

How good and pleasant it is for brothers to be "together"

תורה אהבה ושלום זהו ענין שבתאחים ב"ח"י

# B'YACHAD

## TOGETHER

THE ELECTRONIC  
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
OF OHR SOMAYACH



Prepared by **Ohr Somayach Institutions**

22 Shimon Hatzadik Street, POB 18103, Jerusalem 91180, Israel

Tel: 972-2-810315 Fax: 972-2-812890 Internet: ohr@jer1.co.il

Issue #8

Shavuos 5756



### Marc (Melech) Beningson.

I was raised in the same Conservative Synagogue in Stamford Connecticut that my grandparents joined in the 1930's and had my bar mitzvah on the same *bimah* as my father and uncle. For reasons not clear to me at the time, I asked for *tefillin* for my 13th birthday gift. Not all the older men at the daily minyan wore them, so I had little idea why *tefillin* should be important.

A 'confirmation class' dropout, I held leadership positions in the USY youth group and spent a summer 'pilgrimage' in Israel. But Jewish activities in college were limited. I spent more time playing ice hockey and being a performing arts sound technician.

After graduation I joined a rapidly growing acoustical consulting practice which took me all over the country. I was very busy. After a tough three months on the road I said to myself, "I should really take one day a week and set it aside!" Suddenly I realized this was not a new idea! So I started to do something about Shabbos.

After starting my own company consulting in acoustics, sound systems, and control systems design, I started to work part time as Jewish youth director and Hebrew school teacher. I was considered a good role model, but I didn't think I was very knowledgeable.

So, I enrolled in the Master's program at the Jewish Theological Seminary. It was a let down, and I was very happy when *hashgacha pratis* took me to Honolulu for a six-month job which turned into three years.

Continued on reverse

### Alumni Reunion Dinner

You're invited to the Ohr Somayach Alumni Reunion Dinner, Sunday 15 Sivan 5756 (June 2, 1996) at Yeshiva Toras Emes Kaminetz Hall, 1650-56th Street, Brooklyn, New York. The Reunion will feature the Roshei Yeshiva: Rav Nota Schiller and Rav Mendel Weinbach. Reception 4 PM, Dinner 5 PM.

#### Dinner Committee:

- Daniel Spekman, Chairman
- Betzalel Anfllick, Yaakov Berman, Simcha Goldberg,
- Yosef Hyman, Dov Kagan, Chaim Kaplan, Shamai Linsky
- Lee Needleman, Dovid Speigel, Shmuel Steele

Please RSVP ASAP to Daniel Spekman <102475.3075@compuserve.com> or mail him at 2005 Avenue L, Apt. 5G, Brooklyn, NY 11210, telephone (718) 377-3234. \$36/person, \$72/couple.

While in North America, Rav Mendel Weinbach will be visiting Chicago, Cleveland, Toronto, Miami, Detroit and Philadelphia, addressing alumni groups and meeting with individual alumni. For info and appointments, contact:

- Chicago: R. Yehuda Albin 312-761-1315
- Cleveland: R. Steven Abrams 216-591-1164
- Toronto: R. Avi Rothman 905-886-6065
- Miami: R. Shmuel Kalos 305-674-8535
- Detroit: R. Yechiel Krohner 810-352-4870
- Philadelphia: R. Avrohom Goldman 215-725-8625
- New York: 212-213-3100

#### ADVERTISEMENT • ADVERTISEMENT • ADVERTISEMENT

### Marvin Gruza

Certified Public Accountant

Accounting • Tax Preparation and Planning  
Business Consulting • Financial Planning • Computer Training

138-38 Jewel Ave. Flushing, NY 11367  
Tel. 718-263-3025/ Fax 718-263-3361

Write to Ohr Somayach for information on how to place your ad here!

©1996 Ohr Somayach International - All rights reserved.

Dedication opportunities are available for B'Yachad — Please contact us for details.

Editor: Rabbi Reuven Subar

General Editor: Rabbi Moshe Newman

Contributing Editor: Chaim Salenger

22 Shimon Hatzadik Street, POB 18103, Jerusalem Israel

972-2-810-315 fax: 972-2-812-890

ohr@jer1.co.il

Alumni Office, 1743-57th Street Brooklyn, NY 11204, USA

718-259-5111

Issue # 8 — Shavuos 5756

Production Design: Lev Seltzer

## Spotlight

*Continued from front*

But there are better places than Hawaii for a *Shomer* Shabbos bachelor. I started 'commuting' to LA for Shabbatons and *shidduchim*. I *davened* to leave Hawaii.

In order to get me out, Hashem made an entire company go bankrupt, with my division sold to a company in San Diego! There I met JLE alum Todd Salovey, OS alum Mike Kalman, and Rabbi Jeff Wohlgelernter. I heard my first *daf yomi shiur*. From then on I was hooked on yeshiva-style learning.

I went to all the *shiurim* I could but needed more. Again my *tefillos* were heard: My new company floundered, permitting me to take a leave of absence. I was off to Ohr Somayach. I learned there for a total of six months, in two phases, from Aug. '92 -- March '93. Less than a week after returning to California, I met my *kallah!* We've since moved to Baltimore and have two children, B'H. Ohr Somayach continues to play a very strong role in my life. I look forward to returning with my family, IY'H, to visit and learn much more.

*[Melech, we all look forward to seeing you and your family at Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem!]*

## ALUMNI SPEAK!

**DAVID TETEN** <DTETEN@bear.com> writes:

As an Ohr Somayach JLE graduate, I am very happy that you are continuing to sponsor quality kiruv like 'Ask the Rabbi' Please keep up the good work.

**LOU BRIFMAN** alumnus 1974 <b2418m8@bell-atl.com>  
<LouBrifman@bagout.BELL-ATL.COM> writes:

Liked your work on the Purim special. Keep it up!

**Shmuel Davis, Baltimore MD USA**

<empbalt@charm.net> writes:

Hello! This is Shmuel Davis from Baltimore. I was a *bochur* in the Yeshiva from 1980-81. I have just joined the modern world and now can access the Internet. It is a pleasure to see Ohr Somayach (even if it is only in cyberspace). If anyone there remembers me, please write back. Kol Tuv and keep up the great work!!

**GARRY A. DINKIN** <shelburn@ix.netcom.com> writes:

Greetings to Ohr Somayach! My Best wishes to all of the Rabbis, staff and families thereof for a rich and joyful year.

## Bounce Us with your Best 'Pshat'!

Got something to say? Just bounce this message back to us with your comments, announcements, *divrei Torah*, or whatever! Thousands of Ohr Somayach Alumni are waiting to hear from you!

Is your copy on paper rather than E-Mail? So use one of the following methods to 'bounce' us your reply:

Fax: 972-2-812-890, Attn: B'YACHAD

Post: Yeshiva Ohr Somayach, ATTN: B'YACHAD  
22 Shimon Hatzadik Street, POB 18103, Jerusalem 91180 ISRAEL

E-Mail: address your message to: ohr@jer1.co.il  
Set the subject to "B'YACHAD"

## Simchas & Announcements

### Mazel Tov to:

- Rabbi and Mrs. Schiller on the engagement of their son Shlomo
- Rabbi and Mrs. Schoen on the engagement of their daughter
- Rabbi and Mrs. Pindrus on the engagement of their son Yaakov
- Rabbi and Mrs. Isbee on the marriage of one son and the bar mitzvah of another son
- Rabbi and Mrs. Zweig on the birth of a son
- Jonathan and Mrs. Altman on the birth of a boy, Yaakov Dovid
- Alan Cooper <acooper@umabnet.ab.umd.edu> on his engagement
- Ilan and Mrs. Diamond on the birth of a girl
- David Jasse on his engagement
- Ze'ev and Hilary Kahn on the birth of a son
- Chaim and Mrs. Kaplan birth of daughter
- Avi Rothenberg on his marriage
- Steve and Mrs. Schaeffer on the birth of a girl
- Yossi Silberfarb on his engagement
- Gershon and Mrs. Tave on the birth of a girl
- Chaggai Veig on his engagement

Ohr Somayach expresses condolences to

- Rabbi Avraham Rockmill on the passing of his mother
- Mordechai Braka of the passing of his father
- Danny Lemberg on the passing of his father

## Topic of the Month

## 'SEFIRAH' Counting

*You shall count from the day after Pesach, from the day you bring the Omer-offering that is to be waved; seven complete weeks they shall be — until the morrow of the seventh week you shall count 50 days, and then offer a new meal-offering to Hashem.*

*Vayikra 23:15*

Select quotations on this topic:

- It is a *mitzvah* to count days as well as to count weeks. (*Chagigah* 17b)
- "Seven complete weeks they shall be." When are they complete? When Israel does the will of the Creator. (*Vayikra Rabba* 28:3)
- For which particular merit was Israel worthy to inherit the Land of Israel? In merit of the *mitzvah* of the Omer. (*Vayikra Rabba* 28:4)
- The Omer offering teaches us that we should utilize our materialistic world as a means to serve Hashem since the whole world belongs to Him. Once we succeed in awakening in ourselves to this realization, we must check every ensuing day to make sure that our aspiration to serve Hashem with all our worldly belongings has not at all diminished. (*Michtav Me'Eliyahu*, vol.2, p.25)