

BALTIMORE

Melaveh Malkah at Yeshiva Toras Simcha: A Night of *Achdus* and Inspiration

On *Motzoei Shabbos Parashas Toldos, hanhalah* and parents of Yeshivas Toras Simcha gathered to celebrate, strengthen and encourage the growth of the yeshivah, both in size and in energy. YTS now has a full roster of grades, from nursery through their first graduating class of eighth-graders, as well as a very large installment of new *mechanchim* and administrative positions as of this year.

The “Night of *Achdus* and Inspiration” was a chance for the *hanhalah*, both new and old members, to interface with the parents and to connect over the missions, goals and values of Yeshivas Toras Simcha. Rabbi Hillel Shepard, the school’s new *Menahel*, opened the evening with *Tehillim*, followed by “*Acheinu*.”

As the crowd enjoyed a delicious spread, a large screen showed an in-house video interviewing many of YTS’ own students, highlighting the energy and upward growth of the school. Most of those boys interviewed mentioned their appreciation of the things that indeed set Toras Simcha apart.

They noted the many programs and activities that Program Director Rabbi Shai Scherer infuses into the halls and walls and *talmidim*, every day; they spoke about the warm greetings that they receive every day by multiple staff members on their way into class; and they related gratitude for the friends they have to work and play with.



Rabbi Hillel Shepard, *Menahel*, and Rabbi Eliyahu Mandel, second-grade *Rebbi*, at the *melaveh malkah*.



Rabbi Yechiel Gabay, seventh-grade *Rebbi*, addressing questions posed to the *Rebbeim* on various *chinuch* topics.

Friendship is a focus of YTS, along with attention to each student in a warm atmosphere. That night, the parents got to enjoy that atmosphere of friendship and warmth.

A last part of the memorable evening put the school’s *Rebbeim* into the spotlight. A list of questions from parents in a few *chinuch* categories provided the subject matter of a question-and-answer session, which enabled parents to see

the *Rebbeim* in a remarkable light. With their answers, unscripted, the expertise and dedication of the *Rebbeim* in their holy calling was clear, evident, and engaging.

An evening that started as a *chizuk* ended that way as well, with parents taking home kernels of wisdom from the *Rebbeim*, together with a large measure of pride and *nachas* from the progress and the *chinuch* of their children.

CINCINNATI

‘Shabbos of Greatness’ Features Rabbi Nossion Muller

On *Shabbos Parashas Vayeitzei*, Congregation Zichron Eliezer of Cincinnati hosted Rabbi Nossion Muller, *Menahel* of Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi of Chicago, for a “Shabbos of Greatness.”

At a *Leil Shabbos oneg* at the Frankel home, Rabbi Muller explained that it was possible for Yaakov to serve Lavan for so many years, even after he tricked Yaakov so many times, because Yaakov was not really serving Lavan, he was serving Hashem. Whatever Hashem wanted his *avodah* to be, Yaakov Avinu was prepared to be *machnia* himself to *retzon Hashem*. This is a lesson that teaches us to focus on what *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* wants from us.

On Shabbos day, there was a *post-kiddush shiur* for men and women on “Achieving Greatness” and a Shabbos afternoon *shiur* for women on “The Power of a *Yiddishe Mama*.” After Shabbos, Rabbi Muller led a question-and-answer session for *Rebbeim*, and at a *melaveh malkah*, he delivered an address on “Instilling Greatness in Ourselves and Our Children.”

Rabbi Muller emphasized that it is not enough to do *mitzvos*, but we have to *live mitzvos*. It is not enough to learn Torah, but we must *live* Torah, and our children should be able to perceive, without actually being told, that Torah and *mitzvos* are our life.



Rabbi Muller leading a question-and-answer session for *mechanchim*.



Rabbi Muller (R) speaking to Rabbi Chaim Heinemann, *Rosh Kollel* of the Cincinnati Community Kollel.