

ORGANS SANS BORDERS

Sir, – We now know that some of the organs recovered in Israel from J.J. Greenberg and Yoni Jesner, Orthodox Jews, were successfully transplanted into Palestinian recipients. These donations symbolize more than anything the Jewish belief that all human beings possess limitless potential to live a life of goodness regardless of the environment in which they are raised.

Yet these acts of kindness by the Jesner and Greenberg families pose many perplexing questions to Orthodox Jews concerning organ donation and Halacha. The Halachic Organ Donor Society was created with the help of Stephen Flatow to help educate Jews who wish to explore this issue, as well as to afford them the opportunity to join a halachic organ donor society.

Over the past year in America there has been a 13-14% increase in organ donation among the Afro-American and Hispanic communities. This phenomenon is attributed to the newly formed Afro-American and Hispanic organ donor societies that market the issue of organ donation to those ethnic groups. It is the hope of the HOD Society that it too can help an already growing grassroots movement among Jews to reflect upon, and act upon, this life-saving issue.

More information may be found at www.hods.org.

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