

EYE ON MTI

SUMMER 2023

A PUBLICATION OF MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE



RABBI **TZVI**
BERKOWITZ



RABBI **BENTZION**
CHAIT



RABBI **MOSHE**
DREW



RABBI **PINCHAS**
GREEN



RABBI **MENACHEM**
GREENBLATT

RABBI **YITZCHAK**
FEIGENBAUM



RABBI **AKIVA**
GRUNBLATT



RABBI **SHRAGA**
FREEDMAN



RABBI **DOVID**
HARRIS



RABBI **YAAKOV**
LYNN



RABBI **NAFTALI**
JAEGER



RABBI **DOVID**
MILLER



RABBI **YUDI**
JEGER



RABBI **NAFTALI**
MILLER



RABBI **YITZCHAK**
KOWALSKY



RABBI **SHIMON**
MORGENSTERN



RABBI **YONI**
RUBIN



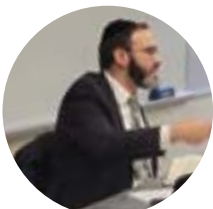
RABBI **NOACH**
ORLOWEK



RABBI **SHIMON**
RUSSELL



RABBI **MORDECHAI**
PALGON



RABBI **LEIBEL**
ROCKOVE



RABBI **BEN TZION**
SHAFIER



RABBI **CHAIM**
DOVID ZWIEBEL



RABBI **ARIEL**
SHOSHAN



VISITING
RABBANIM &
MECHANCHIM
SHARE THEIR WISDOM

Sixteenth Annual Dinner



Our 16th Annual Dinner took place in the welcoming environment of our very own yeshiva campus. Friends and supporters of the yeshiva enjoyed hors d'oeuvres in our beautiful new atrium, then convened in a transformed gym for an evening of celebration.

The event honored Mr. and Mrs. Naftali and Ditzza Friedman for their outstanding devotion to our yeshiva and the St. Louis Jewish community. Naftali's professional skills coupled with his pleasant, mild mannered personality have allowed him to succeed as the CFO at MGM Healthcare, as well as to serve as the Shul and Kollel treasurer at TICK. Mrs. Friedman expertly manages the yeshiva's business office with selflessness and dedication. This year, the Friedmans enjoyed the experience of MTI from a new angle with their son, Yosef Elisha, joining MTI's ninth

grade. "The Friedmans are a family that epitomizes the concept of being osek b'tzarchei tzibbur b'emunah," extols Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. "They do so much behind the scenes for the community and the yeshiva. Their commitment to Torah, limud haTorah, and chesed is something we can all learn from."

The yeshiva recognized Mr. and Mrs. Menashe and Liba Brown with the Alumnus of the Year award. Menashe recently finished his undergraduate degree in Biology, and begins dental school this fall at UMSL. Over the last number of months, Menashe has given back to the yeshiva by learning one on one with a few talmidim, using his talents to assist them in their Gemara skills. Mrs. Brown is a devoted and compassionate nurse in the NICU at Children's Hospital.

"Our graduates have thrived at MTI over the years," affirms Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, Menahel of Torah Prep. "MTI is a warm and positive yeshiva that showcases and exemplifies Torah and middos tovos to the entire community. Menashe is a great role model who exemplifies these fine character traits." It is a true nachas to watch Menashe and his Eishes Chayil build their beautiful family within the St. Louis community.

We thank Mr. Michael Staenberg for his vision and generosity in renovating the atrium, and for joining us at the dinner. A special thank you goes to our very own Chef A.J. Moll for giving the dinner guests an elegant and delicious evening. Yasher Koach to our supporters and friends who helped make the dinner the success that it was!



ALUMNI LEARNING PROGRAM

Alumnus Eytan Mankowitz, a youngerman in the Kollel of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim in Queens, recently started an alumni chavrusa program between MTI alumni currently still in yeshiva and alumni who are now in school or working. "We have about 10 years of alumni, all learning with someone they knew in yeshiva and

growing together." Eytan started this program because "I felt there was a strong need for the chevra who are out in the world to have a way to stay connected to yeshiva, their yeshiva friends, and limud haTorah." There are more than 20 chavrusashafts participating, and he plans to run the program about once a month.



There is something special about celebrating Kabbalas HaTorah in a place filled with so much Torah throughout the year. Shavuos at yeshiva saw an ingathering of current talmidim, alumni, and rebbeim, all learning and rejoicing together. While several rebbeim stay in yeshiva every Shabbos, "Having all the rebbeim in yeshiva with their families created a really nice atmosphere," says 9th-grader Simcha Edelstone.

The limud haTorah didn't stop, from the Erev Yom Tov shiur to the all-night learning. "I loved staying up all night for Torah," shares 10th-grader Gedaliah Levi. The room bustled with shiurim, chavrusas, and rebbeim offering to learn with talmidim. "The atmosphere in the bais medrash was alive, awake, and happy," recalls bais medrash talmid Reuven Samuels. In this inspiring



environment, "I could connect to my learning in a deeper way than I could have done elsewhere. It felt more personal." 12th grade talmid Adir Gellis adds, "Seeing my friends learning next to me for so long helped motivate me to push myself more than usual."

A number of alumni returned to their beloved alma mater for Yom Tov. "It was really nice to see that people had developed such a strong connection to their rebbeim and yeshiva that they didn't

CELEBRATING TORAH: SHAVUOS AT MTI

want to let go of," comments Simcha. "Seeing the alumni come back added to the simcha of Yom Tov." The joy was mutual. For alumnus Yitzchak Reihani, a talmid of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim in



Queens, "being back with the chevra and speaking to my rebbeim gave me a burst of chizuk." Yitzchak says coming back to MTI was "like coming back home."

To enhance the experience of Kabbalas HaTorah, Rabbi Rosner put together a roster of talmidim to speak between Mincha and Maariv on the second night of Yom Tov. He chose one bochur from each grade, including bais medrash talmidim and visiting alumni. "I asked Rabbi Rosner if I could participate because it was a great



opportunity to practice my public speaking skills in front of people I was comfortable with," relates 11th-grader Binyamin Wittlin. "I had a wonderful,

supportive audience, and the experience gave me a lot of confidence."

Simcha spoke about the purpose of learning Torah, and about the concept of simchas Yom Tov on Shavuos. He shared that showing simcha for something demonstrates that one values it. Indeed, the yeshiva took care to give their talmidim every aspect of simchas Yom Tov, gashmiyus along with ruchniyus.

"After a long night of beautiful learning and an early Shacharis," Simcha recounts, "We had an amazing kiddush with individual cheesecakes for each person."



The bochurim concluded their uplifting Yom Tov experience with a stirring Neilas Hachag celebration. "That was one of the highlights of my Yom Tov," enthuses Yitzchak. "The whole yeshiva singing and dancing together with their rebbeim, all celebrating Matan Torah and our accomplishments. It was really moving."





GRADUATION & SENIOR SHABBOS

Reflections from Parents

"We knew that if a situation would come up he would be well taken care of in the same way we would take care of him at home."

"The Shabbos was beautifully put together; every detail was well thought out. The achdus and the ruach were remarkable."

"The rebbeim, the learning, and the academic rigor were exactly what helped my son be so happy at school."

"B"H we are so pleased with the outcome and have tremendous hakaras hatov to MTI."

"Nachas Nachas Nachas! I was so happy to see my son with his rebbeim and friends! So much achdus! Meeting so many amazing boys and their parents was a true bonus!"

"One of the highlights of my son's experience was the close relationships he formed with his friends and rebbeim."

"We are very grateful to the yeshiva for being the exact 'fit' for our son. It allowed him to blossom and develop talents in all areas."

"[It was] an opportunity to step back and appreciate what our son and his classmates have gained in their years in MTI, and how much they have grown in Torah, Yiras Shamayim and becoming true 'mentchen.'"

"We have tremendous hakaras hatov to MTI for helping to shape our boys into the bnei Torah that they've become."

"I think all the rebbeim—and especially Rabbi Wachsmann and Rabbi Gewirtz—are so communicative and responsive."

"The entire weekend showed tremendous forethought, planning, and care—the accommodations, the delicious food and the wonderful 11th-grade waiter who displayed such beautiful middos and desire to perform hachnasas orchim in the best way possible."

expounded on the Agudah's advocacy efforts and its role in combating antisemitism, part of its larger mission of supporting the Jewish community at large. Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Executive Vice President and

work. They then held a question and answer session, providing an opportunity for an engaging discussion with mesivta and bais medrash talmidim about what it means to take responsibility for the community, with the bochorim charged to utilize their talents to benefit Klal Yisroel.

Dovid Stroh, 11th-grader, reflects, "I found a lot of meaning in the Agudah's message that even one person can make a big difference. Of course, I've thought in the past about how I want to contribute to the community, but it seemed way beyond my reach. The Agudah leaders explained how serving the community is attainable for anyone, and how even something small can make a big difference."

"The Agudah's visit gave me insight into just how much effort is put into keeping Klal Yisroel afloat," shares 10th-grader Gedaliah Levi. "It was incredible to see how involved and connected the Agudah is at every level of Jewish life and advocacy for the Jewish community."

Rabbi Naftali Miller, National Director of Development addressed the talmidim on the importance of klal

AGUDATH ISRAEL LEADERSHIP VISITS

Long a symbol of national expansion as the proverbial "Gateway to the West," St. Louis lived up to its moniker, as the national leadership of Agudath Israel of America spent a day with

the members of the Agudah's Missouri regional office, visiting local mosdos and discussing possible growth opportunities with community leaders.

Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz enthused "We are so excited that Missouri will have the benefits of an Agudah office, which will positively affect our yeshiva and the entire community."

The itinerary included visits to the educational institutions that educate St. Louis' 550 yeshiva students as well as its local kollelim and several area shuls. Speaking at our yeshiva, the Agudah delegation



Rabbi Yehudah Bienstock
Mr. Charles Deutsch
Dr. Craig Reiss
Dinner Chairmen
Missouri Torah Institute
1809 Clarkson Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Distinguished Dinner Chairmen:

On behalf of the administration of Agudath Israel of America, it is our pleasure to offer greetings upon the occasion of Missouri Torah Institute's upcoming Sixteenth Annual Dinner.

We at Agudath Israel have heard for many years about the major role MTI has played in the growth of Torah in St. Louis and Chesterfield. MTI's reputation as an outstanding yeshiva has been well known to us.

However, we no longer need to rely on reports and reputation. Now we are able to attest to the high caliber of the school through personal observation, as the three of us visited MTI just two weeks ago. We saw with our own eyes how the indefatigable Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz and his outstanding staff have built a school of outstanding quality, truly one of the crown jewels in the American yeshiva community.

We salute your worthy honorees, and wish them continued success in all their endeavors. And we take this opportunity to offer our warmest wishes to our dear friend Charlie Deutsch, with whom we have enjoyed a wonderful longstanding relationship. He is one of the great people of our time.

Agudath Israel wishes MTI ongoing *bracha v'hatzlacha, mei'chayil el choyil!*

Sincerely,

Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel
Executive Vice President

Rabbi Yitzchok Ehtman
Chief Operating Officer

Rabbi Naftali Miller
Chief Development Officer



12 Sivan 5783
June 1, 2023



It was a great kavod to host such chashuvim who have done so much for Klal Yisroel. Rabbi Avrohom Goldman reflected that "They emphasized the incredible responsibility we have for the klal, and how carefully our actions are scrutinized by the world at large."

*This article is adapted with permission from an article on the Agudah website, "Mutual Inspiration in the Heartland as Agudah Leadership Visits St. Louis."

MAZEL TOV!

Alumni Engagements

Shmuel Aberman on his engagement to Ms. Adina Matten from Chicago!
Yitzchak Davidowitz on his engagement to Ms. Leah Lind from Las Vegas, NV/Boca Raton, FL!
Pinchas Gourdjji on his engagement to Ms. Le Le Nebati from Passaic, NJ!
Eli Guttman on his engagement to Ms. Chava Meth of Boca Raton, FL!
Avi Rubin on his engagement to Ms. Meira Braverman from Memphis, TN!
Mordechai Zuroff on his engagement to Ms. Nina Brodsky of Harrisburg, PA!

Alumni Marriages

Benjy Deutsch on his marriage to Ms. Ariella Gruenzwieg from Far Rockaway, NY!
Avromi Jacobs on his marriage to Ms. Deborah Feldman from Monsey, NY!
Yehuda Zev Kasnett on his marriage to Ms. Chaya Esther Ettinger from Staten Island, NY!
Gavriel Klahr on his marriage to Ms. Ayala Cweiber of Brooklyn, NY!
Gabi Koyenov on his marriage to Ms. Chaviva Taub from Kew Gardens, NY!
Dovi Mandel on his marriage to Ms. Rachelli Braunstein from Waterbury, CT!
Zev Sugerman on his marriage to Ms. Leah Guterman from Monsey, NY!

Alumni Births

Mr. & Mrs. Yitzy Bergida on the birth of a daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Rami Chiver on the birth of a daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Cohen on the birth of a son!
Mr. & Mrs. Luzzy Fleischman on the birth of a daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Foxbruner on the birth of a son!
Mr. & Mrs. Elisha Gewirtz on the birth of a son!
Mr. & Mrs. Donny Hecht on the birth of a son!
Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Mordechai Levy on the birth of a daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Lyss on the birth of a daughter!

Staff Simchas

Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Wasser on the birth of a grandson!

ברוך דיין האמת Baruch Dayan HaEmes

WE MOURN THE RECENT LOSS OF

Dr. Walter Lemann, one of our founding Board Members, whose wisdom and foresight helped our growth and development during our early years.

Mr. Eliezer Lieberman, a dear talmid (2007-2011) whose warm smile and giving and friendly nature made him beloved to all those who knew him.

יהי זכרם ברוך

RETZIFUS LEARNING AND GRAND CHICAGO TRIP



Standardized Testing



End of Year Dinner



Robotics Competition



8th Grade from South Bend visits MTI



9th Grade Iyun Flow Charts



12th grade Chesterfield Shabbos



Rabbi Akiva Grunblatt speaking in learning with talmidim



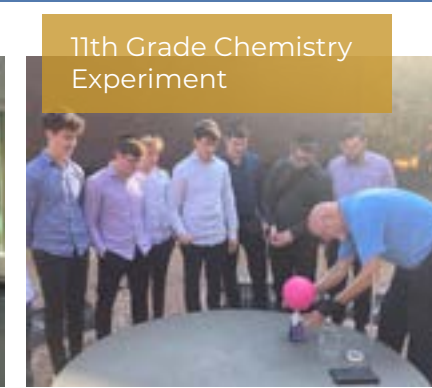
Rabbi Rosner helping talmidim prepare for the Gemara Final



Lag Baomer at Yeshiva



9th Grade Halacha Class Making Tzitzis



11th Grade Chemistry Experiment



9th grade fathers share Torah with talmidim before Shavuot



Dancing after Siyum - Bais Medrash End of Zman BBQ



Mordechai Wasser making a siyum on Meseches Bava Basra



Lag Baomer Trip



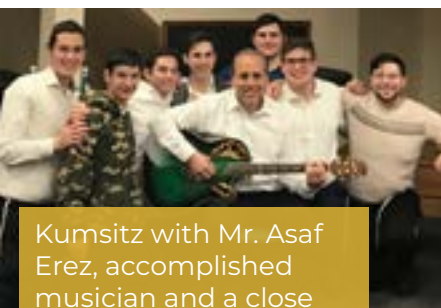
10th Grade Louisville Trip



Motzei Shabbos Kumzits



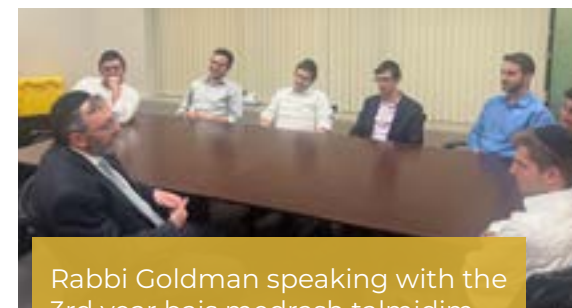
Bein Hazmanim Mussar Learning Incentives



Kumsitz with Mr. Asaf Erez, accomplished musician and a close friend of the Yeshiva



9th Grade Chesterfield Shabbos



Rabbi Goldman speaking with the 3rd year bais medrash talmidim



Talmidim with "fig phones" recommended by Mr. Ronnie Adjmi



Rosh Chodesh Dancing



Rabbi Moshe Winter learning with Rabbi Gewirtz's shiur



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"I can't help but be moved by the feeling of warmth, achdus, and loyalty to the school that the talmidim manifest so clearly."

"A culmination of four years of tremendous growth for my son."

"I love the confidence and anchoring my son feels in who he is at this stage in life. B"H, you've helped him establish himself. He's on a trajectory to a life of Torah learning, mitzvos and עבודת הקדש. We are forever grateful!"

"I couldn't be happier that my son went to this esteemed yeshiva! We are so proud of our boys!"



"We were extremely pleased by his chevra. We were so impressed by their middos and the meaningful friendships they developed."

**"My son
LOVES yeshiva!"**

*What's
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