

All letters must be typed and emailed. Letter writers authorize the Publisher to edit letters due to space constraints, subject matter or Rabbinic direction.

The FJJ After 120

After 120 years, the editors of The FJJ will be summoned before the Heavenly Beis Din.

"While there were sometimes things that were not always perfect with your weekly publication, after all, you were human, we are giving you reward for your efforts as a *marbitz* Torah!"

The Editor, at this point, sweating profusely, begins to stammer..." I really tried to have a quality publication, sharing information about the Jewish world, good ads, events in Flatbush, some interesting features, funny pictures from Flatbush and around, *shmoozy* columns, and a plug here and there about Citicom...you know, event planning, marketing..."

"Excuse me, but we were discussing your role in being a *marbitz* Torah!..." "Oh, sorry to interject...but, but...this is the World of Truth... I was involved in marketing, advertising, surely with a Torah flavor... but a *marbitz* Torah???"

"You informed your readership of a new *shiuur* taking place on every Sunday following Shabbos Mevorchim in Rav Eliezer Ginsburg's *shul* on the 13 Ikarim; Foundations of Emunah, with the first *Shiur* given by Rebbetzin Esther Reisman.... There were many new faces at the *shiuur*... not from the *shul*, and not from the mailing list ... do you know how they heard about the *shiuur*???"

The Editor replies cautiously... "word of mouth???" "NO, NO, NO ... this is the World of Truth!! We asked some of them, and they told us ... it was from The FJJ. Ashrecha!!

Thank you again, Mordy and your staff for your efforts in *harbotzas* haTorah. May many more people be inspired to grow in Torah because of your publication (and plan events, do marketing...)

A grateful *Yonah Weinrib*

Agunah Issue

I'm almost embarrassed to say that I live in Flatbush!

How many articles were written about the color of socks that boys wear? I must say that I'm glad that everyone is finally leaving the girls alone! Let us not forget about the very REAL issues that our community is facing- THE AGUNAH ISSUE!

This is a very real problem!!!

People should be responding to this topic with passion, and NOT the color of socks!!!

Caren V. May

Plea for Normalcy & Balance

As long time members and observers of the Flatbush Orthodox Jewish community, we are increasingly concerned about some trends that are becoming more and more prevalent within our circles.

It is quite obvious that authentic Torah true Judaism is to be balanced, and one is to live a normal life within its framework. Yet there are those who would like to convince us that this is not the case.

Recently you published a picture of Rebbetzin Pam, A"H, on the front page of your paper. And, as we expected, "Concerned in Flatbush" sent you a letter critical of this.

Is there really anything wrong with publishing a picture of a woman who was a true *Aishes Chayil*? We cannot understand how anyone could think otherwise. Furthermore, we do not understand how you could lend legitimacy to this view by publishing this letter. True, right underneath this letter there was another pointing out that pictures of women were published in Agudah publications in Europe before WWII. Nonetheless, the publishing of both letters, one under the other, makes it appear as if both positions have equal validity when they do not. We have consulted with prominent *rabbonim* in Flatbush who clearly stated that there is nothing wrong with publishing *tzniusdik* pictures of women.

Sadly there is more to this sort of madness, and we could cite many cases, but, since we mentioned Rebbetzin Pam, let us recall something about Rav Avraham Pam, ZT"L, that happened some years ago. Yeshiva Torah Vodaath decided to honor Rav Pam for his multitude of accomplishments. To mark this occasion a pamphlet was published outlining the life of this Gadol. However, one aspect of his life was completely omitted, namely, that Rav Pam had attended City College and earned a master's degree in mathematics. At one time he even taught math at YTV. When it was asked why this information was not included in the pamphlet, one fellow replied, "We did not want to publish *shmutz*."

Is it truly normal and balanced - from the standpoint of authentic Torah true Judaism - to consider Rav Pam's mathematical training on the graduate college level and his teaching mathematics at YTV "*shmutz*"? We

think not! Indeed, did not Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch write in his essay *Shevat IV* "Personalities qualified to function as masters of Torah are few and far between. Even fewer are those teachers who, thoroughly versed in both Torah and Talmud, are knowledgeable as well in secular matters and thus are capable of preparing Torah disciples to evaluate science and nature in the true light of Torah. Such teachers must be found."

Recently someone pointed out, "When I grew up there was a certain amount of wiggle room in which I could develop my individuality. It was carefully proscribed by my parents, but it was there. Today there is no such thing, and it is a real loss."

We could go on, but we are sure you get the message.

You may be wondering where the FJJ fits into all of this. It is a fact that some of the letters you publish foster a lack of a balanced and normal approach to Yahadus. Please do not publish such letters, as they do irreparable damage to authentic Torah true Judaism. Surely your publication does not want to promote ideas that damage Yahadus by misleading people into thinking that abnormal and unbalanced approaches are authentic Torah Judaism.

This should be the guiding principle determining which letters are published and which are not.

Rabbi Dr. Joel Rosensheim
Professor Yitzchok Levine

Fashionable Bochur

I am the fashionable boy described in the "Ask the Shadchan" a few weeks ago who likes wearing tailored suits and a small brimmed hat. When I got dressed that evening for our date, I had no idea I would be creating such controversy simply because of the fit of my suit or the width of the brim of my hat. I am from out of town, and did not expect to be judged so harshly based on my appearance. In my defense, I went to a very *balbatishe* store here in Flatbush to purchase both the hat and suit. I have done an extensive *cheshbon hanefesh*, and have resolved to wear looser suits and bigger hats on my future *shidduchim*.

The *Shaygetz from Chicago*

Dress Code Bullyism

The tone of letters lately in the FJJ about men's and women's dress is a hopeful sign that a great many of us are tired of

TEHILLIM LIST

חולים:

ר' מתתיהו חיים בן עטל
רפאל חיים ישעי בן חיה
משקט לאה בת מלכה מירל
ר' שמעון בן לויח לויסה
רבקה לאה בת חנה מנוחה
משולם נתן יהודה בן טשארה
יצחק בן דבורה
רפאל חיים צבי בן לאה
חיה אסתר בת פייגא יענטא
ר' ישראל אברהם בן שיינא רחל
ר' ישעי יעקב בן רייזעל
ר' גל בן יעל
אליעזר בן רחל
שמחה בת מרים
מנחם מנדל בן פערל דינה
שרה דבורה בת חנה צירל
חיים עזריאל בן דבורה
אברהם יצחק בן שרה ליבה
אסתר הינדא בת שפרה
דב ישעיה בן אסתר
ר' משה יצחק בן שירל
צבי מנחם בן אסתר
אסתר בת חנה ריבה
ברוך הלל בן רבקה
זיסל בת רחל
אשר ישעי בן הינדא נאכה
ישראל פייל בן חנה ביילה
אהרן צבי בן זלדה
רחל חיי בת אסתר
ר' יצחק שמואל בן פעשא שרה
דוד רפאל חיים בן סופייה
ראובן בן הענא
יוסף מלך בן שרה שפרה
שרה בת רבקה רחל
אברהם בנימין בן רחל בתשבע
יוסף יהודה בן שידאל

שבוים:

דוב ישראל מרדכי בן חיה שרה
יגתו בן מלכה
שלום מרדכי הלוי בן רבקה
ליני בן פנחס

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY

January 9
Cloudy

36° 32°

FRIDAY

January 10
Light Wintry Mix

41° 32°

SATURDAY

January 11
Few Showers

49° 42°

SUNDAY

January 12
Cloudy

48° 39°

MONDAY

January 13
Showers

46° 38°

TUESDAY

January 14
Mostly Cloudy

45° 37°

WEDNESDAY

January 15
Partly Cloudy

43° 35°



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Hatzolah	718.230.1000	NYC Helpline	311
Chaveirim	718.431.8181	Emergency	911
Shomrim	718.338.9797	Poison Control	800.222.1222
Misaskim	718.854.4548	Bikur Cholim	718.253.3119
Police 70 PCT	718.851.5511	Torah Phone	718.436.4999
Police 61 PCT	718.627.6611	Kol Halashon	718.906.6400

Out of the Box

MUSINGS ON TIMELY ISSUES



RABBI YAAKOV SALOMON

Mid-Winter Blues

Mid-Winter vacation is soon approaching. The Friedman's are planning a simple 2 day/1 night skiing trip, as a family outing. But when they sit around with the calendar to select the best dates they discover a problem. The days that Tuvi and Dov have off are not the same as the days that Shira and Rena have no school! Frustration sets in. Family discord ensues. Disappointment follows when the plans fall through. And this is not a new problem; it's been going on for years. Seems to me, that if we can figure out elaborate bus routes, and formulas for tuition scholarships, then coordinating vacation schedules that are congruent in several schools should be more than feasible. Don't our kids (and parents) deserve that? All it takes is one leader.

Any volunteers?

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