



אור הצפון
 NORTHERN LIGHTS
Special Edition!

Alumni Reflections

Impact of Limud HaTorah

Number the Stars

By: Rabbi Mordechai Kalatsky, Rabbi of Kenesseth Israel Congregation

“And [Hashem] took him outside and He said to him, look up, please, at the Heavens and count the stars, if you can count them. And He said to him, so, too, will be your descendants.” (Bereishis 15:5)

The Baal Shem Tov asked: We know there are billions of stars in the sky, yet we have never reached close to those numbers? What did Hashem mean that the descendants of Avraham are like the stars? The Baal Shem Tov explained that we see the stars from a great distance and they appear to be a tiny speck in the sky but in reality in the heavens they are gigantic. So, too, in this world many people look very small. Many people feel very small, but in reality every person has a neshama, a soul, and has unlimited potential and abilities. Every person has greatness within them.

When you look at another person, realize that he is a star. He might seem small to you and might appear to have not accomplished very much. Gain an awareness of the great potential of each person. View each person as an entire world, as an enormous being in the cosmos. When you see people in this light you will behave towards them with great respect. When you show others respect they will gain greater respect for themselves. This can give a person the encouragement he needs to live up to his potential greatness.

This attitude is not just towards others but it is towards ourselves also. Every one of us is a star every one of us is bigger than the sun. A person should think: I matter and in the heavens Hashem sees me for the tremendous person I can become. When I realize the

greatness within myself I will make different choices and live life on a different plane.

The Chidushei Harim, the Rebbe of Gur, called in his grandson the Sefas Emes to let him know that he will be taking over the Chassidus. The Sefas Emes was only 19 years old at the time. He looked at his grandfather and said, “You are so great, so righteous, how could I be worthy of such a position?” His grandfather answered that there was once a mountain climber who went through Europe climbing the highest mountains. There was one mountain that took him over a week of painstaking effort for every reach he made. When he got the top of the mountain he saw a child who came to greet him. “How did you get here?” the climber asked the child. The child answered, “I was born here.”

This is our shul. A place where there is an atmosphere, an environment to be able to access your potential to see how you are a star. Whether it is through the davening, the gemara shiurim the tremendous unity between everyone and the welcoming atmosphere. Every Jew no matter where they’re holding in their observance if they want to grow and be on a journey to find a more meaningful relationship with Hashem and His Torah will find place in our shul. Through learning and growing, through realizing the tremendous potential and how much Hashem believes in every one of us we will find the inner strength to grow and create a stronger community each day which will bring only nachas to Hashem!

Have a Good Shabbos!

**Kollel Member
 2011-2013**



**Rabbi of Kenesseth Israel
 2013-**



The Shabbos Project!

A hearty welcome to the 80 young adults joining our community for “The Shabbos project.” Thank you to the entire community for your constant support of the JWAY and to the following families for opening up their homes and answering our call for volunteers for this Shabbos. We couldn’t do it without you!

The Bittermans
 The Borensteins
 The Cohens
 The Deitels
 The Dukes
 The Ebsteins
 The Friedlers
 The Gibbers

The Goldbergers
 The Herrons
 The Idsteins
 The Jaffas
 The Kahans
 The Kalatskys
 The Kutoffs (Shlomo)
 The Mandelbaums (Ron)

The Mandelbaums,
 (Yaakov E.)
 The Millers
 The Pittermans
 The Romers
 The Rothsteins
 The Schulmans
 The Shermans

The Sklares
 The Spars (Yoni)
 The Thornes
 The Vortinovs
 The Weinbergs (David)
 The Weinbergs (Gene)
 The Weinbergs (Michael)
 The Weinbergs (Moshe)

(More details on back)





**HaRav & Rebbetzen
Chaim Simcha Gibber,**
Rosh Kollel

**HaRav & Rebbetzen
Menachem Frank,**
Rosh Kollel, 2005-2011

**HaRav & Rebbetzen
Eliyahu Stern,**
Rosh Kollel, 2011-2015

- Rabbi & Mrs. Shmaryahu Abramczyk
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avrohom Berzansky
- Rabbi & Mrs. Nussie Bitterman
- Rabbi & Mrs. Levi Botnick
- Rabbi & Mrs. Aryeh Cohen
- Rabbi & Mrs. Adam Crystal
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yisroel Meir Ebstein
- Rabbi & Mrs. Hillel Engelson
- Rabbi & Mrs. Pinchos Friedlander
- Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Tzvi Friedler
- Rabbi & Mrs. Aryeh Geretz
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avigdor Goldberger
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yechezkel Greenberg
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov Yosef Hutman
- Rabbi & Mrs. Ari Kahan

**Rabbi & Mrs.
Mordechai Kalatsky**

- Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Koval
- Rabbi & Mrs. Eliezer Lefkowitz
- Rabbi & Mrs. Tzvi Lichtman
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov Eliyahu Mandelbaum
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avromi Mayer
- Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem Mendel Pam
- Rabbi & Mrs. Shloime Rothstein
- Rabbi & Mrs. Zecharya Rubin
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yochanan Schnall
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avner Sela
- Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid Silverberg
- Rabbi & Mrs. Yakov Ephraim Skolnick
- Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Weinreb

**HaRav & Rebbetzen
Moshe Twvia Lief,**
Miyased HaKollel



MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY
KOLLEL

Organization Profile

Kenesseth Israel Congregation



Rabbi Kalatsky addresses over 200 people attending a Purim party.



Our beautiful brand new childcare room, one of the nicest around!

About Kenesseth Israel

At the ripe old age of 127, Kenesseth Israel Congregation is one of the longest-running Torah Observant congregations in America and the oldest in Minnesota. The Congregation's goal is to build a caring community in which partnership is created through experiencing the joy of Jewish living. It is our desire to empower people through using the wisdom of the Torah to become better Jews in behavior and character by providing the opportunity for each person to grow at his/her own pace. It is the mission of the Congregation to provide a home for all Jews who are looking for inspiration and growth through living a more passionate, relevant Judaism. We are a congregation for people who are looking for internal growth and working on becoming better people through the wisdom of the Torah, a growth that can be brought to your personal life, your spouse, your parenting and your community.

Community Impact

- Our mission is community and we look to foster that through many different opportunities.
- Our Purim seudah has over 200 people, our Chanukah Shabbos seudah has over 150 people, and on Rosh Hashanah we have over 250 people. That is besides the other celebrations like Lag Baomer, Succos, Yom Kippur and every Shabbos.
- We have children's programming every Shabbos for anyone who comes to shul. It is not just babysitting. The children learn, daven, have a great time and grow in their Judaism every week.
- We have 5 shiurim every Shabbos day to allow for everyone to find a time and topic that speaks to them and allows for their continued growth.
- We have instituted a gemara shiur after shalosh seudos. We have already finished one mesechta and are on the way to finishing our second.

Kenesseth Israel Congregation

4330 West 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55416

952.920.2183
www.kenessethisrael.org
Office@kenessethisrael.org

The Shabbos Project



The JWAY, the Kollel's young adult outreach division, under the leadership of Rabbi Aryeh Cohen, is enjoying a Shabbaton in our community in conjunction with the International Shabbos Project. This group includes students currently enrolled in the Maimonides Fellowship program as well as many more young adult whom Rabbi Cohen has connected with through past Maimonides classes or other avenues.

This Shabbos, as Jews from around the world will be celebrating Shabbos with a bit more focus. Rabbi Cohen has inspired, coaxed, and cajoled, about eighty JWAYers to join us and share in the authentic, ethereal atmosphere of a Shabbos in our Community; and for many of the attendees, it will be their first Shabbos experience.

A tent has been erected in the Millers front yard on Quentin Avenue to host the JWAY Friday night and Shalosh Seudos, and the JWAYers will be sleeping and eating Shabbos Day at the homes of many gracious community members who volunteered.

On Friday Night, there will be a Spirited Kabbalas Shabbos Minyan for men in the Kollel which everyone is invited to attend. On Shabbos morning the participants will attend a special beginner's service in Kenesseth Israel.

Baruch Hashem, last year's Shabbaton had a profound impact on many of the attendees, some of whom are now fully shomer Shabbos! This year we hope the Shabbos will inspire all of us to grow closer to Hashem.