

## LOS ANGELES

## Rabbi Paysach Krohn Inspires Hundreds At LINK Kollel Shabbaton

The LINK Kollel in Los Angeles hosted the renowned *Maggid*, Rabbi Paysach Krohn, at a deeply moving and inspirational *Shabbaton* during *Shabbos Parashas Lech Lecha* (October 27-28). At least 300 men and women attended at least one of his many talks. He also spoke at three yeshivos and the Bais Yaakov High School on Erev Shabbos.

While the *Shabbaton* was organized many months ago, in light of the tragic and dangerous situation in Eretz Yisrael, Rabbi Krohn's words took on a greater sense of urgency. His overarching theme was to galvanize his audiences into thinking more about what they can do for another Jew, for the Jews in danger in Eretz Yisrael and for *Klal Yisrael* as a whole. He exhorted his audience to leave their comfort zones and stretch themselves beyond what they thought was possible. He utilized his trademark storytelling to pierce everyone's heart with his inspirational yet challenging message.

On Friday night, during *davening*, Rabbi Krohn spoke about how Shabbos is really an auspicious time for *teshuvah*, recalling how Adam Harishon was the first one to tap into the special *koach* of Shabbos.

Later, at an *oneg Shabbos* co-sponsored with Congregation Adas Torah (which hosted the event), Rabbi Krohn blended profound insights into the words of our *davening* with illustrative stories and beautiful *niggunim*.

On Shabbos morning, Rabbi Krohn stressed the importance of *davening* for other people in our *Shemoneh Esrei* and to find personal meaning in the words of *davening* that we can apply to our own life situations. During his presentation after the *Shabbos seudah*, attended by 200 people, Rabbi Krohn emphasized the importance of not only believing in Hashem and in His Torah but of also believing in our own capabilities.

He told an autobiographical anecdote about his defying the prediction of his high school English teacher about his ability (or lack thereof) to author a book. (He has, of course, authored many best-selling titles in the acclaimed *Maggid* series.) He related many stories of individuals who defied their own self-imposed limitations on their capability to become heroic figures in the Jewish world.

Before *Minchah*, Rabbi Krohn addressed the urgent *matzav* in Eretz Yisrael. He related various ways that we can be *nosei b'ol* with our brethren on the front lines. This included improving our *tefillos* and our *brachos*, saying *Tehillim* with special *kavanah*, doing acts



At the conclusion of the *Shabbaton* on Motzoei Shabbos (L-R): Rabbi Eli Stern, outreach director; Rabbi Asher Brander, Rav; Rabbi Paysach Krohn; Rabbi Moishe Brull, Assistant Rav; and Mr. Hershey Zisblatt, *gabbai*.

of *chessed* and trying to remember the Beis Hamikdash and yearning for its rebuilding in our daily lives. He concluded the deeply emotional *Shabbaton* with his final talk at *seudah shelishis*. He related several poignant stories of how our acts of *chessed* for others will ultimately come back and help us in our own lives. This is famously derived from the palindrome of the word "v'nasnu" in the Torah dealing with the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*. He exhort-

ed his audience to try to do at least one act of *chessed* a day and to document it in a notebook.

This was by far the most popular event that the LINK Kollel has organized. Attendees came from many other shuls and represented a broad cross-section of *Klal Yisrael*, encompassing all walks of life and all backgrounds. Everyone walked away deeply moved, as well as energized with a sense of empowerment of what they can do for *Klal Yisrael*.

## QUEENS

## Bais Yaakov of Queens Initiatives For Acheinu Beis Yisrael

Due to the difficult *matzav* in Eretz Yisrael, the girls in Bais Yaakov of Queens have been involved in various initiatives. Through these means, they have been demonstrating their *ahavas Yisrael*, desire to be *nosei b'ol chaveiro* and their *gemilus chassadim*. One important initiative is "Match A *Mitzvah*," in which each girl chooses a *mitzvah* to focus on more carefully as a *zechus* for *yeshuos* in Eretz Yisrael. Another one called "Shabbos of Chessed" has the girls filling in a bookmark listing the *chassadim* they will perform on Shabbos, for example, set the table and babysit for younger siblings as a *zechus* for *Klal Yisrael*.

The girls have been writing letters to *chayalim* to give them encouragement, as well as to President Biden and Congress to thank them for their support of Israel. The girls have also been involved in a School Supply Drive. They are collecting school supplies, such as glue, crayons, etc. which are being sent to communities in Eretz Yisrael for children who have been displaced from their homes in the North and the South and are in need of these supplies. Each grade has been

assigned to collect one school supply.

One of our most popular and heartwarming initiatives is the "BYQ Team Up for *Tehillim*" program. On each floor, a bulletin board has been set up displaying laminated cards, each with a *perek* of *Tehillim* printed on it. The girls have been urged to take a card and say a *perek* whenever they have an available moment. To make the *Tehillim* more personal, a group of eighth graders have posted envelopes on each bulletin board, filled with cut-up papers displaying the names of *chayalim*. The girls are asked to take a name and focus on it when they say a *perek* of *Tehillim*. It is heartwarming to watch the girls congregating around these bulletin boards throughout the day as they say *perakim* of *Tehillim* with sincere *kavanah*. Each time the *sefer Tehillim* is completed, it is posted on top of the board. In addition, the entire *sefer Tehillim* is completed by each of the seventh and eighth grades every day after *Minchah*.

It is our fervent plea that our efforts, combined with all of those of *Klal Yisrael*, bring about *yeshuos* and *nissim* and hasten the *Geulah sheleimah!*



"Team Up for *Tehillim*" bulletin board at Bais Yaakov of Queens.