

MY VIEW

The Greater Purpose

BY CECILIA BURCH

I came to Bais Yaakov three years ago from Mexico. It was a journey that I can confidently say was worth it.



Previously, I had thought that the purpose of a school was purely to teach academics. At the end of four years, schools hand out diplomas that represent the measure of academic learning one has achieved.

However, as I prepare to graduate, I find that here at Bais Yaakov of Denver I learned something beyond what any text book could teach: I learned how to use my talents and channel them to serve Hashem.

In class I was taught “Kabeid Es Hashem Mehonecha” - “Give honor to Hashem from your wealth,” which can mean not just your money, but your wealth of talents. This is something that we were constantly prompted to do at Bais Yaakov, through the annual performance, school projects, sewing classes, computer classes, art classes, and, of course, all the fun activities we do. As the school’s Ruach Head, I have enjoyed inspiring my schoolmates and encouraging their enthusiasm through my talents.

In the years I’ve been in Bais Yaakov, I’ve experienced a tremendous transformation. What I am most happy about is utilizing all my talents for a higher purpose. This has helped me begin my journey in life. While I leave school with a great deal of academic knowledge, most importantly, I leave with a more developed sense of who I am, what I can accomplish and how I can make this world a better place, the true purpose of any education.

Cecilia Burch is a graduate of the class of ‘18.

Reunion Highlights

“One united group of BYD graduates”



BY MRS. ALIZA CHERNITZKY

From around the globe they came. Nearly 300 graduates and teachers from Eretz Yisrael, Canada, and Mexico—as well as from various cities across America—gathered in Brooklyn at the Dyker Beach Club on June 3rd for Beth Jacob High School of Denver’s historic 50th reunion.

“So many people of different ages and paths in life all felt close enough to come and reconnect. I think everyone feels that BYD shaped who they are today,” observed Mrs. Chani (Skaist) Dvorkes who was a dorm counselor in the late ‘90’s.

The enthusiasm at the event was palpable. “At most events you might have a few people you really want to see and the rest you might not even know,” reflected graduate and current teacher Mrs. Avigail (Schwab) Steinharter, ‘92. “It was so amazing to see so many people that I really care about and feel connected to all in one room. The energies of joy, love and connection in the room were pulsating! The event can’t be aptly described or summed

up since so many people were experiencing so much at the same time.”

There was indeed unbelievable energy as hundreds of classmates, students and teachers reunited again, some not having seen each other since their graduations. It was as if the clock had turned back and the room was filled with high school girls who couldn’t be quieted down!

It was quite a feat to move the excited participants into the main dining room, where they were seated with their classmates. At the center of each table was their class’s yearbook. The program continued with a BYD trivia game. Each attendee was given a “clicker” to answer multiple choice questions as they flashed across a big screen. Laughs and shouts abounded as participants answered questions such as, “Which BYD staff member was known for giving his children nicknames?” and “What is the address of the dorm?”

At one point, a group picture was taken. “Getting into a picture with nearly 300 other graduates felt like we were all one

big family,” said Mrs. Adina (Grossman) Krausz, ‘92. “My pride in being a BYD alumna was renewed and recharged!”

Mrs. Goldie (Feder) Silverstien, ‘71 and Mrs. Celia (Lewitt) Feder, ‘73 presented Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab with a beautifully embroidered wall hanging depicting the image of a tree, each leaf representing a different class. Rabbi Schwab then addressed the crowd, relating a powerful post-holocaust story which encouraged the graduates to take advantage of every mitzvah opportunity. “Rabbi Schwab got up just as we remembered him with his trademark style of giving us a powerful takeaway message,” shared Mrs. Rochie (Londinski) Cynamon, ‘85, who coordinated the event.

The evening culminated with spirited dancing. “There was no branching off by class during the dancing,” noticed Rochie. “We were all the same: one united group of BYD graduates.”

“As we danced together I felt like a kid again!”

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Graduating Class of 2018



Top Row From Left: Mrs. Chaya Meyer, Yael Schweitzer, Chaya Krausz, Rochel Field, Bracha Zussman, Talya Schreiber, Shulamis Erlanger, Geula Backer, Rachel Badalov, Cecilia Burch, Nechama Schwab, Miriam Wilen, Adina Derr, Mrs. Esther Melamed.
Bottom Row From Left: Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger, Mrs. Esti Erlanger, Mrs. Bruria Schwab, Rabbi Myer J. Schwab, Mr. Feivel Gallard, Mrs. Cindy Gallard, Mrs. Aliza Chernitzky.

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Beth Jacob Joins New Live On/ Life & Legacy Initiative

Beth Jacob is one of 28 local organizations that has been accepted to participate in a new initiative to secure long-term financial stability through wills and bequests.

Last year, Rose Foundation announced a new phase in its Live On program. Live On is partnering with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring its tested national curriculum, LIFE & LEGACY™, to the Greater Denver/Boulder Jewish communities. LIFE & LEGACY is in 51 other communities throughout North America and promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit Jewish organizations. This new partnership emphasizes stewardship and formalization of legacy gifts and promotes a collaborative solicitation approach that



strengthens the community as a whole. Those who include Bais Yaakov in their wills, or establish endowments will join the more than a dozen members of the school's Gevuros society, a group of donors who have chosen to ensure the long term financial stability of Beth Jacob.

"I wanted to commemorate my parents' memory through Jewish youth who I know will carry our heritage into the future," said Mr. George Gumbiner who established the Sherwood and Sylvia M. Gumbiner endowment in 2010.

If you have already designated Beth Jacob as a beneficiary in your will or would be open to have a conversation about this opportunity, please contact Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Assistant Dean, at 303-893-1333.

Nostalgia Corner

Reflections of a Senior: Miriam Kagan Batya April 1976

The pain and sorrow, the joys and happiness, all that which can befall one in a lifetime, it is said, can pass through the mind's eye in a matter of seconds. And so too, did my four years of high school rush through my mind as I sat down to write the reflections of a senior.

As an underclassman, I oftentimes wondered why it was we who were impatient to graduate, and why it was the seniors who were wishing for the year to go on a little bit longer, and then perhaps a little bit longer than that.

Today, however, I am a senior, and I am suddenly aware that the security of being guided and directed each day will soon be behind me. Tomorrow, I will be a leader too, as well as a continuous and constant participant in that wonderful, beautiful, and practical dream called Bais Yaakov.

Assuredly, this growth and change is a rather awesome thought at times. However,

it is also a challenge to test my ability in carrying out the principles and ethics I have learned during high school.

The learning process is a long one, often tiring and frustrating. But Oh! I will miss the fun, the laughter, the cramming, the pressure, the giving, the comradeship, all of which have contributed to mold and strengthen me and my ideals. The learning process is never ending. During my years in high school, I have been taught to learn, and in doing so, to reach out for those things I know will bring me closer to my goals.

With such a gift as this, I cannot help but miss all that which has brought me so far.

- Miriam Kagan



Batya

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adds Adina. "I experienced an interesting phenomenon: all the fun and social opportunities of high school but without the insecurity and issues that naturally come along with being a teenager!"

"I felt a strong bond with each woman, even if I had never met them simply because we all come from the same 'parents', Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab," says Mrs. Chaya (Wagner) Meyer, '80. "This event was the highlight of my year!"

"I cannot even explain the joy which came while reconnecting with my beloved teachers, unique memories and especially with my goals and dreams that sprouted thanks to Rabbi and Mrs. Schwab," said Reni Asquenazi, '16.

The ripple effect of a Bais Yaakov of Denver education was also seen at the reunion. "Many students relayed to me how their education here provided them with a solid foundation for their future schooling and

professions," shared General Studies Principal Mrs. Esther Melamed. "Many told me how the college credits we offer saved them much time and money while pursuing their degrees."

"The lady who served as DJ for the evening commented that she has done many Bais Yaakov parties. 'However, the level of Tzinusdik attire was superior to any Bais Yaakov group that she has served.'" said Rochie.

Since the event, Rochie says she has received such positive feedback. She has learned of countless rekindled connections amongst graduates who began to keep in touch with each other, some even learning together. "The ripple effect of Bais Yaakov of Denver continues to be felt around the globe."

Mrs. Aliza Chernitzky is a 1996 BYD graduate and is presently the Educational Assistant in BYD.



STAFF PROFILE

From the Front Desk
Up Close With BYD Secretary, Mrs. Mira Freeman



Mrs. Freeman: “The girls bring a lot of life and excitement to my day!”

working as a secretary?

No, I actually worked for a boy’s school for two and a half years in Toronto, Canada. So while this job isn’t exactly the same, it’s not totally new either.

Wow! That sounds interesting! How was that position different from this one?

Very different. It was a boy’s elementary school. At that age, the students are extremely dependent. High school girls on the other

How long have you been working at BYD?

I’ve been working here since my family moved to Denver from Lakewood a year and a half ago.

Was this your first time

hand are not only more independent, they’re also more social, which is something I enjoy immensely about my job here.

What were your first impressions of BYD?

My first impressions were positive. I saw immediately that there was a lot to gain from the *hanhalah* and the administrative staff here. Not only that, but I looked forward to coming to work and having a relationship with the girls and teachers.

What surprises you most about your job?

There are no specific surprises. The exciting part about my job is that there are always new things going on every day. Be it Parlor Meeting Dinner, Shabbaton, Color War... there’s always something about to happen. So I guess you could say my whole job is one big surprise!

What is the most common request students make when they come into the office?

It’s a tie between making announcements over the loud speaker or making a photocopy.

What is the strangest request you’ve ever had?

It’s more like a strange type of request. I’ve had students ask to call classmates out of class so that the other girls could surprise the missing student. I even had a teacher do something like that once—she had me call five girls out as part of a lesson she was teaching. I’m not sure what the lesson was, but I know the girls enjoyed it!

What is it like in the summer with all the girls gone?

Very sad. Not depressing, but very empty and quiet. I think I’m the only person who doesn’t like summer vacation! I prefer when the girls are around. They bring a lot of life and excitement to my day!

If you could give the students a “Message from the Front Desk” what would it be?

I really enjoy getting to know all the girls and creating relationships with them, I also appreciate your patience waiting for me when you need something and I’m too busy to get to it right away.

Alumnae and Staff
Mazel Tovs

BIRTHS:

Syma (Steinberg) Davidovich - Elishama Shlomo Yedidya
Chana (Pertion) Ford - Shammai
Dassie (Price) Mishory- Esther
Chaya (Schleifer) Berelowitz - Girl
Raizy (Melamed) Hartman - Shmuel Moshe
Chaya (Ambers) Weiner - Tobie
Aliza (Berman) Harbater - Yehuda Eliezer
Shira (Tessler) Melamed - Fraidel Nechama
Nechama (Meyer) Siderson - Shalva Rena
Esti (Meyer) Gross - Adina Leah
Hadassah (Fisherowitz) Moldovan- Miriam

BAR MITZVAHS:

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Adina (Grossman) Krausz- Dovid
Deena (Sandock) Abraham- Mayer Simcha

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Leah Basya Major to Muty Dahan

Alana (Goldner) Mutterperl’s daughter
Rochie to Zalman Berger
Rochie Fine to Gedaliah Rosenbam
Elisheva (Schwab) Weiskopf’s son Avi to Nechama Jacobs
Leora (Cohen) Gruen’s son Meir to Esti Hollander
Nechama (Chapman) Kraines’s son Yehuda to Shalvi Wople
Ariella Picovsky to Gavi Fligelman
Esther Wittow to Uri Feintuch
Miriam (Eisner) Minkowich’s daughter Leah to Meir Simcha Shachor

WEDDINGS:

Chaya Tessler to Eliezer Baruch Berger
Malka Feldheim to Shmuel Dovid Steinberg
Tamar Wilen to Ahron Michael
Aleeza Schwartz to Avromi Reches
Darleene (Goldstein) Stark’s daughter Zehava to Jonathan Rosenberg

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RECIPE CORNER

Tangy Summer Treat

BY DEENA SANDOCK ABRAHAM



Once again the summer season is upon us. Here in the Midwest where I live, we eagerly anticipated this season. Our winter was long and cold, and it segued into a long, wet, and cold spring. We can't control the weather and simply have to be patient when the weather is not how we want it to be. (That's a good lesson that applies to most challenges in life.)

Now, the warm weather is here and a hot kitchen is not the most fun place to be. Refreshing and cool are good words to use to describe what we want from our summer dishes. Typically, a main course is hot. But many of the sides do not have to be. A good tossed salad with lots of raw vegetables is a great choice as an accompaniment to a meal.

The salad below is nice in so many different ways. First, the dressing is delicious. The amounts

in the recipe make quite a bit of dressing. You will not need the full amount for dressing a salad, even if you are using a large bowl. Save the remaining dressing for use in the near future. Sometimes I divide the leftover dressing between small containers for individual use on personal salads for lunch. Also, you can pick and choose which vegetables you want to include based on your preferences. Just about anything works. I made suggestions based on what I typically include. Feel free to customize.



SALAD WITH TANGY GARLIC DRESSING

Dressing:
¾ c. vinegar
1 c. oil
¾ c. brown sugar

½ tsp. salt
½ c. mayonnaise
Pinch of black pepper
2 Tbsp. spicy brown mustard
4 or 5 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp. parsley
Puree all dressing ingredients in a food processor or blender. Or, you can do it my way. I prefer to place all the dressing ingredients in a zip-lock bag. Seal the bag, pressing out the extra air. Smoosh the bag between your hands to combine the ingredients. Honestly, I like making dressings in a bag because when all is said and done the bag can be thrown away. No processor or bowl to clean. With the large amount of oil in a dressing, it takes a bit more effort to clean whatever you mix the dressing in. So, I vote for using a disposable bag. The bag is also a good choice for storing the rest of the dressing in the refrigerator until it gets used up.

Salad:
Salad greens
Assorted vegetables (See paragraph below)

To assemble the salad, place the greens and vegetables in a large bowl. Chopped cucumbers, colored

bell peppers, and sliced red onion are my "go-to" ingredients that I always have on hand and always include in a salad. Grape tomatoes, sliced snow peas or sugar snap peas, sliced or grated carrots, sliced celery, sliced mushrooms, cubes of avocado, and small broccoli florets are all great additions. Pour some dressing over the salad and toss to combine. Continue adding more dressing and mixing the ingredients until the desired amount of dressing has been added.

The above method is a pretty standard way to toss a salad. It's not too scientific. I prefer a different approach. A couple of hours before the meal, place the prepared vegetables in the serving bowl. Pour some dressing over the vegetables and toss to coat. Place the bowl in the refrigerator and allow the vegetables to marinate in the dressing. Some items, like mushrooms, really benefit from soaking in a marinade. Do not add items like lettuce, tomato, or avocado until just before serving.

Deena Sandock Abraham is a 1990 BJHS graduate.

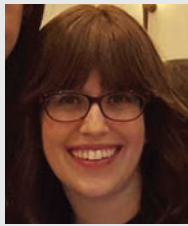
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Hadassah Fisherwitz Moldovan '06

I currently live in Waterbury, Connecticut with my husband and five children, where I am an administrative assistant at my childrens' school, Yeshiva Ketana of Waterbury.

In the summer of 2001 I moved from Kansas City to Denver with my family. While living in Kansas City, I had been attending a Jewish community day school, and I was never exposed to a real Bais Yaakov education.

Coming to Denver and to Bais Yaakov was a new experience, which I forever treasure. I was amazed and grateful for the knowledge, support, friendships, and relationships with teachers that I recieved there. Looking back, I feel that the basis of my Hashkafah for life began at Bais Yaakov. I am so thankful for the opportunities I was given to grow there!



A peddler lady, in a shtetl market place announced her wares: "Apples, apples..." A passerby approached her asking, "Why are you

screaming and calling out? No one buys your apples anyways!" She put her hand in her pocket and produced a few kopecks and said, "Somebody must have bought my apples, or else I would not have all this money."

The reunion came and went, it was overwhelming. We needed at least a weekend to celebrate. A few hours were just a tease. I wished I had time to catch up with everyone, and hear about their lives. I cherished the photographs of their families, in many cases their tribes and will hang them up on the bulliten

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. BRURIA SCHWAB

Post Script

board titled "Bais Yaakov-one big family".

The shouts of joy and excitement were heard as friends met friends. The different ages and stages, culture, countries and personalities, were bridged by a common denominator: BYD.

There were mothers and daughters, mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law, sisters and cousins, all who have passed through the halls of BYD.

The beginning of the program was challenged by the din in the room. But when Rabbi Schwab spoke you could hear a pin drop.

The warmth and affection in the room was palpable. The dancing was spirited. Personally, I regretted two things: my recalling names of a few individuals was a bit slow. Very few ladies I didn't recognize, some sisters I mixed up (don't we do that with all our children?). In one case I mistook the mother for the daughter. But

all in all, I was happy to have recognized and remembered the names of so many of my dear former students. The second point: there was not enough time to get into conversation and find out about one's life.

The memories were heartwarming, but above all was the often repeated comment mentioned to me, "Mrs. Schwab, have you noticed the level of tznius of the room?" It was impressive. *Indeed, shouting apples, apples again and again yielded the kopecks. Girls listened and lessons were internalized.*

I am confident that everyone got tremendous chizuk from the event. My conviction is that the message of BYD should continue undiluted until the arrival of Mashiach, since it definitely has

Mrs. Schwab is the Religious Studies Principal of Beth Jacob High School of Denver.