



## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER



### CELEBRATES PRESENT & FUTURE

On Sunday, June 12, friends and supporters of the yeshiva gathered at the beautiful Ritz Carlton Hotel for the yeshiva's 15th Annual Dinner, honoring Rabbi Shlomo Soroka and Mr. and Mrs. Yosef and Chaya Bernath. Guests enjoyed an impactful program, as well as the opportunity to socialize and connect. "The dinner's goal was to give everyone in attendance a further appreciation of what they are helping to support and what is in their midst," stated Rabbi Josh Bregman, Director of Development.

Rabbi Shlomo Soroka is the Director of Government Affairs at Agudath Israel of Illinois, where he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Jewish community with "commitment, passion, and drive to help Klal Yisroel," Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz remarked. Rabbi Yaakov Robinson, Rav of Beis Medrash Mikor Hachaim and Menahel of the Midwest Agudas Yisroel Rabbinic Council, called Rabbi Soroka "one of the best, brightest, and most commit-

ted from lobbyists in the entire country." Throughout the years, starting when Rabbi Soroka worked for the St. Louis Kollel in a number of leadership roles, he has been a close friend of the yeshiva, sharing ideas and plans. Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, Rav of Agudas Israel of St. Louis and Rosh Kollel Emeritus of the St. Louis Community Kollel recognized the direct benefits his son-in-law's shtadlanus has achieved for the yeshiva, stating that Rabbi Soroka's efforts have "allowed MTI to further its mission of spreading Torah and mesorah." Rabbi Soroka himself expressed that MTI and its roshei yeshiva are "one of a kind, not just in terms of their dedication to the tzibbur in general, but that they see far beyond their own worthy endeavors. They are team players, and it is rare to come across people like that."

Mr. and Mrs. Yosef and Chaya Bernath are a community-minded couple who are deeply involved at TICK, their beloved shul, and in their community. The Bernaths have

*cont. on page 7*

## MAZEL TOV CLASS OF 2022!

MTI seniors enjoyed an incredible graduation trip to Land Between the Lakes in Cadiz, Kentucky. Accompanied by Rabbi Menachem Wachsman and Yoel Druxman, a yeshiva alumnus, the talmidim had a packed two days filled with learning, water activities, sports, and barbecues. They stayed in a beautiful spacious cabin with plenty of room for all. Talmid Gavin Kornblum reflects, "That trip and the senior Shabbos were like the closing of a chapter and the opening of a future of learning in bais medrash. It was a very nice way to wrap up my time with my mesivta friends."

Immediately preceding graduation, graduates and their parents spent a Shabbos hosted by local families in the Chesterfield community, enjoying each other's company and celebrating the accomplishments of the past four years. The graduate families came together for the seudos, including a shalosh seudos for women at the Fromowitz home. After Shabbos, everyone regrouped for an exciting melave malka at the yeshiva.

Mr. Eytan Dallal, father of graduate Noam, expressed his appreciation for the yeshiva's wonderful environment. "MTI is a serious place for learners who also know how to have fun. We love the fact that the bais

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Class of 2022



The yeshiva is constantly introducing new programs to enhance the talmidim's experience and help them grow spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Most recently, after Shavuos, Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Levy launched the #GetHeilig initiative. #GetHeilig focused on the intertwined goals of enhancing one's own greatness and treating each other with the highest levels of

respect. "It works both ways," says Rabbi Levy. "When a person feels good about himself, it is much easier to be good to others. When a person helps others feel good about themselves, that builds his own confidence as well." Talmidim participated in daily challenges, encouraged by ubiquitous signs, cards, and mugs. The program culminated in a celebration for all talmidim. "The goal

of the program was to make us more aware of what we do throughout our day," says 1st year bochur Dovy Gordon. "When we all work together on the common goal of improving ourselves through the little actions we do every day, the group energy makes it easier to grow and become better people. I'm looking forward to continuing similar programs in my future years in yeshiva."



After 16 weeks of learning during the retzifus program, close to 50 talmidim reached their goal and earned the grand prize of a trip to Chicago. We davened shacharis at the Chicago Kollel, and then heard a shmuess from the Rosh Kollel Rabbi Dovid Zucker on the importance of Kavod HaTorah.

After breakfast at Emma's, we visited Chicago Chesed Fund for a tour of their massive facility, which provides everything you could imagine to those in need—we saw furniture, appliances, dry goods, 6 walk-in freezers for storing meat, clothing, games, school supplies, and even seforim. We had a tremendous opportunity to meet the renowned posek and dayan, Rav Shmuel Fuerst, and ask questions regarding halachos and hashkofos for life. It was a truly eye-opening experience.

After meeting with Rav Fuerst, we played an exciting basketball game against Skokie Yeshiva, followed by a pizza lunch. We then davened mincha and learned an inspiring retzifus seder at Chodorov, a local Shul. We had dinner

at Evita Argentinian Steakhouse and met the chef, who turns out to be a native of Chesterfield! He told us that he used to live right near Baxter and Clarkson, which is where our yeshiva is located. During dinner, a few of the talmidim and the rebbeim spoke about the amazing program and how it affected them. It was very inspiring to hear everyone's success stories. It was one of the best trips I have been on with yeshiva, and the most action-packed 24 hours I've ever had.

*adapted from an article written by Gavin Kornblum for the Mesivta's Message*

## RETZIFUS PROGRAM CHICAGO TRIP



## HARAV DOVID HARRIS, SHLITA VISITS CHESTERFIELD & MTI



Chesterfield was honored by a visit from HaRav Dovid Harris, shlita, Rosh Yeshiva of Chofetz Chaim, who came to raise funds for the yeshiva in Queens. Baruch Hashem, it was a very successful visit. Rabbi Harris gave divrei chizzuk to the talmidei hayeshiva, held a Q&A

session with the bais medrash, and spoke to an overflow crowd at a parlor meeting hosted by Rabbi Moshe Winter, Rav of TICK, where Rabbi Winter praised "how special this amazing shidduch between St. Louis and Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim has become."



## MTI BEIN HAZMANIM

### PESACH MUSSAR INCENTIVE

This past Pesach bein hazmanim, bais medrash bochur Yechiel Goldman initiated a bein hazmanim mussar learning program. Any talmid or alumnus who signed up to learn a minimum of ten minutes of mussar a day was entered into two separate raffles to win \$150. Mazel Tov to our two winners,



Shimmy Fromowitz and Aron Mazer! Yehuda Zev Kasnett, bais medrash alumnus, commented that this program really changed his bein hazmanim. Each current MTI talmid who participated received a freshly baked cake upon his return to yeshiva. (Thank you, Mrs. Goldman!)

## PRE-SHAVUOS LEARNING WITH 9TH GRADE MTI FATHERS



Before Shavuos, the yeshiva's 9th grade fathers were invited to share divrei Torah or inspirational stories with the entire class at a live Zoom event. The talmidim responded enthusiastically. Rabbi Gershon Rockove, one of the 9th grade rebbeim, shared that the program "showed a united front between rebbeim and parents and let us all go into Shavuos bonded by the joint vision we share." Rabbi Jordan Brumer, one of the fathers who presented, commented, "This is the first time that I've seen a yeshiva engage the parents in the role of a teacher. I thought it was a wonderful

and creative idea, and I was honored to be able to be a part of it." Mr. Elchonon Majeski, another father, remarked, "I enjoyed sharing stories about my own father that demonstrated how we don't just need to learn Torah, but also live Torah, through chesed, tzedakah, and thinking about other people. This program was a nice way for everyone to be entertained and inspired in an original way. I would definitely do it again!"



Spring standardized testing



Talmidim with Rabbi Dovid Orlofsky after his speech at UCity shul on the Sunday morning of an off-Shabbos



Talmidim spend a Shabbos in UCity with Rabbi Rosner



Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt, rav of Agudas Israel of St. Louis, speaks at yeshiva before Shavuos



Rabbi Moshe Kamin gives vaad to Bais Medrash



Rabbi Moshe Winter, Rav of TICK, speaking in learning with Rabbi Gewirtz's and Rabbi Wasser's shiurim



Coding elective



Bais Medrash bochur Abe Shulman celebrates his siyum on Bava Metzia



10th grade enjoys a trip to TopGolf at the end of the year with Rabbi Gewirtz & Rabbi Zachai



9th grade students make tzitzis after the completion of their study of hilchos tzitzis



Bais Medrash bochorim enjoying a beginning of summer BBQ at Rabbi Lev's house



9th grade talmidim prepare for their Chesterfield Shabbos at Rabbi Rockove's house



Collection of in-depth analysis of Ma'amarei Chazal culled from Mussar Shmueessin by the Roshei Yeshiva written over by MTI Talmidim



Talmidim enjoying some biking



HaRav Akiva Grunblatt speaks via live video hookup before Shavuos



Rabbi Mordechai Palgon visits MTI



Varsity playing a basketball game against SLCHS



Rabbi Rockove's shiur celebrating the completion of their 100th iyun worksheet

Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman speaks at the womens mussar group's Orchos Tzaddikim siyum via zoom



Bochorim create and host a trivia-game



Rabbi Efraim Fromowitz giving an overview of Tachanum and Uva Ltzion to the bais medrash during Mishna Berura Seder



12th grade bekiyus siyum with Rabbi Biron



Rabbi Levy's shiur at Coldstone



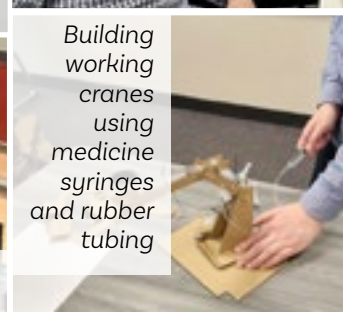
Cholent cookoff taste-testing and judging!



Yehuda Markowitz makes a siyum on Mishnayos Seder Zeraim and Moed



Mesivta Lag Baomer bowling trip after rain prevented baseball in the park



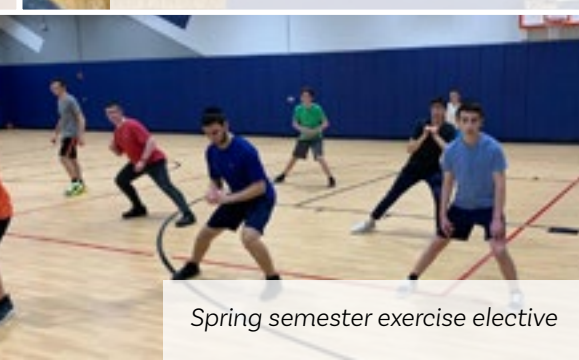
Building working cranes using medicine syringes and rubber tubing



Rabbi Ezra Kier visits to assist in organizing the otzer haseforim



Off-Shabbos Friday learning



Spring semester exercise elective

cont. from page 1 medrash bachurim interact so closely with the mesivta talmidim.”

Mr. Dallal adds, “This is our first son graduating from yeshiva and he had a phenomenal experience at MTI, so this was like a capstone for him. It was a perfect way to end his four years of high school.”

MTI’s graduation was a beautiful and poignant event for talmidim and their families. Menahel Rabbi Menachem Wachsmen expounded on Aharon HaKohen’s greatness that he expressed in his meticulous performance of even the “small” mitzvos, such as



setting up the lamps of the menorah. Rabbi Wachsmen asked the graduates to recognize and appreciate the “daily learning, davening, and performing the ratzon Hashem that has had the profound impact on you that we see here today.”

General Studies Principal Rabbi Shimshon Gewirtz discussed the unique intentions of the nesi'im that lay behind their identical korbanos at the dedication of the mishkan. Similarly, while the graduates all took a seemingly similar path, they each went through a different, unique, and valuable journey to get there. Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Shmuel Wasser elaborated on the concept

of “mitzvah goreres mitzvah,” and how each graduate scaled the mountain of high school by attaining greater and greater heights, each accomplishment paving the way for the next.

Every talmid shared thoughts about their experiences at the yeshiva, and then Rabbi Wachsmen spoke about the accomplishments and attributes of each one. All of our graduates are excited about their past growth and look forward to learning full time next year in various yeshivos, both in the U.S. and in Eretz Yisroel. We are so proud of each and every one of our talmidim!

## ACHDUS REIGNS ON YESHIVA-WIDE INDIANA SHABBATON



In the “ultimate achdus trip,” the yeshiva held its second annual Shabbaton at a beautiful campground in Marshall, Indiana. Upon arriving on Thursday afternoon, the talmidim organized their own barbecue, followed by a campfire and soulful kumzitz that lasted until 3 a.m.! On Friday, following a learning seder and a shiur for the entire yeshiva by the Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Avrohom

Goldman, the talmidim engaged in several competitive sports game and an exciting game of laser tag, followed by a Shabbos to remember with their rebbeim and friends. Shabbos concluded with a ruach-filled melave Malka.

“It was nice to be with my friends in a different setting, in nature,” appreciates 10th grader Gedaliah Levi. “I feel like I gained

more of an understanding of just how close MTI talmidim are, and how positive the environment is here.”

First-year bais medrash talmid Akiva Cohen shares, “We were there as one yeshiva, from the zemiros on Shabbos, to the sports games, to staying up late - everything was done together.”



## MAZEL TOV!

March 2022 - July 2022

### Alumni Marriages

Yehuda Bortz on his marriage to Ms. Hannah Grayman of Baltimore, MD!  
Dovid Chaimovitz on his marriage to Ms. Malka Spiegel of Toronto, Ontario!  
Azi Wiesel on his marriage to Ms. Chani Kramer of Lakewood, NJ!

### Alumni Engagements

Moshe Rosenzweig on his engagement to Ms. Dina Schonfeld of Kew Gardens, NY!  
Yehuda Striks on his engagement to Ms. Shayna Bayla Fromowitz of Chesterfield, MO!

### Alumni Births

Mr. & Dr. Ephraim Abrams on the birth of a girl!  
Mr. & Mrs. Rami Chiver on the birth of a boy!  
Mr. & Mrs. Yisroel Friedman on the birth of a boy!  
Mr. & Mrs. Donny Hecht on the birth of a girl!  
Mr. & Mrs. Tzvi Klein on the birth of a boy!  
Mr. & Mrs. Naftoli Scheinberg on the birth of a girl!  
Mr. & Mrs. Josh Treisman on the birth of a boy!

### Staff Simchas

Rabbi & Mrs. Pesach & Nechama Eskenazi on the birth of a girl!  
Rabbi & Mrs. Shimshon & Miriam Gewirtz on the bar mitzvah of their son Zev!  
Rabbi & Mrs. Shimshon & Miriam Gewirtz on the birth of a boy!  
Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel & Chanie Wasser on the birth of a grandson!  
Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid & Chayka Fromowitz on the engagement of their daughter Shayna Bayla!



cont. from page 1 decided to dedicate MTI’s bais medrash in honor of their parents, elevating Kavod HaTorah and allowing the yeshiva to proceed with an expansion to accommodate the growth of the yeshiva. In his remarks, Mr. Yosef Bernath declared that “MTI has the most dedicated and inspirational rebbeim and staff. They continue to produce unbelievable bnei Torah with such fine middos.” Dr. Craig Reiss, MTI Board

Chairman, asserted that the Bernaths “know the importance of building Torah, they have incredible ties with many of the rebbeim at MTI, and they realize the mesirus nefesh that is put into this institution and what they are doing for Klal Yisroel.”

The honorees are passionate about helping the yeshiva and the community, and that energy came across in their remarks. The bnei hayeshiva came for dessert, and



the evening concluded with dancing to “celebrate the exciting plans for a new bais medrash, together with the bnei hayeshiva, community rabbonim, and friends of the yeshiva,” says Rabbi Avrohom Goldman, Rosh Yeshiva.

The evening also included a very special surprise presentation to a key member of our yeshiva staff, our office manager Mrs. Debbie Graff (see back cover for details).





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## VACATIONING LIKE A BEN TORAH



## YESHIVA THANKS *Mrs. Debbie Graff* AT ANNUAL DINNER



At the annual dinner, Rabbi Shmuel Wasser, on behalf of the yeshiva, made a surprise presentation to Mrs. Debbie Graff, our devoted office manager who has been with the yeshiva since its founding 15 years ago. "It's hard to surprise someone who is so involved in your operation," said Rabbi Wasser, "But we've been thinking for a while about how we can express hakaras hatov for the work that Mrs. Graff does." The ye-

shiva decided to dedicate the reception area in memory of Mrs. Graff's parents. In addition to Mrs. Graff's in laws and other friends who were in attendance, her son and daughter in law surprised her by driving in from Atlanta for the occasion. "It was a beautiful way to say thank you," says Mrs. Graff. "May the learning that goes on in yeshiva be an aliyah for my parents' neshamos."

