



Issue #4

Looking Back Soaring Ahead

Newsletter of Yeshiva Gedolah
Zichron Leyma // Spring 2024



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The Candle Burns Bright in Union

As the months go by since the sudden and untimely petirah of our beloved Rosh Yeshiva, Harav Gershon Neumann זצ"ל, we reflect back on the quarter of a century of his avodas hakodesh and harbotzas haTorah whereby he established the illustrious makom Torah, Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Leyma. The Rosh Yeshiva had a singular art of delivering in-depth shiurim with a clear and masterful style that made even the most complex sugyas understandable to every talmid. For twenty-five years, the success of his talmidim was his life's focus and mission. With selfless devotion and remarkable חכמה, he used all his strength, until his last day in yeshiva, to build and strengthen others.

Moments before the Rosh Yeshiva parted from his beloved yeshiva to the Yeshiva Shel Maalah, he used his remaining kochos to recite the brachos and light the menorah on the fifth night of Chanukah. This last

mitzvah is a truly befitting memory that encapsulates his avodah and the essence of his Yeshiva. Like the Kohen in the מקדש who was עומד ומדליק את הנרות עד שתהא השלהבת עולה מאליה, he recognized the strength of every בחור and patiently ignited a flame within. He genuinely believed in their capabilities and his expectations compelled them to shine. And, shine they did. The candle that kindled the fire in so many chashuveh talmidim continues to burn until this day.

Undoubtedly, the past zman has been a challenging time for all of us, but we are finding comfort and solace from the ongoing success and vibrancy of the Yeshiva. There is a palpable feeling of סייעתא דשמיא that has enabled the Yeshiva to move on מחיל אל חיל. The Yeshiva had been steadily growing and thriving over the last few years under the Rosh Yeshiva's leadership. Initially, it was hard to

foresee that the Yeshiva could continue in this trajectory without Rav Gershon Neumann guiding it in a physical way. However, the Yeshiva today is testimony to the greatness of Rav Gershon זצ"ל and what an אדם גדול can accomplish. גדולים צדיקים במיתתו יותר מבחייהו. The bedrock of this unique מקום תורה has been solidly laid and is the foundation of its future success בעזרה שיי"ת. Rav Neumann's sons, Rav Leyma שליט"א and Rav Yaakov Yonason שליט"א have been an integral part of the Yeshiva for many years and have gained much from being at the Rosh Yeshiva's side, learning from his unique approach to חינוך and his crystal clear מהלך הלימוד. This has facilitated the Yeshiva's continuity precisely in the path the Rosh Yeshiva had chosen. What has been built up לשם שמים is bound to have a long lasting קיום.

Despite our difficult loss and unimaginable pain, the Yeshiva has forged ahead during this transitional period without changing any מהלך, standard, or seder. It feels as if the Rosh Yeshiva is still here amongst us, as a מציץ מן החרכים, peering in through the cracks and "shepping nachas" from his Yeshiva and talmidim who continue to שטייג just as he imagined they would. The talmidim themselves can still feel his הדרכה, and the legacy of Yeshiva Zichron Leyma lives on and will continue בימינו עד ביאת גואל צדק במהרה.



A Message from the Roshei Yeshiva

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the סיעתא דשמיא for the tremendous amount of חסד that He bestowed upon us this past zman. While dealing with the very difficult pain of losing the founder and leader of our Yeshiva, we are clearly seeing the השגחה עליונה providing us with the כוחות we need to move on and continue to build. Although each talmid has been profoundly affected in his own way by the sudden loss of his beloved rebbi, we are proud that they have all persevered with newfound resilience and inner strength like never before. The kol Torah in our bais medrash has actually intensified in both איכות and כמות as an עליה to the נשמה of זצ"ל ראש הישיבה.

The winter זמן has ended and we have entered the חודש האביב. There is a certain sense of פרישקייט that can be noticed and felt amongst our בחורים. In Shir Hashirim it states: "הנצנים נראו בארץ עת הזמיר הגיע". The גר"א writes that this refers to the "אבות מונחין בארץ נוכל לזכות בזכותן". It is only through the זכות האבות that are no longer with us that we are יושעה to זוכה, as ישועה דוד המלך says in Tehillim: "לקדושים אשר בארץ .. ואדירי כל הפצי במ". צרכים all my באמת you fulfill. The גאון explains

that the צדיקים of the past are compared to blossoms, as they are the source from which גאולה וישועה will sprout. The פסוקים in שיר השירים continue פניה חטטה – the fig tree has formed its first small fruit. These early fruit buds, a משל to תלמידי חכמים who are steeped in Torah study, most aptly represent talmidei Yeshivas Zichron Leyma and the fruits of the Rosh Yeshiva זצ"ל's עמל ויגיעה. As we watch the steady ripening of these young blossoming each day, we are witnessing the קיום of נוצר תאנה יאכל פריה.

In the חודש אשר ישועות בו מקיפות, we eagerly await the time when we will be ותחדש פני האדמה to see זוכה. This correlates the phenomena of תחיית המתים to the life cycle of a tree as it renews itself in the spring. May we indeed be זוכה to יושועת for all of ישראל and the בקרוב.



Message from R' Eli Lang Executive Director

I take great pride and pleasure in providing you with a glimpse inside the walls of our beautiful Yeshiva. As a תלמיד מובהק I've had the zchus to be משמש בקדש my dear rebbe, Rav Gershon Neumann זצ"ל for many years. I feel privileged to continue his legacy by preserving his lifetime investment, Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Leyma. I derive personal ריתחה דאורייתא as I see a full בית מדרש teeming with הנאה. I am pleased to say that his sons ממלאי personify the Rosh Yeshiva זצ"ל and there is a sense of familiarity in all aspects of our Yeshiva. It is so nice to see the new Roshei Yeshiva availing themselves to the בחורים at all hours of the day and night, just as my rebbi was there for me as a בחור in this Yeshiva years ago. I am certain that the Rosh Yeshiva is very proud of us and what we have accomplished this זמן, transitioning and properly adjusting, while keeping all of his ideals and following his lead. I anticipate that in the months ahead, with סיעתא דשמיא we will bring to fruition his dream of expanding the dormitory to accommodate the influx of תלמידים.

Parent Testimonials

Rabbi Chaim Aaron Applegrad Father of Yechezkel Dovid

We feel very fortunate that when we were looking for a בית מדרש for our son Yechezkel Dovid, we were led with סיעתא דשמיא to Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Leyma. When we met the ראש הישיבה הגאון and the הנהלת, we were sold. Their varmekit is unparalleled. Already at the פארהער, our son felt that this is the type of הנהלה he wants to learn from. לדאבוננו when the ראש הישיבה was נפטר, even the newer בחורים who only



knew the ראש הישיבה for three months felt like they lost ראשי הישיבה by for five years. The new ראשי הישיבה took over right where the ראש הישיבה left off with their special varmekit and unique קשר that they have with every בחור.

They will do anything to ensure that each and every בחור can reach his potential. When one walks into the בית מדרש he can see, hear and feel the קול תורה, the התמדה and אחדות of the בחורים. We see from off שבת to off שבת how much our son is shteiging in his הבנה, תפלה, תורה, and in אהבת התורה. Our eternal ישר goes to the dedicated הנהלת הישיבה and ראשי הישיבה.

יה"ר שיזכנו ראשי הישיבה והנהלת הישיבה להמשיך בעבודת הקודש מתוך מנוחת הנפש והרחבת הדעת עמו"ש

Rabbi Mendy Chissick Father of Chaim Shimon

When Chaim Shimon, my 18-year-old son, left home in London, he had to surmount the challenges of starting Bais Medrash on a foreign continent without family. As soon as he came to Yeshiva he felt the palpable varmekit, the unconditional love and respect that each תלמיד receives as a בן יחיד. The Rosh Yeshiva's words "Now he's my son"



resonated with him and could not have been more true. I knew my son's ruchnius needs were being met, along with the gashmius definitely not lacking (the Rebbetzin even baked a cake for his siyum because his parents were not local). Every parent's ultimate nachas is the hadras panim that shines when his son returns home for bein hazmanim. I was greeted with a glow that transcends a mundane smile; a bren that can only radiate from true kinyan Torah.

ישלם ה' פעלך ותהי משברתך שלמה...



Harav Eliezer Ginsburg, שליט"א
Rav Leyma Neumann, שליט"א • Rav Yaakov Yonason Neumann, שליט"א
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— Hanhalas HaYeshiva —



Snapshots





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Alumni Committee formed

Upon the initiative of our executive director, R' Eli Lang, a very dedicated group of alumni volunteered to form a committee whose mission is to oversee the continuity, vitality, and expansion of the Yeshiva. These close talmidim from different

tekufos and years share a very distinct common denominator, a desire to uphold the vision and goals of the Rosh Yeshiva Zt"l. They met for the first time in Chodesh Adar to discuss a variety of issues including alumni functions, shiurim, and a future siyum hashas l'ilui nishmas the Rosh Yeshiva Zt"l. The idea of a large Yahrtzeit asifa and hachnasas Sefer Torah was mentioned as well. Another talking point is the Yeshiva's unprecedented enrollment and the pressing need to expand the dormitory space.

Alumni Committee

R' Yakov Brachfeld

R' Yakov Burstein

R' Nissi Englard

R' Yitzzy Geller

R' Yehuda Leib Globerman

R' Shloime Goldwasser

R' Eliyahu Hutner

R' Avi Lang

R' Avrohom Meiseles

R' Yehuda Menchel

R' Hillel Neuhaus

R' Yossi Neumann

R' Zev Rothschild

R' Binyamin Rottenberg

R' Yaakov Samet

R' Binyomin Schonblum

R' Dov Schwab

R' Moshe Shalam

R' Aaron Stern

R' Mordechai Tikotzky

R' Mordechai Tolchinsky

R' Aaron Wolfson

R' Elchonon Zirkin

R' Shachna Zucker



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