



KOLLEL HORA'AH OF AMERICA CHAG HASEMICHA EVENT CROWNS 10 NEW RABBONIM IN KLAL YISROEL

BY L. HALEVI

The prestigious Kollel Hora'ah of America is located in a humble abode in Marlboro, NJ, and from its hallowed halls emanates Torah and hora'ah for all of Klal Yisroel.

The kollel, founded in 2014 by Rav Mordechai Eisenberg, a great-grandson of Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l, has a unique curriculum. Besides for lomdus and psak, there is also a strong emphasis on mussar, hashkofah and hadracha, via practical courses in rabbonus, public speaking, shidduchim, family coaching and other skills that develop bnei Torah into true poskim and manhigim. These specialized courses are given by Rabbi Mordechai Twerski, Rabbi Avi Shulman, Rabbi Avi Shafran, Rabbi Yaakov Guttman, Rabbi Eliyahu Kaufman, Rav Yisroel Dov Webster and other rabbonim and experts in their fields.

Rav Mordechai Eisenberg, together with Rav Avrohom Beren and Rav Shmuel Goldstein, all talmidim muvhakim of Rav Mordechai's grandfather, Rav Reuven Feinstein, rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva of Staten Island, lead the kollel according to the hadracha of the rosh yeshiva in every aspect.

This past Sunday evening, a tremendous event took place in Lakewood, a "Chag Hasemicha" where the kollel bestowed semicha upon 10 of its yungeleit who recently completed a nearly four-year intensive program of Yoreh Yoreh.

The event was attended by rabbonim and community leaders who came to participate in this momentous event that will leave Klal Yisroel better fortified to face the challenges of the generation ahead, with new rabbonim who are eager, and now capable and ready, to fill the roles that are demanded of them.

The emcee at the event was one of the musmachim, Rav Shmuel Katz, who thanked everyone for coming from far and near, "but most importantly, the musmachim here tonight who traveled a journey of well over three years to arrive at this evening's event, accomplished and uplifted by their journey to hora'ah."

The first speaker was the rosh kollel, Rabbi Mordechai Eisenberg, who reminded the assembled that "This is not just a graduation certificate, but recognition of the siyata dishmaya granted to the newly crowned rabbonim, in the same way that Yehoshua merited siyata dishmaya when Moshe Rabbeinu put his hands on him." He concluded his heartwarming remarks saying that, "These ten individuals walked into the room tonight as talmidei chachomim and are walking out of here as poskim! Ten rabbonim were born here and Klal Yisroel is more fortunate for having them in their midst."

The next speaker was the rosh yeshiva Rav Reuven Feinstein. "When you learn, you can say sevoros that are right or wrong, but when it comes to pasken, you have to be right!" said Rav Feinstein. "People are looking at you now, and looking to you and up to you, and it's your duty to give them shemen zayis zach, clarity in everything you impart to them. From today on, you are not just your own people, you are given the responsibility to teach and spread your fire to others."

One of the musmachim, Rav Moshe Dovid Berman, next delivered remarks on behalf of himself and the other



Rav Twerski with some of the musmachim.



Top row, L-R: Rav Aharon Leeder, Rav Eliezer Shechter, Rav Shmuel Katz, Rav Moishe Dovid Berman, Rav Moshe Orgel, Rav Yechezkel Webster, Rav Eliyahu Silver, Rav Moshe Eisenberg, Rav Yonah Scheiner, and Rav Yosef Stern.

Front row, L-R: Rosh kollel Rav Shmuel Goldstein, Rav Reuven Feinstein, rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva of Staten Island, rosh kollel Rav Mordechai Eisenberg, and rosh kollel Rav Avrohom Beren.

musmachim. He described how they all have hakoras hatov to the hanhalah of the kollel for providing an environment where nothing was lacking for their continual success. He also singled out the wives of the yungeleit, without whom the new rabbonim would not have been able to achieve the glory of semicha.

The next speaker was Rabbi Eliezer Eisenberg, father of the rosh kollel, and staunch supporter of the kollel. "A Sefer Torah is sometimes written 'Ariach al gabei leveinah,' having a large space between the two columns, for example the Shiras Hayam, as some things are beyond words," said Rabbi Eisenberg. "That is how I feel tonight; I am truly speechless at the magnitude of what is taking place here tonight." He went on to describe his feelings about the kollel and its rightfully deserving place amongst the bastions of Torah across the world.

The final speaker, Rav Avrohom Beren, likened the simcha to that of a chasunah, where ten rabbonim were celebrating a new "Kinyan HaTorah," to cherish and build upon for the rest of their lives. "At a chasunah, we add the brocha of 'Shehasimcha bime'ono' into Birchas Hazimun, expressing that our simcha is akin to a simcha in the abode of Hashem. Why then at a siyum, at a Hachnosas Sefer Torah, don't we recite that brocha?" asked Rabbi Beren.

He answered, in the name of the Aruch Hashulchan, that "a wedding is a step lower than a simcha in the abode of Hashem, as it isn't complete, due to physicality not lasting forever. Thus, we celebrate and say that the simcha is tremendous, but not exactly in the abode of eternity. However, by a simchas haTorah, by an event such as this Chag Hasemicha, the simcha is true and complete, the simcha is eternal, it is a true 'Simcha bime'ono' in every sense of the word. Therefore, unlike a wedding, there is no need to mention any other simcha other than what we are experiencing right here."

After the event, Rabbi Yitzchok Oratz, Rabbi of Monmouth Torah Links, had this to say: "It was a real zechus to be a part of the event -- and not only because my son-in-law, Rabbi Yonah Scheiner, was one of the musmachim: Having worked with the rosh kollel Rav Mordechai for many years, I know how much thought and toil went into making this happen. And watching the yungeleit up-close over the years, as the kollel is housed in my shul, it gave me simcha and nachas to see how much they have grown and achieved. Rav Shmuel Goldstein and Rav Avi Beren also put tremendous kochos into the yungeleit, and it was a pleasure to see the fruits of years of work."

Rav Mordechai Twerski, Hornsteipler Rebbe and a close friend of the kollel, remarked after the event, "It was true nachas to see the depth of Toras emes in these young talmidei chachomim. Precisely as the rosh kollel said, they walked in as yungeleit and walked out as poskim and manhigei Yisroel. Incredible!"

Similar sentiments were felt and expressed by many who had the opportunity to attend the event, especially by the new group of yungeleit who have just recently begun their own journey to semicha. Being part of this event was a tremendous inspiration for them to excel and achieve in the footsteps of those before them.

All in all, the event was truly a monumental Kiddush Sheim Shomayim in every way.



Rav Mordechai Twerski, Hornsteipler Rebbe and rov of Beis Medrash Ateres Shloime, and Rabbi Mordechai Eisenberg.



Rav Reuven Feinstein signing the semichos.



Rav Reuven Feinstein addressing the assemblage.



Rav Twerski with Reb Tzvi Stern, father of one of the musmachim.



Reb Shlomo Levy and Dr. Michael Hymanson, members of the Monmouth Torah Links community.



Rav Reuven Feinstein presents his grandson, Rav Moshe Eisenberg, with his ksav semicha.