

Climbing Beyond

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Message from the Hanhala

Yeshiva Toras Chaim (YTC) was founded by worldrenowned Roshei HaYeshiva, Harav Yisroel Meir Kagan, shlit"a and Harav Yitzchok Wasserman, shlit"a, both Talmidim of Harav Aaron Kotler Zt"l, who have transplanted authentic Torah study to the West Coast.

Over many decades, thousands of Bnei Torah, who have spent their formative years in YTC, have developed into thriving members of their respective communities.

YTC continues this tradition of uncompromising dedication to the Mesorah of Torah, received from the Roshei Yeshiva Shlita, while continuing to infuse every Talmid with the vibrancy of and beauty of a life of Torah in current times.

As we remain tethered to our Mesorah, we also look ahead, with tremendous excitement and promise to the continuously elevated future of YTC. Our students are primed for greatness; our Rebbeim are bursting with positive energy; our parent-body is firmly united in partnership with us.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim has always been a bastion of fine Torah education, with a staff of Rebbeim that are second to none. With the recent addition of some of Klal Yisroel's brightest educators, we are ready to exceed even our wildest expectations, and climb to even greater and brighter vistas.

We invite you - our friends and supporters - to join us on this incredible journey!

The Hanhala of YTC



The Bachurinns' Perspective

We spoke to a few choshuve bachurim in yeshiva to get their thoughts about YTC. It wasn't easy, as they were always busy learning in Beis Medrash or in Shiur, but we finally reached them during Bein Hasedorim for a few short minutes.

We spoke with Avigdor Matzliach, Mordechai Broodo, and Shmuel Madetsky, who are in Beis Medrash together, Meir Goldfeder in 12th grade, and Ezzy Bulua in 10th grade.

Mordechai started with a vort he once heard. "The Torah commands a person that gets married to let go of his parents and cleave to his wife. The usual situation for one who goes to an 'in town' Yeshiva is that he has the warmth of his family nearby until he gets married, whereas in an 'out of town' yeshiva, that closeness to family is often missing."

"However," said Mordechai, "at YTC the warmth of family is there from the Rebbeim and the Roshei Yeshiva! The unity, the support, the Simcha, is exactly like family!"

Avigdor told us that, "Being in an 'out of town' yeshiva is a tremendous ma'aleh, as you get to bond and become close with your chaveirim and Rebbeim in a real way. You really develop relationships that last a lifetime!"

Shmuel recounted how he was once not feeling well and had to leave Yeshiva for a few weeks. "The Rebbeim were constantly calling me to check on me, be mechazek me, let me know things I missed, and really showed extraordinary care for me. YTC is a family!"

Avigdor pointed out that, "The yeshiva is concerned about all the needs of the bachurim, well beyond their learning. The yeshiva provides healthy outlets for bachurim, such as a library with Yated,











Hamodia, Zman, and other kosher reading material. The younger Bachurim have a game room, a work-out room, and of course there is basketball. The Yeshiva does everything possible to ensure every bachur has what he needs to shteig – at all times!"

Meir expressed how he is always "amazed at how Rebbeim prepare and deliver shiurim day in, day out, like 150 masterpieces each year, yet still find the time to be so involved with the bachurim." He told us, "It is very common to see Rebbeim in Yeshiva speaking with bachurim as late as 12:30 am or even later!"

Ezzy loves the kesher that he has with the Rebbeim. "They are true Talmidei Chachamim and like a second father to us. We can ask them anything, and they will do anything to help us." He added, "The secular studies department is also structured perfectly for Bnei Torah. We learn things that we will need for life, no matter where our life leads us, all with the proper hashkafa of the Torah."

We would have spoken for longer, as the conversation with these wonderful Bachurim was very pleasant, but "We have to go to second seder" had to bring our chat to a close. It was clear that they all loved being part of YTC; they even said that the food was good!

Our Rebbeim Speak

Every Rebbi at YTC is hand-picked for their exemplary Ma'alos in Torah and Midos Tovos, as well as for their unparalleled rapport with each Talmid, which creates an unshakeable bond that every student carries with them for a lifetime.

We spoke with some of the Rebbeim to get their thoughts about being part of the YTC experience. We present to you, in their own words, what they had to say.





Rabbi Menachem Winer // MENAHEL/ELEVENTH GRADE REBBI

"I treasure the opportunity to lead a group of choshuve, dedicated bachurim whose growth and enthusiasm inspire me daily", says Rabbi Winer about his being part of the YTC faculty.

"What makes YTC so unique is the unusual combination of a Yeshiva that has a high level of achievement, strong sense of purpose, combined with a noticeable warmth. The bonds that the Rebbeim create with their Talmidim is a testimony to this warmth."

"Additionally" says Rabbi Winer, "The bachurim have committed themselves to their learning and davening with a tremendous amount of chiyus. The Bais Medrash is alive during the sedarim with a rischa de'oraisah that is palpable."



Rabbi Yitzchok Isaac Tendler // TWELFTH GRADE REBBI

"The Talmidim of YTC are unique in their genuine desire to learn from and to connect to their Rebbeim. Joining this Makom Torah and being part of such an outstanding group of Rebbeim, is a one of a kind opportunity to make an everlasting impression on Talmidim"

Rabbi Tendler continued by adding, "YTC offers bachurim the opportunity to shteig and become the highest caliber Bnei Torah, without struggling with many of the nisyonos and pressures that are part and parcel of learning in an "in-Town" Yeshiva"



Rabbi Chaim Shneur Nussbaum

// SECOND SEDER SHOEL U'MAISHIV BEIS MEDRASH

"I had the opportunity to learn in a very choshuve Kollel in Lakewood for many years. I feel that my growth there was a direct result of my beginnings in YTC. Therefore to return to YTC was an obvious and important continuity of ongoing growth in Torah:. Rabbi Nussbaum added: "One of the obligations for someone who has had the exposure to greatness in Torah is to try and transmit that to the next generation. That's why I joined the faculty at YTC, to give over to others and help them grow."

He also feels that what makes YTC so exceptional is its smaller size which allows for a closeness of all the bachurim to each other and to their Rebbeim, which is extremely important, especially nowadays.



Rabbi Dovid Nussbaum // MAGID SHIUR, BEIS MEDRASH

"In 1985 we moved from Lakewood, NJ to join the YTC Kollel. In 1988 I became the Shoel U'mashiv and also began to say shiur in the Bais Medrash. "The ratio of bachur to Rosh Yeshiva/Rebbe is significantly less than larger Yeshivas. Furthermore, the Roshei Yeshiva and Rebbeim take the initiative to reach out and present the bachurim with an unusual relationship which is not always available elsewhere."

"YTC has truly transformed, not just assisted, and improved the lives of its bachurim and their outlook has been shaped in such a fashion that their perspective on life in general and in specific areas has been enhanced to allow them to navigate life and its challenges in a highly successful manner."

"I recall a quote in my father-in-law's office, Harav Yitzchok Wasserman, "Be realistic, plan for a miracle." That really sums up the unusual nature of YTC, that a Yeshiva of this caliber perpetuating the legacy of Harav Aaron Kotler Zt"l could be transplanted not just to America but even to a city like Denver which is thousands of miles outside the stimulus of the East Coast."



Rabbi Moshe Chill // TENTH GRADE REBBI

"I wanted to be in proximity to Gedolei Yisroel on a daily basis and wanted to be a part of such an unbelievable staff, so naturally I was thrilled to join YTC." What makes YTC unique, in Rabbi Chill's opinion, is "that it's a high level Mesivta, competitive to the east coast but with the "out of town" flavor and warmth. It's a very rare and special combination."

As we talked about the approaching dinner campaign, we asked him what else he would like to share, and Rabbi Chill responded, "This is a chashuva Makom Torah, producing Bnei Torah and be'ezras Hashem Gedolei Yisroel. Supporting such a Makom Torah is an incredible opportunity."



Rabbi Elisha Zeiger // HIGH SCHOOL SHO'EL U'MAISHIV

"In 2006 my family moved to Denver to join the YTC Kollel and then in 2011 I became the Beis Medrash Shoel U'maishiv for second seder. This past Elul zman, I switched to working as Shoel U'maishiv for the High School and I have been enjoying this role tremendously."

Rabbi Zeiger feels that YTC is unique because, "It starts at the top with the Roshei Yeshiva, two dear talmidim of Rav Aharon Zt"l, who have proudly passed on that mesorah to their many Talmidim. Currently, the Yeshiva has young Rebbeim, Talmidei Chachomim, who are close and ibbergegebbin to their Talmidim. The bachurim are gaining in Torah and hadracha as well as feeling a shaychus to each Rebbi. There's a powerful atmosphere of aliyah throughout the Yeshiva and you can see - and feel - the growth of every bochur with each new zman."

"Although I am no longer a bochur, the ruach of YTC has kept me excited about Torah, learning, and Avodas Hashem. The Yeshiva surely will bring that excitement to the next generation of Talmidim, and to anyone who wants to connect to the Yeshiva, whether through joining us in the Koslei Beis Medrash, or by supporting the Yeshiva."

I would like to express my hakaros hatov to YTC for the opportunity of being mashpia bochurim, and being part of the YTC family. It has been a life-changer for my family knowing that the Yeshiva is their second home."

Mastering Mesechtos – Something To Celebrate



One of the crowning achievements of the students at YTC is the annual Siyum that takes place in conjunction with graduation. The students toil in Torah study throughout the year – day in- day out – and they don't just learn; they master entire tractates of Talmud! This gives them the knowledge, the confidence, and the drive to excel even further in their learning and to exceed their goals in unimaginable ways. This is how leaders grow!

This past summer, the Siyum celebrated the completion of Meseches Bava Metzia, one of the more difficult tractates in Shas. Over 60 boys were part of this monumental achievement, and a gala Siyum celebration was held with the participation of many parents, community members and Rebbeim.















Honoring a Legacy

The Boruch Baxman Diamond Scholarship Fund at Yeshiva Toras Chaim

In the spirit of perpetuating a legacy deeply rooted in both diamonds and Torah, we are delighted to introduce the Boruch Baxman Diamond Scholarship Fund at Yeshiva Toras Chaim.





// REMEMBERING MR. BORUCH BAXMAN

A distinguished figure in the Denver community, as well as in the world of diamonds as co-owner of JF Options Jewelers, Mr. Boruch Baxman was not only a master of precious stones but also a fervent supporter of Torah scholarship. His keen understanding of the value of acquiring true Torah gems in this world was evident in both his personal and professional life

// A LEGACY OF INTEGRITY AND PASSION FOR TORAH SCHOLARSHIP

Boruch Baxman reveled in the opportunity to support lomdei Torah, those devoted to the study of Torah. His passion for integrity and Torah scholarship reflected his unwavering commitment to Torah truth and living a life of integrity.

// THE BORUCH BAXMAN DIAMOND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In his memory, the Boruch Baxman Diamond Scholarship Fund has been established at Yeshiva Toras Chaim. This fund aims to continue Boruch's love for learning and his reverence for Torah scholars by providing financial support to needy students, enabling them to excel in their studies and lay a solid foundation for their future success.

// A TIMELY CAUSE IN TODAY'S WORLD

In the face of rising anti-Semitism and the challenges our community faces today, supporting the Boruch Baxman Diamond Scholarship Fund takes on even greater significance. By contributing to this fund, you become a partner in memorializing Boruch's legacy and ensuring a bright future for the next generation of Torah scholars.

// HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

We invite you to be a part of this meaningful endeavor. Your support will make a lasting impact on the lives of students at Yeshiva Toras Chaim. Every donation to the Boruch Baxman Diamond Scholarship Fund is triple-matched, making your contribution go even further.

To contribute or learn more about the scholarship fund, please visit ytcdenver.org.

As we honor the memory of Mr. Boruch Baxman, we can ensure that his passion for integrity and Torah scholarship continues to shine brightly in the hearts and minds of future generations.

Spotlight on our Honorees

Rabbi Efraim & Shifra Cunningham PARENTS OF THE YEAR

R' Efraim is a successful Real estate developer and contractor. Mrs. Cunningham is a daycare provider. They are residents of Denver and have a very close connection with the yeshiva and a good rapport with the rebbeim and Roshei Yeshiva.

They chose Toras Chaim for their son, not just because it was local, but because "The dedication of the staff is unparalleled and the boys who learn at YTC come out very good."

Rabbi Cunningham and Rabbi Wasserman worked together for 7 years at the Jewish Experience. When asked why he accepted this year's honor, Rabbi Cunningham replied "I have a lot of Hakoras Hatov to Rabbi Wasserman for what he did for me and I understand that it's important to give back and help the yeshiva as much as I am able to."

"I try hard to take responsibility for my actions and fulfill my commitments. I'm extremely honest in all my business dealings" is the motto by which Rabbi Cunningham and his wife live; a true representation of the ideal YTC parents.

It's an honor for the Yeshiva to be associated with such wonderful people.

Daniel & Jeannie Kravitz Isaac & Tamar Kravitz M'DOR L'DOR TRIBUTE

Daniel and Jeannie Kravitz were both born in Denver, in Rose Medical Center, on the very same day!

They started their lives together, eventually got married and have been raising their family in Denver ever since.

Their son, Isaac, also a Denver resident attended yeshiva Toras Chaim, graduated High School in 2002, and returned for a few years of Bais Medrash and even served as the dorm counselor.

Isaac's son, Gavriel, continues the family tradition, and is currently in 10th grade in YTC.

The entire Kravitz family is very close to the yeshiva and the Rebbeim, and they have a deep appreciation for having such a gem of a yeshiva in their community. They are grateful to have such exemplary Talmidei Chachamim as rebbeim in the community.

At this year's event, the yeshiva is paying tribute to this wonderful family, who are beloved by all in the community, Daniel and Jeannie Kravitz and their son and daughter in law Isaac and Tamar Kravitz, worthy recipients of the M'Dor L'Dor (Generation to Generation) tribute.

Alumni Talk

The bedrock of the Yeshiva is its Talmidim.

For over five decades, YTC Talmidim have become outstanding members of their respective communities, transmitting the Mesorah they received in YTC to their own families and beyond.

The bond that YTC Talmidim feel with the Roshei Yeshiva and the Rebbeim is strong and unbreakable. As the saying goes, "Once a YTC Talmid, Always a YTC Talmid!"

We caught up with a few alumni to get their brief thoughts or memories about being part of the YTC family.

Rabbi Dovid Nussbaum CLASS OF 1973

Denver, Colorado

Current Position: Maggid Shiur in YTC

What is your favorite YTC memory? When I would learn all night Thursday night with various chaveirim throughout the years. The feeling of exhilaration I felt was and still is incomparable to anything else since. As a young bochur, an older bochur took me under his wing and we learned together hundreds of blatt of gemara throughout seder Moed, and I feel that he really catapulted me into learning.

Who at YTC had the greatest impact on your life?

When I returned from Lakewood, to be here in the Kollel, I had many intense exchanges with the Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yisroel Meir Kagan which I found to be very exciting and gave me the ability to think and respond quickly on the particular sugya which we were learning.

From my father in law, Rav Yitzchok Wasserman, the extraordinary intensity of his schedule, his ability to balance his obligations to keep the Yeshiva functioning, and yet still be involved in learning and saying a shiur, taught me the utmost responsibility one has to have in order to accomplish in life.

Why do you feel it's important to stay involved with

YTC? The opportunity to remain in touch with my many chaveirim and Talmidim is a source of chizuk for me, to realize the goals in life that a person must have, in order to be a true Oveid Hashem.

Camera Shy class of 1973

(RAV SHEA PENSTEIN'S SHIUR)

Brooklyn, New York

Current Occupation: Auto Leasing, Semi-Retired

Who at YTC had the greatest impact on your life? Rav Yehoshua Gutman Zt"l, whom I met in Yeshiva but he was my landlord and "big brother," for several years after I left Yeshiva - his family and I are still very close.

Why do you feel it's important to stay involved with YTC? Sharing memories as well as Hashkafa and Torah.

Sam Landman class of 1998

Chicago, Illinois

Current Occupation: Director of Foodservice, Meals on Wheels, Northeastern Illinois

What is your favorite YTC memory? Stuart Street Dorm life!

Who at YTC had the greatest impact on your life, and why? Rav Yisroel Meir Kagan. He taught me that you don't need to be the best bochur to be a good Yid.

Why do you feel it's important to stay involved with YTC? It's important to remember where we come from.

What is your favorite YTC quote? "My heart bleeds cold borscht for you." - Rabbi Gutman





Dovid Yosef Thaler CLASS OF 1998

Lakewood, New Jersey

Current Occupation: CPA and Controller at Agudath Israel of America

What is your favorite YTC memory? There is no one particular memory that stands out, but rather my memories as a whole of all of my experiences at YTC have left lasting impressions and made a lifelong impact on the way I conduct my life to this day. The learning was serious, the friendships were real and the Yeshiva became our home for those unforgettable years.

Who at YTC had the greatest impact on your life, and why? The Roshei Yeshiva and Rebbeim were incredible role models. Not only did they display gadlus b'Torah, and gave over a true mehalach halimud, but they were extremely caring as well, and stressed the importance of bein adom l'chaveiro and of being a mentsch.

Why do you feel it's important to stay involved with YTC? The hakoras hatov I have for everything the Yeshiva has given me is boundless, and I feel it is very important for me to stay

connected in whatever way I can.

What is your favorite YTC quote? Rabbi Wasserman would often say, "Marriage is a two-way street...the other way". That is a yesod that has stayed with me and I feel is applicable in all aspects of life.

Fred Singer class of 1973

Kew Gardens Hills, New York

Current Occupation: Retired

What is your favorite YTC memory? "Simchas Purim"

Who at YTC had the greatest impact on your life, and why? Harav Chaim Kahan, Zt"l, Harav Dovid Muehlgay, shlit"a, and Harav Label Burstyn, shlit"a. They gave me the tools I needed to work on my learning to succeed B"H.

Why do you feel it's important to stay involved with YTC? I truly believe that this yeshiva is a wonderful Makom Torah with great Roshei Yeshiva and I appreciate all they did for me.







ONLINE GIVING CAMPAIGN NOVEMBER 7-8, 2023

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BORUCH (BARRY) BAXMAN A"H

YEHI ZICHRO BARUCH MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

CLASS OF 1973: 50 YEAR SALUTE CLASS OF 1998: 25 YEAR SALUTE

TORAH LEGACY AMBASSADORS