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October 2008 | Issue 38

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FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

I have to tell you, I think this is a most amazing time of year. We are just into the new year, the highs of Rosh Hashanah, and the anticipation of ALL good things still fresh in our minds. With this solid foundation, we confidently venture out of our homes to dwell in the Sukkah for the duration of the next Jewish holiday, Sukkot, which begins the eve of October 13.

Sukkot is a remembrance of the forty years our ancestors journeyed in the desert prior to their entry into the land of Israel. The Devine protection the "clouds of glory" surrounded and hovered over them, protecting them from the dangers of the desert. So, we leave our homes to eat and dwell in the Sukkah, not only to commemorate the forty years but also as a reminder that we really shouldn't be too overconfident in our perceived security of our homes, and further yet, our own abilities to keep ourselves safe and secure. Granted, although the walls of our homes are far more secure than those of our Sukkah, we only have to look back a few weeks to the hurricanes that swept through the U.S to make us realize

the immense power of wind, the vulnerability of buildings, and more importantly how fragile lives really are. A stark reminder if you will - that our daily existence is very much dependent upon Devine protection. So we leave our homes and put our faith in Hashem that we will be protected from all elements and events. Nonetheless, may I suggest a good outdoor heater – we do live in Canada!

For those who have not built a Sukkah in the past, I cannot impress the benefits enough. Not only in terms of it being a beautiful mitzvah, and being far easier to put together than most people think, but the kids absolutely love it. In fact, our younger kids look forward to Sukkot all year, definitely a favorite. Invite family, friends and neighbors and enjoy all of the many benefits of this very powerful holiday. If you don't know how to build a Sukkah, check out the article on page 26. You will find out all you need to know on how to build a kosher Sukkah. Get building, and begin a tradition in your family which began over 3000 years ago. Chag Sameach! ☩

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**Advertising Submission Deadline for next issue:
October 17/08, 6 PM**

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Shabbos Candle Lighting Times

	Torah Portion	Light Candles	Shabbos Ends
October 4	Vayeilech	6:36 pm	7:35 pm
October 11	Ha'azinu	6:24 pm	7:23 pm
October 18	Sukkot	6:12 pm	7:12 pm
October 25	Breishit	6:01 pm	7:01 pm
November 1	Noach	5:51 pm	6:52 pm

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DEAR ESTHER

Dear Esther,

I read your last article with great interest. I can really connect personally with the mother that is so overwhelmed and feeling inadequate. I too feel that way sometimes and I am pained by my anxieties. I feel lonely with my difficulties and do not have the comfort of talking with other like-minded women. I have tried unsuccessfully to talk about my feelings with friends and people in my family, but this has left me feeling further sad and lonely. I wonder if my question is out of line, but could you please help me by connecting me to the mother that wrote to you in the last issue?

A mother who is not alone

Dear Mother,

Thank you very much for a lovely initiative. Please be assured that you are not alone in your reality. The letters in this column aim to address common issues and dilemmas of the readership. Many mothers share your feelings.

Although a difficulty may be shared, how one chooses to deal with it is quite unique. Some of us choose to reach out to others and share our pain and frustration. We know that sharing a common experience can improve coping and provide support and comfort. Others may choose other means dealing with these issues. I commend you for taking initiative and reaching out and strongly recommend that you continue on this path.

There are many groups for mothers in the community. Most of these groups, such as baby and me groups or early learning groups, have a

clear focus on children's activities rather than on mothering concerns. These groups provide opportunities for mothers to socialize with each other. I hope you can find such activity groups in your area. A short-term involvement with individual counseling may also be helpful.

As to your request, I cannot connect you with the specific writer mentioned as some letters arrive anonymous. Yet, your request may prove to be a catalyst to encourage me to assemble a support and learning group for mothers. It is an idea that I have tossed around for a while now. So this is a call for mothers who may be interested in developing an opportunity to meet in a group setting. Please feel free to call me to discuss this further.

Wishing you well. ☀



Esther Friedman M.S.W., R.S.W., Cert. Ed. Esther can be reached at 416-223-6440

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TORAH TALK

by Rabbi Yehudah Prero

a reality check

Sukkos is marked by a unique command to "live" in the Sukkah, a hut-like structure built outdoors. We eat our meals in the Sukkah, and many sleep in the Sukkah as well. The Sukkah is meant to be our dwelling place for the duration of the holiday.

Sukkos also marks a change in the mood of the holidays we have during Tishrei. After completing the High Holidays, holidays of solemnity, we have Sukkos, a holiday on which we are commanded to rejoice. The Chida, R' Chaim Yosef David Azulay writes that there is significance to the juxtaposition of the holidays. During Sukkos, we move to a temporary dwelling outdoors. The Chida says this move sends a message to us. We have just celebrated the holidays of Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. On these days, we have spoken about how spiritual matters should be primary in our lives. We have dedicated ourselves to serving G-d instead of our passions. We have asked forgiveness for our pursuit of earthly pleasures. The Sukkah highlights what we have just experienced. It reminds us that our life in this world is temporary, just as is our dwelling in the Sukkah. G-d is giving us a booster shot so that after the serious times have slipped away, the Sukkah reminds us still about our decision to pursue the spiritual. When we sit in the Sukkah, we are to strengthen our resolve to do that which is right, by reminding ourselves that our goal is to accomplish for life in the World To Come.

The Sukkah has further significance. The Torah writes (Devarim 16:13) "You shall observe the Feast of Sukkos seven days, after you have gathered in your grain and your wine." Why do we observe Sukkos at this harvest time? The Rashbam explains that the key to the answer is another reason the Torah gives for celebrating Sukkos (Vayikra 23:43): "That your generations may know that I made the people of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt." When we sit in the Sukkah, the Torah tells us, we should remember how G-d provided shelter for the nation of Israel for



40 years after they left Egypt. The nation had no land to call their own. They had to wander and be sheltered by G-d. When we harvest our crops, we may tend to lose sight of how lucky we are that G-d provided for us. The Torah warns us of this danger. It says (Devarim) Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, and lived there; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the L-rd your G-d, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery; who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, where were venomous serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought you water out of the rock of flint, who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers knew not, that he might humble you, and that he might test you, to do you good in the end, and you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth." To make sure that we do not come to the point of denying G-d's providence, we go out into the Sukkah. We remind ourselves that just as G-d provided for those who lived in the desert with Sukkos to live in, so too did He provide for us, as our harvest. It is time to take a step back and remember who really provides for us. So we not lose sight of the source of our livelihood, G-d gave us the holiday of Sukkos at the time when are most likely to be blinded: harvest time.

Lodging in the Sukkah is intended to assist us in clarifying our outlook on life. We remember that life on this world is temporary. We remember that we can't take it with us. We remember that what we have we got from G-d. The Sukkah is a sanctuary of spirituality. However, the Sukkah, as we know, is a temporary structure. We must make sure that the message the Sukkah imparts remains with us during the long winter months, so that the type of year we asked for on the High Holidays is the one we merit to live. \star

Courtesy of Torah.org.

"You shall dwell in booths for seven days" - *Vayikra 23:42*

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First night of Sukkot 5769 is Monday, October 13, 2008.



COMMUNITY CORNER

by Adrienne Gold

the comfort of community

This past summer my beloved father, Izzie Gold, Yitchak Meyer ben Nachman, passed away, leaving a hole in my heart that will never be filled, and a legacy of love and devotion to family that inspired everyone who knew him. During the course of the Shiva, hundreds of people from the community passed through the home of my wonderful eldest sister and her husband. While they are not frum, they have a daughter in Israel who most decidedly is, and so they have a better knowledge of 'how things work' than my other siblings. By the end of the week, my entire family had been blown away by some of the things that we may if not careful, take for granted. One sister joked that we needed an ever changing sign at the door showing the number of people who came to offer comfort and compassion. And while they knew ME, their love and attention extended to each of the mourners in that living room. What transpired over the Shiva week was more effective than a dozen outreach seminars, or well written books about Judaism.

What my family saw was a Kiddush Hashem (Sanctification of Hashems' name) in its truest form...and delivered to them by men and women who defied all stereotype and assumptions. The joke in our Shiva house was, "you could tell who was here for Adrienne by the hat/skirt/wig".

Although after a while, they couldn't tell what was a sheitl and what wasn't. They couldn't tell who was wearing a skirt because she had to, or who was just dressed for a summer's day. The giveaway was no longer the 'uniform,' instead it was the purposeful stride into the living room, the quiet sitting down and waiting for the appropriate moment, the words of wisdom and tenderness, the offers of food and drink, the delivery of meals, the clearing of tables, the warmth of hugs. Then there were the men who arrived early for minyon, clutching their coffees and their tallis bags, while most of the house still slept. They arrived in force with a loyalty and timeliness that brought me to tears. Jewish men of all levels of observance laying Tefillin, draped in their Tallisim, helping my brother say Kaddish and raising my father's Neshamah ever higher.

How fortunate we are to be Jews! How lucky to have a Torah that teaches us how to give comfort and strength to a mourner. How blessed we are to have a guide for living that is eternal, fool-proof, and magnificent.

On behalf of myself, my brother and sisters, and my beautiful, dignified mother who lived and role modeled 55 glorious years of marriage to my dad, we would like to thank each and every one of you for every single kindness. May we share only SIMCHAS!!

Adrienne Gold is a former television personality, hosted / appeared on scores of fashion/beauty programs. Popular teacher of Judaism for Aish HaTorah Village Shul. Adrienne can be reached at agold@aish.com

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YOUR LIFE COACH

by Carly Cooper

put the "ahhhhh" back in alone.

It's safe to say that life is busy. Between parenting, working or just plain surviving in this world, there always seems to be something to do. Whether you're a working mom or a full-time stay at home mom, you're being pulled in every direction. It's no wonder we have stretch marks! And the noise. Have you ever stopped to actually listen to all the sounds that surround you? We can't even quiet our minds when it's time for bed. The voices in our heads are too busy going over the day and planning for tomorrow. Calgon, take me away!

When you have a child, it's so easy to get lost in the role of "mom." You can lose your identity and forget the vibrant and ambitious person you once were. You're so busy giving and doing for others that you're too tired and worn out to do anything nice for yourself. It's time to take a long, hard look in the mirror and face what is staring back at you. Are you happy with what you look like? Are you proud of the person you've become? Are you taking care of your mind, body and spirit?

If you can't remember the last time you did something nice for yourself or had a moment alone, read on sister!

You need some peace and quiet to let your true self emerge. And that's not going to happen in this busy life unless you demand it. Here are 7 ways to get to know yourself again.

Schedule a play date with yourself. If you were granted an afternoon to yourself, what would you like to do most? Give yourself permission to get out of the house and away from it all.



Find a hobby that excites you. Why should your kids be the only ones who get to enjoy extra-curricular activities? Find a creative or physical activity that you enjoy and join a class at your local community center.

Become an early riser. Waking up before the family is a great stress-free way for you to get organized for the day, or to merely enjoy the calm before the storm.

Put up a do not disturb sign. Let your family know that you need alone time too. Schedule it in the master calendar, or put up a sign on your door. Teach your kids that when your door is shut, mommy is unavailable

Turn down the volume. Try to find some quiet time every day. Listen to the voices in your head and pay attention to what they are telling you. If you don't like what you're hearing, make a conscious effort to change.

Get spiritually connected. Spend time alone to reflect. Daily learning, prayer and being thankful for what you

have are amazing ways to bring peace into your life.

Teach yourself and your kids the benefits of being alone. We've been led to believe that if you are alone, it often means you have no friends. Lead by example, teach your kids that it's ok to do things on their own and to have interests that are different from their friends.

ACTION CHALLENGE:

Start spending some quality time by yourself everyday. Take this time to reflect and rediscover who you really are. You'll soon realize you've got a lot more to offer than you thought. ☃

Carly Cooper is a CTA, Certified Life Coach, also known as The Work/Life Balance Exper. She specializes in helping working moms who struggle with trying to do it all, find some balance so they can raise a happy family and have a successful career at the same time. To sign up for Carly's FREE Balance the Mother Load Newsletter or for more information about Carly and what coaching can do for you, visit her website at www.listenincoaching.com or email her at carly@listenincoaching.com

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1 tsp	olive oil
1	large onion, finely chopped
2	garlic cloves, minced
2	carrots, sliced
3	celery stalks, thinly sliced
1/2 cup	diced zucchini
1/2 cup	diced yellow squash
1 can	stewed tomatoes (19oz)
1/2 tsp	dried basil
1 tsp	dried oregano
1 tsp	dried thyme
4 tsp	instant soup mix, mixed with 4 cups hot water
2 cups	Boston lettuce, coarsely chopped
	Salt and pepper to taste

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic, sauté for 3 minutes. Add the carrots, celery, zucchini and squash, sauté for 6 minutes. Add the tomatoes, basil, oregano and thyme, cook for 1 minute. Add the instant soup mixture and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer uncovered for 20 minutes. Add the lettuce and cook for another 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

honey squash casserole

3	acorn squash
1/2 cup	bread crumbs
1/4 cup	finely chopped flat leaf parsley
1/4 tsp	ground nutmeg
1 tsp	cinnamon
1/2 tsp	salt
1/2 tsp	ginger (optional)
6 oz.	honey
3 tbsp	melted pareve margarine
1 tsp	grated lemon rind

Puncture squash in several places. Microwave in a very small amount of water on high for 10 minutes, or until tender. Cut squash in half. Scoop out seeds; scoop out squash and mash. Place in a lightly oiled casserole.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine bread crumbs, parsley, nutmeg, cinnamon, salt and ginger. Spread over squash. Top with honey, melted margarine and lemon rind. Bake for 20 minutes.



Recipes are courtesy of COR. COR is Canada's premier kosher certification, representing over 45,000 products and services. You can visit www.cor.ca for further information on COR and kashrut.

Answers to Brain Teasers found on page 24:

1. Each may be followed by HORSE to give a new word
2. Pas
3. Parental, paternal, prenatal
4. 79 - the digits of the preceding number are reversed, and the lowest digit omitted

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WORDS OF WISDOM

by Herman Rosenblat

a girl with an apple

This is a true story and you can find out more by Googling Herman Rosenblat, he was Bar Mitzvahed at age 75.

August 1942. Piotrkow, Poland.

The sky was gloomy that morning as we anxiously waited. All the men women and children of Piotrkow's Jewish ghetto had been herded into a square. Word had gotten around that we were being moved. My father had only recently died from typhus, which had run rampant through the crowded ghetto. My greatest fear was that our family would be separated. "Whatever you do" my eldest brother Isidore whispered to me, "don't tell them your age, say that you're sixteen," that way I might be deemed valuable as a worker. I was tall for a boy of eleven so I could pull it off. As an SS man approached me, boots clicking against the cobblestones, looking me up and down, he asked me my age. "Sixteen", I said. He directed me to the left, where my three brothers and other healthy young men already stood.

My mother was motioned to the right, with the other women, children, sick and elderly people. I whispered to Isidore, "Why?" He didn't answer. I ran to Mama's side and said "I wanted to stay with her." "NO", she said sternly. "Get away... don't be a nuisance....go with your brothers." She had never spoken so harshly before....but I understood, she was protecting me. She loved me so much that just this once she pretended not to. It was the last I ever saw of her.

My brothers and I were transported in a cattle car to Germany. We arrived at the Buchenwald concentration camp, led into a crowded barrack and the next day issued uniforms and identification numbers. "Don't call me Herman anymore," I said to my brothers, "call me 94983." I was put to work in the camp's crematorium, loading the dead into a hand-cranked elevator. I too felt dead, hardened, merely a number.

Soon after, my brothers and I were sent to Schlieben, one of Buchenwald's sub-camps near Berlin. One morning, I thought I heard my mother's voice. "Son", she said softly but clearly, "I am going to send you an angel." Then I woke up....just a dream, what a beautiful dream! But

in this place there could be no angels, only work, hunger and fear.

A couple of days later, I was walking around the camp, around the barracks, near the barbed-wire fence where the guards could not easily see. I was alone. On the other side of the fence, I spotted someone, a little girl with light, almost luminous curls. She was half-hidden behind a birch tree. Glancing around making sure that no one could see me, I called to her softly in German. "Do you have something to eat?" She didn't understand. I cautiously inched closer to the fence, and repeated the question in Polish. She stepped forward. I was thin and gaunt, with rags wrapped around my feet, but the girl looked unafraid. In her eyes, I saw life. She pulled an apple from her woolen jacket and threw it over the fence. As I grabbed the fruit and started to run away I heard her say faintly, "I'll see you tomorrow." I returned to the same spot by the fence, the same time every day. She was always there, giving me something to eat - a hunk of bread or better yet an apple. We didn't dare speak or linger, to be caught would mean death for us both. I didn't know anything about her, just a kind farm girl that understood Polish. What was her name? Why was she risking her life for me? I can tell you that hope was in very short supply. Yet this girl on the other side of the fence provided me hope, which in its own way was as nourishing as the bread and apples.

Nearly seven months later my brothers and I were crammed into a coal car and shipped to Theresienstadt camp in Czechoslovakia. "Don't return," I told the girl that day, "we're leaving." I turned toward the barracks and didn't look back. Not even to say goodbye to the little girl whose name I'd never learned...the girl with the apples.

We were in Theresienstadt for three months. The war was winding down and Allied forces were closing in, yet my fate seemed sealed. On May 10, 1945, I was scheduled to die in the gas chamber at 10:00 AM. In the quiet of dawn, I tried to prepare myself. So many times death seemed ready to claim me, but somehow I'd survived. Now, it was over. My thoughts were towards my parents and that we will be reunited.

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WORDS OF WISDOM

by Herman Rosenblat

At 8 A.M. there was a commotion in the camp. I heard shouting and saw people running every which way. I caught up with my brothers...the Russian troops had liberated the camp! As the gates swung open, everyone ran out, I followed. Amazingly all of my brothers had survived. I'm not sure how, but I knew that the girl with the apples had been the key to my survival. In a place where evil seemed triumphant, one person's goodness had saved my life. It had given me hope in a place where there was none. My mother had promised to send me an angel.... the angel had come.

Eventually I made my way to England where I was sponsored by a Jewish charity. I was put up in a hostel with other boys who had survived the Holocaust. In Britain, I trained in electronics before leaving for the U.S. where I reunited with my brother Sam. I served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War, and after two years returned to New York City.

By August 1957 I'd opened my own electronics repair shop. I was starting to settle in, when I get a call from my friend Sid who I knew from England. Sid says "I've got a date and she has a Polish friend, let's double date." A blind date.... nah, that wasn't for me, but Sid kept pestering me, until I gave in. We headed up to the Bronx to pick up his date and her friend Roma. I had to admit, for a blind date this wasn't so bad. Roma was a nurse at a Bronx hospital. She was kind, intelligent and beautiful too. She had swirling brown curls and green, almond-shaped eyes...sparkling with life. The four of us drove out to Coney Island. It was nice, Roma was really easy to be with and to talk to. It turns out that I wasn't the only one wary of blind dates. We were both doing our friends a favor. We took a stroll on the boardwalk, enjoying the salty Atlantic breeze, and had dinner by the shore. I couldn't remember having a better time.

As European Jews who had survived the war, we were aware that much had been left unsaid

between us. Yet Roma decided to broach the subject. "Where were you during the war," she asked softly? "The camps," I said - the horrific memories still vivid, the irreparable loss, I had tried to forget, but you can never forget. She nodded. "My family was hiding on a farm in Germany, not far from Berlin," she told me. "My father knew a priest, and he got us Aryan papers." I imagined how she must have also suffered, fear being a constant companion. And yet here we were, both being survivors in a new world. "There was

a camp next to the farm," Roma continued. "I saw a boy there...and I would throw him apples every day." What an amazing

coincidence that she had helped some other boy. "What did he look like?" I asked. "He was tall, skinny, and hungry, I must have seen him every day for six months." My heart was racing....I couldn't believe it, this couldn't be! "Did he tell you one day not to come back because he was leaving Schlieben?" Roma looked at me in amazement. "YES!" "That was me!" I was ready to burst with joy and awe, I was flooded with emotions. I couldn't believe it....my angel! "I'm not letting you go." I said to Roma. And on that blind date, I proposed to her. I didn't want to wait. "You're crazy!" she said. Nonetheless she invited me to meet her parents for Shabbat dinner the following week. There was so much I looked forward to learning about Roma, but the most important things I always knew, her steadfastness, her goodness. For many months, in the worst of circumstances, she had come to the fence and given me hope. Now that I'd found her again, I could never let her go.

That day, she said "yes," and I have kept my word. After nearly 50 years of marriage, two children and three grandchildren, I have never let her go.

This story is being made into a movie called The Fence. *





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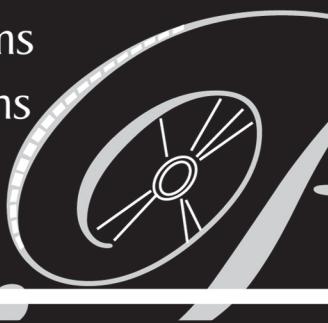
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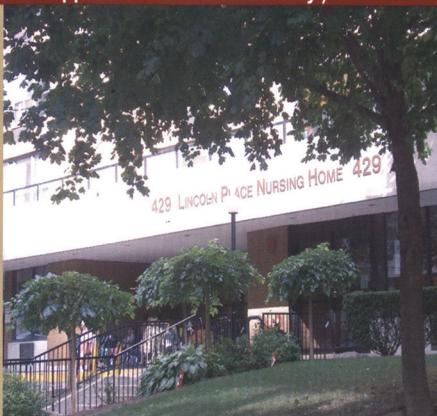
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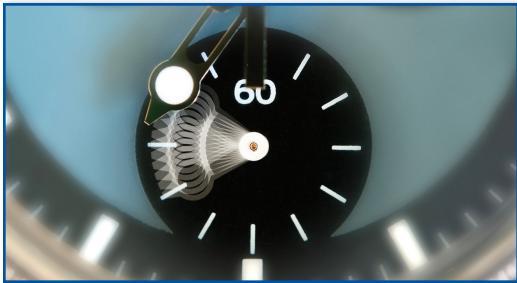
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just do it!...or...maybe not?

We live in a crazy world. We work fast. We talk fast. We eat fast. We drive fast. But do we accomplish more? Do we live more? Well, we may live longer, except that our lives are zipping by at such high speed that we don't have time to notice it or enjoy it. A healthy work-life balance is but a fleeting dream.



We suffer from information and interruption overload. We suffocate in email. We get lost in paper piles. Our to-do lists are growing in length by the minute. Technology was supposed to increase our productivity and increase our leisure time. By all accounts, it is to the contrary.

Of course, it's not necessarily that technology is at fault. Our problems, more often than not, are self-inflicted. We allow technology (email, voicemail, pagers, Blackberries) to interrupt us at will, reducing our ability to focus and stay on target. Everywhere you look there is waste, mistakes and delays. Getting it done, or done right the first time? Nearly never. The results are painful: stress, frustration, anxiety and burn-out.

Did you hear the quip? Just do it! Sounds positive and witty doesn't it? Just do it! Never mind trying to understand what needs to be done. Stop and think? Who has the time? My email is dinging, my voicemail light is blinking and my cell phone is ringing. React! And react fast. Just do it! Or...perhaps...not!

Is there a way out? Is there a better way of dealing with the accelerated pace of life (really, craziness) and the rush? Is there a way to be truly effective, more productive and still keeping our sanity?

Alex Revai, is a professional organizer, helping businesses improve profit, productivity and peace-of-mind. Alex is an exceptional problem solver and a passionate mentor. He offers hands-on support, as well as workshops and seminars.
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Following are some tips. Not instant solutions, not quick fixes, not for overnight changes, merely best practices that you can adopt over time in order to slow down, become more focused and more in control of your time and activities.

- Search every conceivable place, where you collect to-do items, including your head, too.
- Write everything down in one place. If you use MS Outlook, the place is the Task Pad. Otherwise, use a suitable day-timer with task (to-do) pages; prioritize all your tasks. (A-B-C or High- Normal- Low)
- Now, consider this: If a to-do item is not in your calendar, there is an 80 % chance it won't get done. From going to-do to done, you must have a calendar.
- Plan for tomorrow, tonight: move/write all your desired activities in the calendar. Not because it would be nice to do them, but because you have every intention to do them.
- Estimate (realistically) the time period for each task. Mark/block your calendar accordingly. Once you planned it, let your calendar (with your goals and priorities) drive your day. Not the interruptions.
- Remember: interruptions occur to the extent you allow them to occur. Learn to say no, (or block your calendar) when you have to or need to. Just because technology is so fast, it doesn't mean we have to work at that speed.
- Process your email (paper mail and voicemail) only at specific times during the day. Opening an email and closing it back again is not an option...without making a decision what do with it. **Delete** it. **Do** it, but only if it takes less than 2 minutes. **Defer** it to your TaskPad or your Calendar. **Delegate** it.
- Slow down in order to speed up. Stop and think! Even if it sounds unthinkable. Haste makes waste.

Don't forget to breathe! Chew your food, talk slower, work slower. ☺

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		1		4	7		2	
		7		9	6			
4		6						
5	7					3	8	
					2		1	
		7	8		4			
8		5	6		3			
						8	6	

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9	8	5	2	6	7	3	4	1
7	3	6	1	4	5	9	2	8
1	4	2	9	8	3	7	6	5
5	6	7	3	2	1	8	9	4
8	1	9	6	5	4	2	3	7
3	2	4	7	9	8	5	1	6
4	9	1	5	7	2	6	8	3
2	7	8	4	3	6	1	5	9
6	5	3	8	1	9	4	7	2

brain teasers

1

What do the following words have in common?

WORK HOBBY WAR SEA RACE

2

What three letters can be placed in front of each of these words to form a new word?

SPORT SWORD SAGE SABLE TIME

3

Rearrange the following letters in three different ways to give three different 8-letter words.

A A E L N P R T

4

What number should come next in this series?

479126 62974 4796 697 ?

answers on page 14

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building a "kosher" Sukkah

A) MADE FOR THE MITZVAH:

A Sukkah must be built anew every year for the purpose of the mitzvah. This requirement, however, applies primarily to the sechach (the roof covering of branches or bamboo), since it is the sechach that makes the Sukkah a Sukkah. Thus, one can leave the walls standing all year, and place the roof covering before the festival. Also, if the Sukkah has been up all year, one can lift up and replace the sechach, which allows the Sukkah to be considered as new.

B) ORDER OF CONSTRUCTION:

One must first erect the walls and only then place the sechach covering. If the sechach is put up before there are "kosher" walls in place, the Sukkah is invalid, until the sechach is removed and re-applied.

C) THE WALLS:

How many walls? A Sukkah must have at least two full walls plus part of a third wall (the "part" needs to be a minimum of 3.2 inches wide). It is preferable, however, that the Sukkah have four complete walls.

What the walls are made of? The walls of the Sukkah can be made of any material, but they must be sturdy enough so that they do not move in a normal wind. One can use pre-existing walls, such as the walls of a garage or one's house, as one or more of the walls. An existing structure that is roofless or has a removable roof can also be made into a Sukkah by covering it with proper sechach (see below).

Size and dimensions. The walls must be at least 32-inches high, and the entire structure (i.e., the distance of the roof-covering from the ground) may not be higher than 30 feet. In length and breadth, a Sukkah cannot be smaller than 22.4 inches by 22.4 inches (large enough to hold a person's head and torso, and a small table). There is no size limit in how large a Sukkah may be.

Gaps in the walls? It is best that a Sukkah have four solid walls (aside from the doorways and windows). However, under certain conditions, incomplete walls will qualify, as follows:

a) If there is a gap between the bottom of the walls and the ground, the bottom of the walls must be less than 9.6 inches from the ground.

b) If the walls are 32 inches high, the roof may be higher (up to the maximum height of 30 feet off the ground), as long as the walls are beneath the roof.

c) There may be gaps of empty space in the walls, as long as these are less than 9.6 inches wide. (Thus a fence made of upright or horizontal slats can be used, as long as the spaces between the slats are less than 9.6 inches inches.)

D) THE SECHACH (ROOF COVERING):

What can be used as sechach? The Sukkah should be covered with sechach, a roof covering of raw, unfinished vegetable matter. Common Sukkah roof-coverings are: bamboo poles, evergreen branches, reeds, corn stalks, narrow strips (1x1 or 1x2) of unfinished lumber, or special sechach mats (see below).



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Mats made of bamboo, straw or other vegetable matter can be used only if they were made for the purpose or serving as a roof covering (e.g. not for sitting, sleeping or any other use).

An important requirement is that the sechach be severed from source of growth--thus a live trellis, or branches still attached to the tree, cannot serve as roof covering for a Sukkah.

How much sechach? There must be sufficient sechach to provide enough shade so that on a bright midday there is more shade than sun seen on the floor of the Sukkah.

The sechach has to be spread out evenly over the entire Sukkah so that there should not be any spaces more than 9.6 inches apart.

Supporting the sechach. Anything that is directly supporting the sechach should not be made out of materials that are not fit to be used as sechach. Thus, if the sechach is resting directly on the Sukkah walls and the walls are not made out of wood, strips of wood should be placed between the Sukkah walls and the sechach. In larger sukkahs where a framework of beams is needed to hold up the sechach, wood or bamboo poles should be used, not metal. Nor may the sechach be tied on with wire or fastened with any metal object. ✡

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Mystic Drumz is Canada's leading provider of children's world music education, performing at hundreds of schools, camps and daycares for the past 12 years. Mystic Drumz provides music 'Edge-ucation' (Education with an Edge) - teaching children about multicultural music and sounds from around the globe through creative interaction and audience engagement. Mystic Drumz feature presentations targets children ages 3 to 11, parents and music lovers of all ages. For additional information, please visit www.mysticdrumz.com or call 416-638-5949.

in a compelling, fun and educational way." Mystic Drumz is also promoting 'Music Eco-cation', which teaches children about the importance of the preservation of animals and the environment they live in through music.

The Legend of Marshmallow Island will be playing at The City Playhouse, located at 1000 New Westminster Drive (part of the Benjamin Vaughan Complex) in the city of Vaughan, on Sunday, October 19, 2008. The 11:00 am showing is presented by the Aliyah Chapter, CHW, in support of One Campaign. The 1:30 showing is in support of SickKids Foundation. Tickets are \$12.50/person. A family of four can purchase a package of tickets at the discounted price of \$40. Order tickets by phone at 905-882-7469 or in person at the City Playhouse starting September 1, 2008. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the SickKids Foundation in support of pediatric research. *

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MASTERPIECES OF THE MONTH

favorite holiday



Marya N, Age 6



Nechama I, Age 5



Ethan G, Age 5

We will choose 3 drawings to be published in our next issue.

The theme of the artwork: Draw a picture of your family

Artwork is due: October 17, 2008. Contest is open to children ages 12 & under. Winner is entitled to a surprise gift from JTO! (No pencil drawings please, they don't reproduce well) Make sure to include child's name & age and phone number. Send drawings to: JTO Monthly, P.O Box 30038, RPO New Westminster, Vaughan, ON L4J 0C6

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