

Haircuts in halocho

Modiin Illit: Private Printing (5783, third edition)

Jay Levinson

This book, now in its third edition and authored by a non-profit organization devoted to the subject as defined in the title, dispels a common misconception.

A man (boys included) absolutely cannot go to just any barber to get a haircut. It is not enough to simply tell the barber not to use a razor. The *halochos* are much more complicated than that. This book (in Hebrew) comes with several very reliable *haskomos* and delves into the issue with clear explanations, numerous *halachic* sources, and very helpful illustrations.

We all know of the *issur* to cut פאות הראש, but where do they begin on the head? How wide are they? These are important questions whose answers can vary from person to person. Illustrations show how this is determined. When one straightens long פאות with a comb, very often strands of hair come out. The authors (none is mentioned by name) cite sources that such combing is permissible, since detaching the hairs is unintentional.

Not everyone wants a beard. That

is very much a personal decision. For those who want to be shaven, the authors recommend a cream to remove hairs, but removing the cream is also an issue. One solution might sound a bit comical. The

implement to remove the cream cannot be a sharp item such as a knife. The authors give the example of a blunt item (not sharp) --- a popsicle (*Artik* in Israeli parlance) stick.

There are numerous issues raised in this very worthwhile book. We all know that we must use only an *halachically* approved shaver, but does the barber use one? Some men have hair on their throat. Where does the face end in terms of removing hair? And don't forget about

shaving or trimming a mustache or the hair as the back of the head towards the neck.

There is no question and no qualification. This book is highly recommended. It is an essential guide to keeping *mitzvos*.

Questions can be asked daily from 1330 to 1430 by calling telephone (972) 55-6790439.



Moving up

Living in the land - Yoel Berman - Mosaica Press

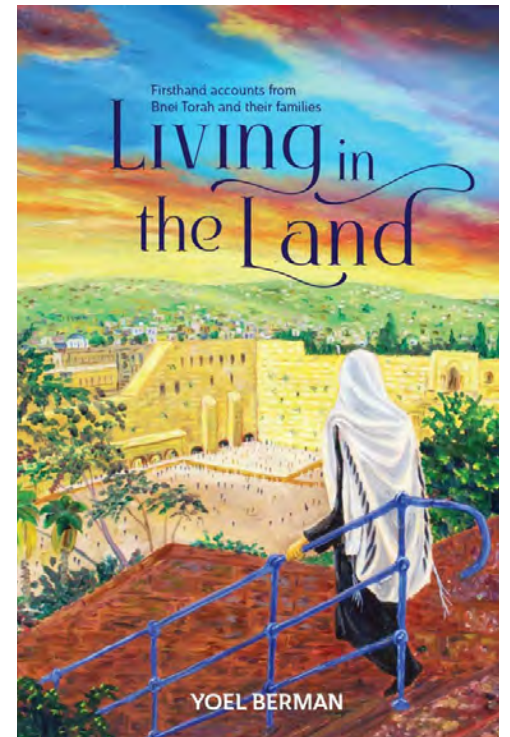
R. Deutsch

Yidden inherently want to live in Eretz Yisroel; when we say L'shana habo biYerushalayim at the end of Yom Kippur and the Pesach Seder, we all sincerely mean it. Unfortunately, however, too many Yidden are very comfortable living in Chutz La'aretz and see making aliya as an impractical dream.

Living in the Land, by R' Yoel Berman, sets out to change this mindset. The book is a compilation of first-hand accounts of Bnei Torah and their families who have made the move and whose lives have been immeasurably enriched as a result. 50 frum olim describe the joys, challenges and opportunities of making the move to Eretz Yisroel, as well as the resources and strategies that made for success.

Reading this book is an adventure - it draws the reader along on a journey to Eretz Yisroel, through the decisions and worries, and the choices and achievements of the courageous people who have trodden the path.

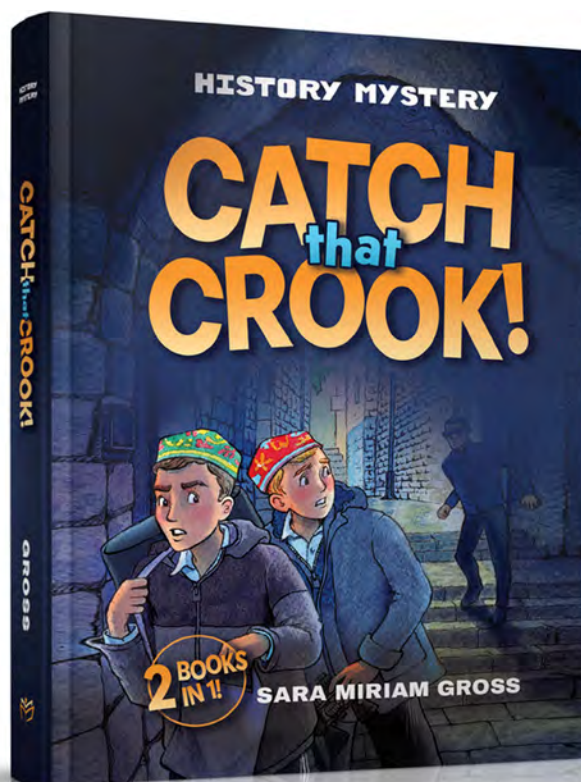
Discussions about where in the Holy Land to settle, and which areas the most ideal for 'chutzniks' to live in are very varied and provide many different, yet equally compelling, perspectives. Some of the contributors to the book advocate moving to the typical areas popular to Anglo-speakers, which already have the complete infrastructure in place for them, whereas other olim felt it was more beneficial to live in the smaller, more 'out-of-the-way' settlements, both for financial and other considerations. Another area which comes up in many



of the essays is chinuch, and while there are also differing opinions, they are all very positive.

As well as the wonderful *chizuk* provided in the book, which highlights the spiritual benefits as well as the practical ones of moving to Eretz Yisroel, there are also many useful resources and ideas throughout the essays, in addition to the comprehensive appendix, to help with the practical aspects of the topic.

Readers beware! This book is very convincing and you may very well find it gives you the push to make the move which all Yidden have been dreaming of for the last 2000 years.



A double treat for kids and adults

Catch that Crook - Sara Miriam Gross (Menucha Publishers)

From My Library

This week, one for the kids (and adults too!); a really yummy new book by Sara Miriam Gross. Actually, it's two books in one, a double treat, where you'll enjoy the hilarious antics of two active, well-meaning boys, who always seem to get caught up in a major, complicated situation.

The first adventure involves a scam at the old people's home that the kind-hearted boys visit, and a follow-on trip to Poland. The second one revolves around a precious Sefer Torah and a trip to Tzefas.

The writing is so descriptive and on target that you'll feel you really are in those places. Kids will feel they've made two amazing new friends in the form of the intrepid Avi and Shlomo.

Gm Adam

The two stories are also a mine of historical information that kids - and parents - will find really interesting and intriguing.

A host of colourful, often quirky, characters, fill the pages, and there's *lots* of humour that will have you not only chuckling but polling. Let two young readers (quoted at the beginning of the book) have the last say.

"Shlomi and Avi have such great adventures together. I wish I could join them." (Yoni, 11)

This was one of the best mystery books I've ever read...I couldn't put the book down," (Devorah Leah, 11).

This book can be borrowed from Salford's Wellington St. Library: 0161 792 3233