SIX MILLION -- MINUS ONE

by Avi London

As the year 5754 comes to a conclusion, I realize how many new beginnings were given to me and my family during this very special year. It's not just that my life and the lives of my entire family have been made richer because of this year's surprising events--it's that G-d's hand was so evident and so abundantly generous.

To begin, this past June I married my wife Betsy. For many, marriage is an expected event in one's life cycle. But to all of our friends and family our marriage was a veritable miracle, since I took a bit long to finally set the date for the wedding. I won't tell you how long, but calling it a "miracle" is hardly an understatement. On June 12th, I happily assumed the role of husband.

A second miracle, was that after more than 50 years, my family was reunited with a half sister we assumed was long dead.

In the 1930's, my father married a Jewish woman from his *shtetel* in Poland, and shortly after, they moved to Israel. My father's wife found life too harsh in Israel, and two years later they divorced and she returned to Poland. Upon her return she discovered that she was pregnant. My father learned of the birth of his daughter, Sarah, from his sisters who still lived in Poland, and who actively cared for the child. After the war, father searched for his former wife and his daughter, but was told that they were dead.

Several years ago, my father's sister became obsessed with the idea of finding out the actual fate of the child. She went back to Poland to conduct a thorough search, but found nothing. Upon her return, she remembered that a letter containing a picture of the child had been sent to the family. She searched desperately, and shortly after the picture was found, she died.

It was at that time, two and a half years ago, that my sister Nili, (from our father's second marriage of course), decided to search for our sister, operating under the assumption that perhaps our sister had assumed a new identity in order to avoid the Nazis, or perhaps she was smuggled out of the country. Because of Nili's tireless efforts and never ending determination, this past April, our sister "Naomi" was found living in Israel.

Sarah, at the age of three, had been smuggled out of Poland, first to Vienna and then to Yugoslavia. From there she was taken by ship to Argentina where she lived in a Jewish orphanage. At the age of five, she was adopted by a Catholic Uruguayan family who renamed her Naomi after their own daughter who had died. Although she was raised as a Catholic, at age 16, as her mother lay dying, Naomi was told that she was Jewish, and that she was expected to marry a Jewish man!

To the dismay of her adoptive Catholic family, Naomi fell in love with a Catholic Uruguayan medical student, whom she married in a Catholic ceremony. For two years her family refused to have anything to do with her, until her husband Ariel converted to Judaism. The couple was re-married in a synagogue, and their son and daughter were raised as Jews and sent to Hebrew school.

At age 15, their son was recruited by the Israeli intelligence to spy on the Nazis living in Uruguay. When things got too hot, they were advised by the Israelis to leave the country, and twelve years ago they moved to Israel where they now reside.

My sister Nili's efforts to find Sarah through conventional means proved fruitless. In desperation we turned to Holy men and psychics, who directed us to Israel. Finally we placed an ad in an Israeli newspaper containing as many of the factual details we knew. Naomi's family pointed the ad out to her, and she responded. When we received a picture of Naomi, we knew immediately that we had found our long lost sister--she looked like a twin to Nili. DNA testing confirmed the relationship!

Meeting our long lost sister, was for us dramatic and heartrending, and, of course, a wonderful addition to our family. For Naomi it was much more. At the age of fifty seven, she discovered a family she never knew existed. For the first time in her life, she met her father this past April, as well as her sister and me. She had always felt an emptiness inside of her, a sense of being incomplete. Now that the questions of who she is and where she was from have been answered, there is a feeling of being whole. Finally, a sense of tranquility.

When Nili and Naomi were reunited in Israel this past April, they made a trip to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, to remove her name from the list of the dead. It was the first such case.

As 5755 begins, the London family has much to celebrate. We look forward to getting to know Naomi and her family better. But most of all, we thank Hashem for answering our prayers by giving us our sister Naomi to love, and to share a future with us, a future which no one ever dared to dream would ever exist.

Avi London, Assistant Plant Operation Manager of Hot Sox Co., is married to the former Betsy Ozer, a graduate of the LSS Beginners Service.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Sonia Beker and Avi Ariely
Leah Ehrlich and Dan Faber
Mazal Tov to parents Nan and Bob Ehrlich
Susan Katz and Dr. David Kessler
Jessica Panduro and Jordan Chanofsky
Dr. Sheila Salama and Samuel Schnapp
Jennifer Schuster and Michael Gross

MARRIAGES

Pamela Abecassis and Lee Haddad
Loren Brauner and Avi Fineberg
Rory Grohman and Rabbi David Malin
Denise Guz and Michael Stern
Perla Hartman and Robert Hirsch
Lisa Fay Kaplan and Greg Gordon
Gail Katz and Richard Dukas
Romy Katz and Alex Rapoport
Robin Levine and Paul Shainberg
Dr. Marjie Ordene and Alan Brown
Betsy Ozer and Avi London
Feliscia Schanzer and Aaron Rubin
Mazal Tov to parents
Ohra and Dr. Manfred Hahn
Susan Seltzer and Rabbi Dr.
Mordechai Schnaidman
Dr. Golda Tchlkvachvili and Dana Hudes

BIRTHS

Elizabeth and Blair Axel, on the birth of a boy, Matisyahu Moshe Michael
Judy and Aryeh (Larry) Brauner, on the birth of a girl, Rivka Mindl
Sheryl and Ernest Elias, on the birth of a girl, Michela Rachel
Drs. Lidia and Mark Lidagoster, on the birth of a girl, Ilana Tamar
Shoshana and Gidon (Glenn) Michael, on the birth of a girl, Rivkah Nechama
Randi and Erik Mintz, on the birth of a boy, Dory Tuck (Yaron Shay)
Lisa and Jim Shenwick, on the birth of a boy, Benjamin Marc
Dr. Elaine and Bruce Teleky, on the birth of a boy, Noam Yitzhak
Jan and Roger Wallach, on the birth of twin boys, David Todd and Michael Joshua

BAR MITZVAH

Yehuda Eliezer, son of Miriam and Mordechai Savir (Swire)

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM (To live and/or study in Israel)

Jill Brandfon
Mitchell Winston

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (Speedy recovery)

Marion Friedman
Judy Nachem
Margot Zitter

CONDOLENCES

Michelle Comet, on the loss of her father, David Karmazin
Vivian Faistman, on the loss of her father, Alfredo Faistman
Fanny Forman, on the loss of her mother, Zahava Turgeman
Eddie Jacobs, on the loss of his father, Prof. Aaron F. Jacobs

TODAH

To Gail and Doug Schiller, for their donation of 75 copies of Aryeh Kaplan's The Living Torah

CONGRATULATIONS

To Dr. Lynn Davidman, upon achieving tenure as Associate Professor of Judaic Studies and Sociology at Brown University
Dr. Rosa Helfgot, upon receiving a Fulbright Scholarship, for research and lecturing in Social Work

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Monday, September 5th Erev Rosh Hashana
Selichot and Morning Services.....6:00 & 8:00 a.m.
Kindle Rosh Hashana Candles.....7:10 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Rosh Hashana

Tuesday, September 6th
Rosh Hashana Services.....7:45 a.m.
Beginner's Service.....9:00 a.m.
Tashlich Walk..... 6:00 p.m.
Mincha.....7:00 p.m.
followed by Maariv and Daf Yomi
KINDLE ROSH HASHANA CANDLES NOT BEFORE.....8:04 p.m.

Wednesday, September 7th
Rosh Hashana Services.....7:45 a.m.
Beginners Service.....9:00 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....6:00 p.m.
Mincha.....7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 8th Fast of Gedalia
Fast begins.....5:18 a.m.
Selichot & Morning services.....6:30 & 7:15 a.m.
Mincha.....6:50 p.m.
Fast Concludes.....7:48 p.m.

Friday, September 9th
Selichot and Morning services.....6:35 & 7:15 a.m.
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:57 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 10th Shabbat Shuva
Shabbat Morning services.....8:45 a.m.
Mincha.....6:10 p.m.
followed by Rabbi Weinberg's Shabbat Shuva Discourse
Daily Mincha Maariv.....6:50 p.m.

Sunday, September 11th
Selichot and Morning services.....6:35 & 8:00 a.m.

Monday-Tuesday, September 12th & 13th
Daily Selichot and Morning services.....6:35 & 7:15 a.m.

Wednesday Erev Yom Kippur, September 14th
Selichot and Morning services.....6:50 & 7:30 a.m.
Mincha.....1:30, 3:00 & 4:30 p.m.
Kindle Shabbat, Yom Kippur & Memorial Candles.....6:49 p.m
Kol Nidre Services.....6:55 p.m.

Thursday, September 15th Yom Kippur
Main Sanctuary.....8:00 a.m.
Auditorium.....9:00 a.m.
Beginners.....7:49 p.m.
Final Shofar Blast.....
PUBLIC YIZKOR SERVICES AT.....1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
IN THE ANNEX.

Friday, September 16th
Morning services.....7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:45 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:50 p.m.

Saturday, September 17th
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....5:40 p.m.
Mincha.....6:40 p.m.

Monday, September 19th
Eve Sukkot
Morning Services.....7:05 & 7:50 a.m.
Kindle Yom Tov Candles.....6:40 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov.....6:45 p.m.

Tuesday September 20th
Sukkot Morning Services.....8:00 & 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....5:40 p.m.
Mincha.....6:40 p.m.
KINDLE YOM TOV CANDLES NOT BEFORE.....7:40 p.m.

Wednesday, September 21st
Sukkot Morning Services.....8:00 & 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....5:40 p.m.
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:40 p.m.

Thursday September 22nd
Chol Hamoed Morning Services.....6:45 & 7:30 a.m.
Mincha & Maariv services.....6:40 p.m.

Friday, September 23rd
Chol Hamoed Morning Services.....6:45 & 7:30 a.m.
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:34 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:40 p.m.

Saturday, September 24th
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:00 & 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....5:30 p.m.

Mincha followed by Seudah Shlisheet.....6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 25th
Chol Hamoed Morning Services.....6:45 & 8:30 a.m.
Mincha & Maariv services.....6:35 p.m.

Monday, September 26th Hoshanah Rabbah
Morning Services.....6:20 & 7:30 a.m.

Kindle Yom Tov Candles.....6:29 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov.....6:35 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27th
Shemini Atzeret
Morning Services
including Yizkor Memorial services.....8, 8:45 & 9:30 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Class.....5:25 p.m.
Mincha.....6:25 p.m.
KINDLE YOM TOV CANDLES NOT BEFORE.....7:29 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28th
Simchat Torah
Hashkomah Minyan .....6:45 a.m.
Yom Tov Morning Services.....7:45 a.m.
Family Service.....9:00 a.m.
Women's Tefillah Group.....9:00 a.m.
Late Minyan.....9:00 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Class.....5:25 p.m.
Mincha.....6:25 p.m.

Thursday, September 29th
Morning Services.....7:05 & 7:50 a.m.
Mincha & Maariv services.....6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 30th
Morning Services.....7:10 & 7:50 a.m.
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:22 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:25 p.m.

Shabbat, October 1st(BERESHEET)
Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible classes.....5:20 p.m.
Mincha.....6:20 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:20 p.m.
Wednesday - Thursday October 5th - 6th Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Morning serivces.....7:00 & 7:40 a.m.

Friday, October 7th
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....6:11 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:15 p.m.

Shabbat, October 8th (NOACH)
Hashkama Minyan.....7:50 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....4:40 p.m.
Bible Class.....5:10 p.m.
Talmud Class.....5:25 p.m.
Mincha.....6:10 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:10 p.m.

Monday, October 10th Columbus Day
Morning Services.....7:05 & 7:50 a.m.

Friday, October 14th
Kindle Shabbat candles.....6:00 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:05 p.m.

Shabbat, October 15th (LECH LECHA)
Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....4:30 p.m.
Bible Class.....5:00 p.m.
Talmud Class.....5:15 p.m.
Mincha.....6:00 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 21st
Kindle Shabbat candles.....5:49 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....5:55 p.m.

Saturday, October 22nd (VAYERA)
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:4
Daf Yomi.....4:2
Bible class.....4:50
Talmud Class.....5:05 p.m.
Mincha.....5:50 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....5:50 p.m.
Friday, October 28th
Kindle Shabbat candles.....5:40 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....5:45 p.m.

Saturday, October 29th (CHAYAI-SARA)
Shabbat Morning Service.....8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi.....4:10 p.m.
Bible Class.....4:40 p.m.
Talmud Class.....4:55 p.m
Mincha.....5:40 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....4:40 p.m. E.S.T.

Please remember to turn you clocks back 1 hour.
Maariv only Monday - Thursday.....6:20 p.m.

Friday, November 4th Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Morning Services.....7 & 7:40 a.m.
Kindle Shabbat candles.....4:31 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:35 p.m.

Saturday, November 5th (TOLDOT)
Daf Yomi.....8:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:45 p.m.
Mincha.....4:30 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....4:35 p.m.
Maariv only Monday - Thursday.....6:20 p.m.

Friday, November 11th- Veterans Day
Morning Services.....7:05 & 7:50 a.m.
Kindles Shabbat Candles.....4:24 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 12th (VAYETZE)
Daf Yomi.....8:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:40 p.m.
Mincha.....4:25 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv.....4:30 p.m.
Maariv only Monday - Wednesday.....6:20 p.m.

Friday, November 18th
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:18 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:20 p.m.

Saturday, November 19th (VAYISHLACH)
Daf Yomi.....8:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Services .....8:45 a.m.
Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:30 p.m.
Mincha.....4:15 p.m.
Daily Mincha & Maariv.....4:25 p.m.
Maariv only Monday - Wednesday.....6:20 p.m.

Thursday, November 24th Thanksgiving Day
Morning Services.....7:05 & 8:

Friday, November 25th
Kindle Shabbat Candles.....4:14 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:20 p.m.

Saturday, November 26th (VAYESHEV)
Daf Yomi.....8:00 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
Talmud and Bible Classes.....3:25 p.m.