

BRINGING HOLINESS AND PROTECTION FOR ALL OF KLAL YISRAEL

KOLLEL CHATZOS ERETZ YISRAEL

Ashira Stern



Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch
Rosh HaKollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael

In the 19 years since Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch opened his remarkable Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael in Beitar Illit, it has expanded to include more than 110 outstanding avreichim. Each weeknight, when the city is asleep, these ovdei Hashem come to the kollel and movingly recite Tikun Chatzos, lamenting the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash and the exile of the Shechinah. After Tikkun Chatzos, the avreichim begin learning b'chavrusa, in chaburahs, or individually — Gemara with Rashi and Tosafos, Shulchan Aruch, works of chassidus, and sifrei Kabbalah. Many regularly make siyumim on single masechtos and all of Shas.

“Chatzos is a tremendous eis ratzon,” explains Rav Deutsch. “The holy Zohar states that whoever wakes up to learn Torah and pray at night merits both physical and spiritual protection during the day. That protection extends to the entire city, and to all of Am Yisrael!”

Many Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael supporters from the United States make sure to drop in on the kollel during their visits to Eretz Yisrael. “They never cease to be amazed by what they see. What I hear over and over is that the energy and the kedushah are palpable,” Rav Deutsch says, although, he adds, it’s not surprising. “We learn that there are three places in the world where the Shechinah dwells at all times: at the Kosel, Kever Rachel, and in a place where people learn together at chatzos. In fact, there isn’t one parshah in the holy Zohar without mention of the greatness of chatzos and the “chevra kaddisha”— which refers to a group of ten men who learn at chatzos. And if the Shechinah dwells where there is a group of ten, what can we say about more than 100?”

The Yissachar-Zevulun Contract

Each member of the kollel has been handpicked, having proven their seriousness and consistency, both in the ability to adhere to this very unconventional schedule as well as in their overall learning

capabilities. Rav Deutsch relates that many of the kollel’s avreichim are accomplished talmidei chachamim, with extensive knowledge in both nigleh and nistar.

In extolling the greatness of waking up at midnight to say Tikkun Chatzos and learn Torah, Rav Chaim Palagi writes that one who is unable to do so should strive to support a talmid chacham who can do so, and in that merit, he will receive the same protection, brachah, and yeshuah as the learner himself. In fact, says Rav Chaim Palagi, both the supporter and the learner have the power to bring the Geulah for all of Klal Yisrael as well as personal yeshuos — above and beyond the laws of nature.

This arrangement takes the form of a Yissachar-Zevulun contract, written on beautifully decorated klaf, with the approbation of top rabbanim, including Rav Yaakov Meir Shechter and Rav Yitzchok Zilberstein, who actually wrote up the contract and is himself an enthusiastic supporter. The donor and learner sign a binding halachic contract, each receiving an equal portion in the learning, while the donor provides monthly support for the learner, amounting to \$700. The learner endeavors never to miss a night of learning and to daven for the donor and his family every single night. In addition, for \$101 monthly, three outstanding avreichim will daven each night at chatzos on behalf of the donor. Single nights can be dedicated for the merit of an individual, depending on availability. “We have seen amazing yeshuos beyond nature among donors,” shares Rav Deutsch, “and without doubt, it is a zechus without compare.”

A Holy Building to House the Shechinah

Since its inception, Kollel Chatzos Eretz Yisrael moved from place to place, until nine years ago, when the kollel received from the Beitar municipality a huge lot on Knesses Yechezkel Street. At the time, a small building was erected, although Rav Deutsch has always dreamed about expanding. Baruch Hashem, two months ago, Rav Deutsch began the exciting process of building this expansive new complex, the Binyan Hakadosh. The Binyan Hakadosh is planned to be one of the most magnificent shuls in the world, and will include a beis medrash with seating for 500, a mikveh, an ezras nashim, a room



Construction of the Binyan Hakadosh, one of the most magnificent shuls in the world, began two months ago.



for hachnasas orchim and small simchahs, a coffee room, and study rooms. The hachnasas orchim will provide breakfast each morning for the avreichim and for anyone else who wants it, and the simchah hall will be available for the community and kollel members for free. “The Rambam says that a shul must be built with exceptional splendor and beauty, more than a royal palace, and that this arouses Divine compassion,” Rav Deutsch shares. “I’ve planned the binyan hakadosh according to the highest standards and the most superior components in order to fulfill this dictum.”

Rav Deutsch adds that the binyan hakadosh will have special features according to mystical sources, such as 12 windows that are part of the raised, domed ceiling. “It will be a magnificent edifice, both aesthetically pleasing and comfortable, and where the sound of Torah and avodah will be heard 24/7 — particularly at the auspicious time of chatzos. There will be shiurim for kiruv rechokim, and an ezras nashim that’s open all week, like the Kosel or Kever Rachel, where women can come at any time to daven,” Rav Deutsch says.

Partnership with all of Am Yisrael

Rav Deutsch remarks that the binyan hakadosh will not be for one specific sector but for all of Am Yisrael. “Already now, the kollel attracts people of all types and from all over Beitar and the surrounding area. People from neighboring communities come to learn here b’chavrusa and to use the hisbodedus rooms; the neighbors take part in tefillos on weekdays as well as on Shabbos and Yamim Tovim. Everyone feels at home here!”

In the same vein, Rav Deutsch is offering donation opportunities for every pocket. “Like with the Mishkan, where everyone brought

whatever they felt moved to contribute, we are offering the opportunity for the everlasting merit of partnering in the binyan hakadosh,” Rav Deutsch explains. Donors can buy as little as one square meter out of the total 318 meters in the beis medrash (\$2,400), the mikveh (\$1,800), the ezras nashim (\$2,000), or a window in the beis medrash (\$7,200), all payable in 12 monthly installments. All dedications will appear on a plaque in the shul lobby. Please see the website for additional donation possibilities.

The Gift That Lasts Forever

Rav Deutsch expounds at length on the greatness of contributing toward building a shul, which Rashi and many gedolei Yisrael discuss at length. “It accompanies a person and protects him, both during his lifetime and afterward,” says Rav Deutsch. “Certainly, there can be nothing greater than a shul where the lights never go out, and where Torah and tefillah can be heard at all times of the day and night! Don’t miss this opportunity to gift the soul of a loved one, living or departed, or even yourself, with this everlasting zechus!”



All donations for square meters or windows will appear with the donors’ names.



Learning Torah at the eis ratzon of chatzos in Kollel Chatzos.

Watch the extremely moving six-minute video on our website!

The Rosh Kollel Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch can be reached directly, either by phone or email.
Israeli telephone: +972-52-7628272 | American telephone: 646-4033750 | Email: chatzot18@gmail.com

For details about the kollel, videos, or to make a donation, please look for us online

www.kollelchatzot.com

Donations by credit card can be done over the phone or through our website. All donations are US tax-deductible.