

## Yeshiva V'Kollel Bais Moshe Chaim *Celebrates its 41<sup>st</sup> year*



### 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Gala

Honoring:

- The Gammerman Family with the Legacy of Torah Award
- Rabbi Yisroel Hill with the Community Service Award
- Mr. & Mrs. Craig Edelstein with the Machzikei Torah Award

January 19, 2016

**TUF Alumni are in the forefront of Torah Judaism around the world.**

**Rabbi Mordechai Shifman** entered the Yeshiva in 1986 after being recommended to attend the Yeshiva's summer zman by the Ner Israel mashgiach, Rabbi Berel Weisbord shlit'a. Upon hearing the Rosh HaYeshiva deliver his signature Thursday night Parsha shiur, Rabbi Shifman knew that he had found a place where the Torah he would study would be transformational. He formed a close bond with the Rosh HaYeshiva, whom he credits with having the greatest positive impact upon his life. Seeing how the Rosh HaYeshiva and Rebbetzin interacted with their own family and with people from every background has made a lasting impression upon Rabbi Shifman and his wife Debbie.

For the next **twenty-five years** Rabbi Shifman was involved with the Yeshiva in various capacities. He was a Mechina Rebbe, chaver HaKollel, served as the Adult Education Director, assumed recruitment responsibilities, adapted the shiurim of the Rosh HaYeshiva for the Insights publication, and structured the Rosh HaYeshiva's public speaking calendar. Rabbi Shifman was also responsible for coordinating many joint community programs.



Rabbi Mordechai Shifman

**Rabbi Shifman distinguished** himself as a highly effective leader, serving as the High School Principal and Rav Bet Sefer at the Rabbi Alexander Sender Gross Hebrew Academy in Miami Beach, Florida for over twelve years. Due to his efforts both within the school and out in the community, the Hebrew Academy High School enrollment nearly doubled. He has delivered a daily Daf Yomi class for over twenty-five years and his capacity to elucidate the most difficult Talmudic passages in a clear and cohesive manner is unparalleled.

In 2011, Rabbi Shifman and his family relocated to Los Angeles, California to assume the Head of School position at Emek Hebrew Academy Teichman Family Torah Center. He has made a tremendous impact at Emek, increasing the number of students from 480 to over 750. This is a direct result of his kind and warm nature, positive attitude, and the family-like environment that he has implanted at Emek.

**Rabbi Shifman's children** were all educated through the Yeshiva and his oldest son Rabbi Pesach Shifman, who is a musmach of the Yeshiva, is married to Rabbi Yitzchak and Sharon Zweig's daughter Devorah; he is currently a Rebbe in the Mechina High School.

**Of all of his accomplishments, Rabbi Shifman feels most privileged to be able to call himself a Talmid of the Yeshiva and the Rosh HaYeshiva.**

**Rabbi Mordechai Neuman** received simcha from the Rosh HaYeshiva in 1988. He is a licensed psychotherapist, New York Times best-selling author of seven books (one co-authored with his wife, Michal), and creator of NeumanMethod.com Creating Your Best Marriage videos. Mordechai appeared a dozen times on the Oprah Winfrey show as well as over fifty times on NBC's Today show as well as Good Morning America, Dateline, Steve Harvey and many others, all with his yarmulke in prominent view. His work has been featured in Time, People, Parents, Washington Post, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, and others. He lives in Miami Beach where he continues his private practice of 28 years.



Rabbi Mordechai Neuman

**Mordechai started** his career in helping people as Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue before he dedicated himself full time to psychotherapy. He developed a court mandated program to help children of divorce. Over 300,000 children worldwide have completed his program called Sandcastles.

**Mordechai has shared** his unique, insightful combination of Torah and psychological thoughts around the world speaking to over 4,000 Jews at Sinai Indaba in South Africa and 5,000 Jews in Washington D.C. for Jewish Federation. He also continues to serve as scholar in residence for multiple Jewish programs. He recently offered a webinar through Jewish Learning Programs and Aish HaTorah to 1,700 sign ups around the world. Recently, Mordechai has been answering psychological questions for Business Insider and has over 2 million views of those videos.

*"There are many attributes one can speak of when referring to the yeshiva and hanhala. But the most unique part of my experience was the Rosh Yeshiva's ability to help a talmid learn to break down questions and find the dynamics of the answer.*

***The Rosh Yeshiva offers everyone the confidence and courage to be creative through a careful study of Torah, allowing you to bring your unique thoughts to developing a deeper understanding of the material.***

*This process is crucial to every part of life and problem solving. The yeshiva's comfort and encouragement to participate in the secular world without any compromising of your Torah definition is what the world needs more of today."*

*"The Rosh Yeshiva trained us to be comfortable in considering and asking any question. He'd tell me to walk around every day with a kasha on my mind. Don't rush to answer it; allow it to envelope me and as I'd learn more Torah and more about life, I'd find the answer. There are some questions I've spent so many years considering and am happy to say I feel I've understood just a few of them. And I'm so excited to continue that journey as I seek potential answers in my future."*

# The Yeshiva's future begins with you



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Create a Jewish Legacy (CJL), a program sponsored and presented by The Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, is a collaborative effort of the following area synagogues, agencies and day schools:



Rabbi Berel Simpser  
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The Yeshiva celebrated a festive Purim last month in its usual style - Simcha and Torah. Pictured is the Rosh HaYeshiva's annual informal Shmooze the night of Purim at 12:30 in the morning. This was preceded by a spirited Mesibah in the Beis Medrash attended by Bachurim, Rabbeim, and the local community.

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# Shabbaton for Alumni & Talmidim

Rabbi Yechiel Nakdimen

After the very successful 40 year Alumni gathering of December 2014, the Yeshiva decided to institute an annual Alumni Shabbaton. This year's event took place over an extended weekend of Shabbos Parshas Tetzaveh.

All the alumni who attended were amazed that the Shabbaton easily surpassed last years' experience. Besides the plethora of shiurim given by the Rosh HaYeshiva and the fantastic ruach at the Shabbos meals, **Rabbi Chaim Goldberger** of Minneapolis, one of the alumni himself, gave several impressive shiurim to the utter delight of the attendees.



Motzai Shabbos a special guest lecturer, **Rabbi Moshe Miller**, a Talmid of the Rosh Yeshiva as well,

enthralled the Olam with a profound and eye opening shiur on Purim.

**But what was most impressive was the Oneg Shabbos where several bachurim presented their own divrei Torah on the week's Parsha at the home of Rav Akiva Zweig.**

The alumni were so impressed by the quality and originality of the Divrei Torah and the enthusiasm and lively discussion that took place that they suggested that this weekly session be opened to the public.

Finally, on Sunday morning the Olam participated in a brainstorming session to set the stage for next year's event. This was followed by a fascinating and comprehensive shiur in the laws of geneiva by the **Rabbi David Shoen**, Rosh Kollel of the Choshen Mishpat Kollel.



The finale was preparation for and the shiur Kelalli given by the Rosh HaYeshiva on perutah d'Rav Yosef. As usual the Rosh HaYeshiva literally dazzled the Olam with his terrific insights into what really constitutes the hanaah of osek b'mitzva.

All in all the alumni enjoyed a most wonderful weekend in both ruchniyus and gashmiyus. The only downside is that they will have to wait another year to be able to savor this experience again.

**Plans are underway for a Shabbaton this coming winter as well as a Yarchei Kallah program for talmidim, alumni, and the local South Florida community.**



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**¡Ahora disponible en español!**



A new initiative has been undertaken to bring the Yeshiva to its talmidim and friends throughout the country.

We are scheduling shiurim and get togethers in key cities where alumni and talmidim reside. Recent programs were held in **Toronto, Boca Raton, and Minneapolis.**

**Future cities and regions will include:**

**New York area, Lakewood, Baltimore, Chicago, and Los Angeles.**

Many will be visited by the Rosh Hayeshiva himself, or by the other Roshei Yeshiva, Horav Akiva or Horav Yehuda Zweig.

***Please reach out to us if you want to arrange for a program, shiur, or Shabbaton, in your area.***



The Rosh HaYeshiva speaking at the Boca Raton Synagogue before Pesach



The Rosh HaYeshiva recently published his third sefer: Shiras Yam - Shemos.

- Upcoming Publications:
- Pirkei Avos (English) Vol. 1
  - Devorim - Hebrew
  - Bereishis / Shemos - English
  - Meaning of Shabbos Shiurim



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Rabbi Moshe Beigelman

# Transforming from the Human to the Angelic

The Maharales unencumbered by material things. We questions why can suggest therefore, that he is freer on the night of to redefine himself because, having Pesach which nothing, he cannot be defined by what highlights he owns. He is usually not connected to the *geulah*, any one community or even to his place a symbol of origin. He is thereby free from any of *ashirus* - past that may restrict him in any way. wealth, we He can create his own future, define his were directed life anew, and achieve anything.

Therefore, the symbol of our freedom that was chosen for the night of redemption, is the very thing – “*lechem oni*” - poor man’s bread, that can help us recognize the *avodah*, the work needed to be done to become free. That is, the goal to redefine ourselves and break from the past and truly be free.

What is that new definition that we are trying to create on Pesach? An interesting *Midrash* helps us understand this. The *Korban Omer* was a mincha offering of barley, offered on the second day of Pesach. The *Midrash* quotes from *Koheles*: “*Mah yisron lo’odom, bechol amalo, she’yaamol tachas Hashamesh*” – “what profit does man have for all his labor which he toils beneath the sun?”

*Ameilus* - toiling - in pursuit of money, won’t “add” or benefit a person. Only *ameilus baTorah* will! The message of the *Midrash* is that the whole purpose of life is to be involved in Torah. How does the *korban* teach this? It is in the recognition, through the *avodah* of the *korban* that the *omer*, a basic food that helps sustain our physical being,

comes solely from *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*. There is nothing more to be gained by toiling in the acquisition of physical and material things. One is promised physical sustenance anyway from Hashem. One’s *tachlis* (purpose) in life cannot be to toil in earning money or in acquiring material things.

Nothing extra can be gained from material things, described in *Koheles* as things ‘under the sun’ because all of it comes from Hashem. The only way to get something “extra” (*yisron*) is by being involved in *limmud haTorah*. Through learning he becomes more than what he was before and ultimately can perfect himself, create lasting change and redefining, as it were, who he is.

We see this in the *Ramban’s* comment that *mitzvos* are “*letzaref es habrious*,” *mitzvos* are to refine humanity. The more we fulfill the *mitzvos* properly, the more we transform ourselves from simply a *gashmi* to a *ruchni* individual, from a physical being to a G-dly person.

In addition, this is reflected in our counting up to *Shavuos* through *Sefiras Haomer*. The counting is connected to the *omer* because we are trying to live the message of the *omer*. That is, the entire purpose of life and the most meaningful existence in life is *ameilus baTorah*, toiling in Torah study and living our lives with Torah as our guide.

to use *matzah*, the symbol of *aniyus* - poverty. (Many halachos on Seder night represent how we should behave as *ashirim* and as royalty.) Why is *cheirus* - freedom, represented by *matzah*, the poor man’s bread?

He explains that freedom means being free from one’s past. Someone who is not controlled by the habits of the past becomes ready to give himself a whole new definition, a new reality.

Let’s try and understand this by analyzing some differences between a wealthy and poor individual. A rich man is usually very connected to where he comes from and he is definitely connected to his possessions. One could even say he is saddled by these *nechosim* - material things – “*marbeh nechosim, marbeh da’agos*” – the more property / things one has, the more worries he has. He has a certain status and responsibility that he needs to maintain because these material trappings define his life.

A poor person, on the other hand, is generally thought to be by himself,

## Capital Campaign Update

We are proud to announce that the Yeshiva has officially launched its capital campaign for the final phase of construction on the Rohr Campus. This phase will include a new Beis Medrash, eight classrooms, an indoor gym, state of the art kitchen and cafeteria and many other features.

Boruch Hashem we have received **commitments on almost half of the eight million dollars needed for the cost of construction.** We now need YOUR participation. For more information on the campaign or for dedication opportunities call the office or email: [ywinkler@talmudicu.edu](mailto:ywinkler@talmudicu.edu)



# Community Chessed Projects

There are many families IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY that are unable to take care of their families' most basic need - obtaining Kosher food at an affordable price. These families are not looking for a hand out - they are hard-working, often with two incomes. Unfortunately with the high cost of food in both supermarkets and kosher stores coupled with all their other expenses, they are cutting back in the most flexible of expenses - their food budget. In response to this problem a community wide initiative was undertaken to help ease the burden on these stricken families.

## Helping Hands Food Ko Op

A non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization that works to increase access to affordable, kosher, nutritious food for struggling families throughout South Florida.

Founded in April 2009, Helping Hands' initiatives have focused on food, household essentials, product sourcing and distribution.



Helping Hands Food Ko-Op

Maximizing resources via a unique synthesis of food bank and co-op.

Bulk food purchasing program to provide our member families

Preservation of our customers' dignity is one of our highest priorities

Opportunity to help an individual family in an anonymous, tax deductible way.



## Helping Hands Food Ko Op Highlights

- **Served over 500 families directly in 2015.** We allow them to purchase food at or near cost, preserving their dignity to feed their families healthy and nutritious food.
- We give food away free of charge to the neediest of families. We help 20 families monthly with part or **all of their food budget.**
- We partner with several other groups to **indirectly benefit another 1,000 families.** Partial list of our partners: JCS Kosher Food Bank, City of M.B. program to deliver food to 50 needy families, *Feeding South Florida* Food Bank, 'We Are One' Food Bank of Broward, Friends Feeding Friends.
- Our expenses (overhead) are \$220,000. We gave away another \$310,000 of free food. We spend **\$715,000 on food with a value of well over \$1,200,000.**
- Distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars of produce and other products through this program; **\$200,000 of produce this year alone.**
- Direct savings to the community of **more than \$1,000,000.**
- The **Greater Miami Jewish Federation supports our program.** (4 gifts in the past 6 years). Due to the efficiency of our program, they asked us to help restructure JCS Kosher Food Bank. By revamping their purchasing system, we **saved JCS more than \$50,000 each year.**

*To subsidize a family's food bill, make tax deductible checks payable to "Helping Hands Food KOOP."*

*To distribute money directly to needy families, make your checks out to "Helping Hands."*

## Bikur Cholim Room Dedicated at the Rohr Family Campus

The Yeshiva has renovated and remodeled space on the 1st floor of its main campus building to be used as a dedicated Bikur Cholim room. This room will be **used exclusively to service families who have relatives in local Miami Beach hospitals.**

The room is large enough to accommodate a couple and comes equipped with a port-a-crib, small kitchenette, and full bath. **The Bikur Cholim room has been dedicated by the Berkowitz Family in memory of Helene's father, Pincus Peterseil.** It was tastefully designed by Mrs. Reva Denberg of Miami Beach.



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## YESHIVA REVIEW

News and Update

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 The Parshas HaShavua: Thurs. 9:00pm - 10:00pm  
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