

Shunned

A refreshing outcome

In reference to "Truth or Consequences,"
Issue 419

Dear Editor:

I was pleasantly surprised with the way the protagonist handled her pain as she witnessed her sisters-in-law celebrating a party at a restaurant—a gathering she was not invited to. Instead of keeping the pain within for fear of creating waves, bad feelings or showing disrespect, which is the usual modus operandi in many such stories, she gathered her courage and spoke her mind. She told the siblings that she was hurt about not being invited to the gathering and that she knew that this wasn't the first time.

I wanted to give this woman a standing ovation for speaking the truth and telling it like it is. Quite frankly, it really doesn't matter how the recipients reacted—whether they felt shocked, embarrassed or guilty—what mattered was that the conspiracy of silence was finally broken, and real feelings oozed out and were made known to others, regardless of the consequences.

Ms. Protagonist, I have some advice for you: Please do not feel worse; on the contrary, feel liberated. Whether anything will change as far as your family's acceptance regarding future events doesn't matter.

What matters is your gumption and candor.

I hope *Ami* will continue portraying honest interchanges among characters whether fictional or otherwise. By doing so, emotional health finally becomes the priority it rightfully deserves to be.

Chana Schoenberg
Ramat Bet Shemesh

Don't Forget About Me

A free organization

In reference to "Feature," Issue 419

Dear Editor:

Thanks for a great magazine. I especially enjoyed the article about people donating money to help singles find their *zivug*. I just want to raise awareness of another organization that does the same for *chasidish* singles. *Lusheves*, located in Monsey but networking with *shadchanim* and *shadchanios* worldwide, charges no fee, relies strictly on volunteers and donations (to cover the rent of the office and utilities) and is here to help every single person regardless of circumstance. No money is asked for or accepted from singles or their family members unless a *shidduch* is completed, and then a donation is appreciated but not requested.

Résumés can be submitted on their website, lusheves.org.

A.N.

Support Group

For grandparent alienation

In reference to "Feature," Issue 414

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the article on grandparental/parental alienation and for bringing their support group to my attention. Last night I attended my first meeting. When I walked into the group, I truly thought I would not be able to survive another day. So great was my loneliness and pain.

Yet, here were other warm, loving and devoted parents who like me lost their relationships with their children/grandchildren. They painfully relayed how the tactics of a manipulative individual wrought havoc on their lives. Through tears they shared how their personal histories were rewritten, how they were held accountable for actions they were not responsible for, how their longing for their children was negated in favor of "the best interests of the child," and how therapists don't understand the principles of gaslighting (a deceptive tactic used to render the targeted person powerless).



Summer is
in the air

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We were also privileged to hear from well-known forensic psychologist Dr. Abe Worenklein, who guided us with his extensive knowledge on the challenges of parental/grandparental alienation. In response to questions on what we can do to reconnect with our alienated children he strongly urged us to work on the education of the community to gain strength and understanding for this debilitating *nisayon*.

Thank you *Ami* and Dr. Worenklein for helping us fill this gap!

I may still have gone home with the same sadness I brought with me, but my shoulders felt lighter as I commiserated within the group. Thank you to our program director for bringing us together.

A Grieving Mother/Grandmother

Give an Answer
There is another side waiting
 In reference to "Feature," Issue 419

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for an outstanding publication. I really look forward to

reading *Ami Magazine* from cover to cover every Shabbos.

This is the first time I've ever written to a publication. I just felt that I wanted to point out something that bothered me when I read about it. The Adopt-a-Shidduch article mentioned the problem with résumés and how *shidduchim* are handled. I cannot agree more about the fact that parents (*Litvish* and *chasidish* alike) who are checking out girls for their sons can sometimes be a little inconsiderate to the single girls awaiting their *bashert*. Although no one would be expected to go ahead with a *shidduch* before doing research to find out whether she is indeed a match for their son, the boy's parents have to know that there is another side waiting for an answer, and the girls usually know when they are being checked out. I'm humbly suggesting that people take the other side into consideration and move along with the names that have been suggested as quickly as possible.

May we be *zocheh* to many *simchos* in *klal Yisrael b'karov*!

Thanks again for a fantastic publication and keep up the unbelievable work that you do.

Name Withheld

Searching for a Support Group
For women married to ASD men

Dear Editor:

Thank you for enlivening my Shabbos for so many years; we are big fans of yours.

There has recently been some discussion about parents or children of those with ASD along with mention of support groups. Has anyone mentioned online support groups for women married to ASD men? After 40 years the penny has finally dropped, and I've come to realize that this is the explanation for the weird behavior and my loneliness.

If anything does exist I would greatly appreciate hearing any details that you can share. Please contact me through *Ami Magazine*.

M.B.

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