



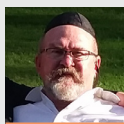
## Chavrusa Profile

SESSIONS

108

SINCE

2018



Robert  
Spradling

LOCATION

Linn Valley, KS

AGE

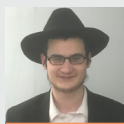
65

OCCUPATION

Carpenter &amp; Math Teacher

BIOGRAPHY

Robert is a carpenter and math teacher. During his spare time he enjoys reading and writing. Robert does not have a Jewish community to be a part of or friends that share his passion for yiddishkeit.



Shmuel  
Gurary

LOCATION

Buffalo, NY

AGE

19

OCCUPATION

Yeshiva student

BIOGRAPHY

Shmuel is a student at a rabbinical college in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Shmuel is a diligent student and enjoys spending his spare time helping other Jews with their Torah study.

## The Unlikely Story of a Kansas Bar Mitzvah in Iowa

Not everyone would drive their family for eight hours through endless cornfields to meet their *chavrusa*. But Robert did. The chance that he would have met Shmuel was slim, but not too slim for it to have happened.

Robert begins his story:

"I was camping with my family in Colorado, biking up a dirt path when a jeep came out of nowhere and two rabbis hopped out. "Have you seen a Jew today?" they asked. Somewhat puzzled and curious at the same time, I told them I was Jewish myself. We had a nice chat, said some prayers and exchanged numbers. I was rather surprised when one of them, Rabbi Liberow, called me two weeks later. He informed me matter-of-factly that he arranged for someone to study Hebrew with me once a week.

"I decided to give it a try. A week later a 17-year-old yeshiva student was on the phone. His name was Shmuel. We hit it off pretty quickly and we had discussions about many topics in Judaism.

"Now you need to understand where I came from. I never had any formal Jewish education nor did I have a bar mitzvah. I had some exposure to Judaism from my grandmother but she passed on when I was young. There were seven other Jewish kids at my school in Kansas, and they would mostly hide their identity. I definitely didn't know anything about

religious Jews.

"I live in Linn Valley, Kansas, where the total population is less than 1,000 and the closest kosher supermarket is more than an hour away in Kansas City. As you can imagine there is not much Judaism there."

For Shmuel, getting to know Robert was quite an experience as well. "It took time to get used to this type of learning," says Shmuel. "Nothing is self-understood and everything needs to be explained clearly and in proper English. Now when I learn something, I try to think about how I would explain it to Robert. At first, we were just discussing various topics in Judaism but eventually, we focused on the weekly portion of the Torah. For Pesach, I sent to Robert *shmurah matzah*, a Haggadah and a *kippah*.

**The chance that he would have met Shmuel was slim, but not too slim for it to have happened.**

Enhance YOUR life  
with a JNet chavrusa.

Sign up now at [jnet.org](http://jnet.org)!





“Robert wanted to see me, so during the joyous month of Adar I told him he would have a chance. I sent him a link to watch live what’s going on in 770, the Lubavitch World Headquarters. People were dancing, and I waved a gray scarf at the camera so that Robert would see who I was!”

Robert continues:

“It was pretty funny to see him that way for the first time. Now I really wanted to spend some time with him and his friends to see what they are made of.

“When Shmuel was spending a summer at a *yeshivah* in Postville, Iowa, I decided to take a road trip with my kids to meet him. I spent two days there and Shmuel arranged kosher meals for us. Most

importantly, I had my bar mitzvah! I hung out with Shmuel and the *yeshivah* boys, studied with them, and deepened my appreciation for my people. I was surprised when Shmuel asked me to speak to all the *yeshivah* boys. I honestly didn’t know what to say and if they would want to listen. Believe it or not, they listened attentively and even gave me a standing ovation! Boy did that make me feel good!

## People were dancing, and I waved a gray scarf at the camera

“Shmuel never met me yet he showed me unconditional love just because I am his fellow Jew. These encounters with religious Jews changed my entire perspective of Judaism and I truly believe that this type of love will bring us the Third Temple.”

In the merit of a successful surgery, speedy recovery and complete health  
**Chaya Brocha** bas **Perl** – חיה ברכה בת פערל



JNet provides one-on-one learning on the phone or online for half an hour a week to people all over the world.

Know someone would be interested in learning, volunteering or supporting torah learning? Have them go to **jnet.org** or call or text us at **347-770-JNet** (5638)

JNet is a project of Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch Suite 302 and was established with a grant from the Rohr Family Foundation.

## News

### Yud Alef Nissan Learning Campaign

In honor of the Yud Alef Nissan, The Rebbe’s birthday, JNet is holding a campaign to learn special material as a birthday present for the Rebbe. Go to [JNet.org/nissan11](http://JNet.org/nissan11) to access the material and then fill out the form or text your Hebrew name and mother’s Hebrew name to 347-770-JNet (5638) to be entered into a duch and raffle.

## Accomplishments

### First 12 Perakim of Tanya

**Mendel Perl**  
 Brooklyn, NY

**Brian Feuer**  
 Bayonne, NJ

### The Gutnik Tehillim

**Mrs. Leah Kustiner**  
 Chicago, IL

**Yosefena Ramus**  
 Las Vegas, NV

### First 3 Perekim of Tanya

**Sophia Katz**  
 Brooklyn, NY

**Sarah Hollander**  
 Sioux Falls, SD

לזכות רפואה שלימה  
 להלל בן פרימעט



326 KINGSTON AVE  
 718-756-0361



לזכות רפואה שלימה  
 לשניאור זלמן בן  
 העניא נעמי