



MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE

Missouri Torah Institute held its 13th annual dinner on June 7, but as the event’s emcee Aaron Lefton, noted, it was virtually their first. The online event paid tribute to honorees Michael and Carol Staenberg. In a statement, the school noted the Staenbergs “are pillars of generosity and vision in the St. Louis community and beyond. The Staenbergs have been at the forefront of supporting Jewish causes with their own giving and by inspiring others to give as well.” The Staenbergs were involved with the yeshiva’s move to its new campus in 2015, and recently dedicated the Staenberg Family Gym.

Although the event took place online, the school arranged for dinner to be delivered to participants’ homes, both in St. Louis and in 19 other cities around the country. In addition to the typical dinner elements, the program featured several unique and interactive components, including a choir, a *siyum*, and a live MTI trivia game.

The entire dinner live-streamed event, as well as the dinner videos and journal are available at www.missouritorah.org.



ABOVE: During Missouri Torah Institute’s June 7 virtual event, emcee Aaron Lefton (left) and Michael and Carol Staenberg listen in as the Staenbergs’ close friends Wendy Dyer, Tami Fernandez, Tom Fellman and Larry Mizel surprise them by calling in live on air to wish the Staenbergs their best wishes.



LEFT: Dr. Craig Reiss, Chairman of the Board, gives a state of the school address

Speakers honoring Michael and Carol Staenberg included Greg Yawitz, above, Murray and Eva Gail Bresler, below, and Jeff Cohen, right.



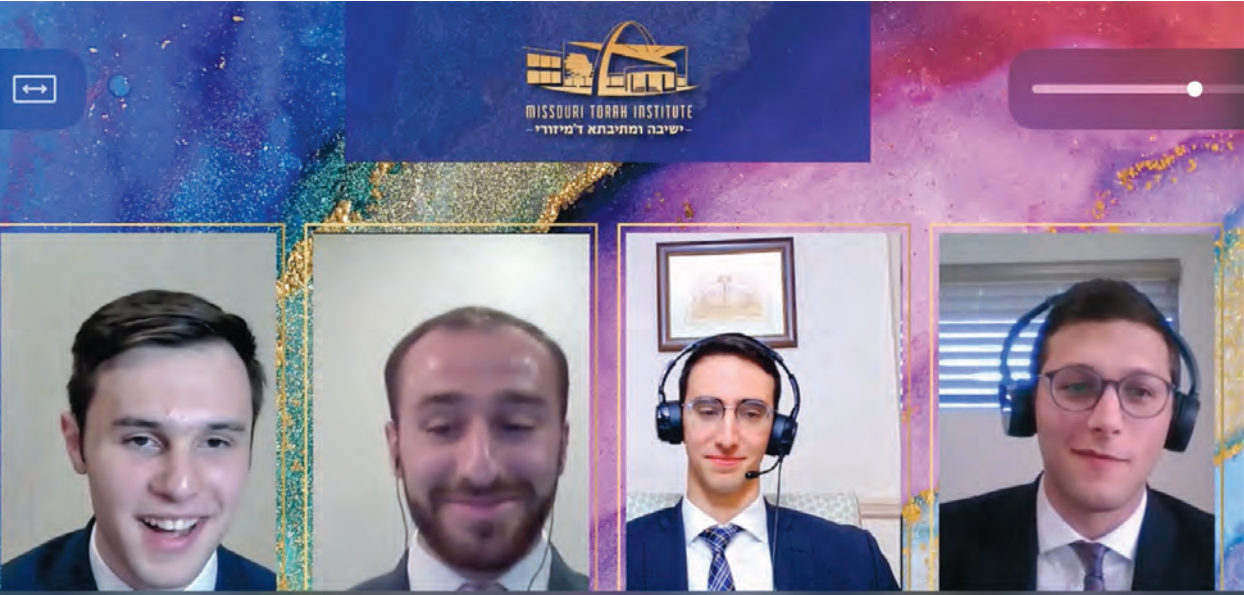
ABOVE and LEFT: A sample of the food and custom labeled wine sent to donors locally and across the country

SPOTLIGHT

PHOTOS FROM RECENT JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS

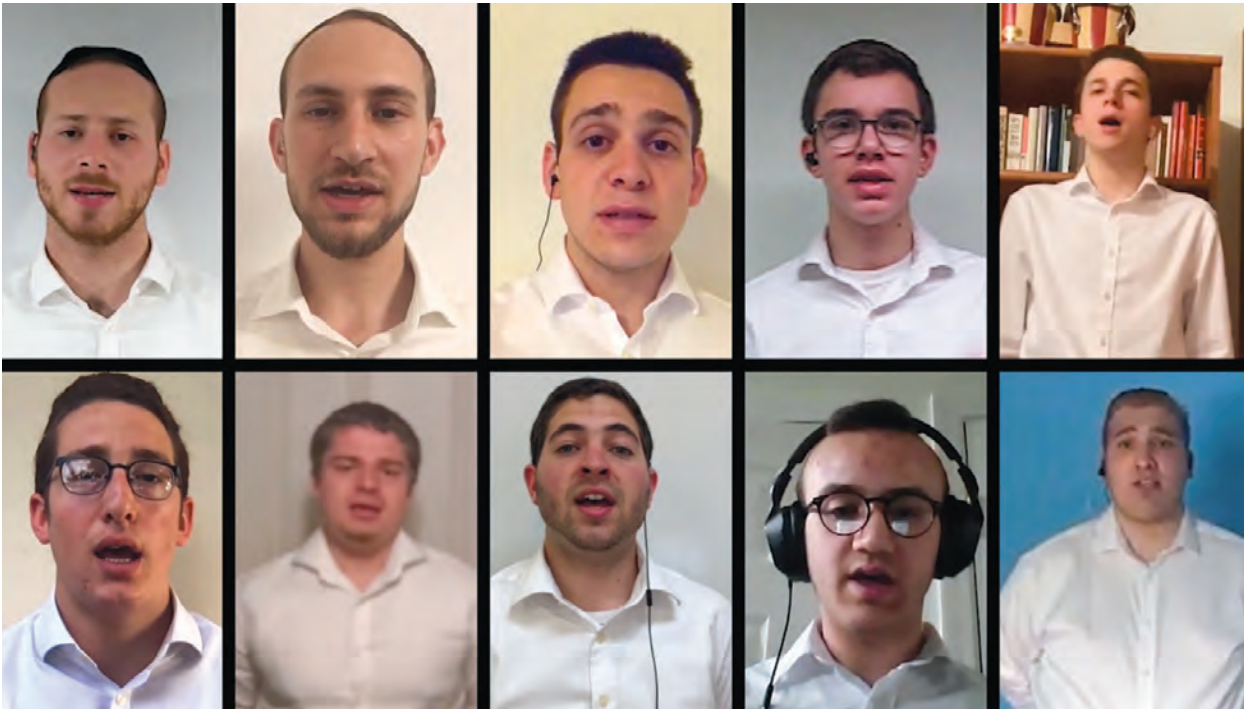
SUBMIT A PHOTO: Have a photo of a recent Jewish community event you would like to submit? Email the image and a suggested caption to news@thejewishlight.com.

VIEW MORE ONLINE: stljewishlight.com/multimedia



ABOVE: High School alumnus Avrohom Yosef Staum hosts a live game show along with fellow alumni Avraham Eli Shmidman, Yosef Kaufman, and Eytan Mankowitz.

BELOW: MTI’s Choir, made up of current students and alumni



ACROSS THE FRUITED PLAIN



WRITTEN BY
R & R LEVITIN

RABBI C.M. LIPSCHUTZ
PICTURE PAGE EDITOR

CHICAGO NEWS

Illinois Court Gives Major Boost to Kosher Symbol, Warning to Unauthorized Users

The kosher food industry has long been plagued by the unauthorized use of kosher symbols, often causing major kosher certification agencies to spend significant sums of money to fight such abuses. Earlier this month, an Illinois federal judge found that a Chicago grocery store infringed on a trademark used by the Chicago Rabbinical Council (cRc) to distinguish kosher products, prohibiting the store and its related companies from using the mark and ordering it to pay \$1 million in damages. The ruling by the federal judge will hopefully put other food industry entities on notice that the courts recognize the value of the kosher food symbol and that unauthorized usage will not be tolerated.

In a statement, the cRc said that it is “most gratified with the court’s finding on the integrity of our symbol as an important guarantee of the value of our *kashrus* certification.” The statement continued: “While the court’s cash award is further proof of our community’s reliance on the sacred trust inherent in our symbol, the finding is comforting to those who rely on our cRc trademark as the absolute verification of the highest quality of kosher supervision.”

Rabbi Sholem Fishbane, Kashrus Administrator of the cRc, explained the importance of this ruling. “The court’s ruling is a victory for the timeless integrity of kosher symbols everywhere,” he said. “It further strengthens the absolute sanctity of kosher certification. It will hopefully deter those who mislead the public by placing an unauthorized kosher symbol on their product.”

Meor Hatorah Virtual Dinner

Yeshiva Meor Hatorah of Chicago held its annual dinner on Sunday, June 21. While the program was a virtual one, the gourmet dinner was prepared and delivered to the homes of all participants to enjoy while watching the program.

The dinner featured a Hakaras Hatov Award to Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel, currently led by Rabbi Sam Biber. In 2009, when Meor Hatorah had grown out of its previous rented quarters, AG Beth Israel offered its former building at exceptional terms. More recently, those terms were extended, providing much relief for the *yeshiva*.

Mr. Selwyn and Mrs. Marni Gordon received the Parents of the Year Award.

Budget Wins for Children in Illinois

Illinois’ Jewish children and their families have what to celebrate following the signing of a new state budget by Governor JB Pritzker on Wednesday, June 10. Despite bleak forecasts and serious obstacles, the new spending plan includes funding for Jewish day school bus transportation and private school scholarships for low-income and working-class families.

Lawmakers were bracing themselves for draconian budget cuts as state tax revenues are being decimated by the coronavirus economic fallout. Of particular concern was a \$1.173 million school transportation grant administered by Agudath Israel

of Illinois (AIOI) that subsidizes the cost of busing for families who send their children to Jewish day schools in the Greater Chicago area. More than 2,000 children attending eight schools rely on the grant, which makes the service affordable. This grant has been awarded in prior years, but is something that AIOI must fight for annually. The challenge was even more daunting than usual this year, as the grant was on a list of proposed cuts shared with legislators. A strong lobbying effort by AIOI was given a big boost by supportive lawmakers who fought to protect the grant. When schools are allowed to reopen and transport students together, students will once again have subsidized busing available.

Another significant victory was the preservation of Illinois’ tax credit scholarship program, the Invest in Kids Act, that benefits low- and middle-income families who choose to send their children to private schools. The program, which provides scholarships of up to nearly \$14,000 per child, has helped over 14,000 children statewide and continues to grow in popularity. Over \$20 million in scholarships has been awarded to more than 1,500 Jewish day school students since the program’s inception two years ago.

Concerns about the future of the program were much more pronounced last year following newly-elected Governor Pritzker’s budget proposal called for slashing the program, fulfilling a campaign pledge to “phase it out.” The governor ultimately agreed that he would not make the cuts as long as the state budget included the full funding for public education, including an annual \$350 million increase, called for under a new K-12 education funding formula. When lawmakers convened in late May for an abbreviated special session, it became apparent that they simply could not appropriate the additional \$350 million, renewing fears that the program’s future was in jeopardy. Due to safety concerns and a stay-at-home order, concerned constituents, lobbyists and advocacy groups were not able to access legislators and all advocacy efforts had to be conducted remotely and quickly. Once again, program allies in the state legislature worked to ensure that thousands of children would be able to attend the school of their choice.

The budget also reappropriated billions of dollars in capital grants that were part of a massive infrastructure bill that passed in 2019. Included in that bill were millions of dollars for Jewish nonprofit organizations. State Representative Yehiel Kalish (D - Chicago) and Senator Ram Villivalam (D - Chicago) worked diligently to ensure that technical changes were made to ensure these projects could be funded.

“Advocating for our community this year required a different skill set, but the strong relationships we’ve built over years were more important than ever,” observed Rabbi Shlomo Soroka, AIOI’s director of government affairs. Most people don’t realize how incredibly difficult the conditions were and how much pressure legislators were under, so we’re especially grateful that they made our issues their priorities.”

Agudath Israel is also grateful for the tireless efforts of Representative Kalish and Senator Villivalam, under difficult conditions, to fight for funding for busing and private school scholarships, working with legislative leaders, most notably House Speaker Michael J. Madigan (D-Chicago), along with Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago).

Virtually Amazing

Participants Across the Country Enjoy Catered Dinner, Live Trivia Game at Missouri Torah Institute’s Virtual Dinner

BY ALIZA AGRESS

It was Missouri Torah Institute’s 13th annual dinner, but, as Aaron Lefton, MC, quipped in his opening line, it was virtually their first. For the St. Louis *yeshiva* with *talmidim* from 33 cities and four countries, the June 7 virtual event allowed out-of-town supporters, alumni, parents, and grandparents to participate for the first time—and the turnout surpassed expectations.

Like most dinners, the event had honorees, a journal, and speeches—and it even served food. Staff coordinated with caterers outside St. Louis to deliver platters of sushi or meat, sometimes with orders of wine, directly to sponsors’ and donors’ homes to enjoy while participating in the program. “We thought this would be a unique way of engaging the audience on a national level and enabling them to participate in the *yeshiva*’s success,” says Rabbi Josh Bregman, Director of Development.

The program featured interactive components, including a choir, a *siyum*, and a live MTI trivia game. A *bochur* served as game host, while several alumni appeared as contestants. Audience members submitted their answers, with percentages of votes calculated in real time.

The evening paid tribute to Michael and Carol Staenberg, pillars of generosity in the St. Louis community and beyond. Staunch supporters of Jewish education, they were involved with the *yeshiva*’s move to its new campus in 2015, and recently dedicated the Staenberg Family Gym. The honorees were happily surprised when, in addition to an inspiring audio-visual presentation honoring them, old friends of theirs called in from around the country to offer their congratulations and good wishes.

Since the *yeshiva*’s dinner is the basis for the support that keeps it running year-round, it was important that the event be a success, despite its nontraditional format. The honorees gave warm feedback: “MTI’s virtual dinner exceeded our expectations. What a great way to raise funds. We were excited about the outcome.” Attendees enjoyed the dinner as well. “The virtual dinner brought us *nachas* for the love the *hanholah* has for their *talmidim*,” said MTI parents Alan and Rami Rosenzweig. Mrs. Jennifer Lehrfield commented, “The program was seamless, and it showcased the *yeshiva* and highlighted the boys so nicely. Even if things go back to ‘normal’ there is a place for this type of event in our lives!”

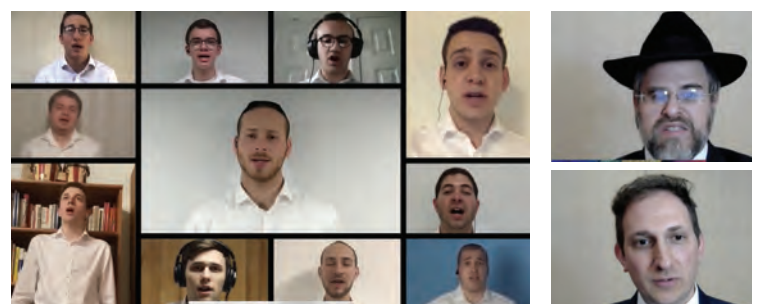
“We are so appreciative of all our supporters that generously gave even during these incredibly hard times,” says Dr. Craig Reiss, chairman of the MTI board. “The donors, particularly those in St. Louis from all segments of the community, recognize the importance of having the *yeshiva* in our city. We are particularly appreciative of the Staenbergs for all they do for the St. Louis Jewish community and throughout the world.”

Rabbi Fromowitz, *rosh yeshiva*, adds, “We are thankful for our almost 250 monthly donors who have continued to support the *yeshiva* even through these difficult times, and have renewed or even increased their commitment. It is this monthly giving and the annual gifts that the dinner brings that help the *yeshiva* meet its budget.”

In a video called “Zooming Through MTI,” dinner participants followed an MTI *talmid* from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. through a day of distance learning, as well as an extracurricular program called “Runnergize,” in which boys keep active by training for a mini-marathon.

Nevertheless, *rabbeim* and *talmidim* alike eagerly look forward to the day when they can finally return to *yeshiva*, infused with renewed appreciation for their beloved MTI.

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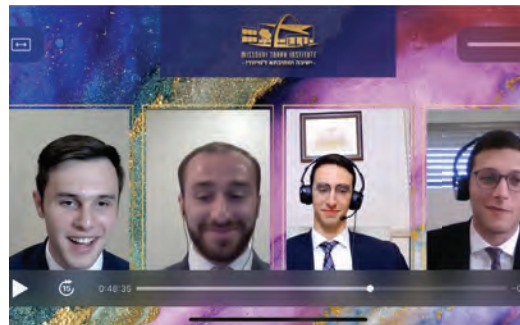
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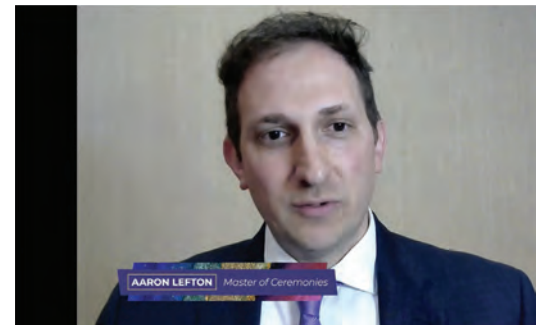
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"The virtual dinner brought us pure *nachas* for the love the *hanhala* has for their *talmidim*," said longtime MTI parents Alan and Rami Rosenzweig.

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yeshivah and highlighted the boys so nicely. Personally, I have worked on *yeshivah* dinners for decades, and I can honestly say, even if things ever go back to 'normal,' there is a place for this type of event in our lives!"

MTI is grateful to Michael and Carol Staenberg, the dinner committee, and all those who helped make the event a success. "We are so appreciative of all our supporters who generously gave even during these incredibly hard times," says Dr. Craig Reiss, chairman of the board. "The donors, particularly those in St. Louis from all segments of the community, recognize the importance of having the Missouri Torah Institute in our city. We are particularly appreciative of the Staenbergs for all they do for the St. Louis Jewish community and the work they do throughout the world."

Harav Dovid Fromowitz, *Rosh Yeshivah*, adds, "We are incredibly thankful for our almost 250 monthly donors who have continued to support the *yeshivah* even through these difficult times and have renewed or even increased their commitment. It is this monthly giving and the annual gifts that the dinner brings that help the *yeshivah* meet its budget."

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The video highlighted the commitment and hard work of the *Rebbeim* and *talmidim*, who are *shteiging* despite challenging circumstances and keeping the *yeshivah* active from afar. Nevertheless, *Rebbeim* and *talmidim* alike eagerly look forward to the day when they can finally return to *yeshivah*, infused with renewed appreciation for their beloved MTI.

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Celebrating Your Bar, Bat Mitzvah in the Time of Coronavirus

SHANIE SEBBAG

Sanz Medical Center-Laniado Hospital was established in 1975 in the city of Netanya, Israel, by the Sanz-Klausenberger Rebbe, Harav Yekutiel Yehuda Halberstam, *zy"ta*. After being miraculously saved from the Nazis, the Rebbe vowed to open an institution that would counteract what had occurred during the war.

With the establishment of the State of Israel, he sought to fulfill his vow: to choose life and establish a medical center that would help anyone who came through its doors. Laniado Hospital provides state-of-the-art medical care to hundreds of thousands of residents in the greater Netanya area in the Sharon

region.

With the regulations due to COVID-19, many of our planned celebrations have been altered. We are not traveling to Israel or having large celebrations. Our bar and bat mitzvahs have become Zoom parties and neighborhood drive-bys. Laniado's Care and Share Mitzvah Project will create an opportunity for your child to do a great *mitzvah* and enhance their celebration.

Your child will be paired up with a pediatric patient at Laniado Hospital and will be able to share this milestone with their family and friends through our root-funding opportunity. Through this platform, they can raise money to donate a piece of medical equipment for their partnered child. Our *mitzvah*

project can turn your event into a life-changing experience for your *mitzvah* child and family.

Their exemplary pediatrics department is committed to helping children get better and return to their families. Laniado gives bar and bat mitzvah-aged children from all over the world the chance to connect and help others from their own homes. Our program provides the opportunity to give back in a meaningful way and allows for the memory of your child's milestone to remain in Laniado for years to come.

For more information please check out our website at www.laniado-kpl.org.il

You can also email info@laniadodevelopment-fund.org or call 646-552-4042 to get involved in this incredible *mitzvah* project.

Construction Of New Holocaust Memorial Underway In Vienna

Construction has begun on a Holocaust memorial in Vienna for the 65,000 Austrian Jews killed by the Nazis during World War II.

Called “The Memorial to the Jewish Children, Women and Men of Austria who were Murdered in the Shoah,” the structure will be made of large slabs and include the names of the 64,000 known Jewish victims and the 1,000 whose names have been lost.

According to the memorial’s website: “Descendants of those who were murdered should, without being disturbed, be able to search for the names of their relatives, to touch the letters with their hand, to say a prayer, to light a memorial candle. For all Austrians, the memorial should offer a quiet place, in which they can remember the fate of their Jewish fellow citizens and honor their lives, today and in future generations.”

The “Association for Building a Wall of Names Memorial,” which spearheaded the project, says that the location of the memorial – Ostarrichi Park – was selected for its easy access to visitors and its quiet environment, “as befits a place of reverence.”

The cost of the memorial is estimated at 5.3 million euros (which is about \$6 million). It is being funded in part by the Austrian government, local authorities, and donations from the Austrian business community. It is slated for completion by next spring.



A model of the Holocaust memorial under construction in Vienna. (Credit: The Association for Building a Wall of Names Memorial)

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The dinner team took advantage of this year’s opportunity to showcase the yeshiva to a broader audience. They fused the best of a traditional dinner with engaging virtual programming, all condensed into a brief but dynamic hour and fifteen minutes. Like most dinners, the event had honorees, a journal, and speeches. And – surprisingly – like most dinners, it served food. Dedicated staff and committee members coordinated with caterers outside Saint Louis to deliver elegant platters of sushi or meat on custom-labeled boards, sometimes with orders of wine, directly to sponsors’ and donors’ homes for them to enjoy while participating in the program. “We thought this would be a unique way of engaging the audience on a national level and enabling them to participate in the yeshiva’s success,” says Rabbi Josh Bregman, Director of Development.

In addition to the typical dinner elements, the program featured several unique and interactive components, including a choir, a *siyum*, and an exciting live MTI trivia game. A *beis medrash bachur* served as game host, while several alumni appeared as contestants. Audience members played along by submitting their answers, with percentages of votes calculated in real time.

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Students singing during the virtual dinner

happily surprised when, in addition to an inspiring audio-visual presentation honoring them, old friends of theirs called in live from around the country to offer their congratulations and good wishes.

Since the yeshiva’s dinner is the basis for the support that keeps the yeshiva running year-round, it was important that the event be a success, despite its nontraditional format. *Boruch Hashem*, it was a great success. The honorees gave warm feedback: “MTI virtual dinner exceeded our expectations. What a great way to raise funds. We were excited about the outcome.” Attendees enjoyed the dinner as well. “The virtual dinner brought us pure *nachas* for the love the *hanhala* has for their *talmidim*,” said long-time MTI parents Alan and Rami Rosenzweig. Another parent, Mrs. Jennifer Lehrfield, commented, “The program was seamless, and it showcased the Yeshiva and highlighted the boys so nicely. Personally, I have

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Daf Hashovua Siyum on Seder Nashim

'You have the best of both worlds!'

ELIEZER JAEGER

This Sunday, on Rosh Chodesh Sivan, a monumental event occurred around the world. No, it had nothing to do with the coronavirus, although it was affected by it. And it wasn't connected to the political fallout from the virus. Rather, it was a preparation for *Kabbalas HaTorah* that spanned the globe. As the well-known Rashi reads, the acceptance of the Torah hinges on the unity of *Klal Yisrael* — "K'ish echad b'lev echad." And on this day, Jews from Australia to Ashdod, from France to Far Rockaway took part in the *siyum* on *Seder Mo'ed* of the weekly *Daf* learning program, *Daf Hashovua*. After an amazing 14 years of learning, reviewing and in-depth learning of page after page of *Seder Mo'ed*, this amazing milestone has finally been reached.

The virtual *siyum* began with *divrei brachah* given by Hagaon Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, *shlita*, who expressed his joy over the *siyum* and gave all the participants a fervent *brachah* to be able to continue their *shteiging*.

Harav Moshe Aharon Friedman, *Rosh Mesivta* of Mirrer Yerushalayim and *Maggid Shiur* of *Daf Hashovua*, then spoke, drawing from all *mo'adim* to weave a tapestry of our connection to the Yamim Tovim. He explained that the days of *Sefirah* are a form of a *mo'ed*, as the Ramban refers to them as a *Chol Hamoed*, and our job is to count



them by making each day count.

Harav Yisroel Reisman, *Rosh Yeshivah*, Torah Vodaath, then addressed the participants. "You have the best of both worlds," enthused Harav Reisman, by learning with *iyun* and at a consistent pace. He explained how *ol Torah* that was given at Har Sinai created a new nature in the world. While *mitzvos* before Shavuot were merely commandments, the giving of the Torah had a profound effect on the world as the Torah changed the world.

After some slow, heartfelt songs from Reb Boruch Levine, Harav Daniel Glatstein spoke. He said that since they have joined *Daf Hashovua*, the *kehillah* has had a significant change for the better and have special *chizuk* from being in a wonderful program.

Harav Larry Rothwachs of Teaneck then spoke about one of the *bnei*

kehillah, Reb Shelly Mermelstein, an avid participant of *Daf Hashovua*, who was tragically taken from this world a few months ago, and the next *Maseches Yevamos* is dedicated in his name.

Harav Eitan Feiner also addressed the *siyum*, stressing the importance of constantly reviewing what one has learned. In *Megillas Rus*, Rus was called "misametzes," pushing herself stubbornly to follow Naomi. The strength in pushing oneself to constantly review brings a great *kvod Shamayim* and the person who does that is deserving of royalty, just as Rus is called "eim hamalchus" — mother of kings.

Harav Yosef Elefant, a *Maggid Shiur* in Mir Yerushalayim, congratulated the *mesaymim* and offered some advice for *Seder Nashim*.

A video of "Around the World" was played during the *siyum*, with short



clips of people from all parts of the globe explaining how *Daf Hashovua* has had a positive change on their communities. A doctor from Vancouver explained how joining *Daf Hashovua* was his first step into *Gemara*, while a Rav from Texas said that his congregation's social media was used solely to share thoughts on the weekly *Daf*.

As the *siyum* came to an end, there is no question that the *chizuk* received by all the individuals and groups watching together (where legal) will take them into *Maseches Yevamos* and keep up their desire for the words of our Holy Torah, even in these trying times. Anyone wanting to join can log in to dafaweek.org and find a *chavrusa* or *chaburah* in his neighborhood. Now is the time to join and be part of a *Kabbalas HaTorah* that will have a lasting impact!

Dinner to Your Door: Missouri Torah Institute Gears Up for New Kind of Virtual Experience

ALIZA AGRESS

When the yeshivah in Saint Louis canceled the hotel they had booked for their annual dinner, they transformed their disappointment into an opportunity. For a yeshivah with *talmidim* from around the country, "a virtual dinner would allow supporters, alumni, parents and grandparents to be able to participate, even though in past years they weren't able to," says Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, *Rosh Yeshivah*.

At a virtual dinner, the "dinner" part is usually one of the first things to go — but not this one. Dedicated staff and committee members are working tirelessly with a number of caterers outside of Saint Louis to deliver a selection of sushi, meats and wines directly to sponsors' and donors' homes for them to enjoy while participating in the program. In this way, the yeshivah can demonstrate its *hakaras hatov* to those who are supporting them, especially during this difficult time. "We thought this would be a unique way of engaging the audience on a national level and enabling them to participate in the yeshivah's success," says Rabbi Josh Bregman, director of development. "Logistically, it's definitely complicated, but well worth the effort to be able to include as many people as possible, wherever they are."

Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, *Rosh Yeshivah*, felt that expanding the potential invitation list could help showcase the yeshivah to a broader audience. "The dinner is a place where you can really feel what the yeshivah's about — the warmth, the unity, the excitement about learning — and for us to be able to share that beyond those who are able to be physically present at a dinner is something that's a great opportunity, almost like a 'live newsletter.'"

Since the yeshivah's dinner is the basis for the support that keeps the yeshivah running year-round, the dinner team has invested great effort to ensure a successful and exciting virtual event. Dinner attendees will enjoy an hour of engaging and interactive programming. The evening will feature a number of special video presentations, a *siyum*, and a live trivia game. It will pay tribute to honorees Michael and Carol Staenberg. The Staenbergs are pillars of generosity and vision in the St. Louis community and beyond. They have been at the forefront of supporting Jewish causes with their own giving and by inspiring others to give as well. Staunch supporters of Jewish education, they were involved with the yeshivah's move to its new campus in 2015 and recently dedicated the Staenberg Family Gym.

"The *Rebbeim* and teachers are actually working

harder than before, and our students are really committed to learning and keeping the yeshivah going, albeit from afar," says Rabbi Fromowitz. From their homes, the boys maintain a jam-packed schedule of learning over Zoom, plus extracurricular activities. Many of the boys are even using their free time to participate in one of the yeshivah's newly-launched programs called Runnergize, in which they keep themselves healthy and active by training for a mini-marathon.

This year's dinner's tagline, "See the Success, Envision the Future," has a double meaning: Not only do the *talmidim* and *hanhalah* look forward to a time when the situation improves and our lives return to normal, but they see success during the current unprecedented challenges. The muscles that the *talmidim* are building as they strive to learn during these difficult times will enable them to succeed when they can finally return to yeshivah, fortified with new discipline, perseverance and a renewed appreciation for being back at their beloved MTI.

This unique dinner will take place on Sunday evening, June 7. You can still participate and order dinner to your home by going to www.missouritorah.org, emailing dinner@missouritorah.org, or calling 636-778-1896 x100.

FBI Arrests Self-Proclaimed White Supremacist in Alleged Plot To Blow Up Historic Synagogue

The FBI arrested a self-proclaimed white supremacist for planning to blow up a historic Colorado synagogue and poison congregants, federal officials said Monday. The FBI called the alleged plot a hate crime and an act of domestic terrorism.

Richard Holzer, 27, was arrested Friday night after picking up what he thought was a bundle of pipe bombs and dynamite from undercover agents, according to an affidavit filed in federal court in Denver. He was wearing a Nazi armband when he was arrested and carrying a copy of "Mein Kampf," FBI Special Agent John Smith wrote in the filing.

Investigators said Holzer wanted to blow up the Temple Emanuel synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado. The structure is the state's second-oldest synagogue and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Holzer was set to be arraigned Monday afternoon on a

charge of attempting to obstruct people from exercising their religion through force, and of attempted use of explosives and fire. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

Agents said they started tracking Holzer more than a month ago after noticing his hate-filled, anti-Semitic social media posts.

An undercover agent posing as a white supremacist reached out to Holzer on Facebook in late September, investigators said. After sending the agent pictures of himself holding guns and wearing swastikas and other white supremacist paraphernalia, Holzer bragged that he had tried to poison the water at the synagogue in 2018, according to the affidavit. Investigators said he told the agent that he paid a cook to put arsenic in the water pipes and that he intended to do it again on Halloween.

His goal, according to the affidavit, was to "make them know they're not wanted here."

According to the affidavit, Holzer used several Facebook accounts to promote white supremacy and racist violence in direct messages and group chats.

"I wish the Holocaust really did happen," he allegedly said in one message. "They need to die."

He also allegedly sent pictures of himself posing with handguns and semiautomatic rifles while dressed in clothing featuring what FBI agents described as "white supremacy symbols."

In other messages, he said he hated Jews "with a passion" and spoke about how he wanted to "die in a cop Shoot out," according to the FBI.

©The Washington Post

Rav Akiva Grunblatt Visits MTI-Saint Louis Yeshiva

By A. Cohen

As the uplifted atmosphere of the *Yamim Noraim* faded into the routine of *Cheshvan*, Yeshiva U'Mesivta D'Missouri (MTI) received an infusion of inspiration with the visit of Rav Akiva Grunblatt, *rosh yeshiva* of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, New York. Rav Grunblatt provides *hadracha* to the *hanholah* of MTI, and his guidance and influence are instrumental to the *yeshiva's* success.

It was a sight to behold as *talmidim* came to greet the *rosh yeshiva* at the St. Louis airport on Friday, a real hands-on lesson in how to give proper *kovod haTorah* to our *gedolim*.

MTI *talmidim* and *rabbeim* alike gained a tremendous amount from Rav Grunblatt's visit. *Rabbeim* consulted with Rav Grunblatt about timely *chinuch* topics, while *talmidim* imbibed words of To-

rah and *hashkafah* throughout the weekend with a *shmuess*, *Oneg* and a Q&A session. On Sunday, the older *talmidim*, community members and *chavrei hakollel* participated in a *shiur* on the topic of *zemer achar hachurban*.

The broader community also benefited from the visit. On *Motzoei Shabbos*, over 120 community members filled Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Deutsch's home to hear Rav Grunblatt address the relevant topic of "The Pursuit of Happiness: Attaining *Simcha* in Our Lives" and enjoy a delicious *melava malka*. Rav Grunblatt's masterful message was both thought-provoking and enjoyable, as he pointed out that our search for happiness will not be successful if it is based on a drive for more material wealth. Rather, we must strive for excellence and spirituality - only that will give us true contentment.



1. Rav Akiva Grunblatt delivering a *shiur* to *yeshiva talmidim*, community members, and *chavrei hakollel*.
2. (L-R) Rav Grunblatt; Rav Menachem Greenblatt, *rov* of Agudas Israel of St. Louis; and Rabbi Josh Bregman, director of development at Yeshiva U'Mesivta D'Missouri (MTI).
3. Rav Grunblatt addressing the crowd on *Motzoei Shabbos*. | 4. A partial view of the crowd.

A Lech Lecha Story from a Chicago Native

(Continued from Page 112)

"Well, chaos is probably overstating it," I demurred.

"Well, thank you anyway," said Chaim. "I will always remember our wedding manager – the guy from the train who came to the Old City with his clipboard."

"Well, that's what wedding managers do. I guess Hashem saw you needed one," I answered and then gave them a final *brocha*.

There was one additional event at the wedding that perhaps is the key to this entire story. As the final dance wound down, the *rebbe* approached me again and asked me, "By the

way, how long are you here for?"

"Just a few days. I go back to Chicago tomorrow."

Rabbeim never give up. "What brought you here?"

"I came to visit my daughter," was my answer.

He paused and looked me straight in the eye. "No, you didn't," he replied. "You came to run this *chasunah*. We think what we want, but the lesson of *Parshas Lech Lecha* is that Hashem sends people where they need to be."

It seems He does.

TORONTO NEWS

New Toronto Kollel Named After Reb Moshe Reichmann zt"l

A new *kollel* in Toronto led by Rav Avigdor Coleman and Rav Chezki Reichmann has been named Kollel Toras Moshe after Reb Moshe Reichmann zt"l, who was the driving force behind the growth of Torah in the city for many years. Reb Moshe had a special affinity for Yeshiva Yesodei Hatorah, upon whose premises the *kollel* is located.

Rav Aharon Kahn in Toronto

Rav Aharon Kahn, *rov* of Khal Knesses Bais Avigdor of Flatbush, spent *Shabbos Parshas Noach* in Toronto with his son-in-law and daughter, Rabbi and Mrs. Nosson Brodsky, R"m at Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Shmayahu. Rav Kahn delivered a *shmuess* at Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Shmayahu during *seudah shlishis*.

Daughter of Rav Yoir Adler Engaged

The engagement of Breindy Adler, the eldest daughter of Rav Yoir Adler, *rov* of Beis Medrash Shoavei Mayim of Toronto, was celebrated this week. The *chosson* is Chaim Aryeh Erlanger of London, England.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Denver Kollel Welcomes Two New Families

The Denver Community Kollel welcomed two new families this *zeman*. Rabbi Dov and Sarah Bluma Holczer are living in West Denver. Mrs. Holczer is the daughter of *rosh kollel* Rabbi Shachne and Mrs. Tzippy Sommers.

Reb Tuvia and Aliza Harbater are living in Southeast Denver. They are part of Aish Denver's effort to settle families in the Southeast Denver Community. Mrs. Harbater is the daughter of Southeast residents Kerry and Mindy Berman.

Pittsburgh Kollel Partners in Torah Program

The Pittsburgh Kollel, in partnership with the JCC and Kulam, will open its first formal Partners in Torah Program next month. The program will be held each Wednesday evening at the JCC. A formal kickoff event will be held on Monday, November 18. The guest speaker will be Charlie Harary.

Rabbi Eytan Feiner Addresses Siyum in Providence

Reb Anshel Strauss, who learned at the Providence Community Kollel for years, made



a special *siyum* last week. People from across the community came to celebrate his *siyum* on the study of *Tanach*. Rabbi Eytan Feiner, *rov* of Knesseth Israel/The White Shul in Far Rockaway, was the guest speaker.

Comments or submissions to this column are welcome and can be emailed to midwestyated@aol.com or faxed to 773.583.6487.

Left: Rav Eytan Feiner, Reb Anshel Strauss, and Rabbi Raphie Shochet. PHOTO: E BRESLER

Project Witness Second Annual Nationwide School Competition Now Open to Students

DEBORAH SCHECHTER

On Tuesday evening, October 29, Project Witness formally introduced its second annual nationwide school competition at its first educational webinar of this academic year. The competition topic, *She'eiris Hapleitah*, offers students the opportunity to explore the lives and experiences of those who not only survived the Holocaust, but who ultimately, and miraculously, breathed life again into a world of Judaism that had almost disappeared.

In a fascinating and informative webinar session, replete with carefully researched information on the topic, Mrs. Nechama Mirsky, associate principal of general studies at Shevach High School, presented a deeply emotional lecture that commemorated the 75th anniversary of liberation from the horrors of Nazi control and took note of the resulting amazing growth of a close-to-decimated Jewish world.

In her presentation, Mrs. Mirsky stressed the importance of the critical survival activities of the heroes and her-

oines of this particular time. Building a world after the war was a massive undertaking that was dealt with on many levels: by devastated and bereft survivors; by spiritual leaders who, despite personal losses, dedicated themselves to the rebuilding process; and by individuals who had not experienced the Holocaust personally, but who recognized the need and engaged in comprehensive *chessed* from far-away countries on behalf of the *She'eiris Hapleitah* in the displaced persons camps.

Mrs. Mirsky posed significant questions that will permeate the competition: How did this bereaved generation rebuild their shattered world? How can we repay them for what they did for today's generations? She offered potential answers to these questions by discussing the ways the survivors and those who assisted them addressed the multiple physical and spiritual issues facing them.

In her creative approach, Mrs. Mirsky spoke eloquently about the three pillars of *Yiddishkeit* that became the foundations of the about-to-be-newly-constructed world after war. She stressed

how each of these three traditional pillars that have kept our nation alive in the past — Torah, *avodah* and *gemilus chassadim* — provided the basis of the new world and how each one of the pillars had a special place in the rebuilding process.

Details of the Torah, the *tefillah* and the *chessed* that existed in the displaced persons camps and that are brilliantly depicted by Mrs. Mirsky in the Project Witness Competition booklet will provide the webinar's participants and their students with priceless information. Not only will the courage and determination of this era become familiar in classrooms, but students will also be motivated to creatively translate this bravery into a "reality" that will connect them on a personal and emotional level to what was achieved, even though such feats were considered well-nigh impossible at the time.

Using the information that will be provided to competition participants and following suggested prompts as to what kinds of projects will be most effective, it is anticipated that many hundreds

of students will find themselves inspired and moved to use their talents to convey a universal message to their fellow students, teachers, parents and grandparents.

Based on last year's exceptional results, it is expected that this year's enhanced material and its comprehensive creative suggestions will attract an even larger group of participants. Schools and students who register for the competition will receive broadly-ranging information about the topic of *She'eiris Hapleitah* that will provide fertile ground for creative endeavors in areas such as literature, art, music and graphic arts.

Prizes will be awarded to winning entries in each category and a public showing of exhibits will take place on Asarah B'Teves. In addition, the list of winners will be recognized in *Hamodia* and award-winning submissions will be published.

For further information about the competition, its guidelines and deadlines, please contact Project Witness at info@witness.org or 718-305-5221.

Harav Akiva Grunblatt, *Shlita*, Visits MTI-Saint Louis Yeshiva



Harav Akiva Grunblatt, *shlita*, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, addressing the packed crowd on Motzoei Shabbos.



L-R: Harav Akiva Grunblatt, Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, Rav of Agudas Israel of St. Louis, Rabbi Josh Bregman, Director of Development for Yeshiva U'Mesivta D'Missouri (MTI).



Harav Akiva Grunblatt delivering a *shiur b'inyan Zemer Achar Hachurban* to yeshiva *talmidim*, community members, and *chavrei hakollel*.

A. COHEN

As the uplifted atmosphere of the Yamim Nora'im faded into the routine of Cheshvan, Yeshiva U'Mesivta D'Missouri (MTI) received an infusion of inspiration with the visit of Harav Akiva Grunblatt, *shlita*, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, New York. Harav Grunblatt provides *hadrachah* to the *hanhalah* of MTI, and his guidance and influence are instrumental to the yeshiva's success.

It was a sight to behold and a big *kiddush Hashem* as *talmidim* came to greet the *Rosh Yeshivah* at the Saint Louis airport on Friday. It was a real hands-on lesson for the *talmidim* in learning how to give proper *kvod haTorah* to our *Gedolim*.

MTI *talmidim* and *Rebbeim* alike gained a tremendous amount from Harav Grunblatt's visit. During a staff lunch, *Rebbeim* consulted with Harav Grunblatt about timely *chinuch* topics. *Talmidim* enjoyed Harav



Partial view of the large crowd on Motzoei Shabbos.

Grunblatt's words of Torah and *hashkafah* on Friday and throughout the weekend with a *shmuess*, *oneg* and a Q&A session.

On Sunday morning, the older *mesivta talmidim*,

beis medrash talmidim, community members and *chavrei hakollel* were invited to participate in a *shiur* from Harav Grunblatt on the topic of "*Zemer Achar HaChurban*."

The broader community also benefited from the visit of this Torah luminary. On Motzoei Shabbos, over 120 community members filled Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Deutsch's home to hear Harav Grunblatt address the relevant topic of "The Pursuit of Happiness: Attaining *Simchah* in Our Lives" and to enjoy a delicious catered *melaveh malkah*. Rav Grunblatt masterfully wove in many insights of *Chazal* and several enlightening stories to share his message. It was both thought-provoking and enjoyable to gain more insight in the proper pursuit of happiness.

Our search for happiness will not be successful if it is based on a drive for more material wealth. Rather, we must strive for excellence and have spirituality in our lives — only that will give us true contentment.

Around the Community

Yeshiva of St. Louis- MTI Spends 6th Summer Zman In Los Angeles Valley Community *By Elisheva Rina Deifik*

The MTI Bais Medrash's sixth summer zman in the San Fernando Valley is off to a dynamic start. Said Rabbi Avroham Goldman, who is running the program, "this zman, everyone is full of achdus and energy for learning. What makes it so special is the synergy of our current talmidim with the alumni who have joined especially for this program."

Mr. Jonathan Istrin, a Valley native and a close friend of the Yeshiva, devotes much time and effort into arranging this exceptional program every summer. He initiated this great program to strengthen the Torah learning in the Valley and to



help the boys enjoy a productive summer zman.

After finishing their school year in June, the bais medrash students are enjoying a bonus zman of a few weeks, with a change of scenery in a different state and with chavrusas from among the Valley community. The bachurim learn Maseches Kesuvos b'iyun in the mornings and



b'kiyus in the afternoons at Valley Torah High School. In the evenings, they split up the weeks of the summer and learn during night seder with community members at Shaarey Zedek Congregation and at the new Valley Village Community Kollel.

The talmidim of MTI bring another level of intense Torah learning

to the Valley community, and the community reciprocates with extensive hachnosas orchim, including hosting Shabbos meals, onegs, and housing the boys. MTI thank the entire community for inviting the Yeshiva into their homes (and swimming pools!) and providing such a conducive environment to Torah growth.

Yad Sarah Opens Two New Branches Providing Vital Health and Social Services in Israel

Akko branch serves one of Israel's most diverse cities; Tiberias site is Yad Sarah's 13th hospital branch.

Yad Sarah today announced its opening of two new branches, which will provide a vital array of free or low-cost health and home-care support services for people of all ages, marking the latest growth point for Israel's largest volunteer-staffed organization.

The new Yad Sarah branch in Akko (Acre) will offer equipment lending, an equipment repair workshop, emergency alarm response, legal services, and wheelchair-accessible transportation in one of Israel's most diverse cities. Seventy-two percent of Akko's 55,000 residents are Jews, 25 percent are Muslim Arabs, and 2 percent are Christian Arabs, while almost 25 percent are new immigrants.

Located in a former air-raid shelter, the branch will significantly expand access to social services in a socioeconomically challenged area, as Akko residents previously needed to travel to Nahariya or Kiryat

Motzkin to receive assistance from Yad Sarah — or missed out on the aid altogether.

In Tiberias, meanwhile, Yad Sarah has opened its 13th hospital-based branch at Poriyah Hospital. Yad Sarah's hospital branches make it easier for patients and families to borrow equipment upon discharge. The organization also operates branches at Assouta Ashdod Hospital in Ashdod, Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah, Hadasah Medical Center's Mount Scopus and Ein Karem sites in Jerusalem, HaEmek Hospital in Afula, Hillel Yaffa Hospital in Hadera, Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, Rambam Hospital in Haifa, Shaarei Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva, Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, and Ziv Hospital in Tzefat.

The new branches in Akko and Tiberias represent the latest venues which will mobilize the energy and passion of Yad Sarah's corps



of 7,000-plus volunteers, who help provide access to medical equipment loans, drive wheelchair-accessible vans, reach out to the homebound, advocate for the elderly, serve children with special needs, and perform a wide array of other services for more than 600,000 people in Israel annually.

In yet another new development for Yad Sarah, the organization's Kiryat Motzkin branch has moved to a nearby mall. It is the third Yad Sarah branch situated in a commercial shopping area, with these centrally-located sites offering their surrounding communities relatively easy access to social services.

"By broadening access to cru-

cial support services in diverse communities, hospitals, and commercial centers, Yad Sarah affirms its mission to bring help and hope to the people of Israel," said Adele Goldberg, Executive Director of Friends of Yad Sarah. "We are more committed than ever to serving all at-risk members of Israel's population and ensuring that no member of Israeli society is left behind."

About Friends of Yad Sarah: Friends of Yad Sarah is the U.S.-based support organization for the largest volunteer-staffed organization in Israel, providing a range of free or low-cost health and home care support services that save the Israeli economy several hundred million dollars each year in hospitalization and medical costs. Founded in 1976, Yad Sarah currently offers more than 20 programs through 100+ branches across the country, with 6,000 volunteers bringing help and hope to more than 400,000 people last year alone.

Around the Community

come en masse to attend the unprecedented demonstration of *kavod ha-Torah* and *kavod* for *lomdei Torah* that will be held there on 15 Teves/January 12.

An important component of the journey was also the effort to reach all *kehillos* in France. Rav Mishkovsky met with HaRav Yitzchak Michel Gugenheim, Chief Rabbi of Paris. The Chief Rabbi has appointed two representatives from each of the disparate major *kehillos* as his personal emissaries to promote *shiurim* throughout the country.

Rabbi Avigdor Bernstein, a senior member of Dirshu's *hanhallah* who was one of the organizers of the *chizuk* journey, expressed his awe, "I was simply overwhelmed

by the level of enthusiasm that permeated French Jewry. Wherever Rav Mishkovsky went, crowds of people flocked to hear him. French Jewry collectively has a special place in their hearts for the memory of HaGaon HaRav Aharon Leib Shteinman, *zt"l*, who came to France a few times in his advanced old age to give *chizuk* to French Jewry. The fact that Rav Mishkovsky is a close *talmid* of Rav Shteinman had the *Yidden* in France hanging on to his every word.

"A recent amazing development clearly shows how excited French Jewry is about the upcoming *siyum*. An entire network of local *sefarim* stores has announced that the Shabbos preceding the *siyum* will

officially be called *Shabbos Daf Yomi*. They have asked the public to sign up to learn a *daf* or two of *Gemara* on that Shabbos so that an additional, collective *siyum* on the entire *Shas* would be able to be held in conjunction with the *Daf HaYomi Siyum Hashas*. The *seforim* stores have pledged to gift every participant with a *sefer*."

The renaissance of Torah in France can be seen with a peek into the thriving *yeshivos* that have been established there. Rav Mishkovsky gave a powerful *shmuess* at the Yeshiva led by Rav Mordechai Rottenberg, *shlita*, Rov Agudas Hakehilot Haredim, Paris and a *chizuk drasha* for over thirty *Daf Yomi maggidei shiur* at Mosdos Yad Mordechai, led

by Rav Yitzchok Katz.

Perhaps the words penned by Rav Chaim Kanievsky in a letter to French Jewry best encapsulate the importance of the Torah revolution taking place in France, "The hands of the activists of Dirshu led by Rav Dovid Hofstedter should be strengthened at the gathering of *Daf Yomi maggidei shiur*, led by Hagaon HaTzadik Rav Chizkiyahu Mishkovsky, *shlita*, in the city of the *Baalei Tosafos* - Paris.... may the *zechus* of the *Baalei Tosafos*, who illuminated Paris with their Torah and *yirah*, ensure that Torah should not be forgotten in Yisrael...

MTI Dedication Dinner-A Historic Evening *By Aliza Agress*

Three hundred guests mingled at the Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis, MO, for Missouri Torah Institute's Dedication Dinner. MTI is a growing mesivta and bais medrash program in Chesterfield, a suburb of St. Louis.

From around the country, guests traveled to celebrate this milestone with the yeshivah. Notable visitors included HaRav Akiva Grunblatt, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in Queens, Rabbi Aaron Kotler from Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, Rabbi Boruch Neuberger from Ner Yisroel in Baltimore, Rabbi Yitzchok Ehrman from Agudah Midwest in Chicago, and Rabbi Bunny Freedman from Detroit.

The event paid tribute to Rabbi Aaron Winter, *zt"l*, who was niftar this past year. Rabbi Winter single-handedly built Chesterfield's Torah kehillah. In addition to bringing MTI to the community and serving as Rav of Tpheris Israel Chevra Kadisha Congregation (TICK), he helped build an eruv and mikvah, and most recently, founded Chesterfield's kollel. Under his leadership, countless individuals increased their mitzvah observance and connection to Torah. Rabbi Winter was known for his focus on



(L-R) Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Avroham Goldman, Rosh Yeshiva, Ambassador Sam Fox, honoree, Dr. Craig Reiss, Board Chairman)

ner celebrated the dedication of the Deutsch Family Campus, made possible by Mr. Charles and Mrs. Naomi Ruth Deutsch, pillars of the community, who are proud and staunch supporters of MTI. The state-of-the-art spacious campus—previously a school for the deaf—includes a dorm, gym, basketball court, music room, and art room, giving talmidim a wide range of wholesome outlets outside the classroom. A master builder, Mr. Deutsch challenged the yeshivah to dream big, and then helped that dream become a reality. The new building enabled the yeshivah to move out of TICK, the shul which had hospitably housed it, so that it could expand and work towards fulfilling its true potential. A video recognizing the Deutsches for



Mr. Charles Deutsch accepting the honor

Fox, a"h. Greg had a special connection to MTI during the difficult years of his illness, and Ambassador and Mrs. Fox, along with their children Aba & Pamela Fox Claman, Cheri Fox and Merle Fox, have been generous supporters of the yeshivah. In addition to the Deutsches and the Foxes, MTI expressed tremendous appreciation to Mr. Michael and Mrs. Carol Staenberg, who also made large contributions to the yeshivah during a "Million for MTI" Charidy campaign earlier this year.

Other honorees were Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Lisa Baron, Community Service awardees. Mr. Baron, a prominent attorney, worked indefatigably to help secure MTI's new facility. Mr. Baron went above and beyond the call of duty during the acquisition process in order to ob-



HaRav Akiva Grunblatt, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim of Queens giving divrei chizuk.

Queens. Later in the evening, attendees enjoyed a melodious choir accompanied by a violinist and a pianist, all MTI talmidim, and a special presentation expressing hakaras hatov to Mr. Yigal and Mrs. Erica Sasportas for their many years of mesirus nefesh for the yeshivah. Mr. Sasportas' vision, creativity and dedication were the driving forces in making the Yeshiva's dream of their beautiful campus become a reality, and have helped MTI become the Yeshivah it is today. MTI thanks the dinner chairmen, Dr. Craig Reiss and Mr. Jonathan Spetner, and everyone who helped make the evening a great success and beautiful kiddush Hashem.

RIGHT: Dr. Craig Reiss, Board Chairman, Rabbi Avroham Goldman, Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, Naomi Ruth Deutsch, Charlie Deutsch, Jonathan Spetner and Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. The dedication of the new campus was made possible by Charles and Naomi Ruth Deutsch.

FAR RIGHT: From left, Charlie Deutsch, Edwin Pepper, Lenore Pepper, Dr. Robert Lefton, Fran Poger and Edwin Epstein.



Missouri Torah Institute Dedication Dinner

MTI welcomed 300 guests to the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton to celebrate the school's recent dedication of the Deutsch Family Campus and the Fox Family High School. The event also paid tribute to Rabbi Aaron Winter, of blessed memory

RIGHT: Marilyn and Ambassador Sam Fox enjoying the video presentation. The event also celebrated the naming of The Fox Family High School by the Foxes in memory of their son, Greg Fox, of blessed memory.



TOP LEFT: Dr. Alan Weiss and Dr. Craig Reiss.

LEFT: Erica Sasportas and Yigal Sasportas were recognized for their service to the school. They are shown with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, Rabbi Avroham Goldman, Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz and Dr. Craig Reiss.



FAR LEFT: The MTI Boys Choir accompanied by violinist, Elchonon Manne.

LEFT: Community Service awardees Lisa and Dugie Baron are shown with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser and Rabbi Avroham Goldman.



ABOVE: Todd Taylor, Judy Taylor and Marci Mayer Eisen.

RIGHT: Merle Fox, Pamela Fox Claman, Ambassador Sam Fox, Marilyn Fox, Dr. Craig Reiss, Rabbi Akiva Grunblatt, Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, Rabbi Shmuel Wasser and Rabbi Avroham Goldman.



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From around the country, guests traveled to celebrate this milestone with the yeshivah. Notable visitors included HaRav Akiva Grunblatt, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in Queens, Rabbi Aaron Kotler from Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, Rabbi Boruch Neuberger from Ner Yisroel in Baltimore, Rabbi Yitzchok Ehrman from Agudah Midwest in Chicago, and Rabbi Bunny Freedman from Detroit.

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Even as they reflected soberly on the past, guests also honored the yeshivah's future. This year's dinner celebrated the dedication of the Deutsch Family Campus, made possible by Mr. Charles and Mrs. Naomi Ruth Deutsch, pillars of the community, who are proud and staunch supporters of MTI. The state-of-the-art spacious campus—previously a school for the deaf—includes a dorm, gym, basketball court, music room, and art room, giving *talmidim* a wide range of wholesome outlets outside the classroom. A master builder, Mr. Deutsch challenged the yeshivah to dream big, and then helped that dream become a reality. The new building enabled the yeshivah to move out of TICK, the shul which had hospitably housed it, so that it could expand and work towards fulfilling its true potential. A video recognizing the Deutsches for their contributions to MTI and to the community included *divrei brachah* from Harav HaGaon Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, as well as *marbitzei Torah* from around the globe.

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Mr. Charles Deutsch accepting the honor



(L-R) Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Avroham Goldman, Rosh Yeshiva, Ambassador Sam Fox, honoree, Dr. Craig Reiss, Board Chairman

Letters

Continued from page 7



loud, boorish, attention-seeking expressions of approval that have a way of disturbing the rhythm of our children's performances.

For a very long time in our refined, modest society, a strong heartfelt applause was how one conveyed appreciation for a performance and those in it. Let's stick to that.

Dovid Nulman,
Monsey, NY

Honoring an Officer 78 Years Later

On Monday, July 15, at 5 p.m., I will be hosting a street co-naming ceremony in honor of fallen Jewish police officer Leon Fox. In 1941, Officer Fox was a patrolman assigned to NYPD's 60th Precinct. While escorting a theater manager to deposit his day's earnings, Officer Fox was shot and killed.

More than 78 years later, another Jewish police officer assigned to the 60th Precinct, Albert Mammon, told me Officer Fox's story and urged me to preserve his memory and his sacrifice.

It is important that we, as a community, stand in support of our finest, especially now during a wave of NYPD suicides. I encourage readers to join me, along with Police Commissioner O'Neill and the 85-year-old son of Officer Fox, at the Monday ceremony honoring him at the intersection of Surf Avenue and West 12th St. – the location where Officer Fox was gunned down in February 1941.

Councilman Chaim Deutsch

Is It the Shamir?

In a news story last week, "Shamir-like Worm Found in Philippines," Rabbi Yechiel Malik is quoted as questioning whether the recently-discovered Lithoredo Abatanica worm – which eats rock – can be the *shamir* that cut stones in the *Beis Hamikdash*.

But the rediscovery of the *shamir* so close to the era of Mashiach would make perfect sense. Just as the desolate arid lands of Israel blossomed just in time for *kibbutz galuyot* – "and there is no clearer sign of the end times than

that" (*Sanhedrin* 98a) – so, too, perhaps we have now found the *shamir* worm because the rebuilding of the *Beit Hamikdash* is nigh.

We should be strengthened by this discovery, and may we soon merit to see the fulfillment of the final verses of *Yechezkel* 39: "when I have brought them back from amongst the people and gathered them out of the lands of their enemies...I will never again hide My face from them."

David Zelig
Teaneck, NJ

Your Weekly Zera Shimshon Dvar Torah

Recently, there has been much interest in the *divrei Torah* of the *Zera Shimshon*. The author, a *gadol* from Italy (1706-1779), passed away childless and implored people to repeat teachings from his *sefer*, writing that he would advocate in heaven on their behalf for children, health, and livelihood if they did so.

Many people have merited seeing salvation in the merit of learning this *sefer* while performing a true *chesed* for a *gadol* from hundreds of years ago. I'd like to publicize that a one-page, English translation of *divrei Torah* from this *sefer* on the *parshah* is available by e-mailing zerashimshon@gmail.com.

A Woman Trying To Help

The Democratic Party Isn't Our Enemy

Last week, reader Myron Hecker disagreed with my letter maintaining that it would be unwise for Jews to leave the Democratic Party. He argues that the Democrats have been negligent in condemning anti-Semitism and cites the "watered-down" House resolution against anti-Semitism as proof of a growing problem in the party.

But this resolution was only "watered down" – by including other forms of hatred in it – to demonstrate that everyone has a stake in fighting bigotry. The bulk of the resolution still focused

Continued on p.67

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MTI Dedication Dinner: A Historic Evening

ALIZA AGRESS

Three hundred guests mingled at the Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis, MO, for Missouri Torah Institute's Dedication Dinner. MTI is a growing *mesivta* and *beis medrash* program in Chesterfield, a suburb of St. Louis.

From around the country, guests traveled to celebrate this milestone with the yeshivah. Notable visitors included Harav Akiva Grunblatt, *shlita*, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in Queens; Rabbi Aaron Kotler of Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood; Rabbi Boruch Neuberger of Ner Yisroel in Baltimore; Rabbi Yitzchok Ehrman of Agudah Midwest in Chicago; and Rabbi Bunny Freedman of Detroit.

The event paid tribute to Rabbi Aaron Winter, *z"l*, who was *niftar* this past year. Rabbi Winter single-handedly built the Torah *kehillah* in Chesterfield, Missouri. In addition to bringing MTI to the community and serving as Rav of Tpheris Israel Chevra Kadisha Congregation (TICK), he helped build an *eruv* and *mikveh* and, most recently, founded Chesterfield's *kollel*.

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Harav Akiva Grunblatt, *shlita*, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim of Queens, giving *divrei chizuk*.



Mr. Charles Deutsch accepting the honor.



L-R: Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz, *Rosh Yeshivah*, MTI; Rabbi Avroham Goldman, *Rosh Yeshivah*, MTI; Ambassador Sam Fox, honoree and Dr. Craig Reiss, board chairman.

the dedication of the Deutsch Family Campus, made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Naomi Ruth Deutsch, pillars of the community, who are staunch supporters of MTI, and very proud of MTI's accomplishments. The state-of-the-art spacious campus — previously a school for the deaf — includes a dorm, gym, basketball court, music room, and art room, giving *talmidim* a wide range of wholesome outlets outside the classroom. A master builder, Mr. Deutsch challenged the yeshivah to dream big, and then helped that dream become a reality. The new building enabled the yeshivah to move out of TICK, the shul which had hospitably housed it, so that it could expand and work towards fulfilling its true potential.

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Discovery: Long Unpublished Chiddushim Handwritten by The Ksav Sofer Now in the New Genazym Catalogue

C. COHEN

Genazym Auction House has unveiled its fifth magnificent catalogue, once again revealing an exceptional selection of antique, historic material.

The Auction House has reached a new pinnacle of success, now featuring close to 200 carefully hand-picked items, discovered letters and manuscripts from the greatest *chassidische Rebbes* alongside *sefarim* with handwritten glosses from the *Gedolei Yisrael* of pre-war Europe.

We present you here with a taste of the various selections displayed.

Holy letters and manuscripts from the giants of *Chassidus* earned a prestigious place among the beautiful pages. These include letters from the *Admorim* of the Gur, Ruzhin, Chernobyl, Rachmastrivka, Stolin, Boyan, Lubavitch, Slonim, Kossov and Vizhnitz dynasties.

From the great *Rabbanim* of Lithuania, *zt"l*, you will find fascinating letters and *sefarim* from Harav Chaim Leib Tikitsky of Mir, Harav Baruch Ber Leibowitz of Kamenitz, Harav Elchanan Wasserman of Baranovitch and Harav Avraham Yitzchak Bloch of Telshe.



Closer yet to our generation, there are handwritten glosses from the Chazon Ish written during his tenure in Vilna; a large portion of *sefer Kehillos Yaakov-Zevachim* in the handwriting of the Steipler; handwritten glosses from Hagaon Harav Aharon Leib Shteinman, *zt"l*, written on *Bava Kamma* that belonged to the Chazon Ish; and many more.

One of the highlights of this auction is undoubtedly

an unpublished manuscript containing comprehensive *chiddushei Torah* from the Ksav Sofer. This all-inclusive *kuntres* is comprised of a full 19 pages, completely handwritten by the holy Ksav Sofer himself.

Another highlight is a telling letter by the Chofetz Chaim with heartfelt *brachos* to the American supporters of his yeshivah.

You can read the firsthand account of Harav Yitzchak Hutner, *zt"l*, of the Chofetz Chaim's strong regard for the authenticity and truthfulness of *piskei halachah* in *Mishnah Brurah*.

The Genazym catalogue, available at select bookshops, is an invaluable compilation of rare and exceptional fragments of our history which allow us a glimpse into the world of our illustrious leaders and *Gedolim*.

To view this beautiful collection and to bid online, visit www.genazym.com.

Genazym's fifth auction will take place at Beit Tovei Ha'ir, located on Malchei Yisrael 36 (corner of Moshe Zev Feldman), in Yerushalayim.

The auction will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 16.

For further inquiries, please call 845-501-9990 or email office@genazym.com.

CHICAGO NEWS

Rabbi Paysach Krohn to Visit Chicago

The Ohel Shalom Torah Center, under the leadership of Rabbi Daniel Raccach, will hold its annual “guest speaker weekend” and *melava malka* over *Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa*, February 22-24. Rabbi Paysach Krohn will serve as the guest speaker. He will speak throughout *Shabbos*, culminating with the *shul*’s annual *melava malka*.

Rabbi Dovid Sapirman to Visit Chicago

The Associated Talmud Torahs (ATT) of Chicago will hold an event for parents and educators on “*Tefillah* with *Emunah* and *Emunah* through *Tefillah*.” Rabbi Dovid Sapirman, dean of the Ani Maamin Foundation, will give a presentation on these issues at the ATT building in Skokie on Monday,

February 25.

Rabbi Menachem Nissel to Visit Chicago
The Chicago Torah Network (CTN) will hold its annual Taste of *Purim* event on Thursday, March 24, at Darchei Noam Glenbrook in Northbrook. Rabbi Menachem Nissel, author and senior lecturer at Ner Laelef, will be the guest speaker.

New Adopt-A-Kollel Corporate Partnership Launched in Chicago

Last week saw the launching of a new partnership in the Adopt-A-Kollel corporate network. The corporate partner, Summit Solutions and Investment Group, led by Reb Shabsai Shuchatowitz, has partnered with Kollel Minchas Zev, Ramle Chaburah. Reb Shabsai, not wanting to postpone the partnership for even a day, sent in the first month of support for the *kollel* on the day the *shutfus* was finalized.

DENVER NEWS

Agudath Israel of Colorado Brings Orthodox Jewish Nonprofits Together for “Day at The Capitol”

On Wednesday, February 13, representatives of several Denver Orthodox Jewish institutions joined Agudath Israel in meetings with elected officials. The “Day at the Capitol” is an annual event for nonprofits hosted by the Colorado Association of Nonprofits, but this was the first time that it featured a large Orthodox presence.

“Lawmakers are constantly making decisions about issues affecting our community, so it is critical that we are here to express our concerns or support,” said Rabbi Yossi Kaplan, director of Agudath Israel of Colorado. “We will be ramping up our grassroots advocacy and engagement in the months ahead as several relevant pieces of legislation will be moving through the General Assembly.”

The participating organizations included Agudath Israel of Colorado, Aish Denver, Beth Jacob High School, Denver Academy of Torah, Denver Community Kollel, and Yeshiva Toras Chaim.

“Our elected officials want to serve the best interests of their constituents and therefore need us to educate them about our needs,” says Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, Director of Community Relations for Aish Denver.

“This event gave many of us the opportunity

to introduce ourselves and our institutions to our legislators,” said Rabbi Moshe Heyman, director of the Denver Community Kollel. “We look forward to hosting the elected officials on a tour of our community organizations.”

Colorado Attorney General Addresses Denver Kollel Event

Last Wednesday, the Denver Community Kollel held its monthly Torah for Tycoons class, a monthly lunch-and-learn program that focuses on business ethics and ethical issues present in current events. This class featured Colorado’s new attorney general, Phil Weiser, and *kollel* senior educator Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher. The class, on the topic of “Can We Talk? Getting Past Political Polarization,” focused on the challenges of maintaining civility and the proper perspective in disagreements. Mr. Weiser drew on his experiences and his vision for his new position in discussing these challenges, and Rabbi Fleisher discussed Torah sources for how to properly have a dispute, such as the *machlokes* of Shammai and Hillel.

“This class was a great *kiddush Hashem*,” says *kollel* dean Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab. “Those in attendance saw how the Torah’s guidance is just as relevant now as it has been for millennia. That is the goal of Torah for Tycoons, and people have a great appreciation for the Torah view of a hot-button issue such as the complex political climate we see today.”

MINNEAPOLIS NEWS

Rabbi Yosef Mendelevitch in Minneapolis

It began with what some may call “chance,” but after it was over, everyone recognized that it was the Ultimate Premier pulling the strings.

On his way from Bozeman, Montana to his home in Yerushalayim on Sunday, February 10, noted former refusenik Rabbi Yosef Mendelevitch realized that he had an eight-hour stopover in Minneapolis. Never one to waste time, Rabbi Mendelevitch graciously offered to visit the community and shared some remarks. The arrangements were quickly made and over 150 people gathered at Congregation Bais Yisroel on short notice to hear the personal struggles of this Jewish hero.

Rabbi Mendelevitch, in his humble and witty way, told of his underground Jewish activism in Soviet Russia and his repeated attempts to escape. When a scheme to hijack an aircraft was discovered by the KGB, Reb Yosef faced the prospect of the death penalty but ultimately served eleven years in Soviet prison. He displayed superhuman strength and will while fiercely holding onto his

Judaism.

Those in the audience were visibly moved by the sacrifices Rabbi Mendelevitch made to wear a *yarmulke*, keep kosher and be *shomer Shabbos*. A hunger strike and international pressure ultimately had Rabbi Mendelevitch released and “expelled” to Israel in 1981.

Rav Ephraim Friedman in Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Kollel of the Chicago Choshen Mishpat Kollel will continue its years-long relationship next week. In this partnership, members of Chicago’s *kollel* have made periodic visits to give *shiurim* and *chaburos* at the Minneapolis Community Kollel on *Choshen Mishpat* topics. *Kollel* members are also available for private consultations with members of the Minneapolis community.

On Sunday morning, February 24, Rav Ephraim Friedman of the Chicago Choshen Mishpat Kollel will give a presentation at the Minneapolis Kollel on verbal commitments in *halacha*.

Charlie Harary Inspires at MTI in St. Louis

By T. Cohen

Almost 400 people gathered at Missouri Torah Institute (MTI) to hear words of inspiration from Charlie Harary. Craftily weaving humor with a serious message, Mr. Harary uplifted the crowd, many of whom were making their very first visit to the MTI campus.

Charlie’s penetrating message helped the audience understand that to be a giver, we must first recognize the G-dliness and power within ourselves.

The event was sponsored by the Fox family, marking the third *yahrtzeit* of Greg Fox, Chizkiyahu Moshe Yaakov ben Shlomo z”l. To obtain a recording of the speech, email Rabbi-Bregman@missouritorah.org or call 636.778.1896.



Orlando Hachnosas Sefer Torah

It’s a city that is usually associated with vacations and family fun, but this week, Orlando experienced what true *simcha* is all about. On Sunday, the 5th of *Adar Aleph*, over 250 people, including family, friends, *bochurim* and *talmidim*, joined together to celebrate a *Hachnosas Sefer Torah* at Orlando Torah Academy.

The celebration was the culmination of a year-long project, undertaken by Rabbi Avrohom Wachsman, founder and dean of Orlando Torah Academy, to write a *sefer Torah* in memory of his father, Rabbi Raphael Wachsman. *Kesivas osios* events were held throughout the year in Toronto, Chicago and New York, with the final letters being written Sunday in Orlando.

Rabbi Raphael Wachsman was the founder and *rosh yeshiva* of the world-renowned WITS Yeshiva in Milwaukee. For over 35 years, he was *moser lev v’nefesh* to build a *yeshiva* and nurture the *talmidim* that passed through its doors. The dedication of this *sefer Torah*, the first for Orlando’s Torah community, into a Jewish Day

school imbued with a mission to be *marbitz Torah*, is a testament to the continuity of the legacy and vision that Rabbi Wachsman dedicated his life to.

Guests, together with the *sofer*, had the opportunity to write a letter in the Torah as the last few lines were completed. The Orlando Torah Academy choir performed for the crowd and Rabbi Wachsman wrote the last letter in the Torah. Joined by *bochurim* from Yeshiva Tiferes Torah of Boca and from Yeshiva Toras Chaim of Miami, dancing began in the streets of Orlando.

OTA students lined the streets as the *chupah* passed through with spirited singing and dancing. Men from all levels of Jewish backgrounds and observance were drawn to the experience of true *simchas haTorah*. Many got to hold a Torah for the first time as it was escorted into the school and placed in the *aron*. The *koach* of Torah was felt by everyone – it was true *simcha*; not the fantasy Orlando is famous for!



Around the Community

Missouri Torah Institute 8th Grade Shabbaton in St. Louis

MTI, the Mesivta of St. Louis hosted 37 Eighth grade *bachurim* from St. Louis and across America for their annual Shabbos for boys to experience firsthand what it means to be an MTI *talmid*. Prospective *talmidim* came from a number of cities around the country, including Denver, Chicago, Baltimore, Jacksonville, Houston, and Portland.

Besides for a Shabbos filled with *ruach* and great food, highlights of the weekend included a science lab activity on Thursday and exciting trips on Friday and *Motzaei* Shabbos. At the *Melave Malka*, the boys got to hear from the MTI band.



The yeshiva administered *fahrs* and assessment tests to prospective *talmidim* on Friday and Sunday.

Participants attended shiurim, got to know current *talmidim* and got a glimpse of life in MTI and the approach to *chi-*



nuch the yeshiva is known for. One guest commented that the “it really means a lot to me to go to a Yeshiva where everyone is a ‘family’. I get that feeling here in MTI.”

“In such a short time, the boys really made nice connections with one an-

other,” says *Rosh Yeshivah* Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. “They got the chance to see how warm the MTI *talmidim* are, the school’s incredible happy and positive environment, and enjoy a most uplifting, spirited Shabbos with the *hanhala* and *rebbeim*.”

One participant commented, “I just can’t wait till I come here with all my friends and learn Torah.”

For more information about the yeshiva, please call the office at 636-778-1896 x 101, or email admissions@missouritorah.org.

“HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL”: A Story Book Run at the World Baseball Classic

After winning Best Documentary at the 2018 Boca Jewish Film Festival, *HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL* played to sold-out crowds in Boston and is now hitting a home run with South Florida moviegoers. After a major success in its opening week February 8-14, the film continues with screenings at South Florida theaters from West Palm Beach to Miami.

The “David vs. Goliath” story takes the audience on a behind-the-scenes look at the Israeli national baseball team’s run



during the 2017 World Baseball Classic. After years of defeat, Team Israel is finally ranked among the world’s best in 2017, eligible to compete in the prestigious in-

ternational tournament. Their line-up includes several Jewish-American Major League players — Cody Decker, Ike Davis, and ex-Braves catcher Ryan Lavarnway — most with a tenuous relationship to Judaism, let alone having ever set foot in Israel. Their odyssey takes them from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem where they are greeted as heroes, to Seoul where they must debunk their reputations as has-beens and wannabes. With their *Mensch* on a Bench mascot by their side, the team laughs, cries, and does much soul-searching, dis-

covering the pride of representing Israel on the world stage.

HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL is now showing in Palm Beach County at Movies of Lake Worth, Movies of Delray, Regal Shadowood, and Living Room Theaters. The film is also screening in Miami at AMC Aventura and in Broward County at The Classic Gateway Theatre and The Last Picture Show Tamarac 5. For theaters and show times, visit www.ironboundfilms.com/heading-home

Torah Academy Participates in Nationwide Anti-Bullying Effort Through Song

Torah Academy of Boca Raton recently partnered with Simcha Leiner, a widely popular Jewish music singer, in a musical effort to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of bullying and the necessity to combat the behavior. Leiner has released a new song entitled “Stand Up For Each Other”, an upbeat, catchy tune that is meant to inspire brotherhood, empathy, and unity; the song reminds listeners

that the world is “a better place” when we “make [others’] troubles [our] own” and “build [others] up”, and then “watch our struggles fade away”.

In explaining the motivation behind creating the song, Leiner has cited the tragic incidences of children suffering due to depression and anxiety brought on by bullying. He maintains that bullying can happen at any age, especially in the music



Simcha Leiner recording with TABR elementary boys

business and other fields where reputation is an integral part of a person’s success or failure, and unscrupulous people can too easily destroy another with insults and verbal cruelty.

To further its impact, the song composition includes a 1001-child choir made up of hundreds of students from Jewish schools around the nation, featuring Torah

Academy’s elementary boys among them. In addition, Torah Academy has a warm, ongoing relationship with Yochi Briskman of Project Productions, a top-echelon Jewish music producer who has produced several TABR Chanukah concerts, who turned to TABR when it came time to create a music video to complement the song. TABR’s Middle School boys are featured performers in the video, which was recorded on TABR’s middle school campus.

“Simcha Leiner’s music is heard around the Jewish world, and it is incredibly meaningful that he is using his platform to focus on how we can all treat each other better, and refuse to tolerate bullying wherever it may happen. Torah Academy has always maintained a strong focus on *derech eretz* and the importance of impeccable *middos tovos*, so it was natural that our students and our Yeshiva would want to be part of this effort,” Dean of TABR Rabbi Reuven Feinberg commented. He added, “With music’s power to influence and uplift, Torah Academy is proud to have contributed to a song with so much potential to create positive change.”

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Around the Community

Siyumim at Homes of HaGaonim HaRav Gershon Edelstein, HaRav Shalom Cohen & the Sanzer Rebbe, as Dirshu Marches Towards Next Year's World Siyum By Chaim Gold

The simple home of HaGaon HaRav Gershon Edelstein, *shlita*, venerated senior Rosh Yeshiva of Ponovezh, is not usually a venue for public celebrations. The Rosh Yeshiva is well known for the privacy he maintains and for eschewing the public spotlight. Nevertheless, for every rule there is an exception. Recently, with the completion of *hilchos* Shabbos in the Dirshu Daf HaYomi B'Halacha cycle, Rav Gershon not only agreed to host a *siyum* in his apartment but he went out of his way to address the *siyum* and give guidance to the wider community on the importance of learning practical *halacha* on a regular basis.

Rav Gershon: Learning Mishnah Berurah Daily is mamesh spiritual hatzalos nefashos!

The *siyum* at the home of Rav Gershon was attended by numerous Gedolei Torah and Rabbonim including HaGaon HaRav Chaim Feinstein, *shlita*, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Ateres Shlomo, HaGaon HaRav Boruch Dov Diskin, *shlita*, Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva Orchos Torah, and numerous other Roshei Yeshiva.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the event were the words of the nonagenarian senior Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Gershon.



"There is no need to give *divrei bracha* at such an event, because the *bracha* has already been promised by Chazal, who teach, 'He who learns *halacha* every day is assured a place in *Olam Habaah*.' Thus, the *bracha* is assured."

The Rosh Yeshiva continued, "With regard, however, to *halacha*, it is important for everyone to know that learning *halacha* every day is an obligation. It is a tremendous obligation to specifically learn practical *halacha*. The volume of *Orach Chaim* in *Shulchan Aruch* is the volume that one must know and utilize every day. The laws of *brachos*, how to get dressed, even what a person should think..."

"That is why it is so important to learn *Mishnah Berurah* every day. Learning *Mishnah Berurah* is *mamesh* spiritual

hatzalos nefashos! It enables a person to fulfill the obligations that he is supposed to fulfill and not transgress the prohibitions that he is mandated to refrain from."

Sanzer Rebbe: First and Foremost, A Yid Must Conduct Himself Like a Yid!

The home of the Sanzer Rebbe is no stranger to Dirshu. The Rebbe has been an enthusiastic supporter of Dirshu from its inception and sees it as a fitting tribute to his father, the previous Sanzer-Klausenberger Rebbe, who established Mifal Hashas, a learning and testing regiment to promote and encourage the learning and knowledge of all of *Shas*.

Aside from the Sanzer Rebbe, *shlita*, the event was attended by HaGaon HaRav Yigal Rozen, *shlita*, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael of Petach Tikva, HaGaon HaRav Mordechai Mintzburg, *shlita*, Rav of the K'hal Adas Yerushalayim Masmidim community, Rav Dovid Hofstedter, Nasi of Dirshu and numerous others.

In his remarks, the Sanzer Rebbe quoted the *Shulchan Aruch Harav* in *Hilchos Talmud Torah* that says, "A person who is not able to learn all day, should learn the *halachos* that are relevant for him to know in the course of his daily life." A *Yid* must know *halacha*, if not, he cannot conduct himself as a *Yid*," the Rebbe said. "That is what the *Shulchan Aruch Harav* is telling us. First and foremost, you must conduct yourself like a *Yid* and therefore, the absolute first thing you need to learn is *halacha* *l'maseh*. The minimum is learning *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* but certainly, learning *Mishnah Berurah* is better."

Rav Yigal Rozen said, "For those who learn all day, their main learning is *Gemara*. Nevertheless, the *shaar*, the entrance-way to the *bais medrash* of *Gemara*, *Rashi* and *Tosafos* is learning and knowing *halacha*."

Rav Dovid Hofstedter said that before Yaakov Avinu went down to Egypt with his family he sent his son Yehuda ahead of him. Why? The *Midrash* states, that Yehuda went first in order to open a *Beit Talmud* - a Yeshiva, from where Torah rulings would come forth. The *Midrash* is telling us two things: There is a Yeshiva, but there is also the additional component of a place from where Torah rulings will emanate. Any new place to where Jews come, our sages are telling us, must first have both a yeshiva and a place where one can receive *halachic* rulings and *halachic* guidance from our sages.

"Why," Rav Hofstedter asked, "did Yaakov Avinu specifically send Yehuda? If he wanted to build a yeshiva he should have perhaps sent an architect and a developer? The answer," he posited, "is that Yehuda is the power of *malchus*, the power of a king. Whenever there is something good happening, the *satan*, the *yetzer hara* tries to get in the way. Yehuda has the power of *malchus*, a power that can counter the *ye-*

tzer hara's diabolical plans.

"This too is why we feel so fortunate to be here at the home of the Sanzer Rebbe, *shlita* and why Dirshu is fortunate to have the blessing and constant support of other leading Gedolei Yisrael. With their backing, their merit and their *tefillos* we will certainly overcome any hurdles that the *yetzer hara* places in the way."

Learning HOW to Understand the Halacha

There was also a *siyum* at the home of HaGaon Hacham Shalom Cohen, *shlita*, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Porat Yosef. "Some might say that the *Mishnah Berurah* is a *sefer* written for *Ashkenazim* not for *Sephardim*. After all, we rule in accordance with Maran, the Bet Yosef, and they rule in accordance with the Remah. What then," Rav Shalom asked, "would be the point of learning the *Mishnah Berurah* when its laws are not written in accordance with the *Sephardic halachic* rulings?"

He answered, "When one learns the *Mishnah Berurah*, one can truly understand the underlying premise of the *halachah*. I always tell my *talmidim* that although we *Sephardim* do not rule like the *Mishnah Berurah*, they should first learn the *Mishnah Berurah* and then learn the final outcome of the *Sephardic poskim*. After all, the *Mishnah Berurah* teaches you how to understand the *halacha*, not just what the *halacha* is.

"The Bracha is Min Hashomayim!"

At the *siyum* on *Chelek Gimmel* held at the Dirshu Convention in Stamford, Connecticut, a few weeks ago, Rav Gershon Edelstein delivered an unexpected video message to the thousands of participants, expressing his joy over the fact that they were celebrating the completion of *Chelek Gimel* and beginning *Chelek Daled* of *Mishnah Berurah*.

When Rav Gershon was told about the multitudes of *lomdei* Dirshu who will be completing *Shas* next year with *bechinos* and that Dirshu would celebrate their accomplishments with massive *siyumim* in Eretz Yisroel, England, France and South Africa, culminating in an enormous *siyum* at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ, in mid-February, 2020, the Rosh Yeshiva expressed his great joy. He pointed out that when a large, public *siyum* is made, it encourages more people to learn. He brought proof to this concept from a *passuk* in *Mishlei* [1:20], 'Wisdom sings out in the streets; it gives forth its voice in public.' Rav Edelstein explained, "When wisdom is being praised in the street it gives forth a voice in public that influences others."

When asked to give a *bracha* in honor of next year's *Siyum HaShas*, the Rosh Yeshiva answered, "The *bracha* is *min hashomayim*! Hashem blesses those who learn Torah. My *bracha* is that you should have *siyatta d'shmaya* in everything that you do!"

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OHIO NEWS

Telshe Cleveland *Hanhalah* Members Visit Lakewood

Telshe Yeshiva of Cleveland held its annual Lakewood *melava malka* on *Motzoei Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim* at Bnos Devorah Hall in Lakewood. Rav Ahron Dovid Goldberg, *rosh yeshiva*, and other *chavrei hahanhalah* including Rav Sholom Shapiro, Rav Ahron Levitsky and Rav Anshel Helman, attended.

Cincinnati *Shovavim Shiur* for Women

The Cincinnati Community *Mikvah* will hold its annual *Shovavim* event for women on Sunday, February 10. Mrs. Debbie Selengut, assistant principal of Bnos Bracha in Passaic, NJ, will be the guest speaker. She will give a two-part presentation at the home of Mrs. Rachel Sollofe. The first portion will be a *halachic* and *hashkafic* refresher course. That will be followed by a *shalom bayis* presentation.



8th Grade Shabbaton at MTI in St. Louis


MTI, the Mesivta of St. Louis, hosted 37 eighth grade *bochurim* from St. Louis and across America for their annual *Shabbos* for boys to experience firsthand what it means to be an MTI *talmid*. Prospective *talmidim* came from a number of cities around the country, including Denver, Chicago, Baltimore, Jacksonville, Houston and Portland.

Besides for a *Shabbos* filled with *ruach* and great food, highlights of the weekend included a science lab activity on Thursday and exciting trips on Friday and *Motzoei Shabbos*. At a *melava melava*, the boys got to hear from the MTI band. The *yeshiva* administered *farhers* and assessment tests to prospective *talmidim* on Friday and Sunday.

Participants attended *shiurim*, got to know current *talmidim* and received a glimpse of life in MTI and the approach to *chinuch* the *yeshiva* is known for.

"In such a short time, the boys really made nice connections with one another," says *rosh yeshiva* Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. "They got the chance to see how warm the MTI *talmidim* are, the school's incredibly happy and positive environment, and enjoy a most uplifting, spirited *Shabbos* with the *hanhalah* and *rabbeim*."

For more information about the *yeshiva*, call 636.778.1896, ext. 101, or email admissions@missouritorah.org.



A Tribute to My Sister-in-Law Mrs. Ruchie Scheinbaum a"h

By Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum

The Torah characterizes womanhood as being predicated upon two defining principles: *eizer kenegdo*, "a helper corresponding to him," i.e., providing the environment for a good marriage, and the ability to address various issues as they surface; *eim kol chai*, "mother of all living" - raising children in accordance with the hallowed *mesorah*, tradition, of our ancestors who used the Torah as their lode-star. A married woman must maintain two foci: wife and mother. Everything else, be it for economic or self-fulfilling reasons, are fringe benefits for one who has successfully navigated and excelled at the first two critical principles of womanhood.

My sister-in-law, Mrs. Ruchie Scheinbaum a"h, hailed from a generation that placed husband and children on a level of distinction superseding all else - even herself. She lived for her husband and children, savoring every moment and every *nachas*, relishing in and delighting from their reciprocated love. A successful wife and mother is no simple feat. It is a daunting task that requires constant devoted and vigilant attention, accompanied by a positive and loving attitude and demeanor. Ruchie exemplified the womanhood role both as a devoted and loving wife and as a doting, caring and wise mother. She achieved this with a positive outlook and a constant smile.

Women were granted a unique and special *brocha* to recite every day: *she'asani kirtzono*, "For having made me according to His will." Unlike the *brocha* of "*Shelo asani isha* - For He did not make me a woman," the woman's *brocha* is positive/affirmative in nature. Why does a woman accentuate the positive, in contrast with a man, whose blessing focuses on the negative? Rav Mordechai Eliyahu explains that prior to creating Adam HaRishon, Hashem "consulted" with the *malachim*, who raised their opposing doubts concerning man's spiritual viability. Hashem did not listen to their views and created man. Regarding the creation of Chavah, Hashem did not turn to the *malachim*. Her creation was unopposed, and solely according to the will of Hashem. Chavah, who represents womanhood, from her initial creation was a manifestation of *ratzon Hashem*. Thus, all women affirm the positive nature of their origin when they recite their *brachos* daily.

My sister-in-law, Ruchie, bespoke this positive nature in her interrelationships with adults, in her positive mentoring of her students, and especially in the manner that she raised and educated her children. Never one to raise her voice or exhibit a negative countenance, her signature smile characterized her relationships, both positive and adverse. If there was a hurdle to scale, she surmounted it. If there was a challenge to overcome, she defeated it. It was this productive outlook on life that she infused into her children. Ruchie's home was a happy place, because she made it

that way. Her life was not a bed of roses, but one would never know it. During the summer, she was the "first lady" of Camp Kol Torah. As a member of the staff commented, "She was so welcoming, so caring about our families, always with a smile." She never looked askance at anyone, and always saw a positive side to everything and everyone.

Family was her life and she spent every waking moment involved with her children and her growing family of grandchildren - and it showed. Ruchie passed away right after we read *Parshas Yisro*, the *parsha* of *Kabbolas HaTorah*: "*Ko somar leBais Yaakov vesagid livnei Yisroel*, "So shall you say to the House of Yaakov and relate to the *Bnei Yisroel*" (*Shemos* 19:3). *Bais Yaakov* refers to the women, hence the term *amirah*, say, which is a mild form of speech, best suited to a woman's compassionate and maternal nature. Women set the tone in the home and are the ones who impart the love of Torah to their offspring. *Haggadah*, *sagid*, is the tone of speech that implies firmness, and is the manner in which the men - the focus of *haggadah* - should teach the *mitzvos* to their children.

At *Maamad Har Sinai*, *Klal Yisroel* heard the *Kol Hashem*, Voice of G-d, and also experienced these words *mitoch ha'eish*, amidst the fire. Both the *Ramban* and *Rabbeinu Bachya* comment that in transmitting Torah to our children, we must convey to them both of these components: the Voice and the Fire. The Voice is taught by instruction, an obligation for which the father is best suited. The Fire of Sinai, with its unprecedented *hisgalus*, Revelation of the Glory of Hashem, is not merely instructed, but must be lived and conveyed by example. *Emunah* in Hashem is the foundation of Jewish life. This is taught lovingly by the mother, who serves as a living example.

Ruchie was an exemplar par excellence of the *Yiddische mama* to whom *davening* and *Tehillim* were second nature. Her incredible *emunah* was bequeathed to her by her parents, Shraga Feivel and Rosa Botknecht. Survivors of the *Gehinnom* that decimated European Jewry, they came to these shores to build their lives. Sadly, her father's life was cut short, but his lessons of *emunah* were not. Her mother, *tichyeh*, is a fierce believer in Hashem. When she was informed of the tragic news of the sudden passing of her oldest child, she reacted at first as any parent would. Then her Jewish stoicism kicked in and she said, "*Mir fregen nisht kein shaalos oifin Ribono Shel Olam*. We do not question the Creator." This was the home from which Ruchie hailed. This is how she lived. This is what she imparted to her children.

To raise eleven children to adulthood and see Torah *nachas* from each one is an achievement extraordinaire. My brother is a wonderful father: devoted, caring, and loving. He is always there whenever need-

ed. After years in *kollel*, he sought a livelihood. It meant being on the road a good part of the week, regardless of the season or conditions. Summer was devoted to running his premier camp. He taught his children by example, on *Shabbos*, *Yom Tov* and some days of the week. Ruchie was home all of the time, except when she was teaching in school. As mother and sometime "father," she achieved remarkable results: *bonim uvnei vonim oskim baTorah; bonim rabbonon vechasni rabbonon*.

When my brother spoke at the *levayah*, among the many truthful accolades that he said was, "I lost my best friend." How true! One can be married for years and do all of the right things, but not everyone achieves "best friend" status. How beautiful and meaningful a statement. Perhaps I may add the following: When the Vilna Gaon lost his *rebbeitzin*, he was obviously distraught. He was the *gadol hador*, so it stands to reason that his wife and closest confidante must have been on a very lofty spiritual plateau. What about her was so special? Surely she was a *baalas chesed*, a devoted wife, and an outstanding mother. What unique epitaph did he inscribe for the special woman who achieved the apex of Jewish womanhood as a mother and wife? He wrote on her tombstone: "*Lo hinicha acharah kemosah*. She left no other like herself." No one could replace her. What a special tribute to a wife. Veritably, the Gaon was a man who shunned verbosity of any sort, but why did he not add a few comments about her *chesed*, *emes*, *tefillah*, *yiras Shomayim*?

I think the Gaon was teaching us an important lesson regarding the attitude and esteem in which one should hold his wife: *Lo hinicha acharah kemosah*. There is no one like my wife.

My brother felt this way about his wife of forty-three years.

My sister-in-law would worry about her husband, children, grandchildren, mother, brothers, sister and extended family. She worried about her friends. Ruchie had *Tehillim* lists, *chesed* lists, and special request lists for people who were in need. I often told her that she worried too much. Now her *neshamah tehorah* has returned to her Father in Heaven. It may have been too short a journey, but she was eminently successful nonetheless, leaving this world with an enviable *sheim tov* of outstanding achievement. Now she should worry. She should worry for all of us who are bereft of her love and friendship. Now her worry and prayers will be beneficial.

May Liba Rochel *bas* Shraga Feivel be a *melitzas yosher* for her husband who lost more than his best friend - he lost the foundation of his life - and for her children, who lost their quintessential mother; for her mother and family who are broken-hearted over their loss, as well as for her extended family and friends whose lives will forever be etched with her memory.

Yehi zichrah boruch.



Harav Chaim Yehoshua Hoberman, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Mesivta of Long Beach, delivering a *shiur* to the *chavrei hakollel* during his visit to Minneapolis.



Harav Chaim Yehoshua Hoberman with *chavrei hakollel* during his visit to Minneapolis. Seated (L-R): Harav Chaim Gibber, *Rosh Kollel*; Harav Hoberman, and Rabbi Yosef Lowinger, *Rosh Chaburah*.

COVERAGE BY

DEVORAH KLEIN

Minneapolis Community Kollel Shabbos of *Chizuk* With Harav Chaim Yehoshua Hoberman

This past Shabbos, *Shabbos Paraschas Chayei Sarah*, the Minneapolis community was privileged to host Harav Chaim Yehoshua Hoberman, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Mesivta of Long Beach, and his Rebbeztin, for a Shabbos of *Chizuk*.

Last year, four *yungeleit* who were *talmidim* of the Mesivta of Long Beach, joined the Minneapolis Community Kollel, and Rav Hoberman, who is a *mechutan* of the *Rosh Kollel*, Harav Chaim Gibber, promised he would come to Minneapolis one day and visit the *yungeleit* and the *kollel*.

On Erev Shabbos, Harav Hoberman addressed both the *bachurim* at Yeshiva of Minneapolis, and the students at Bais Yaakov High School of the Twin Cities. On Shabbos, he delivered a *Leil Shabbos* address at



Leslee Morris

Eighth-grade boys at Torah Day School of Atlanta have taken it upon themselves to keep the *beis medrash* organized and cleaned on a regular basis. They are pictured here with their *Rebbe*, Rabbi Tzvi Oratz.

Kenesseth Israel Congregation.

The *Rosh Yeshivah* quoted the well-known *Chazal* that states that *tzaddikim*, like Avraham Avinu, say a little but do a lot, but that *resha'im*, like Efron, say a lot but do a little. On a deeper level, we see that some people like to do, and some people like to talk. Those who do, are interested in accomplishing, while those who talk, are mostly interested in their

own glory.

Later, Rav Hoberman delivered a *Chumash shiur* at the home of Harav Gibber. On Shabbos afternoon, he spoke during a specially sponsored *seudah shelishis* at Congregation Bais Yisroel. He explained that many people feel that when are they blessed with wealth or other resources, it is appropriate to give back to the world. However, it is really the oppo-

site. Hashem wants us to give, therefore, He endows us with resources, whether money, charisma, or skills, and we are required to share with others.

Throughout Shabbos, the *Rosh Yeshivah* delivered several *shiurim* at the *kollel*, and also participated in a special *melaveh malkah* for the *yungeleit*.

The visit served as a great *chizuk* to the *chavrei hakollel*, who gained much inspiration from spending Shabbos with their *Rebbe*, as well as for the greater community, who were touched by the *Rosh Yeshivah's* warmth and sincerity.

Missouri Torah Institute In St. Louis Hosts Rabbi Shaya Cohen

The Missouri Torah Institute was recently privileged to host Rabbi Shaya Cohen, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshiva Zichron Aryeh and founder of Priority-1 in Far Rockaway.

Rabbi Cohen spoke to the *bnei*
Continued on page 8

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City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam	City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam
Antwerp	4:33	5:44	6:02	Los Angeles	4:30	5:37	5:59
Atlanta	5:15	6:23	6:45	Melbourne	7:54	8:58	9:25
Baltimore	4:32	5:39	6:01	Miami	5:13	6:21	6:43
Boston	4:02	5:09	5:31	Milwaukee	4:08	5:15	5:37
Chicago	4:10	5:17	5:39	Minneapolis	4:24	5:31	5:53
Cincinnati	5:04	6:11	6:33	Monsey	4:18	5:25	5:47
Cleveland	4:47	5:54	6:16	Montreal	4:04	5:11	5:33
Dallas	5:07	6:14	6:36	New York	4:18	5:25	5:47
Denver	4:24	5:32	5:54	Passaic	4:18	5:26	5:48
Detroit	4:50	5:57	6:19	Philadelphia	4:25	5:32	5:54
Edison NJ	4:20	5:28	5:50	Pittsburgh	4:43	5:50	6:12
Haifa	4:07	5:16	5:52	Seattle	4:12	5:19	5:41
Jerusalem	4:03	5:17	5:56	St Louis	4:28	5:35	5:57
Lakewood	4:21	5:28	5:50	Tel Aviv	4:17	5:18	5:52
Liberty	4:18	5:26	5:48	Toronto	4:32	5:39	6:01
London	3:55	5:03	5:20	Waterbury CT	4:12	5:19	5:41

Continued from page 6

hayeshivah throughout Shabbos on various topics including "Appreciating Shabbos"; "Understanding the Power of Tefillah," and "Dealing with Life's Challenges." Some of the *talmidim* were even treated to *chavrusa* learning with him on Shabbos afternoon!

Rabbi and Mrs. David Bermanski, Chesterfield community members, graciously hosted a community lecture on Motzoei Shabbos during which Rabbi Cohen shared practical advice on "Parenting in the 21st Century."

On Sunday morning, Rabbi Cohen gave a powerful and thought-provoking talk to the *talmidim* of Torah Prep Elementary School, about recognizing our purpose in this world. Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, principal of Torah Prep, remarked that "Rabbi Cohen was able to take one of the most fundamental *hashkafos* of *Yiddishkeit*, living a life of true *simchah*, and present it in an exciting and interactive way to our *talmidim*. Each *talmid* present was impacted by his presentation."

On Sunday evening, all the *mechanchim* and *mechanchos* from St. Louis were invited to the yeshivah to hear Rabbi Cohen present some important lessons about the proper way to give our *talmidim* a passion for *Yiddishkeit* and the tools for growing in *emunah* and *bitachon*.



Rabbi Shaya Cohen of Priority One addressing students of the Missouri Torah Institute, during his visit to St. Louis.

Detroit Launches Chevrah Hatzalah

Citing a growing demand from its expanding Orthodox population, Detroit's Jewish community launched its first *Chevrah Hatzalah*.

"Detroit Hatzalah is comprised of individuals from every corner of our community, who are volunteering their time in dedication to *hatzalos nefashos*, the saving of lives in our community," read a statement announcing the "go-live." "With first responders living throughout

the community, our goal is to be on the scene within 120 seconds of dispatch."

While Detroit has been home to an Orthodox community for over a century, in recent years, it has blossomed anew and is now home to some 2,000 families.

"*Baruch Hashem*, in the last five to 10 years, with the help of the *kollelim* and *mosdos*, the community has grown a lot, but part of being a *kehilah* is having Hatzalah, so a couple of us got to work and made it happen," a Detroit Hatzalah board member, one



Rabbi Shaya Cohen of Priority One addressing a gathering of parents, during his visit to St. Louis.

of the *askanim* involved, told *Hamodia*.

Detroit Hatzalah began taking calls officially at midnight this past Motzoei Shabbos. Currently, they are not providing transport, but only serving as first responders to the scene of emergencies. When necessary, a local ambulance agency will provide transport once patients are stabilized.

Members of Chicago Hatzalah provided guidance over the last few months to help with the many

Continued on page 10



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