



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OU ISRAEL
ABERMAN@OUISSRAEL.ORG

This past week, my schedule took me to many different places across our beautiful country. First and foremost, I had the great honor of hosting Rabbi Moshe Hauer, OU Executive Vice President, here in Israel. We met with many leaders of the Jewish people, including ministers and Knesset members (and heard from many of them that they love reading Torah Tidbits!). Additionally, I had the opportunity to travel the country, and visit our OU Israel Teen Center in Nahariya.

It was truly inspirational to meet with our team in Nahariya, who have worked so hard with our teens from northern Israel, empowering them to get them to feel confident and safe. It's really remarkable seeing a staff that has gone through an incredibly tough year, many of them or their spouses in *milluim* and living under fire, nevertheless working with such dedication towards others who need their help. It was really beautiful to see how much positive impact they are making with these teens. In recent years, with great

thanks to the municipality of Nahariya, we were allocated a large Teen Center location in the city, with space for us to run multiple groups concurrently and it even includes a soccer field. I met Marsha, a representative of the English-speaking community in Nahariya, who shares that in addition to receiving Torah Tidbits, they would appreciate more OU Israel *shiurim* and programs there, which we look forward to doing.

Afterwards, I went to Harish, another place where the English-speaking community is growing. They are involved with the Hebrew-speaking community while also developing their own incredible community there. We are proud to have our own representative living there, Rabbi Ezra Friedman, Director of OU Israel's Gustave & Carol Jacobs Center for Kashrut Education. Later in the week I attended the engagement party of my friend and colleague Rabbi Ilan Haber's son - Mazal Tov! - and also celebrated a *Hachnasat Sefer Torah* from an American-born family to *Eretz Chemdah*.

Throughout the week, I noticed a theme of English-speaking *olim* positively impacting the State of Israel. This brings tremendous joy to my heart because this Shabbat, we read *Parshat Terumah*, which is all about giving and contributions of the Jewish people to their religious communities. The lesson of the *parsha* is that the way we build the *Mishkan*, and the *Beit HaMikdash*, is by each one of us contributing. Sometimes the contribution is of gold and silver, and sometimes the

May the learning
in this week's Torah Tidbits
be in memory of

Harry Meir Grunstein ז"ל
צבי מאיר בן משה יהונתן ז"ל

Our beloved husband, father,
and grandfather
On his 6th yahrtzeit - א' אדר
Tzippy Grunstein and family

donations are dedicating time - days, nights, manpower, ideas and connections - in order to improve situations. Whether it's people cooking meals for their neighbors, working with at-risk teens, or being the *gabbai* of the *shul*, it really is remarkable to see the amount of giving that *Klal Yisrael* has toward their communities, especially during these very unique times.

This past Shabbat, I was invited to be the scholar-in-residence at the Young Israel of North Netanya. It was really a special *Shabbat*. I enjoyed staying by Jake and Helen Weichholz and meeting Rabbi Boruch and Rebbetzin Esther Boudilovsky, as well as the dedicated Torah Tidbits distributors in Netanya who hosted me for lunch. Over Shabbat, I met British, South African, American, Canadian and Irish families, and others that I'm sure I'm forgetting, that are now living in Netanya. What amazed me more than anything about the *shul* was the amount of volunteers there. In one of the talks, I asked them to raise their hand if they volunteer, and the vast majority of the room raised their hands. Many who did not raise their hand came up to me afterwards and said, "I don't know why I didn't raise my hand, but I don't consider it volunteering, I just consider it what I do."

Among these amazing volunteers is the *tzaddik* Neville Gatoff, who volunteers every week not only to distribute *Torah Tidbits* throughout Netanya, but is part of the *shul chesed* committee and everything he does for the *shul*, together with his incredible wife Avril. Another person told me that he created a website that only reports good news about Israel - simply amazing. I met person after person in Netanya who told me that they



are part of this volunteer community and volunteer for this part of the *shul*. I saw that the amount of help *Klal Yisrael* is giving, especially since October 7th, is really tremendous.

**In loving memory of our father,
grandfather and great-grandfather**

LEO SCHWARTZ ז"ל

יעקב אריה בן

הרב צבי וחיה שרה ז"ל

נפטר ד' אדר תשס"ד

יהי זכרו ברוך

The Schwartz and Simansky Families

This spirit of volunteering really comes down to the words of our *parsha*, “*asher yidvenu libo*” - “whose heart is giving.” It’s about our heart. Volunteering works the best when we are coming from “*yidvenu libo*,” the desire to give *libo*, when he gives over his heart.

Several months ago, my family and I spent a day volunteering down south. We picked weeds, pruned flowers, and cleaned off the crops. We talked to the owner of the farm, a wonderful Jew, after we had finished for the day. He said, “You know, I’ve had many foreign workers come and do this work. Recently, every day I see Jewish boys and girls coming and doing work that they’re not used to, and it’s clear it’s hard for them, but I see that they’re doing it from the bottom of their hearts. They’re doing it from a place where they are trying their best to make sure that I am able to survive with my farm even though I don’t have foreign workers right now.” He told us, “I see it coming from the heart, I see it coming from a love of the land, I see it coming from a place where people are really trying to do good for another Jew.”

Coming with heart is totally different from the mentality of seeing it as a job to do. I think that Israel, with all its many challenges, has managed to be so successful because the Jewish people have come and volunteered to build it with so much heart. That is why nobody, no enemy or terrorist organization, is ever going to bring us down. When we see the ruthless side of our enemies, we combat it with our heart, our hard work, our love, our caring for each other, our *terumah*. Something that is built from the hearts of so many will not be destroyed.

Therefore, let’s continue volunteering, helping and building. On this note, I

encourage you to join us in our pre-Purim *Mishloach Manot* campaign that we have for our heroic *chayalim*. We will be packaging and distributing them to our Teen Centers’ alumni serving in the army, injured soldiers and other soldiers all across the country. So many people are volunteering and making us their *shaliach* for this *mitzvah*.

It is an incredible *mitzvah* to bring *simcha* to an injured soldier, or a soldier on the front lines, or any soldier that is working hard to make sure that the Jewish people are safe. Let’s continue volunteering inside the English-speaking community and the broader Israeli community to ensure that we are taking our hearts, investing more and more in this country, and *b’ezrat Hashem*, building it stronger and stronger.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat and Chodesh Tov,



Rabbi Avi Berman

Executive Director, OU Israel
aberman@ouisrael.org

ברוך ד"ן האמת

With great sorrow we announce the passing, *beseiva tova*, of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather a G-d fearing “Man of Yerushalayim”

MOSHE (MORRIS) LOSHINSKY ז"ל

Shiva until Tuesday morning

March 4th, at Diskin 3/14, J'slm

Shacharit:7:00am / Mincha / Maariv:5:15pm

Wife - *Miriam Loshinsky*

Children - *Shlomo Loshinsky,*

Naomi Morse, Joseph (Yogi) Loshinsky

Brother - *Avraham Lock*
and families