

CONNECTINS



תכין בקיץ לחמה אגרה בקציר מאכלה: (משלי ו:ח)

“אחרי אשר אגרה בקציר מאכלה... כשכלה קציר והתחילו ימי הקיץ ... תשתדל להכין את לחמה... ובזה תיקח מוסר להרבות לאסוף חוקי החכמה ודברי התורה בלבך כל ימי הנעורים, ולא תאמר די, ואחר שאספת כולם אז תבין בשכלך.” (מלבי"ם שם)

כי מציון תצא תורה ודבר ה' מירושלים: (ישעיהו ב:ג)

With the passing of spring and its new hope, its youthful energy and its collection of the winter harvest, comes the summer. Aside from being a time to escape the heat and to relax, the Malbim tells us that summer is the time for an industrious person to begin to “bake” what he collected in the “spring”. The lessons that one collects in his formative years – the “spring” of his youth, are put to good use as he continues to mature and develop throughout his life.

Keeping the spring of our alumni's formative years, spent in Yeshiva, alive and vibrant during the summers of their lives, is a great part of Ner Michoel's mission...

And, Boruch Hashem, this mission was greatly furthered by this year's Memorial Day Yarchei Kallah. Younger and older alumni joined in a Beis Medrash together with the Rosh Yeshiva, the numerous Roshei Chaburah, Rabbis Naftali Meiselman, Shmuli Weiner and Moshe Chaim Jacobowitz, to learn and create unprecedented energy levels at an event of this sort. The importance and intensity of the event was heightened by the fact that the Rosh Yeshiva had traveled the long distance to participate in the Yarchei Kallah, despite the Rebbetzin's illness and that the limud was dedicated לשלימה.

Ner Michoel is extremely *makir tov* to all who were involved in making the Yarchei Kallah the tremendous success that it was.

And so in this issue you will (of course) read about the Yarchei Kallah.

Additionally, you will help us welcome the newest member of the steadily growing NM team – R' Dovid “Bugsy” Bogopulsky who has stepped into the position of Director of Public relations, who has translated his “springtime” into a summer project. You will read of a new innovative project launched by Yoni Pomper and Rabbi Akiva Schwartz together with the rest of the Class of 2008, who are also directed in a similar vein. And you will reconnect with a (rather) high-profile alumnus, Rav Gav Friedman, whose springtime in Yeshiva continues to generate Yiddishkeit and energy from Yerushalayim to places as far flung as Thailand... כי מציון תצא תורה ... ודבר ה' מירושלים

Enjoy and Have a Great Summer!



Daniel Sinowitz
Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



Shmuel Weiner
Rabbi Shmuel Weiner

Fourth Annual Yarchei Kallah Brings Alumni From Far and Wide

The Yeshiva's fourth annual Yarchei Kallah took place on the Sunday before Shavuot, May 28th, Gimmel Sivan, at Khal Kol Torah in Flatbush. It was a true Kiddush Hashem and a source of *chizuk* for the record breaking number of participants, many of whom were attracted by this year's new innovation – the featured alumni Roshei Chabura, who gave their

own presentations to smaller groups of alumni during the afternoon *seider*.

Many alumni made an extra effort to attend and apply themselves with greater *hasmada* when they heard about the Rosh HaYeshiva's tremendous *mesiras nefesh* to make the trip despite the fact that the Rebbetzin took ill and was hospitalized just

a few days earlier. The day's learning was dedicated as a *z'chus* for her complete recovery, *b'ezras Hashem*.

This year's participants included alumni who are pursuing their livelihood or education, as well as those who are learning full time in American Yeshivos. “I always loved being in the Rosh Yeshiva's *shiur*,” re-

called Jonathan Briks, “so I really enjoyed the opportunity to once again participate in a *seder* and *shiur* with him. The whole environment made me feel like I was transported back to Toras Moshe – sitting and learning with guys who are really into it, and seeing my old friends, as well as the *rebbeim*: Rabbi Shmuli Weiner, Rabbi Naf-tali Meiselman, and Rabbi Moshe Chaim Jacobowitz. The *sugya* they chose – *s’chirus v’kabblanus b’Shabbos* – made it especially delightful; it’s a huge *sugya*, and is so beneficial to *shemiras Shabbos*. Like many of my friends, I buy and sell things on eBay, and there were a lot of practical *halachos* that we gained from the afternoon *seder* and *chaburos*.”

“The *roshei chabura* did their own, independent research on the *sugya*, giving it their own personal flavor, which made it very exciting,” Zevy Krupka pointed out. “I joined Rav Avrohom Rudner’s *chabura*; he lives in Toronto, and went through many *halacha l’maaseh* questions with Rav Shlomo Miller, sharing with us some of his very interesting *chiddushim* and rulings. For example, Rav Miller holds that in *halacha* a lawyer is not considered to be an employee who is

paid ‘by the hour’, even though he bills by the hour.”

“The *roshei chabura* are people we had a real *kesher* with,” said Moshe Mayer. “They’re just a few years older than us; they’re *talmidim* of our Yeshiva who have made great strides in their *avodas Hashem*. The hours we spent learning with them was a great source of *chizuk*. *Rebbeim* impart one essential type of *chizuk*; but there’s something special you get from these individuals. Each one of them is still ‘part of the *chevra*’, but you’re inspired when you see the fruits of their years of *hasmada* and effort.”

“I feel that this was a day that truly encapsulated what the Yeshiva has been, what it is, and what it will continue to be *b’ezeras Hashem*. The Rosh Yeshiva always mentions that a person must recognize his obligation to become a *talmid chochom* in the true sense of the word, and to constantly grow in his *avodas Hashem*. When we saw the younger *chevra*, and noticed how they, too, are fine *bnei Torah* in the *derech* of the Yeshiva, it was very encouraging.”

Yarchei Kallah 2017 Pictorial



Daniel Cohen and Reuven Knobel



Alumni enjoy lunch in Kol Torah Simcha Hall



Yehuda Esral and Yoni Raskin learning



Alumni listen to the Rosh Yeshiva's shiur



Berry Spira and Shimmy Fried learning



Rabbi Shmuli Weiner, R' Yanky Weitman and R' Ari Hoch learning at the Yarchei Kallah



Attentive audience during the Rosh Yeshiva's shiur



Netanel Dancykier and Aryeh Liebhard



Yoni Pomper and Uri Rabinowitz learning



The Rosh Yeshiva post the morning seder shiur

More pictures continued on page 7

Toras Moshe Alumnus Inspires Crowds:



Rabbi Gavriel – a.k.a. “Rav Gav” – Friedman is well known to countless people all over the world for his captivating Torah lectures that present the ideals of Yiddishkeit to a wide array of audiences in an intriguing yet entertaining fashion. Not many are aware, however, that Rabbi Friedman is a proud talmid of Yeshivas Toras Moshe.

Originally from Woodmere, NY, Rabbi Friedman learned in Ohr Yerushalayim; his *rebbe*, Rav Yehuda Shmulewitz suggested that he go to Toras Moshe, where he was a talmid for almost three years. “OJ had a profound impact on me,” he acknowledges. “Toras Moshe, however, changed my life – it truly gave me a new perception of what *limud haTorah*, and everything else, really is! The *rebbeim* and the *chevra* were serious about Torah learning, but were also serious about enjoying life as a *ben Torah*! The *zemiros* on Shabbos, the sense of *achdus* that prevailed, all had a major impact on me!”

Rav Gav in the World of Kiruv

“I do a lot of traveling and teaching in many different communities throughout the world, and my goal is to bring people the *chizuk* they need. Interestingly, I probably have the greatest impact on those who actually come from a *frum* background but are still lacking a deep and meaningful connection to Yiddishkeit.”

“I work at Aish HaTorah, although, I’m only there for a couple of hours a day. I actually spend the rest of my day learning with my *chavrusa*. I try to learn a lot, so I guess you could say that learn-

ing and teaching best describes what I do. Together with my *chavrusa*, we learn the *daf*, and we also learn other areas of Torah – *halacha*, *hashkafah*, and *machshava*. It’s this same Torah that I base my talks on: Gemaros, Rishonim, it’s all in there. And, of course, you have what I call the “basics”: Alei Shor, Michtav Me’Eliyahu, and Rabbeinu Yonah, both Shaarei Teshuva as well as his commentary on Pirkei Avos.”

When you ask Rav Gav about how he feels about being a “celebrity” and being recognized everywhere he goes, he responds in his classic, engaging manner. “A *talmid* of mine was going through a particularly rough time in his life, and felt a need to ‘get away’ from it all. Having grown up in a secular home, he decided that Thailand would be a good place to escape to. So he’s sitting out there on the beach in Thailand, totally in the middle of nowhere, chilling out and collecting his thoughts, and he thinks to himself, OK, what am I going to do now?

He decides to open his computer, and then makes up his mind that he’s going to watch one of my *shiurim* that he recorded. As he’s watching the *shiur*, somebody happens to walk by, a fellow with long hair, tattered clothing, no shoes – you can just imagine. He stops walking, glances at the screen, and says ‘Hey – Rav Gav!’ Taken by surprise, my student says to him, ‘How do YOU know Rav Gav?’ It turns out that this fellow once walked into Aish and sat in on my class, and it made an impression on him. Now, these two sat together on a beach in Thailand watching my *shiur* for a full hour.....”

“This story gives new meaning to a *mishna* at the beginning of Pirkei Avos,” continues Rav Gav. “*V’ha’amidu talmidim harbei*, establish many students, is immediately followed with words *va’asu s’yag la’Torah*, make a protective fence for the Torah. When you can’t go anywhere in the world where someone won’t be your talmid, it’s the greatest sort of protection and *shem-irah*! You’re stuck; you have to keep the Torah. *Oy lanu mi’yom haDin!*”

“I have tremendous *hakoras hatov* to the Rosh Yeshiva and the Mashgiach; Rav Moshe Twersky was a *malach*, an example of the great heights a person can attain. While in ToMo I became very close with Rabbi Shmuli Weiner. Ever since I left, we’re on the phone several times a week (sometimes every night!). We discuss *eitzos*, halachic issues, *hashkafah*, as well as guidance in personal and family matters.

“One of the biggest ‘take home’ messages that I speak about is what the Rosh Yeshiva used to repeat to us so often: the “single minded focus” on Torah. You have to constantly make sure that you remain ‘committed’, that you’re in the game. I use this a lot when speaking to my own *talmidim*. It’s the key to life that I’m eager to share!”

A Rising Star: Rabbi Moshe Kaufman Delivers a Shiur at the Annual Yarchei Kallah

One of the special features at the recent Yarchei Kallah was the afternoon session with the alumni Roshei Chabura and their presentations to smaller groups of alumni. Among the distinguished presenters was Rabbi Moshe Kaufman, a rising star of *harbotzas haTorah* and *p’sak halacha* in the Chicago community.

“It was a tremendous honor and *zechus*,” Rabbi Kaufman said, “to have been asked to come – especially from so far away – and give a *shiur* at the Yarchei Kallah. I feel a very strong *hakoras hatov* to the Yeshiva, which was my primary motivation to make the trip; I was also looking forward to greeting the Rosh Yeshiva, who ultimately came with great *mesiras nefesh*. I got a lot of *chizuk* from seeing my *rebbeim*, like Rabbi Shmuel Weiner, as well as simply spending the day involved in genuine *pilpul chaverim* – learning with friends from my years in Yeshiva, clarifying and being *mevarer* the sugya. Another nice thing was meeting many *talmidim* whom I’ve never seen before, and discovering that we have a great deal in common. They may be ten years my junior, but, like my classmates, they’re also very focused on fulfilling the *ratzon Hashem* and learning Torah with the goal of applying it to their daily lives.

“This year’s *sugya d’Kallah* has a major impact on *halacha l’maaseh*, which piqued everyone’s interest and generated a lot

of interesting discussion. We learned the relevant Gemaros and opinions of the Rishonim in the morning, which was the focus of the Rosh Yeshiva’s *shiur* that followed. When we got together as a *chabura* in the afternoon, we focused more on *halacha l’maaseh*. We went through the Shulchan Aruch with the relevant Mishna

one of returning home for a visit. Many who attended my *chabura* are my very close friends; they were inspired by the fact that I, their *chaver* with whom they learned in Yeshiva, is at the point where I could be a *moreh derech* in *halacha*. Other attendees were from the younger crowd, whom I don’t necessarily know very well; they appreciated listening to someone who may be older, but has the same *mesorah* and *hashkafa* as theirs.”

Among those “younger alumni” who joined Rabbi Kaufman’s *chabura* is Netanel Dancykier, who also made the trip from his home in Chicago. “I first met Rabbi Kaufman when he accompanied the Mashgiach and Rabbi Abramowitz on their visit to my home during their stay in Chicago,” Netanel



Beruras and *teshuvos* from Rav Moshe Feinstein, which I am quite familiar with from my work on his recently published manuscripts. I think it’s wonderful that everyone got exposed to a brand new *sugya*, had a chance to go through it with real *ris’cha d’eoraysa* and *hasmadah*, and then walked away with a heightened awareness of how it applies to their daily lives. Each of the participants has a much better idea of what situations might be questionable, and can now approach his Rav as an ‘educated consumer’.

“The feeling that prevailed throughout the day,” Rabbi Kaufman concluded, “was

recalled. “And I was then *zocheh* to join his *chabura* at the Yarchei Kallah. Learning the *halachos* from him was an amazing experience. He’s getting *shimush* from Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst, who receives almost all of the complex *sheilos* in our city. One of the questions he discussed was especially relevant to where we live: there’s heavy snowfall very often, and there are specific Shabbos guidelines to follow when hiring snow removal crews. I walked away from the Yarchei Kallah inspired and enlightened – it was well worth the trip from Chicago, or from anywhere else!”

Ner Michoel extends heartfelt condolences and shares in the loss of the
Krupka family, with the tragic passing of
Rabbi Shlomo Krupka zt”l,

father of our dear and distinguished fellow alumni
Avrumy (‘07-’15), Yehuda (‘09-’10), and Zevy (‘12-’16).

בלע המוות לנצח ומחה ד’ אלוקים דמעה מעל כל פנים



Alumni Join in a Chabura Spanning Many Time Zones

Alumni in the United States, England and Eretz Yisroel have joined together in a unique new learning *chabura* that truly transcends location. Rabbi Akiva Schwartz, a member of the Toras Moshe Kollel, delivers the *chabura* and sends out specially prepared *marei mekomos*; Yoni Pomper, an alumnus in New York, initiated and continues to take care of all the logistics.

"This *chabura*", Akiva explains, "was created to address a challenge faced by many of our alumni. They are no longer in the *beis medrash* full time and are not part of a regular *iyun shiur*, but they still want to learn *b'iyun*. Anyone who has experienced this sort of learning knows that it's not enough to just go through the Gemara and Rishonim that you see in front of you. You have to know about related Gemaras in other places in Shas, hidden issues between the lines and behind the scenes. Without a *rebbe* to present this to you in a *shiur*, you're on your own. You may have only two hours a day for a serious *seder*, making it difficult or impossible to get to the level of *iyun* you experienced and enjoyed when you were in Yeshiva. You feel somewhat lost, and you really need a guide to show you where the material you're seeking can be found. Ner Michoel provided the structure and framework for this project, which helped make it happen."

"Rabbi Sinowitz asked me to be the Ner Michoel representative for our year of alumni", Yoni Pomper recalls. "I began talking to some of the guys about what sort of things we could do to make our connection stronger and more meaningful. Reunions and get togethers might be nice, but as David Danesh pointed out, a connection through Torah, such as a regular *chabura*, is a much better way to go. Some people suggested a *hashkafa va'ad* from the rebbeim; most of the feedback, however, led us in the direction of Gemara *b'iyun*. With school or work taking up so much of everyone's time, we were really looking for something that would provide the sense of accomplishment and enjoyment we felt while we were in Yeshiva. Yes, there are many *shiurim* and *sedorim* for working people out there, but our group felt we could get something more like what we were used to.

"We have a weekly conference call every Sunday, which is basically an hour long *chabura*", adds Akiva. "I find that they're well prepared because they already saw the *marei mekomos* and worked on them. Although I do most of the talking, the guys are constantly asking questions and offering comments, and I see that they really understand what's going on. You really need a 4 hour *seder* like we have in Yeshi-

va just to comprehend these Gemaras, so it's a real commitment on the part of the members, many of whom have learning *sedorim* in addition to their *parnassa* obligations. Personally, I find that it's an incredible experience; I have to translate what I've learned into a 'teachable' format, which is a very rewarding challenge. Whenever we finish a *sugya* in this *zman's limud* in Yeshiva, I find that I'm asking myself, if I had to give a *chabura* on this now, am I prepared? It changes the way I look at a *sugya*."

Yoni's perspective reflects the feelings shared by the *chabura* members: "Akiva presents the *sugya* with tremendous clarity, and the guys are very into it. Once again, we have a high quality of learning, just like we had back in Yeshiva, even though we're all so many miles away. It provides me with an anchor in my learning, keeping me in place despite my otherwise turbulent schedule, which was quite a challenge before.

"In the future," Yoni reflects, "perhaps we'll upgrade from a conference call to a video chat or something like that. We want to improve on this project and make it easier for others to join us."

Alumni Roshei Chabura at the Fourth Annual US Yarchei Kallah

RAV AVIDON SOROKA



RAV RAEL FUCHS



RAV AVROMI RUDNER AND
RAV SIMCHA LANG



RAV TUVIA AZAR



RAV MOSHE KAUFMAN



RAV YEHUDA EISENSTEIN



RAV NAFTALI KATZ



RAV ZEV FLAUMENHAFT AND
RAV REUVEN SCHWARTZ



RAV SARIEL KALISH





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Ner Michoel Welcomes Rabbi Dovid Bogopulsky as Director of Public Relations



As part of Ner Michoel's efforts to cater to the needs of all of Toras Moshe's alumni and to keep them strongly connected with the Yeshiva, Rabbi Dovid Bogopulsky has recently been appointed to the newly created position of Director of Public Relations. Dovid has already brought a great deal of positive energy and inclusiveness to many of Ner Michoel's various projects and events both in the United States and Eretz Yisroel.

"Reb Dovid – a.k.a. 'Bugsy' – has been a 'standout' for as long as he's been in Yeshiva, both in the Bais Medrash as well as with the *chevra*." Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz observed. "He served as an energetic and beloved *gabbai*, a leader among his peers, and more recently, the 'go-to-guy' for the younger *bochurim*. The success of the re-

cent Yarchei Kallah clearly demonstrated his talents and abilities," Rabbi Shmuli Weiner agrees. "Ner Michoel is very excited to have Reb Dovid on board in a position that he is uniquely suited to fill."

"Dovid's charisma, *geshmak*, and infectious positivity are all qualities we need on the Ner Michoel team", Rabbi Moshe Chaim Jacobowitz emphasized. "He is a highly regarded member of the Toras Moshe Kollel as well as an active member of Lilmod U'lilameid. Among the younger alumni in particular, he is extremely popular and maintains a close friendship with those who move on to the US and elsewhere. As we speak, Dovid is at the wedding of a close friend and *talmid* in London! He's a major asset to Ner Michoel and we welcome him to the team."

Asked about his new role, Dovid responded enthusiastically: "I see myself serving as sort of a critical bridge between our more

recent, younger alumni and Ner Michoel's leadership. Having been in Yeshiva for about seven years now, I know the alumni as my peers. I speak their language, which allows me to be a more effective liaison and communicator with the younger generation. Most alumni don't realize the value of staying connected during the first few years. The time to bring them into Ner Michoel is now, rather than later on when their connection has already begun to fade. Keeping new alumni is much easier than rebuilding the *kesher* at a later time.

"Boruch Hashem, I'm able to keep my finger on the pulse of alumni happenings, and I try to make our website and the Connections newsletter more current and relevant. The Mazel Tov announcements – engagements, weddings, and births – are more inclusive and up to date, and the alumni are very pleased with that. Hopefully, this will get even better in the months ahead."

Did you have a simcha or know of a fellow
alumnus who has a simcha –
WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

Make sure to send it in to
websiteadmin@nermichoel.org
MAZEL TOV!