

CONNECTIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDIUM

"וענתה השירה הזאת לפניו לעד כי לא תשכח מפי זרעו..." (דברים לא:כא)

"ברא כרעא דאבוה" (עירובין ע')

A new summer *zman* has dawned in the *Bais Medrash* of Yeshivas Toras Moshe, accompanied by hopes and aspirations for a period full of growth in Torah and Yiras Shomayim. At the same time, we in the Toras Moshe family are witnessing the dawn of a new era. Amidst the tragedy and *aveilus* that we have all experienced during the past half-year, a new light has begun to shine. Harav Meshulam Twersky, *shlita*, has begun to make his presence felt in the Yeshiva. His *shiurim*, *hasmadah* and *ne'imus* are already widely appreciated. Witnessing the *harbotzas haTorah*, continuing to

"spring forth" from Mishpachas Twersky, is a great source of comfort, to us all.

During the past months, we have been *zocheh* to partake in many events designed to perpetuate the legacy of Harav Moshe Twersky, *zt"l hy"d*. Foremost among them was the *Melava Malka* in Eretz Yisroel. *Talmidim* past and present joined family members for an inspirational evening of *chizuk*, in appreciation of Rabbi Twersky, *zt"l hy"d*. Additionally, there were special *seodorim* in Yeshiva on Purim, including the now well known Purim Kollel, and the up-

coming *Yarchei Kallah* will be *l'ilui nishmas* Rabbi Twersky, *zt"l hy"d*.

In this issue of *Connections* we report to you, upon "all of the above." We also are pleased to share the story of an initiative, undertaken by one of our Kollel couples, which kept *talmidim* and *Rabbeim* feeling "connected" during this past Purim.



Daniel Sinowitz

Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



Shmuli Weiner

Rabbi Shmuli Weiner

INSPIRING MELAVA MALKA L'ZECHER RAV TWERSKY

On Motzaei Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei (March 14th), the Ner Michoel Alumni Association hosted a *Melava Malka* for Toras Moshe alumni, *yungeleit* and their wives at the Chavas Daas Hall in Yerushalayim. The event began with a *siyum* on the entire Shas, learned *l'ilui nishmas* Hagaon Hakadosh Rav Moshe Twersky, *zt"l*. There were inspiring *derashos* from various speakers and a moving video presentation, as well as the start of the Kesivas Sefer Torah that had been announced by the Rosh HaYeshiva at the Yeshiva's recent Dinner. This Sefer Torah will eternalize Rav Twersky's memory in the *bais medrash* of Toras Moshe, with the *siyum* coinciding with next year's Dinner, *iy"h*.

A large poster bearing the caption of 'Ashreichem!' listed the names of each *mesechta* in Shas, together with the names of the *talmidim*, alumni and *rebbeim* – the entire Toras Moshe family – who under-

took to complete them in time for the *siyum*. An overflow crowd of attendees came from all over Eretz Yisroel, listening intently as Rav Meshulam Twersky, the son of Rav Moshe *zt"l*, recited the concluding lines of Shas. In his emotional remarks following the *siyum*, Rav Meshulam personally thanked all the participants on behalf of his esteemed mother, Rebbetzin Twersky *shetichyeh*, as well as the entire family.

Prior to the *siyum*, the Rosh HaYeshiva addressed the gathering, pointing out the *halacha* that when a person is *r"l* in *aveilus* for a parent, the period of mourning lasts for a full year rather than just thirty days as with other relatives. One who is orphaned of a parent has lost a link in his *mesorah* that connects him to Har Sinai; he needs a full year of reflection in which he must focus on and internalize his *mesorah*. While the loss of a *rebbei* – even a *rebbei muvhak* – does not call for a year of



mourning, the Rosh HaYeshiva averred, all of us must make the effort to strengthen the link in our *mesorah* that has been impacted by the loss we have suffered. Rav Twersky was a living Sefer Torah, continued the Rosh HaYeshiva, both in *yedias haTorah*, as well in his exacting *kiyumi haTorah* down to every *kutzo shel yud*. The Yeshiva's new Sefer Torah will feature all the *hiddurim* and *dikdukim* befitting the *yirei shomayim* whose memory

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it will eternalize. A Sefer Torah reflects our connection to Hashem Yisborach; Rav Mosheh, who personified *kedushas haTorah*, also connected his *talmidim* to Hakadosh Boruch Hu.

Tears flowed freely as a captivating video showed the powerful *hesped* delivered by Rav Yehudah Eisenstein at the Yeshiva's recent Dinner, as well as footage of Rav Twersky, *zt"l*, speaking at a previous Yeshiva Dinner when he was honored.

As they perused the booklets distributed at the Melava Malka – compilations by *talmidim* of Rav Twersky's *chiddushei Torah*, *hanhagos*, and personal reflections, they heard Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz draw a comparison from the heart-rending execution of Rav Chanina ben Tradyon by the Romans, "The Rebbeh's Sefer Torah will remind us that while parchment can be set aflame, the words of Torah will prove eternal."

Many of the attendees expressed their fervent hope that the alumni in Eretz Yisroel should get together more often for *simchos*, reconnecting with *rebbeim* and friends at least once a year to "re-charge their batteries" and strengthen their connection to the *makom Torah* that means so much to them – Yeshivas Toras Moshe.

B'ROH KAR'AH DE'AVUHA

Rabbi Meshulam Twersky joins the Yeshiva's Hanhallah

The new *zman* began after Pesach with the appointment of a new Maggid Shiur in Yeshiva. Rabbi Meshulam Twersky, eldest son of Rav Mosheh Twersky, *zt"l*, has begun teaching the afternoon *shiur* for third-year *bochurim*. This is the same position originally held by his father when he began as Maggid Shiur in Yeshivas Toras Moshe over 22 years ago. In that sense it is a true continuation.

Rav Meshulam learned in the Yeshivos of Kol Torah and Brisk, but he is essentially a *talmid* of his illustrious father, having spent many hours learning with him on a regular basis. The *talmidim* of the Yeshiva are already familiar with Rav Meshulam; he addressed the recent *melava malka* that was held *l'ilui nishmas* his father, and

delivered a captivating *shiur* on the night of the Purim Kolloel in which he built upon one of his father's *chiddushim*. He also spoke at this year's Chanukah *mesiba* and Purim *seudah* hosted by his mother, Rebbetzin Twersky, for the *bochurim* in his father's *shiur*.

Rav Meshulam's new *talmidim* are eager to report on how they are really enjoying his *shiur*, which they say brings clarity to the *sugya* and points out the underlying principles that are not readily apparent. Last year many of these *bochurim* were in his father's *shiur*; they point out that his delivery and style is very much like that of his father's. The focus is on understanding the *Gemora* with the *rishonim*, with the *acharonim* that help understand

these *rishonim*. Rav Meshulam is also a tremendous enhancement to the *beis medrash* during *seder*; he astutely picks up on what a *bochur* is asking and he's very clear in answering and being *masbir* the difficulty.

The Rosh HaYeshiva gratefully echoes the sentiment felt by the entire Yeshiva, "We're very comforted and grateful about the remarkable *hemshech* we are witnessing. Rav Meshulam is truly *b'roh kar'ah de'avuha*, a true continuation of what Rav Mosheh brought to the Yeshiva."

We wish Rabbi Meshulam Twersky much *brocha* and *hatzlocha* in his new position.



STAYING CONNECTED FROM AFAR

Alumni Honor their Rebbeim with Special Mishloach Manos

Purim in Toras Moshe has always been the time of year when *bochurim* visit their *rebbeim*'s homes and join their families for a festive, meaningful *seudah*. For the many alumni who are now living overseas, Purim evokes a yearning for the days when they would be in touch with their *rebbeim* on a more regular basis.

Ner Michoel's new Mishloach Manos Project – the brainchild of Rabbi and Mrs. Efraim

Weiss of the Toras Moshe Kolloel – provides the alumni with a meaningful way of reconnecting with their *rebbeim*. The Ner Michoel office sends a beautiful Mishloach Manos arrangement to the *rebbei* and his family on the *talmidim*'s behalf.

The program was warmly received by the *rebbeim*, who truly appreciated reading the names and good wishes of their *talmidim*, many of whom they haven't seen in a while.

Each *rebbei*'s family received a tastefully arranged basket with wine, chocolate, and other items. All the *rebbeim*, both morning and second *seder*, the *shoel umeishiv*'s, including Rebbetzin Twersky and her family, received Mishloach Manos on Purim through this inaugural Ner Michoel project, reflecting the warm, spirited sense of giving that is part of Toras Moshe's essence.

KIYMU MA SHEKIBLU

RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT

Purim Kollel Reaches New Heights



The Purim Kollel is a unique aspect of Toras Moshe, created by the *talmidim's* own initiative, and historic in nature.

Two years ago, Aryeh Wielgus, a *talmid* in Yeshiva, posted a sign offering a modest monetary incentive for anyone who volunteered to learn five hours over the days of Purim. In Yerushalayim, where Purim is celebrated on the 15th day of Adar, people spend the 14th day in a limbo of sorts, and Purim Kollel presented a “perfect” solution to this dilemma. There was an hour-long *seder* on *Leil Yud-Daled*, after everyone broke their fast, and another four hours on *Yom Yud-Daled*, just before Maariv and *Krias haMegillah*. The organizers hoped that ten to twenty people would sign up; in the end, there were 70 participants. They had no idea how they would successfully collect the funding for such a large turnout, but there actually were quite a few people interested in supporting this endeavor. The next Purim, which was last year, there was even a greater turnout, with about 90 participants.

This year, there were 140 attendees. In light of the tragedy in Har Nof, particularly the *petirah* of Rav Moshe Twersky, *ztkv"l*, it was decided that the Kollel would include an entire night of learning on *Leil Yud Daled*. It turned out to be a most rewarding experience, with virtually the entire Yeshiva attending.

The *seder* began at 8:45 PM, beginning with an inspiring *shiur pesicha* from Rav Shurkin

highlighting the advantages of going into Purim in this fashion. This *seder* was going all the way to 5 AM *shacharis k'vasikin* – longer

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than a Shavuot night of learning, which is actually quite appropriate. After all, Chazal tell us that Purim was the time when *kiymu ma shekiblu kvar* – Klal Yisroel reconnected with Hashem to such a degree that they “reaccepted” the Torah they had previously consented to at Har Sinai.

The energy in the *bais medrash* during the night was indescribable; the resounding *kol Torah* echoed with the collective resolve of an entire *tzibbur* to make this Purim truly meaningful. The Rosh Yeshiva and Rabbi Abramowitz were there for several hours. The participants were free to learn whatever topic they desired; Akiva Herman’s “Shidduchim in Torah” system – where people post their learning preferences for others to consider – proved indispensable in helping everyone find a suitable *chavrusa*.

With everyone still a bit hungry from the fast, there was a half-hour long food break at midnight, with a delicious, *fleishig* hot meal. Unlimited drinks of soda were available throughout the night, and at 3:30 AM there was another short break with freshly baked cookies and cake from Nechama’s Bakery. Right after the *vasikin shacharis*, a beautifully prepared, lavish breakfast was served.

At 12:30, Rav Meshulam Twersky, (son of Rav Mosheh, *ztkv"l*) delivered an exciting *lomdishe shiur* on Inyanei Megillah, which was enjoyed by all. Some *talmidim* opted to join a highly interactive *chaburah* on the exciting topic of *Tukfo Kohen* presented by Rabbi Yisroel Lerner, which extended for the entire time from 8:45 until 5 AM, breaking only for the midnight snack and Rav Meshulam Twersky’s *shiur*.

As in previous years, there was a 45-minute *seder* the next afternoon, on *Yom Yud Daled*, just before *ma’ariv*. Following *Krias Hamegilla*, everyone usually goes directly to the dining room for the *mesiba*, the Purim *shpiel* and dancing. This year, however, there was a special “Seder L’ilui Nishmas Rav Twersky” before the *mesiba*. Although this initiative was not essentially part of the Purim Kollel, it added a whole new dimension to a Purim that was truly enhanced by *limud haTorah*. The feedback is unanimous – it’s just a whole different Purim when you start off this way. Everyone is looking forward to another amazing Purim Kollel next year.



PLEASE JOIN US AT



NER MICHOEL'S

2ND ANNUAL

YARCHEI KALLAH

WITH PRACTICAL, IN-DEPTH SHIURIM BY

THE ROSH HAYESHIVA, **HARAV MOSHE MEISELMAN** שליט"א

TOPIC: דינא דמלכותא דינא

HARAV ZEV KLEIN שליט"א

TOPIC: ברכת התורה

לע"ב מורנו הגאון הקדוש רבי משה טברסקי צצוק"ל הי"ד

Sunday, May 17th, 2015

כ"ח אייר תשע"ה

AGUDAS YISROEL BIRCAS YAAKOV

262 TERHUNE AVE, PASSAIC, NJ

SCHEDULE:

9:45 ^{am} Welcome Coffee & Refreshments	1:30 ^{pm} - 3:00 ^{pm} Second Seder
10:00 ^{am} - 12:00 ^{pm} First Seder	3:00 ^{pm} - 3:45 ^{pm} Shiur Rabbi Klein
12:00 ^{pm} - 12:45 ^{pm} Shiur Rosh HaYeshiva	3:45 ^{pm} - 5:00 ^{pm} Q & A
12:45 ^{pm} - 1:30 ^{pm} Lunch will be served	5:00 ^{pm} Mincha

Looking forward to greeting you
The Ner Michael Alumni Association

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