



# KOL TORAH REVERBERATES AT 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BMG INAUGURAL YARCHEI KALLAH



By G Heller

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The eagerly anticipated Bais Medrash Govoha Yarchei Kallah was a great success as well over 150 *ba'alhabtim* joined together in Princeton Hyatt Regency, for two full days of vigorous *limud haTorah b'iyun*.

The Yarchei Kallah consisted two packed days of intense Torah study that allowed participants to "rejoin the yeshiva" and relive their younger days of total immersion in the four *amos* of *halacha* while spending valuable time together with the Roshei Yeshiva of BMG, *hanballah* members, and leading Rabbanim.

The sugya chosen to be studied in-depth was one especially suited for those in the business world: The Halachos of Competition in the Open Market. The practical applications of these halachos that were studied included competition between fellow consumers or co-workers, placing a bid on a unique or underpriced property already under negotiation, attempting to assume a job or position already held by someone else, vying for a position within a company that is already held by a co-worker, soliciting the competition's clients/accounts, persuading a business to switch its credit card processor, poaching clients from competing businesses, recruiting trained-employees of a competing business, general competition between businesses, aggressive advertisement to competing customers, opening a store that negatively affects the competition, opening a business that will likely put the competing company out of business, deliberately undercutting all competitors in order to force them out of business, and ore relevant topics.

The learning sedarim were led by Rav Yosef Kushner, a respected member of the Bais Horaah and son-in-law of Rav Shlomo Miller *sblita*. *Shiurim* on the *sugya* were presented by eminent *Marbitzei Torah*, renowned *Rabbanim* and respected *Dayanim sblita*. Amongst the *gedolei*





Rabbanim who gave *shiurim* were Rav Yisroel Belski *sblita*, *Rosh Yeshivas* Torah Vodas; Rav Yehoshua Krupenia *sblita*, *Rosh Kollel* BMG; Rav Yaakov Reisman *sblita*, *Rov* of Agudath Yisroel of Long Island; Rav Michael Frank *sblita*, former *Rosh Chaburah* in BMG and currently *Rov* of Ohr Hatorah in Silver Springs, Md., and Rav Chaim Meir Roth *sblita*, *Rov* of Sterling Forest-Nusach Sfarad.

The Yarchei Kallah began on *Motzoei Shabbos*, Dec. 26, with a gala *Melava Malka*, which was addressed by the *Rosh Hayeshiva* Rav Malkiel *sblita* and Rav Yaakov Horowitz *sblita*, *Rosh Yeshivas* Bais Meir.

Rav Horowitz introduced the *sugya* by explaining that one must look at business with the Torah'dig perspective. Just like we live every aspect of our lives like *Yidden*, we also have to do business like a *Yid*, in the way the Torah teaches us and not according to the secular world's ideas of right and wrong.

In a *shmuess* on the first day of the Yarchei Kallah, the *Mashgiach* Rav Bentzion Kokis *sblita*, told the crowd, "Even though you are businessmen and not *rabbeim*, you also are teachers. Every day that you go out into the office it is your job to teach the world how a ben Torah conducts himself with honesty and *ehrlichkeit*."

A highlight of this year's event was the Sunday evening interactive symposium led Rav Dovid Grossman *sblita* of the Bais Va'ad L'inyanei Mishpat. The symposium, which included a lively give-and-take, discussed the topic of "Li-chu Parnaseinu Zeh M'zeh" – when is there an obligation to shop in a Jewish owned store or patronize a Jewish business and how far this obligation goes.

Another new feature of this year's Yarchei Kallah was a live *shiur* for the wives of the Yarchei Kallah participants delivered live from the Yarchei Kallah by teleconference by Rabbi Nosson Muller, renowned speaker and educator and *Menahel* of Kaminetz in Boro Park. Over 150 women called in to hear Rabbi Muller's *shiur*.

Rabbi Muller described the scene of the men sitting and learning with a *bren* and praised the wives for supporting them in their decision to go. He said, "If your husband doesn't call you tonight to say goodnight, please be *moichel* him. He certainly just forgot because he was so *areingetohn* in learning."

Rabbi Muller told one of the organizers that he had to leave at 5:30am on Monday morning to get to Brooklyn on time for the school day in Kaminetz. He stopped for a coffee on his way out, and was amazed to see three *chavrusahs* already in *bais medrash* and learning the *Sugya D'Kallah*.

Greenwald Caterers providing three delicious meals daily. But mealtimes, too, were taken up with talking in

learning.

A participant relates that it was truly inspiring to see the group of *balhabatim* who came to the Yarchei Kallah from Rav Chaim Meir Roth's shul sitting together at the supper table and speaking about the *sugya* with Rav Roth throughout the entire meal.

Participants in previous Yarchei Kallahs described the experience as life-changing, and the *chizuk* in learning they received as something they will surely take back with them to their everyday lives.

One participant described the atmosphere by saying, "The air was *mamash* charged. The *davening* and the learning was unbelievable. When you walked into the *bais medrash* during *seder* you heard a *ra'ash* that sounded just like you were in Bais Aharon. Every guy was bent over his *Gemara* completely immersed in the *sugya*. Guys were screaming at each other like *bochurim*."

One of the organizers related that several participants approached him with *tainos* that the *bais medrash* had no clock on the wall. They had accepted to leave their cells in their rooms all day while they learnt, and therefore had no way to know what time it was.

The grand finale of the Yarchei Kallah was the gala dinner on Monday evening, which was addressed by Rav Reisman and the *Rosh Yeshiva* Rav Yeruchim *sblita*.

Rav Yeruchim stated that the fact that busy working men were able to put aside 48 hours to dedicate completely to Torah – which many might think is something that sounds impossible – is a great *kidush Hashem* and shows what is truly important to them.

Reb Moshe Yosef Drew, the emcee of the event, quoted the *Yerushalmi* that says that the early *Chasidim* would prepare for *davening* one hour beforehand and one hour afterwards. The hour of preparation beforehand is understandable, but why, he asked, did they need an hour afterwards? He answered that these *Chasidim* clung so tightly to *Hashem* during their prayers that they couldn't simply let go and go back to daily life. They needed an hour to slowly come back down to earth and to serve as a bridge between their *davening* and daily life.

"That is the purpose of this gala dinner for us," he explained.

The Yarchei Kallah concluded on a high note and will surely linger within the participants as they return to their daily lives.

As a participant said, "I watched every guy leave the hotel, and they all were walking out with such contented looks on their faces. Everyone was so gratified and felt so privileged to have been a part of this amazing experience."

