



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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When I was in *yeshiva* many years ago, the only way to get in contact with our loved ones in the United States was a toll-free AT&T phone number that one would call collect, and the operator would connect us to our American relatives. Being in a *yeshiva* with many Americans, I remember how whenever it was playoff season, the guys who couldn't wait to find a relevant newspaper the day after the game would call that AT&T toll-free number and then ask the operator if they happen to know who won that day's game. This is how many guys stayed connected to the sports teams they followed while they were overseas.

While this can be viewed as an interesting anecdote, it also demonstrates how different cultures can be. *Baruch Hashem*, we have hundreds of thousands of Jews who have made *aliyah* from North America, South Africa, Australia, England and so many other countries who come to Israel and connect to the Land and People, all the while keeping strong ties to the culture and people of the

countries that they came from. Therefore, it isn't surprising that they also are interested in the politics of the countries they came from and wish to express their legal right to have an influence on the changes in those countries, all the while as proud Israelis.

Whenever elections come around, I encourage everyone I can to go and vote and give their voice. Democracy is really a Torah value. Rabbi Ken Spiro writes about this beautifully in his book, *WorldPerfect – The Jewish Impact on Civilization*, where he shows how modern democracy was inspired by the Torah. So I tell people to go and express this value, and not to sit on the sidelines while changes happen to the country they came from.

The OU in North America developed a program called TEACH. The cost of tuition for private Jewish day schools in America is so high that many feel they have to go bankrupt to give their children a religious education, or have to make the horrible decision not to send their children at all. The OU's TEACH coalition has been extremely successful raising hundreds of millions of dollars for the Jewish community and Jewish schools. The money raised goes toward non-religious aspects of school, paying for textbooks, buses, secular studies, and everything that can defray the costs so that Jewish education doesn't become prohibitive for religious Jews.

The main reason they have had this success is because our communities have voted for politicians and officials who care about this

**The unveiling of the matzeiva
of the Israeli soldier and hero**

Ori Moshe Borenstein **ה"ר**
will be held at the
Mount Herzl military cemetery
in Jerusalem,
Sunday, November 10th
(9 Cheshvan) at 12:30pm

The Borenstein family

www.jewsofstowiec.com/ori-borenstein



cause and understand that tax dollars should go to the tax-payers. When people make *aliyah*, no matter their political affiliation they still can vote and have an influence in so many ways for the Jewish community in America.

In this context, I want to give a tremendous *yashar koach* to Chana Spivack, OU Israel's volunteer coordinator, who has spent every day for the last several months helping people who want to vote from abroad by answering questions and explaining the process of submitting absentee ballots. She has had a positive influence by helping so many express their legal right to vote.

This past Sunday, we had an event which enabled people to come and register, fill out ballots, and vote online, depending on what rules each state requires (and each one has different rules to keep track of). It was beautiful to see so many come out and how helpful it was to American citizens here in Israel. The event required a tremendous amount of effort, and I want to thank everyone on my staff who stepped up to the plate to help out. Thank you to OU-certified made in Israel Ben & Jerry's for bringing a tremendous amount of ice cream, and to the anonymous donor who sponsored this event. The factory even sent over the Ben & Jerry's stand they send out to big events (and is available to rent for

events you may be

planning), which lent a fun atmosphere to our building as well.

Thank you and *kol hakavod* to everyone who came out, who helped with the event, and those who voted for their interests and values.

In this week's *parsha*, Avraham Avinu is commanded, "Go for yourself from your land, your birthplace, and your father's house." We are told that

we should not forget where we came from, and to continue to have a positive influence wherever we are. That means that even as proud Israeli Jews, living in our homeland, we continue to take interest in and give our voice for the values we believe in, and OU Israel hopes to continue to facilitate these events and those like them in the future.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,

Rabbi Avi Berman

Executive Director, OU Israel

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**May the Torah learned
from this issue of Torah Tidbits be
in loving memory of our dear friend**

Yehuda Leib Berren ז"ל
יהודה לייב בן אהרון יצחק ז"ל
on his 4th Yahrzeit

Aliyah L'kever:

ט' מרחשון, Sunday,

November 10th, 1:30pm

Har HaMenuchot,

Gush תת, Section 7, Row 8

Zoom: 816 5862 6171, Password: 094976

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה