

# CONNECTIONS



## SPECIAL PRE-DINNER EDITION

### ...נגילה ונשמחה בישועתך. והביאנו לשלום מארבע כנפות הארץ...

... As we go to print with Connections #17, the Yeshiva's Annual Dinner, along with the Ner Michoel tribute to the Class of '99, is upon us, once again. This year there will be a larger than usual representation of the Yeshiva's staff of *Rebbeim*. So many flying in... Rabbi Shurkin coming to deliver a special *Shiur* before the Dinner... It is all testimony to the Yeshiva's commitment to its *Talmidim*, the world-over.

*Baruch Hashem*, over the past number of months, we have experienced this phenomenon of the *talmidim's* desire to connect in a number of ways. In Elul, we visited Baltimore for a Ner Michoel Alumni *Shabbaton* – really, the first of its kind. The welcome and the participation, the relationships and the reconnection, were all very special. For *Yomim Noraim* a large contingent of alumni returned back to Yeshiva, many staying through Succos.

The Toras Moshe *talmid's* desire to reconnect with the Yeshiva - the source of so much of his Torah and *ruchniyus* is reflective and reminiscent of our innate desire to see the *גאולה שלמה*.

(Speaking of which...) In this issue, you will also read of R' Yonasan Bressel's twenty year project combining Shabbos and *Kiruv*. His new Sefer is geared to making Shabbos real to as many of

אחנו בני ישראל, as possible. May it be a *zechus* for us all and may it bring us closer to the true *שלום*...

Finally, you will read about R' Yossi Koff, the first of the Lilmod U'lilameid graduates to "spread his wings" and "fly-off" to faraway Telz Stone ... beginning his career in *harbatzas haTorah*.

May we all hear *besoros tovos* and be *zocheh* to *yeshuos v'nechamos, b'karov*...

Gotta' go now... it's almost time to fly-off to the Dinner...

Hope to see you all there....



*Daniel Sinowitz*  
Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



*Shmuel Weiner*  
Rabbi Shmuel Weiner

## A Beautiful Shabbos in Baltimore with Rabbi Weiner and Rabbi Sinowitz

**T**ishrei's Yom Tov season is over, and people of all ages are settling back into their regular routine. Alumni in Baltimore, however, are still relishing the sweet memories of a very special Shabbos they enjoyed during this past Elul. A great deal of planning and arrangements by the local representatives of Ner Michoel – working together with the leadership at the helm – yielded a highly successful and rewarding Shabbos experience for the greater Baltimore contingent of Toras Moshe *talmidim*.

"It was an incredible Shabbos", said one of the alumni, "a combination of reconnecting with old *chaverim* and meeting new faces. We experienced once again the *pilpul chaverim* and sharing in Torah of the Yeshiva, and refueling our souls with its unique atmosphere. Each of the many events was electric and inspiring. Many of us feel a powerful link and appreciation to the Yeshiva for so many years; this was a great opportunity to galvanize that connection to the Yeshiva and our fellow alumni.

As R' Dovie Gibber described, "Reb Shmuli and Reb Daniel truly amazed us with the seemingly endless energy they brought with them to bond with the *talmidim* and others. Despite their long journey, they welcomed every opportunity they had to connect with each one of the alumni. Every *drasha* and *chabura* was planned to perfection and well received by everyone in the audience. A true testament to the overall success was the number of people who stayed late at night both nights and others that

gladly walked long distances to be at the various events. People really didn't want the weekend to be over!"

The memorable Shabbos began with a *drasha* from Rabbi Weiner on Friday night at Kehillas Kol Torah – Rabbi Berger's *shul* – a large *kehilla* of *bnei Torah* who are proud to be one of Toras Moshe's Adopt-A-Kollel partners.

A beautiful Friday night Oneg took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Yaakov and Esther Spatz. Despite the late hour – the summer timing did not allow for it to start until after 10 PM – there was a very large turnout, which helped make everyone feel at ease. Alumni of different ages and varying periods of Toras Moshe's history connected with each other very quickly. Spirited

Shabbos *zemiros* were followed by an intriguing Q&A session with Rabbi Weiner and *divrei chizuk* from Rabbi Sinowitz. Everyone got very involved in the discussion; the event ended at close to 1 AM.

"There's a certain warm, proud feeling that lives in the heart of every Toras Moshe alumnus", noted Yaakov Spatz, the host. "This explains how many of the attendees who never met before were able to bond instantly and feel at home with each other, making this a truly memorable event".

Rabbi Sinowitz spoke at a *shalosh seudos* at Mercaz Torah U'Tefilla (Rabbi Eichenstein's shul), with a large number of participants.

On Motzei Shabbos, a special learning and *melave malka* event took place in Rabbi Berger's shul, allowing additional alumni to drive in from the surrounding areas of Potomac and Silver Spring. It began with a learning *seder*, after which there was a *chabura* from Rabbi Weiner on the topic of "*Ve'halachta bid'rachav*" – emulating the ways of Hashem. *Mar'ei mekomos* were distributed before Shabbos to allow everyone to prepare. *Divrei ne'ilah* from Rabbi Sinowitz gave a beautiful context to the entire Shabbos. A delectable buffet was enjoyed by all.

"The alumni who put together this Shabbos did things the Toras Moshe way – they did it right!"

observed Uri Rabinowitz. "They chose a great sugya for learning seder, and the sushi, pasta, and pizza came from the best places in town. It was really great to see so many alumni there."

"The Baltimore Shabbos was the first of its kind for Ner Michoel", Rabbi Sinowitz observed. "Never before did Rabbi Weiner and I visit a community for an entire Shabbos that had so many varied

opportunities to reach out to many alumni – and others in the community as well! The Shabbos was made more meaningful by the fact that it was at the time of Rav Michael Wiener's Yahrzeit. Rabbi Weiner's presence and shiurim were up to his fantastic standard. All in all, I think that we left Baltimore with a great sense of *chizuk*. I know that all our alumni felt the same way."



# RABBI YOSEF KOFF

## From Kollel Toras Moshe to Shoe'l U'meishiv



"During the two years I spent in Rabbi Shurkin's *shiur*," recalls Rabbi Koff, "I was privileged to have a front seat, where I had the opportunity to observe his tremendous *simchas haTorah* from up close. I wanted a life that would bring me that same joy, that kind of connection with HaKadosh Baruch Hu. I then spent two years in the Rosh Yeshiva's *shiur*, where I learned to take the skills I attained and utilize them to 'assemble' a *sugya* on my own. I also gained from the elevated *pilpul chaverim*, the advantage of toiling in Torah together with the senior Kollel *avreichim*.

This year's Dinner theme, "Learning Torah. Living Torah. Loving Torah.", has generated a great deal of focus on alumni in the business and professional world, highlighting their continued commitment to the Yeshiva's ideals. A look into the lives of alumni who have assumed positions as *klei kodesh* evidences the same impact of Toras Moshe's unique *derech* and its role in the success they are achieving on a daily basis.

Rabbi Yosef Koff recently began serving as a *sho'el u'meishiv* and night *sefer rebbi* in Yeshivas Yishrei Lev in Telzstone. Rabbi Koff, who grew up in Monsey, came to Toras Moshe from Yeshivas Shaar HaTorah in Queens.

"The Rosh Yeshiva recommended that I join a group of alumni who were going to BMG; it was there that I learned in Rabbi Dovid Lock's *chabura*. Following my marriage, I returned to Toras Moshe and learned in the Kollel for about five years. When the Lilmod U'Lilameid program began about a year ago, Rabbi Jacobowitz encouraged me to join. He assigned me some of the leadership responsibilities of the Kollel, which included serving as a *rosh chabura* and grading the *bechinot*.

"During this time, I recognized the significance of what the Lilmod U'Lilameid program was accomplishing. After several years in Kollel, when you move be-

yond the initial excitement of learning and *shteiging* as an *avreich*, you want some degree of structure and direction; you want to have a goal, a sense of where you are headed. At the same time, you want to continue learning a full *iyun seder*. Additionally, the Rosh Yeshiva says that you reach a point where the only way to take your learning to the next level is by "giving back", that is, teaching and guiding others. At first, it's hard to understand how this can facilitate your personal growth. But once you experience it, when you take responsibility for the growth and development of others, you recognize how effective the system of 'peer review' within the Kollel can be. It's very different from learning with a *chavrusa* and trying to convince him of your *p'shat*; you're now being exposed to a perspective of the *sugya* that is not your own. You gain a new awareness of the Torah's breadth.

"I felt ready to move on and approached the Rosh Yeshiva to discuss my plans for the future. He urged me to start looking for a position with more *achrayus* than I had at that point, so I began asking around, and one thing led to another.

"It is a very hands-on position where I spend a lot of time working with *bochurim*. I run the *sedorim*, making sure the *talmidim* are working on the *mar'ei mekomos* as well as monitoring their growth in learning. I strongly feel that the example of my role models – the *geshmak* I learned from Rabbi Shurkin, and the *ki heim chayeinu* I received from the Rosh Yeshiva – gives me a real koach to be able to work with the bochorim and help them *shteig*.



Rabbi Zev Klein, Rabbi Yehuda Abramowitz, HoRav Moshe Meiselman, Rosh HaYeshiva, Rabbi Michel Shurkin, HoRav Elchonon Fishman, Mashgiach, Rabbi Avrohom Meiselman, Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz, Rabbi Avrohom Samber, Rabbi Naftali Meiselman, Rabbi Eliyahu Meiselman, Rabbi Shmuel Weiner

**BE"H we will all be making a special trip from Eretz Yisroel to attend the dinner. It would be our absolute pleasure and a nachas to reconnect with each and every talmid at the dinner**

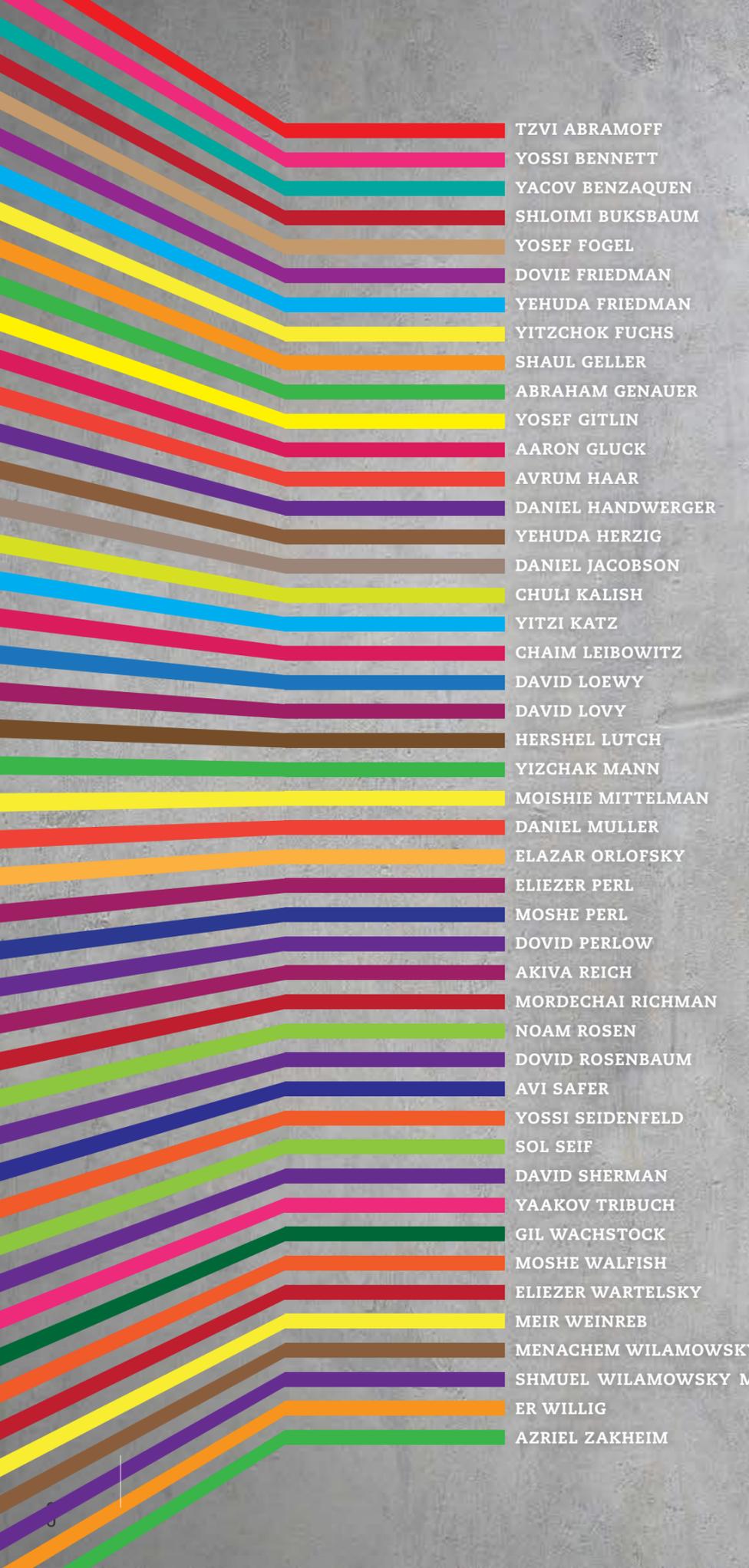
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017 · ט"ז כסלו תשע"ח

ATERES AVROHOM HALL  
75 ROSS STREET · BROOKLYN, NY

5:15 PM – RECEPTION · 6:15 PM – DINNER

**DINNER CHAIRMAN**  
Dovie Friedman

**DINNER COMMITTEE**  
David Charnowitz · Daniel Cohen · Dovie Gibber  
Ari Hoch · Nechemiah Hoch · Rabbi Naftali Katz  
Dovi Kreismann · Chaim Schulhof · Yaakov Weitman · Saadia Zakarin



- TZVI ABRAMOFF
- YOSSI BENNETT
- YACOV BENZAQUEN
- SHLOIMI BUKSBAUM
- YOSEF FOGEL
- DOVIE FRIEDMAN
- YEHUDA FRIEDMAN
- YITZCHOK FUCHS
- SHAUL GELLER
- ABRAHAM GENAUER
- YOSEF GITLIN
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- CHULI KALISH
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- CHAIM LEIBOWITZ
- DAVID LOEWY
- DAVID LOVY
- HERSHEL LUTCH
- YIZCHAK MANN
- MOISHIE MITTELMAN
- DANIEL MULLER
- ELAZAR ORLOFSKY
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- MOSHE PERL
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- NOAM ROSEN
- DOVID ROSENBAUM
- AVI SAFER
- YOSSI SEIDENFELD
- SOL SEIF
- DAVID SHERMAN
- YAAKOV TRIBUCH
- GIL WACHSTOCK
- MOSHE WALFISH
- ELIEZER WARTELSKY
- MEIR WEINREB
- MENACHEM WILAMOWSKY
- SHMUEL WILAMOWSKY MAY
- ER WILLIG
- AZRIEL ZAKHEIM



**Y**eshivas Toras Moshe takes tremendous pride in presenting the Class of '99 with the Ner Michoel Alumni Tribute. Although it's been nearly twenty years since this outstanding group first arrived in Toras Moshe, their connection to the Yeshiva and to one another has remained strong; their diverse lives and accomplishments all reflect the way they continue to apply the Yeshiva's high standards to all aspects of their current lives.

"I was very excited when I heard about the theme of this year's Dinner," says Rabbi Dovid Friedman, who currently resides in Clifton, NJ. "I think that it beautifully captures the uniqueness of the Yeshiva and its *talmidim*. Consider our class; I get tremendous *chizuk* when I meet members of our *shiur* and I recognize that while they may not have schedules with the same quantity of *limud haTorah* as we did back in Yeshiva, their excitement and connection to learning has not been diminished in the least. This is quite an accomplishment for a yeshiva!"

# THE CLASS OF '99

## Recipients of the Ner Michoel Alumni Tribute

"There was something very unique about the culture in the Yeshiva," explains Yossi Seidenfeld. "We were exposed to a *shleimus* – a wholesomeness in *Yiddishkeit*; a *hashkafas hachaim* without contradictions. Toras Moshe was a place with intense clarity on purpose and goal. I was amazed how the Yeshiva masterfully took fifty skeptical, slightly jaded, American *bochurim* and transformed them in a matter of months into genuine *Yirei Shomayim* who were striving for *aliyah* in Torah. It was a remarkable place to call home; we realized we had something special – we knew we struck gold."

R' Noam Rosen is a distinguished alumnus of the class. "It was the older *bochurim* who helped create a bridge between the *rebbeim* and the new arrivals," he points out. "We saw *bochurim* who were only two or three years older than ourselves and were way ahead of us, yet somehow we felt that we could also become like them. We knew that only a few years ago they were just like us or even on a lower level, as some *talmidim* came from weak educational backgrounds and attained great heights in learning; this truly motivated us.

"Who can forget how the older *bochurim* would *schlep* the suitcases of the new *bochurim* up four flights of stairs to the dorm in the old building when they first arrived. Amazingly, they never considered it beneath their dignity to reach out to a younger *bochur* – we're talking about *masmidim* who cherished every free moment, yet they made themselves available to discuss learning and personal issues. This certainly came from the *hanhalla*; I don't know whether it was

by osmosis, or just an awareness of their conviction that basic *derech erez* and *mentchlichkeit* and maturity were essential for growth in Torah. Together, we all created and were motivated by a wonderful, positive sort of peer pressure; you behaved certain way not because of *frumkeit*, but because it was just the way things were done."

"One of the special things about our class," says Rabbi Moishie Mittelman, a *rebbe* in Silver Spring, MD, "was that Rav Shurkin got

**"The level of *temimus* in *mitzvos* and *avodas Hashem* will never escape me"**

'promoted' along with us from first to second year. We had him for two years straight, and he became the center of our lives. I think what stands out most, is that for the first time ever, during Rav Shurkin's *shiur*, we all sat there fully focused. Most remarkably, when *shiur* was over no one hurried off! We would all hang around and schmooze or walk him back to lunch while reviewing the *shiur*. There were many of us who learned before Toras Moshe, but we didn't have that '*ki heim chayeinu ve'orech yameinu*' that we got during those two years.

"At the beginning of our second year, on Rosh Hashanah, there was an unanticipated half-hour of extra time in the schedule. This was not a planned '*seder*', but everyone found themselves learning during that time; it had become a reflex, it was automatic, we no longer saw it as a sacrifice."

"On the very first day of that second year, Rav Shurkin picked up exactly where we left off the year before. There was no acclimation, we hit the ground running; that year accomplished so much, that's when we really became who we are. I quote Rav Shurkin regularly in my classroom; I repeat his *sevaros*, his stories, and his *vertlach* to my *talmidim*."

"The relationships between the older and younger *bochurim* was so special," Dovid recalls. "I remember being enamored by guys like Ruvi Schwartz, Zev Flaumenhaft, and Tzvi Simon. I asked Tzvi if he would learn with me; the only slot he had available was at 5 AM. Getting up at that hour was quite a challenge...."

"One of the aspects that I always found to be so unique about ToMo was the *ruach* amongst the guys. Despite the fact that the learning was so intense and focused, there always was this palpable feeling of excitement, both in and outside of the *beis medrash*."

"The level of *temimus* in *mitzvos* and *avodas Hashem* will never escape me," Yossi concludes. "I believe that a Toras Moshe guy stands apart from the world at large, because we were instilled with *emes*, *kirvas Elokim* and a deep understanding of what counts in life. I feel it to this day, and I know my children feel it too.

"Over the years, our schedule changes and we are tested in new ways – but the framework for life that crystallized in Yeshiva lives on. The Yeshiva's mark is profound and everlasting."

# Rabbi Yonasan Bressel Releases “Treasure of Shabbat”

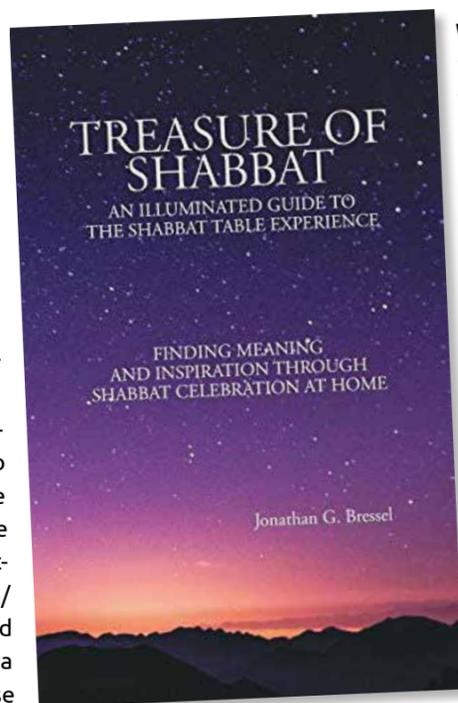
**A**mong *acheinu b'nei Yisroel* are many who wish to properly commemorate Shabbos, but don't know how to do it. The recently released *Treasure of Shabbat: An Illuminated Guide to the Shabbat Table Experience*, by Toras Moshe alumnus Rabbi Yonasan Bressel, is a step-by-step guide that provides a source of confidence and inspiration for these people.

*reasure of Shabbat* provides detailed instructions for the entire Shabbos table experience, from *hadlokas neiros* through *havdallah*, including *zemiros*, Bircas Hamazon and other *brochos*. Each section contains an introduction that details the *what, why, when, and where* of the relevant activity. All the *lashon kodesh* is translated and transliterated linearly. Explanations, commentary, advanced *halachos* and *minhagim* surround the text, which is beautifully illuminated with color photographs. Before most of the sections, there are inspiring stories collected by the author over the years, many of them from famous Jewish writers.

“I studied engineering at Yale University and worked for two years”, Yonasan recalls, “before finally succumbing to an increasing desire to learn how to be observant. I started at Darche Noam/Shappel's Yeshiva, and moved on to Yeshiva University of LA, whose *hanhalla* sent me to Toras Moshe. Rav Meiselman tried to dissuade me, explaining that my age would not fit in well with those of the younger *bochurim*. I told him that if Toras Moshe was the best place to learn, then that's

where I wanted to be. I joined the Yeshiva and was able to find my place with some of the older *bochurim*. I did not fit in entirely, but it was still the best learning of my life. Fortunately, I was married quickly and then spent another eight years in the *kollel*...

“If it weren't for my years in Toras Moshe and for the ongoing guidance my family has received from the Rosh Yeshiva, our lives would be entirely different. This book would never have been possible. It required a lot of research, which I could never have done without the Torah training I received at Toras Moshe. On the *ruchniyus* level, I would never have survived the work environment. As an engineer, I work largely with secular Israelis whose lifestyle and perspective are far from Torah values. My years at Toras Moshe act as an anchor that prevent my being dragged away.”



When asked about what inspired the writing of his sefer, Reb Yonasan is transported back over to over twenty years ago. At Rabbi Leib Kelemen's suggestion, he and his wife Deana began hosting hundreds of American students who were visiting Eretz Yisroel.

“As we and our friends hosted the students, most of them having little or

no experience with formal Jewish practice, we soon became aware of a missing tool. A guest wants to understand what is happening. When that guest has minimal knowledge of Hebrew, blessings, and Shabbat, keeping the guest informed



and educated can be challenging. We needed something written, something that we could place next to each guest, a guide that would explain the often-bewildering set of behaviors seen at the Shabbat table.

“Discussing this with my father, I learned from him the key requirement: such a guide has to be step-by-step, like basic computer guides for the uninitiated. I searched the book market and I found a few possibilities, but none of them matched what I saw in my mind's eye. Being young and idealistic, I undertook writing such a guide to the Shabbat Table in my spare time, expecting it to take about three months to complete. As I began, I became increasingly aware of how little I knew about the Shabbat table itself and about book publishing in general. Those original three months turned into nearly twenty years. There were times when it was full-time, times when it was part time, and times when it was dormant, but I never let it go entirely.

“The foreword was written graciously by the Rosh Yeshiva. Rebbetzin Meiselman insisted that I get her two more copies so that she could give them as gifts to her two sisters. She told them it would change their Shabbos. The feedback has been very positive. If all goes well, I hope to translate this work into Hebrew, Russian and other languages.”

# Yomim Noraim in Yeshiva uplifted by the Visit of Many Alumni

**A** visit by a group of recent alumni for the Yomim Noraim had a tremendous positive impact on the Yeshiva. There were several *bochurim* from the Toras Moshe chabura in BMG, Lakewood, a few more from Yeshiva Gedolah of the Five Towns—about 10-15 *bochurim* arrived to join the Yeshiva for this incredible time of year.

When asked what encouraged them to come, the *bochurim* spoke about how much the Yeshiva's *davening* means to them. “There's nothing like it anywhere else,” said Aharon Stern. “This is where we *davened* for quite a few years; we've become accustomed to the Yeshiva's nusach, and we feel we gained the most from the Yomim Noraim that we spent here. The exceptional *ba'alei Tefilla* – the Mashgiach for Mussaf and Ne'ilah, Rav Avraham Meiselman for Shacharis – are our *rebbeim* from whom we learned Torah and Yiras Shomayim. We simply felt that we had to come back.”

“*Chamol al maa'secha*” – the piyut that follows Kedusha. Mention it to any Toras Moshe *talmid* and he'll start singing it in the unique *niggun* it is sung in Yeshiva, with great yearning. The way the Rosh Yeshiva reviews the Rambam's Hilchos Teshuva before Kol Nidrei, and a brief *chazarah* of the Halachos of Shofar preceding the *tekios* – all this is part of the Yomim Noraim experience that lives in the heart of every alumnus.

“The *davening* is very *hartzig* and intense; the unhurried pace allows you to have

the proper *kavana*”, added Sruli Klaristenfeld, another member of the group. “Everyone gets into it, and it's your *oilam* in your *beis medrash*. There's a wonderful feeling of *achdus* that brings the entire *tzibbur* together.”

Between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur – during the week of *aseres yemei teshuva* – the visiting alumni spent their days learning in the Yeshiva's *bais medrash*,

where their presence and participation enhanced the *ruach* and *geshmak* of *limud haTorah* as the Elul *zman* reached its climax. The current members of Yeshiva were also inspired—many commented how the alumni mixed right into the Elul “*avira*” in Yeshiva.

Inspired by a beautiful Sukkos following Yom Kippur, along with the Yeshiva's Simchas Beis Ha'shoeiva, the alumni returned home inspired with new energy and *chizuk* for the coming winter months.



# ושאבתם מים קליל

## ממעייני הישועה

מסיבת  
שמחת בית השואבה





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# שיעורו של הגאון הגדול ר' מיכל שורקין שליט"א

## בענין כבוד רבו



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

ט"ז כסלו תשע"ח

ATERES AVROHOM HALL

MINCHA – 4:15 PM

PRE-DINNER SHIUR – 4:30 PM

RECEPTION – 5:15 PM

DINNER – 6:15 PM

### מראי מקומות:

#### דין אבילות על רבו - יום אחד בלבד

- גמ' מו"ק דף כה; דהכי אמר ר' חייא בר אבא...  
אפילו רבו שלימדו חכמה וכו'  
• ר"מ הל' אבל (ט:יב)  
• שו"ע יו"ד (שעד:י)

#### שאביו הביאו לחיי העוה"ז

#### ורבו שלימדו חכמה מביאו לחיי העוה"ב

- ר"מ הל' תלמוד תורה (ה:א)  
ע' היטב באיזה דברים מחויב התלמיד בכבוד רב יותר מכבוד אביו

#### דין קבורה הוי מדין כבוד הבריות

- תוס' שבועות דף ל: ד"ה אבל איסורא אין חכמה,  
"וי"ל דהתם גנאי גדול הוא למת מצוה שאין לו קוברים  
...תדע דבקרוכים לא דחי כבוד דידהו וכו'."

#### דין אבילות וקבורה דין אחד

- ר"מ פתיחה להל' אבל מצוה א'  
• ר"מ הל' אבל (ב:ו)  
• ר"מ ספהמ"צ מצוה ל"ז

#### חיוב התלמיד בכבוד הרב יותר מכבוד אביו

#### דוקא בדברים שהם לתועלת הרב

- ר"מ פיהמ"ש סוף כריתות, "...ומה שאמר בכל מקום רוצה לומר  
להשיב אבידה...מכל הדברים שיש בהם לבסוף נזק או תועלת רבו"  
• רמ"א יו"ד (רמב:לד), "...אבל אם אביו שוכר לו רבי או מלמדו  
אביו קודם לכל דבר"  
• ר"מ הל' תלמוד תורה (ה:א)