

Intention

ISSUE № 006

SHARING OUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS

FALL 5785/2024 T"01



A New Tool for
Streamlined Operations



Curriculum Office
Supporting Teachers



Junior Congregation
Services Each Child



Celebrating Graduation
in 45 Countries



A Dedicated Student's
Ambitious Goals

A BEACON OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

Oholei Torah's New High School Campus

The high school years are most critical in shaping the minds of the developing young students at Oholei Torah. It's a time when they mature from pre-bar mitzvah youth into deep thinkers and learners. These are the years that channel their energy, focus their ambitions, and lay the groundwork for becoming a *mentsch*, a person of character and integrity.

For years, Oholei Torah dreamed of a dedicated high school campus with expansive facilities, but financial constraints and soaring Brooklyn real estate costs made it seem unattainable. Then, Oholei Torah alumnus Rabbi Shloimy Greenwald '06 and his wife, Mirele, turned this dream into reality. Inspired by their personal connection to the school and their commitment to its mission, the Greenwalds offered not only support and encouragement but also a transformational one-million-dollar pledge. Their generosity led the Board of Directors to embark on



needs, featuring sunlit classrooms, wide hallways, a full-size dining hall, spacious study halls, and ample indoor and outdoor recreational areas.

Since its opening in 2021, the Oholei Torah Mesivta has rapidly become a leading choice for students, drawing outstanding young men from New York and beyond. To accommodate this growth of the out-of-town student body, four nearby houses were purchased for dormitories, creating a supportive community environment where faculty and counselors ensure students' well-being. Plans to erect a proper dormitory building are already underway to fit the growing need for the high school.

At the start of the school year, a group of dedicated supporters came together to celebrate the official dedication of our new campus. Honored guests enjoyed guided tours, and the administration took the opportunity to unveil dedication plaques in recognition of their invaluable contributions. Continued on page 4

the search that resulted in the acquisition of a new campus at 555 Remsen Avenue, at the borders of the East Flatbush and Canarsie neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Only ten minutes from Eastern Parkway, this location perfectly aligned with the school's

supporters came together to celebrate the official dedication of our new campus. Honored guests enjoyed guided tours, and the administration took the opportunity to unveil dedication plaques in recognition of their invaluable contributions. Continued on page 4



מוסד חינוך על טהרת הקודש

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(718) 483-9000

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Head of School

Rabbi Yehoshua Lustig
Integrator, Menahel K'loli

Rabbi Sholom Rosenfeld
Director

Rabbi Yitzchok M. Kramer
Administrator

Rabbi Nosson Blumes
Director of Development

Rabbi Eliezer Gold
Capital Fund Director

Rabbi Dr. Zev Faygen
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Rabbi Mendy Wolf
Director of YJL-Young Jewish Leaders

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“Educate the youngster in the proper way, so that in old age he will not depart from it” in as much as the education of children and adolescents lays the foundation for the entire life. This approach is particularly imperative in our day and age, when the young generation needs to be especially fortified against harmful influences, etc. a point which requires no elaboration to the audience and all friends of Oholei Torah. —THE REBBE, IN A 5746/1986 LETTER TO OHOLEI TORAH SUPPORTERS



LEVFREDDEN, JEM

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.

ABOUT THE BACK COVER PHOTO

Mr. Marvin Metz, former member of the Brooklyn Jewish Center (BJC), recently celebrated his 102nd birthday in a heartwarming gathering with students from Oholei Torah.



The event held special significance for Mr. Metz, who was a student in the Center's Hebrew School during the 1930's. Mr. Metz has deep ties to the institution and to its history. His parents were prominent members, who lived in the adjacent building at 645 Eastern Parkway, which today is part of the enlarged Oholei Torah campus.

Rabbi Nosson Blumes, a dear friend, greeted Mr. Metz, and accompanied him for the day's festivities.

Celebrating with a class of Bar Mitzvah students, Mr. Metz reflected on his youth and shared cherished memories of growing up along the iconic parkway. He answered the children's many questions, imparting timeless wisdom and a perspective shaped by a century of life experience.

In a particularly meaningful moment, students from the Talmudic Seminary hosted a special service in honor of Mr. Metz, during which he received an aliyah to the Torah in the very same sanctuary area where he celebrated his Bar Mitzvah 89 years ago. Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, the founding Rabbi of the BJC, officiated that ceremony decades earlier.

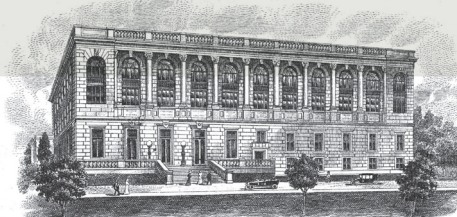
Surveying the vibrant atmosphere of young students filling the building's hallways, Mr. Metz expressed his delight at seeing the Center, a place so integral to his own childhood, alive with youthful energy. “It's so beautiful to see that the Center, such a cherished part of my past, is being put to such meaningful use. It warms my heart to know that a piece of my history is still flourishing,” he remarked warmly.

The Oholei Torah community extends its heartfelt blessings to Mr. Metz, wishing him health and joy for many years to come.



OHOLEI TORAH'S campus on Eastern Parkway, formerly the Brooklyn Jewish Center, continues to be a respected institution dedicated to Jewish life, culture, and education. Entrusted with this legacy, the Board of Trustees of the BJC has ensured that the Center remains a beacon for American Jewry and beyond. Many former members, inspired by this continuity, have reconnected with their roots by reaching out to Rabbi Nosson Blumes,

coordinator of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle of Friends, who facilitates visits and tours of the building. These visits offer members a treasured opportunity to step back into their shared past, reconnecting with memories of a vibrant community that endures to this day.



Learn more at
BrooklynJewishCenter.org

SUPPORT EVERLASTING EDUCATION

Create a legacy in your
lifetime and beyond

OholeiTorah.com/donate
or call 718-778-0734

GREETINGS

To my dear friends,

As the administrator of Oholei Torah for over forty years, I have had the honor and merit to take part firsthand in the extraordinary growth and expansion of our school, from a student body of 200 to over 2,000 today.

As a senior member of the Oholei Torah administration, I can recall the early years when the school was housed in various brownstones scattered along Eastern Parkway.

Thank G-d, we have come a long way.

It has been a privilege to work alongside Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld, the longtime Executive Director, Rabbi Michael Teitelbaum, the Founder of Oholei Torah, and Mr. Dovid Deitsch, the Chairman of the Board, who always supported the school in a most remarkable way.

Perhaps the most important milestone of our growth was the 1982 purchase of the famed Brooklyn Jewish Center Edifice. I helped negotiate an agreement with the BJC, whose fruits we continue to see more than forty years later. With a contract in hand, we were able to recruit many people, both from within the community and beyond, who were eager to participate in that historic purchase. This acquisition brought a refreshing sense of stability and elevated Oholei Torah to a new level of prominence. As the cornerstone of our Eastern Parkway Campus, the Jewish Center served as an anchor for the many expansions that followed.

The purchase of the BJC also included a lot on the western side of the property, on which we constructed a seven-story expansion. For this project, we hired an architect with

experience in building schools and formed a building committee of experienced individuals who ensured the expansion would meet the school's needs and maximize the available space. The result was much-needed new classroom space, a grand entrance, as well as an extension to the ballrooms, which now serves as Crown Heights' community Ballrooms and is also used for many important Oholei Torah events.

At that time, with enrollment growing by leaps and bounds, we also decided to purchase a shul in East Flatbush, which today is used for the Oholei Torah kindergarten. Additionally, to provide housing for our Talmudical Seminary students two adjacent apartment buildings were purchased, which today serve as dormitories and are filled to capacity.

Throughout the years, I have also had the honor of forging relationships with many dear friends and supporters of the yeshiva. I had the merit to personally introduce many of these dear friends to the Rebbe, which had a lifelong impact on them and their families. Over the years, many of them were honored at the Annual Dinner and to which the Rebbe would send a special letter every year addressing the Dinner's distinguished guests. These

deeply cherished relationships have continued with these supporters' children and grandchildren, who likewise continue to support Oholei Torah many years later.

It is with overwhelming pride that I see today how the vision for Oholei Torah has come to fruition. Today, Oholei Torah has become a major force in Chabad-Lubavitch, with thousands of alumni living the ways of Torah and Chassidus. This includes nearly 3,000 students who have become Chabad shlichim in more than 100 countries around the world, inspiring their communities as only Oholei Torah alumni can.

Today more plans are being drawn up for further expansion of Oholei Torah, as we strive to keep up with the growth of our community and the needs of our student body.

I look forward to helping Oholei Torah grow to even greater heights.

Warmly,



Rabbi Yitzchok M. Kramer,
Administrator

RABBI YITZCHOK KRAMER has been a cornerstone of Oholei Torah for over 40 years. His dedication to education traces back to his father, Rabbi Leib Kramer, A"H, who founded and directed the first Chabad Yeshiva in Montreal, Canada, for an impressive 58 years. Rabbi Kramer's father-in-law, Rabbi Mordechai Hodakov, a"h, was the chief of staff for the secretariat of the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

Rabbi Hodakov was a key educational advisor to the Oholei Torah faculty and administration.

Together with his wife, Chaya, Rabbi Yitzchok Kramer is the proud father and grandfather of numerous Oholei Torah alumni. Their children now serve as Chabad emissaries in many parts of the U.S. and around the world, continuing the family's legacy of dedication to Jewish life and education.



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



End-of-Year Campaign

As we approach 2025, we kindly ask that you consider making a year-end gift to help us continue this important work.



Donate online
OholeiTorah.com/donate



OHOLEI TORAH Annual Auction Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE

Begins January 19th 2025

ט"ט טבת תשפ"ה



Continued from page 1

Mr. Shmuel Brook, Senior Member of the Board, presented awards to the pioneering supporters. "Oholei Torah is a school that constantly strives to provide its students with the very best, and this new campus stands as a testament to that commitment. We are fortunate to have such loyal supporters and friends who share our vision and enthusiastically support Oholei Torah's growth every step of the way."

As Oholei Torah's high school continues to grow, the Greenwald Campus will serve as a pillar of academic and personal development for young students, fostering a sense of community, character, and lifelong commitment to learning.



THE GREENWALD CAMPUS A Legacy of Generosity and Vision

The Greenwalds' dedication goes far beyond financial support; it reflects a generational bond with Oholei Torah. As proud parents of two Oholei Torah students and members of a family that spans three generations within the school, their million-dollar commitment underscored a profound belief in the school's mission. R' Shloimy is an inspiration for many who followed and joined the campaign.

R' Shloimy and Mirele are proud for all they do for the school, and have great appreciation for lasting education Oholei Torah instills in our children. A close friend remarked "The Greenwalds' dream big, and make big things happen! As you can see from this beautiful campus today!"





THE GREENWALD CAMPUS

Pioneering Supporters of
our New Campus

Rabbi Shloimy and Mirele Greenwald
The Greenwald Campus

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Loksen Family
Marsow Family
Metal Family
Ostrow Family
Pewzner Family
Pinson Family
Rena Lights, Inc.
Rosenfeld Family
Weiss Family
Weissenberg Family
Wolf Family



Structure is the Foundation for Curriculum

An Interview with Rabbi Eli Schulman,
Director of the Curriculum Office



When the Rebbe established Oholei Torah, he chose to call it the "Educational Institute Oholei Torah" - a name that captures its essence as an institution where education is built on structure. The school's curriculum office is at the heart of this mission, supporting 170 faculty members with essential teaching tools and resources. Rabbi Eli Schulman '16, who leads this dedicated team, shares insights on the office's role and impact.

Q: What is the purpose of a dedicated curriculum office?

Rabbi Schulman: Most schools typically have a single division, like elementary or high school, with one principal overseeing it. Oholei Torah is unique, spanning five divisions that encompass all ages, divided further into nine subdivisions. Some of these subdivisions alone have up to 400 students. The curriculum office supports the entire school, overseeing students from "cradle to graduation" and ensuring a cohesive,

values-driven educational program that aligns with the school's mission and academic standards.

Q: What are the primary goals of your office?

Rabbi Schulman: Our primary aim is to provide each student with an excellent Jewish education that fosters both intellectual growth and character development. We balance tradition with modern needs, integrating technology where it helps to meet these goals. Additionally, we prioritize accessibility and support for our faculty, making sure they have the tools they need to teach effectively.

Q: Does this role overlap with that of the principals?

Rabbi Schulman: Not at all. Our office is essential in supporting principals, whose roles at Oholei Torah go far beyond academics. They are deeply involved in students' holistic well-being, managing everything

from classroom oversight to parent communication, as well as extracurricular programs that enrich student life. Being a principal here is comparable to managing a large organization, and our office alleviates the workload by providing ready-made curriculum materials, freeing principals to focus on student engagement and division-wide cohesion. We, as curriculum staff, take direction from and meet with principals and teachers regularly to understand their needs and provide effective support.

Q: How does the curriculum office serve the many divisions?

Rabbi Schulman: We supply divisions with an extensive range of resources, from basic learning sheets for younger students to in-depth materials, like maps of Israel highlighting the travels of our forefathers, presentations of Mishna, Gemara and Talmudic texts for older students. We create full-color workbooks and interactive activities to make lessons engaging while

assessing student progress through customized Google Sheets that help teachers measure growth accurately. Our support also extends to tech assistance and professional development, ensuring that teachers have everything needed for effective teaching.

Q: Which projects have been particularly impactful?

Rabbi Schulman: Our teaching collaboration groups are incredibly rewarding. While we work “behind the scenes,” teachers are on the front lines with the students, and their feedback is invaluable. Our Teacher Enrichment Sessions allow faculty to share experiences and insights, fostering collaboration that enhances classroom learning. When teachers exchange hands-on strategies, it strengthens our curriculum and helps us provide the best possible support.

Q: Why not use existing curricula from other organizations?

Rabbi Schulman: While we consult available resources, the vision for an Oholei Torah education is unparalleled. For instance, when teaching Chumash and history, we emphasize life lessons and integration into daily practice, cultivating love and positivity in

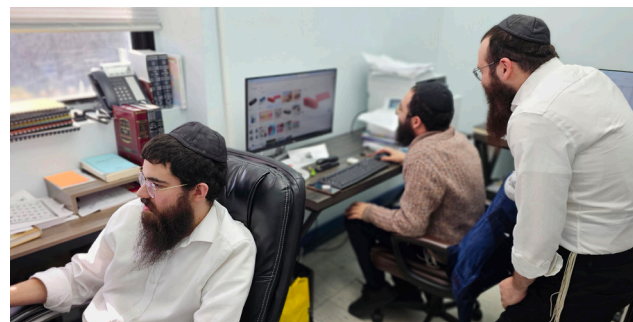
Yiddishkeit. This focus on a joyful, meaningful Jewish identity is central to our mission and distinguishes Chabad in the Jewish educational landscape.

Q: What was a unique project this past year?

Rabbi Schulman: There were so many, but undoubtedly, the solar eclipse experience was a memorable project. Learning both the solar system with the many Torah sources brought to life the wondrous ways of our universe.

Q: Your department seems quite advanced. How do you stay ahead?

Rabbi Schulman: With all the technological and cultural shifts, the classroom remains a constant — students still spend hours each day learning directly from their teachers. This face-to-face interaction is a core element of their experience, and that’s why we constantly refine our methods and materials. Keeping the classroom exciting and meaningful is essential, and seeing students come in eagerly each day reassures us that we’re on the right path. We remain committed to our fundamental goal: providing a pure, solid education grounded in our values.



Oholei Torah New Management System to Elevate Operations

In the ever-evolving world of Jewish education, Oholei Torah has long stood out as a beacon of learning and engagement in its many facets of the community. However, as this growing institution has expanded, its management needs have become increasingly complex. In a quest to improve and optimize coordination, Oholei Torah recently turned to a powerful tool used by some of the largest organizations and businesses worldwide: the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS). Designed to simplify and strengthen management across large-scale teams, EOS is an organizational approach focused on communication, leadership roles, and measurable objectives—all of which are particularly vital as Oholei Torah continues to flourish, and expand its communications and interactions with the students, administration, and parents.

This system, widely praised in the corporate world, has proven to be an ideal fit for Oholei Torah's multifaceted environment, where communication and coordination are critical.

At Oholei Torah, this endeavor has redefined the structure of leadership and operational responsibilities. The organization now boasts a leadership team overseeing each core function. Rabbi Yehoshua Lustig '04, has taken on the role of Integrator, serving as the glue that holds all departments together by managing overall operations and ensuring each division remains aligned with Oholei Torah's vision. Rabbi Lustig, who was a student in the school and a valued principal for over 14 years, well understands the function and intricacies of running such a vast organization.

Rabbi Mendel Blau '04, in his role of Head of School, focuses on setting strategic goals



Rabbi Yehoshua Lustig, '04, addresses students



The EOS leadership team during a weekly meeting

and shaping the long-term direction of the institution. Together, these roles allow the school to function cohesively: Rabbi Lustig, as Integrator of EOS, is responsible for the daily execution of projects and problem-solving, while Rabbi Blau, as Visionary, directs the school's overall path.

"My role is to make sure that each department is communicating effectively and working toward our shared goals of excellence in education," Rabbi Lustig explains. "It's all about creating a seamless flow of information and actions."

Rabbi Blau adds, "With the implementation of EOS, I can focus on planning for the future and exploring new opportunities for Oholei Torah to thrive, knowing that day-to-day operations are in capable hands."

To further streamline operations, Oholei Torah has organized its functions into four

core teams that meet weekly to ensure flawless communication across the entire institution. These teams are:

1: Chinuch / Education

This team encompasses all educational aspects, including classes, extracurriculars, and the leadership of 10 heads of departments across 15 different departments.

2. Operations

This group handles all logistical elements, such as maintenance, purchasing, transportation, security, food services, and facility rentals.

3. Administration

Covering the essential behind-the-scenes work, this team is responsible for tuition, government programs, grants, accounting, insurance, and legal matters.

4. Development

This team manages fundraising initiatives, annual calendars, auctions, and dinners and events that support the institution's growth.

Oholei Torah is known to be a school that is constantly seeking out revolutionary initiatives and tools that can enable us to achieve our goal of giving our students the very best education. Our hope is that EOS will have a profound impact on our school. In the months since its implementation, communication between departments has been much smoother, and logistical challenges have become more manageable. As the school continues to grow, EOS has equipped Oholei Torah's new leadership team with a sustainable management framework that brings out the best in its staff and students alike, setting a new standard for excellence in education and a model for other institutions to follow.



Oholei Torah Graduation The End or Just the Beginning?

Before the summer, the accredited Talmudical Seminary division held its official graduation ceremony, marking the achievements of the 300 graduates. Yet, this ceremony is not seen as the culmination of their years of education but rather as a bridge—a launchpad into the real mission that begins afterward.

Starting in September, the alumni of 5784/2024 embarked on a transformative journey, joining 45 Chabad communities and institutions worldwide (see sidebar) where they bring with them the Oholei Torah spirit and the core value of Ahavas Yisroel—love for every Jew. The main goal of this special year is to enhance the local school and communities where they are commissioned. This mission work, often likened to the Peace Corps, involves a wide range of community activities organized by local Chabad centers, including weekly programs for children, one-on-one study sessions, leading services, visiting the elderly and shut-ins, and outreach efforts to engage individuals who may feel disconnected from Jewish life.

As Moshe A. Geisinsky, Class of '24, said, “As I embark on my new role, joining the community in Melbourne, Australia, I have a chance to take everything Oholei Torah gave me and share it with others. This mission feels like the true culmination of all my years of education. I’m grateful to my teachers and faculty for the solid foundation they’ve given me, one that I can carry with me wherever I go.”

Depending on the assignment, graduates join these communities for 12 to 24 months. It’s a period in which they apply their years of education and put into practice the values and skills they’ve developed. This on-the-ground experience serves as hands-on training, transforming their studies into tangible community service for the greater good. The idea of sending the graduating students to different communities as shluchim, emissaries in training, was initiated by the Rebbe in 1967. The first group of graduates were sent to Melbourne, Australia, setting a precedent that has been a trademark in Chabad for over 55 years.

Oholei Torah students have set a gold standard for Chabad schools worldwide, establishing the institution as a powerhouse within Chabad-Lubavitch, one of the largest and fastest-growing Jewish organizations today.

Their work underscores Oholei Torah’s view of graduation as just the beginning—a stepping stone to a life dedicated to meaningful action and global impact.

ARIZONA

Arizona Mesivta
Chabad Lubavitch of Tucson

CALIFORNIA

Cheder Menachem
Jewish Educational Trade School
Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon Chabad Mesivta
Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon Chabad Zal

CONNECTICUT

Yeshivas Beis Dovid Shlomo Mesivta
Yeshivas Beis Dovid Shlomo Zal
Yeshiva Campus

FLORIDA

Aventura Chabad Mesivta of Coral Springs
Klurman Mesivta High School
Lubavitch Educational Center

Yeshiva Gedola of Greater Miami
Rabbinical College Chabad Russian Center

ILLINOIS

Yeshivas Ohr Eliyahu Lubavitch Mesivta of Chicago

MARYLAND

Mesivta Lubavitch of Baltimore

MICHIGAN

Oholei Yosef Yitzchak Lubavitch
Yeshiva Detroit

NEW YORK

Mesivta Lubavitch of Monsey
Oholei Torah Mesivta—Greenwald Campus

PENNSYLVANIA

Yeshiva Schools Lubavitch Yeshiva Boys School

ARGENTINA

Yeshiva Gedola of Buenos Aires

AUSTRALIA

Dover Heights Shule
Yeshiva College High School
Rabbinical College of Australia

CANADA

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Thornhill Mesivta Ohr Temimim
Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto

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Yeshiva Lubavitch Manchester

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Yeshiva Gedola Frankfurt

HUNGARY

Budapest Yeshiva

ISRAEL

Yeshivas Chabad Chazon Eliyahu
Yeshivas Lubavitch Tiferes Yisroel Beit Shemesh
Yeshivas Toras Emes Chabad
Yeshivas Tzeiri Hashluchim
Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim Netanya

PANAMA

Kollei Torah Panama

RUSSIA

Jewish Day School Cheder Menachem
Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimim Lubavitch

SINGAPORE

Chabad of Singapore

SOUTH AFRICA

Chabad Centre of Cape Town
Torah Academy Boys High School
Lubavitch Yeshiva Gedola

In a remarkable goal that is rarely achieved amongst Torah scholars, a dedicated student at the Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah, Mendel Konceptolski '25, has completed the rigorous study of the entire Babylonian Talmud, known as Talmud Bavli. The Talmud is comprised of 37 Mesachtos—Tractates—with thousands of pages of ancient text that encompasses intricate discussions on Jewish civil, marital, and religious law, layered with centuries of interpretation.

Mastering a single tractate demands extraordinary commitment and intellectual effort. Yet Mendel not only studied all 37 tractates but also memorized them and underwent testing by numerous prominent rabbis.

This extraordinary accomplishment showcases both his intellectual skill and his profound dedication. It's an achievement that embodies the highest ideals of Talmudic scholarship and reflects the unwavering commitment to excellence that Oholei Torah instills in its students.

During his rigorous studies, Mendel shared much of his wisdom and learning with others. He would often share the wonder of his most recent study session with his classmates and was known to have a thought to share whenever he met a fellow Jew.

A Master Scholar in the Making



Mendel Konceptolski, '25

Mendel's journey, a testament to dedication and perseverance, spanned nearly three years, beginning in his final year of high school at Mesivta Lubavitch of Monsey. Inspired by his teacher and principal, Rabbi Sender Lustig '06, who first encouraged him

to embark on this ambitious goal, Mendel set out with remarkable resolve.

The challenge was formidable: covering 2,700 pages of Talmud at a steady pace of two full pages each day. Through every season and across school days, vacations, summers, and winters, Mendel remained unwavering in his commitment.

Now, as he prepares to celebrate this monumental accomplishment, Mendel reflects on his guiding principle: "I wasn't just learning for myself; I wanted to inspire others to take on their own journeys." And, indeed, his example has done just that—leaving a lasting legacy of dedication to learning.

Rabbi Elchonon Lesches, '93, Dean of the Talmudical Seminary stated "Mendel's mastery of the Talmud is more than an academic triumph—it's a profound testament to his discipline, passion, and the remarkable heights young scholars can reach with dedication and guidance."



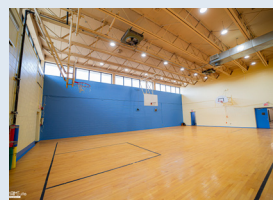
Learn more about the Talmud chabad.org/3347866

notes and news

The state-of-the-art Greenwald Campus offers a truly enhanced environment for education, with facilities that include:



A three-story building spanning 90,000 square feet



Large, airy gymnasium



Two spacious beis midrashim (study halls)



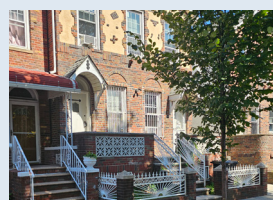
Teachers' lounge and administrative offices



Twelve classrooms



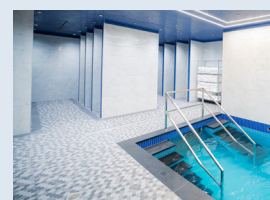
Outdoor recreational fields



Four Dormitory Houses



Game Room



A state-of-the-art Mikvah



Full dining hall



A Place for Every Child

This past High Holiday season, the Oholei Torah Junior Congregation Shabbos Minyan offered something truly special. The Junior Congregation is open to the parent body looking for spacious and engaging minyan geared for their children. As the minyan is held in the actual school building, it brings familiarity and excitement to the “attendees.” This service also welcomes students who may face unique challenges—whether they come from single-parent homes or situations where attending services with family might not be possible. This initiative created an environment where every child felt a valued part of the minyan, empowering them to take active roles in a prayer service tailored to their needs in mind.

A moving moment for everyone present came on Rosh Hashana, as the children gathered around Rabbi Mendel Levin, ‘11, Director of the Minyan, to witness the shofar-blowing—a cherished tradition that resonated deeply with them. The enthusiasm continued into the holiday of Sukkos, where even more families joined, and children eagerly took part in the hakafos dancing on Simchas Torah, celebrating in high spirits.

Held in Heichal Shmuel, a hall at Oholei Torah’s Eastern Parkway Campus dedicated in memory of Shmuel Karnowsky, a beloved former student, the Junior Congregation Minyan represents more than just a place



for prayer. Under the guidance of Rabbi Mendel Levin, who runs many of the school’s extracurricular programs, including Tzivos Hashem, the Levi Yitzchak Library, and Gan Menachem Summer Camp, this minyan brings a festive and inclusive spirit, ensuring every child feels at home within the four walls of the shul.

By offering this Junior Congregation Minyan, Oholei Torah provided a meaningful and joyful holiday experience for all children—at a time and place where they needed it most.



Pictures taken during a weekday service

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FALL ISSUE



CENTENARIAN CELEBRATION
WITH TODAY'S STUDENTS

An Event Marking a Milestone for the
Oldest Living Member of the Brooklyn Jewish Center