#### NEWS FROM LEV ARYEH YESHIVA - JERUSALEM, ISRAEL



#### MARCH 2008 / ADAR II 5768

NO. 7

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# The Spirit of Shabbos

#### Rabbi Yaakov Mordechai Rapoport – Rosh HaYeshiva

popular early twentieth century British philosopher makes an interesting point in one of his books. Speaking of the artist, he asks, when does the painter really create his picture? Is it only when he takes the brush, dips in into the paint and runs it over the canvas? Is that the only time that the artist fashions the painting? Or does he also create, or perhaps create even more, when he stops and examines his work when he contemplates and reflects upon what he has done and what still needs to be done? Is it inaccurate to say that when the artist rests for contemplation, that is also a vital part of the process of creation? Is reflection indeed an action, an action of vision that helps create the picture?

Surely this is in fact the distinction between the true artist and the amateur, between the artist who creates the perfect artistic creation and the artist whose work never achieves the true description of "art". The latter just works, the former works but also pauses to study his work, to review it, to examine it and reflect upon it.

The above mentioned philosopher was unaware that his observation was preceded by Chazal. Commenting on the words of *Chana* – "*Ein Tzur K'lokeynu*, "there is no Rock like our G-d" Chazal (Megillah 14A) quote Rav Yehudah Bar Menashe who comments, "*Ein Tzayar K'lokeynu*", "There is no artist like our G-d".

In the Torah's description of the creation of the world there were six days of active creational work and the seventh day, *Shabbos*, for passive contemplation. The *Ribono Shel Olam* was the supreme master artist, utilizing Shabbos as a day of contemplation as part of the process of creating this world.

If we are true artists of our lives then Shabbos must mean to us what Shabbos meant to the *Borei Olam*, what the moment of contemplative pause is for the artist with the brush. On Shabbos we must pause to examine what we have achieved, what we have done with our lives in the previous week, to ask ourselves "Mah Anu, Mah Chayenu, Mah Chasdeinu, Mah Tzidkeynu, Mah Kocheynu, Mah Gevurosaynu", "What are we, what is our life, what is our goodness, what is our righteousness, what is our strength, what is our might?" All through the week we drive ourselves and rush all over the place. If we are artists of our lives we need not only activity, but thought and reflection. We need the Shabbos to study and examine our actions, to pause and ask ourselves: Where are we going?

Jewish life in former years was rich because Jews were master artists of their lives. They may have lived in squalor and poverty, they may have been spat upon and regarded as outcasts by their oppressors, yet they were able to fashion lives of spiritual beauty and perfection. They were true artists, utilizing every Shabbos to contemplate the work of their lives. They studied themselves, they studied their children, they noted where they failed, the errors that had to be corrected and the improvements that had to be made.

The tragedy of our lives today is that the true spirit of Shabbos is missing. We are no longer genuine artists. We work, build, and fashion, but never pause to contemplate, to think, how we are working, what we are working for, what we are achieving. There are *Yemei Hamaseh* .but no Shabbos of contemplation "days of action" -

We have to resolve to restore the spirit of Shabbos to our lives. We have to bring back the Shabbos for thought and contemplation. We have to use Shabbos to examine our failures and our faults to rectify that which needs correction, to improve the lives that we fashion so that we too may be privileged to say of our lives what the *Borei Olam* proudly said of his handiwork, "*Reu Briah Shebrasi V'Tzura Shtzarti*". Behold the being that I created the countenance that I have fashioned (*Breishis Rabbah 12:1*).

# PURIM - L'CHAIM, TO LIFE!

#### RABBI AZRIEL STRIZOWER - RA"M

he one Gemara everyone seems to know about Purim is the famous one found in the Gemarah in Megillah. " Amar Rava, Chayav Inish Levesumei B'Puraya, Ad D'lo Yada Ben Arur Haman L'Baruch Mordechai."

Once one's initial excitement wares off, one cannot help but be perplexed, what kind of *mitzvah* is this? Every Yom Tov has a *mitzvah* of *simcha*, yet Purim is the only Yom Tov with such a *mitzvah* to get drunk, why?

Obviously the *mitzvah* of getting drunk has to do with the essence of the *Yom Tov*, what exactly happened to *Klal Yisrael* on Purim?

The Brisker Rav is brought down to explain that by all other Yomim Tovim the mitzvah is to be Mesameach BaHashem, and the meat and wine are used as a means to help one be Mesameach BaHashem. On Purim however, the mitzvah is an end in itself. There is a mitzvah called mishteh based on the pasuk in the Megillah of mishteh v'simcha. The goal is to drink, without any other goal and this is the mitzvah.

Amazing! What exactly is the Brisker Rav teaching us about *Purim*?

Rav Pincus Zt"l explains, that we are told by *Chazal* that Mordechai met Eliyahu HaNavi and asked him, true that in this world Achashverosh decreed to totally annihilate the Jews, *G-d Forbid*, but what is going on in *Shamayim*? Eliyahu responded that in *Shamayim* - *HaShem* has already signed the decree and the fate of the Jewish people has been sealed. Mordechai understood that *teshuvah* was still possible, through *teshuvah* and *tefillah* they merited to have the decree rescinded. We have to understand that this was a type of *Techiyas HaMeysim*, in reality, in *Shamayim* we were considered finished, therefore by rescinding the decree *HaShem* was granting us a new life, what can be more precious then life?

With life one is able to rise to tremendous heights. There is an amazing *Medrash* in *Devarim Rabah* which tells us, that when it came time for Moshe Rabainu to die, *HaShem* called out to Moshe's *Neshama* to leave him. The *Neshama* refused to leave Moshe Rebeinu saying that Moshe was so *tahor*, he loves being inside Moshe Rabeinu and does not want to leave, until *HaShem* had to take the *neshama* out of Moshe Rabeinu with *Nishekas* 

Peh (Devarim Rabah 11:10). The pshat is, that all the neshama wants is to be close to HaShem, as the Mesilas Yesharim tells us, that the greatest enjoyment possible is "Lehisaneg Al HaShem" and the neshama of Moshe was claiming, "I have the greatest enjoyment now inside Moshe because he is so tahor", so the neshama did not want to leave.

That is potentially what the gift of life can give us. An opportunity, through Torah and *Mitzvos*, to grow close to Hashem and truly enjoy life.

This was the miracle of Purim. It was a *Techiyas HaMeysim* and we received life again. We are told that the Jews became so excited from the love of the miracle, that they reaccepted the Torah out of love for the miracle (*Gemara Shabbos 88A – Rashi*). This reacceptance of the Torah was so sincere that it was greater then the first acceptance on *Har Sinai*. Right after *Har Sinai* the Jews sinned by the Golden Calf whereas after Purim we were led back into *Eretz Yisroel* to rebuild the second *Beis HaMikdash*.

On Purim there was tremendous outpouring of love between us and *HaShem*. We received life and we responded with a new *Kabalas HaTorah*. The celebration of getting back our physical life is celebrated with *mishteh*, this is the *mitzvah* as stated by the Brisker Rav.

We know that on every Yom Tov the special influence of that Yom Tov returns every year. Every Purim there is a tremendous outpouring from HaShem of life in a miraculous manner. We can capitalize on it - Purim is known as day of salvations. We know the famous Halacha of Kol HaPoshet Yad Nosnim Lo, V'ein Bodkim B'Maos Purim. It is brought down in the name of Tzadikim also in regards to presents from HaShem, "Kol HaPoshet Yad", whoever extends his hand to Hashem on Purim in tefillah and requests something, then "Nosnim Lo ", Hashem gives it without checking who is asking!!

Let us utilize our Purim to its fullest, we, B'Ezras HaShem, should merit fulfilling the *mitzvah* of *mishteh* properly and also merit extending our hands to HaShem in *tefillah* to receive all the special gifts Purim has to offer.

Rabbi Azriel Strizower, an experienced Mechanech joined the faculty of Lev Aryeh in 2006/5766.

#### From the desk of the Executive Director -

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters,

Shalom U'vracha! As I write this letter Yerushalayim is gearing up for its second major snow storm of the winter, but within the warm confines of the yeshiva it's business as usual. Currently we are throwing the 3rd Annual Dinner preparations into high gear. All this is happening simultaneously as we are searching for prospective students for the upcoming year.

Below you will find the final numbers for our 2006-2007 fiscal year along with our projected numbers for 2007-2008. During the 2006-2007 fiscal year our expenses were \$645,981 while our combined revenues were \$538,105, this lead to a loss of \$107,845 as shown below. This year we anticipate a loss of "only" \$49,419 due to our projected expenses numbered at \$672,256 and our revenues estimated at \$622,837. *Baruch HaShem*, I am happy to report that our trend has been to increase revenues while at the same time preventing additional expenses. Our revenues have increased due to more effective tuition collection, the ever so important "Chai Camapign", the yeshiva dinner, along with other general donations.

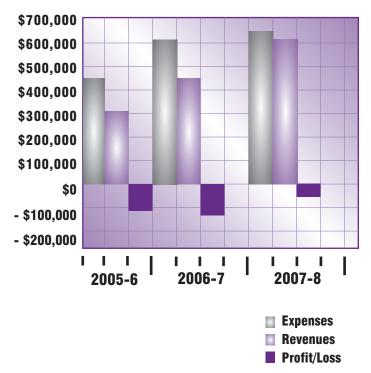
This year we are putting a true emphasis on seeing all of our current and former parents at the dinner. Throughout the year the *Hanhola* does its best to keep in touch with parents both current and former and being that the annual dinner is such a climactic event we hope to see everyone there. This past month we were *zocheh* to publish the first yeshiva alumni directory, "*The YLA Connection*", with over 200 alumni now it was upon their request that we printed this compilation. In my introduction I mentioned that I now have a direct American phone number, 347-535-0613, which will ring whether I am in Israel or abroad to help with any issues or ideas that may arise. Also, this month we have renewed our e-mailing list for those who would like to receive yeshiva related updates, news, and occasions. If you would like to be part of this mailing list please

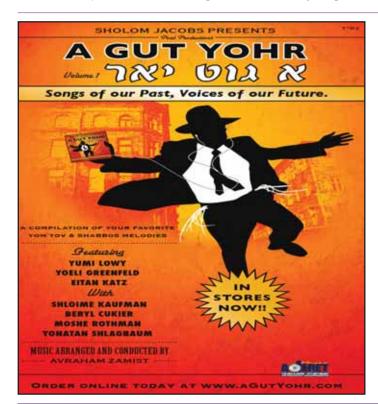
e-mail us at office@levaryeh.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to show *Hakoras HaTov* to Mrs. Tehilla Friedlander who has been the yeshiva secretary for over three years now. Mrs. Friedlander, who lives in the neighborhood with her husband and two children, has added to the efficiency and professionalism of the yeshiva always making herself available even after hours and helping to ensure that things run as smooth as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 3rd Annual Dinner. Best wishes.

Rabbi Yoni Strimber







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

yeshiva by using a service called MissionFish through eBay Giving Works.

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!



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.

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I hereby pledge th	e following amou	nt to support Tora	h Learning in Yes	hivas Lev Aryeh		
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# HAI CAMPAIGN

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

From a financial standpoint we are turning to you to help ensure the stability of the yeshiva. Everyone others to do likewise. 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,

y Rappin 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:

Rabbi and Mrs. Eli Kutner on the birth of a girl Rabbi and Mrs. Yehoshua Gold on the birth of a son Mr. and Mrs. Baruch Bamberger on the birth of a girl Mr. and Mrs. Shloimy Walden on the birth of a girl Mr. and Mrs. Yanky Jankelowitz on the birth of a girl

Yitzy Kolodny on his engagement

Menachem Yoffe on his wedding

Daniel Ross on his engagement

Yaakov Beer on his wedding

Yisroel Gramma on his engagement

Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid Rotenberg on their son's marriage Rabbi and Mrs. Eliezer Shapiro on their daughter's engagement

#### 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!

Now Available! - THE ALUMNI PHONEBOOK!

# A SIYUM IN Yerushalayim



The Rosh Yeshiva addressing the guests

ev Aryeh bochurim Avi Ehrentreu and Yosef Shoub celebrated the completion of Mesechet Gittin, which they learned during the afternoon seder.

A festive seuda was served in honor of the siyum and the bochurim and rebbeim attended along with the Rosh Yeshiva and Mashgiach.

Special guests included Avi's father



Avi Ehrentreu

who came in from England and the Rosh Yeshiva of Gateshead Yeshiva, Harav Avrohom Gurevich, *shlit'a*.

Avi's message to his *chaverim* was that the siyum represented a joint effort of all the bochurim to be *mechazek* the afternoon seder and this siyum is the fruits of their labor.

Their hope is that more bochurim will follow in Avi and Yosef's footsteps.



Harav Avrohom Gurevich, shlit'a



### SHIURIM ONLINE



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

Parshas HaShavua - Hashkafa Halacha - Gemara 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!

### COMING To Israel?

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Alumni, and Friends

Visiting Israel?! We'd love to see you!!

Please contact Rabbi Strimber to coordinate a short visit, meeting with one of the Rebbeim, or even a shiur at the yeshiva.

+1-347-535-0613 +972-2-585-9673 office@levaryeh.com

# DID YOU KNOW

that Lev Aryeh's quarterly *"From the Heart"* 

reaches over 3,000 homes and businesses worldwide?

*Promote your business and support the yeshiva at the same time!* 

Full page starting at only \$500 per issue.

Please contact Rabbi Strimber for more information

+1-347-535-0613 +972-2-585-9673 office@levaryeh.com

# **Building Dedication Opportunities**

Main Building - \$250,000 Main Building Shaar - \$50,000 Bais Hamedrash - Sold Bais Hamedrash Shaar - \$18,000 Library Hall - Sold Dining Hall - \$100,000 Food Service Facilities - \$36,000 Main Lobby - \$72,000 Shiur Classrooms (3) - \$12,000 Ea. Aron Kodesh - \$7,500 Bima - \$3,600 Ner Tamid - Sold Bais Hamedrash Furnishings - Sold Bais Hamedrash Bookcases (2) - \$1,800 Ea. Bais Hamedrash Windows (8) - \$750 Ea. Library Bookcases (4) - Sold Cloakroom - \$3,600 Mezuzah - \$360

## Sponsorship Opportunities

• SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT \$180,000 Provides an annual scholarship in perpetuity for a qualified student.

• STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP \$15,500

To provide a full scholarship for a student at Lev Aryeh Yeshiva for one academic year.

• DIEM SPONSORSHIP \$1,800

To underwrite the activities of Lev Aryeh Yeshiva for one day.



YESHIVAS LEV ARYEH cordially invites you to attend our

hind Annual Dinner

to take place on Monday, March 31, 2008 / 24 Adar Beis 5768 at the Young Israel of Avenue K, 2818 Avenue K, Brooklyn, New York

The Yeshiva is proud to honor

RABBI & MRS. MENDEL Y. BELSKY Parents of the Year MR. & MRS. MAYER DEUTSCH Alumnus of the Year

RABBI & MRS. AVI WEINSTEIN The Rav Aryeh Leib Lopian Marbitz Torah Award MR. & MRS YEHOSHUA GOLDBERG Machzik Torah Award

Smorgasbord with Rabbeim at 7:00 pm Dinner at 8:00 pm Benching promptly at 9:30 pm

Valet parking provided

COUVERT: \$250 per couple (includes balf page ad) / \$125 per person (includes quarter page ad) CHAI CAMPAIGN MEMBERS: \$125 per person (includes balf page ad) / \$250 per couple (includes full page ad) \$250 per person (includes gold page) / \$375 per couple (includes gold page)

#### JOURNAL AD RATES

Builder \$10,000	$Full$ \$350 $^{*}$
Sponsor \$5,000	Half \$250**
Diamond \$2,500	<i>Third</i> \$180
Platinum \$1,000	Quarter \$125***
Gold \$750	Eighth \$54
Silver \$500	Listing \$36

\* Special for Chai Campaign Members:

Full Page for \$250 or Gold page for \$375. Both include 2 dinner reservations.

\*\* (A half page entitles you to two dinner reservations) \*\*\* (A quarter page entitles you to one dinner reservation)

TEXT OF AD (please print)					
I would like to place aad in the Lev Aryeb Journal in honor of the Third Annual Dinner.					
	Method of Payment				
Please Charge:	🗋 Visa 🗋 Amex 🗋 MasterCard 📮 Discover				
Name on Card:					
Billing Address:					
Card No:		CSS: 3 digit security code on back of card			
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	Enclosed is my check of \$ made payable to Lev Aryeh.				

Please call the Yeshiva dinner hotline at:

718-569-2816 or via fax 347-767-2455 or e-mail at dinner@levaryeh.com

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

28 Cheshvan - In memory of Esther bas Avraham donated by Rabbi and Mrs. Avraham Nakdimen

29 Teves – 5 Shevat – Mr. and Mrs. Yoni Coleman for the Refuah Shleimah of Yehoshua Zev ben Hinda

3 Teves – was donated by Alte Chaye Pesil bas Rav Moshe Zev for Lebriyut, Yirat Shamayim, V'hatzlacha B'ruchniyius U'begashmiyus Lebonai, Benosai, Nechdai Veninai Ad meah V'esrim shana Amen.

Sichas Musar was donated on 29th of Kislev by Mr. and Mrs. Ari Werczberger

5 Teves was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Yitzy Grunfeld

#### **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 postdated 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

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**Enclosed** is my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Lev Aryeh.