

EYE ON MTI



SPRING 2024

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DAILY אהבת חסד FOR MEN
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser
SHIURIM SENT VIA EMAIL

WEEKLY בית הלוי FOR WOMEN
with Mrs. Toby Goldman
SUNDAYS @8:00PM ON ZOOM



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A typical reunion may reignite the spark of connection, but the bond between MTI alumni and their rebbeim is an enduring flame. When over one hundred alumni and rebbeim spent a Shabbos together in Queens, NY, it was



an expression of the vibrant connection between them. In the words of alumnus Dovid Orrin, the Shabbos was a "Pure family reunion." The alumni enjoyed an



atmosphere of warmth that took them straight back to their MTI days. "We were sitting there feeling like we were back in the Bais Medrash at MTI. It was unbelievable," alumnus Yisroel Friedman describes. "It's like we never left," adds alumnus Shmuel Meth.



The message from the rebbeim, as Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz expressed to the alumni, was that "We are always here for you in all stages of your lives," and they were able to see



that in action over Shabbos. "Seeing rebbeim fly in makes me feel like they all absolutely care about each and every one of us," shares alumnus Dovi Katz, "Seeing their incredible dedication is very inspiring." "Seeing the rebbeim and how they live their lives, reminds me of how I want to live my life," says alumnus Eytan Mankowitz.

It wasn't just the alumni themselves who



MTI ALUMNI
20 SHABBOS 24
MARCH 8-9
QUEENS, NY



enjoyed this experience, many of the alumni came for Shabbos with their wives and families. Every detail was taken into account so that the entire family would be happy and comfortable. "It was set

up so nicely and there was room for the kids to play," says alumnus Menachem Guttman, "My family really had a great time." At the melava malka, there was also a candle decorating workshop



for the women. "It was nice that there was an activity for the women to do while the men were dancing," remarks Mrs. Michal Friedman, wife of an MTI alumnus, "We also got to see some of the rebbetzins who came in from St. Louis, and it was nice to meet them for the first time."



It was also a special opportunity for the alumni to really give their families a feel for the yeshiva that is still so much a part of them today. "This Shabbos has been so beautiful - my wife says that she wishes she had gone to MTI!" Dovi exclaimed, "It is beautiful to be able to have her see the rest of my family."



Perhaps the words of alumnus Shmuel Kosofsky best encapsulate the feeling that the alumni left Shabbos with.



"When I came to yeshiva," says Shmuel, "I thought I was getting rebbeim and classmates. What I didn't realize is that I was getting family for life. You might have taken us all out of St. Louis, but you can never take St. Louis out of us."

SPOTLIGHT ON: 9TH GRADE SHIUR

A tight-knit Chevra, full of enthusiasm for learning, and guided by passionate and devoted rebbeim—that's the MTI experience. Let's take a look at where it all begins. Today, we have the privilege of getting a peek into the ninth-grade world from their dedicated rebbe, Rabbi Gershon Rockove.

Eye on MTI: What does a typical day in your classroom look like?

Rabbi Rockove: If you were to step into our ninth-grade classroom, you'd see that a significant portion of time is dedicated to preparation. Each boy, on his own level, works to figure out and piece together steps in Gemara, Rashi, and Tosfos. It's beautiful to watch the satisfaction on their faces. After they delve into it on their own, we debate questions and answers. Baruch Hashem, it is an engaged classroom, with boys working hard to learn and understand the Gemara they are focusing on each day.



Eye on MTI: How would you describe your priorities as a ninth-grade rebbe?

Rabbi Rockove: I consider every aspect of a student's growth significant. In order for a talmid to maximize his potential, he needs to be doing well in all areas. When he feels that he is connecting to his rebbeim and has a place amongst his peers, he can truly grow and become a ben Torah. Acclimating to a mesivta and a dorm setting is a big jump from their elementary school experience. I try to help them adjust to the seder hayom in a healthy and well-balanced manner, allowing them to develop the routine they need to succeed.



Eye on MTI: Could you tell us about some of the extracurricular opportunities available to the ninth grade?

Rabbi Rockove: When the boys join the yeshiva, they immediately join the MTI family. There is a culture which creates the feeling that the boys are rooting for each other. We have ninth grade trips and Shabbatons designed for the boys to get to know each other, and even more than that; to bond and build friendships with each other.

12TH GRADE-
BAIS MEDRASH
SHABBATON

This year we had a special Shabbaton, bringing together the 12th graders and bais medrash bochurim for an enjoyable and unforgettable bonding experience. Rabbi Avrohom Goldman gave insight on the intended goal of the Shabbaton. "It's so important that the 12th grade talmidim develop a strong bond with the older chevra in the yeshiva so that they can enhance the next stage of their growth." Third year bais medrash talmid Aharon Lehrer expressed "It was nice preparing for shiur with some of the 12th graders and joining together in a close-knit setting over Shabbos so they can learn what the bais medrash is all about."

Starting with rollerblading on Thursday afternoon, the excitement only grew as they arrived at the beautiful rented mansion in Falcon, Missouri. The next morning, the day began with a learning seder, followed by a trip to a private waterpark. 12th grader Ephraim Holman reflected on these highlights of the trip, mentioning that he and some of the bais medrash chevra cooked all the food for Shabbos on their own. It strengthened bonds between the 12th graders and bais medrash bochurim over Shabbos, and culminated with a heartfelt kumzits and melave malka.

Yehoshua Kramer, another 12th grader, expressed how the Shabbaton was an opportunity to connect with bais medrash bochurim in a new setting, leaving him feeling more prepared for bais medrash. Rabbi Shmuel Wasser shared that "The talmidim left with lasting memories of an inspiring and unifying experience. We are already looking forward to next year's Shabbaton!"

LEGAL HOLIDAY YOM IYUN

THE RISING COST OF HAPPINESS

with Rabbi Leiby Burnham

KASHRUS: BEHIND THE SCENES STARBUCKS UBER EATS HOTEL LOUNGES AND MORE!

with Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky



The talmidim were treated to two fascinating and engaging presentations. Rabbi Leiby Burnham, of Partners Detroit, addressed "The Rising Cost of Happiness," helping the talmidim understand that one will be at their happiest point when one experiences the physical world through a sublime and ruchniyus based lens. The talmidim broke up into groups and participated in an interactive activity to help appreciate making meaningful choices.

Rabbi Yitzchak Kowalsky, Senior Rabbinical Coordinator of the Vaad Hoeir of St. Louis, spoke on "Kashrus- Behind the Scenes, Starbucks, Uber Eats, Hotel Lounges and More". He discussed many facets of kashrus in industrial food production, as well as some common challenges faced by the kosher consumer in 2024.

8TH GRADE SHABBATON ENJOYS A VISIT FROM RABBI PAYSACH KROHN

On Shabbos Parshas Yisro, MTI hosted the annual Eighth-Grade Shabbaton. Bochurim from St. Louis and cities across the country came to experience firsthand what it means to be an MTI talmid. The boys enjoyed a Shabbos filled with ruach, great food, and a packed schedule. On Friday morning, the boys were in for a special treat. Rabbi Paysach Krohn, who was in town as a scholar in residence at U. City shul for Shabbos, came to yeshiva on Friday morning to give divrei chizuk to the whole yeshiva! Rabbi Krohn spoke about the importance of speaking positively and how one's words can lift people up. Despite the Shabbaton being only a few days, many boys made friendly connections with one another. A number of attendees commented on the uplifting and inspiring Shabbos, the school's positive environment, and the warmth of the talmidim. We look forward to another great incoming 9th grade class next year, iy"H.



BARUCH LEVINE



EITAN KATZ



At a recent community Melave Malka at TICK, the shul in Chesterfield, the Yeshiva was invited to join in a heartfelt kumzitz featuring Eitan Katz.

In a separate event, Baruch Levine came to town to perform at Torah Prep's annual dinner. The talmidim of the yeshiva were invited to attend the concert following the dinner.

The talmidim appreciated being invited to both events and throughout enjoyed getting involved and participating in both concerts.

MAZEL TOV!

Alumni Marriages

Shmuel Aberman on his marriage to Ms. Adina Matten from Chicago, IL!
Noach Bienstock on his marriage to Ms. Aliza Meltzer from Queens, NY!
Michel Goldberger on his marriage to Ms. Adeline Goldman from Houghton, MI!
Yehudah Gourdji on his marriage to Ms. Nechama Bodkins from NMB, FL!
Oliver Miller on his marriage to Ms. Henny Greenfield from Richmond Hill, NY!
Naftali Perkal on his marriage to Ms. Esti Gendel from Brooklyn, NY!
Jonny Rush on his marriage to Ms. Chana Staum of Chesterfield, MO!

Alumni Engagements

Ari Finkelstein on his engagement to Ms. Yael Bauman from Far Rockaway, NY!
Ezra Kolsky on his engagement to Ms. Fruma Danese from Brooklyn, NY!
Shimon Rosenstock on his engagement to Ms. Sarah Mounessa from Cedarhurst, NY!
Gedaliah Slater on his engagement to Ms. Rivka Blank from Los Angeles, CA!
Baruch Usprich on his engagement to Ms. Shana Chaya Davison from Norwalk, CT!

Alumni Births

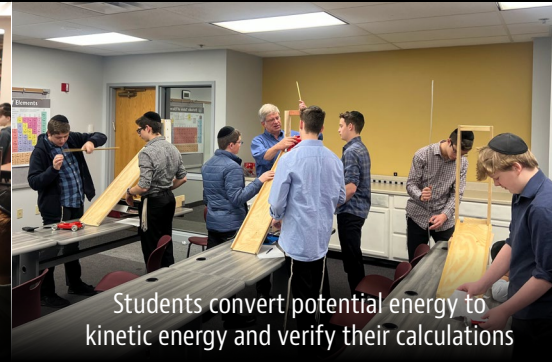
Mr. & Mrs. Aron Ackerman on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Menashe Brown on the birth of their son!
Mr. & Mrs. Dovid Chait on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Cohen on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Feder on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Menachem Guttman on the birth of their son!
Mr. & Mrs. Yosef Kaufman on the birth of their son!
Mr. & Mrs. Gabi Koyenov on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Avrumi Lieberman on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Eytan Mankowitz on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Mermelstein on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Yaakov Rubin on the birth of their daughter!
Mr. & Mrs. Tzvika Scharf on the birth of their son!
Mr. & Mrs. David Shapiro on the birth of their son!
Mr. & Mrs. Dovid Winter on the birth of their son!
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Yasinev on the birth of their son!

Staff Simchas

Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov Stein on the birth of their daughter!
Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Wasser on the birth of two granddaughters!
Rabbi & Mrs. Shraga Zachai on Naftali's Bar Mitzvah!

We mourn the recent loss of

Mrs. Marilyn Fox, a"h, wife of Ambassador Sam Fox and mother of Ms. Cheri Fox, Mrs. Pamela Fox Claman, Mr. Jeff Fox, Mr. Steve Fox and the late Mr. Greg Fox ob"m.
Sam Lyss, a"h, brother of alumnus Alex Lyss.
Yossi Paret, a"h, brother of alumnus Chaim Paret.
Mrs. Debbie Wachsman, a"h, mother of our menahel, Rabbi Menachem Wachsman.





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— REALIZING OUR GREATNESS —
REACHING HIGHER
MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE ישיבה ומתיבתא ד'מיזורי

THANK YOU!

to our generous friends from all over the country who helped make our Charidy campaign a tremendous success. The yeshiva raised more than 1.1 million dollars through over **1,400 DONATIONS** to be מחזק תורה!

English Library DEDICATION

We are grateful to alumnus Josh (Class of 2011) and Mera Treisman for their generous dedication of our English Library in honor of their grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary.

