

The Beis Medresh of White Lake

The White Lake Beis Medresh opened its doors in Tammuz of 1975, igniting what has already been nearly 40 years of ever increasing Torah and Yiddishkeit in the heart of the heart of the Catskills. **The only year round synagogue in the Town of Bethel**, the *Beis Medrash* is a greenhouse for personal growth, where individuals from all backgrounds are imbued with intense *Ahavas Yisroel* and a deep sense of communal responsibility. The warm camaraderie and exceptionally close relationship between the Rov, *shlit"a*, and the entire community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, is a hallmark of the *Beis Medrash*, which is more reminiscent of a family in its closeness.

Nestled in the historical Town of Bethel, the Beis Medrash provides all with a *heimishe* environment that exudes caring, authenticity, and scholarship.

Under the illustrious and dynamic leadership of HaRav Shmuel Yosef Fishbain, *shlit"a*, a Chicago native, who is heir to a legendary dynasty of devotion and *mesirus nefesh* of both of his parents, Reb Nachum Dov, *z"l*, and Miriam Devorah, *a"h*, who together founded one of the very first Yeshiva day schools in America and whose home was frequented by such renowned *Manhigei Yisroel* who visited Chicago from Europe, as HaRav Elchanon Wasserman, *Hy"d, z"l*, the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe Rav Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, *z"l*, and HaRav Aharon Kotler, *z"l*. Rabbi Fishbain was only 4 years old when his father was *niftar*, tragically leaving his mother a widowed *almanah* with 8 young orphans. He learned to read *Alef Beis* while saying *Kaddish* for his father. Despite the tremendous challenges of raising so large a family as one heart-broken *almanah*, HaRav Fishbain's mother miraculously managed to send her 2 sons to Torah Vodaas and her 6 daughters to study in Beis Yaakov in New York under Rebbetzin Kaplan.

Rabbi Fishbain subsequently learned in various *Yeshivos* under a succession of great men, including HaRav Yechezkel Mordechai Gordon, the Lomza Rosh Yeshivah, *z"l*, HaRav Yisroel Zev Gustman, *z"l*, and HaRav Avraham Pam, *z"l*. Since opening the Beis Medrash in White Lake, under the guidance of *Daas Torah* and *Gedolei Yisroel* from all sectors of *Klal Yisroel*, Rabbi Fishbain has managed to attract Jews from all backgrounds, from those completely estranged from Torah to giants of the Torah World. Many famous *Rabbonim*, *Roshei Yeshivah*, and *Chassidische Rebbes* have not only graced our *Beis Medrash*, but embraced it as well; giving their blessing and expressing their warm appreciation of the sacred work we do here. All of this work is complemented and shared by the Rebbetzin, who is known near and far as an address for *chesed*, advice, and *hachnasas orchim*, with her non-stop efforts that keep this *Beis Medrash* running.

Perpetuating the Torah

How could it be that after all these years we never had our own Sefer Torah? It is with great excitement that the Beis Medresh begins this new chapter in its growth, the writing of its very first Sefer Torah. The *Gemara* (סוטה לה) teaches that although the ארון appeared to be carried, in truth it carried those who bore it. The timeless message is that one who supports Torah is actually being nurtured by the Torah itself.

This milestone project is intended to do far more than just provide a much-needed Sefer Torah. It is meant to be a springboard to strengthen a growing bastion of Torah.

May all who participate in this endeavor be granted the many blessings foretold for those who support Torah.

Binding the Torah to my Heart

A young man recovering from substance abuse was honored with *gelilah* on *Shmini Atzeres*. On *Simchas Torah*, he said, "Rabbi Fishbain, you honored me yesterday with the binding of the Torah. Last night I couldn't fall asleep until I bound the Torah to my heart. Please, Rabbi, teach me Torah!"

~ Dedication Opportunities ~

Complete Sefer Torah	\$54,000
Sefer/Chumash	\$18,000
Parchment/Klaf	\$5,400
Hosting Scribal Event	\$5,000
Hosting Completion Event...	Reserved
Weekly Sidra	\$3,600
Segulos/Special Parshios	\$2,600
(List available upon request)	
Yeriah	\$1,800
Amudim/Columns	\$613
Possuk/Verse	\$360
Particular Word/Name	\$260
Word/Name	\$180

Achdus – אחדות – נגד ההר – יחן שם ישראל

Acheiving Unity - יחד שבטי ישראל

Following the *mesorah* that the Rov, *shlit"a*, acquired at Torah Vodaas, combining the strengths of *Litvishe* learning, *Chassidische* warmth, and American *temimus*, the White Lake Beis Medresh has always sought to bring together all segments of *Klal Yisroel* with the excitement and purpose of Torah and *Chesed*. Our *Beis Medrash* is a microcosm of what took place at *Har Sinai*, where all *Klal Yisroel* were united אחד בלב אחד - a place where Jews of all segments from all around the world, *Ashkenazim* and *Sefardim*, *Litvish* and *Chassidish*, Modern Orthodox and Haredi, Non-Observant and Highly-Observant, Lubavitch and Satmar, *Baalei Teshuvah* and "Frum From Birth", all not only sit together, but *ממש* feel at home, and are *mekabel* the Torah all together as one, with each individual finding the inspiration their *neshamah* is seeking. How could it be that such a *chashuver Beis Medrash* has never in its forty year history had its own Sefer Torah? You now can have the opportunity to share in this tremendous *zechus*, with every dollar you give being matched by a distinguished donor who has selflessly agreed to share this blessing with the community. As we continue to grow, you can be certain that this gift will be one that will be cherished נחצים להצדקה.