



Kol HaTalmidim

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

Texas Torah Institute
Mesivta Emes L'Yaakov

Winter 2021–22



THE POWER OF OUR HISTORY

In one of the most famous incidents in the story of our Avos, the Torah, at the end of Sefer Bereishis, recounts how Yaakov benched Efraim and Menashe. The passuk says that Yaakov asked Yosef, “Who are these young men?” Rashi explains that certainly Yaakov knew who his own grandsons were, but he asked the question because he was unable to attain the necessary level of ruach Hakadosh to bestow the proper beracha on them. He saw prophetically the resha'im who would eventually descend from Efraim and Menashe and he was unable to bless them. Yaakov asked Yosef: ‘who are these young men — that they are not worthy of a beracha?’ Yosef responded by showing Yaakov that they were righteous men of a proper lineage. Yosef then davened to Hashem that He rest His Shechina on Yaakov and enable him to bless his grandchildren properly. Yosef’s tefilos were answered and Yaakov was able to give the beracha he had hoped to give.

Rashi goes on to say that this incident was recalled by the Navi Hoshea many hundreds of years later. Hoshea was speaking to the aseres hashevatim, the descendants of Efraim and Menashe. They had gone very far astray. They had left Hashem and become idol worshippers. The Navi reminded them of this incident involving their ancestors.

He exhorted them to remember Hashem’s kindness to their forefathers and return to serving Him.

On the surface this seems quite surprising. These were Jews who had sunken to the low level of idolatry. They had been chastised and warned many times before. Threats of destruction had not made an impact. It would seem pointless

CONTINUED ►

IN THIS ISSUE

THE DORM BUNNY

INSIDE Zev Grunfeld learns a lot from a furry new friend and dorm mate.

OUR NEW STUDENTS

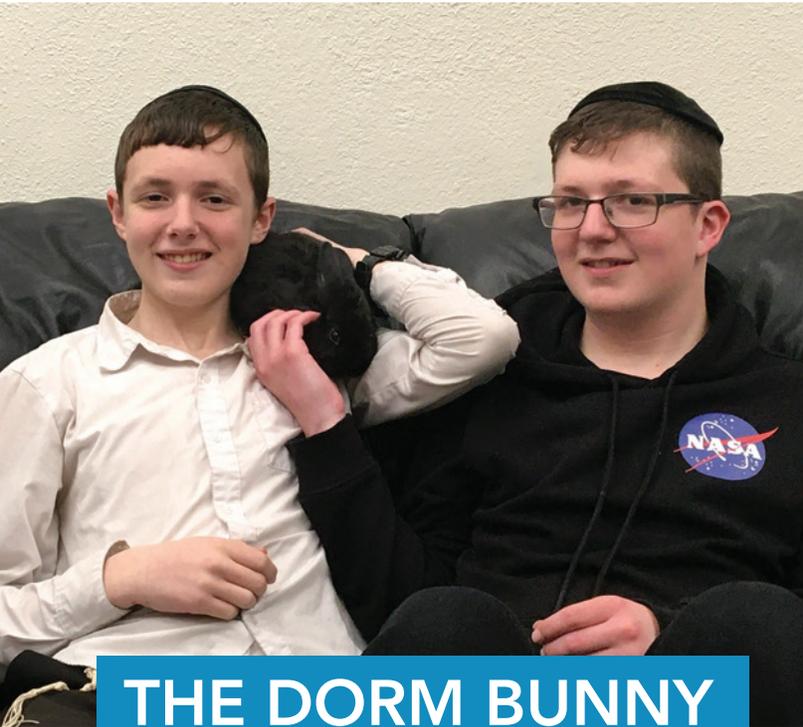
INSIDE Incoming TTI students share a bit about themselves and what they love about the yeshiva.

MUSINGS OF A CANADIAN IN TEXAS

BACK PAGE Bentzy Goldman reflects on the differences between life in Vancouver and life at TTI.

to bring up ancient ancestors in talking to these people. They were clearly very far removed from their heritage! How could such a seemingly insignificant detail of a story that had happened to their forefathers so many hundreds of years before have any kind of an impact?

We see from here the incredible power that we Jews have to connect with our history. Even a small detail in a kindness that Hashem did for our ancestors can change the attitude of even the most ‘disconnected’ Jew. We are always part of klal yisroel! Though at times we ourselves don’t realize it, we all feel a personal connection to each other, even when separated by enormous gaps of space and time. By studying Torah and focusing on what we’re taught about our heritage, we can nurture this feeling of connection and, like our brothers long ago, be inspired by the sense of unity that connects us to all Jews, past, present and future.



THE DORM BUNNY

ZEV GRUNFELD, 11TH GRADE

I’m sleeping (as usual), when I’m suddenly awakened (as usual) by a sharp claw on my face (thankfully, unusual). My brain went into hyperdrive. If it was my roommate (Hoodie Hirsch) trying to hurt me, I would likely be in a lot of pain by this point. But I wasn’t. It must be something even more sinister than Hoodie! Uh oh. I slowly opened my eyes, and to my absolute horror, there was a black... cute little bunny staring right at me with large, soulful eyes.

I was also wrong about Hoodie being involved in any shape, fashion, or form. The bunny was being held by my friend, Yehuda Groner of Lakewood, NJ.

After that startling introduction, I was somehow persuaded to add four letters to my title: Zev Grunfeld, KOTB (a Latin term meaning “keeper of the bunny”). He was so cute, I just couldn’t say no.

My first task was to name the bunny. I really didn’t have to think too hard about that one. “Bugs” just popped into my mind. I can’t imagine why... What I didn’t realize was that taking care of a bunny is a lot harder than it looks. I needed to feed him (he goes crazy for carrots), clean his cage (which I’d really rather not), and get him vaccinated (hey, I didn’t even know that vaccinating bunnies was a thing!)

We often take Bugs out for “walks” on the dorm floor. Apparently, bunnies don’t like surfaces they can’t grip onto with their claws—so Bugs immediately jumps onto the nearest couch and runs around.

Speaking of claws, Bugs has pretty sharp claws and can give you a nice scratch if you’re not careful. We’re thinking of deputizing him as our “security rabbit”, as he would likely cause burglars to run in fear as he went for their jugular!

All in all, it’s great having a pet in the dorm. Bugs is a lot of fun and also teaches us responsibility. Besides, I think a large “BEWARE OF RABBIT” sign on the front door would look nice!

TTI IN ACTION



AKIVA GARGIR

9th 📍 Plano

Hobbies: Sports

My favorite possession is my: Game used, signed Alex Wood jersey

What I love about TTI: The sports we play during our breaks



TUVIA LEIB GELLER

9th 📍 Dallas

Hobbies: Architecture

My favorite possession is my: Tefillin

What I love about TTI: The learning is amazing



GAVRIEL GOLDSTEIN

9th 📍 Dallas

Hobbies: Cars

My favorite possession is my: Rock from Normandy Beach

What I love about TTI: The Rabbeim are amazing



YEHUDA ARYEH GRONER

9th 📍 Lakewood

Hobbies: Sketching, Frisbee

My favorite possession is my: Imaginary teddy bear

What I love about TTI: They're always looking out for you (#camerasineveryroom)



DOVI GROSSMAN

9th 📍 Dallas

Hobbies: Football, Ping-pong

My favorite possession is my: Tefillin

What I love about TTI: Chef Tony



TZVI KALTER

9th 📍 Dallas

Hobbies: Sports, Woodworking

My favorite possession is my: Segway

What I love about TTI: The guys and the Rabbeim



A FOCUS ON OUR NEW STUDENTS

JACOB RHOADS

9th 📍 Dallas

Hobbies: Sports

My favorite possession is my: Mattress

What I love about TTI: Spending time with all my friends



EFRAIM LEW

10th 📍 Brooklyn

Hobbies: Basketball, Hocking

My favorite possession is my: Tefillin

What I love about TTI: The Rabbeim are warm & welcoming



AARON RUSSEK

10th 📍 Mexico City

Hobbies: Video games

My favorite possession is my: Tefillin

What I love about TTI: The teachers



ITAMAR MIZRAHI

11th 📍 Mexico City

Hobbies: Playing the piano and squash

My favorite possession is my: Pet dachshund

What I love about TTI: The Rabbeim and teachers support us in whatever area we need



EPHRAIM ROSENBERG

12th 📍 Toronto

Hobbies: Guitar, Baseball

My favorite possession is my: Marucci baseball bat

What I love about TTI: The extra curricular activities



MUSINGS OF

A CANADIAN



IN TEXAS

BENTZY GOLDMAN, 12TH GRADE

When I attended an in-town yeshiva in 9th grade and lived at home (Vancouver, BC), I spent most nights wasting my time on my home computer on sports sites (Go Yankees!). It was quite boring.

All that changed when I arrived at TTI two years ago. I almost always have something going on...that I actually enjoy! For example, I have basketball practice three times per week, weekly trips to Walmart and Top Golf, and Tom Thumb is across the street from the yeshiva. On Sundays, the dorm always goes on amazing trips that almost everyone enjoys.

Besides reducing my boredom, I also love dorming because it has made me a lot more mature and responsible, as I don't have my parents "on top of me" on a daily basis. I'm still a teenager, so some of my decisions may be "intellectually challenged", but Rabbi Zuckerman (the dorm Rabbi) and Aharon Schnur (the dorm counselor) have reduced the frequency of such occasions.

If I'm not a fan of a particular dinner, I have to figure out how to survive — either by buying a nutritious, mass produced product at Tom Thumb, or making my own supper.

Going out of town for Yeshiva doesn't mean leaving home...



IT MEANS DISCOVERING A SECOND HOME.

Why choose TTI?

CHINUCH

Talmidim are challenged with intensive, interactive שיעורים in עיון, בקיאות, and הלכה למעשה, with a strong emphasis on Mussar, Midos and personal growth.

EDUCATION

Our progressive General Studies program is SACS accredited and includes an honors track, a STEM program, SAT prep and much more.

WARMTH

Our dedicated Rebbeim and Faculty are expert Mechanchim, committed to the long term success of every Talmid. Your son will feel right at home in this safe, nurturing, out of town environment.

RESULTS

Our Talmidim have learned in top Yeshivos and studied in prestigious universities. They have continued on to promising careers in Rabbanus, Chinuch, Medicine, Law, Finance and more, solidly rooted in Torah and Hashkafa and prepared for life as outstanding Bnei Torah.

OPEN HOUSE

Contact us for details of an open house near you

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