

## AN ACT OF KINDNESS

Alan Magill

She's in her mid-90s and one of the things that brings her joy is to hear from her son. I'll call her Sara. She lives in an assisted living home in New York and one day when her son--her only child--was 7,000 miles away visiting Israel she got the news that he had sent her an email.

The recreation director, who I'll call Robert, was asked by the Administrator of the Home to take the email he had printed out an hour before and give it to Sara. Which is what Robert intended to do, after he finished a few tasks he was in the middle of handling. About 15 minutes later, though, when he got up to bring Sara that email from the Holy Land, he couldn't find it. He looked everywhere and then he looked everywhere again. No luck.

No problem, he'd print it out again. Much to his disappointment, when he went on the computer, he saw that the email had been deleted. Now he knew what he had to do. He needed to be up front with Sara and tell her he had lost the message from her son.

Sara was sitting outside and as Robert walked out the front door he went over in his own mind how he would break the news to her. He wasn't prepared for what she said. "Robert, my son sent me an email from Israel and they're going to print it out and give it to me." She sounded so happy and Robert felt so bad when he told her, "I'm very sorry, Sara. I lost the email." Robert would have expected any number of reactions including expressions of hurt, frustration and even anger. But all Sara said, in a calm tone, was "It doesn't matter. I'm going to see him soon anyway. Don't worry about it."

Robert was so appreciative of Sara's kind and gracious reaction. He immediately went from feeling very bad to admiring this woman for what she had said and how she had said it.

Calm, and at peace with himself, Robert went back to his office and he had this thought--"She is such a nice woman. Let me try again to find that email for her."

To be sure, if Sara had yelled at him and demanded that he go back and look for the correspondence, he probably would have done so. But he would not have been relaxed, and in fact might have been so flummoxed that his detective skills would probably have been compromised. With a clear mind,

## ASSISTED LIVING HOME



though, he was able to sit at his desk and concentrate clearly on what he had been doing right after he had taken the email from the Administrator.

It was like going back in time, seeing the moments. And when he "saw" the email in his hand, he had a memory of working on the schedules for the rest of the week. And what did he do with the schedules when he was done with them? He put them in a folder that was underneath other folders, piled up to the left of where he was sitting.

He went through the pile until he saw the "Schedules" file and when he opened it up he experienced a sublime joy. There was the email from Sara's son!

With an enthusiastic gait, he walked out of his office, through the lobby and out the front door. Sara was still sitting there and he told her, "I found the email!"

What Sara said next said a lot about her integrity and her deep desire not to hurt another person's feelings. "Oh thank you so much!" she gushed. "This means so much to me! I wanted to hear what he has to say!" That was the truth. The email DID MEAN a lot to her. Her only child, 7,000 miles away was communicating to her. But Sara had been in touch with a GREATER TRUTH when she calmed Robert after she had received the news that the email was lost. Why cause someone pain who hadn't done anything purposely against her. There's enough pain in this world, why add to it?

Robert handed Sara the email who read it with a big smile on her face. And why not? She was not only connected to her dear son, she was connected to how Hashem wants us to treat others.

*Alan Magill is a former member of the Beginners Service at LSS and fondly tells many stories about that time in his life in his humor and other programs. He is a playwright, Director of Programming at Ateret Avot Senior Residence and writes a monthly "Senior Forum" column for the Jewish Press. Reprinted with permission of the Jewish Press.*

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

## ENGAGEMENTS

Shira Goldberg and Jared Boschan

Mazal Tov to parents,  
Robin and Neil Goldberg

Sam Kaufman and Joanna Ditzkofsky

Mazal Tov to parents, Dr. Gale and James Kaufman

Elisheva Kutler and Mordechai Ehrlich

Mazal Tov to parents, Nan and Robert Ehrlich

Meira Reich and Yaakov Ribner

Mazal Tov to parents,

Sema and Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich

Aurélie (Rachel) Romand and Cédric Binisti



Rachel Miriam and Eliezer Zev Stromberg,

on the birth of a baby girl, Batya Devorah  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Eliya (Gene) and  
Esther Chana (Linden) Stromberg

Danielle and Paul Taubman, on the birth of a baby boy,

Liam Joseph (Yosef Leib)

Nechama and Reuven Weiser, on the birth of a daughter,

Talya Dvora, in Jerusalem, Israel

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sema and Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich

Sara and Rabbi David Wolkenfeld, on the birth of a baby girl,

Sophie Jane (Tzofia Yasha)

Mazal Tov to grandmother, Dr. Jo Wolkenfeld

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Brianna Michelle Apple,

Mazal Tov to parents, Robin Gordon and Steve Apple

Rebecca Shira Ashkenazy

Mazal Tov to parents, Gayle and Stewart Ashkenazy

Sarah Tova Lidagoster

Mazal Tov to mother, Dr. Lydia Lidagoster

Daniel Levi Rosenblatt

Mazal Tov to parents, Drs. Kathy Halton and Marc Rosenblatt

Noam Shalom Steinerman

Mazal Tov to parents, Rona and Andrew Steinerman

## CONDOLENCES

To the family of Moshe Chaim (Mark) Fisher,\*

upon his untimely passing

Shari Gluckstadt, on the loss of her father, Marvin Herskowitz

To the family of Linda Sokol Greenberg, upon her untimely passing

To the family of Joseph Janovic,\* upon his untimely passing

David Simons on the loss of his sister, Miriam Beverly Simons

Rachel Bracha (Joan) Lawrence and Thomas (Yaakov) Steinberg,

on the loss of their father, Goody (Goodwin) Steinberg

Ira Weinstock, on the loss his father, Leon Victor Weinstock

## SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Gerald August, Yitzchak Chaim ben Nechish\*

\*See Reverse Side

Mordechai Beilis, Mordechai ben Mazala Aviva

Elisheva Lambert, Elisheva Chana bat Miriam Leah

Robert Schecter, Chaim Reuven ben Baila

Regina Ullendorff, Rachel bat Feige

## TSETCHEM L'SHALOM (To live or Study in Israel)

Channah (Hannah) Lloyd

## CONGRATULATIONS

Isidore Century, on the publication of his latest volume of

poetry "Unintended Wanderings Through Torah," which

he is distributing free of charge as a fundraiser for LSS

Lynn and Sid Gold, for being honored at the Centennial

Dinner of the National Council of Young Israel

Paul J. Taubman on receiving the Gustave L. Levy Award

at the Wall Street Dinner of UJA-Federation of New York

## TODAH RABBAH

The Berg Foundation & Michelle Tocci for the High Holidays

room decor at Manhattan Day School

Emily and Seth Gerszberg and Michelle and Eli Salig, for

making possible the participation of Rabbi Mordechai

Reich & family in the LSS High Holiday Beginners

Services; Thanks also to the management of the

Beacon Hotel

The Gibber family for the High Holidays flowers at

Manhattan Day School

Roberto Novig for his "inspiring" ushering during the High

Holiday Beginners Services

Chaviva Warner for her all around helpfulness, especially

with the storage and packing of the High Holiday

materials

Kiddush Sponsors on the High Holidays: Elaine Witty and

Larry Komito, Lori Paul and Bob Schecter, Susan Hecht

and David Cohen

Break-Fast Sponsors following Yom Kippur Services: Alisa

Adler, Ronnie Landau Family, and Ellen and Mordechai

Lipkis

## MARRIAGES

Mihoko (Tovah) Yamazoe and Assaf Alster (August 14, 2011)

Ariela Miriam Jacobson and Yisrael Mordechai Friedman

Shanah Gutman and Jesse Giles

Avital Fuss and Aryeh Gregor

Mazal Tov to parents, Marjorie Munsterberg and Charles Gregor

Bobbi Tannenbaum and Russel Siegel

Yael Greenberg and Yuval Tsemach (March 2011)

## BIRTHS

Shira and Yaacov Ehrlich, on the birth of a baby girl, Li'ah Yarden

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Nan and Robert Ehrlich

Leah and Daniel Faber, on the birth of a baby boy,

Yoshua Heshel

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Nan and Robert Ehrlich

Bella and Zachary Grossman, on the birth of a baby boy,

Leo (Aryeh) Jacob

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Ohra and Dr. Manfred Hahn

Rachel and Binyomin Gutman, on the birth of a baby girl, Sofie

Rachel and Eugene Kontorovich, on the birth of twin girls,

Ada and Bayla

Ilana and Adiv Spivack, on the birth of a baby boy,

Michael Avraham

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sharona and Steve Spivack

