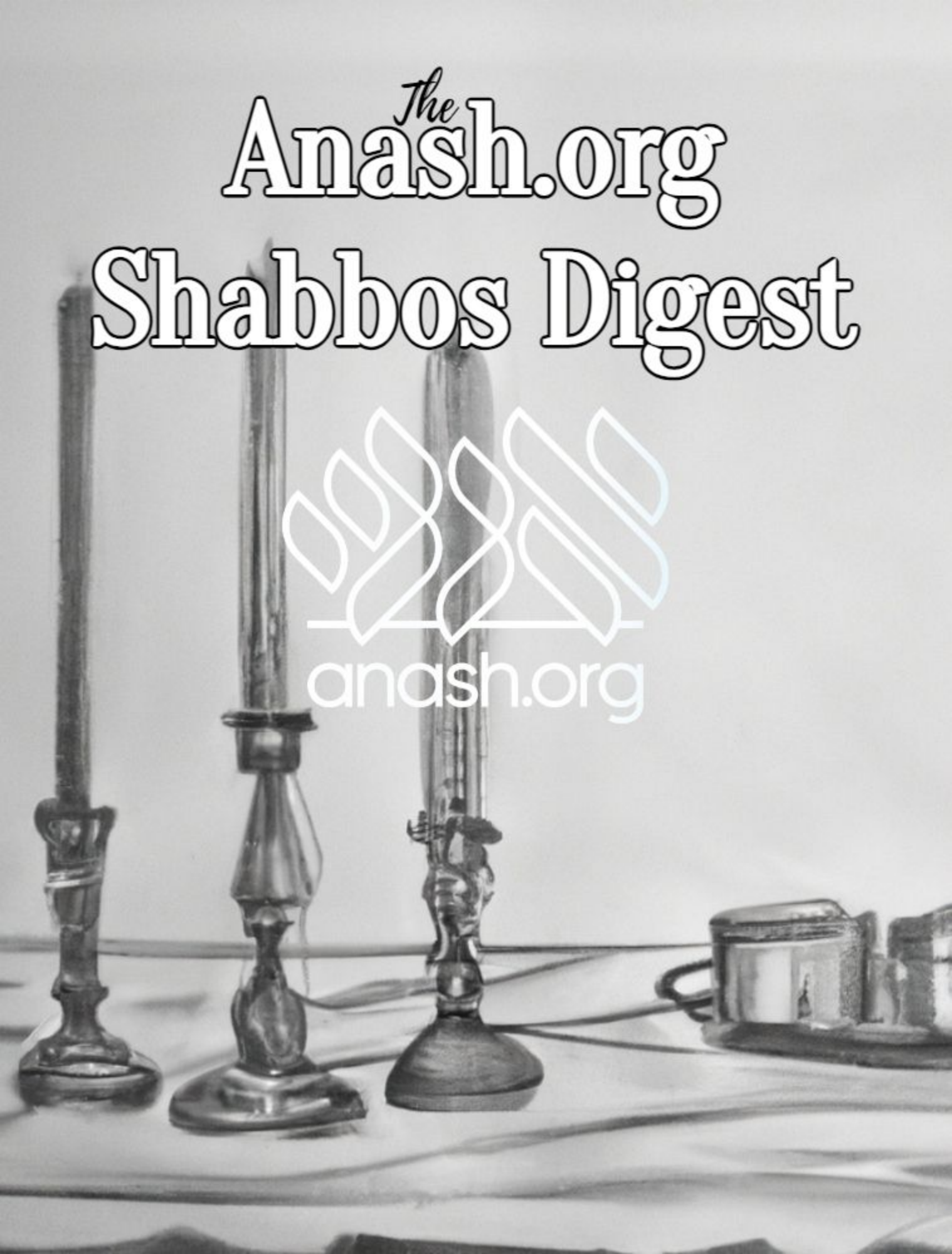


The
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Shabbos Digest



ONE MAJOR CONCERN A NEW KALLAH DOES NOT NEED TO STRESS ABOUT

NEWS ט"ו אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 1, 2023



Highlighting Our Own: Weddings are a beautiful and exciting time for all the people involved, but when finances are tight it can add a whole layer of unneeded pressure on the families. The NCFJE Bridal Boutique provides something unique that no other organization does.

By Anash.org reporter

It takes a person with a special sensitivity and unique radar to identify when there's a vacuum in the resources offered to those in need. **Dassie Hecht** of the NCFJE Bridal Boutique found that particular gap in the wedding resources provided to kallahs, and opened a shop that provides

beautiful Sheva Brachos outfits at no cost.

When a Kallah comes to the NCFJE Bridal Boutique, they walk into a dream shop filled with exquisite outfits fit for a kallah on her Sheva Brachos night. The store is stocked with classy handbags, elegant purses, quality jewelry and accessories to go along with the outfits. The Kallah comes at an appointed time and can shop like in any regular boutique, except this one is completely pricetag-free.

"I always wanted to help people, I just didn't know in which particular way I could best contribute," shares Dassie, the founder and director of the boutique. "Then I spoke to my aunt who said she sometimes was enjoined to take kallahs shopping for Sheva Brachos outfits. It hit me what a great idea it would be to make a place that would provide clothing in a dignified and exciting way for anyone who needed it for their wedding week."

The clothing and accessories provided are a gift to the bride, not given on loan. In the four years since the organization opened, more than 430 awestruck and grateful kallahs left the shop laden with beautiful outfits, and as more people hear about this inspiring initiative, it gets busier each month.

The clothing racks are full of items that are either donated by sponsors, or purchased at wholesale price from frum companies who want to join the cause and provide whatever

help they can. Some of the funds come from a yearly raffle the boutique holds and the rest is fundraised from generous donors.

"I couldn't contain my excitement when I saw an outfit there that I saw in a different store and really wanted to buy but could not afford," says one kallah. "I tried it on and it fit perfectly! The woman who was helping me was so happy for me, it was just the best experience."

"Everything there is so beautiful," another kallah who shopped there wrote. "I have no words to express how grateful I am for the presents I got from the boutique. It feels like shopping in a regular store."

The bridal boutique is in Memory of Rebbetzin **Chave Hecht** a"h. The board includes Rebbetzin Laya Klein, Mrs. Subie Rubashkin, Mrs. Miri Gourarie, Mrs. Brocha Chein, and honorary member, Mrs. **Raizel Wolvovsky** a"h.

"My absolute favorite part of being involved in the organization is when I get to work in the store and see firsthand how necessary the cause is and how amazed, delighted and so relieved people are that we can help," explains Dassi. "It really is a great way to *mesameach chasan v'kallah*."

To join in this inspiring initiative and donate towards clothing for kallahs in their special time, go to Ncfje.org/Bridal-Giving-Boutique or email bridalgivingboutique@gmail.com.

Highlighting Our Own is an Anash.org column that highlights our community's wonderful initiatives and projects.

For previous installments:

- [MAKING TEENS LEADERS THROUGH ART](#)
- [HOW ONE MAN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL MADE A CHASSIDUS REVOLUTION](#)
- [SAVING OUR CHILDREN, ONE PHONE AT A TIME](#)

MIXED FEELINGS AS YARCHEI KALLAH RESUMES AFTER 3-YEAR HIATUS

NEWS י"ז אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 4, 2023



The resumption of the annual Yarchei Kallah at CGI Parksville after 3 years was an exciting event, but it also drove home the absence of some of the regulars...

By Anash.org reporter

After three years when Yarchei Kallah only took place online, the weekend program returned in-person on Thursday in Camp Gan Yisroel of Parksville, New York.

The annual event brings together prominent *rabbonim*, *roshei yeshivos*, and *mashpi'im* who delve into the depths of Nigleh and Chassidus and hold animated discussions on various Torah topics.

From Thursday afternoon through Sunday, *shiurim* are delivered and ideas are debated, creating a unique scene of vivid Torah study.

This year, the resumption of Yarchei Kallah brought mixed feelings: Having an in-person program was a reason for excitement. But participants couldn't help but notice some of the former 'regulars' at the program who have since passed away, including Reb **Yoel Kahn**, chief *chozer* of the Rebbe and *mashpia* in 770 Yeshiva, and Reb **Yisroel Friedman**, *rosh yeshiva* of Oholei Torah, who would both attend annually, and whose *shiurim* were an integral part of the program.

The program began with a visit to the Rebbe's Ohel on Thursday morning, and then continued on campgrounds in Parksville in the afternoon. The first session was opened by Rabbi **Avraham Shemtov**, director of Camp Gan Yisroel and organizer of the annual Yarchei Kallah, who welcomed all the esteemed visitors. It was emceed by Rabbi **Eliezer Shemtov** of Uruguay, and addressed by Harav **Moshe Havlin** of Kiryat Gat, Rabbi **Yisroel Shimon Kalmenson** of Lahak Hanachos, Harav **Leibel Shuchat** of Venezuela, and Harav **Yechiel Kalmenson**, *rosh yeshiva* of Brunoy yeshiva.

The first session was followed by mincha and lunch. The program then continued with a second session in the Staff Zal, emceed by Harav **Sholom Ber Chaikin** of Cleveland, and addressed by Harav **Shamai Ende** of S. Paulo, Brazil, Harav **Yosef Yitzchok Kalmenson**,

rosh yeshiva of New Haven Yeshiva, Rabbi **Yakov Yosef Kuperman**, *magid shiur* in Kiryat Gat, Rabbi **Yitzchok Kenig**, *rosh yeshiva* of Tomchei Tmimim of Lud, and Rabbi **Yaakov Goldschmid**, *rosh yeshiva* of Kfar Chabad Yeshiva.

Other attendees at the Yarchei Kallah, who will give *shiurim* over the coming days include Rabbis **Zalman Kaplan**, **Yosef Yitzchok Zilbershtorm**, **Shalom Ber Levin**, **Moshe Binyomin Perlstein**, **Avraham Lapidus**, **Zalman Yaroslavsky**, **Sholom Ber Shuchat**, **Yosef Yitzchok Feigelstock**, **Levi Kahan**, **Chaim Aizik Landau**, **Boruch Hertz**, **Nachman Schapiro**, **Yisroel Alpeinbein**, **Shalom Charitnov**, **Shlomo Zarchi**, **Shneur Zalman Wilshansky**, **Efraim Dimchovsky**, **Meir Shlomo Kaplan**, and **Mendel Cohen**.

The annual Yarchei Kallah is organized by Rabbi **Avrohom Shemtov** and Rabbi **Yehuda Ceitlin**.

A NIGHT OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION: UNFORGETTABLE BONEI OLAM EVENT

NEWS י"ד אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 1, 2023



Hundreds gathered at the Arches last night in an extraordinary show of support for Bonei Olam Chabad, launching their annual fundraiser, with the goal of raising \$1.3 million to create miracles.

The venue was alive with incredible anticipation and energy as men of all ages joined in unity for an event that would impact each of them. The room was packed to the brim with a sea of smiling faces, all united by the shared purpose of supporting an incredible cause. The food was abundant and delicious, the drinks flowing and the energy palpable.

As the event unfolded, a beautiful atmosphere of achdus, hope and gratitude enveloped the room, setting the stage for an evening that would be etched in the

memories of everyone present. Yet, among the many heartfelt moments, one stood out – the moment **Yossi Katzman** took to the stage.

Silence descended upon the room as Yossi shared his deeply personal story of his battle with fertility and his heartfelt dream of one day standing on the same stage with his baby in his arm. The crowd was openly moved as they listened to his journey, determined to help make his dream of parenthood come true.

Rabbi Bochner stepped forward to give Yossi a Rebbe dollar along with tefilos and brachos that he should be blessed with a healthy child. Rabbi Bochner promised to be there for the Katzmans in every way possible until they IYH have a baby. The promise of unwavering support from Rabbi Bochner reminded everyone in the room of the power and impact of Bonei Olam.

The evening kicked off the annual fundraiser for Bonei Olam Chabad with the goal of raising \$1.3 million to help couples achieve their dream of parenthood. Moved by the evening, participants raised just under \$400,000 at the event. Be a part of the miracle and donate now at boneiolam.org/chabad.

Amidst the tears of joy and hope, Rabbi Bochner addressed the audience, expressing profound gratitude to the many supporters of Bonei Olam in Crown Heights. Their generosity paved the way for the organization to extend its helping hand even further, providing couples like Yossi and many others the means to seek the treatments they so desperately needed.

The event was masterfully hosted by the dynamic duo of **Chony Milecki** and **Shmuel Wagner**. Shmuel, who experienced his own emotional journey to fatherhood with the help of Bonei Olam, shared his story, inspiring everyone present to appreciate the importance of every dollar donated to Bonei Olam.

The night's highlight was the legendary **Mordechai Ben David**, whose soulful melodies filled the room. Surprise kumzitz sessions with **Eli Marcus** after a beautiful duet with **Gavi Greenbaum** added to the incredible evening.

The heartfelt stories, soul-stirring melodies, beautiful atmosphere, and overwhelming support from the attendees made it an unforgettable experience. Every person present was inspired and eager to contribute to this incredible cause and make a tangible difference in the lives of those who dream of parenthood.

To donate to Bonei Olam Chabad and turn a couple's greatest hope into our community's future, donate now at boneiolam.org/chabad.

REBBETZIN'S DESIRE FOR 770 REALIZED AFTER 58 YEARS

NEWS יו"ט ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 3, 2023



The wish of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin that's 770's lawn should be beautiful was actualized with the installation of plants and flowers this week.

By Anash.org reporter

In 5725, the Rebbetzin relayed the Rebbe's desire that 770's lawn be beautiful and well-kept. 58 years later, that realization of that request was bolstered with the installation of plants and colorful flowers.

For 25 years after 770 was bought, the two small gardens in front of 770 gradually became a dumping spot, with garbage and broken furniture piling up. It was only in 5725 that Rabbi **Yaakov Tzvi Holtzman**, who was a *ben bayis* in the Rebbe's home, decided to take initiative.

He hired a company to clear up the area, plant grass, and make it into a respectable garden. He personally donated \$200 from his saving, a sum he had saved over 10 years. He raised an additional \$200 from other chassidim, with the average donation being a single dollar.

After the company cleared up and planted the area in front of the Rebbe's room, some elderly chassidim told R' Yaakov off, saying that what he had done was a waste of money.

Feeling conflicted, R' Yaakov told the Rebbetzin what he had done, and what response he had gotten. A few days later, the Rebbetzin told R' Yaakov that she had told her husband – the Rebbe, and the Rebbe had asked why he hadn't fixed up the second side as well...

58 years later, on Thursday of this week, the fulfillment of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin's request to have a beautiful garden by 770 was augmented with new plants and flowers.

Both lawns in front of 770 had new plants and flowers installed, and the lights that shine on 770 every night were upgraded as well.

Workers dug up ditches on the lawns and installed the plants, and the result has 770's lawns awash with color.

The work was sponsored and partially done by R' **Yossi Rabkin**, and overseen by Rabbi **Chaim Baruch Halberstam**.

MITZVAH IN ALASKA MAKES WAVES ACROSS THE GLOBE

NEWS יו"ג אב ה'תשפ"ג - JULY 31, 2023



When a horrible tragedy struck a young teen at a Jewish travel camp hiking the glaciers in Alaska, the local shluchim stepped in to assist in any way they could. Their actions are continuing to make waves.

By Anash.org reporter

When the shluchim to Alaska heard about a tragedy that took place in their state, they immediately jumped in to help. The effect of the actions is continuing to be felt around the world weeks later.

The story unfolded during a trip taken by Tamarack Camp, a Jewish camp based out of Michigan. While hiking near Exit Glacier in Alaska's Kenai Fjords National Park,

Simon Mirkes, a sixteen-year-old Jewish teen suffered a medical emergency and tragically passed away.

Faced with this shocking tragedy, the staff at Camp Tamarack immediately reached out to Chabad of Anchorage, headed by shluchim Rabbi **Yosef** and **Esther Greenberg**, to aid and assist them with the deceased and with his traumatized fellow teens.

Simon's family also contacted Chabad of Alaska to ask for their help with the treatment of their son's body during the medical examination and the proper care during the transfer to Michigan for the *levaya*. The Greenbergs and their daughter and son-in-law, Rabbi **Levi** and **Mushky Glitzenstein**, immediately kicked into high gear to see to all the arrangements.

Mrs. Glitzenstein reached out to the staff who were en route to Anchorage from the site of tragedy with all the campers. "Our hearts go out to you, we are so shocked by this terrible tragedy. Please let us know when you are arriving in Anchorage so we can prepare for your group," she wrote to them.

From there began a whirlwind of preparations; making food, finding shower locations for those that needed it, making sleeping arrangements, and finding local community members who were trauma therapists to come and meet the young teenagers upon their arrival and offer comfort at their time of need.

At 9:30 pm, the bus pulled up to Chabad where the shluchim had a hot meal waiting, phones to speak to their parents, and a place to spend the night. They were met there by two community social workers, **Gigi Rygh** and **Nicki Addoniso** who came to be there to help them deal with the shocking passing of their friend.

Afterward, Rabbi Greenberg and Rabbi Glitzenstein held a memorial service for the campers in memory of their friend. The girls light a candle in Simon's honor, and being that it was still not *shkiah* in Alaska, all the boys were able to don tefillin then as well. Kaddish was recited in heartbroken voices for the friend who was just with them happy and healthy mere hours prior.

The shluchim spoke to them at length, gave them spiritual support, and explained that as Jews, we always go back to the eternal wellsprings of our heritage for guidance and inspiration.

"Judaism teaches that in a time like this, we unite and strengthen our faith," Rabbi Greenberg told the campers and staff. "We are taught that the only tools we have to communicate with the soul is through doing good deeds, doing Mitzvos, and praying. There is no doubt that Simon, who is now in heaven, wants you to continue living and that will bring him joy, and that you should all increase in good deeds for each other."

The campers, who remembered Simon as a unique personality, said that he was great in math, science, he was musical, and he was helpful and humble. "The greatest comfort for Simon will be for his legacy to continue. Not only will he be remembered, but his life will literally continue to live on by his family and friends," the shluchim told them.

Following the service, and continuing throughout the night, the campers spent the night at the Chabad of Alaska campus, they received hot meals and many hugs and a place to make phone calls home. All the telephones on the campus were used by the kids for 24 hours to call home to their parents and their friends to share their feelings.

At the same time, Chabad of Alaska was taking care of the deceased as well. They arranged that the body was treated respectfully and in accordance with Jewish law when it arrived in Anchorage, and worked with the medical examiner to ensure that everything was done in accordance with Jewish law and the wishes of the parents. The shluchim also made sure there were people sitting and saying Tehillim by the body the whole time.

Before Simon was taken to the airport, the shluchim conducted a funeral procession service outside of the Alaska Jewish Campus with members of the Anchorage Jewish community in attendance.

At the funeral procession, Rabbi Greenberg shared a few heartfelt words for those gathered.

"We find ourselves now in the three weeks of national mourning for the destruction of Jerusalem. This is a time when the Jewish community comes together in unity and love in

doing good deeds for one another. We have no better role model for that than Simon," Rabbi Greenberg said.

Rabbi Greenberg said that both his Jewish names, Simon and Joseph, reflect on his life and journey. The original Simon, son of Jacob, was known as someone who was selfless and as someone who put his life in danger for his sister, family, and for the Jewish people. And Joseph was known to be very bright, talented, and beloved by his parents.

"So too, Simon Mirkes was known to be very bright and talented, and selfless. His life will always be the greatest role model for his family and his community. May his life be a blessing for his family and for the Jewish community," he said.

The selfless dedication of the shlichim, and their help to the family and the camp, made waves across the globe. Messages came flooding to the Greenbergs and Chabad of Anchorage from campers' parents, relatives of Simon, and community members from Farmington Hills, MI, where Simon lived. There was a huge outpouring of gratefulness for the immense support they provided at such a critical time.

The Mirkes family thanked the camp staff and first responders, noting that "in a world where kindness can seem lacking, we have witnessed an outpouring of love and support." They noted that "we now know from personal experience the power of the Jewish Community. Our family would like to thank The Lubavitch Jewish Center of Alaska, co-led by Rabbi Yosef and Esty Greenberg, who went to great lengths to care for Simon and ensure *halacha* was followed."

"Our Jewish community has truly fulfilled the mitzvah of *chesed shel emet* – true kindness," the family concluded. "The care that was given to our Simon and our family has been extraordinary. We know we are not meant to thank you, but we need to tell you we are comforted and embraced by our beloved community."

"I want you to know the gratitude of our entire community for how you are supporting our kids right now," messaged Rabbi **Aaron Starr** of Detroit. Rabbi **Michael Moskowitz**, Simon's Rabbi, called Rabbi Greenberg to personally thank him for everything he did for Simon and his family.

The messages didn't only come to Rabbi Greenberg. His siblings and others as well received warm messages about his actions.

"Is your brother the rabbi at Chabad in [Anchorage]?" Mr. **Steven Ingber**, head of the Jewish Federation in Michigan, messaged Rabbi **Schneur Greenberg**, shliach in Commerce, Michigan. When he confirmed the relation, Mr. Ingber responded "He [Rabbi Greenberg] has been fantastic. He has truly been a lifesaver for us."

Mrs. **Bassy Shemtov**, a sister-in-law of Rabbi Greenberg, and director of Friendship Circle in Michigan, also received a message from a friend. "I want to share with you what comfort I

have knowing [my daughter] is at the Chabad House with your family in Anchorage, Alaska," she wrote.

"Hi, Itty. Not sure what to say or do so I'm starting by reaching out to you. I know the Chabad Anchorage crew has been a huge help to the Tamarack Alaska kids. Hoping you can please send my sincerest thanx and gratitude," read another message sent to Mrs. **Itty Shemtov**, shlucha to West Bloomfield, Michigan and another sister-in-law.

Tens of other messages were sent to other relatives and Chabad shluchim in Michigan and elsewhere, expressing gratitude and amazement at their dedication.

One bochur even messaged Rabbi Greenberg that the gratitude had translated into action as well.

The bochur, **Bentche Duchman** who was learning in Yeshiva in Detroit, wrote that there was a man on his mitvzoim route who was usually very cold and distant to the bochurim. But after the story out of Alaska, the man agreed to put on tefillin for the first time.

"[It was] not just me, but also other [bochurim] said the same thing," he wrote. "Thank you for helping my [mitvzoim]."

TEXAS CAMPUS GETTING FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND MIKVAH EDUCATIONAL CENTER

NEWS וידע אב היתשפ"ג - AUGUST 1, 2023



A new 'Jewish Family Life Center' in College Station, Texas, will be more than just a mikvah. It will be a Mikvah Education Center with a *mikvah tahara*, men's mikvah, *kelim* mikvah, and a classroom to learn.

The Rohr Chabad Student and Community Center was established in 2007 by Rabbi **Yossi** and **Manya Lazaroff**. A Chabad House catering to Texas A&M University where the locals and alumni refer to it lovingly as Aggieland. Thousands of Jewish students have been impacted by their warmth and educational activities. From weekly Torah classes, Shabbat & Holiday meals, and Sinai Scholars.

As an educational oasis, students at the University are introduced to this mitzvah with field trips to a Mikvah 100 miles away. Spending a day visiting a mikvah on a Sunday limits the impact of this fundamental Mitzvah.

"As a sophomore in college, I had taken Sinai Scholars and learned about Mikvah for the first time. I remember thinking that it was beautiful for "them" but certainly not realistic for me," Chloe explained.

"Two years later, I attended a Mikvah class and tour with Manya Lazaroff. The way she explained the powerfully divine concept of Mikvah, along with the moving tour, truly transformed my outlook on marriage. Right there at the Mikvah tour, though not observant and unsure of how I would make this my future, I promised myself that I would only date a man who would be willing to make our marriage holy through *taharas mishpacha*."

Eight years later, my husband and I have *ka"h* three children who were born in purity for the first time in over one hundred years on both sides of our family. The Rebbe's vision to teach *taharas mishpacha*, along with the inspiration of the Lazaroffs, changed our lives, three whole worlds, and the world at large".

Talia relates about her Jewish journey, "In my five years of learning and growing from Chabad and the Lazaroffs at Texas A&M, I was able to visibly see the impact that mikvah has

on my life. After learning *taharas mishpacha* with Manya, I developed my own special connection with the mitzvah, which now tangibly brings blessings to myself and my marriage”.

Over 72 couples have been impacted by the Lazaroffs and married Jewish in College Station since 2007 and many keep this Mitzvah today.

College Station is centrally isolated between 5 of the largest cities in the United States. Currently, the closest Mikvah is a four-hour drive from College Station. Jewish women living in the region have difficulty adopting the mitzvah in their marriage.

“The travel distance creates obstacles that make me feel like I should give up,” mentioned Yaelle, a PhD student at Texas A&M who moved to College Station with her family from Israel. The AggieLand Jewish Family Life Center will house a beautiful women’s Mikvah, a men’s Mikvah, and dishes Mikvah, and a classroom to learn.

“Building a Mikvah in our city will enable us to educate thousands of young Jews about Mikvah”, exclaimed Manya Lazaroff.

Keren Hachomesh, a fund that was established by the Rebbe in memory of the Rebbetzin has provided a significant grant to help with the soon-to-be-completed Mikvah center.

The Mikvah in College Station, Texas is currently having a matching campaign to help finish the mikvah with a completion date of October of 2023.

JewishAggies.com/buildamikvah

THE MODERN ROLE OF TODAY'S EDUCATORS

NEWS וידאו וה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 1, 2023



Oped by Rabbi Gershon Avtzon: A *mechanech* once asked me “Why is it that so many of today’s youth are turned off from Yiddishkeit because of something relatively small that a teacher says or does while “we” (people over 40), whose educators expressed less love and care, were not?”

By Rabbi Gershon Avtzon, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Lubavitch Cincinnati

The summer is nearing an end and another school year is set to begin. With each new year comes many positive resolutions and optimistic feelings that it is going to be a successful year for each student. To all the dedicated Mechanchim/Mechanchos (and the truth is that *every parent* is by definition an educator), I would like to share a conversation that I had recently with a fellow educator.

In honor of 11 Nissan this past year, I was invited to Eretz Yisroel to spend Shabbas with 1000 bochurim in a rented college campus. In addition to the students that were there, they were joined by many mechanchim from the various Yeshivos around Eretz Yisroel.

After Davening, one of the mechanchim came over to me and asked me the following question: “Why is it that so many of today’s youth are turned off from Yiddishkeit because of something relatively small that a teacher says or does and “we” (people over 40), whose educators were less professional and expressed less love and care, were not?”

As I was reflecting on this question, two scenes came to my mind:

1. A classmate of mine was literally hanging out the window by his feet from the third floor of United Lubavitcher Yeshiva on Ocean Parkway! Our English teacher had lost patience with our class and when this boy opened his mouth without raising his hand (or something else), the teacher literally grabbed him by his feet and hung him out the window and threatened to drop him, or any of us, the next time.

Fast forward to today: That teacher is no longer teaching and B”H the young boy is today a very frum youngster with a beautiful family.

2. A “late night” conversation that I had many years ago with a very close Talmid of mine. This boy went through the system but never emotionally connected with what was being taught. He was and continues to be, a very fine human being and friend. After finishing Mesivta, I invited him to come visit Yeshiva for a few days. One evening, I casually asked him if he could pinpoint what turned his heart off from emotionally

connecting to Yiddishkeit. He did not hesitate and told me the following story (with time, I may have mixed up some of the small details):

"I am naturally very creative but not the strongest book learner. I have a brother, which I am very close with, that was a natural learner and always was on the "honor roll". One semester I decided that I will put all my efforts into getting on the honor roll. I asked the teacher to be placed next to his desk, so that I would be able to focus and not be distracted and invest my heart and soul into the learning. I was successful and for the first time was developing a taste and *geshmak* in learning.

The day (or so) before the honor roll names were to be submitted to the principal, I came late to class (not intentionally). There was another boy that was already sitting in "my" place. I asked the teacher to move the boy so that I could have my seat but the teacher, being in the middle of a lesson, just motioned to me to sit in another seat. I, who connected the seat to my personal success, made a commotion to get my seat back. The teacher got upset with me and then told me that he had in mind to make me the honor roll but I just lost the privilege. My heart cried and turned off."

Fast forward to today: The teacher is (probably) still teaching and this boy is – still a very good person and loyal friend, but in terms of lifestyle – not frum.

These two stories seemed to reinforce the question that I was asked, as in terms of "trauma and disillusionment", the talmid in the first story seemed to have gone through something much worse. And yet, the first talmid decided to push forward and live a frum lifestyle and the second one (whom I am NOT judging and continue to be very close with) did not. What could be the difference?

The following is what I responded to the yungerman in Eretz Yisroel, and would like to share with all of you today. While I am not oblivious to the general "sensitive" feelings that prevail amongst youth across the world these days, my answer was specifically addressing Chabad youth. Feel free to disagree, but I feel deeply that it is true:

When we (those 40 and older) were growing up, we did not subconsciously equate the actions and examples of our teachers and principals with the truth of Torah and Yiddishkeit. We saw the Rebbe (almost) daily, and it was clear that the Rebbe was the nexus of our lives, so that was our example of Torah true Yiddishkeit. What our teachers said or did (as well as our parents), mattered less in the context of our own inner decisions about following the ways of the Torah and Chassidus. I look around at many of my peers who struggled through school and our very proud and successful Shluchim.

In these post-Gimmel Tammuz days, before the Hisgalus of the Rebbe, there has been a paradigm shift: Our Talmidim (and children) look up to us to represent Yiddishkeit. What we say, and how we act and interact, has a tremendous effect on the internal decision that they will be making on their own commitment to a lifestyle of Torah and Chassidus. It is a very sacred shlichus and we must be fully conscious of the zechus and achrayus that we carry.

While it is also obvious that we, educators and parents, are still very “human” – and we will not act as a true Tzaddik can, it is the awareness that matters most. We also must know that – as with a trial and challenge – we were given special Koach to deal with the youth of today. It is a big merit to be an educator and it comes with the greatest responsibility.

To quote a Gemara (Sota 20a): “Rav Yehuda says that Shmuel says in the name of Rabbi Meir: When I came to learn Torah before Rabbi Yishmael, he said to me: My son, what is your vocation? I said to him: I am a scribe [*lavlar*] who writes Torah scrolls. He said to me: *“My son, be careful in your work, as your work is the work of Heaven, lest you omit a single letter from the Torah scroll or add a single letter, and in this you are found to be destroying the entire world”*.

If you have comments, questions or ideas, please write in the comment section below or email me directly at [**rabbiavtzon@gmail.com**](mailto:rabbiavtzon@gmail.com)

LUBAVITCH FAMILY MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVES SHOOTING ATTACK

NEWS ט"ז אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 3, 2023



A Lubavitcher family of 4 narrowly escaped death when an Arab terrorist opened fire at their vehicle from six feet away. Six bullets penetrated the family's car.

An Arab terrorist opened fire on an Israeli car near the Hamra Junction in the Jordan Valley early Wednesday afternoon.

A couple from Kochav Yaakov was in the car with their two children, ages 6 and 9. The mother, 31, was lightly injured on her face from shattered glass, her husband,

and children were uninjured.

The mother was treated at the scene and evacuated to the hospital for further treatment.

According to witnesses, the terrorists shot from a passing car. One witness was treated for shock. The Hamra Junction is the site of the murderous terror attack in which **Lucy, Maia** and **Rena Dee**, h'yd were murdered on Chol Hamoed Pesach.

A large number of security forces arrived at the scene and launched a manhunt for the terrorists who fled in the direction of Shechem.

Raphael Avneri, the father of the family that was attacked by Arab terrorists in a shooting attack in the Jordan Valley earlier today (Wednesday), recounted the attack to *Ynet*.

"We were returning home from vacation to Kochav Ya'akov when suddenly I saw a Palestinian vehicle driving suspiciously, moving from lane to lane and making u-turns. It turned on a red light to get to me," he said.

"I thought it was a young driver or someone having fun with the vehicle," he added. "Before the Hamra intersection, I decided to stop. I saw that he is moving to the other lane and was in front of me, and touching me a little. Then the car stopped, the front passenger door opened and the terrorist came out with an M-16 in his hand and walked towards us on foot. At that time I was two meters away from him."

Avneri said that "at this point, my wife shouted, 'It's an attack, it's a terrorist.' I put the car in reverse and drove backward while he shot at us. In a few seconds, my car got stuck in a side ditch. Then the terrorist returned to his car and drove towards Shechem."

Avneri's wife was lightly injured when the terrorists in the other vehicle opened fire on the family's car. The couple's two children, ages six and nine, were also in the car when the shooting occurred. Six bullet marks were found on the family's car.

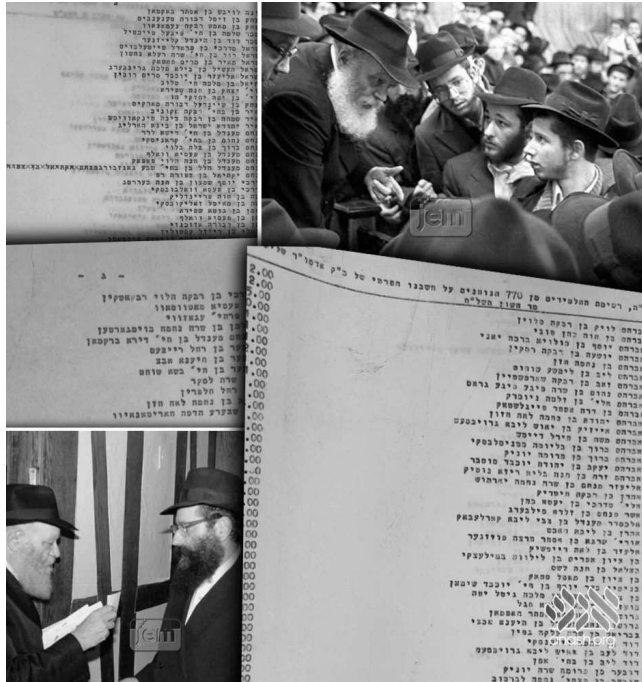
'MAAMAD' LISTS DEPICT BOCHURIM'S CONNECTION TO THE REBBE

NEWS | אגוסט 1, 2023 - אב ה'תשפ"ג

Newly uncovered documents from the archives of Rabbi Meir Harlig list the bochurim who gave money as *ma'amad* - to support the Rebbe. One line at the top of the list reveals an additional, fascinating detail.

By Anash.org reporter

Ever since the times of the Alter Rebbe, one of the ways chassidim expressed their *hiskashrus* was by giving *ma'amad* - funds to support the Rebbe and his family. Recently uncovered lists from the Rebbe's *nesius* are a window into how this practice continued, and a unique connection that bochurim had.



The custom of *ma'amad* was established by the Alter Rebbe when his Rebbe, Harav Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk traveled to Eretz Yisrael with a large group of chassidim in 5537 and encountered financial difficulties. The Alter Rebbe, who had begun his leadership of chassidim throughout Russia, mobilized to their aid, establishing *ma'amad*, and enacting that every house have a designated pushka and that every family had to make regular donations.

Since then, Chassidim continued giving *ma'amad* for the Rebbe, the Nasi of that generation. Each subsequent Rebbe encouraged the custom, including our Rebbe, who strongly urged chassidim to send *ma'amad* to the Frierdiker Rebbe.

Generally, *ma'amad* was used to support the Rebbeim, their families, and their *chotzer*, to be spent at the discretion of the Rebbe.

When our Rebbe accepted the *nesius*, the practice developed into two separate funds. The first was *ma'amad l'beis chayenu* - which was used to support the Frierdiker Rebbe's Rebbetzin, daughter and son-in-law, to support select elderly chassidim such as Reb **Shmuel Levitin**, and the other general expenses.

The second fund was *ma'amad al cheshbono haprati shel Cha"k Admu"r Shlit"a* - which was given directly to the Rebbe to use at his discretion.

The second, more personal *ma'amad*, was not something that just any chossid could choose to give to. The Rebbe did not accept this *ma'amad* from most chassidim, with a few notable exceptions.

Newly discovered documents from the archives of Rabbi **Meir Harlig** open a window into this practice.

The lists, which were prepared by Reb Meir, who collected the *ma'amad* from the bochurim learning in 770, list the name of each bochur who gave, their mother's names, and their last names, along with the sum they donated.

Three such lists were discovered, from Tishrei 5729, Cheshvan 5738, and Cheshvan 5741 respectively. Reading through them, one sees the names of chassidim, rabbonim, shluchim, and mashpi'im, who were then bochurim in 770 giving a dollar or two from their limited funds to the Rebbe.

On top of each list is a line that gives an idea of the unique connection that bochurim had with the Rebbe. The header of each list states "A list of students from 770 who are giving to the Rebbe's personal account."

Although the Rebbe did not take personal *ma'amad* from most chassidim, many who would have jumped at the opportunity, when it came to the bochurim, who were just giving a few dollars, the Rebbe accepted their funds and allowed them to give it to his personal account...

CHASSIDIM ARE ONE FAMILY: ACHDUS GATHERINGS HELD IN CROWN HEIGHTS

NEWS י"ז אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 3, 2023

Photos: Avreimeka Eisenstein



Good news: Prominent rabbanim, mashpiim, and askanim in Crown Heights have recently started a new *achdus* initiative — to sit down together as brothers despite differences of opinion. This week, the third such meeting took place. This is the behind-the-scenes story.

This past Tuesday, a unique *achdus* gathering took place with the participation of Chassidim with varying opinions, who decided the time has come to put aside those differences, and focus on what unites us – the fact that we are all Chabad Chassidim, aspiring to fulfill the Rebbe's *horaos* and to bring him *nachas ruach*, and most importantly – to immediately

reveal the Rebbe now *mamosh*.

There is no doubt that the sight of Rabbi **Gedalyah Shemtov**, Rabbi **Zusha Zilbershtein**, Rabbi **Chaim Baruch Halberstam**, Rabbi **Yosef Yitzchak Paltiel**, Rabbi **Yosef Carlebach**, Rabbi **Yisroel Shimon Kalmenson**, Rabbi **Michoel Zeligson**, Rabbi **Menachem Mendel hakohen Hendel**, and Rabbi **Sholom Charitonov** sitting together (as well as Rabbi **Zalman Liberow**, Rabbi **Nachman Shapiro** and Rabbi **Shloma Majesky** who participated in previous meetings), brought the Rebbe tremendous *nachas ruach*.

It is no secret that thirty years after Gimmel Tammuz, disagreements among Chabad Chassidim have not disappeared. If in the early years, each side tried to convince the other, and sometimes these efforts spilled into acts which were the opposite of *shalom*, lately, it seems, everyone understands that the different perspectives are an existing fact, and until the longed-for moment when the Rebbe is revealed, each group will continue believing their path is the most correct in fulfilling the Rebbe's will.

Amazingly, when examining in-depth the percentage of issues on which Chabad Chassidim disagree, out of all the topics making up Chabad philosophy – it turns out that in 98 percent of issues we all share the same view, with disagreements concentrated on barely two percent!

Another important fact: Despite the differing opinions, there are strong bonds of friendship, mutual assistance, and respect among fellow Chassidim. It can be said that the vast majority of Chassidim do not let disagreements interfere with the natural love between Chassidim, maintaining a uniform communal life together, regardless of disagreements.

The common assumption that there is a *machlokes* in Chabad is a result of the unfortunate discord between a tiny fraction of Chassidim in leadership positions.

This astounding fact – which anyone can verify on his own by thinking about his own circle of friends – caused several of these prominent *askanim* to decide the situation must change. It cannot be that because of 2% of disagreements, a *machlokes* should plague the Chabad community, *rachmana litzlan!*

So three Chassidim got together – Rabbi Gedalyah Shemtov, director of the Shluchim Office, Rabbi Zalman Liberow, the Rebbe's shliach in Flatbush, and Rabbi Menachem Mendel hakohen Hendel, director of the World Chabad Center to Greet Moshiach – and started organizing "*achdus* gatherings" specifically among Chassidim with leadership positions on both sides.

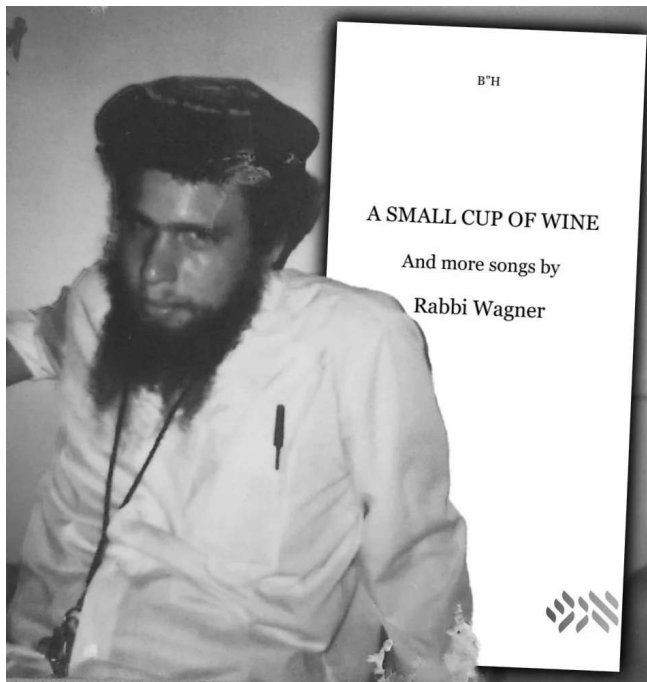
Last night, as mentioned, the third meeting took place, and the participants decided to publicize this initiative, with the goal that it should serve as an example for other places and people as well.

At these gatherings, the participants learned a section from the Rebbe Rashab's "Kuntres Heichaltzu" on the value of *achdus*. "If you can sit together for a cup of tea, there's no reason you can't sit down for a l'chaim," said one of the participating mashpiim.

"The main goal of the meeting is, of course, to hasten the Rebbe's *hisgalus*, and also to convey a clear message to the younger generation and Anash in general that it's possible to sit together, respect the other's opinion, speak positively about each other and help one another, even when opinions differ," say the organizers, adding: "When we increase *ahavas* and *achdus Yisroel* internally – this will hasten the Rebbe's *hisgalus*, and in this aspiration we are certainly all united!"

RABBI WAGNER WROTE 19 SONGS: NEW SONGBOOK COMPILES THEM

NEWS י"ז אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 3, 2023



Along with the thousands of pages of *chiddushei Torah* authored by Rabbi Akiva Wagner, he also wrote a number of camp songs. They were recently compiled in a songbook.

Those who knew Rabbi Akiva Wagner *a"h*, know that aside from his genius *shiurim* and his tremendous ability to *farbreng*, he was also a prolific writer. One of the special ways he shared his writing talents was in the heartfelt songs he composed. Presented to you today is a compiled songbook of all his work.

Rabbi Wagner spent hours every day typing up his *shiurim* and was well known for his email-*farbrengens*. His words are

cherished by those near and dear, and the over 10,000 pages of his writings are in the midst of being collected, organized and published by his family & Talmidim.

What he was lesser known for, was his artistic poetry. Writing since his youth, he showed an amazing ability to convey the deepest feelings on paper. His family fondly remembers the *grammen* he would compose for every family events, and the personal poem that would accompany the Mishloach Manos every Purim, sprinkled with comedy and full of *toichen*.

One of his specialties was writing songs. The most famous of his songs is definitely "A Small Cup of Wine", which became so popular that the *niggun* to which it was put became known by that name.

The songbook that is attached here was gathered by his *talmidim* from various journals and notes over the years, and put together by **Cheski Lever** in honor of the ending of Rabbi Wagner's Yeshivas Kayitz in Star Lake.

After his passing, many songs were discovered amongst his handwritten notes. Taking into account how particular Rabbi Wagner was when it came to publishing his works, his students have categorized those songs as "Drafts", and printed them as a supplement to this booklet.

They have also added titles, generally culled from the content of the songs. Unfortunately, for many of the songs they have not yet found their proper tune, and would be very grateful to learn them if someone knows any of the songs. If you are familiar with a song in the booklet and can remember the tune he composed it to, please email it to Chezkilever@gmail.com.

[Click here to download](#) the full songbook.



A Small Cup Of Wine

Camp Gan Yisroel - Detroit

PREVIEW

REB YAAKOV KOPEL RUBIN, 84, AH

NEWS ט"ו אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 2, 2023



Reb Yaakov Kopel Rubin, beloved patriarch to a respected Lubavitch family, and scion of great chassidic masters, has passed away early Wednesday morning, 15th of Menachem Av 5783.

Reb **Yaakov Kopel Rubin**, beloved patriarch to a respected Lubavitch family, and scion of great chassidic masters, has passed away early Wednesday morning, 15th of Menachem Av 5783.

He was 84 years old.

His father was HoRav **Moshe Yosef Rubin**, the Kimpelunger Ruv, a descendant of the Chassidic Rebbes of Kosov, Ropschitz, Belz, and Savran, a leading rabbinic figure in pre-war Bukovina and Romania, and a well known Holocaust hero, founding and leading the Vaad Hatzolah in Bucharest during the Second World War. His mother was Rebbetzin **Sarah Rubin**, nee Farkas.

Born in 1939 in Campulung before the war started in Romania, Reb Yaakov spent the war years with his parents in the relative safety of Bucharest.

In 1948, the family emigrated to the United States, first settling in Long Beach, NY and later moved to Borough Park, where Rav Moshe Yosef served as head of Beis Din Vaad HaRabonim.

After studying at the Mirer Yeshiva and Torah Vo'Daas, R' Yaakov married **Leah Drizin**, daughter of the great Chabad chosid Reb **Avrohom Drizin (Mayorer)**. Living in Borough Park for nearly 6 decades, together they built a bais neeman b'yisroel, with doros yeshorim umevurachim.

Professionally, R' Yaakov was an electrical engineer and had a noteworthy career, serving Chief Scientist at ITT Avionics, Defense and Electronics, and president of ITT Aerospace Controls.

R' Yaakov was a driving force in the summer community of Tannersville, NY where he served for decades as president of Congregation Anshei Hasharon.

He is survived by his wife **Leah Rubin** and their children **Chaya New** of Melbourne, Australia, **Rivkah Denburg** of Boca Raton, Florida, **Rochel Butman** of Crown Heights/

Westchester, **Dinah Brawer** of Crown Heights, **Dvorah Glick** of Crown Heights, **Chana Silberstein** of Larchmont, NY, **Esti Mochkin** of Crown Heights, and **Moshe Yosef Rubin** of Pomona, NY; and by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his older brother, Dr. **Schmelke Rubin** of Montreal and Lawrence.

Levaya will take place today, Wednesday, at 12 pm at Shomrei Hadas Chapels, 3803 14th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11218

The Aron will pass by 770 at 1 pm, followed by Kvurah at Old Montefiore cemetery, 226-20 Francis Lewis Blvd. Cambria Heights, NY 11411

Shiva this week will be at 1261 50th Street, Brooklyn, NY. More details to follow.

Baruch Dayan Haemes.

RABBI YITZCHOK MARTON, 48, AH

NEWS י"ב אב ה'תשפ"ג - JULY 30, 2023



Rabbi Yitzchok Marton, director of Chesed Menachem Mendel, the Widows and Orphans Program of Colel Chabad, who touched countless lives with his selfless dedication and boundless compassion, passed away on Shabbos.

Rabbi **Yitzchok Marton**, director of Chesed Menachem Mendel, the Widows and Orphans Program of Colel Chabad, who touched countless lives with his selfless dedication and boundless compassion, passed away on Shabbos, 11 Av, 5783.

He was 48 years old and passed away after a valiant battle with cancer.

Yitzchok was the very heartbeat of Chesed Menachem Mendel, the Widows and Orphans Program of Colel Chabad, a project he directed with unwavering commitment.

Through Chesed Menachem Mendel, Yitzchok's remarkable spirit brought solace and hope to widows and orphans, providing them with a guiding light. His Chessed, warmth and empathy knew no bounds.

He stood by thousands of orphaned children by their Bar / Bas Mitzvos, counseled their families through hardships, and watched with pride how they were set on the road to success.

Yitzchok is survived by his mother, his wife Rochel, 9 children, and siblings and inlaws.

The Levaya will pass by 770 at 7:45 am Sunday morning and continue to Eretz Yisroel.

Baruch Dayan Ha'emes.

MRS. CHAYA GANSBURG, 76, AH

NEWS ט"ז אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 3, 2023



Mrs. Chaya Gansburg, a beloved longtime kindergarten teacher at Oholei Torah in Crown Heights, passed away on Thursday, 16 Av, 5783.

Mrs. **Chaya Gansburg**, a beloved longtime kindergarten teacher at Oholei Torah in Crown Heights, passed away on Thursday, 16 Av, 5783.

She was 76 years old.

Mrs. Gansburg served as a kindergarten teacher at Oholei Torah for decades, and

was much beloved by her young students, who called her 'Morah Chaya.'

She was also involved in the Chevra Kadisha, and used to host a group of women at her home every week who would sew *tachrichim*, a true *chesed shel emes*.

She is survived by her children **Chanie Nahmani** – Monsey, NY; **Mendy Gansburg** – London, UK; **Shaina Smolowitz** – Phoenix, Arizona; **Yasef Gansburg** – Crown Heights; **Sorole Weissman** – Flatbush, NY; **Rivky Gansburg** – Boro Park, NY; **Miriam Leahle Davidson** – Oak Park, Michigan; **Shmuel Moshe Gansburg** – Crown Heights; **Arele Gansburg** – Crown Heights.

The *levaya* will take place on Friday morning, passing 770 at 9:30 am and *kevurah* at 10:30 am at Montefiore Cemetery.

Baruch Dayan Ha'emes

THE MASHPIA WHO RAISED BOCHURIM WHO COULD THINK

NEWS י"ב אב ה'תשפ"ג - JULY 29, 2023



A mashpia, menahel and a secretary for the Frierdiker Rebbe, Reb Chatche Feigin was a towering intellectual and a courageous leader. He had a keen discernment for sincerity and he raised his students to be discerning themselves.

Reb Yechezkel (Chatche) Feigin was a top *talmid* in Tomchei Temimim in Lubavitch, and was from the group of *bochurim* sent by the Rebbe Rashab in 5672 (1911) to establish the *yeshiva* Toras Emes in Chevron. He married the daughter of Reb Yehuda Leib Tzeitlin of Zhuravitz, and then served as *mashpia* in various branches of Tomchei Tmimim in Russia. Eventually, he became the *menahel* of all branches of Tomchei Tmimim.

In 5687 (1927), he became the Frierdike Rebbe's personal secretary and *gabai*. From then on Reb Chatche was always at his side — in Russia, Riga and Poland. He was also in charge of fundraising for *maamad* (support for the Rebbe and his activities). He was killed *al kidush Hashem* on 9-10 Tammuz 5701 (1941) in Riga.

*

During one *farbrengen*, a *bochur* complained to R. Chatche, "If only you knew what type of issues I have..."

R. Chatche told him, "You're mistaken. You're simply arrogant and want to feel special. You're not so foolish to think that you have outstanding talents, so you imagine that you have unique problems. But your motive is the same: to feel different. You need to come to terms with the fact that you have neither outstanding talents nor outstanding issues – you're just like everyone else..."

*

In the city of Poltava there lived a Jewish shoemaker who, due to communist pressure, began to open his shop on Shabbos. At that time such a practice was still rare. While in earlier times his friends would have tried to talk him out of it, under communist rule such "religious activity" could send them to Siberia for years.

Every Shabbos morning R. Chatche, who was the *mashpia* in the local Tomchei Temimim, would pass by the store on his way to *mikva*.

During one *farbrengen*, R. Chatche mentioned how every Shabbos when he passes the open shop he is pained. The *bochurim* assumed that he was referring to the fact that a Jewish store is opened on Shabbos, but he immediately clarified:

"We consider this shoemaker to be a *mechalel Shabbos* and halachically that is indeed true. But then I began to think: Does he really understand what Shabbos is about and what it means to desecrate the Shabbos? It doesn't seem like he ever learned the laws of Shabbos and surely not its inner meaning.

"But we know what Shabbos is about, and have learned in Chassidus about the great holiness of its every moment. If a few minutes pass without us using it to the fullest for serving Hashem, then it is we who are the real *mechalelei shabbos!*"

*

Once, R. Chatche was *farbrenging* in a cellar while one *bochur* stood outside to watch for the Soviet authorities. Inside R. Chatche was demanding of the *bochurim* to improve in their *avodas Hashem*, and many of them internalized his words, even crying, realizing how far they were from where they should be. Suddenly, the door burst open and the *bochur* ran in, notifying them that someone was approaching the house, and everyone quickly ran to hide. Soon it became apparent that it was a false alarm, and with sighs of relief they returned to the table to continue the *farbrengen*.

R. Chatche then asked them, "Why is it that when you thought that you were in imminent danger you didn't weep?"

"What would our tears accomplish?" the stupefied *bochurim* wondered.

"If so," continued R. Chatche, "why did you shed tears during the *farbrengen* without wondering what *they* would accomplish? Tears alone do not suffice. We need to look for ways to get out of the spiritual quagmire that we are in."

*

R. Chatche was a broad-minded person and wanted to learn everything, also perusing through *seforim of mussar* and *chakira* (Jewish philosophy).

He learned from every type of person and tried to convey this acute appreciation to his students. In Nevel there was a *mashpia* whose conduct was colorful, not at all similar to R. Chatche and to what he preached; still R. Chatche advised the *bochurim* to listen to him. He wanted them to be discerning themselves.

Students of R. Chatche were intellectually inclined like their teacher, and the heartfelt *avoda* of R. Itche *der Masmid* did not impress them. Once, R. Mendel Futerfas saw R. Itche express

excitement during *davening* and was turned off by his *chitzoniyus* (external display of inner emotion).

R. Chatche noticed his student's impression and rebuked him, "You're not more contained, you're just emotionless. If you would feel just a hundredth of what he is feeling, you would be dancing on the table!"

*

The Frierdiker Rebbe once sent R. Chatche to *farbreng* with the *bochurim* in the Warsaw *yeshiva*. Since the *farbrengen* was called by the Rebbe, it was attended by the *yeshiva* staff, R. Yuda Ebber, the *rosh yeshiva*, and R. Boruch Friedman, the *mashpia*.

The assembled said *l'chaim* and sang a *nigun*, but R. Chatche sat in silence. They sang another *nigun* and then another, but not a word from R. Chatche. The *yeshiva* staff didn't speak up either, since it was R. Chatche who was sent by the Rebbe to *farbreng*.

After about half-an-hour R. Chatche told the *bochurim*, "You probably heard that in Lubavitch there was a *bochur* by the name of Chatche Feigin, who was said to have reviewed a certain *hemshech* twenty times. He used to learn Chassidus and he had a lot to offer. However, these days he no longer learns Chassidus properly, and he is therefore an empty vessel with nothing to offer..." That was the entire *farbrengen*.

What he wished to convey to his listeners was that the impact of Chassidus doesn't last forever. If a person is actively involved in Chassidus, he will be connected. If not, Chassidus won't be alive for him and he won't be able to transmit its message. Perhaps this was exactly the message that the Frierdiker Rebbe wanted the students to hear.

*

R. Chatche's depth was noticeable even in his capacity as secretary. His letters to *anash* regarding *maamad* flowed with *chassidische hergeshim* and Chabad exposition on the nature and value of providing for the Rebbe.

In one letter he elaborates upon the prime importance of supporting the wellbeing of the Rebbe and the *yeshiva bochurim* even over more critical projects to save Yiddishkeit. He quotes the Alter Rebbe's explanation on why the first Beis HaMikdash would have been spared had they learned Torah properly, though they transgressed the worst *aveiros*: as long as the head is healthy, the body can be saved. So too, as long as some Jews serve Hashem and study Torah in its pristine form, *klal Yisroel* can be healed.

For sources, visit TheWeeklyFarbrengen.com

600 MECHANCHIM GATHER FOR ANNUAL KINUS IN ERETZ YISROEL

NEWS וידאו היתשפיג - AUGUST 1, 2023



Mechanchim from across Eretz Yisroel participated in their annual Kinus, gaining insight, inspiration and learning practical techniques to give them a boost as they head into the new school year.

By Anash.org reporter

Photos: Dovber Hechtman/Anash.org

More than 600 mechanchim from across Eretz Yisroel participated in an annual Kinus HaMechanchim, which took place at the Nir Etzion Hotel.

The meticulously planned kinus featured lectures and workshops from experienced mechanchim and professionals, designed to provide insight, inspiration and practical techniques to give teachers a boost as they head into the

new school year.

The theme of the Kinus was 'Teaching with joy, educating with love'. Kinus director, Rabbi **Naftali Roth**, welcomed the participants, together with his son Rabbi **Noam Roth**.

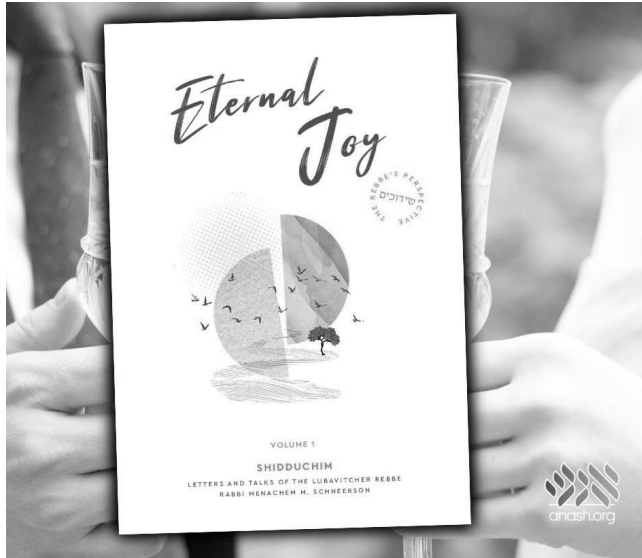
For three days the educators will join fascinating workshops and hear from the greatest experts in the field of chinuch. Hamechanchim will gain insight, inspiration, and learn practical techniques as they begin the new year.

The day concluded with a *seder nigunim* where the entire crowd joined together to sing a Chabad nigun in unison, their voices blending to create a unique effect.

VIDEO:

THE REBBE'S EMPHASIS ON LOOKING DEEPER IN AN ERA OF SUPERFICIALITY

NEWS ט"ו אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 2, 2023



In honor of 15 Av, Sichos in English is sharing an excerpt from its upcoming expanded edition of Eternal Joy, which lays out the Rebbe's timeless outlook on shidduchim and marriage.

In the days of old, when bachurim would seek out their brides on the 15th of Av, they would be greeted by the call of the maidens of Yerushalayim in the vineyards, "Raise your eyes and see...."

Connecting this phrase to the *pasuk*, "*Se'u marom eineichem*," "Raise your eyes to the Heavens..." the Rebbe emphasized that when it comes to the process

of *shidduchim* and marriage, it is of paramount importance to "raise your eyes and see" the matter from an elevated perspective. In an era of superficiality, the Rebbe encouraged us to look deeper.

Providing the timeless outlook of the Torah and *Chassidus*, Eternal Joy has provided clarity to countless young bochurim and girls for decades.

Now, in honor of 15 Av, Sichos in English is delighted to **share an excerpt** from its upcoming expanded edition of Eternal Joy, written in the accessible style of the rapidly-growing Rebbe's Perspective series.

Click below for the Rebbe's timeless approach to navigating this defining chapter of life.

[**Read the Excerpt**](#)

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DON'T FORGET THE UNSUNG HEROES OF CAMP

NEWS יוני אב ה'תשפ"ג - JULY 30, 2023



From the Anash.org Inbox: A frustrated staff member at a Chabad overnight camp writes that he feels that one of the most important aspects of camp are being overlooked.

By A Frustrated Staff Member

Every summer, hundreds of Chabad children flock to various camps across the country, where they enjoy a range of activities, from sports and crafts to trips and shows. But the most important part of camp, the one that makes it a truly Chsidisheh experience, is the learning program.

The learning program is where campers get to study Torah, Chassidus, and Halacha, and deepen their connection to Hashem and the Rebbe. It is where they learn about their heritage, their mission, and their role in the world.

The learning program is also where the learning teachers come in. The learning teachers are the dedicated bochorim who devote their summers to teaching campers of all ages and backgrounds. They are the ones who prepare engaging lessons, answer questions, inspire curiosity, challenge assumptions, spark discussions, share stories, give feedback, offer guidance, and show care.

But sadly, the learning teachers are also the ones who get the least recognition and appreciation. They are often overshadowed by the counselors, who get all the credit for being fun, cool, and popular. They are often overlooked by the camp directors, who focus more on the logistics and finances of camp. They are often ignored by the parents, who don't know or care about what their children learn in camp.

This is not fair. This is not right. This is not how it should be.

The learning teachers deserve more respect and gratitude. They deserve more support and resources. They deserve more recognition and appreciation.

They deserve to be celebrated as the unsung heroes of camp.

So next time you see a learning teacher, thank them for their hard work and dedication. Next time you think about camp, appreciate them for their contribution and influence.

And next time you write about camp, don't forget to mention them as well.

P.S. And if you really want to show your appreciation for the learning teachers, don't hesitate to tip them generously at the end of the summer. They work hard for little pay, and they could use some extra cash to cover their expenses or treat themselves to something nice. Tipping them is not only a nice gesture, but also a way of supporting their continued service to our community.

LAUNCH OF 'TRAVELING TORAH' IS THE CLOSING OF DECADES-OLD CIRCLE

NEWS ז'ט אב ה'תשפ"ג - AUGUST 3, 2023



In celebration of the 70th birthday of Rabbi Shea Hecht, friends and family are honoring him by writing a Sefer Torah. It began on the yahrzeit of Rabbi JJ Hecht with a supporter who was once his congregant.

Rabbi **Shea Hecht** is a cult-busting Rabbi, marriage counselor, and friend to many elected officials. In celebration of his 70th birthday, friends and family are honoring him by writing a Sefer Torah.

While every Torah is holy, this one stands out. Just twelve inches in height, the Torah will be placed in a custom portable ark and travel around on a mission. The Traveling Torah will visit children who are hospitalized or homebound due to medical conditions and unable to attend

shul for Shabbat, Yom Tov, or to celebrate their Bar Mitzvah.

The Torah will bring *refuah*, *simcha*, and encouragement to kids who need it most. **JJ Hecht II**, president of Toys for Hospitalized Children®, shared, "Happy Kids Heal Faster is our motto, and this Torah will bring joy and healing to sick children. We are very excited about this project and thank all our friends and family for joining us."

The Hecht family already began visiting friends and supporters, giving them the great opportunity to write a letter in the Traveling Torah. Mr. **Ira Rennert** and his son **Ari**, close friends of the Hecht family, kicked off the launch by dedicating the book of Bereshit and writing the first word, Bereshis. Growing up, Mr. Rennert's rabbi was none other than Rabbi Shea's father, Rabbi **Jacob J. Hecht** OBM. Appropriately, the writing of the Torah commenced on the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Hecht OBM with Mr. Rennert and his family.

The Torah will be completed for Rabbi Shea Hecht's birthday next May and begin its mission with a grand celebration.

To get involved in the project or for sponsorship opportunities email Simmy@NCFJE.org.

Donations can be made at ToysHC.org.

SO HOW DO I KNOW IF IT'S A SCAM?

NEWS יולי 31, 2023 - אב ה'תשפ"ג



After penning an article decrying the spread of shady financial schemes in our communities, an Anash.org reader follows up with some pointers to look out for to avoid such scams.

By @Craftsmanbob

For part one: 'Where Have We Gone Wrong?' [click here](#).

Get rich quick scams and financial fraud have been around for as long as the modern monetary system has existed. The rise of targeted advertising and aspirational from investors has meant many of these dubious financial schemes have recently affected from communities.

We all know victims who were damaged by fraud and I personally fell victim to an ill-fated financial venture. Ever since my unfortunate experience, I have made a point to thoroughly examine any ads that promise suspicious financial returns. Sadly, I have observed a proliferation of these promises that specifically target our communities. The best way to safely guard your family's precious finances is to be vigilant about which investment vehicles are trustworthy for your hard-earned dollars.

While this article talks specifically about Ponzi schemes, the principles I outline apply to any situation where someone is asking you for money, in any capacity. While you may already be familiar with the concept of a Ponzi scheme, there are specific aspects I wish to highlight that I believe make reading the description that follows worthwhile.

It's important to note that many scams and fraudulent activities do not start off as fraudulent. They are often started by an otherwise honest person who—due to a single bad business move—needs more money in order to stay afloat. Banks will not lend to them and they cannot find someone to bail them out. So in an effort to obtain an investor and the needed funds they lie about the state of the business.

It becomes a Ponzi scheme when the payment is due and the investor wants their money back. Unfortunately, the money went into the business and did not generate the promised returns. In order to pay back the initial investor his investment along with the promised returns, the business owner is forced to borrow even more money than he initially borrowed. He tells the new "investor" that the money will be used to generate returns in his

business or investment. In truth, however, it is just being used to pay back that first person, who is none the wiser.

His original lie turns into an endless cycle of borrowing ever-growing amounts of money to continuously pay back everyone he has borrowed from plus their promised returns. As this goes on, he needs to rope in more and more people, eventually turning to flashy advertisements touting high returns, offers to “help you” manufacture spending to hit sign-up bonuses and earn points on your credit cards, etc. But, eventually, the pot runs dry and the whole thing comes crashing down. The money simply does not exist.

It's not hard to imagine why in a community such as ours these schemes have such great appeal. The high cost of living, pressing bills, and anxiety about how to pay off weddings can blind our judgment and tempt us into falling for big promises and easy money. This, coupled with the high level of trust we tend to have in our fellow Yidden, is a recipe for disaster, as we have unfortunately seen time and time again.

To be clear, this can happen to anyone. Yes, even you! This is why we must do all we can to protect ourselves and spot the signs of fraud and dishonesty. Countless very smart and financially literate people have fallen for Ponzi schemes and other financial scams. Scammers can be very good at covering up their fraud, creating fake personas and often even swindling their own family members. Remember, most don't intend to start out this way, but they got where they are due to desperation, and they will do anything to protect themselves, their business, and their money.

Here are a few pointers to keep in mind:

When it comes to money, especially when a situation becomes dire, **everyone has their own best interests in mind**. If he has an option between you getting paid or him, he will pay himself first. What's worse, if he can pin the fraud on you, instead of himself, he will. Even if you find that hard to believe, do you really want to take the chance to find out?

Trust your gut. If it's too good to be true, it probably is.

There is no “secret sauce” to investing. There are good investments, and bad investments. There are less risky investments and more risky investments. Everything should be above board. If someone can't tell you **exactly** what it is they are doing with your money, don't hand it over to them. Always independently—either by yourself or a third party that **YOU** choose—verify the information, the financials, and make sure you understand the numbers and risks involved. Remember, it's *your* money! And again, refer to rule #2.

Higher returns necessitate higher risk. If someone knew how to overcome this rule, you would be the world's first trillionaire.

If they are promising a safe method for above-average returns, be very skeptical.

Ask yourself: “Why is he asking me?” If someone indeed has a “secret sauce,” an investment that is promising above average returns, or easy access to credit, why are they only advertising in frum publications, on WhatsApp groups, and among the frum community?

If they are raising capital and touting great returns, they should be advertising to *everyone* to gain access to a much larger clientele and greater access to capital! Similarly, on the flip side: how come you never see such ads in reputable national publications? When was the last time you saw an “increase your credit limit to 1 million dollars in just 7 days” advertisement in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, or the Subway, all of whom are far more likely to vet their advertisers and their claims than your WhatsApp group?

Statistics and numbers can often be very misleading. “16% growth!” is meaningless if you don’t know the timeline. 16% growth over a 1-year period could be part of a larger trend of significant losses. Also, nominal growth can often be made to sound more impressive than it actually is, by stating large numbers when in truth it is only a small percentage of the overall fund or investment. Always look for the bigger picture.

“In business since 2009” does not guarantee success, honesty, or legitimacy. Businesses can restructure, fall under new management, and go through better or worse times.

On the other hand, a brand-new business that seems to have grown too quickly should also raise some concerns.

People use industry-specific words to obscure and obfuscate. Don’t let someone use fancy words and big concepts to give off a false sense of expertise and trustworthiness. If he’s truly good at what he does, understands it, and is honest, he, or someone from his team, should be able to explain it to you in terms you can understand. If a doctor can do it, so can they.

Someone doing something in your name—particularly if they use your identity, such as your social security number or bank and credit accounts—**can easily wipe himself clean of any wrongdoing and pin it on you** if he is smart about it, or can threaten that if he goes down, you go down with him. This can express itself in subtle ways.

Presentation matters—and it doesn’t. A company that is doing well should be able to afford a nice website and an advertisement that wasn’t done on Microsoft Paint or even Canva.

At the same time, don’t be fooled by fancy presentations and a sleek website.

There is no such thing as free money. If someone is promising you free access to capital, ask yourself: “What is in it for them?” You don’t want to be caught up as an unwilling participant in a money-laundering scheme!

If someone claims they can get you money by bypassing the traditional routes such as credit checks and financial statements, ask yourself: “Why would anyone lend money

without the regular rigorous processes that are in place to protect both the lender and the borrower?"

This list is not exhaustive. However, I hope that this can help people begin asking the right questions, and help you keep your money safe, secure, and in honest hands.

The views expressed in op-eds are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of Anash.org.

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