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The Gemoroh says that we go from Purim to Pesach to go from *geulah* to *geulah*. However, there are fundamental differences between these two *geulos*. Pesach was accompanied by overwhelming miracles. HaShem wanted to teach the world that He alone rules the world and He runs it hands on. There is justice in this world and nothing happens by accident.

The ten *makkos* demonstrated one by one the falsehood of *avodah zoroh*. *Avodah zoroh* is based on an attempt to manipulate the forces of nature by dealing with spiritual forces that control all of these. There is a god of rain, who controls rain. There is a god of the wind, who controls the wind. This is true for all forces in this world. By dealing with these forces one controls them. Every nation has a god who determines

its fate and fortune. Hence, there are no absolutes in this world as each nation's god decides what is right and wrong for their nation.

The ten *makkos* showed that there is one power in this world that rules and controls all other powers. He gives one absolute set of rules and rewards fulfillment and punishes those who violate these rules in a very specific and exact way. The *geulah* of Klal Yisroel was to produce a nation that would recognize this reality and communicate this to all of humanity.

However, HaShem created the world to run by the laws of nature. We do not experience the violation of those laws in the overwhelming sense that we did in Egypt. But, HaShem still controls everything in this world. But He works within nature. Purim celebrates this fact. Ostensibly, nothing happened. A peculiar turn of random events almost produced a catastrophe and another random set of events avoided it. A random set of events puts Mordechai in a prominent position and through these random set of events ultimately the Bais Hamikdosh was rebuilt.

However, the Ramban tells us that the miracles of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* taught us that Hashem controls everything and he is the cause of all these random events. The *geulah* of Pesach explains to us the *geulah* of Purim.

The Gemara in Gittin tells us that after Titus destroyed the *Bais HaMikdosh* he declared that he had conquered HaShem. HaShem said that He has a tiny creature that will plague Titus to show him that HaShem rules the world and that the Bais HaMikdosh was destroyed because He wanted it destroyed. A little insect entered Titus's nose and tortured and plagued him the rest of his life.

A few months ago, many powerful people felt that they controlled the world. HaShem sent a tiny virus and the world now realizes that no one controls the world. In the months of *geulah*, we must recognize that only HaShem controls the world. We must exercise caution. But, our response must also be that of the Jews in Shushan – introspection and a strengthening of our commitment to Torah.

Wishing all a *Chag Kosher V'sameach*,

  
Rabbi Moshe Meiselman  
Rosh HaYeshiva

# Highlights from Toras Moshe's 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute Dinner

**Y**eshivas Toras Moshe's 37th Anniversary Tribute Dinner was held on Sunday, December 8th, at the Ateres Avrohom Hall. This year's theme, *ונשמח בדברי תורתך*, highlighted a major component of the Yeshiva's unique, carefully arranged and structured *דור* of learning in the lives of its *talmidim*, who remain committed to this type of learning, whether as *klei kodesh* or professionals.

Continuing the Toras Moshe tradition from the past several years, the Dinner was graced by the participation and presence of all the *rebbeim*, who came in from Eretz Yisroel to reconnect with their beloved *תלמידים* and derive *נחת* from their achievements.

Dinner Chairman Nechemiah Hoch opened the program by welcoming the many attendees who came from near and far, including Baltimore, California, England, and Eretz Yisroel. Mr. and Mrs. Chaim and Sora Rochel Rosenberg were recognized as the Guests of Honor. Rabbi and Mrs. Naftali and Rachel Eichen were presented with the Kesser Torah Award. Rabbi and Mrs. Gavriel and Tamara Friedman received the Young Leadership Award. In his captivating and enthralling style, Rabbi Friedman – a.k.a. "Rav Gav" – powerfully described how the lifelong lessons of Toras Moshe can help someone overcome the *yetzer hora*, who has the "home-court advantage". After sharing an amusing anecdote, he reminded the audience to "never forget who you really are!"

The Class of 2001 was honored with the Ner Michoel Alumni Chai Tribute, and the Ner Michoel 2x Chai Tribute was presented to the Class of 1983. This was followed by a captivating speech by Rav Michel Shurkin *shlita* on the Dinner's theme of *ונשמח בדברי תורתך*.

The latest Dinner enhancements included a lavish reception menu and upgraded dessert tables, while the "larger-than-life" digital screens throughout the hall allowed everyone to feel as if they were part of the action.

A captivating video dramatically portrayed the intense joy of Torah experienced by *talmidei haYeshiva*, as well as the joy of various alumni participating in several of the innovative new programs and *choburos* that the Yeshiva has instituted to connect alumni with the current Kollel *avreichim* on a regular basis. These new programs, which have been launched with the Rosh Yeshiva's encouragement, allow alumni to maintain the same quality – or *איכות* – of learning they experienced while in Toras Moshe, regardless of where they are today.

After an inspiring keynote address from the Rosh HaYeshiva, hundreds of alumni and friends joined the *hanhalla* in a lively *רקידה*. The tremendous participation of so many alumni and guests helped make this year's Dinner one of the most successful ever.









## WINTER Z'MAN 2020

# Highlights from Rav Shurkin's Address at the Dinner

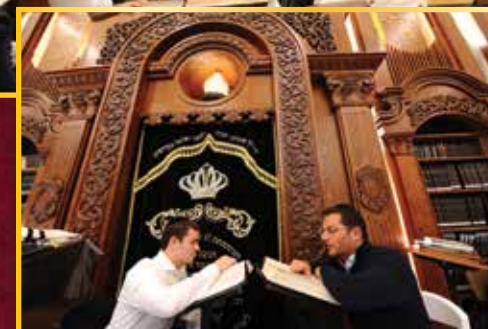
Setting the tone for this year's Dinner theme of *ונשמח בדברי תורתך* was the much-anticipated introductory *shiur* from Rav Michel Shurkin, *shlita* on the topic of *simchas haTorah* – confirming it as the only true *simcha* and revealing its connection to the Yom Tov of Chanukah.

This year's specially prepared pamphlet of *marei mekomos* for the *shiur* was twenty-five pages long, and full of *מאמרי חז"ל*, *ראשונים* and *אחרונים* underscoring Rav Shurkin's lesson that "a *yeshiva* is the happiest place in the world." The enthralled, standing-room only crowd was completely mesmerized as Rav Shurkin fielded questions from the audience and called on members of the audience to read from the insightful sources that formed the foundation of the *shiur*.

"Listen to this amazing *ורוקה*", Rav Shurkin exclaimed as he pounded the table. "When a person sits in a *beis medrash*, he has to be *בשמחה*, regardless of whatever else is going on in his life. You should be singing when you're sitting and learning; and remember, you're not *יוצא* with a tune that's not uplifting!"

Later, in his remarks at the Dinner, Rav Shurkin picked up once again on the theme of his *shiur* with a vivid depiction of how Torah is the best friend a person can possibly have. In his inimitable style, he described how his *rebbe*, Rav Yosef Dov Soloveichik, זצ"ל, was never alone. "He would get a tap on one shoulder from the *רי"ף* and then on his other shoulder from the *"רמב"ן*." We see this in our Yeshiva as well, continued Rav Shurkin; like most *bochurim*, a Toras Moshe *talmid* is out with friends on Motzei Shabbos, except that his friends are *ר' ברוך בער* and the *קצות*!

Rav Shurkin concluded that friendship with the Torah is a two-way street. "Write out a check to American Friends of Toras Moshe, and you'll receive a check in return, from Toras Moshe – friend of the Americans!" All in all, Rav Shurkin once again inspired the many attendees not just with his words of *Torah*, but with his unbridled love and *שמחה* for *Torah*!





**The Yeshiva's first annual Yarchei Kallah event which took place between February 13th and 17th was an outstanding success!**

Details and pictures from the event will be published in an upcoming newsletter.



**Wishing all alumni, friends and Klal Yisroel a healthy, safe and joyous Pesach.**

**חג כשר ושמח!**

**PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH!!**

It is important that we have your current contact information – home address, telephone numbers, and email address – to be able to send you important periodic announcements of Toras Moshe news, events, and *shiurim* from the Rosh HaYeshiva. Please contact the office if your address or phone number(s) has changed via email: [americanfriends@torasmoshe.org](mailto:americanfriends@torasmoshe.org), or by phone: 718-336-1770