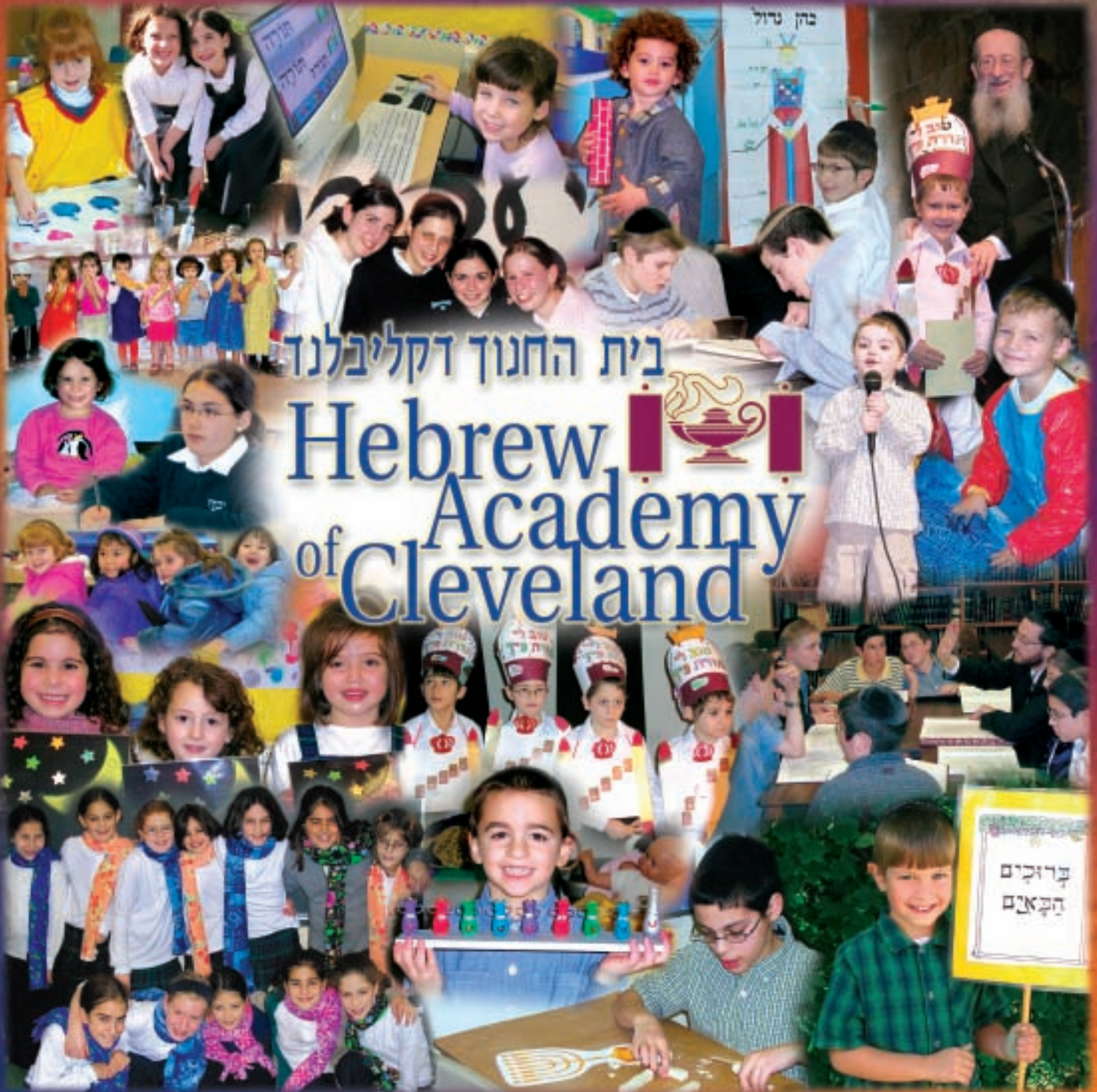


Academy news

A Publication of the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland

בס"ד



בית החנוך דקליבלנד

Hebrew Academy
of Cleveland

קרוקים
הקאם

ACADEMY LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Hebrew Academy of Cleveland has launched its sixty-second annual Scholarship Fund Campaign. Co-chairs of the 2004/05 Scholarship Fund Campaign are **Harry M. and Perl Brown, Reuven and Naomi Dessler, Mendy and Ita Klein, and Amir and Edna Jaffa.**

The Academy, which provides a dynamic Judaic and general studies education from early childhood through high school, has a 2004/05 scholarship campaign goal of \$1,350,000.

The campaign, which ensures the school's longstanding policy of accepting students regardless of financial capabilities, culminates with a gala dinner to be held on Sunday, March 6, 2005, at the Beatrice Stone Yavne High School in Beachwood. The event will pay tribute to the partnership that the school enjoys with the **Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.** In addition, the prestigious International Alumnus Award will be presented to **Mr. Yechezkal Evan Spero.**

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION OF CLEVELAND



We are proud to recognize the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland as it celebrates its centennial anniversary. The Federation reflects the centuries-old tradition of developing structures to meet communal needs – caring for Jewish orphans, resettling newcomers, providing a solid Jewish education, and generally assisting Jews wherever they might be.

Particularly high on the Federation planning agenda are issues of Jewish education, as the community seeks to instill Jewish identity and ensure that the next generation will live as committed, informed Jews. Cleveland's Federation was the first federation in the United States to support a Jewish day school – the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland in 1948, an illustration of this commitment. The Academy was recognized by the Jewish Community Federation with its Charles F. Eisenman Award in 1992 and again in 2005. The Hebrew Academy and the Jewish Community Federation continue to work together in a host of partnerships – to ensure the transmission of our Jewish heritage through excellence in education and building vibrant Jewish communities.

YECHESKEL EVAN SPERO

The Spero family is renowned as a dynasty that has been in the vanguard of Torah education and its dissemination to Jewish communities throughout America. Beginning in the 1940's, the Spero family has addressed specific areas of concern in the Jewish community locally and across the globe and has been instrumental in the founding of the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland.

The breadth and scope of this vision has been passed down to our honoree, Yechezkal Evan Spero. Mr. Spero, the son of Manny and Sydelle Spero and the grandson of the late Ben and Gertrude Spero, longtime friends and ardent supporters of the Academy, is one of over 500 alumni living in Israel. A 1972 graduate of the Academy, Mr. Spero continued his education at Yeshivat Be'er Yaakov in Israel and at Case Western Reserve University, where he received a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



After marrying Naomi in 1979, they moved to Tzfat to found a new community, Kiryat Meor Chaim and continue Torah studies in Kollel. Six years later the family relocated to Moshav Tifrach in the Negev where Mr. Spero assumed a research position at Ben Gurion University. Mr. Spero served in the Israel Defense Forces seeing service in Chevron and Gaza among other locations. Leaving the BGU lab to pursue an entrepreneurial career as part of Israel's high tech revolution, he founded a number of companies including LedLight Ltd., pioneers in solid-state illumination. Mr. Spero has written a number of patents that he is currently developing and is the CEO of YES Invent in Ofakim, Israel, which provides business-development consultation to a number of companies in Israel and the U.S. Active in the Tifrach community, Yechezkal and Naomi, an educational psychologist, participate in Jewish outreach via Torah lectures in the Be'er Sheva area and in Yad Eliezer, an organization that distributes food to the needy. They are the parents of seven children and three grandchildren.

The Hebrew Academy extends itself beyond the walls of its three campuses. Staff constantly attends professional conferences and shares their areas of expertise with the community at large.

Staff members present *shiurim* and lectures to a wide range of audiences. **Rabbi Simcha Dessler**, Educational Director, presented a session entitled, "Diverse Learners: How Can We Best Respond to them?" at the recent Leadership Assembly of Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) in Boston. In addition, Rabbi Dessler's Torah commentaries currently appear in the Cleveland Jewish News. **Rabbi N. T. Baron**, Rosh Mesivta, continues to present *shiurim* to Hebrew Academy alumni. **Rabbi Yitzchak Kasnett**, Principal of General Studies, lectured at the Holocaust Teacher Training Program of Torah Umesorah in Miami. The tenth series of the acclaimed *Peninim on the Torah* was recently authored by **Rabbi Leibel Scheinbaum**, Supervisor, Sapirstein Campus, and published by the Academy. **Rabbi Mordechai Kaplovitz** Instructor at Yavne High School, gives a weekly Shabbos *shiur* at Congregation Khal Yereim. **Rabbi Yaakov Schwimmer**, a Rebbe at Yeshiva High School, offers a weekly Talmud class in Bava Kamah for Academy parents. **Rabbi Menachem Meisels** recently lectured on "Teaching Gemara to Each Student," for Eish Dos, Torah Umesorah's teacher training program in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Yavne High School faculty also shares their knowledge with the broader community. **Mrs. Neche Moerman**, Principal, a leading force behind Matan B'Sayser, a community assistance program, also conducts courses in conjunction with the worldwide Taharas Hamispacha Initiative. For many years, scores of women

have been inspired and uplifted by weekly lectures on Mishlei given by **Mrs. Miriam Barkin** and Shemiras HaLashon classes by **Mrs. Shoshana Klahr**. **Mrs. Tsila Greenberg** lectures in English and Russian on Jewish education and Jewish issues to the Russian speaking community in Cleveland. **Mrs. Rochel Stoll** conducts a bi-weekly *shiur* on the 39 Malachos of Shabbos for the Cedar Green Community Kollel Women's Learning group.

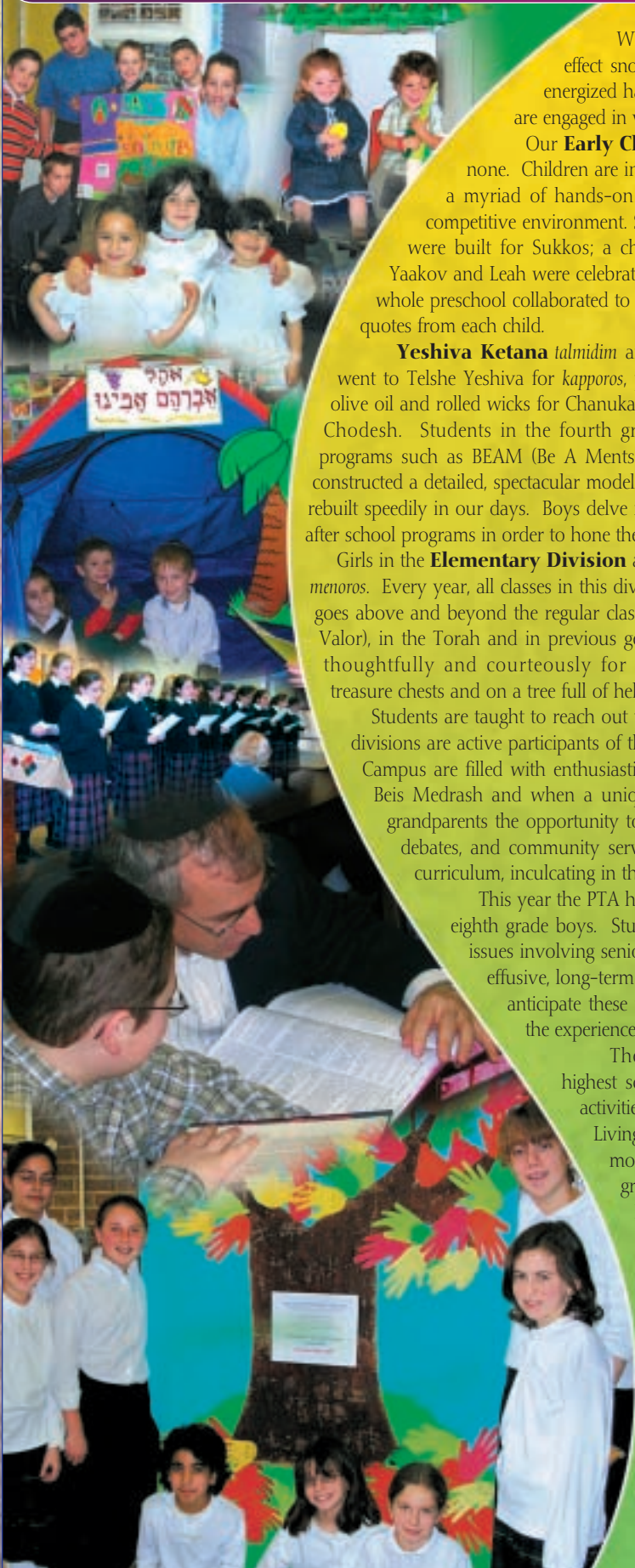
Mr. Ron Wolfe, assistant principal at the Sapirstein Campus, taught a six-week professional development course on "Inquiry Science" at the Woodrow Wilson Institute of Princeton University. **Mrs. Sherrie Sperling**, assistant principal of General Studies, has mentored many teachers new to the profession and offers a course



at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. **Mrs. Amy Greenspan** spoke at a JESNA workshop of the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities in Cleveland.

Throughout the year, the Academy continues to pursue its tasks – sharing skills, creating trailblazing intervention programs in all divisions, inspiring curriculum that are used around the country – reaching out to the child and the community beyond.

AN INSIDE VIEW OF EACH DIVISION



Winter in Cleveland is the season of short overcast days, abundant Lake-effect snow, and freezing temperatures. Maybe outside; but certainly not in the energized hallways of all our divisions. At the Academy's three campuses students are engaged in vibrant learning and participating in a wide range of inspiring activities.

Our **Early Childhood** is led by a staff whose creativity and devotion is second to none. Children are introduced to the beauty of Torah, friendship, and cooperation, through a myriad of hands-on activities that allow them to express their individuality in a non-competitive environment. Squawking live chickens were brought in for *kapporos*; miniature *sukkot* were built for Sukkos; a child-sized arc was constructed for *parshas* Noach. The wedding of Yaakov and Leah were celebrated with aplomb; classes invited each other to Avrohom's tent; and the whole preschool collaborated to write "S"Gezunt, an illustrated cookbook, featuring recipes, photos and quotes from each child.

Yeshiva Ketana talmidim are constantly inspired to strive towards Torah and *mitzvos*. Students went to Telshe Yeshiva for *kapporos*, produced their own *shofros*, went to Shaker Lakes for *tashlich*, pressed olive oil and rolled wicks for Chanukah, and visited the planetarium after learning about the *mitzvah* of Rosh Chodesh. Students in the fourth grade enthusiastically participate in unique character development programs such as BEAM (Be A Mensch) and RAYS (Respect all your Classmates). Students in fifth grade constructed a detailed, spectacular model of the Mishkan, inspiring the boys to pray that the actual Mishkan be rebuilt speedily in our days. Boys delve into the treasure house of Mishnayos and Gemorah, and many attend after school programs in order to hone their skills and advance to higher levels.

Girls in the **Elementary Division** also created *shofros* and pressed olives to acquire pure olive oil for their *menoros*. Every year, all classes in this division participate in a year-long, comprehensive *middos* program which goes above and beyond the regular class curriculum. This year's program focuses on *Nshai Chayil* (Women of Valor), in the Torah and in previous generations. Students accumulate "pearls" for *chesed* that is performed thoughtfully and courteously for friends and family. These pearls are displayed in classroom treasure chests and on a tree full of helping hands in the hallway.

Students are taught to reach out to the community at large. **Academy high school** students in both divisions are active participants of the Irving I. Stone Student Tzedakkah Board. The halls of the Sapirstein Campus are filled with enthusiastic energy at the popular night *sefer* when the *kol* Torah permeates the Beis Medrash and when a unique program on Sunday mornings provides fathers, sons, and even grandparents the opportunity to share the delight of learning together. *Shabbatonim*, *onegs*, Torah trips, debates, and community service opportunities round out an already challenging and competitive curriculum, inculcating in the boys the values of a love for *mitzvos* and a joy for life.

This year the PTA has initiated an innovative community service program for seventh and eighth grade boys. Students were coached by a social worker and trained to be sensitive to issues involving seniors. They then began weekly visits to area nursing facilities and forged effusive, long-term relationships with seniors. The boys - and the residents - now eagerly anticipate these visits and have learned that those who do *chesed* benefit greatly from the experience.

The Beatrice Stone Yavne High School continues to combine the highest scholastic standards with spectacular *Shabbatonim* and student council activities. *Chessed* programs include visits to Menorah Park Center for Senior Living and a choir that sings for seniors. Through the M'Yad L'Yad program, moneys were raised and toys were distributed to children in Israel. Eighth graders read about Helen Keller and raised almost \$400 for the Jewish Braille Institute; the World History class corresponded with Peace Corps workers in Turkmenistan and Nicaragua; the Environmental Science class participated in the Jason Expedition, a hands-on national program exploring the disappearing wetlands in the United States; and an officer of a local bank spoke to the Personal Economics class about the intricacies of budgeting and personal finance.

The enormous productivity pervasive in all divisions would not be possible without the admirable talents and devotion of a dedicated Judaic and General Studies faculty who invest countless hours, creating effective curriculum and reaching out to all their students. We are blessed that even when the temperature dips into the single digits, learning still flourishes and students mature and blossom.

YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS HACHNASAS SEFER TORAH

Talmidim at the Academy's Yeshiva High School recently celebrated our eternal bond with Torah when they hosted the gala dedication of a Sefer Torah. The Sefer Torah, commissioned by the **Pollack family**, was dedicated in memory of **Mrs. Rose Pollack**, a Holocaust survivor with deep ties to the school. The enthusiasm of all participants confirms once again that our heritage reigns supreme.



RECENT VISITORS

The Academy has always played an active role in teacher training, providing Yavne Teachers College students the chance to observe and student teach in its classes. Several months ago, two hundred seminary students from Bais Yaakov Intensive Seminary in New York visited our school for an action-packed day. The girls observed classes and heard speeches by **Rabbi N.W. Dessler**, **Rabbi Simcha Dessler**, **Rebbetzin Rochel Sorotzkin**, **Rebbetzin Chaya Ausband**, **Rebbetzin Shoshana Gifter**, and **Mrs. Neche Moerman**. Our New York guests left with a wholehearted, positive impression of the professionalism and amicability of the school.

Recent visitors, many of whom addressed our students, include: **Rabbi Berel Wein**, noted historian and lecturer; **Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz**, Chairman of the Chicago Rabbinical Council; **Rabbi Yechiel Perr**, Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshiva of Far Rockaway; **Rabbi Isaac Rosenbaum**, Clevelander Rebbe of Ranaana; **Rabbi Naftoli Tzvi Weiss**, Spinka Rebbe; **Rabbi Michel Chill**, Rav and Chaplain of the New York State Penitentiary System; **Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Breitowitz**, Rav of Congregation Ahavas Torah and Professor of Law, University of Maryland; **Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser**, acclaimed author and Rav in New York; **Rabbi Maimon Elbaz**, HAC alumnus and Director of the International Torah Center; **Rabbi Doniel Mechanic**, Executive Director, Project Chazon; noted author **Rabbi Menachem Nissel**; and renowned *mechanech* and children's entertainer, **Rabbi Alter Yachnes** of Israel.

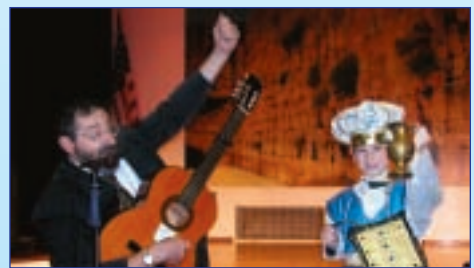
Our General Studies departments welcomed **Mayor Edward Kelley** of the City of Cleveland Heights; **Dr. Richard A. Markwardt**, Superintendent, Beachwood School System; and **Dr. Andrew P. Roth**, President, Notre Dame College.



Rabbi Berel Wein



Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz



"Rebbi Alter entertaining"



Mayor Edward Kelley with students

**GIVE THE
GIFT THAT
KEEPS ON
GIVING!**

Create an everlasting legacy with a gift or a bequest to the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland Endowment Fund. The Academy Endowment Fund ensures Jewish continuity by providing a Jewish education to all children regardless of their financial capabilities. A contribution or provisions for a bequest represents a gift that keeps on giving. Additional dedications and opportunities are available.

For further information, contact Rabbi Eli Dessler at 216-321-5838 ext. 160

MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Rabbi Chananya and Shira Goldbaum

The Hebrew Academy strives to enhance excellence in learning and in the personal development of each *talmid*. Caring, vibrant, and proficient faculty are the key to this mission, and the Academy has been blessed with a solid core of experienced staff plus a dynamic influx of several new teachers this year. This year, we welcome Rabbi Chananya and Shira Goldbaum; both are teaching in our high school divisions.

Rabbi Chananya Goldbaum is the ninth grade Rebbe at the Academy's Yeshiva High School, and also teaches classes to the tenth and twelfth grade boys. In addition to teaching Chumash to seventh graders and Parshas Hashavuah to ninth graders, Mrs. Goldbaum teaches Neviim Acharonim to twelfth grade girls.

Rabbi Goldbaum lived in Denver, Colorado until his family made *aliyah* to Kiryat Telshe Stone. He studied in *yeshivos* in Eretz Yisroel and America including Maaravah, Mesivta Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin, and Maalot HaTorah (Rabbi Shmuel Auerbach). He continued his learning after his marriage and took part in Ohr Someach's Ohr Lagolah Program that trains kollel fellows for careers in education and the Rabbinate. Upon his return to Milwaukee, Rabbi Goldbaum continued his studies at the Milwaukee kollel; later he earned a well deserved reputation as an instructor at Yeshiva Elementary School and WITS, the Wisconsin Institute of Torah Study. Mrs. Shira Goldbaum, a native of Chicago, received her teaching degree from Machon Bnos Yehuda (BYA) in Israel. She taught in Israel and when they returned to Milwaukee, Mrs. Goldbaum completed a B.A. in psychology, and has nearly concluded a M.A. in Special Education.

The Goldbaums expressed that they "feel privileged to have joined into such a wonderful and caring *mosad*." They have already opened their home on Shabbos for the *talmidim*. "Braving the cold and snow for night *seder* is always worthwhile when I walk into the Beis Medrash and see so many enthusiastic *talmidim* who have ventured out to learn Torah," exclaims Rabbi Goldbaum. "What can be a greater joy than being part of an institution where a relationship with each *talmid* is not only a lofty goal, but rather an actuality."

PTA SHWEKEY CONCERT

The Third Annual HAC Concert featured an inspiring performance by Yaakov Schwekey. The crowd of 1,200 people was also delighted with the singing and enthusiasm of the Yeshiva Boys Choir, all Hebrew Academy students. The choir later performed at the HASC Concert at Madison Square Garden. Many thanks to Dr. Howard and Suri Goldman; and to co-chairs, Mrs. Debbie Schlesinger and Mrs. Ingrid Smilovitz, for ensuring its success.



TEACHER AWARD

Mrs. Rivky Wolf, a devoted and creative early childhood teacher, has been awarded the JECC's prestigious Libbie Braverman Award in recognition of her contributions to the development of her students and dedication to the school.



L-R: Mrs. Rivky Wolf, Mr. Charles Ratner, Rabbi Simcha Dessler, Mr. Joel Fox and Mr. Seymour Kopelowitz at the JECC Awards Dinner

2004 GRADUATES IN ISRAEL

Our graduates are spending the year studying in Israel! Well prepared academically for these studies, the students are thriving, and thrilled to experience the *kedushah*, holiness, of Eretz Yisroel on a personal level.



ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Over 160 students participated in the recent Fall Enrichment Program. Our students enjoyed classes in Mishnayos, safrus, swimming, ice skating and hockey, pottery, knitting, aerobics, and creative cooking.



ALUMNI NACHAS

ENGAGEMENTS AND MARRIAGES

SHIRA FREUND TO YORAM KAHN
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. AVNER FREUND
AND MR. JOSEPH FREUND

DENA SCHABES TO NUSSI BITTERMAN
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. ALAN SCHABES,
MR. AND MRS. HERB SCHABES
AND MR. AND MRS. HERB GEDULD

YECHIEL WOLF TO NECHAMA SILBERBERG
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. SRULY WOLF

SHEINDEL BARON TO MENACHEM LEBOVITZ
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. SHMUEL BARON
AND RABBI AND MRS. N.T. BARON

ARI SCHWARTZ TO DANIELLA DEUTSCH
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. AVRAHAM SCHWARTZ

ALIZA FIREMAN TO REUVEN RODIN
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. STANLEY FIREMAN

ZEVI LEISER TO SHIRA KIRSCHENBAUM
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. HARVEY LEISER
AND MRS. ROCHEL SPIRA

SARAH STERN TO YANKI GREENSPAN
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. YISROEL STERN

MENDEL CHAIKIN TO CHANI PARSHAN
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. BEREL CHAIKIN

BRACHA KUSHNER TO YONATAN GOETZ
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. ZEV KUSHNER

BASYA MENDLOWITZ TO NAFTALI DEUTSCH
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. SHLOMO MENDLOWITZ
AND RABBI AND MRS. SHLOMO MOERMAN

SHAYNA MALCMACHER TO AVRUMIE MEYSTAL
MAZAL TOV TO DR. AND MRS. LOUIS MALCMACHER
AND MRS. LOLA MALCMACHER

AVI JAKOBOVITCH TO TOVA BERKOVITZ
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. ALEX JAKOBOVITCH
AND MR. AND MRS. ELYA ABRAHAM

CHANINA HEFTER TO CHAYA RIVKA LOEBENSTEIN
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. MALKIEL HEFTER
AND MRS. LIL HEFTER

AVROMI MEISELS TO DEVORA LIDSKY
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. ZEV MEISELS
AND RABBI YOSEF MEISELS

SORA LIPMAN TO JOSH MENDELSON
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. MARTIN LIPMAN

MIRIAM MANN TO SCHNEUR STEINBERG
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. SHMUEL YAAKOV MANN
AND RABBI AND MRS. MEIR ZELIG MANN

MIRIAM SOVIZRAL TO YOSHI SALAMON
MAZAL TOV TO DR. AND MRS. SAM SALAMON
AND MRS. HELEN GELB

CHANITA WARN TO SHAUL KANE
MAZAL TOV TO DR. AND MRS. STANLEY WARN
AND MR. AND MRS. LARRY WARN

FEIGI FEIFER TO YOSEF PRUPAS
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. ABISH FEIFER

HOLLY FUCHS TO RAMI BERNER
MAZAL TOV TO MR. SIMON FUCHS

BIRTHS

MR. AND MRS. JOSHUA MALES (GIRL)
MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. HAROLD MALES

RABBI AND MRS. NOCHUM SOKOL (BOY)

RABBI AND MRS. NACHMAN GREENWALD (GIRL)
RABBI AND MRS. SHMULI GREENWALD (GIRL)
MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. YOCHANAN GREENWALD

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"A PEOPLE SURVIVES AS LONG AS IT TRANSMITS ITS HERITAGE FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT"

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 AND MRS. EDITH KAPLOVITZ

RABBI AND MRS. SHRAGIE FREEDMAN (BOY)
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 AND MRS. BEA WIEDER

MR. AND MRS. PERETZ SELTZER (GIRL)
 MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL HOEN
 MAZAL TOV TO MRS. BARBARA SELTZER

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 MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. ERIC SOLOWITZ
 AND MRS. MIRIAM KAZEN

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 MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. HYMIE KELLER
 AND MR. AND MRS. ISZAK KELLER

RABBI AND MRS. YECHIEL FEIFER (BOY)
 RABBI AND MRS. ELI FEIFER (GIRL)
 MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. ABISH FEIFER

MR. AND MRS. BRYAN FARKAS (GIRL)

RABBI AND MRS. ARYEH SPERO (TWIN BOYS)
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RABBI AND MRS. NOAM KUTOFF (GIRL)
 MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. MOSHE YEHUDA MANN
 AND RABBI AND MRS. MEIR ZELIG MANN

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RABBI AND MRS. MORDECHAI GLUCK (BOY)
 MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. LAIBEL SCHEINBAUM

RABBI AND MRS. MOSHE FRIEDMAN (BOY)
 MAZAL TOV TO RABBI AND MRS. YECHIEL FRIEDMAN

MR. AND MRS. PINCHOS KALUSZYNER (GIRL)
 MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. JORDAN SCHOTTENSTEIN

MR. AND MRS. SHLOIME NEUMAN (BOY)
 MAZAL TOV TO MR. AND MRS. SHIA NEUMAN
 AND MR. AND MRS. LAZAR NEUMAN

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL POST (BOY)

RABBI AND MRS. NOSSON SCHUMAN (GIRL)

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 MR. AND MRS. CHAIM WEISZNER AND LEVY
 MR. AND MRS. MITCHELL SPERO AND YISHAI
 RABBI AND MRS. MALKIEL HEFTER AND TZVI
 RABBI AND MRS. MORDECHAI SMILOWITZ AND YOSEF
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 MR. AND MRS. SHMUEL FEUER AND YOSEF MOSHE

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