

**The Rebbe
On Prisoner
Exchanges With
Terrorist
Organizations**



Father of Hostage Celebrates
Son's Future Release From Gaza

Beis Chayeinu Celebrates The
Mitteler Rebbe's 250th Birthday

Compromises On Hashkafa
In A Shidduch

Beis Chayeinu Celebrates The Mittler Rebbe's 250th Birthday

On Wednesday night, Chassidim gathered in 770 for the central Farbrengen in honor of Tes-Yud Kislev; the 250th birthday, as well as the Yahrtzeit and Chag Ha-gaulah of the Mittler Rebbe. Esteemed Rabbonim and Mashpi'im shared words of inspiration.

Those gathered were inspired from

the likes of Rabbi Michael Golomb - Mashpa in 770, Rabbi Sholom Dovber Avtzon, Rabbi Michael Seligson, Rabbi Dovid Shalom Pape - editor of the Moshiaich Times Magazine, among others. Rabbi Shmuel Samuels was MC.

At the end of the Farbrengen lively music broke out.



Father of Hostage Celebrates Son's Future Release From Gaza

Avi Ohana, the Father of Yosef Ohana, made a future Seudas Hoda'a in 770 tonight – for the future return of his son, who is currently held in captivity in Gaza by Hamas.

Yosef studied in Chabad schools in Eretz Yisroel, and he came to the Rebbe for Tishrei, a number of years ago.

When the charter flight with hostage relatives was going to go back, he decided he would stay by the Rebbe and would not return until his son was free.

Avi Farbrenge with passion about how the Rebbe is with us and loves every Yid, and that you can't live without the Rebbe. He also recounted some miracle stories he personally experienced with the Rebbe.

"I came to the Rebbe because I believe

with complete faith that my child is the Rebbe's child and the Rebbe will help him," he said. "And thanks to his faith, may Moshiach redeem us together with the hostages!"

"I came to the Rebbe, because I believe with complete faith that my child is the Rebbe's child and the Rebbe will help him," he said. "And thanks to his Emunah, may Moshiach redeem us together with the hostages!"

"I told the Rebbe — 'You said those who learn in your Yeshiva are your children, so Yosef Chaim is your son.' Help him."

Beis Chabad of 770 surprised him with pictures of his son who visited 770, a number of years ago.



Photos by Dov Ber Hechtman for Chabadinfo

OYYL Celebrates Its Grand Inaugural Dinner

Oholei Yosef Yitzchok Lubavitch, a school dedicated to chinuch al taharas hakodesh, celebrated the anniversary of the Rebbe's engagement in its Grand Inaugural Dinner on Vov Kislev. Created in partnership with Bracha Torenheim and her team at TOP 360, the event was a visual masterpiece featuring captivating videos and presentations centered around the theme of "America iz nisht andersh."

The Frieddiker Rebbe's timely declaration holds profound significance for OYYL and its mission. Just as he urged his chasidim not to be swayed by new influences, the school stands firm in its commitment to preserving chinuch al taharas hakodesh.

Led by Rabbi Velvl Butman, Head Shliach of Westchester County, serving as MC, the evening began with heartfelt Tehillim for Israel, underscoring the crucial need for the pure davening and Torah learning of our children to safeguard our Land and Klal Yisroel.

The responsibility of imparting chinuch al taharas hakodesh has never been more urgent, and OYYL, with its devoted teachers and staff, is wholly dedicated to constructing a school grounded in these values.

The night resonated with joyous dancing, inspiring speakers, stunning chassidische nigunim performed by the Kapele Choir led by Rabbi Yossi Cohen, and delicious food provided by Butcher Restaurant. Special thank you to Avi Berko and Ben Davidov from CH Butcher Grill House, whose personal touch ensured top-quality fare.

Founder Rabbi Mottel Schneiderman shared an inspiring story of divine guidance. When asking the Rebbe for a blessing to hold the Gala Dinner on Vov Kislev, he opened a letter in the Rebbe's Igros addressed to Oholei Yosef Yitzchok Lubavitch of Morocco, wishing them success in their fundraising endeavor—a clear affirmation for the path ahead. Time and again, OYYL has experienced miracles with clear and direct guidance from the Rebbe's letters.

Together with his wife, Mila, the Founders shared their

personal story and inspiration leading to the creation of the school, following the loss of their infant son, Yosef Yitchok. Attendees pledged their support, laying the groundwork for a successful campaign and ensuring OYYL's sustainable future in its new building. The school extends a big thank you to a generous philanthropist (who wishes to remain anonymous) for his awe-inspiring pledge of \$180,000.

Renowned speaker, Rabbi Levi Goldstein, took the stage to share the Rebbe's deep mesirus nefesh for chinuch al taharas hakodesh, firmly rooted in the principles of Chabad philosophy. No cause was more cherished by the Rebbe than the pure education of our children.

The evening also recognized real life champions of chinuch—role models, dedicated staff, and exceptional parents who have exceeded all expectations. This year's honorees include Chona & Chana Gewirtz, recipients of the Chinuch Visionary Award; Rabbi Yisroel Kaplan, recipient of the Innovator in Chinuch Award; Morah Leah Goldstein, recipient of the Chinuch Leadership Award; and Meir & Chana Kabakov, recipients of the Parent Partnership Award. Their dedication sets a shining example for all.

OYYL School Community extends their special thanks to all the parents, educators, and staff who help with putting this great event together. Special recognition is extended to our long time supporters- Gavriel and Bella Rubashkin, Yaakov and Shmuel Spritzer, Dovid and Chana Karetny, Boruch and Iris Borodkin, Elchonon Shagalow, Meir Schmukler.

On Vov Kislev, the day that forever united the Rebbe with his chasidim through his engagement to the Frieddiker Rebbe's daughter, we, as chasidim, have a special role to play. This is also our personal day of engagement.

To sponsor a brick and fulfill the Frieddiker Rebbe's vision of "America iz nisht andersh", please scan the QR code or visit: <https://raisethon.com/ooyl/>



THE NEWS BEAT

Two Sifrei Torah Dedicated in Honor of The Hostages

In an emotional and uplifting ceremony at the Kosel, with the participation of dozens of families of captives, bereaved families, and displaced families from the south and north, two Torah scrolls were dedicated tonight to the Western Wall.



Kevutza Bochorim Unites for Grand Seder Sichos

As war rages in Eretz Yisroel, Kevutza Bochorim joined united for a grand seder sichos in 770-Beis Chayeinu. After chassidus erev, each bochor found a chavrusa and took a place to sit and learn the Rebbe's sichos, after which some "farbaisn" was served

Terrorist Burns Armenia's Only Synagogue, Proclaims Chabad An "Espionage Net"

The synagogue "Mordechai Navi", situated in Yerevan, was burned on November 15th. The perpetrators of the attack – Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) terrorist group published an antisemitic statement, proclaiming that the synagogue is the center of Chabad, "which entangled most countries of the world in its web". Using old antisemitic tropes, the terrorists claim that the Chabad "masters are based in the United States and in occupied Palestine. From there all Chabad agents receive instructions".



This is the second ASALA's attack on the synagogue in the last two months. The first one was "motivated" by the close relations between Israel and Azerbaijan, the second arson is a "reaction" to the Israel's operation in Gaza. "This second operation was carried out in solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements against Zionism", the statement says. ASALA also an-

nounced its new threat: "if the armed attacks of the Zionist regime on the Armenian quarter of Jerusalem and the seizure of the property of the Armenian Church do not stop, our next operation will be outside Armenia". This alludes to the situation in Jerusalem where the Israeli company has leased the Armenian Patriarchy land to build a hotel.

After the first attack on the synagogue Armenian government proclaimed it will protect the Jewish community. But the guards and cameras in the vicinity of the building did nothing to stop the terrorists.

ASALA has a long history of alliance with Palestinian factions in Lebanon – PLO and later PFLP. They have trained together and together fought against Israel.

According to the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora the level of antisemitism in Armenia is raising radically. It might be influenced by the Iranians, who consider Armenia its close ally.



TIMELESS ELEGANCE




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The Rebbe's Opinion On: Prisoner Exchanges With Terrorist Organizations

Early Wednesday morning, Israel's cabinet endorsed an agreement aimed at securing the release of approximately 50 hostages who were kidnapped and taken to Gaza during the horrific terror attack on Simchas Torah. In light of such a deal, as well as all matters related to the safety and security of Eretz Yisroel, we – Lubavitcher's – turn to the Rebbe MH"M for his opinion and advice. The following is a portion from two sichos on this topic from the hostage exchange of Avraham Amram in 5738 and the Enebee hostages negotiations.

1 Soldier for 76 terrorists

On 27 Adar II 5738 (April 5, 1978), IDF soldier Avraham Amram was captured in Lebanon by the PFLP terrorist group. This occurred shortly after the beginning of Operation Litani, during a private tour a group of soldiers was conducting in southern Lebanon. In this incident, four soldiers were also killed. The captive soldier was returned to Israel after 11 months in exchange for the release of 76 terrorists held in Israeli prisons. This was one of the first mass prisoner exchange deals made by Israel. The Rebbe sharply criticized the deal saying that, "Though a Jewish life has infinite worth — surely more than that of seventy Arabs — the exchange should not have been made." They could have obtained the same soldier for many fewer Arabs.

The following is a portion from the sicha of Motzei Parshas Bamidbar 5739 on this topic, freely translated:

And another horrifying event was added, which shows how far things have gone. There was an incident with a Jew who was held captive, and they did not want to release him from captivity until they exchanged him for seventy-something from the other side.

And this incident happened at the same time that the US signed a similar deal with the Soviet Union, exchanging five captives for two - whereas here they exchanged one for seventy-something! Indeed according

to *halacha* there is room for debate, since it involves saving the life of one Jew, but when one needs to pay many times over his worth - there is room to debate what the *halacha* should be.

But here, another main issue was in play: They (=the Israeli government - *Ed.*) said *openly* that since there is no other choice, and since it involves a Jew with a family - they could not cap how many they would

They tried to keep this deal confidential, but since it's impossible to fool the world... among the seventy-something, almost half were involved in actual acts of terror, involving loss of Jewish lives!

need to release from prison for this, and therefore they did it.

They were asked: Many times there have been incidents where hostages were taken and the terrorists expected that so-and-so and so-and-so would be released in exchange, an equal number or twice as many - but not seventy times over, and you yourselves declared that this is a matter of principle not to succumb to any threat.

This policy had a reason behind it, a reason that has a source in Jewish law and place in simple logic, and even a place in the art of diplomacy (which is what they're counting on now too): If they show them that through threats they can release their people and accomplish certain

matters - that will cause them to pursue more hostages.

Therefore there is no other solution and they have to show them that this is not effective. And they held to this policy for many consecutive years, even though it brought casualties among the Jews, casualties whose names are written, and these are matters of public knowledge.

And here they suddenly reversed this policy, in a shocking way as mentioned above — one for seventy-something!

...They tried to keep this deal confidential, but since it's impossible to fool the world all the time and in all matters, [the truth came to light. Namely, that] among the seventy-something, almost half were such who were in prison not for trivial matters — and even when it was for trivial matters, they maintained for years on end the approach to not succumb to terrorist threats — for [among those released] were close to half (thirty-something) who were involved in actual acts of terror, even acts of terror involving loss of Jewish lives!

This is an act that cannot be reversed! The seventy-something are free and in such a place, heaven forfend, where no reason is seen why they shouldn't again try, Heaven forfend, to do what they have done before!

And as mentioned above, it's not just this matter itself, it's the whole policy, heaven forfend, that they now adopted: Those who threaten and pressure learn that there is nothing they cannot accomplish, Heaven forfend - and the proof is: There is no greater matter, no greater concession, no greater retreat than this - that for many



FROM THE REBBE'S PEN

Compromises On Hashkafa In A Shidduch

The Rebbe's advice to a young woman who was dating a man who didn't share the same worldview as her on matters of Yiddishkeit and was still considering marrying him:

It is not advisable at all to compromise on matters of principle, especially when this relates to the beginning of independent life, and particularly – making this compromise the foundation of marriage (which is to become an everlasting edifice) all the while that compromise (an untruth) is a lie - a lie to oneself and a lie to the other person, and how can happiness come through this?

To explain:

One behaving in matters of Torah and mitzvos more than is warranted by his understanding - is not a compromise in principle - only discomfort, or extra bother and the like; however, when one behaves in matters of Torah and mitzvos less than is warranted by his understanding - this is a compromise in principle and in faith. And one must not force a person to do this.

It is likely that eventually, this will arouse resentment in the one who was forced towards the person for whom he made the compromise-falsehood, and a lack of respect on the part of the coercer towards the one who was coerced (when he sees that he compromises on matters of principle).

Each person prays at the beginning of each day "Do not bring me into temptation" - even a complete tzaddik of seventy years. It then goes without saying that one should not bring oneself into daily temptation.

As it seems from your own letter - you lack the wherewithal to change his perspective over time - because already now (as you wrote yourself) your conduct includes several compromises, and a compromise leads to a compromise etc., until the whole importance of principles is lost (over time), and even more than the other side demands.

In general, it is not advisable to force the other side to change their perspective,

Handwritten text in Hebrew, likely a letter or a note related to the article's theme of compromise in marriage.

especially when he is involved with psychology (even if it was in your ability), rather, he must do this entirely of his own good will (but she can explain it to him, etc.), and this must specifically done for a period of time before deciding regarding the shidduch.

It appears that the above comes as a result of conduct that is not in accordance with the Shulchan Aruch (even though, unfortunately, many do so in the United States) i.e., that young men and women frequently meet etc. in person, even though they know that the time for marriage has not yet arrived. And undesirable closeness leads to its opposite — distance and friction and so on.

Perhaps it would be worthwhile that at least now they stop meeting etc. for a period of time, and thereby, each will be able to examine themselves and their feelings about the above (without the confusion of emotions) and afterwards they will make final decisions regarding the above.

I will mention this at the Tziyun.



The Israeli daily "Davar" reports: "Avraham Amram has returned, 76 prisoners and dangerous terrorists were given in exchange"

years the government held by this position with insistence, and lost several Jewish souls because of this approach - and suddenly they released seventy-something terrorists! This is part of the general approach, an approach *r"l* which is the opposite of "I will lead you upright".

As said in the previous farbrengen, what's happening here can be likened to when one is spat on, Heaven forbid, and he knows he's being spat on in the face - yet he deceives the other that it is heavenly rain! He tells him to bless "hatov v'hameitiv" - not an actual blessing, but making a feast and giving "mazel tov's" and dancing in the streets and waving flags, with all the things associated...

Operation Entebbee

Following opration Entebbee, the Rebbe expressed surprise that nobody had raised the possibility that after Israel would agree to all the demands the hijackers would not keep their word and return all the hostages:

"It is shocking that in all of the discussions cited in detail in the report - no one mentioned the possibility that the negotiations etc. all the way to a final agreement, is no guarantee that the other side would in the end fulfill at least the main condition that all of the hostages be returned alive!

This is despite experience of several thousand years of talks and signed agreements etc. of the Jewish people and the nations of the world!

From The Rebbe's Pen is presented by



When the Rebbe Bought Jewelry for the Rebbetzin

4 Short Stories About the Rebbe and the Rebbetzin presented in honor of the 95th Wedding Anniversary on 14 Kislev

Standing By The Rebbe

In 5738, following the Rebbe's heart attack, he went up to his office and remained there. Toward morning, his condition deteriorated and it was learned afterward that the Rebbe had experienced another heart attack, worse than the first. The doctors said the Rebbe must go to the hospital and they decided to use an anesthetic so as to "force" him to go in an ambulance.

As they spoke, the Rebbetzin came down from the second floor to gan eden ha'tachton.

The doctors reported to her about the critical situation and said they must employ anesthesia in order to bring the Rebbe to the hospital. The Rebbetzin was taken aback by this but they said that even the top doctors who were there previously insisted this must be done.

The Rebbetzin asked, "What does my husband said about this?" They said the Rebbe said he could be treated in his office and it wasn't necessary to go to the hospital.

"In all the years that I know my husband," she said, "there was not one moment that he wasn't in absolute control of himself. I cannot allow you to do something against his will."

This line, said in matter-of-fact fashion though firmly, expressed her respect and belief in the Rebbe. It was only thanks to her that the Rebbe's wishes were followed.



Mutual Trust

During the court case over the sefarim, those involved in the matter wanted to ensure that the Rebbetzin would not have to testify. When they saw that they were unsuccessful, they informed the Rebbe who said, "Why worry? She knows just what to say."

Buying Jewelry For The Rebbetzin

When R' Zalman Gurary worked in importing pearls from Japan, the Rebbe asked him to buy beautiful pearls for him to give to the Rebbetzin.

Some time, later, he brought two strands of pearls and presented them to the Rebbe. The Rebbe examined them and said he wanted nicer pearls.

The next time, R' Gurary brought a nicer strand and the Rebbe bought it from him, for the Rebbetzin, and R' Zalman gave one of the other two strands that the Rebbe had held in his hands to his wife.

Waiting For The Rebbe

Every day, about an hour after the Rebbe arrived at 770 in the morning, the Rebbetzin would send a thermos of hot tea for him from home. The Rebbe spent all day at 770 and returned home for a short time in the evening. Then he continued his schedule at 770.

On the nights that the Rebbe received people for yechidus until the wee hours, the Rebbetzin always remained awake until the Rebbe returned home. Sometimes, it was morning.

THIS WEEK'S

MAZAL TOV

מזל טוב

New Engagement

Levi Levin - Kensington, NY to Sheina Belinow - Sao Paulo, Brazil

Mendel Denberg – Coral Springs, FL to Chaya Barber – Brooklyn, NY

Chaim Amzalak – Melbourne, Australia to Rivkah Mendelsohn – Flatbush, NY

Avraham Tzvi Cohen – Bet Shemesh, Israel to Rivka Cohen – Crown Heights

Shmuli Wenger – Montreal, Canada to Mussi Klein – Miami, Florida

Mendel Laufer – Warwick, RI to Rivky Rodal – Crown Heights

Newborn

Baby boy to Yosef and Sara Moscowitz – Bucktown, IL

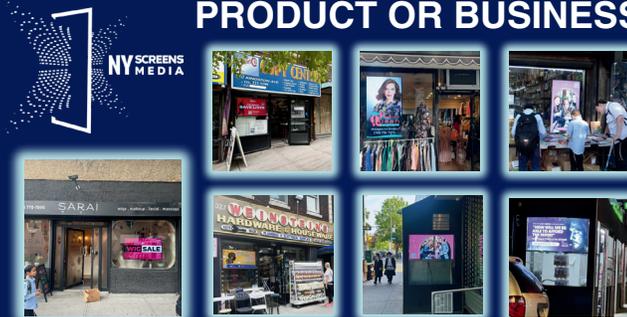
Twins to Levi and Mushka (nee Weiser) Pinson – Berlin, Germany

Baby girl to Shmuli and Chanie Kirsh – Crown Heights

Baby girl to Yosef Yitzchak and Nechama Rivka Hershkop – Crown Heights

Baby boy to Berel and Mushka Greenfeld – Crown Heights

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