



# YOSS

## *Advancing*

Winter 2018

SHIVA AND MESIVTA TORAS CHAIM  
AT  
SOUTH SHORE  
FOUNDED 1927, RABBI ISAAC SHMIDMAN

### Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l

# LEGACY CAMPAIGN



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of our founding Rosh Yeshiva,  
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# MESSAGE FROM THE ROSH YESHIVA



Sefer Shemos is the story of the emergence of Klal Yisrael from a small tribe of the progeny of Yaakov, to a thriving nation with millions of descendants, who accepted upon themselves the yoke of Torah. It is the story of a nation that went out to a desert and sowed the seeds of the future – a future that thrives to this very day.

More than sixty years ago, my grandfather Rav Yaakov Kamenetzky, zt"l, charged my father and mother with the formidable task, "Go to the desert and plant the seeds of Torah." What started as a fledgling school with six or seven boys, flourished more than a hundred fold. With institutions of tefilah, and higher Torah learning, all the outgrowth of that initial foray into the desert, my father's impact is not only eternal but ever-expanding.

This year's dinner will mark both the commemoration of those accomplishments and a commitment to the renewal, refurbishment and expansion of the Torah facility he built brick by brick in 1964.

Whether you are a student, an alumnus, a parent or community member, my father's vision touched your life, and I hope that you will join us in honoring his.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mordechai Kamenetzky".

Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky



# MENAHHEL SPOTLIGHT

Educating in the Tradition of Rav Binyamin, zt"l

## Rabbi Avraham Robinson Associate Menahel, Elementary Division

### How did you get started in chinuch?

A Denver native, I was born and raised in a chinuch home, as my father was a rebbe and principal in the local yeshiva. I spent my formative years under the tutelage of my Rosh HaYeshiva, Harav Yisroel Meir Kagan, Shlita in Denver and then traveled to the Mir Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel. After getting married, I attended the Chaim Berlin kollel and eventually pursued a master's degree in social work. I graduated in 2011 and joined YOSS as a middle school rebbe.

### What is your current role at YOSS?

After lovingly serving as a rebbe for six years, I was asked to serve as the Associate Menahel for grades 1-5. My primary focus is to spend my time "in the trenches" with our rabbeim. From designing specific classroom strategies to heading the elementary school's Bachurei - Chemed Yedidei Hashem middos program, I hope to develop a limudei kodosh program that will reach and bring out the best in each child.

### What is your goal for today's YOSS students?

Today's children face a challenging time, one that attempts to strip them of their true Jewish identity. My goal is to instill identity, pride and positive energy in our children, so they stand for something greater than themselves and remain proud of who they are. I strive to be a role model for our students and help

them recognize the beauty and warmth of Torah; to create a standard in middos tovos they will carry with them throughout their lives.



## Rabbi Zev Davidowitz Menahel HaMechina

### How did you get started in chinuch?

I am fortunate to have been raised in a home where Torah was at the forefront of our lives. My father is the long-time Menahel of the Yeshiva of Rochester and my mother has taught elementary and high school students for more than 35 years. For as long as I can remember, my life was centered around a yeshiva. My rabbeim infused me with the passion to do whatever I can to inspire the next generation of Klal Yisrael.

### What is your current role at YOSS?

I serve as the Menahel HaMechina (middle school division). The Mechina is a place where boys become young men with the tools, knowledge and love of Torah that will serve as their foundation as they enter their High School Mesivta years and beyond.

### What is your goal for today's YOSS students?

To teach our talmidim to be self-aware, to self-advocate and that they have what it takes to be successful! We strive to provide a positive and warm Torah environment to ensure that they realize their incredible potential. We give them the confidence to shoot for the stars and the support that they need to actually reach them!



# REMEMBERING

## Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky ז"ל

Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky, ז"ל, was a man whose smile was as renowned as his accomplishments. For over 60 years, he nurtured and built the Five Towns with his warmth, determination and commitment to the community. He led with his actions and worked tirelessly to not only found Yeshiva of South Shore but also many of the flagship Shuls and Yeshivos in the area. He was a comforting presence whose counsel was valued in political, social and religious arenas.

Rav Binyamin's inspiring story embodies many manifestations. He began as a yeshiva bochur in pre-War Europe in Telshe, and then was a refugee in Canada, who learned under great Roshei Yeshiva in New York and Baltimore during the War. He was involved in the cause of aiding Holocaust refugees, and was one of the youngest rabbis to join the historic March on Washington in 1943. He was a dynamic pulpit rabbi and a cherished elementary school rebbe in Yeshiva Toras Chaim in East New York. His life's mission was realized in 1956 when, together with Rebbetzin Tzirel, א"ה, and three daughters, he moved to the Five Towns.

Rav Binyamin's pursuit in life was helping others. He had the unique ability to connect with all types of people in meaningful, non-judgmental and impactful ways. While he never looked to call attention to himself, there has been an outpouring of touching memories since his passing. In order to honor his memory, shed light on his life and continue his legacy there are a number of exciting projects that are underway.



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### A WEEKLY COLUMN

"Remembering Rav Binyamin," in The Jewish Home

### "SEFER, ISH YEMINI"

a collection of hundreds of Rav Binyamin's Torah thoughts and speeches

### "FLOWERS IN THE DESERT,"

a coffee table book, detailing the history of the early growth of the Orthodox community of Five Towns, and the rabbis and institutions that made our thriving community a reality

### A VIDEO SERIES

based on Rav Binyamin's own interviews and those of his students and admirers

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Please email [SK@RBKLegacy.org](mailto:SK@RBKLegacy.org) to share any "Remembering Rav Binyamin" stories.



# Yeshiva of South Shore OVER *the* YEARS



**1956**

Rav Binyamin founds the Yeshiva of South Shore in Woodmere, New York.



**1964**

Construction of Yeshiva of South Shore Hewlett campus begins.



**1966**

Construction is completed. YOSS merges with Yeshiva Toras Chaim of East New York.



**1970**

Gedalia Maidenbaum Preparatory School is established and built.



**1984**

Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Yaakov is founded. Named for Rav Binyamin's father, it is led by his son-in-law, Rabbi Yitzchok Knobel.



**1999-2007**

The Yeshiva, on the newly dedicated 4½ acre Dr. Manfred R. & Jamie Lehmann Campus, continues to expand and grow.

**1999**

The Yeshiva expands with the construction of the Milton and Sandra Ostreicher Building.

**1996**

The Hollander Early Childhood Center is dedicated on the Yeshiva of South Shore campus.

**1986**

Mesivta Ateres Yaakov - The Ruth and Hyman Simon High School is founded.

**2013**

In honor of Rav Binyamin's 90th birthday, the community joins to burn the multi-million dollar mortgage on all the Yeshiva's properties.

**2017**

Petirah of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky, zt"l.



**2018 and on...**

Today, with close to 700 students, Rav Binyamin's dream is still growing within the building he built 50 years ago!





VISIONARY  
LEADER

COMMUNITY  
BUILDER

Rav Binyamin  
Kamenetzky zt"l

LEGACY  
CAMPAIGN





The Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky, zt"l, Legacy Campaign serves to honor the memory of a visionary leader and community builder who devoted his life to providing a Jewish foundation to countless individuals. Guided by Rav Binyamin's principles of kindness, respect and communal responsibility, the campaign will strive to continue his mission.

The Yeshiva of South Shore was Rav Binyamin's labor of love and the centerpiece of his vision. It is the makom Torah in which he nurtured and inspired generations of students. The campaign is dedicated to ensuring that the Yeshiva continues to thrive and that its building can be renovated to meet the needs of current and future students.



### **Building Renovation and Dedication**

To accommodate its almost 700 talmidim, YOSS is embarking on a multifaceted renovation campaign to update, refurbish and expand the Yeshiva's existing facilities – which in some cases are over 50 years old. Renovations will include adding classrooms, a gym and other important areas in the elementary building. Dedication opportunities are available at all levels to help support this pivotal campaign.



### **A Shabbos of Appreciation Parshas Shemini**

A special Shabbos will precede the yahrtzeit to commemorate Rav Binyamin's legacy together as a community. The commemorative weekend will feature drashos and events at the various shuls and institutions of Torah that he founded and helped develop throughout his lifetime.



### **Memorial Dinner.....4.15.18**

On Sunday evening, April 15th, 2018 the 61st annual YOSS dinner will honor the legacy and memory of Rav Binyamin, its founding Rosh Yeshiva. As part of the central theme of the evening, a video presentation will take attendees on a historical look back at his incredible life of accomplishments and YOSS's commitment to the future of education.



### **Yahrtzeit Tribute.....2 Iyar 5778**

Beginning the next evening, Monday, April 16th and continuing on Tuesday, April 17th there will be a yahrtzeit commemoration for family, friends, community members and students at Yeshiva of South Shore. The tributes will include a Siyum Mishnayos and Divrei Hespel that will reflect on Rav Binyamin's legacy of Middos Tovos, Ahavas Yisroel and Ahavas Hashem. The Menahalim of the Yeshiva will also be coordinating various memorial projects.



# THE CONNECTION CONTINUES!

## Mechina Principals Visit 9th Grade Alumni at Area High Schools

Our graduates may move on to the best mesivtos and high schools in the area, but they will always be part of the Yeshiva of South Shore family. In the tradition of Rabbi Binyamin Kamenetzky, zt"l, who believed "a talmid is always a talmid," Rabbi Zev Davidowitz, Menahel HaMechina and Mr. Daniel Winkler, Principal General Studies visited local high schools "to check on their boys" and to evaluate each high school in terms of future graduates.

The goal of these visits was to see how their talmidim have transitioned and adjusted to life in the next phase of their academic

careers, as well as to continue and strengthen the bond that they share with each graduate.

While touring the yeshivos, Rabbi Davidowitz and Mr. Winkler not only spoke with their former students but they also met with each High School Menahel and Principal. They sat in on shiurim and classes and watched the boys in action.

Tracking talmidim's progress also gave valuable data and insight into many facets of the YOSS Mechina program. That information is being used in "real time" as the current graduating class completes their 8th grade year.

"We really try to guide each of our students to select the high school that is the best fit for their individual needs," said Mr. Winkler. "These visits are important because we can recommend placements based on our first-hand knowledge and adjust our curriculum to ensure our boys are prepared. We're also building relationships with the high school administrators and we regularly check-in and consult on our boys."

YOSS graduates have a stellar reputation and the nachas reports that Rabbi Davidowitz and Mr. Winkler received were truly incredible.



Class of 2017, receiving their Gemaros with Rav Binyamin, zt"l in 2014 and at their graduation in June, 2017.





# Rav Binyamin's LEGACY OF MIDDOS

## "Bachurei Chemed – Yedidei Hashem" Follows Rav Binyamin's Example

Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky, established the Yeshiva of South Shore's "Bachurei Chemed" society, decades before middos tovos and derech ertz were stressed in yeshivos.

Our Yeshiva rededicated it in his memory to be forever known as "Bachurei Chemed – Yedidei Hashem," based on Moshe's blessing to the tribe of Binyamin, "L'Binyamin amar yedid Hashem..."

The program has expanded to inspire the entire student body on every level. The youngest boys are learning about and participating in 12 cycles of basic middos and derech ertz that correspond to the 12 Shevatim.

Most recently, the theme of Levi, the tribe dressed in honor of the service in the Beis HaMikdash, inspired the boys to dress as bnei Torah in a neat and distinguished manner. The children also learned the importance of the mitzvah of tzitzis, and keeping their yarmulkes on even while playing during recess.

In addition to major prizes, the boys are receiving pictures of Rav Binyamin interacting with Torah giants. Bachurei Chemed has been a huge success so far, and the Rabbeim continue to encourage and oversee the boys' progress.



Rav Binyamin, zt"l with  
Rav Matisyahu Salomon, shlit"a



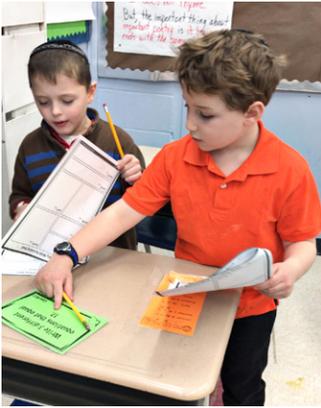
Rav Binyamin, zt"l with  
Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, zt"l



Rav Binyamin, zt"l with  
Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman, zt"l

# Memorable Moments AT YOSS







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# - SAVE THE DATE -

MEMORIAL DINNER

SUNDAY

APRIL  
15<sup>TH</sup>  
2018

THE SANDS  
ATLANTIC BEACH



**BUILDING  
RENOVATION  
& DEDICATION**



**COMMUNITY  
SHABBOS**  
Parshas Shemini



**YAHRTZEIT  
TRIBUTE**  
2 Iyar 5778

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