

Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Jungreis
54 Middleton St.
Brooklyn, NY 11206

The Honorable Charles J Hynes
Kings County District Attorney
350 Jay St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
December 5, 2010

Dear Mr. Hynes,

We are writing you about the case involving the sexual abuse of our son by Meir Dascalowitz. We appreciated the work by the Brooklyn Police Sex Crimes Unit in investigating and arresting this evil man for hurting our son. We respect your important job in prosecuting this case.

We are writing you because we are upset from when we spoke with Ms Louise Cohen of your office around December 1, 2010. She told us your office is thinking about allowing Meir Dascalowitz to plead guilty to much lesser charges in return for being place on probation WITHOUT ANY JAIL TIME. It was not even clear if he would be put on the sex offender's registry. This possibility is extremely different from what we were told much by Mrs. Henna White from the Kol Tzedek initiative at the Office of the DA. She told us that Dascalowitz would be getting at least 5-6 years of jail time. This would be bad for our son who suffers so much and would be dangerous for other children in Williamsburg.

We do not understand why your office would even think of a plea bargain without jail time. He confessed, our son identified him and answered grand jury question, there is the doctor's report about the abuse and we have cooperated with your office and suffered a lot from the pressures others are placing on us. We worked with you because we believed your office would put this evil man in jail. Mr. Hynes, please put our minds at rest and let us know in writing that you will not allow any weak plea bargain.

Sincerely,

H. Jungreis

MORDECHAI JUNGREIS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER /20/2011

I Hate

my LIFE

missis mermer steyn

because I'm sick !!

where is my

~~freedom~~

!!

freedom



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
VS

DEFENDANT(S)

LOCATION OF INCIDENT:
 STATE OF NEW YORK, LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT
 COUNTY OF ORANGE
 TOWN OF MONROE

LOCATION OF DEPOSITION:
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 COUNTY OF ORANGE
 TOWN OF MONROE

On DATE: 04/24/12 at TIME STARTED: 3:30 AM PM I, FULL NAME:

STATE THE FOLLOWING:

ON 04/15/11 I BROUGHT MY SON THE THE STATE POLICE BARRACKS TO REPORT THAT HE WAS MOLESTED. MY SON PROVIDED A DEPOSITION AND THE SUSPECT, JOSEPH GELBMAN WAS ARRESTED. APPROXIMATELY 1 OR 2 WEEKS LATER I STARTED RECEIVING PHONE CALLS FROM RABBI ISRAEL HAGER WHO TOLD ME THAT HE WAS CALLING ON BEHALF OF JOSEPH GELBMAN AND WANTED TO KNOW THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED. HE SPOKE TO ME AND I TOLD HIM EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. HE THEN SPOKE TO MY SON, [REDACTED] AND QUESTIONED HIM. DURING ONE OF OUR PHONE CALLS RABBI HAGER TOLD ME THAT JOSEPH GELBMAN WAS A COOK IN THE SCHOOL WHERE HE LIVES IN GIBBERS. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT GELBMAN RESIGNED. AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER THAT WAS THE COVERSAATION HE HAD BACK THEN. APPROXIMATELY 2 OR 3 WEEKS AGO, RABBI HAGER CALLED ME AGAIN AFTER ALL THIS TIME. HE STATED COURT IS COMING UP AND ASKED ME TO DROP THE CHARGES. I SAID WHY, HE MIGHT DO THIS AGAIN TO OTHER CHILDREN. HE SAID SAID WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THIS IF HE GOES TO JAIL. I SAID THE MAIN THING IS THAT HE SHOULD NOT DO THIS TO OTHER CHILDREN AND HE SHOULD APOLOGIZE. I SAID I AM WILLING TO GO TO RABBINCAL COURT IF HE IS WILLING TO COOPERATE. HE SUGGESTED A NAME OF ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS AND I SAID NO, I WANTED SOMEONE HERE IN KJ. THEN A FEW DAYS LATER I RECEIVED A CALL FROM MY SON, [REDACTED] WHO SAID THAT HIS FATHER IN LAW, [REDACTED] HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE RABBINCAL JUDGE RABBI [REDACTED] THAT RABBI HAGER CALLED HIM TO PERSUADE ME NOT TO GO TO SECULAR COURT, RATHER TO GO TO RABBINCAL COURT. I TOLD MY SON TO TELL YOUR FATHER IN LAW THAT I HAD NO PROBLEM GOING TO RABBINCAL COURT HERE IN KJ. RABBI HAGER THEN CALLED AGAIN AND I SAID OK TO RABBINCAL COURT BUT NOT IN HIS JURISDICTION. I SAID I WANTED 3 RABBI'S FROM KJ, 1 FROM EACH SECTOR. RABBI HAGER WENT HAYWIRE AND ABRUPTLY REFUSED AND WAS VERY ANGRY. THEN

NOTICE

(Penal Law Sec. 210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor. [REDACTED]

Affirmed under penalty of perjury
this 24th day of APRIL, 2012

- or -

*Subscribed and Sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____

* This form need be sworn to only when specifically required by the court.

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT) -

(WITNESS) [Signature] TIME ENDED 4:43 AM PM
 (NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

SUPPORTING DEPOSITION (CPL § 100.20)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK VS.

DEFENDANT(S)

A LITTLE LESS THAN A WEEK AGO RABBI HAGER CALLED AGAIN AND ASKED WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO GAIN FROM THIS, SECULAR COURT AND I SAID HE WONT MOLEST OTHER CHILDREN. THEN HE ASKED WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM RABBINCAL COURT AND I SAID I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY SON GETS COUNSELING AND THAT HE HIMSELF GOES FOR COUNSELING. BECAUSE OTHERWISE HE IS A THREAT TO OTHER CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY. RABBI HAGER ASKED WHAT DO I THINK IT WOULD COST. I SAID I DON'T KNOW, IT COULD BE \$20,000. RABBI HAGER THEN ASKED WHERE DO I DROP OFF THE MONEY. I TOLD HIM A PERSON, RABBI [REDACTED] THAT I KNOW GIVES PRIVATE TUTORING LESSONS TO BOYS. RABBI HAGER THEN SAID SO ARE YOU GOING TO DROP THE CHARGES IF I DROP OFF THE \$20,000 TO HIM. SO I SAID FIRST I HAVE TO FIND OUT IF IT IS LEGAL. HE SAID OK. THEN I CALLED RABBI NATHAN ROSENBERG BECAUSE HIS SPECIALTY IS HELPING SEXUAL ABUSED CHILDREN. I ASKED HIM WHAT I SHOULD DO, THAT RABBI HAGER IS OFFERING \$20,000. HE SAID DON'T ACCEPT IT, IT IS NOT LEGAL, IT IS CALLED EXTORTION. THEN I CALLED RABBI HAGER BACK AND TOLD HIM IT WAS NOT LEGAL AND THAT I WAS NOT ACCEPTING ANY MONEY. I TOLD HIM THE ONLY WAY I WOULD ACCEPT MONEY WAS IF THE RABBINCAL COURT WOULD RULE IT. AND THE MONEY WOULDN'T BE COMING TO ME IT WOULD BE GOING TO THE PEOPLE DOING THE COUNSELING. THEN THE LAST CONVERSATION I HAD WITH RABBI HAGER WAS 2 DAYS AGO ON SUNDAY. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE, I AM OFFERING HIM TO GO TO RABBINCAL COURT, HE SAID YEAH THE RABBI'S IN KJ, FORGET IT. AND THAT WAS IT.

IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT HAPPENED TIL NOW I WAS SUPPOSED TO COME WITH MY SON, [REDACTED] AND MEET WITH THE DA. I TOLD MY SON, [REDACTED] YESTERDAY EVENING AND HE CONTACTED HIS TEACHER SAYING HE WAS GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL TODAY. WHEN ASKED WHY, [REDACTED] TOLD THE TEACHER THE STORY. THE TEACHER ASKED DID YOUR MOTHER ASK PERMISSION FROM A RABBI TO GO TO SECULAR COURT AND [REDACTED] TOLD HIM YES, SINCE HE WAS NOT COOPERATING TO COME TO RABBINCAL COURT I WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO GO TO SECULAR COURT. TODAY, IN THE MORNING THE TEACHER, [REDACTED] CALLED ME AND SAID MY SON NEEDS TO COME TO SCHOOL AND NEEDS PERMISSION FROM THE PRINCIPAL BECAUSE THEY WERE STARING A NEW SEMESTER. I SAID HAVE THE PRINCIPAL CALL ME. THE PRINCIPAL, [REDACTED] CALLED AND SAID MY SON WOULD HAVE TO BE ON TIME. I SAID HE HAS A COURT APPOINTMENT WITH THE DA AND HE SAID THREATENED ME SAYING THAT IF HE ATTENDS THE APPOINTMENT IN COURT HE WONT ACCEPT HIM BACK TO SCHOOL. I SAID THAT I WILL HAVE TO TELL THE DA THAT I WONT BE BRINING [REDACTED] BECAUSE HE IS TREATENING THAT [REDACTED] WONT BE LET BACK IN SCHOOL. THEN HE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH RABBI HAGER AND THAT IF I DID THAT THEN HE WOULD PUT IN A CHILD ABUSE CASE AGAINST ME. I ASKED HIM WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG AND HE SAID THERE ARE TIMES YOR SON FORGETS TO TAKE HIS MEDICINE AND THAT THERE ARE TIMES YOU PURPOSLY DON'T GIVE IT TO HIM, THEREFORE HE CAN BECOME VIOLENT. HE SAID HE WOULD CHILD ABUSE AND REPORT IT. THEN I ASKED HIM WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING JOSEPH GELBAN WHO IS A MOLESTER AND NOT MY SON WHO IS YOUR STUDENT. HE SAID WELL YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO GO TO RABBINCAL COURT, NOT SECULAR COURT. I TOLD HIM I WAS WILLING BUT NOT UNDER RABBI HAGER'S JURISDICTION. I THEN SAID ALRIGHT I WILL DECIDE WHAT I AM GOING TO DO.

MY FIRST CONCERN IS THAT MY SON WILL BE THROWN OUT OF SCHOOL AND NOT HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. THE NEXT CONCERN IS THAT HE WILL CALL AND REPORT A CHILD ABUSE CASE. THE OTHER CONCERN IS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO SLANDER MY NAME IN THE COMMUNITY. I FEEL 100% THREATENED AND VERY

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Affirmed under penalty of perjury this 24TH day of APRIL, 2010.

- or -

*Subscribed and Sworn to before me this _____ day of _____

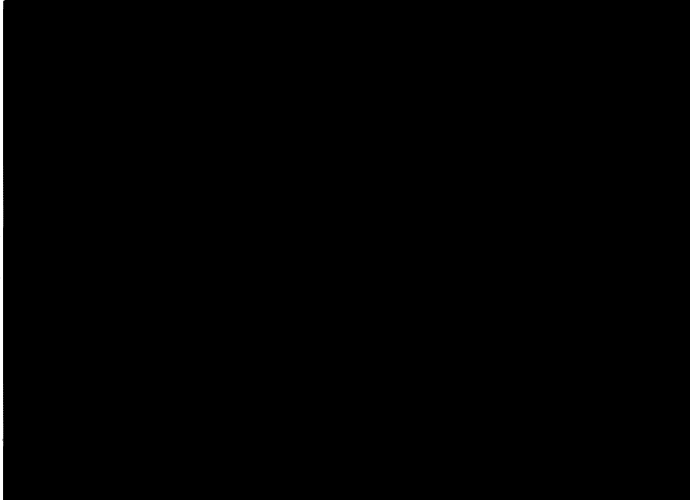
* This form need be sworn to only when specifically required by the court.

Witness signature box containing a signature and the text: (WITNESS), TIME ENDED, [] AM, [] PM, (NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

SUPPORTING DEPOSITION (CPL § 100.20)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK VS. _____
DEFENDANT(S)

SCARRED OF RABBI HAGER AND PRINCIPAL [REDACTED] I FEEL INTIMIDATED AND WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE CONSEQUENSES ARE GOING TO BE. BUT I HAVE TO PROTECT MY SON AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT. [REDACTED]



NOTICE

(Penal Law Sec. 210.45)

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Affirmed under penalty of perjury
this 24TH day of APRIL, 2010.

- or -

*Subscribed and Sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____

[REDACTED SIGNATURE] _____
(SIGNATURE OF DEPOSITOR)

(WITNESS)
[Signature]
(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

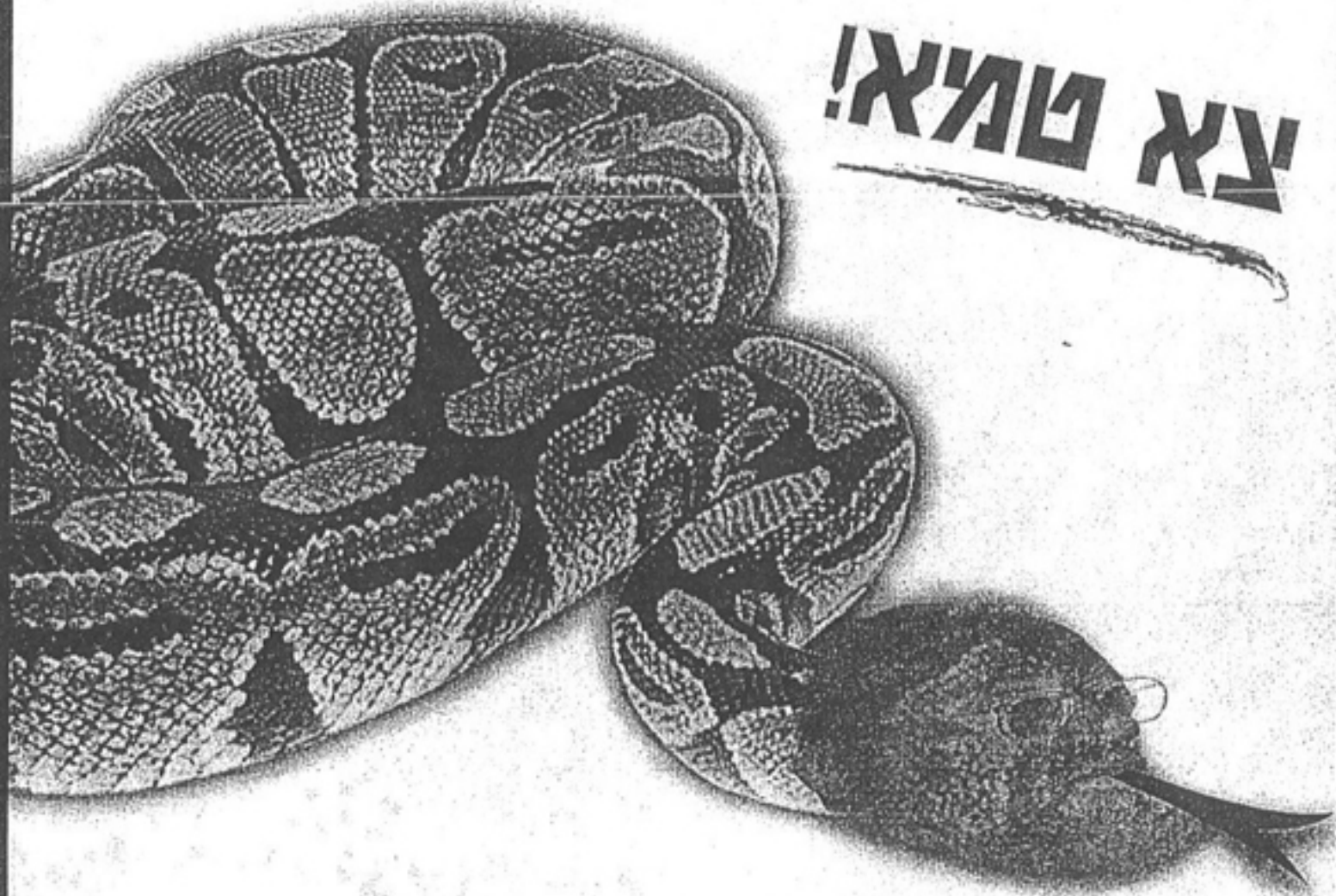
TIME ENDED AM
4:40 PM

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ארז אתה מכל הבהמה ומכל חית השדה

מושחת ומסור הידוע לשמצה

נחום [נח"ש] ראזענבערג שר"י



יעא טמא!

עקידת נח"ש [נחום שטון] מד' כנפות הארץ

קורל קורא

מאת גדולי רבני ודייני עיר נוא יארק יע"א

בעוה"ר

אוי לדור שכך עלתה בימיו

בעוה"ר חיים אנו בתקופה קשה מאוד, פרצות הזמן מתחדשות מיום אל יום, רוחות רעות מנשבות מכל עבר, גלי הנסיונות הולכים ושוטפים ברחובות קריה, וחינוך צאצאינו זקוק לרחמי שמים מרובים, ולב ההורים והמחנכים חרדים על שלום צעירי הצאן שלא ינגעו מפגעי הזמן ולא ימעדו קרסולם ח"ו. בתקופה סוערה זו קפצה עלינו צרה חדשה

קם עלינו אויב מתוך מחנינו נחום ראזנבערג שמו המכנה עצמו רב המקואות

והתעמף באיצטלא של מוכיח ומטיף מוסר להשמיע ע"י הטעלעפאן דברי ניאויז ודברי נבלה אשר אין הדעת סובלתן ומקור מקומם טמא ומטמא, ולדאבונינו הקול נשמע בהרבה בתים בישראל, ובפרט בני הנעורים נמשכו לתומם להקשיב לניאומיו הארסיים והמגועלים ובעוה"ר הרבה חללים הפילה ר"ל, וכל עמה נאנחים ונאנקים. וכבר התחננו אליו בבקשות ותחנונים והתרו אותו רבנים ומחנכים שישוב מדרכו הרעה לסתום פיו דובר נבלה, ואוטם אזנו משמוע, והינו עומד במרדו להשחית ולהרעיל את הנוער באופן אויב ונורא, ועוד מעיז לאיים על הרבנים באלך ואמסור.

ע"כ באנו בזה בשער בת רבים לגלות דעתינו דעת תורה אודות האיש ואת שיחו כדלהלן:

א. איסור חמור על פי תורה להקשיב לשיחותיו ופספופטי הבליו לא דבר ולא חצי דבר, הן אנשים והן נשים, גדולים וקטנים, הן מצד דברי נבלה והן מצד הוצאת לעז וש"ר וזילותא דרבנן באופן מבהיל, וכו'. וידוע עונש החמור רח"ל הבא על עון ניבול פה כמבואר במס' שבת לג. בעון נבלות פה צרות רבות וגו"ר מתחדשות ובהורי שונאי ישראל מתיים וכו'. ואמרו עוד שם, כל המנבל את פיו מעמיקין לו גיהנם וכו' רנב"י אמר אף שומע ושותק. וחיובא רמיא על ההורים והמחנכים להשגיח ולהזהיר גדולים על הקטנים לא להכשל וליפול בפח מוקשיו חלילה אפילו בשמיעה כל דהו, והחש לעתיד בניו ובנותיו ידע כי בנפשם הוא.

ב. המושחת הזה הינו אבן נגף לבית ישראל, ודינו כחוטא ומחטיא את הרבים שהוא א' מכ"ד דברים המעכבים את התשובה כמבואר ברמב"ם פ"ד מוהל' תשובה. ועל הציבור להזהר בנפשותם להתרחק ממנו ולהרחיקו מתוך מחנינו, לא לדבר עמו וכש"כ שלא לכבדו או לחוקו, ולא ליתן לו דריסת רגל בשום ביהמ"ד עד שישוב מדרכיו הרעים ויפסיק שיחות הטעלעפאן לגמרי אף לא לד"ת ומוסר בלי שום התנצלות.

ג. אין לו שום נאמנות על מקואות טהרה בישראל אפילו לצירוף בעלמא.

והשומר עמו ישראל ירחם עליו שנוכה לגדל ולחנך צאצאינו בקדושה וטהרה בלי שום מכשול ולהנצל מכל פגע רע ומשטן המשחית ומכל צרה וצוקה מעתה ועד עולם אמן.

באעה"ח בחודש סיון תשס"ח לפ"ק

מונחם מענדל טייטלבוים אבד"ק סאטמאר-וויליאמסבורג	שמואל זאב ליכטער אבד"ק כונת הלב	שמחה בונם עהרנפעלד אבד"ק מאַטערסדאָרף	משה גרין ר"י ישיבה דמאָנסי	משה הלברשטאַם אבד"ק קוויאָשד
משולם דוב פּאָלאַטשעק אבד"ק מגד יהודא	משה פריעדמאן דומ"ץ סאטמאר-ב"פ	מונחם זכרי זילבער אבד"ק פריימאן	שרגא פייבוש האגער אדמו"ר מקאסוב	געציל בערקאוויטש דומ"ץ קרית יואל
ישראל דוד הארפענעס אבד"ק ישראל והומנים	מונחם פישער דומ"ץ וויען-מאָנסי	יחיאל מיכל שטיינמעץ דומ"ץ סקווירא-ב"פ	חיים אברהם דובער פּלאָהר ראה"כ באר מנחם	כנימין זאב לאנדוי דומ"ץ טאהש-ב"פ
ישראל האגער בהרה"צ מוויזניץ שליט"א	יצחק אייזיק מנחם אייכנשטיין אדמו"ר מנאלאנטא	פינחס שלום בהרה"צ מוויזניץ שליט"א	ישעי יעקב פארטוגאל בהרה"צ מסקולען שליט"א	דוד משה טווערסקי בהרה"צ מראחמיסמרויוקא שליט"א
צבי הירש מייזליש אבד"ק שאפראן	יושע רובין אבד"ק באבוב	מאיר מודרוס זילבער אבד"ק יאוואזשנא	אליעזר חיים בלום אבד"ק קאשוי	דוד אייכנשטיין אדמו"ר מבורשטין
בעלאל טובי וועטענשטיין דומ"ץ בעלזא-מאנסי	יחזקאל שרגא גאלד אבד"ק שערי חסד	הילל וויינבערגער אבד"ק סערדאהעלי ודומ"ץ נייטרא	צבי יששכר דוב כ"ץ אבד"ק דושינסקיא	יוסף ישראל אייכנבערגער דומ"ץ שיכון סקווירא

שלמה גראס
דומ"ץ בעלזא-ב"פ

יואל מארגנשטערן
אבד"ק שארמאש

Cong. Yetev Lev
D'Satmar



קהל יטב לב
ד'סאטמאר

בנשיאות כ"ק מרן רבינו שליט"א

נתייסדה ע"י מרן רבינו הקוה"ט זצ"ל

Central Office: 150 Rodney Street • Mailing Address: P.O.B. 506 • Brooklyn, NY 11211 • Tel. (718) 384-7449 • Fax: (718) 384-7455

בס"ד

יום ה' שמיני כ' אדר ב' תשס"ח לפ"ק

לכבוד הגבאים בבית מדרשינו קהל יטב לב דסאטמאר
בקליימער סטריט כאו"א בשמו הטוב יבורך ויהולל

אחדשה"ט, הנה הגיע לאזנינו שמועה לא טובה שמתכוון האי מאן
דהו "נחום ראזענבערג" לבוא להתפלל בבית מדרשינו הנ"ל.

הנ"ל ידוע לשמצה בהקמת ההא"ט ליין שלו שמפרסם שם דברי
ניאוף וזנות בבזיון לגדולים ותלמידי חכמים ואסור ליהודי לשומעם,
ומכשיל בזה מאות ילדי ובחורי ישראל בשומעם דברי תועבה על ההא"ט
ליין הנ"ל, וכבר נאסר קול קורא נגדו ע"י הרבנים הגאונים חברי
התאחדות הרבנים שליט"א.

אי לזאת הננו מודיעים למע"כ שאסור לנחום ראזענבערג הנ"ל
לדרוס כף רגלו בבתי מדרשינו בלי שום יוצא מכלל, עד שיסגור ההא"ט
ליין הנ"ל ויעשה תשובה ויתחרט על מעשיו הלא טובים.

החותמים בצער

הנהלת הקהלה



THE KARASICK CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE of PROJECT Y.E.S.

ArtScroll Youth Series®

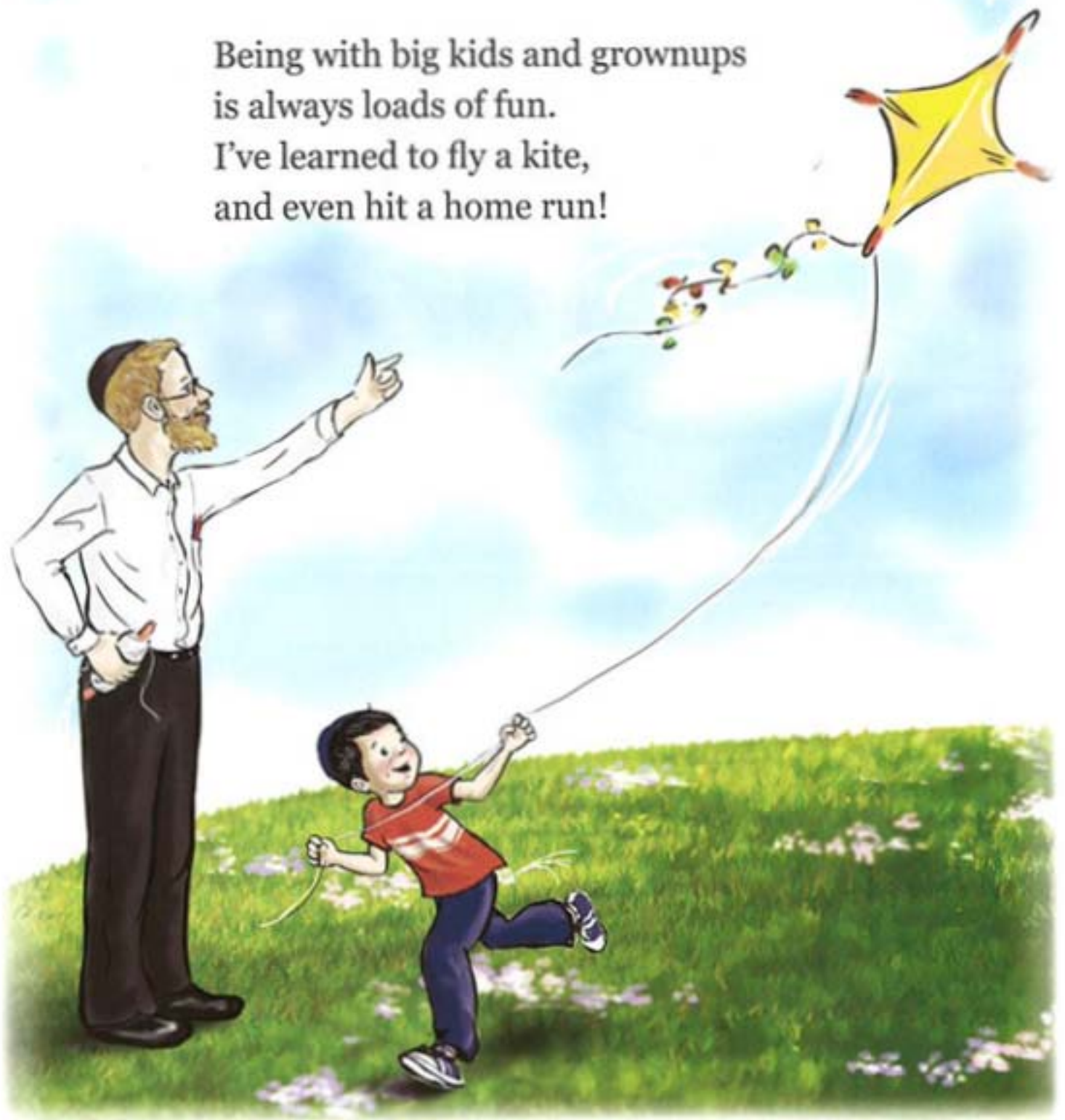
Let's Stay Safe!

The Malka and Arthur Krausman Edition



Illustrated by Tova Leff

Being with big kids and grownups
is always loads of fun.
I've learned to fly a kite,
and even hit a home run!



But even someone we know
and like very much
shouldn't touch us in ways
we don't want them to touch.

בד"צ דק"ק שכונת קראון הייטס

Beth Din of Crown Heights

390a Klagen Ave.

Brooklyn, New York 11213

Telephone (718) 604-8000

Fax (718) 773-0186

בי"ה, ועשיק פי בלק, וי תמוז, ה'תשע"א

למשמע אוון דאבה נפשע ע"ד כויכ מקרים של התעללות פיזית ומינית בילדים רח"ל הילית שנעשו לאחרונה. ונוסף על חומר הענין מצ"ע, תוצאותי מי ישורנו, בההיזק החמור שנגרם להילדים במשך כל ימי חייהם, כמפורסם.

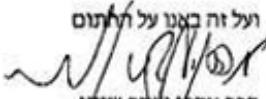
והנה בזה להבהיר דעתנו שע"פ דת תה"ק יש למתעלל דין רודף בשעת מעשה (ע"פ סנה"ע, א).

ופשוט שכל האיטורים החמורים ביותר דמסירה וכ"י ל"ש בכנון דא, במקום שיש גללים לדבר ואומדנא דמוכח שנעשה מה שנעשה. (נמכו"כ טעמים: תה"ש - ראה שו"ע חו"מ סכ"ח ס"ג. באה"כ חו"מ שפ"ח ס"ב אות ס. וראה שו"ע אדה"ז הל' נקי גוי"כ ס"ד; רגיל להכות - ש"ך שם סקמ"ח. שו"ע אדה"ז הל' גוי"כ ס"ו. וראה שו"ע צ"ח ח"ב ס"ג; ומצער את הרבים - ש"ך חו"מ שם סק"ט).

ומי שביכולתו להציל ולא הציל עובר בלא תעמוד וגו' (שו"ע חו"מ סכ"ז). שו"ע אדה"ז הל' נקי גוי"כ ס"ז).

ויהי"ר שעי"י מעשינו ועבודתנו בקיום "יבצרת הרע מקרבך" נוכח לקיום היעוד (וכרי"ג, ב) ד"יאת רוח הטומאה אעביר מן הארץ" (ראה סה"מ עט"ר"ת ע' שנו. ועד), בביאת משיח צדקנו תומי"י ממ"ש.


הרב יוסף /שעי ברין
חבר הבד"צ

ועל זה באנו על החתום

הרב אהרן יעקב שוחי
חבר הבד"צ

The Beis Din has become increasingly aware of severe incidents of child abuse (CSA) that have occurred recently; causing many of these victims and their families significant long-term harm (e.g. aggressive behavior, alcohol and/ or drug abuse, increased risk of suicide etc).

Many victims of CSA remain silent without coming forward to accuse perpetrators or to seek help for fear of stigma or perceived Halacha concerns, thereby enabling and perpetrating an environment of abuse.

The Beis Din condemns all forms of child abuse, and affirms that an abuser is considered a rodef at the time of attack.

The severe prohibitions of mesirah (reporting crimes to the police & civil authorities) and arka'os (adjudication in civil courts) do not apply in cases where there is evidence of abuse.

One is forbidden to remain silent in such situations.

Through our efforts to "eradicate evil from our midst", we will merit the fulfillment of the prophecy "And the spirit of impurity I shall remove from the earth", with the coming of Moshiach now.

ועד הקהל דשכונה קראון הייטס
VAAD HAKOHOL
 OF CROWN HEIGHTS
 כאן צוה ד' את הברכה

390A Kingston Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11225

(718) 771-9000

2 Av, 5771

August 2, 2011

Dear Fellow Community Members;

The test of a community is how it reacts to moments of crisis and difficulty. We find ourselves under such circumstances today. A member of our community has been accused of certain abhorrent acts. We write this letter to express what we (in consultation with several Rabonim and Mashpee'im) think is an appropriate response.

To begin with, we all obviously agree that child abuse, in any form, should not be tolerated, and child abusers should be punished. There is no need to expound on this, as it obvious. This is a given, and we're all on the "same team" on this one.

We would like, however, to draw attention to other – perhaps less obvious – points. Many of us, in our righteous and justified pursuit of justice, forget about a few basic halachic principles, principles which also make an abundance of common sense. We primarily refer to: (1) presumption of innocence; and (2) the consequences to the accused person's family.

"Innocent until proven guilty" is one of the most fundamental tenets of Jewish law (Bava Kama 46b -- as well as many places). When we hear stories about an alleged crime, it is easy and natural to start imagining the worst, and fully believe it. In the end, the alleged crime may turn out to be true. But, we are told to suspend judgment until a full investigation and fair process is conducted, because without a fair process we do not know what really happened. Before the conclusion of a fair process, we can be relying on rumors, half-memories, miscommunications, and (sometimes) even intentional deceit.

An alleged perpetrator may be guilty, but he also may be innocent. The possibility of his innocence is (even if you think small, still) very real. If he is guilty – he will be punished. But, in the event that a suspect is not guilty, does anyone want to be responsible for ruining the life of an innocent man?

In addition, a good deal of speculation and chatter has begun to circulate about members of the community that are based on speculation that may not be backed up by actual evidence. We remind everyone that it is against the Torah to malign anyone without evidence. Where there are valid concerns, the Beis Din has encouraged involving the relevant authorities who can determine the truth of any claims.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, regardless of whether the accused indeed committed these acts, his family is absolutely innocent. They are wonderful

members of our community, as many of you know. This accusation has caused tremendous pain and suffering to them. It will likely continue to cause them even more pain and suffering, if we do not become more considerate. Each of us can imagine how painful it would be if our parent was accused of the same. It is 100% wrong to be "שיקד" "עוין אבות על בנים", and spreading the rumors and increasing the chatter on this matter does only that.

Before we go any further, let us make clear what we are NOT saying. We are not saying that a thorough investigation should not be conducted into any possible child abuse. Nor are we saying that if the legal process finds such child abuse, the perpetrator should be not punished to the full extent of the law. We are NOT saying either of those things.

What we ARE saying is that the matter is now in the hands of the legal authorities. They are investigating the accusations and will prosecute the case if they see fit. Obviously, we have the greatest concern for the alleged victims – and they are indeed having their case heard fully and fairly in front of a court of law. However, we must remember that the alleged perpetrator's family members are also victims. We add nothing positive by adding fuel to the fire and scream and shout and post all over the internet about this. All that achieves is to hurt innocent family members of the accused.

Justice will be served, in due time. However, in the interim, we must show restraint in our actions and judgment. Let the very competent detectives, with the experience and knowledge in these matters, investigate what happened. More importantly, let us allow the justice system (to which the Bes Din consented the alleged victims go to) apply a fair and rigorous process through which the truth will come out. Until then, let's be patient and show sympathy for the family. Being part of the rumor-mill that generates and passes half-truths, will do very real, lasting and deep damage to innocent people here. Let's prevent that.

Practically speaking, we ask our fellow community members:

1. Please suspend judgment until a verdict has been reached.
2. Please do not further spread rumors and stories about any accusation.
3. Please treat the family with the decency and respect they deserve.

May these days be turned from sadness into joy.

Zaki Tamir

Fishel Brownstein

Yossi Hackner