

# FLATBUSH JEWISH JOURNAL

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HARAV RUDERMAN ז"ל 70



THE SUPER SPICE | 24



RABBI SOLOFF ז"ל | 69



DATELINE HALACHOS | 58

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## SPECIAL "THREE WEEKS" SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

בין המצרים



### THE PASSING OF 3 GEDOLEI YISROEL: A Message to Flatbush



HAGAON HORAV YITZCHOK DOV KOPPELMAN ז"ל



HAGAON HORAV MICHEL YEHUDA LEFKOWITZ ז"ל



HAGAON HORAV CHAIM STEIN ז"ל

### In A Single Month

RABBI NOSSON SCHERMAN

Mayor Ed Koch came to Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem during the *hespedim* for Maran Harav Moshe Feinstein, since mayors must show their faces wherever there are

large numbers of voters. He asked the one who brought him, "How old was Rabbi Feinstein?" When he was told that Reb Moshe was in his early 90s, he expressed surprise. "He lived such a long life – so why is everyone crying?" To know why everyone was crying,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

### Traveling with the Maggid

Many Flatbush Bochorim Join Historic Trip

MENACHEM KLEIN

Rabbi Paysach Krohn, Rabbi Menachem Nissel and Reb Abish Brodt recently led 57 Yeshiva high school *bochorim* on The Mesorah Trip to Po-

land under the auspices of Project Mesorah. The goal was to give the *bochorim* an appreciation of pre-war European Jewish history – with a focus on both the greatness of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56



Rabbi Krohn, Rabbi Nissel and Abish Brodt walking joyously to Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin

### Flatbush Hakhel Event Highlights Hashkafa & Business Issues

DANIEL KEREN

The summer season officially began in the Flatbush Jewish community with the much anticipated Independence Day Hakhel *Yarchei Kallah* program at the Agudath Israel of Madison that annually attracts hundreds of men and women who have the legal holiday off from work and school. Hakhel is a Flatbush-based organization dedicated to promoting a greater awareness of Torah-true values in our community. For more than a decade Hakhel has organized inspiring *halacha* and *hashkafa shiurim* on legal holidays such as last Monday's July 4<sup>th</sup> gathering.

Last week's Hakhel *Yarchei Kallah* extravaganza ran from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M. with the addi-



R' YISROEL REISMAN



R' ARI MARBURGER



R' MORDECHAI BECHER



R' AMITAI BENDAVID

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

FJJ Community Alert

**MISSING CHILD IN BORO PARK**

DETAILS PAGE 4

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## Traveling with the Maggid Many Flatbush Bochurim Join Historic Trip with Project Mesorah

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Torah legends that lived in Poland and the *mesiras nefesh* of the Jews who suffered in the Holocaust – to ensure that they carry on this legacy. The overwhelming enthusiasm for what they experienced promises to be the impetus for other high school Mesorah Trips in the future.

At each juncture, starting from the Noizik shul in Warsaw until their final experience at the *kevorim* of the *Ramah* and the *Tosafos Yom Tov* in Krakow, the boys were fascinated and inspired by the insights and inspirational stories of Rabbi Krohn, by the history taught by Rabbi Nissel, and the moving and stirring singing of Reb Abish Brodt. In a sense, this was a dream team that made the experience a success beyond anyone's expectations.

"I wanted the boys to connect in a personal way with the brilliance of Rav Meir Shapiro in the *Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva* in Lublin, the exultant spirit of the *Rebbe* Reb Elimelech in Lizensk, and the vast Torah accomplishments of the *Ramah* in Krakow," said Rabbi Avrohom Kaufman, executive director of Project Mesorah. "In addition, we wanted the boys to relate to the tragedies and travails of many of their ancestors who went through the horrors of the Holocaust. They should have an appreciation of the sacrifices that Jews made

in the past, so they can be prepared and committed to their vital role as leaders in *Klal Yisroel* in the future."

Who on the trip will ever forget the powerful story Rabbi Krohn told about Rav Elchonon Wasserman, as the boys gathered in Majdonek? Who will ever forget the *Shema Yisroel* that they cried out moments afterwards? Who will ever forget the piercing, weeping voice of Reb Abish Brodt as he sang a *niggun* pleading with Hashem to see how Jews have suffered through the generations? Who will ever forget Rabbi Nissel's stories in the barracks about *birchas kohanim* under the direst circumstances?

Indeed, the boys appear to have gotten the message: "This trip definitely changed me," said Shmuel Frankel, "I felt like I connected to history." Daniel Rubenstein commented, "This trip taught me to 'think twice' and now I have a whole new appreciation for everything that I have." "It was amazingly inspirational," said Efraim Bensch, "I was particularly moved when we walked out of Auschwitz singing." Another boy, Avi Einhorn, also spoke about the concentration camps: "It was a very powerful experience for me when we were walking down the tracks in Auschwitz/Birkenau." And Daniel Schulman noted, "I was happy to come on this trip because I feel

that seeing these things when we're younger makes a greater impact and stays forever."

The boys danced in Ger, cried in Auschwitz and learned *mishnayos* (complete with a *siyum*) in *Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin*. They were also presented with a special welcoming video to Lublin given by Agudath Israel of America's Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zweibel, who shared with them the history of the *Daf Yomi* and *Siyum Hashas*. They davened *k'vasikin* in the *Rama's* shul in Krakow, and learned about the *Bach*, the *Chidushei HaRim* and Rav Chaim Soloveitchik. They visited the *kever* of Sarah Schneier, and the factory of Oskar Schindler, who saved many Jews from the Nazis by providing them with jobs. They listened to stories as they stood alongside the Warsaw Ghetto wall, and as they visited Birkenau.

Scholarships were made available through private donors, and the Project Mesorah office received calls from across the US and Europe from people eagerly wanting to participate. Among them was Reb Eli Merenstein of Camp Emes in Jerusalem who decided to bring his camp on The Mesorah Trip on their way to *Eretz Yisroel*. "We thought it is so important to give the boys a true educational experience of where we came from, to have a full appreciation of where we are today and to prepare for the future. The Mesorah Trip and the Project Mesorah staff exceeded our expectations," said Merenstein.

One of the most touching scenes on the trip occurred Friday night, just before *kid-dush*. Rabbi Krohn offered to give a *brocha* to any boy who wanted one. Almost at once, all 57 boys lined up to receive his *brocha* and warm embrace. As he put his hand on the head of each young man and blessed him, Rabbi Krohn said something individually special to each of the teenagers. Afterward, a number of them came to Rabbi Kaufman and, regarding their personal encounter with Rabbi Krohn, commented "He really knows me and likes me. He made me feel special." That small event summarized the essence of what the trip was all about; bonding with history and with fellow members of *Klal Yisroel*. There were boys from Toronto, Los Angeles, Chicago, Jerusalem, Boston, and, of course, New York.

Every Yeshiva high school boy should have this opportunity. Project Mesorah's goal is to make that a reality.

Project Mesorah is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization committed to connecting Jewish students to their heritage through a variety of unique programs. To contact Project Mesorah about future trips, programs and sponsorship opportunities, please call 845-642-3819 or email: [office@projectmesorah.org](mailto:office@projectmesorah.org).



Yeshiva bochorim dancing outside Yeshiva Chamei Lublin



R' Abish Brodt walking with boys in Birkenau



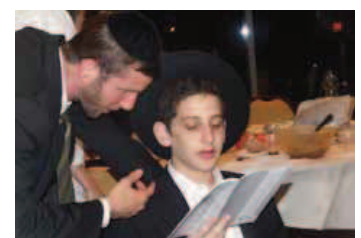
Eli Stein davening by Kever of Sarah Shenier



Rabbi Krohn at the Kever of the Chozeh of Lublin



Reflecting on what they have seen in Majdonek



R' Avrohom Moshe Kaufman learning Mishnayos with Yitzchok Ehrlich

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