

Baltimore News

Rabbi Labinsky Delivers Series of *Shiurim*

On *Shabbos Parashas Bamidbar*, Rabbi Zalman Yaakov Labinsky, director of Becoming Divine in Cleveland, Ohio (an organization dedicated to creating a global community of people who are devoting their lives to growing spiritually within the marriage relationship), delivered a series of inspiring and uplifting marital lectures in the Baltimore community. The series included a Shabbaton for couples, and several free *shiurim* on Shabbos afternoon and Sunday morning, all hosted by Mr. Frank and Mrs. Danielle Sarah Storch.



Rabbi Zalman Yaakov Labinsky delivering a lecture at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Storch.

Becoming Divine is a worldwide movement dedicated to teaching Jewish couples a unique approach in working to strengthen their marriages. Rabbi Labinsky's approach emphasizes the concept that everything in life flows forth from one's marriage, especially all other relationships, including one's *avodas Hashem*, and relationships with one's children, work, and community.

With much *siyatta diShmaya*, Rabbi Labinsky has strengthened countless marriages using his singular methodology.

"Anybody who is paying attention cannot leave Rabbi Labinsky's presentations unshaken in his marriage habits. It is truly a wakeup call," said one Shabbaton participant.

Rabbi Labinsky spoke several

times throughout the Shabbaton, maintaining an upbeat and often humorous tone while driving home this crucial message of prioritizing the relationship with one's spouse and creating a home in which the *Shechinah* can truly dwell. He pointed out that often people have time for the whole world, but don't take the time to improve their marriages, but, in truth, if things are not right at home, they are not right anywhere.

During Sunday morning's lecture, entitled "*Emes V'Emunah*," Rabbi Labinsky described how to view the ups and downs of marriage as part of Hashem's Master Plan, and use them to spur our



Rabbi Yoel Neumann's first-grade class at Yeshivas Kochav Yitzchok recently celebrated the completion of 613 *pesukim*.

own personal growth.

Based on the teachings of the Zohar, he explained that the *badeken* ceremony, which traditionally takes place before the *chuppah*, shows us that one must understand that there are both hidden and revealed parts to every marriage. The *chassan* and *kallah* both possess many traits that are revealed to each other,

representing "*emes*," and many traits which are yet to be discovered, representing "*emunah*." Someone getting married must be prepared to fully receive both parts of his/her spouse, and use any challenges as a springboard to keep growing — in marriage and in life. Furthermore, we must understand that all of this was preordained for our benefit,

straight from *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*.

He emphasized that marriage is one of the most important parts in life, with the potential to be the place where we express our relationship with *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*. "Hashem wants to help us become Divine, as long as we want to help ourselves," concluded Rabbi Labinsky.



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