



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

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In this week's *parsha*, *Parshat Pekudei*, we learn the final census of how many Jews there were above the age of twenty, by way of the giving of the *machatzit hashekel*, the half coin. Each individual had a chance to contribute and be counted.

Presently, Jews around the world are in the midst of the World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections, which provides the opportunity to express their voice and be counted among the Jewish people. Israeli citizens have the *zechut* to vote in Israeli elections, thereby shaping the future of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. The current World Zionist Congress elections enable Jews around the world to vote and have an impact.

Decades ago, it was established that the future identity of Israel should not be determined just by the residents of the State of Israel, but also by Jews worldwide, since Israel is linked with their destiny as well. The WZC meets every five years to make decisions about Jewish life and Israel, including

allocating billions of dollars in funding. Jews around the world can vote in WZC elections to choose representatives from different Zionist movements and organizations, which influence policies on Israeli society, religious affairs, Jewish education, and various projects in Israel. They also help direct resources from major Zionist institutions, including the WZO, the Jewish Agency, and KKL-JNF.

The people that sit on this committee are built of representatives of Jewish organizations, a certain calculation based on how many members of *Knesset* each party has, and then representatives of Jews from all over the world.

This is not a call for my Israeli brethren to vote in the WCZ since you can't if you live in Israel or participated in Israeli elections. Rather I am writing to make you aware of the elections and its impact on the State of Israel and raise a call for action for our readers here in Israel to connect with your friends and family in America and encourage them to vote. A large percentage of all the WZC election votes of the Jews around the world come from American Jewry, and this has a direct impact on the allocation of billions of dollars of funding.

Since October 7th, we have all realized that the Atlantic Ocean is much smaller than what we used to think it is. Hatred and antisemitism are evils that we must battle together. During this challenging time when we are fighting for our very existence and antisemitism is rising we turn to our brothers and

**May the Torah learned
in this issue of Torah Tidbits
לעי"נ
our beloved husband, father,
grandfather and great-grandfather**

Rabbi Yitzchak Pechman z"l

הרב יצחק בן דוב ז"ל

ב' ניסן - on his ninth Yahrzeit

*Pechman, Perlman
& Weinberg Families*

sisters outside of Israel with two requests. First of all, they should *daven*. Second of all, we ask them to do whatever they possibly can in order to strengthen our soldiers, our citizens, and our social tapestry here in Israel. We are all part of one family and are dependent on each other.

Therefore, I'm asking each and every one of you to please reach out to your relatives in North America. Tell them to take part in these elections, because the elections are helping to determine the future of Israel, and what all of these agencies and organizations will fund. The WZO, the Jewish Agency, JNF, and others, are bodies that sit with a tremendous amount of funds going towards a lot of different social and religious activities across the country and around the world. If you want to make sure that these funds are going towards values that you prioritize and believe in, it is important that you make sure that our brothers and sisters from overseas are also voicing their opinion.

There are many different parties that are running in these elections. The OU, as we have done in previous elections, is running together with Mizrachi and other religious Zionist organizations. The head of Mizrachi is my dear friend, Rabbi Doron Perez. He unfortunately lost his son Daniel Hy"ד on October 7th, but has been speaking, connecting, and inspiring the Jewish people ever since. (Let me take this opportunity to mention that his other son Yonatan was injured in battle, and *Baruch Hashem* he just became a father. I wish Doron, his wife Shelley, and his whole family, a big *mazal tov!*)

Rabbi Doron Perez has such a passion and love of the Torah, the Land of Israel, and the people of Israel. He and his colleagues at

Mizrachi inspire so many with that love. Our slate is called the Orthodox Israel Coalition (OIC), and it is slate number five on the ballot.

The process is simple. It costs five dollars to register, and then you're able to vote. If you're eligible to vote and you're reading my column, then I encourage you to be counted. This provides an opportunity for Americans to have a voice and share their values. Whether you're going to vote for the OIC slate, or any slate that you believe in, what you are doing is so important.

So if you, or your loved ones, or friends, or relatives, are residents of the United States of America, and are eligible to vote, please make sure to vote in the coming elections that are happening across the USA right now. The numbers due to October 7th are skyrocketing, and more and more Jews are feeling connected to the Land of Israel, which is such a beautiful thing for the Jewish people. Having each and every one of our friends vote is crucial to make sure that the Jewish people continue being a vibrant, thriving, and

**May the Torah learned
in this Torah Tidbits
be לעילוי נשמת**

**הענדלא בת מאיר ומערלה ז"ל
נלב"ע ראש חודש ניסן**

**In loving memory of
Henny Hirsch ז"ל
on her 11th yartzeit
Rosh Chodesh Nissan**

אשת חייל מי מצא... והיה ללוחם בשערים מעשיה

***The Botzers, Hirschs, Meyers,
Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren,
Nieces and Nephews,
Family and Friends***

connected people. Visit voteoic.org to learn more and vote.

As Pesach approaches, we are in the midst of distributing our hot off the press Gustave & Carole Jacobs Center for Kashrut Education Pesach guide. As you start to prepare for Pesach, I encourage you to pick up your copy. This Israel edition Pesach guide is being distributed to *shuls* all across Israel with Torah Tidbits. A special thanks to Rabbi Ezra Friedman for putting together this practical and informative guide.

Wishing you all a *chodesh geula sameach* and an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



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