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NEW PLACE OF LEARNING FOR WH

Yeshiva Gedolah set to open in September

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Man assaulted on his way to synagogue

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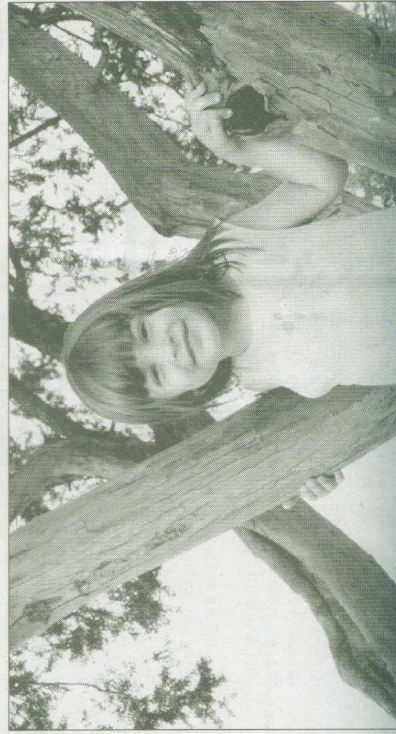
Stop and smell, buy, Israeli roses

Fundraising technique is a double mitzvah

BY MIRIAM ABRAHAMS

feel so fortunate to volunteer for a

Hangin' out in Cedarhurst



How will they get to school?

New yeshiva requests transportation adjustments from District #15

BY JESSE SHERER

in West Hempstead

Program for college-age students who seek Torah studies

BY JESSE SHERER

The goal is that the learning will never stop at Yeshiva Gedolah of West Hempstead, set to open its doors in September, just a few weeks from now.

Run by Rabbi Warren Cinamon, a Cedarhurst resident, the yeshiva will offer a continuing yeshiva-based education system for college students and young professionals, modeled after the Kesharim system, which was created six years ago and promotes Torah learning programs for college students throughout the metro area.

"They [Kesharim] offer classes to both young men and women, most of whom have had a yeshiva education and have gone to Israel to learn," said Rabbi Cinamon. "Many of these students were coming back and did not have places for further Torah programming. Kesharim sought to fill this void."

While Kesharim runs programs on six metropolitan campuses including Brooklyn College, Queens College, Rutgers University, and Baruch College; there was no comparable location central to Long Island-based universities.

Enter Rabbi Cinamon, who decided to put his yeshiva in a location central to Adelphi University, Hofstra University and Nassau Community College.

"We noticed there was no such programming on Long Island campuses," said Rabbi Cinamon, "and that many students in this community were yeshiva graduates who wanted to continue their Torah learning."

Yeshiva Gedolah will run a six-days-a-week men's only program from September to mid summer; tuition will be \$1,500.

Housed in Congregation Anshei Shalom on Hempstead Avenue, the yeshiva will operate in the morning and will include morning prayer services and breakfast. The program is currently limited to 20 students to keep a small rebbe to student ratio.

It is different from The Yeshiva Gedolah of the Five Towns, located in Woodmere, which runs a full-day into evening program. Most of its students study into the late hours of the night while only a handful attend evening college classes.

"There are many living in the community who are attending a secular university as opposed to traditional yeshivot or a program that combines the two," said Rabbi Cinamon. "Since they have chosen this route, they are left trying to find an appropriate venue to continue their Torah learning."

Rabbi Cinamon has spent the last eight years as a teacher at Rambam Mesivta in Lawrence and will be the Rosh Mesivta at Yeshiva Gedolah. He credits his wife and three children for always being there to support him.

"This is a great chapter in my life," he said. "I was loath to close the Rambam part but I am looking forward to continuing to serve the community through teaching older students."

Program highlights include analytical Gemara shiurim, weekly parsha classes, Shabbos programs and a hands-on approach to learning halacha. "This will make learning more real and allow the students to relate to it in a more practical way," said Rabbi Cinamon.

The yeshiva has already been warmly received by the community and Rabbi Cinamon is hoping to create close bonds with the local spiritual leaders and Hillel offices, using them as occasional guest lecturers.

According to Rabbi Cinamon, West Hempstead was a perfect location to establish the new yeshiva, as it "is a very ripe community, growing at a fast rate and with no post high school programs to cater to the college age population in that community. Given its close proximity to many area universities it was decided that it would be an appropriate place for an off campus venue."

The close proximity to local universities as well as the small size of the program is what attracted Hofstra University student, Yoni Miller, to the new yeshiva.

"I always liked the smaller places," said Miller. "You always have a strong relationship, get to know everyone and also get to know the rebbe very well."

Miller, a 20-year-old West Hempstead resident, was also attracted to the yeshiva because of the convenient location — his hometown.

"I'm very happy this community has gotten a yeshiva; so many people pushed for it," said Miller. "It is great that it is backed by the local rabbanim and hopefully it will grow to a larger institution."

As the opening date looms closer the excitement of Rabbi Cinamon and his student body is palpable. "We want this to be a central place of Torah learning," said Rabbi Cinamon. "We are very excited about it and are hoping to work with everyone in the community to provide a good and important service."

Comments about this article? Email thejewishstar@aol.com or call (516) 632-5205.



Rabbi Warren Cinamon