

# CONNECTIONS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDIUM

כל רדפיה השיגוה בין המצרים (איכה א'ג')...  
נחמו נחמו עמי יאמר אלקיכם (ישעיה מ' א')

The Navi in Eicha laments how our enemies who pursue us constantly – both physical and spiritual – overtook us and captured us “between the boundaries.” בין המצרים refers to physical boundaries - such as rivers and mountains that “corner in” a refugee who is being pursued. בין המצרים is also interpreted by the Midrash as the troublesome days between בתמוז יז' and באב ט', days which are spiritually difficult and constricting for ישראל כלל.

However, when we are freed from the confines of בין המצרים there is always a natural sense of נחמה. The transition from more difficult times to times of hope for the future brings a change of mood and a burst of renewed energy.

With this issue, *Connections* is set to “transition” into its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of publication (כן ירבו). We raise our hands in gratitude to the בורא עולם who has given us the opportunity to remain “Connected” to our fellow alumni in times of צרה, נחמה and שמחה. In this issue, we reflect on some of the events which the Toras Moshe / Ner Michoel family has enjoyed over the past months, with an anticipating eye focused upon a promising future.

In this issue, we will visit this year’s Yarchei Kallah, which featured *shiurim* by the Rosh HaYeshiva and HaRav Zev Klein, *shlita*. As the latest *sefer* in Rabbi Klein’s נחלת צבי series hits the Beis Midrash, we listen to the story of נחלת צבי. We will share the recent *simchos* of numerous *rabbeim*, *talmidim* and alumni with you. And we will report upon what may be Ner Michoel’s greatest accomplishment

of the past year – the improvement of the Ner Michoel website. Kudos to Rabbi Mike Kashnow of MTM Productions.

*Bein hazmanim* is in full-swing... Elul is around the corner... and so is the New Year. And so it is not too early to wish a כתיבה וחתימה טובה – a year of *mazal*, *bracha* and *gezunt* to all of our fellow alumni. May we always share in *simchos* together.



*Daniel Sinowitz*

Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



*Shmuli Weiner*

Rabbi Shmuli Weiner

## PREPARING FOR SHAVUOS WITH A DAY OF LEARNING

### 2nd Annual Yarchei Kallah

On the Sunday before Shavuos, May 17<sup>th</sup>, a large group of alumni came together for Toras Moshe’s Second Annual Yarchei Kallah. This year, the participation of *talmidim* from different years – even different eras in the Yeshiva’s history – made it especially exciting. Entering the *bais medrash* – once again at Rabbi Sacks’s Agudah Shul in Passaic – you could feel the tremendous energy in the air. The *hasmada*, the *kol Torah*, was classic Toras Moshe. The fact that the Rosh Yeshiva, along with Rabbi Klein, adjusted their busy schedules and made a special trip to join the alumni right before Yom Tov, was a true demonstration of the caring

and the connection that is really no secret to the *talmidim*.

The program consisted of a first *seder* from ten o’clock to noon followed by a practical, in-depth *shiur* from the Rosh Yeshiva on *Dina D’malchusa Dina* – the halachic validity of civil law. Following a delicious, catered lunch, there was a second *seder* from 1:30 to 3:00 PM, followed by a *shiur* from Rabbi Klein on the topic of *Birchas HaTorah*.

“It’s so amazing,” commented one of the participants. “They always find topics for the Yarchei Kallah that are unique and interesting, not something you’re likely to have learned before. At the same time, they tend to be practical topics that apply very much in the *halachos* of

our daily lives. This year, we talked about the *halachos* of paying taxes, having a tax account, obeying traffic laws, and the like. What happens when everybody goes 10 miles per hour over the speed limit? Do societal norms play any role in *Dina D’malchusa*? The Rosh Yeshiva was going through what applies to Eretz Yisroel, the United States, and other countries, with his unique blend of his worldly knowledge with his enthralling



*lomdishe* capabilities. We Toras Moshe *talmidim* came up with interesting *sheilos*, and the Rosh Yeshiva, of course, had an answer for every one of them.”

“Yarchei Kallah is about seeing everyone still ‘talking in learning’ excitedly with

the Rosh Yeshiva,” summed up another participant, “one group standing around him, with other individuals on their way over to him. During the afternoon *sefer*, everyone is trying to get a clue from Rabbi Klein as to what he will speak about during the *shiur*. This is when one truly

sees and feels how strong the *kesher* still is. I feel that every minute I spent at the Yarchei Kallah is precious. I’ve recharged my batteries, and I’m eagerly looking forward to next year!”



# ALUMNUS PROFILE: RABBI MIKE (TZVI) KASHNOW

“The years I spent in Toras Moshe were the best and most productive in my growth and development as a *ben Torah*,” says Mike Kashnow, whose is largely responsible for the improvements in Ner Michoel’s enhanced website. “My experience in Toras Moshe was the springboard for my career in *chinuch*; it gave me a healthy outlook on what real Torah learning is like and what genuine Torah *hashkofos* are about.”

A native of Baltimore, Mike began his education in public school, eventually transferring to day school. After graduating from Yeshiva high school, he went to Eretz Yisroel, where he spent two years before arriving in Toras Moshe. There he learned for the next three years under Rabbi Klein, Rabbi Shurkin, Rabbi Abramowitz, and the Rosh HaYeshiva.

Mike left Yeshiva and spent over a year as a carpenter’s apprentice, while learning in Torah Ore and serving as dorm counselor in TJ (Yeshiva Tiferet). Only seven years after hearing his first *gemara shiur*, he was asked to give a *shiur* at TJ the following year. Continuing in carpentry, Mike realized, would no longer be an option, so he worked out a deal where he would serve as TJ’s administrator during the day while giving the *shiur* at night.

“I havetremendous *hakarah shatov* towards the Rosh HaYeshiva and *rebbeim*,” Mike reminisces. “They set me up with some of the top guys as *chavrusas*: Dovid Ostrov, Moshe Twersky, Dovi Teitz, Elisha Hisiger, Zevy Berkowitz, Yanky Schur, to name a few. They gave me the opportunity to work in the kitchen every Shabbos, which I utilized to learn *hilchos bishul* hands-on. Roommates Mordy Goffman, Dov Emerson, Eliezer Niehaus, and

Josh Broide (among others) all became community leaders and *mechanchim* of note. Writing and directing the Purim Shpiel with Nachi Hirschfeld and Moti Gluck allowed my creative side to flourish, and my leadership skills developed while heading the annual *bein hazmanim tiyul*, fondly called ‘Camp CNLS.’”

It was Monday morning on one *tiyul* that the group *davened* in a place where there was no Sefer Torah. Mike called the Rosh Yeshiva and asked him how much of an effort they should make in order to locate a Sefer Torah. “He urged me to seize the opportunity to make a great effort, so it would make a tremendous impression on all the *bochurim*. We had *siyaata dishmaya* to find the *gabbai* of a nearby, locked shul, and he opened up for us so we could *lain*. I took with me the lesson that no matter where you are, whether on a *tiyul* or in the *beis medrash*, there’s always an opportunity for a teaching moment. People are looking up to you and you have an *achrayus*.

“What I learned in Toras Moshe is that the only limits you have are the ones self imposed. During my fifteen years of giving *shiurim* in *bekiyus* and *hashkafa* at TJ, I tried to get that message across to my *talmidim*. Often, boys came to the *yeshiva* lacking self-confidence; we encouraged

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them, and today they are top teachers, *rabbonim*, and professionals. One of them even has a bit of my approach in public



speaking. I *shep* real *nachas* from my boys. I became a ‘grandfather’ in my early thirties when my own *talmidim* started teaching. One of them really surprised me when he said, ‘I’m teaching a *sugya* I learned with you the exact same way you taught it.’ I had only hoped they would remember the *geshmak*, the sweetness of Torah, that was conveyed to me by my own *rebbeim*.”

Two years ago, Mike left teaching to help raise money for a family member fighting cancer by establishing the site [www.tenforjen.net](http://www.tenforjen.net), but he hopes to return again in the near future. He devotes a lot of his time to MTM Productions, the web development firm behind Ner Michoel’s website, which he founded in 2005. “In my line of work,” he explains, “I try to find ways to use what I have to either help people get ahead in business, or to help make their idea thrive with suggestions they wouldn’t necessarily get from a standard vendor. Toras Moshe taught me that a solid work ethic is crucial across the board. Whether at work or playing football, try your hardest, because that trait will express itself in the *beis medrash*. If you feel that what you’re doing is important, worthwhile, and is good in the *Ribbono shel Olam*’s eyes, you should do it wholeheartedly and with all your effort, and *b’ezeras Hashem* you will succeed.”

## NERMICHOEL.ORG – A MODEL OF A SUCCESSFUL WEBSITE

Mike and his firm, MTM Productions, are involved in all aspects of the planning, designing, programming, and testing of web apps for small to medium-sized

“IT’S OUR MISSION TO FULFILL AND ADDRESS THEIR UNIQUE NEED, WHICH IS TO EFFECTIVELY CONNECT ALL TORAS MOSHE ALUMNI.”

businesses and startups. Based in Ramat

Beit Shemesh, they have an impressive portfolio of customers – including a nursing home group in South Florida, the housewares retailers Home Essentials and Beyond (found in every Amazing Savings), and a property management team. Always looking to make a difference, MTM also has many non-profit clients, *yeshivos*, and the uber-popular online *chavrusah* pairing database [chavrusamatch.com](http://chavrusamatch.com). [Samples

of their work can be viewed on their own website, [www.mtmproductions.com](http://www.mtmproductions.com).]

“We’ve been working with Ner Michoel for about a year,” Mike explains. “We’ve developed tools to index their huge Torah library of audio and transcribed *shiurim*, to allow the user to browse the entire collection based on specific search criteria. We made it our mission

to fulfill and address their unique need, which is to effectively connect all Toras Moshe alumni – wherever they may be – and provide them with mp3 *shiurim*, publications, and tools to connect with their *rebbeim*, as well as news and other information to keep them current.

A crucial factor in NerMichoel.org’s success in the fact that they have “boots on the ground,” people like Rabbi Sinowitz and Rabbi Weiner, who connect with alumni and always ask for feedback. ‘Have you seen the site?’, ‘How can we improve?’, ‘What features would you like to see in the future?’ We urge every one of our clients to do this.

“The site is very well maintained by Rabbi Ariel Katz, NerMichoel.org’s content administrator; he’s very diligent about content, which keeps the site timely and current. They post information that makes people want to return to the site, and that makes all the difference.”

“NerMichoel.org is a model client for our company. They’re wonderful people to work with, and they invest a lot of effort into staying on top of what the alumni are up to. They really care a lot about the alumni, and the tremendous affection and interest they have in their welfare is obvious. I feel that Ner Michoel has gone – and has plans to continue to go – above

and beyond in providing the alumni of Toras Moshe with the tools and features they need to stay connected. I’m really impressed!”



# RABBI KLEIN PUBLISHES NEW SEFER

## NACHALAS TZVI ♦ VOLUME 4

Rabbi Zev Klein, a longtime rebbi at Yeshiva Toras Moshe, recently published his newest *sefer*, *Nachalas Tzvi Volume 4*.

This brand-new volume is the latest addition to the well-received *Nachalas Tzvi* series of *seforim* – named in honor of Rabbi Klein’s esteemed parents, Reb Tzvi and Goldie Klein. Like its companion volumes, this *sefer* is comprised of what has become known in Toras Moshe as “Rabbi Klein’s Friday *shiur*.” Many years ago, Rabbi Klein realized that coming at the end of a long week, Friday in Yeshiva tends to be a day that needs some added *chizuk*, so it’s a good time to have a *shiur* on an interesting topic that is not related to the Yeshiva’s current *mesechta*, but instead somewhat related to the *parsha*, with focus on a related *halachic* issue.

Rabbi Klein gratefully singles out his beloved *talmid*, Dr. Chanoch Lampert, and

his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Reuven Lampert, of Monsey, NY, as the encouragement and initiative for publication and dissemination of these *shiurim* in *sefer* format.

“About eleven years ago,” Chanoch reminisces, “our *shiur* was lucky enough to have Rabbi Klein for two years in a row. His down-to-earth, approachable style really clicked with us during our first year,

**EVERYONE COMES BACK AND TELLS ME HOW IMPRESSED THEY ARE WITH RABBI KLEIN’S SEFER, AND HOW THEY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE VOLUMES IN THE FUTURE**

so we requested to have him again for second year. The Friday *shiurim* were a



really wholesome learning experience, the highlight of my week. I would meticulously record every single *shiur*.

“Because the Friday *shiur* does not call for you to be learning the *sugya* in order to comprehend and participate, Rabbi Klein always invites visiting fathers to join. My parents would visit Eretz Yisroel very often, and my father became a very active participant in the *shiur*. In fact, he loved it so much that my parents began scheduling their visits to span a week and both adjoining

# ענבי הגפן בענבי הגפן

## SIMCHOS IN YESHIVAS TORAS MOSHE



At the wedding of Akiva Yosef Shlomovitz and Malka Steinmetz, daughter of Maggid Shiur HaRav Zev Meir Steinmetz, *shlita*.



At the wedding of Toras Moshe *talmid* Elazar Fried and Aliza Marcus. Both *mehutanim*, Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried (בעל מחבר ספר יום טוב שני כהלכתו) and Rosh Kollel of the Dallas Community Kollel [D.A.T.A.] and Rabbi Pinchas Marcus (Mashgiach of Yeshivas Noam HaTorah, and long-time Toras Moshe *talmid*) are *talmidim* of the Rosh HaYeshiva.



At the wedding of Toras Moshe *talmid* Yehoshua Fried and Shira Coopersmith. Rabbi Yehuda Fried, father of the *chossan*, is a long-time Toras Moshe *talmid*. He currently serves as the Yeshiva's First Year Mashgiach.



At the wedding of Nesanel Chaim (Sonny) Fishman, son of the Mashgiach, HaRav Elchonon Meir Fishman.





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on two Friday *shiurim*. By the time I was ready to leave Toras Moshe, I was learning *be'chavrusa* with Rabbi Klein, and was a regular guest at his home. I had brought up the idea of printing the *shiurim* several times, but at this point I was very serious and adamant about it, and he gave me the go ahead."

Chanoch began doing the writing in preparation for the *sefer's* publication; then a team of professional editors were hired, with Rabbi Klein reviewing and improving their work. After the publication of the first volume, Rabbi Klein became more personally involved in the compiling and editing process. He began emailing the *shiurim* to his father, which eventually became a growing email list of *talmidim*. These emailed *shiurim* became the second *chelek* of the *sefer*, which was dedicated *l'ilui nishmas* Rabbi Klein's daughter who tragically passed away in a plane crash in Michigan with her grandfather and two cousins.

The third volume of *Nachalas Tzvi* is on the *moadim*. It contains the *shiurim* said by Rabbi Klein on Fridays when a Yom Tov is approaching, and he switches from a *parsha*-based *shiur* to a Yom Tov-based

one. It is dedicated *l'ilui nishmas* Dr Reuven Lampert's in laws and his father.

The fourth and newest *chelek* is called "Zichron Sema," dedicated *l'ilui nishmas* Rabbi Klein's mother-in-law, Mrs. Sema Menora, who was extremely dedicated to her family and deeply involved in many institutions of Torah and *chessed*.

While only the first and third volumes are directly sponsored by the Lamperts, Rabbi Klein thanks them for generating the momentum that led to the publication of all the *chalakim* of the *sefer*. "I always have extra copies on hand," Chanoch relates, "which I give to many *chashuve rabbanim* and others who I know will appreciate it. Everyone comes back and tells me how impressed they are with Rabbi Klein's *sefer*, and how they are looking forward to more volumes in the future, *b'ezras Hashem*."

