



LETTERS

Our cover story "A Close Call" opened a floodgate of letters that expose the raw pain experienced by those who are suffering because their children have cut off from them. While each saga has its own history and reasons for happening, the pain is universally searing. Unfortunately, there is no magic wand to solve this problem, but perhaps by continuing to cast a light upon this tragedy, those who can will work to end this crisis.

**A Close Call**

Addiction to therapy  
In reference to Cover Feature, Issue 457

Dear Editor:

What an outstanding job you did on "A Close Call"! I just finished reading the article for the second time. In addition to being a most informative article, I also want to give you credit for covering so many different angles that contribute to the trauma of alienation. You tackled the root of the problem. There was a tremendous need for this, because parents are losing their minds from the shocking events affecting their lives.

You clearly portrayed alienation as resulting from two powerful factors: a false sense of empowerment as well as the addiction factor. Tragically, these two components form a hard core "I know better" personality in the child. It gives them the power to see themselves above their own parents as well as a feeling of being privileged, entitled, and, at the same time, de-

prived. These children are essentially flying high, similar to the way addicts feel when they are on drugs. You expressed this so clearly by mentioning how the protagonist in the story felt her therapist empowered her and left her feeling dependent on him.

I also want to thank you for mentioning some powerful pointers. One of your messages in the article is the power of control that therapists have over our children. Our parents will be happy to realize that damage can be done to the relationship to the total exclusion of any of their actions. I also love the line where you write, "which parent hasn't sometimes crossed a boundary?" Yet, sadly, our parents walk around on eggshells with their children, fearing their every move. Another important line was "my first therapist made me believe I wasn't loved."

Hundreds of parents are unfortunately dealing with the painful reality of children claiming they weren't loved. I hope when parents read this they will be able to step back from their intense suffering and realize that other powers are at play. I further hope that their love for their children will be ignited in a form of understanding and that they will realize that their child is now under the spell of a third party and not in control of their own behavior. I can only pray that each and every alienated child will read this brilliant article and realize that they have loving parents waiting for them back home with open arms! Thank you again.

G.W.  
Director, Broken Ties

## An Alienated Daughter

...in pain

In reference to "Letters," Issue 459

Dear Editor:

I read the letter written by G.W., the director of Broken Ties. It's hard for me to imagine a child who would choose to break off ties from "loving parents waiting for them with open arms." Children naturally yearn for their parents' love and affection. A mother who has good intentions and invests in a relationship with her child will usually get through to that child. Love is a language that speaks to every human's heart.

A mother has to be committed to her child from when she gives birth. The relationship starts with the first night of sleep you lose to calm your baby's cry. Motherhood takes a lot of giving. Sometimes we feel we are running on empty. Sometimes we mess up because we are tired or overwhelmed. Being a parent is never about getting it right all the time. It's about trying again and again to understand how you can be there and give while staying whole. It's about presence. Being there. Constantly. Waving to your child when he reaches the top of the monkey bar. Pouring drinks and wiping the spills. Mostly it is about your intentions. Are you trying to give and grow as a parent and as a person? You may not always have the energy to give, but the fact that you want to give will many times help a child feel reassured and

secure in your love. There may be people out there who analyze their parents' actions and reactions and dig up old hurts and blame their parents for their lack of happiness. What happens, though, when a mother has no interest in investing?

I wonder if anyone realizes what goes on in the mind of a ten-year-old who analyzes her parents' actions and reactions, searching for a clue that her parents possibly may have any loving feelings towards her? The girl who is pushed to the side and mocked in front of her friends. The girl who walks into the family room desperate for some attention from her mother who only responds with an annoyed look and a shoo of the hand. I am not talking about the mother who is human and exhausted and is caught in a bad moment. I am talking about the girl who is bullied all her life by the woman who gave birth to her. No one understands her pain. Her mother is charismatic and sooooo nice to everyone. She goes out of her way to be kind to others. Only to others. Everyone sees her put her best front forward. Everyone besides the people who live under her roof. Not everyone has "loving parents waiting for them with open arms." I can't see why anyone who even thinks she may have been loved would cut off ties from her parents.



Of course there will be a shift in the dynamic once she gets married and starts a family of her own.

Every child wants to belong. To be loved and acknowledged. Not everyone has that privilege.

*A. M.*

## Rebbetzin Twerski

*Highlight of the week*

In reference to "The Rebbetzin Speaks"

Dear Editor:

I would respectfully request that you forward this to Rebbetzin Twerski if possible.

I just want to tell you, Rebbetzin, that you brighten my week each Friday night or Shabbos that I read your column. You always have something very sweet to say, a story about one of your children or *einiklach*. It is always very amusing and thought-provoking, as well. I look forward to your column each week with great enthusiasm. I regret that I don't live close enough to actually ever meet you in person. I am in New York and, though it

is highly unlikely that I will ever travel to Milwaukee, I relish your words and perspective each week.

May Hashem give you and Rav Twerski many years of good health and happiness, *Yiddishe nachas* from all of your children and *einiklach*, and may you continue to write and inspire us all with your wonderful contribution to *AmiLiving* magazine.

All the best and stay healthy and safe.

*Malky Green  
Far Rockaway, New York*

## Gestational Thrombocytopenia

*A reader responds*

In reference to "Letters," Issue 460

Dear Editor:

I'd like to respond to the reader asking for help with Gestational Thrombocytopenia. I also have this issue and found that wheat grass, in powdered form mixed in water, was very helpful. I used the brand called Pines.

Also, please be aware that the numbers are really higher than what they read,

because your blood is less concentrated during pregnancy. So you're better off than you think.

I heard that papaya is also helpful but never tried it myself.

*Hatzlachah,*

*N. W.*

## Working on Marriage

*Therapy instead of divorce*

In reference to "My Take," Issue 460

Dear Editor:

I so strongly look up at this lady for making her marriage work! Hashem will repay you!

*A. N.*

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