



# CONNECTIONS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDIUM

“זכרו תורת משה עבדי...” (מלאכי ג:כב)  
“זכר צדיק לברכה...” (משלי יז:)

Rebbe’s *petirah*, all of which demonstrate a *kesher* which is so obviously present and which can never be broken.

There have been *Sifrei Kodesh*, books and articles written by alumni *I’zecher* Rabbi Twersky. There have been events on three continents organized by alumni: Kiryat Sefer, Ramat Eshkol, London, Lakewood, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Brooklyn, and the list goes on.

The *Ksivas Sefer Torah I’ilui nishmas* Harav Twersky will *iy”h* commence on March 14<sup>th</sup> – *Motzaei Shabbos, Vayakhel-Pikudei*, in Yerushalayim.

In this issue, we also pay tribute to *HaRav Kalman Levine zt”l hy”d*, one of Toras Moshe’s first and finest *talmidim*, whose life was tragically taken in the Har Nof massacre. His life, and the lesson that it teaches, should be both an inspiration and a call to “push ourselves just a bit harder.”

It has been several months since the sudden, horrible and tragic *petirah* of our Rebbe, HaGaon HaRav Mosheh Twersky *zecher tzaddik v’kadosh l’vracha, Hashem yikom damo*. During these months, in Yeshiva, we have been living with the sense that there is a vacuum in our midst, while we slowly but surely adjust to the new reality. The *Kol Torah* pulsates in the Bais Medrash as always, but we are very much in transition.

And if this is true in the Toras Moshe Bais Medrash, it is equally true in the broader Toras Moshe family.

*Connections*, ordinarily, aims to serve as a conduit to maintain the *kesher* between the Yeshiva and its alumni. This issue of *Connections*, however, is merely a report of the numerous undertakings of our alumni, during the months following the

Times of tragedy and adversity are never pleasant. However, they can bring us closer together and they can be the catalyst for growth in *avodas Hashem*.

משוכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה...

May we only share in *simchos*, from now on. And may we feel the *kesher* as strongly during happy times as we have during this *tekufah*.



David Sinowitz  
Rabbi Daniel Sinowitz



Shmuli Weiner  
Rabbi Shmuli Weiner

## KEEPING HIS FLAME Alive

Following the tragic *petirah* of Rav Mosheh Twersky, *hy”d*, many of his close *talmidim* found a way to express their grief and shock by committing their thoughts and memories to paper for posterity. They penned several personal recollections that subsequently appeared in various media. These articles provide a way for alumni – as well as others who were privileged to know Rav Twersky – to hold on to his cherished legacy, learn lessons for life, and find meaning in the tragedy and its aftermath.

*Talmidim* who published their memories include Rabbi Matis Feld and Rabbi Chezky Lang, whose works were featured in Rabbi Rafi Fuchs’ *Kuntris* magazine. Rabbi Daniel Travis compiled a book called

*Living On*, a collection of articles and *hespedim* that documents and explores the Har Nof tragedy through the prism of *emunah* and *hashgacha*. The book has several noteworthy articles about Rav Twersky, including one by Rabbi Yehoshua Berman. Rabbi Shlomo Buxbaum and Rabbi Gavriel Friedman, who are *rebbeim* at Aish Hatorah, wrote articles featured on Aish.com. Rabbi Ruvy Schwartz dedicated *Sefer Ginas Reuven al Meseches Shviis*, a *sefer* he authored released during the *shloshim*, *lezecher* Rabbi Twersky. The *sefer* includes a piece entitled *Shmittah V’hatzadik* which explores the connection between *shmittah* and *misas tzadikim*.

*Connections* spoke with two additional

*talmidim* to gain an inside perspective on the inspiration behind their writing.



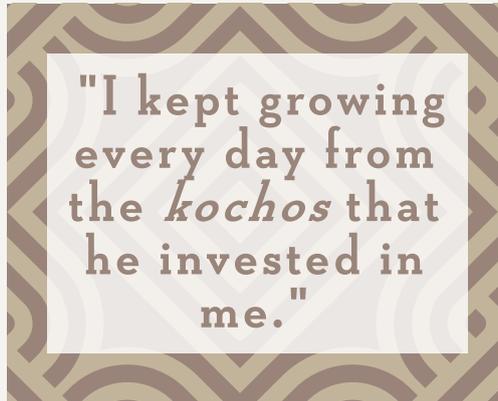
Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Niehaus is a native of Los Angeles who was among Rav Twersky’s first *talmidim* in Toras Moshe. In the two decades that followed, he maintained a very close *kesher* with his *rebbei*. When Rabbi Niehaus moved to Kiryat Sefer and became Rosh Kollel at Kollel Erev Zichron Aron Yaakov almost fifteen years ago, Rav Twersky agreed to

serve as the official rabbinical advisor of the Kollel.

“On the last day of *shiva*, the Kollel members asked me to say a *hesped* in the Kollel. It was the first time I was *maspid* anyone, and speaking about my *rebbe* was very emotional for me, especially in front of the large crowd that attended. But then I pictured Rav Twersky smiling and saying, ‘Don’t worry, I’m sure you’ll do a good job.’ That gave me strength, and that is what I spoke about. I spoke about how I always felt that he was there for me, and how I kept growing every day from the *kochos* that he invested in me. He put me on my *derech* by laying the foundations upon which my other *rebbeim*, *yibadlu l’chaim*, continued to build. I mentioned how other *talmidim* I speak to feel the same way. Rav Twersky planted seeds within us that continue to grow and bear fruit.

“The *Rebbeh* was the one who encouraged me to open the night Kollel,” Rabbi Niehaus reflects, fondly referring to Rav Twersky by the beloved title his *talmidim* would use. “He told us exactly what we should be learning. We spoke to him whenever questions arose, and when we made our first *siyum*, he came out to Kiryat Sefer and gave a *drasha*. Until this day, we remember how he kept saying that he is jealous of us, and what a

big *chizuk* it was for him to come! Small simple words, but their impact will last forever, because they were said with true feeling — we knew he meant it.”



After Rabbi Niehaus’ *hesped*, many people urged him to write it up for publication. Rabbi Rafi Fuchs printed the *hesped* in his *Kuntris* magazine, and Rabbi Daniel Travis included it in his book *Living On*.

Another *talmid*, Rabbi Josh Gabay, is publishing a collection of stories about Rav Twersky written by Toras Moshe *talmidim*. Rabbi Gabay explained why he decided to undertake this project: “My *rebbe* in high school, Rabbi Mark Kampf of London, would always tell us that when we would go to Eretz Yisroel, we would meet real *talmidei chachomim* who truly personify Torah. Rav Mosheh Twersky was a

fulfillment of this statement. I feel that the stories in this book will portray the subtle beauty and integrity of his ways, the wholesomeness and consistency of his day-to-day life. When we focus on the decisions he made and the way he dealt with people, we gain an appreciation of how Torah permeated everything about his life.

“I hope this book will be a source of *chizuk* for myself and others,” concluded Rabbi Gabay. “After I read the stories about Rav Twersky, I push myself to learn just a bit more at the end of a long and tiring day. I will do something extra at home to show appreciation for my wife; I’ll give a passerby in the street a cheery smile, assist someone in the *beis medrash*, and be a bit more sincere about life in general. I often overcome laziness by thinking about my *rebbe’s* sterling examples. After all, many of the inspiring anecdotes in this book are ones that I witnessed myself!”

At the end of his article, Rabbi Niehaus writes that he wanted to end off by saying, “The *Rebbeh* is not here anymore — who can replace him?” However, he continued, he just could hear Rav Twersky exclaiming, “What do you mean? Each and every one of you can be just like me, if not greater!”





THE  
**RABBI MOSHEH  
TWERSKY** זצ"ל  
הי"ד  
**SEFER TORAH**

# Dedication Opportunities

Chumash Dedication	\$5,000
Special Torah Parsha	\$2,000 each
Torah Sedra	\$1,800
Two Amudim	\$1,000
One Amud	\$500

DETAILS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY

LAKESWOOD



Asifa and hespedim at Khal Rivevos Efraim

LONDON



Rabbi Yehuda Abramowitz delivering a hesped in Beis Hamedresh Yissocher Dov (Hagers Beis Hamedresh)

KIRYAT SEFER



Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Niehaus delivering a hesped at Kollel Erev Zichron Aron Yaakov

LOS ANGELES



Siyum Mishnayos at the home of Eli Scharf

YESHIVAS TORAS MOSHEH END OF SHIVA



Rabbi Matis Feld delivering a hesped



Rabbi Chezky Lang delivering a hesped



Harav Yitzchok Yerucham Borodiansky, Mashgiach in Kol Torah, delivering a hesped

רבנן ותלמידיהון  
Rebbe & Talmidim

# Melava Malka

לזכר מורנו הגאון הקדוש  
רבי משה טברסקי זצוק"ל הי"ד

for Rebbeim, Talmidim & Alumni



מוצאי שבת

פרשת ויקהל-פקודי

אור ליום כד' אדר

March 14<sup>th</sup>

תלמוד תורה חוות דעת

Rechov Grossberg, Yerushalayim

## Program:

סיום הש"ס

זכרון

התחלת כתיבת  
ספר תורה

נטילת ידים

8:30pm

ברכת המזון

10:30pm

On Motzaei Shabbos, Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei (March 14th), Yeshivas Toras Moshe together with the Ner Michoel Alumni Association will host a Melava Malka for Toras Moshe alumni, *yungeleit* and their wives, at the Chavas Daas Hall in Yerushalayim.

The Melave Malka will begin with a *siyum* on the entire Shas, learned by past and present *talmidei haYeshiva l'ilui nishmas* Hagaon Hakadosh Rav Mosheh Twersky, *zt"l*. It will be followed by *drashos* from various speakers, some of which will be presented live, and others by video.

The evening will conclude with the start of the Kesivas Sefer Torah announced by Ner Michoel at the Yeshiva's recent Dinner. This Sefer Torah will eternalize Rav Twersky's memory in the *beis medrash* of Toras Moshe, with the *siyum* coinciding with next year's Dinner, *iy"h*.

# Remembering

## RAV KALMAN LEVINE, HY"D

Rabbi Kalman Zev Levine, *hy"d*, one of the *kedoshei elyon* who perished in the Har Nof massacre, learned under the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Moshe Meiselman, for nine years.

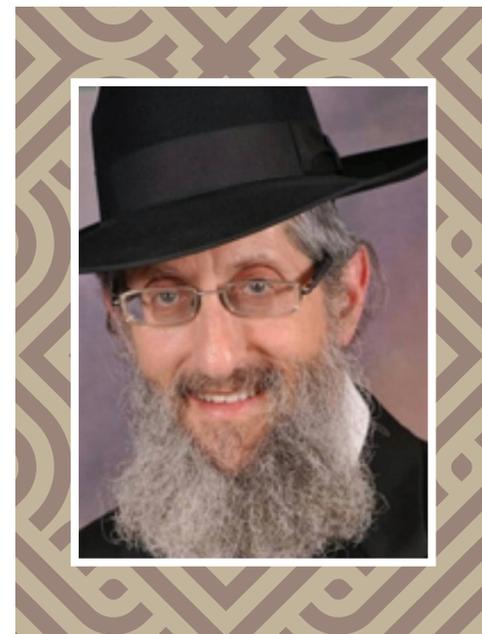
Nothing is impossible – regardless of where you came from – if you have the right *sheifos*.

Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, young Kalman (then known as Cary) attended Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy in Overland Park, Kansas. Even at a young age with a weak Torah background, he was driven by remarkable aspirations for

spiritual growth. In 1977, he spent two years studying at BMT (Bais Medrash L'Torah) in Eretz Yisroel before returning to the United States, where he planned to continue his secular education in Los Angeles. While there, he was drawn to *limud haTorah* and attended *shiurim* at Yeshiva University Los Angeles (YULA), where he began learning from Rabbi Meiselman. When the Rosh Yeshiva arrived in Yerushalayim to establish Toras Moshe, Reb Kalman was one of the first *talmidim*, remaining in the Yeshiva for four years and never leaving Eretz Yisroel for the rest of his life.

"From the very start, he had an unquenchable desire for Torah," the Rosh Yeshiva remembers with amazement.

"He just kept learning nonstop. He had an unbelievable *hasmada* and enthusiasm for learning, and was the life of the *beis medrash*. This made him into a major *talmid chochom*, with Shas at his fingertips. At each stage in his spiritual *aliyah*,



he would set his sights higher and higher, and he grew to the highest possible *madreigos* in Yiddishkeit. As he developed, he also became a tremendous *oved Hashem*; his *davening* was unbelievable, as well as his sterling *middos*. Even in later years, he had the enthusiasm of a young *bochur*. What we need to learn from his life, as well as from his tragic *petirah*, is that nothing is impossible – regardless of where you came from – if you have the right *sheifos*."

# TWO ALUMNI PUBLISH THEIR FIRST SEFORIM

## Sefer Mishpetei Hamelech

Shortly after Sukkos, Rabbi Avidon Soroka, a Toras Moshe alumnus, published a new *sefer* called *Mishpetei Hamelech*, on the topic of Bris Milah.

The *sefer* contains over eighty *simanim* of *chiddushei Torah* covering almost every topic in the intricate *sugyos* of Bris Milah, arranged according to the Rambam's *halachos*. Anyone learning these *sugyos*, or someone celebrating a *bris* and preparing *divrei Torah*, will find this *sefer* very helpful. At the end of the *sefer*, there is a special section called *Am Segulah*, containing over twenty *maamarim* in *machshava* related to Bris Milah, useful for someone who wants deliver a *drasha* on *inyanei agaddah* at a *bris*. *Mishpetei Hamelech* is graced with glowing *haskamos* from the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Moshe Meiselman, Rav Aryeh Malkiel Kotler of Bais Medrash Govoha, Rav Dovid Cohen of Yeshivas Chevron, and Rav Shmuel Deutsch of Yeshiva Kol Torah.

Rabbi Soroka learned in Toras Moshe for five years before coming to BMG in Lakewood twelve years ago, where he currently serves as a Rosh Chabura. "When I asked the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Meiselman, what he thought about the idea of publishing a *sefer*, he encouraged it very much as a way of developing my learning and taking things 'to the next level'," he says.

"I am grateful to my friends from Toras Moshe, who



Rabbi Avidon Soroka

were very excited to hear about it, and were eager to be a part of it by helping to sponsor its publication."

While this is Rabbi Soroka's first published *sefer*, he has several *kuntreisim* on *inyanei mitzvos* which he hopes to compile as another publication. *Mishpetei Hamelech* is available for purchase directly from the author at 732-370-9887 or via e-mail at adsoroka1@gmail.com.

## Reflections on the Parsha

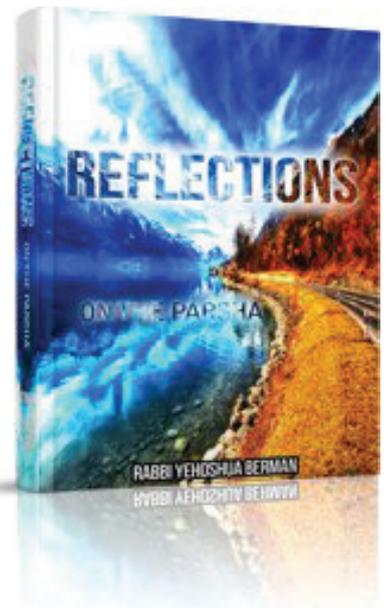
Several months ago, Toras Moshe alumnus Rabbi Yehoshua Berman released his new book, *Reflections on the Parsha*. The particularly warm *haskamos* that it carries attest to its fine quality. For each of the weekly *parshiyos*, it focuses on one idea, generally in the area of refining one's *middos* or a clarification in *hashkafa*. In his classic style, Rabbi Berman presents many of the thoughts using the compelling approach of *lomdus* – a *kashya* or a *diyuk* – using it as a basis for a *vort* that will enlighten any Shabbos table and bring the *parsha* to life in a way that is as fascinating as it is practical.

Rabbi Berman, a *musmach* of Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg, lives with his wife and four children in Ramat Beit Shemesh, where he serves as Rosh Kollel of Kollel Reshet HaDaf. While *Reflections on the Parsha* is his first published book, Reb Yehoshua is well known for his *shiurim* on *halacha* and *hashkafa*, his *Daf Inspired* featured on Matzav.com, and his comprehensive *chazara* questions and weekly *parsha* emails on which the

book is based. He is currently in the process of authoring several works covering the entire range of his *shiurim* and writings.

*Reflections on the Parsha* is a true mirror of the author's vast *yedios*, as well as his unique *mehalech* characterized by its clarity, straightforwardness, and propensity for practical application. Its unique mode of expression harnesses both the rich power of the English language as well as the familiar *yeshivish* vernacular used in the *Bais Medrash*. All this makes for an enjoyable, engaging, and informative read, with something for everyone. For the more advanced reader, there are footnotes referencing extensive material for in-depth *iyun*. It is a work that is engineered to help you reflect on the Torah, and the Torah reflect on your life!

*Reflections on the Parsha* is available for purchase at your local Jewish bookstore or at [MenuchaPublishers.com](http://MenuchaPublishers.com).



Rabbi Yehoshua Berman



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