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LETTERS

BETWEEN VIZHNITZ AND LISKA

A bond of chasidus

In reference to "The Vizhnitzer Rebbe,
zt"l," Issue 360

Dear Editor:

In light of the photo published (page
124) of the Liska Rebbe visiting the Vizh-
nitzer Rebbe, zt"l, I would like to elaborate
about the relationship between Liska and
Vizhnitz:

The overall connection goes back to the
time when Rav Tzvi Hersh of Liska, author
of the *Ach Pri Tevuah*, was in a town near
Chust. Upon receiving the news that Rav
Mendele of Vizhnitz, author of *Tzemach
Tzadik*, was in a nearby town, he told his
gabbaim that they were going to pay a visit
to this *tzaddik*. While there, he quickly
sent a telegram to Liska instructing his
sons-in-law, the Tal Chayim of Liska and

Rav Yoizef Goldberger, that they join him
for Shabbos with the "tzaddik of Vizhnitz."

Later on, in fact, during a visit to Hungary
regarding the issue of diseased grapes (the
town of Liska was located in an area called
the Tokay region, famous for its vineyards),
the Tzemach Tzadik of Vizhnitz visited
Liska to pay a visit to the Tal Chayim (the
successor to Rav Tzvi Hersh).

In 1909, when the Vizhnitzer Rebbe's
grandfather, the Ahavas Yisroel, wrote a
haskamah on the Tal Chayim's *sefer*, he
referenced the aforementioned Shabbos.

Years later, the Ahavas Yisroel met the
Tal Chayim's son, the Shaarei Hayosher of
Liska, as well.

However, it was in the immediate post-
Holocaust era when the *shaichus* really
developed, when the *alter* Liska Rebbetzin,
shetichyeh, met the *alter* Skverer Rebbetzin,
a"h, in Bucharest, Romania.

They connected over their mutual ties
to Belz. In addition to both being Belzer
einiklach, it was Rav Shmiel Frankel
(oldest brother of the Liska Rebbetzin),
the son-in-law of Rav Aharon of Belz, who
was a nephew (through marriage) of the
Skver Rebbetzin's father Rav Pinchas of
Ostilla, a son-in-law of Rav Yissachar Dov
of Belz, zt"l.

It was the warmth of the relationship
between these two *rebbetzins* that brought
the previous Liska Rebbe, Rav Yoizef, zt"l,
and his *rebbetzin* to welcome the Skverer



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LETTERS

Rebbe and his *rebbetzin* and their respective families, which included the Vizhnitzer Rebbe, *zt"l*, a son-in-law of the previous Skverer Rebbe, *zt"l*.

Over the years since then, the warmth between the aforementioned included sharing *simchahs*. A notable occurrence of this was when the Liska Rebbe became bar mitzvah, when the Vizhnitzer Rebbe, *zt"l*, along with his brother-in-law, the current Rachmastivka Rebbe, *shlita*, visited the previous Liska Rebbe, Rav Yoizel, *zt"l*, at his home in Boro Park as a *shaliach* of their father-in-law, the previous Skverer Rebbe, *zt"l*, presenting him with the *sefer Toldos Yaakov Yosef*.

He also attended the Liska Rebbe's wedding.

At the *levayah* of the previous Skverer Rebbe, *zt"l*, his son-in-law the Vizhnitzer Rebbe approached the Liska Rebbe and asked him to join the *rabbanim* in being *mekadesh* the *beis hachayim* in Skver, knowing of the special connection that existed between the Liska Rebbe and his *shver* the Rebbe, *zt"l*.

When the Liska Rebbe, *shlita*, visited Eretz Yisrael for the first time in 1969, he presented a *kvittel* to the Imrei Chaim of Vizhnitz.

Approximately a year ago, the Liska Rebbe visited the Vishnitzer Rebbe, *zt"l*, (which was probably one of the last visits to the Rebbe), where he was warmly received.

Thank you.

Bais Liska

MONSEY WAS ALREADY A TOWN OF GEDOLIM

Correcting a statement

In reference to "The Vizhnitzer Rebbe, *zt"l*," Issue 360

Dear Editor:

My Shabbos is not complete without my *Ami* magazines. I generally enjoy reading most of the articles. While I appreciated this past week's articles about the Vizhnitzer Rebbe, *zt"l*, having lived in Monsey before and during the Rebbe's arrival, I can attest to a misrepresentation in the portrayal of Monsey during that period.

The article stated that the Rebbe moved to Monsey in 1964. The article continued, "At that time, the Monsey area had little in terms of *Yiddishkeit*. Aside from the famed *yeshivah* Bais Medrash Elyon, almost no Torah infrastructure existed there."

Please note that at that time Monsey claimed the following *gedolim* in its midst: Rav Reuven Groszovsky, *zt"l*, the son-in-law of Rav Boruch Ber Leibowitz, who was living with his son-in-law; Rav Don Ungarischer, *zt"l*, the *rosh yeshivah* of Bais Medrash Elyon; his next door neighbor Rav Simcha Schustal, *zt"l*, the son-in-law of Rav Ehrenfeld, the Mattesdorfer Rav; Rav Berel Greenbaum, *zt"l*, the son-in-law of Rav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz, who was the principal of the Yeshiva of Spring Valley; Rav Shmuel Mendlowitz, *zt"l*, the son of Rav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz, who together with his brother-in-law, Rav Yehoshua Schiff, *zt"l*, started

Mesivta Bais Shraga in 1956!

Other great luminaries already living and spreading Torah in Monsey were R' Motel Waldman, *zt"l*; Rabbi Wolpin; Rabbi Green, *zt"l*; Rabbi Shmelke Taubenfeld, *zt"l*; Rabbi Herschel Mashinsky, *zt"l*; Rabbi Raphael Eisenberg, *zt"l*, who started Bais David for boys and Bais Rochel for girls; Rabbi Shlomo Breslauer; R' Hershel Waxman; Rabbi Avrohom Weinfeld, *zt"l*; and Rav Mordechai Schwab, *zt"l*, just to name a few. Of these fine *rabbanim*, some wore *shtreimlach*.

Rebbetzin Shoshana Soloveitchik, *a"h*, had a Bais Yaakov high school. All this was established way before 1964.

As an indication of the *chashivus* of Monsey, my father, *a"h*, had walked one Shabbos from Spring Valley, where we were living at the time, to Monsey, to hear Rav Eliyahu Dessler speak in Bais Medrash Elyon. Subsequently, we moved to Monsey at the beginning of 1956 because my father wanted to be sure that his family was surrounded and cushioned by Torah observant Jews, especially since he fled from Germany, lost his family, and lost his job every week due to his adherence to Shabbos.

Respectfully,

Caroline (Adler) Schloss

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TAXES... TAXES... TAXES

The recent Federal Tax Reform Act has significantly increased the Federal income tax burden for New York State residents and foreign nationals such as Israeli citizens who own and sell property located in New York.

The principal of the firm **Nachman C. Caller Esq.**, a noted tax attorney, and graduate of the Columbia University School of Law, will advise clients in this area and will set up structures such as trusts, 1031 like kind exchanges, installment sales to reduce the income and estate tax burden.

The firm is affiliated with an Israeli attorney who formerly worked at N.C. Caller P.C. which will enable the firm to provide services to Israeli citizens.

 **Nachman C. Caller, Esq.**
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