

A PUBLICATION OF MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE • FALL 2019

# HARAV AKIVA GRUNBLATT Visits MTI



As the uplifted atmosphere of the *Yamim Noraim* faded into the routine of Cheshvan, MTI received an infusion of inspiration with the visit of Harav Akiva Grunblatt, *shlita, Rosh Yeshiva* of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens, New York. Harav Grunblatt provides *hadracha* to the *hanhala* of MTI, and his guidance and influence are instrumental to the yeshiva's success.

It was a sight to behold and a big *Kiddush Hashem* as *talmidim* came to greet the *Rosh Yeshiva* at the Saint Louis airport on Friday. It was a real hands-on lesson for the *talmidim* in learning how to give proper *Kavod HaTorah* to our *gedolim*.

MTI *talmidim* and *rebbeim* alike gained a tremendous amount from Harav Grunblatt's visit. During a staff lunch, *rebbeim* consulted

with Harav Grunblatt about timely *chinuch* topics. *Talmidim* imbibed Harav Grunblatt's words of Torah and *hashkafa* on Friday and throughout the weekend with a *shmuess*, *oneg* and a Q&A session.



On Sunday morning, the older *mesivta* talmidim, bais medrash talmidim, community members and chavrei hakollel were invited to participate in a shiur from Harav Grunblatt on the topic of Zemer Achar HaChurban.

The broader community also benefited from the visit of this Torah luminary. On *Motzei* 

*Shabbos*, over 120 community members filled Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Deutsch's home to hear Harav Grunblatt address the relevant



topic of "The Pursuit of Happiness: Attaining *Simcha* in Our Lives" and to enjoy a delicious catered *melava malka*. The *Rosh Yeshiva* masterfully wove in many teachings of *Chazal* and a number of enlightening stories to share his message. It was both thought-provoking and enjoyable to gain more insight into the proper pursuit of happiness. Our search for happiness will not be successful if it is based on a drive for more material wealth. Rather we must strive for excellence and have spirituality in our lives—only that will give us true contentment.







Several new voluntary learning programs were initiated to keep the learning fresh and to inspire the *talmidim* to constantly strive to increase and improve their *limud HaTorah*:

#### **FINISH THE MASECHTA PROGRAM**

Talmidim work toward the completion of Maseches Kiddushin by supplementing their regular shiur with an extra shiur on Shabbos afternoon, as well as investing extra independent learning time. As one 12th-grader reflects, "It gives me a tremendous sense of accomplishment to work on my goal of finishing a masechta."

#### **MAH SHELIBO CHAFETZ SEDER**

For early risers, boys use the time before *shacharis* to cultivate their own learning

interests by pursuing a topic or sefer not covered in their regular curriculum. "It feels amazing to be so productive and learn right when you wake up in the morning," shares one participant.

#### **OFF DAYS SEDER**

This optional *seder* after *davening* and breakfast takes place on days when the yeshiva is not in session, so that even when they are "off," the boys can start their days in the best possible way with Torah learning. One enthusiastic participant appreciates how this program enriches the Torah atmosphere in the yeshiva. "It's awesome to see the *chevra* so excited to learn with their *rebbeim*, even on the days when they don't have to be in *shiur*."







# **CAMPUS UPDATE**

-MTI hallways now feature *gedolim* pictures and beautiful scenes from Eretz Yisroel. These pictures really enhance the decor and help the *talmidim* appreciate that the *gedolim* are our true role models and Eretz Yisroel is our true home.

-New audio speakers were installed that now play music during breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This serves to complement the yeshiva's serious learning environment by giving *talmidim* an opportunity to unwind and relax during their breaks.

-With Project LED, the yeshiva has replaced their lighting with energy-saving LED bulbs, thereby saving the yeshiva a substantial amount of money on electricity. The new lights are also more aesthetically pleasing, creating an even more conducive learning environment.





# **WOMEN'S LEARNING PROGRAM**

Excited and with a great sense of accomplishment, attendees of the Women's Mesilas Yesharim class, taught by Rebbetzin Toby Goldman, celebrated their completion of the sefer with a siyum. MTI's Rabbi Mendy Rosner shared his insights on learning mussar as a lifelong journey. Following a beautifully prepared buffet lunch was a reading and explanation of the concluding paragraphs of the sefer.

Mrs. Debbie Friedman remarked, "It was so refreshing to study personal discipline with a group of women who are sincere and have been working to refine their character for years."

"Each lesson added a new tool that can be accessed to deal with every situation in life," enthused Mrs. Rhonnie Goldfader.

"Mesilas Yesharim and character development were a common denominator that enabled us to make real friends across the age groups in our community," noted Mrs. Rivka Jacobs.

Rebbetzin Goldman emphasized the

importance of learning mussar. "Learning mussar on a consistent basis makes a definite, noticeable impact, and keeps you connected and growing. It affects every aspect of your day as well as your entire approach to life. I feel so privileged to join with such a committed group of women; each individual inspires others by adding personal stories of challenge and growth."

The *siyum* is the culmination of a two-year learning collaboration between MTI's Community Learning Initiative and the St. Louis Kollel. A special *yashar koach* to Rebbetzin Goldman for giving these great *shiurim* each week in University City and Chesterfield. Due to the Chesterfield group starting later, that group is looking forward to finishing *Mesilas Yesharim* later this year. Hatzlacha to the University City group who began learning Sefer *Orchos Tzadikim* this year.

This month's series has been sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jaffa in loving memory of Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz, zt"l.

# FOR FIRST YAHRTZEIT OF RABBI AARON WINTER, זצ"ל



In appreciation for Rabbi Aaron Winter, zt"l's, strong connection with the yeshiva, MTI talmidim divided and completed Mishnayos Seder Moed l'ilui nishmaso. Rabbi Winter, zt"l, was the backbone of the Chesterfield community and the impetus behind the founding of MTI. The yeshiva and the entire community sorely miss him. To commemorate Rabbi Winter's first yahrtzeit, the boys gathered for a special lunch seuda to make a siyum and hear words of Torah from Rabbi Moshe Winter, son of Rabbi Aaron Winter, zt"l, and current rav of Tpheris Israel Chevra Kadisha Congregation (TICK).





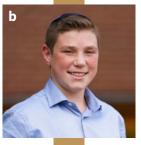
















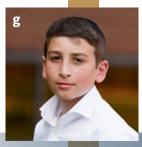




















# g. AHARON GOLDBERG

**Why I Chose MTI:** I enjoy the warm environment.

What I Like to Learn: Math

Favorite MTI Activity: Ping-pong

**Interesting Fact:** I'm the shortest guy in

the school.

# k. DOVID ORRIN

**Why I Chose MTI:** It's a great yeshiva with a great curriculum and warm environment.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun Gemara, Torah, Halacha

**Favorite MTI Activity:** Hanging out with my friends

**Interesting Fact:** I recently learned how to play piano.

# o. YOSEF CHAIM WEIL

**Why I Chose MTI:** Everyone here is nice and the *rebbeim* are caring.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun & Science

Favorite MTI Activity: Working out, ping-

pong & Ahavas Chessed

**Interesting Fact:** I enjoy photography.

#### a. DOVID ALLSWANG

Why I Chose MTI: The building looked nice and the teachers and rebbeim were friendly.

What I Like to Learn: Math

Favorite MTI Activity: Basketball

**Interesting Fact:** I like to write my own

music.

### **b. SHLOMO APPLEBAUM**

Why I Chose MTI: I chose MTI because when asking around I heard very good things about the family-like environment.

What I Like to Learn: Math

out & basketball

**Interesting Fact:** I once rode a zip-line over a zoo.

#### c. SHALOM ARONIN

Why I Chose MTI: It sounded like a good place for me and I was excited to hear about all of the extra-curricular activities.

What I Like to Learn: Gemara & Math

Favorite MTI Activity: Ping-pong, working Favorite MTI Activity: Playing piano & basketball.

**Interesting Fact:** I like to bake desserts.

# d. EZRA COHEN

Why I Chose MTI: It's a warm and friendly environment where I felt that I could grow.

What I Like to Learn: Chumash & English

Favorite MTI Activity: Ping-pong

**Interesting Fact:** I'm the only person from Canada and the only sfardi in my class.

#### e. MICHOEL EDELSTEIN

Why I Chose MTI: The atmosphere in MTI is just uncomparable. It's a very warm environment of talmidim.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun Kiddushin

Favorite MTI Activity: Basketball

**Interesting Fact:** I enjoy kickboxing.

#### f. SHUA FISCH

Why I Chose MTI: I like what I heard about the great dual curriculum and caring rebbeim.

What I Like to Learn: Gemara lyun

Favorite MTI Activity: Ping-pong

**Interesting Fact:** I read an 793 page book in one day.

# h. YONI HOROVICZ

Why I Chose MTI: I thought that by learning here I would get a great education and have a good time.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun Gemara

**Favorite MTI Activity:** Trips & Ahavas

Chessed

**Interesting Fact:** I once got stuck in a train station for 10 hours.

### i. DANIEL ILLSON

Why I Chose MTI: It has a balanced education in limudei kodesh & general studies.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun

Favorite MTI Activity: Basketball

**Interesting Fact:** I am fluent in Russian.

# j. ARYEH LICHTENFELD

Why I Chose MTI: I was impressed by the guys that I always saw in shul who were part of MTI so I have always wanted to come here since I was young.

What I Like to Learn: Halacha & Math

Favorite MTI Activity: Ping-pong

Interesting Fact: Rabbi Fromowitz stayed at my house when he came to start MTI.

### **l. SHLOMO SIMON**

Why I Chose MTI: They have great classes and rebbeim.

What I Like to Learn: Gemara

Favorite MTI Activity: Playing with my

friends

**Interesting Fact:** I'm the oldest in the

class.

### m. ELYA VILENSKI

Why I Chose MTI: I heard about the great rebbeim and teachers at MTI.

What I Like to Learn: Math & English

Favorite MTI Activity: Basketball, ping-

pong & working out

**Interesting Fact:** I can do a backflip.

#### n. YECHIEL WARREN

Why I Chose MTI: I thought it would be a good fit for me. I liked the atmosphere.

What I Like to Learn: Math & Gemara

Favorite MTI Activity: Intramural football

**Interesting Fact:** I don't like chocolate.

# p. YITZY ZEHNWIRTH

Why I Chose MTI: I thought that the loving and caring environment was a good fit for me.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun & Mussar

**Favorite MTI Activity: Sports Interesting Fact:** I love sushi.

### q. YOSSI ZIFKIN

Why I Chose MTI: My brother went to MTI and it sounded like a place I wanted to be.

What I Like to Learn: Iyun - it's very dependant on logic and I'm a logical thinker. Favorite MTI Activity: Basketball

Favorite MTI Activity: Fun Trips

**Interesting Fact:** I have a black belt in

karate.

# r. SHIMON ZILBER

Why I Chose MTI: It's a very nice place and people are nice to everyone.

What I Like to Learn: Math

**Interesting Fact:** My father owns a restaurant in Manhattan (Mr. Broadway).

Mr. Timothy Gartin, Government & English Mr. Bruce Green, English and History Teacher Mrs. Dena Love, Food Service Manager



# IUMNI IAPPENINGS

# **NEW! NIGHT KOLLEL FOR ALUMNI IN QUEENS**

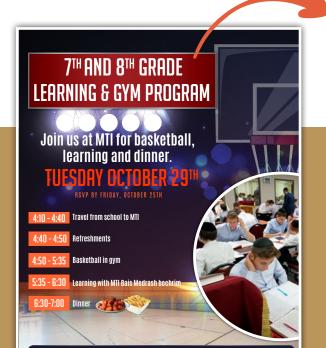
We are so proud of our distinguished alumni who are learning, working, and in school in many yeshivos and communities across the country. They should continue to make a kiddush Hashem in all that they do.

Keeping our alumni connected to each other and to their alma mater is an important goal of MTI. One of the programs started to facilitate this is a thrice-weekly night kollel for MTI talmidim learning in Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim in Queens. The kollel strengthens members' evening learning while providing them with additional funds to support their families. The kollel has added so much additional ruach to the night seder and is a great chizuk to the younger talmidim.

A highlight of the program is kollel members' weekly Thursday evening chavrusos with MTI alumni who are working or in college, helping these young men stay strongly connected to learning Torah. Says alumnus Reb Moshe Mordechai Levy, "The alumni come to yeshiva after a long week of college or work and are excited to be reconnected with their MTI family and with the sweet words of the precious Torah. It's quite inspiring!"







AMAZING TURNOUT FOR THE FIRST "LEARNING & GYM" PROGRAM



















1809 Clarkson Road Chesterfield, MO 63017

636.778.1896 www.missouritorah.org





PURCHASE AT WWW.MISSOURITORAH.ORG

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 4TH RAFFLE DEADLINE

# Recent Building Dedication Main Entrance Mezuzah Dedicated by Dr. Mark Lichtenfeld



