

The RYS Daily 2/7/07 Germany III

In 1860, R. Israel was to be found in Memel, a city close by the Lithuanian border. There he established permanent residence, since he had discovered a broad field for his endeavors, as well as generous individuals well disposed towards helping him. R. Benjamin Haneman and Elijah Baer Fishel, prominent local businessmen, placed their homes at his disposal and underwrote all his endeavors. In the Haneman home he set up a venue for worship and study, where all prominent Memel Jews would assemble to listen to his lectures and Musar talks. On Friday nights and Saturday afternoons, and sometimes even on weeknights, he would deliver public discourses on the Sidrah of the Week in the great synagogue of the city. He would attract large audiences and rouse them to a fever-pitch of enthusiasm to serve G-d, as was his manner. He would increase the number of his public appearances in advance of the High Holidays and exhort his listeners to repentance and character refinement.

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