mozart - Backyard, next to Sephardic Center on Touhy - Pear Tree
 6742 N. Mozart - Backyard - can be seen from alley - Pear Tree
 6521 N. Sacramento - Front Yard Plum Tree
 6534 N. Sacramento - Backyard Apple Tree
 6509 N. Whipple St. - Front/Backyard - Apple Tree/Grapevine

INDIANA

Indianapolis

105 Golf Lane 2 Cherry, 2 Apple, 2 Pear Trees, Grapevine

MARYLAND

Baltimore

3314 Bancroft Rd. - Driveways, Yard - Asian Pear, Persimmon, 2 Cherry, 3 Apple Trees
 Bancroft Rd. near Cross County Blvd - Plum, 4 Hazelnut Trees
 6110 Biltmore Ave. Apple Tree
 6201 Biltmore Ave. Cherry Tree
 3212 Labyrinth Rd. - Front Cherry Tree
 3703 Menlo Drive Peach Tree
 3711 Menlo Drive Peach Tree
 3208 Pinkney Front Left Walnut Tree
 3104 Shelburne Rd. - Front 2 Peach, Cherry Tree
 2405 Shellydale Dr. - Front Pear Tree

Pikesville

121 Brightside Back Pear, Black Cherry Tree

Silver Spring

8901 Woodland Dr. corner Ballard - Front - Apple Tree

MASSACHUSETTS

Long Meadow

45 Glenbrook Lane

MICHIGAN

Oakpark

26131 Stratford Place - Front Cherry Tree
 14761 Talbot Front 2 Cherry Trees

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

2630 Raleigh Ave. South - Front 2 Apple Trees

NEW JERSEY

Brotmanville

Schiff Avenue Peach, Apple Tree

Cherry Hill

407 Cherry Hill Blvd. apple tree & grapevine in backyard

Edison

401 North 8th Ave. Apple Tree

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Elizabeth

809 Bailey Ave.	Backyard	Peach Tree
853 Cleveland		Pear Tree
913 Edgewood		Apple Tree
1057 Harding	Front Lawn	Cherry Tree
637 Livingston	Curbside Across St.	Pair of Mulberry Trees
731 Livingston	Front Lawn	Fig Tree
802 Livingston		Apple Tree
842 Livingston	Front Lawn	Cherry Tree
961 Magie	Garden	Pear Tree
249 Monmouth	Driveway Area	Cherry Tree
629 Park	Backyard	Pear Tree
196 Summit	Backyard	Pear Tree
323 Summit	Backyard	Apricot Tree
865 Wyoming	Front Lawn	Quince Tree

Lakewood

689 5 St.		Plum Trees
120 7 St.		Apple Tree
427 8 St.	Front of complex	2 Peach, 1 Apple, 1 Pear Tree
358 E. 7 St.	Back	Apple, Pear Tree
8 E. 13 St.		Plum, Apple, Peach Trees
16 E 13 St.	Backyard - Cherry,	Cherry, Pear, 2 Apple Trees
26 E. 13 St.	Grapevine, Peach,	Pear, Cherry Tree
905 14 St.	Front Yard	Cherry Tree
1211 14 St.	Front	Apple Tree
1454 Ardenwood		Madison - Front - Apple Tree
Arlin Court on 7 St.	Bet. Forest and	Plum Tree
70 Cabinfield Circle		Apple Tree
137 Cannoball Dr. - Front		Apple Tree
503 Caranetta Dr. - Back		Pear, Cherry Tree
42 Carasallo Dr. - Backyard		Apple Tree
125 Carey St. - Front Yard		Apple, Peach Tree
958 Claire Dr. - Front		Cherry Tree
804 Clifton Ave. - Back		Peach, Cherry & Apple Trees
816 Clifton Ave.		Apple Trees
134 Cannonball Rd. - Back		Plum Tree
216 Ellane St.		
1140 Forest Ave.	Many Trees	
2 Gefen Dr. - Back		Apple Tree
140 Glen Avenue South - Front		Cherry, Peach, Plum Trees
217 James - Front		2 Plum Trees
232 Janescrest Ct. - South Side of	Lake in Back - 2	Cherry Trees
61 Kingsfield Dr.		Peach Tree
163 Lakewood New Egypt		Peach, Cherry, Pear, Plum Tree
1213 Lexington Ave. Corner Lex.		Cherry Tree
138 Liberty Dr. - Backyard		Apple, Peach & Plum Trees
904 Park Terrace - Side		Pear Tree
200 Private Way - Front		
150 Powderhorn Drive - Backyard		Apple Tree
275 Read St. - Back		2 Apple, Cherry Trees
72 Shiff Ave.		Apple & Peach Trees
512 South Lake Dr. - Backyard		Cherry Tree
180 Sunset Rd. - Near Shul		4 Trees
302 Twin Oaks Dr. - Back - Apple, Plum, Cherry, Peach Tree		
1404 Twin Oaks Dr. - Side		Pear Tree
Yeshiva - Side Entrance		
7 Yomah Ct. - Front		Peach Tree

Livingston

12 Tremont Terrace		Grapevine
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North Plainfield

21 Rockview Ave. On Yeshiva Property		Pear Tree
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Oakhurst

440 Brookside Ave. - Right side of house - Plum, Peach, Apple, Pear, Cherry, Mango, Grapevine in back		
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Paramus

439 Yuhas Dr. - Backyard		Peach Tree
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Passaic

30 Ascension St.		
102 Aycrigg		
34 Barry Place		
290 Brook Ave. - Front		Peach Tree
25 Dakota St.		
167 High St. - Backyard		Cherry, Pear Trees
173 High St. - Backyard		Peach Tree
177 High St.		
322 High St.		
105 Mead Ave. - Front		Cherry Tree
102 Palm St.		
146 Park Ave. - Backyard		Peach Tree
145 Penington Ave.		
270 Penington Ave.		

Teaneck

110 Cherry Lane - Side		Cherry Tree
422 Edgewood Ave. vis. from Sussex Rd. - 3 Plum Trees		
397 W. Englewood Ave.		3 Apple Trees
1678 Hanover St. - Side		Apple Tree
1406 Hudson Rd. - Driveway		Pear Tree
1025 E. Lawn Dr. - Backyard		2 Nectarine, 1 Peach Tree
1499 Sussex Rd. - Side		3 Plum Trees

Union City

35th St. Cor. Hudson Ave.		2 Cherry Trees
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NEW YORK

Albany

220 Hansen Ave. - Front - 1 Apple, 2 Cherry, 2 Pear Trees		
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Bayswater

1123 Dickens St. - Backyard		Apple Tree
1117 Bay 25 St. - Back right side		Apple Tree

Bensonhurst

2222 80 St. - Backyard		3 Trees
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Bergen Beach

2050 E. 73 St. - Backyard		Apple Tree
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Boro Park

1463 40 St. - Front		Cherry Tree
1694 42 St. - Front		on 17 Ave. Fig Tree
1722 43 St. - Side		2 Apple Trees
1263 44 St. - Side		Pear & Cherry Trees
974 45 St. - Corner 10 Ave.		Cherry Tree
1145 45 St. - Lawn & Sidewalk		Many Trees
1147 45 St. - Front		Pear Tree
1269 45 St. - Backyard		Pear Tree
1629 45 St. - Front		Cherry Tree
916 46 St. - Front		Pear Tree

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1260 46 St.	Thru alley	Cherry & Peach Trees
1625 46 St.	Backyard	2 Pear Trees
1734 46 St.	Front	Plum Tree
850 47 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1543 48 St.	Front Left	Pear Tree
1552 48 St.	Back alley	2 Pear Trees
17 Ave. & 48 St.		
1693 49 St.	Lelov Shul	Apricot, Apple, Peach, Fig trees
1141 50 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1452 50 St.	Thru driveway on left	Cherry Tree
901 51 St.	Backyard	Apple Tree
1320 51 St.	Front	Peach Tree
1436 51 St.	Backyard, thru driveway	
1142 51 St.	Back	2 Trees
1458 51 St.	Back/left side	2 Trees/Pear Tree
1666 51 St.	Front	Crab Apple Tree
1758 51 St.	Side	Pear Tree
1044 53 St.	Back	
1645 53 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1756 53 St.	Back	Apple Tree
1320 54 St.	Backyard	Pear Tree
1327 54 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1133 55 St.	Back right side ent.	Cherry Tree
1362 55 St.	Front	Peach Tree
1565 55 St.	Backyard	Peach Tree
1802 55 St.	Corner, Front	Apple & Cherry Trees
1369 56 St.	Front	Pear Tree
1722 56 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1121 57 St.	Front	Pear Tree
1367 57 St.		Cherry Tree
1463 57 St.	Front	Plum Tree
1647 57 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1140 58 St.	Front	Pear Tree
1751 58 St.	Backyard	Cherry Tree
1680 59 St.	Front	Nectarine Tree
1845 59 St.		Peach Tree
1416 60 St.	Front	Apple Tree
4603 10 Ave.	Front	Apple Tree
4610 12 Ave.		
4624 11 Ave.	Front	Cherry Tree
4711 12 Ave.		
5401 12 Ave.	Corner	Pear & Apricot Trees
5524 12 Ave.	Side Garden	Fig Tree
5608 14 Ave.	Front	Pear Tree
5911 15 Ave.	Front Yard	

Cedarhurst

377 Church Ave.	Backyard	Pear Tree
579 Trysting Pl.	Front Yard	Cherry, Peach, Apple Tree

Crown Heights

1346 Carroll St.	Backyard	2 Cherry Trees
1353 Carroll St.	Backyard	Cherry & Plum Trees
1451 Carroll St.		Pear Tree
1563 Carroll St.	Backyard	Pear Tree
1574 Carroll St.	Front	
382 Crown St.	Front	Cherry Tree
404 Crown St.		
770 Eastern Pkwy		
739 Empire Blvd.		Apricot Tree
437 Kingston Ave. - Front		Peach Tree
506 Lefferts Ave Backyard		2 Berry trees
679 Lefferts Ave Front Yard		Plum Tree
687 Lefferts St. Backyard		Grapevine
512 Montgomery St.		Apple & Cherry Trees

520 Montgomery St. - Backyard	Peach Tree
620 Montgomery St. - Front	Peach Tree
683 Montgomery St.	Grapevine
687 Montgomery St.	Pear Tree
783 Montgomery St.	
1301 President St. Front Side Garden	Peach Tree

East Side

200 East 94 St.	
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Fallsburg

100 Laurel Rd.	Pear Tree
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Far Rockaway

640 Alonzo Rd. - Cor. Virginia St. - Front	Cherry Tree
1254 Augustina Ave.	Apricot Tree
443 Beach 7th St. - Backyard	Nectarine Tree
775 Cornaga Ave. - Corner Mador Ct. & Quince St. - Pear & Apple Tree	
1066 Dickens St.	Cherry Tree
773 Elnra Ave. Right Side	Pear Tree
611 Elvira Ave. Backyard	Pear Tree
135 Harris St. Side	Pear Tree
520 Hicksville Rd.	Cherry Tree
533 Hicksville Rd. - Front	Cherry Tree
502 Jarvis Ave.	Not in bloom until May
659 Reeds Lane	Apple & Peach Trees
1246 Sage St. Side	Pear, Apple Tree

Flatbush

1017 E. 2 St. Back	Cherry Tree
1352 E. 2 St.	Cherry, Apple, Pear Tree
680 E. 3 St.	Apple Tree
964 E. 3 St.	Berry Tree
1550 E. 4 St.	2 Peach Trees
729 E. 5 St. Back	Cherry Tree
523 E. 9 St. Front	Peach Tree
874 E. 9 St. Side	Cherry Tree
1224 E. 9 St.	Apple Tree
1363 E. 9 St.	
1815 E. 9 St.	4 Fruit Trees
1818 E. 9 St. Backyard	
1129 E. 12 St.	
1422 E. 12 St. Backyard	Pear Tree
878 E. 13 St. (Dead End) - Back	Cherry Tree
938 E. 13 St. Back	Cherry Tree
1020 E. 13 St. Front yard	Apple Tree
1325 E. 13 St. Front	Berry
866 E. 14 St. Backyard	Apricot Tree
E. 15 Bet. O & P - Middle of Block - Front of Big Yellow House (left side coming from P)	
1802 E. 15 St. Cor. Ave. R	Plum, Peach, Cherry Trees
1483 E. 16 St.	Cherry Tree
1010 E. 19 St. Backyard	Pear Tree
1448 E. 19 St. Backyard	Pear Tree
1478 E. 19 St. Back	Fig Tree
1762 E. 19 St. Front yard	
1007 E. 21 St. Driveway	Peach Tree
1304 E. 21 St. Back, thru driveway	Pear Tree
1109 E. 22 St. Front	Cherry Tree
1557 E. 22 St. - Backyard	Plum Tree
2069 E. 22 St. Front	Cherry Tree
1934 E. 23 St. Front Yard	Apple, Grape Trees
1315 E. 26 St. Driveway	Pear Tree
915 E. 27 St. Back	Cherry Tree
951 E. 28 St. Backyard	Pear Tree
1782 E. 28 St. Back	Apple, Pear Trees
1094 E. 31 St. Side	Pear Tree
1316 E. 31 St. Front	

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1372 E. 31 St.		Grapevine
1627 W 5 St.		
306 Ave. F	Back	Apple Tree
801 Ave. H	Front & Side	Apple, Pear & Cherry Trees
1910 Ave. I		Cherry, Apple Tree
3216 Ave. K	Backyard	Pear Tree
3407 Ave. K	Back	Apple Tree
1122 Ave. L	Up Alley	Apple Tree
Ave. L, E. 8th St., Old Landau's Shul		Apple, Cherry Trees
3121 Ave. L		Pear, Apple & Cherry Trees
221 Ave. M	Front	Peach Tree
1609 Ave. N		2 Apple Trees
Ave. N & E. 18 St.		
Ave. N & E. 19 St.		
919 Ave. O		Peach, Apricot & 2 Cherry Trees
910 Ave. P	Backyard	
924 Ave. P	Side	Pear Tree
1214 Ave. V	Backyard	Plum & Cherry Trees
4905 Bay Pkwy		Plum & Pear Trees
711 Ditmas Ave. - Front		Cherry Tree
1704 Ocean Ave. Side		Apple Tree
48 Parkville Ave.		Apple & Peach Trees
Ocean Pkwy & Ave. S - Achiezer - Front		
449 Quentin Road		3 Apple, 1 Cherry Trees
917 Seton Place	Corner Foster & Seton	4 Trees, Apple & Cherry
Next door to Torah Vodaath - Front		
1 Webster Ave. Cor. 47 St. - Back side ent. -		Peach Tree

Forest Hills

110-16 67 Rd.	Backyard	2 Apple Trees
69-15 112 St.		

Great Neck

76 Berkshire Rd.		Pear Tree
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Huntington

29 Polly Dr.		Apple Tree
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Kew Garden Hills

141-05 72 Ave.	Back	Apple Tree
141-09 72 Ave.	Back	Pear Tree
138-12 76 Ave.		Peach, Pear Trees
147-22 68 Dr.		
147-15 70 Dr.		Cherry Tree
144-38 72 Dr.		Pear Tree
144-48 72 Dr.		Apple Tree
138-22 78 Dr.		Apple Tree
141-02 70 Rd.	Side	Pear Tree
73-27 Park Dr. East		Apple Tree

Kew Gardens

84-36 116 St.		Apple Tree
85-13 117 St.	Right Side	Cherry Tree
84-16 123 St.		Pear Tree
138-72 76 Ave. - Backyard		Peach, Pear Trees
85th Ave. Corner 124th St.		
116-18 85 Ave.		Plum, Peach, Nectarine Trees
117-03 Curzon Rd.		Cherry Tree
122-25 Metropolitan Ave. (Rabbi Teitelbaum's Shul) -		Pear Tree

Lawrence

1217 Doughty Blvd - on Curb		2 Cherry Trees
23 Dillon Drive - Dead End		Pear Tree
160 Harbor View Drive - Side Garden		Peach, Pear, Apple, Plum Tree
151 Harborview St. - Front		Apple Tree
1 Lord Ave. Side of Broadway		Fig Tree
1047 New McNeil Ave. - Backyard		Peach & Apricot Trees

Lido Beach

19 Eden Rd.	Front of Garage	Apple Tree
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Long Beach

430 West Beach St. - Front -	Mulberry, Grape, Pear, Peach, Quince
605 E. Beach St. Apple, Pear &	Grapevine

Lower East Side

Bialystoker Ctr for Nursing & Rehab	
228 E. Broadway - Garden	Peach Tree

Monroe

2 Camp Monroe Rd.		2 Trees
12 Fillmore Ct. Back		Grapes, Apricot, Peach, Apple
71 Forest Rd.		2 Fig Trees
24 Getzel Berger Blvd. - Front		Plum, 2 Pear Trees & more
417 Schunumunk		2 Apple Trees

Monsey

33 Albert Dr.		Apple, Pear Tree
17 Algonquin Circle - Right Side		Apple Tree
11 Andrew Dr. Backyard		Apple & Cherry Trees
41 Besem Pkwy		Apple, Pear & Cherry Trees
352 Blauvelt Rd. Front Side		
12 Blueberry Hill		
2 Carlton Lane		2 Pear Trees
15 Concord Drive - Front		
45 Decatur Ave.		
7 Dorset Rd. Front		2 Apple Trees
12 Edwin Lane		
4 Elaine Place Front		Cherry Tree
29 Francis		Cherry, Pear & 2 Apple Trees
4 Gladwyne Court		Apple Tree
49 Grove St.		Cherry, Peach & Pear Trees
14 Hilda Lane Front		2 Apple Trees
11 Mosier Ct. Sidewalk		2 Pear Trees
21 Mosier Ct.		Cherry Tree
19 Park Ave. Backyard		2 Apple Trees
20 Rita Ave.		2 Apple Tree
2 Rita Avenue		2 Apple Trees
3 Sunrise		Pear Tree
7 Walter Drive		2 Apple Trees
66 West Maple Ave.		Apple Tree
82 West Maple Ave. - Front		2 Pear Trees
49 Winesap Lane		Cherry Tree

Monticello

770 Atwell Lane		2 Apple Trees
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Mountindale

5 Roball Lane		2 Apple Trees
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New Hyde Park

47 Quaker St.		Fig Tree
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New Square

77 Washington - Back		Plum, Peach Trees
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Riverdale

3708 Henry Hudson Pkwy - South Side, Inside Gate		
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Rochester

230 Mayflower Dr.		Apple Tree
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Sea Gate

4500 Beach 45 - Back		Pear Tree
3916 Lyme Ave. - Backyard		Apple Tree

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פְּרוּך אֶתָּה ה'
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מְלֹךְ
הָעוֹלָם, שְׁלֹא
חָסַר פְּעוּלָמוֹ
פְּלוֹם, וּבָרָא בּוֹ
פְּרִיֹת טוֹבוֹת,
וְאֵילָנוֹת טוֹבוֹת,
לְהַנּוֹת פֶּהֶם פְּנֵי
אָדָם:

משה רומה

דומ"ץ קארלסבורג
בארא פארק ברוקלין, נ.י. יע"א

לה"ן

Wickliffe
2660 Bishop Rd. - Front Peach Tree
28400 Euclid Ave. - Telz Yeshiva Dormitory - Apple Tree
28784 Johnson Dr. - Fruit Trees

ONTARIO

Toronto

30 View Mont Ave. Cherry, 2 Plum Trees
365 Brooke Ave. Cherry Tree
216 Coldstream Ave. - Front Cherry Tree
323 Joicey Blvd - Backyard Pear Tree
334 Joicey Blvd - Backyard Apple Tree
83 Sultan Ave. - Backyard Cherry Tree

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

5850 Drexel Rd. - Back A few Trees
8107 Dorcas St. - Backyard Pear, Plum Tree

Yardley

1390 Revere Rd. Apple & Peach Trees

Churchville

9 Surrey Dr. Front Peach Tree

QUEBEC

Montreal

6233 DeVimy Ave. - Backyard Apple Tree
55-00 Durochei St. - Backyard 2 Cherry Trees
55-76 Durochei St. - Backyard Apple, Pear Tree
5439 Jeanne Mance St. - Front

Tusch

31 Beth Halev Apple, Plum Tree

TEXAS

Fondren

7710 Moondance Lane Pomegranate Tree

Meyerland

5407 Rutherglenn Fig Tree

RABBI M. ROTH
1556-53RD STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11219
TEL:(718) 753-3613

א' דמילואים כ"ג אדר תשע"ג

כבוד ידידינו וידידי כל בית ישראל רב פעלים וכו' ה"ה חברי העסקנים העומדים בראש המפעל העולמי העושה חסד עם החיים ועם... הנקרא בשם חברת מתעסקים יברככם ה'. בדבר פרט אחד מפעולתכם לטובה אשר אתם מזכים את הרבים מידי שנה בשנה לציין כל המקומות הגדילים בו אילני פירות בשכונת החרדים, בכדי שיוכלו לברך עליהם ברכת אילנות ביומא דניסן, אשר מצותה מסוגל מאד ומועיל לתיקון הנשמות, ראוי לעורר בשנה הלזו שחודש אפריל למספי מתחלת אחר הפסח, והרגילות הוא שאין פרחי האילנות מלבבות קודם תקופה הלזו, ע"כ יש להדגיש בהפרסומיות שאין לברך רק אם רואים כבר איזה ציצים של פרחים ולדקדק עיין, ורצוי לברך בשנה זו מאיסרו חג של פסח והלאה, ולענין אם יכולים לברך אפי' אחר כלות חודש ניסן יעשו שאלת חכם. וה' יהי בעזרכם לעשות פרי לטובה למען צרכי בניי וישלח ברכה והצלחה בכל מעשה ידיכם אס"ו.

הק' משה רוטה

4104 Manhattan Ave. - Back Apple Tree
3812 Nautilus Ave. - Backyard Pear Tree
4305 Seagate Ave. - Front Yard Apple, Pear Tree
4605 Surf Ave. - Back Apple, Raspberry Tree

Staten Island

134 Bloomingdale Rd. - Left Side Pear Tree
1870 Drumgoole East - Yeshiva - Left Side - Cherry Tree
792 Westwood Ave. Plum Tree

Suffern

6 Pine Dr.
19 Olympia Lane - Parking Lot in Shul - Cherry Tree

Washington Heights

69 Bennett Ave. Peach Tree
150 Bennett Ave. Peach Tree
151 Bennett Ave. Peach, Plum Tree
153 Bennett Ave. Pear Tree
Cor. Bennett Ave. & 187 St.
37 Overlook Terrace

West Hempstead

315 Plymouth St. - Backyard Plum Tree

Williamsburg

473 Bedford Ave. - thru driveway, backyard, look across fence toward 465 Bedford (3 houses away) - Pear Tree
590 Bedford Ave. - V'Yoel Moshe Hall - Apple, Cherry Tree
654 Bedford Ave. - Pupa Shul - Back
64 Division Ave. - Front Apple Tree
Wythe Ave. Side of Plaza, Right Side of Steps - Apple Tree
Wythe Ave., Bedford Gardens - Near Garage, Left Side
163 Hewes St. Apricot Tree
215 Hewes St. Bet. Marcy & Lee Ave. next to Shorpon Yeshiva (thru Yeshiva)
137 Hooper St. - Back of Munkatch Shul - Pear Tree
177 Hooper St. Grape, Pear Trees
865 Kent Ave. on Street Blueberry Tree
6 Lee Ave. - Viznitz Shul, Triangle Park, cor. Div. & Lee - Apple Trees
631 Myrtle Ave. on Street Blueberry Tree
236 Rodney St. Peach & Fig Tree
148 Wilson St. Backyard Apple Tree
Satmar Beis Hamedrash - from back left window - Apple Tree

Woodbourne

70 Hasbrouck Drive 2 Apple, 2 Pear & 1 Cherry Trees

Woodmere

361 Midwood Road Pear Tree
929 Peninsula Blvd - Front Cherry Tree - Back Pear Tree
6 N Strathmore St. - Front Yard Apple, Cherry, Plum Tree
1000 Westwood Rd. - Front Cherry Tree

OHIO

Cincinnati

2191 Bluegrass Lane Pear Tree
6600 Elbrook Ave. - Side Apple Tree

Cleveland Heights

3504 Severn Rd. - Front 2 Peach Trees
3654 Shannon Rd. 3 Cherry, 2 Apple, 2 Pear Trees

Columbus

150 South Cassingham Rd. - Backyard - Cherry Tree

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לאחרונה בני ישראל נתענים בעוד... לחיובם ולאחריהם
Understanding Tragedy with Compassion. Coordinating Crisis with Expertise.

Misaskim's Assistance

During a Law Enforcement Investigation

It is Erev Rosh Hashanah. A *Yiddishe mammeh* stands by the *kever* of the *heilige* Ribnitzer Rebbe zt"l, and *davens* desperately to Hashem to grant her family another year of life. Filled with an unexplained sense of impending tragedy, she completes *Sefer Tehillim* at the *kever*, soaking the *sefer* with her tears.

Months later, at a meeting in Misaskim offices, she explains her feelings at that time. "I felt this coming", she said. "I didn't know what was coming, but I felt that something drastic was going to happen to my family."

Rosh Hashana 5773

Just days earlier, the *Kleinberg family bade farewell to their husband and father, who, like thousands of others, had departed for Uman, to *daven* the Rosh Hashanah *tefillos* at the *kever* of the holy Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. Here in New York, Mrs. Kleinberg and her children traveled from their home in Rockland County to her sister's home in Brooklyn, to spend the Yom Tov together with family.

During the second evening of Yom Tov, Mrs. Kleinberg and her sister put the younger children to bed before the *seudah* began. The Kleinberg children went to sleep happily, thrilled to be sleeping in their cousins' bedrooms. Little Menachem Mendel, fifteen months old, also fell fast asleep on his cousin's hi-riser.



Downstairs, the adults and older children of both families commenced with their lavish Yom Tov meal. Enjoying the good food and the company, the adults lingered over dessert. At some point, Chavy Kleinberg, 12 years old, went upstairs. Upon opening the bathroom door, she discovered a scene that would change her family's lives forever.

The Tragedy

Pudgy little Mendy, baby of the family, everybody's darling, had apparently climbed off the hi-riser. Although still a pre-walker, the baby crawled to the bathroom's open door. Curious as babies are, he ventured inside to explore. There, this precious little boy fell victim to an unfathomable drowning accident, and

Hashem took his *heilige neshamah* to the *kisei hakovod*.

Chavy's screams pierced the sweet peacefulness of the Yom Tov night. Grabbing her baby brother, she dashed downstairs. Hatzolah was summoned, and resuscitation efforts began. Hatzolah members continued trying to revive Mendy until they reached the hospital, where the emergency room staff took over. Mrs. Kleinberg watched numbly, finally beginning to understand her terrible sense of impending disaster.

The Investigation

Upon the passing of little Mendy, the members of the hospital staff were required to notify the New York Police Department and the Administration for Child Services

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

(ACS) that a child had died under “unusual circumstances.”

A Misaskim volunteer who was on-call that night explained Misaskim’s role. “As soon as we heard about the tragedy shortly before midnight, we contacted the 66th Precinct. Since the 66th Precinct detectives go off duty at 1:00 AM., we involved them immediately, because we knew that once they went off duty, detectives from other areas in the city would work this investigation. 66th Precinct detectives know our community well. They understand why a mother doesn’t carry ID with her on holidays, and that many men observe the high-holidays away from their families.”

NYPD personnel and detectives arrived at the hospital to question Mrs. Kleinberg about her baby’s death. At the same time, other NYPD officers arrived at Mrs. Kleinberg’s sister’s home and opened an active crime scene investigation. Detectives took over the upper level of the home and the dining room, and began relentlessly questioning the children and their cousins.

The children were frightened, confused, and heartbroken over their brother’s accident, and terrified because they had not yet heard from their mother. Notwithstanding the fact that the mother wasn’t home, the detectives continued their interrogation. Despite their fear, the children answered honestly and consistently, telling the officers again and again how the tragedy had occurred.

After questioning Mrs. Kleinberg at the hospital, Misaskim suggested that the officers continue the investigation in the home, as Mrs. Kleinberg, dazed and grieving, was desperate to return to her stunned children.

Mrs. Kleinberg explains what the

presence of Misaskim volunteers meant for her that horrific night. “You know, whenever my husband expresses regret that he wasn’t there for us that night, that he was thousands of miles away and clueless about the tragedy unfolding here in Brooklyn; I tell him that I wasn’t alone—I had two people, *malachim* really, from Misaskim at my side throughout that night. My *hakaros hatov* to Misaskim is immeasurable.”

A Very Long Night

The scene that greeted them upon their return from the hospital seemed surreal — yellow crime scene tape, police cars and detectives scurrying around busily. Inside, it was controlled bedlam. A police officer was stationed on the stairs leading to the upper level, to prevent anyone from tampering with the “crime scene.” The children were huddled downstairs in pajamas, tired and confused from the constant interrogations.

Mrs. Kleinberg recalls the interrogation endured by her daughter Chavy. “Again and again, investigators asked the same questions, looking for any discrepancies in her story. More investigators were brought in, but she kept giving the same truthful answers, describing how she found her brother.”

As the night wore on, Misaskim members became uneasy because the investigation was taking so long. Since there seemed to be no reason to suspect foul play, the length and intensity of the questioning and the number of personnel assigned were highly unusual.

The officers confided to Misaskim that they had uncovered an additional open case with the ACS regarding the Kleinbergs. Unable to access the ACS files in the middle of the night, they were trying to uncover the “truth” with

their endless questions. Through it all, Mrs. Kleinberg kept insisting that she had no prior interaction with the ACS, and that a file on her family had never been opened. An hour or two later, an officer called the Misaskim volunteer aside and explained what had occurred. It seems that dual files were opened with the ACS at the time the tragedy occurred. One file was opened by the hospital, the other file by the NYPD. Unable to verify the source of the additional open file because of the late hour, the NYPD viewed the additional open ACS file as a sure sign of a pattern of child abuse! Finally realizing that it was the same case, they prepared to complete the investigation and allowed the children to go up to their beds.

Yet, the night’s drama was not over. At 5:30 A.M. a NYPD supervisor arrived at the home. In an effort to be extra cautious, he called in the crime scene unit. The children were again asked to leave their bedrooms and go downstairs while the crime scene was re-created. The detectives photographed the scene and documented the information they were looking for, before declaring that the NYPD investigation at the home was finally closed. The crime scene tape was removed, the squad cars left, and the family was finally left alone to grieve.

Misaskim’s job wasn’t over just yet. Upon obtaining a *psak* from a *Rav*, Misaskim called on its team of non-Jews who traveled with Misaskim volunteers to the medical examiner’s office to expedite the release of the *niftar* and to ensure *kavod hameis* according to the dictates of *halachah*. Only then did the volunteers finally leave for *shul* for a long day of Rosh Hashana *tefillas*.

ACS Follow-up

The Kleinberg’s interaction with government officials wasn’t over yet. To close its file on the family, the

agency inspected the Kleinberg home in upstate New York, and conducted numerous follow-up visits to ensure that the environment was safe for children. The agent took detailed notes on interactions between family members and spoke at length to each of the children numerous times.

Mrs. Kleinberg delivers sound advice for families unfortunately involved with the ACS. “Encourage the children to talk to them. You have nothing to hide. If the children speak openly, without fear, your case will be closed much faster.” In fact, the ACS agent in charge of her case told her that until she met the Kleinberg family “no child with sidecurls had ever said a word to her other than the first hello.”

Mr. and Mrs. Kleinberg and the children received the agent in an open, pleasant way, encouraged her to look around, and allowed her to stay for a while to observe the family. Mrs. Kleinberg marvels at the agent’s detailed notes, saying “She even wrote down that my child came home from school and gave me a hug! She also saw my husband helping out during bedtime and wrote ‘Husband participates with child care’”

According to Mrs. Kleinberg, the agent was “very *mentshlich*,” and after about five visits, finally closed the case. However, she doesn’t downplay the tension the case caused in their lives. Although the agent would notify them before her visits, many agents tend to arrive unannounced. Knowing that any bruise on a child can arouse suspicions, the Kleinbergs were always tense when the children engaged in regular childish horseplay, and were vastly relieved when the ordeal was finally over.

Mrs. Kleinberg reports that it was exceedingly difficult to heal from the tragedy while the investigation was still ongoing. One day she was feeling very discouraged and upset about the ACS visits, and she went to pour out

her heart once again at the *kever* of the Ribnitzer Rebbe, z”tl. “I told Hashem, ‘I’m putting this in Your hands, I can’t deal with it on my own.’” The next day, she received a letter in the mail stating the case was closed.

She also singled out the family pediatrician and his dedicated efforts to assist the Kleinbergs with the ACS. “He wrote letters to the ACS vouching for us; he sent them every form that had our baby’s name on it if he thought it would help our case.” On the other hand, the Health Center that the family frequently used for annual health visits and childhood immunizations refused to cooperate and was unwilling to release any information. Mrs. Kleinberg cautions parents about the importance of retaining copies of every child’s immunization records.



Dealing with Grief

In the meantime, the family is trying to cope with the overwhelming grief and longing for Mendy. They are open about their grief, while not allowing it to paralyze them.

The children, too, are coping with the loss of their brother as well as can be expected. They talk about Mendy and display his pictures. Despite the tragedy, the household remains as happy as is possible.

Mrs. Kleinberg raises another important point. She describes how, following the advice of well meaning

friends and family, she allowed the children to speak to therapists about their grief. “For our family,” she says, “the results were not positive. It caused more trauma at a time when our children were dealing with the tragedy in a healthy way within the family.” The Kleinbergs discontinued therapy and the children are b”H doing well.

She warns that while therapy is welcome and necessary for many people, “You have to know your child and yourself. Therapy is not for everybody”.

Leaning on Hashem

Mrs. Kleinberg’s strength in the face of such heartrending loss is awe-inspiring. She describes their outlook by saying “My husband set the tone for our reaction to the tragedy right from the beginning. He says that we didn’t complain when the *Aibishter* gives us our gifts and we’re not going to complain now. The same *gitte Aibishter* Who gave us Mendy took him back from us now.”

She also sees *yad* Hashem in every detail. The fact that Misaskim was available to help her get through the first horrific night and all the “small coincidences” that made the loss a bit easier to bear, are all reminders that Hashem is the One pulling all the strings.

Mrs. Kleinberg also spoke of her connection with Hashem. “If you don’t have Hashem in your life at this time, then you’re really lost, because if you can’t see the bigger picture, then what is life really all about?”

She continues, explaining that “I’m not asking Hashem any questions. I’m just asking Him to help me to live with this.” And then, concluding, she says, “I saw a sign somewhere which stated. ‘The reason I don’t ask questions is because I know that the only answers are up there after 120 years, and I’m not there yet.’”



Hiring Household Help

When we hire household help, such as a housekeeper, a babysitter, or an attendant for the elderly, we should be aware that it can be quite a risky business even if proper precautions are taken. It is essential to ensure that we don't leave the young, the elderly, and in some instances, the disabled, in the hands of individuals who may deliberately harm them.

Mrs. Tamar Chayempour of Great Neck, New York learned first-hand last summer how quickly a seemingly innocent and trustworthy domestic assistant can be anything but innocent and trustworthy. The Chayempours hired 53-year old Gloria Suarez to assist them during the summer months with household chores such as cooking and cleaning. Saurez was hired through an agency which had completed a seemingly satisfactory background check. On her last day of employment, Saurez kidnapped six month-old Esti Chayempour. Fortunately the police, together with Rabbi Yitzchok Chayempour and his three sons, spotted the pair at the Roslyn train station a few hours later. Suarez had already disguised the baby in boy's clothing and refused to return the child until she was subdued by the police.

Mr. Simcha Bernard of Boro Park Shomrim told Misaskim that kidnapping or even a minor theft by a

household assistant does not occur often. However, he strongly urges families who are considering hiring a housekeeper or nanny to ask for that person's identification papers. "It can be any form of ID," he says. "The important thing is to have an image, a name, and an address on file." This will be very helpful to law enforcement if problems surface. If indeed a case against a housekeeper is confirmed, the family should also share the housekeeper's ID with Shomrim. In this way Shomrim can keep track and warn the community about individuals who have a history of recurring offenses.

A more common occurrence is the mistreatment of our elderly parents by their home health attendants. As our senior population is growing, it has become more popular in our community to hire an aide to assist our elderly parents or other loved ones with their daily activities. Shomrim reports that the number of phone calls reporting that elderly individuals are being deliberately hurt by their home health aides is on an upswing.

Mr. Bernard told Misaskim that great care must be taken when hiring a health aide. He reported that recently a family reached out to Shomrim because family members suspected that their elderly mother was being mistreated by her attendant. The family was unsure how to go about investigating this issue as the aide in question has been working for the family for more than three years. They haven't had any negative experiences with her in the past. In fact, she appeared very congenial while caring for their elderly mother. The family had developed a relationship with her and did not want to accuse her wrongly.

Even more so, they were fearful of the possible consequences that might result if they were to confront her.

Shomrim advised the family to place hidden surveillance cameras in their mother's apartment. Sure enough, they watched in horror as the aide shoved their elderly mother and threatened to beat her. Shomrim contacted the authorities and the home health aide agency. The agency worked hand-in-hand with the authorities and assisted them by providing all necessary background information concerning this attendant.

"In this case, the security surveillance was instrumental in leading to the arrest and prosecution of the aide," said Mr. Bernard. "Unfortunately, these occurrences are becoming more and more frequent." He warned families to make an effort to check in on the aide several times a day. "It's best to show up unexpectedly. In this way, the aide knows that you are involved and that you are continuously monitoring your parents' condition." Mr. Bernard also suggests installing security surveillance. He says the cameras go a long way toward preventing any mistreatment from occurring.

Mr. Bernard went on to point out that the elderly are especially vulnerable as they are dependent on their aides for their basic needs. It doesn't take much for impatient and frustrated aides to frighten their patients into submission. In many instances, the elderly patients also suffer from dementia and are unable to report the abuse. One tell-tale sign of foul play, explained Mr. Bernard, is if an elderly loved one becomes quiet and withdrawn. 

Fire Safety:



An Interview with NYC Fire Commissioner **Salvatore Cassano**

In 2005 a family in Williamsburg suffered a terrible tragedy when a stovetop fire spread through their apartment on Pesach.

Unfortunately, three boys succumbed to the flames, ר"ל. In response, the FDNY, under the spirited leadership of NYC Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano, launched an aggressive campaign to educate the Orthodox Jewish community about proper fire safety.

Each year before Pesach, the Commissioner and other heads of the FDNY meet with leaders of Hatzalah, Shomrim, Misaskim, and other local community organizations to review fire prevention guidelines and coordinate fire safety efforts within the Jewish community. The FDNY even disseminates a list of safety tips in both English and Yiddish, especially designed to reflect the unique practices of Shabbos and the Yomim Tovim.

The efforts have clearly paid off. During Pesach 2010, not a single fire-related injury occurred in the entire Brooklyn Jewish community. Pesach 2011 saw only one minor injury caused by fire. The message of the importance of fire-prevention has been delivered to city residents outside the Jewish community as well. The steep decline in fire-related deaths in NYC is impressive proof of the efficacy of the Fire Department's safety education program.

Misaskim was privileged to interview Commissioner Cassano and learn more about fire prevention and safety, especially as it relates to the Yom Tov season. We also provide our readers with a list of pointers and tips below that should be reviewed, discussed with the family, and put into practice before Yom Tov begins:

Misaskim: *There has clearly been a significant decline in Passover fire-related injuries in the Jewish community in recent years. To what do you attribute this decline?*

Commissioner Cassano: The decline in fire related injuries connected to Passover Holiday celebrations can be directly attributed to the Department's aggressive fire-safety education program, as well as to a high level of cooperation from our friends in the Jewish community. We conduct numerous fire safety events during hours that are convenient for the Jewish community and that do not interfere with times of prayer or holy days.

Misaskim: *Was there a particular incident that prompted the commissioner's office to take action regarding Passover fires?*

Commissioner Cassano: In the last decade the Department has made great strides in reducing fire-related deaths and injuries thanks to our aggressive fire-safety education program. We believe the best way to fight a fire is to prevent it from occurring in the first place. As a result of our fire-prevention program, we have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of fire-related deaths – with the new all-time record low of 58 deaths in NYC, set last year. Each death is one too many, but the results show that our efforts are working.

However, there is one incident connected to the Jewish holiday season that does stand out. On April 25, 2005, a fire at 104 Ross Street claimed the life of 3 young boys, ages 15, 13, and 7. This tragic loss of life is an unfortunate reminder of the deadly nature of fire and drives us to do more to educate the public each and every day.

Misaskim: *What was the cause of this incident and what needs to be done to prevent such tragedies from occurring?*

Commissioner Cassano: That tragic fire began in the kitchen of the apartment. The way to prevent fires like this – and all fires – is through fire-safety education.



MISASKIM WELCOMES

The Honorable Salvatore J. Cassano

New York City Fire Commissioner



NYC FIRE COMMISSIONER
SALVATORE J. CASSANO

Misaskim: What steps has the department undertaken in order to promote prevention?

Commissioner Cassano: We are very proactive in holding fire-safety events year round at schools, community centers, religious institutions, senior centers, and transportation hubs. We also have all our fire-safety education material available on our websites and through our various social media platforms.

In addition, after a fatal fire, our Fatal Fire Response Team, which consists of firefighters from our Fire-Safety Education Unit, visits the neighborhood where the fatal fire took place. They use the fire as a teachable moment, while the tragedy is fresh in the minds of the residents. The Fatal Fire Response Team stresses the importance of maintaining a working smoke alarm, and presents other ways to remain safe from fire, so that such a tragedy will not recur.

Misaskim: What resources have been

mustered to prevent these holiday-related fire injuries?

Commissioner Cassano: Our FDNY Foundation funds resources such as smoke alarms, batteries and personnel – and that allows us to educate the public. In addition, the support of the community, and especially community leaders, has been invaluable. We know the more people we have in every community spreading the message of fire safety, the more lives can be saved.

Misaskim: Do these safety prevention measures still need to be reinforced now that the initiatives have been so successful? If yes, what is currently being done to reinforce the message?

Commissioner Cassano: Yes, fire safety is something that must be practiced every day. And children, especially, need to be taught how to be fire safe, as it is an important lesson they will take with them throughout their lives. We hold over

6,000 fire-safety events in New York City every year and directly reach over 600,000 people, because our success means that we should continue to do more, not less.

Misaskim: What is the most common cause of fires during the Passover holiday season?

Commissioner Cassano: The most common fire causes are preventable accidents, by which I mean cooking fires, candle fires, etc.

Misaskim: Is there anything else the Commissioner would like to share with our readership?

Commissioner Cassano: I would want anyone who reads this article or attends one of our FDNY Fire-Safety Education events to take the important life-saving lessons to heart. Please have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and check them regularly. Fire Safety information is critical to everyone. And it bears repeating: the best way to fight a fire is to prevent a fire.

Each Yom Tov involves its own unique practices. Along with them also come unique risks.



There is need for extra caution regarding fire on every Shabbos and Yom Tov, when candles grace our homes, and food is left to cook overnight.

But Pesach, more than any other Yom Tov, calls for extreme care and caution. The seemingly straightforward tasks of Bedikas Chametz and Biur Chametz add to the usual risks associated with the holiday season. Here are some important guidelines to keep in mind while going about your Yom Tov preparations and activities:

Kitchen Preparations

- Common oven cleaners such as Easy-Off can cause severe chemical burns.
- Remember the fire in Williamsburg. Take care when covering cooking surfaces that stovetops remain clear of flammable materials.

Cooking

- Never leave cooking or hot foods unattended.
- Wear snug-fitting sleeves while cooking. Avoid wearing anything that can catch fire or snag on a pot handle.
- Take extra precautions when handling boiling water.
- Create a “child-free zone” of at least three feet around your stove.
- Keep stove area clear of towels, paper, or anything that can burn.
- Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall, to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.
- Have a pot lid and container of baking soda handy to smother a pan fire. **DO NOT USE WATER.**
- Treat burns immediately with cool running water and seek prompt medical attention.

Bedikas Chametz

- Keep your candle far away from flammable objects, such as curtains, bedding, and sofas.
- For hard-to-reach areas, use a flashlight instead of a flame.

Biur Chametz

Note: These rules apply for Lag B'Omer as well!

- The Fire Department has coordinated with community leaders to arrange designated chametz-burning sites. Don't make your own fire and risk an emergency on a busy Erev Yom Tov.
- Never use accelerants in a fire. Also, never put aerosols in a fire.
- Keep a sharp eye on children near the fire as long as the fire is burning.

Candles

- Use sturdy candleholders, preferably with flame-protective non-combustible (glass or metal) shades or globes.
- Keep candles at least four feet away from curtains, draperies, cabinets, and bedding.
- Make sure your candles are out of reach of children.
- Never leaving burning candles unattended.
- Secure hair and clothing, such as sleeves or aprons, while handling candles.

The FDNY reminds us to “Celebrate Your Heritage Safely.” 🚒

Care of the Elderly



Safety Measures When Hosting Elderly Parents

For many of us, hosting our elderly parents is the highlight of our Yom Tov. It is imperative that we take the necessary steps to ensure that this joyous occasion does not turn into a painful ordeal. Because our elderly parents may be experiencing decreased mobility, increasing deafness, and/or diminished eyesight, our homes need to be carefully examined to ensure that appropriate safety measures have been taken.

The most frequent injuries to seniors that occur at home or in someone else's home are the result of trips and falls. As hosts, there are several small actions we can take to make our elderly relatives' stay comfortable and safe, even as we provide mobility.

- Be sure to remove all area rugs that are loose and not rubberized on the bottom.
 - Make sure that no electrical cords or other wire extensions run through the center of a room. They should be discreetly placed close to the wall.
 - It's also helpful to survey your home before your elderly guests arrive to decide whether any furniture needs to be moved out of the way so that elderly individuals using a cane or walker won't bump into chairs and tables.
 - Remind children not to leave toys and games on the floor and be sure to clear them away if elderly relatives are going to walk through the area at any time.
 - Consider placing nightlights in the bedrooms, hallways, and bathrooms to illuminate these areas at night.
 - Remove glassware that can break and cause injury when dropped. Avoid using dishes that are heavy or difficult to handle. Use lightweight or plastic dishes instead.
- Be sure to keep all doors locked to prevent elderly relatives from wandering off.
 - Locks on the inner side of doors should be removed so that your elderly parents don't lock themselves into bathrooms and bedrooms.
 - Set aside the keys to all doors that have locks so that you can enter a room in which an elderly parent has become trapped.
 - Disable or remove stove knobs to prevent fire or carbon monoxide hazards.
 - Place knives or other sharp kitchen utensils in a cabinet that is not easily accessible.
 - Put away plastic fruit or other decorative food items that may appear real.
 - Place a tag listing contact information on your elderly parents' clothing in case they wander off. 📌

עין רואה

A rash of burglaries is plaguing our communities. That gives us plenty of cause for alarm. But what can you do to help? Of course you should have your mezuzos checked twice every seven years. But your obligation to do your *hishtadlus* does not end there.

A very simple and extremely effective response is to install a security system in your home. Statistics show that a home is three times more likely to be burglarized when there is no alarm system. Thieves literally walk down the street looking for a home without an alarm system. When they find one, it's an open invitation.

And it's not just your property that is at risk. Reports show a shocking rise in break-ins while people are at home. Known as "home invasions," these frightening incidents put everyone inside the house at risk. Installing an alarm is not just a matter of protecting your home – it's about protecting your family and yourself.

Any alarm system will act as a powerful deterrent. However, installing a security camera provides you with extra protection. Not only does it offer great surveillance but, when combined with a recording feature, it also allows you to recapture events after the fact. Eli of Connex Communications tells us, "When you install a security camera you allow yourself to sleep better at night, whether you are at home or away in the mountains."

Let's take a quick review of some of your options.

Protect Your Home – Install a Security Camera

There are many variations on the basic theme of home security. These can include individual devices or a complete system. Some security systems involve wireless components that can be installed by any homeowner. Others are fully wired and require professional installation.

The best protection comes from a comprehensive alarm system that incorporates a variety of sensors and components. Included in this package will be motion detectors, window and door alarms, and smoke and carbon-monoxide sensors. The various devices are all integrated through a central control panel which should provide a constant status update and warn you when any part of the system is not functioning properly.

In addition, monitoring firms can be engaged to keep watch on your home through a special centralized service while you are away. If something unusual or suspicious is noted, the monitoring service will notify you, or those whom you specify, as well as the police. The cost of such a service can range from \$25 to \$100 per month.

A security camera offers a valuable surveillance device above and beyond the basic home security system. The pictures taken by your

camera can be viewed from a screen inside your home. The system can also be wired for online viewing from a remote location, even from an iPhone or Tablet. Cameras can permit you to view events inside your home while you are away, or they can show you what is going on outside while you are in the house.

By including a recording feature with your camera, you allow yourself or law-enforcement officials to look back at what occurred. This powerful law-enforcement device has proved itself time and time again. Many crimes have been solved using recordings from security cameras.

Good Monetary Sense

From a purely financial angle, installing a home alarm system makes good fiscal sense. The cost is negligible compared to the amount of protection that you will receive. And the savings are there even if you never experience a burglary. On average, an alarm system will reduce the cost of your home insurance payments by 15 to 20%.

Not only that, but the car in your driveway is twice as safe when there is a security alarm system in your home. Car thieves will notice the alarm sticker on your home windows. They know that a responsible homeowner is probably keeping an eye on his car as well. It doesn't pay for them to take the chance of stealing your car, so they're going to look for easier prey somewhere else.

Even if your home is broken into, the alarm guarantees that burglars will be in a big rush to leave again. According to security experts, the average loss suffered during a break-in is \$2,100 less when there is an alarm in place. That means that most security systems pay for themselves during the very first incident!

According to Connex, a client's biggest hesitation is always the



cost. But that's a wrong approach, Eli explains: "Think of it as an insurance policy – nobody wants to get hurt, ל"ר. But when something does happen, you will be very thankful that you made the investment beforehand."

It's a Neighborhood Chased!

When you install an alarm you are doing much more than just protecting your home. A five -year study conducted by Rutgers University found that overall crime in a neighborhood decreased in proportion to the number of alarms installed. That means you are helping to make the streets near your home safer as well. You and your neighbors all benefit from each alarm installed on your block.

A security camera that records activities on the street in front of your home does double-duty as well. It also monitors what is going on outside your home. Time and time again, such outdoor cameras have assisted law enforcement officials in tracking down criminals and bringing them to justice. The sequence of many a road accident becomes clearer if it has been recorded on nearby outdoor cameras that were able to capture the episode.

An example of the importance of security cameras was demonstrated last summer right in our own neighborhood in the tragic and distressing case of the abduction of

Leiby Kletzky ל"ר. The case was solved with the aid of neighborhood security cameras that monitored the streets and recorded the actions that led up to the tragedy.

In a recent widely-reported incident, a Tel Aviv woman left her car legally parked. When she returned home, she found that her car had been towed away and that the spot on which it had been parked had suddenly been converted into a handicapped zone. With the help of the neighborhood security camera, she was able to prove that not only had her car been legally parked, but that the municipal workers had actually painted the handicapped signage on the parking spot while her car was still parked in it! Only after they had completed the paint job, did the municipality workers tow away her car! One can never know when one's camera will assist others.

**Do it for yourself.
Do it for your community.
Install a camera!**

Ruined for Life



Mehudar mezuzos on all doorposts?
Check.

Deadbolt on the front door? **Check.**

Steel window gates; state of the art alarm system; security guard or watchdog on duty? **All check.**

You have done everything possible to protect yourself and your assets from unsavory characters, **right?**

Wrong. You have failed to take measures to protect yourself from insidious criminals employing cyber-age technology who plot and scheme tirelessly to ruthlessly rob you of your money, your assets, and your hard won sterling reputation. Using just your name, your social security number, and other basic information, identity thieves can wreak havoc on your credit score, clean out your bank accounts, and leave you thousands of dollars in debt.

The National Crime Victimization Survey defines identity theft as the unauthorized use or attempted use of existing credit cards or other existing accounts, such as checking accounts, or of misusing personal information to open new accounts, obtains loans, or commit other crimes.

According to current statistics, about 7 percent of the population of the U.S., or 15 million Americans, become victims of identity fraud and theft each year, with accumulated losses of at least 50 billion dollars.

Cyber Dangers

Many perpetrators of identity fraud are super-proficient cyber thieves who use their exceptional skills to illegally hack their way into the computer systems of large companies and credit card transaction-processing companies. Once they enter the companies' programs, they can obtain millions of customer credit card numbers or banking information to use as they please.

In 2009, authorities in Miami charged hacker Albert Gonzalez, also known as "soupnazi," for hacking into the computer systems of top chains like 7-Eleven, and stealing more than 135 million credit and debit card numbers. Thankfully, the authorities knew just where to find him. Gonzalez

was in a New York jail awaiting trial for his 2006 previous record-setting crime of stealing 40 million credit and debit card numbers. Gonzalez used the information to support an extravagant lifestyle which included luxurious hotel stays and gifting friends with expensive jewelry and Rolex watches. Gonzalez pleaded guilty and is now serving time in less than luxurious accommodations in the United States prison system.

Ordinary looking emails can trap unsuspecting consumers as well. Recently, FedEx posted an alert on its website warning customers against clicking on an email supposedly sent by FedEx. The email informed customers that a package could not be delivered to their homes and requested that they

click on a link and provide personal information in order to be able to redeem their parcel from a local post office. FedEx reminded consumers that “FedEx does not send unsolicited emails to customers requesting information regarding packages, invoices, account numbers, passwords or personal information,” and urged them not to click on the link.

Other Methods

Don't have email or shop online? Sorry, but you're not safe either. Thieves can access information by using sophisticated tools to spy on you while you punch in your PIN number at the ATM. Stopped using ATMs? Even if you do, you're still not safe. Thieves can get you by resorting to old fashioned methods like stealing wallets and mail, or even quietly lifting personal information from your chart at your doctor's office.

“Dumpster diving” is another popular pastime for identity theft criminals. Dumpster divers literally search through trash to find basic personal information that will enable them to open accounts, obtain loans, or carry out other devious schemes.

Protect Yourself!

The bad news is that despite all reasonable precautions, scam artists and identity thieves can still find ways to commit fraud in your name. Worse than that is the fact that once your identity has been stolen, clearing your name and erasing the debts accumulated by the perpetrator become arduous, often expensive processes. It goes without saying that of course, the sooner you become aware that your name is being misused; the easier it is to halt the thief and clear up the financial mess.

There is good news, however, if you exercise the proper precautions, it is possible to lower your chances of becoming a victim. The U.S. Department of Justice uses the letters of the word **SCAM** to help

people remember ways to safeguard their identities:

S - Be Stingy with sharing your personal information in person, by mail (think fraudulent credit card applications), email, or phone offers (offers that sound too good to be true usually are). Put a hold on your mail while traveling and retrieve mail from your mailbox as soon as possible.

C - Check your financial information often and be on the lookout for red flags. Look for unauthorized debits or charges, or for new credit cards or accounts in your name. Also make sure that you are receiving all usual monthly statements. If not, it may be a sign

that a thief has diverted your mail on this account to a different address.

A - Ask for copies of your credit report from time to time. Make sure all accounts listed are yours and nothing suspicious is reported.

M - Maintain careful records of all your accounts. These will be helpful in disputing fraudulent charges or transactions and can help clear your name more quickly.

If you suspect that you have fallen victim to identity fraud, move quickly to minimize the damage. Contact the Federal Trade Commission immediately either online, or by phone at 877-IDTHEFT. [i](#)

IRS Sidebar

Tax season means a booming business season for many identity thieves. Using stolen social security numbers, criminals file fake tax returns with fake wage reports. They file the tax returns early in the tax season, before the true owners of the social security numbers have a chance to file their returns. Then, they pocket the IRS refunds and quickly convert them into cash.

When the legitimate taxpayers file, they are informed that there already is a tax return on file for them and the tax refund has already been claimed, drawing the taxpayer into a long, hard, struggle for his or her rightful, and usually desperately relied upon funds.

Last year, identity theft cases at the IRS soared 78 percent over the previous year, to a total of about 450,000 cases,

according to the National Taxpayer Advocate. The IRS was successful in preventing \$20 billion in fraudulent refunds from being issued. Still, the IRS Advisory Council said it was "concerned that both taxpayers and the tax system will suffer if [more] appropriate measures are not taken quickly and effectively to control this fraud."

This year, the agency is further tightening its automated system, setting aside more potentially fraudulent returns for further investigation. In addition, the IRS will delay some refunds to see if some social security numbers have more than one return on file.

So if your refund is a bit late this year, don't immediately blame the IRS. It may be doing you a greater favor than you can ever imagine.

Caution:

Luggage *at Risk*



Ah...arrived at last. Count luggage, count noses...all safe Baruch Hashem. Uh, maybe not. Your luggage may have arrived intact, but there's a good chance that some contents of that luggage might have disappeared in transit.

Although authorities agree that baggage pilfering in airports is too common for comfort, it is difficult to come by hard statistics to support that claim. One reason is that many victims don't discover the thefts until after arriving home or at their hotel, and therefore often don't bother reporting it. In addition, it is usually impossible for airlines to know if a missing bag was lost in transit or if it was actually stolen.

Airport Employee Crime

Once luggage has been checked in at the terminal, there is very little a passenger can do to ensure that his possessions will not be stolen. Actually, one of the greatest threats to your luggage arriving intact comes from the people employed to keep travelers safe. Although airline workers undergo background checks before being hired, that is obviously not enough to prevent some of these employees from helping themselves to passengers' valued possessions.

In October, ABC News used a Freedom of Information Act request to force the TSA to reveal which airports rank highest in TSA agent criminality. The report revealed that nearly 400 TSA agents have been fired over the years for alleged theft of airport luggage. Miami International Airport has the dubious distinction of ranking highest on the list for theft, closely followed by New York's JFK Airport.

Stories of theft by baggage handlers and TSA agents abound. In one instance, ABC News deliberately left 10 iPads at a security checkpoint at Orlando International Airport. The good news is that nine of the iPads were found and returned to the news network by the TSA. The bad news is that the final missing iPad was tracked as it traveled thirty miles to the home of the TSA agent on duty at that security checkpoint. The agent was later fired.

In another instance, a woman traveler was robbed of \$160,000 worth of precious jewelry after being

told that her carryon was too heavy and needed to be placed in cargo. Her carryon made it to the destination- the jewelry inside did not. Other incidents include airport workers stealing cash from passengers' jacket pockets while conducting security checks, and airline workers stealing hundreds of bags, rifling through them for valuables, and then discarding them in a storage area.

Preventing a Loss

To combat the problem, airlines and the TSA have said that they are increasing spot checks on their workers and installing more surveillance cameras which can help deter potential criminals and catch crooked employees. But as always, an ounce of prevention is really the only thing to do if you want your valuables to remain in your possession.

The first recommendation seems like a no-brainer — don't pack anything into your checked luggage that you wouldn't want to lose. This includes jewelry, cash, antiques, cameras, and electronics. If you must have an item at your destination and it doesn't fit into your carryon luggage, consider shipping it to your destination ahead of time via FedEx or another carrier that can insure your valuables.

In addition, it is advisable to purchase a small strong lock for each checked bag. While it can still be opened by airport workers, it does discourage casual pilfering. Other ideas are not to travel with expensive

luggage — it will attract the attention of a thief who may choose to open it in the hopes of finding "gold" within. It may also be helpful to travel with brightly-colored luggage or to attach flashy accessories to your luggage, as thieves may be deterred from making off with luggage that can cause unwanted attention.

Passenger on Passenger Crime

In an interview with Misaskim, New York/New Jersey Port Authority Detective Tom Bomengo said that most stolen items are not connected in any way to an organized scheme of thievery, but are "basically all crimes of opportunity." That being the case, the only way to prevent oneself from becoming a victim of luggage theft is to exercise extreme vigilance from the time one arrives at the departure airport until one leaves the destination airport.

Bomengo warns that a person's luggage is at risk even before he or she steps into the terminal. The friendly skycap offering assistance might not be a skycap, but a thief. Genuine skycaps can be identified by their uniforms and identification tags. Anyone else who offers assistance should be regarded with extreme suspicion.

Detective Bomengo says that the number of bags or items stolen has been fairly steady and has not risen significantly over the years. The most common items stolen are laptops, iPads, cameras, and other small electronic devices.

Detective Bomengo offered a few tips that may go a long way toward protecting your possessions.

- 1** Leave yourself enough time at the airport. The extra time will allow you to be aware of your surroundings and enable you to be on the lookout for potential criminals
- 2** Have your passport and ticket ready and within easy reach so you won't be distracted. Distraction will cause you to take your eyes off your luggage.
- 3** Keep all valuables, including important paperwork, on your person or in your carryon baggage. Keep all carryon baggage within sight at all times.
- 4** At the security checkpoint take off shoes and belts etc. before placing your personal belongings in the plastic bins. Once your items are in the bin, don't take your eyes off them. Don't enter the metal detector until you have seen your belongings enter the x-ray machine. If you are selected by agents for a more intense secondary search, make sure you take your belongings with you.

- 5** Take the time to make sure you have removed all your items from the bin. Crimes commonly occur when another passenger sees your pricey wristwatch mistakenly left in the bin, scoops it up, and walks off. No chance of getting that one back!
- 6** It may not be a good idea to pack fragile items into your checked luggage with a FRAGILE sticker placed on the baggage. That may invite curious fingers, and besides, the fragile items could become damaged in transit. Pack such items into your carryon baggage or ship them in advance.
- 7** Another common lapse of judgment occurs when passengers waiting at the gate for their flight begin charging their electronic devices and then are not vigilant about watching them. Pretty easy pickings for any nimble-fingered thief passing by.
- 8** Don't let your guard down once your flight is airborne. Keep your cash and valuables preferably on your person, and watch out for that friendly fellow traveler who may also just happen to be a pickpocket.

You've Been Robbed! Now What?

According to Detective Bomengo, the greatest problem with being robbed while traveling is that “ninety percent of the time we can't figure out where the pilfering occurred. Was the item pilfered at the departure point or by baggage handlers at the final destination?”

However, he contends that there are measures that can be taken to try to recover lost or stolen items and bags. Although some passengers don't realize their luggage has been pilfered until they arrive home or at their hotel, it is still of utmost importance to report it to the airline as soon as possible.

The airline will provide the passenger with a claim number, and then, continues Detective Bomengo, “If you feel that the item might have been pilfered, contact the local police — which here in New York City would be the Port Authority Police.”

“At that point,” continues the detective, “we will try to carry out an investigation. We assign a detective to the case, but frankly, if we cannot track the item, then we have no way of figuring out at which location the pilfering occurred. If, however, there's an electronic serial number that we can use, then we will do our best to track the item (see sidebar).”

Travel Insurance

Experts recommend insuring your

luggage with travel insurance each time you fly. Some credit card companies provide travel insurance free of charge if the airline ticket was purchased with that credit card.

To file an insurance claim, make sure to have the airline's claim number and the police report number to prove the loss.

In addition, some airlines do offer some restitution for lost or stolen baggage. The catch is that if they do agree that they are responsible, they calculate restitution by the weight of the missing item. So if the missing item is an iPad, iPhone, or expensive jewelry, the restitution provided will seem like a bad joke.

The Pesach Rush

Crowds are a luggage pilferer's best friend. Detective Bomengo warns, “Crowds cause more problems because people are constantly bumping into each other, there can be more distractions, or there are professional pickpockets hanging around.”

For travel during holiday seasons or other busy travel times, the detective suggests getting there a little early, bringing food with you, and sitting and relaxing while remaining vigilant.

Detective Bomengo's bottom line: “There is no magic solution. It's up to each traveler to take those little precautionary steps which will make life so much easier.” 🚒

Among the most commonly-stolen items are iPads and the latest iPhones.

Larcenies have spiked all over the city — not just at the airports — due to the number of these devices stolen. However, the good news is that these items can often be tracked.

Police detectives need a subpoena from Apple to get an IP address and an owner in order to track the device.

“We have made many arrests that way,” says Detective Bomengo.

The downside is that it may take a full month to obtain the subpoena because of the flood of these types of cases.

For people who have a lot of information stored on their devices, the inconvenience may be more difficult to deal with than the expense of purchasing a new device.



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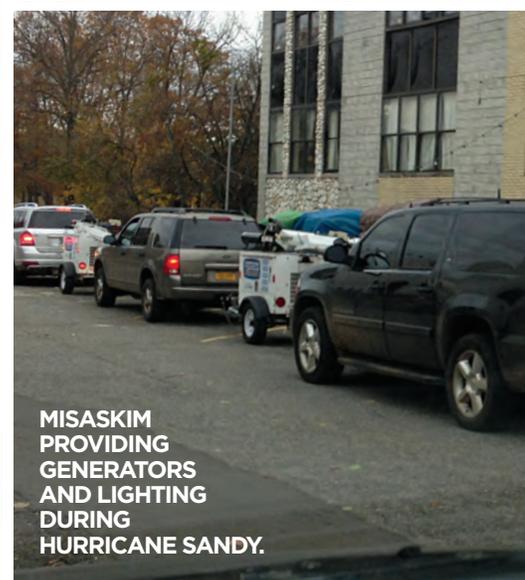
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...ועם המתים



Urgent Update:

Levayah

In order to enable us to dispatch our volunteers in a timely and efficient manner, family members should call Misaskim as soon as possible to request a sound system for a *levayah* or light-towers for a night-time *kevurah*. In some instances, families contact Misaskim just a few minutes before the *levayah*, leaving us with little or no time to make the necessary arrangements.



Shivah G'mach



Have a family member contact Misaskim to request *shivah g'mach* items as soon as possible. Misaskim will only fill orders after speaking to a family member as no well-meaning neighbor or friend understands your family's unique need. Misaskim will aim to deliver *shivah g'mach* items in a timely fashion. **However, we can only do so if we are notified promptly.** In many instances, Misaskim was notified after the family returned home from the *levayah*.

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Nefulim

Misaskim is continuously working to ensure that families receive the support they need. The organization arranges the complete burial of *nefulim* for a minimal cost that ranges from \$95.00 to \$165.00. In one instance, Misaskim was able to arrange for the burial of triplet *nefulim* for \$225.00. Typically such a burial would cost more than \$2,000.00. This program proves to be a great relief to young families in need. Misaskim volunteers preserve utmost privacy while attending to *nefulim*. We are aligned with a qualified undertaker and we oversee that the filing is properly completed.

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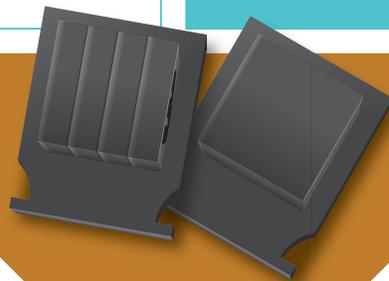
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