

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE • #1

הנחות  
Hanachos

***The Hanachos:  
An Insider's  
Perspective***

**RABBI SIMON JACOBSON**  
Vaad Hanachos Hatmimim

***Recollections  
From  
Hanhalah***

**RABBI ZALMAN KAPLAN**  
Tzeirei Hashluchim, Tzfas



## Vaad Talmidei Hatmimim

Rabbi Tzvi Altein

## Hanachos

Tzvi Alperowitz

Boruch Ceitlin

## Layout and Design

Mendy Drookman

## Special Thanks to

Rabbi Mendel Alperowitz

Rabbi Tzemach Feller

Rabbi Mendel Gurarie

Rabbi Simon Jacobson

Rabbi Zalman Kaplan

Rabbi Yossi Kamman

Rabbi Shmuel Lubecki

Rabbi Yaakov Raskin

Levi Danow

Yisroel Slonim

Arik Shemtov

Tzemach Weg



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# Foreword

In collaboration with the *Hanachos* program taking place now in *mesivtas*, we are pleased to present to you “*Hanachos*” — a weekly magazine designed to enrich this program.

Each week we will feature the column “*Hanachos: An Insider’s Perspective*,” personally interviewing one of the *manichim*. We are honored to have interviewed Rabbi Simon Jacobson for the first edition of this weekly magazine. From the planned twenty minute interview that lasted well over an hour and half, to his extensive editing — we cannot thank him enough.

The top three *hanachos* from each week will be prominently featured as well. This week we are proud to present the *hanachos* of the *Tmimim* Menachem Mendel Gurarie, Yossi Kogan and Meir Twersky.

As we approach the day of Gimmel Tammuz — the inspiration for the launch of “*Hanachos*” — and we yearn to be back with the Rebbe again *b’gashmiyus*, we will feature the weekly column “Recollections from Hanhalah.” We are grateful to Rabbi Zalman Kaplan, who made the time to be interviewed for this column despite his very busy schedule this week.

Each week, we will present *kisvei yad kodesh* on the topics shown that week on the *Hanachos* videos. We thank A Chassidisher Derher for this week’s *kisvei yad*. This magazine prominently features images from JEM’s Living Archive, and we express our gratitude to them as well.

We beseech of Hashem that the *Hanachos* initiative will bring closer the day when we will be reunited with the Rebbe, *teikef umiyad mamash*.

*The Editors*





# The Hanachos: an Insider's Perspective

**R**abbi Jacobson, thank you for giving us your time for this interview. You were a chozer and maniyach, and were involved in Vaad Hanachos Hatmimim, and directed it for a number of years. Can you give us some of its background?

Sure. Since the beginning of the Rebbe's *Nesius* in 1950, Reb Yoel Kahan was the chief *chozer* and main writer (*maniyach*) of the Rebbe's *Farbrengens*. There were always a few bochurim and *anash* that assisted him in this work. As the years went by, and the work became more demanding (and Reb Yoel's time was increasingly demanded by other tasks with which he was charged, chief among them the composition of *Sefer HaErchim*), a group of bochurim, encouraged by the Rebbe, joined Reb Yoel as *chozrim*. This took place in 5726. Around that time they established Vaad Hanachos Hatmimim. Under the tutelage of Reb Yoel, the Vaad was committed to ensuring that all the *hanachos* of the Rebbe's *Farbrengens* were published in a timely fashion.

As these bochurim got married, new bochurim filled their positions in Vaad Hanachos Hatmimim, and so it continued over the years. I became involved in this work in 5736, and ultimately assumed the position of directing the *mosad* in 5740.

**How would they write the Hanachos**

— what was the process?

After every *Farbrengen* Reb Yoel and a group of mostly bochurim and some *anash* would gather together in what was called *chazara* - reviewing the *sichos* and *maamar* the Rebbe delivered in that respective *Farbrengen*. This was uniquely challenging after a *Shabbos* or *Yom Tov Farbrengen*, which was not recorded or written down. It therefore required a few brilliant minds to memorize almost verbatim and then reconstruct the *Farbrengen*.

Reb Yoel would usually lead the

review with the assistance of the few *chozrim*. Others would also participate — essentially everyone could interject with their input, helping create an oral record of the *Farbrengen*. During *chazara* a few people took notes. Then the difficult process of researching and writing the *hanacha* would begin. This was done by the main *maniyach*, who worked from memory, assisted by the notes taken during *chazara*. He would then give the draft to others for review and comments. Often certain points



Chazara on motzo'ei Rosh Hashana 5740



Rabbi Jacobson at a Farbrengen, 5736

were clarified by the Rebbe. After a few days the final annotated *hanacha* was published. (*Hanacha* means to “set down” — to commit to paper and document the Rebbe’s words).

### **Whom were these *bochurim* that directed the Vaad?**

The Vaad began in 5726, inspired by Rabbi Nosson (Noske) Wolf. The Vaad consisted of the *temimim* and *chozrim*: Rabbis Leibel Schapiro, Shlomo Zarchi, Efraim Piekarski and Sholom Ber Levitin.

Rabbi Shapiro, with the help of Rabbi Avrohom Gerlitzky, continued to write *hanachos* until around 5733. Around 5731, Rabbi Yosef Hecht joined the effort. After 5733, as the “old guard” moved on, different bochurim attempted to continue running the Vaad. Around 5735, a new group of bochurim assumed the leadership of the Vaad and revived its work by beginning to publish all the *farbrengens* in an organized and consistent manner. The new Vaad, led by Rabbis Dovid Feldman and Tzvi Grunblatt from 5735 - 5740, included Rabbis Dovid Olidort, Sholom Chari-tonow, Moshe Wolberg, Hirschel

Notik and others.

Throughout the years, various bochurim were always involved and helpful in different capacities — from the writing, research and annotating to the gashmius’dike needs: collecting dedications, printing, subscriptions and distribution.

### **How did you get involved in the Vaad?**

After studying in Morristown, I came to 770 in the middle of 5736 at the age of 18. I was deeply intrigued by the entire *chazara* and *hanacha* process, so I began attending and participating in the *chazara*. At the time, I also secured myself a great spot at the Farbrengen, standing directly across from the Rebbe.

As I mentioned, a number of bochurim would be present during *chazara*, and some would chime in if they felt they had something to add or correct. Slowly, I became more and more involved in the *chazaras*, getting better at it, and in time I began helping in reviewing the Farbrengens being prepared by the people working in the Vaad. In the year 5740, after Rabbi Dovid Feldman got married, I became

the head of the Vaad and the main writer of the *sichos*. I wrote my first official complete *hanacha* for Shabbos Parshas Miketz 5740.

New members joined the Vaad in the subsequent years, including Rabbi Aaron Leib Raskin, Meir Ossey, Alter Tenenbaum, Chaim Abrahams, Boruch Jacobson, Zev Cadaner, Yossi Lew, and others.

### **How did the Vaad develop after that?**

In the next few years, technologies (such as the word processor and fax machines) made it possible to enhance and speed up the process of producing and distributing the *farbrengens*. We were the first in Chabad to purchase a computer (with the Rebbe’s encouragement and blessing).

After I married in 5743, the Vaad decided to establish itself on firmer ground to ensure consistency, and I was offered a position — the first time the Vaad was run by someone who wasn’t a bochur. The great philanthropists Rabbi Berel Weiss and Rabbi Zalman Deitsch supported us. And that’s when the Rebbe instructed the Vaad to incorporate as a legal organization.