

ACROSS



THE FRUITED PLAIN

WRITTEN BY
RACHEL STEIN

RABBI C.M. LIPSCHUTZ
PICTURE PAGE EDITOR

LOS ANGELES NEWS

LINK Kollel Hosts Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried

The LINK Kollel in Los Angeles hosted Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, *rosh kollel* of DATA in Dallas, for an inspiring *Shabbaton* over *Shabbos Parshas Yisro*. Over a hundred people heard at least part of his many illuminating *shiurim* and *drashos*.

Rabbi Fried spoke at an *oneg Shabbos* about his fond memories of interacting with Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach while he was a *kollel yungerman* in Yerushalayim back in the '80s and early '90s. He would drive Rav Shlomo Zalman once a week and discuss many *halacha shailos* with him. Those *halachic* decisions formed the basis of Rabbi Fried's classic work, "*Yom Tov Sheini K'hilchasa*," which is the definitive work, in Hebrew and English, on the subject. Rabbi Fried shared his recollections of witnessing Rav Shlomo Zalman's tremendous *midos bein adam lachaveiro* and his awe-inspiring *ahavas Yisroel*.

He gave two *halacha shiurim*. One was about *hilchos mezuzah*, focusing on those who are afraid to put a *mezuzah* outside their door because of anti-Semitism, and another one was about the *halachos* of Americans in Eretz Yisroel and Israel in America on the second day of *Yom Tov*.

He also gave a *drasha* about the deeper meaning of *naaseh venishma*. He stated that our goal is to reach the level *Klal Yisroel* attained at that moment, becoming true *ovdei Hashem* and completely fusing our will with His.

Rabbi Fried spoke before *Mincha* about the *halachic* obligation to remember *Maamad Har Sinai* daily. Rebbetzin Marcy Fried gave a *shiur* for women on *Shabbos* afternoon titled "Per-

fectly Imperfect: The Art of Being Your Best Self," an inspirational talk on character development and personal growth.

In an inspiring talk at *seudah shlishis*, Rabbi Fried described how his *kollel* was successful in *kiruv*. Before sharing some inspiring vignettes, he relayed the advice he received at the outset from Rav Zelig Epstein, who spoke to him about the innate holiness of every Jewish soul, even those far removed from the world of Torah. Rabbi Fried elaborated, based on the teachings of Rav Chaim Volozhiner, that there are different levels of the Jewish soul, demonstrating a very profound connection that we all have with our Creator, no matter how assimilated a Jew may be. In that context, he relayed a story about how Rav Chaim Berlin, the chief rabbi of Moscow in the early 1900s, performed a secret *bris* on a Jew whose profession was selling religious icons for the Russian Orthodox Church. Even that Jew, despite his seemingly complete alienation from Torah and *mitzvos*, expressed a deep longing for his children to be connected to *Yiddishkeit*. It was with that ethos that Rabbi Fried and his colleagues approached hundreds of secular Jews to interest them in Torah study. And the results are legendary.

On Sunday morning, Rabbi Fried gave an advanced *shiur* about whether *kabbolas mitzvos* is essential for a *geirus* to be effectuated. (Rabbi Fried is the author of a comprehensive *halachic* study of the laws of *geirus*.)

The attendees of Rabbi Fried's talks were moved by his words and impressed by the depth of his Torah scholarship. LINK wished Rabbi Fried and his *rebbetzin* well on their forthcoming move to Eretz Yisroel in July, when he will open a *kollel* in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

TORONTO NEWS

Kollel Oholei Yom Tov Melava Malka

Kollel Oholei Yom Tov of Toronto, led by Rav Yisroel Bollag, held its annual *melava malka* on *Motzoei Shabbos Parshas*



Mishpotim at Toras Emes Viewmount. Introductory remarks were delivered by Reb Mordechai Mandelbaum, followed by *divrei brocha* and a *siyum* on *Seder Moed* made by the *rosh kollel*, Rav Bollag. The guest speaker was Rav Avrohom Bleich of Detroit, who spent *Shabbos* with the *kollel*.

Telz Cleveland Shabbos in Toronto

On *Shabbos Parshas Mishpotim*, Rav Aharon Dovid Goldberg and Rav Anshel Helman of Telz Cleveland spent *Shabbos* with the Toronto *kehillah* in several different *shuls* and *kollelim*, uplifting the community with *shiurim*, *divrei Torah*, and *divrei hisorerus*.

Skulener Rebbe of Lakewood Visits Toronto

The Skulener Rebbe of Lakewood visited Toronto from Wednesday, February 19, to Wednesday, February 26. The *rebbe* conducted his *Shabbos tefillos* and *tish* at Tiferes Bais Yaakov and visited various *yeshivos* and *shuls*. The *rebbe* stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Feivi Heller.

Telshe Cleveland Shabbos in Toronto

Over *Shabbos Parshas Mishpotim*, Rav Ahron Dovid Goldberg and Rav Anshel Hellman of Telshe Cleveland visited Toronto. They spoke at multiple venues and stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shmulie Hauer.

SCOTTSDALE NEWS

Tefillin Awareness Project in Scottsdale

The Tefillin Awareness Project has expanded beyond the tri-state region. Over the last several months, events have been held in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Scottsdale.

Rabbi Ariel Shoshan of Ahavas Torah of Scottsdale coordinated a *mezuzah*, *tefillin*, and *Sefer Torah* checking extravaganza, including the Tefillin Awareness Project event. From Friday through Monday, *sofer* and *batim* expert Rabbi Yosef Heinemann of Wickliffe, Ohio, conducted the TAP event at Ahavas Torah, the Torah Day School of Phoenix, and the Mesivta of Phoenix.

FLORIDA NEWS

Tefillin Awareness Project at Miami Beach Community Kollel

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Miami Beach Community Kollel hosted the Tefillin Awareness Project, with qualified *sofrim* making necessary adjustments free of charge. The event included adjustments to the placement of the *tefillin*, the squareness of the *batim*, the position and accuracy of the knots, and the blackness and width of the straps.

Rav Simcha Scheinberg and Rabbi Meir Simcha Stein Speak at Torah Academy of Boca Raton

This week, the boys' middle school *talmidim* at Torah Academy of Boca Raton welcomed Rav Simcha Scheinberg, *rosh yeshiva* of Yeshiva Torah Ore in Yerushalayim. Rav Scheinberg inspired the boys to strengthen their commitment to Torah learning, highlighting the power of even a few extra minutes of learning each day. He also reminded the boys to always turn to Hashem for everything they need. The boys left uplifted and motivated to maximize their learning and deepen their connection with Hashem.

Rabbi Meir Simcha Stein, a renowned educator and leadership mentor, also visited Torah Academy. He spoke to students and staff about the power of human connection and how our feelings are reflected in those around us. Addressing the staff, Rabbi Stein emphasized recognizing and focusing on our children's abilities and cultivating a sincere connection with students and parents.

Mrs. Gitty Zeines Visits Torah Academy of Boca Raton

This week, the girls' middle school at Torah Academy of Boca Raton heard from Mrs. Gitty Zeines. Despite facing significant physical challenges from birth and losing sight entirely at age eleven due to a car accident, Mrs. Zeines thrived in mainstream schools and now works with an agency supporting people with special needs. Her message was clear: Hashem gives us challenges to help us grow and accomplish. Her motto, "I can - it might take me longer, or I might do it differently," resonated deeply. She demonstrated adaptive tools like Braille typesetting and the AIRA device, which help her navigate daily life. Her positivity and strength inspired the girls to face their challenges with *emunah* and determination.