

THIS STORY IS SET ABOUT THIRTY YEARS AGO WHEN MANY JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL AFTER THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN. WITH COMMUNISM ON ITS SHAKY LAST LEGS THANKS TO GORBACHEV'S GLASNOST POLICY, AND MANY PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER OF 1986, ISRAEL SAW A GREAT INFLUX OF SOVIET JEWS DURING THAT EVENTFUL TIME PERIOD.



LOOK AT THAT TRUCK. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE NEW NEIGHBORS.



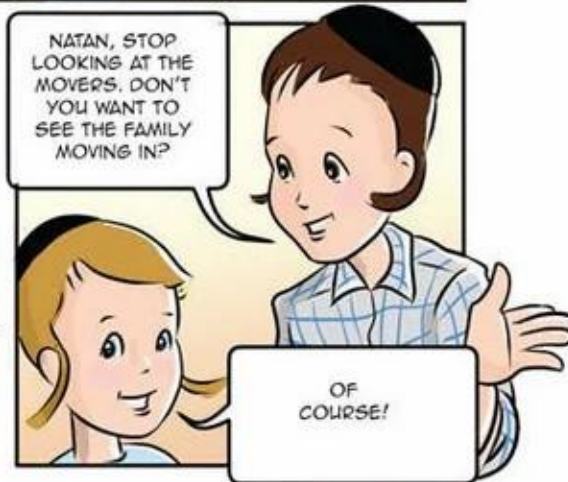
THIS IS THE LAST FAMILY TO JOIN OUR BUILDING.

YAY! THEY'LL BE ON OUR FLOOR.



IT'S FUN TO WATCH PORTERS.

LOOK AT HIM CARRY THAT FRIDGE ON HIS BACK. HOW'S HE GOING TO CARRY IT UP THE STEPS?



NATAN, STOP LOOKING AT THE MOVERS. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THE FAMILY MOVING IN?

OF COURSE!



NU, WHERE ARE THEY ALREADY?



WE'RE ALL WAITING TO SEE THEM. PATIENCE.

OH, LOOK!

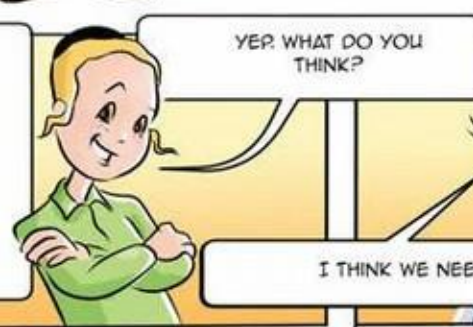


THAT'S NOT HOW I IMAGINED OUR NEW NEIGHBOR WOULD LOOK.

LET'S GO OVER TO GREET HIM.









MY MOTHER PREPARED THIS. IT'S A MEAL TO WELCOME YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. SHE SAID TO WISH YOU: "BRUCHIM HABAIM."



MY MOTHER SAID TO GIVE THIS TO YOU AND WISH YOU: "BRUCHIM HABAIM."



MY MOTHER SAID TO TELL YOU THAT SHE'S AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, AND SHE ALSO SAID TO WISH YOU:



BRUCHIM HABAIM!



THAT MEANS YOU'RE BLESSING ME FOR MOVING HERE, RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU HAVE AN ACCENT, BUT YOU REALLY KNOW HEBREW WELL.



WHEN DID YOUR FAMILY MOVE TO ISRAEL, GRISHA?

THAT'S RIGHT, GRISHA. WHEN DID YOU MOVE HERE? WHAT SCHOOLS HAVE YOU BEEN TO? HOW MANY SIBLINGS DO YOU HAVE?