



ישיבת בית יוסף - גייטסהד
GATESHEAD YESHIVA

SHAVOUS ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020
סיון תש"פ

ADAPTING TO THE CURRENT SITUATION

End of Winter Z'man and Bein Hazmanim As the threat of the pandemic rose up soon after Purim; the Hanholas Hayeshiva unfortunately had to take the decision to send all the Talmidim home. More than 130 foreign Talmidim had already left, to avoid quarantine in their home cities. As the remaining Talmidim were preparing to leave, the Mashgiach, Rav Gershon Miller שליט"א gave a unique shmues in the בית המדרש to prepare them for the forthcoming extended time away from כותלי הישיבה. <https://gyalumni.org/shiurim/>

Until the end of Zman, The Rosh Yeshiva Harav Avrohom Gurwicz שליט"א gave a daily Shiur via teleconference every evening (allowing US and Canadian Talmidim to hear it at a reasonable time), and the Mashgiach, Rav Mordechai Yosef Karnowsky שליט"א gave some שיעורים בענייני דינמא. The Mashgiach Rav Gershon gave a ועד each morning, this continued during Bein Hazmanim, including חול המועד פסח.

זמן קיץ - מסכת בבא קמא As the new zman approached, the Hanholoh assisted by the admin team arranged for all the regular shiurim to be held via teleconference technology to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted relaying of the shiurim, and in particular to enable the Talmidim to discuss the shiur and their הערות / קושיות, on an individual basis. The שיעור כללי, שיעורים, וועדים, have all been successful and well attended, in excess of 85000 minutes in one week. We are delighted that many Alumni are also able to connect and 'rejoin'.

Every Talmid receives מראה מקומות each day by email. In addition, a dial-in system is in place for all relevant information, timetable, any change in schedule, along with simcha announcements. This line has received over three thousand calls to date. The weekly חומש רשיי בכתב is sent by email with the answers following once most of the scripts are returned.

FINANCES

The finances of the Yeshiva are under serious threat with extreme cash flow problems arising particularly between Purim and Pesach - especially since no fundraising visits could take place. Once again, Achisomoch Aid Company (founded by the Yeshiva Alumni members), came to the rescue and arranged a very substantial contribution. Many parents are struggling to meet the Yeshiva's requests for tuition in the summer Z'man and the Yeshiva appeals to all

parents and supporters to help at this difficult time and to make every effort to settle outstanding dues and pledges as soon as possible, directly to the Yeshiva or by visiting the website at www.gyalumni.org/donate.

AAC

achisomoch aid company

MAINTENANCE & NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Yeshiva normally uses Bein Hazmanim to make improvements and carry out maintenance. This Bein Hazmanim was no exception. Over the last months, we have completed the following:

- Re-carpeting of 60 bedrooms in the Wolfson buildings
- New ceiling and lighting in the Dining Room
- Retiling of floor in the Dining Room

We are grateful to the generosity of the Gateshead Yeshiva Alumni Association for helping substantially to make this possible.



HEARTIEST מזל טוב WISHES TO THE MASHGIACH
שליט"א HORAV GERSHON MILLER
AND FAMILY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SON YITZCHOKS
ENGAGEMENT TO THE DAUGHTER OF RABBI AND MRS YECHIEL COHEN

HEARTIEST מזל טוב WISHES TO HORAV EZRIEL ROSENBAUM שליט"א
AND FAMILY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR GRANDSONS DOIVYS (SON
OF RABBI AND MRS MOSHE ROSENBAUM) ENGAGEMENT TO THE
DAUGHTER OF RABBI AND MRS SHAUL BEATON

HEARTIEST מזל טוב WISHES TO FAMILY TOTTY LEBRECHT
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NEW BABY GRANDSON
BORN TO MR AND MRS YECHIEL ALTMAN.



THE YESHIVA DINNER – JANUARY 2020

On 21st January, we held the Gateshead Yeshiva Dinner, at the Meridian Grand in London, celebrating 90 years since the inception of the Yeshiva. A remarkable demonstration of כבוד התורה, combined with a memorable חיוק for all and attended by an international gathering of over 700 Roshei Yeshiva, Rabbonim, alumni, friends and talmidim

RECEPTION: The Reception was an opportunity for talmidim to reconnect with the Rabonei HaYeshiva. On display were 3 recently discovered letters relating to the early years of the Yeshiva. One from the Chofetz Chaim זצ"ל, dated 1929 recommending the appointment of Harav Nachman Dovid Landynski זצ"ל, as the first Rosh Yeshiva. The second, sent by the Yeshiva to the Vaad Harabonim of America in 1936 requesting גמרות נדרים ובבא מציעא. The third, dated selichos of 1951 to Harav Landynski who had moved to the USA, wishing the Rosh Yeshiva ברכת שנה טובה. It was signed by some 80 talmidim in the Yeshiva.

A new innovation was launched - the אוצר השירים project, a compilation of all the ספרים that have been penned by Gateshead Yeshiva alumni. Many authors have been in contact and some submitted their publications. Plans are in place to house these in a special אוצר in the Yeshiva .

DINNER The chairman, Reb Yisroel Stern, welcomed the guests. A Siyum of שם משניות and Kaddish was recited by the Mashgiach, Harav Mordechai Yosef Karnowsky שליט"א. The סיום was dedicated to the memory of Rebbetzin Gittel Kaplan בלח"ט, daughter of the Rosh HaYeshiva, שליט"א Harav Avraham Gurwicz שליט"א.

The top table was graced by all Rabbonei Hayeshiva along with leading דיינים ורבני העיר.

Many alumni had not seen their fellow talmidim since they left the Yeshiva many decades ago. Many early Alumni attended including one person who was present in the late 30's.

The "Alumni Choir" led by Moshe Yosef Fordsham added to the pleasure of the evening.

HACHOVER AWARDS. Tributes were paid to the askanim who had set up the Alumni Association in the mid 70's and are no longer with us - Messrs Arnold Cohen ז"ל, Avrohom Shmuel Goldberg ז"ל, Yisroel Reich ז"ל, and Rabbi Chaim Yaakov Davis ז"ל.

Yitzchok Katz and David Chontow are credited with running Achisomoch for decades, which has benefitted Gateshead Yeshiva with millions of pounds since its inception. In recognition of their work for the kehillah in general and Gateshead Yeshiva in particular, the Hanholas Yeshiva awarded them both the title of 'Chaver'. The special text bestowing the title of Chaver was written out on klaf, and signed by the Hanholo and Rabbi Yisroel Meir Greenberg שליט"א, Rav of GGBH, where both honorees are mispallelim.



ROSH HAYESHIVA The high point of the evening was the Rosh Yeshiva's drosho. As the Rosh Hayeshiva prepared to speak, the whole assembly rose to their feet and spontaneously began a rekidah in his honour. In his inspiring words, the Rosh Yeshiva spoke of the difference between עבודת פרך and מלאכה.

APPEAL An appeal was launched during the evening on behalf of the Yeshiva. The raffle prize of a leather-bound Shas, with the iconic Yeshiva emblem embossed on each volume was won by Mr Zvi Rothbard of Stamford Hill.

PRESENTATIONS Tributes were paid to the whole committee, special mention of Shaul Bodner, Meir Eckstein and Motty Vorhand. The Rosh Yeshiva then made a presentation to Aryeh Melinek saluting his years of dedication and askonus on behalf of the Yeshiva. And then led bensching, bringing to conclusion a most successful evening.





MESSAGE FROM HARAV CHAIM OZER GURWICZ SHLIT" A

Reflections from the days of Corona

Thanks to the *הקב"ה* my family's physical health was not affected by Corona, but of course we suffered mental strain from the news of the casualties in the world and especially amongst our brethren and even more so by the casualties in the Chraedi world. The closing of the Yeshiva and the stopping of the the minyonim added also to the strain.

I wish to note that eventually the closing of the yeshiva and the stopping of the minyonim became to me a source of encouragement.

The fact that shiurim and chavrusas continued, in spite of the difficulties, showed to me how earnest and devoted is our learning, and gave me an ability to say to *הקב"ה* as *נחמיה* prayed to G-d, *זכרה לנו אלקי על זאת לטובה*,

I shamefully have to admit that I started enjoying my corner in the room, without a minyan, where I was able to start Shachris from the beginning, with, *קרבנות*, say the *פסוקי דזמרא* slowly, fathoming every

word that I said, without having to run a marathon with the *חזן* to get to *ישתבח* on time and without having to continue the marathon until *עשרה*. In fact, now that I have joined the backlane minyan, I am really missing my corner, where I poured out my heart to my creator in the days of Corona.



I wish to add what I recently heard in the name of *ר' מתתיהו* *גזירת* *שליט"א*. In the time of *תוספות יו"ט*, *ת"ח ת"ט*, the *ר' מתתיהו* was informed from heaven, that it happened because of talking in middle of davening. Said *ר' מתתיהו* the punishment was not for talking, but because of talking, our prayers were not heard. We have proved that our learning is in earnest, maybe it is time to show our prayers are also in earnest, and they should cease to be a marathon, and we shall be worthy that our prayers will stop any more epidemics.

המצפה לרחמי שמים

חיים עוזר גורביץ

שיעורים giving their daily *רבני הישיבה* from home.





נוס תנחומין

ע"ה ר' STANLEY (TALCHUM) ESOFSKY

At this time, we recall the many alumni and friends who we have lost to the corona virus - Rabbi Chaim Wilschanski ז"ל, Rabbi Lionel Cofnas ז"ל, Rabbi Yosef Weinberg ז"ל, Rabbi Dovid Brodman ז"ל, Rabbi Chaim Schmahl ז"ל, Dayan Osher Westheim ז"ל, R' Chaim Hillel Gittleson ז"ל, R' Yankel Kaufman ז"ל, R' Meir Loebenstein ז"ל, R' Alex Rabinowitz ז"ל, R' Yitzchok Rabinowitz ז"ל, R' Nuchy Bude ז"ל, R' Shlomo Ezagui ז"ל, R' Walter Hubert ז"ל, R' Benzion Hackner ז"ל, R' Yitzchok Dominitz ז"ל, R' Moshe Wells ז"ל (apologies for any omissions).

There is however one person – Reb Stanley Esofsky, who dedicated his life to the Yeshiva and his sudden Petiroh on ג' ניסן was mourned by the Gateshead Kehilla and generations of Gateshead Yeshiva Talmidim alike. R' Stanley started working at the Yeshiva in 1961 assisting the secretary - Mr Naftoli Wagschal. In 1975 he took on the position of Yeshiva Secretary working with absolute loyalty and commitment until his last day.



Reb Stanley demonstrated many special qualities; He was absolutely reliable and honest, dependable, astute and conscientious, and the Hanholas HaYeshiva knew that its financial and administrative affairs were in safe hands. Mr and Mrs Esofsky's home was a powerhouse of Chesed and with his easy-going nature, no one (Talmidim or parents) was refused an appointment, a meal, a car ride or any other chesed.

In recent years, when enjoying semi – retirement (during which he still maintained his office in the Yeshiva and his signature graced every official Yeshiva letter!) he filled his days with learning and walking (often with great effort) from one Shiur to another.

Stanley was everyone's friend – affable, friendly, witty, easy-going, non-complaining, humble in stature but mighty in Emunah and staunch in his principles. יהי זכרונו ברוך

לבי"עג ניסן תש"פ לפ"ק
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

ר' PESACH ELIYOHU FALK זצ"ל

A Talmid's perspective - Moshe Boruch Katanka

The day we never imagined would come – the day our Rebbe was taken from us!

For all these years we had before us אהבה חיה - a live example of someone who was 'יראתו קודמת לחכמתו'. As much as he was known for his clarity in הלכה, we saw in him a person overflowing with יראת ה' and אהבת הבריות and שמחים.

We remember his exceptional clarity – how many תלמידים enjoyed their first taste of הלכה in his unforgettable שייעורים? How many of those תלמידים are now themselves תורה תורה and in turn give over his שייעורים to the next דור?

We remember the שמחה that he had in explaining each דין, how he would bring it to life with real life examples and samples that he brought to שייעור.

We remember how he would say 'אותיות מחכימות' - the importance of seeing every הלכה inside to be able to build on it and challenge it.

We remember his tremendous ענוה - how he would say that he is only a 'tape recorder' giving over the פסקים of the heiliger Chofetz Chaim, when in fact we had in front of us one of the greatest פוסקים of our times!

We remember how he would want our involvement during the שייעור - "How can one give a שייעור in a תורה תורה?" he would tell us from Rav Shach זצ"ל...

We remember how he taught us that הלכה isn't just a list of rules - it's a way of life! He would give an explanation for every דין and every הלכה, to make it memorable and palatable.

We remember how much we looked forward to his דברי חזק before a new ענין or at a מסיבה. It wasn't just the vort or story that he said, it was the way that the vort came over – it was for real, it came from his heart.

We remember his patience – how he would wait after שייעור until

the very last בחור had asked all his questions although at times he was literally at the point of exhaustion.

We can visualize him walking up the back alley talking in learning with the בחורים. How he would stop walking and face the בחור rather than continue walking – to show how much he was interested in the שואל.

We remember his סבר פנים יפות, he would talk in learning with each and every תלמיד as if it was the first time he had heard this שאלה. Every answer was given with an explanation. No question was too small or too big.

We remember how he would try to call each בחור by his first name to show how much he was valued.

We remember how he would walk all the way around the ישיבה complex albeit with difficulty so that he could slip in the בית המדרש without the בחורים having to stand up for him.

We remember the 'fathers' that he made around his table at the end of each מלאכה where he would ensure that no בחור would feel uncomfortable even if he didn't know the answer...

And now – 'ואינונו, כי לקח אתו אלוקים' - the day came and הקדוש הוא took him away from us.

But we won't just remember, we will build and continue his legacy.

'וכל שיראתו קודמת לחכמתו – חכמתו מתקיימת.'

As we learn his ספרים, say over his פסקים and continue to be inspired by him - Rav Falk זצ"ל and the תורה that he taught us are still מתקיים.

לבי"עג טבת תש"פ לפ"ק
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

