

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN

Executive Director, OU Israel



The Torah tells us, “והיו עיניך רואות את מורִיךְ,” we should see and learn from our teachers. Over the last week I had the privilege to witness many moments of inspiration when accompanying Rav Hershel Schachter Shlita, and Rebbetzin Shoshana Schachter around Israel. During the time we spent together (including the Encyclopedia Talmudit celebration I shared with you last week), I was able to see true Torah Gadlut and get a glimpse into true Mesirut Nefesh for Klal Yisrael.

Among the many roles of Rav Schachter, two stand at the forefront: he serves as the Posek for OU Kashrut, and serves as the Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary program. Rebbetzin Schachter, works for OU Kashrut in NY. Between their shared positions, both Rav and Rebbetzin Schachter held hectic schedules this week. To give you a taste of what a 24-hour day looks like

for Rav and Rebbetzin Schachter, I'll share some snippets with you. But in order to fully appreciate it, I'll take you back to 2016.

Every summer Rav and Rebbetzin Schachter come to Israel to spend time with the OU's NCSY Kollel for high school boys. During one such summer in 2016, I got a call from the Reshet Bet radio station asking if Rav Schachter and I could join them for an interview during its weekly Motzei Shabbat program that features religious personalities. The program runs from 12:00 am to 2:00 am - not exactly the easiest time for an on-air segment. However, Rav Schachter agreed and I brought him and Rebbetzin Schachter to the studio for our interview. As usual, Rav Schachter's wisdom inspired Reshet Bet listeners.

When the interview concluded, I was ready to take Rav and Rebbetzin Schachter back to NCSY Kollel. But instead, he turned to me and said, “Nu Avi, where are we going now? Is there anything else important to do tonight?” At first I was surprised. It was 2:00 in the morning! But seeing how serious The Rav was, I suggested we visit OU Israel's Pearl & Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center, a place for teens at risk

In memory of our beloved father,
grandfather and great grandfather

Morris Zimmerman z"l

משה בן מנחם מנדל ורבה ז"ל

נפטר בח"י שבט תשפ"א

on his first yahrzeit

The Zimmerman Family

Nof Ayalon, Lod, Ramat Gan

Condolences to
Perry & Esther Zamek & family
on the passing of his

MOTHER a"h in Australia

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

in Yerushalayim that is open during those hours. In fact, at 2:00 am, the place is highly active. The Rav and Rebbetzin stayed with the teens for almost 2 hours, after which I drove them back to NCSY Kollel to get some rest before Shacharit and another busy day at NCSY Kollel.

This week I was once again reminded of their Mesirut Nefesh. On Wednesday, the OU Israel Center hosted a shiur given by Rav Schachter to hundreds of in person and online listeners. That very evening, our Zula teens also had a night of inspiration, listening to leading Torah scholars including Rabbanit Yemima Mizrachi, Harav Harel Chetzroni and others. When Rav Schachter's shiur ended at about 9:30 pm, I asked the Rav and Rebbetzin if they'd like to revisit the Zula teens. After all, it was much earlier than our last 2:00 am visit! Upon their agreement, I found myself once again driving the Rav and Rebbetzin to the Zula Outreach Center. That said, I was mindful of the fact that the next morning, Rav Schachter was scheduled to give a shiur at another Yeshiva and hoped we would be able to return at a reasonable hour.

And yet, after speaking to the 200 young Zula women and being after a very long day, both Rav and Rebbetzin Schachter offered endless patience and care to the young women. They listened as each girl

came forward, some crying on the Rebbetzin's shoulders, others asking for Brachot. It was both heart wrenching yet also inspiring to see how deeply touched the teens were by the attention they received. It was truly a beautiful moment.

This past Sunday was yet another day that was filled with Mesirut Nefesh...

Together with Rav Ezra Friedman, we drove the Rav to his first speaking engagement of the day, which was taking place at Rav Chaim Drukman's Yeshiva, Ohr Etzion in Mercaz Shapira. I hope never to forget the smile on both Rav Schachter and Rav Drukman's faces as they saw each other for the first time 31 years.

During the Shiur, I took Rebbetzin Schachter to visit the close by Ben & Jerry's factory, which proudly has an OU Hashgacha, in order to better understand the elements of the boycott and find out how we can be helpful.

From there, we all traveled down south to the Chasalat factory to learn about its systems and to understand the halachic ramifications of growing bug-free leafy vegetables, a long in-depth tour of the factory filled with endless details and knowledge.

We then visited the Torah VeHa'aretz Institute, as a gathering of 10 Rabbanim including Rav Yehuda Amichai and Rav Moshe Bloom, hosted Rav Schachter to discuss topics surrounding Shmita and the

לזכר נשמת
**Morris "poppa"
Hirschman z"l**

on his 40th yahrtzeit

יהי זכרו ברוך

Goldsmith, Greenzweig and Englander families

In loving memory of
Frederick Franks z"l
Geoffrey Simon Franks z"l
London U.K.

Halachik boarders of Israel quoting Piskei Halacha I've only heard a few times in my life.

Finally, the Rav rounded off the night with one more Yeshiva University speaking engagement at Har Etzion Yeshiva, after which the Rav returned to Yerushalayim at 11pm.

If you're tired reading this, imagine how tired the Rav and Rebbetzin were! And yet, you wouldn't know it. They met each engagement with renewed energy, patience, passion, love and wisdom.

It is a unique privilege to witness what true dedication to Torah and Klal Yisrael look like. I remain grateful for having the opportunity to show them the important work OU Israel is doing to inspire Klal Yisrael.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Avi,

Executive Director, OU Israel

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לעילוי נשמותם

In memory of our beloved parents

Ernest Goldschmidt ז"ל

אלעזר בן שמעון ואידה ז"ל

on his 32nd yahrzeit - ט"ז שבט

and

Beatrice Rudman Adelstein ע"ה

ברכה בת שמחה זאב ובסה צייטל ע"ה

on her 38th yahrzeit - י"ח שבט

יהי זכרם ברוך

Rudman, Mescheloff and Manesberg families



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