

PRINTING THE TANYA IN ARAFAT'S OFFICE

BY YOSEF DOV COHEN

The story began with my sudden being drafted to Beit Lechem. In the free time I had I did *Mivtza T'fillin* and distributed material designated specifically for soldiers. I had gotten the material a few days earlier from Rabbi Yitzchok Cohen, shliach in Alon Shevut.

It was Yedidya, an officer in the troop I am in, who first had the idea of printing an edition of the *Tanya* in the terrorists' territory. Yedidya is a *mekurav* to Chabad from Gush Katif. Seeing how the Rebbe's *mivtzaim* are done on the battlefield too, he jokingly said that all we lacked was the printing of the *Tanya*.

Printing the *Tanya*! Here in Beit Lechem in a battle zone? A real challenge. Definitely a project that would give the Rebbe *nachas*, but how? Where do you begin? At first it seemed like the wild imaginings of a Chabadnik in the reserves.

The command center was in Afarat's "palace" in Beit Lechem, and that is where the offices of the "Authority" are, as well as a beautiful hotel. In other words, the conditions were relatively good, but I still had no idea how to go about this.

At my first opportunity, I asked my place of employment for a laptop computer. They really had no reason to give me one, but they did anyway. In a conversation with Rabbi Yossi Lipkin of the Chabad house in Kfar Saba, he told me that the Rebbe wants the printing of *Tanyas* to be done in an orderly and official way, and that I had to ask for permission from the official organization in charge before printing it.

I spoke to Rabbi Manny Wolf of Kehos and with R' Erez of Rechovot who loved the idea. Erez suggested that I do it on sheets sized A3, and to do it with the aid of a copy

machine. Very straightforward but after additional thought, it was found to be impractical.

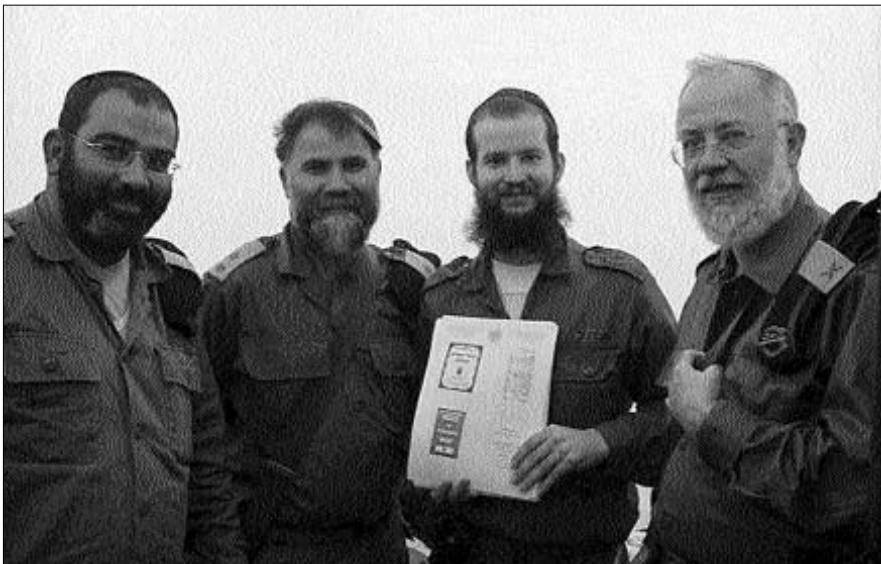
I finally came up with the idea of trying the Otzar770 website, which is run by Gidi Sharon. I contacted Yoel Friedman who runs the site (all this on my brief break), and he promised his help. Yoel scanned the pages of *Tanya* as picture files, and even sent me a special program to help me with the printing. All the files were transferred onto a CD and sent to me.

A computer? I had one. The *Tanya* on CD? I had that. Special software? I had that. All I was missing was a printer in order to print the pages. It was Shabbos, and Sunday morning I would have to return to my post because my break was over. It seemed as though the situation was hopeless.

As soon as Shabbos was over, I spoke to the people who *davened* in the Beis Menachem *Shul* in El'ad, about finding a suitable printer. I was afraid that a simple printer couldn't handle the quantity of a thousand pages of *Tanya*, plus being moved around. I questioned people, and one by one, with each negative answer, I saw the dream of printing the *Tanya* in the murderer's office going kaput.

Salvation came from an unexpected quarter. The *rav* of the community, Rabbi Daniel Grabsky had heard about the project and decided to donate his personal laser printer!

Sunday morning I packed up my



gear: clothing, food, computer, printer, and scanner. On the way to the Gilo junction, I got a call from the troop's rabbi, Rabbi Yossi Kosover, who informed me that the chief rabbi of the I.D.F. Rabbi Yisroel Weiss, would be visiting the headquarters shortly. I was happy at the news, for then the chief rabbi would also see the *Tanya* or even be present at the printing. But after all the Divine providence that had accompanied me until that point, I somehow felt that this visit wouldn't work out for some reason.

There was no shortage of impediments. At the Gilo junction and Beit Lechem there was a large demonstration by Christians from Europe along with Arabs, led by Achmad Tibi, and all the roads were closed. It was only with difficulty that I managed to enter.

I finally got to the "palace" with an armored troop carrier, and immediately began getting ready to print. I knew time was against me, and that at any moment I could be released (after a month in reserves), or we'd leave the area.

And so on Sunday, 9 Iyar, on the official letterhead of the enemy, the first *Tanya* was printed in the offices of the accursed Arafat, in Beit Lechem.

About two hours after finishing the first book, the military's chief rabbi, Rabbi Weiss, came accompanied by the chief rabbi of the central region forces, along with a retinue of other senior *rabbanim*. I was able to host this honorable delegation because I was already recognized as "a representative for Jewish matters" in the "palace."

After touring the building (it's very large), I told Rabbi Weiss about the printing of the *Tanya* which we had just finished, and he was very impressed by the alacrity of *Chabadnikim*, and asked that we be

photographed with the newly printed *Tanya*.

I printed another five *Tanyas* that day, six in all. After my release, I asked a *rav* what I should do with them (they had been printed for the refua of the baby ben Sarah Daus, the baby bas Mindel Beila Shmerling, and *l'ilui nishmas* my grandparents, and in the *z'chus* of all those involved in the printing). It was decided that the first book be sent to the Rebbe of course. I would keep one *Tanya*, and the other four

would be donated to the *mosdos chinuch* of the Chabad community of El'ad.

So in the lowest of places, lower than which nothing exists, a place in which they sit (present tense) and plan attacks on Jews, the *Tanya* was printed. I am confident that the printing of the *Tanya* purified the air there and accomplished other great things which the Rebbe said would be done in the merit of printing the *Tanya*.

This *Tanya* was printed twenty years (less one month) after the printing of the *Tanya* in the terrorists' stronghold in Lebanon, when the Israeli army entered it in the summer of 5742. That *Tanya* was quickly sent to the Rebbe and at the Yud-Beis Tammuz *farbrengen*, the Rebbe praised it. It was obvious that the Rebbe had *nachas* from it.

"People like something with a *shturm* – here is simple evidence that they are already in Beirut. On the table is a *Tanya* which was printed in Beirut (as it says on the title page) a few days ago. It took time to bring it here so that it could be placed on the table at the Yud-Beis/Yud-Gimmel Tammuz *farbrengen*!

The reason they could print the *Tanya* in Beirut is because men in the Israeli Defense Forces paved the way and helped with the printing.

Along with the printing of the *Tanya* in Beirut, they held a *chassidic farbrengen* with the soldiers and said *l'chaim* – *l'chaim* to the soldiers, and *l'chaim* to all the Jewish people, and they learned *Tanya*, and *davened*, and gave *tz'daka* – in the *shul* and *beis midrash* in Beirut from way back when, long before there was an entity called the P.L.O., and it will continue to exist after this entity no longer does!

And there is also a *Tanya* here on the table that was printed in Tzur (whose destruction is connected with the building of Yerushalayim) and they also printed a *Tanya* in Tzidon, and other places, and they continue to print the *Tanya* in other places in Lebanon.

And the purpose of this printing of the *Tanya* in these places, is the literal spreading of the wellsprings outward, including learning the *Tanya* with men in the Israeli Defense Forces, in addition to putting on *t'fillin*, regarding which it says, "and the nations of the world will see that the name of Hashem is called upon you, and they will fear you."

The Rebbe said this in a long and sorrowful *sicha* – why are we in the terrorists' cities yet we don't properly finish off the job? This rings true today too when we have entered the vipers' nests, yet don't finish off the job...

MACHON CHANA GIMMEL TAMMUZ CONFERENCE 2002

Buoyed by last year's inaugural success, Machon Chana is gearing up for its second annual International Women's Conference, to be held in Crown Heights the week of Gimmel Tammuz, on June 13-16. The title of this year's conference is "Ker a Velt – Turn Over the World," and in the spirit of *Hakhel*, women from all over the world will unite to discuss issues relating to family, personal *avoda*, and communal service.

In an interview, Machon Chana's conference coordinator, Tanya Dina Jacobson, outlined some of the program's special highlights:

What distinguishes the Machon Chana conference from other women's events?

Like other conferences, we conduct workshops, rap sessions, *farbrengens* and *shiurim* and even an "all-nighter" that will inspire all *Anash* women, yet our special emphasis on self-assessment and goal-setting will be particularly encouraging to *baalei t'shuva* who may feel "stuck in neutral" in their religious observance, as they move beyond the initial thrill of religious commitment and now find themselves juggling *davening*, learning, and outreach with the day-to-day demands of marriage, motherhood, work, and homemaking.

How have you integrated the theme of *Hakhel* into this year's conference?

In this *Hakhel* year, the conference offers women a forum to connect with each other and reconnect with the Rebbe, our source of strength and guidance. Through learning and discussion, attendees will reassess their individual and collective spiritual

goals, and work on acquiring life skills essential to the fulfillment of these goals. And it's about creating a sense of community and a support system wherever you are – even without the presence of local family.

Tell us about some of the featured topics.

Well, in accordance with an answer we received from the *Igros Kodesh*, we'll be addressing ways to achieve a Jewish life full of uncompromising

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commitment, especially when it comes to *chinuch*. Our keynote session, "Moshiach Is Here, But Where Am I?" will launch us into a panel discussion on "Creating a Vision for the Chassidische Me" – ideas on how to integrate *chassidishkeit* into every aspect of our personalities and, in turn, influence everyone around us. Then we'll focus on the responsibilities of a Jewish wife in sessions on *shalom bayis* and *taharas ha'mishpacha*. And, beginning on Shabbos and continuing

into Sunday, we'll hone in on the unique challenges facing today's *chassidische* mothers. We'll offer strategies for raising *chassidische* children, imbued with Torah values, while shielding them from insidious secular influences. And we'll explain the why and how of creating a "Family Mission Statement," a kind of a "constitution" for our families which helps us clarify and define what our family's values and goals are and thus enables us to reach them. We will explore psychological aspects of growth in a workshop discussing stages of child development, and we will also hold a series of workshops exploring potential challenges, solutions, goals, and expectations in *chinuch* from tiny tots to high school. We will venture into *shidduchim*, as well, by investigating the "after-the-*chasuna*" relationship with a new son or daughter-in-law.

In our "tuning up our life skills" workshop series we will turn our attention to improving our *balabatishkeit* skills. We will discuss organizational topics, healthy cooking techniques, and budgeting.

Are there any events this year that are new and completely unique to this year's program?

Yes. One of our innovating ideas this year is to hold a panel discussion by teenagers, daughters of our alumnae, on the topic of "what we wish our mothers would know" as part of our *chinuch* series.

To register visit our website at www.machonchana.org and register online, or please, contact Chana Merkur at (718)467-9422 or at chana@bhtech.net. We are waiting to hear from you and to see you soon at the Conference!

DEVORAH ELGARTEN, A”H

“Every person must know that G-d, through His individual Providence, gives each person the ability to bring G-d’s supernal will from the potential state to the actual. This is done through fulfilling the mitzvos and strengthening Judaism and our holy Torah at all times in every place. All depends solely on one’s avoda.”

(HaYom Yom for Iyar 21)

On the 21st of Iyar 5724, Devorah Doba Leah bas Yeshiya Pinchus was born. Her life is characterized by her selfless devotion as a wife, mother, teacher, *mashpia*, writer, singer, neighbor, and friend.

Born in Chicago, Devorah Leah is the only daughter of Ed and Joan Schwartz. Pursuing a career in acting, Devorah Leah first used her talents in Yiddishkeit in the children’s video “Miracle Days.” Encouraged by her *shluchim*, Rabbi Meir Chai and Rivka Benhiyoun, Devorah Leah attended Bais Chana in Minnesota. After that, Devorah Leah left her teaching and her business, making up her mind to learn in Crown Heights.

Although her given name was Doba Leah, she added the first name Devorah after moving to Crown Heights. Known as “Devorah Leah,” she lived true to her name as she adhered to and encouraged others in the ways of Chabad *chassidus* with *mesiras nefesh*. She put her whole heart and soul into everything she took on with an enthusiastic vitality.

In Elul 5753, she married Rashi Elgarten, who is currently an administrator in Yeshiva Tiferes Menachem in Seagate, Brooklyn. With her husband, Devorah Leah established an exemplary *chassidic* home. As a warm, involved mother she educated her three soldiers in Tzivos Hashem. With Tanya tapes

playing at breakfast, in her unique way Devorah Leah used much creativity in implanting fine character traits in her children.

Outside of her home, her love and *chayus*, energetic vitality, was for Machon Chana. In the Jewish Home class she taught she started off by relating the *HaYom Yom* in practical terms. It was not only her knowledge but her gentleness and smile that impressed her students to adopt a *chassidic* lifestyle. Coming from a suburban background, Devorah Leah could identify with her students and the changes they were undergoing.

Despite her personal challenges due to illness, Devorah Leah always carried out her responsibilities at home and in the community with joy and confidence.

She inspired students to adopt new roles whether it be wearing a sheitel or *challa* baking. Her students were welcome guests in her home.

As coordinator of special projects at Machon Chana, Devorah Leah reached out to women across the country. She coordinated the Yeshivacation program and Machon Chana summer program in the mountains. She labored to find meaningful topics and dynamic speakers who would speak to today’s women. She also edited the Gimmel Tammuz Machon Chana journal last

year.

Despite her personal challenges due to illness, Devorah Leah always carried out her responsibilities at home and in the community with joy and confidence. She was upbeat and energetic, never hinting about the great pain she endured. In fact, she was in the midst of writing a book about *simcha*, joy. Even when she could no longer leave her home to go to Machon Chana, she found time to help and encourage neighbors in her apartment building.

She drew strength from learning Torah and endeavored to practice what she learned. The imminent *Geula* motivated her actions. In her kitchen with her list of things to do is a reminder to be ready for Moshiach. On her phone answering machine, she and her children enthusiastically greet the caller: “Moshiach is coming, so please leave your message quickly!”

Devorah Leah passed away on the second day of Shavuos, which was also Shabbos Kodesh. This day marks the burial of the Baal Shem Tov, who taught us to love Hashem His Torah and the Jewish people. This day is also the birthday and *yahrtzeit* of David HaMelech. Devorah Leah was very devoted in *davening* and inspiring through song.

May her life continue to be a source of strength and blessing. May we follow in her example and establish our homes following the direction of the Rebbe MH”M; may we reach out to others with *ahavas Yisroel* and help them reach their potentials; may we use our creative talents to further *chassidus*; may we face life’s challenges with *simcha*, joy, and *bitachon*, trust; and may we be ready to greet Moshiach TODAY.

OHOLEI TORAH 47TH ANNUAL DINNER IN TRIBUTE TO REB DOVID DEITSCH

This year's Annual Dinner of Educational Institute Oholei Torah, which was held on Isru Chag Shavuot, took on a most different outlook and carried with it a deep meaning and importance, more than any of the other previous dinners. This year's Dinner was dedicated solely to Reb Dovid Shlomo ben Menachem Mendel Deitsch, who passed away earlier this year. Reb Dovid was a full fledged partner with Reb Michael Teitelbaum, in carrying the burden of the yeshiva, which was a direct shlichus from the given to him from the Rebbe. The Historic partnership between Reb Michael And Reb Dovid is in itself worthy of an article, and the mesirus nefesh Reb Dovid had to keep up his part was truly exemplary.

As guests walked in the Mendel And Hinda Deitsch Campus on Eastern Parkway they were greeted by all of the Reb Dovid's children and wife Sarah. Just from a brief look around the prestigious ballrooms one could see the hundreds of guests who came to pay tribute to Reb Dovid. There were business men who had the utmost respect to Reb Dovid's straight forwardness and honesty as he handled with them in the business, together with older Chassidim whose lives were saved 60-70 years ago from the efforts of Reb Dovid, with his parents' Mendel & Hinda Deitsch soup kitchens and his own connections with the authorities who he saved many from being imprisoned. There were grandchildren who were raised in a deep Chassidic environment imbued from their zeida with young parents whose children are educated with the unique opportunities only available at Oholei Torah, coming to pay tribute to Reb David's input that made Oholei Torah what it is today. There were workers who came to pay tribute to Reb

Dovid for his many acts of helping them when they needed together with Chassidim whose entire business came about through Reb Dovid's assistance and friendly advice.

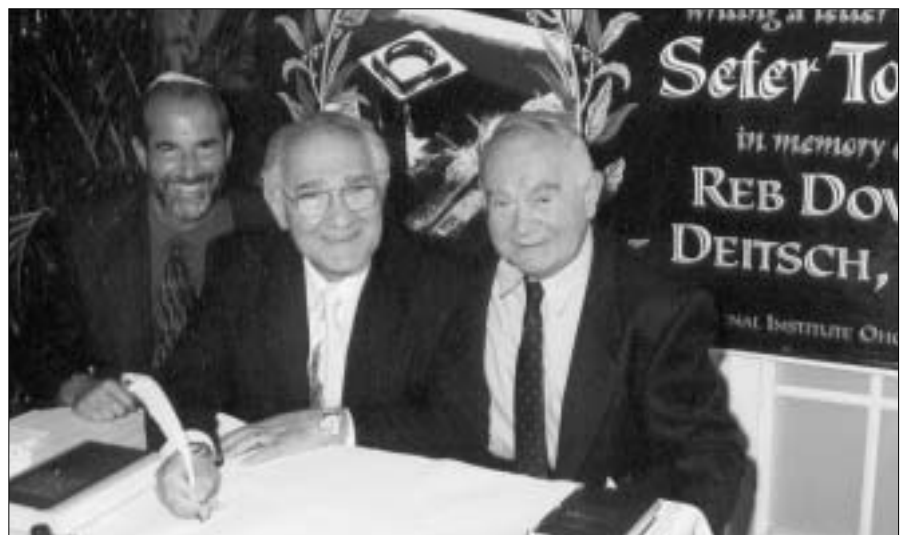
To see such a wide variety of people coming together to pay tribute to one

single individual, truly shows the greatness of Reb Dovid of how he was able to interact and assist thousands from all different backgrounds. All this as he led his life in a most modest and unassuming fashion.

The evening began with a



(Right to left) Rabbi Matel Deitsch, Rabbi Yosef Rosenfeld, Rabbi Yosef Deitsch, and Rabbi Yaakov Pinson



smorgasbord and gave a chance for the guests to reminisce with each other each with his or her own story about Reb Dovid.

The dinner guests received a most beautiful dinner journal, which had over 600 pages of greetings from many of Reb David's friends, family and acquaintances.

The dinner began with Reb Dovid's youngest son-in-law, Yankel Pinson, who was the Master of Ceremonies. In Yankel's eloquent and soft spoken way, he intrigued the crowd as the evening program began, Mr. Benjamin Rosenberg, was invited to open the evening with HaMotzi, and this was followed by Rabbi Yehuda Chitrik, who was honored with reading the Rebbe's Letter which he read with deep feeling which moved the entire crowd with the Rebbe's words. Following was the Rebbe's Kapitel which was said by Alter Deitsch, a grandson of Reb Dovid's, and a Oholei Torah grade 6th student. Meir

Deitsch, another grandson was called to say a d'var torah which he prepared. He delivered a most scholarly d'var Torah intertwining the Yom tov of Shavuot, the parshas of the week. Meir intertwined this with his memories of his elter Zeida, and thanked him for seeing that not only thousands of talmidim would enjoy Oholei Torah but also Reb David's own family and himself also.

Yankel Pinson then went on to describe the unique qualities of Reb Dovid whether it was his mesirus nefesh, business or other things, but brought out the point how Reb Dovid had the unique quality to truly put himself in someone's else's position and understand the other one's needs

Then Mr. Michael Rosenberg spoke about his longtime friendship with Reb Dovid and how he considered him not only as a friend, but also as a mentor. Michael spoke of Reb Dovid in the present, being the influence is with him even after Dovid passed on. He was truly moved in a most personal and heartfelt manner.

Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld, thought what can the

yeshiva present to the Ditch's on their behalf, but thought of the idea of writing a seifer torah. Just like a seifer torah is everlasting, so to the acts of Reb Dovid Deitsch are everlasting. Rabbi Rosenfeld went on to express his deep gratitude to the entire Deitsch family for standing by Oholei Torah and a special bracha to Mrs. Deitsch for her outstanding support she gave Reb Dovid all the years.

The family asked Reb Sholom Ber Drizin, and old friend of Reb Dovid who spoke about his warm memories of the countless acts of chesed and tz'daka that Reb Dovid was imbued with his entire life.

A professional video presentation was shown about the life of Reb Dovid Deitsch and his legacy - Oholei Torah. It moved the crowd, and many of them were fill with pride to be part of such a successful institution.

As the guests left they all received a Likkutei Torah which was recently printed by the family in red Dovid's memory.

All who attended the event noted that this was not just another year's dinner but a most special tribute, which they all feel privileged to continue the work of such a great man.