



Yossi Hecht addressing the middle-school boys at Cincinnati Hebrew Day School.

Cincinnati's Shabbos Of Appreciation With Yossi Hecht

On *Shabbos Parashas Shemini*, Congregation Zichron Eliezer of Cincinnati was privileged to host Reb Yossi Hecht for a Shabbos of Appreciation. Yossi, whose smile and sense of humor is contagious, made the trip together with Reb Chaim Lovett, from New York, where they learn in Yeshiva Shor Yeshuv.

Blessed with a beautiful voice and lively personality, Yossi led the Friday night *davening* with a beautiful *Kabbalas Shabbos* and spirited dancing, and later led an *oneg* at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Yosef and Adina Zoimen.

On Shabbos morning, Rabbi Avrohom Weinrib, the Rav of CZE, introduced Yossi by comparing him to Aharon HaKohen, when "*Vayidom*" – he was silent – when he heard of Nadav and Avihu's passing. Rabbi Weinrib referenced an even higher level of acceptance, with *simchah* through everything, which describes Yossi, who found the inner strength to accept what happened to him and not let it affect his natural *simchah* that pours forth from within!

After the Shabbos morning *Kiddush*, the *mispallelim* made their way back upstairs to the shul and a crowd of over 60 people were led by Yossi through a journey of tears of laughter and tears of hope, tears of pain and tears of inspiration.



Yossi Hecht with (L-R) Reb Raffie Zuroff, Rabbi Yair Kugel, Rabbi Chaim Tropp, Reb Yosef Zoimen and Chaim Lovett.

Having undergone multiple surgeries in the past, Yossi took the mesmerized crowd through his story of medical triumphs and the way he kept faith and saw *Yad Hashem* throughout. He described the setbacks and how he learned firsthand the power of the *brachah* of *Asher Yatzar*.

Talking to his *Rebbi*, Rabbi Keilson, on the phone about a certain medical setback he had which would lead to a painful few months ahead, the *bachurim* in Darchei Torah's summer camp, Camp Oraysa, all decided to have *kavanah* and stand in one place when saying *Asher Yatzar*. The very next day, Yossi cleared that medical hurdle, showing the immediate power of the *kabbalah* that was taken in his merit.

This discovery led to Yossi's inspiration to start his "*Asher to the Yatzar*" movement to teach others about the power of this *brachah* and the power of thanking and appreciating Hashem's gift to us: our bodies.

On Sunday morning, Yossi spoke to the middle school boys of Cincinnati Hebrew Day School, where he once again taught the boys about the *koach* of *Asher Yatzar* and appreciating the remarkable gift of our bodies that Hashem gave us. He challenged the boys to each take less than a minute a day to consciously thank Hashem and appreciate all that is given to them.

This remarkable whirlwind visit is not soon to be forgotten and the lessons imparted continue to bear fruit.

TORONTO

Geometric Shape Fair at the Toronto Cheder.



RIVER EDGE



Rabbi Yosaif Kitay's second-grade *talmidim* at Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey, learning the signs of a kosher fish hands-on.