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FEBRUARY 21 to FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Letters do not represent the views and opinions of the editor. All letters must be typed and emailed. Letter writers authorize the Vues and its publisher to edit letters due to space constraints, rabbinic direction, or subject matter.

# Your Turn E-MAIL: editor@thevuesonline.com

# LETTERS TO THE EDIT

To Speal

The new column in The Vues is in no way related to The Vues and does NOT reflect the opinions of the publisher. It is being moderated by an independent third party.

## NOT SO SUPERBOWL REVISITED

### Dear Editor:

When my friends were reading "Frumy's" letter, (The Vues, Parshas Yisro) I heard one make a comment, "We already follow the Greeks! We play sports." That sentiment doesn't really make sense because there is a big difference between playing sports and following sports. Playing sports is a wonderful way to get exercise. Every teenager should play sports a few times a week. On the other hand, following sports is following the ways of the misyavnim. Worshiping people's bodies is a Greek ideal, not a Jewish one. In conclusion, playing sports is fine. Following sports is not.

#### Mayer Twersky

Editor's Note: Sounds like Greek to me. In Eretz Yisroel they say playing sports is also "Greek."

### POLITICAL ASYLUM

Dear Editor:

"Imagine" that ISIS was killing thousands of innocent Arabs (moderate Muslims / Christians). These innocent Arabs applied for asylum in the U.S. About 70% of Americans don't want them here because they may end up living off of taxpayers' money. The head of the FBI (who dislikes Arabs) said if asylum is granted to ISIS victims, terrorists will sneak along. Should the president let them come? Most frum Jews say no. Yet the same people think Roosevelt was an anti-semite. Does our community have a double standard?

Editor's Note: The difference is, here it's Muslim attacking Muslim whereas in most other cases it's one religion attacking another religion.

# **NECESSARY OR UNECESSARY EXPENSE?**

Dear Editor:

As I go about my shopping at this time of year I get hit from all sides by the wastefulness and unnecessary spending we all get roped into. The stores do a really good job enticing the public to buy more and more unnecessary stuff. I am sure that the scene that goes on in my house on Purim is repeated all over. Let me describe it you. Someone shows up at my door with a beautifully arranged Mishloach Manos that they give to the child who comes to the door. The child then brings the beautifully arranged package to me in the kitchen. I comment to my daughter, "Wow, they really coordinated this nicely!" And then I rip the entire thing apart. I throw the container straight into the garbage, the items we don't eat due to hechsher into a bag designated for the cleaning lady, and any other stuff that the children could use for snack into a third bag. That is the quick demise of the expensive and time consuming Mishloach Manos that arrived at my door. I wonder if it's really necessary? I would probably appreciate two items that were purchased, not home baked, without all the fanfare and expenditure. Sometimes new is not improved. I think I'd like to go back in time on this one.

### Simpler is Better

Editor's Note: Don't forget that Mishloach Manos is supposed to be increasing friendship. Just be friends!

(Continued on page 8)



obligation.

ligation extended to lending items other item it would not apply. other than money?

obligation applies only to money since the lender does not incur a required to lend the money if he is

ate in value, incurring a loss for the vendor. This would then not fall under the obligation of lending it to others.

There is proof this seen in to



that whenever it says rows a sefer, he is pattur from all requirement to lend it. "אם" in the תורה, it is "onsim." This is so because the discussing lend- "hanaah" because the lender gets a ing money. In such a case, it is an mitzvah for lending the sefer. We see that only when lending a sefer The question arises, is this ob- would the above apply, but for any

of lending money one would not be items.

as a "mashkon" a case of lend-

The Mechilta says a Ran that paskens that if one bor- ated, there would definitely not be a

The Imrei Yosher gives another optional except in the borrower does not have all of the reason why there is only an obligation to lend money but not other items. The Torah forbade us to lend money with interest; therefore, the only thing one can do with money is lend it. The Torah allows us to The Shaailos Utshuvos Imrei rent out any item we own so one The Panim Yafos says that this Yosher adds that even in the case does not have a requirement to lend

The Chafetz Chaim in Sefer loss as he gets back the money he not sure he will receive it in return. Ahavas Chessed writes that there is lent. However, many items depreci- Therefore, one could require the a mitzvah to lend items as a chessed borrower to put from one to another. This is why the up something world was created - "עולם חסד יבנה.". We need to make this world a pleas-(collateral.) In ant place in which to live.

> In conclusion, lending items an item to another person is not an obligawhich will be tion, but is definitely a chessed and returned with it one should try to make this world a being depreci- pleasant place.

IOU ing

Rabbi Berach Steinfeld is a noted Daf Yomi Magid Shiur and Mashgiach for Kehilah Kashrus. Have a topic or discussion you want to read about? Please send comments or questions to hymanbsdhevens@gmail.com





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# lour Turn E-MAIL: editor@thevuesonline.com

To Speak LETTERS TO THE EDITO

### (Continued from page 4)

### SPARE THE ROD REVISITED

### Dear Editor:

You featured a letter in last week's edition that made it sound like the fact that his Rebbi gave him petch in Yeshiva was okay because "our generation grew up just fine." Maybe that is what he thinks. Does he know the psychological damage that was done to those poor youngsters who received petch? And if that damage was never addressed, he doesn't realize the damage that person could have inflicted on others throughout his life. There is a good reason why Rebbeim don't give petch anymore. Thank you to all those wonderful Rebbeim out there who do such a stupendous job!

### A grateful mother

Editor's Note: Wow! This letter is like a potch in ponim. Sometimes words hurt more than petch. In today's day and age some Rebbeim don't know how hurtful their words may be.

### **GLOBAL WARMING**

Dear Editor:

I hear and read so much rhetoric about global warming. When there is too much snow, they say it's because of global warming. When there is too little snow they say it's global warming. When the weather gets too cold they say it's global warming. When the weather gets unusually warm they say it's global warming. Insofar as our commander-in-chief, President Obama, has indicated that the world is indeed in greater danger from global warming than that of terrorism. I'd like to argue that global warming is an issue that's between Hashem and his world. Hashem has run this world so well for 5,775 vears. I don't think he will let it be ruined by global warming. Terrorism, on the other hand, is based on man's will. There, we definitely have what to fear. Should the terrorists get hold of a nuclear bomb they will wreak havoc in this world.

#### A varme yid

Editor's Note: I thank G-d for global warming. For if not, imagine how cold this week would have been!

### VACATION DILEMMA REVISITED

Dear Editor:

In response to the letters written about coordinating schools' vacations I have some thoughts on the topic I would like to share. It has seemingly become the norm for people to spend inordinate amounts of money on "vacation." Does the public realize that if they would cut out these unnecessary vacations from their expenditures maybe they could relax a bit, work less, and spend more time with their families? Spending time with children during their formative years is so integral to their growth and many people are so busy working and working to make more and more money that they aren't physically there for their children. They may higher people to tutor their kids because they aren't there to do it. They may higher others to watch their kids while go about their business. Slow down! Cut your workdays down a bit. And enjoy your kids while you still can! "Stay at home mom" who works out of

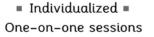
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Editor's Note: This letter works for me!

#### TO: EDITOR@THEVU R



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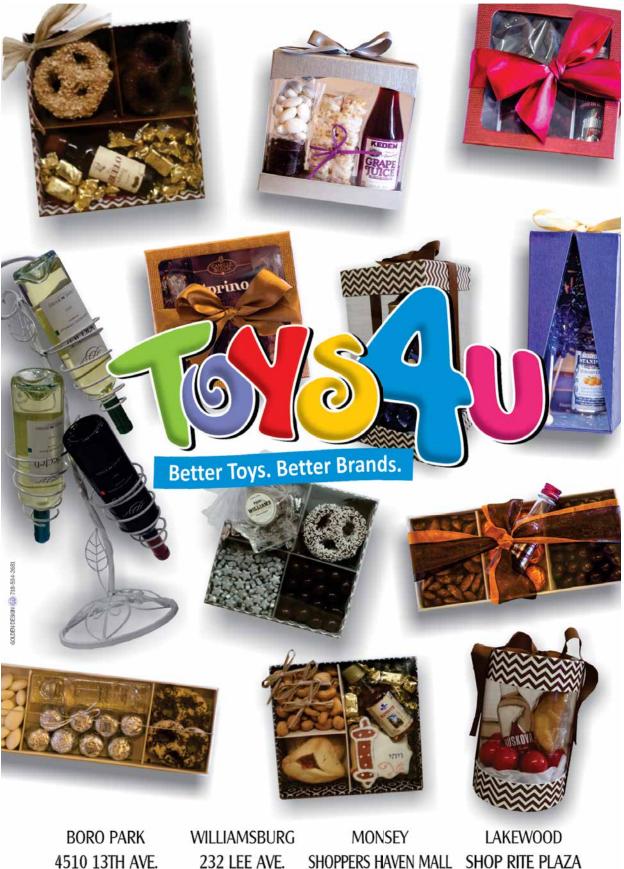
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# Don't Fall....But If You Do... The Best Way to Break a Fall

### **KEEP YOUR HEAD UP**

This is the primary location of the you. body that you do not want to have • I damaged. You do not want to have your head connect with the ground, particularly if you are falling onto pavement or another hard surface. It is better to bruise your arms than to bruise your head.

- It may be helpful to make a habit of putting one hand on the back of your head when going down backwards. This will help you protect your head against slamming into the ground and losing consciousness.
- Alternatively, tuck your chin to your chest or focus on looking at your belt (so the head doesn't contact the ground when you fall backwards).
- If falling forward, look left or right (this avoids hitting nose/face on ground). Only turn your head slightly, however. If your head hits the ground when you're looking completely to one side or the other, you have a greater chance of injuring your neck.

### SLAP YOUR PALMS OFF THE GROUND IF FALLING FOR-WARD

Make sure your whole palm slaps the ground. This is done only for a second to slow your fall the slight bit that it will, and to prevent breaking your wrists. It is not meant to absorb all your weight like a spring, or "catch" you.

Do this also if falling sideways (use left palm if falling left, right if falling right). \*\*Note: Never try to slap the back of your hand against

the ground. Always use the palm or edge of your hand. It is easy to break your wrist if you use the back of your hand.

Don't lock your elbows.

# BREATHE OUT

Some people will tell you to breathe out as much as possible, which will tense up your body thus allowing you to "ab-

sorb the impact of the fall". It is more likely, however, that you will damage your body if it's tense. Instead, breathe out normally, just as much as the task of going to the ground requires. This will keep your body flexible and relaxed, and greatly reduce the risk of injury

### FOLD YOUR BODY LIKE AN ACCORDION

Bend your ankles, then your knees, then your hips. Fold your body into itself. This decreases the height of your fall. Just imagine: You're 6' tall.



Someone pushes you. What's better? Toppling and risking slamming your head from about 6' height into the ground, or folding into yourself and risk slamming your head from about 2 feet (0.6 m) into the ground?

### IF FALL-ING FROM A HEIGHT, ROLL AS YOU HIT THE GROUND

This will distribute the force of the impact throughout your body, instead of just on one place. If falling backwards, try to bend at the knees and squat before the fall. Curl your back and roll on it. Don't try to break the fall with your arms.

PRACTICE FALLING ON A SOFT SURFACE (LIKE A MAT) WHEN YOU AREN'T ACTUALLY FALL-ING

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# INGREDIENTS:

Cookie Dough: <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup shortening 1 cup sugar 2 tsp. vanilla extract 2 eggs 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups flour <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp. baking powder <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp salt 3 Tbs. soy milk 3 chocolate sandwich cookies, finely crushed

Chocolate Cookie Butter Filling: 12 chocolate sandwich cookies 1⁄4 cup liquid non-dairy whip topping, defrosted (such as rich's whip)

# **COOKIES N' CREAM HAMANTASCHEN**

# VIELD: MAKES: 3 DOZEN DIRECTIONS:

**Prepare the dough:** In the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the shortening with the sugar and vanilla extract until light and fluffy. Add in the eggs and mix until combined. Add in the flour, baking powder, and salt and slowly mix on low speed. Pour in the soy milk and mix until a dough is formed. Sprinkle in the cookie crumbs and mix until evenly distributed. You can use the dough right away. If the dough is too sticky, wrap and chill in the refrigerator for half an hour. **Prepare the filling:** In the bowl of a food processor fitted with the blade attachment, crush the 12 sandwich cookies until finely ground. Pour in the ¼ cup of defrosted whip topping and process until smooth. Refrigerate if it is too runny-it will firm up. Filling can be made in advance and stored in the fridge.

Form the hamantaschen: On a lightly floured surface, or on a floured sheet of parchment paper, roll out a piece of the dough until thin. Use a round cutter (2½ to 3 inch in diameter) and cut out circles of dough. Fill each round with a ¾ tsp. of filling and pinch the seams together to form a triangle. Transfer to parchment lined baking sheet and bake in 350 degree oven for 8-10 minutes until the edges begin to brown. Allow to cool and enjoy!\* The filling puffs in the oven so if you overfill, you will lose your perfect shape, but they will taste even more amazing! The filling settles in once the cookies are cooled.



**惺VUES** 

For questions or comments you can e-mail the chef at thefinestchef@aol.com.



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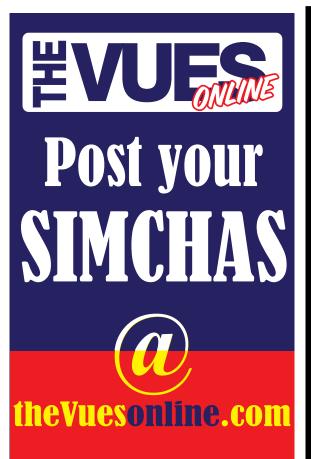








CHASKEL BENNETT & LEON GOLDENBERG. Bennett to U.S. Senators about the Iranian ISSUE: The Harsh Lessons of the Holocaust Couldn't be More Applicable







cna

Monday, February 9, 2015 Mazel Tov Avrumi Berkowitz & Faigy Kolman Upon their Engagement

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 Mazel Tov

Marcy Lugassy & Isaac Sharon Upon their Engagement



Wednesday, February 11, 2015 Mazel Tov Elisheva Dadia & Eli Simons

Upon their Engagement



Tuesday, February 10, 2015 Mazel Tov

Rachel Raveh & Chaim Orlowitz Upon their Wedding

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 Mazel Tov

Sruli Ruttner & Rochi Greenberg Upon their Wedding

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 Mazel Tov Sarah De Smitt & Shui Salzman Upon their Wedding

S ENGAGEMENTS

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 Mazel Tov Malka Tokayer & Eliyahu Bosch Upon their Engagement

Thursday, February 12, 2015 Mazel Tov

**Esti Ray & Yehuda Rominoff** *Upon their Engagement* 

Thursday, February 12, 2015 Mazel Tov

Abie Buzali & Bracha Ani Upon their Engagement

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### **1,000 YEAR OLD GOLD TREASURE FOUND BY DIVERS IN CAESAREA** By: Yotam Rozenwald, Tazpit News Agency

discovered in Israel was found in recent weeks on the seabed in the ancient port of Caesarea. The treasure was discovered by a group of divers which reported their findings to Israel's Antiquities Authority.

Tazpit News Agency spoke to Zvika Fayer, one of the divers which participated in the discovering of the gold coins. "We went diving on February 7, as we do almost every Saturday. We were diving 12, maybe 12.5 meters under sea surface. I saw a flickering on the bottom of the Mediterranean, so I swam there and started digging with my bare hands. Other members of my diving group joined me and we discovered a significant amount of coins. After the dive was over we contacted the Israel

The largest hoard of gold coins ever Antiquities Authority and notified them about our discovery," Fayer told Tazpit News.

> Fayer and his diving group went back into the Mediterranean alongside a diving crew from the Marine Archeology Unit of the Israel Antiquities Authority. "We led the divers from the Antiquities Authority to the location of the gold treasure, we were very pleased to assist them," Fayer told Tazpit.

> Tazpit News Agency spoke to Dr. Robert Kool, an expert numismatic from the Israeli Antiquities Authority, about the historical background that lead such a treasure to the cost of Caesarea. "The coins date back to the Fatimid Caliphate which conquered Israel near the end of the 10th century AD. The Fatimids controlled a vast empire, from Morocco

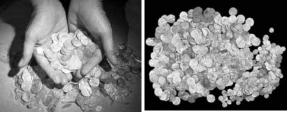
ly important in the 10th and 11th centuries, because it was the currency of the Fatinid's monetary system," Dr. Kool told Tazpit News Agency.

and the Middle East. Gold was extreme-

Dr. Kool states that the treasure is "the largest I've seen found in an Israeli archeological excavation. Nevertheless, I don't think it is of exceptional size considering the Fatimid's trade system. We assume the treasure arrived from Egypt, and was part of a payment for trade services," Dr. Kool told Tazpit News.

The treasure contains approximately 2,000 gold coins of different denominations: a dinar, half dinar and guarter dinar. They are of various dimensions and weight. The earliest coin discovered in the treasure is a quarter dinar, minted in Palermo, Sicily, which was part of the Fatimid Caliphate.

Dr. Kool points out an entertaintrade routes all ing fact, "some of the coins have teeth marks on them. Apparently, that was a common way to check the true value of coins, in the heyday of the Fatimid Ca-



in the west, to Iraq in the east. They controlled over the Mediterranean, bringing gold from West Africa to Europe liphate."



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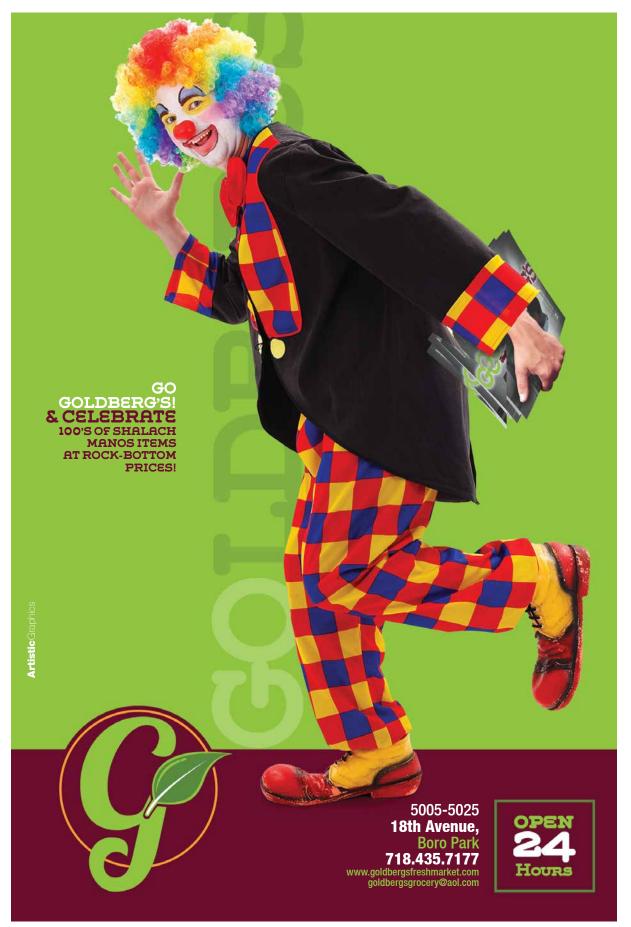
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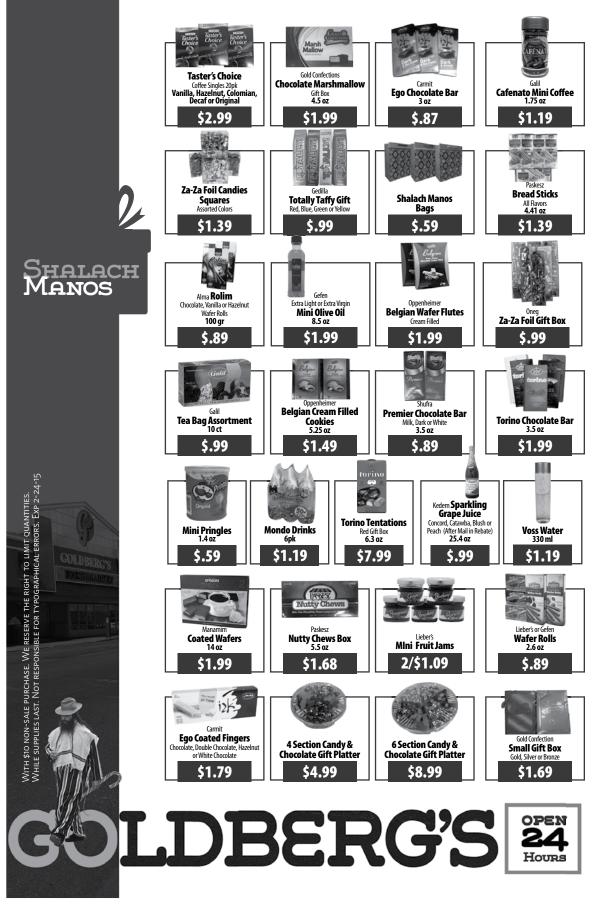
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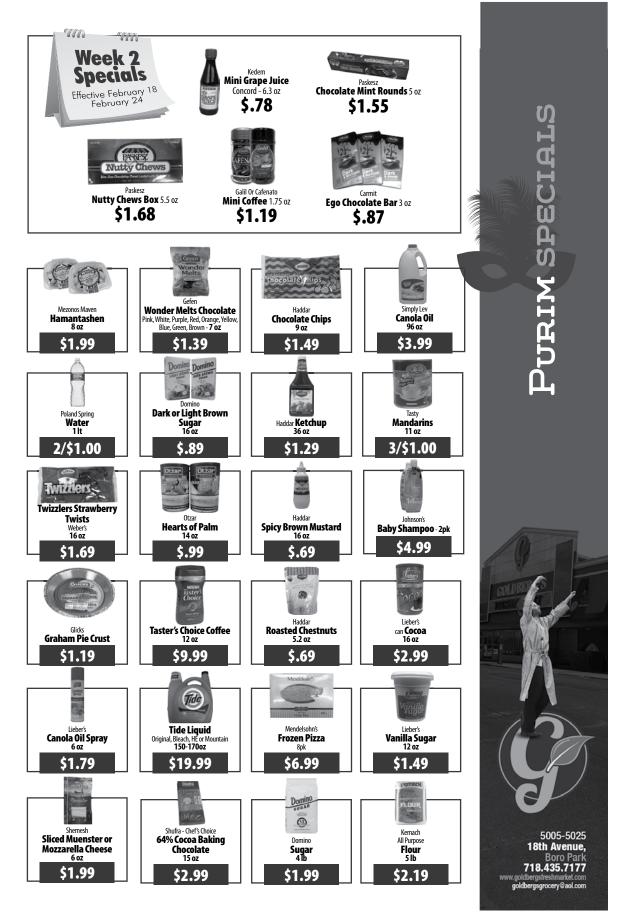




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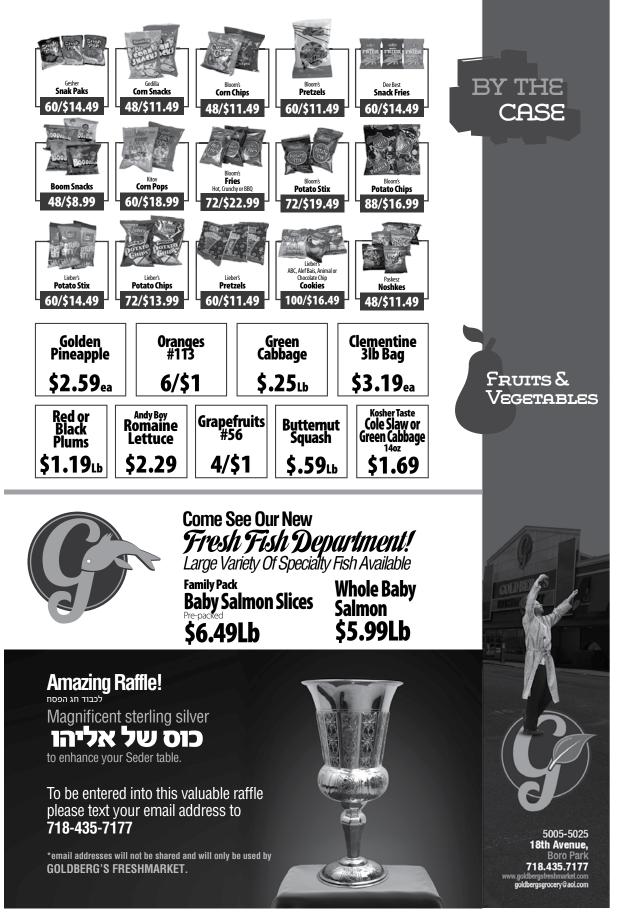
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#### Esther, One of the Greatest Women of All Time Part One By: Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss

One of the highlights of Purim and indeed of the entire year is the study of Megillas Esther. The very first question that confronts us about the megillah is, Why is it called Megillas Esther? At the very least, we should call it Megillas Mordechai v'Esther since Mordechai also played a pivotal role in the miracle. Or, perhaps it should have been called Megillas Purim.

"Esther also wanted to clear her name so that no one should suspect this Beis Yakov woman of desiring to be the First Lady of the Persian Empire."

In general, we shy away from putting our women in the limelight for the Torah always emphasizes the great principle of "Kol kevudah bas melech penima – The dignity and honor of the Jewish 'princess' is within." The Jewish woman of valor shines in the privacy of her home and through the glory of her modesty. So, why did the sages choose to put Esther up in neon lights by calling the megillah Megillas Esther?

The most elementary reason is because it was due to Esther's petition that the megillah was written. For the Gemora relates that Esther went to the Anshei Kneses HaGedolah and requested "Kivauni l'doros – Affix me for all generations." Esther, inspired by ruach hakodesh, divine inspiration, knew that there were lessons in the megillah that were timeless in nature and were necessary for the development of our nation throughout the ages. And how time has proven this to be correct! Except for the Hagaddah shel Pesach and, of course, the Torah itself, no other work of scripture has as many commentaries as does the Megillas Esther. Its lessons such as the ugliness of pride as seen through the behavior of Haman, the dangers of showing off one's wealth as can be seen from Achashveirosh's feast and consequent execution of Vashti, the effectiveness of fasting and prayer, the importance of achdus, and many others that are applicable for every generation.

Esther also wanted to clear her name so that no one should suspect this Beis Yakov woman of desiring to be the First Lady of the Persian Empire. Thus, the megillah in its encrypted way, lets us know that v'tilakach Esther, each time she was taken to the king, it was against her will. Similarly, the megillah informs us that when she went in for her interview with the king, "lo bikeish davar, she did not ask for any enhancements," for she was dreading an appointment as queen.

Another obvious reason for the megillah being called Megillas Esther is the fact that it was Esther who made it clear that the episode of Purim was truly miraculous. Everything else could be explained away as natural causes. Haman, the Amaleiki hating the Jews, the Head of the Mordechai Sanhedrin who spoke 70 languages thus enabling him to overhear Bigsan and Seresh's plot against Achashveirosh when they spoke in the rare language of Tarshish, therefore putting Mordechai on Achashveirosh's list of favored people, the effectiveness of the fasting and prayers of Klal Yisroel to overturn the decree for, after all, even the gentile city of Ninveh was

able to abort their destruction when they did sincere repentance. All of these events are eminently natural. But that Esther, a pious modest



Jewish woman, unschooled in the promiscuous licentious ways of the Persian Court, should beat out all of the other women of the realm for the Number One spot in the empire is truly miraculous. Add to that the fact that Esther had to be dragged into the king and yet he was nevertheless enamored with her. This, we recall, is the very same king who had executed Vashti for not coming in, in an obscene way, and so it is altogether unbelievable.

Plus. there was another astounding miracle associated with The Gemora informs us Esther. "Shel'kol echad v'echad nidmasa lo k'umoso – To every individual she appeared like his own nationality. Thus to Achashveirosh, she appeared like a native Persian, while to Haman she looked like a truerblooded Amalikite. (This, says the Chasam Sofer, Zt"l, Zy"a, is the reason why Haman never suspected Esther.) Since it is from Esther that it was clear that the entire saga of Purim was miraculous, we call it Megillas Esther.

To be continued:

Sheldon Zeitlin takes dictation of, and edits, Rabbi Weiss' articles. Rabbi Weiss is currently accepting more speaking engagements in the tri-state area. To book him to be a Scholar-in Residence, or to speak on Sholo-m Bayis, or Purim, or Pesach please call 718.916.3100 or email RMMWSI@ aol.com. To receive a weekly cassette tape or CDdirectly from Rabbi Weiss, please send a check to Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss, P.O. Box 140726, Staten Island, NY 10314 or contact him at RMMWSI@, aol.com. Now available is a brand new CD Album (6 cd's) on Purim and Megillas Esther. To receive it send 30\$ to Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss P.O. Box 140726 Staten Island, N.Y. 10314. Attend Rabbi Weiss's weekly shiur at the Landau Shul, Avenue L and East 9th in Flatbush, Tuesday nights at 9:30 p.m. Rabbi Weiss's Daf Yomi and Mishnah Yomis shiurim can be heard LIVE on Kol Haloshon at (718) 906-6400. Write to KolHaloshon@gmail. com for details.

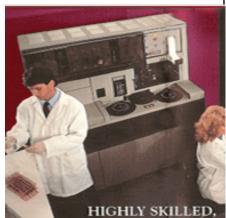


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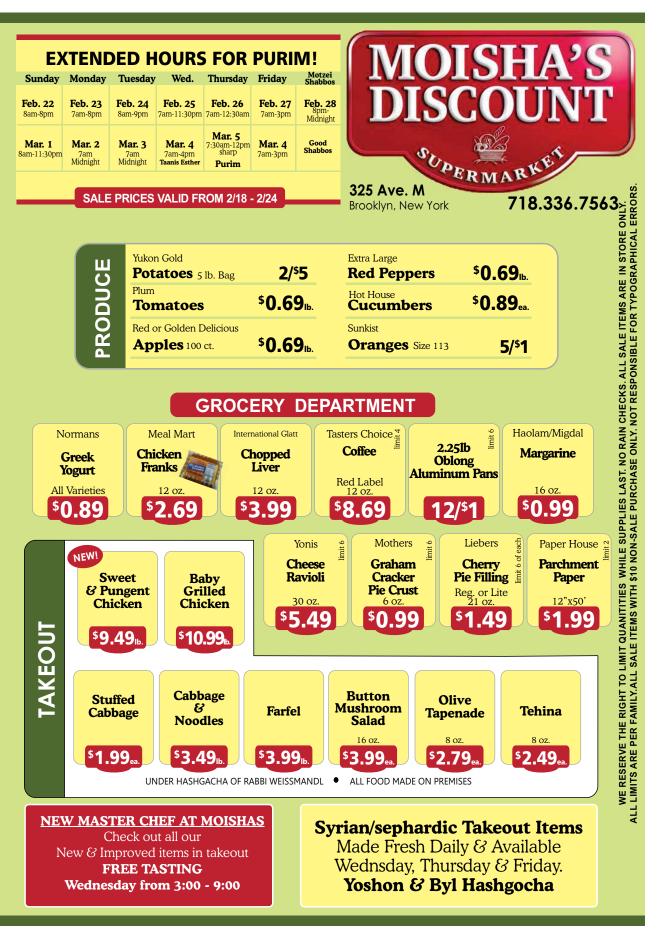
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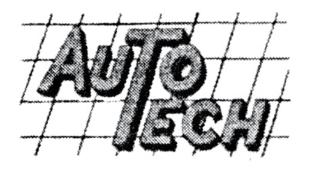




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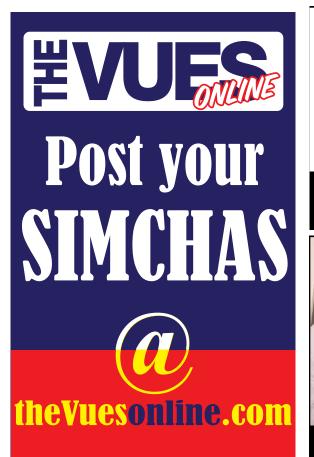




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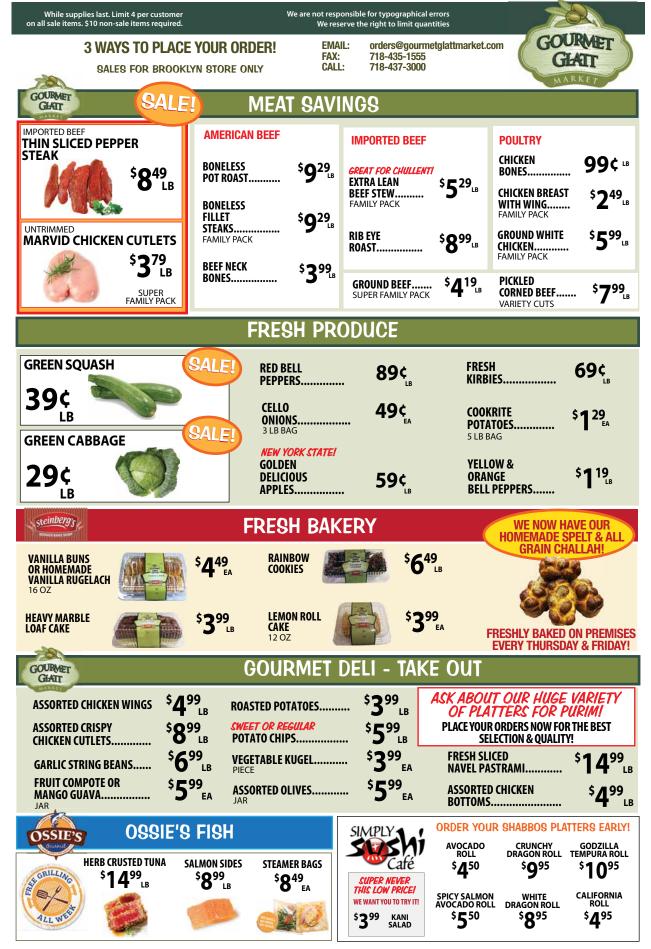


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# HIKIND ASKS FOR NADLER'S SEAT, IF EMPTY, TO HEAR NETANYAHU'S ADDRESS TRAN: EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Dismayed that President Obama continues to obsess with stopping Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu from addressing Congress on an issue regarding an existential threat to Israel, Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn) is asking his representative, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, if he may sit in his chair for the speech should the Congressman find himself unable to attend. Further, if Nadler's fellow Democrats plan to boycott the speech, Hikind says there are plenty of people who would appreciate filling their chairs, too.

"Never in my lifetime can I recall such turmoil in the world as we have now," said Hikind. "Further, I can't recollect a time when America's leaders have taken less of a decisive role in safeguarding long-term American interests on the international stage. While Iran has been long recognized by the U.S. as a terrorist state, and Israel has been our staunchest ally since its in-

ception, an outsider observing the White House's treatment of the two would have a difficult time discerning who we consider our friend."

Hikind noted that



Iran is the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism, which it uses as a strategic tool in its foreign policy. "Iran allies itself with, and openly supports, recognized terror organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. Iran's leaders unashamedly affirm their goal to destroy the State of Israel. As such, U.S. leaders are duty-bound to ensure that Iran is not permitted to develop a nuclear weapon to make good on their threats. Consequently, it's astounding to hear President Obama still talking about 'protocols' for a visiting head of state-an ally-when the lives of millions potentially hang in the balance. This is how we treat our friends? And why be afraid of a speech? What does our President think the Prime Minister might say that we shouldn't hear? Does he fear Netanyahu may convince Congress of something?"

"President Obama's only explanation this week was that it is important to 'main-

tain protocols' and that his decision to refuse to meet with Israel's Prime Minister during this trip is to maintain the U.S.-Israeli relationship and not let it become partisan. But this sends the opposite message. Ignoring a friend in need—a friend in crisis—is not the optimum way to maintain a relationship.

"Given an invitation to speak before Congress in an effort to save his nation from imminent danger is an opportunity no leader of any country would refuse, regardless of protocols. Whether or not Speaker Boehner's invitation to address Congress followed the accepted or expected etiquette, it's time to look past decorum and get to the heart of the matter: It is in the best interest of the United States that we listen carefully to what Prime Minister Netanyahu has to say. I am more than disappointed to read that some of my fellow Democrats plan to boycott this critical address."

In a letter to Congressman Nadler, Hikind asked, "In the unlikely event that you will not be attending Prime Minister Netanyahu's address to Congress, please allow me to sit in your seat for those few hours. Indeed, as some of your colleagues plan to boycott this speech, perhaps you can help secure their seats for others who are terribly interested in this important address. I believe all American elected officials should carefully weigh what our sole Democratic ally in the Middle East has to say, and I for one will be listening closely."



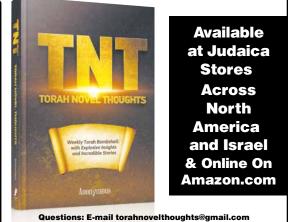
by Dov Hikind

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## Your Turn

E-MAIL: editor@thevuesonline.com

#### To Spea LETTERS TO THI

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#### **RESPONSE TO VACATION DILEMMA**

Dear Editor.

I am writing in response to the frustrated mom who wrote about the vacation dilemma. She basically requested that all schools give vacation at the same time. As a Rebbe, I would like to portray this problem from different angle. On the Sunday, Monday that many of the girls' schools had off, about half of my classroom was absent. I was in a quandary. I couldn't start the new Chumash and Mishnayos because half of the class was not there. I didn't want to just review, because every week we start new on Sunday and Monday. I couldn't give the children recess the whole day, yet I couldn't stuff them with work because it would seem to be penalizing those that showed up to Yeshiva. Parents need to understand that if they take their sons on vacation together with their daughters on the same off days, they are not only causing bittul Torah for their own son, they are causing bittul Torah for the rest of the boys in the class. Now I realize the easy answer would be to give all the children off. The problem with that is that whenever boys are given vacation, the day before and the day after become days when boys are missing because they add it to their allotted vacation days. The more days off are given, the more bittul Torah the Yeshiva will have.

#### A Rebbe with a quandary

Editor's Note: Hey, Rebbe. Sometimes "Bittuloi zoi kiyumoi."

#### NOT SO SUPERBOWL CONTINUED Dear Editor:

Regarding the discussion about a superbowl party, I don't understand why it is "understood that the game is exciting" and should be okay, while the eating is a problem while watching the game. My personal feeling is that no Ben Torah or frum Yid, for that matter, should be watching a game where violence is encouraged. As the Baal Shem Tov said, when a person sees someone being Mechalel Shabbos it is indicative that the viewer is lax in his keeping of Shabbos. So too, watching a violent sport will bring out violence in ourselves and shows a lack of sensitivity to violence overall.

#### Trying to be a pious Jew

Editor's Note: Lo ra'inu aino ra'aya. I guess seeing is believing.

#### TICKED OFF

Dear Editor:

The other day I parked at a meter and lost track of time. When I returned to my car I saw the dreaded ticket on my windshield. As I was getting into my car with my orange ticket in hand, someone drove by and passed me his muni-meter ticket that still had time on it. I was wondering if I could use that muni-meter ticket to defend myself.

#### Ticketed in Brooklyn

Editor's Note: It would be a "toh-us" to say it would be a "toh-us akum," because at the end of the day you will be stealing from yourself, since your taxes will go up.

#### THAT'S NOT PRAYING CONT.

Dear Editor:

The mashal someone wrote in about davening was really powerful! I think it should be discussed in shuls and classrooms across the country. We are in need of strong tefillos more than ever now. Thank you for giving us

(Continued on page 20)



## **Honoring Parents For Life**

the reward for honoring one's parents? How is this reward "Mida Berach Steinfeld kneged mida?" Wouldn't

it be a closer "Mida kneged mida" for the one doing the mitzvah to be honored? Another question on this topic is how do we categorize this mitzvah? Is it a form of "hakaras ha'tova," or is it a "gezeiras hakasuv?" The difference would be if one was not raised by his biological parents, would he still be required to honor them?

Rabbeinu Bachya says in the name of Rav Saadya Gaon, that sometimes parents ing he is living with us? The answer is

they grow old. The reward for honoring the parents is the child's longevity and his children will then take care of him. So in effect, one is taking care of his own old age by taking care of his parents.

The Kli Yokor

Why is long life divides the "Aseres HaDibros" into two respect, one who honors his parents will parts. The first five commandments are between man and Hashem; whereas the second five are between man and another man. Interestingly, honoring your parents is listed in the part between man and Hashem. The Gemara in Kiddushin daf lamed, amud bais says that there are three partners in the creation of a human; father, mother and Hashem. If you show respect to your parents, Hashem says it is as if I am living among you and you are showing repect to me (Hashem) also. What is the significance of Hashem saybecome a burden on their children when that Hashem created the vehicle of get-

ting close to him in the form of parents. By showing respect to one's parents, he is showing respect to Hashem and living longer with Hashem. Another answer

could be that since there is a mitzvah of "mipnei seiva takum," to show your elders

get the honor of being honored in his old age

If one honors his parents by feeding them and helping them live longer, he will merit to live longer himself.

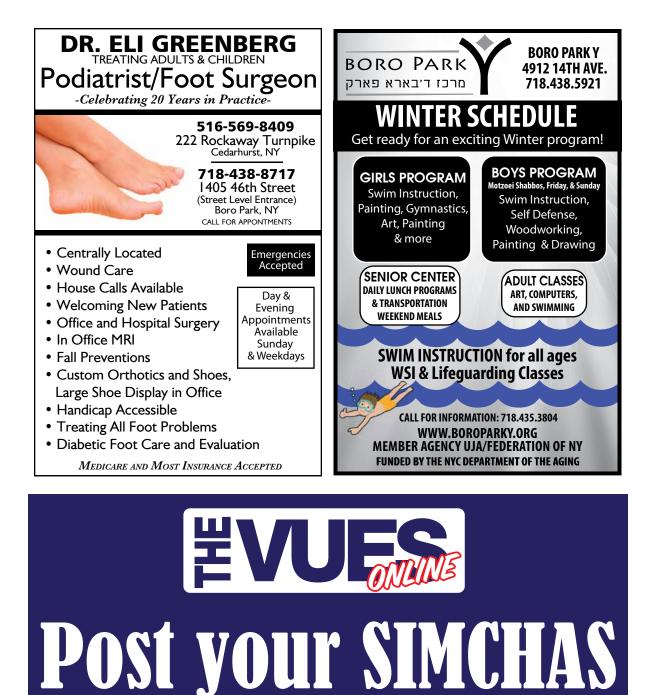
Regarding whether "Kibbud av ve'eim" is "hakaras ha'tova" will depend on a machlokes. The Chinuch and Chayei Adam are of the opinion that the mitzvah of "kibbud av ve'eim" is stemming from "hakaras ha'tova." They bring proof from the Yerushalmi in Kiddushin perek aleph. Rav Avin says the mitzvah of "Kibbud av ve'eim" is like paying a debt. The Ksav Sofer and Meshech Chochma differ and say that it is a "gezeiras hakasuv." That is why Hashem gave this commandment in Marah where the parents had very little say regarding the material possessions of their children since everything was provided by Hashem. (Mohn, the clothing grew with them etc ... ) Nevertheless, one is still required to honor his parents.

In conclusion, honoring your parents is like honoring Hashem. Do it while you can so you can have it done to yourself longer.



Rabbi Berach Steinfeld is a noted Daf Yomi Magid Shiur and Mashgiach for Kehilah Kashrus. Have a topic or discussion you want to read about? Please send comments or questions to hymanbsdhevens@gmail.com







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# PURIM SPECIALS



# **Building Our Children's Self-Esteem**

By: Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss

It's hard to believe that very soon it will be the shloshim for the much loved Dovid Winiarz, Dovid Avrohom ben Chiya Khas Z"L ZY"A, who departed from us so suddenly several weeks ago. When we improve ourselves from the way he lived his life, we know it brings an aliya, an uplifting to his neshama. So, I would like to share with you one extraordinary lesson that all of us can better ourselves from.

## "With so many followers, who has time to do the homework and take the kids for pizza?"

We have heard much about how Dovid impacted thousands through Facebook and many other ingenious means of outreach. Very often, when someone is so involved with the masses, their immediate family tends to suffer. After all, with so many followers, who has time to do the homework and take the kids for pizza? However, such was not the case with Dovid and his ten children.

This reminds me of the famous question asked when we make a sivum on any masechta. In the siyum's ritual language, we mention Rav Pappa and his ten sons. This is very odd for, what does Rav Pappa's family have to do with the finishing of a tractate? One answer is given that the gematria of Rav Pappa's ten sons' names is the numerical equivalent of all the dafs in Shas. Another amazing answer, given by the Topiker Ray, is that in ten places in Shas there are arguments where one sage says 'one way' and another sage says 'another way' and Rav Pappa says, 'Therefore let's do them both.' Since he was such a great peacemaker - ten times - he was rewarded with ten children who finished Shas. But, I like the beauty of the simple answer which is: Even though Rav Pappa was very

busy with his ten sons, he was still able to finish Shas.

Likewise, with Dovid, it went both ways. Even though he was busy with ten children, he still had 12,400 followers on Facebook. And, even though he had 12,400 followers on Facebook, he still set a beautiful example as a loving Abba.

We should never lose sight of our priorities in life. Rabbi Wein, Shlit"a,

sites a Harvard study where they tracked 1,500 children over the course of their development. In the first stage of the study, when the child was coming out of pre-1A and entering first grade, the child was asked how he felt about it. Eighty-two percent answered in the positive. Then, the study took a shocking turn. The second stage of the study was when the children went from 8th to 9th grade. The results, amazingly, were just the opposite: Eighty-

two percent of the children answered that they were feeling very poorly about themselves. Only eighteen percent felt good about themselves. Finally, in the last stage of the study, the situation deteriorated further. By the time they left high school, only eight percent of the children felt good about themselves. This study reveals how fragile are the feelings of self-esteem that our young ones cradle and how they get buffeted by the pressures of school and home.

In this area, Dovid, as an Abba, set a great example. He always chose to shine the light on the aspect of strength of each of his children. One of his daughters told me that she has seven binders of notes that her father left on her pillow, messages of encouragement, poems that he wrote for her, sayings that he found for her, tips to strengthen her. He was an Abba who supported and didn't harass his children. Sadly, I can think of parents who, if their children come home with a score of 89 on a test, they are berated with 'Why couldn't you get a 90?' If the child gets a 93, they hear, 'What careless mistake did you make again, that you couldn't get a 100?' Or, there are parents who unwisely say to a child, 'Why can't you be like your older brother?' or the unthinking parent who

says, 'You know, you'll never change.' It's our role as parents to boost the morale of our children, to make them feel special. That confidence implanted by parents will serve their



children well as spouses, as employers and employees, as friends and as good servants of Hashem.

Another beautiful trait that Dovid employed in his home was a Loshon Noki Club, the Clean Speech Clan. He would not tolerate use of a word like 'dumb.' He never said that he had a 'bad' day. The children told me that they knew that things were not going his way if he just answered with the words, "Hodu l'Hashem - Thank the Lord." If they asked him whether he got the grant he was working on and he replied 'Hodu Hashem,' they knew things weren't going his way because otherwise he was effusive with an enthusiastic response about what was going on. It is certain that he was so successful in his kiruv conquests because he had such a positive approach and he pointed out the promising potential in every person that he spoke with.

So let us all try to emulate this skill and see how we can bring out in our children their latent strengths and impress upon them their fine qualities to succeed in making them the very best that they can be. In that merit may it be the will of Hashem that we should be blessed with long life, good health, all kinds of Yiddishe nachas.

Sheldon Zeitlin takes dictation of, and edits, Rabbi Weiss' articles. Rabbi Weiss is currently accepting more speaking engagements in the tri-state area. To book him to be a Scholar-in Residence, or to speak on Sholo-m Bayis, or Purim, or Pesach please call 718.916.3100 or email RMMWSI@, aol.com. To receive a weekly cassette tape or CD directly from Rabbi Weiss, please send a check to Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss, P.O. Box 140726, Staten Island, NY 10314 or contact him at RMMWSI@ aol.com. Now available is a brand new CD Album (6 cd's) on Purim and Megillas Esther. To receive it send 30\$ to Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss P.O. Box 140726 Staten Island, N.Y. 10314. Attend Rabbi Weiss's weekly shiur at the Landau Shul, Avenue L and East 9th in Flatbush, Tuesday nights at 9:30 p.m. Rabbi Weiss's Daf Yomi and Mishnah Yomis shiurim can be heard LIVE on Kol Haloshon at (718) 906-6400. Write to KolHaloshon@gmail. com for details.



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Vues

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### (Continued from page 4)

some inspiration! *Praying with Fire* 

Editor's Note: There is a book out there by the same name, Praying with Fire. I highty recommend it.

### **SPARE THE ROD?**

### Dear Editor:

This week is Parshas Mishpatim. I have nasty flashbacks of getting a lot of petch this week when I was a child because Mishpatim is one of the hardest Parshiyos and the Rebbes would be very strict and smack us when we didn't know something. However, at the end of the day, things didn't end up so badly. Our generation grew up just fine; despite getting petch.

Editor's Note: This reminds me of my Rebbe who used to tell me, "Du kenst a makeh!"

### FRUMKEIT OR KRUMKEIT?

#### Dear Editor:

I was beyond upset when a shadchan called me this week. I was put down as a reference for one of my friend's daughters. She is an extremely frum and wonderful girl. This young lady in question does plenty of

### Your Turn E-MAIL: editor@thevuesonline.com

chesed, davens in a way you don't see many girls daven, and her middos are excellent. She's a real catch! This shadchan who called had the chutzpah to question her frumkeit! The reason? Her sisters wear skirts that just about cover their knees! Does that means that they're not frum?! This phone call bothered me to no end. Even if the sisters wear short skirts, should it affect the other siblings' shidduchim? Everyone should be judged on their own merits. Just the other day, I got a call from a friend that we put down as a reference for our 23 year old son. The shadchan had asked my friend if my son has peyos behind his ears! What, if he doesn't have Brisker payos he's not good enough for you? Isn't the inside of a person, his pnemius, what counts? With this shadchan's logic, most of Flatbush would not be able to get into yeshiva because their fathers wear colored shirts. Society judges people on their externals. To a certain degree, it's ok and may be even good. However, we have to draw the line between normal and crazy. What happened to me made me sick to my stomach. A distressed mother

### Editor's Note: Chitzoniyus meorer es hapnimiyus

### LETTERS TO THE EDITO

To Speak

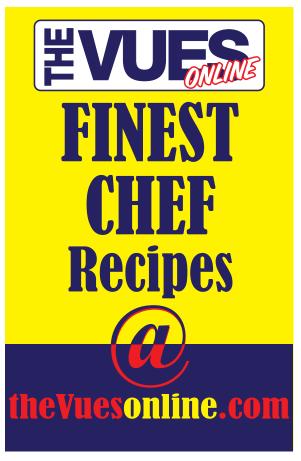
### **CRACKING UP** Dear Editor:

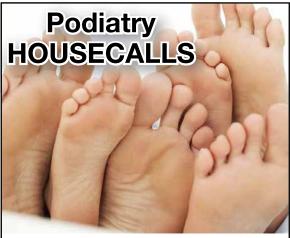
There's a common expression nowadays that leaves me rather puzzled. When a person says something funny or acts a little out of the box, he's nicknamed, "a crackpot." There are a few things a bit off with this term. Firstly, it brings forth images of a cracked vessel. It's as if you're saying that this person is incomplete and in need of repair. No one appreciates being told that they need to visit a psychiatrist, even if it's underhanded joke. Additionally, why are we labeling people? One of the ten forms of twisted thinking is labeling. Once a person is branded "crackpot" he is forced to live up to that expectation for the rest of his life. What if he is ready to transform and act "normal?" Will the nickname stop him? My worst issue with the term crackpot lies in its reference to prohibited substances unfortunately trade in other societies. Do we want to set expectations that low? Please think about it.

### The Complete Cup

Editor's Note: Hapach nishbar, vianachnu nimlatnu

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TOTWARD PHYSICAL & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY by Crystal Ozone, OTS

### Recess...So Important!

School is where children spend most of their time, and a typical school day lasts about 7 hours. Many children ride a bus to and from school, some with ride times of greater than 30 minutes each way. This equals at least 8 hours of relatively sedentary, non-active time for children every day. All of this translates into school being a place where kids need to exercise. Recess has become an important opportunity for movement for today's children.

Yet some teachers routinely withhold recess for lack of work completion or behavior issues. We should step back and think about recess in terms of whether it's a right or a privilege, and consider the school's responsibility toward teaching healthy lifestyles for each student. Missing recess on occasion is probably not an ethical dilemma. However, if a student is missing recess more than once a month due to behavior problems or failure to finish classroom assignments, this could be considered taking away a child's right to move and have unstructured break time in his school day.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF BREAKS

Teachers are under much pressure to show progress for students. Their job security depends on it. Teachers are also dealing with larger class sizes and fewer resources. They struggle with ways to help students get work done, and many choose to use recess as a privilege earned for completed classroom work or good behavior. If school is the workplace of children, then recess is their break from that work. Labor contracts usually include breaks and lunch periods for teachers. Teachers cannot be told to work through their contracted break time.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor,

nine states have laws mandating break time in all workplaces after 3-4 hours worked.1 Although optional, most companies allow for 10-15 minutes of break time after 4 hours of work is completed. Utab's Child Labor Law requires a 10-minute break for every 3 hours of work a child completes, and a 30-minute lunch after 5 hours. The United Nations Standards of Human Rights recommends that every prisoner receive at least one hour of exercise outside each day.2 If, as a society, we realize the importance of letting prisoners get outside, shouldn't we give the same right to our children?

### EDUCATIONAL GUIDELINES

Thirteen states now have laws that mandate recess time during the school day. Eight additional states have recommendations for movement in schools, including California and Vermont, which encourage daily recess for students. The remaining states have no written policy or recommendation regarding daily movement breaks in schools. The American Academy of Pediatrics and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend nationally that districts provide at least 20 minutes of daily recess for all students in elementary schools. Schools should inform teachers of state mandates and recommendations about break time, but teachers should also be responsible for knowing their state's guidelines. Individual school policies may also cover recess parameters. Schools are responsible for teaching children facts, but they should also strive to teach children how to be creative, hard-working, and healthy adults. Modeling a healthy lifestyle, including physical fitness, is a part of this.

Obesity is on the rise in this country. Chil-

dren today are more sedentary and overweight than at any time in history. Kids who are overweight also suffer from low muscle tone and have a harder time paying attention. These are the students who lean their heads on their hands and seem "spaced out" during class. Going outside helps activate their core muscles and wakes up their under-responding nervous systems. Getting them moving will help them get thinking. In every classroom, there is a child who is very off-task. He looks everywhere in the room but his paper, is bouncing, talking, tapping, and being a general distraction to other kids. This child does not typically get his work done during class time. To make matters worse, this is the same child who doesn't often bring homework back to school. Distracted children have a higher need for movement than other kids. Their bodies are unable to sit for long periods and still retain information. Very distracted kids can usually sit still or listen, but not both at once. Taking movement breaks away from these students can bring learning to a standstill.

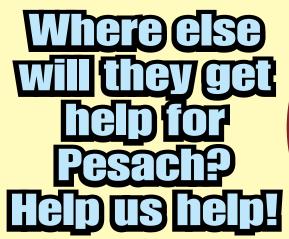
Recess is meant to recharge and rejuvenate each child in order for them to be ready to work again. Instilling a healthy lifestyle, including breaks for our children, will help them become the amazing adults they have the potential to be.

Reference: http://occupational-therapy.advanceweb.com/Features/Articles/Recess-A-Right-or-a-Privilege.aspx

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Getting to know.....

WALT "CLYDE" FRAZIER – NEW YORK KNICKS NBA HALL OF FAMER AND CURRENT KNICKS ANNOUNCER By: Ephraim Fischbein of The Vues



How did you get the nickname "Clyde"? - I picked up the nickname "Clyde" because I wore a similar hat to Clyde Barrow in the 1967 movie Bonnie and Clyde. I was known for my flamboyant sense of style off of the court as well. I would arrive at games in a Rolls Royce, dressed in designer suits, broad-brimmed Borsalino hats, and full-length mink coats. Favorite thing to do on an off day - Sleep Athlete you would pay to watch perform today - Lebron James Hobbies and Interests - Sailing, gardening, jogging, yoga, horseback riding and learning new words and phrases for my broadcasts. I tend to do most of these things during the off season, way too busy working for the Knicks in the winter months. You are known for your vocabulary when announcing. What are some of the ways you improve your **vocabulary?** The Sunday Times Arts and Leisure section, when they critiqued the Broadway plays using words such as: riveting, mesmerizing, provocative, profound, intoxicating. So I liked the way the words sound. I have books and books of words and phrases that I write down and study them over and over and over. Whatever you've heard me say during the game I've said hundreds of times, sitting in my living room. Favorite Foods – Sword fish Favorite Actors – Al Pacino Favorite Team While Growing Up- NY Yankees and Baltimore Colts Boyhood Idols – Fellow Hall of Famers, Oscar Robertson and Wilt Chamberlin First Job - I was a curb boy. We used to take orders from people from their cars while waiting at the curb. Favorite City You've Visited - San Francisco Favorite Non Basketball Team - San Francisco 49ers If You Can Trade Places With Anyone, It Would Be - I really can't think of anyone I would want to trade places with. I'm all about peace & tranquility. I don't enjoy stress or pressure, so I'm happy right here. Biggest Influence On Your Career - My family and all the coaches I had throughout grade and high school. On Playing In Madison Square Garden – It's intimidating and invigorating all at the same time. It was a dream come true to play in the world's most famous arena. Your rookie season was in 1967. What was it like being in New York? I didn't like New York. The hustle, the bustle. I didn't know where to go. I'd be walking by people on the street—you don't know if they're dead or alive, man! And nobody seems to care. It was overwhelming. It took me a couple years. How did you start being known for the clothing you wear? - Well, see, it started out early. My dad was a good dresser. So I remember as a kid admiring his clothes, trying to wear them when he wasn't around. Most Embarrassing Pro Moment - One year we lost to the Washington Bullets and Earl



**Tassing Pro Moment** – One year we lost to the Washington Bullets and Earl Monroe had a huge game against me. A good friend who made me look silly that one night **Biggest Thrill To Date As An Athlete** – Winning the world championship in Game 7 in the 1969-1970 season. It was the first championship for the Knicks. In that game 7, I had a huge game. The Garden crowd wanted it bad and we delivered. I loved those fans back in the 1970's. Those fans were so much more knowledgeable. Fans today are younger and are looking for entertainment. They like the dunks and the 3 point shot rather than understanding the fundamentals of the game.

WALT CLYDE FRAZIER WITH PHIL JACKSON

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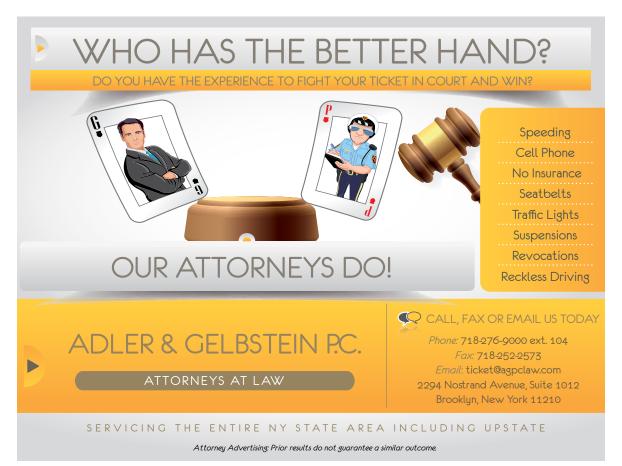
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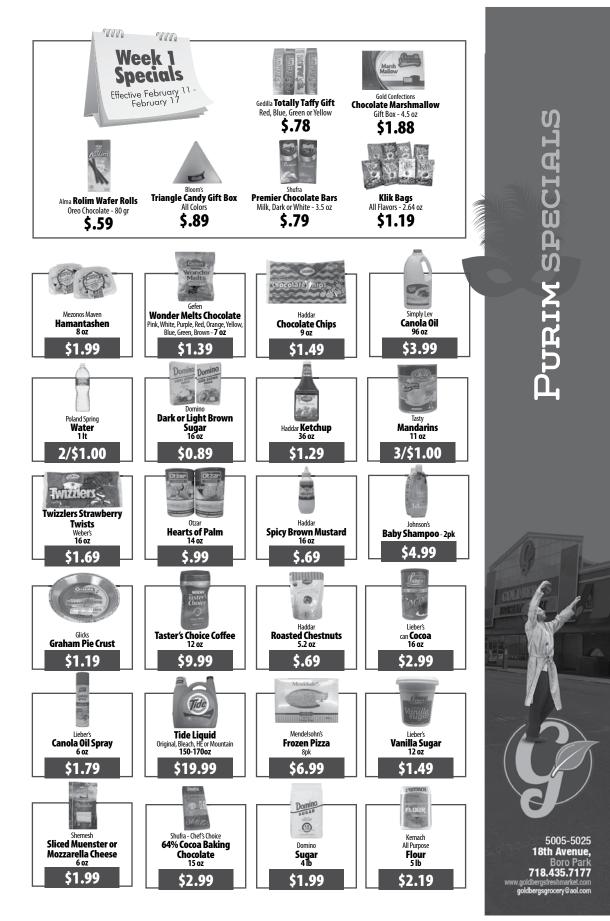
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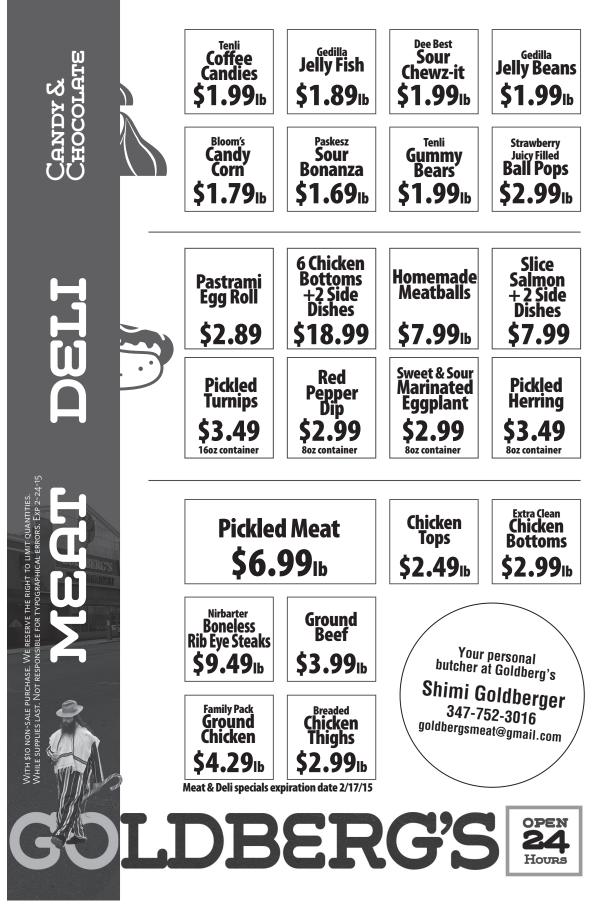
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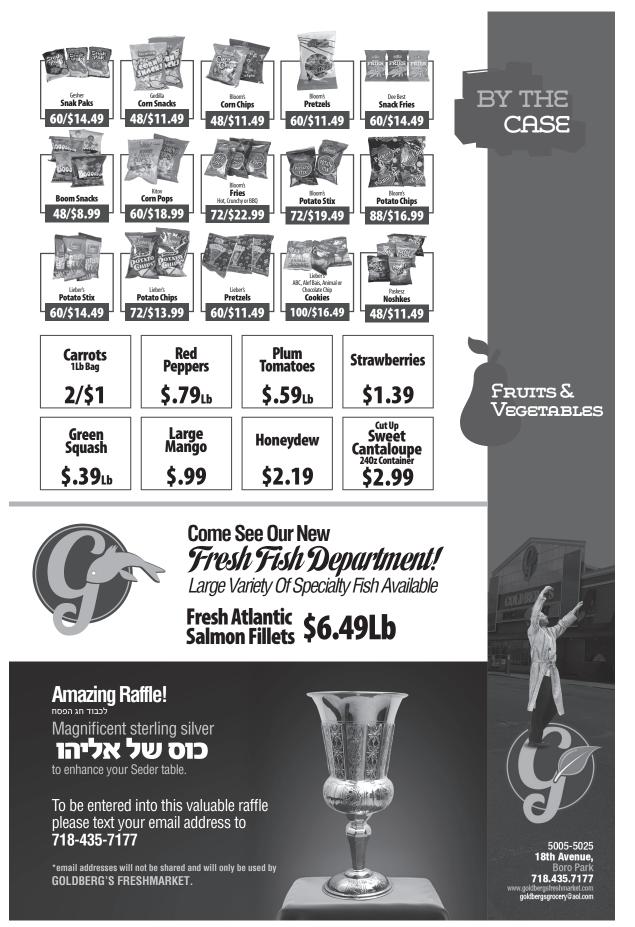
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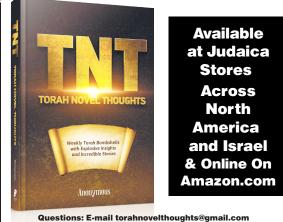
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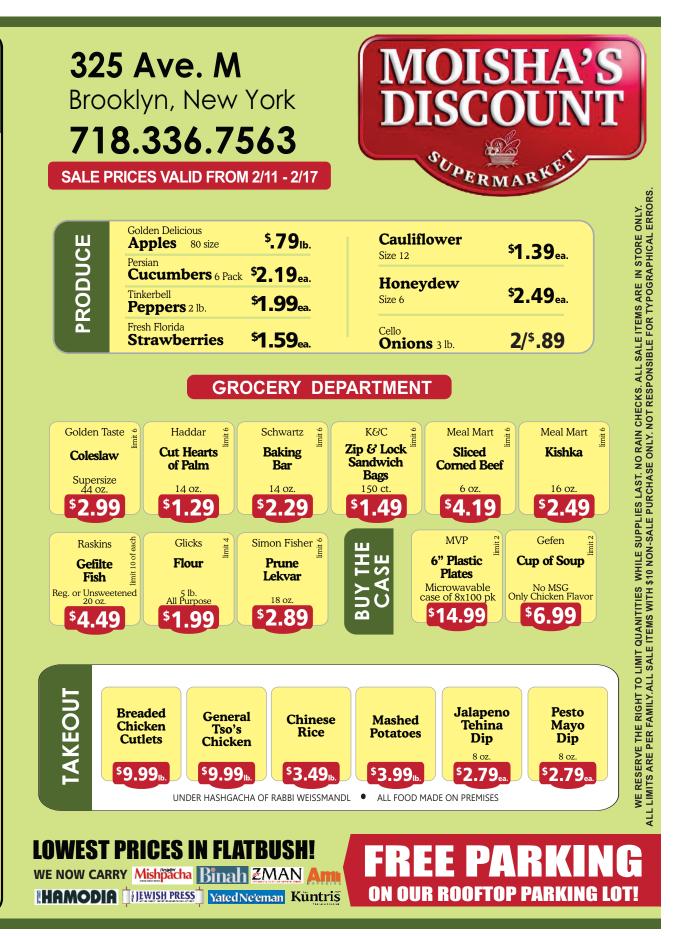
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AT DEP	Short Rib Flanken Points Veal Neck Roast Boneless Veal Neck Roast w/ pocket	/ ECKSTEIN \$ 6.991b. MONTREAL \$9.991b. MONTREAL \$9.991b.	Cutlets GOURMET OVEL Beef & Lamb Kabob GOURMET OVEL Classic Roast Beef	N READY!	\$6.491b. WEISSMANDL \$6.991b. WEISSMANDL /BYL \$6.991b.	Wednesday,Thursday 7am-8pm Friday: 7am-12pm Candle Lighting:
MEA	Ground Veal Veal Stew USA Choice Shabbos Meat Middle Chuck Bone In	MONTREAL \$9.991b. MONTREAL \$9.991b BYL / ECKSTEIN \$7.991b.	GOURMET OVER Chimichurry Strips	Beef N READY! zen		candle Lighting: פרשת משפטים Friday, Feb. 13 5:10 pm

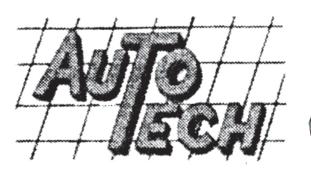
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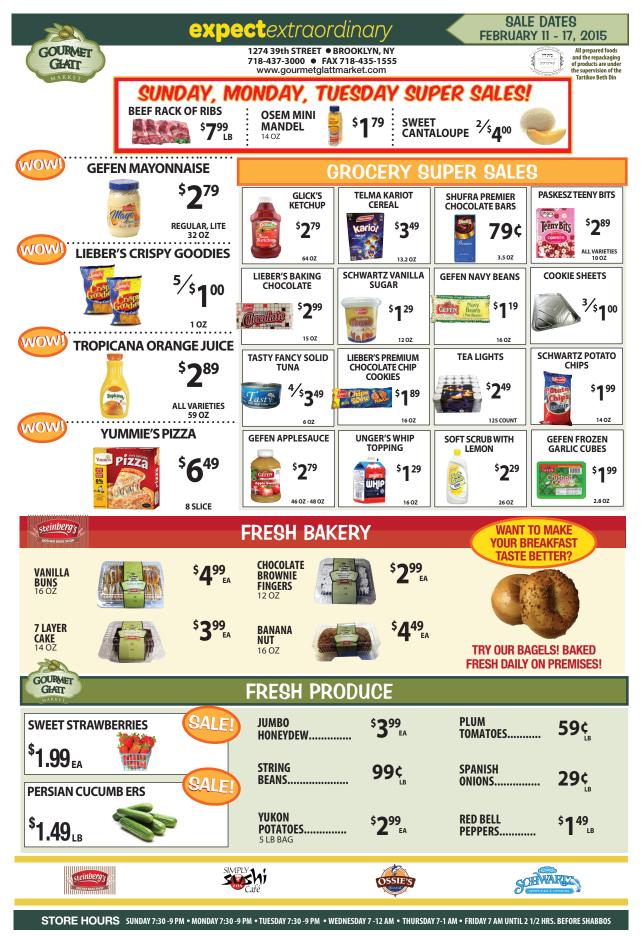
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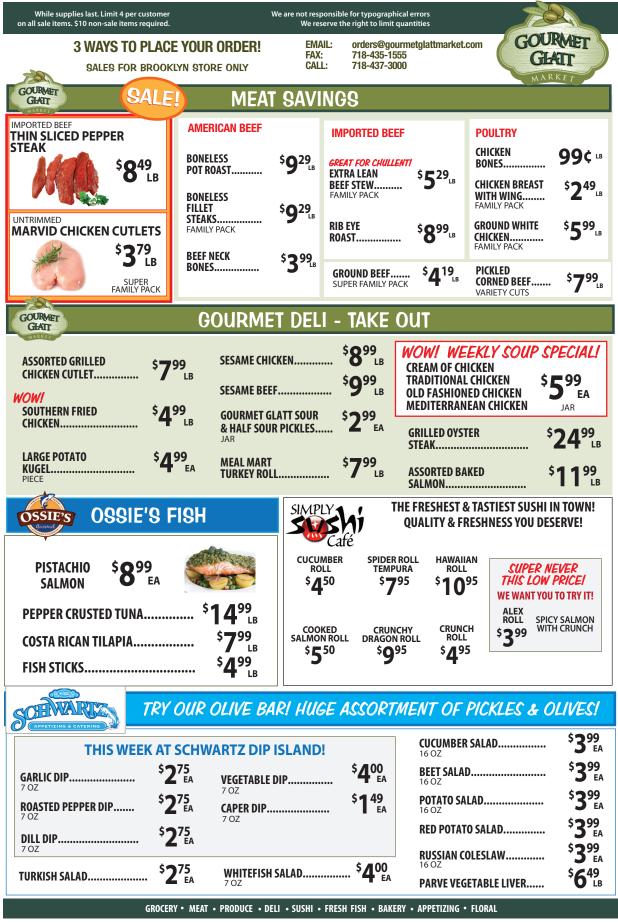
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