

## LOS ANGELES

## Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss Speaks At LINK Kollel on Parenting

Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss, the longtime Rav of Agudath Israel of Staten Island, and currently Rav of the Agudath Israel of Fairways in Lakewood, spoke at the LINK Kollel in Los Angeles on Sunday night, July 10th, on “Jewish Parenting in Turbulent Times,” as part of a Shabbos of *Chizuk* in Los Angeles. A close *talmid* of Harav Moshe Feinstein, *zt”l*, a very popular speaker in the Torah world today and author of five *sefarim*, Rabbi Weiss did not disappoint the parents who came to hear him on his first speaking visit to Los Angeles. Rabbi Weiss stressed the importance of balance and normalcy when dealing with the problems of *chinuch* in today’s world and he gave many practical examples.

One of his most salient points was that a parent’s biggest influence on a child’s life lies not so much in his words but in being the proper role model for the child to emulate. Rabbi Weiss also stressed the need to inculcate in our children the balancing act of judging ourselves by a high standard but judging

those around us more favorably. He also stressed the imperative in today’s very immoral world to separate ourselves from the mores and values of the gentile society around us. He strongly advised his listeners that their children will not be successful if they stand out too much from their peers. One must endeavor to find a community that will provide a healthy cohort of friends for one’s children.

Finally, he stressed the importance of imbuing our children with the love of Torah learning and *mitzvah* performance. As he put it, “Do it not because you have to, but because you want to — and to do it with joy.” He felt that ball-playing is healthy for children, by imparting team work, good *middos* and healthy exercise, and by keeping them away from the internet and video games. With regard to avoiding deleterious traits, he singled out lying and *onaas devarim* as most disruptive to the development of good *middos*. To avoid the envy that many have for the material things of others, he offered a fresh perspective: we never know what’s going on in a person’s life. If we did, we would not be so eager to change places with them.



Harav Moshe Meir Weiss speaking at the LINK Kollel. [↑](#)

Rabbi Weiss’s appearance was made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Suri Kest, who sponsored the entire weekend in memory of Michael’s father, the well-known philanthropist, Mr. Sol Kest, *z”l*. Most of Rabbi Weiss’s talks took place at the Young Israel of Hancock Park, led by Rabbi Elan Segelman, who facilitated his appearance at the LINK Kollel.

## CATSKILLS



Oorah’s TheZone campers assist in writing the final letters in the new *sefer Torah*. [↑](#)

## Hachnasas Sefer Torah in The Zone

Hundreds attended a joyous *hachnasas sefer Torah* held on Sunday, July 10, in Oorah’s TheZone girls’ camp. Such events are always something special, but yesterday’s event, held during the regular camp visiting day so parents could attend as well, held a special note.

“I grew up not knowing I was Jewish or even guessing there was more to life, and now my children are in TheZone for the summer, getting to witness something like this,” one woman shared, her voice choked with emotion. “I don’t know how we got this far, but I know they’ll tell their grandchildren about this day.”

After the last letters were finished up by visiting camp fathers and

Harav Chaim Mintz, *Mashgiach* of Yeshiva of Staten Island and founder of Oorah, *kippos*, bare heads, and black hats joined together in a joyous procession down to the shul. Music blared, men danced and children waved flags in unanimous celebration of Hashem’s Torah.

The *hachnasas sefer Torah* was held in conjunction with a *chanukas habayis* for the brand-new Plaza building in the girls’ camp, built after a fire two years ago burned down the grand ballroom, devastating the many people who consider TheZone home. Filled with new rooms, top-of-the-line amenities, and most importantly, the light and laughter of campers learning about themselves and their Jewish roots, the new building is a cause for much celebration and gratitude to *Hakadosh Baruch Hu!*



Staff and campers joyously escort the *sefer Torah* to its new home. [↑](#)



Harav Chaim Mintz carries the new *sefer Torah*. [↑](#)