

Torah Umesorah Opens New Division

BY SHAI RIKLIS

Torah Umesorah is once again taking steps to ensure the fiscal stability of its affiliated schools, opening a new department for that purpose called the Division of School Sustainability, to be directed by Mr. Dennis M. Eisenberg.

After 28 years as executive vice president of Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn, Mr. Eisenberg stepped down from that position in 2011 to create DME Partners, a nonprofit consulting firm.

Shortly thereafter he joined Torah Umesorah in the establishment of the organization's Leadership and Fundraising Academy, a groundbreaking initiative to train financial leaders who serve yeshivos across the continent. As director of the yearlong academy, a position Mr. Eisenberg will maintain alongside his new directorship, he is currently training 24 young men in management, finance and fundraising.

"We hope to be able to send these professionals out to schools so that they can make a real difference," Mr. Eisenberg said.

Torah Umesorah represents or is affiliated with approximately 750 yeshivos, day schools and Bais Yaakovs throughout the U.S. and Canada. Many of these *mosdos* are experiencing the same financial woes as the community at large, and the services of the Division of School Sustainability can help.

In expressing his confidence in the newest Torah Umesorah director, Rabbi Zvi Bloom, TU's executive director, stated, "Dennis has the knowledge, skills and experience to help our



Dennis Eisenberg

schools meet any challenge. We look forward, through extending his time, to adding a new dimension to our school partnerships."

Building upon the successes of the academy, Torah Umesorah will be using Mr. Eisenberg's experience and expertise to reach out to its school network and offer consultations. School Sustainability reps will visit schools in need of assistance in operational and fiscal management. Among the services to be provided are professional training, board development, solicitation training, fundraising, and strategic planning.

"Our goal in appointing Mr. Eisenberg as director of school sustainability is to strengthen our *mosdos* by providing the professional financial resources and employing best practices to ensure their sustainability and growth," commented Rabbi Dovid Nojowitz, *menahel* of Torah Umesorah.

For further information contact Dennis Eisenberg directly at (212) 227-1000 X4571, or email Deisenberg@torah-umesorah.org.

A Fitting Tribute: Yeshivas Novominsk Sefer Torah Dedication

On Sunday, May 12/3 Sivan, a historic occasion will take place that is generating enormous excitement in the Torah world: the completion of a *sefer Torah* written *lichvod* Harav Yaakov Perlow, the Novominsker Rebbe, *shlita*. The *sefer Torah* will be completed in the Rebbe's *beis medrash* at 1644 48th Street and will be brought to Yeshivas Novominsk at 1690 60th Street. Buses will be provided to Ateres Chaya, where the *seudas mitzvah*/Annual Dinner will be held.

"It was challenging to find a meaningful and acceptable way to show our *hakaras hatov* to the Rebbe, *shlita*," says Mendy Feigenbaum, who serves, together with Avrohom Frankel and Dovid Singer, as *Sefer Torah* Campaign Chairman. "The Rebbe has been serving the *klal* for decades and has never allowed a public recognition of his efforts. But the dedication of a *sefer Torah lichvodo* is a befitting tribute for a *Gadol* who has dedicated his life to *harbotzas haTorah*."

Indeed, Yeshivas Novominsk has been at the forefront of the Rebbe's life since the day in 1984 when a group of parents in Boro Park approached him with a request: The parents were looking for a *mesivta*/high school for their sons that would combine the elements of a chassidish, *heimishe varemkeit* with the superlative learning associated with litvishe yeshivos. They asked the Rebbe to start a yeshiva.

These parents had a connection to the Rebbe either as *mis-pallelim* in his *beis medrash* or through his years in *chinuch*. They knew him as a *mechanech* who was deeply concerned with the welfare of his *talmidim*; this emboldened them to approach

the Rebbe with the idea.

From the beginning, the philosophy was to create a *makom Torah* that would be focused on the individual *bachur*; to help him grow to his greatest potential, not to *force* him to grow; to *help* him with love, patience and understanding.

"We started the yeshiva with the idea that boys would feel comfortable here," says Avrohom Frankel, who was part of that inaugural group of parents. "We wanted our children to feel that they had a yeshiva that would encompass all they needed to succeed as *bonei Torah* and *mentchen*. When I attended that first meeting and heard the Rebbe's views on *chinuch*, I knew that this would be the right place for my son. I never doubted it for a second."

The *hanhalah* and *rebbeim* were hand-picked and set the standard for the yeshiva to this day. Indeed, 29 years later, alumni whose children are currently attending the yeshiva remember vividly how pivotal their relationships with the *hanhalah* and *rebbeim* proved to be in their lives.

"I may have left the yeshiva over 10 years ago, but I can honestly say the yeshiva never left me. I talk to my *rebbeim* to this day," says Pinny Katz, class of 1997.

The yeshiva opened its doors on 47th Street and 16th Avenue with a handful of boys who received a Torah *chinuch* combined with serious secular studies of the highest caliber. Just as importantly, however, they were educated with the warmth of a close-knit family. This was greatly attributable to the *mesirus nefesh* and total devotion of the Novominsker Rebbetzin, *a"h*,

who played a significant role as the "mother" of the yeshiva. She treated each *bachur* as her own.

"At that first meeting, the Rebbetzin's presence and her input made me feel totally confident in placing my son in the yeshiva. I knew she would watch out for him — and she did," says Mr. Frankel.

The yeshiva grew and so did its reputation in the Torah world. A Novominsker *talmid* became an appellation of which to be proud. The *talmidim* multiplied. *Bachurim* left the *koslei hayeshiva* to learn in Eretz Yisrael, but the yeshiva stayed close, as the Rebbe kept a close *kesher* with his *talmidim* and visited them in Eretz Yisrael, like a father who was monitoring the progress of his beloved son far from home.

Pinny recalls, "It was the highlight of my years in the Mir. The Rebbe would come to see us, talk to us, and give us *chizuk* in our learning. It lasted until the next visit." These visits continue to this day, with the Rebbe's yearly visits to his *bachurim* and *avreichim* in Eretz Yisrael.

What they received from the yeshiva was an understanding of how to learn, the *chashivus* of learning, the love of learning Torah and a closeness to *Gedolei Torah* and their *chaverim* that remains intact. "To this day, when I come to Boro Park, I always come to the yeshiva and the Rebbe's *beis medrash* to learn," Pinny says.

The yeshiva ultimately outgrew the pre-war apartment house in which it was situated, and a magnificent new campus was completed in 2007. The *chanukas habayis* was a *simchah* for the *talmidim*, parents and the Rebbe's *yedidim*, but it was also a *simchah* for the entire neighborhood, as a thriving *makom Torah* opened on 60th Street and 17th Avenue and the *kol Torah* resounded throughout the area.

The yeshiva continues to be in the forefront of the Rebbe's life. With all that he is involved in on behalf of the *klal*, not a day goes by that the Rebbe is not engaged in the welfare of his *talmidim*, the *hanhalah* and the yeshiva's continued growth. Yeshivas Novominsk *talmidim* have gone on to become productive *mechanchim* and *askanim*.

The dedication of the *sefer Torah lichvod* the Rebbe, *shlita*, will be a milestone event that will give our community the chance to be *mesame'ach* with the Rebbe on the yeshiva's significant accomplishments to date, and to acknowledge the enormous *siyata diShmaya* that the yeshiva has enjoyed over the almost 30 years of its existence.

"This is not a *hachnasas sefer Torah* that belongs only to Novominsk," said Mr. Feigenbaum. "This is a *simchah* that belongs to everyone who is *machshiv Torah* and the Rebbe's contribution to *harbotzas Torah*."

All are invited to participate.

Leon Goldenberg Speaks to Shalom Torah Academy Students

BY DEVORAH BLUMBERG

In commemoration of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, Mr. Leon Goldenberg spoke with Shalom Torah Academy students in fifth through eighth grades about his family's experiences during and after the war, and about the heroism of Raoul Wallenberg. Students listened attentively to his account of the chaos and anti-Semitism of the war period, the indifference of so many to the plight of the Jews and the heroism of others, the displaced persons camps, and the small and large miracles that saved Jewish lives.

Mr. Goldenberg and his wife, Agi, are children of Holocaust survivors. His father lost his first wife and five children during the war



Mr. Leon Goldenberg, Chairman of Shalom Torah's Board of Directors and a child of Holocaust survivors, spoke to fifth-eighth-grade students about his family's experiences during the War. He successfully lobbied for Raoul Wallenberg, a Christian Swedish diplomat, to be awarded a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor.

and never spoke about his experiences. "The secrets of

his suffering were buried along with him," Mr. Goldenberg

stated. His mother survived Auschwitz with her four sisters.

Mr. Goldenberg was on the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Commission and successfully urged Congress to award a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor to Mr. Wallenberg on what would have been his 100th birthday. Raoul Wallenberg, a Christian Swedish diplomat, helped save the lives of 100,000 Jews during the war, including Agi Goldenberg's mother and aunts.

Mr. Goldenberg is the chairman of Shalom Torah Center's board of directors and is the dedicated benefactor of the Goldenberg Jewish Education Grant, which awards up to \$5,000 to qualifying new Shalom Torah Academy students.