

AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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ment for faculty scholarship and teaching.”

Schiffman earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Brandeis University and is a specialist in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Judaism in Late Antiquity, the history of Jewish law, and Talmudic literature. He has previously served as president of the Association of Jewish Studies and has taught at Yale University, Ben Gurion University, Johns Hopkins University, and the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, among others. Students will have the opportunity to study under Schiffman in his role as professor of Jewish studies at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Schiffman, a resident of Great Neck, said “the opportunity to reshape undergraduate education at Yeshiva represents both a challenge and a privilege. “Add to that the centrality of my own field of Judaic studies and YU’s significance for the future of the Jewish community and you will understand why I am so enthusiastic about this new position.”

“Professor Schiffman’s reputation as a scholar, his academic vision, and his commitment to *Torah u’Maddah* exemplify our mission,” said President Joel. “His boundless energy, his strong leadership skills, and his collegial sensibilities make him the ideal person to further that mission in our undergraduate schools.”

To learn more, visit www.yu.edu. ❖

Annual Rambam Mesivta Learn-A-Thon Connects Generations

January 2 usually does not get much press. It is often viewed as the day that inaugurates the secular new year with a return to work and the daily grind. For the *talmidim* at Rambam Mesivta and their fathers, it was the school’s annual learn-a-thon and a day marked by Torah learning, *chevrah*, and the erudition of Rabbi Eytan Feiner of Congregation Kneseth Israel.

The day began with a beautiful *Shacharis* that overflowed out of Rambam’s main shul and into the adjacent dining room. To see sons, fathers, uncles, and grandfathers *davening* side by side was an inspiring way to start a day of spiritual and practical improvement and in keeping with Rabbi Feiner’s topic of *kibud av v’eim*, honoring one’s mother and father. The program then moved to the gym where the incomparable Rambam Mesivta Women’s League served a fresh, hot breakfast of French toast, omelets, and bagels that provided the fuel for the morning program.



Fathers and sons learning at Rambam.

Following breakfast and *bentching*, the fathers and sons were given *marei mekomos* (source packets) to learn *chavrusa*-style in order to pre-

pare for Rabbi Feiner’s much-anticipated *shiur*. Fathers and sons poured over *Maseches Kiddushin*, *Sefer HaChinuch*, *Rambam Hilchos Mamrim*,



Rabbi Eitan Feiner

Aruch HaShulchan, *Shulchan Aruch*, and *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch*, and engaged in lively discussion. Rambam *rebbeim* were on hand to assist in the learn-

ing and frequently joined fathers and sons as they prepared for the *shiur*.

Rosh mesivta of Rambam, Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, truly set the tone of the learn-a-thon when he paid homage to the Holocaust survivors in the room. He observed just how remarkable it is that 65 years after the *Shoah*, these men have the *zechus* to learn with their sons and grandsons in America. When Rabbi Feiner began speaking about *kibud av v’eim*, Rabbi Friedman’s words of *hakoras hatov* were still palpable and augmenting Rabbi Feiner’s every point.

To say that Rabbi Feiner is a great speaker would be an

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understatement. Approximately 250 people of all ages sat in a room and were rooted to his every word. His boundless energy, ability to quote sources verbatim, and breadth of knowledge enlivened the Rambam community and kept them enthralled.

Rabbi Feiner's *shiur* dealt with a number of contemporary important *halachic* issues. He pointed out that, according to various *poskim*, *kibud av v'eim* is not just how you act toward one's parents, but how one thinks about them. He also discussed the obligation a child has toward his parents regardless of their religious commitment. He amplified the *shiur* with stories of *Gedolei Yisrael* and great scholars, as well as his trademark sense of humor, in order to drive his points home.

Observing the event, one couldn't help but notice the broad participation of parents, grandparents, sons, and alumni, which speaks to the fact that *kibud av v'eim* is part of the fabric of Rambam Mesivta. Rabbi Feiner's message magnified this ideal and proved that, when it comes to *kibud av v'eim*, *talmidim* learning with their parents provides tremendous *nachas* and is the ultimate form of respect. ❖

Café Chabad

This past Saturday night, Chabad of the Five Towns's Café Chabad, which was chaired by Sholom and Pessy Jacobs and Sruly and Chaya Krinsky, opened its doors. Participants were greeted by the warmth of a roaring fireplace and cam-



Game time at Café Chabad.



The Markovitches and Renovs enjoying their evening.

raderie of friends.

Chabad was transformed into a café with round tables with black tablecloths and crushed grey velveteen table toppers. A delicious dairy buffet was set up with choices of savory soups, creamy pasta

dishes, and a delicious salad bar. To top it off, there was a choice of fruit pastries, flavored coffees, and a variety of cheesecakes to delight all palates.

Live music by Boruch Shlomo Blesofsky pulsed through the room



Yisroel Swimmer shares stories of his miraculous experiences.

while everyone socialized. Mr. Yisroel Swimmer kept everyone spellbound as he related his childhood experiences with the Rebbe, ob'm.

The highlight of the evening was a game of "Do You Want to be a Millionaire," emceed by Chabad's very own Ely Baum. The audience was divided into teams, and with the spin of the dice, a topic was chosen and each team was given a chance to answer a Five Towns's trivia question. The winning team won a Belgian waffle and drink of choice at Le Chocolat. The evening ended with the drawing of the coveted door prize raffle. Dr. Tzvi Friedman, a Gan Chamesh parent, was happy to be declared the winner of the iPod Touch-4th generation. ❖

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