

It's all in the scrawl – kabbalah expert

PETER KOHN

A VISITING American handwriting analyst believes kabbalistic practices can help unlock people's psychological profiles.

Yaakov Rosenthal, 55, of New York, is holding graphology (handwriting analysis) sessions in Melbourne and Sydney while on a private trip to Australia to visit his son who is studying at the Yeshiva Gedola rabbinical seminary in Melbourne.

Working as a consultant to psychologists and financial planners in the US, Rosenthal, a former businessman, said his passion for probing the psychological secrets that lurk behind handwriting began 16 years ago after he found himself analysing signatures of letters sent to his company.

Rosenthal used his handwriting skills to assess people during job interviews.

"I was always a searcher of what made people tick and who they are," said Rosenthal, a former psychology student who now lectures to groups as varied as adolescents and senior citizens.

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Yaakov Rosenthal:
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thoughts onto a piece of paper. I use the term life-force but really it's a level of the person's soul. In kabbalah, you have arms and legs off the main body – and the heart is the seat of emotion. But the hands express the emotions. Through that hand you have a direct link as to who that person is.

"When we put on tefillin, we wrap down to our hands as they are the expression of the Godliness inside us. One form of that expression is through the creation of our writing technique.

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isn't practised, it's more natural and really expresses who you are."

Rosenthal said graphology is widely respected in Europe but is not readily used in the US and is not admissible as evidence in legal cases.

In Melbourne, Rosenthal held a graphology session for more than 60 students at Yeshiva Gedola, lectured at the Ohel Chana girls' seminary and addressed Moorabbin shul. In Sydney, his visit was sponsored by the Great Synagogue and he was scheduled to speak to business groups, women's groups, singles and University of NSW Young Adult Chabad.