

A Miracle Called

Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael

Fourteen years ago, "KOLLEL CHATZOS ERETZ YISRAEL" was formed when five friends decided to follow the age-old custom of arising at midnight to learn Torah. Today, over 80 esteemed *talmidei chachamim* and working men learn each night at Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael in Beitar, under the dynamic leadership of the Rosh Kollel, Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch *shlita*.



An interview with Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch:

Mishpacha: Kevod Rosh Hakollel, what impelled you to create Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael? I thought that arising at midnight to learn Torah and daven was only for the tzaddikim of old.

Rosh Kollel: The truth is, 14 years ago when Hashem inspired me to open the Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael, people thought I was crazy! No such *kollel*, where men rose at midnight to learn throughout the night from *chatzos* till *haneitz*, existed anywhere in the world. Yet so many of our *seforim hakedoshim* speak about the importance of devoting the auspicious midnight hours to *limud haTorah* and *avodas Hashem*, and of the great *yeshuos* this brings to Am Yisrael and to each Jew.

Chatzos is a time of tremendous *eis ratzon*. The *Zohar* writes: "Since the Shechinah was exiled, She finds Her place in a *beis knesses* where Jews are crying over Her pain... One who rises at *chatzos* to engage in Torah draws near the Geulah... At *chatzos*, Hashem says to His *malachim*, 'Come, let us see who is learning My Torah now'; this one is praised by the Master of the World, Who says, 'What he (the *chatzos* learner) decrees and every blessing that he utters, I fulfill'... At *chatzos*, Hashem stretches forth His Scepter of Kindness; whoever has toiled to learn Torah during the night may touch it... Shaarei Shamayim are wide open at *chatzos*, if Am Yisrael would rise then, there would be no harsh decrees."

These are the hours of greatest clarity. The world is quiet, without distractions; the learning is pure and untainted. Rochel Imeinu herself brings the tears cried at *chatzos* and intensive *tefillos* recited then are powerful enough to be *mamtik* the *dinim* (sweeten the judgments), bring tremendous *yeshuos*

above nature from Shamayim to the *prat* and *klal*. We at Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael have witnessed this!

Mishpacha: Would the Rosh Kollel give us a glimpse into Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael?

Rosh Kollel: The intense *kedushah* in the *beis medrash* is palpable.

The men remove their shoes and sit on the floor as mourners, each in his private space. Reciting Tikkun Chatzos, each pours out his heart to his Creator, weeping bitterly over the suffering of our People. We are in *galus* in *ruchniyus*; our generation is so far from Hashem, we don't feel Hashem as our Only King and True, Loving Father. We are in *galus* in *gashmiyus*; tragedies in *shalom bayis*, children off the *derech*, *shidduchim*, childlessness, *parnassah*, terrible illnesses... We are mourning for the exile of our nation and of our own souls into sadness, depression, materialism. We beg Hashem at this tremendous *eis ratzon*: Till when will we be prisoners of the *yetzer hara*? Please Almighty One, redeem each individual Jew from his own private exile and suffering, redeem Am Yisrael!

The moment we conclude Tikkun Chatzos, our *beis medrash* pulsates with the vibrant song of *limud haTorah*. *Chaburos*, *chavrusas*, *shiurim b'Gemara v'poskim*, Kabbalah and *chassidus* fill the air. *Simchah v'achdus b'avodas Hashem!* Sephardi and Ashkenazi, *chassidim* and *yeshivish* — every type of *eved Hashem*, learn Torah together throughout the night until *haneitz* at Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael.

Mishpacha: How can someone merit the *brachos v'yeshuos* brought down from Shamayim at *chatzos*?

Rosh Kollel: The *Zohar* writes that the Final Redemption for each Jew and Klal Yisrael will be brought by a kosher person waking to learn and daven at *chatzos*. He is *mevurach* with two angels who provide a special *shemirah*, above nature. How much more so for one who learns and davens intensively at *chatzos* in Eretz Yisrael!

Also, Rav Chaim Palagi writes that one who is unable to rise at *chatzos* to daven and learn Torah should strive to support a *talmid chacham* who is able to do this. Rav Palagi states furthermore that the one who supports the *talmid chacham* in this receives the same *shemirah*, the same *brachah*, and the same *yeshuos*.

Anyone from anywhere in the world who has a *chelek* in *chatzos* learning and davening — especially in Eretz Yisrael — has that special *shemirah*, and is *zocheh* to be *mamtik* the *dinim* and bring a *geulah* above *teva* for themselves, their families, and Klal Yisrael!

I am awed by the power of this *segulah*. People see incredible *nissim* in the *zechus* of supporting *chatzos* learning. The most powerful *segulah* comes from the Yissachar-Zevulun contract at Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael, approved by the greatest *poskim* today. The donor and Torah-learner sign a halachic contract, each receiving an equal portion in the learning and *bakashos*. The Yissachar is a tremendous *talmid chacham*, a *masmid* who never misses a night learning and davening intensively for his donor-partner and family from *chatzos* till *haneitz*.

Our Zevuluns have seen incredible *yeshuos*, *mamash nissim* in *parnassah*, health, *shidduchim*, Torah *nachas* from children... I won't relate many stories, because the *zechus* of supporting such powerful learning

and davening, bringing a special *shemirah* and *brachah* for all Am Yisrael, opening the channels for *rachamei Shamayim* to reach us and bring the Geulah for the *prat* and *klal* — those are the real reasons to participate in our *kollel*!

These are a few examples of the incredible *yeshuos* I hear all the time:

One partner made a Yissachar-Zevulun contract as a *zechus* for his son, who was leaving *frumkeit*. Baruch Hashem, the young man unexpectedly made a complete turnaround! This Zevulun is waiting for me in New York to renew the contract!

Another made a contract as a *zechus* for *parnassah*. Thrilled with the results, he added a second Zevulun contract for his business!

A woman in Eretz Yisrael who was an abused *agunah* was granted her *get*, exactly one year to the day after she began the Yissachar-Zevulun contract! During that year baruch Hashem she regained her physical and mental health, her child began to heal emotionally, and her relationship with Hashem became a source of strength and comfort, rather than fear and anguish. We spoke frequently during her ordeal, and she continues her Yissachar-Zevulun.

Baruch Hashem, I am in constant touch personally with our Zevulun partners. Every *bakashah* is communicated directly to their Yissachar partners, who cry with, plead for, and rejoice with their Zevuluns, feeling these *nisyonos* and *yeshuos* are his.

Besides the Yissachar-Zevulun partnership, an individual or family can sponsor a night of *chatzos* learning as a *zechus* for a *choleh* or in honor of a *simchah*, or sponsor hourly or daily learning with a standing bank order or one-time donation.

Many times I receive emergency calls requesting *tefillos* for a *choleh* who is seriously ill, *lo aleinu*. I ask everyone to stop learning, daven for his or her *refuah*, and dedicate their learning that night to the *choleh's zechus*. The entire *kollel* davens for the *refuah*. The walls literally shake from the intensity of the *tefillos*.

Wednesday nights we daven at *chatzos* at the Kosel and Kever Rochel, and Erev Rosh Chodesh at the *kever* of Rabi Shimon bar Yochai. At each *makom kadosh*, every donor's name and *bakashos* are mentioned slowly

and with concentration. The petitioners present the "*kvittel* of the *kollel*," which lists all our contributors and partners. It's possible to update this list of requests at any time, to ask us to add new items to the *tefillos*.

Mishpacha: Please tell us about the *avreichim* who are learning at Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael.

Rosh Kollel: The men who learn are handpicked and are all very special! There are real *tzaddikim* learning in our special *kollel*. Rav Y. K. stands all night in a corner of the *beis medrash* as he learns. Every year he makes a *siyum haShas*. The holy face of Rav N. S. radiates *kedushah*. Tears stream from his eyes as he davens Shemoneh Esreh. These "simple" *avreichim* are hidden *tzaddikim*. If the world knew about them, they would run after them for *brachos*...

Rav Shlomo Aharon Gottlieb *shlita* is one of the leaders of a prominent chassidic group in Eretz Yisrael. Eighty, in a wheelchair, he has never missed a night of *limud haTorah* at Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael. Every night shortly before the minibus collects the *avreichim* in Beit Shemesh to bring them to Beitar, he phones to make sure each is awake in time. Regardless of the weather, Rav Gottlieb is waiting outside when the minibus arrives. And on the way he delivers a *shiur* to the *avreichim*.

Rav Moshe Shor *shlita* has never missed a night in 12 years with Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael. The night of his son's wedding, he arrived right after the *mitzvah tantz*, wearing his *shtreimel* and *beketshe!*

These are only a few examples of our outstanding men who dedicate themselves to *chatzos* learning.

Mishpacha: You're supporting some 80 *avreichim*, most of them heads of large families. That's a huge responsibility. How do you do it?

Rosh Kollel: One hundred percent *siyata d'Shmaya*. It takes a miracle to support so many *choshuveh avreichim*. Each *avreich* receives \$700 monthly, doubled before Yom Tov. The *n'shei chayil* of Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael receive a generous gift before Yom Tov, a small token of our appreciation for their tremendous *mesirus nefesh* in enabling

their husbands to devote their entire nights to Torah. Grateful supporters supply meat, wine, matzos for Yom Tov, *hakaras hatov* for the *zechus* of participating at *chatzos* and the *yeshuos* they see.

Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael is supported solely from the participation of private individuals — everyday people who want to be part of the *zechus* of *chatzos* learning, Yidden who want to bring down from Shamayim great *yeshuos* for Klal Yisrael and for themselves from the intensive learning and *tefillos* at *chatzos*. We receive no government support and are not funded by any organization.

Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael is located in Beitar, drawing *avreichim* nightly from Beitar, Yerushalayim, Beit Shemesh, and Modiin Illit. The *kollel* has been in existence for over 14 years, and is in no way connected to the *kollel chatzos* that was recently opened in New York.

This article was made possible through the donation of a Kollel Chatzos supporter who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Rosh Kollel, Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch *shlita*, will be in New York b'ezras Hashem till February 25.

To reserve Yissachar-Zevulun partnerships, sponsor a night of *Torah v'tefillah* by the entire *kollel*, partner with an *avreich* for one month or more, donate, send *bakashos*, or arrange a private meeting or schedule a *shiur*, please contact us:

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For details about the *kollel*, videos, or to make a donation, please go online.

www.kollelchatzot.com

Credit card donations can be made by phone.

Checks can be sent to
Freedman Family
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Brooklyn N.Y. 11218

Or to:
P.O.B. 30067
Beitar Illit, Israel 90500

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