

Yeshiva Darchei Torah's New Buildings Are Under Construction



Artist's rendering of the new complex facing Seagirt Boulevard

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Fifty-two years ago, in 1972, Yeshiva Darchei Torah opened in a shul, Agudath Israel of Long Island, with just a few students. Fast forward to 2025, and the yeshivah has grown exponentially, with a current enrollment of over 2,700 *talmidim* in four divisions — Yeshiva Darchei Torah Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School; Mesivta Chaim Shlomo; Beis Medrash Heichal Dovid; and Kollel Tirtza Devorah; and has earned an international reputation as a stellar *makom Torah*, under the leadership of Harav Yaakov Bender, *Rosh Hayeshivah*.

Clearly, as the enrollment of the yeshivah grew over the years, so did its need for more and more space. After several moves over the course of its first 20 years, the yeshivah purchased the 8.5-acre campus of the Hartman YM-YWHA in 1991. At the time, Rav Bender was asked, “What are you going to do with this entire campus?” The *Rosh Yeshivah* replied, “*B’ezeras Hashem*, I will fill it up.”

A few years later, in 1996, Mr. Ronald Lowinger was spearheading the construction of a new building for the fledgling *mesivta* division of the yeshivah, which still had a limited enrollment. He, too was asked, “Why are you building such a beautiful building?” And he responded, “You will see, Torah is going to grow out of every corner of this campus.”

And so it is. The yeshivah continues to



Rav Yaakov Bender, Rosh Hayeshiva (right) dancing with Rav Shlomo Avigdor Altusky, Rosh Yeshiva (left) at the groundbreaking celebration

grow and flourish, being *mechanech* the *tinokos shel beis Rabban* of Far Rockaway, the Five Towns, and beyond, from early childhood through *kollel*. The *kol Torah* is not only growing out of every corner of the campus, but is also overflowing its boundaries. About six years ago, the yeshivah began making plans for its next chapter — the construction of 104,000 square feet of additional space.

This monumental project would encompass two new five-story buildings, one with a large *Beis Medrash*, 14 classrooms and a dining room, for *mesivta talmidim*, and the other would be a state-of-the-art dormitory for *mesivta* and *Beis Medrash talmidim*, the first of its kind for the yeshivah.

Currently, enrollment in Mesivta Chaim Shlomo and Beis Medrash Heichal Dovid con-

sists mostly of local boys from Far Rockaway, the Five Towns and surrounding neighborhoods, with many boys from communities across the country as well. While all *bachurim* in the *Beis Medrash* are required to dorm, local *mesivta bachurim* generally do not stay in the dormitory. Until now, dormitory facilities were located in close proximity to the yeshivah, with some of them in relatively poor condition. With the new dormitory building, all dormitory *bachurim* will be together in one comfortable building, enabling them to learn with more *menuchas hanefesh*.

The *Beis Medrash* building will measure 38,857 square feet, and will include a 4,900 square foot *Beis Medrash* and 13 classrooms. The residence hall will total approximately 65,000 square feet, with 98 dorm rooms and more than 400 beds. A joyous groundbreaking ceremony was held last summer, and it is hoped that the buildings will be completed within the next 12 to 14 months.

At the groundbreaking celebration, Harav Shlomo Avigdor Altusky, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Beis Medrash Heichal Dovid, elaborated on the significance of con-



Rav Moshe Hillel Hirsch speaking in 2024 in the current, main beis hamedrash at Darchei Torah, which was inaugurated in 1997

structing a new *Beis Medrash*. He explained, based on the *Maharsha* in *Maseches Megillah*, that when Moshiach comes and all the *Batei Medrash* and *Batei Knesses* are transplanted to Eretz Yisrael, they will be incorporated into the

actual Beis Hamikdash, as it says in *Tehillim*, “*Yerushalayim, k’ir shechubrah lah yachdav*.” “Therefore, when one is building a new shul or yeshivah, he should know that he is *mamash* adding bricks to the Beis Hamikdash Hasheli-

shi,” the *Rosh Yeshivah* asserted. “So, we are preparing for Moshiach by increasing *limud haTorah*, by strengthening Torah and by building the buildings that will one day be in Yerushalayim, *bimheirah v’yameinu*.”



The Roshei Yeshiva with some of Yeshiva Darchei Torah's supporters and administrators at the groundbreaking celebration in June.

Yehudah Jacob