

**חגיגת מאה שנה של מנהיגות התורה
ומסורת החינוך בארה"ב**



**CELEBRATING
A CENTURY OF TORAH
LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA**

**יום א' פרשת בחוקתי, כ"א אייר תשע"ט
SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 26, 2019**

**NEW YORK MARRIOTT AT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE
333 ADAMS STREET | BROOKLYN, NY**

• GUESTS OF HONOR •



THE BELSKY FAMILY
CENTENNIAL HERITAGE AWARD



GUEST SPEAKER

HORAV REUVEN COHEN שליט"א

ראש הכולל, כולל זכרון יוסף בקרית ספר
חתנו של הראש ישיבה זצ"ל

HARRY SKYDELL • MATIS FRIEDMAN
CENTENNIAL CO-CHAIRMEN

• THE NEXT CENTURY •



VISIONARY ADDRESS
BY OUR ROSH HAYESHIVA

MOREINU
HORAV YITZCHOK
LICHTENSTEIN
שליט"א

• CLASSES OF DISTINCTION •

75
YEAR TRIBUTE
TALMIDIM OF 1944-46

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50
YEAR TRIBUTE
CLASS OF 1969

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25
YEAR TRIBUTE
CLASS OF 1994

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MR. YONATAN GOLDENBERG • MR. YOSEF NUSSBAUM

• A TORAH CELEBRATION •



לימוד התורה העולמי לזכות גדולי התורה
**THE GLOBAL CENTENNIAL
SIYUM HATORAH**

THE CULMINATION OF A WORLD-WIDE EFFORT OF LIMUD HATORAH
BY TALMIDEI HAYESHIVA FOR THE MERIT OF OUR LEGENDARY
ROSHEI YESHIVA AND REBBEIM – PAST AND PRESENT

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REMEMBERING
R' YITZCHOK FINK ז"ל

BELOVED GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL FOR 36 YEARS

ר' יצחק ב"ר ר' דוב הכהן ז"ל

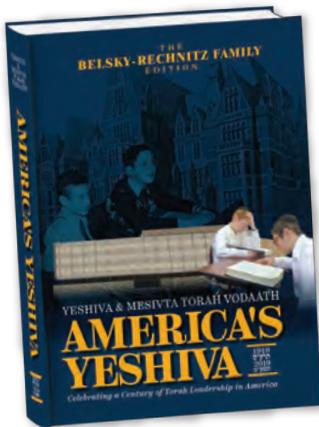
• A HISTORIC EVENING •

AMERICA'S YESHIVA
FEATURE MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION

CHRONICLES OF A CENTURY
SPECIAL EXHIBIT ON THE YESHIVA'S HISTORICAL IMPACT

SHLUCHA D'RACHMANA
100+ YTV TORAH AMBASSADORS WHO ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE FROM ROSHEI YESHIVA TO LAY LEADERS

• COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS •



REGISTERED GUESTS WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY
COFFEE TABLE BOOK RECORDING THE GROWTH OF TORAH
ON THESE SHORES

THE BELSKY-RECHNITZ FAMILY EDITION OF
"AMERICA'S YESHIVA"

בעזרת השם יחלק לכל המסובין והלוקחים חבל בהדינער

**שני כרכים של
"המתיבתא-מגדל המאה"
מהדורת משפחת לעשקאוויטץ**

בהם נכללים חידושי תורה מגדולי הדורות הקודמים ראשי ישיבתנו והרמ"ם זצ"ל
שלא באו לבית הדפוס מעולם, וגם מתלמידי ישיבתנו שהם גדולי ומרביצי תורה
ותלמידי חכמים בכל רחבי עולם התורה.





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לחברי וידידי ראשי הישיבה, רמי"ם,
והנהלת הישיבה ומתיבתא תורה ודעת שיחיו,

שמחתי מאד לקבל את הזמנת הישיבה להמסיבה לכבוד שנת המאה
מהתיסדותה. וזכרונתי משנות ילדותי כשהייתי תלמיד הישיבה הן מלווין אותי כל
ימי. והרי אמרו חז"ל "ואלו שמעידים בגדלותם מה שראו בקטנותם" ואני הייתי
עד ראייה על חשיבות תלמידי הישיבה וגדולי הדור שנתגדלו בין כותלי הישיבה.

תמונת הרה"ג הרב שרגא פיינויל מענדעלאוויטש זצ"ל ה" לנגד עיני וצורת הרב
שלמה היימאן זצ"ל ה" לי למורה דרך.

באמת רצוני ה' להשתתף אישית בהמסיבה שהרי יש לי גענועים ורגשי כבוד
להמוסד אבל מה אעשה שמחמת חולשי אין בי כח ליסע לארה"ב לבוא אל
המסיבה.

ע"כ שלחתי דברי ברכה אלו שכל המשתתפים, והתומכים, ומרגן ורבנן
ותלמידיהון יזכו לכל מילי דמיטב ולראות נחת ושמחה מכל יוצאי חלציהם עד
שזכה לישועת ד' כהרף עין בבג"צ בב"א

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בס"ד, ז"ך למטמוני"ס תשע"ט

מה נשגב היום שמתאספים לכבוד תום מאה שנה להתייסדות הישיבה הגדולה תורה ודעת, שהוא אבי הישיבות פה בארצינו שהושתלו ממנו הרבה ישיבות אחרות - ובתוכם ישיבת בית מדרש גבוה דליקוואוד יצ"ו שנתייסדה ע"י תלמידים שתילי ישיבת תורה ודעת. והרבה גדולי ישראל הרביצו תורה בין כותלי בית המדרש של הישיבה, וגם אבא מארי זצוק"ל כיהן בו כראש ישיבה והרביץ בו תורה כמה שנים, וכן הרבה תלמידים יצאו לתורה ולהוראה מביני עמודי הישיבה הקדושה הלזו, וכמה גדולי תורה ומנהיגי ישראל נתגדלו בין כותליה.

ואנו תפילה שילכו מחיל אל חיל ויתרבו ספסלי בית המדרש ויתן ה' ויוסיף כח ועז ותעצומות לראשי הישיבה שליט"א ומנהליה ומועציה ני"ו לחמשיך לפעול גדולות ונצורות לה' ולתורתו ולהרביץ תורה ולגדל גדולי תורה עד כי יבא שילה בב"א.

החותם לכבוד הישיבה הקדושה ולכבוד התורה ולומדיה,



הרב רפאל משה געטינגער
ראש הישיבה
Rabbi Rephael Moshe Gettinger
ROSH HAYESHIVA

מכתב הרנה

ב'קו'ז מנפ'לי ו'הא'לי ה'מ'ס'ס ה'ו'ת'ק ה'נ'צ'יה ו'ה'ל'א'ה צ'ד
 מ'א'ז י'ש'י'ב'ת ת'ע'ר'ה ו'ד'צ'ת ד'צ'יר ה'י'ו'ל'ין נ'א'א'ר'יק - נ'צ'י'מ'ו'ת ב'י'מ'נ'ק נ'צ'ח
 ה'נ'ו'צ'ים מ'ו'ח'ז ק'ה'ל'ת ה'י'ב'ו'צ'יה ע'ל ד'ת'ר'ו'ב'ט ד'ה'א'ו ז'כ'ר'א ר'י'ב'ה
 א'י'ל ה'מ'ו'ר'ם מ'צ'ם ד'ת'ר'ו'ת ו'ח'כ'מ'א ו'י'ו'א'ר' ה'י' ס'ק'ו'פ'ת ל'ח'כ'מ'א ל'א'ר'י
 ה'פ'א'ן ה'ש'ז'ו'ל ו'ה'מ'ה'ר'ק מ'ה'ר'ר ו'ר'ו'ק א'ד'א ז'י'ט'א'נ'ש'ל'י'ן ש'ל'י'ט'א' ז'ה'י'ו'ת ר'א'ל י'ש'י'ב'ה .
 ה'ס'כ'ר'ו'ת ה'נ'צ'י'מ'ו'ת ה'פ'ט'ו'ת כ'ק ה'י'א' :
 מ'ו'ב'א ד'ת'כ'מ'י'ן צ'ל'ה'א'י'מ'א " ר'א'י'ג ה'נ' צ'ל'י'ה ו'ה'ן מ'ו'צ'י'ן " - ו'נ'פ'א'ה ש'י'ב'ל ז'א'מ'צ'ו'ן
 ד'כ'ה א'ז'ר ה'פ'ט'ם ש'ל'פ'ס ל'מ'ז ה'ר'ב'ה ת'ר'ב'ה ו'ד'ל'ה ה'ר'ב'ה ח'ס'ד ד'צ'י'ן ז'א' ה'פ'י'צ'
 ז'ל'ת'מ'ו'ת ו'ה'ל'ג'ת ת'פ'ק'י'דו ה'ה'א'ו צ'ו'מ'א ד'צ'ד ש'י'ק'נ'פ ה'ע'ל'א'ר " ה'ן צ'ל'י'ה " כ'ל'מ'ר' : א'י'ן ל'מ'צ'ו'ן
 ק'ו'י'ם ת'פ'ק'י'דו ש'ל א'ז'רם ע'ל'ו ד'כ'ר'י'ם ה'ר'ו'ח'ו'נ'י'ם - מ'ר'ה ו'מ'צ'ו'ת - ל'ק'ו'ה כ'י א'ם ד'מ'פ
 ש'ח'ק' ו'כ'נ'פ ד'מ'ט'ק ז'צ'מ'י'ו'ת ו'ז'פ'ו' - ה'פ'א'ם נ'צ'ל'ה ל'ז'כ'ר'ו'ת ה'מ'ק'ל' מ'מ'י'ד ז'ל'ז'ו'ת
 ה'ס'ו'ל'ם ה'י' י'ו'ם י'ו'ם ז'ה'ל'ט'צ'ל י'ו'ת ו'ו'ת'ג ה'מ'ר'ה ו'מ'צ'ו'ת ע'ד י'ו'ם מ'ו'ת - ו'ד'כ'ר צ'ג
 נ'צ'י'ה ה'י'א א'פ'ו'ל'ו ה'מ'ט'ק ל'ו'מ'צ'י' מ'ר'ה ו'מ'ק"מ'י' מ'צ'ו'ת - ר'א'י'ג ה'נ' צ'ל'י'ה ו'ה'ן מ'ו'צ'י'ן .
 ה'ת'פ'ק'י'דו ה'פ'א'מ'ת' ש'ל ר'א'ל י'ש'י'ב'ה ה'ו'א ז'פ'ו'ר'ו'ת ה'ד'כ'י'ק ל'ה'ל'מ'י'ד'י'ם ש'ו'ל'ט ה'ה
 ל'י'ב'ו'י' ז'מ ה'מ ה'נ' צ'ל'י'ה " ת'מ'י'ד כ'ל י'מ'י ח'י'י'ה'ם מ'מ'ט'ק ה'ת'פ'מ'ת ל'ר'ב'ם , ו'א'א' כ'ל א'ז'רם כ'ו'כ'ה ל'כ'ן
 י'ש'י'ב'ה ת'ע'ר'ה ו'ד'צ'ו'ת כ'כ'ג'פ ד'צ'ה ד'מ'ל'ק מ'א'ה ל'י'ם א'ל'ג ה'נ'א'לי ו'ש'י'ב'ה ה'י'ו' ז'ג'ו'ל'י'ם
 ה'ת'ר'ה א'מ'י'ת'י'ם ל'ה'ו'רו ו'ה'ר'א'ו ל'ה'ל'מ'י'ד'י'ם ה'פ'א'י'ק ל'ה'י'ו'ת ה'נ' צ'ל'י'ה א'מ'י'ת'י'ם . א'ה'מ'ש'י'ק ד'כ'ר
 ד'ה ז'א'ז'ר מ'א'ה ל'ח'פ' ה'ו'צ'ו'י' ה'נ'י' ה'ו'א מ'ה'ד'כ'י'ם ה'ק'ל'י'ם ל'ה'מ'ק'ל' . ת'ל'ב'ה ל'ה'י' ל'צ'ל'י'ת'ם ל'ה'ח'ו'ר
 ה'א'ו ז'כ'ר'א י'ק'י'ב'א א'ל'ג א'י'ן מ'כ'י'בו א'י'ש'ו'ת מ'י'מ צ'י'ז'י'ו'ת ע'ד ה'י'ו'ם כ'א'ל ה'ז'ו'ל'ה ת'מ'י'ד ד'ש'ז'ו'ת
 ו'י'ז'מ'ת מ'י'ו'ם ל'י'ו'ם ל'ה'ק'ל'י'א'ו ו'ה'ל'ג'ת'ם ע'ל'ו ד'ה ל'ה'ק'ל'י'א'ו ל'ש'ם ד'ה'צ'ו'ת'ג ה'ה'ל'מ'י'ד'י'ם י'א'מ'צ'ו'ן ה'פ'א'י'ק ל'ה'י'ו'ת
 מ'ה'נ' צ'ל'י'ה ה'מ'ש'י'ת'י'ם מ'ת'פ'ק'י'ד'ם . ו'ז' ה'נ' ה'ס'כ'ר'ו'ת ה'נ'ו'צ'ים ה'מ'ו'ח'ז' ש'ל'י' .
 י'ה'י ר'צ'ו'ן ל'מ'י'ד'ו'ת מ'ע'ו'ן צ'ג מ'צ'ה ו'ת'ע'ר'ה ה'ש'כ'י'ת'ג ד'מ'ע'ל'ה י'ב'י'נ'ם ע'ד י'ב'א ל'י'ו'ת ה'ק'ל'א
 ה'ה'ק'ר'ה ו'ה'פ'צ'י'ת'ג ,
 ר'פ'א'ל מ'ל'ש'ה ז'ז'ט'י'ו'ת'ג
 א'י'ק'ו'א'ז'

טו א"י, תלז"ט


בית • מדרש • גבוה
BETH MEDRASH GOVOHA
L A K E W O O D

ברכות התורה ערוכות בכל וגם שלוחות לחוקקי ישראל המתנדבים בעם המופיעים במסיבה לכבודה של תורה, לכבוד **הישיבה הק' תורה ודעת** החוגגת מאה שנה לקיומה. האי באר חפרוה שרים מהרה"ג רבי שרגא פייוויל מגדלוביץ זצ"ל ומהרה"ר בנימין ווילהעלם זצ"ל, בעוז רוחם במסירות נפש עילאה הרחיבו גבולות התורה, וחוללו מהפכה בעולם היהודי במדינתנו, לעקור מקובלות שנשתרשו במדינתנו, לשרש את מסכת הפשרה שנתקבלה, להקים לייסד לטפח ולבסס מקום תורה – אור זרוע בתוך הערפל אשר יכסה ארץ בתקופה גדולה וקשה, עוגן הצלה מזרועות השטף של גלי ים זועף הסוחפים בכח כל חלקה טובה.

יום שמחה ובשורה בוקע ממקום תורה מפעל אדיר זה, מאה שנה ששינו את פניו של יהדות אמריקה, עץ החיים אשר נשתל במרומי העולם היהודי, יהי' לארוז גדול, גידולה גדולי וגאוני ישראל זצוק"ל טיפחיה גדולי הרמי"ם שליט"א, המשכיכו שלשלת התורה בהרתה ובקדושתה – תלמידי, בצלו של היכל זה ישכנו צבורים ויחידים ופארוחיו משתלחים על פני מרחבי העולם היהודי.

יתברכו מעינותיכם המשתלחים גם על פני חוצות, להשקות ולהפרות תלמי שדות אשר סביבותיכם, להפריחם מריח מים של תורה ויראת שמים, ועיניהם ברכות כחשבון על שער בת רבים, וכמאחז"ל בקה"ר י"א אם ימלאו העבים גשם על הארץ וירקו – אם ימלאו ת"ח תורה על ישראל ירוקו.

לכו בכחכם זה לרבות ולקבץ פעלים לתורה ולתעודה, ותקוים בהם תפלת יעבץ (תמורה ט"ז א') שיתברכו בתורה, ויודמנו להם רעים כמותם, וירבה גבולם בתלמידים, ויזכו לשנות ללמוד וללמד, לעלות ולהעלות רבים אתם. ונזכה לראותם בעלותם להיות מגדולי וחכמי התורה אשר להם יעגן ולהם ישבר כלל ישראל, לקיום ההבטחה הנצחית כי לא תשכח וגו'.

נצפה וניהל לקיום הנבואה שפי' חז"ל במגילה כ"ט תניא ר"א הקפר אומר עתידים בתי כנסיות ובתי מדרשות שבבבל שיקבעו בארץ ישראל שנ' כי כתבור בהרים וככרמל בים יבא, והלא דברים ק"ו, מה תבור וכרמל שלא באו אלא לפי שעה נקבעו בא"י, בתי כנסיות ובתי מדרשות שקוראין ומרביצין בהם תורה על אחת כמה וכמה, - בב"א.

יכונו ה' מעשי ידיכם ופעלכם ירצה להגדיל תורה ולהאדירה

וע"ו בעה"ח לכבוד התורה לומדי' מלמדי' ומחזיקי'

ח' אייר תשע"ט לפ"ק

ארי מלכיא קוטלר
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The First Century – and On to the Next!

by Rabbi Nosson Scherman

A hundred years ago, America was recovering from the “Great War.” The “Roaring Twenties” was about to begin, a decade of confidence and prosperity



The country was turning its back on the world, refusing to join the League of Nations, and it would soon limit immigration with a law that would close the door to Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe.

Most American Jews still called themselves Orthodox, but few were *Shomrei Shabbos* and their children were in public school. A generation of bright, motivated young Jews were making City

College of New York an elite institution, but their Jewishness was becoming limited to *Kaddish* and *Yizkor*.

Thanks to the Williamsburg Bridge, Williamsburg was a growing “suburb” of Manhattan. Jews were coming there to escape the crowded tenements of the Lower East Side and building magnificent *shuls* – but there was no yeshiva – not one! -- in Jewish Williamsburg and no one thought of building one – except for one man.



Binyamin Wilhelm had moved to Williamsburg with his young family, but unless there would be a yeshiva for his children, he would have to go back to the East Side. What should he do? Give up? Never! He would build a yeshiva. People

thought he was crazy, but he was more sane than they.



So he and a handful of fellow visionaries founded Torah Vodaath with 80 *talmidim*. A few years later, he met and was enamored with “Mister” Shraga Feivel

Mendlowitz, (The Ponevezher Rav said it well: “He was not a Mister, he was a “*Nistar*”). Reb Binyamin wanted to hire him as a *rebbe* and eventually the *menahel*, but the *baale battim* refused. “He’s too *chassidish*. Too old-fashioned. Not for America!” Reb Binyamin listened and responded, “It’s too late. I hired him already.”



Of such vision, commitment, courage and audacity was Torah Vodaath born.

A hundred years of hindsight shows that Torah Vodaath became the foundation of today’s thriving, flourishing Torah communities in Lakewood, Monsey, Baltimore, Cleveland, and beyond. It became America’s Yeshiva, acknowledged by the *gedolei Yisrael* who built upon its foundations to create the Torah world

that we and our children now take for granted.

As America’s Yeshiva strides into its second century, let us pay tribute to the past and build for the future.

Torah Vodaath today is like a vigorous parent taking pride in his offspring but still getting up in the morning and looking forward to a new day of challenge and accomplishment.

We thank for your support and we assure you that we are constantly striving to be worthy of your confidence in our future!



Class of 1933



The Belsky Family Centennial Heritage Award

It is most appropriate that our Centennial Heritage Award be bestowed upon the Belsky family, a family whose history is deeply intertwined with the hundred year history of our beloved Yeshiva.

The patriarchs of this family were Mr. Yisroel Belsky, grandfather of our unforgettable Rosh Hayeshiva זצ"ל; and Reb Binyomin Wilhelm, founder of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. As detailed in "America's Yeshiva," the magnificent chronicle of our Yeshiva's history which is being released at tonight's Dinner, Reb Binyomin conceived of opening a yeshiva in Williamsburg, raised the initial funds for the project and spent a Yom Kippur going from shul to shul to solicit parents who would sign up their children for Torah Vodaath, which had yet to open its doors. Reb Binyomin's creativity, persistence and mesiras nefesh along with a tremendous amount of siyata d'Shamaya is what turned his dream into a reality.

And it was Reb Binyomin who discovered Rav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz זצ"ל, the man who would found Mesivta Torah Vodaath and go down in history as perhaps the greatest pioneer of Torah life in America. As Reb Binyomin's grandson, Rav Yisroel Belsky related: "I was privy to a letter written by the great rav, Rabbi Eliezer Silver, in which he wrote, 'The center of Torah in America is Torah Vodaath.'" That truth was thanks to Reb Shraga Feivel. My grandfather, who was his closest friend, recognized his unique abilities and entrusted to him the decision-making and direction of the Yeshiva and Mesivta."

One of the people whom Reb Binyomin approached as he sought to garner support for his Yeshiva was Mr. Yisroel Belsky. Ultimately, Mr. Belsky's son Reb Berel married Reb Binyomin's daughter Chanah. They merited to raise nine outstanding children, their oldest son

eventually becoming Rosh Hayeshiva.

Rav Belsky once related: "Before Torah Vodaath opened its doors, my grandfather Reb Binyomin Wilhelm visited a wealthy man who lived on Keap Street, down the block from the new Yeshiva's building. When he told the man about the Yeshiva, the man withdrew his checkbook and was about to write a check — but my grandfather stopped him. "I don't want your money," he told the man. "I hear that you have a 5-year-old son. I want you to register him in our Yeshiva." The man agreed and then wrote a check for \$2,000.



Reb Berel Belsky z"l

"That man was my father's father, Mr. Yisroel Belsky, ל"ו, and the 5-year-old boy was my father, ל"ו. My father was one of Torah Vodaath's original talmidim and the generous check that my grandfather wrote at that time was acknowledged in the form of a plaque which hung in the Yeshiva for many years."

Mr. Yisroel Belsky left a legacy of tzedakah and chesed, concepts for which the entire extended Belsky family is renowned. In his grandson's words:

"The best way to help a poor person is to help him to earn a living. I heard from my father about his father, how he set up countless people in business. He lent them money and then, even more important, showed them how to buy merchandise, how to sell, how to speak to a customer. He took a pauper and turned him into an entrepreneur. Eventually, the man had his own store, his own bank account, and his life was a life.

"I asked my father, 'How many people did Zeidy help in this way?' My father replied, 'Many ... many.' "

Reb Berel and Mrs. Chana Belsky ה"ע, were most beloved members of the Williamsburg and later Kensington Jewish communities. They raised a beautiful mishpacha whom they imbued with a tremendous sense of achrayus for Klal Yisroel. Their home become an open house where every downtrodden soul was welcome. In the 1970s, when the Iron Curtain began to lift somewhat and Jews were permitted to emigrate, this humble family which



always preferred to be out of the limelight, took a leading role in welcoming new immigrants to Kensington, providing them with apartments, furniture and other basic needs and introducing them to the beauty of Torah and mitzvos.

And throughout the years, the Belsky family remained inextricably bound with Torah Vodaath. Reb Berel's three sons all attended Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath and developed into outstanding talmidei chachomim. His oldest son, Rav Yisroel, became a maggid shiur when only twenty-five years old and continued to deliver shiurim for the next 52 years until his passing in 5776. His impact on scores of talmidim as a rebbi and upon the entire Mesivta as Rosh Hayeshiva is a major aspect of Torah Vodaath's glorious history.

At Rav Belsky's levayah, the Menahel of the Beis Medrash, Horav Elya Katz, shlita, said: "The Rosh Yeshiva was the mind of the Yeshiva, the heart of the Yeshiva, the heart of Klal Yisroel. Wherever there was an individual or a community in need of chizuk, the Rosh Yeshiva was there for them.

"On the day of his passing, I was in the hospital and noticed that in addition to his large, devoted family, there were others who would not leave his side. These were people who were not blood relatives, but who had grown up in the Rosh Yeshiva's home. His home was open to every broken soul, every broken heart.



Rav Belsky and his devoted Rebbetzin, tichyeh, raised a beautiful family of bnei Torah and bnos Yisroel all of whom are a credit to their upbringing. We are privileged that Rabbi Reuven Cohen, a son in law of Horav Belsky has made a special trip from Eretz Yisroel to honor us as tonight's Guest Speaker. Rabbi Cohen is a distinguished Rosh Kollel in Kiryat Sefer who is the driving force behind the publication of Einei Yisroel, the multi-volume collection of shmuessen on the parsha of Horav Belsky זצ"ל.

Many of the Belsky children are successful marbitzei Torah in communities worldwide. Their son-in-law Rav Nachum Yaacov Gross is the Rosh Kollel of the Miami Beach Community Kollel. Rav Aryeh Belsky is a magid shiur in Yeshiva Tiferes Yisroel in Flatbush. Rav Elimelech Belsky is the Rosh Kollel Zichron Yosef in Kiryat Sefer and

succeeded the Rosh Hayeshiva as Manhig in Camp Agudah. Rav Dovid Goldstein, a son-in-law, is a Rosh Mesivta in our Mesivta Torah Vodaath. When it comes to be Machzikei Torah the Belsky son-in-law and daughter Reb Shlomo Yehudah and Mrs. Tamar Rechnitz are in a category of their own. If Torah Vodaath is “America’s Yeshiva” then the Rechnitz family can aptly be called “The Family of America’s Yeshivos.” All across America and beyond, bnei Torah are able to immerse themselves in limud haTorah because of the generosity of Reb Shlomo Yehudah and Mrs. Tamar Rechnitz.

The Rechnitzes have been particularly close to our Yeshiva, as they recognize and cherish their family’s deep connection with Torah Vodaath. When Rav Belsky founded our Yeshiva’s Choshen Mishpat Kollel, the Rechnitzes stepped forward to provide funding.

The beautiful, full-color coffee table book, America’s Yeshiva, was a project that took well over a year to complete and understandably, involved considerable cost. We are deeply grateful to Reb Shlomo Yehudah and Mrs. Tamar Rechnitz for dedicating the “Belsky-Rechnitz Family Edition.” We look forward to many more years of Torah partnership with the Rechnitz family and we wish them much nachas from their mishpacha.



The Belsky Family Centennial Heritage Award



רבי ר' רעוונ קאהן

Guest Speaker

Tonight's Centennial Dinner gathering has the honor to hear from Rav Reuven Cohen, רבי ר' רעוונ קאהן, the esteemed son in law of our illustrious Rosh Hayeshiva, Hagaon Horav Chaim Yisroel Halevy Belsky, זצ"ל.

Rav Cohen, a distinguished talmid chocham in his own right, is a talmid of Hagaon Harav Yaakov Moshe Kulefsky, זצ"ל, Rosh Yeshiva of Ner Yisroel in Baltimore. Rav Kulefsky himself learned in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Bais Medrash Elyon, where he was a close talmid of Hagaon Horav Shlomo Heiman, זצ"ל and Horav Reuven Grozovsky, זצ"ל.

During the time he learned in Yeshivas Ner Yisroel, Rav Cohen merited to have nightly chavrusashaft with the Rosh Yeshiva, Hagaon Horav Yaakov Ruderman, זצ"ל, while he developed into an exceptional lamdan.

While still a bachur, Reuven was invited by Rabbi Shmuel Bloom, executive Vice President of Agudath Yisroel of America, to serve as a learning Rebbe in Camp Agudah, upon the recommendation of none other than Horav Ruderman himself.

Reuven married Blimey Belsky, who incidentally is named after Bobbe Blima Wilhelm, ע"ה, the wife of Reb Binyomin Wilhelm, ז"ל, the founder of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. Like their great grandparents, Reuven and Blimey built their home on a foundation of Torah and chessed, and they are always available to offer assistance to anyone in the community, in the Belsky-Wilhelm tradition.

After their marriage, the young couple settled in Baltimore, where Rav Reuven joined the kollel of Yeshiva Ner Yisroel. After a few years, the Cohens moved to Eretz Yisroel, where Reuven joined Yeshivas Iyun Hatalmud, under the leadership of the Rosh Yeshiva Hagaon Horav Abba Berman, זצ"ל. Horav Berman was renowned for his brilliance, and Rav Reuven was acknowledged as being one who could learn on the level needed to be counted as a talmid of Rav Abba.

The Cohens were amongst the asarah rishonim, the first ten couples who moved to the fledgling town of Kiryat Sefer, where he helped establish the new city on a foundation of pure Torah and yiras Shomayim.

One day, Rav Reuven received a call from his shver, Horav Belsky, who suggested that it was time for him to begin saying shiurim. Within a few days of Rav Belsky's suggestion, Rav Cohen was offered the position of Rosh Chaburah in Kollel Bais Abba, where he enjoyed much success in his harbatzas Torah.

After several years, Rav Cohen decided to open his own kollel, which he named Zichron Yosef after his father. In his position as Rosh Kollel, Rav Reuven has helped spread his enlightening chiddushim to the yungerleit as he helps them develop into first rate talmidei chachomim.

Throughout all the years, Rav Reuven enjoyed an extremely close relationship with his father-in-law, who treated him as if he was his own son. Indeed, they enjoyed a special kinship since Rav Reuven was entrusted by Rav Belsky with publishing his seforim, Einei Yisroel on the parshios, and Shulchan Halevi on halachah. Rav Reuven has also written more than a dozen of his own seforim, Imrei Reuven on Shas and Livyas Chein on Chumash.

As Yeshiva Torah Vodaath presents the Belsky Family with the Centennial Heritage Award, we are privileged to have Rav Reuven Cohen address us as he accepts the award on behalf of the family. We wish him gezunt to be able to continue his great Avodas Hakodes with much nachas, together with his Rebbitzen, from his beautiful mishpacha ימים ושנים טובים ולאורך!

ברוך הבא בשם ה'

Welcoming the Rosh HaYeshiva

Moreinu Horav Yitzchok Aba Lichtenstein שליט"א



Celebrating and Creating History at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath

The walls of our Yeshiva are saturated with rich history, and the legacy of Torah permeates every *sefer*, every *shtender*, and every floor tile in the Beis Medrash. Yeshiva Torah Vodaath opened its doors in 1919, after Rabbi Binyomin Wilhelm trekked through the streets of Williamsburg, convincing parents to send their children to a new Yeshiva where they would continue the age-old *chiyuv* of Talmud Torah on these foreign shores. Since then, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath has created a legacy of Torah, educating thousands of American *talmidim*, some growing to be *Gedolei Olam*, and many serving later on the *Hanhala* in the very same Yeshiva that taught them the Torah-true way of life. Many of today's *Gedolei Hador* have spent their best years learning Torah in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, steeped in Torah and *chinuch*. The richness of Torah learned over the last century remains until today, as Yeshiva Torah Vodaath boasts a world-class *Yeshiva Ketana*, *Mesivta*, *Beis Medrash*, and *Kollel*, educating close to one thousand *talmidim* at this very moment.

The first century of Torah is not only the history of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; it is also the foundation of a bright future. With a talented *Hanhala* and top-tier Rebbeim who are constantly introducing fresh ideas and new programs, the enrollment in our *Yeshiva Ketana* has grown significantly, and the *Mesivta* is bursting with energy. *Talmidim*

in all departments of the Yeshiva are learning and *shteiging* in all areas. Every division of the Yeshiva is experiencing a tremendous increase in enthusiasm along with the higher *ramah* in learning, in this new and exciting *tekufah*.

The time was ripe for a fresh leader to inspire this new generation of talmidim.

Following the *petirah* of the late Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Avrohom Pam and Rav Yisroel Belsky, ז"ל, a search was initiated for an *Adom Gadol* and leader to join the current Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Yosef Savitsky שליט"א, and Rav Yisroel Reisman שליט"א. With much *Siyatta D'shmaya*, and after much effort from the *hanhala* and the Executive Committee, we are both excited and proud to have chosen one of our generation's greatest *mechanchim* and *talmidei chachomim*, a scion of the Brisker and Torah Vodaath dynasties, **Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein** שליט"א, as *Rosh Hayeshiva* of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath.

A *talmid* of Rav Dovid Soloveitchik שליט"א, and a tremendous *talmid chachom* proficient in many *miktza'os haTorah*, Rav Lichtenstein is a perfect blend of a *talmid chachom* who embodies true *mesoras haTorah*, while possessing the uncanny ability to understand the challenges of and connect with today's *bochurim*.

Since his arrival, Rav Lichtenstein has taken the Yeshiva by storm, and his almost daily presence has richly enhanced the level of learning across all four divisions of the Yeshiva - the elementary school, the Mesivta, Beis Medrash, and Kollel. *Bochurim* and *yungeleit* alike wait to talk to him in learning, and are inspired by his *bekius* and *charifus*, not only in the *sugya* which the Yeshiva is learning but in all *sugyos* in Shas.

Rav Lichtenstein hails from *Gedolim*, and emulates them in every way. A great-great-grandson of Rav Chaim Brisker, Rav Lichtenstein has not only immersed himself in understanding his *Zaide's* Torah, but has toiled for many years on various *kesavim* of Rav Chaim, and is renowned throughout the world as an expert on Rav Chaim's Torah. He has published many *seforim*, mostly containing the *shiurim* of Rav Chaim, as well as the *shiurim* of Rav Moshe Soloveitchik and his grandfather, Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik.

Rav Lichtenstein previously served as *Rosh Yeshiva* of Yeshiva Nesivos HaTorah in Staten Island, building and connecting with *talmidim* in his exceptional manner. He possesses a unique blend of *gadlus b'Torah* and approachability, availing himself to connect with his *talmidim* on their level while remaining in a league of his own in *Gadlus b'Torah*.

He currently serves as Rav of Kehillas Bais Avrohom in Monsey, and served as well as a *marbitz Torah* in Yeshiva Orchas Chaim in Monsey, Igra D'pirka, the Bialystoker shul, and various other venues.



Rav Lichtenstein is working together with the two other Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Yosef Savitsky and Rav Yosroel Reisman, to ensure that this surge in the *ramah* of learning is carried throughout the entire *mosad*. With great effort, Rav Lichtenstein travelled several times to Eretz Yisroel to assemble a *chaburah* of *talmidim* to join Yeshiva Torah Vodaath upon their return from Eretz Yisroel. This dream has been realized with tremendous success, and this *chaburah* of older *bochurim* and new *yungeleit* “*horoving* in learning” gives much *chizuk* to the existing Mesivta and Beis Medrash. The Yeshiva is also proud to add on two new *rebbeim* to oversee this *chaburah*, a *maggid shiur*, Rav



Shlomo Cynamon, Rav of Khal Bnei Torah in Flatbush, and Rav Dov Ortner, who is relocating from Eretz Yisroel to serve as *shoel u'meishiv* and *Maggid Shiur*. *B'ezras Hashem*, this *chaburah* is only the beginning of the new future in our Beis Medrash Division.

As far as his vision for Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, Rav Lichtenstein looks forward to implementing programs and *limudim* based on the *tzerachim* of his *talmidim*. The needs of *bochurim* today have changed over the past few years, and the Rosh Yeshiva realizes that *bochurim* need much more than a good *shiur*. They need extra *chizukim*. They need a strong *keshet* with their *rebbeim*. They need more *hadracha* in *hashkafah* as well, in order to grow into solid *bonei* Torah. Rav Lichtenstein is eager to help fill that role.

To understand who Rav Lichtenstein is, one only needs to remember a few months ago, when he addressed the Yeshiva for the first time.

On his first day as Rosh Yeshiva, hundreds of *talmidim*, alumni, parents, and friends joined the *Hanhalah* and *Rebbeim* in the Beis Medrash to hear the inaugural *Shiur Klali* from the new Rosh Yeshiva. Before beginning his *Shiur Klali* on *Mesechta Kiddushin*, Rav Lichtenstein

wondered aloud why he was *zocheh* to this role. He answered his own question by pointing to the *zechus* of his fathers and grandfathers, illustrious *Gedolim* and leaders of the *dor*. He mentioned his father-in-law Rav Chaim Grozovsky, son of Rav Reuven Grozovsky, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Beis Medrash Elyon, and the impact that he made on his life. Rav Chaim Grozovsky lived and breathed Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, and the Rosh Yeshiva attributed his current role to their *zechus*. He modestly acknowledged the honor he has to sit alongside the present *choshuve Roshei Yeshiva*, Rav Yosef Savitsky and Rav Yisroel Reisman, and the *Rosh Kollel*, Rav Label Wulliger and the *Menahel Beis Medrash*, Rav Elya Katz, and noted how appreciative he is for the opportunity to be a part of the renaissance of Torah that will take place in this very *Beis Medrash*. He then proceeded to deliver an elaborate *Shiur Klali*, explaining many complex nuances in the *sugyah* that the Yeshiva was learning.

Many stayed behind with Rav Lichtenstein for a while, as he greeted every attendee personally. Former *talmidim* used this opportunity to reconnect, allowing themselves to once again soak in *hashpa'ah* from their beloved Yeshiva, while enjoying the new atmosphere.

Indeed, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath has a rich history; one hundred years of *harbotzas Torah*, many *Gedolei Yisroel* as leaders, and thousands of loyal *talmidim* who are living lives of *kiddush shem Shomayim*. This pivotal moment is the beginning of a new era. The Yeshiva is about to embark on a glorious new era of *malchus haTorah* with a new *Rosh Yeshiva*. Indeed, today, America's Yeshiva is not only celebrating their history, but they are creating history.



Simchas Torah –
Rejoicing with the Centennial Edition of
Hamesivta-Migdal Hameiah
Dedicated by The Leshkowitz Family

“Come, let us build!”

The year was 1943, and the world was in upheaval. WWII was raging in Europe and Asia, and Orthodox Jewry in America was focused on saving as many lives as possible. Most of the great yeshivos of Europe with their iconic Roshei Yeshiva ceased to exist. Yet in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, the rebuilding was underway.

“Come, let us build!”

These words led the clarion call of Hagaon Horav Simcha Sheps זצ"ל in the forward to the first edition of Hamesivta, a journal of chidushei Torah produced by the talmidim and staff of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. The goal, wrote Rav Sheps, was to reshape the face of the generation and to uplift it as the shining light of the Torah pierced the darkness of the world.

“With thanks to Hashem, the talmidim of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath have merited to be rooted with the concepts of Torah and Judaism in this country, to enjoy its luminance and dwell in the shade of this center of Torah...Our desire is to place a cornerstone for the podium from which the sounds of Torah will be heard...”

With the publication of the first edition of Hamesivta, the Yeshiva displayed for the populace that its goal was to produce gedolei Torah who would continue the glorious chain of yeshivos stretching back to Bavel and beyond. The contributions included pieces from the Roshei Yeshiva of the bygone era as well as the Roshei Yeshiva of Torah Vodaath, and most important the fledgling talmidim who represented the lofty goals expressed.

Over the next seventy-five years, periodic journals were produced which showcased the diligence of the talmidim, and served as an inspiration for many to strive for greatness in Torah. For three decades, Horav Yitzchok Yaakov Sekula שליט"א, the Menahel Ruchni of the Bais Medrash, supervised the annual publication of Hamesivta, as he encouraged the talmidim to be mechadesh chidushei Torah and commit them to writing. Many of the



contributors went on to spread Torah throughout the length and breadth of the land, becoming marbitzei Torah and authors of their own seforim as well.

In conjunction with tonight's Centennial Dinner, Hamesivta – Migdal Hameiah, a sefer of chidushei Torah of the roshei yeshiva and talmidei hayeshiva, past and present, is being presented. As the idea of the sefer began to take shape, the Leshkowitz Family, who have taken a leading role in the Yeshiva for decades, stepped forward and magnanimously undertook to sponsor and dedicate this project. Mr. Chaim Leshkowitz has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for over thirty years; his brother and partner, Mr. Yossie Leshkowitz is also an ardent supporter of the Yeshiva. Chaim and Yossi, who are always ready to extend themselves on behalf of the Yeshiva, seized this opportunity as a means of expressing their hakoras hatov to the Yeshiva, where their children and grandchildren are talmidim. Reb Chaim's son, Naftali is a current Member of the Board, and Reb Yossie's son, Rav Naftuli שליט"א, is a magid shiur in the Bais Medrash.

The Leshkowitz family is constantly on the lookout for substantive ways in which to enhance the leaning and productivity of the Yeshiva. By dedicating Hamesivta-Migdal Hameiah, they are contributing to the furtherance of the growth of the talmidim by producing lomdisheh chidushei Torah of their own. Yeshiva Torah Vodaath is honored and grateful for this latest contribution by the devoted Leshkowitz family.

The editorial staff, led by Rav Naftuli Leshkowitz and overseen by Rabbi Shlomo Gottesman, editor of Yeshurun, gathered pieces from the renowned magidei shiurim which have graced the Yeshiva, including Hagaonim: Horav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz, Horav Moshe Rosen, Horav Yaakov Kantrowitz, Horav Shlomo Heiman, Horav Reuven Grozovsky, Horav Gedalia Schorr, Horav Yaakov Kamenetsky, זצ"ל. Horav Yisroel Chaim Kaplan, Horav Elya Chazan, Horav Reuven Fain, Horav Simchah Sheps, Horav Avrohom Pam, Horav Yaakov Moshe Shurkin, Horav Moshe Dov Ber Rivkin, Horav Avrohom Braude, Horav Nosson Elya Gertzulin, Horav Zelig Epstein, Horav Elazar Kahanow, זכר צדיקים לברכה. Pieces from renowned alumni of the Yeshiva, including Hagaonim: Horav Simcha Shustal, Hagaon Horav Don Ungarischer, Horav Shraga Moshe Kalmanowitz, Hagaon Horav Elya Svei, Hagaon Horav Yaakov Moshe Kulefsky, זכר צדיקים לברכה, and שליט"א Hagaonim: Horav Yitzchok Scheiner, שליט"א, Rosh Yeshivas Kaminetz-Yerushalayim, and Horav Yaakov Schiff, שליט"א, Brisk-Yerushalayim, and others are included. Rare manuscripts, including a handwritten shiur from Hagaon Horav Eliyahu Moshe Shisgal, זצ"ל, and the gilyonos (marginal notes) of Hagaon Horav Chaim Yisroel Belsky, זצ"ל, on Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Dei'ah were procured as well. Many prestigious alumni, including prominent Roshei Yeshiva and Magidei Shiurim, have submitted their own chidushei Torah for this sefer.

As it begins its second century, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath calls out once again:

Come, let us build!



תודה ושבחה להשי"ת על שזכיתי בקודש לשרת
ובהנהלת הישיבה הקדושה לעמוד לימינו של רבינו
רב חיים ישראל בעלסקי זצ"ל כשכיהן פאר
הרביץ תורה לרבים והעמיד תלמידים רבים באהבה

ובחכמתו וטובו נתן ליבו לטרוח הרבה לטובת ישיבתנו
דרגה לדרגה להעלותה - לבססה ולכוננה עדי עד
על המשמר עמד נאמנה תמיד בכל שעה ורגע
תהא זכותו עומדת למשפחתו היקרה ולדורותיו שהקים לתפארת

עבד לעבדי ה'
יצחק גאטצין ע"ר

מזמור לתודה

The Yeshiva would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to a number of families who have heroically, and with mesiras nefesh, come forward to support and strengthen our Erev Yom Tov campaigns - before Succos and Pesach.

As a result of the caring chesed and generosity of these donors, every Rebbe and Kollel Mishpacha receives a very helpful monetary gift that helps to ensure menuchas hanefesh and simchas Yom Tov in a respectful manner.

This tradition, which began with the renowned

R' BERISH & R' MOSHE FUCHS & FAMILY,

was then embraced and carried forward
by other good friends of the Yeshiva such as

MR. & MRS. DOVID BISTRICER,

MR. & MRS. MATIS FRIEDMAN,

R' CHAIM & R' YOSSIE LESHKOWITZ & FAMILY

and **R' MOSHE ZAFIR & FAMILY.**

Over time, additional chashuva mishpachos have made it part of their
הכנה לי"ט to stand shoulder to shoulder and help the Yeshiva
with this important and meaningful project.

We would also like to thank all those families and individuals who contribute.

The names below have made significant contributions on an ongoing basis.

MR. & MRS. SHLOIME ABRAMCZYK	MR. & MRS. BENZION SCHACHTER
MRS. FRAIDY BLUMENFRUCHT	MR. & MRS. DOVID SHURIN
CYWIAK BROTHERS	MR. & MRS. YECHESKEL SUSSMAN
RABBI & MRS. SHLOMO FEIGENBAUM	MR. & MRS. SAMMY TRENCHER
MR. & MRS. MATIS FRIEDMAN	RABBI & MRS. GEDALIAH WEINBERGER
MR. & MRS. SHIMON GLICK	MR. & MRS. AVI WEINSTOCK
MR. HERTZY & MRS. EPHRAIM HASENFELD	MR. & MRS. DOVI WEISER
MR. & MRS. AVRUMI HIRSCH	MR. & MRS. MOSHE LEIB WEISER
MR. & MRS. NAFTALI LESHKOWITZ	MR. & MRS. ARYEH WEISS
MR. & MRS. NAFTALI MINZER	MR. & MRS. YITZCHOK ZWICK
MR. & MRS. PETER REBENWURZEL	

May each of these families be zoche to have tremendous Yiddishe nachas and
be blessed with health, happiness and success.

ברוב הכרת הטוב,

RABBI YITZCHOK GOTTDIENER

Executive Director



THE GLOBAL CENTENNIAL
Siyum HaTorah
לימוד התורה העולמי לזכות גדולי התורה

Celebrating 100 Years of Torah
with a Global Siyum HaTorah

Talmidim of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath worldwide successfully joined together in preparation of the Centennial Anniversary of the Yeshiva in a most appropriate way—with The Global Siyum haTorah, a completion of כל התורה כולה.

Tanach, Mishnayos and Shas were completed by the joint efforts of hundreds of current talmidim and alumni as they prepared to usher in the second century of Torah leadership and chinuch in America. Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, started in 1919 by a small cadre of parents seeking a Torah true education for their sons, soon proved to be the cradle of chinuch for generations to come. As the Yeshiva headed towards the Centennial, completing its first 100 years, this undertaking allows the alumni and talmidim to reconnect with the Yeshiva and unite in completing this monumental undertaking.

The program began on Sunday, 21 Shevat/January 27, as talmidim and alumni filled the Bais Medrash of Torah Vodaath to

commemorate the third yahrtzeit of the Rosh Yeshiva Moreinu Horav Chaim Yisroel Belsky זצ"ל. The Rosh Hayeshiva, Moreinu Horav Yosef Savitsky shlita, opened the asifa by speaking about the importance of ameilus b'Torah and how Moreinu Horav Yisroel Belsky זצ"ל was never satisfied until he delved into an inyan and understood it fully! This was followed by a shiur iyun delivered by Moreinu Horav Belsky's son in law, Rav Dovid Goldstein שליט"א, a Magid Shiur in the Mesivta.

The Rosh Hayeshiva, Moreinu Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein shlita began with an introduction that today's event is not about learning with a goal to be mesayem, but rather about learning a tremendous amount of Torah in preparation for a seudas mitzvah of a siyum commemorating 100 years of Torah Vodaath. The Rosh Hayeshiva mentioned that the zeide, Moreinu Horav Reuven Grozovsky זצ"ל, Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Vodaath, wrote in a letter to Horav Moshe Schwab זצ"ל (when he left Kaminetz to go to London) that he should gather a chaburah to review the shiurim of Rav Baruch Ber זצ"ל, since by doing so they will remember the Yeshiva. So, too, through the limud haTorah of this siyum, we would hope the talmidim will remember their days of shteiging in Yeshiva and will continue on an upward path.

In dividing the Torah for the participants, over 700 slots were fashioned, which allowed wide participation for the many who wish to partake in this project. The Siyum Chairmen, Rabbi Yosef Eisen, Rabbi Yehuda Horowitz, Rabbi Dovid Morgenstern and Rabbi Nosson Motechin worked closely with Rabbi Yitzchok Diamond and Rabbi Shmuel Kutten to make sure that every Torah portion was covered and learned at least once and many instances even twice. The Siyum haTorah has certainly increased the level of simcha as alumni and good friends assemble to give kavod to the Mother of Yeshivos of America.



THE YESHIVA TORAH VODAATH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DINNER

IS DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL



R' YITZCHOK (ISAAC) FINK ז"ל

לע"נ ר' יצחק ב"ר ר' דוב הכהן ז"ל
נלב"ע ג' שבט תשע"ט תנצב"ה

FOR 36 YEARS, "MR. FINK" EDUCATED A GENERATION OF TORAH VODAATH TALMIDIM.
HE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS SELFLESS DEVOTION TO STUDENTS, INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM,
HIGH STANDARDS, AND MOST OF ALL FOR KEEPING TO THE VALUES AND MESORAH OF TORAH VODAATH.

YESHIVA TORAH VODAATH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DINNER
MAY 26, 2019 • THE BROOKLYN MARRIOTT • כ"א אייר תשע"ט

In tribute to Mr. Yitzchok (Isaac) HaKohen Fink ז"ל

A Man of Rare Character A Noble Leader and a Trusted Mentor

Thirty-six years ago, Mr. Fink joined Yeshiva Torah Vodaath as General Studies Principal. His high standards and intense devotion to the success of both teachers and students raised the



level of the secular studies department to bring it on par with the Yeshiva's preeminent limudei kodosh division. For more than three and a half decades, whenever Mr. Fink proposed a new program for the Yeshiva, the board knew that it was chosen for the benefit of the students, and they always found the funds to accommodate it. His wisdom and professionalism were absolutely relied upon, and his opinion was respected to the utmost.

Mr. Fink's dedication to the students of the Yeshiva and to his staff was legendary. An aura of positivity and good humor flowed from the core of Mr. Fink's personality and permeated those around him. His warmth, concern, and genuine caring were what shone through, even as he directed the school with the highest expectations. He radiated simchas hachaim and yet he commanded – not demanded – respect. From him was learned the power and impact of a kind word and a genuine smile. Words of appreciation, a humorous quip, or a compliment were the sunshine he bestowed on students and staff who blossomed in his steady, soothing, uplifting presence.



Mr. Fink worked hand in hand with the hanhala of the limudei kodosh department. If a problem arose with a student in the afternoon, he would strive for a clear picture of the student's all-around progress and behavior, often working hand in hand



with the child's rebbe and the hanhala. Motivational and educational tools would be discussed together and only those that were mutually favorable for

both departments would be implemented. He celebrated the afternoon successes of his students with the limudei kodesh menaholim, and was eager to hear how they were being matzliach in their limud haTorah. His interest was always the holistic success of each student and his devotion to them at times overwhelmed him emotionally, bringing him to tears.

One of Mr. Fink's proudest achievements was helping the children grow in literacy skills. His desire was that every yeshiva boy should be able to read and write on a respectable level and he invested himself, on a personal level, to help them achieve that success. Students were invited into his office to read for him and were rewarded with stickers and a beaming smile. He made his way in and out of classrooms regularly, encouraging and praising the students, who held him in high esteem. He took home every child's writing, regardless of academic level, and took the time to read through each one, stamping it with his praise. He motivated and encouraged each boy to put forth his best effort and celebrated their individual accomplishments. Mr. Fink introduced the resource room before it was in vogue, and other mosdos came to him for advice on how to improve their own programs, which he always provided graciously.

Mr. Fink engendered the feeling of the "YTV Family" and treated everyone as such. He participated in everyone's simchas and was often the first to send a gift. He knew all the teachers' children by name and would ask about them regularly, as if they were his own. With his petirah, many of these children felt like they had lost a grandfather. He would visit students who were sick, call to see how someone was doing, encourage teachers to care of themselves and to take the time off necessary to recuperate. The sentiment expressed from all corners of the staff room, "It was a privilege to work in YTV under Rabbi Fink."



Mr. Fink was the ultimate cheerleader. He believed in his teachers and staff, from the youngest assistants to the most seasoned educators. He had a vision of stellar teaching, and with his outstanding leadership he guided, coaxed, and prodded to bring out the latent potential in every staff member. He had an exceptional ability to hone in on the talents of an individual, and cultivate those talents until they shone brightly. "He would stand behind us and push ever so gently, then step back and let us spread our wings, and beam with pride as he admired the results," is how one grateful teacher expressed it. He minimized weaknesses and helped teachers rise to their best selves with lines like, "You don't know how good you are," or "We don't let you sink here," spoken with abundant love and concern. He encouraged collaboration to help teachers grow from one another but created no competition because everyone was the best.



He was available at all times for his staff and thoroughly devoted to their growth and success. Their problems were his problem; their successes were his success. He was a team player who undertook responsibilities he could easily have delegated to others. He modeled persistence and the courage to face any challenge. Nothing was too hard for his broad shoulders to carry. He would say, "We are the educators, and it is our job to make sure we do whatever is in the child's best interest, no matter what, even if it's something extra difficult for us." He would advise teachers to be "considerate and demanding, to discipline with love and understanding," and to find "teachable moments." In fact, that was exactly what he role-modeled in his relationship with them.

Teachers were always eager to have Mr. Fink observe their lessons because his ever-present *ayin tova* and meticulous attention to detail



would pick up on any praiseworthy activity or interaction he witnessed. An eagerly anticipated letter in their mailbox would follow, full of praise, pulling apart every aspect of the lesson including the aim, strategies, and skills, all from a positive perspective. The supportive feedback would validate all the hard work invested, and teachers would embrace the gentle critiquing which helped them grow as educators. He was colleague, friend, confidante, supporter, advisor, and champion to every member of his staff.

He was a giver, doer, innovator, master educator, and true oveid Hashem. He was also nurturer and provider, stocking the fridge with water bottles and favorite Snapple flavors (he always remembered who liked what) and even a daily pear for the teacher who mentioned that it was her favorite fruit. Fatherly concern motivated him to take out a personal loan to help teachers if ever the yeshiva was late with payroll. His outstanding middos, huge heart, and humility revealed his inner depth and emunah. His dedication to learning daf yomi and his minhag of starting each school day with the recital of tehillim spoke volumes about his reliance on the Ribono shel Olam for all of his successes as an educator and administrator. He was an outstanding human being and he will be sorely missed.

May his wife, Mrs. Frieda Fink, and her wonderful children and grandchildren, the Aberbach, Kleiner, Ochs, and Zucker families, take comfort in the knowledge of his tremendous impact on klal Yisroel and may they bring him eternal nachas. The yeshiva is proud to be mechanech the Fink grandchildren, past and present talmidim of the yeshiva.

Although we know that we cannot fill his shoes, we will strive to always walk in his footsteps. יהא זכרו ברוך.



In Tribute to Mr. Fink ז"ל

The students of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath can be compared to seeds,
Which were so lovingly placed in the classrooms of YTV.

Each day the boys were tended to with care and concern,
They were guided, taught and shown how to learn.

They were given the environment they needed to thrive,
All the subject matter they learned always came alive.

Watered with kind words, encouragement and a smile,
The boys were gently pushed to go that extra mile.

Because of all the love they were given, the boys grew in so many ways,
They saw firsthand how perseverance always pays.

Mr. Fink פ"ע, our beloved Principal, this beautiful garden he has sown,
All the years of his devotion and dedication have definitely shown.

Much of who the boys are today is because of Mr. Fink,
He showed them how to continue the chain of our Mesorah – to become another link.

How fortunate the boys were to come to Yeshiva each day,
And have Mr. Fink as their Principal and role model to show them the way.

Mr. Fink impacted so many lives over the years,
He believed in each student and alleviated any fears.

What Mr. Fink did for all his students is beyond measure,
The boys will hold onto the memories, which they will always treasure.

Mr. Fink פ"ע, will always have a special place in our heart,
And we are so grateful that in our lives he played such a tremendous part.

Yonatan and Esther Goldenberg



September 2016 - Mr. Fink פ"ע, accompanies the 3rd grade to the Goldenberg home, to see the giant sunflower that grew as a result of a project the boys did in science lab.

In memory of
Mr. Yitzchok Fink ע"ה

When I first became a teacher, Mr. Fink was my principal. He quickly became my mentor, and soon thereafter, we were colleagues. Most importantly, throughout our relationship, Yitzchok was a dear friend.

He touched the lives of thousands: students, parents, teachers and Board of Education personnel. Yitzchok had a very distinguished career, and wherever he went, he always made a קידוש ה'.

Mr. Fink was a consummate professional who loved his students, cherished his teaching staff, and treasured his noble calling.

Yitzchok was a real family man who adored his loving wife, daughters, sons in law, and all of his grandchildren.

He is sorely missed by the multitudes whose lives he touched and by the entire Torah Vodaath family.

יהא זכרו ברוך

Mr. and Mrs. Chaim Schilit



An Unforgettable Educator
Mr. Fink ל"ה

An exemplary principal - An educator
A person who cared - A very special human being
He cared for each and every child
He cared for each and every teacher
We were colleagues - We were friends
Yeshiva Ketana Torah Vodaath is a family
The Rebbeim, the Teachers, the Menahalim,
the Principal
Mr. Fink with his warmth, with his concern
was instrumental in making it family
He was the Principal, he was a father figure to the
teachers
He was everything to everyone, what they needed
The school atmosphere, the warmth, the caring
The smiles on the children's faces!

יהי זכרו ברוך

Rabbi Shmuel Goldstein

Rabbi Asher Sabo





Message from the Centennial Co-Chairman

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Roshei Yehiva and lay leaders of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, I thank you all for celebrating with us tonight, as we build a bright new future upon the already remarkable century-old foundation of America's Yeshiva.

I am humbled to partner with this great Yeshiva, and I am honored to continue the legacy of my dear grandparents, Mr. Harry and Mrs. Eta Herskowitz a"h, pillars of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. My grandfather saw the need for yeshivos when only a few people shared his vision, and he devoted tremendous efforts to ensure that the dream of a few visionaries would become a reality. Not only did he support Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, but he was instrumental in the founding and supporting many other mosdos haTorah as well.

Today we see the realization of the dream of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. There is virtually no yeshiva or community in America which does not benefit from the leadership or guidance of a Torah Vodaath talmid. The messages of harbotzas haTorah, talmud Torah, and leadership of Klal Yisroel, resonate and reach every corner of the globe.

As we welcome our new Rosh haYeshiva, Rav Yitzchok Lichtenstein shlit"a, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath begins its second century of Torah with an invigorated hanhalla and an energized cadre of talmidim. The growth in numbers in the elementary school is mirrored by the

dramatic advancement and improvements in the Mesivta, Beis Medrash, and Kollel.

Our outstanding hanhalla has assembled a new chaburah of bochurim returning from Eretz Yisroel, led by Rav Shlomo Cynamon, Rav of Khal Bnei Torah of Flatbush, and Rav Dov Ortner. The Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Yosef Savitsky and Rav Yisroel Reisman are excited by this new chaburah, as they see the bochurim learning with a geshmak, and hearing high level chaburos from the Rosh Yeshiva.

The board of directors has already taken the necessary steps to prepare the infrastructure of the Yeshiva for the next generation of talmidim, by securing the purchase of two properties adjacent to the Yeshiva. We are looking forward to many additional developments in the near future.

I join the hanhalla of the Yeshiva in thanking the Rechnitz family for dedicating the book describing the history of Torah Vodaath, "America's Yeshiva," which is a wonderful tribute to its thousands of talmidim and rabbeim of the first century. The Rechnitz family is truly deserving of the Centennial Heritage Award which they are receiving tonight.

Thank you to the Leshkowitz family for dedicating the sefer "Hamesivta," two volumes of chiddushei Torah from our talmidim and Rabbeim, in honor of tonight's dinner.

This gathering is a testament to the extraordinary siyata d'Shmaya to which the Roshei Yeshiva and lay leaders of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath were zoche, throughout the past century. We are not only celebrating our accomplishments and successes of the previous century, but we are also commemorating our exciting and promising future, as we turn a page in history and begin the next chapter. We deeply appreciate that you have joined us in this monumental and historic evening.

It is our hope and tefillah that we continue to see the Yeshiva prosper and flourish, as we build the next generation of Klal Yisroel's leaders

Harry Skydell
Centennial Co-Chairman



Message from the Centennial Co-Chairman

Dear Friends,

With elated feelings of joy and excitement, I welcome you to this monumental event of kavod haTorah, as we celebrate a century of harbotzas Torah of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath.

The seeds which the Roshei Yeshiva and lay leaders planted a century ago, the tears which they shed, and the sweat with which they toiled to nurture a generation of bnei Torah in a foreign land, all come together tonight, as we revel in their dreams and accomplishments to create America's Yeshiva.

This evening is not only a simcha for the entire Klal Yisroel, but a personal simcha as well. My roots in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath begin in the 1950's when my grandfather, Reb Chaim Meir Friedman ל"ה and my wife's grandfather Reb Abba Hacohen Fink ל"ה came to the Yeshiva. My father Reb Naftali Friedman, and my father-in-law Reb Yisroel Minzer, continued in their path, and I, along with my brothers, brothers-in-law, and four sons are all proud talmidim of this great mosad haTorah.

Throughout my years in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, I, along with my chaverim, enjoyed a close keshet with our rebbeim, seeking their guidance and emulating their ways. Our rebbeim are unique because they care about every child, dedicating their entire lives to nurture and develop talmidim, skillfully teaching and encouraging them to grow and thrive as they mature, paving their way to become our future leaders.

Our new Rosh Yeshiva, Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein shlita, has already impacted the Yeshiva, lifting the *ramah* in learning, and breathing enthusiasm and simcha into the Yeshiva. We hope that will drive the Yeshiva to realize our collective dream of the second century.

Boruch Hashem, we have seen solid and steady growth in our Yeshiva Ketana. We understand that today's children need more than just a rebbe. They need our vibrant and exciting atmosphere, with new and fresh ideas, executed by our talented hanahala and top-tier rebbeim.

We hope that our success continues through the Mesivta, which has been revitalized over the past decade. The ruach of learning and achievement is tangible, and as I walked through the hallways, I felt the simchas haTorah and feelings of accomplishment of the bochurim.

Tonight we also pay tribute to my great-uncle, Rabbi Yitzchok Fink, a talmid chocham and an *ish yashar*, who led the yeshiva General Studies program for close to 40 years. He guided and taught our talmidim the necessary skills to earn a livelihood while being *mekadesh shem shomayim*. He was a role model for every talmid in YTV, and his methodology and curriculum spread throughout the country, furthering his impact on today's generation of lay leaders.

I especially thank the Rechnitz family for dedicating the memorial tribute, "America's Yeshiva," a book which, true to its name, portrays the phenomenal impact which Yeshiva Torah Vodaath has made on American Jewry. Mazel tov to R' Shlomo Yehuda and his family upon their Centennial Heritage Award tonight.

The Leshkowitz family deserves a special *yasher koach* as well, for dedicating the two-volume "Hamesivta," with hundreds of divrei Torah from our roshei yeshiva and talmidim throughout the years, printed exclusively for tonight's simcha.

I thank you all for coming tonight to join Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, as we are inspired by the accomplishments of the last century, and we welcome a new and exciting era of *harbotzas* Torah for Yeshiva Torah Vodaath.

Matis Friedman
Centennial Co-Chairman

75 Years of Service to Klal Yisroel

TALMIDIM OF 1944-1946

Represented by
Rabbi and Mrs. Mendel Balsam



Rabbi Mendel Balsam was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the oldest of four boys. His parents and grandparents were European immigrants and respected members of the Pittsburgh community.

When Reb Mendel was a child, there was no Yeshiva in Pittsburgh. His background in Torah was mostly limited to what he learned from his grandfather during their daily after school “class” in his grocery store. When he arrived to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath at age sixteen, his background in learning was limited when compared to most of his peers. Still, the Yeshiva’s warm and well-rounded *chinuch* approach enabled him to “catch up” quickly and thrive, while learning from illustrious *gedolei Torah* such as Horav Gedaliah Schorr *zt”l*, Horav Elya Chazan *zt”l* and Horav Shachna Zohn *zt”l*. Incredibly, despite the relative infancy of American Torah *chinuch* and the tumultuous times, all of Reb Mendel’s classmates remained solid *shomrei Torah u’mitzvos* for life.

In 1951, Reb Mendel married his wife Sarah, daughter of Reb Moshe Yitzchok Mendlowitz *zt”l*, and the eldest granddaughter of Reb Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz *zt”l*, and settled in Monsey – where he learned full time in Bais Medrash Elyon. As the son of a successful businessman, Reb Mendel originally intended to enter the business world as well. However, his uncle Rabbi Berel Greenbaum *z”l* – Reb Shraga Feivel’s son-in-law, who was *Menahel* in Yeshiva of Spring Valley – encouraged him to teach Torah, which led to a legendary *chinuch* career. After teaching in Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim-Manhattan for several years, Rabbi Balsam taught for nearly half a century at Yeshiva of Spring Valley.



Rabbi Balsam particularly reveres the innovative vision of Reb Shraga Feivel, which is at the core of Torah Vodaath’s ability to effectively be *mechanech* diverse American boys for generation after generation. He recounts the unique array of *limudim* – such as *Nach*, *dikduk* and history - taught in Torah Vodaath and the diverse Litvish and Chassidish *gedolim* and teachings that were relayed to talmidim. He particularly lauds Reb Shraga Feivel’s founding of summer camp, Torah U’Mesorah and other innovations that have evolved into linchpins of *chinuch* in contemporary times. “Reb Shraga Feivel was a spiritual giant and a true visionary,” says Rabbi Balsam. “He had a keen grasp of what boys need to know and see in order to succeed.”

Rabbi and Mrs. Balsam were *zoche* to raise five children and derive *nachas* from many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, *bli ayin hora*. They are proud to have several grandchildren who are Torah Vodaath *talmidim*. May Hashem *bentch* Rabbi and Mrs. Balsam with *arichas yomim* and great health, with continued *nachas* from their beautiful offspring.

Talmidim of 1994-1946

Celebrating 75 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

75 Years of Service to Klal Yisroel

TALMIDIM OF 1944-1946

Represented by

Mr. and Mrs. R' Bezalel Fixler



When R' Bezalel Fixler arrived in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in 1946, he had endured the horrors of three years in a Nazi concentration camp and two years in a DP camp. *B'chasdei Hashem*, his entire immediate family survived the Holocaust, but the pain they endured was compounded by the difficulty of his immigrating to a foreign land after missing crucial years of Yeshiva.

R' Bezalel enrolled in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, where he joined a large group of peers, a mix of American raised *bachurim* and Holocaust survivors. The Yeshiva took particular care to help

the Holocaust survivors acclimate to normal life and rebuild from the ashes – both emotionally and in learning. “They treated us like their own children,” he remembers. “The *ruach* was one of ‘home.’”

R' Bezalel remained in Torah Vodaath for nearly a decade, learning from great Rebbeim and building a particularly close rapport with Horav Yaakov Kamenetsky *zt"l*. When his parents were concerned about his future prospects of earning a living, they approached Horav Yaakov. The Rosh Yeshiva advised R' Bezalel to earn a trade that he could become a “*mumche*”



in. He chose engineering, taking courses at night while in Yeshiva all day.

In 1957, R' Bezalel married his wife Blanca (nee Brunner), a Holocaust survivor born in Krakow. Horav Yaakov Kamenetsky was honored with all the *brachos* under their *chuppah*. The Fixlers eventually settled in Kew Gardens, Queens and ran a warm, vibrant Torah home for their children, who b"H see beautiful offspring of their own, bli ayin hora. True to Horav Yaakov's advice, R' Bezalel had a successful career for decades as an engineer for Grumman Aircraft, respectfully providing for his family.

Yeshiva Torah Vodaath derives particular *nachas* from what our Yeshiva and illustrious *rebbeim* did for R' Bezalel and his many fellow Holocaust survivors who learned within our walls. The challenges they endured are beyond our comprehension, as are the challenges it took to be successfully *mechanech* them. *Besiyatta d'Shmaya*, countless beautiful Torah homes were established by these special alumni.

May Hashem *bentch* Mr. and Mrs. Fixler with *arichas yomim* and great health, with continued *nachas* from their *doros yesharim u'mevorachim*.

Talmidim of 1994-1946

Celebrating 75 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

75 Years of Service to Klal Yisroel

TALMIDIM OF 1944-1946

Represented by

Rabbi Dr. Yaakov Neuberger



Rabbi Dr. Yaakov Neuberger is a native of Wurzburg, Germany. His parents and all but one of his siblings were fortunate to escape the inferno of the Holocaust in time.

After a brief stay in Baltimore, the Neuberger family settled in Williamsburg in 1940 and Reb Yaakov enrolled in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath as a young bachur. The Jewish school that Reb Yaakov attended in Germany had mostly irreligious students and his Torah education was severely lacking. Still, within a year in Torah Vodaath, he progressed to the point that he could make a leining on Gemara himself. Reb Yaakov attributes his incredible growth to the fact that he had the future Rosh Yeshiva, Horav Pam זצ"ל, who was then still a bachur, as his rebbe that year. "Horav Pam was the best rebbe I ever had," he recounts. "He instilled in talmidim both Yiras Shomayim and the ability to learn."

Subsequently, Reb Yaakov learned by other great rebbeim, including Horav Dovid Bender זצ"ל, Horav Gedaliah Schorr זצ"ל and Horav Yisroel Chaim Kaplan זצ"ל. He also recounts the incredible ruach in Torah Vodaath and the chaverim he made, many of whom became noted gedolei Torah. Even on Shabbosim, when he was home, he

Talmidim of 1994-1946

Celebrating 75 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

would come to Yeshiva for the warm, inspiring Seuda Shlishis. After graduating high school in 1945, Reb Yaakov went to learn in Yeshiva Ner Yisroel of Baltimore - where his cousin, Rabbi Herman Neuberger ז"ל, was Executive Director – and obtained semicha from Horav Yaakov Yitzchok Ruderman זצ"ל. During that period, he also earned a Bachelors degree in Physics at John Hopkins University.

After returning to New York, Reb Yaakov continued his studies in NYU, eventually earning a PhD in Physics. He would still frequently return to Torah Vodaath and was particularly fond of the Tefillos in Yeshiva. In 1955, Reb Yaakov married his wife Ruth, daughter of the Horav Elie Munk זצ"ל of Paris, and eventually settled in Boro Park and were zoche to raise seven children, bli ayin hora. Rabbi Dr. Neuberger led a prominent career as a physics professor at Queens College. He is recognized as an illustrious member of Rabbi Felder's Kehillah on 18th Avenue and has delivered a daily Daf Yomi shiur for over fifty years, through today.

Rabbi Dr. Neuberger derives great nachas that his son-in-law, Mr. Heshy Lowy, is a Torah Vodaath alumnus, as are Heshy's nine sons – the youngest of whom graduated last year, over seventy years since his zaide did. "After one century of harbotzas haTorah, may Torah Vodaath continue living up to its historical glory," he says.

May Hashem bentch Rabbi Dr. and Mrs. Neuberger with arichas yomim and great health, and continued nachas from their beautiful generations, ad mei'ah v'esrim.

Talmidim of 1994-1946

Celebrating 75 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

A Yovel of Service to Klal Yisroel

Tribute to the Class of '69

Represented by



*Rabbi Heshy
Arem*



*Rabbi Nosson
Motechin*



*Mr. Sruly
Orzel*



*Rabbi Chaim
David Zwiebel*

Fifty years! Half a century! A huge slice of life!

Then, we were impressionable, young lads in our beloved Yeshiva. Today, we look around and see how much our lives – and the world - have changed over these five decades!

Often, when a person reaches a momentous milestone in his life, he looks back at the individuals and institutions that molded and shaped him. He then realizes how much credit they deserve for his accomplishments in his subsequent years!

The Class of 1969

Celebrating 50 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

Besides the core curricula of למודי קודש - having the *zechus* of learning from such *Gedolei Roshei Yeshiva* and *Rebbeim* as, to mention just a few, Horav Belsky, Horav Sheps, and Horav Shapiro - לברכה זכר צדיקים - and להבדיל, a superb General Studies program, under the able leadership of Rabbi Lonner ז"ל, we were privileged also to extra, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to soar in our התורה, ובכמות באיכות, ידיעות.

Just to give one small example: Every morning before classes formally began, we would gather in the *Beis Medrash Koton* for a special *shiur*. Horav Schorr זצ"ל would speak on the *Parshah*. Imagine! A live *shiur* from the *Mechaber* of *Ohr Gedalyahu* himself! What would we give today for such an experience! On Thursdays, the *Mashgiach שליט"א* would teach us *Mishlei*! How could we have possibly appreciated enough these golden opportunities at such a young age?

Many of us were fortunate enough to spend our summers in Camp Torah Vodaas. That means, we lived and breathed Torah Vodaas twelve months a year – and we loved it, and would not have had it any other way! And in camp, it was much more of an all-inclusive experience, unless you dormed in the Yeshiva and didn't go home for Shabbos. In camp, it was 24/7 for four or eight weeks.

How can we possibly recreate those days when we had the *zechus* to spend day and night, weekday and Shabbos in the company of the *Mashgiach שליט"א*! The *Mashgiach* himself testified that *Emunas Yisroel* had been born in Camp Torah Vodaas!

It was there that we were taught by some of the *Gedolei Mechanchim* of our time, who were themselves *talmidei* Torah Vodaas: Rav Nosson Scherman, Rav Shmuel Dishon, Rav Yaakov Landesman, Rav Moshe Neuman, Rav Moshe Francis and Rav Mordechai Finkelman!

Yes, much has happened since we sat in the *Beis Medrash* and our classrooms on East Ninth Street. But, if we close our eyes and reminisce about those wonderful days, it will surely give us the *chizuk* to continue giving *nachas* to the Yeshiva and our *Rebbeim*!

The Class of 1969

Celebrating 50 years of Service to Klal Yisroel



**In tribute to the following members
of the Class of 1969
who are**

לדאבונו הרבים בגנזי מרומים

May their נשמות have an עליה and may they be
ז"ל מליצי יושר for their families and our Yeshiva

ז"ל R' Elozer Brodt

ז"ל R' Yosef Fine

ז"ל R' Moshe Hardt

זצ"ל Horav Yitzchok Isbee

ז"ל R' Shmuel Lonner

ז"ל R' Mayer Wasilski

ז"ל R' Daniel Weinberger

ז"ל R' Shavy Weinstock

ז"ל R' Lazer Wolf

ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

Yovel Class of 1969
Celebrating 50 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

RABBI MOSHE LONNER

A Talmid Remembers

What comes to mind when I think of Rabbi Lonner a"h, is the tremendous *baal middos tovos* he was and the *chachma* he had dealing with all the students.

But I think, his greatest legacy is, that he prepared and gave all the students the tools to face their future.

No matter what road a student chose to go down for his profession, whether it be *klei kodesh* or in the secular world, he provided the students with the knowledge, ability, and self-confidence to be successful in their careers.

As the saying goes, "the proof is in the pudding." We see today how many of the Torah Vodaath alumni have made a positive mark on *Klal Yisroel* and are extremely successful both, in *klei kodesh* and in the secular world.

For this alone, I personally say, and I am sure that I am joined by thousands of my fellow alumni in declaring:

THANK YOU RABBI LONNER.

Mosson Motechin

Yovel Class of 1969

Celebrating 50 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

Reflections on My Years in the Yeshiva

By: Rabbi Yosef Levy – 1968 HS Graduate

As we approach the Centennial Celebration of our beloved Yeshiva I am full of nostalgia when I recall the days of my youth. As I do, I realize what a great debt I owe to the Yeshiva, for it is largely due to this great Mosad that I became whatever I am.

I came to the Yeshiva in August, 1964. At that time the Yeshiva was on South Third Street in Williamsburg. The dorm was right in the back. It was during the days of Selichos so we had to be up early. This added to my culture shock as I came from Staten Island and I was not used to a Yeshivish davening. In addition we daven Nusach Ashkenaz and I was now introduced to Nusach Sefard. The day was long. We began learning at 9:00 A.M. and between Limudei Kodesh, Limudei Chol and Night Seder, we did not finish until 9:00 P.M. Quite a long day for a 14 year old. Nevertheless, I liked it and I got used to it. Because I came from a Staten Island day school I had a weak background in Gemara. Therefore, although I was beginning High School, I with a number of other boys, was placed in the seventh grade for Limudei Kodesh. This was the "Dorm Class" and there was one for every grade. For this, we had to walk to Wilson Street every day. As a matter of fact it was twice a day, for we would walk back and forth to South Third Street for lunch. Our Rebbe was Rav Zehnwirth. He was very special. It was in his class that I began to learn and absorb the culture of the Yeshiva. It was difficult because we had to learn three languages at the same time, Lashon Kodesh, Aramaic, and Yiddish, which was the language of instruction. It took me two years to learn Yiddish but I am forever grateful that I did, as it opened up an entire world to me. Our Menahel was Rav Dovid Bender zt"l. He was a no nonsense person who was warm at the same time. It took me a while but eventually, as he put it, I "caught fire" and I was able to progress. The following year for eighth grade we had Rav Wilner, a dynamic Rebbe who really had a great impact on us. He eventually became the Menahel. It was during this year that Rav Bender was suddenly niftar. This was a great shock to everyone. I remember his levaya which went through the streets of Williamsburg. The Satmar Rebbe zt"l came out to give him his kavod acharon.

Meanwhile I had begun High School. The afternoon began after Second Seder at 3:00. We had English five days a week. There were five periods so we ended at 6:28. On Sundays it was 6:08. Our principal was Rabbi Lonner and he made sure that we had a full curriculum of General Studies. The Rebbe that stands out was my third year Mesivta Rebbe, Rav Moshe Samuels zt"l. He had

been close to Rav Mendlowitz and Rav Shlomo Heiman zichronom l'vracha. He really was able to relate to us. During my third year, after Pesach of 1967, we made the momentous move from Williamsburg to the East 9th Street campus in Flatbush. Speaking of Mesivta, I must mention our Menahel, Rav Quinn zt"l. I first met him when I came for an interview and I saw his warm caring nature. Even when I was on Wilson Street I would see him every day at davening. One story that sticks out happened years later at Camp Ohr Shraga, which I would attend for the last part of the summer. One year a few of us had to leave early on a Sunday morning. We davened early and as we were preparing to leave Rav Quinn came in for davening. He asked us if we had breakfast yet. When we replied that we had not, he said "One minute." He then went into the kitchen and prepared a breakfast with eggs and all.

During the years I was in the Yeshiva I had the zechus to learn under Rav Pam zt"l. My greatest impression of him was when he gave his famed Erev Shabbos shmuez on the Parsha. I personally felt that when he spoke about Avraham Avinu, then Avraham Avinu was standing right in front of me. If he spoke about Aharon Hakohen then he, Aharon Hakohen was there as well. Later when I was married with a family, and we lived out of town we would visit the Rebbe and his Rebbitzen twice a year in their home. When we would come the Rebbitzen would take out the toys so my children could play as we sat and shmuezed at the dining room table.

By the time I got to Beis Medrash, Rav Schorr zt"l was the Rosh Yeshiva and we later became neighbors when my wife and I moved in across the street after our marriage. I then had the zechus to accompany him home from the Yeshiva on Shabbos. Before we moved out of town, Rav Schorr gave me a bracha. This became especially meaningful to me as that night he was suddenly niftar.

I must also mention three shiurim on the Parsha that I would hear every week. On Wednesday night we would hear one from Rav Shlomo Rottenberg. On Friday morning at 10:00 Rav Schorr spoke and at 11:00 Rav Pam spoke. Each had his own style and unique perspective. Rav Pam of course spoke in the Bais Medrash Katana where we learned. Rav Weinberg's shiur learned there as well and our Mashgiach was Rav Leizer son zt"l with whom I became very close.

All in all, the memories of the Yeshiva warm my heart and I am full of Hakaras Hatov for what the Yeshiva gave me and the wonderful friends that I made there. The dorm experience allowed me to make friends from all over the world. I consider it to be a special zechus that my Rebbeim were the talmidim of Rav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz, the great builder of Torah in America. May the Yeshiva go mechail el chayil into the next century and may we all merit to see it grow to new heights while building on its previous glory!

25 Years of Service to Klal Yisroel

Tribute to the Class of '94

Represented by

Rabbi Shmuel Dovid Dancinger *Mr. Yonatan Goldenberg*
Mr. Yosef Nussbaum

During the late 20th century, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath had already cemented its role at the core of Torah Jewry in America and shaped families and communities across the United States and beyond for generations.

The concept of a Yeshiva in America was not only no longer foreign, but it was already a “given” for every Orthodox Jewish child in America to go to Yeshiva from preschool through high school, at the very least. Yeshivas were established in communities throughout the country. New York City, the hub of American Jewry, had a particularly large and diverse roster of Yeshivos. Still, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath maintained a preeminent role on the *chinuch* scene, cultivating a large number of *talmidim* as the *rabbonim*, *mechanchim* and Torah *baalebatim* of the next generation.

The Class of 1994 was comprised of a vibrant group of talmidim from various walks of life, from families from throughout the five boroughs and beyond. Today, these alumni live in a cross section of communities and hold various job titles – yet are united by their beautiful representation of Torah Vodaath values.

May Hashem grant the Class of 1994 alumni and their families continued *hatzlacha* and *nachas*.

Special thanks to the Class of 1994 representatives, who represent the rich character of their class and our Yeshiva, upon this honor:



*Rabbi Shmuel
Dovid Dancinger*

Rabbi Shmuel Dovid Dancinger arrived in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath as a four year old and remained for Yeshiva and Mesivta until age sixteen. He subsequently learned in Yeshiva Lev Avrohom-Yerushalayim and Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood.

Today, Rabbi Dancinger is a well respected *mechanech* in Lakewood, serving as a *rebbe* in Talmud Torah Bais Avrohom. Looking back, Rabbi Dancinger marvels at the chinuch he received as a child and young *bachur*, which serves as a role model in his current *avodas hakodesh*.

The Class of 1994

Celebrating 25 years of Service to Klal Yisroel

"I can say that every *rebbe* we had – even the English principals – was an exceptional *yerei Shomayim*," he observes. "The lifelong impression that this makes on *talmidim* cannot be overstated."

Yonatan is a died-in-the-wool Torah Vodaath *talmid*, having been privileged to learn in our Yeshiva from preschool through Kollel. His father, Reb Baruch Shalom *a"h* – a Torah Vodaath graduate – was tragically *niftar* when Yonatan was just two years old, making the warmth and influence of his Torah Vodaath *rebbeim* even more crucial. "They made me who I am today," he plainly states. Today, Yonatan resides in Flatbush and serves as Assistant Controller at Bardin Hill Investment Partners in Manhattan. Yonatan and his fellow professional alumni strongly prioritize *kvias ittim laTorah* and a *chashivus* for Torah in their homes. He is also proud to have continued the family chain and provides a Torah Vodaath *chinuch* for his sons, with boys currently enrolled in both Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath.



Mr. Yonatan
Goldenberg



Mr. Yosef
Nussbaum

Yosef Nussbaum arrived in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath for 7th grade and remained in Yeshiva through Kollel. He recounts a wellspring of "fond memories" of all those consequential years, learning from illustrious *rebbeim*, some of whom were American raised and others from *der heim*. He lauds the uniquely rich Torah Vodaath *chinuch*, which combines the Litvish depth in learning with the *varmkeit* of *chassidus*. Yosef obtained *semicha* from Rav Elozor Kahanow *zt"l*. He currently resides in Lawrence and is a respected member of Congregation Shaarei Tefillah, which includes many Torah Vodaath alumni. He works as a financial services attorney for JP Morgan. The spirit of *achdus* and shared values that Yosef and fellow 1994 alumni felt while in Yeshiva continues through this day. Yosef takes particular pride in the alumni's commitment to *kvias ittim laTorah*. In particular, Yosef is proud to be a part of the weekly *leil shishi* get-together of Torah Vodaath alumni to learn Chumash, led by Pinny Greenstein, Dovid Freier and others. This program is going strong for more than a decade. "Torah Vodaath was remarkable in how it prepared us to remain strongly committed to Torah even as *baalebatim*," he reflects.

The Class of 1994

Celebrating 25 years of Service to Klal Yisroel



Message from the Chairman of the Board

This year we mark the Centennial Year since Torah Vodaath first started its “Avodas Hakodesh”. As a vibrant “Ben Meiah”, we celebrate a century of Torah excellence. We look to our past to celebrate our success, and to illuminate our way into the future אִי”ה. Torah Vodaath is proud of its record of achievement. I am proud of our Yeshiva and I continue to be eternally grateful for the opportunity to participate over these years in the Yeshiva’s leadership.

My connection to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath spans decades and even generations – ever since I arrived in Williamsburgh as a first year Mesivta student at age 13. This bond was forged during the years my brother Yossie and I spent in the Yeshiva as talmidim and has been strengthened through our children, all of whom are counted among its talmidim and alumni. Boruch Hashem, now three of my sons have their own children in the Yeshiva. We appreciate that throughout its illustrious 100 year history, Torah Vodaath has consistently produced an extraordinary number of outstanding Rabbinic, educational and lay leaders of our Jewish nation, in the United States, in Eretz Yisroel and around the globe.

Just about thirty one years ago, Moreinu Horav Avrohom Pam זצ”ל, asked me to assume the leadership responsibility as Chairman of the Board of Directors. His call was not an invitation, it was a directive – one I simply could not refuse, and now, some three decades later, I'm glad I didn't. My role has been and continues to be a sacred responsibility. I cherished the special opportunity it afforded me to work closely with Moreinu Horav Pam זצ”ל, and to assist him in his avodas hakodesh. Since his petirah, I have had the privilege of helping to continue his work, along with my devoted chavirim on the Executive Committee and our Board.

This year we mark the 18th yearzeit of our beloved and revered Rebbe and Rosh Hayeshiva, Horav Pam זצ”ל. Indeed, each year that passes has a special

significance to all of us who had the zechus to be close to one of the greatest of our gedolim and manhigim. Now eighteen years after his petira, we all still remember and reflect on his many years of extraordinary achievements and their impact on each of us, and on Klal Yisroel. Even with the passage of time, Rav Pam's memory and message is as fresh and relevant today as it was in the past. We revere his zikaron and try in our own small way to emulate his derech hachaim.

At the appropriate time, we were privileged to have Moreinu Horav Chaim Yisroel Belsky זצ"ל assume the mantle of leadership, with vigor and vision, as he embraced the revitalization of our Yeshiva and immersed himself in ציבור צרכי. For all his years we at Torah Vodaath benefited from his leadership, vast knowledge, sage advice, mastery and expertise – a true, multifaceted Gadol b'Yisroel. לראבינינו after his untimely petirah, we paid the Rosh Hayeshiva a special כבוד אחרון to his זכרון, and dedicated the Moreinu Horav Chaim Yisroel Belsky זצ"ל Talmidei Ne'eman Legacy Circle to ensure a perpetual kesher to this great Rebbe and Rosh Hayeshiva.

This Dinner welcomes Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein Shlita שליט"א, the new Rosh Hayeshiva, who will י"ח continue the vision of revitalization that began nearly two decades ago. We look forward to working with the Rosh Hayeshiva and bringing the Yeshiva to even higher מדרגות.

Sadly, several years ago, we lost one member of our special group R' Shiya Hollander ז"ל, who was the first person I called to form our new Executive Committee, after I was appointed as Chairman. Meeting with our chavirim practically every Sunday morning at the Yeshiva, at first with Rav Pam זצ"ל, and afterwards with Rav Belsky זצ"ל, our group was involved in every major decision shaping in our Yeshiva.

Two years ago our Yeshiva and I personally, lost a lifelong friend, R' Yonah Blumenfrucht ז"ל. A true askan, לשם שמים, loyal and devoted, Yoni as he was so belovedly called, was always there for Yeshiva. As longstanding Chairman our Annual Melave Malka, and anything else that was needed, Yoni filled the role beautifully.

A special Yosher Koach to tonight's Centennial Dinner Chairmen – Harry Skydell and Matis Friedman. Both are devoted to the Yeshiva b'lev u'bnefesh, and never put themselves in the public eye. They made an exception this year with mesiras nefesh, and the results are obvious in the room this evening.

Tonight we pay tribute to the memory of a very close friend R' Yitzchok Fink ז"ל. He served the Yeshiva with loyalty and devotion for two times chai years. He put "chai" into the lives of hundreds upon hundreds of students who graduated from our Yeshiva Ketana with a very solid general studies education, and are able to "live" productive lives in communities around the world. His memory and his standards to education will always inspire us.

Eleven years ago we fulfilled another chov kodesh – to pay tribute to Reb

Aharon Braun זצ"ל. For some fifty years he was an eved ne'eman on behalf of the Yeshiva and its talmidim. But what set Reb Aharon apart was the rare gift he received from the Ribono Shel Olam – to understand people, to share in their life problems, and to want to help them with a genuine sincerity. Many bochurim in the Yeshiva, especially those from out of town, and yesomim, benefited from his special friendliness and concern for their welfare – both in ruchnius and gashmius. He understood their need and the need of mishpachos today. He personified yiras Shomayim and a bren for limud HaTorah and avodas Hashem. We sorely miss him. יהא זכרו ברוך.

At the same time I would like to acknowledge Rabbi Yitzchok Gottdiener who was installed by the Board to take over Rabbi Braun's responsibilities. Reb Yitzchok was Reb Aharon's right hand for twenty-five years and has worked closely with our Board and Executive Committee for almost thirty years. He has earned the respect of parents, Rebbeim, teachers, and the Board of Directors. He has taken on the achrayus of carrying the heavy burden of the Yeshiva's budget with energy, diligence, skill and a deep feeling for our Mechanchim and other staff.

Several years ago, Gedaliah, Moshe and I and ז"ל להבח"ל Shiya felt sufficiently comfortable with the growth and progress in the Yeshiva, that we could now "Pass the Torch" to a cadre of capable, mature and committed alumni and parents who share a common ambition of askanus l'tovas our Yeshiva. We are extraordinarily gratified that Matis Friedman, Moishe Haas and my own son Naftuli Leshkowitz joined the Executive Committee of the Board. During their tenure to date, they have already made an important mark on our committee. We wish them great hatzlacha and סייעתא דשמיא in all their endeavors. In addition, we have added several additional younger members to our Board as part of our plan to ensure leadership in the future.

When we analyze askanus in America and in fact the world today, we find again and again our own talmidim who are in the forefront of organizing and contributing to practically every Mosad of Torah, chinuch, and chesed. Major learning institutions that are outgrowths of our Yeshiva depend on the continued organizational leadership and direct financial assistance of a core of our talmidim. These are the ones whose names appear again and again in every important tzedakah project, not for the glory but because they have been imbued with a sense of responsibility to use their enormous talents ולהאדירה לשם שמים. As Rav Pam זצ"ל noted not long before his petira, our talmidim are imbued with an achrayus to the klal as part of the avira of the Yeshiva. We are very proud that these unique askonim trace from Torah Vodaath.

Tonight we honor several outstanding alumni of Torah Vodaath. For many years, we have traditionally honored the Yovel Class for 50 years of service, and the class of 25 years for a quarter century of service to Klal Yisroel. We do so the same tonight, as we honor the class of 1969 and 1994 – both classes filled with esteemed Rabbonim, Marbetzei and Machzikei Torah

v'chesed. For the first time ever, we have taken an unusual step, since there are numerous alumni with us this evening from the Classes of 1940-1946. 75 years of service to Klal Yisroel! What a zchus for us to have them and acknowledge their life of Torah V'chesed. Together, they represent a uniform link in our illustrious history, each one part of the ongoing mission of our Yeshiva. The theme that binds them is their devotion to Torah Vodaath. Together with their wives they have answered the call. We admire and respect these wonderful couples.

As you will leave the hall, you will be presented with the two volume *Hamesivta Hameah*, which is filled with tremendous Chidushei Torah. My brother Yossie and I, with our respective wives and families, give praise to Hakodesh Baruch Hu, that we are able to dedicate these momentous volumes. A special Yosher Koach to my choshuve nephew, Horav Naftuli Leshkowitz for editing such a magnificent work.

You will also be presented with the long awaited, historical *"America's Yeshiva"*. A tremendous amount of effort went into this project and I want to thank all the people involved for well over a year in producing it. Special recognition to tonight's Guests of Honor - The Belsky Family. With R' Shlomo Yehuda and Tamar Rechnitz at the helm, they spearheaded this project, dedicated it, and continue to live and breathe the Yeshiva of their family. We wish them continued hatzlacha and nachas.

There are many talented people who toiled selflessly to make this year's Dinner a spiritual and financial success. My lifelong chaverim, Gedaliah Weinberger, and Moshe Zafir, have been by my side on the Executive Committee in my 30 plus year tenure. Their intelligence, erudition, breadth of knowledge, and approach to life as a Ben Torah first and foremost, continues to be a personal inspiration to me. The vast majority of the committee members, were all guided and molded and shaped by our Yeshiva and our Rebbe זצ"ל, during their crucial formative years. Gedaliah and I are graduates of the class of 1965, Moshe of the Class of 1966. It is to this entire group, and to the devoted staff of the Yeshiva, particularly to R' Yitzchok Gottdiener, and his extraordinarily able staff, that I express my sincere thanks. May Hashem give all of us and each of you, our generous and loyal friends, long life, nachas from our children and the energy and resources to continue to do all we can for our beloved Yeshiva.

With your generous help and with the help of Hashem, Torah Vodaath will be able to reach new pinnacles of achievement in the Second Century, educating the future classes of the next generation in the mesorah of Torah Vodaath.

Chaim H. Leshkowitz



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Roshei Yeshiva, the hanhalla, the Centennial Chairmen and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, I welcome you to tonight's historic Centennial Celebration of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. It is hard to describe the collective feelings of simcha, accomplishment, and hakoras hatov to the Ribono Shel Olam, as we look around this room at close to two thousand guests, each one a member of the Torah Vodaath family, celebrating together with us. Each and every guest with us here tonight, whether a talmid, a partner, or a friend, is a beneficiary of the Yeshiva's incredible influence on America's landscape. Thousands more who are unable to join us personally, are reveling in the excitement of this evening, as they too understand and appreciate the grandness of our accomplishments on these shores since 1919. We are all indebted to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and our Roshei Yeshiva and rebbeim, for leading with determination, and devoting their lives to us, their talmidim.

I have the zechus of being part of the Yeshiva for more than half of this past Centennial. Over my years in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, first as a bachur, then as a yungerman, and finally in my current position in the Yeshiva, I was inspired and gained a tremendous amount from many wonderful people. I owe my entire life and career to my rebbeim, Moreinu Horav Pam זצ"ל, and ליהו"ל the Mashgiach Moreinu Horav Wolfson שליט"א. I was also zoche to have a close kesher with Moreinu Horav Belsky זצ"ל. My connection with the Yeshiva, led by our Roshei Yeshiva, Horav Yosef Savitsky שליט"א, Horav Yisroel Reisman שליט"א, and now with Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein remains strong as ever.

My position is a challenging one. It is not easy to balance the needs of the hanhalla and Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, while keeping the talmidim foremost on my mind. I am forever grateful to the hanhalla and the

Board of Directors for working with me, finding common ground, and holding me accountable to ensure that the Yeshiva achieves the success for which we all aim while maintaining financial solvency.

With elated feelings of simcha, we welcome the new Rosh Yeshiva, **Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein** shlit"a, to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. We were all heartened to see him taking a lead, charging the atmosphere in the Yeshiva with a new energy. He has already helped raise the ramah in learning across all divisions of the Yeshiva, and we wish him much success as he continues to build and nurture our talmidim. We are eagerly looking forward to his relocation to Brooklyn, where he will be able to continue to positively impact the entire Yeshiva every single day.

I want to express my deepest hakoras hatov to R' Shlomo Yehuda and Mrs. Tamar Rechnitz for their continued support of our Yeshiva. R' Shlomo Yehuda understands that because we have high aspirations and big dreams for our mosad and our talmidim, we must take care of our talented staff in order to realize our goals. Our rebbeim must be paid well, and on time, in order for them to have a basic parnasa, enabling them to focus on their avodas hakodesh. Over the past few years, living expenses have only increased, yet the paychecks in mosdos have not kept up with this growth. R' Shlomo Yehuda knows that without sustaining our rabbeim and hanhallah, all our idealism will go out the window. He has raised the bar and set new standards for mosdos across the country.

An integral component of tonight's historical tribute is the beautiful commemorative Rechnitz Family Edition of "America's Yeshiva," a comprehensive history of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, our Roshei Yeshiva, and our impact on the landscape of American Jewery. My deepest thanks go to R' Shlomo Yehuda and his family for answering the call, and stepping up to sponsor this project. It is truly befitting of the Rechnitz family, who personify Torah philanthropy in today's America, to patronize this volume recounting the history of America's Yeshiva.

I stand in awe of the tireless efforts of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, headed by Reb Chaim Leshkowitz, for over three decades. Reb Chaim, along with the lay leaders of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, remained loyal to our mission, and shouldered the monetary achrayos of our mosad through both prosperous and challenging times. Not surprisingly, he has deviated from the usual path of hatzne'ah leches and together with his brother Yossie who has always been there for the Yeshiva have dedicated this beautiful Sefer which you see here tonight, the two-volume "Sefer Hamesivta." The Leshkowitz brothers understand the true value of harbotzas haTorah, as is evident in his children and grandchildren who are marbitzei Torah and community leaders.

Special chizuk before Yom Tov by the Fuchs family, the Hachnosas Kallah Fund, by Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Zafir, that helps our Rebbeim make chasanahs, the new Bar Mitzvah fund, all are initiatives which are instrumental in giving

our shluchim, who teach our precious children peace of mind.

Thank you to our very own Maggid Shiur, Horav Naftuli Leshkowitz for spearheading the “Hamesivta” project, editing the sefer to make certain that it is of highest quality, as befitting our mosad.

As a young father, fresh out of Kollel, I was zoche to join the staff of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, at the same time as Reb Yitzchok Fink ז”ל. He became my close friend, my confidant, and my advisor. He was there for me and helped me, and he guided me as I rose through the ranks of the Yeshiva. We maintained a close kesher throughout all the years as he ran our excellent General Studies department in an extraordinary fashion. He had a unique ability to balance the critical and paramount values of our Torah with the important lessons and skills with which he molded our talmidim. With foresight to the future, he trained and guided our talmidim for wherever life will lead them.

I want to convey a tremendous yashar koach to Mr. Harry Skydell and Mr. Matis Friedman for being the Centennial Chairmen of tonight’s event. They allowed my staff and me to properly prepare for this monumental evening over the past few months. These two men, together with the Executive Committee of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, R’ Chaim Leshkowitz, R’ Gedaliah Weinberger, R’ Avraham Reiss, R’ Moshe Zafir, R’ Moshe Haas, R’ Naftali Leshkowitz, and ז”ל להב”ל R’ Shiya Hollandar ז”ל and R’ Yonah Blumenfrucht ז”ל, are pillars of our Yeshiva, and have embodied the messages and derech of their rebbeim. Under their direction, this campaign has been more successful than we imagined, and the chizzuk and support we have seen this past year from our talmidim, supporters and partners is due, in part, to their efforts. May they have much Siyatta D’shmaya in all their endeavors, and may the zechus of hachzokas haTorah stand with them as they embark with us on the journey of our second century.

By the time you read this, you will be enjoying the fruits of the labor of our entire staff, who toiled tirelessly and diligently over the past eight months. I salute the dedicated men and women (and their spouses) of the administration, office staff, and Centennial Campaign who lived and breathed this Centennial Campaign for weeks on end. Some have given up precious family time and have missed simchos and special moments with their families, amidst their devotion to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath during this historic and momentous year. May the zechus of Torah stay with them forever, as they continue to support this heilige mosad.

I close with a tefillah that we should see the fruits of our labor in our lifetime, and that the Shechina should rest among us in the Yeshiva, and may we be zoche to the גאולה שלמה במהרה בימינו.

Rabbi Yitzchok Gottdiener
Executive Director

CELEBRATING
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
**ZAFIR ZICHRON SARAH BROKER
HACHNOSAS KALLAH FUND**
TO BENEFIT THE RABBEIM OF THE YESHIVA
לע"נ מרת שרה מרים בת ר' שמואל צבי ע"ה
ENDOWED BY HER CHILDREN
MOSHE & RUTHIE ZAFIR

A few years ago, a new concept designed to ease the burden of our mechanchim when their children are engaged to be married, blossomed at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. The Zafir Zichron Sarah Broker Hachnosas Kallah Fund hit the ground running, led by our Young Parents' Steering Committee. With great Siyata D'shmaya to date close to 40 chasunas celebrated by our Rebbeim were subsidized with a gift of \$10,000 for each wedding.

Funds are being raised by our enthusiastic parent body - the very same parent body who benefit from and understand the importance of ensuring that their children's Rebbeim have menuchas hanefesh during their time of simcha. Our Rebbeim carry the torch and mesorah which they pass along to the next generation. With large families to feed, their finances rarely permit the extras in life. Often, when a simcha arises, it is all too common for our Rebbeim to be left facing tremendous financial pressure.

A Hachnosas Kallah fund was at least a partial solution. In order for this fund to take root and flourish, it needed an anchor sponsor, a family that would understand the importance of such a fund. Following approval by the Executive Committee, it was only natural that Rabbi Gottdiener approach the well-known philanthropist Mr. Moshe Zafir, treasurer of the Yeshiva for over three decades, and his wife Ruthie. They enthusiastically agreed to sponsor this fund לעילוי נשמת the family's beloved matriarch, Mrs. Sarah Miriam Broker ע"ה. The Zafirs have undertaken to match every dollar raised by our parents for this crucial cause, in order to maximize the benefit for our treasured mechanchim.

As a direct result of the care and compassion of the Zafir family, coupled with the ambitions of our Young Parents' Steering Committee, our Rebbeim can continue to focus on their Avodas Hakodesh in the classroom unhindered. We thank the Zafir family for endorsing the Hachnosas Kallah Fund and for their generous commitment in being מקיים the mitzvah of Hachnosas Kallah and hachzakas HaTorah for our most deserving marbitzei Torah, as we all look forward to a future where a simcha is always just that--a time to be truly happy.



Message from the Dinner Co-ordinator

My dear friends:

It is indeed a pleasure to greet you at the Centennial Dinner of Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath.

Tonight we honor a school which has profoundly changed the face of Jewish education in America and generations of Orthodox American Jewry. Although the founders did not think of themselves as revolutionaries, their vision of an “American Yeshiva” which could produce *yiddishe ba’alabatim* as well as the scholars and leaders of the Jewish community has had an immeasurable impact on American and world Jewry.

It is indeed a privilege for me to have served as Dinner Coordinator for the past thirty years. The 100th Anniversary of our Yeshiva marks an important milestone. For while we look back proudly, we also look to the future tonight. Torah Vodaath continues to grow; the numbers of our *talmidim* are increasing and the influence of the Yeshiva in all sectors of Jewish life is expanding. In its 100 years, the mother of all yeshivas, Torah Vodaath is a dominant force in the Torah world. In our next century we hope to continue and expand our mission.

This year’s dinner will combine past, present and future. It is a privilege to welcome our new Rosh Hayeshiva, Moreinu Horav Yitzchok Lichtenstein, *shlita*. We are looking forward to his accomplishment of our dreams. We are very pleased and excited that there is a cadre of young *balebatim*, parents and alumni who have joined and are leading Torah Vodaath towards new pinnacles.

A special Centennial Heritage tribute will be tendered to the Rechnitz/Belsky family for their continued support of the Yeshiva and underwriting the commemorative The Belsky-Rechnitz Family Edition of “AMERICA’S YESHIVA”.

The Class of 1944-46, the Class of 1989 and the Class of 1984 are being represented by pillars of their respective communities. I would like to mention my friend Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zweibel , Executive Vice President of Agudath Israel of America, who has dedicated his entire life to the klal. All the representatives being honored have varied professions are united by their dedication to Jewish life and to Torah Vodaath.

A special two volume issue of *HaMesivta Migdal Hameah*, will be given to guests this evening, sponsored by my dear friends, Chaim and Laya Leshkowitz together with his brother Yossie and Debbie Leshkowitz. The Leshkowitz Family continues to be in the forefront of *tzedoko* and *chesed* worldwide and in particular for our Yeshiva.

Much appreciation is due to the Centennial co-chairmen, Mr. Harry Skydel and Mr. Matis Friedman for their outstanding contribution year round towards the continued growth of our Yeshiva.

We are proud that all of our Honorees tonight are alumni of our Yeshiva. All the Honorees tonight exemplify the ideals of what Torah Vodaath stands for, put into practice. They are distinguished representatives whose accomplishments we hail tonight. Each Honoree has contributed his unique talents to the Jewish community and to our Yeshiva.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who gave so much of their time to make the Dinner a success. Rabbi Yitzchok Gottdiener, our esteemed Executive Director, has as always, gone beyond the call of duty, living and breathing Torah Vodaath to assure both the Dinner's success and the continued good health of our Yeshiva throughout the year. I would like to wish him continued *Hatzlocho* in all his endeavors. The hard work of the Yeshiva's staff, along with those of the many volunteers whose efforts are greatly appreciated who toiled all day and late into the night, has made this day memorable for all.

Year round, my dear friend, our Chairman of the Board, Chaim Leshkowitz labors to ensure that our Yeshiva will continue to grow and flourish. His powerful efforts throughout the year inspire and are the catalyst that enables all of us to achieve so much.

As a Torah Vodaath alumnus, and the father of Torah Vodaath alumni, I am proud to be a link in a generational chain that has reached the Centennial mark, with its superb Torah learning led by the foremost *Gedolei Torah*. Your support and presence here tonight demonstrates your pride in our Yeshiva, its accomplishments and its potential.

I thank you and I hope you enjoy.

Yoel Ehrenreich



TORAHUMESORAH

Celebrating 75 years of Torah Chochv

May 20, 2019

Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath
425 East 9th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11218

Dear Friends,

Mazel Tov to the Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath upon celebrating the momentous occasion of a CENTURY of excellence in לימוד התורה. Few מוסדות התורה in America today can claim to celebrate such an accomplishment in חינוך הבנים. Few מוסדות התורה can boast of such an impressive history of leadership, including the leading Gedolei Torah of the generation. And few מוסדות התורה have impacted so profoundly on the Torah world as has Yeshiva Torah Vodaath.

Torah Umesorah and Torah Vodaath share a common bond in the great personage of the Gaon and Tzaddik, HaRav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz זצ"ל, who was Torah Umesorah's Founder, and the legendary first Menahel of Mesivta Torah Vodaath. His vision, foresight and נפש are bearing fruits in both מוסדות, and so many others across the continent and beyond, until today.

You have so appropriately chosen many worthy honorees for this momentous occasion. We wish a special Mazel Tov to the Belsky Family, and to our dear friend, Mr. Shlomo Yehuda Rechnitz. May הקב"ה shower His brachos on this exemplary family, and grant them the strength to continue to be מרביץ תורה in Klal Yisrael.

Mazel Tov!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Dovid Nojowitz
National Director



ת"ס

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

3 Iyar 5779
May 8, 2019

Mr. Harry Skydell
Mr. Matis Friedman
Centennial Co-Chairmen
Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath
425 East 9th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11218

Greetings:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the administration of Agudath Israel of America, to extend best wishes to Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath upon the occasion of its Centennial Dinner.

One hundred years! What a remarkable milestone, what a remarkable history!

Yeshiva Torah Vodaath was a pioneer in Torah-true *chinuch* at a time when all the demographic experts were predicting that Torah Judaism could never thrive on the "treife shtetler" of America. Throughout its long history, Torah Vodaath has proven the experts wrong, over and over again. Its talmidim play prominent roles in virtually every major Jewish community across the globe.

We at Agudas Yisroel are especially blessed by the many Torah Vodaath alumni who contribute so much to the work we do on behalf of Klal Yisroel. Indeed, it is hardly surprising that a yeshiva that was established on a foundation of *achrayus* for the Jewish people, by leaders who personified self-sacrifice for the *Klal*, would produce *talmidim* whose lives are devoted to *tzorchei tzibur*. That is one of the beauties of Torah Vodaath.

Mazal Tov to all who are part of Torah Vodaath on this momentous occasion. Looking forward to the future, may the yeshiva continue to grow and flourish, and to confound all the nay-saying experts, for many more years to come, *ad bias Goel Tzedek!*

Sincerely,

Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel

CDZ/aa

THE RABBI MOSHE SHERER NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
42 Broadway • New York, NY 10004 • 212-797-9000 • Fax: 646-254-1600



Rabbi Jacob Klass
Torah and Halacha Editor

Rabbi, Kahal Bnei Matisyahu
1235 East 35th St. Brooklyn, NY 11210

May 20, 2019

Rabbi Yitzchok Goddiener
Executive Director
Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta

Dear Rabbi Goddiener:

I am writing at this time to express our great admiration for "America's Yeshiva," an institution that has left its mark on the American scene. We have watched the Yeshiva grow in both *eichus* and *kamus* – quality and quantity as its graduates are among those who are major leaders of renown across all facets of the American Jewish community and beyond.

I remember my late uncle, Horav Sholom Klass Zt"l, publisher and editor of The Jewish Press, proudly reveling in his years as a talmid in the Yeshiva and his special love for his wonderful mentor Horav Shraga Feivel Mendelowitz Zt"l.

It was the yeshiva that fed and nourished Rav Klass' appetite for Torah that eventually led to his founding an English language newspaper for the Torah community, The Jewish Press. Like the yeshiva my uncle's publication, replete with Divrei Torah and news of the Jewish community in America and Eretz Yisrael, that today reaches the four corners of the globe, has been an instrument of kiruv – bringing closer those who are either ignorant or estranged of their rich Jewish heritage.

I personally have had the opportunity, in my capacity as an officer of the Igud HoRabbonim/Rabbinical Alliance of America, to participate and speak at numerous Yeshiva Torah Vodaath High School graduations. It has been not only a privilege to do so, but also an opportunity as well to witness the fine finished product – graduates who are extremely well versed in both their Torah and secular studies, and who present this knowledge in a very articulate manner.

Much credit is due the Roshei HaYeshiva, Menahalim, Rebbeim and teaching faculty for the fine job they do for the talmidim entrusted in their care and for their service to the general Jewish community. As we celebrate this great milestone 100 years of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, may it be His will that the Yeshiva flourish as we approach the Geulah our ultimate redemption, speedily in our days.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Yaakov Klass

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718-330-1100 . www.jewishpress.com . [ykklass@jewishpress.com](mailto:yklass@jewishpress.com)

בס"ד



RABBINICAL ALLIANCE OF AMERICA
איגוד הרבנים ד'אמריקא

Iyar 15, 5779

May 20, 2019

Rabbi Yitzchok Gotdiener
Executive Director
Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta

Dear Rabbi Gotdiener;

On behalf of the Rabbinical Alliance of America/Igud HoRabbonim, we congratulate and wish Mazal Tov to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath upon its century of service in teaching and being a Marbitz Torah in the United States of America. Torah Vodaath has a strong, positive Torah imprint in the United States of America. If being a frum Torah Jew is fashionable it is thanks to the efforts and contributions of Torah Vodaath. At the time of the founding of Torah Vodaath, the future of Torah in America was doubtful. Many in the Torah world viewed America as hopeless and a Traifinah Medina. It is thanks to Torah Vodaath, the mother of the American Yeshiva Movement that changed that reality to the America that is known today in having a growing frum Jewish community.

The Igud HoRabbonim was founded by the Rosh Yeshiva and Senior Rabbaim of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. In 1942 during the Churban, prominent Gedolei Yisroel such as HoRav HaGaon Shraga Feivel Mendelowitz, ZT"L and HoRav HaGaon Gedalia Schorr, ZT"L were among the founders and builders of the Igud HoRabbonim. HoRav Schorr served as an Honorary President of the Igud HoRabbonim. Most recently HoRav HaGaon Yisroel Belsky, ZT"L served as a Senior Dayan of the Beis Din of the Igud HoRabbonim. Currently HoRav HaGaon Leibel Wulliger serves as a Senior Dayan and Moreh Tzedek of the Igud HoRabbonim.

Our 77 years of strengthening Torah, Yiddishkeit and the frum way of life is well grounded and deeply rooted in a Koslay of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta. It is thanks to this strong foundation that the Igud HaRabbonim is able to advocate for Klal Yisroel. It is our Bracha that Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and Mesivta will continue to trail blaze Torah in America Ad Beas Goel Tzedek

Sincerely,

Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik
Executive Vice-President, Rabbinical Alliance of America



מכינה אור יונה
לע"נ ר' יונה מאיר
בן ר' חיים אלכסנדר זיסקינד ז"ל

A Special Dedication

In a fitting Tribute, the Hanhala, Board of Directors, and close Yedidim of R' Yonah Blumenfrucht ז"ל came together with the Blumenfrucht family to dedicate and rename the Mechina Program (Junior High School) of our Yeshiva, לזכר נשמתו.

This division is now known as "**Mechina Ohr Yonah**". A beautiful plaque with a listing of family and friends who have undertaken commitments to fund this division for the next several years, is appropriately displayed in the main lobby of our Yeshiva.

It is our hope that watching the talmidim learning fervently and davening with excitement in Mechina Ohr Yonah will bring the heilige neshama of R' Yonah Meir ben Chaim Alexander Ziskind an added aliya, tremendous nachas and a nechama to his wonderful family.

ישיבה תורה ודעת



מכינה אור יונה

מוקדש לז"נ

ר' יונה מאיר ב"ר חיים אלכסנדר זיסקינד
בלומענפרוכט ז"ל

תלמיד דבוק ברבותיו ראשי ישיבתנו ומעמודי התווך של הישיבה קרוב ליובל שנים
מידותיו התרוממיות, ונועם הליכותיו, מורים דרך החיים לכל משפחתו, חביריו, ומכיריו

DEDICATED BY FAMILY & FRIENDS

-- OHR YONAH --

THE BLUMENFRUCHT FAMILY
MR. & MRS. SHLOMO WERDIGER

-- NEFESH YONAH --

THE DIAMOND FAMILY
THE FRIEDMAN FAMILY
BERISH & MOSHE FUCHS & FAMILIES
MR. & MRS. MOISHE HAAS
MR. & MRS. RALPH HERZKA
THE HOLLANDER FAMILY
THE LESHKOWITZ FAMILY
MR. & MRS. PETER REBENWURZEL
MR. & MRS. AVROHOM REISS
MR. & MRS. HARRY SKYDELL
MR. & MRS. GEDALIAH WEINBERGER
MR. & MRS. BARRY WEISS
MR. & MRS. JERRY WEISSMAN
MR. & MRS. MOSHE ZAFIR

-- YEDID YONAH --

MR. & MRS. AVROHOM BIDERMAN
MR. & MRS. EPHRAIM HASENFELD MR. & MRS. FRANK MANDEL
MR. & MRS. HERTZ HASENFELD THE MORDOWITZ FAMILY
MR. & MRS. YOSHI HOCH MR. & MRS. MOSHE WEISER
MR. GEORGE KLEIN MR. & MRS. SHMIEL WERTENTEIL

LIST IN FORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT RABBI YITZCHOK GOTTDIENER



RABBI MOSHE LONNER ^{ה"י}

An Appreciation

R' Moshe Lonner arrived on the shores of the United States from Germany all alone, on July 6, 1938 at the tender age of 16, his parents having been unable to obtain exit visas. He carried with him the small precious *Tehillim* he received from his parents as well as two years of *chinuch* he received from the Yeshiva of Frankfurt under the leadership of Rav Yosef Breuer zt"l.

He was immediately welcomed to Mesivta Torah Vodaath by Rav Nesanel Quinn zt"l and Rav Yoel Fink zt"l at whose homes he spent his first Shabbos, and, then, by R' Shraga Feivel Mendelowitz zt"l at Camp Mesivta where he was befriended by the wonderful campers and counselors including R' Hershel Leiman, R' Elias Schwartz, and R' Yona Zev Hershkowitz zt"l. He attended the Mesivta and the Bais Medrash and went on for *semicha*. Among his rebbeim were Rav Boruch Kaplan, Rav S.D.B. Rivkin, Rav Gedalia Schorr, and Rav Shlomo Heiman zt"l. He received his *semicha* from Rav Shmuel Kushelevitz and Rav Schneider zt"l. Alongside his full days of *limudei kodesh* in the *bais medrash* was his pursuit of a college degree from CCNY in the evenings. After returning from the city, it was back to the *bais medrash* to end the day with *Torah*.

Without parents and any means of support, the Yeshiva became his virtual father and mother: providing him with everything from room and board, to clothing and funds for daily expenses.

In 1944, R' Moshe was hired as the high school librarian, and later, as an administrative assistant in the principal's office. In 1952, he was appointed assistant principal and in 1963, he became Principal, and served in this capacity until he retired in June of 1992.

In addition to leading the high school, Rabbi Lonner was very active in *hatzalas nefashos*, bringing hundreds of *talmidim* from war-torn Europe, helping to transplant the *yeshivos* of Nitra and Klausenburg to the U.S. under the auspices of the *Yeshiva*. In later years, he would advise *talmidim* on issues of selective service.

One does not have to look very far to realize that it was his *ehrlichkeit*, *temimus*, and demand for excellence in *limudei kodesh*, *limudei chol*, and *middos*; the infusion of a *Torah hashkafah* into the high school curriculum; and teaching the *talmidim* mathematical and scientific *yedios* to help them understand difficult *sugyos* in the *gemara*, that made the Torah Vodaath graduate the ideal synthesis of *Torah Im Derech Eretz*. What gave him much *sipuk*, was supplementing the sixth period math classes that he taught with *shiurim* in *sifrei mussar*.

He was friendly, but firm with his *talmidim* and possessed a tremendous sense of *yashrus*; and that's why he was able to bring out the best in them and earn their admiration and respect.

It was at each graduation that he issued the call for all *talmidim* to become "ambassadors for Torah" and accept *achrayus* for the *tzibur*. It is no wonder that Torah Vodaath *talmidim* constitute a disproportionately large percentage of leaders in *Klal Yisrael*: in *mosdos haTorah*, *tzedakah*, and *chesed*.

Rabbi Lonner had his *yenika* from Torah Vodaath and he was *zocheh* to reciprocate, using the lessons he learned from his *rebbeim*, to nurture new dynamic generations of *Torah* leaders.



ישיבת ומתיבתא תורה ודעת

YESHIVA & MESIVTA TORAH VODAATH



GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE TOMECH TORAH SOCIETY

Last year, a select group of visionaries joined our Generations of Excellence Society and helped provide sustainability through a five year commitment as we began the process of taking the Yeshiva into the next century with great strength and pride.

The Yeshiva continues to focus on its most important component – the Menahalim, Rebbeim and Teachers. This Special Fund has given us the ability to bring the compensations of our educators to the next level, by giving them an immediate substantial increase of \$10,000 with subsequent increases to follow.

The peace of mind this has helped to bring about enables these educators to focus on producing Torah leaders for the next generation.

**BE A LINK IN OUR EVERLASTING MESORAH AND JOIN TODAY!
BE PART OF A MOVEMENT THAT WILL HELP THE YESHIVA
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!**



GENERATIONS OF EXCELLENCE

TOMECH TORAH SOCIETY

MR. & MRS. AVRUMI BERGMAN
MR. & MRS. MOSHE BIRNBAUM
MR. & MRS. SHLOMO BISTRITZKY
MR. & MRS. ARYEH BRODY
DR. & MRS. DAVID DIAMOND
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MR. & MRS. YISSOCHER DOV REICHMANN
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MR. & MRS. BENNY SCHLAFF
DR. & MRS. AVI SCHREIBER
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MR. & MRS. CHAIM TESSLER
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MR. & MRS. ARYEH WEISS
MR. & MRS. BARRY WEISS
MR. & MRS. SHRAGY WERNER
MR. & MRS. MOSHE WIEDERMAN
RABBI & MRS. YISROEL ZLOTOWITZ
MR. & MRS. YOSSIE ZUCKER
A GRATEFUL PARENT



R' Shiya z"l, was a talmid of Torah Vodaath, who both literally and figuratively never left the Yeshiva.

Wherever the journey of life took R' Shiya, Torah Vodaath was in lock step with this extraordinary individual, and what a magnificent journey it was! A remarkable talmid chachom, a titan of American business, the patriarch of a sprawling Torah dynasty, a legendary philanthropist and involved communal giant, and of course a beloved revered family man. All through the journey, he was the eternal talmid of his Rebbe, Moreinu Horav Pam *zt"l*.

As a Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of our Yeshiva for close to thirty years, R' Shiya stood for uncompromising excellence in chinuch. He was the first to give assistance for scholarships when needed, ensuring that Torah Vodaath could continue its legacy of accepting every talmid regardless of their ability to pay full tuition.

The Ezer Yehoshua Scholarship Fund represents commitments from a special group of friends who will be linked for eternity.

The proceeds of this Fund (with commitments of 1.5 million dollars) is being used to give scholarships to young parents who are purchasing homes in our community. This helps to ensure that these parents can provide an adequate home environment while not sacrificing on the standard of chinuch their children receive.



AS OF THIS PRINTING THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS
HAVE JOINED AND MADE A COMMITMENT TO THIS FUND

MR. & MRS. DAVID ABER
MR. & MRS. SHOLOM BLATT
MR. & MRS. AARON ELBOGEN
MR. & MRS. YAAKOV FEUEREISEN
MR. & MRS. ASHER FRIED
MR. & MRS. MATIS FRIEDMAN
MR. & MRS. BERISH FUCHS
MR. & MRS. MOSHE FUCHS
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RABBI & MRS. GEDALIAH WEINBERGER
MR. & MRS. ARYEH WEISS
MR. & MRS. MOSHE WIEDERMAN



You can make a difference

For close to a hundred years, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath has been at the forefront of Torah education in America, developing tomorrow's leaders in all walks of life. Despite its age, the Yeshiva has not grown old. Its dynamic spirit moves with the times and allows our talmidim to revel in our past's illustrious achievements, but also to enjoy today's cutting edge innovations as we look forward to all of the possibilities of tomorrow.

As we edge ever closer toward a century of Torah scholarship in America, Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath invites you to become a part of our Leadership Circle — where you and a select group of visionaries can hold the reins for tomorrow's possibilities.

Being part of our Leadership Circle means you are investing in our future. By undertaking a multi-year commitment you are helping the Yeshiva plan for the future by exercising responsible financial forecasting. With your participation you will help keep the flame of Torah excellence burning brighter than ever at Torah Vodaath.



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE CHAIRMEN

Peter Rebenwuzel

Sammy Trencher

Moishe Haas

Aryeh Weiss



Thank you for making a difference!

We are grateful to these Torah Vodaath families who have joined **The Leadership Circle** with generous multi-year commitments to the Yeshiva

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MR. & MRS. YOILY EDELSTEIN	MR. & MRS. JEFFREY MEHL
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MR. & MRS. JERRY WEISSMAN	



In the
Beis Medrash







From the Mesivta



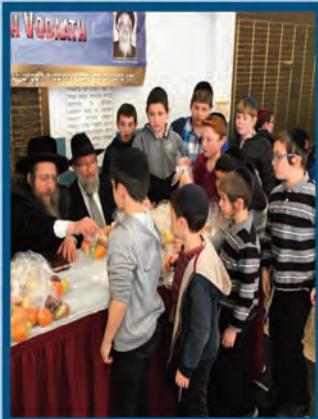


Mechina
Ohr
Yonah



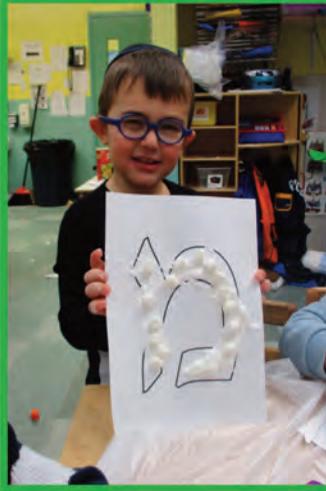


Scenes
From Our
Yeshiva
Ketana





Preschool In Action







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**Torah
Vodaath
throughout
the
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PROUD TO BE THE YESHIVA TORAH VODAATH DESIGNER OF THE CENTURY

(well... at least 20 years worth)



WITH MUCH ADMIRATION & GREAT APPRECIATION TO MY DEAR FRIEND

RABBI YITZCHOK GOTTDIENER

Special Thanks to Rabbi Shochet, Rabbi Diamond, Rabbi Lipsky, Rabbi Kutten, Rabbi Werner, Mrs. Adler, Mrs. Perlman, Mrs. Mittelman and the Entire Staff

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MR. & MRS. ARYEH FRIEDMAN

How Rav Pam זצ"ל Shaped My Life

By: Rabbi Yosef Chaim Golding

Reading the papers about the upcoming Centennial Dinner of Yeshiva and Mesivta Torah Vodaath has filled me with great emotion. That's because I can truly say that just about everything good I've done in my life is a result of my rebbi, Rav Avrohom haKohen Pam zt"l.

As a teenager who was pretty much interested in sports, sports, and more sports, it was Rav Pam's Friday schmoozen that started molding me into someone who realized that there was more to life than just sports. His delivery was simple, his topics were serious, and his messages were indisputably correct.



One weekday afternoon, while sitting in the Beis Medrash, I heard that there was a Torah Umesorah sponsored assembly upstairs in the Beis Medrash Katan, and that we were permitted to leave seder to attend. Rav Pam was to be the guest speaker. He told a story how, once, behind the Iron Curtain, there was a prisoner who was sentenced to 25 years of hard labor. He was to walk around in a circle with a yoke tethered to him, attached to a pole in the ground. Soon after the sentence began, the prisoner sat down and refused to walk around in circles any longer. The guard told him that his comrades in Russia would starve, as the pole in the ground was attached to an underground mill, providing flour for his comrades throughout the land. With a renewed purpose, the prisoner got up and vigorously continued his mission. After 25 years, when he was freed, he asked the warden to show him the underground mill. The warden laughed, saying there is no mill, and there never was one; "You've been walking around in circles for 25 years"...and the prisoner "chaled" (fainted).

Rav Pam looked at us through his gold-rimmed glasses, and with that soft voice of his, suggested that when it came to choosing our life's profession, make sure it is one that, when you look back after 25 years, you weren't just spinning your wheels. He then implored us all to become "diamond polishers", as he, himself, was. He explained that a rebbi takes raw uncut "diamonds", and polishes them and molds them into learners of Hashem's Torah. And it made no difference if the "diamonds" were first graders, second graders, or high schoolers. The nachas one has when looking back over the years at how your "diamonds" blossomed, is unequalled.

That drasha was the impetus that spurred me into my life's work with JEP, Agudath Israel of America, RCCS, and other askanus work that resulted in an ocean of unparalleled nachas.

It goes without saying that Rebbi was always available for shailos, questions, and dispensing of advice, until his final illness.

I will be forever grateful to Rav Pam and the yeshiva he was so proudly part of.

He is sorely missed!

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May 26, 2019

Dear Guests and Honorees:

It is my honor to pay tribute to Yeshiva Torah Vodaath on its 100th Anniversary.

For the last century, Torah Vodaath has been a pillar in our community and throughout the Jewish world at large.

Guided and inspired by the yeshiva leadership, an illustrious record of accomplished alumni have risen to positions across the world. I am humbled to call myself a talmid as well. The yeshiva continues its worthy mission until this very day.

I would like to extend a bracha to the entire Torah Vodaath extended family for another 100 years of continued excellence, and distinction in educating the next generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simcha Felder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simcha Felder
Senator, 17th S.D.



