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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Kislev 5784

SHABBAT TIMES

🔊 Parasha - 🕯 Candle Lighting
🕯 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)
For service times see page 4

10 & 11 November – 27 Cheshvan

🔊 Chayei Sarah

🕯 6:12 – 🕯 7:05

17 & 18 November – 5 Kislev

🔊 Toldot

🕯 6:15 – 🕯 7:10

24 & 25 November – 12 Kislev

🔊 Vayeritzei

🕯 6:15 – 🕯 7:16

1 & 2 December – 19 Kislev

🔊 Vayishlach

🕯 6:15 – 🕯 7:22

8 & 9 December – 26 Kislev

🔊 Vayeshev (Chanukah)

🕯 6:15 – 🕯 7:27

RABBI'S MESSAGE

I have a song stuck in my head. I am just not managing to get it out of my system, and I am humming it to myself incessantly. Surprisingly, it is a song I have not heard for 50 years but it just popped up in my memory. I cannot get the words out of my mind, "Ani mavtiach lach, yaladah sheli ketana..."—"I promise you, my little girl, that this will be the last war."

At the height of the Yom Kippur war, Israeli journalist and songwriter Chaim

Chefer (1925-2012) was posted to an army base in the Sinai Desert. It was there, during an emergency that he thought he would not survive, that he was inspired to write the moving words, with his six-year-old daughter Miri in mind. This was published in Yedioth Acharonot a few days later. Famous Israeli singer Yehoram Gaon repeatedly performed this as a song for the troops during the course of that war.

I remember my strong emotions on hearing the moving words back then. Today the emotions are even stronger, as I imagine a now 56-year-old Miri, whose own children may very well be in the front lines of this current horrific war, thinking back of her late father's promise back then...

So the words are stuck in my head... haunting as they may be.

How to get rid of them? Another Psalm, another prayer. More Tzedakah and further acts of kindness. Every single mitzvah is our

part in the war effort, thousands of miles away.

There is another song we have all heard recently, in the videos that spring up on our phones. It is sung by IDF soldiers as they prepare to embark on their respective missions. "Mi shema'amin lo mefached..."—"He who believes is not afraid that he will lose his faith. For we have the King of the world, and He protects us from all." The pure faith in Hashem that the young troops are displaying—from religious and secular backgrounds alike—is an inspiration to every one of us.

The two songs really tell one story—the story of our People over the centuries. It has been our deepest levels of faith that have seen us through the hardships of our history. This is the way we have prevailed and this is the way we will prevail.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

SONGS

THE LAST WAR*Yehoram Gaon**Lyrics: Chaim Chefer**Music: Dubi Selzer*

In the name of all the tank
corps soldiers with their dusty
faces

Who survived all the
enemy fire and gruelling
fighting,

In the name of all the
sailors who attacked the ports,

Their eyes caked heavy
from salt and waves.

In the name of the pilots
who broke through the deadly
battle

And were hit by rocket fire
and anti aircraft guns,

In the name of the
paratroopers who, amid lead
and smoke,

Saw you overhead, like an
angel.

*I promise you - my little girl,
That this will be the last
war.*

In the name of the
artillerymen who, in the
hailstorm of mortars

Stood like a pillar of fire
along the frontline,

In the name of the medics
and doctors who, with all their
soul and strength

Restored breath and life
itself, returning blood.

In the name of the
signalmen whose voice cut
through the nights,

In the name of all the troops
and armies.

In the name of all the
fathers who went into battle

And want to return home to
you...

*I promise you - my little girl,
That this will be the last
war.*

HE WHO BELIEVES*Eyal Golan**Lyrics: Yossi Gspan**Music: Adi Leon*

Everywhere and always

We all have, young and old

Nice days and some less
so

And between them there is
an answer to all the questions

There is one great G-d

Who in this world gives us
everything

Between darkness and
light rays

We only have to choose
the path

And it is known that life is a
gift

All is foreseen yet free will
is granted

*He who believes, is not
afraid*

Of losing his faith

*And we have the King of
the world*

*And He protects us from
everyone*

This nation is a family

One and then another—
this is the secret of success

The people of Israel won't
give up

We will always stay on the
map

And we know that life is a
gift

All is foreseen yet free will
is granted *

*He who believes, is not
afraid...*

It is a big Mitzvah to be
happy

To be happy, always

*He who believes, is not
afraid...*

FROM THE REBBETZIN

It is this time of year again
when we are hectically busy
getting ready to have a holiday.

Finally, the weather is
making up its mind. There are
lazy blue skies and hot sun,
chirping birds and crickets,
letting us dream of a summer
break.

But when we step indoors
again, there are exams and
reports to set and mark. There
are syllabi to complete,
shopping, cooking and cleaning
to do. When we look at our
phones there is the constant
barrage of dim news coming out
of Israel. We also seem to be
bombarded with tehillim groups
as we beseech Hashem to give
health and blessings to too
many of our friends and
acquaintances.

It is a challenge to figure out
how to live our lives at the
moment. Is it okay to enjoy a
coffee date while there are
hostages being held in tunnels?
Can we plan a beach vacation
while our friends' children,
husbands and brothers are
fighting a war? Can we rejoice
in our personal simchos while
others are fighting for their lives
or mourning loved ones? This is
truly a challenge for which I
know no clever answer.

Personally, I think we have
to be filled with gratitude for our
blessings, while not stopping to
think of all the other situations
even for one minute. Most of all
we must be constantly,
constantly praying that Hashem
bless all of us.

May we quickly see and
experience the world we have
been promised, when nation
will not fight against nation
anymore and when tears will be
wiped from all faces. We have
been waiting for this for much
too long

Have a good month

Rivky

DVAR TORAH**THE JEW'S ETERNAL WEAPON***Rabbi YY Jacobson (aish.com)*

The bloodbath orchestrated by Hamas and Iran on Saturday, October 7, 2023, in Southern Israel has woken up a part in Jews that laid dormant. Touched to the core, Jews are more aware of their own Jewishness than they have been in a very long time.

The glee of the enemy in slaughtering Jewish babies reminded us that this has nothing to do with occupation, colonization, apartheid, or any other myth. This was a manifestation of visceral evil which craves to destroy every single Jew. Had Hamas had its way, it would joyfully perform this mini-Holocaust daily, until all 6.6 million Jews in Israel lay lifeless.

Jews feel the need to respond. Of course, we must defend ourselves in every possible way; we must support Israel and our soldiers with every fiber of our being—encouraging them to fulfill their moral duty of eliminating every vestige of bloodthirsty evil. We must lift the morale of our brothers and sisters in Israel and the world over through an unprecedented outpouring of support, love and oneness, like never before.

But there is one more critical weapon that Jews today, all 16 million of us, can embrace—and it will change everything.

The Weapon of Eternity

Death for the Jews has been plotted by tyrants of every age. The greatest empires of the ancient world—Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Greece, and Rome, all the way down to Stalin and Hitler—attempted to annihilate us; yet they have all vanished, and we survived. Jews have been expelled from nearly every country in which they resided, yet we are here to tell the tale.

How did a hunted-down nation constituting less than one-quarter of one percent of humanity survive and thrive?

All these nations and tyrants had large territories of land, mighty military prowess, culture, language, and affluence, yet they are gone. What is the secret of our immortality?

There is only one rational way to answer this—to search for the one unique and exclusive weapon that the Jewish people possessed from the day they became a people and accompanied them through all their history. Can we identify such a weapon?

In science, we search for the permanent trait in an organism to explain its longevity in difficult circumstances. With the Jewish people, the search is not difficult. There is only one weapon that has been with us forever, in every milieu, in every location, under all circumstances: The Torah that our people studies and the commandments that Jews have observed and celebrated with unwavering commitment on a daily basis, and bequeathed to their children and grandchildren.

Judaism is the only “weapon” that the Jewish people had from the day they became a people till this very day, which no other army or empire possessed. It is our mightiest weapon and it has outlived our enemies for over four millennia.

Hamas and its supporters didn't target just a piece of land, but an entire people. We are being confronted once again by a force of evil and diabolical hatred that craves to destroy God's eternal people. At such a time, our response must be: Let's be Jewish like never before in history, and let's be united like never before!

Let us become the greatest Jews ever, by studying what it means to be a Jew and living it. Whether it's putting a mezuzah on your door, wrapping tefillin each morning, studying Torah on a daily or weekly basis or engaging in prayer and spiritual meditation... Whether it's making your home kosher, lighting Shabbos candles and celebrating the holy Sabbath, giving charity every day, or giving your children an

education filled with Jewish love and wisdom, becoming a passionate ambassador of love and unity among our people, imbuing your marriage with purity, love, and holiness, or going to synagogue and getting involved with a community – choose a mitzvah!

Judaism is about cultivating an ongoing relationship with your deepest soul-essence, filling your heart with the love and peace beating in your soul, and aligning yourself with the universal Divine consciousness of Oneness. Every mitzvah, every prayer, and all of Torah, is about becoming channels for the source of all love, peace, light, and truth—and drawing it down into our world. These are the spiritual weapons of victory and eternity.

We do not have time to live in fear and paralysis; we have a mission: to draw down infinite love into our hearts, our homes, our communities, our people, our homeland, and the entire world. We need God, the Creator and source of all love and peace, in our lives. That's how we can grant the most profound power and courage to our people, our homeland, and all good people in the world.

The support for Hamas in institutions of higher education, and the silence of people so many of us respected, has sickened us. This is the time for courage, resolve, and fortitude. Let's not shrink nor shirk our calling. Some of our brethren were drafted into the front lines of battle with Hamas; the rest of us can't afford to remain spectators. We were all drafted into battle, on a physical or spiritual level.

Four thousand years later, the Jewish People are still here, thanks to Judaism's immortal weapon.

SERVICE TIMES

SHACHARIT (A.M.)

Sunday & Public Holidays	8:00
Monday & Thursday	7:15
Shabbat & Festivals	9:30

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)	
Friday	6:00

MAZALTOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

ENGAGEMENTS

- Philip and Rilla Jacobson and Jeanette Markovitz on the engagement of Ashi Markovitz to Shira Rabson in Johannesburg

BAR-MITZVAHS

- Hillel and Bev Kahn on the Barmitzvah of their great grandson in Cape Town.

BIRTHS

- Yehuda & Batsheva Glick and Rabbi & Rivky Chaikin on the birth of a daughter and granddaughter in Maryland
- Tzviki & Chaya Wolvovsky and Rabbi & Rivky Chaikin on the birth of a daughter and granddaughter in Pennsylvania
- Martin & Sylvia Lewison on the birth of a granddaughter in Israel
- Philip and Rilla Jacobson and Jeanette Markovitz on the birth of a great grandson born to Aharon and Tamsi Markovitz in Johannesburg
- Philip and Rilla Jacobson on the birth of their great grandson, born in Jerusalem to Yitzi and Leah Tanzer
- Jeanette Markovitz on the birth of a great granddaughter in Israel

BIRTHDAYS

- Clive Wolpert on his 88th birthday on the 1st November.
- Howard Manoim on his 55th birthday on the 4th November.
- Gil Lang on his 55th birthday on the 10th November.
- Gary Schach on his 70th birthday on the 23rd November.

BEREAVEMENTS

We wish long life to

- Lucille Kaplan and family on the death of her husband Stanley

May Hashem comfort them and their families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and grant them long life.

