



Frazzled No More

Thanks to Shulamis

In reference to "From Frazzled to Neat Freak"

Dear Editor:

Right now I'm creating yet another label, naming it "Purim" and placing the temporary hair dye and Purim makeup in it, and I owe it to *Ami* and Shulamis Weil. I'd like to say thank you, thank you, and thank you! A year ago I could have taken a photo of every single closet in my house and sent them in for your current project to get them organized. Now I can flaunt each of them, thanks to you and your fantastic organizing articles!

A fan,
Hindy Ausch



Skeptical Shana Inspires the Brodys

In reference to "From Frazzled to Neat Freak"

Dear Editor:

"Skeptical Shana" is a household name at the home of the "Baffled Brodys." Thanks for the inspiration!

The Brody Family

Alienating Parents

A child speaks up

In reference to Feature, Issue 457

Dear Editor:

This is a message to the world: Don't stick your nose in other people's lives unless they ask you to.

I am currently being harassed for cutting off my parents. The calls, the visits, the hints—it's all totally unacceptable! True, *Ami* put out an important article. Yes, this is a very sad phenomenon. There are countless loving parents who are cut off from their children and grandchildren and shouldn't be. But this is not the case with everyone!

There are actually people out there who *must* sever ties for their own safety. Their parents may look like loving, normal, healthy parents on the outside, but you don't know what went on in their homes when they were growing up. I am crying as I write this. Stop harassing us! It is none of your business!

It was hard enough for us to cut off our parents and hurt them like this; don't

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make us doubt ourselves! We have *rabbanim*, professionals, and our own hearts on our sides.

I know I am writing very harshly, but I have a responsibility to tell this to the world.

A Jewish Daughter in Pain

A Close Call

The pain of alienation

In reference to Feature, Issue 457

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your recent article "A Close Call." Due to a change in our family dynamics several years ago, three of our children have alienated us. Anyone who has not experienced the pain of being alienated by adult children and grandchildren cannot begin to understand how deep and destructive this pain is, every minute of the day, every week of the year, every Shabbos and Yom Tov.

Due to a mediator's intervention, two of our children call us on Erev Shabbos, and the third one texts us on Erev Shabbos. This is the extent of our contact

with them. Whenever the two of them call on Erev Shabbos, they are usually very busy, and quite frankly, we don't have anything to talk about. How could we? We have no idea what's going on in their lives on even the most mundane level, and we can't even start a discussion because it's clear that they are calling out of a sense of duty. They say, "Good Shabbos" and hang up.

Sometimes, like this past Erev Shabbos, they will say, "Hi. We are calling to say good Shabbos. Maybe we will try to stop by on Purim."

My husband and I feel that we are like those elderly people who live in a nursing home and whose kids call them once in a while, have a short conversation, and hang up. Maybe they bring the mother flowers and candy on Mother's Day, and a tie and shirt on Father's Day.

We were, and still are, good and devoted parents. All it takes is a complaint to an outsider *rav*, therapist, or even a "trusted" relative who gives them bad advice. It doesn't take much for the situation to snowball out of control and lead to the alienation of a parent or grandparent.

It can happen quickly, and it can last for year, or forever. In our case, the situ-

ation has gone on for several years, making reconciliation difficult. The damage that is done is often not repairable, causing the trauma of alienation to go on forever.

Anonymous

Serious Serial

Fodder for the week

In reference to "Crossroads"

Dear Editor:

The serial "Crossroads" is soooo good. The last line is always a whopper; I never see it coming! I'm not frustrated that I have to wait a week for the next chapter because each episode is enough to keep me going all week.

Whoever Chaya Gross is, she's amazing!

C.T.

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