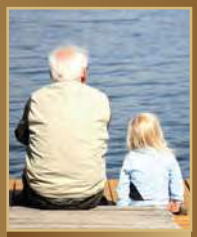
CHEVRAH CONNECTIONS

5773 ISSUE 4



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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

currently offered by Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah:

- Mishnah Study
- Talmud/Gemara Study
- Better Than a Segulah – Torah study as a merit for success
- Times of Joy – Torah study in honor of a joyous occasion
- Kaddish/Yizkor recital
- Yahrtzeit/Yizkor reminder services

BOOKS

- Mishnas Chayim
- The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah
- Cremation or Burial? a Jewish View

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Mishnayos Charts
- Mishnah Study Reminder Cards
- Final Prayers
- Prayers to Be Said at a Grave
- Hakafos Companion

A TRULY INVALUABLE REWARD: EIN SEGULAH KATORAH RAFFLE

Last year, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah launched an exciting new concept with its First Annual Torah Study Raffle. The raffle, appropriately drawn shortly before *Zeman Matan Toraseinu*, the *yom tov* of Shavuos, offered participants the opportunity to attain their own personal *kabbolas haTorah* – as never before. The prizes in this drawing were truly unique: a grand prize, valued at $18,000, for the learning of the entire *Shas* Gemara in the winner's *zechus*; the first prize, valued at $1,300, for the learning of *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah* in the winner's *zechus*; and a second prize, valued at $360, for the learning of a *blatt Gemara* a day for forty consecutive days in the winner's *zechus*. Alternatively, winners could choose to have the learning done *l'zecher nishmas* someone dear to them – and give the ultimate gift of eternal merit. Unlike typical raffles for items of material gain, participants in this program stood to win the greatest treasure and untold merit.

Upon receiving that call that he had won, the grand prize winner, Rabbi Yisroel Tenenbaum of Lakewood, NJ, told Rabbi Moshe Haikins, "You made my *yom tov*!" First prize winner Mrs. Chaya Goldenberg of Far Rockaway, NY and second prize winner Mr. Alex Rauzman of Flushing, NY were also duly thrilled to be informed of the wonderful *zechus* they had earned. Although there were only three prize winners chosen, truly all participants, as sponsors of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's important work, were winners in this raffle.

This year, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah is proud to offer the Torah Study Raffle once again. To find out more about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity or to purchase a ticket, contact the Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah raffle hotline at (848) 221-5734 or CLMRaffle@gmail.com.

This year's drawing will, *iy"H*, be held on Erev Shavuos, May 14, 2013.

Special offer for newsletter recipients: Refer a friend, receive a free ticket.



EIN SEGULAH KATORAH: THE ALL-NEW HAKAFOS COMPANION



"ANA *Hashem hoshiya na... aneinu v'yom kar'einu."* So begins another Simchas Torah celebration. Enveloped in the pulsating joy of this special holiday, we dance, we sing, we celebrate the gift of our Torah – but can we follow along? How well do we know what to say? Every *siddur* contains the wording for each *hakafah*, but how can we follow along as we dance around the *shul*?

This year, Simchas Torah *hakafos* became accessible as never before. With a constant eye toward assisting people by filling in where there is a real need, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah produced and distributed a beautiful and compact *Seder Hakafos L'Simchas Torah*, a *hakafos* companion that could be easily carried around during the duration of the seven *hakafos*. The beautifully designed, laminated pamphlet contains the entire text, according to tradition, for each *hakafah*. It is clear and easy to read, but still small enough to be easily carried or put into one's pocket.

In creating this companion, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah knew it was filling a need, yet the response was truly gratifying. One caller said, "I was in four different *shuls* on Simchas Torah morning, and I saw your companion being used in every single one!"

Interestingly, the inspiration behind Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's popular Better Than a Segulah program are the words recited during the fourth *hakafah*: "*Ein segulah kaTorah*." People in need are so often looking for some kind of *segulah* to help them merit a salvation. And we are clearly told that there is no *segulah* greater than that of Torah itself! The Better Than a Segulah program continues to be very well received and offers merit and inspiration to so many people. A recent letter sent by a participant in the program is representative of so many others Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah has received:

Dear Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah,

I have a friend who has been in shidduchim for about six years. She has a few younger sisters who are already of marriageable age. I davened every day for her and did many things in her zechus. I also tried my hand in helping her with shidduchim. A few weeks ago, I was flipping through the magazine that was given out at the Siyum Hashas, and I noticed an ad for the "Better than a Segulah" program. This ad caught my eye because it spoke of direct support of learning Torah. I sponsored forty days of learning in my friend's zechus, and on day thirty of the learning she got engaged! I have no doubt that the zechus of supporting Torah joined all the other tefillos and mitzvos combined to provide the merit that was needed for this chesed Hashem.

Thank you! AK, Monsey, NY

Clearly, participants in the Better Than a Segulah program understand the unparalleled merit and value of Torah learning. As Jews the world over rejoiced in the gift of our Torah this past Simchas Torah, it was truly a merit for Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah to have had a hand in that celebration.

To obtain copies of the *Hakafos Companion*, or for more information about the Better Than a Segulah program, please contact Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah at info@ChevrahLomdeiMishnah.org or call 732-364-7029.

Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah was originally founded with the intention of servicing a vast array of Jews, literally from around the world, assisting them in providing merit for their relatives and other loved ones. And in many ways, it has succeeded in this mission beyond anyone's dreams. However, several years after the organization's establishment, Rabbi Moshe Haikins, Founder and President of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah, saw that there was a need to reach out to those who might not even be aware of the possibility of benefiting a departed loved one through Kaddish, Yizkor or Torah learning, or if they did, might not know enough to turn to an organization like Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah for assistance.

With this concern in mind, **Jewish Death and Mourning** was formed as a division of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah, educating Jews who might have little affiliation with their heritage about the everlasting connection one can have with a departed soul and helping them provide merit for their loved ones through prayer and Torah study. A self-contained website was created with basic information about one's ability to merit those who have passed on. Each section of the site is arranged and presented in Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's signature clear and comprehensive manner, with the goal of informing and empowering readers to find out more and to reach out to their loved ones in a concrete way. Viewers have the opportunity to present their questions and concerns, all of which are addressed promptly and respectfully.

Since its inception, Jewish Death and Mourning has educated and benefited

Jewish Death and Mourning: Reaching Out to All Jews

many people, oftentimes far beyond what its founders originally imagined. But its story actually begins before its beginning! Several years ago, Mrs. Robin Meyerson, a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, came across an ad for Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah. Intrigued, she contacted Rabbi Haikins for more information. Over the course of many conversations, Rabbi Haikins introduced Mrs. Meyerson to the concept that there is much that can be done on behalf of the deceased.

> Uncle Arnold's daughter... had a dream in which her father told her, "I don't want to be cremated..."

Although the Meyersons had been moving forward in their *yiddishkeit* prior to this, this was one topic they hadn't yet been educated about. Mrs. Meyerson's enthusiasm for and dedication to the subject was such that she became an integral part of the creation of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's groundbreaking book, *The Neshamah Should Have an Aliyah*, the definitive English text exploring what can be done on behalf of those who have passed on; in addition, she partnered with Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah in establishing Jewish Death and Mourning. She felt fortunate to have benefited from all that Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah had to offer, but was also cognizant of all those whom the organization simply wasn't reaching. So it was that she became dedicated to the success of Jewish Death and Mourning.

With her newfound knowledge and involvement in the work of Jewish Death and Mourning, Mrs. Meyerson was understandably horrified to hear that her uncle, upon his passing, was slated for cremation, as per his will. While she knew her cousins were uneasy about the plans, she also knew that money was an issue, and cremation seemed to be the cheapest way to go. Frantic, she called Rabbi Haikins for help.

Rabbi Haikins sprang into action, securing a large loan to cover the burial. But Uncle Arnold's children still needed to be convinced of the necessity of changing their plans at this late point.

Aside from worrying about the body, Robin commissioned Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah to undertake a course of Torah study as a *zechus* for the *neshamah* of her deceased uncle. The very night that Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah began its round of learning, Uncle Arnold's daughter, the executor of the will, had a dream in which her father told her, *"I don't want to be cremated. Please bury me instead!"*

That was all the convincing this woman needed, and Uncle Arnold was buried according to *halachah*.

Fast forward one year: the Meyersons called Rabbi Haikins with the happy news that Robin had given birth to a healthy baby boy – on Uncle Arnold's *yahrtzeit*! The *bris* was held on a Friday morning in Phoenix, with Rabbi Haikins and his wife in attendance. Rabbi Haikins was given the honor of serving as *sandek*, and the baby was named Azriel (for Uncle Arnold) Mordechai.

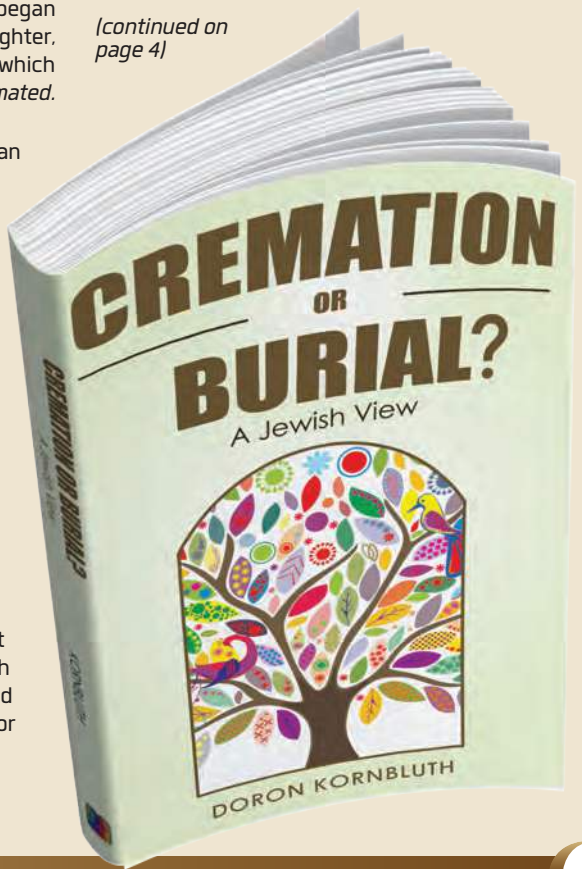
An extraordinary journey that began with Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah and Jewish Death and Mourning had come full circle – from death to life!

If you know someone who might benefit from the resources offered by Jewish Death and Mourning, contact Jewish Death and Mourning at 888-6-KADDISH (653-3474) or info@JewishDeathAndMourning.org.

Cremation or Burial: A Jewish View

Uncle Arnold's story is not unique. Unfortunately, more and more Jews today are choosing cremation rather than burial for themselves or their loved ones. In keeping with its mission to educate all Jews about how to properly honor and elevate the deceased, Jewish Death and Mourning partnered in the publication of the groundbreaking book, *"Cremation or Burial? A Jewish View"*. The book was written by Doron Kornbluth, bestselling author and lecturer, and was published in January of 2012.

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Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah
40 East Thirteenth Street
Lakewood, NJ 08701

It's summertime, and while every quality Jewish boys' camp includes a learning program alongside whatever fun activities are planned, it is not easy to keep the campers excited about learning in the laid-back summer setting. This past summer, Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah became part of a unique initiative, in which members of the administration of Camp Morasha Kollel were determined to give their campers, boys in grades nine through twelve, a boost in their learning. Their idea was to implement an afternoon *mishnayos* program with incentives, which would give the boys a newfound sense of accomplishment.

Being aware of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's dedication to facilitating Torah study, those behind this idea approached Rabbi Moshe Haikins with the opportunity to partner with them as a sponsor of the new *mishanyos* program; Rabbi Haikins and Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah saw this as a wonderful chance to jumpstart this group of youngsters on their path a commitment to a lifetime of Torah learning.

At the conclusion of the program, participants were rewarded for their efforts with sets of *Mishnayos Mevo'aros* sponsored by Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah, and Rabbi Haikins made the trip to the Morasha Kollel campus in Pennsylvania to speak to the entire high school division. In his inimitable style, he introduced the boys to some fascinating information about the importance of learning *mishnayos*, the value of *chazarah* (reviewing that which one has studied), *minhagim* about learning *l'zecher nishmas* and more. Rabbi Haikins brought along the *sefer Shinun HaMishnah B'al Peh*, a unique volume that includes the entire *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah* written out in *roshei teivos* (acronym format). The goal of the *sefer* is to encourage people to memorize *mishnayos* by allowing those who have done so to self test themselves and see how well they really "know their stuff." This is but one example of how Rabbi Haikins brought the excitement of *mishnah* study to life in a very tangible way. Following the speech, all members of the audience were presented with a copy of Chevrah Lomdei Mishnah's popular *parshah* book, *Mishnas Chayim*.

Reflecting on his experience, Rabbi Haikins says, "This was a whole new experience, an educational opportunity we never had previously. Looking toward the future, I am excited about the possibility of expanding on the success of this program, by bringing it to other institutions in the future."



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Some of the reasons cited for choosing cremation include environmentalism, discomfort with decomposition and, of course, finances. Interestingly, aside from allegiance to tradition, the reasons to choose burial are not well known. Author Doron Kornbluth spent over three years studying the subject, speaking with experts, consulting with environmentalists, reading industry reports and academic studies and examining both the realities on the ground and the philosophies behind burial and cremation choices. Reflecting a wealth of research and including many practical insights, *"Cremation or Burial? A Jewish View"* analyzes the reasons people choose cremation, pointing out many myths and misconceptions along the way, and explains why throughout history Judaism and Jews have insisted on burial.

In his presentation, Rabbi Kornbluth was cognizant of the fact that deciding what to do with one's body or that of a loved one is both personal and meaningful. Regrettably, these decisions are often made in the midst of grieving, with virtually no time to research or examine the issues. In this quick, easy-to-read and informative book, readers, whether relatives of the deceased or friends of the mourners, gain insight, knowledge and understanding of this all-important issue.

To obtain copies of *Cremation or Burial? A Jewish View,* please contact Jewish Death and Mourning at 888-6-KADDISH (653-3474) or info@JewishDeathAndMourning.org.