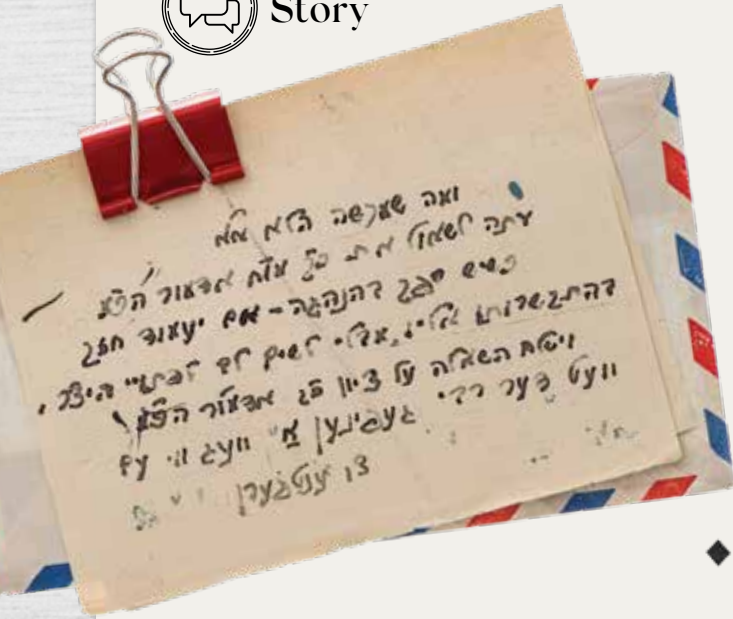




Story



לזכות  
 החייל בצבאות ה' השליח  
**מנחם מענדל שיחי'**  
 לרגל יום הולדתו י"ד מנחם אב

נדפס ע"י הוריו  
 הרה"ת ר' דוד וזוגתו מרת פערל גאלדא  
 ומשפחתם שיחיו  
 טייכטל

# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

WRITTEN BY: RABBI LEVI GREENBERG

# From the Beginning to the End



AS TOLD BY  
**RABBI YAHIR ELBAZE**  
 (Paris, France)

After our marriage in 5777, my wife Shterna and I joined her parents Rabbi Shlomo and Dvora Azoulay on Shlichus in a suburb of Paris called Levallois-Perret, to work with the youth. Five years later, in Elul 5782 we opened a new Chabad House in a different part of town, to serve the growing community and broaden our youth activities while maintaining our previous activities.

Though the Jewish community was excited about the expansion, our neighbors were not really ready for it, to say the least. From the very beginning, every event, even a small Torah class, was a challenge. The slightest noise from the Chabad House was too much for them. They

immediately started filing complaints with the authorities and finding every reason to make us move. As our activities thrived, the controversy only intensified, and after many months, the local authorities notified us that to continue to have religious activities at this location we needed the approval of our neighbors. Due to recent changes in the law, we were not allowed to operate from our location. We were given fifteen days to appeal the decision.

Several lawyers and architects advised me to immediately suspend my activities at that location until we worked through the bureaucracy; none of them had a practical solution to the problem. Two weeks passed, and on the

morning of the deadline for us to submit an appeal I had no idea how to proceed. During the last few hours, I called my wife and said, “So what do we do? Do we try to appeal this?”

My wife felt we did our best to keep the new Chabad House open in that location but “you can’t fight the law.” For the time being, we would need to close it and search for a better location going forward. I knew she was right so we let go of the location on 8 Menachem-Av. Although we were severely disappointed, shortly afterward we realized that the fact we were forced to close the Chabad House on that specific date was a message of encouragement from the Rebbe. Here is why.

Months earlier, when we opened the Chabad House in Elul 5782, I was having a lot of trouble with fundraising and organizing the opening, as well as various other activities. At one point, I wrote a letter to the Rebbe expressing some of my frustrations and concluded: “I need help and I am asking, **perhaps the Rebbe can help me.**”

A few days later, on the last Thursday night before Rosh Hashanah 5783, Rabbi Chaim Slonim, a shlich in Dijon, a three-hour drive from Paris, wrote the following message on the French-speaking Shluchim’s Whatsapp group:

“Who can help? A shluchim couple from Argentina, Rabbi and Mrs. Shaingarten, are landing in Paris airport tomorrow afternoon and continuing to Eretz Yisroel on Motzei Shabbos. Can anyone host them for Shabbos?”

After confirming with my wife, I reached out to Rabbi Slonim and offered to host the Shaingartens for Shabbos. Their son and daughter-in-law who live on shlichus in Bangkok just had a baby boy, and the bris was scheduled for Tzom Gedalia. The only way the child’s grandparents could make it to Thailand from Argentina in time for the bris, with Shabbos and Rosh Hashanah in between, was through an intricate series of flights through Europe, Israel, and Asia, with little room for error.

Initially, they arranged to spend Shabbos in Brunoy, but when they realized how far they were from the Charles de Gaulle airport, they needed to find closer accommodations, and we were happy to help.

We had a wonderful Shabbos together. On Motzei



A FARBRENGEN IN THE NEW CHABAD HOUSE.

Shabbos, before leaving for the airport, Mrs. Shaingarten approached me and expressed how much they enjoyed their stay with us and were so grateful for the hospitality. “Perhaps this could help you,” she said as she handed me a dollar she received from the Rebbe. The date on the dollar was 8 Menachem-Av.

My wife and I were overwhelmed by the gesture and thanked her profusely. I also made note of the fact that Mrs. Shaingarten used the same expression as she gave me the dollar that I had used in my letter to the Rebbe. “Perhaps the Rebbe can help me.”

Now, almost a year later, we realized the significance of the date on that dollar. The revealed *Hashgacha Protis* of the Shaingartens from Argentina spending Shabbos with us at the beginning of the saga, the fact that Mrs. Shaingarten gave us such a meaningful gift, and the fact that the date on the dollar was the day we closed our new Chabad House left no room for doubt: the Rebbe was guiding and blessing us throughout the entire episode, from the opening of the Chabad House until its closing, and we were certain everything will work out for the best.

Sure enough, several months later we found another location almost twice the size, and on Yud Alef Nissan 5784 we received the necessary permits to open our Chabad House once again. **T**

## YOUR STORY

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