

# Alumni Reflections

## Impact of Limud HaTorah

### There is No Place Like Home

By: Rabbi Menachem Frank

Then



Now



Every day, at the conclusion of Shemoneh Esrai, the Amidah, we take 3 steps back and offer the following enigmatic prayer: “May it be Your will, Hashem..., that the Bais Hamikdash be rebuilt speedily in our days, and grant us our portion in Your Torah...” What does “our portion” in Torah mean? What is the connection between receiving our portion in Torah to the rebuilding of the Holy Temple?

There is a difference between a “house” and a “home.” A house is the physical structure within which people may dwell. A home, on the other hand, is the warm, secure environment shaped by the unique personalities that live there. Every home has its unique culture, and special relationships. It is the place where fond, mutual memories are shared, a space within which deep, intimate conversations can be had, and an area where every member of the family contributes something to the special magic we call “home.”

The Bais Hamikdash was not just our national house, it was our home. It was there that Hashem made the presence of His holy Shechina be felt by every Jew. This was the Temple where everyone felt welcome and was warmly received. There was a spirit of acceptance and forgiveness that permeated our national “home” that made us all feel “at home.”

Likewise, Torah learning is more than just a study of our national heritage. It is an ongoing “conversation” that began

with Hashem’s ten commandments at Sinai, that was expounded upon, expanded, and interpreted, throughout the generations via the methodology established by our Oral Law. From Moshe Rabbeinu, to Rebbe Akiva; from Rashi and the Rambam, to every single Jew, in every single generation, each of us has something unique to contribute to this national Torah discussion based on our unique personalities, life experiences, and understanding. Our “portion” in Torah reflects Judaism’s deep level of respect for our combined input into this cherished dialogue that we call Torah learning.

In short, Torah learning is that special conversation of mutual respect and love born of a relationship that is only found within a “home.” That home was the Bais Hamikdash that housed the Holy Shechina and enveloped our relationship with Hashem.

During these three weeks before Tisha B’av – as we contemplate how much we have lost with the destruction of the Bais Hamikdash, our national home, Hashem’s home, we should also take a moment to reflect on the treasure of Torah learning that has survived throughout the centuries and spanned the continents. Don’t be a silent bystander. Take part in the conversation. The Jewish people are waiting to hear what you have to say.

Have a Good Shabbos!





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

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

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

Rabbi & Mrs. Shmaryahu Abramczyk

Rabbi & Mrs. Avrohom Berzansky

Rabbi & Mrs. Nussie Bitterman

Rabbi & Mrs. Levi Botnick

Rabbi & Mrs. Aryeh Cohen

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Rabbi & Mrs. Yisroel Meir Ebstein

Rabbi & Mrs. Hillel Engelson

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**HaRav & Rebbetzen  
Moshe Twiva Lieff,**  
Miyased HaKollel



MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY  
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## Alumni Profile

# Rabbi and Mrs. Menachem Frank

Members of the Kollel: Summer 2000 - Summer 2011



*Elazar, Leah, Rivka, Shmuel, Hadassah, and Avraham*

## Personal Reflection

Living in Minneapolis for eleven years, especially as a member of the Kollel team, has completely changed our perspective on Jews, Community, and Life. It is here that we learned to love and accept every Jew at their level, to reach out and be a friend and a support for every member of the community, and to understand that coming together as one community with collaborative leadership, we have so much more to offer one another. We learned these lessons because we ourselves felt so wonderfully accepted, so warmly looked after and befriended, and that we had such willing partners to make a difference in the community. We may have left our friends in Minneapolis but we have never left our friendships! (It may just take me a little longer to return my messages...MF)

## Highlights

- Rabbi Frank is Menahel of Beth Jacob of Boro Park.- Yes, he commutes by bus every day.
- Mrs. Frank teaches Kallahs in Lakewood.
- We are blessed with 10 gems- Miriam, 19, Sarah, 18, Yehudis, 15, Elazar, 12, Leah, 10, Rivka, 10, Shmuel, 8, Hadassah, 6, Avraham, 3, Avigayil, <1

## Keep in touch with the Franks

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### Rabbi

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