

## Groundbreaking Computer Program Brings The Mishkan to Life

By Chanie Friedman

The building of the Mishkan, which traveled with *Bnei Yisrael* during their 40 years in the wilderness, is one of the most fascinating and complex subjects in the Torah. Although the *pesukim* in the Torah include every last detail about the construction of the Mishkan, its sacred *keilim* (vessels) and the *bigdei kehunah* (priestly garments), these items have always been very difficult to visualize. However, thanks to the wonders of advanced computer technology, it's now possible not only to see the Mishkan but to walk through it, even to fly over it for a bird's-eye view — virtually speaking, of course.

Produced by Jewish publishing giant ArtScroll/Mesorah, the Kleinman edition of *The Mishkan*, dedicated by Elly and Brochie Kleinman, is an interactive 3-D computer program that combines *passuk-by-passuk* exploration of the text, in both Hebrew and English, with spectacular videos that simulate the creation of the Mishkan.

The program enables viewers to rotate three-dimensional models of the *keilim* for a clear-

er understanding of their form and function. An easy-to-use slide bar makes it possible to read through the entire *parashah* in the Torah, zoom in on a single *passuk*, or find a reference to a particular aspect of the Mishkan. Audio comments by well-known *talmid chacham* Rabbi Nosson Scherman offer additional insight into the Torah's descriptions.

"A project of this caliber would have been impossible without the cutting-edge technology that has become available only in recent years," says ArtScroll vice president Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz.

This groundbreaking endeavor involved the efforts of a top-notch team of professionals from around the world, including consultants from the U.S. Armed Forces Aberdeen Multimedia Test Center. Back at ArtScroll headquarters in New York, a committee of scholars spent countless hours researching the material and working to clarify difficult and sometimes obscure *pesukim*, producing hundreds of pages of notes that were faithfully followed by the technical team.

The building of the Mishkan is the subject of the *parshiyos*

## Crown Heights Welcomes HASC Center

By Ezra Friedlander

HASC Center has expanded its services with the establishment of a new group home for adults in Crown Heights, located at 580 East New York Avenue, between Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues. The new center is a beautiful, warm residence that provides a full range of clinical and therapeutic services, and promotes independence and integration into the community.

HASC executive director Samuel Kahn and clinical director Rabbi Chaim Wakslak welcomed community leaders and elected officials who came to pay tribute to HASC Center for its commitment to the most vulnerable in our society. Donna Limiti, acting director of DDSO (Developmentally Disabled Services Offices); Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; Councilman Mathieu Eugene; Community Board 9 chair Rabbi Jacob Goldstein and Fred Kreizman of the mayor's Community Affairs Unit all gathered to commend HASC Center and its leadership for their dedication to Crown Heights and the greater community.



L-R: Shmuel Goldman; Chanina Sperlin, Crown Heights Jewish Community Council; Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; Samuel Kahn, Executive Director, HASC Center; Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein, Chair, Community Board #9; Rabbi Chaim Wakslak, Ph.D., Clinical Director, HASC Center; Fred A. Kreizman, Assistant Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit.

that will be read in shuls around the world over the next four weeks, and Rabbi Zlotowitz stresses that the computer program is a highly effective educational tool for stu-

dents, parents, teachers or anyone who simply wants a better understanding of the topic.

"The Torah tells us that all the Jews contributed to the construction of the Mishkan,"

he says. "How appropriate, then, that through this magnificent program, Jews everywhere can finally attain a deeper appreciation of the glory and beauty that was the Mishkan."

## Celebrating a Decade of Excellence at Yeshivah Ohavei Torah

By Nochum Mandel

Parents and friends of Yeshivah Ohavei Torah in Riverdale are looking forward to the yeshivah's upcoming 10th Anniversary Dinner, set for Sunday evening, March 22, at the Glenpointe Marriot in Teaneck.

This year's dinner is a milestone event, recognizing the commitment of Ohavei Torah's dedicated faculty and administration, and paying tribute to the yeshivah's stalwart supporters.

The highlight of the program will be the dedication by the evening's Guests of Honor, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Melohn of the Melohn Beis Medrash. The Beis Medrash perpetuates the legacy of one of *Klal Yisrael's* veteran patrons of Torah, Reb Yosef Hakohen Melohn, *z"l*. The yeshivah looks forward to presenting this honor to the Melohns, parents and generous friends of Ohavei Torah, as a token of appreciation for their loyal partnership and patronage.

The Avodas Hakodesh Award will be presented to Rabbi and Mrs. Yaakov Luban. A noted *talmid chacham*, Rav Luban is the Executive Rabbinic Coordinator at the Orthodox Union and the Rav of Khal Ohr Torah in Edison, New Jersey. This award is in recognition of Rabbi and Mrs. Luban's commitment to Ohavei Torah as dedicated parents of the yeshivah, as



Rabbi Dovid Kaufman, ninth-grade *maggid shiur*, with a *talmid* during *sefer*.

well as their lifelong devotion to *Klal Yisrael* as a whole.

Rabbi and Mrs. Mordechai Swiatycki will be awarded the Marbitz Torah award, in recognition of their outstanding impact in the area of *kiruv rechokim*. In his capacity as a *rebbe* and *S'gan Rosh Kollel* at Ohr Somayach, Rav Swiatycki and his *eishes chayil* have transformed the lives of hundreds of *talmidim* and their families.

Describing the phenomenon behind the yeshivah's remarkable success, Rabbi Chaim Pechter, *menahel* at Ohavei Torah, points to its significant focus on developing a tangible feeling of *ahavas haTorah* in every *bachur*, each at his own level. "Fostering a love and a passion for learning is the key to

setting a young *bachur* on the path to success," says Rabbi Pechter. "The sweet taste of success and the fulfillment that comes from mastering a difficult *gugya* is empowering."

The *rebbeim* at the yeshivah attest to the unique atmosphere that is the hallmark of Ohavei Torah. "The overall sense of camaraderie amongst the *rebbeim* and the *talmidim* is a phenomenon which is not often found," says Rabbi Dovid Kaufman, *maggid shiur* of Ohavei Torah's ninth grade.

"The *rebbeim* are given a great deal of leeway for creativity in reaching and in dealing with each and every *talmid* in a way that suits him best. It's very much like family here. *Bachurim* are driven to excel simply by



The *talmidim* in the *beis medrash* during *sefer*.

way of the recognition they receive, and out of a sense of 'living up' to what the yeshivah expects from them. There's a personal feeling of *achrayus* toward what our yeshivah represents."

Striving for excellence and developing character and self-confidence are central themes the yeshivah seeks to imbue in its *talmidim*. These are core values that will ultimately prepare them for all aspects of life.

Indeed, excellence is what primarily draws both parents and *talmidim* to Ohavei Torah. Mr. Yiddy Scharf is a prominent attorney and a longtime yeshivah parent, as well as chairman of the upcoming dinner. He notes, "The high level of the *shiurim* and the distinguished caliber of

the *maggidei shiur* are paralleled by the yeshivah's first-rate general studies division. That is actually what really impressed me the most. You simply don't find such a well-rounded combination out there today. The physical structure and amenities of the yeshivah also reflect this passion for perfection. I believe all of these play a crucial role in generating an enthusiasm for excellence among the *talmidim*."

For reservations at the upcoming dinner or to place an ad in the tribute journal, please contact the yeshivah office at (718) 432-2600. For general questions about Yeshivah Ohavei Torah or to set up an interview, please contact the above number.