

AGRA D'PIRKA OF FLATBUSH CELEBRATES A SIYUM

In his former life, Reb Yitzchok K. was an adjunct professor teaching at a graduate school MBA program. Despite his prestigious position, he yearned for the day he could pursue his true passion, learning Torah. Three years ago, he took early retirement so that he could learn in *kollel*. Lucky for him, Agra D'Pirka was already thriving in Flatbush.

"My sons and sons-in-law were learning in *kollel* for many years," he explains. "It's my turn now!"

Reb Yitzchok is not alone. Hundreds of *ba'alei batim*, many of them recently retired or semi-retired, are joining Agra D'Pirka, a serious learning program geared towards local professionals, business owners, college students, retirees or anyone who wishes to increase his morning *limud haTorah*, founded by Reb Ezra Klein of Brooklyn.

Agra D'Pirka includes a network of morning *kollelim* in four locations: Boro Park, Flatbush, Queens and Lakewood. The program runs from 9:30-11:30 with an outstanding roster of *maggidei shiur* at each location. The Flatbush program is held at Knesses Bais Avigdor on Avenue J and East 18th Street. Coffee and danishes are served every morning.

Recently, Rav Shmuel Simcha Horowitz's morning *shiur* made a *siyum* on *Masechtas Sotah*, and over seventy community members joined the *mesaynim* to celebrate. The program included an expression of *hakoras hatov* from Agra D'Pirka's founder, Reb Ezra Klein. "I'd like to thank the *Ribono Shel Olam* for making this possible," he said. "And also all the *rabbonim* and *roshei yeshiva*."

Rav Horowitz gives the early morning *shiur* in the Flatbush Agra D'Pirka location and has delivered the *shiur* since the program's inception. The second *shiur* is presented by alternating *maggidei shiur* each day of the week, including a riveting *shiur* on *Mishlei* delivered by Rav Kahn every Thursday.

Says Reb Ezra, "I saw [Rav Horowitz] trudging to the *shiur* every single day for over six years through hail and storm, thick and thin, to deliver over a thousand *shiurim*. We owe him... extraordinary... *hakoras hatov*." Reb Ezra also thanked Rav Aharon Kahn, *mara d'asra* of the *shul*, for his assistance and guidance.

After learning the last *mishnah* of the *masechtah*, Rav Horowitz recited the *Hadran*, as the *mesaynim* glowed with personal pride.

Rav Horowitz then went on to praise Agra D'Pirka, calling it, "the *emesdik chiyus* of Torah," and saying, "It's a *zechus* to have a *cheilek* in this."

Rav Kahn also addressed the guests, speaking about the unique relationship between *chavrusas* who are respectful of each other. "There is no '*ani*'. Each *chavrusa* wants to know, 'what are you saying? How do you understand the *sugyah*?' This type of *machlokes* creates the ultimate Torah."

Rav Kahn thanked Reb Ezra, saying, "He was able to give this incredible *zechus* to *Klal Yisrael*." He added, "I'll never forget the people who came over to me and cried... real tears [when circumstances forced them to leave the program]," indicative of the tremendous positive impact Agra D'Pirka has on its participants.



YESHIVA BAIS MIKROH CELEBRATES OVER FOUR DECADES OF TORAH CHINUCH

On Monday evening, May 18th, Yeshiva Bais Mikroh will be celebrating forty years of outstanding *chinuch* at its Annual Dinner, to be held in Ateres Chara in Monsey. The *yeshiva* was founded by Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky *zt"l*, who envisioned a *mokom* Torah that would cater to the needs of the growing Torah community in Monsey.

Fast forward four decades, and Rav Yaakov's vision and foresight are apparent. Currently, there are nearly six hundred *talmidim* at Bais Mikroh, with two or three parallel classes in each grade. It is a *mosad* dedicated to excellence, a source of pride to the Monsey community.

One sixth grade *rebbe* says, "Our *cheder* is a model of excellence in both Torah and *avodah*. The boys strive and grow. There's a *sheifah* for *Gaullus* both as a *mentch* and as a *ben Torah*."

Much of the *yeshiva's* success is attributed to its *menahel*, Rav Gavriel Bodenheimer, who is dedicated to each individual *talmid*. He is assisted by Rav Aryeh Schechter for the lower grades and Rav Mordechai Barkany for the upper grades, as well as the *yeshiva's* *mashgiach*, Rav Weissberger. The *rabbeim* and *moros* at Bais Mikroh are enthusiastic and talented, inspiring the children to reach their highest potential while generating a deep, lifelong love of learning.

Bais Mikroh graduates are sought after by the most prestigious *mesivtos*. They know that a Bais Mikroh *bochur* is a *ben Torah* who will become a source of pride to *Klal Yisrael*.

At this year's dinner, the *yeshiva* will embark upon an ambitious Building Campaign. Having long outgrown its current facilities, an expansion is in the plans. The *yeshiva's* new building will be triple its current size and will include classrooms, a dining room, a *beis medrash*, spacious gym facilities, and an enclosed rooftop play area for the younger grades to enjoy. All in all, it will be a dramatic change for the *talmidim* that will benefit their *chinuch*.

Rabbi Avrohom Beer will be honored as *Rebbi* of the Year, and Mr. and Mrs. Adam Marlin will be honored as Parents of the Year. The Alumnus of the Year Award will be presented to Rabbi and Mrs. Chaim Tuvia Mikel. Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchok Posen will be the recipients of the Reb Yosef and Ilse Hofman Legacy Award. Mr. and Mrs. Yaron Malik will receive the *Kesser Shem Tov* Award and Yitzchok Wagner will serve as Dinner Chairman.

The dinner promises to be refreshingly innovative, and parents and friends of the *yeshiva* will experience an enjoyable evening. The program will include many upgrades, including a series of professionally filmed video presentations and a compact program that is captivating and inspiring.

It's been a long time since Rav Yaakov first envisioned a *yeshiva* called Bais Mikroh. Since then, the Monsey community and the world at large have changed dramatically, yet the spirit of the *yeshiva* remains integral to its mandate. Throughout its growth, Bais Mikroh hasn't wavered from its commitment to the ideals and principles of its founder.