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מקורות



Beis Medrash Mikor HaChaim Newsletter

SOURCES



BEIS MEDRASH MIKOR HACHAIM

Building the Future





A Bright Future

A Message From the Rabbanim of Mikor

As we stand at the threshold of moving into our new building, we are pleased to present to you the latest issue of our newsletter, *Mikoros*.

Excitement is mounting in preparation and anticipation. The new *makom kadosh* will provide our kehilla and the entire Chicago-land Jewish community with a myriad of new opportunities. The expansive building affords us the ability to develop a state-of-the-art children's program, provide ample space for *kiddushim* and family *simchas*, and to have multiple functions all running concurrently. The fresh start is also an opportunity to enhance our programming with new *shiurim*, an expanded minyan schedule, and so much more. Please turn the page of this newsletter for a more detailed description of the building and its amenities.

It is appropriate at this time for us to reflect on the past and set our sights on the future.

15 years ago Mikor opened its doors as a modest night *seider* program. At the time, we never could have dreamed that one day we would grow to become one of the most prominent *Batei Medrash* and *Kehillos* in our city. Many groups of people made this dream a reality and a proper 'thank-you' is in order. We look forward to recognizing the instrumental individuals at the *Chanukas Habayis* and other future celebrations.

A few years ago, this large building and its surrounding real-estate, right in the heart of our community, became available. Several visionaries understood the need to keep the property in the hands of the Jewish community. The confluence of our need for more space and the community's aforementioned need led to the purchase of our new home. We would like to thank all of the askanim

that were involved, with their time, effort and support, in this initial process. We genuinely see them as the founders of this project.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, at all levels, for their participation in this project. The support of the community, friends and members alike, is heartwarming. It is encouraging to see the impact that Mikor has made far beyond the four walls of the *Beis Medrash*.

Internally, so many have given long days and sleepless nights to ensure the beauty and quality of this project. Our very own, Yossi Kalman, the architect, and Yehudah Wolper, the project manager, went far beyond the call of duty. Additionally, the efforts of our building committee put us in position for a successful campaign. May every person that partnered with us and their families merit a life full of *nachas* and joy.

We invite you to join us in all the upcoming celebrations in honor of this *simcha* for the entire community.

We look forward to greeting you personally,



Rabbi E. Friedman



Rabbi Y. Robinson



Rabbi M. Schechter



Building FAMILIES



- Over 25 shiurim and chaburas (smaller learning groups) available every week.
- Multiple opportunities, including an active Mussar Vaad, for individuals to work on personal growth and self-development.
- Timely shiurim to help prepare halchically and be inspired for every Yom Tov.
- The kol Torah of a room full of chavrusa learning. The Beis Medrash offers to furnish a chavrusa for anyone that expresses interest in finding one.
- Renowned guest lecturers from Eretz Yisroel and across the country.
- Special lectures and shiurim focused on Shalom Bayis and Chinuch and so much more!

“It isn’t only about
learning, it’s about being
a part of their lives”



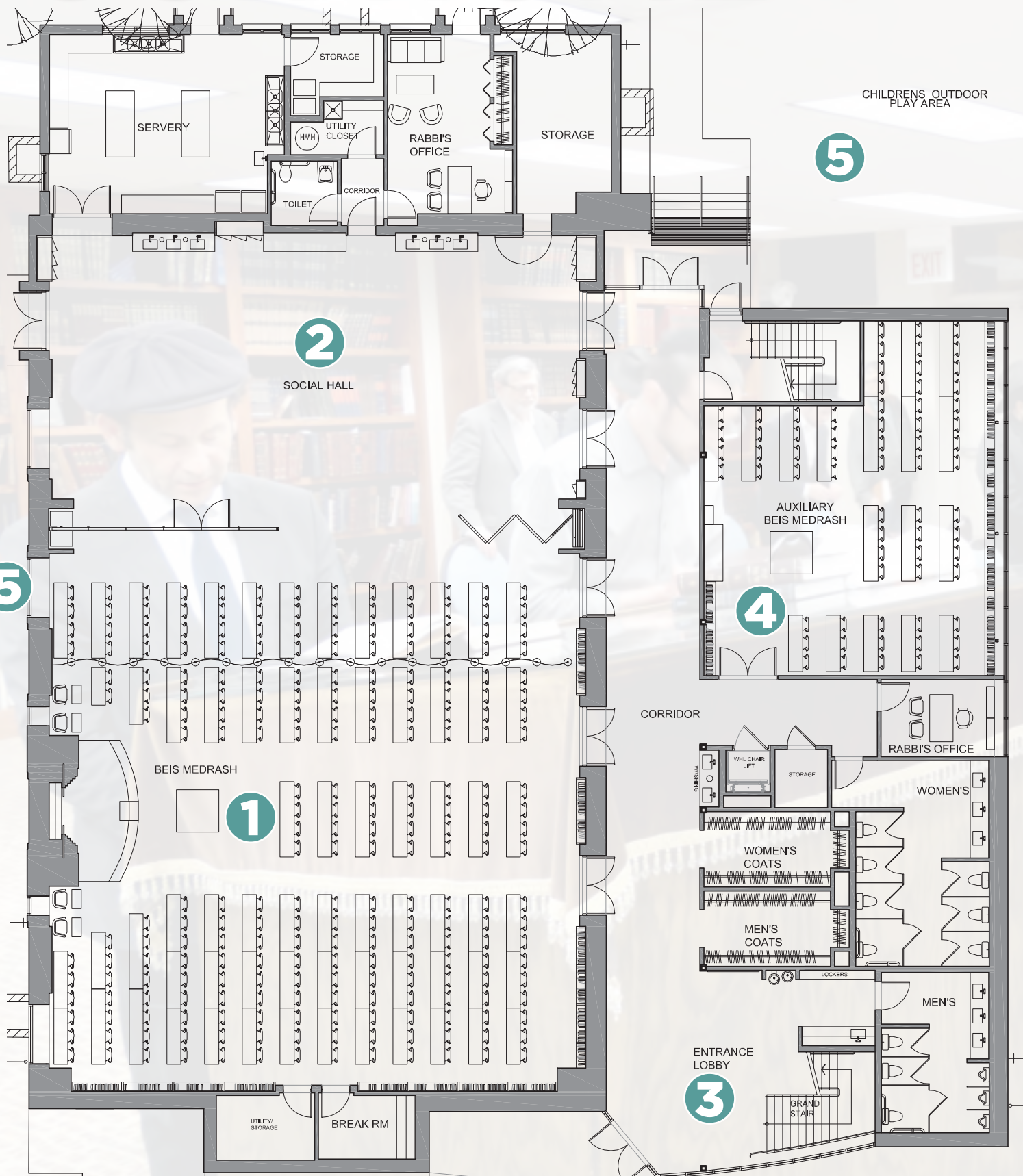
Individuals from all backgrounds and at all ages and stages participate in Mikor’s night seder, but one of the primary focuses is on the single young men of our community. Mikor has built a reputation as being ‘the place’ in Chicago for *bachurim* to come learn and get *chizuk*. Young men returning from Yeshiva in Eretz Yisroel, recent *baalei teshuva*, and students from local universities ALL find a home at Mikor.

The Rabbeim pay special personal attention to each bachur and help them create and implement a plan to enable them to focus on their studies or new job while at the same time staying strong in their learning and davening. Being in a *Beis Medrash* setting and having

other like-minded young men around is the perfect healthy atmosphere for their stability and growth.

The greatest pride of Mikor, however, is how it helps these boys during the *shidduch* process and beyond. The Rabbanim help find the *shidduchim*, give invaluable dating advice, and offer coaching when necessary. After a successful match, the Rabbanim themselves learn with these new *chassanim* to prepare them for their *chasunas*, give them insights to lay a strong foundation for *Shalom Bayis* in their homes and on many occasions are even asked to be the *Misader Kiddushin*. In most cases, it is to these Rabbanim that they continue to come back to for *hadracha* even after the wedding.

Building OUR HOME





1

- ▶ Beis Medrash with capacity of 300 with options to expand
- ▶ Expansive seforim library
- ▶ Floor to ceiling Aron Kodesh



2

- ▶ Social Hall with capacity of 300
- ▶ Large and inviting space for weekly kiddushim and simchas.



3

- ▶ Spacious entryway and corridors
- ▶ Large glass windows providing lots of natural sunlight
- ▶ Grand staircase



4

- ▶ Auxiliary Beis Medrash
- ▶ Seating for 80 to accommodate additional minyanim and shiurim



5

- ▶ Childrens outdoor play area
- ▶ Parking lot with ample spots
*not shown



6

- ▶ Expandable area for secondary simcha room
- ▶ Six classrooms equipped for children with books, toys, etc.



THE ESFORMES BUILDING DEDICATION

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Rabbi and Mrs. Morris and Delecia Esformes for their continued support and guidance of our *Beis Medrash*. Already legends in the Chicago Jewish Community and beyond, the Esformes' have added Mikor Hachaim to the long list of grateful recipients of their generosity and will be dedicating the building in memory of two sets of their dear and close friends, Abraham and Hadassah Robinson and Irving and Pearl Nathan.

The Nathans and the Robinsons are Rabbi Robinson's grandparents and were founding families of the Chicago Jewish community, dating back to the early 1900's. The Robinson's, originally from the West Side, and the Nathans, from the South Side, both eventually settled in West Rogers Park and made a great impact on this community and on all of Chicago.

They were known for their dedication to and support of many local schools, camps and shuls. They served on numerous boards and gave countless volunteer hours to these causes. They all had sterling reputations in the community and had a great love for *Eretz Yisroel*. It would be our distinct honor to carry their names on our building.

May their goal of advancing Torah education in our city be continued within the walls of our new building and may it bring a merit to the Esformes Family, the Robinson & Nathan Families, and to all of Klal Yisroel.



Building ACHDUS

This past Summer, the Chicago Jewish community created a memorable and emotional experience that will be remembered by all for years to come. On *Rosh Chodesh Nissan* 5775, seven children from the Sassoon family of New York perished in a tragic Friday night fire in their home. Shortly after their *petira*, a campaign was started to dedicate seven *sifrei torah* in memory of the seven pure souls that were lost on that day. Thanks to Mikor members Alan Irni and Andrew Glatz, with the support of Mikor's Rabbanim, Chicago was the first city that merited to participate in this initiative.

After a successful fundraising campaign, there was a soul-stirring *Hachnasas Sefer Torah* on June 21st. Rabbi Sassoon came to participate in the *ksivas ha'osios* (final writing of the letters) and the procession, and a few dozen local Rabbanim and hundreds of local Jews joined the massive Kiddush Hashem. Many came to give *chizuk* to Rabbi Sassoon, but all

walked away getting *chizuk* from him and his deep rooted *emunah* in Hashem.

The spirited dancing ended at the Ohel Shalom Torah Center where Rabbi Sassoon addressed the crowd and a festive *seudas mitzvah* was held. Rabbi Sassoon was clearly encouraged by the support and concern of the Chicago community and was moved by the palpable sense of *achdus* that permeated the event.

In Rabbi Sassoon's own words, "A *sefer* is the most perfect gift there is...a *sefer* makes eternal the *neshamos* (of my children)...This *Sefer Torah* is special. You want to know why it is so special? It is because there was no *kavod* involved, it's all love. Everyone did it to help someone else. Everyone did it to bring *nitzchiyus* (eternity) to seven children." May their family find a *nechama* and may this event stand as a merit for all of *Klal Yisroel*.

THE WALDER CORNERSTONE

In honor of R' Yisroel (Ernest), shlit"a & Bryna Royza (Adel) a"h Farkas



For Mikor Hachaim, and so many other individuals and *mosdos* world-wide, the words "We would not be where we are today without..." are most applicable to Dr. and Mrs. Yosef and Shira Malka Walder. In recognition of their dedication and support to our *Beis Medrash*, Mikor has chosen to dedicate the cornerstone in their honor. The Walders will be using this cornerstone opportunity to recognize their dear friends R' Yisroel (Ernest), shlit"a & Bryna Royza (Adel) a"h Farkas.

Mr. and Mrs. Farkas were both Holocaust survivors. Mr. Farkas was from Pressburg and Mrs. Farkas was from Tressof. They both lost everything in the war, but found each other in 1950 in Chicago after Mr. Farkas learned in Telshe Yeshiva Cleveland.

Mr. Farkas started out in kosher supervision, and later they both went into the health care industry. Mr. Farkas' main love, however, was learning and davening. His wife always used to tell him, "You go learn and I'll run the

business." This enabled him to maintain many *chavrusas*, one of whom was Dr. Walder. This was the roots of their close relationship, that according to Mrs. Walder has developed into them becoming "best friends." Dr. Walder still visits Mr. Farkas on a very regular basis. The Farkas's were pioneers of the "North of Touhy" Jewish Community, it is only fitting to find their names on a building that will bring so much *ribui kvod shomayim* to that area.



The Eliyahu & Julia Cohen TORAH EDUCATION WING

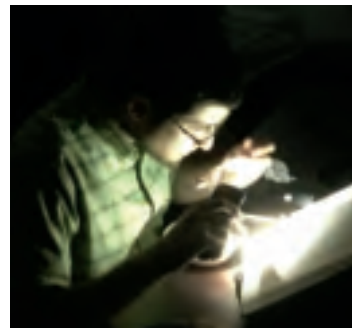
Tomer and Jennifer Bitton have dedicated the Torah Education Wing in loving memory of their grandparents Eliyahu and Julia Cohen, two pillars that hold their family together to this day. Julia was a generous and kind woman whose smile warmed up every room and kindness encompassed every heart she touched. She never missed a simcha and always saw the good in every situation and

every person. Eliyahu was a man who worked to provide for his family and still found time to help repair the local synagogue. Always humble and giving, he protected his family till the very end of his days.

It was on this foundation that the Bittons have built their home that is wholeheartedly dedicated to *torah*, *chesed* and *mitzvos*. Tomer has been very involved since the beginning of

our building process with encouragement, advice, time and support. We are eternally grateful to the Bittons for all that they have done for our Beis Medrash and are excited to partner with them in this project. May the memory of Eliyahu and Julia Cohen forever be a blessing in our hearts and may the *Torah* and *Davening* in this building act as a merit for them and all their descendants.

Learning during the Blackout



13th Anniversary Banquet



An Evening with Eitan Katz



Building **A COMMUNITY**

