



MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE  
- ישיבה ומתיבתא ד'מיזורי -

EYE ON  
MTI

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## MTI Dedication Dinner - A Historic Evening

On June 16th, three hundred gathered at the Ritz-Carlton in St. Louis, MO, for Missouri Torah Institute's Dedication Dinner.

Guests traveled from around the country to celebrate this milestone with the yeshiva. Visitors included HaRav Akiva Grunblatt, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in Queens, Rabbi Aaron Kotler from Bais Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, Rabbi Boruch Neuberger from Ner Yisroel in Baltimore, Rabbi Yitzchok Ehrman of Agudath Israel Midwest Region, and Rabbi Bunny Freedman from Detroit.

After being treated to divrei bracha delivered by HaRav Grunblatt, shlita, the evening opened with the recognition and celebration of the dedication of the Deutsch Family Campus, made possible by Mr. Charles and Mrs. Naomi Ruth Deutsch, pillars of the community, who are proud and staunch supporters of MTI. The state-of-the-art spacious campus—previously a school for the deaf—includes

a dorm, gym, basketball court, music room, and art room, giving talmidim a wide range of wholesome outlets outside the classroom. A master builder, Mr. Deutsch challenged the yeshiva to dream big, and then helped that dream become a reality. The new building has enabled the yeshiva to build and grow in ways that were otherwise unimaginable. A video recognizing the Deutsches for their contributions to MTI and to the community included divrei bracha from Harav HaGaon Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, shlita, and HaRav Dovid Harris, shlita, as well as marbitzei Torah from around the globe.

MTI also celebrated the naming of the Fox Family High School by Ambassador Sam and Mrs. Marilyn Fox in memory of their son, Greg Fox, a"h. Ambassador Fox, a successful businessman of world renown and the former Ambassador to Belgium, has developed a

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# Senior Shabbos & Graduation 2019

A good time was had by all at the Senior Shabbos. In addition to our local families, parents and relatives journeyed from Overland Park, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Queens, Buffalo Grove, and Brooklyn to spend a special Shabbos together in the Chesterfield TICK community that culminated with the emotional graduation on Sunday.

Proud parents commented about the achdus and friendships the boys displayed and the enthusiasm that they had. One parent remarked, "The Senior Shabbos was an amazing way to finish the four incredible years at MTI." Another parent commented that she loved seeing "a little window into the MTI yeshiva experience and [spending time with] the people who have been so involved in helping us raise our son into a fine ben Torah."

In their speeches at the graduation, many of the boys spoke about their close keshet with their rebbeim, and how much they gained from their guidance. In addition, the graduates made a point to thank their classmates for the friendships they had created during their years together. This unplanned gesture showed the unique achdus among the class.



Class of 2019



Rabbi Wachsman, besides being the menahel, was also the rebbe of many of the graduates this year. Prior to handing out the diplomas, Rabbi Wachsman shared some personal impressions of all the graduates and concluded with a customized bracha reflecting the desire for each young man to capitalize on his unique strengths to serve Hashem and develop as a ben Torah. He praised this year's graduating class' achdus and camaraderie, and the way they displayed tremendous sensitivity towards one another and ensured that everyone was included and involved in activities, class fundraisers, and trips.

Rabbi Gewirtz gave an inspirational speech about trying to emulate Shevet Levi, who made the choice to draw Hashem close by consciously choosing the right path. He expressed his pride that the seniors showed impressive growth in Torah learning, and also took more AP exams this year than any previous year. "What stands out in my mind when I think about you," he said to the graduates, "is your desire to succeed and your determination to do what it takes to achieve success."

# Community Event RABBI BEREL WEIN

Rabbi Berel Wein's May 13th lecture on "The Rise of Anti-Semitism in the Diaspora" was well-attended by the community. Rabbi Wein is known for popularizing Jewish history, authoring several acclaimed history books, the most recent of which is *In the Footsteps of Eliyahu Hanavi*, as well as his educational films, seminars, tours and lectures which he travels worldwide to deliver.

Rabbi Wein addressed the fact that modern anti-Semitism continues to astonish many people. It should not be surprising, he says, since it will never go away and we should expect it to continue. However, we should never stop feeling proud to be Jewish and appreciating the privilege of being Jewish. We must continue to strive for greatness as "we are capable of achieving the impossible".

Rabbi Wein mentioned how excited he was to visit the yeshiva in which his grandson, Rabbi Shimshon Gewirtz, works as a rebbe and as the English principal. He commented how impressed he was with the yeshiva.

Mr. Yale Miller, a distinguished community member who attended high school with Rabbi Wein in the 1950's, remarked that he enjoyed the speech very much and appreciated that MTI had given him and the rest of the community this wonderful opportunity to hear an insightful lecture by his good friend and former classmate.

The Lefton family sponsored this event in memory of Rabbi Jerry Lefton a"h, R' Yona Eliezer Tuvya ben Yosef Wolf, who had been a contemporary of Rabbi Wein in yeshiva in Chicago in the early 1950's.



## Dovid Love Joins MTI as Campus Administrator

Mr. Dovid Love, a member of the first graduating class of MTI, recently moved to Chesterfield from San Diego with his wife, Dena, and his two children to join MTI as the new campus administrator.

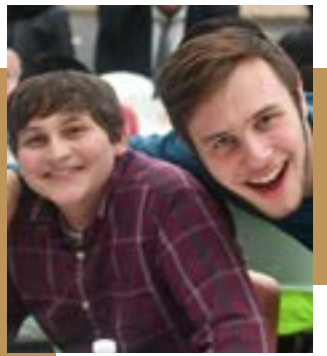
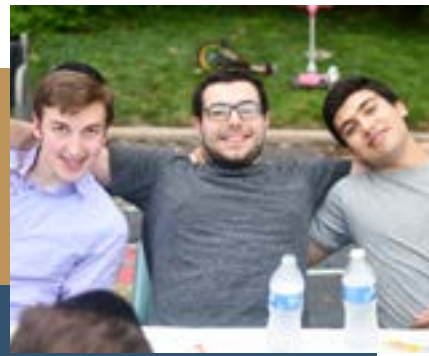
"We are so excited that one of our own alumni has joined our staff," said Rabbi Fromowitz. "His positive energy, skills, and commitment will be a great asset to the yeshiva." Welcoming its first alumnus back as a staff member, after only twelve years since its opening, is very special and deeply meaningful for MTI.

The Love family feels welcome and right at home among the MTI community. Mr. Love remarked, "It's gratifying to be able to join the yeshiva which has been a big part of my life since my high school years. This role as a member of the administration is an opportunity for me to make an impact while working with an elite team of mechanchim. In the short time since I began, I have been able to see firsthand, from a unique perspective, the dedication MTI has to each talmid and the Jewish community at large."





Rabbi Avroham Goldman speaks at Torah Prep before Shavuos



Alumni pre-Shavuos baseball game



## LAG BAOMER



MTI Bais Medrash spends Shabbos in Buffalo Grove



## BAIS MEDRASH SUMMER ZMAN *Los Angeles, California*

The MTI Bais Medrash's sixth summer zman in the San Fernando Valley is once again providing a great boost in ruchniyus for the talmidim. Rabbi Avroham Goldman commented that "this zman, everyone is full of achdus and energy for learning. What makes it so special is the synergy of our current talmidim with the alumni who have joined especially for this program."

Mr. Jonathan Istrin, a Valley native and a close friend of the yeshiva, devotes much time and effort into arranging this exceptional program every summer. He initiated this great program to strengthen the Torah learning in the Valley and to help the boys enjoy a productive summer zman.

After finishing their school year in June, the bais medrash students

are enjoying a bonus zman of a few weeks, with a change of scenery in a different state and with chavrusas from among the Valley community. The bachurim learn Maseches Kesuvos b'iyun in the mornings and b'kiyus in the afternoons at Valley Torah High School. In the evenings, they learn during night seder with community members at Shaarey Zedek Congregation and at the new Valley Village Community Kollel.

The students of MTI bring another level of intense Torah learning to the Valley community, and the community reciprocates with extensive hachnosas orchim, including hosting Shabbos meals, onegs, and housing the boys. We thank the entire community for inviting the yeshiva into their homes (and swimming pools!) and providing such a conducive environment to Torah growth.

## ALUMNI SHAVUOS PROGRAM



Spending the Yom Tov of Shavuos together at MTI is always a major highlight of the year. Nearly all of the rebbeim and their families stay in the yeshiva and generate a special and uplifting ruach of Torah throughout Yom Tov. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, there was an extra buzz and excitement caused by the 30 alumni who came in from around the country, creating a palpable energy during these inspirational three days. The Kol Torah from the learning and shiurim on Shavuos night permeated the walls of the yeshiva and was a sight to behold. The meals were sumptuous, the extra baked goods from the MTI rebetzins were absolutely delicious, and the zemiros, singing and divrei torah throughout the meals truly beautified the Yom Tov. A special thank you to Rabbi Josh Bregman for coordinating this, as well as the many other alumni events that take place throughout the year.



Rabbi Avroham Goldman and Mr. Jonathan Istrin





## Hatzlacha to Yigal Sasportas in his Future Endeavors

MTI bids farewell to Mr. Yigal Sasportas, who invested eight years of hard work, professionalism, and devotion to helping make the yeshiva into what it is today, from its impressive growth to the beautiful campus. He is launching a business, EmpowerED Solutions & Services, LLC, that will help other Jewish organizations benefit from his knowledge and innovative programs that have advanced MTI.

Mr. Sasportas shared that as an administrator and then executive director, "I was given the opportunity and platform to use and develop my talents, work together with the most dedicated and talented staff, and be involved in the building of one of the most exemplary and torahdik mosdos. It was really a dream come true. I'm excited to see MTI's growth as it continues to touch and change the lives of talmidim around the world."

"We wish Mr. Sasportas tremendous bracha and hatzlacha as he embarks on his new endeavor that will benefit the mosdos of Klal Yisroel," said Rabbi Wasser, "and we appreciate his many years of mesiras nefesh for the yeshiva."

relationship with MTI through his close friendship with our board chairman, Dr. Craig Reiss. Dr. Reiss addressed the gathering and spoke about the kind and giving nature of Ambassador and Mrs. Fox, and the tremendous significance of their amazing dedication. After accepting his award, Ambassador Fox commented to the crowd how, as a businessman, he has been very impressed with the growth of the yeshiva in the relatively short time since its opening and that everyone should join him in supporting this great school.

MTI expressed tremendous appreciation to Mr. Michael and Mrs.

Carol Staenberg, who also made large contributions to the yeshiva during a "Million for MTI" Charidy campaign earlier this year.

The event continued with a video tribute to Rabbi Aaron Winter, zt"l, who was niftar this past year. Rabbi Winter exhibited tremendous mesiras nefesh in building Chesterfield's Torah kehillah. In addition to bringing MTI to the community and serving as Rav of Tpheris Israel Chevra Kadisha Congregation (TICK), he helped build an eruv and mikvah, and most recently, founded Chesterfield's kollel. Under his leadership, countless individuals increased their mitzvah observance and connection to Torah. The moving video presented the thoughts of many who knew him well and were profoundly affected by his guidance. The entire community sorely misses his sound advice, powerful drashos, and dedication to the klal.

Following the tribute, Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Lisa Baron were presented with the Community Service Award. Mr. Baron, a prominent attorney, worked indefatigably to help secure MTI's new facility. Mr. Baron went above and beyond the call of duty during the acquisition process in order to obtain favorable terms for the yeshiva.

Later in the evening, attendees enjoyed a melodious choir accompanied by a violinist and a pianist, all MTI talmidim, and a special presentation expressing hakaras hatov to Mr. Yigal and Mrs. Erica Sasportas for their many years of mesiras nefesh for the yeshiva.

MTI thanks the dinner chairmen, Dr. Craig Reiss and Mr. Jonathan Spetner, and everyone who helped make the evening a beautiful kiddush Hashem and a great success.

The videos shown at the dinner can be found on our website at [missouritorah.org](http://missouritorah.org).

## End of Year Siyum & Breakfast

We celebrated the conclusion of a great year of growth in Torah, middos and learning with a gala end-of-the-year breakfast on the last day of yeshiva.

Rabbi Wachsman compared the students' mesiras nefesh in learning to the mesiras nefesh of the Leviim during shibud mitzrayim. Although the Mitzri'im allowed the Leviim to learn Torah and perform mitzvos, Chazal viewed their efforts in learning as mesiras nefesh. This was because at that time, the rest of Klal Yisrael was anti-Torah and mitzvos.

Rabbi Wachsman encouraged the boys to be proud of themselves and appreciate the chashivus of their learning and growing as bnei Torah, every day, throughout the entire year, especially in today's climate with ideals and morals far from hashkafas haTorah.

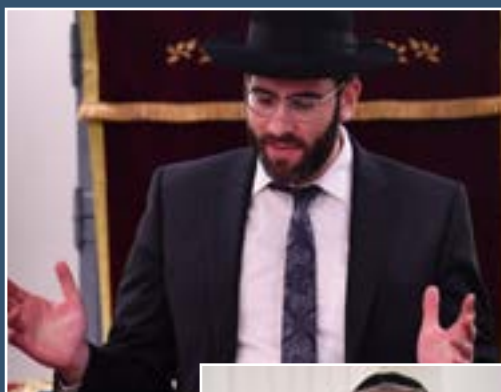
A siyum on Maseches Sukkah was made by several talmidim. They successfully achieved their goal of learning some of the masechta in shiur and then learning on their own in order to reach this milestone. Mazel Tov to all of the talmidim and

mesaymim on a great year and a job well done. We are very proud of all of your accomplishments.

We hope that the students have a relaxing summer and look forward to greeting them next year for continued growth.



## GUEST SPEAKERS



Rabbi Moshe Winter speaking to MTI talmidim before Pesach

Rabbi Pesach Wachsman addresses the high school



Dear Rabbi Wasser,  
 We are living in times where Jews are being scrutinized for every action or inaction that the outside world perceives.  
 I was driving in New Hempstead tonight and saw a disabled car trying to get off the exit of the Palisades. The owner was trying to push the vehicle, unsuccessfully, off the exit ramp. I noticed a car pulled over to the side and five yeshiva looking boys, all dressed in suits and ties, getting out to assist this driver.  
 I commented to my wife that THIS is what the world needs today, Jews making a kiddush Hashem. That's when Yaakov informed us that he recognized the group of five MTI Bais Medrash boys on their way to a wedding in Monsey.  
 I am truly proud to be an MTI parent! Please keep up the great work your yeshiva is doing.  
 Yitzie





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# MAZEL TOV!

## ~Marriages~

Ephraim Abrams on his marriage to Ms. Jenna Buchbinder of Chicago, IL  
Menasha Abrams on his marriage to Ms. Haddas Miller of Baltimore, MD  
Elie Armstrong on his marriage to Ms. Chana Begoun of Chicago, IL  
Ari Becker on his marriage to Ms. Leah Gerber of Brooklyn, NY  
Sandy Freud on his marriage to Ms. Raizel Dwek of Baltimore, MD  
Elisha Gewirtz on his marriage to Ms. Aviva Lowenthal of Staten Island, NY  
Avraham Tzvi Gifter on his marriage to Ms. Hadassah Kreindler of Bayswater, NY  
Yoni Ghalili on his marriage to Ms. Devorah Kasirer of Kew Gardens, NY  
Menachem Guttman on his marriage to Ms. Chana Mayerhoff of Hollywood, FL  
Yosef Kaufman on his marriage to Ms. Rochel Chanales of Kew Gardens, NY  
Eytan Mankowitz on his marriage to Ms. Henna Chaya Kamin of Vancouver, BC  
Sammy Reiss on his marriage to Ms. Leah Lowenberg of Detroit, MI  
Yaakov Rubin on his marriage to Ms. Ora Pacht of Vancouver, BC  
Naftoli Scheinberg on his marriage to Ms. Nechie Kesselman of Lakewood, NJ  
Eli Scheller on his marriage to Ms. Shelby Aronoff of Englewood, NJ  
Yosaif Slotkin on his marriage to Ms. Malka Simes of Ottawa, ON  
Dani Treisman on his marriage to Ms. Chaya Sulkin of Chicago, IL

## ~Engagements~

Rami Chiver to Ms. Linda Schwcky of Deal, NJ  
Mordechai Cohen to Ms. Audrey Rivka Amar of Morocco  
Shuey Hauser to Ms. Odaya Shapiro of Brooklyn, NY  
Moshe Stern to Ms. Rachel Klein of Bala Cynwyd, PA  
Baruch Wexler to Ms. Eliana Weinstein of Los Angeles, CA

## ~Births~

Mr. & Mrs. Yehuda Azer on the birth of a boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Rosenblum on the birth of a boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Avi Rhodes on the birth of a boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Yossi Turk on the birth of a boy  
Mr. & Mrs. Dovid Winter on the birth of a boy

## ~Staff Simchas~

Mr. & Mrs. Menachem and Debbie Graff on the marriage of their daughter Sarah to Yaakov Kaufman of Princeton, NJ  
Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid and Chayka Fromowitz on the bar Mitzvah of their son Yisrael  
Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem and Aviva Wachsman on the bas mitzvah of their daughter Malka  
Rabbi & Mrs. David and Eeta Bermanski on the birth of a boy  
Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid and Chayka Fromowitz on the birth of a girl  
Rabbi & Mrs. Gershon and Shayna Rockove on the birth of a girl  
Rabbi & Mrs. Shraga and Rivka Zachai on the birth of a boy

## GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS & MORE PHOTOS INSIDE!



## THE SKOLNICK FAMILY

Dedicates Yahrtzeit Board  
In Loving Memory of

**Mr. Zelig Skolnick a"h**  
הרב זעליג בן אריה ליב ע"ה



To make a dedication as an everlasting zechus in memory of your loved one, please contact our office.

Design: Mrs. Eeta Bermanski  
Copy: Mrs. Aliza Agress, Mrs. Elisheva Rina Deifik  
Photos: Mr. Yoel Druxman, Mr. Peter Wochniak