

FINDING THE Joy

TEMMI HADAR



RIDING THE WAVES

It was a hectic afternoon. I only walked into the house around 6:00 p.m.

One of my children was hiding under the bed in his room, angry.

I went to chat with him, but I didn't fit under his bed, so I went to the kitchen.

My toddler was standing on the counter, so I removed him. I'm unreasonable like that.

He proceeded to scream for the next 20 minutes.

There was homework to be done but it wasn't happening. Not that night.

It seemed wildly overwhelming.

But somehow, and honestly, I can't provide any tips on how it happened, but the toddler stopped crying and sat down to eat his shawarma.

The child came out from under the bed and also ate his shawarma nicely.

If you walked into my house at that moment it seemed like an advertisement for a happy family.

I had the two girls in their rooms studying with their friends.

I had my three little boys at the table, having a deep philosophical conversation about Hashem and the Torah.

Life comes in waves, chaos and then peace, calm and then the storm.

If we can remember that, we can learn to ride the waves and enjoy the ebb and flow of life. ❀



TEMMI HADAR, born and raised on shlichus in Seattle, is now living about a million miles away in Johannesburg, South Africa. In "Finding the Joy," she ponders the meaning of life while perpetually sleep-deprived and attempting to juggle the roles of mother, wife, shlucha, teacher, and human being.