



## Ezer Mizion: A Hand in the Dark Angels from Heaven

She was eighty years old. Life was difficult. But a home attendant? “Never! I don’t want a stranger in my home!” But things got worse and *never* became *maybe*. Ezer Mizion’s Home Attendant Division was contacted and Tzivia entered Sara’s home. One year later, on *Chanukah*, Tzivia found balloons awaiting her as she entered. “These are for you,” Sara smiled. “For you, my *Chanukah* miracle. Since you came, I felt I have a daughter. Today our friendship is a year old, and I, too, feel like I am a year old, because I am a new woman since you entered my world.”

Several days later, Sara fell and broke her arm. The ambulance came, but Sara did not go alone. Tzivia accompanied her and spent hours of her free time in the ER with her. It was not long before Tzivia’s husband arrived at the ER to bring them both food and drink. Still retaining her independent streak, Sara was appalled. “I feel so bad that your husband had to go through so much trouble

just because of me.”

“If I am your daughter, he is your son-in-law. We’re your family. Family members help each other.”

Sara was too choked up to reply, but her eyes said it all as she gazed with wonderment at her family, the “strangers” she had not wanted to allow into her home.

A father was battling cancer. Their situation was heartbreaking. The mother was torn between the hospital, where her husband needed her attention, and her home, where their five children, two of them with special needs, were left alone at home for hours, without proper meals, supervision or occupation. Ezer Mizion got to work. The fantastic volunteers contacted the director of Ezer Mizion’s services for children with special needs, who arranged for the girls to go to an afternoon club, complete with meals, help with schoolwork, and quality attention until five in the afternoon.

Two volunteers visited the parents in the

ward, bringing cake and support, showering them with warm encouragement.

Ezer Mizion’s Linked to Life took care of



delivering hot meals cooked by Ezer Mizion volunteers to the house on a regular basis.

A home had been on the verge of collapse. Now it was shorn up with planks of love and compassion. The wife of the cancer patient couldn’t stop thanking Ezer Mizion for all this magical support that descended upon her.

From the Ezer Mizion inbox:

Our family is dealing with my cancer, which is so stressful for everyone. Between not knowing if Mommy will be home when they get home from school to having to eat strangers’ food, life has become unpredictable for my kids.

You can imagine our surprise when someone came to our door on *Chanukah* with two big bags for the kids (treats and presents!).

Thank you for bringing a smile to my children’s faces and may you continue to do your holy work.

All the best,  
Sarah B.

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*Ezer Mizion provides services to over 660,000 of Israel’s population annually, in addition to its Bone Marrow Registry, which saves the lives of Jewish cancer patients the world over.*

*For further info, call 718. 853.8400 or visit [www.ezermizion.org](http://www.ezermizion.org).*

## Agra D’Pirka Pre-*Chanukah* Programs Usher in the Winter

It’s not often that *Chanukah* comes out on the heels of the Thanksgiving legal holiday, but when it does, it presents a golden opportunity for Agra D’Pirka. As winter sets in and *Chanukah* approaches, Agra D’Pirka seized the opportunity to offer legal holiday programs to its hundreds of members and beyond.

Agra D’Pirka, dubbed as The Morning Kollel, is a massive movement of Torah study, with *shiurim* in close to a dozen Jewish communities. All Agra D’Pirka *maggidei shiur* are renowned *talmidei chachomim* who offer profound insights and draw sizeable crowds.

Legal holidays present Agra D’Pirka with an opportunity to offer its program to those who may not be available on a regular weekday morning, but who are thrilled to join the program on a day off from work. Many new members seeking spiritual growth descend upon the legal holiday programs — and Agra D’Pirka does not disappoint.

On Thursday, November 25, Agra D’Pirka’s Flatbush location will host four *shiurim* which will also be livestreamed on Torah Anytime and available over the phone.

The program will begin at 10:15 a.m. with Rav Zev Smith, who will speak on the topic of “Building Worlds...With Words.” At 10:45, Rav Eliezer Rapaport will speak about the significance of *hiddur mitzvah* in a *shiur* entitled “*Mehadrin Min Hamehadrin*.”

This will be followed at 11:15 a.m. by Rav Noach Isaac Oelbaum, who will discuss “The Essence of *Chanukah*.” Finally, at 11:45, Rav Aharon Kahn will present a *shiur* on the *perek* in *Tehillim*, “*Mizmor Shir Chanukas Habayis L’Dovid*.”

Special programs will also be held on Thursday in the Lakewood/Jackson area. In Lakewood, Rav Simcha Bunim Londinski will speak at 10:00 a.m. on the *halachos* of lighting *Chanukah* candles on *Erev Shabbos*, *Motzoei Shabbos*, when traveling, and so on. At 10:55, Rav Avrohom Snyder will discuss Yaakov Avinu and *Chanukah*. That program will be held at a new

location, Kol Chaim, at 618 Caranetta Drive.

In Jackson, a program will be held at Beis Medrash of Jackson, 146 South New Prospect Road. The program will include Rav Doniel Neustadt speaking about *makom kavua* (“You’re in My Seat. Can/Should I Ask You to Move?”), followed by Rav Yoel Martin, who will speak about *inyonei Chanukah* at 10:55 a.m.

R’ Ezra Klein, founder of Agra D’Pirka, reports that all Agra D’Pirka locations are back to in-person learning. While the program operated remotely during the height of the pandemic, allowing participants to benefit from the *chizuk* during those challenging times, nothing compares to the pleasure of learning in person. Remote options are still available for those who prefer.

The new season also heralds in a new era for Agra D’Pirka — yet another community will be added to the growing list of programs, this time in central USA. While details are not yet available, the new program will hopefully be up and running within a few weeks.

In other news, Agra D’Pirka’s seasonal West Palm Beach program is scheduled to reopen on December 6, just after *Chanukah*, for snowbirds who spend winter down south. Participants are able to bask in the warmth of the warm Florida sun as they bask in the glow of Torah study. A group of *maggidei shiur* will be giving the *shiurim*, and the program is scheduled to be open through February.

Nothing is beyond the grasp of the leaders of Agra D’Pirka. Always growing, constantly developing, always planning its next venture, it’s a vibrant and dynamic program that will continue to break boundaries and conquer new frontiers... until Agra D’Pirka is everywhere.

*For more information about Agra D’Pirka and its programs in Flatbush, Queens, Lakewood, Boro Park, Williamsburg, Baltimore, Monsey, Miami, West Palm Beach, and most recently, Boca Raton, call 212-661-9400 or visit [agradpirka.org](http://agradpirka.org).*

## The Agudah Convention

The Agudah convention has long been the key venue for members of the Jewish community to convene together with Torah leaders and community *askonim* to discuss and address critical issues facing the klal today. A direct descendent of the First Knessia Gedolah in 1923, 99 years later the Agudah Convention’s content may have changed, but its mission has remained the same: To gather under the banner of our Gedolei Yisroel to advance the interests of the Jewish community.

Trials and travails are a reality of *golus*. Covid, loss of our *gedolim*, *shuls* shuttered, families suffering through illness and tragedy, schools closed, challenges to the *chinuch* and self-esteem of our children, financial woes, Meron, Stolin, Surfside, there is a long list of the tests we have faced over the past 18 months. With Hashem’s help we have faced many challenges and survived and thrived.

From where do we get this strength, how can we become stronger, and how can we pass it on to the next generation? These questions and others will be discussed at the Agudah Convention as *Gedolei Yisroel* guide us along our unbreakable path.

The four keynote sessions — Thursday night, Friday, *Motzoei Shabbos*, and Sunday morning — have been a venue for *rabbonim* and community leaders to address issues that are in the forefront.

Thursday night’s keynote speakers will include Rabbi Shmuel Yehuda Levin, Rosh HaYeshiva, Telshe Yeshiva Chicago, Rabbi Yehoshua Perlow, Novominsker Rebbe, and Rabbi Sholom Kamenetsky, Rosh HaYeshiva, Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia. The session will be chaired by Nechemia Hoch, a member of the Agudah’s executive board.

The pre-keynote sessions will be ‘Making the Move Out of Town’ with Rabbi Yitz Frank, Rabbi Baruch Levine, and Rabbi Sholomo Soroka; ‘Fighting for Orthodoxy in an Unorthodox World’ with Mr. Chaskel Bennet, Yossi Gestetner, and Rabbi Eli Steinberg; and ‘Unbreakable Bonds of Marriage’ with Rabbi Pinchas Noveseller, and Rabbi Yaakov Salomon.

The post-keynote sessions will be ‘Q&A: “I am Asking for a Friend”’ with Rabbi Yosef Elefant, Rabbi Aron Lopiansky, moderated by Rabbi Yisroel Besser; ‘The Murder of Alta Fixsler’ with Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, Rabbi Ben Zion Lesser, and Rabbi Shloma Sperber; and ‘Our Unorthodox Lives: Breaking the Stereotypes, Living or Values’ with Rebbetzin Faigie Horowitz, Mrs. Rivky Feiner, and Mrs. Alexandra Fleksher, moderated by Mrs. Chanie Jacobowitz.

The Convention will be available to attend virtually by going to [agudahconvention.org](http://agudahconvention.org) or call in at 718.298.2077.