

## CHAVRUSA

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159 — Gertz Bros., N.Y.C.

## Editor's Prerogative

At our recent convention, many colleagues expressed their gratitude to the Yeshiva for its proficient servicing in various areas of communal need. Field visits by C.S.D. personnel tend to enhance a rabbi's prestige and standing and contribute invaluable counselling in numerous aspects of practical rabbinics.

These paeans of praise, however, served to accentuate the plaintive pleas of others who bemoaned the insufficiency of these services. The limited personnel resources of an assiduously dedicated but overworked C.S.D. staff perforce reduces such occasions of helpfulness to a barest minimum. Tours of duty by staff members and regional conclaves organized by the Yeshiva hardly satisfy the overwhelming needs of congregations. It is indeed a tribute to the competency of the C.S.D. staff that the demand for their services is ever-widening and so insatiable.

At a session devoted to C.S.D. staff reports, and also in lobby and mealtime discussion, a pattern of comment was discernible. Many alumni would wish their congregations more fully embraced by the Yeshiva through a direct organizational affiliation. The Yeshiva Synagogue Council, as presently constituted, is more of a noble aspiration than an achieved realization in most areas of its endeavor. They pray for a continual liaison which should not necessarily be seasonally concurrent with fund-raising, to project the Yeshiva as the parent body and academic patron of their congregations.

Our alumni appreciate, of course, that additional finances are a necessary requisite for extended Yeshiva servicing. They may even concede, perhaps, that some of our colleagues

## Our Roshe Hayeshiva

By JACOB GOLDBERG



The beloved Rebbe we honor this month, הרב שמואל גרסטנפלד שליט"א, Rabbi Samuel Gerstenfeld, is a classic example of "Ben Shmonim li-gvorah". Though advanced in years, B. H., and physically weary after a long and active career, his mind is keen and alert, his smile ever-present and warm, his eyes still twinkling and sparkling. No one in the Yeshiva can ever remember when Rabbi Gerstenfeld was less than vigorous and wholehearted in anything he did — in teaching, in counselling, in being a friend to his host of talmidim. He remains to this day tireless and enthusiastic in his work and thought for the cause of Torah. Our Rebbe was born in Rawarusko in Galicia. He showed his aptitude and genius for the Talmud at an early age, and continued his Torah studies at the Klausenberger Yeshiva in Hungary. After receiving S'micha from the then Klausenberger Rebbe R'Moshe Shmuel Glazner, שליט"א, (a most beautiful and unusual document which is in our Rebbe's proud possession) Rabbi Ger-

stenfeld spent twelve years in England working in various capacities at the English Ministry under Chief Rabbi Adler. This was the time when he acquired his famous Oxfordian English accent, which stood him in such good stead in his later years at Yeshiva.

Arriving in America during World War I, he was privileged to meet Dr. Revel שליט"א in 1917, and a few days later was invited to give his first Shiur at Yeshiva. Among his first students in Montgomery Street were talmidim who later became the first American-born traditionally ordained Rabbis in the United States. Our Rebbe pioneered in giving a Shiur in Yoreh Deah, and has maintained to this day a close and personal friendship with his hundreds of students.

Humble, good-natured, sincere and friendly, R. Gerstenfeld has been a beloved figure in the halls of Yeshiva these many years. He has represented to three generations of Yeshiva students "Oxford English with a Beard", (no one else describes *lemifraya* and *meyachshav* as retroactive and prospective) and his ill-concealed disdain for "chazonisheh draidlach" have enlivened many a Shabbos and Simchas Torah Services. Now Professor Emeritus, and resting from an active career, he still finds time for communal affairs and scholarly articles, and receives with love the respectful calls of former talmidim. The walls of his home are adorned with testimonial plaques and tributes from Yeshiva and other organizations. We, his former students and friends, always wish him nachas and contentment for many years to come. We pray for a *refuah shlamah* for the Rebitzen, and for many occasions of joy from children and grandchildren. Rabbi Gerstenfeld will be very pleased to hear from his former talmidim who wish to re-establish a liaison with him.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Rabbi Weiss:

... I've enjoyed your column "*Modor Hahalacha*". Rabbi Norman Lamm's latest contribution ... was very interesting reading. The thought ... is whether you are doing justice to the concept of a "*Modor Hahalacha*" by printing under its mast head a research paper, no matter how brilliantly or scholarly written.

Even secular research has established a style and format of its own. Certainly *halacha* and *sheilot* and *tshuvot* have a style of their own. If this was a *sheiloh* it should have been addressed to the *gedolim*—if it was a *chidush* or

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have been somewhat less than dedicated in fund-raising. However, it is a logical corollary that an extended affiliation and servicing would redound to the Yeshiva's financial benefit. There is an inescapable connection between financial responsiveness and communal identification.

The C.S.D. represents an impressive stride in community service. Many of our colleagues plead, however, for a virile Synagogue Council and an expanded C.S.D. with additional personnel and financial resources commensurate with the pressing need. These impressions drawn from comments by our fellow colleagues warrant serious consideration by our alumni as well as by the Yeshiva Administration.

Abraham R. Besdin



# THE "FISCH" POND

By Mandel H. Fisch

As winter arrived, trepidation filled the air of Chavrusa's smoke filled, Torah filtered press room. We accepted the wounds of time spurred on by chilly responses from our cloaked readers, which lashed against the pond, motivating a concomittant mobilization of waves of indifference. (Our printer gets paid by the word . . . cash is scarce). The breezy friendly messages however, finally melted the icing, and our "frozen assets" are again, as heretofore, dispensed in the form of the latest personals.

## 1957 Tax Deductions And Family Additions:

The Maurice L. Schwartzs, Bronx, N.Y., a daughter (for those who can make it, they are having a Kiddush reception November 3, 1956 . . . We are slightly late on this announcement but it's "Open House" all day) . . . The Hayim Donins, Detroit, Mich., equalized it with an 8½ lb. son on November 21, 1:25 a.m. (That is 42nd Street Library research at its best!) . . . Then the male avalanche took over: sons to the Milton H. Elefants, Bangor, Me., the Murray Grauers, White Plains, N.Y., the Eli Greenwalds, Sherbrooke, Que., Can. (Here's the first son-in-law and father-in-law combination in R. A. history — this is a grandson to the Berzons, Bklyn., N.Y.) to the Leon Katzs a son, Avram Yitzchok; the Bernard Landers, Y. U. a son . . . Norman Lamm, Springfield, Mass., now a relative of J. B., new son Joshua B. arrived November 17 . . . the Jack Sables, Riverdale, N. Y., toppled the odds with a daughter; Charles Chavel, Edgemere, N.Y., a grandfather.

## Mazel Bureau

Morris I. Goldberg, New Orleans, La., announced daughter's marriage to musmach Yehuda Berenson . . . the Sidney Hoenigs, Bklyn., N.Y. observed the Bar Mitzvah of son Hershel . . . other big Bar Mitzvah bombshells came to the Morris H. Finers of C.S.D. and the Dr. Gershon Churgins, Y.U. . . . Teddy Younger, Cleveland, engaged to Marcia Brinsky of T. I. office . . . Solomon Poupko, Columbus, O., aisled with Esther Walkin, Bklyn., N.Y. Both in-laws are rabbis!

## Torah Traffic

New chaps in Chaplaincy: Sy Brickman, Sy Tannin, Alfred Thee . . . Izz Miller again Chaplaincy Comm. Chairman . . . Milton Kain back from Korea . . . Bertram Mond retreated from Europe . . . Moshe Cohen spiritual spire at Jericho, L. I. . . Benjamin Gonsky to Mountindale, N. Y., (real Pioneer.) . . . Melvin Burnstein to Brantford Conn., Benjamin Bleich to West Side Jewish Center, N. Y. C. . . . Henry Hoschander installed in Rochester, New York, Izzy Poleyeff in

New Castle, Pa., Max Schreier in Bridgeport Conn; Louis Bernstein in Young Israel of Windsor Park, N. Y. . . . A public installation and reception of 8 musmachim conducted by Philadelphia (and environs) chapter of Yeshiva University Synagogue Council. They were Jacob Hack, Lebanon, Pa., Manfred Rechtschaffen, Lancaster, Pa., Sol Steinmetz, Media, Pa., Hyman Agress, Clayton, N. J., Harry Nussenbaum, Flemington, N. J., Ishmael Cohen, New Brunswick, N. J., Leo Landman and Harold Schechter of Philadelphia — two short of a Minyan.

## In The Mail (Male)

A wire from Toronto November 26 reads: "Rabbi Fisch — Thanks for the Mazel Tov in Chavrusa. Baby not expected until January. Please inform whether it's boy or girl. signed Berel Rosenzweig". Dear Berel and Miriam: Still too early to predict? But its a boy. Please confirm same. (Aside: They are really a nice couple)

## Nooseworthy Roundup

Private library of N. Twersky, displayed at Port Lewis, Wash. . . . Harry Wohlberg, new prexy of R. A. . . . Bahn, Grauer, Turk, Miller are vices; Joseph H. Lookstein and Sol B. Friedman Honoraries . . . Abe Marcus PHD'd at Buffalo U. . . . Neil Hecht and Joel Balsalm attending Yale Law . . . Honored at Y. U. breakfasts at their respective synagogues; Honest Abe Besdin, Bklyn., N. Y. Seymour Turk, Bklyn., N. Y. Moses Malinowitz, Yonkers, N. Y. . . . Synagogue testimonial to Harold Hershtman, Union City, N. J. . . . Joseph H. Lookstein elected member New York City Federation's Board of Trustees . . . David Golovensky, New Rochelle, N. Y. writing a series of articles for "Congress Weekly" . . . Emanuel Rackman received New York City Federation's Annual Rabbinic Award . . . Hershel Schacter, Bronx, N. Y. went to Vienna as a member of an inter-religious committee to supervise religious needs of Hungarian refugees . . . Sidney Hoenig's "Jewish Family Purity" is now in 6th edition . . . The R. C. A. Midwinter Conference headed by Ephraim Kolatch, Long Beach, N. Y. and William Cohen, West Hartford, Conn. due February 4th in Atlantic City . . . R. A. Midwinter Conference, January 21 in New York City.

## Condolences

Simon Raskin on sudden loss of mother . . . recent unveiling for Murray Tobias held.

## Very Special Bouquets Dept.

The Young Israel of Montreal, under the leadership of Mendel Lewittes, has made a gift of \$10,000. to a budding Orthodox congregation,

in Val Royal section of Montreal. This gift will make it possible for the congregation to purchase a piece of property on which they will erect a new Orthodox Synagogue. This is the type of Jewish life insurance that more large congregations should be interested in.

APPENDIX (Don't get sick — It's not serious)

Well it's '57 and here we are at the brink of a new calendar year. The rabbi continues to stand in the front line barracks being judged, appraised, praised, dissected, the most talked about man in town and all he wants is a little serenity, tranquillity, privacy and anonymity. Along comes Chavrusa and washes away his dreams. We believe the only time a rabbi is really alone is when he asks for a raise! Send us your personals.

## Letters To The Editors

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*t'shuva* then writing torah has a definite style — *loshon kodesh*.

Rabbi Lamm's piece was a very fine bit of research, so should it not be labeled as such? Again the wise are to be careful with their words and to put into printed English the choice of making a choice between Maimonides and Tosfos does seem a bit risky . . .

(Rabbi) Freddie Wolf

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Dear Rabbi Weiss:

First, I should like to congratulate you on your decision to accept halachic articles from our musmachim for your column "*Modor Hahalacha*". This should stimulate greater halachic interest and activity on our part.

If I may, I would like to voice my disagreement with the basic premise of Rabbi Lamm's article in the September issue of Chavrusa; namely the equation of the question of Late Friday night services to Maariv of *motzei shabos beshabos*. By praying the *maariv shel motzei shabos beshabos* you necessarily preclude the possibility of *tosefes shabos* by the content of the *maariv shel chol*, however, by praying the late Friday service, you don't preclude the possibility of *tosefes shabos*. One can be *mosef shabos* without *maariv shel shabos* also. I strongly believe that this objection definitely invalidates Rabbi Lamm's premise and hence his entire thesis, which according to him seems to involve so many halachic authorities from Amaraic times through the period of the Ashkenazic and Sephardic Rishonim who presumably aligned themselves on opposite sides of the halachic fence with regard to this recent and contemporary question of Friday night services . . .

(Rabbi) Gilbert L. Shoham