

CHICAGO NEWS

Rav Doniel Lehrfield in Chicago

Rav Doniel Lehrfield, *rosh yeshiva* of Yeshiva Bais Yisroel in Yerushalayim, was in his native Chicago this past week. He attended a *melava malka* held in celebration of 34 years of *limud haTorah* at "Bais." The event was held at the home of Moshe and Tira Gubin on *Motzoei Shabbos Parshas Noach*.

Adas Yeshurun Event

Congregation AdasYeshurun of Chicago will host a "Ray Stein *Shabbos*" on *Shabbos Parshas Lech Lecha*, November 8-9, marking Ray Stein's 30th *yahrtzeit*. There will be a Friday night *oneg Shabbos* in conjunction with the Torah Umesorah weekend addressed by Rav Yosef Eichenstein, *rosh yeshiva* of Edison Yeshiva. Rabbi Moshe Bane, president of the OU, will be the guest speaker at a community *Shabbos* afternoon *seudah* and at *seudah shlishis*.

JET Students Join at Protest on Definition of Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is on the rise on college campuses around the country. The University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign has experienced a series of anti-Semitic incidents this year. Last week, 400 Jewish students walked out of the Illinois Student Government meeting in protest against the ISG's attempt to silence the Jewish right to define hate and discrimination against them.

Earlier that evening, JET students who are taking the Maimonides program listened to a class on the importance of Israel to the Jewish people by Rabbi Shlomo Crandall, director of Chai Lifeline and father-in-law of Rabbi Mordechai and Mrs. Tehiya Rubin, campus *kiruv* professionals with JET. After the class, they all walked over to the meeting. The show of solidarity with other Jewish students was a fitting conclusion to the evening.

Hascholas Gemara Event at Veitzener Cheder

This past Sunday, Yeshiva Ohr Boruch, the Veitzener Cheder, held an event for its fifth grade *talmidim* and their parents and grandparents. Rather than having family members come to a presentation of *Gemaras* to the *talmidim* who are beginning their studies, the *talmidim* learned their first blatt of *Perek Eilu Metzios* with their *rabbeim* prior to the formal presentation. The



cheder then invited fathers and *zaides* to a *farher* conducted by Rav Zalman Leib

Eichenstein, *rov* of Kehillas Chesed L'Avrohom of Zidichov and *rosh kollel* of Kollel Zichron Yitzchok Zev, and Rav Yosef Rajchenbach, *rosh kollel* of Kollel Zichron Eliyohu. The fathers, the *zaides*, the *bochanim*, and the *hanholas hacheder* were all impressed by the knowledge and understanding that the *rabbeim*, Rabbi Aaron Rowner and Rabbi Zev Lieberman, imparted to their *talmidim*.

ATT/JCFS New Teacher Training

On Monday evening, October 28, the Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago and Jewish Children and Family Services held its Annual New Teacher Training as part of the Safer Communities/Safer Schools Initiative. Over 30 teachers from four schools participated in the session.

This training aims to enable students, teachers and administrators to protect students from abuse and other related problems. The program included understanding boundaries and how they create safety, detecting abuse out of school, proper responses to concerns and disclosure, and the system that supports mandated reporters.

A Lech Lecha Story from a Chicago Native on a Hashgacha Protis Trip to Eretz Yisroel

By Rabbi Tuvia Vinitzky

The steps leading to the *simcha* hall seemed to go on forever, and I wasn't as young as I used to be. I finally reached my destination, though, despite never anticipating such a destination at all.

I had come to Israel to visit my newly-married daughter and her husband, who were living and learning in Yerushalayim. Though they hadn't been away long, when I found a bargain on an airline ticket, off I went – 6,000 miles cannot keep a father and daughter apart for long.

This was to be a quick trip, slightly less than a week including travel. I arranged my schedule around their schedules as I attempted to be an easy, unobtrusive guest. We ate together several times, I went grocery shopping with my daughter, and on *Shabbos* I walked for two *seudos* from my hotel to their apartment – a distance of approximately 3.25 miles, all uphill – though perhaps my memory exaggerates.

It was wonderful. My little girl, grown up, married and hosting me for *Shabbos*! But fathers have to know when to back off, so I did not even suggest that we get together *Motzoei Shabbos*. Then I remembered that I had left a bag I needed at her apartment before *Shabbos*, so I asked if I could just come long enough to grab my bag.

The light rail had just started running its first *Motzoei Shabbos* trip, and after all that walking on *Shabbos*, I felt I'd earned a trip on the rail. The whole seating situation is always a little awkward. At the age of 55, I'm in that sweet spot of middle age where I really want to sit down but I'm too embarrassed to take a seat from the ancient *Yerushalmis* who offer their seats to weak-looking American tourists.

I must have looked even more like an American tourist than I realized, because a young man approached me awkwardly as we got off the train. He had been a couple of cars behind me and was looking around as he got off the train. "Do you speak English?" he asked hopefully, and I could hear the familiar sound of an American accent.

My wife might have had a different answer to whether I actually speak English, but without her there, I felt free to answer "Yes" with a smile.

"*Boruch Hashem*," he said, sighing in relief. "Listen, you don't happen to know where the ___ store is, do you?"

Since I had no idea what store he had just said, I answered no, but I did want to be helpful. "What do you need?" I said. "Perhaps I can help you find a place to get it."

"A plate," he answered.

"Just one?"

"Yes."

Now I have to mention one of two key facts in this story: I happen to think that I am funny. There does seem to be some difference of opinion within my family over how funny I am, but every family member would agree that I cannot hold myself back from trying to be humorous whether or not it is appropriate.

"What, are you getting married?" I asked. Ha ha.

Until he answered, "Yes."

On my home turf, I could have easily told him where to get a plate. Which brings us to the second key fact – among my other roles in life, I am a "wedding manager." Not a wedding planner, who helps the *kallah* and mothers select colors for the centerpieces and whether to drape the chairs or not, but the person who is on-site the day of the *chasunah*, keeping everyone on time and making sure that the *kibbudim* titles are correct; that the *chosson* and *kallah* get that all-important last minute *shmooze* before the walk down the aisle; that the *eidim* haven't taken a detour at the *shmorg*; that the emcee knows what to do, and myriad other details from the engagement to *bentching* at the *chasunah*. My weddings run smoothly.

But back to my new friend, whose name it turned out was Chaim.

"When is the *chasunah*?" I asked casually.

"Tomorrow," he said. I gulped.

"I have been learning here in Israel for a few years. My *rov* from my hometown will be here tomorrow, but I am supposed to do all the things on this list – including getting a plate. I am sure it will work out, but I do not want my *kallah* to think I am not capable of executing a simple list!"

The story is not all that unusual. Chaim's family was sympathetic to *Yiddishkeit*, but his dedication to Torah and *mitzvos* far exceeded his background. He had been learning in a *yeshiva* geared towards such American *bochurim*.

Now it was time for his *chasunah*, and the combination of Israeli style "it will all work" with his American background was creating some chaotic moments. I was not sure who was in charge of this production.

"Okay, Chaim," I offered. "It just so happens that I am a wedding manager back in Chicago. Let's me grab my bag from my daughter's apartment and we will go get some pizza and review your list."

And so we did. The pizza was good, but it did not make Chaim any less nervous.

Finally, I asked, "Where is the wedding and what time?"

"A hall in the Old City, 6 p.m." said a still-nervous Chaim.

"Okay. Would you like me to come and run your wedding?"

"Really?"

"Sure."

"Yes, thank you!"

"Don't worry about another thing," I said. "Give me the numbers and emails of the photographer, hall and *kallah*, and I will take care of the rest."

So there I was climbing steps – a lot of steps – to a *simcha* hall in the Old City with my trusty clipboard in hand. A brief tour of the hall and I was ready to go.

If I thought my skills as a wedding runner had been tested by multi-generational families with hundreds of members, I discovered that a *chasunah* in the Old City had challenges of its own. Of course, making an event run on time in Israel is nearly impossible, but I managed to corral the *eidim* to witness the *kesubah* and the mothers broke the plate. The *chupah* overlooking the *Kosel* followed, the glass was broken, and the *bochurim* danced the new couple to the *yichud* room while the *kallah's* seminary friends chatted amongst themselves.

I try to arrange for the *chosson* and *kallah* to enter for the meal and dancing on schedule, which requires becoming a bit of a nuisance to the photographer. In Chicago, there is only so far the photographer can go with the couple to take pictures – but not in the Old City! I got plenty of exercise following everyone around the Old City – not just the photographer, but parents, relatives, and rabbis, and herding them gently to where they were supposed to be.

Finally, the *chosson* and *kallah* entered and the dancing became even more *leibidik*. Being in *aveilus* myself, I wound down in a corner with my clipboard. After the first round of dancing, a *rebbe* from the *chosson's* *yeshiva* came over and introduced himself. He wanted to tell me part of the story I did not know – that in the morning the *chosson* had told his *rebbe* how the *Hashgacha Protis* of meeting me had a tremendous impact on his *bitachon*. The *chosson* said that everyone could see there is a G-d, and He had sent me to help.

That was a little bit much for me. I was just trying to help a fellow at the train station. But if thought the *rebbe* was going to stop there, I was sadly mistaken. I guess "teaching moments" are impossible for any *rebbe* to ignore – he wanted me to take the microphone and tell the *bochurim* how I met the *chosson*!

"No thanks," I said. A big no thanks. The wedding manager stays out of the limelight, not in it.

But the *rebbe* persisted. When I could no longer avoid him, he handed me a microphone, turned it on, and said, "Start talking." I told the story to the distracted *bochurim* with as much humor and grace as I could manage and quickly sat down.

I would soon learn that the tale wasn't finished. I was in the *shuk* the next morning shortly before leaving for the airport to return home. "Reb Tuvia! Reb Tuvia!" I heard a voice call.

It was Chaim and his *kallah*. Chaim somehow seemed older and more composed.

"*Mazel tov!*" I greeted them, surprised to run into them once again, but then again, not so surprised. "I can't believe we ran into you like this," he continued. "I wasn't sure how to find you. I mean, I might have your telephone number, but I'm not sure anymore..."

"We wanted to thank you," interrupted his *kallah*. "We were talking about everything that happened, and we realized that Hashem must have sent you here to make sure our *chasunah* did not become a victim of 'Israeli chaos.'"

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FBI Arrests Self-Proclaimed White Supremacist in Alleged Plot To Blow Up Historic Synagogue

The FBI arrested a self-proclaimed white supremacist for planning to blow up a historic Colorado synagogue and poison congregants, federal officials said Monday. The FBI called the alleged plot a hate crime and an act of domestic terrorism.

Richard Holzer, 27, was arrested Friday night after picking up what he thought was a bundle of pipe bombs and dynamite from undercover agents, according to an affidavit filed in federal court in Denver. He was wearing a Nazi armband when he was arrested and carrying a copy of "Mein Kampf," FBI Special Agent John Smith wrote in the filing.

Investigators said Holzer wanted to blow up the Temple Emanuel synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado. The structure is the state's second-oldest synagogue and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Holzer was set to be arraigned Monday afternoon on a

charge of attempting to obstruct people from exercising their religion through force, and of attempted use of explosives and fire. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

Agents said they started tracking Holzer more than a month ago after noticing his hate-filled, anti-Semitic social media posts.

An undercover agent posing as a white supremacist reached out to Holzer on Facebook in late September, investigators said. After sending the agent pictures of himself holding guns and wearing swastikas and other white supremacist paraphernalia, Holzer bragged that he had tried to poison the water at the synagogue in 2018, according to the affidavit. Investigators said he told the agent that he paid a cook to put arsenic in the water pipes and that he intended to do it again on Halloween.

His goal, according to the affidavit, was to "make them know they're not wanted here."

According to the affidavit, Holzer used several Facebook accounts to promote white supremacy and racist violence in direct messages and group chats.

"I wish the Holocaust really did happen," he allegedly said in one message. "They need to die."

He also allegedly sent pictures of himself posing with handguns and semiautomatic rifles while dressed in clothing featuring what FBI agents described as "white supremacy symbols."

In other messages, he said he hated Jews "with a passion" and spoke about how he wanted to "die in a cop Shoot out," according to the FBI.

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Rav Akiva Grunblatt Visits MTI-Saint Louis Yeshiva

By A. Cohen

As the uplifted atmosphere of the *Yamim Noraim* faded into the routine of *Cheshvan*, Yeshiva U'Mesivta D'Missouri (MTI) received an infusion of inspiration with the visit of Rav Akiva Grunblatt, *rosh yeshiva* of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, New York. Rav Grunblatt provides *hadracha* to the *hanholah* of MTI, and his guidance and influence are instrumental to the *yeshiva's* success.

It was a sight to behold as *talmidim* came to greet the *rosh yeshiva* at the St. Louis airport on Friday, a real hands-on lesson in how to give proper *kovod haTorah* to our *gedolim*.

MTI *talmidim* and *rabbeim* alike gained a tremendous amount from Rav Grunblatt's visit. *Rabbeim* consulted with Rav Grunblatt about timely *chinuch* topics, while *talmidim* imbibed words of To-

rah and *hashkafah* throughout the weekend with a *shmuess*, *Oneg* and a Q&A session. On Sunday, the older *talmidim*, community members and *chavrei hakollel* participated in a *shiur* on the topic of *zemer achar hachurban*.

The broader community also benefited from the visit. On *Motzoei Shabbos*, over 120 community members filled Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Deutsch's home to hear Rav Grunblatt address the relevant topic of "The Pursuit of Happiness: Attaining *Simcha* in Our Lives" and enjoy a delicious *melava malka*. Rav Grunblatt's masterful message was both thought-provoking and enjoyable, as he pointed out that our search for happiness will not be successful if it is based on a drive for more material wealth. Rather, we must strive for excellence and spirituality - only that will give us true contentment.



1. Rav Akiva Grunblatt delivering a *shiur* to *yeshiva talmidim*, community members, and *chavrei hakollel*.
2. (L-R) Rav Grunblatt; Rav Menachem Greenblatt, *rov* of Agudas Israel of St. Louis; and Rabbi Josh Bregman, director of development at Yeshiva U'Mesivta D'Missouri (MTI).
3. Rav Grunblatt addressing the crowd on *Motzoei Shabbos*. | 4. A partial view of the crowd.

A Lech Lecha Story from a Chicago Native

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"Well, chaos is probably overstating it," I demurred.

"Well, thank you anyway," said Chaim. "I will always remember our wedding manager - the guy from the train who came to the Old City with his clipboard."

"Well, that's what wedding managers do. I guess Hashem saw you needed one," I answered and then gave them a final *brocha*.

There was one additional event at the wedding that perhaps is the key to this entire story. As the final dance wound down, the *rebbe* approached me again and asked me, "By the

way, how long are you here for?"

"Just a few days. I go back to Chicago tomorrow."

Rabbeim never give up. "What brought you here?"

"I came to visit my daughter," was my answer.

He paused and looked me straight in the eye. "No, you didn't," he replied. "You came to run this *chasunah*. We think what we want, but the lesson of *Parshas Lech Lecha* is that Hashem sends people where they need to be."

It seems He does.

TORONTO NEWS

New Toronto Kollel Named After Reb Moshe Reichmann zt"l

A new *kollel* in Toronto led by Rav Avigdor Coleman and Rav Chezki Reichmann has been named Kollel Toras Moshe after Reb Moshe Reichmann zt"l, who was the driving force behind the growth of Torah in the city for many years. Reb Moshe had a special affinity for Yeshiva Yesodei Hatorah, upon whose premises the *kollel* is located.

Rav Aharon Kahn in Toronto

Rav Aharon Kahn, *rov* of Khal Knesses Bais Avigdor of Flatbush, spent *Shabbos Parshas Noach* in Toronto with his son-in-law and daughter, Rabbi and Mrs. Nosson Brodsky, R"m at Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Shmayahu. Rav Kahn delivered a *shmuess* at Yeshiva Gedolah Zichron Shmayahu during *seudah shlishis*.

Daughter of Rav Yoir Adler Engaged

The engagement of Breindy Adler, the eldest daughter of Rav Yoir Adler, *rov* of Beis Medrash Shoavei Mayim of Toronto, was celebrated this week. The *chosson* is Chaim Aryeh Erlanger of London, England.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

Denver Kollel Welcomes Two New Families

The Denver Community Kollel welcomed two new families this *zeman*. Rabbi Dov and Sarah Bluma Holczer are living in West Denver. Mrs. Holczer is the daughter of *rosh kollel* Rabbi Shachne and Mrs. Tzippy Sommers.

Reb Tuvia and Aliza Harbater are living in Southeast Denver. They are part of Aish Denver's effort to settle families in the Southeast Denver Community. Mrs. Harbater is the daughter of Southeast residents Kerry and Mindy Berman.

Pittsburgh Kollel Partners in Torah Program

The Pittsburgh Kollel, in partnership with the JCC and Kulam, will open its first formal Partners in Torah Program next month. The program will be held each Wednesday evening at the JCC. A formal kickoff event will be held on Monday, November 18. The guest speaker will be Charlie Harary.

Rabbi Eytan Feiner Addresses *Siyum* in Providence

Reb Anshel Strauss, who learned at the Providence Community Kollel for years, made



a special *siyum* last week. People from across the community came to celebrate his *siyum* on the study of *Tanach*. Rabbi Eytan Feiner, *rov* of Knesseth Israel/The White Shul in Far Rockaway, was the guest speaker.

Comments or submissions to this column are welcome and can be emailed to midwestyated@aol.com or faxed to 773.583.6487.

Left: Rav Eytan Feiner, Reb Anshel Strauss, and Rabbi Raphie Shochet. PHOTO: E BRESLER