

# Intentions

ISSUE № 001 PREMIER ISSUE

SHARING OUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

WINTER 5783/2022-23 ת"ב



Remembering  
Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld



More than  
Chanukah Gelt



Spotlight on  
School Libraries



Oholei Torah hosts  
Global Conventions



Results from our  
Expansion

## KEEPING OUR DOORS OPEN AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE

The past few years have been years of phenomenal growth for Oholei Torah. In the past 5 years alone the school has invested over 25 million dollars into the procurement of new locations and renovating old ones. While that sum might seem staggering, it did not deter the committed Board of Directors, along with our dedicated donors, from doing what needed to be done. They have been working around the clock to secure the funding and to facilitate the enormous amount of logistics that it took to make these projects possible.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, expressed on multiple occasions that the discomfort that undoubtedly comes along with carrying debt by taking loans and mortgages, pales in comparison to the discomfort and the eternal loss of not being able to provide a child who seeks a Jewish education.

In order to raise the capital, three online campaigns were hosted that raised over 10 million dollars in donations and pledges. The campaign contributions from 4,000 individuals (among them many of the readers of this very newsletter) ranged from \$18 to 1 million



dollars and above. These funds served as the base upon which the school could expand.

Mr. Mark Levy, of Monmouth County, NJ, a longtime friend of Oholei Torah said, "I feel that I receive my greatest and immediate return every single time I invest in Oholei Torah. When I see the tremendous success of these projects I am reminded of their importance". Mr. Levy is a part of a unique group of supporters who were members of the former Brooklyn Jewish Center, whose landmark building serves as Oholei Torah's main campus.

The expansion projects include:

### 2018—\$7,000,000

The school purchased 639 Eastern Parkway, the sister apartment building that is adjacent to our campus. Its 24 apartments serve as the dormitory of the Talmudical Seminary students.

### 2020—\$800,000

In the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the many, lengthy lockdowns that came along with it, Oholei Torah recognized that community children desperately needed the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and the outdoors. The school found the

perfect solution to offering a much needed relief, by renting a spacious campground in the countryside. Over 1,000 campers and 200 staff members took part in a summer of learning, fun, and adventure.

### 2021—\$4,500,000

As our overnight summer program entered its second decade, the opportunity arose to purchase an expansive campground in Lakewood, PA with a sprawling 250 acres and 70 buildings. This move not only allowed us to double the amount

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מוסד חינוך על טהרת הקודש

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“Education, in general, should not be limited to the acquisition of knowledge and preparation for a career or in common parlance, ‘to make a better living.’ We must think in terms of a ‘better life,’ not only for the individual, but also for society as a whole. The educational system must, therefore, pay more attention, indeed the main attention, to the building of character, with emphasis on moral and ethical values.”



LEVI FREDEN, JEM

—LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE, 5/39/1976

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, founded Educational Institute Oholei Torah in 1956. Today with a student body of 2,000 students, Oholei Torah is the flagship school of Chabad-Lubavitch, and is the training ground for Chabad shluchim—emissaries—around the globe.

Learn more about the Rebbe's view on education



# Greetings

My dear friends,

Welcome to the premier issue of **Intention**, an informative update of the news, goals and aspirations of Educational Institute Oholei Torah.

This year, on Rosh Hashana, we ushered in the Jewish year of 5783. This year is unique as it is a “Shnas Hakhel”, the year of unity that follows the year of “Shmita”, the biblical Sabbatical year. It is a year in which the Jewish communities seek out opportunities for connection with each other. It is in this vein that we have launched Intentions which serves as a medium for our loyal friends and supporters to stay connected with the many happenings that take place at our school.

The Oholei Torah community has suffered a great loss in the beginning of the school year with the passing of Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld, the longtime Executive Director, and someone that many of the readers of this newsletter would consider a friend. I was honored to work alongside Rabbi Rosenfeld

for the past 28 years, and am proud to continue his important work.

These past years also marks tremendous growth for Oholei Torah during which we experienced astonishing results in all of our recent expansion campaigns. Throughout the pages of this newsletter you will discover the substantial growth that has been taking place and see how your participation played an important role in our school's expansion and student development.

Our sincere prayers to you and yours, for the very best in health, happiness, stability, and peace for our great country and around the world.



Rabbi Nosson Blumes  
Director of Development



**RABBI NOSSON BLUMES** hails from Winnipeg, Canada, where he joined the Chabad community in his teenage years.

Since joining the Oholei Torah team in 1996, his many initiatives include the cultivation of a circle of friends from the former Brooklyn Jewish Center, and the securing of major gifts through a vast network of supporters and benefactors of Oholei Torah from around the globe.

While Rabbi Blumes spends a good part of his time creating relationships with donors he also proudly supports Oholei Torah alumni who are involved with Chabad activities around the world. On a personal level, in 2017 he became an altruistic kidney donor.

Rabbi Blumes and his wife Sternie have two daughters (one of whom is the proud parent of an Oholei Torah preschool student) and have 4 grandchildren.

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

Continued from front cover

of campers; it gives us the opportunity to accommodate many more campers in the years to come.

**2021—\$1,000,000**

The Talmudical Seminary, which is accredited by the State of New York as an institute of higher learning, expanded its study hall by 30%. This allowed 100 additional out of town students the opportunity to take part in the exceptional and most sought after Chabad college program in the entire world.

**2022—\$9,000,000**

A most befitting building with 10 classrooms, 2 study halls, a gymnasium, a lunchroom and outdoor recreational space was purchased and opened on 555 Remsen Avenue to accommodate the growing High School program. Three additional properties were also acquired nearby to serve as the dormitories for the students attending the new facilities.

**2022—\$700,000**

We expanded three of our outdoor playground areas. This move provided our young students with additional outdoor recreational areas and fresh air.

One of the rarest, and thus one of the most precious commodities in NYC, is space, and the ability to provide our students with expansive learning and outdoor play environments has a remarkable impact on our students. A child who has the ability to run around and play outdoors returns to the classroom with a clear mind and an increased ability to concentrate.

There has been so much growth and movement in the past five years, but it seems we are not able to build quickly enough! Even with all of these expansions, Oholei Torah is bursting at the seams with every single one of our 8 divisions at full capacity. This serves as a testament to the fact that Oholei Torah is an institution that is leading the way in the world of Jewish education and that an investment into Oholei Torah is a worthwhile one with guaranteed returns.

To be part of the Expansion Program, or to make a special dedication, please reach out to our Development Office at 718-778-0734 or email [development@oholeitorah.com](mailto:development@oholeitorah.com). Dedications plaques are available starting from \$1,800.00.



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VIEW OUR COMPLETE EXPANSION BROCHURE



Shloimy Greenwald is an Oholei Torah alumnus and a member of the Crown Heights community. He courageously led the most recent campaign with an initial donation of \$1,000,000 and said,

“As the campaign progressed and I saw firsthand the urgency and need, I decided to substantially increase my pledge and future donations. As parents, my wife Mirele and I see firsthand the devotion of the staff to its students. It is a school that deserves the greatest support.”



A TRIBUTE TO OUR LONG TIME  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## RABBI JOSEPH ROSENFELD

*of blessed memory*

RABBI JOSEPH ROSENFELD was an integral figure in the Oholei Torah community for over 60 years. Both when he served as a Principal and as Executive Director his passion for education was the driving force behind much of Oholei Torah's significant growth.

When he assumed his position as principal in 1962, the school numbered 100 students. Under Rabbi Rosenfeld's thoughtful guidance and leadership, the school began to grow. Today, there are close to 2,000 students, from Preschool through Talmudical Seminary, who attend Oholei Torah every single day.

As a yeshiva student in the Central Chabad Yeshiva in 770 Eastern Parkway in 1956, Rabbi Rosenfeld was hand chosen by the Lubavitcher Rebbe to join a group of 12 young men who were sent to Israel as special emissaries to strengthen and uplift the community of Kfar Chabad in the wake of a horrific terrorist attack that took place there.

When Rabbi Rosenfeld joined the Oholei Torah family in 1962, he stood at the helm along with Rabbi Michael Teitelbaum, the co-founder of Oholei Torah, and Dovid and Sara Deitsch of New Haven CT, who were the school's primary supporters.

As a man of unique charisma and character, Rabbi Rosenfeld was some-

one to whom everyone was able to relate. The staff and faculty of Oholei Torah knew that he was always there to support them in every sense. From the young students upon whom he would bestow the priestly blessing to the school's greatest donors, and everyone in between — everyone respected him immensely.

In appreciation of his devotion to the institution and the tremendous impact that he has had throughout the years, the Board of Directors will be giving Rabbi Rosenfeld the most esteemed of tributes. They will be dedicating a main entrance of the school building so that everyone who passes through that door can remember Rabbi Rosenfeld and the many years that he spent in service to the school and the greater community.

He was predeceased by his wife, Malka Rosenfeld, earlier this year.

He is survived by his children: Rabbi Menachem Mendel Rosenfeld (Montreal, Canada), Rivkah Grossbaum (Stony Brook, N.Y.), Rabbi Yitzchok Rosenfeld (Toronto, Canada), Shterny Fogelman (Los Angeles, Calif.), Rabbi Yisroel Rosenfeld (Melbourne, Australia), Rabbi Sholom Rosenfeld (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Chana Konikov (Roslyn, N.Y.), and Nechama Dina Katz (Brooklyn, N.Y.), and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



תהא נפשו צרורה בצרור החיים



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MORE DETAILED OBITUARY AT  
[www.chabad.org/5646940](http://www.chabad.org/5646940)

## PEOPLE BOOK-BIBLIOTHECA CHILDREN

Four main libraries  
available for



# LE OF THE EGINS WITH A EN'S LIBRARY

ries and two digital libraries  
for students of all ages



**A**s integral to every school as its tables and chairs is the library where students can immerse themselves in a literary adventure and learn from the characters and lessons that come alive through its pages.

At Oholei Torah, where our students' learning and growth is of most importance, we have four main libraries spread throughout our campuses.

Additionally, each of our kindergarten classrooms enjoys a mini library filled with age appropriate books from which the teachers read daily to expand each child's vocabulary and reading comprehension and to nourish their sense of imagination. Library time is a highlight of the day as the young students are invited into a world where fire engines, Jewish holidays, and magical adventures come to life.

Morah Faige Winner, who has served as a preschool teacher and director for over 50 years said: "So much has changed in the field of education, technology and the direction of the classroom, but the connection that is built through reading books is an anchor. Not only does it enhance the teacher-student relationship; it is the foundation that is key to shaping the minds of these young, precious students."

The Levi Yitzchok Library in our elementary division was recently expanded thanks to a generous donation from a very grateful parent. The library is home to over 3,500 books in three different languages: English, Yiddish and Hebrew.

The shelves are lined with books of all different genres: fiction, non-fiction, history, adventure stories, classics and comic books, among others. While the library functions as any other would, where students borrow books using sophisticated book lending software, the Oholei Torah Library is unique in that it carries books that encourage character growth, help foster a positive outlook on life, and inspire the students.

The Levi Yitzchok Library is run by Rabbi Mendel Levin of the Student Enhancement Office. Rabbi Levin is extremely proud of the library which is one of the largest collections of Judaic children's books in the entire United States.

Our Talmudical Seminary Division boasts 2 different libraries; The Raitport Library and the Friedman Library. The Raitport Library was dedicated in memory of a former Oholei Torah student who passed away at a young age. The bookcases of this library furnish the walls of the main study hall and its books are used daily by the hundreds of students who spend their days immersed in Talmudic, Chassidic and Kabbalistic texts.

The Friedman Library is a new addition and was dedicated in memory of Reb Yisroel Friedman o.b.m., our beloved Rosh Yeshiva and a leading Rabbinical figure in the Chabad Community who tragically passed away in 2021 from health complications due to COVID-19. His personal library, which was filled with rare Talmudic literature including some extraordinary and insightful books, was bequeathed to Oholei Torah. We feel privileged that his vast library containing over 5,000 books has become a feature of the lec-

ture hall where he taught for many years and now serves as a tool to hundreds of students.

Technology has allowed us to have access to a sizable amount of knowledge available at our fingertips, and Oholei Torah's two digital libraries grant students unlimited access to thousands of rare books and hours of educational and inspirational multimedia.

The Otzar Hachochma library is the world's largest digital Judaica library that contains over 120,000 books. The texts explore a large variety of topics through the lenses of Torah scholars spanning from ancient times until the modern days.

The video library of the JEM archives (Jewish Educational Media) holds thousands of hours of video and audio recordings from various talks and lectures given by the Lubavitcher Rebbe throughout the years. These recordings serve as incredible research tools as well as inspirational motivation for all of our students.



# notes and news

## A trowel makes its way home, 102 years later

On June 13, 1920, Mr. Ambrose Rosenthal was honored at the ground breaking ceremony for the Brooklyn Jewish Center on Eastern Parkway. As a memento, he received an inscribed trowel. Years later, he presented the trowel to his daughter, Jeannate, who kept it treasured for many years. After her passing, the family decided to share it with the Archive Office of the BJC. When the treasured package arrived, the office staff were quite surprised when they noticed that it was delivered on June 13th, the exact same date that it was given to Mr. Rosenthal—just 102 years later!



➔ [BrooklynJewishCenter.org](http://BrooklynJewishCenter.org)

## Old Mementos—Renewed Connections

In preparation for a campaign celebrating our 70th year, the Oholei Torah Archive Office has begun working on compiling a collection of select materials from their archive of close to 20,000 pictures, videos, and assorted memorabilia going back seven decades.

Plans are underway to make them available on social media for the greater Oholei Torah community of alumni and friends to enjoy.



מוסד תורה אהלי תורה  
EDUCATIONAL INST. OHOLEI TORAH  
educates children in the true Jewish Tradition.



## OT Hosts College Student Weekend and International Conference of Chabad Shluchim

Our main campus, aside from serving as a school, also serves the greater Jewish Community as a convention center for the many worldwide Chabad organizations. In the past few months, every room, from the ballrooms to the lecture halls as well as all conceivable nooks and crannies of the building, were filled to capacity. There were even multiple tents that had to be erected in the expanded playground area in order to accommodate the overflowing crowds. The excitement and energy that these conventions bring along with them are a source of inspiration to the students, showing them the many tremendous accomplishments of the school's alumni who now serve as community leaders throughout the globe.



2,948,040

HOURS OF LEARNING ANNUALLY

5,150 MEALS SERVED PER DAY



9

PLAYGROUND AREAS

1,910

STUDENT BODY



# Oholei Torah Students Light up the Dark

Chanukah Excitement Shared In and Out



It's a tradition. Chanukah means lighting the menorah, giving Chanukah gelt, eating latkes or doughnuts... It also means getting out the wheels and getting rolling. The students of the Talmudical Seminary and High School of Oholei Torah have their tradition in the spirit of Chabad everywhere. Each year cars, vans and the famous Chabad "mitzvah tanks" suddenly sprout menorahs and cheerful signs, Jewish music spills forth into the street, and the Oholei Torah students hit the road to share the Chanukah traditions with fellow Jews all over the tri-state area.

With enthusiasm for Torah and Yiddishkeit in full display, the students themselves plan these expeditions for weeks, exercising all their initiatives and creativity to put together the funds, vehicle, team, music and Chanukah supplies.

These activities are especially meaningful to the elderly who may be in the hospital over the holiday or

reside in nursing homes, awaiting some happiness and holiday cheer. The Oholei Torah students bring joy, tradition, and value to what would be just an ordinary day on the calendar.

What is very heartwarming is that the younger grades, with their teachers, prepare a "shpiel", a skit. Other classes will practice as a choir to sing Chanukah songs. The departmental principals arrange for these overnight stars to perform at different locations throughout Chanukah.

This dedication, that the students readily give up their vacation time, to go out and touch others in a most meaningful way, is a testimony to the values and community they are raised with. They happily share what they learn, and are constantly acting upon the famous saying: "A Chossid is a lamplighter". These students light the dark and cold evenings to so many with Chanukah cheer wherever they go.



## *intentions*

PREMIER ISSUE

Enjoy our Premier Issue of Intentions, please share your thoughts and comments: [development@oholeitorah.com](mailto:development@oholeitorah.com) or call 718-778-0734.

Sharing our bright lights and nachas with you as we celebrate this festival of lights and triumph...

# Happy Chanukah!

