

the gift of torah

טוב לי תורת פיך מאלפי זהב וכסף



Torah School of Greater Washington

HONORARY HACHNOSAS SEFER TORAH EVENT

IN TRIBUTE TO RABBI YITZCHAK & MRS. ROCHEL CHARNER



1977 – 1981

1981 – 1986

1986 – Present

New Orleans, LA

1977 – 1981

How do we say thank you to Rabbi and Mrs. Charner for their lifetime of work? How can we honor decades of service to the klal? Please join us for a peek at the past. We'll discover both the secrets to the Charners' success and the key to showing our appreciation as R' Charner retires.

New Orleans in the 1970s was far from the Jewish comforts of the East Coast. Kosher bread meant a day trip to Mobile, Alabama. Kosher meat and chicken were trucked to the Charners' home in huge crates, which sat dripping on their floor as they sorted out the group order.

But the Charners were in New Orleans to teach Hashem's Torah. Harbotzas HaTorah, spreading Torah, was in their blood. In the 1950s, each of their fathers founded a school, one in Louisville, Kentucky, and one in Vineland, New Jersey. Rabbi Charner's parents were noted lifelong educators. Mrs. Charner's mother ran the Kew Garden Hills mikvah for several decades.

So, when Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim and Torah Umesorah sent a group of young, energetic kollel rabbis to revive New Orleans' Lakeshore Hebrew Day School (now Slater Torah Academy), the Charners were in! The rabbis taught half the day and learned in kollel half the day. Many of the wives, including Mrs. Charner, taught, too. They hosted community families and children on Shabbos and Yom Tov.

Rabbi Charner quickly took a leadership role, serving as principal of the day school in 1980-81. Students and fellow teachers appreciated his dedication, scholarship, and attention to detail. But more than that, the impact of the Charners' warmth and Torah-inspired life remained with their young students for decades.

Memories

"Rabbi Charner is a born leader and an amazing friend. He convinced us to come with the group to New Orleans. When he became principal, he taught me so much about teaching. I wouldn't be where I am without him."

RABBI AVROHOM JAKUBOWICZ
Rebbi, Providence Hebrew Day School

"Rabbi Charner was my rebbi and principal in New Orleans and then Dallas for high school. After 8th grade, when I found out he was moving to Dallas, I told him that now I'd be in his office for another four years! R' Charner's influence affects generations. Forty years later, I'm still leining because he taught me how. He instilled a strong understanding of living a Torah life that I passed on to my family, and my children are now doing with their families."

JOEL BROWN
Owner, Kosher Cajun



With Rav Nota Greenblatt



Kollel Rabbis



A Young Class

1977 – 1981

1981 – 1986

1986 – Present

Dallas, TX

1981 – 1986

In 1981, the Charners traded their Mardi Gras beads for cowboy boots. They moved to Dallas, Texas, where Rabbi Charner was principal of a boys' yeshiva, Torah High School of Texas. Rabbi Charner capably led the young school, overseeing Judaic and secular studies. Soon, the yeshiva earned Texas state accreditation and attracted students from all over the country.

Rabbi Charner was rebbi, mentor, and "father" to the boys, many of whom came from out of state and lived in the dormitory. He was there to wake them up in the morning and was on call late into the night. Yeshiva boys frequented the Charner home. A few even lived there for short times. They came for the inspiration, the connection, and, let's be honest, Mrs. Charner's famous cherry pie.

In the classroom, Rabbi Charner taught his students gemara. Outside the classroom, he role modeled davening, avodas hamiddos, and a Torah life. Those teenage boys from the 1980s are now fathers and grandfathers who still call their rebbi for answers, advice, and encouragement.

Memories

"When Rabbi Charner taught something, he was immersed in it. He would not leave out a detail. Rabbi Charner was only satisfied when the students understood, not necessarily when he was done with a lecture. As a teacher and principal, Rabbi Charner would provide a lesson when no specific lecture was being taught. Students would see how he interacted with other students, teachers, and his family. Rabbi Charner is the only one I keep up with of all the school teachers I had. I know that if I have a question, I can rely on an answer from Rabbi Charner."

MICHAEL ALOOF
Owner, MJA Technologies

"Many, many years ago, I began my journey into Orthodox Judaism. Rabbi Charner became a guide, a friend, and someone I am proud to call "Rebbi." People like Rabbi and Rebbetzin Charner radiate goodness and all that is right with Torah Judaism. Their impact on my life isn't just from being my rebbi forty years ago but as an ever-present role model. Whether you've realized it or not, your influence, kindness, and patience (certainly with my questions about Star Wars watches on Shabbat) impact me every single day."

JEFF MINSKY
Chief Marketing Officer, North America, Invsion



Torah High School Beis Medrash



Learning Gemara

1977 – 1981

1981 – 1986

1986 – Present

Silver Spring, MD

1986 – Present

In 1986, the Charners moved back east to Silver Spring, where Rabbi Charner became principal of Hebrew Day School of Montgomery County (HDS). Once again, the Charners worked their magic, creating close, warm, lasting relationships with the HDS students and families. For some, HDS was their first interaction with Yiddishkeit, and the Charners drew them in. Rabbi Charner developed and grew HDS, building his own reputation along with the school's.

In 1994, Rabbi Charner, with the encouragement and support of community leaders, decided to act upon his dream. He would provide the Greater Washington community with an Orthodox Jewish day school molded on his vision. Rabbi Charner moved into his most well-known and impactful role: a founder and Headmaster of the Torah School of Greater Washington. He developed the Torah School from a small start-up with only 84 students to a nationally respected institution enrolling 350+ children a year. Since its inception, TSGW has had over 900 graduates, and even more students have passed through its doors!

Rabbi Charner's stamp is embedded in every aspect of the Torah School, from the fine-tuned curricula to the middos programs to the entertaining weekly letters. Students receive personalized attention and education to grow at their own level. Parents, children, and teachers know that Rabbi Charner is dedicated to their success. Beginning in Morah Rochel's kindergarten, students are instilled with an enduring love for Torah living and Torah learning.

Once a student, always a student. The Charners keep up with Torah School graduates, guiding them and attending (or even hosting!) their s'machos. Many of the school's current enrollees are sons and daughters of alumni. Through the Torah School, the Charners influenced two generations and built Silver Spring's Torah community.

Memories

"I met Rabbi Charner in 1981 when my brother and I were students at Torah High School of Texas. Rabbi Charner was an amazing teacher, reaching every student al pi darko. He had a good sense of what we were capable of, and he did his best to make sure we lived up to those expectations. I was thrilled to be back with Rabbi Charner many years later when my sons attended the Torah School. He and the entire Torah School team were completely dedicated to helping my kids succeed."

SETH KATZ

Vice President, Smart Computer Co

"The Torah School is the gem in Rabbi Charner's crown. He took a fledgling school and made it into a powerhouse. This is where he built Torah with the Charner imprint, making it beloved to all."

RABBI TZVI ROSEN

Star-K Kashrus Administrator

"In 1994, it was decided that there was a need for a new school in the Greater Washington area. Because of Rabbi Charner's obvious love and understanding of his students, his desire to accommodate their needs, and his passion to instill in the children a lifelong love of Torah, Rabbi Winter zt"l knew that he was undoubtedly the right one who could put together a school with a high-level Judaic and secular education with a focus on middos and kavod hatorah."

REBBETZIN RIVKA (WINTER) ROTHENBERG

Wife of Rabbi Winter zt"l, Torah School Founder



Through the decades and around the country, the Charners dedicated their lives to teaching Torah. They were Torah pioneers long before it was the “in” thing to do. Through their mesirus nefesh, they touched the lives of thousands of students.

How do we express appreciation for the gift of Torah? As Dovid HaMelech said in Tehillim, “טוב לי תורת פיך מאלפי זהב וכסף” – I prefer your Torah more than thousands of gold and silver pieces.” For those who treasure Torah, the material world has no significance. The only fitting tribute to a life of Torah is the Torah itself!

Let's honor and thank Rabbi & Mrs. Charner
with the only currency they ever valued – Torah!



PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS SEFER TORAH CAMPAIGN!

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