

A MEMORABLE CHAVRUSAH

During their recent trip to Eretz Yisrael, Lakewood's Yarchei Kallah members took some time to learn in a very special kollel, with very special chavrusos.

When Mr. Avi Braude, coordinator of Lakewood's Yarchei Kallah in Yerushalayim, accepted an invitation for a learning session with the special *bochurim* of Kollel Chazon Dov, a *kollel* under the auspices of Seeach Sod, neither the hosts nor the guests could have anticipated the level of spiritual energy, unity and inspiration that would envelop them during the visit.

The visit began with a tour of Seeach Sod's main complex on Yirmiyahu Street in Yerushalayim. In the Vocational Center for Girls, the visitors observed the special young women hard at work, packaging candies and producing novelty soap items, and were amazed by the energy, joy and sense of fulfillment that permeated the air. The group then continued to the wing that houses a respite center – a hotel where families can leave their special-needs children for a few days due to a family *simchah*, a *yom tov*, or other circumstances. The visitors expressed admiration at the artfully designed, spotless rooms.

The group finally arrived at Kollel Chazon Dov for the climax of their visit: a learning session together with the special *bochurim* of the *kollel*. Each guest was paired up with a *chavrusa* – a member of the *kollel* – and to everyone's amazement, the learning session took off instantly with a fire and *bren* that must have lit up the Heavens. Dozens of voices blended together in a chorus of resonating *kol* Torah, as the *chavrusos* animatedly reviewed *hilchos* Shabbos from compiled material that the *kollel* members had already covered. "It was amazing to see how much my *chavrusa* knew!" commented one impressed visitor. It was truly an awe-inspiring experi-



ence, seeing Hashem's special children learning Torah on their level.

The learning session concluded with a poignant message delivered by Seeach Sod's CEO Rabbi Shimon Levy. After telling the visitors a little bit about the *kollel's* study program, Rabbi Levy shared his feelings: "Kollel Chazon Dov is named after my father, Rabbi Dov Levy, z"l, the founder of Seeach Sod and father of *frum* special education in Eretz Yisrael. Indeed, it was his vision, his '*chazon*' to see regular *avreichim* learning together with special-needs *bochurim*. This is true *nachas* for my father, and it is certainly a

great *zechus* for his *neshamah*."

In the short quarter of an hour that the *chavrusos* got to know each other, some of them even exchanged phone numbers!

After the learning session, the guests were served lunch in Seeach Sod's hall, where Seeach Sod's very own choir performed, and a father of a Seeach Sod student relayed his appreciation for the institution and to the Lakewood visitors who gave of their time to learn with their special brothers. Rabbi Eliezer Apter, one of the visitors, conveyed his powerful impressions of Seeach Sod's *avodas hakodesh* and offered warm *brachos* that the institution should be able to continue creating a *kiddush Hashem*. After *bentching*, the guests linked arms with the Seeach Sod *bochurim* in an exuberant round of dancing.

The entire visit lasted less than two hours, but it was slice of time that left a powerful impression on both the visitors and hosts. ❖