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Rabbi Raichik's Efforts in Eretz Yisroel for the Rebbe

In Honor of the 12th Yahrzeit of Rabbi Shmuel Dovid Raichik

By Rabbi Shimon Raichik



There were several times Rabbi S. D. Raichik traveled to Israel. The first time in 1965, Alan Lazaroff and his sister, Emma Shaffer dedicated some new buildings in Kfar Chabad for Botei Sefer l'Malacha (Vocation School), through the effort of my father and Rabbi Kazarnofsky.



Rabbi Kazarnofsky worked closely with my father to raise funds for the Rebbe's institutions – and they traveled together. At one point, the Rebbe told Rabbi Kazarnofsky to be sure Rabbi Raichik eats not according to R. Raichik's understanding of eating, but according to your understanding of eating.

Right to left: Alan Lazaroff, Rabbi Kazarnofsky, Rabbi Raichik, Rabbi Zevin, Rabbi Garelik (rabbi of Kfar Chabad).



They went together to present President Zalman Shazar the new printing of the Alter Rebbe's siddur with Chassidus. Left to Right: President Shazar, Rabbi Kazarnofsky, Rabbi Raichik, Rabbi Chanoch Glitzenstein.

Forty years ago on Rosh Chodesh Kislev, 5730/1969 Mrs. Sima Rapoport, my mother's mother, passed away in New York. My father flew from Los Angeles to New York for the funeral and then from New York to Eretz Yisroel with the casket. She was interred in Har Hamenuchos in the Rapoport Section next to her husband, whose remains had been brought over from Poland in 1964. After the passing of his mother-in-law was the second time Rabbi S. D. Raichik went to Israel.

According to the recollection of my brother, Abi, while he was in New York the Rebbe called our father in to Yechidus. The Rebbe requested that during his stay in Israel he should visit Nachas Har Chabad in Kiryat Malachi. The community had just been established in and many of the Georgian Jews coming from Europe were beginning to resettle there. A Chabad kollel had been founded the preceding year and the settlement was far from Jerusalem and Kfar Chabad. The Rebbe instructed that my father should go as the Rebbe's representative to give support to these newcomers and to the members of the Kollel.

Before going out to the funeral procession as it passed 770, the Rebbe handed my father a galley proof of the sefer Ohr HaTorah, instructing him to review it and to give over from it.

During his two-week stay in Israel my father visited Nachlas Har Chabad and fulfilled the Rebbe's request.



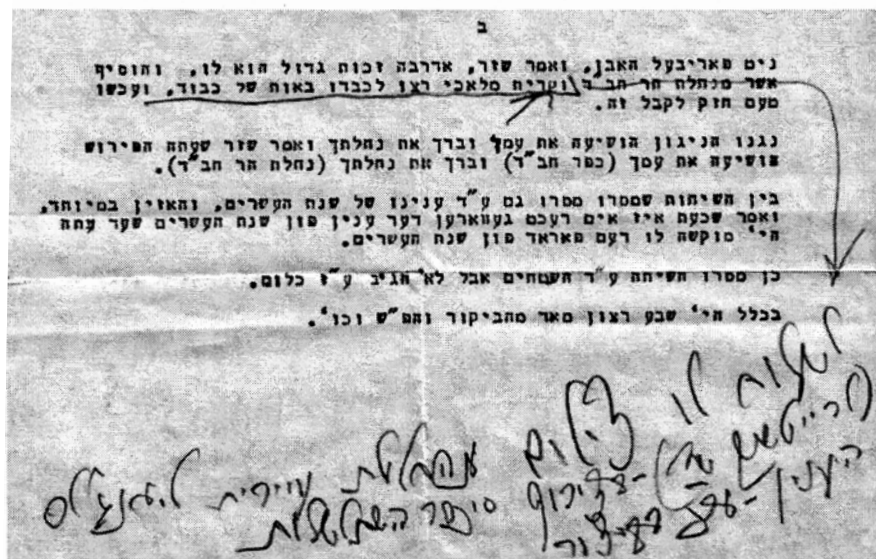
At a meeting with the members of the city council of Kiryat Malachi, with some Chabad Chassidim.

My brother Abi recalls that on our father's return to the United States, he davened Maariv in the Rebbe's minyan (he was saying kaddish for my grandmother, as she had no male descendants). Hearing him in the minyan, after Maariv the Rebbe called him in again to yechidus and told him that when he gets back to Los Angeles he should see to it that his trip to Eretz Yisroel to Nachlas Har Chabad was as a representative of the City of Los Angeles. Once back home, he spoke before the Los Angeles City Council and the council made an official proclamation that Rabbi Shmuel Dovid Raichik was representing Los Angeles during his trip to Kiryat Malachi and named Kiryat Malachi an official sister city of Los Angeles. What the Rebbe wanted was fulfilled.

Right to left: Reb Berel Weiss, Mr. Hal Wexler, Rabbi Raichik, Councilman/Supervisor Ed Edelman, Mr. Marvin Goldsmith, Mr. Alan Lazaroff, Rabbi Shlomo Cunin.



Interestingly, on my visit to Israel this past summer, some of the long-time residents of Kiryat Malachi-Nachlas Har Chabad shared their memories of my father's visit to them.



Ksav Yad of the Rebbe – a response to a report from Reb Efraim Wolf to the Rebbe. They met with Shazar concerning Nachlas Har Chabad and Kiryat Malachi and they want to honor Shazar in Kiryat Malachi, so the Rebbe answered send him (Efraim Wolf for President Shazar) a copy of the resolution of the City of Los Angeles, (which came about through Rabbi Raichik) and at least briefly explain to Shazar what it is all about).

On another trip, my father traveled to Israel during the month of Iyar 1971, and stayed for about a month. Mr. Berel Weiss wrote a Sefer Torah for the Tzemach Tzedek Shul in

Jerusalem. It was completed around Shavuot and they made a Siyum and Hachnosas Sefer Torah.

The Sefer Torah had its origin from a Sichah of Yud Beis Tammuz 5727/1967 (right after the Six Day War). The Rebbe spoke strongly about Eretz Yisroel and Jerusalem, emphasizing that the Tzemach Tzedek shul had been damaged but not destroyed by the Jordanians (it had been used as a warehouse or a factory). The Rebbe spoke about reestablishing the shul. My father had a reel-to-reel tape recording of the sicha. We played this for Berel Weiss in his home. Mr. Weiss responded by saying, "I have a relative who is a sofer, and I want to write a Sefer Torah for the Tzemach Tzedek Shul." My father called 770 and related this to the Rebbe through Rabbi Chadakov and the Rebbe answered that it's a very appropriate thing. Four years later my father and Mr. Weiss and his family came to Israel for the Siyum and Hachnosas Sefer Torah.



Visible faces from the left, Rabbi Yossi Shusterman; Rabbi Shlomo Majdanchik, Mayor of Kfar Chabad; President Shazar; Rabbi Raichik

I was then with a group of shluchim traveling to Australia through Eretz Yisroel and we had a shlichus to visit Shazar. The Rebbe said that my father should go with us and speak to President Shazar about the problem of Mi hu yehudi that is affecting the young Israelis who are coming to Los Angeles. Additionally, during his trip my father visited others in positions of influence to encourage them to get more involved in amending the Law of Return to require that conversions would only be accepted if they went according to halacha. One of those he visited was the

Bais Yisroel – the Gerrer Rebbe. My father was introduced as a shliach from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and during their conversation he mentioned to the Bais Yisroel that he was the son-in-law of Reb Abale Rapoport (who had been an outstanding chosid of Ger in Poland before the war; in fact a daughter of the Bais Yisroel had married Reb Abale Rapoport's grandson). The Bais Yisroel complimented my father saying, "I didn't know that Abale Rapoport had such a son-in-law!"