

From the HEART

SEPT. 2008 / ELUL 5768

NO. 9

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NEWS FROM LEV ARYEH INSTITUTIONS - JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

ELUL REFLECTIONS

Rabbi Yaakov Mordechai Rapoport – Rosh HaYeshiva

Rosh HaShana is “*Yom HaZikoron*”, “*Zikoron*” means self-criticizing [our] memory, thus the period of time preceding Rosh HaShana, *Chodesh Elul*, is the season of conscience. One of the great *Baalei Mussar* once doubted his right to reprimand his audience, until he explained that he was merely rebuking himself in a loud voice so that others might hear and benefit at the same time. If throughout the year we are left to our own consciences, this is the time we are required to join together in mutual “reminders”.

Those who remember their wrong doings are forgiven, those who only remember their good deeds are in trouble. If we forget our sins they will be magnified if we are unaware of our goodness it is recalled in our favor, such are the dynamics of conscience.

Do we realize how offensive we have been? Are we sorry for the evil we have done or said? Do we admit that self indulging laziness rather than philosophic research is the reason for our laxity in “*shmiras hamitzvos*”? Are we willing to admit that *yiddishkeit* has not been tried and found wanting, but rather, it was found difficult and not tried? Is it not true that even before we have made a whole-

hearted attempt to live a life of being “*medakdek b'kalah k'chamurah*” we decry it with biased expressions of self-indulgence? Is it not true that a little less “hammering” at the yeshiva world and its leaders and a little more exhortation to ourselves to drop our self-sure critical attitude would not be out of place at the present time? Is it not true that there is too much arrogance and too little honest inquiry? Is it not true that our destructive answers usually precede our questions?

Is it not time to stop being a “*Chacham*” and start becoming a “*Talmid Chacham*” ready to be a student of *Chochma*?

K'svia V'Chasima Tova!

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From the desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Shalom U'vracha! The summer has come and gone. As many of you know, my family and I spent the summer in the United States. The main purpose of my trip was to meet with our alumni and supporters and consult with them regarding some of the exciting new developments and challenges currently facing the yeshiva.

I received lots of *Chizuk* from everyone, both on a personal level and for the yeshiva. I also got to speak with parents of both new and returning students about the new academic year. As I mentioned in my previous article, the U.S. dollar has dropped so much in the past eighteen months that the yeshiva has taken quite a beating. Having said that, I, together with the rest of the *Hanhola*, made an extra effort to try and work with all of our parents so that both sides would be satisfied. I hope we were successful.

For those of you who I have yet to meet with, one

of the goals that we have set for ourselves this year is to reach out even more to our supporters. In order for the public at large to feel the "Lev Aryeh Experience" we plan on offering more speaking opportunities, events and gatherings. In addition to this, we intend to meet with more schools to inform them about the yeshiva's achievements over the past years, *Baruch Hashem*.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify that Yeshivas Lev Aryeh is definitely "open for business" and we are working to perfect the other program that has been the cause for many rumors. I would like to thank all of you who realize the great potential that Yeshivas Lev Aryeh has to offer *Klal Yisroel* and as always I appreciate any ideas and comments that can help make us even better.

Wishing you all a *Ksiva V'Chasima Tova!*

Rabbi Yoni Strimber

\$100,000 Scholarship Fund Raffle comes to Lev Aryeh!

As was mentioned in Rabbi Strimber's article, this year we have given an unprecedented number of scholarships due to the sluggish economy. Actually it added up to more than \$60,000 in extra scholarships that were granted. We took a "leap of faith" approach and have put our *emunah* in the *Ribono Shel Olom* that He will help us make it through the year.

Yet the *Hanhola* felt that we still need to make our *hishtadlus* to generate additional revenue that will be earmarked for scholarships. To that end, we have joined with a few other Torah institutions to offer our supporters the opportunity to take part in a raffle with a grand prize of \$100,000. Due to the limited amount of tickets that are being sold there is a high chance that you will win the grand prize and be able to fulfill your dreams while helping us achieve ours. Please refer to the enclosed raffle blank for more information.

Shiva Osor B'Tammuz with Lev Aryeh in Lakewood, NJ

Q: What do you do at the end of a fast in the middle of New Jersey on a hot day in July?

A: Go listen to a shiur from the Rosh HaYeshiva, Rabbi Rapoport of course.

Bochurim, alumni and parents took advantage of the fact that the Rosh HaYeshiva was in town on Shivah Osor B'Tamuz and came to a shiur titled "An introduction to the 3 Weeks" at Rabbi Gissinger's Shul in Lakewood.

Our program started with a minyan for Mincha led by Mr. Chezky Eider, followed by the shiur about *Bein Hametzarim*. After the shiur we davened Maariv and sat down to a catered 'break fast' meal where everyone got to *shmooze* with the Rosh HaYeshiva and "catch up" amongst themselves. We look forward to offering similar events in the future.

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*The Hanhola would like to take the
opportunity to thank
RABBI ELIMELECH TRESS
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Scheduled Visits

*Please be advised that the Rabonim will
be in the US at the following times IY"H.*

RABBI RAPOPORT

November 14 – 20
Cell # - 732-619-0938

RABBI LOPIAN

December 14 – 18
Cell # 732-803-7021

For more information please contact
Rabbi Strimber at the office at
443-992-4660 or ylaexec@netvision.net.il
While in the US, Rabbi Strimber
may be reached at 443-621-1926.

Rebbetzin Zippa Lopian ע"ה

This hesped was delivered by the Mashgiach in Yerushalayim on the third Yahrzeit of his mother ע"ה

When we listen to a הספד about an אשה גדולה whose husband was an אדם גדול and we hear the מספיד elaborating about the uniqueness and singularity of the נפטרת – her special talents, the fact that her husband was a גדול ישראל etc. etc. we leave the הספד with the feeling that our participation in the הספד was מכבד the memory of the נפטרת but the words of the מספיד have no practical application lesson for us. We were not blessed with her uniqueness.

This is the difficulty I face tonight. My mother ע"ה was the wife of an אדם גדול and was herself a multi faceted unique and singular personality. She had amazing חיים and אהבה for אהבת הבריות, a tremendous כבוד and אהבה for תורה, was constantly involved in acts of צדקה and כיבוד אב ואם and excelled in ואם. Yet she was also educated, raised and imbued with all that represents western culture, a love and appreciation of poetry, drama, music literature and the like.

מזווה לקיים דברי המת tell us that חז"ל Whenever my mother ע"ה would ask someone to say a דבר תורה she always insisted it have a very practical message. I see this as her legacy, as her צוואה, to say something with a practical message. I will therefore focus on my mother's ע"ה characteristics, which can be emulated.

We all know that the two founding mothers of the י-ה were רחל and לאה. The Vilna Gaon explains that לאה represents the aspect of זכר – male, and רחל represents – נקבה – female. To create כלל ישראל we require syntheses of זכר and נקבה.

What is meant by "זכר"? לוייה was the mother of לוייה, מלכות, כהונה, מלמדי תינוקות who were יששכר of מלכות, כהונה, ראשי סנהדרין, תומכי תורה and זבולון who were ראשי סנהדרין, עם ישראל to the formation of.

What is meant by "נקבה"? רחל was the mother of יוסף and the mother of בנימין בן יוסף. בנימין בן יוסף is described by the רשב"ע as "הבן יקר לי" – "a favorite son", "ילד שעשועי", "ידיד ה'" – "a delightful child". בנימין is described as "חשם' beloved". Thus רחל; the dimension of נקבה represents the close connection between the Jew and the רשב"ע.

רחל is described as "עקרת הבית" the mainstay of the home.

A father contributes major components of the child, the dimension of זכר contributes the צורה of כלל ישראל the גאונות ותורה, כהונה, לוייה, מלכות. However the mother the dimension of נקבה contributes the soul, the spiritual vibrancy. This is why the mother determines the child's Jewishness.

My father זצ"ל was truly an אדם גדול who exemplified תורה and חכמת התורה in all its majesty, but it was my mother ע"ה who had the ability to transform this תורה and חכמת התורה to permeate the daily life at home.

My mother ע"ה with her אמונה פשוטה, her personal connection with the רשב"ע, gave the צורה to her husbands גדלות התורה. Her insistence on זמירות and דברי תורה at the table, the כבוד התורה she demonstrated towards her husband, her own אהבת התורה, all these were her methods of giving the צורה to her husband's גדלות and transforming that גדלות into something tangible that could be transmitted to her children and grandchildren.

The story is told of an elderly man who heard my grandfather Reb Elya זצ"ל davening together with his talmidim in Kfar Chassidim and remarked: They (the bachurim) are all davening to the רשב"ע the old man on the מזרח is talking to him!

My mother ע"ה bonded with the רשב"ע by speaking to him. Her continuous and constant תפילה was יצליח דרכי ה' לי ולא אירא ה' ועם רוחי גויתי. How fitting are these תפילות to someone who did not just daven but felt the presence of the רשב"ע with every fiber of her body and constantly spoke to him.

When mother ע"ה would comment, with her mischievous beatific smile; "I daven at home on ראש השנה and because I have a direct line", she meant it and felt it. I will never forget the childhood memory of her davening מעריב at 11:30 or 12:00 at night in the corner of her bedroom. The tears flowed down her face during the twenty minute עשרה as she davened with a list of חולים who needed a רפואה and a list of children and grandchildren davening for their הצלחה.

The famous נפטר after my father זצ"ל was the Tzaddik from Yerushalayim, Reb Leib Friedman זצ"ל, ate the יו"ט meal in our home. In the middle of the meal my mother turned to Reb Leib זצ"ל and said: "Nu

continued on page five

– Reb Leib a vort”. Reb Leib זצ”ל responded: “סלחתי” – this is the vort of השנה. ראש השנה. I cannot forget my mother’s reaction, the tears pouring down her face, she did not need a long explanation about תקיעת שופר, she did not need a long מוסר דרשה on מוסר הדין. She felt the רבש”ע and spoke to him therefore she immediately understood what Reb Leib זצ”ל meant. “סלחתי” was her דבר תורה for the day.

The Torah tells us that עיני לאה רכות, that Leah’s eyes were soft from tears. The Torah doesn’t mention anything about רחל eyes. The Torah comments that רחל was “לה עיינין” – “a beautiful world without eyes”.

Rav Shimshom Pincus זצ”ל explains that when a person davens עשרה שמונה it is as if he is עומד לפני השכינה and he therefore may not look outside of his ד’ אמות, he has to be totally focused on the שכינה and must not “have eyes” for anything else.

רחל lived in a beautiful world that had no eyes, a world of constant דביקות with the רבש”ע, she saw nothing else and was totally focused on her bond with the רבש”ע.

Mother ע”ה came from “a beautiful world”. She was raised with all the comforts of the upper middle class of Western society. She was well educated in a culture of music, literature poetry and drama but “לית ליה עיינין”, she never lost her focus, she never looked outside of her דיקר עשרה שמונה life!

Mother’s davening can be summed up with the words of the רמח”ל in מסילת ישרים:

הוא עומד לפני הקב”ה ונושא ונותן עמו ולפניו הוא מתחנן” שהאדם

Mother was known to be totally normal; the “dancing Rebbetzin” “Auntie Zippa” and yet as the years moved on she “shteiged”. Yes she came from “a beautiful world” in her early years it may have demonstrated itself in many

ways yet as she grew older we saw less and less of the אולמתא דשופרתא – she did not get “frummer” she got “closer”!

Mother ע”ה inherited from “Bobba Levy” the התפילה כח. She was a “שמונה עשרה-דיקר” person who as she grew older moved further and further away from the שפירתא and closer and closer to the עיינין.

The Brisker Rav זצ”ל is said to have commented at the funeral of זצ”ל : “At the age of seventy he was still looking for ways to shteig in learning”. The same can be said about my mother ע”ה.

She was full of שמחה her entire life. – because she was a מבקשי ה’ even in her old age.

mother’s preparations for שבת always started at the beginning of the week, the fish, the ice cream was prepared by Thursday the table laid long before שבת.

How fitting that we were מלוה her עולמה on שבת on לבית עולמה של מעלה the לך לשלום! And as we בואי בשלום came out to welcome with

– You made the most exemplary crown for your husband – עוסקים בתורה ובמצוות – בניסיון ובני בנים.

– You were always בשמחה, always ready to dance, depression was just not part of your lexicon.

You had such אמונה פשוטה – יצליח דרכי – תוך אמוני” constantly on your lips.

– You saw yourself as aristocracy, the wife of an אדם גדול.

– You are the true נאה וחסודה that can be a מליצת יושר.

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

כתובה וחתומה טובה

The Hanhola, Rebbeim and Talmidim
would like to wish all of our alumni, parents, friends, and supporters
a Ksiva V’Chasima Tova!

The New Zman - Elul 5768



Rabbi Lopian
delivers his
opening
Shmues



Seudas Preida from Rabbi Tress
Lev Aryeh Kollel Avrech



Rabbi Rapoport's Opening Shmues
3 Elul 5768

Rabbi Lopian's new USA
telephone number that rings
in his home in Yerushalayim is

1-718-689-1880

*Please keep in mind that Israel is 7
hours ahead of East Coast US time.*

SAVE THE DATE

Lev Aryeh

Fourth Annual Dinner

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Details to follow -Subject to Change

מזל טוב

Yeshivas Lev Aryeh would like to wish a Mazal Tov to

*Rabbi and Mrs. Yehuda Yellin on the birth of a girl
Rabbi and Mrs. Aaron Kagan - Rosh Kollel of Pittsburgh Community Kollel
on the birth of a girl*

*Rabbi and Mrs. Berish Teichman on the birth of a boy &
Rabbi and Mrs. Shlomo Teichman on the birth of a grandson*

*Mr. and Mrs. Shuie Goldberg on the birth of a boy
Tzvi Herskovitz on his marriage*

Mr. and Mrs. Shuie Grunwald on the birth of a boy

Rabbi and Mrs. Chaim Roth on the birth of a girl

Mr. and Mrs. Chanoch Muller on the birth of a girl

Mr and Mrs. Gavi Noe on the birth of a girl

Ezra Bogner on his engagement

Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Kalfa upon the recent birth of Ezra Nechemia

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CHAI CAMPAIGN

A monthly automatic donation
to the yeshiva general fund

DEDICATIONS

There are many items in the yeshiva still avail-
able for sponsorship. Call us for a complete list

\$100,000 RAFFLE

Please read the enclosed article.

Please contact the Executive Director,
Rabbi Yoni Strimber, for more information
regarding any of the unique opportunities listed.

CHAI CAMPAIGN

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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