

Mr. Etan Savir, z"l

BY DEVORAH KLEIN

This Monday marks the end of the *sheloshim* period of Mr. Etan Savir, z"l, whose sudden passing on 14 Av shocked the Silver Spring community. Mr. Savir was a beloved father, community member and General Studies' principal at Yeshiva of Greater Washington.

Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum said at his *leygva* that "Etan Savir was an individual who wanted to serve Hashem and lead life by a higher calling. He wanted to do everything right, whether in his interactions with Hashem or with people."

Etan Savir had a radiant smile. He was happy with his lot as an *eved Hashem*, happy with his lot in *avodas Hashem*.

Rabbi Pinchus Idstein, a *rebbe* in the Yeshiva of Greater Washington, commented, "How fortunate was our yeshivah and community that the leader of the secular program was an individual who set aside time for learning every day and would spend his summer vacation attending a *yarchoi kailah* program." Indeed, shortly before his *petirah*, Mr. Savir attended the Rabbi Samuel and Zehava Friedman Jewish Learning Exchange *Yarchoi Kailah* for *Mechanichin*, held in nearby Olney, Maryland. It was always a great inspiration to the students of the yeshivah to see the General Studies principal learning at every possible opportunity.

Mr. Savir was known as a man of integrity; his *ehrichkeit* was recognized by all. He was a tremendous *mekabel*, a constant learner, and a paramount teacher. Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum, Rav of Young Israel Shomrei Emmunah of Silver Spring, said, "He was extremely *yosher*. He had great diligence in *halachos bein adam l'alkhon*, and strived to understand the proper *halachah*. He was equally careful to understand the *mitzvos bein adam l'achavro*. A uniquely *musar*-oriented person, he would reflect on his own emotions, and try to determine if he had reacted properly in any given situation."

His *brachos* were said with great *kavanah*, and *Al Hamichyah* was always said from a little card which he carried in his pocket.

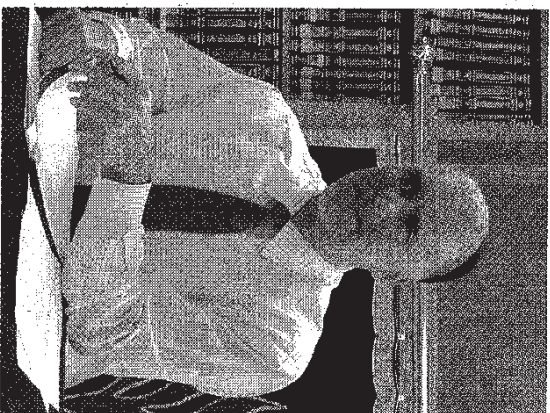
He believed in the students of the yeshivah, and tried to figure out various approaches to make each one succeed. He cared for the weaker students, worked to maintain the successful students, and elevated the stronger students. He knew that he was helping to mold future members of the Jewish people.

A brilliant man, he nevertheless understood those who struggled with basics, and could often be found in his office during recess, helping a weak student complete his math homework or write an essay.

The students all knew how much he cared.

Mr. Jonathan First, a long time *chavrusah* of Mr. Savir from Baltimore, testified to his brilliant mind, love for learning, and growth in learning over the past 15 years.

Despite his demanding job and rigorous



daily learning schedule, Mr. Savir prioritized time for his family each day, and was a model husband and father.

Every day, he would check with his wife to see if there was any way he could help her out in the house.

He was also very diligent in setting up the wicks for the *Shabbos netos* every Thursday night.

Mr. Savir was the ultimate father, and cared deeply about children, encouraged them to learn Torah, and made great efforts to form a special bond with each one. His sense of imagination made every walk in the park into an adventure. He would wake his sons every morning for shul, with a cup of hot cocoa ready for them to enjoy. At Avos Ubanim in shul, he was usually the first one there, learning with his sons. Many would comment on the loving manner in which he learned with his children, dotting on them with much love and compassion.

This past June, his 10-year-old son, Pinchos Yosef, made a *siyum* on *mishnayos seder Zera'im*, and the Savirs invited the entire class to a restaurant for a gala *siyum*, in recognition of this great accomplishment. Although typically not exorbitant spenders, the Savirs hosted this *siyum* to show *chasivus* for *limud haTorah* to his children, and to their friends.

On Tuesday, August 20, a *sheloshim* event is planned at the Yeshiva of Greater Washington, beginning at 6:45 p.m. The gathering will feature speakers and a *siyum* by the Savir boys, ages 10 and 12, who will be completing *mishnayos seder Moed*. The boys had been learning *sefer Moed* with their father before his *petirah*, and were planning to celebrate the *siyum* with a barbeque at the end of August. Instead, several devoted Rabbanim in the community have been coming every day to learn with the boys and enable them to complete the *sefer* in their father's memory at his *sheloshim*.

Mr. Savir is survived by, *yb"e*, his wife, Mrs. Stephanie Savir, his children, Yitzchok Shlomo, Pinchos Yosef, and Shoshana, and a bereft community. *Yehi zichro baruch*.