

First I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Shabbos from sunny Florida and I'm so sorry that I can't share this incredible weekend with all of you. For sure you will be in my thoughts during this Shabbos and I hope to be there in spirit.

While I know this is a difficult time for The Oratz family, I am so pleased to see the solidarity of the Monmouth Torah Links community by hearing that a group of about 50 friends came together to study the Mishnah and The Chofetz Chaim Loving and Kindness to complete the siyum in honor of Rabbi Oratz Z"L.

Rabbi Oratz Z"L is looking down upon our community and would be smiling to see how we took the time out of our busy schedules to bond as a community in his memory. This speaks volumes of the impact that has passed on from one incredible individual to his son Rabbi Oratz and how it has touched the community to want to do this mitzvah in honor of Rabbi Oratz Z"L. This mitzvah should not be taken lightly. I know what it is like to commit the time to study for a siyum and while they may have been short mishnahs or readings, the important point here is that there was a heartfelt desire to do something for an individual who some people may have only met once. That desire to study shows how strong of a foundation of Judaism we have here in Marlboro. You are truly an amazing community. As I have said before sometimes when you're immersed in your day to day lives, you may not take the time out to see how special you are as an individual or even as a community and your commitment to study for this siyum is not only important for the memory of Rabbi Oratz Z"L, but the commitment to do a mitzvah like this, G-d willing will continue to pass onto your children, family and friends. As an outsider so to speak, I am so please to see how strong your community has become and I just want to say you should be very proud of your efforts and keep up the wonderful acts of kindness and mitzvahs.

To Rabbi Oratz, may your father's neshoma have an aliyah in heaven. You are an incredible Rabbi and friend. You should continue to pass on the teaching of your father to our community and we should continue to grow in Yiddishkeit and always be there for each other. Even from afar, Rabbi Liebes has limited my words even though I would love to continue, but I know there are other speeches and completing the siyum so I don't want to monopolize the time. Have a wonderful Shabbos and I look forward to hearing all the details after Shabbos.

Warm regards,

Morris