



ומורנו הרב שמואל
מענדלאוויטץ זצ"ל

נתייסדה ע"י מורנו
הרב יהושע שיף זצ"ל

BUILDING ON FOUNDATIONS

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BUILDING *on* FOUNDATIONS



THE HEART *of* THE YESHIVA

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Mesivta Bais Shraga's newsletter, Building on Foundations. There are many exciting projects in the works here at Yeshiva, and we look forward to keeping you in the loop.

Why "Building on Foundations"?

Yiddishkeit is a dynamic, nuanced way of life. Today, when challenges beset us from every corner, it is not enough to stress only *hasmadah*. A yeshiva must strive to manufacture the *אדם השלם*, working from the ground up and instilling the foundations of true *gadlus*. In this way, an edifice is built that will withstand the test of time, one brick at a time.

The Yeshiva's goal is that as *bochurim* excel through the grades, they evolve into wholesome *bnei Torah*, equipped with tools they will use throughout their lives. Keeping a close

kesher with Rabbeim is an important part of the picture, as alumni continue to benefit from their advice and *hadrocha* in helping them build sincere *Yiddishe* homes through the years to come.

Our foundations were laid under the dedicated and noble leadership of HaRav Shea Schiff zt"l and HaRav Shmuel Mendlowitz zt"l, when Monsey was virtually devoid of Torah institutions. In the 63 years since, our wonderful leaders have continued to adhere to the vision of our spiritual forefather, HaRav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz zt"l. Bais Shraga has played an integral role in the nurturing of the fledgling community from the time it was taking its first baby steps towards becoming the thriving Monsey of today. Throughout the years as Monsey's

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THE HEART of THE YESHIVA

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flagship mesivta, Bais Shraga has quietly and without fanfare been a cornerstone of the ever-expanding, *choshuve* town that Monsey has become.

One illustration of this is the formation of **Ichud Hamosdos of Monsey**. Mesivta Bais Shraga is invested in the *kedusha* of its *talmidim*, continuously putting careful thought and effort into this area. As the challenge of the internet became a pressing concern for yeshivos and Bais Yaakovs, there was a need to formulate a standard that would satisfy the broad spectrum of local *mosdos*. Bais Shraga initiated Ichud Hamosdos, a coalition of many local *mosdos*, to agree upon a basic internet standard which would be adopted by participants. After several months of deliberation over the most practical approach, the guidelines were laid out. They were unanimously accepted.

Bein Hazmanim is another area of improvement. The Yeshiva exerts a concerted effort to help *talmidim* be in a safe, pure environment all year round, whether in or out of Yeshiva. Bais Shraga undertook the responsibility to organize a *geshmak* and enjoyable Bein Hazmanim program for its *talmidim*, and invited other yeshivos to join. The learning program, which includes meals and incentives, is *mechazek* the bochurim even when Yeshiva is not in session. Boruch Hashem, the project continues to see very rewarding results as scores of bochurim come together in learning throughout Monsey, in the multiple *batei medrash* that host the program.

Even before they enter the Yeshiva, the *hanholas hayeshiva* extends support to potential *talmidim* and their parents. At times there can be a lack of clarity that accompanies choosing the mesivta most suitable for their son. Generally, the decision is arrived at after consultation with their son's Menahel and/or Rabbeim—and of course, combined with *tefillos* for *siata d'Shmaya*. However, for the many parents that consider Mesivta Bais Shraga as an option, the process uniquely begins with a meeting between the parents and Menahel. They discuss their son's needs and get a clear understanding of the Yeshiva and its goals. These meetings are much appreciated by the parents,

as they have proven to be very beneficial in guiding them when choosing the appropriate yeshiva for their son.

Recently, the Yeshiva has initiated a new project geared to parents of our ninth graders. They are treated to a breakfast P.A.R.T.Y. at the beginning of the year, which is intended to apprise them of Parental Awareness of the Reality of Today's Youth. At this gathering, the Menahel helps parents understand the contemporary challenges, and equips them with proper tools to guide their son. Aside from this particular function, the menahel makes himself available to speak with parents privately whenever the need arises regarding issues, be it within the confines of Yeshiva or outside the *koslei bais hamedrash*.

For the last twenty five years, Mesivta Bais Shraga's successful

general studies program has been under the able stewardship of our English principal, Rav Yehuda Possick. As a noted *talmid chocham* and veteran principal, Rav Possick is, in a sense, a principals' principal for many other *mosdos*. Principals and *mechanchim* reach out to him time and time again for his invaluable guidance.

Additionally, Rav Possick

serves in the capacity of overseeing the voluntary supper Chutz L'Seder program. Chutz L'Seder is where the older *bnei haYeshiva* partner with the younger ones, to assist them in finishing the *masechta*. He also fills the role of night seder *bekius* Rebbe for the ninth grade, where he implements a unique system of *chazarah* and learning that enables the bochurim to truly retain the material in a meaningful way.

The Yeshiva is privileged to have a staff of Rabbeim and teachers that are highly experienced in multiple disciplines. They work hard to see to the constant growth of every bochur on an individual level. In essence, they seek to imbue in their *talmidim* all the attributes needed to create the *אדם השלם, אשר ימצא חן בעיני אלקים ואדם*. This, *b'siata d'Shmaya*, is accomplished by relying on the tireless and selflessly devoted staff, with the unstinting support of our esteemed families.

Thank you for being part of the Mesivta Bais Shraga family. May we all continue building on our foundations to achieve true and lasting greatness.

א פריילעכע חנוכה!



עמלות *With* ערבות

Walking through the Yeshiva hallways during seder, one hears the kol Torah ringing out pleasantly, inviting the onlooker to pause and observe. Joy and enthusiasm permeate every interaction between Rebbe and *talmidim*. Bais Shraga's dedicated *Rabbeim* impart a *geshmak* in learning, infusing the *bochurim* with Torah, *yiras shamayim*, and *simchas hachayim*!

Rav Aaron Dovid Willner



Rav Akiva Grossnass



Rav Aba Levitan



Rav Moshe Kovitz



Rav Avrohom Checkanow



EREV SHABBOS SHTTEIGING

והגית בו יומם ולילה

In a *bochur's* growth, sometimes it is the small things that make a big difference in shaping him into a *ben Torah*. Rav Daniel Kester's Chutz L'Chutz Program, which takes place on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights, is a game changer. The program includes *bochurim* from the tenth and eleventh grades that stay in Yeshiva for a voluntary seder after *ma'ariv*. Thursday night's seder is followed by a *geshmak kumtitz* and cholent.



“



Rav Emanuel Schiff

כל המקיים נפש אחת מישראל מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו *teach us that* דמו ודם זרעותיו תליין בו עד סוף העולם וקיים עולם מלא *ruchniyus* as well, and specifically to *mechanchim*. Boruch Hashem, Bais Shraga is *zoche* to have a staff of Rabbeim, partnering in chinuch with our wonderful parent body, who are constantly mindful of this principle. As such, they perform their job with exceptional integrity and *achrayus*.



Rav Feivel Mendlowitz

What a nachas it is to hear feedback from people who encounter Bais Shraga bochurim the world over. People are consistently impressed by their level in learning, middos tovos, and yiras shamayim. As it says in (כז) מחשלי:

“יהללך זר ולא פיר.”



Rav Aaron Dovid Willner

The close bond that the Rabbeim and the *talmidim* of the Yeshiva share promotes the smooth transmission of the *mesorah* of the past to the generation of the present.



Rav Akiva Grossnass

Our goal is to inculcate strong *sheifos* to constantly grow and *shteig*. שתולים בבית ה'. with strong roots deeply embedded and nurtured *b'koslei bais hamedrash*, then: בחצרות אלו קינו יפריחו. Every *talmid* will continue to flourish as an ambassador of Torah wherever life takes him. Boruch Hashem, our *talmidim* are a true testament.



Rav Zvi Tevlovits

Bais Shraga is a yeshiva where the Rabbeim aspire to inspire every *talmid* to grow and develop his individual and unique *kochos hanefesh* as a *yochid* within the *misgeres* of the *rabim*.



Rav Shlomo Kalter

Being in the unique position of interacting with eleventh, twelfth and bais medrash bochurim on a daily basis, affords me an unusual vantage point. It's impressive, and at the same time gratifying, to be constantly in the midst of a fever pitch *ruach* of *hasmoda* with a genuine *simchas hachayim* radiating from the *bochurim*.



Rav Shraga Schiff

The *hanholas haYeshiva* strives to perpetuate the *mesorah* of our grandfather, אאמו"ז הרב שרגא פייזויל זצוק"ל, through the efforts of our highly accomplished multi-generational staff of Ramim.

- Envisioning the needs...providing the wherewithal... producing the optimal Ben Torah of the future.
- Building on the ideals and the values of the past.
- Implemented through the pragmatic and nuanced approach to chinuch of the present.



Rav Avrohom Checkanow

It's a great simcha to see the *kiyum* of *divrei chazal* יגיעה ומצאת תאמין. May we never loose sight of our goal to continue to *shteig* through *yegiah*.



Rav Chaim Goldshtein

It is a hanoah to be part of a *mosad* that invests its *koiches* into producing *beni Torah* that are well rounded in Torah, *avodah*, and *gemilus chasodim*, and a שם טוב עולה על גביהם.



Rav Abba Levitan

נוצר תאנה יאכל פריה.
Seeing the transformation the *bochurim* undergo during their yeshiva years makes all the effort an extremely valuable investment!



Rav Moshe Kovitz

The excitement the *bochurim* express in their learning is a true inspiration for us to forge ahead in our *avodas hakodesh*.



Rav Yehuda Possick

"והערב נא!" The sweetness of Torah comes alive as the *bochurim* acquire *blatt* after *blatt*, *perek* after *perek*, and b'ezras Hashem finish the entire *mesechta*. It all starts in the ninth grade as the *bochurim shteig*, and continue to *shteig* all throughout their *mesivta* and *bais medrash* years. What a *nachas* to watch. חזרה! חזרה! חזרה!



Rav Yehuda Reidel

It's a true *nachas* to watch my *talmidim* go from being elementary school boys, to becoming yeshiva *bochurim*, and continuing to develop into true *beni Torah* throughout their *mesivta* and *bais medrash* years.

BUILDING FOR A NEW

ERA

EXPANSION RENOVATION ADDITION

A complete update of the Yeshiva's campus is underway to meet the needs of today's bochurim.

ADDITION - GYM

A new state-of-the-art gym is planned to afford today's bochurim a much-needed outlet.

EXPANSION

New and enlarged bais medrash, library, and connecting atrium lobby.

NEW BUILDING
Houses new
classroom
administration
meet today's



1956



1959



1960



RENOVATION - DORMITORY

The dormitory, built in the mid-70's, is in urgent need of comprehensive renovations.

BUILDING
new spacious
rooms and
administrative offices to
meet today's needs.

An Alumnus Returns: R' Mendy Rosen, New Director of Development

R' Mendy Rosen has joined the Yeshiva as Director of Development. As a proud alumnus of Mesivta Bais Shraga, R'



Mendy is passionate about the Yeshiva, and enthusiastic about having a hand in bringing Bais Shraga into the next phase of growth and success. "So far, boruch Hashem, the Yeshiva has had *siata d'Shmaya* with the great success of its innovative Purim campaign and parlor meeting. There are more exciting projects in the planning stages," says R' Mendy.

"It's an extraordinary privilege to return to the Yeshiva that invested so much into my growth, and as such I'm eagerly looking forward to giving back to the Yeshiva in whatever way I can. Additionally, I feel very fortunate to be in a position to appreciate the scope of the incredible work that's involved in pulling everything together in this amazing *makom* Torah. The *roshei haYeshiva* together with the entire staff of *ramim* are truly commendable for their dedication and diligence in producing the new generation of tomorrow's wholesome *b'nei Torah*."

One significant project is this year's dinner. An active committee has been formed, and is currently working diligently on enhancing the dinner to create an unprecedented Bais Shraga event. Stay tuned for more details to come! 🏡



1964



1970



1975

2019 HIGHLIGHTS *A look back*

סולל

Bais Shraga's successful Purim program has been running for over twenty years, but this past year a decision was made to push it to the next level. A brand-new initiative was conceived that would enable the *bochurim* to celebrate Purim in the best way possible—staying in the Bais Medrash and learning on Purim night. The proposal: if they divided up Meseches Yevomos amongst themselves, could the bochurim indeed finish the entire *mesechta* forty times by Lag Ba'Omer? Since it is no simple feat to be mesayem Yevomos even once, this was quite a daunting undertaking. Additionally, through recruiting sponsors

for their learning and having the donations matched, could the *bochurim* raise the same amount for the Yeshiva as if they had gone collecting?



טעג

...As it turned out, they did! It was with a sense of accomplishment and true *simchas hatorah* that the *bochurim* completed the learning of *Yevomos*, one of the hardest *masechtos* in all of *shas*, not once, but forty times. They had great *hatzlocha* with raising funds as well, and *b'siata d'Shmaya* they succeeded in bringing in well over the average amount raised by the *bochurim* in previous years.

The Yeshiva celebrated with a grand *siyum* on Lag Ba'Omer. Taking part in this milestone event was a great inspiration for all those they did, as they enjoyed the beautiful *seudah*, inspirational guest speaker, and joyful singing and dancing. Bais Shraga *bochurim* put their hearts into achieving this goal, and their effort and determination truly paid off—אין דבר העומד בפני הרצון.



REJUVENATION & EXTRACURRICULAR



Swimming at the Schwab's



CHASDEI LEV Distribution

The Yeshiva staff were proud of the Bais Shraga student turnout at the seasonal Chasdei Lev Yom Tov distributions. Chasdei Lev's mission is to give back to Rabbeim, teachers, and their families in appreciation for their tremendous devotion. It was a *zchus* for the *bochurim* to be able to express their *hakaras hatov* to the dedicated Rabbeim and their families, and to support the amazing work of this wonderful organization. Coordinated by a Bais Shraga parent, the Monsey branch of Chasdei Lev is run with dedication and selflessness that serve as a shining example to all.



ראו כמה נאים דרכיו כמה מחוקנים מעשיו

(יומא פו:א)

It's official, Bais Shraga is one of the most sought-after bus routes in the East Ramapo transportation district!

The beginning of the year is when routes are assigned to the bus drivers. As a former driver revealed, "The drivers would vie for two routes. One of them belongs to one of the local Jewish girl's high schools, and the other belongs to Bais Shraga." He went on to explain that everyone wants well-behaved students on their buses, and it is well known that Bais Shraga is the boys school with the best behaved students in the entire Monsey.

"We couldn't agree on who should get those routes," said the driver. "So in the end, it was decided by drawing a raffle. That is how we worked it out each year."

What a kiddush Hashem!



סיום השנה



Our annual Siyum Hashonah celebrated a year of learning and *hasmoda* along with the *siyum hamasechta*. Hundreds of *sefarim* were distributed in acknowledgement of the effort that went into completing a year of multifaceted growth. This past year, the program was streamlined and coordinated in an

organized fashion, enabling our esteemed parent body to enjoy their *nachas* in the most convenient way possible. The *siyum* was a remarkable *chizuk* for the *talmidim*, as well as for the many parents who attended, allowing them to watch in delight as their children completed another successful year of *shteiging*. 🏔️



חלוצה מלכה



Rav Zvi Tevlovits sharing divrei chizuk with the choshuva oilum

Bais Shraga's second annual Alumni Melave Malka took place in Lakewood, NJ this past Adar. There was an impressive turnout of bochorim and yungeleit, who were greeted with warmth by their former Roshei Yeshiva and Rabbeim. It was a beautiful evening of inspiration and reinvigoration. The alumni sat among the familiar faces



A bond maintained and nurtured throughout their lives

of their friends, enjoying another *geshmak* Yeshiva reunion.

The event exemplified Bais Shraga's bond with its alumni, a bond maintained and nurtured throughout their lives. As the

attendees left the hall, the overall feeling was that although they may have moved on to the next stage, the warmth and connection to their mesivta days is still going strong.

The Yeshiva is invested in maintaining a *kesher* with its *talmidim*. We've begun on a small scale, with *talmidim* that recently graduated, and

we are looking forward to our next melave malka, where we would like to expand the event and include alumni of all ages. We invite all alumni to come forth and reach out, so that we can reconnect. 🇮🇱

UPDATING OUR DATABASE

is the first step in maintaining the connection between the Yeshiva and its talmidim. Thank you in advance for taking the time to contact the Yeshiva office with your updated address, phone number, and email address. You can email your updated information to office@baishraga.org.





MESIVTA BAIS SHRAGA

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