

CONNECTIONS



הללו עבדי השם ולא עבדי כרעה (מגילה יד')

כעבד ישאף צל וימנה תמיד מתי יבוא העת הנכסף אליו שיצא לחרות (ספר החינוך מצוה שו)

On Pesach we celebrated *zman cheiruseinu*. Pesach is no mere celebration of “the liberty to live life as we desire”. It is a celebration of the opportunity to rise above the forces – internal and external - that minimize our potential to fully develop our *Tzelem Elokim*. As such, we sing praise that we are no longer *Avdei Pharaoh* and are henceforth *Avdei Hashem*.

However, the Yom Tov of Pesach does not end when we “change the kitchen back over”. The period between Pesach and Shavuot is a period of growth and transition when we focus and build ourselves toward *Kabolas haTorah*. Receiving the Torah anew is a higher plane of *cheirus* and a higher level of *Avdus L'Hashem*.

Along with building toward *Kabolas haTorah*, Ner Michoel finds itself building toward a number of major events, which will *B'ezras Hashem* take place during this period. We are all looking forward to the upcoming 3rd Annual Memorial Day Yarchei Kallah (וחוט המשולש לא במהרה ינתק), scheduled for אייר כב'. We are also “counting the days” until the “Rabbi Moshe Twersky

Sefer Torah” will be brought into the Yeshiva’s *Beis Medrash* and its new *Aron Kodesh*. You will read about these events in this issue of Connections.

Additionally, you will read about some of Ner Michoel’s recent events and projects and a new and important addition to the Ner Michoel team. Rabbi Aryeh Wielgus (of Purim Kollel fame) has been appointed as Ner Michoel’s new Project Manager. Suffice it to say that we are very excited to have R’ Aryeh aboard and we look forward to an extended period of building and developing Ner Michoel together.

With best regards and wishes for happy counting!



Daniel Sinowitz
Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



Shmuli Weiner
Rabbi Shmuli Weiner

RABBI ARYEH WIELGUS APPOINTED AS NER MICHOEL’S NEW PROJECT MANAGER



Toras Moshe’s alumni across the globe are welcoming the news of Rabbi Wielgus’ appointment with excited anticipation. In his new position of Project Manager, Rabbi Wielgus will bring added assistance and coordination to all of Ner Michoel’s various projects and events, both in the United States and Eretz Yisroel.

In the short time since its founding only three years ago, Ner Michoel has accomplished a great deal in the fulfillment of its mission-keeping the growing number of alumni

connected to the Yeshiva in a meaningful way. Boruch Hashem, Ner Michoel has reached the point where there is a need for someone to act as a base of operations, coordinating and supporting the many different projects that are going on. Rabbi Wielgus will be working closely with the leadership – Rabbi Sinowitz, Rabbi Weiner, and the Yeshiva’s *hanhalla* – as well as a group of dedicated alumni volunteers.

Rabbi Wielgus spent four years in Toras Moshe as a *bochur*, during which time the *hanhalla* recognized his potential for organization and

serving the needs of the *tzibbur* and asked him to help manage the Yeshiva’s kitchen. He also became involved in many other projects, such as launching (together with Rabbi Josh Gabay) Rabbi Weiner’s pre-Shacharis *shiur*, and conceiving and directing the Purim Kollel. Following his marriage, he returned to Toras Moshe as a member of the Kollel.

“Anyone familiar with Reb Aryeh,” Rabbi Sinowitz excitedly points out, “knows what he brings to the table. He has a unique blend of organizational skills, creativity and good taste

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Preparations Underway for Hachnosas Sefer Torah



After the beautiful and memorable Siyum Sefer Torah *l'ilui nishmas* Rav Mosheh Twersky at the 33rd Anniversary Dinner last fall, the entire Mishpachas Toras Moshe has been eagerly looking forward to the final portion of the journey – escorting this cherished Sefer Torah into its home in the Yeshiva's Bais Medrash. The date has been set for the Wednesday before Shavuot, June 8, the second day of Sivan. Excitement is building as the day draws near, with everyone anticipating what is likely to be a tremendous event in the history of Toras Moshe.

Quite understandably, this is an occasion that generates a great deal of emotion in the hearts of so many – *k'ish echad b'lev echad*. Beyond being a fitting *zikaron* for Rav Twersky, it brings together the entire Yeshiva, its *hanhalla*, *talmidim*, and alumni. Rav Twersky meant so much to the many individuals with whom he had a *kesher*, as well as to the Yeshiva as a whole; everyone who observed him will never forget his unique *hashpa'ah*. While this is certainly

a “Yeshiva” event, it is unique in that it is undeniably an “alumni” event as well. While most alumni who live in Eretz Yisroel are expected to attend, alumni the world over will be *ba'alei simcha* on that special day. It's so much more than the Yeshiva getting a new Sefer Torah, which would be reason enough to celebrate; this is a celebration *l'ilui nishmas* a beloved Rebbe that unites *talmidim* past and present.

Ner Michoel takes special pride in this occasion. The dedications that made this Sefer Torah happen came from all over the world. A major portion of the financing came from Rav Twersky's *talmidim* – *bochurim* and *avreichim* who felt a need to be a part of this, even if it meant partnering with a friend and sharing the cost. This makes it a truly significant event, and preparations are being made accordingly. A tremendous amount of planning is underway, with meticulous attention to detail in order to guarantee a most uplifting and befitting program. First and foremost is the actual *hachnosah*

procession, where a very large crowd is expected. To accommodate that, the Yeshiva is working with local public officials to close the streets to vehicular traffic and ensure a smooth operation. Details like musical accompaniment, torches, and many other enhancements are being arranged as well. With the celebration aptly coinciding with the season of *Kabolas haTorah*, the singing and dancing will have an added dimension of meaning.

Following the procession, a beautiful *seudas mitzvah* will be held in Ulamei Tamir, the spacious hall located right outside the Yeshiva's neighborhood of Sanhedria Murchevet. A rich program with *drashos* and music is being arranged. The event will feature that special “Toras Moshe” celebratory feeling of familial camaraderie that many alumni have either experienced or heard about. Above all, there is the hope and anticipation that this will truly be an *aliyah* to Rav Twersky's exalted *neshama*, and will bring *nechama* to his *mishpacha* and *talmidim*.



RABBI AVI LOWENSTEIN'S RECENT VISIT BRINGS CHIZUK TO NY ALUMNI

The start of Chodesh Adar Beis brought an extra measure of *simcha* to many Toras Moshe alumni in the Queens/Far Rockaway area this year. Rabbi Avi Lowenstein, a respected, senior member of the Kollel and one of the Yeshiva's great *mashpiim*, arrived from Eretz Yisroel for a brief visit to participate in the wedding of a *talmid*, Chezky Kramer. During his short stay, many Yeshiva alumni took the opportunity to spend time with Rabbi Lowenstein.

Upon arriving at the airport on Friday morning, Rabbi Lowenstein headed to Yeshiva Ohr HaChaim in Queens, NY, where a large contingent of Toras Moshe *talmidim* are currently learning. Shlomo Tzvi Flamer, a close *talmid* of Rabbi Lowenstein who says a *chaburah* on Friday mornings at Ohr HaChaim, asked Rabbi Lowenstein to deliver the *chaburah* instead, and invited many other Toras Moshe alumni to attend. Quite auspiciously, Ohr HaChaim was learning Kiddushin, which is what Toras Moshe and Rabbi Lowenstein were also learning! Ohr Hachaim's *hanhalla*, especially Rabbi Mordechai Finkelman, was extremely welcoming, and graciously allowed the well-attended *chaburah* to take place in the Bais Medrash. The *chaburah* was on the intricate topic of *da'as ha'eidim*, with Rabbi Lowenstein providing several fascinating real-life scenarios to illustrate the underlying concepts.

For Shabbos, Rabbi Lowenstein was hosted by Reuven Knobel and his parents in Far Rockaway, where he joined his *talmid* Chezky's *aufruf* celebration. This was also an opportunity to spend some time with alumni who live in the area. He visited the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway, where there are many Toras Moshe *talmidim*, and – quite remarkably – they are also learning Kiddushin.

The wedding, which took place on Monday night, was a beautiful and joyous event, with Toras Moshe well represented. Between the *chuppah* and the first dance, many alumni gathered in a side room, where Daniel Danesh arranged a *shiur* and get-together with Rabbi Lowenstein, who spoke about the Torah's perspective on *simcha*, the *simcha* of Chodesh Adar and *simcha* of a *chasunah*. As most of the attendees were either *bochurim* involved in *shidduchim* or newly married in *shana rishona*, Rabbi Lowenstein also discussed the foundations of an authentic Jewish home.

The *chizuk* derived from this short but very meaningful visit will go a long way in helping alumni who are navigating the post-Eretz Yisroel phase of their lives, by reinforcing the lessons they learned in Toras Moshe.



ONCE AGAIN, the Yeshiva's Purim Kollel hosted over 150 *bochurim* and *avreichim* in an overnight Mishmar Leil Yud Daled. This year, the Kollel was open for alumni as well, and dozens of alumni who live in Yerushalayim participated. Rabbi Shurkin started off the night with a *shiur* on Krias Megila B'asara. Rabbi Meshulam Twersky gave an in-depth *shiur* on the *inyan* of Tzibur and Krias Megila.

The evening featured a delicious midnight buffet and light refreshments throughout, and culminated in spirited dancing – an expression of the tremendous *simcha* experienced by all.





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with Rebbeim and old friends!

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Monday, May 30th

MEMORIAL DAY

— **New Location** — **→ KHAL KOL TORAH**
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SCHEDULE

9:45AM Welcome: Coffee & Refreshments	1:30PM-3:00PM Second Seder
10:00AM-12:00PM First Seder	3:00PM-3:45PM Shiur, Rabbi Abramowitz
12:00PM-12:45PM Shiur, Rosh HaYeshiva	3:45PM-4:30PM Q & A
12:45PM-1:30PM Lunch will be served	4:30PM Mincha

TOPIC:

עני מהפך בחירה
COMPETITION IN THE FREE MARKET

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with a track record that proves it. In addition to being the consummate Toras-Moshe alumnus – or perhaps, because of it – Reb Aryeh is definitely someone who can take Ner Michoel to the next level and beyond. Rabbi Weiner and I are very happy to have him on board.”

“In the short time since I assumed this position”, Rabbi Wielgus says, “I’ve begun working with Rabbi Sinowitz and Rabbi Weiner on a regular basis. I’ve come to realize that Ner Michoel is much more than

an organization serving the alumni, it’s simply ‘by the alumni, for the alumni’, encompassing every aspect of their personal *hatzlacha*. By building a solid infrastructure for the organization as it expands, I am confident that we will *b’ezeras Hashem* continue to move forward, with the ultimate goal of every single alumnus – whether he finds himself in another Bais Medrash or involved in other pursuits – to retain his personal *kesher* to his ‘lifeline’, Yeshivas Toras Moshe.”



The Mashgiach and Rabbi Abramowitz spent a wonderful Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisoh together with alumni in Lakewood, at the home of Rabbi Simcha Lang.