

Education and Support:

- When Caring Counts Most – Book
- Comfort Courage and Clarity – Book
- Comfort Courage and Clarity Support-Group Handbook
- Personal Perspectives from R' Aharon Margalit – CD
- Reaching Beyond Ourselves Rabbi Nachman Seltzer – CD
- Kibbud Av V'Eim Magnet – Free
- Yizkor Card – Free
- Hakofos Companion – Free
- The Rosh Hashanah Companion – Book

From Pre-death through Shivah:

- Final Prayers – Free
- Basic Laws of Aninus – Free
- The Concise Laws of Shivah – Book
- Condolence Cards
- Cremation or Burial – A Jewish View – Book
- Burial Service – Free
- Mishnah Charts – Free
- The Shivah Visit – A Practical Guide – Free
- HaMakom Poster – Free

From Shloshim through Yahrtzeit:

- The Yahrtzeit Companion – Book
- Kaddish Companion – Free
- Prayers When Visiting a Grave – Free

Kids & Teens:

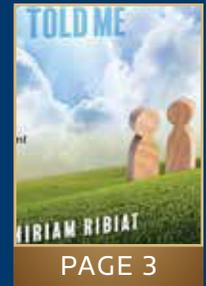
- May the Neshamah have an Aliyah – Teachers Manual
- I Lost Someone Special – Book
- Mishnayos Review Charts

Learning:

- Mishnas Chayim I, II – Book
- Shishah Sidrei Mishnah Poster

Nichum Aveilim:

- The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah – Book
- To Comfort and be Comforted: A Guide to the Mitzvah of Nichum Aveilim – MP3
- To Comfort and be Comforted: A Guide to the Mitzvah of Nichum Aveilim – DVD
- To Comfort and be Comforted: A Guide to the Mitzvah of Nichum Aveilim – Book
- Shik Mir Pekelach – CD – Free



Greater Demand Than Ever: Meeting the COVID Challenge

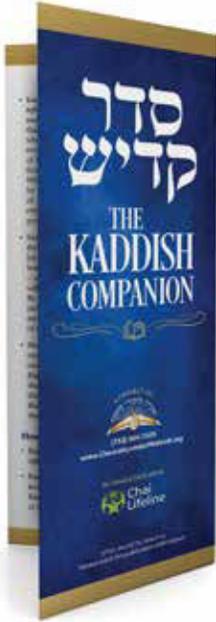
How was Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah affected by COVID? Those who lost loved ones during the initial days of lockdown found themselves in the unusual position of sitting *shivah* alone, without any visitors actually entering their homes. That translated into far fewer commitments to learn *mishnayos l'iluy nishmas* the *niftar*. Suddenly, our office was busier than ever, with calls pouring in from those who wished to have *mishnayos* learned on behalf of their loved ones. At the same time, members of our staff became ill with COVID. Through it all, we did our best to meet the increasing demand.

Our dedicated Torah scholars went far beyond the call of duty. Once *shuls* closed, they could no longer recite the *Kaddeishim* that were supposed to be said on a daily basis. However, there were some members of the Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah team who continued to recite Kaddish as part of porch *minyanim*. Mishnah study continued without interruption. Although our Torah scholars were making Pesach under trying conditions, many for the first time, and some while ill with COVID, they offered to learn whatever they could to make sure everything would be completed on time.

We did not turn anyone away, and with Hashem's help, we were successful in fulfilling all of our commitments.

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Kaddish Companion



Each time Shlomo needed to recite Kaddish for his father, he worried that he would lose the place, pronounce something incorrectly or otherwise embarrass himself in front of his classmates and rebbeim. He was dealing with so many changes since his father passed away. He knew Kaddish was his responsibility, but he wasn't sure why it was so important. Right now, it felt like just another difficult hurdle to overcome.

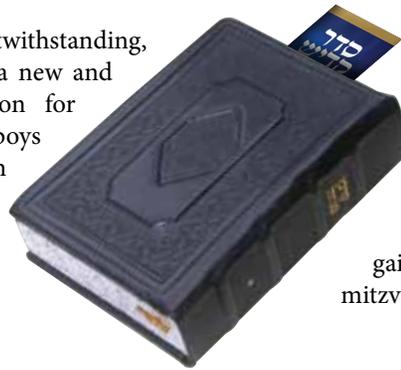
The great value of Kaddish notwithstanding, reciting it on a daily basis can be a new and sometimes overwhelming obligation for anyone, and in particular, for young boys who are in the unfortunate position of having lost a parent.

With the goal of making this mitzvah simpler and more pleasant to fulfill, Chevrah Lomdei

Mishnah has created the Kaddish Companion. The laminated, double-sided card includes instructions about how and when to recite Kaddish; the meaning behind Kaddish recital; and a description of the different types of Kaddish. Both the *Kaddish Yasom* and *Kaddish D'Rabbanan* prayers are printed in a clear, easy-to-read format, with linear translation.

Also included is a designated spot to record the final day to recite Kaddish. The card can be kept in one's *siddur* or pocket for easy access.

Now boys (and men of all ages as well) can more easily grant the benefit of Kaddish to the *neshamah* of their parent and gain a greater appreciation for the mitzvah as well.



New Release!

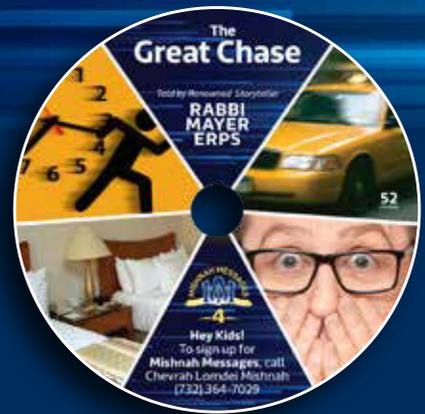
Mishnah Messages: The Great Chase

Master storyteller Rabbi Mayer Erps does it again!

Join Rabbi Erps for an incredible adventure including *tefillin* that mysteriously disappear; a breakneck taxi ride in hot pursuit of an elusive garbage truck; and, as always, a surprise twist that will amaze and

inspire listeners about the importance of Kaddish recital and its effect on *neshamos* in the Next World.

Come along for the ride as Rabbi Erps recounts the story of *The Great Chase*, #4 in the Mishnah Messages story CD series for children.



Beautifully Redesigned Hakafos Companion

For almost ten years, *shul*-goers have been enjoying the unique convenience offered by the Hakafos Companion, which includes the *seder hakafos* for Simchas Torah on an easy-to-hold and easy-to-pocket laminated card. Those who have benefited from this handy pamphlet have

grown to depend upon it year after year.

Now, we've upgraded the experience. The Hakafos Companion has been redone with all-new, striking graphics and design, while still retaining the same handy format and clear text. Enhance the Simchas Torah experience in your *shul* with this beautiful publication.



An Idea Whose Time Has Come – *I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me*

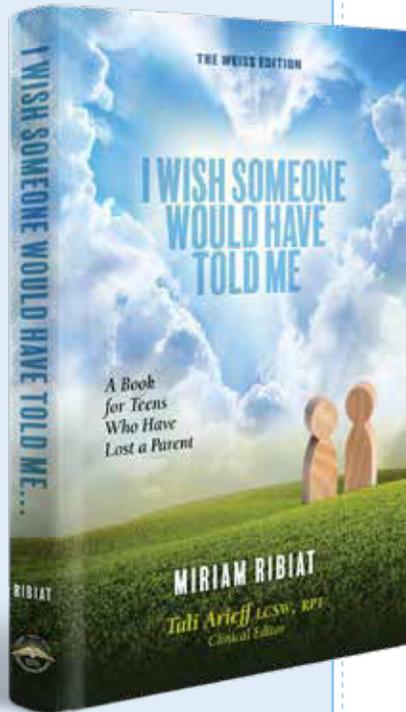
Chaya Leah had a family wedding, and most of her cousins were going to be there. She knew that as much fun as it could be, her father wouldn't be at the wedding. All of her father's siblings would be there. All of her cousins would be there with two parents. She didn't understand how she could feel happy. But she really wanted to, so she worked on it.

Chaya Leah opened up to a close cousin of hers. She shared how confused she was because she wanted to be happy but didn't know how. Her cousin totally supported her. On the day of the wedding they went to get their hair done together and then stopped off at the ice cream store and cried and laughed over shared memories. And the wedding? Chaya Leah had a blast there.

(Excerpt from *I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me*)

Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's soon-to-be released book, *I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me*, is a first-of-its-kind publication geared toward offering support and education to teens who have lost a parent. Divided into 90 daily readings, plus a bonus section about Loss and Corona and an addendum with beautiful poems, the book is based on careful research and interviews with many individuals who experienced the loss of a parent during their childhood or teen years.

Seasoned author Mrs. Miriam Ribiat speaks about her work on the book:



What motivated you to undertake this project?

Someone mentioned to us that there is a need for a book of this sort. We discussed who might be capable of writing it, and I decided that although my experiences with loss were a little different, I wanted to try. I lost my brother as a teen and my parents and sister during the early years of my marriage. I felt that because of my losses, I could feel their pain, while recognizing that in a way for teens it's more painful.

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TALI ARIEFF, LCSW, CLINICAL EDITOR:

“As a therapist who works with kids, teens, and young adults, it was wonderfully exciting to be part of producing the first full-length book written for *frum* teens and young adults who have lost a parent. Certainly, an idea whose time has come! Losing a parent is so much more than the actual death. It's all the

things that came before – the sickness or family challenges or tough dynamics or illusion of safety or happy memories that now feel bittersweet, and the aftermath of rebuilding a family and a life in a world that can't really relate. It's years later, when life has moved on but the pain is still there. Until now there were individual therapists, teachers, and some incredible organizations helping these children, but there was no single place where a newly orphaned teen could privately and independently access such comprehensive support. By combining so much insight and practical guidance in one book, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah is helping teens to help themselves in the journey toward healing and growth.”

SARAH RIVKAH KOHN

FOUNDER OF LINKS:

“I just read through the book, and it is just beyond, beyond, beyond!”

DR. NORMAN N. BLUMENTHAL

DIRECTOR AND ZACHTER FAMILY CHAIR IN TRAUMA AND CRISIS RESPONSE, OHEL MIRIAM CENTER FOR TRAUMA, BEREAVEMENT AND CRISIS RESPONSE:

“Miriam Ribiat...has immersed herself in the multilayered world of grieving teens through comprehensive and delicate interviews and conversations. No less impressive is the manner in which she addresses these youngsters at their level. One can almost picture her looking eye-to-eye and intently hearing their challenges and concerns. I recommend this book highly both for teens in the throes of grief, as well as adults who need to understand many of our children in what may be their greatest times of need.

Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah
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Was there anything you found particularly eye-opening?

I was taken aback by how much pain there is in the world. I learned that there is so much complicated grief out there. I appreciated that this wasn't my experience. But what is the same for most people, regardless of their situation, is that real feeling of loss. The reasons for the feeling of loss can be different, but if one has suffered a loss, they will probably feel it.

What part of your personal circumstances helped you in producing a work of this nature?

It gave me a starting point and an idea about what kinds of questions made sense to ask, as well as what kinds of situations could be difficult. For example, I remember the first Friday night that my father said Kiddush after my brother was *niftar*. He cried through it, and the pain was written all over his face. I imagine the first Kiddush after a parent is *niftar*, while different, is painful, lonely and full of grief.

I also relate to the feeling of needing a mother, although I am an adult. While a teen needs a parent through the growing-up years, I can relate to the lack. There are so many times that I have questions about my children, cooking, shopping, or that I just need the listening ear and TLC that only a mother can offer. It is surely different, but the need is real.

Another example: When I was sitting *shivah* for my brother, I remember feeling pressured and burdened every time someone came specifically for me. It was only when I sat *shivah* a few years later, as an adult, that I realized it was okay to just let things be. I didn't need to be "on" and worry about those who came to be *menachem aveil*.

What kind of reaction did you get from those you interviewed for the book?

They were so helpful and kind. And every time I spoke to them since, with additional questions or for an opinion about the cover, they would eagerly ask me when it was coming out. I was also so inspired by how these young girls and boys really work on themselves. I would hang up and tell my kids that they should marry someone who lost a parent because these kids are really special!

these kids are
really special!

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to view this newsletter online.