NEWS FROM LEV ARYEH YESHIVA - JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

From the.

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THE MESSAGE OF SHEMINI ATZERES

Rabbi Yaakov Mordechai Rapoport – Rosh HaYeshiva

mystery. It is usually referred to in English as "The eighth day of assembly". The word "Shemini" meaning "eighth" and the word "Atzeres" like the similar word "Atzarah" meaning a gathering or assembly.

It is, however, strange, that while the Torah gives explanations for all the other festivals no explanation is offered for the commandment to celebrate "Shemini Atzeres". We are merely told Mikraeh kodesh vehive lachem – "It is a sacred holiday to you" but no reason is given for it. We are not told what event it commemorates or what ideal it memorializes.

Chazal were puzzled by this apparent lack of explanation and mention that although it is observed at the termination of Sukkos it is a separate Yom Tov in and by itself having a meaning and purpose of its own (Sukkah 48a).

Chazal indeed offer a number of explanations as to why we celebrate Shemini Atzeres (cf. Bamidbar Rabba 21,21. Pesikta telling us: Freedom is worthwhile if there is a recognition of law d'Rav Kahana 193a. Yalkut Shimoni Parshas Pinchas).

Perhaps one could suggest the following. Chazal usually refer to the Yom Tov of Shavuos as "Atzeres" (see Menachos 65a, Pesachim 68b) which suggest that Chazal perceived a similarity between Shavuos and Shemini Atzeres. This connection is strengthened by the statement of Chazal (Pesikta d'Rav Kahana 193a) "Just as Shavuos is observed fifty days after Pesach, so Shemini Atzeres was originally meant to be observed fifty days after Sukkos but it was put forward and joined to Sukkos because Hashem was considerate of the Jews. It would have been hard for the Jews to return home from their pilgrimage to Yerushalayim on Sukkos and then return to Yerushalayim so soon afterwards, especially since that period coincides with the rainy season in Eretz Yisrael".

We see, therefore, that there is something in common between the two "Atzeres", the "Atzeres" of Shavuos and the "Atzeres" that marks the concluding day of Sukkos.

The Rambam (Moreh Nevuchim p.3, Ch. 43) explains the counting of the forty nine days between Pesach and Shavuos in

he name "Shemini Atzeres" seems to be wrapped in a way that reveals the inherent connection between Pesach and Shavuos. One is complementary to the other; each is needed for the fulfillment of the other. Perhaps the same can be said of Shemini Atzeres and Sukkos to which it is joined. There is an important connection that unites the two.

> The connection is perhaps found in one of the meanings of the word "Atzeres" which is derived from the word "Atzar' which means to restrain or restrict. Perhaps this will explain how the message of Shemini Atzeres as well as the "Atzeres" of Shavuos and their connection with Pesach and Sukkos to which they are joined.

Pesach proclaims the message of freedom but freedom if it is not bound by law is not a bracha but a curse. Unless there is a law to define freedom to give it its limitations and its restrictions it is not freedom but anarchy. That is why the Torah joins to Pesach the symbol of freedom the "Atzeres" of Shavuos which is which alone can adequately define freedom and transform it into a source of real bracha. Freedom without law is as useless as law without freedom! Chazal point this out by saving (Eruvin 54a) that "Cherus" (Freedom) and "Charus" (engraven) emphasizes the fact that "Only that freedom is true freedom which recognizes the engraved commands on Hashem's luchos.

On Sukkos the lew is thankful for the harvest that he has gathered. He scans his fields and reviews his returns from his labors. He is full of joy and happiness at the sight of the fruits of his toil. But he is likely to think: All this is mine! I have the freedom to produce it therefore I have the freedom to use it as I wish! Therefore the Torah sets for him the Chag of Shemini Atzeres to remind him there is a law which restricts and restrains; there is no true freedom unless there is a law to determine how that freedom may be used for the benefit of the entire lewish people. Just at the time when the rejoices in the fruits of his own labor the Torah says to him "Atzeres tehiye lachem" There shall be to you an Atzeres, a restraining a restrictive tone, exemplified by the law, by Torah!

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SHIURIM ONLINE



NOW YOU CAN ENJOY SHIURIM GIVEN IN OUR YESHIVA FROM ANYWHERE!

Parshas HaShavua - Hashkafa Halacha - Gemara Speakers include Rabbi Rapoport

Speakers include Rabbi Rapoport, Rabbi Lopian, Rabbi Feivelson, guest speakers, & more

As of November 1, 2007 the yeshiva will be using a new and improved recording system. We hope this will improve the quality of the recordings in the future. Please check back weekly for new shiurim

Burn them on a CD and listen on the way to work!

Save the Date

March 31, 2008 24 Adar Beis 5768

YESHIVAS LEV ARYEH THIRD ANNUAL DINNER

Young Israel of Avenue K 2818 Avenue K Brooklyn, NY

> Smorgasbord at 7:00 pm Dinner at 8:00 pm

More details to follow

WANTED

A Donor For the Yeshiva's First Yahrzeit Board

If you are interested in this rare opportunity please contact Rabbi Strimber at 443-992-4660

From the desk of the Executive Director ———

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Alumni,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to put out a newsletter for a few months. I hope to take this opportunity to recap on the many events that have taken place since the last newsletter.

The months prior to Pesach were the busiest months that the Hanhola has experienced for a long time. Since our last newsletter Rabbi Rapoport and I had the exhausting pleasure of revisiting many yeshivas to interview boys for the new Elul Zman. We visited Atlanta, Baltimore, Monsey, and South Bend, IN, just to name a few.

Our travels throughout the USA also coincided with preparations for the second annual yeshiva dinner. As was the case last year we were overwhelmed by the help of our alumni and others with the dinner. For more information regarding the dinner please see the enclosed article.

After the dinner it was back to (everyday) work for the entire Hanhola, preparing shiurim, dealing with the bochurim, and managing the finances – all of which are very challenging. Many people commented to me with regards to the article that I wrote in the last newsletter. Everyone knows that the situation is bad, but it was only after my article that people realized exactly how dire the situation is.

The Mashgiach Shlit"a, Rabbi Lopian, stressed to everyone attending the dinner about the importance of being a member of our "Chai Campaign Program". Currently this program is bringing in a considerable amount of funds for the yeshiva operating budget. Rabbi Rapoport

and I spent time during the summer personally meeting with many of our alumni with regards to the Chai Campaign and Baruch HaShem it was very successful. We still have a long way to go, but we are confident that our alumni, alumni parents, and others, will appreciate the importance of this program to the continued success of the yeshiva and the work that we do.

During the summer the yeshiva underwent some renovations including moving the yeshiva offices closer to the main Yeshiva building. All of these new developments were overseen by the new maintenance manager in the yeshiva, Reb Baruch Klein.

Elul Zman in the yeshiva has started off on the right foot with new bochurim learning with the returning bochurim as well as our Kollel yungerleit. HaShem should give us all the strength to continue striving throughout the year with as much enthusiasm that there is now throughout the yeshiva.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Reb Simon Fogal who runs the yeshiva office in the United Kingdom. Recently I visited him and his devotion to the yeshiva goes beyond the call of duty. May he and his family have much bracha and hatlzlocho in that zechus. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Berish Teichman who is now the Kollel Coordinator and is playing an active role to support the Kollel.

Best wishes, Rabbi Yoni Strimber

From Rabbi Berish Teichman, Rosh HaKollel

n Parshas Netzavim, 30:11-14, Moshe Rabeinu is talking to Klal Yisroel before his death. He tells them "This is the commandment I command you today, it is not hidden from you and it is not distant, it is not in the heavens [for you] to say, 'who can ascend to the heaven for us and take it for us so that we can listen to it and perform it?' Nor is it across the sea [for you] to say, 'who can cross to the other side of the sea for us and take it for us, so that we can listen to it and perform it?' rather the matter is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to perform it."

Moshe Rabeinu is telling us that the Torah is accessible. It is not impossible to fulfill, but quite the contrary, it is within reach.

From the very fact that the Pesukim need to tell us that the Torah is in front of us and not in the heavens or across the sea, one must ask, why would I think it is so far away when in reality, it is right in front of me? If you were to tell me that it is not unattainable, just very far and hard to get at, I could understand that. Or, instead of thinking that it is some distance away, it is actually very close, I could understand that also. But in our case, the original thought, compared to the end thought, does not make sense.

We know that the vehicle of expression is the mouth. We also know that the heart is synonymous with a storage place. Like we find in *Krias Shema*, "place these words of mine upon your heart". Being that this is true, shouldn't the Pesukim read B'lwavcha U'beficha, first mentioning the heart and then the mouth? And that would be comparable to V'yikraeha lanu V'yasemeanu Osah V'Na'asenah, which would be the normal way of giving a person instruction, and then him acting upon it.

To answer these two questions, we have to understand that Moshe Rabeinu is telling us the nature of the Torah and the way

to acquire it. Unlike a trained professional who must master his trade before going to work, one can be a *shomer Torah U'mitzvos* without first mastering *Kol Hatorah Kulah*. Therefore, it is not necessary to have a *V'yikraehu V'Naasenah*, but we can have a *B'ficha* before a *B'lwavcha*.

We find the same concept when *Klal Yisroel* said *Na'aseh V'Nishma* by Har Sinai. It would seem impossible for *Bnei Yisrael* to do that which they do not know. However, the Torah is given in such a fashion that it is possible to learn and act without knowing what it is we must do and learn.

When one enters a Judaica library, one finds thousands of Sefarim. Is it physically possible for a mere human being to attain even a basic understanding of the Torah in his lifetime? The Torah is telling us that, one cannot physically finish the Torah, it is across the ocean and in the heavens, the task at hand is impossible. However, by being *Shomer Torah U'mitzvos*, one grows spiritually, thereby enabling the Torah to reside within him if we do a little bit we will get to accomplish a lot.

We are beginning a long winter Zman, a leap year with two Adars. When we enter the Bais Medrash and see the long period of time looming in front of us, we wonder how it is possible to sit for six months, when it is hard enough to learn for a few hours. To compound the problem, we start making calculations on what it is we are supposed to accomplish in that time, and before we even start, we have already made the task impossible and have given up on accomplishing anything. But if we take a step back and realize that all we have to do is be a Ben Torah for the moment and do and learn what we are supposed to right now, then the *Ribono Shel Olam* will give us the *Siyata D'Shmaya* to accomplish even more than what we planned because the *Mahus* of Torah is just to act and after we have a *B'ficha* the Torah itself will open us up and enable this vast *Yam Shel Torah* to be imprinted upon our hearts.

As many of you have already heard the "Chai Campaign" has changed the way people donate to the yeshiva and is giving the yeshiva a steady basis for its operating budget.

Briefly for those who are not familiar with this program, it began during the Aseres Yemei Teshuva 5767. This program was created for those who would like to contribute on a regular basis but cannot afford to give major amounts to the yeshiva. To accommodate these supporters this program was created. One can donate a minimum of \$18 per month (only 60 cents a day). This amount is charged via any major credit card or "direct debit" from a one's bank account on the date specified by the donor.

> We would like to thank the following people who are already participants in this program. May HaShem grant them continued health and success in all their endeavors.

69 Builders Contributors SUPPORTERS Yitzy Arem Rabbi Moshe Reich Samuel Kazarnovsky Isaac Deutch Osher Levovitz Shnuer Belsky Efraim Scott Meir Neumann Menachem Lapidus Mayer Deutch Tzvi Goldman Yehoshua Dreyfuss Shalom Jacobs Moti Mittledorf Moshe Felsenburg Mayer Hertz Mottis Hoffert S.K. Eli Neumann Rabbi Michael Levy Dovi Greenberger Alexander Levy Yitzu Kolodnu Avraham Rothenberg Sholom Zeines Yehoshua Schachner CONTRIBUTING BUILDERS Shlomo Lampert Shlomo Katz Eli Wurtzel Yaakov Klor Shlomie Walden David Gabay Naftoli Yoffe Moshe Kravitz Y.FYoel Rosen Shlomo Yoffe Friends Eliyahu Schreiber Efraim Siegfried Reuven Goodman Yitzy Grunfeld Rabbi & Mrs. Ephraim Weingarden Abraham Gabioff Eli Hershberg Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Goldsmith . Yaakov Glucksman Shaul Feinsod Akiva Grunwald Shmuel Baum Eli Banash Yaakov Wurtzel Aaron Werczberger Ari Taub Azriel Schon Yossi Strickman Rabbi Shuie Eisen Shui Goldberg

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| \square \$18 per month - Friend \square \$36 per month - Supporter \square \$54 per month - Contributor | | | | | |
| \$180 per month - Builder \$360 per month - Benefactor \$\subseter \\$ per month (Includes 1 dinner reservation) | | | | | |
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UK Office: Friends of Lev Aryeh c/o Rabbi Simon Fogal, 5 Linksway, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 OJP

Original letter from the Hanhalah and staff of Lev Aryeh published during Aseres Yemei Teshuvah of 5767.



Tishrei 5767 / September 2006

Dear Friends of Yeshivas Lev Aryeh,

As we begin the New Year, Habah Aleinu L'tova, the yeshiva is placed at an overwhelming crossroads. On the one hand we have our new building, a new alumni Kollel, and tremendous learning the likes of which have never been seen. On the other hand, operating costs have been rising, some of our long time financial supporters have run into financial distress, and we could not even meet the legitimate financial aid needs of some of our students. As of now, the yeshiva is battling an over \$150,000 yearly budget deficit. We simply are not able to keep up with all of our expenses.

During the Asres Yemei HaTeshuva Lev Aryeh will be launching its "Chai Campaign". With this campaign we will be able to cover a large size of the budget deficit if our alumni and friends of the Yeshiva contribute a minimum sum of \$18 a month to the yeshiva. Join the select group of alumni and friends who will be spearheading this campaign by attending the parlor meeting in New York, Lakewood, and Passaic during the Asres Yemei HaTeshuva. Become an essential partner in the Lev Aryeh community and inspire others to do likewise.

From a financial standpoint we are turning to you to help ensure the stability of the yeshiva. Everyone knows that for any family, business, or institution to remain afloat there must be a steady and reliable income. Therefore, the yeshiva has devised a mechanism that allows all those who would like to have an active role in supporting Torah learning in Yeshivas Lev Aryeh to contribute what ever amount is most fitting to their personal budget on a regular basis.

We ask of all of our friends, especially our alumni - the yeshiva and its devoted staff were and are there for you 24 hours a day every day of year - please reciprocate. Your minimum contribution makes all the difference for you and for the Yeshiva!

Gmar Chasima Tova,

Rabbi Yaakov Rapoport, Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Aaron Lopian, Menahel Ruchani Rabbi Baruch Levi Feivelson Rabbi Dovid Rotenberg - Rabbi Yehuda Yellin - Rabbi Avraham Rapoport Rabbi Daniel Muller - Rabbi Moshe Vilensky Rabbi Yoni Strimber Executive Director

Become an essential partner in the Lev Aryeh community!

YESHIVAS LEV ARYEH WOULD LIKE TO WISH A MAZAL TOV TO: Reb Akiva Wagschal and his family on the birth of a grandson Mr. & Mrs. Baruch Jankelowitz on the birth of a son Shnuer Belsky on his engagement Dovid Klein on his wedding Shlomo Katz on his wedding Zevy Sheps on his wedding Shaya Nojowitz on his wedding Yehuda Dresdner on his wedding Rabbi and Mrs. Yona Rabinowitz on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Yanky Hershkowitz on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Eli Baum on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Ari Werczberger on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Yossi Strickman on the birth of a son Rabbi and Mrs. Effie Weingarten on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Kazernovsky on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Menachem Lapidus on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Dovid Belsky on the birth of a daughter Mr. and Mrs. Levi Muller on the birth of a daughter Mr. and Mrs. Yisroel Davis on the birth of a daughter



YESHIVAS LEV ARYEH WOULD LIKE TO WISH A MAZAL TOV TO

Rabbi and Mrs. Chaim Goldsmith

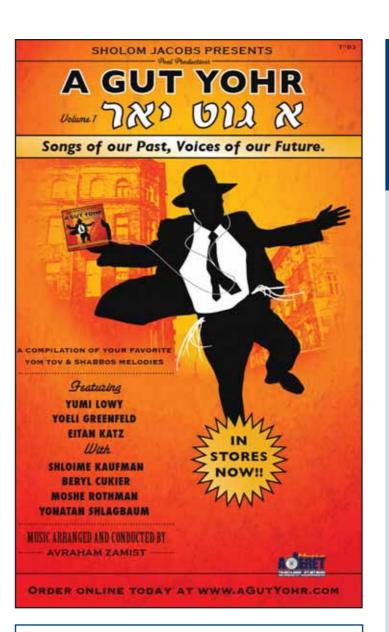
and the entire family on his receiving smicha

STAY CONNECTED!

Would you like to be on the yeshiva mailing list to receive yeshiva news, alumni simchas, etc.? Please e-mail us with your e-mail address at office@levaryeh.com

INCLUDE YOUR SIMCHA NEWS!

COMING SOON – THE ALUMNI PHONEBOOK!



WANTED: GPS

The yeshiva is looking for a used, but updated, Portable GPS to be donated to the yeshiva for use of the *Hanhola* while in the USA

Please contact RABBI STRIMBER at 443-992-4660



Lev Aryeh is proud to introduce another innovative way to donate monies to the yeshiva.

Now all of our friends who sell things on eBay (either at ebay.com for our American friends or ebay.co.uk for our British friends) will be able to donate a portion or the entire amount of a sold product to directly to the yeshiva by using a service called MissionFish through eBay Giving Works.

Our American contributors can please visit www.missionfish.org/ForSellers/forsellers.jsp for more info while our British supporters can visit www.missionfish.org.uk/ForSellers/forsellers.jsp

Please note that all donations given to the yeshiva via this service will be tax deductible. Our American supporters will receive a receipt for the IRS and our British supporters will receive documentation for the British authorities.

HAPPY SELLING!

Condolences

RABBI DOVID ROTENBERG on the loss of his mother, a"h

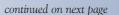
The Yeshiva mourns the loss of
Harav Hagaon SHIMON EIDER, Zt'l
and send condolences to
Reb Chezkie Eider and Family

Second Connual Dinner



without Reb Akiva?!

he yeshiva's second annual dinner began with a Rabbi Strimber cruised around the barren streets of tremendous uncertainty – will they come or won't Brooklyn in the 4 X 4 that was rented specifically for this they. The day of the dinner, February 14, 2007 was reason, for it was decided that the "show must go on". As ushered in with a morning snowstorm which led the hour of the dinner neared, the snow began to fall again, to an even more aggravating ice storm. Reb Akiva amongst reports that the Garden State Parkway had Wagschal, yeshiva president and traditional Master of become one large ice skating rink, we were already consid-Ceremonies had already contacted Rabbi Strimber at 7am ering FedExing the leftovers back to the yeshiva. It was to inform him that his flight from Ohio had been cancelled. 6:30pm, we were all ready to go and then the cell phones of Rabbi Strimber and Reb Akiva worked for the next five the Hanhola began to ring – "I'm coming, as soon as I can hours, booking seats on various airlines from various air- get my car out", "I'm sitting in the mother of all backups, ports throughout Ohio to various airports in the NY metro but I'll be there", "we carpooled and we're on the way", area, but to no avail, the flights were being cancelled one by "Whoa, Baruch Hashem, that was a close one, I'm on my one. This was a bad start, what would a Lev Aryeh affair be way!" So the smorgasbord lasted a whole hour longer than what was originally planned, but it just gave the Rebbeim



















Second Connual Dinner







Baruch Hashem, by 8:30pm just about all of the guests had where the yeshiva's alumni's lives have led them following arrived, (over 200 people) it should be noted though that their stay in Lev Aryeh. In addition to the Rebbeim shown many of the women stayed home.

Reb Akiva, who called continuously throughout the dinner Basch, and Chezky Levovitz. to make sure things were running smoothly, and our honorees, and those introducing them shared their uplifting words with the attendees. Rabbi Boruch Ber Yoffe, Parent of the Year, spoke about the yeshiva from a parent's point of view. Shaul Feinsod, Alumni of the Year, spoke about hakoroas hatov, that the alumni as a whole have to the yeshiva. Rabbi Eli Kutner, honored with the Harav Aryeh Leib Lopian Marbitz Torah award shared with the tzibbur his unique doctorate on Yeshivas Lev Aryeh which will surely be remembered for years to come.

shown on two large screens. The theme of the video was all next year!

more time to spend with their talmidim and their parents. "The Future of Lev Aryeh". The presentation portrayed in the video, the following people were shown, Rabbi Rabbi Rapoport, the Rosh HaYeshiva, "pinched-hit" for Chaim Goldsmith, Chezkie Eider, Shalom Yoffe, Yehoshua

> The Mashgiach, Shlit"a, presented the closing remarks and focused on the importance of parents davening for the success of their children. Rabbi Lopian ended by stressing how essential the Chai Campaign is to the yeshiva's financial condition and hoped that everyone will take part in it.

> Following the dinner, due to the inclement weather, the yeshiva added a special coffee station which was enjoyed by all. Nothing like hot chocolate chip cookies and hot coffee, for the long ride home in the below-freezing weather.

The yeshiva would like to thank all those who placed ads After the speeches, an exciting video presentation was and attended the second annual dinner. We hope to see you









We would like to thank the following people that have donated to our Parnas Yomi Campaign

RABBI AND MRS. ELI BAUM in memory of Avraham Toiv Yehoinson ben Tzvi, z"l - 28 Cheshvan

MR. AND MRS. SUMNER GREENBERG of Quincy, Mass. - 2, 3 and 4 Elul

KOLLEL BEIN HAZMANIM dedicated in memory of Harav Baruch Zeev ben Fishel Halevi, zt"l Dedicated by his son Mr. and Mrs. S. Goldberg

OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR LOVED ONES

The yeshiva has introduced a new *PARNES YOMI* program for those wishing to honor or memorialize love ones. The purpose of a *PARNES YOMI* is to provide a merit to those that are honored through the learning that will take place in the *Beis Medrash* on that particular day, week, or even month. The donor's name will be placed by the front door of the building along with those that are being honored or memorialized. The cost to sponsor the learning which takes place in the *Beis Medrash* on that day is as follows:

Day \$180 - Week \$1000 - Month \$4000

The donation could be paid in payments or in one lump sum via credit card or post-dated checks. Please contact our office for more information 443-992-4660. Or simply mail, fax, or e-mail the slip provided below. *Please keep in mind that all donations are tax-exempt.*

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE: ☐ A day of learning for \$180 each day ☐ One week of learning for \$1000 ☐ One Month of learning for \$4000 Please Charge: ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover **LEV ARYEH** USA OFFICE: Name on Card: 3832 Menlo Drive Card No: Exp. CVC Baltimore, MD 21215-3431 3 digit security code on back of card Tel: 443-992-4660 Fax: 347-767-2455 My Signature: Date: www.levaryeh.com ■ Enclosed is my check of \$ made payable to Lev Aryeh.

