ב"ה

PALM VOICE

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פרשת בראשית · כ"ח תשרי תשפ"ז









Bereishis. A Beginning.

ISSUE 1 · PARSHAS BEREISHIS 5787

Our Voice – Editorial

What's A Launch?

What's a launch? In Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island, Florida, a launch is a mighty roar of engines, force and fire, clouds of smoke blasting a rocket into outer space.

What's a launch? In heimishe greater Florida, it's a brand-new circular connecting and linking communities, kehillos old and new, forging relationships, joining us together as we share events, news, ideas, updates, simchas and services, exclusively relevant to us and our communities.

As the incredible growth of the heimishe presence in Florida continues to rise, Palm Voice has stepped up to be our communal voice and link to one another, launching an unprecedented level of achdus and friendship along our palm-studded landscape.

At the same time, it is your voice we eagerly welcome here. From the shores of Miami to the promenades of Orlando, and anywhere under the glorious Florida skies, each community member is valued and heard. Please share your thoughts and ideas, simchas and suggestions, or anything you'd like to see on these pages.

That's our launch. No smoke or fire, just sparks of connection and communication, keeping us right here in unity on our beloved Florida turf.

– The Editors

A Word of Wisdom

Sukkos, V'zos HaBracha, and What Now?...

The Dubno Maggid zt'l tells a wonderful mashal: There were two neighboring countries that were fighting over a city located on the border – each country claimed that the city was theirs. Many wars were fought over the city; sometimes one country won, other times the other country was victorious. They decided that each country would send forth their greatest warrior. These two powerful people would wrestle each other near a pit. The one who throws his opponent into the pit wins the battle, and the city would forever belong to his country. Patriots from both countries came to watch the great battle.

The battle started some distance from the pit. At first, it seemed that one warrior would win. His countrymen cheered him on, while the other team was lamenting, as they were certain they would lose. They watched as the warrior pulled and dragged his opponent all the way to the pit. But suddenly, the other warrior overpowered his opponent, threw him to the ground, and flipped him into the pit. At the victory celebration, the king said to the warrior, "It appeared, at first, that your opponent was stronger than you. I was certain you would lose. How did you end up winning?" "I won because I initially let him think he was winning," the warrior replied. "I was waiting for my opponent to become tired and weak from dragging me, and then I was able to overpower him easily."

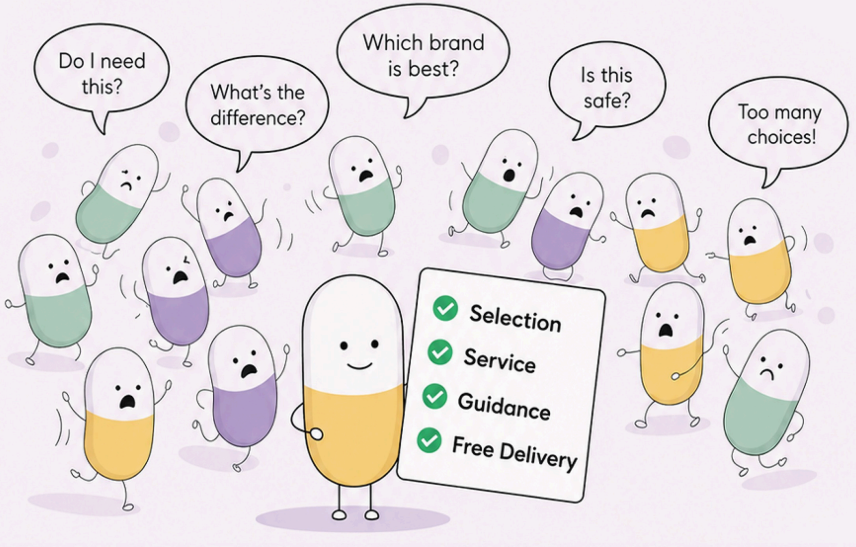
The nimshal is that sometimes the yetzer hara allows us to win a battle or two. He purposely steps back, waiting for us to become tired so he can overpower us later. When an essential and important battle comes around, we don't have the stamina to fight. We assume that since we won so many wars until now, it doesn't matter so much if we fail this round. We don't realize that everything depends on this specific battle, and if we lose it, we lose everything.

The lesson is directly related to Chodesh Tishrei. Many people feel that they have fought so many wars with the yetzer hara already since the new year began. Rosh Hashanah passed, and so did Yom Kippur. On those days, people did whatever they could to improve their ways and to daven with kavanah. During Sukkos, and Hoshana Rabbah, they also served Hashem to the best of their ability, followed by the joy of Simchas Torah. But now, as we return to regular daily life, a person might feel spiritually exhausted, letting their guard down and feeling that the month of teshuvah has passed.

Believe it or not, going forward, this is the time of testing if we measured up to the purpose of the month of Tishrei and the Yamim Noraim. We must still be vigilant and continue our battle with the yetzer hara every single day, in every way.

(Adapted from Rabbi Elimelech Biderman)

Too Many Bottles.
Not Enough Answers.



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Feature

While Celebrating the Yom Tov of Sukkos, the Miracle of Ananei HaKavod Just Happened...

R. Reich

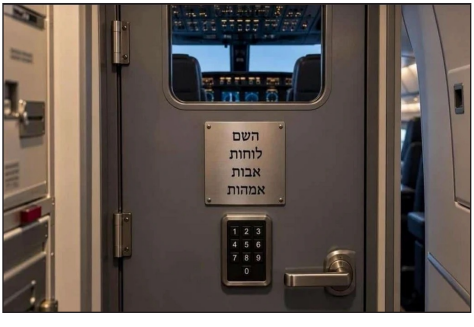

Illustration: the locked cockpit door

Boca Raton, Fla. – This past weekend, Yidden around the world celebrated the Yom Tov of Sukkos, reaffirming our emunah and bitachon in Hashem, and rejoiced and danced with the Torah on Simchas Torah – and then IT happened!

The "IT" was the miraculous survival of a full flight of Yidden caught in the midst of a shocking mid-air crisis.

On the second day of Chol Hamoed, a horrific terror attack was averted with incredible and obvious Hashgacha Pratis. An extremist Omani co-pilot, Hamam al-Hammami, attempted a 9/11-style attack on a Flydubai passenger jet traveling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with 174 passengers on board – the vast majority of them Yidden, r"l.

Armed with a cockpit crash axe, the attacker stabbed and gravely wounded the aircraft's captain, Smit Machchhar, in an attempt to crash the plane into an Israeli building or the Tel Aviv airport. Once control was compromised, the aircraft plummeted a terrifying 14,000 feet in under 30 seconds.

Through a by-now well-known series of unbelievable events, Yad Hashem was stunningly clear every second, every step of the way:

- **The Door Release:** The bleeding and gravely injured captain managed to summon every ounce of strength to release the locked cockpit door from within.
- **The Passenger Charge:** Seeing the door open, brave passengers and crew members rushed forward with total mesiras nefesh to subdue and restrain the terrorist.
- **The Rescue Pilots:** Two off-duty reserve pilots who "happened" to be traveling in the cabin quickly stepped in, took over the controls, and stabilized the Boeing 737 MAX 8. The reserve pilots successfully executed a safe emergency landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, allowing every single passenger to walk off the plane unharmed, on their own two feet.

The staggering magnitude of this neis was captured by a passenger – a mother returning home with her family – who upon disembarking recalled: "As the plane was plummeting, I didn't even pray to survive. I just prayed that it should be over quickly so I wouldn't have to see my children suffer. But thank God, we were saved!"

Perspectives

Rabbinical commentators across the world highlighted the awe-inspiring timing of the neis. Occurring during Sukkos – the chag commemorating the divine protection of the Ananei HaKavod (Clouds of Glory) in the wilderness – the event serves as a modern-day proof that while the Jewish people may travel through volatile and hostile territories, they are never traveling alone. Hashem is always with them: "Imo Unochi B'tzarah" (I am with them in distress).

Rabbi Moshe Scheiner, of the Palm Beach Synagogue, in a moving public letter, shared his thoughts on the emotional weight of the event, echoing the passengers' harrowing accounts of the plunge and expressing overwhelming communal gratitude to the Ribono shel Olam for this marvelous salvation.

Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, speaking on the broader diplomatic and miraculous elements of the crisis, publicly thanked the Saudi authorities for their "quick response" in taking in the flight. Reflecting the awe felt by the entire Jewish world, he stated, "We witnessed miracles according to everyone involved." He pointed out how the geopolitical changes in the region miraculously paved the way for an Arab nation to serve as a literal sanctuary of rescue for over a hundred Yidden.

News

Candidates for Governor Courted Jewish Voters

— Staff

Miami-Dade, Fla. – Both major party nominees for governor—Republican Byron Donalds and Democrat David Jolly—made deliberate appeals to South Florida's sizable Jewish electorate during the month of September and the Yamim Tovim.

In South Florida's congressional districts, candidates and elected officials were joining local law enforcement leaders and synagogue directors for High Holy Day safety briefings.

Candidates across Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties participated in pre-Rosh Hashanah roundtable discussions hosted by regional Jewish federations and community centers.

Discussions centered on legislative responses to rising antisemitism, support for local kosher food banks, and educational initiatives ahead of the fall holidays.

Disney World Raises Prices

A visit to Walt Disney World is about to get costlier as it raises prices for annual passes and some single-day tickets. The top-tier Disney Incredi-Pass, which allows entry to all four parks for a year with no block-out dates, now sells for $1,749.

Jewish Florida Marks Three Years Since October 7

Synagogues and kehillos throughout Jewish Florida, from Miami Beach to Aventura, came together to mark the 3rd anniversary of October 7, remembering the 1,200 lives lost in the unspeakable tragedy on Simchas Torah.

What must be remembered: Hashem is always with the Jewish nation and watches us from above. He is our shield as long as we adhere to Him, strengthen our emunah, and stay close to the Torah.







The Week

Parshas Bereishis · 29 Tishrei 5787

Candle Lighting

Miami Beach	6:40 PM	Okeechobee	6:42 PM
Aventura	6:40 PM	Tampa	6:48 PM
Boca Raton	6:40 PM	Orlando	6:44 PM

Zmanim

City	עלות	נץ החמה	קרי״ש	חצות	שקיעה	ר״ת	מוצש״ק
Miami Beach	6:04 AM	7:16 AM	10:12 AM	1:07 PM	6:57 PM	8:09 PM	7:47 PM
Aventura	6:05 AM	7:17 AM	10:12 AM	1:07 PM	6:57 PM	8:09 PM	7:47 PM
Boca Raton	6:05 AM	7:17 AM	10:12 AM	1:07 PM	6:57 PM	8:09 PM	7:47 PM
Okeechobee	6:08 AM	7:20 AM	10:15 AM	1:10 PM	6:59 PM	8:11 PM	7:49 PM
Tampa	6:15 AM	7:27 AM	10:21 AM	1:16 PM	7:05 PM	8:17 PM	7:55 PM
Orlando	6:11 AM	7:23 AM	10:17 AM	1:12 PM	7:01 PM	8:13 PM	7:51 PM

Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
89°/ 80°	89°/ 81°	89°/ 82°	89°/ 81°

Miami Beach — Chance Showers And Thunderstorms

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New in Florida



The future site of the school building at Lakefront.

Bruchim Haba'im to Lakefront

Okeechobee, Fla. – Where there was open land by the lake not long ago, a street of new homes now stands, and the first families of the Okeechobee Jewish Community are on their way. The first phase of homes at Lakefront is already sold out, and the sign on the land says what comes next: a school for our children is coming to life.

A new community is a brave thing to build. It takes families willing to go first, builders who keep their word, and neighbours who make room for one another.

To every family settling by the lake, Palm Voice and all of Jewish Florida say: bruchim haba'im, welcome. May your homes be filled with simcha, your shul with minyanim, and your school with the sound of Torah. We wish you hatzlacha, and much nachas from the community you are building.



New homes along one of the first streets.



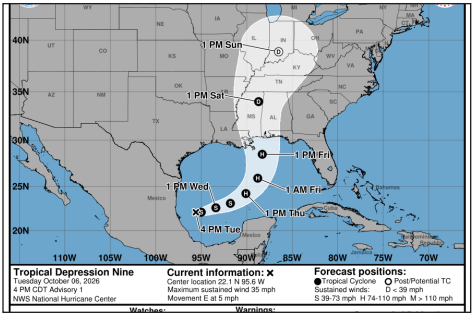
A newly paved road into the community.



Phase 1: sold out.

Weather Watch

Mashiv HaRuach U'Morid HaGeshem in the Real Sense of Meaning...



The first forecast for Tropical Depression Nine, Tuesday, October 6. Graphic: NOAA / National Hurricane Center

On the heels of a rainless eight-day period for the Yom Tov of Sukkos, Tropical Depression Nine formed in the southwestern Gulf on that Tuesday afternoon with maximum sustained winds near 35 mph. The system was forecast to intensify rapidly into Tropical Storm Isaias by early Wednesday, before becoming a hurricane on Thursday.

While the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami projected a track heading toward the U.S. northern Gulf Coast and the Florida Panhandle, local askanim & residents throughout South Florida Jewish communities—including Miami Beach, Hollywood, and Boca Raton—were keeping a close watch on the system's indirect effects.

This shift aligned heavily with the seasonal transition in our tefillos, as we began to explicitly thank Hashem as the One who causes the wind to blow and the rain to fall (Mashiv HaRuach U'Morid HaGeshem). This seasonal transition, however, threatened to funnel heavy tropical moisture and localized flooding into our region just ahead of Shabbos Breishis.

Storm Tracking & Potential Intensity:

- **Projected Turn:** The depression was expected to continue east-northeast before making a sharp turn to the northeast on Friday. It was forecast to approach the U.S. northern Gulf Coast at hurricane strength over the weekend.
- **Rainfall Threats:** The primary impact zone, stretching from southeastern Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle, was projected to receive 3 to 6 inches of rain, with localized surges up to 10 inches. This posed a distinct threat of flash, urban, and isolated river flooding.

Local Outlook for South Florida Shuls & Neighborhoods:

Even though South Florida was situated well outside the direct cone of the storm, those volatile tropical weather patterns required attention from our local communities:

- **Minyan & Shul Commutes:** Urban flooding in low-lying areas threatened to impact walking or driving conditions for Shacharis, Mincha, and Maariv tefillos over the weekend.
- **Shabbos Preparations:** The deep tropical moisture pulled up from the Caribbean could trigger heavy downpours across South Florida starting Friday. Families were advised to complete their Shabbos shopping early to avoid driving through sudden street flooding.

Urgent Safety Guidance from Hatzalah South Florida:

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown:** Do not attempt to walk or drive through flooded areas or standing water. Deep pockets of water can mask missing drainage covers, stall engines, or sweep vehicles off the road.
- **Charge Medical Devices:** Individuals reliant on electronic medical equipment should ensure all devices and backup batteries are completely charged before Friday.
- **Save the Emergency Number:** For life-threatening or time-critical medical emergencies, dispatcher units from Hatzalah South Florida Emergency Medical Services can be reached 24/7 at (305) 919-4900. Remember: Keep this number saved on your mobile devices as an immediate alternative to 911.

The tefillah behind Reb Meir's Pushka

The Kollel Shomrei Hachomos Reb Meir Pushka is the pushka that gives back. From health and hatzlachah to protection and finding what's lost, generations of Yidden have whispered tefillos as they gave tzedakah, with the firm belief that their tzedakah can open the door to a yeshuah.



Get your Reb Meir Pushka. Give tzedakah and say a tefillah. May it be a zechus for your yeshuah.

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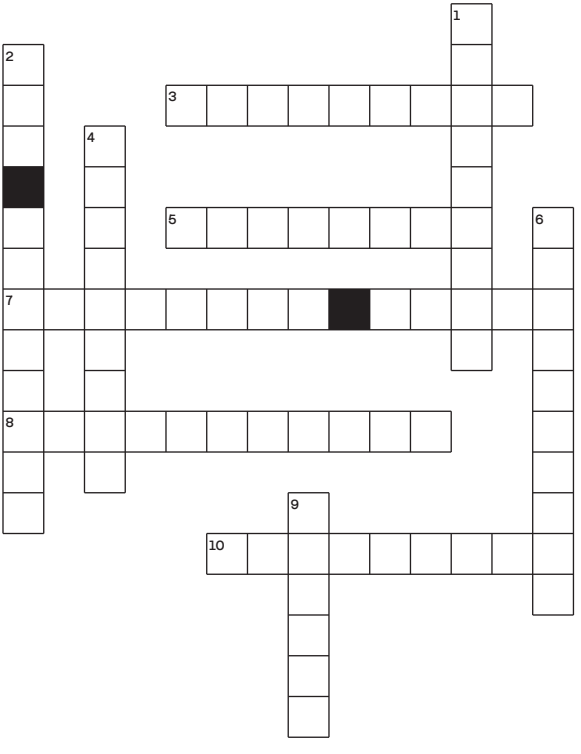
Mazel Tov

Engagement

Memke Goldshmid
ben R' Yitzchak, of Valley Stream, NY

Mushky Gancz
bas R' Yoel, of West Palm Beach, FL

Puzzles



Across
3 Iconic Reptile
5 Winter-Only Residents
7 State Nickname
8 Capital
10 Tropical Storm

Down
1 Florida Resident
2 Governor
4 Geographic Shape
6 Tropical Wetlands
9 State Fruit

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