

Introduction

“*LaYehudim haytah orah*” ... (*Esther 8:16*)

“*Orah*” - “*Zu Torah*” (*Bavli Megillah 16b*)

R. Zadok HaKoen of Lublin explains that the feminine form “*orah*” is used instead of the masculine form “*or*” because the Talmud refers specifically to the Oral Law—*Torah she’Be’al Peh*. The Oral Law draws from, is *mekabel*, from the Written Law, and is thus described in *lashon nekeivah*.

As RIETS prepares for its quadrennial Chag HaSemikhah celebration on March 23, 21 Adar II, honoring those who have received their rabbinic ordination in the past four years, we bask in the “*orah*” of a tradition successfully passed from one generation to the next. It is nothing less than a new *kabbalat HaTorah* that we celebrate as the *gedolei HaYeshiva* proclaim to more than 200 *talmidim*: “*Yoreh Yoreh*,” provide *hora’ah*, provide leadership, to the community, based on all that we have taught you.

This special edition of Purim-To-Go highlights some of our *musmakhim* and the unique yeshiva at which they have learned. Combining a world-class faculty of *Roshei Yeshiva* and *poskim*, two vibrant *batei midrash* with nearly 1,000 young men learning on a daily basis, four *kollelim*, and an unmatched program of professional training for the rabbinate, RIETS is not just the intellectual and spiritual center of Centrist Orthodoxy; it is the source of its future educational and rabbinic leadership.

The Chag HaSemikhah is a window into the past and the future of our community. As we gather in the storied Lamport Hall, we remember the great public lectures given there by HaRav Joseph B. Soloveitchik. *Roshei Yeshiva* and *mehahelim* representing generations of Yeshiva leadership sit upon the stage. And down below, sitting front and center, rests the future leadership of our people. One by one they are called up to the stage for a meeting of past and future, a symbolic *matan Torah* by the *rebbeim* and a symbolic *kabbalat HaTorah* on behalf of the *talmidim*.

Wishing you a Purim filled with the light of Hashem’s blessings,

Rabbi Menachem Penner

Acting Dean, RIETS

Our newest rabbinic leaders are ready. Go to www.yutorah.org/live at noon on March 23, 2014 to watch the Chag HaSemikhah via live stream.