

Educators Meet for Annual Kinus

July 18, 2012 – 28 Tammuz 5772



140 Torah educators from across North America convened at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Danbury CT, working to improve their yeshivas and maximize their programs.

It was well after midnight when Rabbi **Sholom B. Halberstam** of Chicago ended the marathon nearly 13 hour meeting of menaholim – principals of “out-of-town” Mesivtas. They had convened as part of the annual “Kinus HaMechanchim” educator’s conference, sponsored by the Merkos Chinuch Office.

Other than brief breaks for tefillos and meals the group concentrated on the business at hand, improving their yeshivas and cooperating to help the many hundreds of students maximize the effectiveness of their yeshiva experience.

140 Torah educators from across North America convened at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Danbury CT, away from the hustle and bustle of their respective communities, away from the offices and classrooms but with their mind’s eye focusing on their students and their needs. The educators followed a similar conclave of women educators two weeks earlier.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe promoted the idea of summer professional development in letters dating back to the early 1950s. The idea that teachers need to both rejuvenate and hone their skills resonated well with the capacity crowd in Danbury.

The Kinus program was essentially divided into two sections which complemented one another. There was a strong focus on the development of better pedagogical skills and there was a deep concentration on the “Neshama”, the souls of Jewish education.

The general academic program was devoted to the study of the Danielson Framework, which helps teachers plan and execute their lessons in a more organized way and workshops on classroom management among others. One issue which generated a great deal of discussion was the need for each student to be guided in the development of a healthy self-image, at a talk by Dr. **Shloimie Zimmerman**, a psychologist in NY who specializes in the issue.

Rabbi **Jonathan Rietti**, an educational consultant who has developed a wide range of programs to ensure maximum participation and sustained outcomes, especially for younger students, presented on sustained reading skills development and on the fundamentals of teaching Torah to younger students. He also presented, to great acclaim, on a wide reaching approach to teaching Jewish history.

Rabbis **Yoseph Minkowitz** of Montreal and **Mendel Schapiro** of Los Angeles keynoted on the essence of the mission of those gathered, to reach the Neshama of their students and not only to teach but to inspire them.

One particularly inspirational moment occurred during lunch on Monday when a group of about fifty formed a round table to recap how their classroom had changed since the introduction of the Master Torah program highlighted at last year’s conference. They decided to hold similar discussions via Skype throughout the year.

“It takes months of planning and a lot of hard work, not to speak of the financial expense, but when at conclusion of the Kinus one can feel the tangible inspiration of hundreds of educators who will teach thousands of students next year, all the effort is a small price to pay,” said Rabbi **Nochem Kaplan**, director of the Merkos Chinuch Office, the umbrella of Chabad schools.

Rabbi Kaplan thanked his staff at the Chinuch Office, led by **Rivkah Cohen**, and a committee of mechanchim, particularly Rabbi **Zalman Goldstein** of Oholei Torah, who collectively spent countless hours the program. He added that all attendees are in their debt. In addition he said that his son, Rabbi **Baruch Kaplan** a shliach in Wallingford, CT and rebbe at the Southern New England Hebrew Academy in New Haven, was essentially the coordinator of all Kinus logistics along with Rabbi **Menachem Kirschenbaum**.

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21 COMMENTS



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LOS ANGELES 

July 19, 2012 7:49 pm

Go Rabbi Greenbaum! Best principle ever!



R' Friedman



🕒 July 19, 2012 6:04 pm

Rabbi Zalman Friedman!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
u r the best!



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👉 Reply

Rabbi minkowitz



🕒 July 19, 2012 3:44 pm

One of the few true chassidim around. Runs a beautiful mosed. I wish he would take more time to give shiurim, lectures and inyonei chinch based on the rebbes teachings. Thank you r, Minkowitz!,



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👉 Reply

Chinuch of Parents



🕒 July 19, 2012 10:30 am

My suggestion to Rabbi Kaplan is to make a Kinus for parents that they should learn how to make Torah study primary in their home, support the Yeshiva mechanchim and convey to their child how important it is to the parents the Yiddishkeit of their child. How many parents will come ?



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black and white



🕒 July 19, 2012 9:53 am

Im very impressed how everyone there was appropriately dressed, without a ny pshoros. Truly people Id be happy that by boys learn under.



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👉 Reply

Look



🕒 July 19, 2012 1:41 am

Just change the system. It doesn't work. To many boys are dropping out every year



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👉 Reply

Yasher koach Rabbi Minkowitz and Rabbi Kaplan



🕒 July 19, 2012 1:22 am

Yasher coach Rabbi Minkowitz for relating to us the Rebbe's special detailed directives which is "the yesod (foundation) and ikar in chinuch" specifically for our generation. It is amazing that the Rebbe said these sichos 57 years ago, and again at various occasions , including in an interesting lengthy yechidus, what the Rebbe told the Belzer Rebbe. If the Rebbe's words would have been followed, many of the issues that exist today by children, teens and adults would have been avoided! It should at least be implemented now. Special thanks to Rabbi Nochum Kaplan for the very important Kinus Hamechanchim/Mechanchos... [Read more »](#)



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👉 Reply

Lots of ULY Rebbeim

🕒 July 18, 2012 11:13 pm

Nice to see. Keep up the great work

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

Rabbi Rosenblum

🕒 July 18, 2012 11:03 pm

You are the greatest menahel in the world! Thanks for all you do! You are changing the world one school at a time!

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

schanowitzs!!!!

🕒 July 18, 2012 10:20 pm

Go Shmuly, Yossi, and Chaim!!!

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

thank you Rabbi Minkowitz

🕒 July 18, 2012 9:10 pm

I learned a lot and the fact that it comes from a dugma chaya gives it extra chayus
also thank you to Rabbi Kaplan and all involved for making these events happen

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

to #6

🕒 July 18, 2012 9:08 pm

agree
it is indeed very nice to see

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

Complements to the chef!! Exquisite Caterers.

🕒 July 18, 2012 7:26 pm

Bentzion Turk did a great job.
The Food was very good and kept us going through the day.
-Teacher in the Shchuna.

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

I spy

🕒 July 18, 2012 5:21 pm

I spy rabbi Ezagui
Keep it up!

⬆ 0 0 ⬇ [Reply](#)

Nochum is the best! 

🕒 July 18, 2012 5:21 pm

Nochum Kaplan – we are so proud of u and know that all the hard efforts of the past months really payed off!! -Your family.

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

poshut chasidshe yungeliet 

🕒 July 18, 2012 5:18 pm

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

former chicagoan 

🕒 July 18, 2012 5:13 pm

great to see Yossi Schanowitz from Chicago! Keep up the good work!

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

Great 

🕒 July 18, 2012 4:50 pm

Some proper training for our teachers.... FINALLY.

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

i spy 

🕒 July 18, 2012 4:46 pm

i spy mendel raices from skokie!!!! gr8 kid!!

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

impressed 

🕒 July 18, 2012 4:26 pm

very impressive, I am sure our children will reap the benefits of this, when it come

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

Rabbi Ezagui 

🕒 July 18, 2012 4:14 pm

Rabbi Ezagui, why are you still not running a school somewhere, i need a place to send my boys, i know ur one of the BEST!!!!!!!

👍 0 0 📄 Reply

 Title*

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