

New Community *She'eilah* Line Launched In Memory of Dayan Lopian

On Sunday an innovative new *she'eilah* service will be launched by the Federation Beis Din with the support of its *Dayanim*, as a service for the entire *kehillah*. The project is dedicated *l'ilui nishmas* Dayan Gershon Lopian, *zt"l*, who was a long-serving Rav of Edgware Yeshurun and a *Dayan* of the Federation.

ShailaText will allow people to send in their questions by text message at any time of the day or night, with the guarantee of receiving a response within 24 hours or less. In more complex situations they will be provided with the phone number of a Federation Rav to whom they can speak personally for further clarifications. Apart from the cost of the text message itself the service is entirely free of charge and open to anyone who wishes to avail themselves of it.

The Federation's President Andrew Cohen commented, "Dayan Lopian was known for his warm encouragement of people asking *she'eilos* and was never too busy to make himself available. This is exactly what we wish to continue with ShailaText, under the guidance of our *Dayanim* and Rabbanim, in particular Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft of Kehillas Nishmas Yisroel, who has many years of experience responding to community *she'eilos*."

Rabbi Tugendhaft said, "We know, of course, that nothing can take the place of someone having an ongoing relationship with their own Rav who knows them and understands their circumstances. However, for people who have not yet managed to establish such a figure in their lives, or who are not able to reach their own Rav,

it's important that there are other avenues available for them to find out the answer to their *she'eilah*. We hope the service will be of great benefit to those who need it."

Andrew Cohen continued, "Dayan Lopian was a trusted guiding light to so

many in our community and he is sorely missed. He was also a 'Rabbis' Rabbi,' training many in practical rabbinics and halachic methodology. We are proud to bring the *kehillah* a dedicated service in his memory."

The ShailaText number is 07860 017 641. For more information visit www.federationofsynagogues.com or for dedication and sponsorship opportunities email judy.silkoff@federationofsynagogues.co

Questions and Answers With Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft

Q: Why did you decide to set up ShailaText?

A: Dayan Lopian, *zt"l*, was my *rebbe* and teacher, and he was well known for being available to answer *she'eilos* 24/6 – he would sit and learn in his study with the phone at his side, ready to answer whenever anyone phoned with a question. People would call him up by the hundreds and thousands, and we have heard from many of them how relieved they felt to be able to get through to a *posek* when they needed to. He made himself available to the *tzibbur* and since his passing there has been a huge void. We hope that the ShailaText service will be able to fill a little bit of that void.

Q: How can an SMS service replace asking *she'eilos* of one's own Rav?

A: Of course, in *Yiddishkeit*, we have the concept of "*aseh lecha Rav*" and indeed nothing can take the place of a person building an ongoing relationship with his Rav, taking

his *she'eilos* to someone who knows him and understands his personal situation. On the other hand, urgent *she'eilos* do crop up from time to time, and if one's Rav is out of town or unable to be reached, a few hours may make a big difference and he will be forced to err on the side of caution for lack of someone to ask. It is in these situations that we envisage people turning to ShailaText. Furthermore, there are unfortunately people who, for whatever reason, simply don't have their own Rav to ask *she'eilos* to. It's clearly preferable for them to send us an SMS rather than not ask questions at all.

Q: What are the main kinds of *she'eilos* you feel it's likely you'll be receiving?

A: I imagine that the majority of questions will be on kitchen kashrus, *taharas hamishpachah*, *hilchos Shabbos* and *Yom Tov* – the full range of questions on day-to-day life. It will be especially helpful for people who are moving house, needing to know

what they can kasher and how to kasher it, or the *halachos* of putting up *mezuzos*.

Q: Are there any questions that should not be taken to ShailaText?

A: We are not intended to be used by those with *she'eilos* in *Choshen Mishpat*, financial disputes and so on. We aren't equipped to answer those via this medium.

Q: What will you do in cases where the *she'eilos* you are asked are very complicated with far-reaching ramifications?

A: We are very fortunate to have the backing of Dayan Lichtenstein and Dayan Elzas – both world-class *poskim* who are always available to the Federation Rabbanim. We are able to refer *she'eilos* on to them where necessary, and Ask the Federation has their full support.

ShailaText's number is 07860 017 641.

Mrs. Chaja Pollak (Adler), a"h

A tribute from a granddaughter to mark her first *yahrtzeit*.

As the first *yahrtzeit* of my grandmother, Mrs. Chaja Pollak – Bomama – approaches, I would like to share with you some thoughts on how she inspired us throughout her life and keeps on inspiring us.

My grandmother was born to Reb Menachem Mendel and Hinda Adler in 1926 in Slovakia. She always recalled how, as a young girl, when guests came to their house, the children automatically had to give their beds to the guest, no matter who it was or where he came from.

The *chinuch* she received in her home was that material things don't belong to anyone but *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* and we should not view ourselves highly when compared to a beggar.

When the Nazis, *yimach shemam*, invaded her town of Brezne, my grandmother's parents were worried about their children's survival, so they helped my grandmother and her sister flee through forests and fields toward Hungary. Before parting from her parents, not knowing if she would ever see them again, she heard these last words from her mother, that would accompany her throughout her life: "Chaja, there will be situations where you will have to make a decision on which direction to go. Always take the hard way up; never take the easy way down."

When she and my grandfather came to live Brussels after the war, their *chessed* became known to all. People from all walks of life came to them, be it for a meal, a bed, advice, *tzedakah* or anything else.

Because the *chinuch* in Brussels was not the same as in Antwerp, my grandparents decided to send their boys to Antwerp. This was great *mesirus nefesh* on my grandparents' part as my grandfather was ill at the time. Even after the *petirah* of my grandfather, 41 years ago, my grandmother used to travel every night to Antwerp to put her son to bed, and take the train back late at night.

Throughout all the years that my grandfather was ill, she stood at his side like a soldier. When my grandfather asked the doctor if he would live for more than three months, in order to make a decision regarding a business deal, the doctor answered in the affirmative. Afterward, he told my grandmother privately that *al pi teva*, my grandfather would pass away before that and all the money would be lost.

Despite being aware of the great financial loss she would suffer due to this business deal being negotiated by my grandfather, my grandmother decided to remain silent and not reveal to him the real and terrible reality that he would pass away before that. For her to give *simchas hachaim* to my grandfather for a few more days was worth everything.

My grandmother was an *almanah* for 40 years, yet we did not hear her complain. She continued passing on the *hanhagos tovos* from our grandfather, always with a lot of respect for his name.

Bomama was an example of *bitachon* in Hashem. Her life was *chessed*. She thought

Continued on page 41

Manchester's Dr. Sueke Killed in Accident After Moving to Sydney

A recent tragic road accident in Sydney claimed the life of a Jewish man who had recently emigrated to Australia from Britain.

Dr. Henri Sueke was 36 years old and until recently had lived in Hale Barns, south Manchester. He was a popular member of the Shaare Hayim synagogue. Rabbi Amir Ellituv, Rav of the community, described him as a person who was "very loved by everyone. He was full of life!"

As a pediatric ophthalmologist, Dr. Sueke worked in Liverpool, but he was also an enthusiastic cyclist and fundraiser, taking part in the Great Manchester Cycle for charity Vision4Children, in order to raise money for spinal muscular atrophy.

Dr. Sueke and his Australian-born wife had four children, and had just moved to Sydney in March. His children were enrolled in the local Jewish school. He had started working at Sydney's Children's Hospital, and a spokesman for the hospital said, "In the short time Henri worked at The Children's Hospital at Westmead he became a much loved member of staff. He was respected and admired by his colleagues for his kindness and dedication to his patients. He was an excellent doctor!"

Early on Thursday morning, while he was cycling in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, emergency services were called, as Dr. Sueke had been involved



in a collision with a truck. Despite efforts of paramedics and others, Dr. Sueke succumbed to his fatal injuries at the scene of the accident. The Australian police are investigating the circumstances of the crash.

The hospital where Dr. Sueke worked said in a statement, "We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends, and in particular to his wife and four children."

In Manchester, Rabbi Ellituv expressed the deep shock and sorrow of the whole *kehillah*. "We grew up together. We lived our lives together. We are all shocked beyond words."