

Crossroads

A new perspective

In reference to "Crossroads"

Dear Editor:

Thanks for a great magazine and for the superb serial "Crossroads." I am enjoying it immensely. I never understood the concept of house arrest until we were all quarantined.

Although the story is fictional, kudos to Shalom for not going crazy being so cooped up. I really admire his strength of character. And although I must admit I don't have much sympathy for Chava, I am beginning to feel sorry for her, confined to a tiny apartment and feeling miserable. I guess we should never judge other people until we stand in their shoes.

Leah S.

Kids on Cortisone

...and coronavirus

In reference to "Clean Bill," Issue 460

Dear Editor:

This week you ran an interview with Dr. Susan Shulman, who said that children don't need to be afraid about the coronavirus, except those who are on cortisone or chemotherapy.

I have two children who take Seretide,

an inhaler with cortisone, for their asthma. My question is whether I should stop it now and risk the possibility that they may have an asthma attack, *chas v'shalom*, or continue giving it to them. Is there something I can give them instead that doesn't have cortisone? I asked my pediatrician, and he told me to stop reading information online and continue giving my children the Seretide.

I would really appreciate it if you can ask Dr. Shulman this question on my behalf, or put me in touch with someone I can ask.

Malky E.

I agree with your doctor that the inhaled steroids are not a problem, only the systemic steroids in more seriously ill patients.

Dr. Susan Shulman

Preventing Intermarriage

It takes more than Jewish pride

In reference to Feature, Issue 459

Dear Editor:

Thank you for a great magazine, filled with interesting and inspiring material every week.

I would like to comment on the article about the women trying to eliminate intermarriage among their children. With

all due respect to this special endeavor, does she realize her mission will probably fail? Even if children have Jewish pride or nice *Shabbosim*, why would that keep them from intermarrying? (Never mind the question of how they can really have Jewish pride if they barely know what it means to be Jewish.)

One of the people she taught had a daughter whose boyfriend did not mind nice family meals. That's about a meal, not about the Torah. The Torah consists of much more than that. If these children are married to Jews, that's great; but if they live like non-Jews, does she still think her grandmother would be proud? How much happier would her grandmother be up in the world of truth if her descendants embraced all of Hashem's Torah?

Last but not least, if the children see the parents pick and choose which *mitzvos* to keep, why shouldn't they do the same and disregard the imperative to marry someone Jewish?

Rivkie N.
Jerusalem

A Close Call

A mother in pain

In reference to Feature, Issue 457

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the article "A Close Call." I felt I had to respond, as we have also been alienated from two of our



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adult children for several years. Mostly they are alienated from me, their mother.

I know I made mistakes. I was told to be the bigger person, to "take the high road" and *apologize for my wrongdoings*—some true, some perceived, and some that were blown out of proportion or were not true at all.

I apologized for things I knew I did wrong. I apologized for things they claimed I did wrong but that I was not aware of. I would have been happy to be given the chance to prove otherwise, but whatever it was, they have not forgiven me for anything. I apologized just for the sake of apologizing, hoping it would help. It didn't help.

My husband and I grew up in the post-Holocaust generation. We were both lucky enough to have grandparents, which was unusual then. As with many in our generation, my parents spoke to my grandparents every day, sometimes several times. We did the same thing, calling our parents usually every day, sometimes several times daily, as well.

I wish my children would stop focusing on the ten percent of my "bad" parenting and perhaps focus on the 90 percent that was good.

I spoke to Rav Gissinger, *zt"l*, about this, but now that he is unfortunately no longer here, I speak to Rebbetzin Gissinger, who cries with me about my pain and anguish. Rebbetzin Gissinger wishes she could help,

but she is powerless to do anything, so we cry together and she tries to give me *chizzuk* to go on. The pain is so acute that it's nearly impossible to bear, and every day is a painful struggle to survive.

P. M.

Gluten-Free

...all year long

Dear Editor:

When my son was diagnosed with celiac disease last winter, I was overcome with confusion and fear. I knew that celiac disease is an autoimmune condition in which the body attacks gluten, thereby damaging the gut. The only cure is a gluten-free diet that people must adhere to scrupulously. A whole new world opened up for me, and I learned how to balance my son's needs with the needs of the rest of my family.

When Pesach came, my son was thrilled at the variety of products out there. Almost everything in the store was okay for him! It was bliss for me, as well; checking labels was largely unnecessary, and except for the matzah, I didn't have to worry about cross-contamination. We were just like everybody else!

After Pesach, I wondered about other

people's Pesach products. There had to be many people with extras sitting in their pantries that would not be eaten. I knew they wouldn't be touched because *the universal rule in every frum family is that when Pesach is over, all the cakes and cookies lose their status and go from delicious to bleh.*

Then I heard about a woman who opened up a post-Pesach *gemach* so that people could get rid of their unopened packages of food, spreading happiness and relief to gluten-free families at the same time. All types of unopened foods are included—cookies, cakes, potato starch, potato chips, macaroons, frozen kugels, Pesach rolls and pizza.

The idea is so simple, but it can be a great help to families who often have more than one member with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity. You can email Gemachglutenfree@gmail.com and arrange for a pick-up! One caveat—*gebrochts* is off limits to those on a gluten-free diet since it is 100 percent gluten.

We thank you in advance, and our kids thank you, too!

S. M.

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