

Letters



Epidemic of Alienation

Inbox / Issue 670

As the director of Broken Ties, a support group for parents of alienated children and grandchildren, I was extremely pleased to see your letter to the editor, "Cut Off Too Soon." It was gratifying to see a publication of your caliber referencing the current epidemic of loving parents who are alienated from their children.

The writer wisely mentioned that many children claim "*daas Torah*" as a source for their rejection of their parents. In our group, others have mentioned guidance from therapists, mentors, and educators with similar tragic results.

As the writer mentions, it is imperative that those who deal with fragile relationships in our community become aware of the significance of hearing both sides of the story. What few people realize, and more so what our children appear oblivious to, is the crushing devastation parents experience when their children cut off ties.

A simple glance at the chat messages of our support group depicts the harrowing pain of parents as they try to hold on to hope in the face of continuous anguish. We need to remember that these parents sacrificed an entire lifetime to bring these children to a productive adulthood. It is these precious *kinderlach* who have now rejected their parents. Their pain is huge! Some of these stories can be seen at the website parentalalienation613.com.

If you too are experiencing alienation, we would appreciate your signing up with Broken Ties by calling 518-941-6316 or by e-mailing brokenties3@gmail.com. As we grow in numbers and our stories continue to reflect a typical pattern, we feel confident we will have the tools to bring an end to the tragedy of alienation.

Thank you for covering this important topic.

G. W.

Director, Broken Ties

PSA to End the Calls

Lifetakes: Just My Luck / Issue 670

I really enjoyed Raizy Sprung's Lifetakes, and laughed aloud many times as I was reading about the various prizes her kids come home with. I have a *very important* PSA regarding the *very annoying* robocalls she mentioned. They are *super specially* annoying when they scream into the phone, but you can press 9 to remove your number from the call list. (Of course, they'll just call you from another number, but think of it as one down, 59,999,999 more to go.)

Adina Lover

When You're in My Shoes

Musings: Timeless / Issue 669

Sarah Moses Spero is a genius of a writer — capturing, in fine words, captivating ideas, and humorous truths, and some sobering concepts. While I suspect that she is a bit older than I, her brilliant insights already ring true.

To "lend an ear and hold a tongue."

"This coming of age has taught me that though children are the center of our lives, we're not the center of theirs."

"The only ones who really care what we're wearing are the other grandmothers."

And then, to ward off an oncoming bout of depression, we get, "Some are lucky enough to be young at any age by staying young at heart."

So sad that it is only when we reach the stage of life of those before us that we can truly understand and appreciate them. Oh, do I wish I could tell my mother-in-law that now I understand why she was always asking to turn off the AC and that wow, it

must have been so hard to schlep my children around the zoo on Chol Hamoed. If we could only impress upon the young generation, without scaring them, that *one day they will be in our shoes* and will think, say, and act very similarly to how we are now.

Mrs. Spero, keep those articles coming!

Name Withheld So No One

Will Classify Me as an Old Lady

On Auras

The Migraine Experiment / Issue 669

I enjoyed your recent feature on preventing and treating migraines, but I was left wondering if what I suffer from is so uncommon, since it was not mentioned in the article at all. I suffer from monthly aura migraines, which begin with strange and disconcerting dizziness, perceived images and sounds, and weakness.

This can last a few minutes. Does anyone else out there identify with me? Any help for dealing with aura migraines?

In Pain

Simchah Turned to Mourning

Words Unspoken / Issue 669

Dear Mother of the Boy,

I read with great interest your letter to your well-meaning neighbor/friend/shadchan who is upset you're not listening to shidduchim for your son who is actually in therapy to deal with his emotional baggage.

You see, I am the mother of the girl who met, connected with, and married a boy like your son — a boy who's walking around with a boatload of emotional baggage. In his case, it's a result of his very dysfunctional past. He is young,