

# Intentions

ISSUE № 002

SHARING OUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

SPRING 2023/5783 א"ת



A Gift for a Youthful  
Remembrance



A Survivor Shares  
Her Story



When Heart  
Meets Soul



Insights from  
Rabbis-In-Training



Teacher's  
Pay Increase

## THE SEDER TABLE THAT EXTENDS AROUND THE GLOBE

We all agree that so much has changed in the past few years. Many of us have only recently begun to emerge from the cocoon of the restricting covid regulations, once again feeling at ease to join public events, simchas and family occasions.

This Passover is particularly symbolic as we will not only be celebrating our forefather's freedom from bondage. There are many of us who will be celebrating our personal freedom from various limitations. For some it will be the first year in a while when they will be with their extended family and friends, celebrating at the Seder Table, with the Matzahs and four cups of wine; for an evening filled with Passover delicacies and traditions.

And yet, although travel restrictions have begun to loosen, there are still many who will not be able to celebrate with family this year. Whether it may be due to travel, college life, work commitments or other various reasons, the fact remains the same.

But who will take care of the college students, backpackers, lone soldiers, and seniors in nursing homes? Oholei Torah



students and alumni—that's who. These individuals not have family nearby to join for the Seder, many of them may not even know that the Seder night is approaching! As Oholei Torah student Mati Weingarten phrased it: "Last year, we had Jews who had not even been to synagogue for Yom Kippur contact us because they were looking for a seder."

Throughout the year, the infrastructure of Chabad-Lubavitch is part and parcel of Jewish life in over 5,000 communities across the globe. During the Jewish holiday seasons this tremendous organization expands to include even more remote dots on the map.

The students of the Oholei Torah Talmudical Seminary have begun working together with the central offices of Chabad, Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch. They have spent months gearing up to embark on this incredible mission to reach thousands of individuals and to enable them to celebrate a meaningful and joyous Passover.

Even in the places where a permanent Chabad presence exists, the students will often travel to assist the local emissaries who experience a surge of tourists and visitors around the Passover Holiday in addition to their own local communities.

Rabbi Shimon Freundlich '92 who has been serving the Jewish community in Beijing, China for the past two decades relates: "the energy and assistance that the students provide us with help us serve the local Jewish community and the thousands of tourists who are relying on us to help secure their Passover needs and to provide them with a Seder. Pre-covid we used to host the largest Seder in the world with 2,500 people for the Seder. Although the numbers have gone down in the recent past, we are certain



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“...This, indeed is the purpose of Oholei Torah. To implant into the children the utmost measure of eagerness, devotion, and diligence for Torah and Mitzvos which should be evidenced in their conduct and every-day life...” —EXCERPT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE REBBE TO OHOLEI TORAH 1970/5730



LEV FREIDEN, GEM

Continued from cover

that they will return and continue to grow. This operation simply would not be possible without the help of the traveling rabbis who come to assist us. We are forever grateful to Oholei Torah and Merkos who work tirelessly to make sure that it happens.”

These young rabbis-in-training will forgo the comfort of spending the seders with their family and friends. Instead they will have the holiday food that they have prepared themselves—in some places with limited ingredients around makeshift tables of fellow jews turned friends and family.

Preparing a seder and holiday meals in remote locations is neither easy nor simple. There are so many logistics that one must consider when preparing for Passover—even if spending it in their own home. How much more so for these students who are not necessarily accustomed to spending so much time in the kitchen and must now prepare a Passover feast for dozens, and at times hundreds, of guests. Additionally, they have to ship and carry anything they need along with them. From matzahs to gefilte fish to other items that cannot be sourced from the local shops. One young student once asked his mother how to make chicken soup and was perplexed when he was only able to find just a few of the ten vegetables that she listed! Having no choice, he threw everything into the pot with an ample sprinkling of salt and love and the soup was enjoyed by all!

These young men leap out of their comfort zones and onto planes that take them across the world to distant locations with the loneliest of Jews. All of this is in order to find them and remind them that the holiday of freedom is approaching, and offer to join them in a meaningful and joyous Passover celebration.

# A Passover to Remember

Insights from Oholei Torah's traveling Rabbis-in-Training.



Mendy Hirsch '23,  
Brooklyn, NY, traveling  
with Dovid Weiss '23

A new Chabad Center was recently established in Concord, California.



While there are not many Jews in the area we were determined to find them and connect with them. We started off by going door to door asking people if they were Jewish. Those who answered in the affirmative were offered to put on Tefillin and invited to join us for our seder. Many of them happily responded 'Yes!' to both of our propositions. It was amazing to see that many of the local Jews didn't know of each other until they met each other at the seder.

During our stay, we became friendly with an Israeli family who lives in Texas but were in Concord due to medical issues. Being that the town had only recently seen the arrival of a Chabad Rabbi, this family never thought that they would have the opportunity to be a part of an organized seder this year. They also admitted that they were so busy worrying about their child that they didn't even

have a free moment to consider their Passover plans and were so grateful to join us at our communal seder.

We also took some time to visit the local nursing home and remind the few lonely elderly Jews there about the upcoming holiday. We distributed Matza and sang the Mah Nishtana together with the residents. The positive energy in the room was palpable and the experience was enjoyed by all.

The Passover that I spent last year in Concord, California was unlike any other that I had ever experienced. The magical feeling that we felt while leading that Seder night with 25 guests was exceptionally inspiring and empowering. It was a night I am sure I will always remember.



Moshe Rosensweig '23  
Spring Valley, NY, traveling  
with Leibel Kahn '23

Kelowna, British Columbia, the quintessential remote location, was to be our home away from home for the Passover holiday.

Hours from Vancouver, around 40 Jews gathered together in the local Chabad Center to celebrate the seder together.

While the holiday was filled with many memorable moments, there are two things that stood out to us as particularly impressive.

The first of them was the energy and devotion of the Rabbi, Rebbetzin and their family. Rabbi Shmuel Hecht '06, seemed unfazed by the fact that his community was smaller in size. In fact, he demonstrated an incredible effort and ability to connect to each and every individual on their level and to make them feel special and at home. I was especially touched by his children's involvement in their parent's work. I marveled that their upbringing was so different from my own. At that point, the only opportunities for interaction that I had experienced with Jews from outside of my community had been with my classmates to help others don Tefillin on Friday afternoons in nearby businesses and shops. My experience in Kelowna ignited a desire within me to carry out the same mission that Rabbi Hecht does and to become a Shliach, a Chabad emissary, in the future.

The second memory I had was the laissez-



Kelowna,  
British  
Columbia

faire feeling in the air. Kelowna people bike everywhere and we did, too! Imagine how we biked miles—bringing Matza and other Passover items to the community members. I thought it would be impossible and got my uber app downloaded just in case, but it turns out that the simple way of life is doable. I had to let go of the fast-paced big city mindset while I was there.



Yossi Lesches '23 from  
Melbourne, Australia, traveling  
with Avrohom Wilhelm '23

When we heard that we would be sent to Istanbul, Turkey to celebrate the Passover holidays



Istanbul,  
Turkey

our initial reaction was one of uncertainty. How would we manage to pull together everything we needed in a country that was so foreign and known as the not most welcoming?

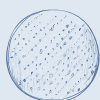
However, in the days after we landed all of our apprehension quickly vanished. We met many Ukrainian refugees who had recently arrived with whatever worldly possessions that they were able to bring in their small suitcases. For them, the holiday of freedom signified something so personal and relevant!

Although our setup was incredibly 'makeshift', we were able to create a warm and joyous evening filled with memories to last a lifetime.

The logistics were many and the work was physically taxing. However, the above pales in comparison to the tremendous strength and inspiration that we gained during our short time there. In fact, a fellow classmate who traveled back to the same city to conduct High Holiday services came back with warm regards from some individuals who had joined us for the Seder!

Rabbi Mendy Chitrik '96, together with his family, represent Chabad in Turkey. They gave us incredible insight on what it means to be true Chabad emissaries with selfless devotion for others.

With the tragic news coming from Turkey, our fellow classmates gathered in support and prayer for all those affected by the earthquake.



If you wish to receive special Handmade Shmurah Matzos for your seder table, please call our office at (718) 778-0734, or email [development@oholeitorah.com](mailto:development@oholeitorah.com)



LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE UPCOMING  
PASSOVER HOLIDAY

The selfless students are not formed overnight. They are the result of years spent receiving an Oholei Torah education imbued with the values of Ahavat Yisroel, the love and care for a fellow Jew. They are taught that this mitzvah is not merely a theory. Rather, it is one that every Jew must put into practice—even if that means leaving the comfort of their homes behind to celebrate Passover with a fellow Jew.



CONCORD, CA Mendy Hirsch and David Weiss lay Tefillin with community members



KELOWNA, BC Moshe Rosensweig and Leibel Kahn distribute Shmurah Matzah to local Jews.



ISTANBUL, TURKEY The seder is about to begin shortly before the onset of Passover 2022/5782



**RABBI MENDEL BLAU** '96 and his wife Sara (née Kravitsky), a noted author and educator in her own right, are the parents of four boys who all proudly attend Oholei Torah.

Following his graduation from Oholei Torah in 1996, Rabbi Blau went on to serve as an emissary in Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon in Los Angeles, California, where he saw firsthand the incredible impact of Chabad activities and education.

Rabbi Blau recently joined the Oholei Torah staff in 2020 with the goal of raising the educational bar for all the students of Oholei Torah, as well as creating a cohesive oversight of all five of the rapidly expanding divisions.

He has spent the past few years applying his knowledge, insight, and experience to update the curriculum, revamp current systems, and coordinate events that have energized students, parents and staff alike.

While Rabbi Blau is a noted scholar and a heavily sought after speaker and educator, the attention that he pays to even the minute details of the school day-to-day activities is just one manifestation of his exemplary leadership.

One of his projects that particularly stands out is the effort that Rabbi Blau has put into staff training for teachers from all divisions. The impact that a single educator can have on hundreds of students is not something that he underestimates and his goal for excellence from all Oholei Torah staff is definitely one worth striving for. In fact, he is known to often share the sentiment that of all the manageable factors involved in education: the effectiveness of the teacher is core.

Oholei Torah is most fortunate to have Rabbi Blau serving in our school's leadership, and in the few short years since he has joined the Oholei Torah family as its Dean we have seen the tremendous positive changes that his efforts have brought forth.

To reach Rabbi Blau about the school's educational programs, goals and aspirations, feel free to contact him at (718) 778-3340 ext. 1800 or at [rmblau@oholeitorah.com](mailto:rmblau@oholeitorah.com).

# GREETINGS

**Shalom!** Allow me to introduce myself. I am honored to serve as the Dean of Oholei Torah, and I take great pride in working in such an impressive educational institute.

As someone who has worked in the field of education for over 15 years, I have experienced firsthand the important role that a proper education plays in providing guidance and moral direction for today's youth. As an alumnus of Oholei Torah, I feel particularly proud to be able to give back to my school and to provide the next generation of its students with the same quality education that I was privileged to receive.

The school hallways are currently buzzing as we prepare for the Passover holiday by learning about all of the customs, traditions, and pertinent laws. All of the learning is taking place throughout our many divisions with each student being taught the timeless traditions in an age-appropriate manner.

The students in our younger division are busy preparing their own Haggadahs. The story of Passover comes alive in the brightly colored pages and the pride that the young artists take in their work is evident from the big smiles on their faces as they complete each page. They will have many meaningful and relevant insights and songs to share with their Bubbies and Zeidas around their family seder tables!

The students of our older divisions have been poring over the texts and learning about the beauty and depth of the laws and traditions surrounding the holidays straight from the original sources.

The students in our Post-Graduate Talmudical Seminary Division are preparing to apply everything that they have spent years learning with tens of thousands of Jews across the globe. These traveling rabbis-in-training and their mission to bring the joy of Passover to every single Jew is truly a revolutionary movement, one that you will read more about in these pages of the newsletter.

When it comes to educating children, I recall a fascinating talk from the Rebbe where he spoke about the importance of creating a Haggadah specifically with pictures for children. Aside from the revolutionary idea to captivate the child, the Rebbe is imparting a strong message in his statement. Jewish life is meant to be child centered and their education should be full of excitement so that it will become a permanent fixture in their lives. As the verse in Tehillim (Psalms) states: *גם כי יזקין לא יסור ממנה* "Educate a child according to his way; even when he grows old, he will not turn away from it."

This idea is surely one that resonates with our readers today. Many of us have fond, vivid memories of the Passover seders of our own youth that fill our holidays with joy and meaning—even decades later.

As a dear friend of Oholei Torah, I thank you all for your ongoing support. It is most vital as Oholei Torah constantly strives to provide a quality education filled with positivity for every single one of our students.

With wishes for a joyous Purim and a meaningful Pesach,

Rabbi Mendel Blau,  
Dean

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Each issue of Intentions carries a greeting from various administration and faculty members.

# Today's Inflation Hits Home



In recent years, prices of just about everything have been steadily rising, to the tune of a nearly 30% increase in some areas. Our neighborhood, Brooklyn, has been hit exceptionally hard with real estate prices, which have always been costly, soaring through the roof in addition to food, utilities and other day to day expenses. This poses a real challenge for the teachers and staff of Oholei Torah, many who have large families and who need to live in close proximity to both the school and local community.

With the cost of living spiraling out of control and the teacher shortage that is taking place in both public and private schools alike, salaries that do not rise with the inflation threaten to cause a further increase in the shortage.

Educating future generations is something that is, and always has been, a cornerstone of the Jewish community and its number one priority. Oholei Torah firmly believes that the ones who facilitate this

important work, the school faculty, should be well compensated, befitting the most honorable role they play. This past school year 2022-23 there was an increase in the salaries of the close to 200 dedicated teachers who show up day in and day out and give their all to ensure that every single student is given the environment they need to learn, grow and flourish.

One of our faculty members who has served as a teacher in Oholei Torah for the past 30 years shared "It's difficult to focus on the class and give the children the attention they need, and give the parents the attention they need... You want to give them what you can but there are so many things that are pulling you in many directions because you have to make sure that your family is taken care of and bills are piling up."

At a recent parlor meeting that was held in the home of Oholei Torah board member Mr. Zalman Chein, the Board of the Directors presented the proposed increase in salaries that have come into effect in

the current year. During the meeting it was announced that teachers of Oholei Torah would see their pay increased substantially. It was an obvious move for Oholei Torah and one that increased our budget by \$1.8 million. Even though the budget runs into a deficit, ongoing efforts are being made to raise funds for this necessary budget increase.

Thanks to the commitment of the Board of Directors to prioritize the salaries of our faculty when creating the yearly budget, the teachers of Oholei Torah can give their all to their students because they know that Oholei Torah is looking after them.

Sponsorships are available to help cover a teacher's salary increase—a truly honorable and worthwhile investment in our future. Reach out to Rabbi Nosson Blumes, Director of Development, at (718) 778-0734 to find out more about how you can play a role in supporting the staff of Oholei Torah as they give their utmost to educate our students.

Watch a talk from the Rebbe about the importance of increasing salaries of teachers



# WHEN HEART MEETS SOUL

## Teaching our Students to Touch the Divine Through Understanding Daily Prayer

A sincere prayer is a call that emanates straight from the heart.

In many metropolitan Jewish Community newspapers, you will see ads for making prayer meaningful. Synagogues encourage their members to not just have a dry run service but that prayer should be meaningful, understandable and with much emotion. In Jewish life, prayer is a foundation of the day, giving much hope and inspiration.

Many of us spent Shabbos morning in our local synagogue's junior congregation which imbued us with the basic sense of what prayer is and the profound impact that it has on both the community and the individual.

The sixth and seventh graders in Oholei Torah, all 300 of them, gather daily to conduct the morning services together. The services take place in the lunchroom which is converted into a synagogue complete with prayer books, a Torah scroll, and ample space for each child to pray. The synagogue is known as Heichal Shmuel and was dedicated in memory of a beloved student who tragically passed away in 2019.

As the boys enter the room, they are warmly greeted by their principals, Rabbi Yehoshua Lustig and Rabbi Yoni Lewkowicz. Rabbi Lustig's generous smile and conta-

gious positive energy set the tone for their school day. To these students, the time that is spent in prayer is the foundation upon which their day will be built.

A passerby may be surprised to see that this enormous minyan is led by boys who have just turned Bar Mitzvah. However, in Heichal Shmuel, it is just par for the course. The boys will regularly lead the services, read from the Torah and assume other leadership roles.

In recent months, new prayer books were added to the bookshelves for the students to use and enjoy. These siddurim, written by Rabbi Zushe Wilhelm, of blessed memory, a past Principal of the Oholei Torah High School Division, not only have the translation, they also contain meaningful explanations of the prayers located within the margins of the text.

The morning minyan is led by Rabbi Shlomo Futerfas and Rabbi Dov Ber Blau, teachers in the Elementary School Divisions. They, along with a team of devoted staff members, guide the students in their respective prayer journeys. As a part of their prayer curriculum, the boys are taught a new paragraph each week. Not only do they have the opportunity to familiarize themselves



WATCH HERE AS THE YOUNG BOYS SING  
PART OF THE HALLEL PRAYER DURING  
MORNING SERVICES





with the brand new text, they are also taught the meaning and message that the particular prayer explores and manifests.

The students' fathers are also encouraged to join the minyan—and many of them do! It means so much to them to see their sons' enthusiasm and sincerity and is a source of much nachas for all who take part. Impressively, many boys are known to leave their homes even before their parents do in order to make it on time for minyan.

Throughout the year, there are various incentives provided for boys who arrive on time in the mornings. Last year boys who were punctual to minyan for three months straight were rewarded with a snow tubing trip!

The daily minyan is always followed by a nutritious breakfast that awaits the boys. On special occasions, an additional spread of fresh bagels, lox and pastries is often added to the buffet.

Years later, alumni have shared that those early morning services gave them a start that they didn't even realize they needed; a service that permeates their day with meaning, appreciation and inspiration.



A different feature of our school is showcased in every issue as we welcome you into our school hallways and give you a more in depth view of our institution.

# AN ARTIST GROWS IN BROOKLYN

Moshe Kehaty is a High School student in Oholei Torah. At just 15 years old he engages in various types of recreational activities when he is not busy with school work. Out of all of his favorite pastimes, his passion is definitely art.

One can say about Moshe that he has it in his blood. Both his grandmother and great-grandmother were artists. From their home in New Orleans, Louisiana they would paint magnificent and detailed sceneries of mountains, oceans, hills and valleys.

He began drawing as a young child and credits his second grade teacher for teaching him the basic tenets of drawing and for helping him create the first piece that he felt very proud of. Throughout the years Moshe has been developing this talent. He remarked that his intuitive ability to read and understand people's facial expressions and body language greatly contribute to his ability to

capture the essence of the person whom he is drawing.

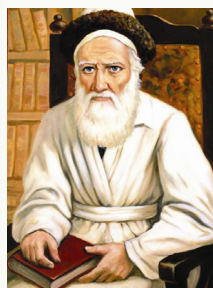
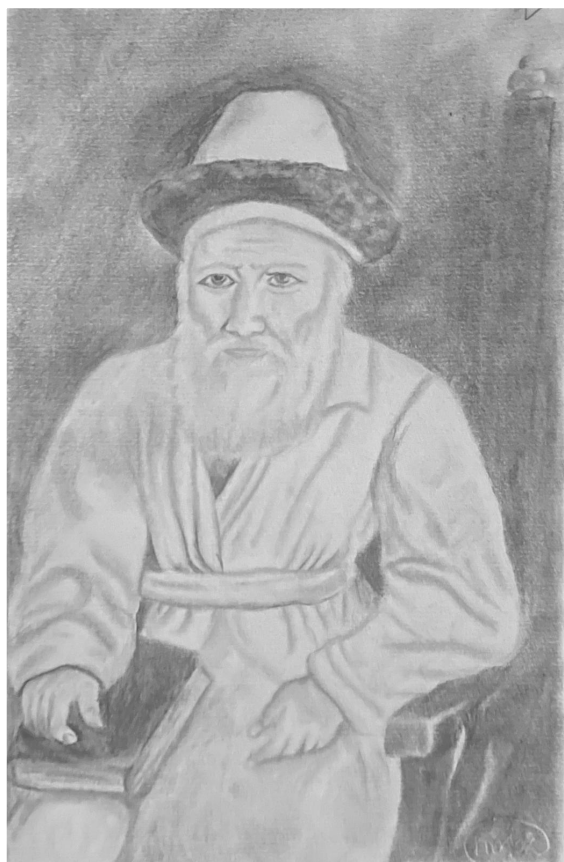
Oholei Torah is a school that seeks to nurture the entire child. In addition to our complete scholastic curriculum, we encourage the developments of our students' individual talents. While a Yeshiva boy who enjoys art may seem like the collision of two vastly different worlds, it actually is not the case.

Moshe explains that art calms him and helps him expand his mind. When he spends time drawing he returns to his learning with a clear, open head and a different perspective.

His favorite drawing (featured) is one that he made of the Tzemach Tzedek, a 19th century Jewish leader, author of Jewish Law, and tremendous visionary.



Here is a fascinating connection between the famous sculpture Jacques Lipchitz and the Rebbe.



The Tzemach Tzedek (1789-1866), was the third Rebbe of Chabad. An outstanding Torah scholar and prolific writer, he fostered warm relations with other Torah giants of his time, and produced authoritative responsa on many areas of Jewish law. (Inset: reference painting.)

“...The point is that those who have been Divinely gifted in art, whether sculpture or painting and the like, have the privilege of being able to convert an inanimate thing, such as a brush, paint and canvas, or wood and stone, etc., into living form. In a deeper sense, it is the ability to transform to a certain extent the material into spiritual, even where the creation is in still life, and certainly where the artistic work has to do with living creatures and humans.”

—Letter written by the Rebbe in 1967/5728



Moshe in Pre-1A. Middle row, fourth from left, and at various stages during his years at Oholei Torah

# A Survivor Shares Her Story



Watch a recent zoom interview lecture with Mrs. Lustig

the most visible and inescapable part of her excruciating suffering, came to embody what she felt was her mission in the aftermath of it all.

After surviving Auschwitz as a young teenager, she immigrated to New York, married Rabbi Meir Lustig in 1948, and went on to raise a beautiful large family.

Many of her offspring are Oholei Torah alumni and serve as Chabad emissaries and educators across America. Her son, Rabbi Hershel Lustig, is the Dean Emeritus of Oholei Torah, and her grandson, Rabbi Yehoshua Lustig, is one of the leading principals in the Cheder—Elementary Division of Oholei Torah.

Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren spend their days raising Jewish pride and awareness for both the young and old in their various communities — something Hitler, may his name be erased, was adamant to destroy.

Mrs. Lustig then turned to the teenagers and asked them: “Why did I survive?” She then went on to explain. “For years, I never understood. It was when I saw how the contributions of my children and grandchildren light up the world... then I understood”. Mrs. Lustig’s words were motivating and inspiring for the students and they all left the talk empowered to find something that they could contribute to the greater good in their communities and in the world.

The boys were clearly moved by her story and captivated by her clear and vivid memories.

Rabbi Yossi Bryski, Extra Curricular Director for the Junior High School Division, shared his feelings about the lecture. “It was an incredible honor to bear witness to Mrs. Lustig’s testimony. The students were so moved by the experience, as was I. She delivered a difficult story with great eloquence and in a manner that was appropriate for the young men. She is a gift to our people and the world. It was a lecture that carried much impact and meaning.”

Mrs. Lustig’s speech was followed by a lengthy question and answer session through which the students were able to gain further insight into her experience and the powerful way in which she lives her life.



**M**rs. Itu Lustig, who lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, shared her story of the atrocities that she went through as an Auschwitz survivor with the 200 students of our Mechina—Junior High School Division.

For many of them, it was their first time hearing a personal firsthand account from a survivor.

“I grew up in a small town called Stramtura, Romania,” Mrs. Lustig began. The students listened wide-eyed as she recounted how her family was taken away by the Nazis and most of them were killed in the gas chambers in Auschwitz. The oldest of seven children, only she and her younger brother miraculously survived.

She went on to relate her experience with the infamous numbers that the Nazis sadistically tattooed on the concentration camp inmates. As she showed the numbers on her arm to the students, she described the pain as “like giving you fifty shots in your hand without any anesthetic”. Then she said something incredibly moving. “They branded a tattoo on me... what G-d wanted to happen to me. They wrote Chai, which means Life!”

What she meant by this statement is that the number assigned to her was A-7443. The sum total of all four numbers is 18 ( $7+4+4+3=18$ ), which in Jewish numerology spells out the word “Chai—Life”. Her scar, which is perhaps

“Why did I survive?”  
She then went on to explain. “For years, I never understood. It was when I saw how the contributions of my children and grandchildren light up the world...”



Mrs. Lustig with her family, K'ah at a recent family gathering

# notes and news

## PTA Unites the Community with Purim Baskets

The holiday of Purim is traditionally celebrated with the exchange of Shalach Manos—special gift baskets. The baskets are often filled with hamentashen, fruits, wine, and other delicacies. Someone living in a close knit community such as Crown Heights will typically receive an overwhelming amount of Shalach Manos from family and friends.

Looking for an innovative solution to simplify the process and to remove any unnecessary stress surrounding the joyous holiday, the Oholei Torah PTA created the 'Achdus—Unity Baskets'. The baskets are beautifully prepared Shalach Manos created by a group of dedicated Oholei Torah mothers who volunteer their time to make this happen. As the project's title suggests, the Achdus



Baskets give community members the opportunity to join together and send Shalach Manos to each other as a group—for a nominal fee. Last year alone, 2,600 gift baskets were produced and delivered!

The money raised from this project is directed towards the funding of the extracurricular programs that the PTA arranges throughout the year.

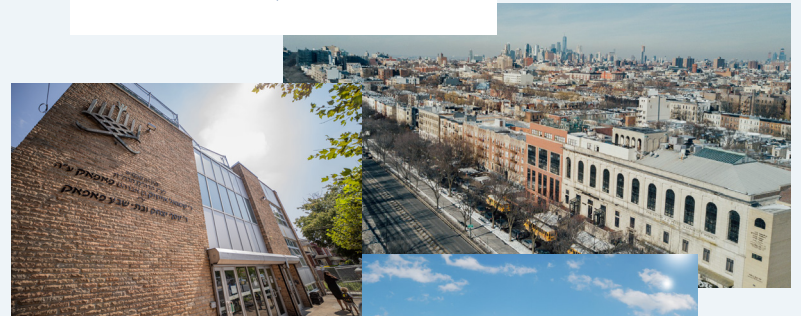
While the mothers generously give of their time expecting nothing in return, there is a special satisfaction that they have in being a part of their child's school.



40 BUS ROUTES

192,300 ft<sup>2</sup>

7 BUILDINGS / 3 CAMPUSES



83 CLASSROOMS



## School-wide Rally

This year is Shnas Hakhel, a year of Jewish Unity. This past month, in honor of Tu B'Shvat, the entire Cheder—Elementary Division, with over 1,000 students, assembled for a special gathering in the main ballroom of our Eastern Parkway Campus. Tu B'Shvat is the holiday that celebrates the regeneration of the trees that make our world beautiful and provide us with sustenance. There are many ways in which mankind can be compared to a tree—specifically in the field of education. The way that a tree is tended to in its youth will have a profound impact on how it grows.

The program included live entertainment, singing, snacks, and special raffles that were held throughout the event. Each boy returned home with a package of assorted fruits to mark the special day. Seeing the entire elementary division together in one room was a powerful moment that impacted the teachers and students alike. They all left filled with great pride at being a part of such an incredible institution.



## A LEGACY GIFT FOR A YOUTHFUL REMEMBRANCE

Mr. Jerome Roth of Boca Raton, Florida, grew up in Brooklyn in a traditional Jewish family who were members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. Of the time he spent at the Center, he typically could be found in the swimming pool. So great was his passion for the sport that he eventually became a Swimming Director at the Brooklyn Jewish Center Gymnasium Facilities.

Mr. Roth recently passed on leaving no immediate family members. He chose to dedicate a legacy gift of \$180,000 to his family's former synagogue. It seemed only befitting that his

generous gift would be used to enhance the swimming area. Oholei Torah students enjoy weekly swimming lessons in the large and spacious pool. Additionally, the pool also serves the larger community who partake in the pastime during the evenings and the summer months.

The Oholei Torah building is the home of many of Mr. Roth's fondest childhood memories. He knew that by enriching the lives of the young students who now walk its halls, he would enable them to create their own memorable experiences—and his legacy would live on.



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SPRING ISSUE

Happy  
Purim!

Sharing our smiling faces with  
you on this Purim Holiday!

