

The Daily Portion
Sivan Rahav-Meir

A PRESENT FROM AMERICA

A few days ago we returned from a trip to the U.S. When they asked me at EL-AL security check the usual question: "Has anyone given you something to pass on to someone else?", I said no. But the truth is that someone did give me something to pass on. We merited to meet during the visit Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, Rosh Yeshiva of the Philadelphia Yeshiva, 94 years old, who is considered to be one of the most prominent spiritual leaders in American Jewry. At the end of the fascinating conversation with him and his wife, Rebbetzin Tammy, we asked the Rabbi what is his message to the public in Israel.

Rabbi Kamenetsky answered promptly: "In these days? The message to the public, not only in Israel, is that we came out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, and that now the holiday of Matan Torah (the Giving of the Torah) is drawing near. There are always many subjects and issues, but at this time of year, a person has to ask himself if he remembers that the Holiday of Shavuot is drawing near, and if he remembers that we receive the Torah anew, and to check with himself personally how he plans to receive the Torah this year and how he progresses towards that goal".

Done. I passed this on.