



Yeshiva Toras Chaim

TALMUDICAL SEMINARY of DENVER

# STRENGTH IN EVERY STEP

Building on the Past. Leading to the Future.

MESSAGE FROM THE HANHALA // PG 2

MEET OUR NEW REBBEIM // PG 3

INTERVIEW WITH R' ZVI GELT // PG 4

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR HONOREES // PG 6

HACHTARA IN LAKEWOOD, NJ // PG 8

EVERLASTING STRENGTH // PG 12

[YTCDENVER.ORG](http://YTCDENVER.ORG)

FALL 5786 // 2025





#### FACULTY

Harav Yisroel M. Kagan  
Harav Yitzchok Wasserman  
ROSHEI HAYESHIVA

Rabbi Ahron Y. Wasserman, CEO  
Rabbi Aaron B. Kagan, VP  
ROSHEI HAMOSAD

Rabbi Dovid Nussbaum  
Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetzky  
ROSHEI YESHIVA

Rabbi Menachem Winer  
MENAHEL

Rabbi Eli Mozes  
SGAN MENAHEL

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Chill  
Rabbi Yitzchak Klein  
Rabbi Chaim Shneur Nussbaum  
Rabbi Yitzchok Isaac Tendler  
Rabbi Nosson Schoss  
Rabbi Elisha Zeiger  
REBBEIM

Rabbi Avi Wilen  
GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL

Rabbi Chaim Abrams  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Rabbi Jon Neumann  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

#### YTC DIVISIONS AND AFFILIATES

The Jewish Experience  
Merkaz Torah V'chesed  
The Vaad Project  
Executive Lunch and Learn  
Camp Meromim

#### YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM

1555 Stuart Street  
Denver, Colorado 80204  
303-629-8200 • info@ytc.edu

[www.ytcdenver.org](http://www.ytcdenver.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE Roshei Hamosad

Dear Friends and Family of Yeshiva Toras Chaim,

We are delighted to share this special edition of our newsletter with you. As you turn these pages, we hope you will feel what we experience daily. The energy of a Beis Medrash alive with learning. The pride of watching young men grow into bnei Torah. The nachas of a mission being fulfilled.

From its founding, YTC has been guided by a singular vision: to cultivate talmidim who embody Torah scholarship, middos tovos, and a deep commitment to serving Klal Yisroel with integrity. Baruch Hashem, we see this vision realized every day. It lives in the kol Torah that fills our hallways. It lives in the relationships our bochurim build with their Rebbeim. It lives in the Torah lives our alumni are leading across the country. This is only possible through the tireless devotion of our Rebbeim, the partnership of parents, and the support of alumni and friends like you.

This year's theme, "Everlasting Strength / חֹזֶק וְאִמּוּץ," reflects both our past and our future. It honors the timeless mesorah we received from our revered Roshei Hayeshiva, Harav Yisroel Meir Kagan shlit"a and Harav Yitzchok Wasserman shlit"a—talmidim of Rav Aharon Kotler zt"l. It celebrates the harmony with which Torah leadership is being carried forward to the next generation. In a complicated and ever-changing world, the strength of Torah endures. YTC stands as a testament to that truth.

As we gather for this year's campaign and dinner, we do so with profound gratitude – first and foremost to Hashem for his continued brochos and siyata d'Shmaya. We are grateful for the Rebbeim who pour their hearts into every day. For the parents who entrust us with their sons' futures. For the alumni who carry our values forward. For the supporters whose partnership makes it all possible. Together, we are not just sustaining a yeshiva; we are strengthening an unbroken chain of mesorah that will illuminate the path for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of the YTC family. With Hashem's help, may we continue to go from strength to everlasting strength.

Rabbi Ahron Yisroel Wasserman  
Rabbi Aaron Baruch Kagan



## Meet Our New Rebbeim

### RABBI NOSSON SCHOSS

YTC is privileged to welcome Rabbi Nosson Schoss as 11th Grade Rebbe. A Brooklyn native and son-in-law of Rosh Kollel Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Rabbi Schoss joined the Denver Community Kollel in 2020. For the past two years, he has served there as Second Seder Rosh Chabura.

The bochurim already know what Rabbi Schoss brings to the Beis Medrash—he earned their admiration during his time in the yeshiva as Sho'el U'maishiv. A true talmid chochom with both depth and clarity, he has the gift of making every sugya come alive. His shiurim don't just teach; they inspire. With warmth that draws talmidim close and patience that gives them room to grow, Rabbi Schoss creates an environment where bochurim flourish—gaining broad Torah knowledge, developing their own voices in learning, and growing in ahavas haTorah.



### RABBI YITZCHAK KLEIN

Originally from Lakewood, NJ, Rabbi Yitzchak Klein joined Denver two years ago as part of a joint chabura with Congregation Zera Avraham and the Denver Community Kollel. He quickly became indispensable to YTC's Mesivta.

After two years inspiring talmidim as Second Seder 10th Grade Bekius Rebbe, Rabbi Klein has now taken on an expanded role as Mesivta Sho'el U'maishiv while continuing to teach bekius. He also leads the daily post-Shacharis halacha seder for 11th and 12th grades.

Rabbi Klein's mastery of every sugya is matched only by his infectious passion for learning. Walk into the Beis Medrash during his seder and you feel it—the energy, the excitement, the sense that Torah learning is the greatest privilege in the world. His warm, engaging personality helps each talmid discover his own potential, pushing the bochurim to think deeper, learn sharper, and grow into genuine bnei Torah.





## A CANDID CONVERSATION WITH CURRENT PRESIDENT OF BOARD

# R' ZVI GELT

From Rock-n-Roll  
to Rosh Chaburah



### What first drew you to YTC? Was there a specific moment, person, or experience that sparked your interest?

I began my return to Judaism in the late 1980s, learning with a local educator who eventually moved away. Before leaving, he asked if I wanted to continue learning and introduced me to a young Rabbi Yaakov Meyer, then at YTC.

Rabbi Meyer said he wouldn't meet me in my office at 4:30 a.m. like my previous teacher had — instead, I'd have to come to the yeshiva. The building was just a block from the path I used to take to band rehearsals when I played rock and roll, yet I had never noticed it.

In 1989 I walked into YTC for the first time — and that decision changed the course of my life.

### Can you walk us through your journey of becoming Torah observant? What role did YTC play?

When I started learning with Rabbi Meyer at YTC, I began to daven there as well. At first, I leaned heavily on the ArtScroll siddur just to know when to stand and when to sit.

Slowly, YTC became the anchor of my Jewish life. What began as a once-a-week learning session

grew into daily tefillah, Gemara study, and eventually full commitment to Torah and mitzvos. YTC gave me not just knowledge, but a community and a framework for living as a Jew.

### How has your Torah learning at YTC influenced your professional life as a lawyer?

My career was in tax law — highly analytical and complex. Learning Gemara at YTC sharpened my ability to dissect difficult problems.

The back-and-forth of Talmudic reasoning, the questions and answers, mirrored the Socratic method I used in teaching law. Over time, I realized the skills weren't just parallel; they reinforced each other. Torah study at YTC made me a better lawyer, and my legal training gave me tools to go deeper into the Gemara.

### What inspired you to start leading a Daf Yomi shiur?

It grew naturally out of my learning at YTC. I started preparing Daf Yomi, and when others who were supposed to take turns leading stopped, I just kept going. Eventually, I was teaching every day.

By the 11th Daf Yomi cycle, I was giving regular shiurim. At one point, Rabbi Meyer and I even

taught together, each taking half the shiur. That was tremendous fun and deeply meaningful. Teaching grew directly out of the foundation YTC gave me.

### You've served on YTC's board for decades. What drew you to take on this leadership role?

In the late 1990s, there was real uncertainty about whether the yeshiva could continue. I was deeply invested in keeping it alive. Together with others, we rallied the community, raised funds, and stabilized the institution.

Rabbi Wasserman eventually asked me to become president, promising — half-jokingly — that I wouldn't have to “do a single thing” besides lend my name. Of course, I did more than that, but I was proud to stand behind YTC and help guide it forward.

### What have been your proudest accomplishments during your time on the board?

The fact that YTC not only survived but has flourished. Today we have nearly 100 students, extraordinary rebbeim, and a vibrant beis midrash.

Seeing the smooth transition of leadership to the next generation of roshei yeshiva was also a moment of great pride. Continuity is never guaranteed, and to watch YTC grow stronger is incredibly gratifying.

### What makes YTC unique in your eyes?

YTC is the engine of Torah in Denver. It doesn't only serve its talmidim — it elevates the entire community. The kol Torah, the seriousness of the learning, the caliber of the rebbeim — all of it radiates outward. I've seen firsthand how even those who aren't directly connected to the yeshiva feel its impact and want to support it.

### What's your vision for YTC's future?

I see YTC continuing to grow as a magnet for Torah observant life in Denver. We're working on expanding the campus, building a gym for the boys, and eventually creating a summer program here so our talmidim won't have to leave town.

My hope is that in 10–15 years, Denver will be recognized as a true Torah center in America's West, with YTC at its heart.

### What advice would you give to professionals about combining careers with serious Torah learning?

When I first started learning at YTC, I made a commitment to five hours a week. I set a schedule and protected it. My secretaries knew those times were off-limits for meetings. That discipline made all the difference.

Over time, five hours a week expanded into much more. My advice is simple: make fixed times for Torah and treat them as sacred. Don't cancel them. If you keep to that, the learning will expand on its own.





## ■ M'DOR L'DOR AWARDEES

### JAY MOSKOWITZ

For Jay Moskowitz, Yeshiva Toras Chaim isn't just a chapter from his past—it's a living legacy. Jay arrived in Denver from New York in 1972, following three cousins who attended YTC. While they returned home after a year, Jay stayed—and those three years became transformative. He describes it as total immersion in yeshiva life, surrounded by learning, rebbeim, and friendships he still maintains today.

One connection became his greatest blessing. Through the Rosh Yeshiva and Rebbetzin, Jay met his wife beginning a 44-year marriage built on Torah values. Together they raised three daughters, each carrying forward their commitment to Jewish life and community.

Today, the nachas has multiplied. Jay's grandson now learns in the same beis midrash where his grandfather once learned. Jay recently drove by the yeshiva and spotted him sitting outside by himself, learning gemara. The sight moved him deeply.

As a proud member of the class of 1975, Jay sees the yeshiva's enduring influence clearly. He wonders what this community would look like without the foundation that the Yeshiva established.

Fifty years later, Jay still feels like family—the Rosh Hayeshiva and Rebbetzin remain constant presences in his life, just as they were for his late wife. It's a relationship that spans decades and generations.



## ■ COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

### ADAM & BARBARA MOSKOWITZ

Adam and Barbara Moskowitz's story is one of unexpected transformation. In 2011, after a bike accident sidelined Adam from racing, a friend suggested joining a trip to Israel led by Rabbi Rephael Leban and Rabbi Ahron Wasserman. Adam, who attended shul twice a year, agreed—mostly to escape Colorado's winter.

What happened there changed everything. He returned on fire, ready to embrace everything. Shortly thereafter, he started keeping kosher and began a learning journey that continues today.

Barbara built on that foundation, starting a women's learning group in their home and becoming a shadchan. Together, they've created a home rooted in Torah values and a passion for giving back.

Their commitment runs deep. Adam stays active with The Jewish Experience and the Jewish National Fund, always mindful that the only people who can be counted on to support the Jewish people are other Jews. Both speak with genuine pride about Yeshiva Toras Chaim and consider these young men the heartbeat of the community, where every word of Torah learned, every act of kindness, and every mitzvah truly matters.

The yeshiva proudly honors Adam and Barbara Moskowitz with the Community Leadership Award for their journey, dedication, and the inspiration they bring to YTC and Denver's Jewish community.



“These young men are the heartbeat of our community. Every word of Torah they learn, every act of kindness, every mitzvah—it all matters.”

-ADAM MOSKOWITZ

“I don't know what this community would look like without the foundation that the Yeshiva established.”

-JAY MOSKOWITZ

“Watching our son mature into a young man who thinks critically and speaks articulately—when he gives a dvar Torah, I'm amazed these are his own ideas.”

-DANIEL KASSAI

### DANIEL & SHEVIE KASSAI

For the Kassai family, Yeshiva Toras Chaim is woven into three generations of their story. In the 1970s, Shevie's father learned at YTC, absorbing Torah values that became the bedrock of their home. Remarkably, her parents met through the yeshiva's Rosh Yeshiva and Rebbetzin—creating a legacy that echoes today.

Now that connection extends to a third generation, as Daniel and Shevie's oldest son completes his high school years at YTC. When they first moved to Denver from the East Coast, Daniel was nervous about an out-of-town yeshiva. But after learning with his son weekly for two years, he was thoroughly impressed by how nearly every bochur remains engaged and excited about learning.

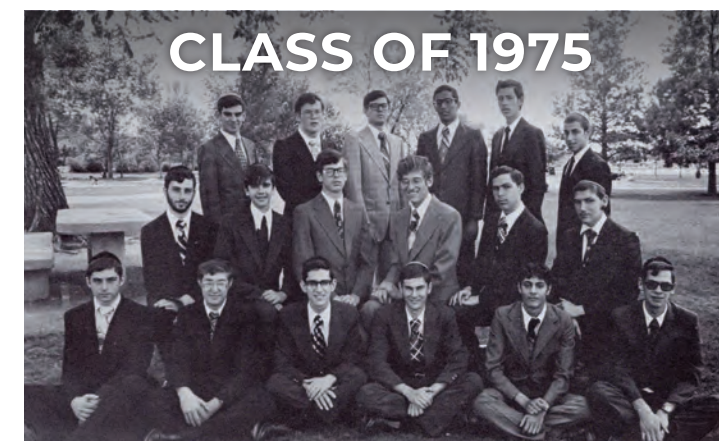
Shevie, a proud Denver native, marvels at watching their son mature into a young man who thinks critically and speaks articulately.

The Kassais recognize the yeshiva's broader impact too. For nearly 60 years, YTC has served as a cornerstone of Denver's Jewish community, giving families a place to thrive.

Daniel speaks of the deep relationship they've built with the Rosh Hayeshiva over the years, while Shevy still speaks weekly with the Rebbetzin. For the Kassai family, the yeshiva represents continuity, growth, and gratitude—truly a legacy from generation to generation.

## ■ AMBASSADORS OF TORAH

### A SALUTE TO OUR 25 AND 50 YEAR ALUMNI



**TOP ROW:** (Right to left) Avrohom M. Tolwinski, Nosson Wholmuth, Heshie Riesel, Chaim Friedman, Jay Moskowitz, David Rosenfeld

**MIDDLE ROW:** Nachman Jaeger, Dovid Gruman OBM, Yaacov Granek, Bentzion Friedman, Dr. Michael Kraut, Leo Itzkowitz

**BOTTOM ROW:** Moshe Japha, Ronny Holder, Meir N. Prengler, Yosef S. Wasserman, Yisroel Bronstein, Pesach Singer

**NOT SHOWN:** Eliezer Pflaster OBM, Morton Zussman, Eliyahu Shulman OBM



**TOP ROW:** (Right to left) Avraham Robinson, Avrohom Orlofsky, Yechiel D. Melamed, Tzvi Perlman, Moshe Seror, Daniel Adar, Shmuel Dovid Perle, Dovid Gewurtz, Chaim S. Nussbaum

**MIDDLE ROW:** Meir Berman, Ariel Kramer, Boruch Badalov, Shimi Belen, Yakir Markowitz, Yaakov Frankiel, Avraham Gemal

**BOTTOM ROW:** Asher Indich, Yosef Fine, Menachem Zussman, Yitzchok Friedman, Naftoli Mushell





# A CROWN RENEWED

## Denver's Yeshiva Toras Chaim Inaugurates New Leadership

It wasn't just a dinner. It wasn't just an alumni reunion. What unfolded at Lake Terrace Hall in Lakewood, NJ was something far rarer—a moment when a yeshiva's historic past, vibrant present, and bright future came together in one room. Yeshiva Toras Chaim of Denver didn't simply gather its alumni. It lit a torch and passed it forward.

### Everlasting Strength

For nearly six decades, Yeshiva Toras Chaim has been quietly nestled under Colorado's imposing mountains, yet its spiritual presence has towered across the Torah world. Founded by two of Rav Aharon Kotler's premier talmidim—Rav Yisroel Meir Kagan and Rav Yitzchok Wasserman—the yeshiva carried the fire of Lakewood and Kletzk into the heart of the American West.

What grew there was something unique: a place of uncompromising Torah standards, deep warmth, and an unmistakable out-of-town spirit that shaped generations of committed talmidim.

Those talmidim have spread across the country—settling mostly in the tristate area, far from the Rockies—but the Denver imprint never fades. At this gathering, they no longer had to accept the

1,700-mile gap. For one unforgettable night, that heartbeat returned in full force.

### A Historic Transition

The "Going Strong" alumni evening has become a cherished fixture for YTC talmidim. But this gathering was different. This was history.

Alongside the familiar warmth of a Denver reunion, the yeshiva formally installed Rav Dovid Nussbaum and Rav Yaakov Kamenetzky as Roshei Yeshiva, and Rav Ahron Yisroel Wasserman and Rav Ahron Boruch Kagan as Roshei Hamosad.

The elegant hall, the refined music, the pride on every face—it all reflected the deep truth of the evening: a tradition built with care, protected with love, and now being passed forward with clarity.

### The Dais Tells the Story

The composition of the dais spoke volumes. At the center sat the senior Roshei Hayeshiva—two giants who brought Torah to a spiritual wilderness and transformed it into a thriving oasis. Flanking them were current faculty members and the new leaders—energized, devoted, ready to infuse a sacred mission with fresh energy for a new generation.

Together, they represented a living timeline of more than half a century.

### When Family Gathers

Alumnus Shui Shmuckler opened the evening by pointing to the diverse crowd: veteran supporters and young talmidim, all bound by one yeshiva. "This is family," he said, "and we're here to tell the Roshei Yeshiva to continue to build. We're here to help—because that's what we do when we're family."

Rav Tzvi Mordechai Feldheim, former Menahel/Principal and Rebbi and longtime student, presented the senior Roshei Hayeshiva with stunning silver kosos shel Eliyohu, each engraved with expressions of gratitude. Lively circles of dancing erupted. The joy was pure, overflowing with reverence for Torah.

Then came the speeches that captured everything this moment meant.

### Voices of Vision

Rav Ahron Yisroel Wasserman painted the full picture: "Our Roshei Hayeshiva, talmidim of Rav Aharon and inspired by Rav Shneur, went to a wilderness and built Yeshiva Toras Chaim. Today, the yeshiva is on fire... Here we are, the next generation, ready to bring forward their vision and dream."

Rav Aryeh Malkiel Kotler, Lakewood's Rosh Yeshiva, formally announced the new appointments—a leader of Bais Medrash Govoha renewing the mantle of leadership on a yeshiva founded by two of Lakewood's most prized talmidim. Torah, in its most majestic form, reaffirmed its continuity.

Rav Yaakov Kamenetzky spoke of his awe at the clarity his teachers showed in building a yeshiva in Denver—and of the responsibility

Continued on next page...





to carry that vision forward. “We continue to do in practice what they established.”

Rav Dovid Nussbaum saw the moment as reaching new heights: “I feel that the yeshiva has reached a new peak in the continuation, in the success we were previously blessed with.”

Rav Ahron Boruch Kagan reflected on what gatherings like this mean. “The yeshiva is far from many of its alumni, and people don’t get a chance to visit us in Denver. At an event like this, where the entire yeshiva is in one room and the older generation sees the new talmidim interacting with the faculty in the same way they once did—they see that the education that produced well-rounded Torah scholars will continue.”

Rav Sholom Kamenetzky, son-in-law of Rav Yisroel Meir Kagan and father of the new Rosh Yeshiva, offered a moving blessing. He compared the leadership transition to a tree and its saplings, emphasizing true continuity—that the yeshiva should continue flourishing and raising talmidim in the same manner it has for half a century.

**A Night to Remember**

The evening concluded with more dancing. A kumzitz. Long conversations around the tables and quiet goodbyes at the doors.

Talmidim left with books, alumni with beautiful trays as gifts from the yeshiva. But they carried more than mementos. They carried memories of a meaningful evening and confidence that Torah in Denver will endure and flourish, ready to serve a new generation hungry for Torah - rooted deep in tradition.

For one glorious, inspirational and unforgettable night, Denver was home again.



**2024 DINNER CELEBRATION**

Honoring Rabbi Ahron Y. Wasserman and Rabbi Yaakov Meyer



**OUR FUTURE GYM**



**AROUND THE YESHIVA**





**YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM**

1555 Stuart Street

Denver, Colorado 80204



# EVERLASTING STRENGTH

ע נ ו ק ז ח

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF GENERATIONS

## HONOREES

**JAY MOSKOWITZ** / CLASS OF 1975

**DANIEL & SHEVIE KASSAI  
AND FAMILY** / SRULLY KASSAI - CLASS OF 2026  
M'DOR L'DOR TRIBUTE

**ADAM & BARBARA MOSKOWITZ**  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

**50 YEAR SALUTE - CLASS OF 1975**  
**25 YEAR SALUTE - CLASS OF 2000**  
AMBASSADORS OF TORAH LEGACY

ONLINE GIVING CAMPAIGN

**NOVEMBER 11-12, 2025**

CELEBRATION EVENT

**NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

**BMH-BJ CONGREGATION**  
560 S. MONACO PARKWAY, DENVER

**[YTCDENVER.ORG/DINNER](https://ytcdenver.org/dinner)**