

from **HERE & THERE**

BY CHAIM GOLD

WEDDING OF GRANDSON OF RAV MOSHE HILLEL HIRSCH

Last week, the wedding of a grandson of Rav Moshe Hillel Hirsch, *rosh yeshiva* of Slabodka Yeshiva in Bnei Brak, was held in Modiin Illit. The *chosson* is a son Rav Moshe Hillel's son-in-law, Rav Bentzion Chodosh, a son of Rav Naftoli Chodosh, *mashgiach* of Yeshivas Ohr Elchonon. The *kallah* is a daughter of Rav Yosef Kessler, *rov* in Modiin Illit.



The wedding was held outside the Meir Seminary in Modiin Illit in accordance with all of the regulations of the Health Ministry. It was the first time that Rav Moshe Hillel left his home since the lockdown began before *Pesach*. Rav Moshe Hillel sat separately at a table, wearing a mask throughout the wedding, and no one was permitted to go up to him. He did dance with the *chosson*, but with each holding a side of a *gartel*.

RAV YESHAYA GOLDSCHMIDT ZT"l

Last week, Rav Yeshaya Goldschmidt, one of the *roshei yeshiva* of Yeshiva Tal Torah, passed away after a two-month battle with Covid-19. He was 71.

Rav Goldschmidt was born and raised in Yerushalayim and spent his formative years in the Chevron Yeshiva. He became a son-in-law of the Lelover Rebbe of Yerushalayim and was very close with Rav Chaim Greineman and other *gedolim* of Bnei Brak associated with the *Chazon Ish*.

He learned for many years in the *kollel* of Yeshiva Tal Torah and eventually was appointed as a *R"m* in the *yeshiva*.

He leaves behind his *rebbetzin*, thirteen married children, and numerous grandchildren.

Yehi zichro boruch.

RAV AVROHOM MESHULEM FEIVISH HAKOHEIN SCHWARTZ ZT"l

Rav Avrohom Meshulem Feivish Hakohein Schwartz *zt"l*, *rov* of Khal Kol Aryeh of Brooklyn, has passed away. Rav Feivish was a Holocaust survivor who came from an illustrious lineage. He rebuilt his family in the United States in the image of the *Yiddishkeit* that he saw in pre-war Hungary.



A son of Rav Pinchos Zelig Hakohein Schwartz, Rav Feivish was a descendant of Rav Avrohom Yehudah Hakohein Schwartz, known by his responsa as the *Kol Aryeh*. The *Kol Aryeh* was one of the leading Hungarian *rabbonim* of the nineteenth century who served as *rov* of Beregszasz, Hungary and in his native town of Mad.

Rav Feivish endured the horrors of the Holocaust, ultimately immigrating to the United States to rebuild his life. He became a *talmid* of the *Divrei Yoel*, Rav Yoel Teitelbaum of Satmar, and went on to raise an outstanding *mishpacha*. His son is Rav

Moshe Peretz Schwartz, *rov* of Bais Medrash Kol Aryeh of Lakewood.

The *levayah* was held at Bais Medrash Kol Aryeh in Lakewood, after which the *aron* was flown to Eretz Yisroel for *kevarah* there.

Yehi zichro boruch.

SEUDAS HODAAH CELEBRATES RECOVERY OF SATMAR REBBETZIN FROM COVID-19

Last week, a *seudas hod-aah* was held at the home of Rav Aharon Teitelbaum of Satmar to celebrate the recovery and return to health of his wife, Rebbetzin Soshe Teitelbaum, who had been ill for weeks with a serious case of Covid-19.

CHIEF RABBI OF RUSSIA HOSPITALIZED WITH CORONAVIRUS

Rav Berel Lazar, chief rabbi of Russia, was diagnosed with the coronavirus last week. Until he took ill, Rav Lazar was very involved in relief efforts on behalf of those who have been adversely affected by the economic downturn due to the virus. Once he began to feel unwell, he quarantined himself at home, but after a few days, it was determined that he should be hospitalized.



His office has released a statement saying that the chief rabbi is doing well and the hospitalization was employed out of an abundance of caution.

All are asked to *daven* for Dov Ber ben Henya.

GREAT-GRANDSON OF RAV YECHESKEL ROTH BORN

A *shalom zochor* celebrating the birth of a great-grandson of Rav Yecheskel Roth, Karlsburger Rov, was held on *Shabbos Parshas Naso* at the Toldos Tzvi Spinka Bais Medrash in Williamsburg. The baby is a son of Rav Yisroel Tzvi Horowitz, a son of the Toldos Tzvi Spinka Rebbe. Rav Yisroel Tzvi's father-in-law is Rav Moshe Roth, *rav hatzair* of the Karlsburger Bais Medrash and a son of Rav Yechezkel Roth.



WEDDING OF GRANDSON OF RAV MOSHE SHTERNBUCH

The wedding of a grand-son of Rav Moshe Shternbuch was held last week in Modiin Illit. The *chosson* is a son of Rav Moshe's son, Rav Osher Shternbuch, *rosh yeshiva* of Rav Moshe's *yeshiva* in Beit Shemesh. The *kallah* is a daughter of Rav and Mrs. Hochberger of Kiryat Sefer.

TOLDOS AVROHOM YITZCHOK-SASSOV SHIDDUCH

Last week, the engagement of two grandchildren of the Toldos Avrohom Yitzchok Rebbe was announced. The *chosson*,

Avrohom Yitzchok Brach, is a son of the *rebbe's* son-in-law and daughter, Rav and Mrs. Yechezkel Shraga Brach. The *kallah* is a daughter of Rav Henschel Teitelbaum. Rav Henschel is a son of the Sasover Rebbe and a son-in-law of the Toldos Avrohom

Yitzchok Rebbe.

WEDDING OF SON OF SKULENER REBBE OF MONSEY

This week, the wedding of a son of the

FOOD for THOUGHT

THE \$100 BILL

BY R' YITZCHOK HISIGER

Rabbi Dovid Newman, a twelfth grade *rebbe* in Monsey, NY, has worked his magic to bring out the sweetness of *Gemara* learning for his *talmidim*. Through the world-renowned Vhaarev Na *chazarah* program (vhaarevna.com) that he founded, thousands of *bochurim* have been able to connect to *Gemara* learning in particular, and *limud haTorah* in general, in a way they never thought possible.

Several years ago, Rabbi Newman had a *talmid*, Yossi, whose primary focus in life was money. Born and bred in Monsey, Yossi attended a local elementary school and then entered *mesivta*, where his interest in *Gemara* remained pretty much non-existent. When Yossi started twelfth grade, Rabbi Newman knew that he'd have to be creative to motivate Yossi, who preferred to do anything – anything – but learn *Gemara*.

Rabbi Newman, with his characteristic energy and enthusiasm, got the boys in his *shiur* off to a rousing start. To the surprise of everyone, Yossi mastered the first *daf* of the *masechta*. It was the first time, he admitted, that he had ever learned a full *blatt* of *Gemara*.

But his focus was still on *gelt*. Money, money, money. That's all Yossi could talk or think about.

Rabbi Newman knew that he had to think out of the box. He asked Yossi for his *Gemara* and gave it to a book-binder, instructing that a \$100 bill be taped to the front of the volume next to the words "*Hanechemodim mizohov umi...\$100*," from the *posuk* in *Tehillim* (19:11) which refers to words of Torah as "*Hanechemodim mizohov umipoz rov umesukim midvash venofes tzufim* - They are to be desired more than gold, more than fine gold, and sweeter than honey and drippings of honeycombs."

"Yossi," Rabbi Newman told his *talmid* upon returning the *Gemara* with its newly designed cover, "in case you are ever tempted to rip off this \$100 bill, I am

giving you a second \$100 bill for you to use. But that first bill should remain there for you to remember just how precious Torah is."

Rabbi Newman's message was clear: The learning of *Gemara* is so much more valuable and cherished than money.

With a smile, Yossi expressed his concern that perhaps the *Gemara*, with money attached, was now *muktzah* and could not be used on *Shabbos*. A phone call to Rav Yaakov Forchheimer, senior *posek* in Lakewood, cleared that up, as Rav Forchheimer said that the bill was *botel* to the *Gemara* and there was thus no concern of *muktzah*.

Fast forward three years to this spring. Rabbi Newman hadn't spoken to Yossi since he left the United States to learn in Eretz Yisroel. Recently, Rabbi Newman called his former *talmid*, now 21 years old, to find out how he's faring amidst the Covid-19 lockdown.

"*Rebbi*," Yossi said, "this 'corona *zeman*' has been a difficult one, with many

bochurim not returning to Eretz Yisroel yet and things being very unsettled. However, I must tell you that what has saved me is 'my *masechta*,' which I am learning *b'iyun*, in depth, each day during a 'fester' morning *seder*."

Then Yossi shocked Rabbi Newman once more.

"*Rebbi*, I want to tell you that I have finished my *masechta* 16 times using the *Gemara* – that very *Gemara* with the \$100 bill that you taped to its cover."

Yossi tasted the sweetness and he's never looked back.

Over the years, there were those who might have thought that Yossi and his money obsession were a lost cause. He seemingly could not be motivated.

That was until he met a world-class *rebbe* whose own love of learning was so contagious, and who wouldn't be dissuaded by lack of success in the past.

With a couple of \$100 bills and a dream, he did something he had never considered before, but it did the trick.

Yossi and his 16 *siyumim* of "his" *masechta* are proof of that.

Torah is meshivas nofesh, calming the soul and igniting the fire in the neshomah, redirecting a person to their true goal. Sometimes, we must be creative in the methods used to spark that inner flame.

