



RECOGNIZING 60 ALUMNI
AROUND THE WORLD



OHOLEI TORAH
HONORING
60 ALUMNI

A milestone event deserves only the highest caliber honorees.

Tonight we recognize 60 of our alumni.

60 demonstrations of Oholei Torah's educational excellence.

60 leaders, inspiring communities across the world.

An educational institute's true pride is in its students. Graduates who personify the ideals it promotes. All the more so with Oholei Torah—a school advocating the dissemination of spiritual light to all corners of the world. Tonight we recognize our graduates' accomplishments.

Tonight we celebrate the realization of our school's founding.

To celebrate 60 years as the flagship school of Chabad-Lubavitch, we present you with this booklet, spanning a diverse group of our alumni of all ages, professions, nationalities and backgrounds.

Meet Moshe, Chaim, Mendel and Yossi—all Oholei Torah alumni, all responding to the same calling: to bring the high ideals of their student years into their daily interactions with whomever they meet, wherever they are.

**THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE,
RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON,
HAD AN AMBITIOUS VISION:**

To create an army of Jewish leaders; men and women, who would dedicate their lives to spreading awareness of G-d and fulfillment of His *Torah* and *Mitzvahs*; spiritual warriors, who would fight assimilation and promote Jewish pride.

Creating such an army would require special training. Training that would equip a young couple to relocate to the most remote of Jewish locations, and to nevertheless maintain their spiritual integrity, advance in their personal connection to God, and be a positive impact on those around them. A training that would inspire people to dedicate their lives to bringing light into this world, wherever and whenever they might find themselves.

OHOLEI TORAH WAS CHOSEN TO BE THIS TRAINING GROUND.

Oholei Torah was the first educational institute the Rebbe founded and gave support in its initial stages. Oholei Torah continued to receive constant support, directives and blessings throughout the Rebbe's years of leadership. Its unique educational approach and proud advocacy for *Chinuch al Taharas HaKodesh* has made it the flagship school for rearing Shluchim worldwide.

We dedicate this booklet to the Rebbe, whose educational vision has brought about the largest revolution contemporary Judaism has ever seen.







Dear Friends and Supporters,

Tonight we are celebrating a most momentous occasion—60 years of Oholei Torah's growth. Our acclaimed institution has produced thousands of capable leaders around the world, all infused with the common goal of spreading the teachings of Torah and Chassidus.

Applauding past accomplishments does not do tonight's milestone justice. We must use tonight's celebration to rededicate ourselves to the Yeshiva's founding ideals, to reenergize ourselves in accomplishing our mission, and to inspire our growth into the future.

Tonight we pay tribute to Oholei Torah's founders, whose lives were dedicated to helping us reach this milestone. Reb Michoel and Esther Teitelbaum, the co-founders of Oholei Torah, made it their life's mission to educate, nurture and sustain every aspect of this school. Reb Dovid and Sara Deitsch—known as the "Tatteh and Mammeh" of Oholei Torah—gave the financial support and moral guidance to bring Oholei Torah to where it is today.

Our alumni's accomplishments are a tribute to their efforts and the efforts of all those who helped us reach our 60th celebration. The Board of Directors pledges to continue these efforts with the help of our many staff, faculty, friends and supporters, until the ultimate goal is realized—the coming of Moshiach Tzidkainu, speedily in our days.



Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Alumni,

Our Shnas Hashishim celebration comes to its culmination with this Gala Event. We have chosen this occasion to proudly honor our very own alumni, highlighting their ongoing dedication to Jewish life within their respective communities.

Tonight's list of alumni honorees includes Shluchim, Lubavitch representatives, business people, pulpit rabbis and educators. It is a diverse group, but there is a uniting thread that binds them: Their dedication to making a positive impact upon Jewish communities worldwide.

We are proud of all our alumni. They have all have become light and inspiration to those who know them, and they all recognize their unique shlichus, opportunity, and mission—to continuously spread goodness, kindness, and Jewish values to all of mankind.

Celebration 60 is an opportunity to double our efforts, and to see that Oholei Torah enters an entirely new era of expansion and growth. Our supporters recognize the impact Oholei Torah alumni have on Jewish communities worldwide, and we rededicate ourselves to increasing and intensifying the important work we do.

I congratulate the 60 alumni honored tonight, and I wish Mazal Tov to those who they represent and whose lives they've touched.



Rabbi Nossen Blumes

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

“They really set me on my feet in learning...being surrounded by teachers who are true chassidim and who live with the ideals and teachings of the Rebbe in each moment, has a long-term effect on each student.”

Gershon Avtzon '01



SHMUEL ALTEIN '03

Director, Jewish Learning Institute
Winnipeg, Canada

Rabbi Shmuel Altein, great-grandson of Rabbi Yisroel Jacobson, ר' י, one the first Chabad activists in North America, was born in chilly Winnipeg, Canada, where his parents Rabbi Avrohom and Mrs. Brocha Altein, have been sharing the warmth of Judaism with the local Jewish community since 1972.

When he arrived at Oholei Torah at the age of 19, he was immediately enveloped by the warm atmosphere and brotherly love that characterized the school. Rabbi Avrohom Gerlitzky maintained a personal relationship with him and his fellow students, at the same time encouraging and motivating them to delve deeper into their studies. “He cared deeply about us, and taught with genuine love,” Rabbi Altein recalls.

Rabbi Altein and his wife, Adina (née Duchman) joined his parents on *shlichus* in Winnipeg, adding a youthful dimension and spirited learning to the windswept city. Shortly after their arrival, the community dedicated the new 14,000-square-foot Chabad center, and Rabbi Altein became an integral part of the community, bringing with him the Jewish Learning Institute, the world’s preeminent provider of Jewish learning in 900 communities across the globe, reaching 250 locals. The Alteins have also initiated annual Shabbatons and other exciting programs, including a most successful Torah Tots school with an enrollment close to 75 young toddlers.



GERSHON AVTZON '01

Founder and Rosh Yeshiva,
Yeshivas Lubavitch
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rabbi Gershon Avtzon began spending his summers guiding and inspiring young students at the age of 18. After he married his wife Fruma (née Simpson) and began to look for *shlichus*, he realized that his energy and skills would be best utilized in the field of education, and in 2006 he established Yeshivas Lubavitch Cincinnati.

Rabbi Avtzon joined the Talmudical Seminary of Oholei Torah in 2000, where he enjoyed the classes given by Rabbi Moshe Wolberg and Rabbi Yisroel Friedman. “They really set me on my feet in learning,” he says. “Being surrounded by teachers who are true chassidim and who live with the ideals and teachings of the Rebbe in each moment, has a long-term effect on each student,” he adds. In particular, Rabbi Avtzon recalls the personal care he received from Rabbi Shmuel Chaim Bluming, which he tries to emulate now in his own yeshivah.

When Rabbi Avtzon opened the Yeshivah in Cincinnati, his goal was to give the students a warm and positive education, in an idealistic environment, with the necessary foundations of Torah and *yiras shomayim*. Rabbi Avtzon has become known for his positive influence on his students, as well as his care for their spiritual and material needs. His lectures are frequently sought, and his publications on Moshiach and redemption have become renowned.



MENDEL AZIMOV '89

Director, Beth Loubavitch of France
Paris, France

As Rabbi Mendel Azimov knows, living in France, where virulent anti-Semitism is rampant can be difficult and dangerous. His father, Rabbi Shmuel "Muleh" Azimov ה"ע, the unforgettable director of Chabad in Paris, never allowed the Jewish community to hide. With 36 Chabad houses, across the city, he encouraged the Jewish community to be proud of their Yiddishkeit and to not surrender to anti-Semitism.

When he suddenly passed away in 2014, his eldest son Rabbi Mendel, an alumnus of Oholei Torah, took over the reins, including the network of Jewish educational institutions with over 2100 students across four locations.

Following in his father's footsteps, Rabbi Mendel Azimov has continued to expand Chabad activities, adding 15 new *shluchim* over the past two years, with more in the works. He has continued to bring pride to the streets of Paris, even during particularly difficult times.

When, in 2016, Parisian officials wanted to cancel the grand menorah lighting in front of the Eiffel Tower, Rabbi Azimov refused to back down, compelling the authorities to abandon their request. On Chanukah, 1500 locals attended the menorah lighting, basking in Jewish pride.



YECHIEL BAITELMAN '88

Director, Chabad of Richmond
Richmond, Canada

Every Friday, for many years, the voice of Rabbi Yechiel Baitelman's grandfather, Rabbi Shalom Ber Gordon, ה"ג, could be heard on WEVD radio, as he presented a short weekly program recapping the happenings in Lubavitch and a lesson on the Parshah. He always ended the program with a short appeal on behalf of Oholei Torah.

From at the age of three, Rabbi Baitelman studied in Oholei Torah, where he was showered with the warmth of *chassidishkeit* and love for Torah and *mitzvos*. To this day, when reviewing the Gemara that he learned at yeshivah, he fondly remembers the "good old days."

In 1993, Rabbi Baitelman and his wife Chanie (née Wineberg) founded Chabad of Richmond, British Columbia. Because of the education he received at Oholei Torah, Rabbi Baitelman is able to teach and inspire others to live life as Hashem wills. Today he is a proud father to children who attend Oholei Torah.

Following in the footsteps of their grandfather, many of Rabbi Baitelman's siblings have joined the Rebbe's army of *shluchim*, dedicating themselves to the spreading of Yiddishkeit.

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Mendel Azimov '89



For help overcoming many of the difficulties he faced along the way, he turned to his former Oholei Torah classmates. "We were in constant touch then, and are still in touch now," he says. "They gave me ideas, encouragement, and the tools I needed to succeed."

Manis Barash '92



MANIS BARASH '92

Director, Chabad Maharal Center
Prague, Czech Republic

When Rabbi Manis Barash and his wife, Dini, arrived in 1996 in Prague, a city steeped in Jewish history, he discovered that the beautiful, ancient synagogues were being used as museums rather than for *davening*. Today, after overcoming many hurdles, Chabad runs activities from three locations in the Jewish quarter.

Rabbi Barash quickly realized that the local Jews, many of whom were Holocaust survivors and their children, were largely indifferent to the need for an active and vibrant Jewish life. Just to enter the synagogue or *daven* at the Maharal's *kever*, one had to pay. He set about building the much-needed Jewish infrastructure: a shul, a place to eat kosher food, adult Jewish education classes, and education for young children. For help overcoming many of the difficulties he faced along the way, he turned to his former Oholei Torah classmates. "We were in constant touch then, and are still in touch now," he says. "They gave me ideas, encouragement, and the tools I needed to succeed."

Today Prague boasts a thriving Chabad House, preschool, and two restaurants which serve the local Jewish community as well as the many tourists who flock to the famed Jewish quarter.



Y. YOSEF YITZCHOK BAUMGARTEN '09

Founder, Unzer Shul, Crown Heights
Brooklyn, New York

For Yossi Baumgarten, Oholei Torah was everything. His mother Devorah Baumgarten is the elementary school secretary and was formally involved in the preschool, but her role extends far beyond that. She has dedicated her life to the yeshivah, and passing on to her children the strong message that *chinuch* and Oholei Torah is one's passion and life's mission. His grandfather, Rabbi Mendel Baumgarten was on the original school board, and was one of the first to enroll his children in Oholei Torah.

Yossi recalls his teachers fondly, with appreciation for their dedication to each student. One teacher in particular left a strong impression. In the Oholei Torah High School a classmate angrily accused the teacher, "You come here only to get paid!"

The teacher explained, "Don't you think I could earn a better salary elsewhere? I'm here because I truly care about my *talmidim*."

But he didn't leave it at that. At the next class chassidic gathering (*farbrengen*) this same teacher, caught off guard, began listing the names of all the students in the class in alphabetical order, demonstrating that he thinks about them even out of school, when they are not sitting in front of him.

After leaving yeshivah, Yossi organized a class shul, Unzer Shul, where Torah classes and chassidic gatherings have become regular. Last year he married Sarale Simpson. The education he received at Oholei Torah taught him that everyone has a *shlichus* to fulfill, including those in the Crown Heights community, where he has become involved with the local Bikur Cholim, an organization that helps the sick and elderly.



That year changed
his outlook on life:
he discovered that
while learning is
central, care for
others is paramount.

Shlomo Bistritzky '97



MENDY BEGUN '10

Associate Rabbi, Tiferet Lubavitch
St. Paulo Brazil

Growing up in Cheviot Hills, California, child of Chabad *shluchim* Rabbi Aron and Esther Sara Begun, Mendy always knew where his future lay: reaching out to Jews. Today, together with his wife Mindy (née Mochkin), he is doing just that in S. Paulo, Brazil, as Rabbi Begun joined his grandfather, Rabbi Ya'akov Begun, who the Rebbe personally sent to Brazil over 60 years ago.

At Oholei Torah, Rabbi Begun was deeply influenced by all his teachers, but in particular by his mentor, a close teacher who gave him much time. For the young man, the long conversations they had after school hours proved beneficial as he grew into a young Jewish leader. "He has an exceptionally warm heart," Rabbi Begun says, "and really gives time to the students, forging a deep connection with them. He understands the material world and how it interacts with the spiritual development of the student, offering a healthy, balanced perspective."

Given the opportunity to assist at a Chabad House with the encouragement of the yeshivah faculty, he gained from that experience the tools he uses in his current *shlichus*. He and his wife have expanded programs to include young professionals, at the same time strengthening the ongoing Chabad House activities.



SHLOMO BISTRITZKY '97

Chief Rabbi and Director,
Chabad Lubawitsch Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany

By watching his father, Rabbi Levi Bistritzky, ה"ע, then chief rabbi of Tzfas, Rabbi Shlomo Bistritzky learned the meaning of dedicating oneself to the community.

Arriving at Oholei Torah in 1997, he encountered a different kind of dedication: that of the teachers toward their students. For example, Rabbi Yisroel Friedman would learn one on one with the *bochurim*, and Rabbi Nachman Schapiro took an active interest in their personal lives.

During his time at Oholei Torah, Rabbi Bistritzky was very involved in the publishing of the *Hoaros Ubiurim* – a biweekly scholarly journal on Torah subjects, which gave him a front row view of Rabbi Gerlitzky's dedication. That year changed his outlook on life: he discovered that while learning is central, care for others is paramount.

In 2003, Rabbi Bistritzky and his wife Chana (née Havlin), moved to Hamburg, Germany, where they are an integral part of the Jewish community. Much of the couple's energy is focused on youth programming. In 2007 they acquired the building which housed the Jewish day school before the Holocaust (it is noteworthy that one of the former students in that same building was Rabbi Bistritzky's grandfather Rabbi Leibel Bistritzky), and today the school is attended by 160 children with Rabbi Bistritzky as principal. In 2011, Rabbi Bistritzky was appointed by the local Jewish community as the chief rabbi of Hamburg. In 2014 he opened a *kollel*, Rabiner Seminar, where young married men sit and learn practical Jewish law, and train to become rabbis in German communities.



DOVBER BLAU '05

Teacher, Oholei Torah Elementary School
Brooklyn, New York

In the Blau home, Oholei Torah was a central part of family life. Both of Dovber's parents, Rabbi Menachem Meir, ה"ע, and ב"ה בובל, Esther holding positions in Oholei Torah, were a part of the fabric of the yeshivah. At home, his parents taught him that through hard work you can achieve anything. At Oholei Torah, he was taught to infuse passion into everything one does. Today, as a teacher, Rabbi Blau brings a unique blend of passion and drive to his classroom.

When Rabbi Blau contemplated becoming a teacher at Oholei Torah, he hoped that he could give back to the school that gave him so much. "It's a yeshivah that I looked to as a model in education," he says. "I feel privileged to be surrounded by a fantastic team of educators who are deeply invested in giving their utmost for the students' wellbeing."

Rabbi Blau is deeply devoted to his *talmidim*, looking to bring out the best in each one. In learning, *middos tovos* and *yiras shomaim*.

Working with the others teachers, principals, and the school staff, he says, make his years most memorable. "I am not alone in my teaching," Rabbi Blau says. "I appreciate watching the more experienced teachers, and receiving their support."



CHAIM BLOCK '72

Director, Chabad of San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Rabbi Chaim Block followed in his parents' footsteps by moving out on *shlichus*. He is the son of Dr. Yitzchak Block, who, in addition to his position as a professor of philosophy at The University of Western Ontario in London, Canada took an active role in spreading Yiddishkeit in London, Ontario. Dr. & Mrs. Block had an open home for Jews of all walks of life, and this tradition continued with their children.

Recognizing the importance of *chinuch al taharas hakodesh*, a strong Torah education, Professor Block sent his 11-year-old son, Chaim, to stay with his grandfather, the legendary Reb Elya Nachum Sklar, to attend Oholei Torah – his first yeshivah experience. "It was a massive shock to my system," yet he fondly recalls. "The yeshivah planted within me a burning desire to become a shliach, for which I am forever indebted." After seeing its positive effect on him, his parents continued to send their other sons to Oholei Torah too.

Since 1985, Rabbi Block and his wife Rivkie (nee Kahanov) have lived in San Antonio, Texas, where they have built a 12,500-square-foot Chabad center, which houses a synagogue, social hall, mikvah, and Jewish library, as well as classrooms for Chabad's youth and adult educational programs.

Over the years Rabbi and Mrs. Block have greatly expanded the activities of the Chabad center including the welcoming of additional Shluchim who have greatly contributed to the growth of their communities in the greater San Antonio area.

They are proud of their children, many of whom have already taken up their own leadership positions across America.

"The yeshivah planted within me a burning desire to become a shliach, for which I am forever indebted." After seeing its positive effect on him, his parents continued to send their other sons to Oholei Torah too.

Chaim Block '72







YEHUDA BUTMAN '88

Director, Chabad of Ramat Hasharon
Ramat Hasharon, Israel

Before leaving to Israel from Crown Heights the Rebbe requested that the Butman children learn at Oholei Torah.

Rabbi Butman enrolled at Oholei Torah together with his twin brother. Central to his yeshivah experience were the regular, lively chassidic gatherings (*farbrengens*). He fondly recalls Rabbis Nachman Schapiro, Pinye Korf and Yisroel Friedman *farbrenging*. His love for “*Fort a Shifaleh*,” a beloved chassidic melody on how everything is dependent on the One Above is his favorite *nigun* which he now enjoys singing with his family, dates back to those gatherings. “Before arriving at Oholei Torah,” he says, “I knew who the Rebbe was, but never envisioned the Rebbe like a parent who cared about me personally. This view I received from the yeshivah.”

In Israel, Rabbi Yehuda Butman’s father worked in the family business, but made it very clear that being active in the Rebbe’s mitzvah campaigns was always a priority. This sent a strong message to the rest of the family, all of who ultimately became involved in Chabad institutions.

Today, Rabbi Butman and his wife Tirtza, run four institutions serving the 50,000 citizens of Ramat Hasharon. Rabbi Butman has made it a priority for all, but pays particular attention to care for the less fortunate, with a soup kitchen, clothing bank, and children’s programs. Rabbi Butman’s lively message on the weekly Torah portion, is read by many thousands of the Israeli public.



MENDY CHANIN '94

Owner, Reliable Fast Cash Company
Brooklyn, New York

Rabbi Mendy Chanin was raised in a home where the Rebbe’s Torah was the central focus. His father, Rabbi Zalman Chanin, directs Vaad L’Hafotzas Sichos, the publisher of Likutei Sichos, Sefer Hamaamarim Melukat and many other Torah works of the Rebbe. Today, he has taken that love of spreading *chassidus* to the next generation.

Etched in his memory is the dedication of Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Schapiro, ה"ג, an elementary principal, showed to every child. He recalls an incident where Rabbi Schapiro witnessed two children hurling insults at one another: “He told us the story of the Baal Shem Tov, where one student told the other that he would tear him up like a fish. He really made that story come alive for us, on our level, as if we were actually there with the Baal Shem Tov.”

“In *zal*,” he recalls “Rabbi Avrohom Gerlitzky was not only a good teacher, he really connected with us and maintains those relationship today. It’s reassuring to know that even after you leave, you stay connected to the Roshei Yeshivah.”

Today, Mendy runs Reliable Fast Cash, where he “attempts to make a living” while being a beloved member of the community, who with his talents and steadfast dedication to the ideals he received at Oholei Torah, reaches out and impacts many all over the world through organizing a slew of classes in Chassidus, many of which are broadcast on StumpTheRebbit.org and TheYeshiva.net. He also founded MyMaor.org which sends out daily videos of the Rebbe to over 20,000 subscribers and together with several of his classmates produced the *Oh Rebbe* album.

“Before arriving at Oholei Torah, I knew who the Rebbe was, but never envisioned the Rebbe like a parent who cared about me personally. This view I received from the yeshivah.”

Yehuda Butman '88



“It was life, not just learning ... The energy remains with me.” While he is still in touch with many of the teachers today, he has particularly fond memories of the principals, who creatively and thoughtfully dealt with the more difficult moments. “They left a long lasting impression on me.”

Shloime Chein '97



SHLOIME CHEIN '97

Director, Chabad University of California S. Cruz, California

Raised in a home where his parents, Reb Mottel and Brocha Chein, are committed and living examples of dedicated *chassidim*, they imbued these values in their children. Coupled with the education he received in Oholei Torah, the groundwork work was laid for a life dedicated to the Rebbe's work. Today Rabbi Shlomie Chein runs Chabad on Campus in S. Cruz, California.

For Rabbi Chein, the highlight of the Oholei Torah experience was the vibrancy, tenacity, and upbeat atmosphere. “It was life, not just learning,” he says. “The energy remains with me.” While he is still in touch with many of the teachers today, he has particularly fond memories of the principals, Rabbi Hershel Lustig, Rabbi Zushe Wilhelm, and Rabbi Ephraim Piekarski, who creatively and thoughtfully dealt with the more difficult moments. “They left a long lasting impression on me,” he recalls.

Rabbi Chein and his wife Devorah Leah (née Cunin) moved to S. Cruz in 2003, where they are *shluchim* to UCSC. He also teaches accredited courses at the University. He is an author and editor for the Sinai Scholars Society and is often invited as a guest speaker. He says that his time at Oholei Torah influenced who he is today, in many ways, including the oft-taught notion that life is not about what you need, but about what you are needed for. “The more I face life's challenges, the more I cherish the Rebbe's values I learned at Oholei Torah.”



YOSSI CUNIN '94

Beverly Hills Chabad
Beverly Hills, California

At the exclusive Beverly Hills Hotel, whose halls are graced by the who's who of Hollywood and beyond, every Shabbos morning a group of 200 people arrive for services in a room directly off the main lobby—something that would have once been entirely impossible in a place where it was forbidden to sell or rent property to Jews. But to Rabbi Cunin, following in the footsteps of his legendary father Rabbi Shlomo Cunin, head *shliach* to the state of California, nothing is impossible.

Before he even arrived at Oholei Torah, having observed its students in action, Rabbi Cunin knew that this was the place he wanted to study. “They took their learning seriously,” he recalls, “but when it came to reaching out to their fellow Jews, they brought an entirely new enthusiasm to the city.”

Once he arrived, he relished the atmosphere of learning and camaraderie, and the opportunity to meet the children of fellow *shluchim* from across the globe. “The yeshivah absorbed *shluchim*'s children from around the world,” he says. “It was a melting pot of students from the United States and beyond.”

Today Rabbi Cunin and his wife Chumi, (née Simons), co-directors of Chabad of Beverly Hills, bring a sense of warmth and friendliness to the city. Rabbi Cunin is also the placement manager of new Chabad emissaries to the West Coast, and is involved in the effort to return the Chabad collection of thousands of valuable *seforim* from Russia to the central Chabad Library in Brooklyn.



ZALMAN YUDA DEITSCH, ז"ע

Honored by the Oholei Torah Board and Graduates

Reb Zalman ז"ע went into business under the direct orders of the Rebbe, and received a blessing that he should be successful “*b'yeser s'eis uvyeser oiz*” (with more strength and more vigor).

Through all his business dealings, he kept in mind that his financial success was not a result of his own doing, but an outcome of the Rebbe's blessing to him. His actions spoke for themselves, with his support of many of the Rebbe's institutions.

He especially had an affinity towards Oholei Torah, since it was founded by the Rebbe himself.

He felt most at home when, at the insistence of his wife, Cyrel his children would fill the Shabbos table with out-of-town friends, including many Oholei Torah students. With the students around the table, a chassidic environment permeated him, his family and the entire home.

Reb Zalman and Cyrel took much pride in their children and in their commitment to the Rebbe's initiatives.

It is with this unwavering commitment to the Rebbe, the Rebbe's institutions and to Oholei Torah, that he got involved—in addition to his giving *tzedakah*—by being an active member of the steering committee that helped propel Oholei Torah to the next level.

Tonight's honor is being giving collectively by Oholei Torah and its graduates.



ZALMAN MOSHE DRIZIN '96

Director, Chabad of Kings Highway Brooklyn, New York

Rabbi Zalman Moshe Drizin was raised with a deep appreciation for Oholei Torah and its founder. His father Rabbi Yisroel, ז"ע, and mother Feigie, ט"ה בבלט always warmly welcomed Rabbi Michoel Teitelbaum, the founder of Oholei Torah, into their home. With deep respect, they gave generously to the yeshivah.

Mrs. Devi Baumgarten and Mrs. Faige Winner, who were his *morahs* in preschool, now educate his own children.

Looking back, Rabbi Drizin most appreciates the time he spent in *shiur* with Rabbi Yisroel Friedman. “He had a bird's eye-view of the Gemara that we were learning,” Rabbi Drizin says. “He applied Gemaras from across the entire Shas and made them applicable to the current *sugya* [subject at hand].” He was also deeply affected by the constant *farbrengens* atmosphere in the yeshivah.

When he and his wife Frumie (née Perlow) established Chabad of Kings Highway South in 2004, he quickly realized that while the area is saturated with shuls and schools, and his large events garner over 1000 revelers, his real mission is to reach out on an individual basis. Utilizing everything he learned at Oholei Torah, the Drizin home is a constant hub of Torah learning and *farbrengens*.

“Oholei Torah absorbed shluchim's children from around the world... It was a melting pot of students from the United States and beyond.”

Yossi Cunin '94







“They come and build in a manner of *lechatchilah* arib, going above and beyond what anyone would of expect from a rabbi. This they get from Oholei Torah.”

Mendel Duchman '77



MORDECHAI TZVI DUBROWSKI '74

Rabbi, Chabad of Rishon L’tzion
Rishon L’tzion, Israel

When Rabbi Mordechai Tzvi Dubrowski’s parents, Reb Dovber and Leah, arrived in Crown Heights with their family, they chose to educate their children in a place most similar to the education they received back in the Soviet Union. And, indeed, at Oholei Torah Rabbi Dubrowski’s teachers, such as Reb Elya Chaim Roitblat, instilled within him the love of Torah learning.

He recalls when Rabbi Nochum Sternberg arrived from Eretz Yisroel to teach at Oholei Torah: “His dedication to the students strongly influenced my future study,” he says. “He did not just sit on the side of the room; he engaged every student, encouraging us to enjoy and appreciate every word. He gave us material to review before class and answered all our questions respectfully, no matter how simple they were.”

The Rebbe sent Rabbi Dubrowski to Eretz Yisrael in 1978, and he brought his love of learning along. When he was appointed rabbi of the Chabad community in Rishon Letzion, a position he still maintains, he established classes and Torah study as a central aspect of his position. With 150 families directly involved in the community, he also began a *kollel* for young married couples whose mission is to reach out to the general Jewish community. Thus the Chabad shul has become a center for Torah study and *shiurim*, not just for the immediate members of the community.



MENDEL DUCHMAN '77

CEO, Nonie of Beverly Hills
Los Angeles, California

Mendel Duchman, the CEO of Nonie of Beverly Hills, a successful skin care products company, chooses to dedicate much of his time to helping *shluchim* with their finances, budgets, and fundraising.

Whenever Mendel visits Oholei Torah he feels like he is returning home. “This is where we got our beginning in life,” he says, “where we were nurtured, and our teachers and *mashpiim* worked day and night for us.”

Mendel is simultaneously involved in the influential worlds of commerce and finance, while devoting himself to helping *shluchim* across the globe. With humor, clarity, meaning and passion, he empowers others to find resources within themselves that will enable them to be more successful. He recognizes that when a *shliach* has learned in Oholei Torah, “he has the foundation and *chinuch* to be proud of who he is and accomplish his mission with confidence.” He attributes many graduates’ multi-million dollar Jewish community centers to their yeshivah education: “They come and build in a manner of *lechatchilah* arib, going above and beyond what anyone would of expect from a rabbi. This they get from Oholei Torah.”

In his hometown of Los Angeles, his favorite project is his family endeavor, “Rebbe’s Diamond Daveners” junior congregation with close to 200 children attending weekly, which is run and administered to a great extent by the participating children themselves.

“It’s a tough world,” he says. “If you remember what you learned at Oholei Torah, you can probably pass 99 percent of the trials and tribulations.”



AVRAHAM FRIED(MAN)

World Renowned Chassidic Singer
Brooklyn, New York

Avremel Friedman was a young boy with a sweet voice when the famed Chabad musician Rabbi Eli Lipsker, *n”y*, chose him from the crowd of the Oholei Torah choir and gave him his first taste of singing solo in front of a large audience. He became a steady contributor to the “Evenings with Chabad,” often given the most difficult solos. Since then, Avraham Fried has been inspiring crowds across the globe.

He recalls Oholei Torah as a haven of spirituality. “I fervently prayed in one corner, and Yoske Meizlisch sat in the other corner,” he recalls. “We lived with G-dliness.”

While working on his first album in 1981, Avraham Fried was inspired by the Rebbe’s *farbrengens* to bring these positive messages to a wider audience. Thus was born the song “*No Jew Will Be Left Behind*.” Since then he has produced over 30 albums. He began his concert career at an event in Jerusalem in 1985, and since then he has performed thousands of times for crowds as large as over 200,000 people.

He frequently relates that the Rebbe told him to give charity before and after every concert to thank Hashem for the event’s success. Recently he has taken to encouraging people to designate a charity box for when they want to thank the Al-mighty for the good they see in their lives. On a recent visit to Oholei Torah he encouraged the high school students to find their own talent and use it to inspire others.



YOSSI FRIEDMAN '92

Director of Research, Fidelity Industries
Wayne, New Jersey

Quiet and unassuming, Yossi is known in the Crown Heights community as a man of chesed.

Yossi is director of research and a sales manager at Fidelity Industries, a leading independent U.S. manufacturer of commercial wallcoverings. But his real passion and drive is with Hatzalah of Crown Heights, a volunteer emergency medical service organization, where he is an associate for over 20 years. Yossi volunteers his time alongside 50 highly trained medical professionals, responding to medical emergencies in the community 24/7, with one of the shortest response times anywhere in the world.

Yossi is the son of Rabbi Bentzion *n”y*, a well-respected educator at Oholei Torah and Ohel Moshe, known for his cheerful disposition, greeting everyone with a smile and kind word. His mother, Chana *n”y*, was a longtime beloved *morah* at Mosdos Day Care Center.

Yossi’s fond memories of his extremely devoted educators and principals led him to choose Oholei Torah for his own children.

Yossi is passionate about helping others. “There is no better feeling,” he says “than just being able to help another person in their moment of true need.”

“**There is no better feeling than just being able to help another person in their moment of true need.”**

Yossi Friedman '92



“The way Rabbi Friedman analyzed and appreciated the ideas taught me to analyze individuals at the Chabad House, appreciate their uniqueness and try to cater to their needs.”

Shimon Freundlich '92



SHIMON FREUNDLICH '92

Rabbi, Founder, Chabad of Beijing
Beijing, China

When Rabbi Shimon and Dini (née Lipskar) Freundlich arrived in Beijing, China, in 2001, it was a spiritual desert. Looking back, Rabbi Freundlich says it would have been impossible then to believe that they would grow into three locations occupying some 24,000 square feet.

The three locations house a shul, *mikvah*, and an internationally recognized day school. Chabad caters to the 2000 local Jews, but also to 15,000 business people and thousands of tourists annually. At any given moment, Rabbi Freundlich says, there could be a myriad of Jews from varied backgrounds. The spirit and vigor to run the large operation, he says, comes from his education at Oholei Torah.

Rabbi Yisroel Friedman's classes at Oholei Torah deeply impacted his life. "He was very shrewd," he says. "Listening to his class involved intellectual gymnastics. His three-hour classes were like riding an intellectual roller coaster."

He says his ability to deal with the crowds he now faces in Beijing comes from the education he received at Oholei Torah. "The way Rabbi Friedman analyzed and appreciated the ideas taught me to analyze individuals at the Chabad House, appreciate their uniqueness and try to cater to their needs."

The Beijing Chabad center was nominated last year as one of the five most beautiful synagogues in the world.



RABBI MENACHEM GLUCKOWSKY '76

Director, Chabad Rabbinate of Israel
Rechovot, Israel

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Gluckowsky was born to a family steeped in Jewish education. His father Rabbi Avraham was not only an educator, but a personal mentor to many.

One of the first students of the Oholei Torah Beis Midrash, Rabbi Gluckowsky basked in the intense learning program under Rabbis Yisroel Friedman and Shlomo Majesky. Rabbi Majesky was dedicated to each student and created a warm, *chassidishe* atmosphere, where the students were able to grow and develop.

Rabbi Gluckowsky recalls being called over by Rabbi Friedman, who pointed out a new student and suggested, "You see that student? He is a foreigner; he doesn't know the language, he has no family or friends here. Befriend him." Rabbi Gluckowsky befriended him, helped him acclimate to the United States, and began a lifelong friendship. He also learned to always lookout for the lonely one in the room.

In 1978, Rabbi Gluckowsky was chosen by the small community of Chabad in Rechovot to be their Rabbi, but his mandate is far broader: he heads many of the Chabad institutions there, which include schools and shuls. In addition, he is the director of Vaad Rabbonei Lubavitch of Eretz Yisroel, a senior board of all the Chabad day schools of Israel and of Chabad on Campus in Israel. Many consider him their personal mentor, and he frequently travels across the globe, where his fiery yet warm talks are well accepted.

Rabbi Gluckowsky was honored, in 2000, as the guest speaker at an Oholei Torah alumni event as a prelude to the opening of the Oholei Torah's new study hall at the Eastern Parkway campus.



“Rabbi Dovid Levin was not only a wonderful teacher but a memorable role model — always on time, alert and ready for the day’s challenges. He worked one on one with the students, taking the time to recognize everyone’s strengths and encouraging them to grow on their level.”

Avremi Hartman ‘10



MENDEL GREENBAUM '95

Dean, Cheder Menachem
Los Angeles, California

At Cheder Menachem a school in Los Angeles, CA, Rabbi Greenbaum is a beloved dean, known for his patience and warm smile. It has doubled its enrollment, raised its academic standards and introduced many extra-curricular activities, since been replicated in schools worldwide.

Rabbi Greenbaum's father, a longtime educator, enrolled him in Oholei Torah in 1986. He recalls that the studies were not limited to the classroom. Rabbi Levi Y. Schapiro נ"ע, principal, encouraged and motivated the boys to memorize Mishnayos.

“Rabbi Dubov used to give a class in his house after Shabbos,” he recalls. “He would not just teach us the commentary; he made it come alive. He would give us the entire background of who the commenter was, his life history and worldview.”

In LA, Rabbi Greenbaum has replicated some of his own school experiences. Cheder Menachem is now known as one of the highest achievers in studying Mishnah by heart. “We do it here like we did it in Oholei Torah,” he says. “We call a large assembly, and give out Torah books to the students who achieve.” To memorize the text, one needs to understand the material thoroughly. “These children receive a tremendous amount of knowledge, which means their minds are filled with Torah instead of mundane goings-on.”

Rabbi Greenbaum is a consultant to many other schools and administrators. He has been recognized for his leadership by the prestigious Milken Family Foundation's Jewish Educator Award, which noted that he “introduced professional development for faculty, data-driven instruction, and the integration of technology into the learning.” For Rabbi Greenbaum, his greatest accomplishment is when the students become “*Neiros L'Hoir*, beacons of light, not only in their own homes but to their surroundings as well.”



AVREMI HARTMAN '10

Director, Chabad House
Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Growing up, Rabbi Avremi Hartman always looked for ways to assist his uncle, Rabbi Menachem Hartman, the *shliach* to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Encouraged by his father, from a young age he would travel there for Pesach. When the opportunity arose in 2015, he and his wife Esther (née Yarmush) joined his uncle as *shluchim* to Ho Chi Minh City.

“At Oholei Torah I received the education I needed to make the right decisions,” Rabbi Hartman says.

Rabbi Dovid Levin, he says, was not only a wonderful teacher but a memorable role model — always on time, alert and ready for the day’s challenges. “He worked one on one with the students,” he recalls, “taking the time to recognize everyone’s strengths and encouraging them to grow on their level.”

Avremi's mother is a member of the Oholei Torah PTA, where he spent many hours assisting her in various capacities for the schools benefit.

Today he tries to emulate that, giving personal attention to the individual needs of each person who enters the Chabad House. There to assist, his focus is on the American community and running the day-to-day operations. Many Jewish tourists come to seek out various cultures, Rabbi Hartman wants to change that. “My goal is that they should leave as proud Jews, with a strong Jewish connection and a long Jewish future,” he says.



ALEXANDER HEPPENHEIMER '92

Principal Tech. Engineer,
Axway Computer Services
New York, New York

Rabbi Alexander Heppenheimer, who grew up in Southern California and Israel, and moved to Brooklyn at the age of nine, is a principal technical support engineer at Axway, a global software company with more than 11,000 customers in 100 countries. He also moonlights as a proofreader for Chabad.org, and volunteers this service for publicity materials for Oholei Torah, complementing the work of his wife, Raizel (née Goldblatt), a member of Oholei Torah's PTA committee.

Coming from a *baal teshuvah* family and a non-Chabad environment, Alex was welcomed into Oholei Torah, where, he says, “the kindness and good humor of many of my teachers and principals was especially important for me. The teachers recognized my potential, particularly my 6th-grade teacher, Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Mendelson זצ”י. He nurtured my interest in Jewish history, and gave me an extracurricular project—to create a wall display listing all the major events in our history.” Until today Alex *davens* from the High Holidays *machzor* Rabbi Mendelson inscribed and gifted to him.

Working for an international company, he visits offices in the USA and abroad dressed proudly as a chassid, using the opportunity to explain the basics of Yiddishkeit (and Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach) to people of many diverse backgrounds. Rabbi Heppenheimer also delivers a daily Daf Yomi class, where he draws upon his Oholei Torah education to explain the Gemara and to blend in ideas from Chassidus. In 2015 he earned second place in the International Bible (Tanach) Contest for Adults, held in Jerusalem, Israel, and attended by scholars from around the world.



GEDALYA HERTZ '11

Assistant Rabbi and Youth Director
Alpharetta, Georgia

Rabbi Hirshy זצ”י and Rashi (née Lieberman) רצ”י Minkowicz arrived in Alpharetta in 1998, and their activities have grown to include an active synagogue, camp, adult education classes and a *mikvah*. After the tragic passing of Rashi in 2014, the community embarked on the building of Rashi's Campus, a four-million-dollar undertaking. The new building will include a larger synagogue, a social hall, classrooms, space for the Hebrew school, an industrial kitchen, and the popular and growing Camp Gan Israel day camp.

When Rabbi Minkowicz, himself an Oholei Torah alumnus, was looking for help with the expansion, he looked amongst the alumni of his alma mater. “The Oholei Torah education gives an element of fearlessness,” he explained. “It’s education teaches us not to be fazed by the underlying challenges and day-to-day setbacks. I learned to keep my eye on the prize and keep working towards my goal.” He found these qualities in Oholei Torah alumnus Rabbi Hertz, a talented and motivated young man, who will join the community as a new *shliach* serving as assistant rabbi, give adult education classes, and run teen and youth programs together with his wife, Ruthy (née Schechter).

Previously Rabbi Hertz devoted his energy back to Oholei Torah, where he initiated many new extracurricular activities and encouraged students to excel in their studies. He also organized a “return to the roots” trip for the high school to Russia, where Chabad came to life. Nevertheless, Rabbi Hertz yearned to work outside of the comforts of the community, becoming one of the most recent alumni to assume a leadership post as a Chabad *shliach*, bringing the number of Oholei Torah alumni serving as *shluchim* close to 2000.

“The Oholei Torah education gives an element of fearlessness. It’s education teaches us not to be fazed by the underlying challenges and day-to-day setbacks. I learned to keep my eye on the prize and keep working towards my goal.”

Gedalya Hertz '11



"I have a better understanding now than I had as a student. Now I realize to what extent our teachers care and how invested they are in the in overall wellbeing of our students. The conversation in the teachers' room is about how to help our students reach their full potential."

Shlomo Horowitz '03



GAVRIEL HOLTZBERG 99' ג'י'ה'

Founder, Chabad of Mumbai
Mumbai, India

Giving up the comforts and familiarity of home, in 2002 Rabbi Gavriel "Gabi" Holtzberg and his wife, Rivky (née Rosenberg) ט"ג, transplanted themselves to Mumbai, India—a distant and very foreign culture. They catered to the local Jewish community, but for the most part served the many Jewish businesspeople who needed to spend time in the city.

The strength to do this, his fellow classmates say, came from the education he received at Oholei Torah, which he joined in third grade, after his family moved from Israel to Crown Heights. "Oholei Torah gave him the drive to do anything," said fellow classmate Rabbi Menachem Heller. "Whatever he tried, whatever challenges he faced, he succeeded—a result of everything he learned there."

His former classmates remember his intense focus on his studies, which he often chanted with a loud and joyful tune. When he was determined to complete something, he saw it through to the end, they say. One recalled a meeting to discuss a project, where Gavriel said, "I gave my opinion, you guys come to a decision, and I will be there to make it happen."

He brought this determination to Mumbai, where he purchased a building right in the city center to be used for the Chabad House, erected a *mikvah*, and began bringing *shluchim* to work in other cities. Tragically, in November 2008 he, his wife and four guests were brutally murdered by terrorists. In the decade since, their legacy has been kept alive. The destroyed Chabad House has been rebuilt and the *mikvah* refurbished. At the 2009 dinner, Oholei Torah committed to assist their son, Moshe, upon his future enrollment at Oholei Torah.



SHLOMO HOROWITZ '03

Teacher, Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah
Brooklyn, New York

When Rabbi Shlomo Horowitz was offered the opportunity to return to Oholei Torah as a faculty member, he could not refuse. He relishes working in the place he once studied, considering himself an ongoing student of the caring educators who taught him over a decade ago.

Rabbi Horowitz says that as a student he found there to be a special relationship and personal connection between the staff and students. The care and interest each teacher showed him motivated him to work hard in his studies.

The first taste of teaching Rabbi Horowitz received was when he was sent from Oholei Torah to be a *shliach* in New Haven, Connecticut. He later taught in Los Angeles, California, and Morristown, New Jersey.

Now back at Oholei Torah, he tries to give the students the same care he received, making himself available to them at all times. "But now," he says, "I have a better understanding than I had as a student. Now I realize to what extent our teachers care and how invested they are in the in overall wellbeing of our students. The conversation in the teachers' room is about how to help our students reach their full potential.

A former student recently called and told Rabbi Horowitz that he had repeated an idea he'd learned in his class eight years ago, driving home the impact he has on his students. "It's also a tremendous responsibility," he says. "You never know what it is that will stick with a student."

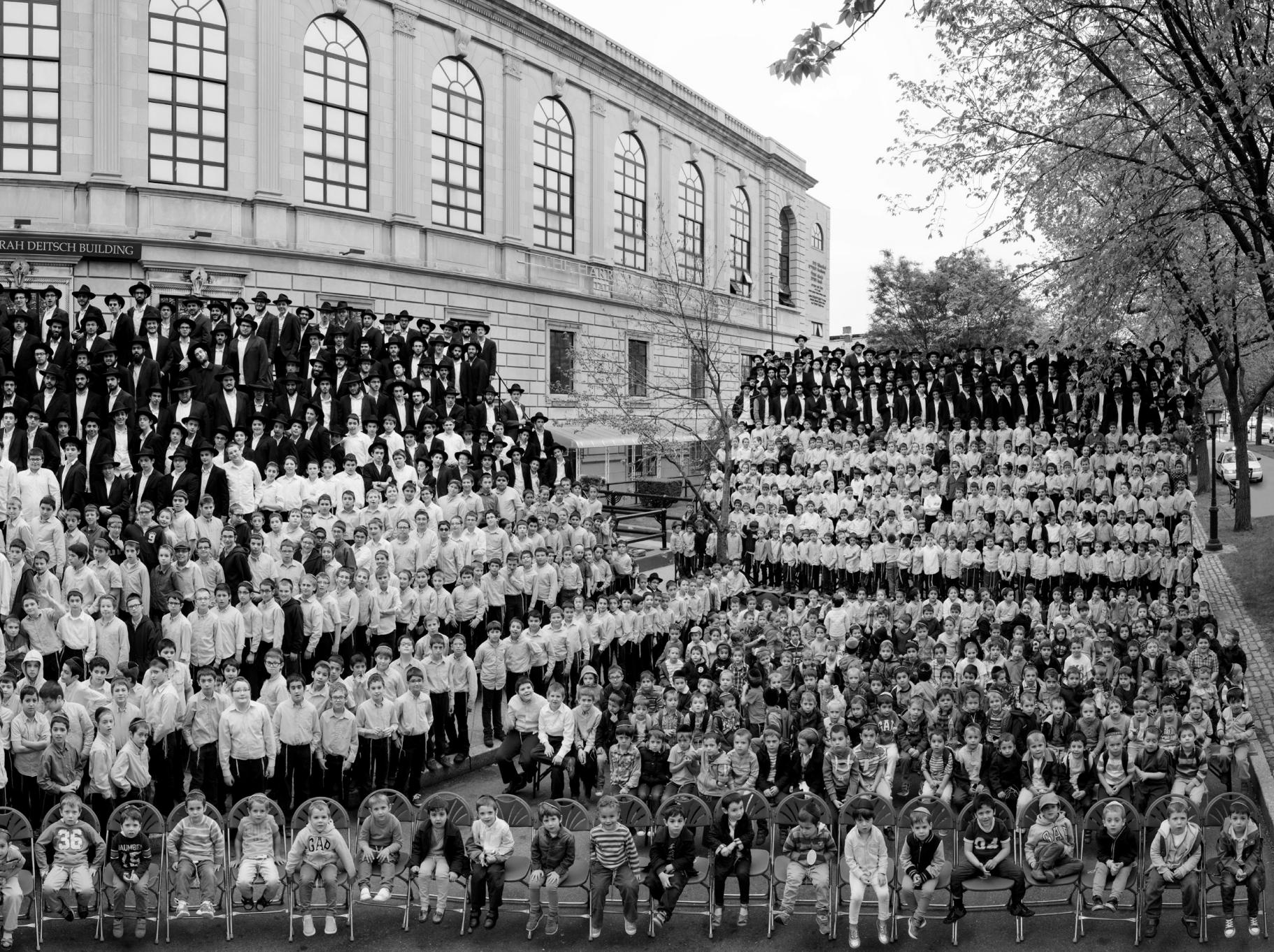




OHOLEI
TORAH
MENDEL AND HINDA DEITSCH CAMPUS

אולֵי
תּוֹרָה

THE DOVID & SA...



“Yeshivah taught me the importance of humility, which has helped me along my journey. It taught me that the ultimate knowing is to know that you don’t know.”

Asher Jacobson '91



ASHER JACOBSON '91

Rabbi, The Chevra Synagogue
Montreal, Canada

Rabbi Asher Jacobson was born into a home where kindness was paramount, which has shaped his outlook on life. The doors of his parents Reb Betzalel ה"צ and Faige ט"ח ליבל, were always open to the less fortunate, including those who needed a meal, a bed, and a roof over their heads.

Rabbi Jacobson attended Oholei Torah throughout his entire school life and was particularly affected by Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Mendelson, נ"צ, who patiently guided him along his journey from rambunctious child to *mentschlichkeit*. “He was an out-of-the-box teacher,” he says. “As much as he taught in the classroom, he also did outside, teaching us to perfect our *middos* and relationship with the world.

Later, in *zal*, Rabbi Yisroel Friedman took him to a place of intellectual pursuit: “He really challenged our minds,” he recalls.

In 1998 Rabbi Jacobson and his wife, Liba moved to Montreal, where he quickly became known across the city for his *shiurim*. He was later appointed rabbi of one of the most prestigious shuls in Montreal, Congregation Chevra Kadisha B’nai Jacob, where he has implemented many new programs and become one of the city’s most caring and personable rabbis. He is the president of the Rabbinical Council of Canada and a lecturer at the Concordia University.

Yeshivah taught him the importance of humility, which has helped him along his journey. “It taught me that the ultimate knowing is to know that you don’t know,” he explained.

Rabbi Jacobson, and his siblings have been a constant source of support and dedication to the growth and financial stability of Oholei Torah.



MENACHEM JUNIK '85

Rabbi, Beis Gavriel Synagogue
London, England

Rabbi Menachem Junik was born into a home where discussion of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin was part of daily life. He and siblings often accompanied their father to help out in the Rebbe’s home.

From his years at Oholei Torah, Rabbi Junik recalls joining *farbrengens* led by Reb Elya Chaim Roitblatt who had managed to endure and retain his Yiddishkeit in the Soviet Union.

Particularly memorable are the frenzied trips the students used to take during their lunch break, hopping into taxis to the local hospital to visit the patients and put *tefillin* on with them.

In 1991, Rabbi Junik and his wife Goldie (née Lew) moved to London as *shluchim* of the Rebbe, bringing the warmth of Oholei Torah to a generation of English Jews. He is the rabbi of the Bais Gavriel shul, which caters to 70 young Chabad families in the London suburb of Hendon. He also gives regular *shiurim* throughout the week via the Jewish Home Network, including one which takes place in a “mitzvah mobile” in downtown London. He is also on the board of Lubavitch UK. In 2015 the Juniks were selected to attend the first summer garden party hosted by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

His youngest brother Dovid is a staunch supporter and committee member of Oholei Torah.



YOSSI KAMMAN '11

Director, Derher Publications
Brooklyn, New York

Rabbi Yossi Kamman was originally enrolled in another yeshivah. When his parents Avrohom and Baila were looking for a more organized and stable school, they chose Oholei Torah, where he continued to study throughout his formative years.

At Oholei Torah he received not just an academic education, but an environment where Yiddishkeit was enjoyable. "We walked away with a *chassidishe* feeling," he says, "one you can't get anywhere else." He says that he still has that spirit he received at Oholei Torah, and it influenced what he does today. Rabbi Kamman also has fond memories of going out at night with his classmates in Rabbi Nosson Blumes's old jalopy car to sell raffle tickets.

As the editor in chief of the Chassidisher Derher, a monthly publication offering a rich variety of *Chassidishe* content, through magazines and similar channels. Even though it is a fairly new magazine, it already has a distribution of over 12,000 monthly readers in over 20 communities worldwide. In Oholei Torah, it's a most sought after magazine by many students.

Rabbi Kamman says that his goal is to make all that happened at 770 relevant to our children and ourselves.



YOSSI KAZEN 79' ה"ע

Founder,
Chabad in Cyberspace/Chabad.org

Rabbi Yosef Kazen, ה"ע was raised on the belief that one must always be willing and available to assist another. His parents Rabbi Zalman and Shula Kazen — who endured much suffering under the Communists in the Soviet Union — always found ways to help those less fortunate both materially and spiritually. The youngest after six girls, Rabbi Yosef Kazen was the only one of the family born in the United States.

When his parents felt that the local schools no longer met their standards for Jewish education they sent him to Oholei Torah. In New York he lived with his grandmother Rebbetzin Maryasha Garelik, ה"ע, who was the president of Oholei Torah's Ladies Auxiliary. She was perpetually devoted to the yeshivah, running a bazaar where all the money went to the school. For the duration of his studies, Rabbi Kazen excelled in the yeshivah.

After he married, he took an office job, but was as determined as always to continue helping others. Staying abreast of technological developments, he began to dabble in Jewish forums, a primitive form of Internet communication. In 1988, he established Chabad on the web, dubbing it Chabad-Lubavitch in Cyberspace: Spreading Judaism at the Speed of Light. He purchased the domain Chabad.org in 1994, and almost immediately it became one of the most popular religious destinations on the web. Due to Rabbi Kazen's foresight, today, Chabad.org is the largest Jewish informational website on the Internet, reaching 45 million viewers just this past year!

"We received not just an academic education, but an environment where Yiddishkeit was enjoyable... We walked away with a *chassidishe* feeling, one you can't get anywhere else."

Yossi Kamman '11



"I remember Rabbi Lustig greeting each child with a handshake upon his arrival at school. He once told me that he expected more from me... This propelled me to think more closely about my future and the steps I needed to take to get there."

Mendy Kotlarsky '03



MENDY KOTLARSKY '03

Executive Director, Merkos 302,
Chabad Lubavitch
Brooklyn, New York

Observing his father Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky, vice chairman of Chabad's educational division and chairman of the International Kinus Hashluchim, crisscross across the globe to establish new Chabad centers and assist *shluchim* with their work, Rabbi Mendy always knew that he would follow in his father's footsteps to fulfill the Rebbe's dream.

As a young student Rabbi Kotlarsky appreciated the many extra-curricular activities, including group projects, he did while studying at Oholei Torah. He recalls Rabbi Hershel Lustig greeting each child with a handshake upon his arrival at school. "I remember Rabbi Lustig once telling me that he expected more from me," he says. "This propelled me to think more closely about my future and the steps I needed to take to get there." But the highlight of his years at Oholei Torah was being so close to 770 and the Rebbe, which made it easy to go for a short period to *daven* with the Rebbe, receive dollars, and tell the Rebbe about his birthday.

Rabbi Kotlarsky has stood beside his father since 2006, assisting *shluchim* through the work of Merkos 302, which was created to provide *shluchim* with the resources to expand their reach and maximize their impact. Their programs which reach tens of thousands of individuals every year include Merkos Shluchus, CTeens, CKids, Chabad Young, JNet, MyShliach and Yaldei Shluchei HaRebbe. He is also very involved in the Crown Heights community, and currently has four children enrolled in Oholei Torah.



YAACOV LANG '94

Real Estate Investor
Brooklyn, New York,

When Yaacov Lang was growing up, his parents, Dr. Tzvi and Chaya Lang, felt that his Jewish education in Miami, Florida, was sub-par, and moved to Crown Heights specifically so they could upgrade their children's *chinuch*. They chose Oholei Torah so that the children would learn Yiddish, the language in which their grandparents conversed.

Yaacov recalls his first day at Oholei Torah, when the rules were given in Yiddish, and he couldn't understand a single word! Now, he is most appreciative because he learned enough Yiddish to understand and listen to talks by the Rebbe delivered in Yiddish. He recalls the way the principals, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Schapiro ה"ע and Rabbi Hershel Lustig ט"ב, were always kind to him and made sure to greet him warmly.

A successful real-estate entrepreneur, Yaacov is humble and kind to everyone he meets. He takes particular pride in the fact that he never leaves home without his *tefillin*, and whenever he attends business meetings with other Yidden he offers them the chance to put on *tefillin*, do another mitzvah, or discuss anything Yiddishkeit-related. In fact, every Friday he dedicates much of his day to doing *mitzvoim*. "Today I realize that what I gained in Oholei Torah is to be a proud Lubavitcher, and to try to be a chassid," he concludes.



BINYOMIN LEVIN '01

Sales Manager, Wells Fargo Mortgage
New York, New York

Binyomin Levin, whose parents Feitel and Bella were involved parents and staunch supporters of Oholei Torah, has also become an involved parent in his children's education, as well as a devoted member of the Crown Heights community and a central figure at The Crown Heights Shul.

From his time at Oholei Torah he recalls many kind and caring teachers. He has fond memories of Rabbi Eli Tiefenbrun, who, he says, cared dearly about the students. "He taught the material well," he says, "but he also taught us right from wrong and how to be a kind-hearted *mentch*. He always showed up to class with a smile, and treated all of us equally and with respect."

Today Binyomin is well liked by those he comes into contact with. His clients praise him for going the extra mile and navigating difficult issues with ease. They appreciate his honesty and respect, as he presents them with all their options, enabling them to make informed decisions.



DOVID LEVIN '98

Teacher,
Oholei Torah Mesivta/High School
Brooklyn, New York

Rabbi Dovid Levin, a most dedicated Oholei Torah high School teacher, is known for his care and attention he gives each student, motivating them in their studies and development. Rabbi Levin himself spent most of his school years at Oholei Torah and says he strives to emulate many of the innovations his teachers employed.

After he married, he and his wife were looking for a place to go on *shlichus* when he was asked to substitute in Oholei Torah. When he realized that he was successful in teaching, he was encouraged by many, including his grandfather, Rabbi Leibel Groner, the Rebbe's long-time personal secretary, to become a teacher.

What is unique about Rabbi Levin, is that his students continue to seek his guidance, advice and friendship, years after they left his class. "Whenever I need advice, or I'm not sure what's best to do, I know who to call", said one of his former students, "I hold him in the highest esteem, as do many of my classmates."

His teaching goal is for the students to become self-motivated and enjoy the work. "When a student is motivated to succeed in his studies," he says, "ultimately, he will enjoy his learning." When former students approach him to tell him that they still love learning, it gives him the strength to continue to innovate and invest in his students' success.

"He taught the material well, but he also taught us right from wrong and how to be a kind-hearted *mentch*. He always showed up to class with a smile, and treated all of us equally and with respect."

Binyomin Levin '01







He remembers the way Rabbi Avraham Hertz treated the teens as young adults, encouraging them to pen novel interpretations of their studies. He recalls Rabbi Fitche Pewzner staying after hours, ready to discuss any issues the students had. When asked, he was always willing to give an additional class, beyond his regular duties.

Motty Lipskier '01



MENDY LIPSKER '90

Owner, Mendy Realty
Brooklyn, New York

Crown Heights is everything for Mendy Lipsker. He likes to say that he has lived here his entire life and cares deeply for the community. His father Rabbi Eli Lipsker *z"l* taught him the importance of honesty, integrity, and care for one's neighbor. In his realty business, he tries to uphold these values.

His father, a beloved musician and pioneer of recorded Jewish music in the United States, would travel the world with his choir, many of them Oholei Torah students. "Teachers should come watch Eli," Rabbi Michoel Teitelbaum, founder of Oholei Torah, used to say, "See his devotion? That is how all teachers should treat their students!"

Mendy recalls his teachers with admiration. Rabbi Yaakov Lieder made a notable impression on his young soul. Mendy's mother, Leah, is a beloved Oholei Torah kindergarten *morah* for many years

He says that Oholei Torah's education propelled many students to become creative thinkers and entrepreneurs. "They taught us how to figure out things on our own," he says, crediting his zeal to the yeshivah. Those who work with Mendy agree, "Mendy is responsible, knowledgeable and respectful of your needs," one of his clients says. "He knows the business well and made sure we got the best deal."



MOTTY LIPSKIER '01

Teacher, Beis Rivka High School
Brooklyn, New York

Rabbi Motty Lipskier grew up in Morristown, New Jersey, where his father Rabbi Fitzy, *z"l*, was the mentor at Tiferes Bachurim. Raised in what he calls the "Morristown *shtetl*," he received a wholesome, warm, and *chassidische* upbringing. While his father was often occupied with the students, when he was at home his focus was solely on his family. "He listened to the clock's silent message and truly understood the value of each moment," Rabbi Lipskier recalls. "He was entirely devoted to whatever he was doing at that moment."

In 1998, Rabbi Lipskier entered the Beis Midrash at Oholei Torah, where he met the dedicated staff who would assist him in entering adulthood. He remembers the way Rabbi Avraham Hertz treated the teens as young adults, encouraging them to pen novel interpretations of their studies. He recalls Rabbi Fitche Pewzner staying after hours, ready to discuss any issues the students had. When asked, he was always willing to give an additional class, beyond his regular duties.

Influenced by Rabbi Sholom Charitonow who encouraged the students to learn the entire Likkutei Sichos, Rabbi Lipskier arrived early each morning, before learning officially began, and finished the entire set within two years.

Currently teaching the fundamentals of Yiddishkeit and Chassidus to seminary students at Beis Rivkah, he utilizes much of what he learned at Oholei Torah. In addition to his teaching, Rabbi Lipskier and his wife Chanel (née Deitsch) run The Beis Medrash Women's Circle, where they organize regular programming and lectures for Crown Heights women.



ELI LOEBENSTEIN '10

Broker, AH Realty Company
Brooklyn, New York

Growing up in a warm family in Melbourne, Australia, Eli Loebenstein was greatly influenced by Rabbi Yitzchok Dovid Groner, *z"l*. Eli always felt infused with a chassidic warmth and love from the *shluchim* who arrived each year from Oholei Torah. "They were always full of life," he recalls, "and had a deep and lasting influence upon the students and an incredible effect on the community at large."

When Eli arrived at Oholei Torah in 2009 he was pleasantly surprised to be side by side with students from across the globe. The yeshivah taught him responsibility, and how to maintain studies of his own volition. During *farbrengens*, he recalls, Rabbi Lesches taught them that life is not only about yourself. "After all the years taking in the learning, now you are going to be giving what you learned here to others. You are the future generation of the Jewish people."

After his marriage to Goldie (née Junik), they led outreach programs in rural and regional Australia during the Chanukah season, rekindling the spark of Yiddishkeit in many families. Eli joined the family business and became a real estate broker, where he is praised for being honest, gentle and kind. He lives in Crown Heights and is active in the shul of his Oholei Torah classmates. Eli says that the combination at Oholei Torah of learning and spending time reaching out to others taught him how to relate to and effectively communicate with people from all walks of life.

Eli has also assisted many as a *shadchan*, in finding their *bashert(e)*. "To help others try to find their soul mate, is an incredible privilege that has an everlasting effect."



BEREL MAJESKY '06

Director, Friendship Circle of Brooklyn
Brooklyn, New York

In his role as director of the Friendship Circle of Brooklyn, Rabbi Berel Majesky puts into practice the kindness and acceptance that he grew up with, watching his parents, Rabbi Chaim and Rishe, model with their respective students.

In high school, he recalls, Rabbi Nachman Twersky took the time to guide him and his classmates during their teenage years. "He spent a lot of time on *hashkafah*, taking it upon himself to give us important life skills, far beyond his role as teacher."

Learning to work with others is another trait he learned at Oholei Torah, from the many projects he and his classmates worked on outside of their regular yeshivah studies.

Rabbi Berel and his wife Chani (née Procel) direct the Friendship Circle of Brooklyn, (one of 85 such programs run globally by Chabad), an organization that provides assistance and support to nearly two hundred individuals with special needs and their families by providing recreational, social, educational and vocational programming. The Friendship Circle enriches its vast network of 250 volunteers by enabling them to reap the rewards of selfless giving.

Berel's dream is to see every child, regardless of ability, be welcomed and included in our community. This is his goal, and he is making great waves in this realm.

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Berel Majesky '06



"My teachers gave me the feeling that we stand above the mundane... They gave us a serious sense of pride that allows us to withstand anything."

Noach Majesky '06



NOACH MAJESKY '06

Director, Chabad of Ghana
Accra, India

Leaving the comfort of New York, Rabbi Noach Majesky and his wife Alti (née Pewsner) moved to Accra, Ghana, an 11-hour flight away, to open the first Chabad House there. They built the very first shul in the country, and are the fifth country in Central Africa to receive a Chabad presence.

Life in Ghana, a third-world country, is no picnic. Their home has no address, there is no local post office, and they cannot have anything shipped to them. It's difficult to find the basics, so food shopping can easily take an entire day. The heat is also unbearable for much of the year. Rabbi Majesky is a *shochet*, which makes it easier for them and the rest of the Jewish community to use kosher poultry, but for any other kosher food they must rely on people travelling to and from Ghana on business.

Rabbi Majesky says that the education he received at Oholei Torah gives him the strength to overcome the many challenges they face. "My teachers gave me the feeling that we stand above the mundane," he says. "They gave us a serious sense of pride that allows us to withstand anything."

Seeing how much the small Jewish community of 50 families appreciates their move, they are motivated to expand their programming. There are now regular weekly Shabbos services and dinners, Yom Tov events, Hebrew school classes, and weekly classes.

YOSSI PINSON '02

Owner, Wellspring Corporate Housing
Los Angeles, California



Yossi Pinson grew up in a home imbued with a love for Oholei Torah. His parents, Rabbi Yankel and Chana Devora Pinson, selflessly devote their time and energy to ensuring that the education at Oholei Torah is at its best. His grandparents Mr. David and Mrs. Sarah Deitsch נ"ע, known at school as the "Tatteh and Mammeh of Oholei Torah," had tremendous love for *chinuch*, and devoted their lives to supporting proper education.

Looking back, Yossi has fond memories of his years at Oholei Torah, the dedicated teachers, and his incredible classmates who are now lifelong friends. The spirited and chassidic atmosphere is something that he carries with him until today. "Oholei Torah instilled in each of us that we have the Rebbe's teachings which support us to go out into the world, take action and succeed in anything we wish to accomplish," he says.

Today Yossi works in real estate, and is a self-effacing and humble member of the Los Angeles Jewish community.

From his parents' constant involvement in their children's *chinuch*, Yossi learned that "it is our responsibility to guide our children through life by being present and giving them the support they need to shine."

For this reason he feels responsible to stay involved in Oholei Torah, because "by coming together in a shared goal to continuously improve the education in our schools, we will ultimately empower our own dear children." His enthusiasm for Jewish education is, he says, "Inspired by his parents, who continue the legacy of my *zeide* and *bubbeh*."



From its inception, Harav Raitport's family has been involved in supporting Oholei Torah, where his father recalls his grandmother bringing full *pushkas* to the yeshivah office, praising the yeshivah and the ideals that stood true to those of the *alte heim*.

Chaim Raitport '85



CHAIM RAITPORT '85

Rabbi, Chabad House
Caracas, Venezuela

The son of Harav Yitzchok and Rebbetzin Shaindel, Rabbi Chaim Raitport was raised with a strong love for Torah in a home imbued with the values of giving to others. From its inception, Rabbi Raitport's family has been involved in supporting Oholei Torah, where his father recalls his grandmother bringing full *pushkas* to the yeshivah office, praising the yeshivah and the ideals that stood true to those of the *alte heim*. His mother is an Oholei Torah chairwoman, constantly taking an interest in the wellbeing of the Oholei Torah students.

When he joined the *zal*, he fit right in and soon discovered that at Oholei Torah, everybody was "your best friend." From Rabbi Yisroel Friedman he learned how to value every moment of his studies. "Rabbi Friedman sat at the entrance to the *zal*, and every time I passed by he wanted to know what I had learned since the last time."

Moreover, the responsibility he was given at the yeshivah gave him the confidence to go out into the world and make a difference.

Rabbi Chaim and his wife, Milka (née Sudakevitz) moved to Caracas, Venezuela, in 1994. Today, he is the rabbi of the Ashkenazic Jewish community there, and is in charge of the local kashrus. He is a *shochet*, *mohel*, and *sofer*, and gives a class in Jewish law at the local yeshivah. He also spearheaded the building of a *mikvah*, and is working on the building of another one in an additional neighborhood.



ELIEZER RAKSIN '76

Transportation Associate, Oholei Torah
Brooklyn, New York

Eliezer "Lazer" Raksin, likes to relate that before the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chassidism, became known as a righteous man, he served as an aide, taking children to and from their studies each day. "This is the Baal Shem Tov's work; it is a great privilege, and I take the position very seriously," he explains.

Lazer's first school year was in Oholei Torah in 1960, where he recalls Rabbi Michoel Teitelbaum, founder of Oholei Torah, making sure the young boys ate well. "He always made sure we drank a glass of hot milk," he remembers. Even though in his later years of schooling he moved on to other yeshivot, Divine Providence had it that the young Lazer would return to Oholei Torah as a bus driver, where he has been for 40 years, and is now driving three generations of Oholei Torah students!

He takes great care to make sure the children arrive at school safely and on time. "Parents fix their watches based on my arrival time," he says.

Through the heat, rain and snow, Lazer says that he has never missed a day of driving. "Everyone knows that even on snow days, even when other schools are closed, Oholei Torah is open," he says proudly.

On one occasion Lazer went for a short trip to Florida, and when Reb Michoel Teitelbaum heard this he told Lazer, "Florida is for the wealthy, not for bus drivers"—saying it with a warm smile, but relaying a deeper message to Lazer.



DOVID ROITBLAT '02

CEO, Better Accounting Solutions
Brooklyn, New York

From his school years at Oholei Torah, Dovid Roitblat learned that climbing the ladder, either in study or in business, can be achieved only by hard work. Today he runs a successful accounting firm in New York City, serving many Torah institutions.

The Roitblat family has a special place in the history of Oholei Torah. Mr. Roitblat's grandfather, Rabbi Elya Chayim, who specifically wanted to teach young children *alef-beis*, was the school's very first teacher. His students attest that his appearance in the classroom was as powerful, if not more, than his teaching methods. Mr. Roitblat's father, Yosef, was one of the first students at the yeshivah.

As CEO of Better Accounting Solutions, Mr. Roitblat serves his clients, who praise him for balancing their books and giving them real numbers to analyze and evaluate. "Even though I am in the world of business," he says, "this too is an opportunity to spread Yiddishkeit. I influence many of my clients to increase their charitable donations. In addition I educate institutions of the importance of running proper and exact books. This was something the Rebbe strongly encouraged all the Chabad institutions to do."



MENACHEM SABBACH '07

Director, Chabad of New Caledonia
Noumea, New Caledonia

New Caledonia, a French territory with 100,000 tourists per year, many of who are Jewish, is the most recent country to receive a *shliach*. Rabbi Menachem Sabbach and his wife, Bassie (née Niasoff), are ready for the challenge, largely due to his training at Oholei Torah.

Rabbi Sabbach traveled from far-off Australia to learn in Oholei Torah due to its unique environment and high level of learning, well known throughout the Chabad community. During his years at yeshivah, Rabbi Sabbach felt motivated by Rabbi Avrohom Gerlitzky—someone whose entire life is dedicated to rigorous study. Even now, Rabbi Gerlitzky sends wishes of mazel tov for his birthday and his children's births. "His personal interest and care has totally transformed my life," he says.

In addition, Oholei Torah encouraged the students to travel and give classes on Jewish topics each Thursday, something which gave him skills and tools that he will use in his *shlichus*. "It taught me to be well-prepared, to deliver the class, to have structure, and to be able to speak to others in a way they can relate to," he says.

"Even now, Rabbi Gerlitzky sends wishes of mazel tov for my birthday and my children's births. His personal interest and care has totally transformed my life."

Menachem Sabbach '07



"The education I and my fellow shluchim received at the Oholei Torah gave us the unique tools to face our difficult shlichus in a city that is known for materialism... The choices I make come from the education I received at Oholei Torah."

Yisroel Schanowitz '90



YOSEF SALAMON '98

Director, Chabad Bulgaria
Sofia, Bulgaria

Educated in Israel for most of his life, Rabbi Yosef Salomon, who moved in 2000 to Sofia, Bulgaria, with his wife, Tamar, credits his time at Oholei Torah for giving him the tools and inspiration he needs in his current work as a *shliach*.

Upon his arrival at Oholei Torah at the age of 20, he learned that while good grades were important, the school's structure and discipline were just as important. He remembers with fondness the days when the dormitory used to be on the other side of Crown Heights, and early each morning Kingston Avenue became a frenzy of students briskly making their way to class.

Away from home, in an environment where everyone spoke a foreign language, he appreciated the extra attention Rabbi Nachman Schapiro gave him. "He made me feel like he had all the time in the world for me," he recalls. "His guidance has given me the right perspective in life."

His first taste of real *shlichus* work came when the yeshivah sent him and a group of other students to establish a yeshivah in Budapest, Hungary, which was the very first yeshivah opened in that country after World War II, under the leadership of Rabbi Baruch Oberlander. "The trust they placed in us," he says, "gave us the confidence to open our own Chabad Houses, even in the most remote locations." Today, in Sofia, he and his wife serve 8,000 local Jews, as well as tens of thousands of Israeli tourists during the summer months.



YISROEL SCHANOWITZ '90

Rabbi, Chabad of Summerlin
Las Vegas, Nevada

Rabbi Yisroel Schanowitz is one of 15 *shluchim* to Las Vegas, many of who are Oholei Torah graduates. Director of Chabad of Summerlin, he says that the education he and his fellow *shluchim* received at the Oholei Torah gave them the unique tools to face their difficult *shlichus* in a city that is known for materialism. "The choices I make come from the education I received at Oholei Torah," he says.

He has fond memories from the stories and *midrashim* his elementary school teachers, Rabbi Dovid Hertzel and Rabbi Yaakov Lieder, told him. Particularly he recalls the *farbrengens* with Rabbi Moshe Wolberg, who emphasized that materialism is secondary to G-dliness.

In 1995, Rabbi Schanowitz and his wife, Shternie, opened their Chabad House. Initially located in a storefront, in 2006 they opened a 14,000-square-foot center where they service the entire community with programs geared towards everyone, from the young to the elderly.

A trait he inherited from his father, Reb Azriel Schanowitz ז"ש is a quiet, unassuming demeanor, and with this Rabbi Schanowitz is dearly loved by his congregants and members of the broader community.



YOSSIE SHEMTOV '77

Director, Chabad of Tucson
Tucson, Arizona

With his father on the board of directors of Oholei Torah, Rabbi Yossi Shemtov grew up in a home where making sure that the young, newly established yeshivah flourished was of great importance. At the dining room table his father, Reb Mendel Shemtov, would rally businessmen to financially back the yeshivah.

As one of the first *talmidim* at Oholei Torah, he was influenced greatly by the teachers who had great self-sacrifice for Jewish education in the Soviet Union. They told stories that inspired the *talmidim* to dedicate themselves to their studies under difficult circumstances. He recalls Rabbi Yisroel Meir Munitz preparing the students for their bar mitzvahs, teaching them how to put on *tefillin*. He was once wrapping his *tefillin* up with perfect precision, and Rabbi Munitz admonished him, “You’re putting them away as if you’re not going to use them for the next few months!” Ever since, “when I put away my *tefillin* I do it imperfectly, keeping in mind that I’ll be using them again the following day.”

When Rabbi Shemtov and his wife Chanie moved on *shlichus* to Tucson, Arizona, in 1983, he took all that energy with him. As the rabbi of the local Young Israel, his talks have become known for their warmth and message which is always delivered from the heart.



ELI SCHULMAN '16

Student Shliach, Yeshiva Gedolah
Melbourne, Australia

Eli Schulman, from Pittsburgh, PA is one of 174 students who traveled to 43 locations across the globe as rabbinical students this year. The students are carefully assigned to communities by the staff at Oholei Torah.

Studying at Oholei Torah gave Eli the tools he needed to be able to guide the young students at the Yeshivah Gedolah in Melbourne, Australia. The late-night Thursday *farbrengens* with Rabbi Sholom Charitonow gave him the foundation and tools to be able to influence the young students on the other side of the world.

The time the students spend across the globe gives them leadership experience that they can use in their future occupations. Many of the students are drawn to the life of *shlichus* or involvement in community work as a result of this assignment.

“The responsibility I’ve been given is demanding but empowering,” says Eli. “I recognize that I am part of a greater world and larger society, to which I must become an active contributor.”

As one of the first *talmidim* at Oholei Torah, he was influenced greatly by the teachers who had great self-sacrifice for Jewish education in the Soviet Union. They told stories that inspired the *talmidim* to dedicate themselves to their studies under difficult circumstances.

Yossie Shemtov '77







ELIYAHU SCHUSTERMAN '96

Director, Chabad Intown
Atlanta, Georgia

Growing up on *shlichus* in Long Beach, California, Rabbi Eliyahu Schusterman did not have many Lubavitch friends.

He joined Oholei Torah when he was 16, where, he says, the atmosphere was like cold water on a tired soul. *Farbrengens* were an entirely new experience. Studying with eight other students at the table added a whole new dimension to learning. “It was an entirely different atmosphere, with a certain camaraderie that was focused on learning,” he says. Coming from an English-speaking yeshivah, hearing classes in Yiddish was difficult at first, “but it was a positive experience of returning to our roots.”

When he moved 1997 with his wife, Dena (née Drizin) to establish Chabad Intown in Atlanta, Georgia, he brought that *chassidishe* warmth he had discovered at Oholei Torah. Throughout the years, while building a vibrant Jewish community serving over 3,000 Jews with active adult education programs, a young Jewish professionals division, a preschool and a camp, he has continued to rely on the support and direction of his yeshivah friends. Now, *shluchim* around the world look to him for guidance and support.



ELI SLAVIN '78

Community Liaison, US Congress Member
Hon. Yvette D Clarke
Brooklyn, New York

The Slavin family’s strong connection with Oholei Torah dates back to its founder Reb Michoel Teitelbaum. Over 70 years ago in the Soviet Union, when Reb Michoel was fleeing the Communists after being targeted for his involvement in the underground Chabad yeshivos, he sought refuge at the home of Reb Zev Avraham and Shaina Chaya Slavin, זצ”א, Eli’s grandparents.

Eli’s Zeide requested in his will, that his grandchildren and future generations, be given “*chinuch al taharas hakodesh*,” a pure Torah-true education.

When Eli’s parents, Reb Zvi זצ”א and Miriam טהרה טהרה, were searching for a proper education for their children, a top priority for them, they chose Oholei Torah. The great interest the Rebbe took in Oholei Torah, also played a significant part in their decision.

Eli fondly recalls the way young American students were educated by elderly school teachers, such as Reb Elya Chaim Roitblat. “To see all week long, such a *chassidishe Yid*, wearing his chassidic garb, with his long beard, left a deep impression on me. Reb Elya Chaim’s sharing and caring is also something I carry in my memories.”

Today Eli serves as the community liaison to the Honorable Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, serving the 9th Congressional District of New York. His sons, and now grandsons, continue to proudly merit being educated under the auspices of Oholei Torah. Eli’s fervent wish is, that “we quickly be reunited with our Rebbe, Reb Michoel, and all the melamdim who taught us, with the coming of Moshiach, when they will say, *riu bunim shegidaltem*. –“take pride in the children we nurtured”

“I joined Oholei Torah when I was 16... The atmosphere was like cold water on a tired soul. *Farbrengens* were an entirely new experience. Studying with eight other students at the table added a whole new dimension to learning.”

Eliyahu Schusterman '96



Rabbi Susskind was greatly influenced by the purity and refinement he felt in the yeshivah's atmosphere. The stories he heard about the Rebbe's care for every Jew, including those who might not know much about Yiddishkeit, deeply impacted him.

Shimmy Susskind '05



SHIMMY SUSSKIND '05

Director, Chabad Jewish Center
Vernon Hills, Illinois

At the Susskind home, Oholei Torah was part and parcel of daily life. As chief financial officer of Oholei Torah for over 40 years, his father, Rabbi Moshe Susskind never viewed his position as merely a job; he treated it as a *shlichus* in the Rebbe's Institute. Whether it was 8 in the morning or 10 at night, he could be found speaking to teachers about their personal needs or dealing with an administrative crisis.

"The fabric of my household was Oholei Torah," Rabbi Shimmy Susskind recalls. "My brothers and I grew up observing our father's tremendous dedication to Oholei Torah."

Rabbi Susskind was greatly influenced by the purity and refinement he felt in the yeshivah's atmosphere. The stories he heard about the Rebbe's care for every Jew, including those who might not know much about Yiddishkeit, deeply impacted him.

Influenced by their father's dedication, the Susskind children went on to open Chabad Houses and become educators across the United States. In 2009, Rabbi Shimmy and his wife Rochel moved to Vernon Hills, Illinois, where they have become known as the ambassadors of personable Yiddishkeit. "This honor is really given to my father who has dedicated his life to the Rebbe's school," says Rabbi Susskind.



YOSSI SWERDLOV '92

Chabad Hospitality Services of Israel
Jerusalem, Israel

Raised in an open home, Rabbi Yossi Swerdlov has transported the warmth of his parents, Leibel and Miryam Swerdlov, to the city of Jerusalem, where together with his wife Hindel (née Schwartz), hosts grand Shabbos dinners for students, lone soldiers, families and groups from abroad.

Rabbi Swerdlov credits Oholei Torah for enabling him to become the leader and *shliach* he is today. The yeshivah taught him that a job in a public institution is not simply to cover the bills; there needs to be a greater dedication to the cause. "The teachers and staff at Oholei Torah were not there only to teach," He says, "but to give something of themselves. They went beyond the call of duty, creating extracurricular activities and organizing class events outside of school hours."

He tries to emulate their dedication in his *shlichus* in Jerusalem where he and his wife have been working with the tourists since 1997. Rabbi Swerdlov makes sure to greet everyone with a smile and a warm embrace, telling the tourists whose souls have become aflame with inspiration from being in the Holy Land, "All you have to do" says Rabbi Swerdlov, "is take the inspiration you feel here, and bring it back to your own community."

Rabbi Swerdlov also played an instrumental role in the humanitarian charities Chabad's Children of Chernobyl and Chabad Terror Victim Projects.



BERRY TZFASMAN '07

Manager, Tzfasman Jewelers
Brooklyn, New York

Years ago, Berry's father, Rabbi Chaim Ezra Tzfasman, a *shochet*, began to supplement his income by selling wholesale Italian gold jewelry. Travelling across the United States, always with his *tefillin* in his hand, dressed in his hat and jacket, Rabbi Tzfasman has become a roving rabbi of sorts, the sole Jewish connection for many Jews who have never stepped into a shul.

Over the years he often graciously worked with Crown Heights families who were looking to find a unique piece of jewelry at a good price. His children would observe him patiently assisting customers at night after a long day of work. Following in his footsteps, his son Berry opened a store in Crown Heights, after working alongside his father for several years. Berry offers a variety of timeless classics as well as custom designs, while making an effort to keep the prices affordable.

Berry's years as an Oholei Torah student made a tremendous impact on his life, and he has chosen to send his son there as well. "The environment in the school was, and still is, something special. I appreciate that my parents chose to send me there, and I will do the same for my children."

Nurtured by his parents to be generous and to always help others, Berry never turns away an institution seeking support.



MENDY WEITMAN '04

Director, The Jewish Latin Center
New York, New York

Growing up in S. Paulo, Brazil, Rabbi Mendy Weitman was greatly influenced by his energetic father Rabbi Dovid Weitman, one of the country's *shluchim* and the chief cabbi of Sephardi Congregation Beit Jacob Safra. He had always planned on entering the world of *shlichus* in his home country, but when he joined Oholei Torah all that changed.

At Oholei Torah, he learned that while everyone needs some freedom, it's also important to work in a structured environment. "There was a discipline at the yeshivah," he says. "It was organized and well structured: everything had a beginning, middle and end."

Learning from experienced teachers was one of the highlights. "This was a serious staff, with years of experience, who took care of all our spiritual and material needs, making it easy for us to focus on Torah," he explains.

During his time at Oholei Torah he began to give Torah classes in Spanish at offices in New York City, which opened his eyes to a different type of *shlichus*. Today, he lives in Manhattan where he is the *shliach* to the Latin-American Jewish community, and the rabbi of the Sephardic Minyan at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. On average he gives over 30 classes per week and is in touch with 1,800 people annually. He gives classes on Gemara, Chumash and Chassidus, which he delivers in Portuguese, Spanish, French, Hebrew, and English. "Oholei Torah," he says, "gave me the foundation for my future life. It gave me the structure to be able to do what I do today."

At Oholei Torah, he learned that while everyone needs some freedom, it's also important to work in a structured environment.

"There was a discipline at the yeshivah," he says. "It was organized and well structured: everything had a beginning, middle and end."

Mendy Weitman '04







"It offered a phenomenal grounding and gave each student the opportunity to wholly immerse in Torah learning. It was clear to us that G-dliness was real and epitomized universal truth. Armed with my knowledge garnered at Oholei Torah, I understood that my mission was to shine a light on reaching Jews, and teaching them to live and experience their Judaism. . ."

Rabbi Levi Wolff '93



BORUCH WOLF '04

Director, Chabad Medical Center
and Kidney Assist
New Hyde Park, New York

As the Director of Chabad @ The Medical Centers in Hyde Park, New York, which is in the vicinity of two of the largest hospitals in New York State, Rabbi Wolf finds himself giving people hope and encouragement on a daily basis. He also frequently finds himself discussing blood types at Kidney Assist, an organization he founded to raise awareness about kidney donations. He himself donated a kidney to a complete stranger several years ago.

Working with Chabad centers across the United States, Rabbi Wolf has launched social media campaigns for 16 patients and organized the donation of eight kidneys. He is passionate about saving lives and making patients feel less alone. The foundation for his activities, he says, comes from his time at Oholei Torah, where he was taught that when one is in need, their recovery goes hand in hand with their emotional state and wellbeing.

With the Chabad House in close proximity to the hospital, the Mrs. Mushka (nee Geisinsky) Wolf regularly host both patients and doctors for Shabbos meals. He says that when working with patients, the most rewarding part is helping to make a difficult situation more bearable. "You take a very difficult time and make it easier."



RABBI LEVI WOLFF '93

Rabbi, Central Synagogue
Sydney, Australia

Rabbi Wolff fondly recalls his five years at Oholei Torah. "It offered a phenomenal grounding and gave each student the opportunity to wholly immerse in Torah learning," he says. "It was clear to us that G-dliness was real and epitomized universal truth. Armed with my knowledge garnered at Oholei Torah, I understood that my mission was to shine a light on reaching Jews, and teaching them to live and experience their Judaism."

After marrying his wife Chanie (née Katz) in 1998, the young couple establish Chabad of Western Australia in Perth. In 2001, Rabbi Wolff accepted appointment as spiritual leader of the Central Synagogue in Sydney, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. He is currently serving the longest tenure in the history of the Synagogue, which has a membership of over 5000 families. The couple brought in many new programs for youth and adult education. Rabbi Wolff is valued and appreciated by the synagogue families, forging with them strong bonds.

Following the path of his grandfather Rabbi Ephraim Wolff, *z"l*, who directed Chabad institutions in Israel, he is widely successful in all of his activities and endeavors. Rabbi Wolff has a close personal relationship with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who has referred to members of the synagogue as *mishpocha*, stating, "I feel very much at home; this is very *heimish*."

Today, whenever the Wolff family visits New York for an extended period of time, they enroll their children at Oholei Torah as "diplomat" students, "To give them a taste of the warm, dynamic Torah learning I remember so vividly."



DOVID ZAKLIKOWSKI '01

Writer and Director of Lubavitch Archives
Brooklyn, New York

Rabbi Dovid Zaklikowski's father, Rabbi Avraham, was one of Oholei Torah's first students. In 1997, Dovid enrolled in *mesivta* where he first discovered his love for Chabad history.

Rabbi Zaklikowski's first introduction to Oholei Torah was through friends he made at camp. When school began, he joined them at night to learn Rambam. A year later he enrolled in Oholei Torah, where he discovered his love for the Rebbe and his Torah. He excelled in memorizing *maamarim*, and particularly enjoyed Rabbi Wolberg's class in *Shev Shmaatsa*. He was also greatly influenced by Rabbi Aaron Raskin's well-delivered *Tanya* class, and still confers with him in relation to his work with Chabad history.

Rabbi Zushe Wilhelm recruited him to help create his very first publication with *vertelach* from the Rebbe about Pesach. That year he also produced two journals with Rabbi Tzvi Bronchtain.

Today he heads Lubavitch Archives, the largest collection of digital photos and documents pertaining to Chabad. He is a freelance writer and has published 15 books, including the most recent: *Kaleidoscope: Uplifting Views on Daily Life*, and *Kosher Investigator: The Life and Times of Rabbi Berel Levy*. Over a half-a-million copies of his *Advice for Life* series of the Rebbe's teachings have been printed, in four languages.



MENDY ZARCHI '94

Director, Chabad Lubavitch of Puerto Rico
Carolina, Puerto Rico

In 1999, Rabbi Mendy and Rachel (née Katz) Zarchi arrived as the first Chabad representatives to the Caribbean Islands, based in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico. Since their arrival, they have expanded Chabad's reach to ten islands.

At Oholei Torah, Rabbi Zarchi excelled in his studies. He has fond memories of the school's principal, Rabbi Hershel Lustig, standing at the doorway greeting him every morning. "He was a caring and nurturing part of my elementary experience," he recalls, "always inquiring after my health if I looked not well."

When they first moved to the island, the Zarchis served the 3,000 local Jews from a small storefront, in addition to the thousands of Jewish tourists who pass through each year. With time, as their activities and reach expanded, they outgrew the storefront and embarked on a building campaign; their new center was recently dedicated in the presence of the governor. The 11,000-square-foot building contains a synagogue, large commercial kitchen, banquet hall, library, classrooms, a *mikvah* and a visitors' lounge.

When the Zarchis visit New York, they enroll their children at Oholei Torah. "The teachers, office staff and principals are all so accommodating," says Rabbi Zarchi. "To have them spend time in a Yiddishe school where the teachers are always warm and welcoming is invaluable."

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Mendy Zarchi '94





לעילוי נשמת
הרה"ח ר' דובער בן
הרה"ח ר' נפתלי ש"ב ע"ה
יוניק



In memory of
REB BERL JUNIK

A devout chossid of the Rebbe,
and a proud father and zeide of
Oholei Torah talmidim



לעילוי נשמת
הרה"ח ר' אברהם ברוך בן
הרה"ח ר' דובער ע"ה
יוניק



In memory of
AVROHOM BORUCH JUNIK '76

An Oholei Torah graduate,
beloved by his many
classmates and friends

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