

CONNECTIONS



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDIUM

“ובנה אותה בקרוב בימיו בנין עולם”

Out of the ashes, the visionary נאמין sees rebirth. At times of צרה and חורבן we are responsible to take stock of our actions. At the same time, however, we are responsible to look forward to and work toward future growth.

Interestingly, this edition of Connections marks one full year of publication. During this past year we have endeavored to keep our alumni “connected” through this publication by sharing our thoughts, current Ner Michoel events and personal profiles of alumni. We hope that our efforts have been met with success.

In this issue, with thanks to the בורא עולם and to the numerous alumni who worked so hard on the project, we have the pleasure of reporting upon Ner Michoel’s inaugural Yarchei Kallah. We follow up on the “Support Our Kollel” drive with prayers that the movement continues to pick up daily. We offer an update and pictorials on the recent Ner Michoel events in Toronto, Lakewood and Baltimore. You will learn of the upcoming Tisha B’Av Event, to take place once again in Yeshiva, this year. Finally, we are happy to present a “walk down memory lane” to the ledge in the Old Yeshiva Dining Room where Schreiner’s cakes were sold daily. Reb Hillel is now the proprietor of his own bakery. More

importantly, he is an individual whose story carries a powerful message for us all.

Even in this season of חורבן we look forward to the בנינים of the future. Again, we hold our hands out to the בורא עולם and to all those of you who have helped build Ner Michoel thus far. May we be זוכה to much more building in the very near future, culminating with the ultimate בנין בית המקדש בפניה בימיו בנין - the



David Sinowitz
Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



Shmuli Weiner
Rabbi Shmuli Weiner

תשעה באב Kinnos

~ with the ~

ROSH HAYESHIVA

A TORAH-TRUE PERSPECTIVE ON RELATING TO THE
MATZAV OF CHURBAN AND GALUS HASHECHINA

LIVE WEB HOOKUP VIA THE NER MICHUEL WEBSITE

WWW.NERMICHOEL.ORG

AUGUST 5th 9:30^{am} Israel time
TUESDAY until 12:30^{pm} Israel time (approx.)



The Kinnos will be recorded and will be accessible throughout the day on the Ner Michoel website.

BACK IN YESHIVA FOR A DAY

Inaugural Yarchei Kallah Generates Inspiration and Excitement

The phenomenal success of Toras Moshe's first ever Yarchei Kallah event on Memorial Day was the result of much planning and anticipation. After a smaller but highly successful Sunday morning "Yom Iyun" was arranged last summer by Rabbi Jay Kosowsky in Monsey, there was a growing consensus for a larger scale event with the participation of as many alumni as possible.

Excitement began building with the news that the Rosh Yeshiva and Rav Michel Shurkin would be making a special trip from Eretz Yisroel in honor of the Yarchei Kallah. The topic of *Geneivas Daas* — the prohibition against misleading others — was chosen as the *sugya d'Kallah*, a fascinating *limud* that is also highly relevant to daily life.

The program began by welcoming the participants with coffee and refreshments, and some brief schmoozing. Everyone immediately got right into the learning, utilizing the beautifully prepared *mareh mekomos* booklets, a compendium of all the necessary *seforim*, put together by Rabbi Simcha Lang. Close to one hundred alumni participated, and the large room was abuzz with the powerful *kol Torah* of *chavrusos* engaged in heated *rischa de'Oraysa*. With the Rosh Yeshiva sitting in the front of the room answering *talmidim's* questions, everyone truly felt as if they were back in Toras Moshe once again.

After a two-hour first *seder*, it was time for the Rosh Yeshiva's *shiur*, which was highly interactive with a lot of give and take from the audience. The Rosh Yeshiva masterfully led his *talmidim* through the Rishonim in depth, following up with the Shulchan Aruch to show how we rule *le'halacha*. Everyone gained a clear, *lomdishe* understanding of the *sugya*, as well as its practical application, not only in business matters, but also in *shidduchim* and other areas of interaction with others in everyday life.

After a beautiful lunch prepared by Bagel Munch of Passaic, everyone hurried back to second *seder* to prepare for Rabbi Shurkin's *shiur*. When Rabbi Shurkin, who very rarely travels to America, was later asked if the trip proved worthwhile, he smiled and said, "Were you there to see how many people were learning? Of course it was worth it!" Some of Rabbi Shurkin's close *talmidim* spent the entire afternoon *seder* gathered around him, just as

they did years ago in Toras Moshe. The *shiur* itself covered a variety of topics, starting with the definition of *ona'ah*. In his inimitable and energetic style, Rabbi Shurkin had the crowd smiling throughout as he provided some practical applications from his own life. He also discussed the topic of *esrogim* of *shmittah* that were subject to forbidden commercial use, which is relevant this coming Sukkos. The *shiur* concluded with a discussion of the upcoming Yom Tov of Shavuot, leaving everyone well-prepared for Kabbolas HaTorah.

THE ALUMNI WERE EXPOSED TO ANOTHER FACET OF THE ROSH YESHIVA'S GREATNESS THAT THEY DID NOT EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY WERE IN YESHIVA, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE AT A DIFFERENT STAGE IN LIFE.

The Q&A session that followed the *shiur* proved to be highly enjoyable, with everyone feeling very comfortable asking the Rosh Yeshiva about topics ranging from the correct way to allocate *tzedaka*, proper *hashkafa* on



secular studies and its place in the life of a young American *ben-Torah*, the parameters of making an "early Shabbos" and devising an efficient learning regimen for a *baal habayis* who is *koveiah ittim*. The alumni were exposed to another facet of the Rosh Yeshiva's greatness that they did not experience when they were in Yeshiva, simply because they were at a different stage in life. Now, however, Rabbi Meiselman's clarity and grasp of the life issues that pertain to his maturing American *talmidim* provided them with crystal-clear guidance and understanding on how to react to different situations they may be faced with.

There has been tremendous feedback attesting to the *limud Torah* and rejuvenation participants felt, and all are looking forward to an even bigger and better Yarchei Kallah next year.





What is known today as Schreiner's Bakery in Yerushalayim began as a *bein hasedorim* side-business with a brother and sister-in-law. "I had to find a means of supporting my *kollel* learning, and without any sort of inclination toward the baking field, this happened completely 'by accident,'" Reb Hillel recalls. "My sister-in-law had just relocated to a small *yishuv* outside of Yerushalayim, where she began baking and selling challah. From the assorted ventures I had tried in Yeshiva, such as taking attendance and, famously, making the *cholent*, I already knew I had an entrepreneurial streak. So we joined forces and began working on creating more of a professional business. I called the bakery in my hometown of Plainview, Long Island, for guidance. They were glad to help us out with recipes and other valuable know-how and considered it a *zechus*."

Things went well for some time, but a turn of events led to a substantial monetary loss and serious debt. Faced with this life challenge, Reb Hillel turned to the Rosh Yeshiva for advice. "We sat and discussed the entire matter for some time," Reb Hillel remembers, "and he looked at me thoughtfully and told me something that he is constantly teaching by example: **Never do anything half-heartedly.** Whatever you do, give it your all. Right now, the Rosh Yeshiva explained, I was faced with a choice: I could either wallow pitifully in debt, or I could make up my mind that I was going to invest all of my energies into rebuilding this as a viable business. My brother was not willing to go along with me on this, and the night before I was to sign as the sole proprietor of the business, I came back to the Rosh Yeshiva, understandably quite nervous. The Rosh Yeshiva looked at me understandingly

and said, 'We discussed this and went over all the *cheshbonos*, but I see you're still a bit apprehensive. Let's review it again.' So we discussed everything again, until I was much calmer and self-assured. And the next day, I signed."

NEVER DO ANYTHING
HALF-HEARTEDLY.
WHATEVER YOU DO,
Give It Your All.

Reflecting on how Toras Moshe affects every day of his life, Reb Hillel emphasizes, "There is no question that being someone who has learned in Yeshiva and absorbed its *hashkafos* clearly influences my interactions with people. Essentially, others still see me as the long-term *kollel avreich* I was before. I just happen to be doing what I'm doing so I can earn a living for myself and my family in a respectable fashion. People from all across the spectrum, non-religious, Mizrachi, Mesorati, Charedi, and Chassidic – everyone trusts me. They realize that I will be honest with them and not, *chalilah*, try to overcharge and undercut them in the least bit. There's a certain understanding that I'm not some guy running a bakery, I'm first and foremost a *ben-Torah*."

"I find that my fellow Toras Moshe alumni, regardless of their professions and life situations, share my sentiment about the Rosh Yeshiva's guidance, which, as I mentioned,

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SUPPORT *Our* KOLLEL

This year as in the past, the Ner Michoel Alumni Association has embarked upon a campaign, designed to offer alumni an opportunity to support the Yeshiva in a team effort.

A year ago, as the Rosh Yeshiva's *sefer* "Torah, Chazal and Science" neared publication, alumni joined together to dedicate the *sefer*. Over \$40,000 was raised by Ner Michoel during the Sefer Dedication Campaign alone.

This year, as a direct response to the current government funding cuts and their impact on the Yeshiva and Kollel, Ner Michoel has unveiled a new program called "Support Our Kollel". Alumni from far and wide have been responding to the call of the hour and claiming their share in supporting the Kollel, thus ensuring its continuity at this most difficult time.

All alumni who have generously contributed to the Yeshiva this year, or who will contribute significantly during this campaign, will be listed in a Scroll of Honor to be displayed at the Annual Dinner.*

Alumni who donate \$300 (\$25 / month) will be listed as Supporters.

Alumni who donate \$500 (\$42 / month) will be listed as Pillars.

Alumni who donate \$1,000 (\$84 / month) will be listed as Sorei Elef.

We look forward to your active participation in this important and rewarding initiative. Tizku L'Mitzvos!

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SUPPORT *OUR*
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Toronto

Several months ago, the Rosh Yeshiva spent a beautiful Shabbos in Toronto, culminating with a Melava Malka get-together at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ari Messinger. The high point of the gathering was the Rosh Yeshiva's divrei Torah, followed by a lively Q&A session.



Baltimore

A Barbecue Buffet was hosted by Rabbi and Mrs. Yaakov Wealcach in Baltimore on June 29th. The event was attended by friends, supporters, and alumni, and benefitted the Yeshivas Toras Moshe Scholarship Fund.

Lakewood

A close-knit reunion of the Lakewood contingent of Toras Moshe alumni was held at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Abi Goldenberg just before Pesach. Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz and Rabbi Shmuli Weiner participated and delivered inspiring words of *chizuk*.





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ALUMNUS PROFILE

Rabbi Hillel Schneider

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

he not only teaches but personifies by example. Over the years, we all observed that he literally does not know what it means to do something half-heartedly. Whether regarding Yeshiva matters or anything else in life, he gives everything his full heart – all his energies and *kochos* almost to the point of collapse. And each of us, in one

way or another, credits the Rosh Yeshiva as our role model for success.

“I’m not a baker, and I don’t dream of becoming one. My employees are all *frum*, and many of them are *kollel* wives supporting their husbands’ learning. On Thursday nights, the busiest time of the week, many

kollel guys do an all-night shift at the bakery, earning money that enables them to stay in the *beis medrash* the rest of the week. This is what gives me *sipuk* from my business, the wonderful sense of fulfillment and satisfaction that my bakery is a source of *bracha* for others.”

