



Chief Rabbi Harav Dovid Lau speaking on behalf of Seeach Sod



Avraham Fried, in a shanah tovah video he sent to Seeach Sod members



Hershy Rosenbaum sings with his friends at Seeach Sod



Menachem (c) sings with Chazan Chaim Adler (r)



Rav Ezrachi at Seeach Sod's Simchas Beis Hashoeivah



Rav Isaacson at Seeach Sod

TOP PRIORITY

RAV DAVID LAU. RAV YITZCHOK EZRACHI. RABBI SHIMON ISAACSON. CHAZZAN CHAIM ADLER. AVRAHAM FRIED. HERSHEY ROSENBAUM. YONATAN RAZEL. YOU'VE HEARD THEIR NAMES, BUT YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T HEARD THIS YET: THESE SOUGHT-AFTER PERSONALITIES TAKE TIME OUT OF THEIR SUPER-TIGHT SCHEDULES TO BRING CHEER TO THE LESSER KNOWN MEMBERS OF AMY ISRAEL — THE SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILDREN AND ADULTS OF SEEACH SOD

P. DIAMOND

“It Makes Me So Happy!”

“Bringing my boys to Seeach Sod is one part of their year’s program in Israel that I wouldn’t have them miss for the world,” says Rabbi Isaacson, rosh yeshivah of Yeshivat Sha’arei Mevaseret Zion (Mevaseret). “It teaches them compassion, resilience, and *ahavas Yisrael*. I take the entire yeshivah body of 100-plus on a tour of Seeach Sod’s main campus on Rechov Yirmiyahu in Jerusalem. We also have groups who visit on Chanukah and Purim, and some who go each week to entertain the younger Seeach Sod members.” Seth Maza of Highland Park, NJ, a shanah-bet *talmid* and talented musician, is one such volunteer. “That feeling of going in and seeing all those kids and how they’re all cared for and loved is awesome,” he says. “I remember the first time I went, I was a little afraid, unsure of what I’d see. But as soon as I walked in and saw

their smiles, my fears just melted away. “Since that day, for five months my pals and I volunteered each Tuesday to sing and play for the kids. We had to stop because of the coronavirus. “When they’d see us coming, they’d start bouncing and clapping, and those who were able to, retrieved their drums and banjos from the back of the room, wanting to join the band.” Rina Wolovitz from Cleveland, Ohio, who toured Seeach Sod when visiting Israel on a NCSY program can’t wait to share the experience with her seminary friends this year. “On the drive from the airport to our dorm, I saw the Seeach Sod sign, and I said to my friends, ‘Oh, look! Seeach Sod! I can’t wait to go there again!’ Making those kids and precious little babies so happy and seeing them so excited made *me* happy — like a real happiness, the one that comes from giving to others.”

Yay, Hershey!

Singer Hershey Rosenbaum says, “I was introduced to Seeach Sod by my father when I was still a little boy. He used to sing at their *leibedig Chanukah* party each year. As I grew up, I developed a warm relationship with them. I recently moved to London, but when I was still living in Israel, I would visit them almost every Rosh Chodesh at the main Seeach Sod campus, or at one of their apartments for adult residents.

“Their faces lit up when they saw me. ‘Yay, Hershey!’ they’d welcome me, with huge smiles and slaps on my back. You could see how the music made them happy, made them feel connected. I still keep in touch with them, calling them up to wish them mazel tov on their birthdays, and sending them clips of us singing together. I miss them and hope to visit again very soon!”

Avremel’s Long-Distance Bikur Cholim

From far away in the US, singer Avraham Fried heard that one of his favorite buddies, a resident of Seeach Sod, fell ill with Covid-19. He sent him a clip of himself *bentshing* the boy, and singing the all-

popular hit, “*Ribon ha’olamim yadati, yadati...*” The boy delighted in watching the clip again and again. Thanks, Avremel, for this great mitzvah!

“For Them, I’ll Clear My Calendar in a Flash”

Yonatan Razel, Mendy Jarufi, Rolly Dickman, Eli Herzlich, Hershy Rottenberg, Rebbe Alter, Gilad Poltowsky, Srulik Adler — this list reads like the back of the next hit album... all these singers keep coming to Seeach Sod to inspire the members and gain inspiration themselves. Yonatan Razel invested his talents in producing albums starring Seeach Sod chorists. “For these boys, I’ll clear my calendar in a flash,” he says.

“THEIR FACES LIT UP WHEN THEY SAW ME. ‘YAY, HERSHEY!’ THEY’D WELCOME ME, WITH HUGE SMILES AND SLAPS ON MY BACK”

Rav Ezrachi Brings Joy to Seeach Sod

It was an unforgettable sight. The music was pounding and attendees of all stripes and abilities were dancing with zeal at Seeach Sod’s annual Simchas Beis Hashoeivah. Rav Yitzchok Ezrachi, the venerated rosh yeshivah of Mir, took the hands of a member of Seeach Sod and danced with him with warmth and vigor.



Volunteers from Yeshivat Mevasseret at Seeach Sod

Whether on Succos, Chanukah, or Erev Pesach, the Rav makes it a point, again and again, to visit his friends. "For these special *neshamos*, I always have time," says the *gadol b'Torah*.

Rav Lau: "Every Soul Is a Son or Daughter of Hashem!"

It is Erev Shavuos and many different windows are visible on the computer screen — the laundry room, the Snoezelen room, a private home. "That was a great answer, Moshe!" says Chief Rabbi David Lau, smiling broadly. Moshe beams with pride and Rav Lau continues quizzing his friends at Seeach Sod.

Due to the fragile health of many of its members, Seeach Sod is closed to practically all visitors to protect them from the Covid-19 pandemic. Rav Lau, though, was loath to give up on his frequent visits and a solution was found: he addresses them over Zoom.

Rav Lau's connection to Seeach Sod goes way back to when he was a child, when he used to accompany his father, Rav Yisrael Meir, the then-chief rabbi on tours of the Seeach Sod's premises. His father was a strong advocate for those who couldn't campaign for themselves, and his son Rav Lau continues the tradition. "Every soul is a son or daughter of Hashem!" he says with passion. "We need to look for ways to help them become the best that they can be."

The Chazzan's Pride and Joy

There was a massive round of applause as Menachem Eisenbach stepped away

from the microphone after a rousing rendition of "Vi'Yerushalayim Ircha." The audience clapped and clapped and couldn't seem to stop.

It was Chazzan Chaim Adler's 80th birthday celebration, held in Beit Haknesset Hagadol, on King George Street in Jerusalem, where he is chazzan. Menachem's song was a special dedication to his friend and mentor. He ended by blessing the chazzan and thanking him for his friendship. Greatly moved, the chazzan embraced him and blessed him in return.

Menachem is not a regular singer. He's an alumnus of Seeach Sod, where he first met the chazzan. An enthusiast of chazzanus, Menachem became very attached to his protégé. Now, with enforced quarantine, Chazzan Adler calls Menachem almost daily and sings with him over the phone.

No matter the circumstances, the big names in the Jewish world insist on maintaining their connection with their Seeach Sod friends. They know that forming a relationship with the Seeach Sod family has a hugely positive impact on their lives.

We invite you to do it too.

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Yonatan Razel uses his talents to bring joy to Seeach Sod