

An Appreciation of Our Beloved Yeshivat Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan

אשרינו מה טוב חלקנו ומה נעים גורלנו

We are fortunate. How good is our portion and how pleasant our lot.

A look back at the last one hundred years affords us the opportunity to appreciate what our beloved Yeshiva has enabled its *musmakhim* (ordained rabbis) to accomplish. The vibrancy and optimism which characterizes the present state of affairs in the Orthodox community worldwide is a result, in great measure, of the commitment of RIETS' supporters and administrators in maintaining our great citadel of Torah learning.

Rabbinic Alumni counts among its more than two thousand *musmakhim* some of the most notable *marbitzei Torah* in the entire world. Even a quick glance at the roster of our RIETS' Roshei Yeshiva and staff today will demonstrate the role and the impact that our *musmakhim* have on maintaining the continuity of our remarkable yeshiva. They are fitting successors to the *geonim* who led our Yeshiva through the last century.

Our graduates presently serve as the *rabbonim* of most of the prominent synagogues in America. We find our *musmakhim* involved in Jewish education on all levels around the globe. The best indication of the future vitality of the Jewish people, is seen when the beneficiaries of Jewish education chose to dedicate their own lives to this noble cause.

Our Yeshiva also has a cadre of *musmakhim* engaged in numerous professions and undertakings thereby contributing immensely to *tikkun ha-olam*. We find our graduates in prominent roles in organizational life serving in institutions which address the social and political concerns of the Jewish people in particular, and the world in general. Many can be found among the first ranks of academia world wide. A significant number of our *musmakhim* have made *aliya* and are advancing the ideals of Torah U'Madda in *Medinat Yisrael*. Wherever they may be and in whatever profession they may serve, the *musmakhim* of RIETS are religious and ethical role models in their communities and professions. The articles presented in this issue of Rosh

Hashana To Go for your edification are a demonstration of the wide range of interests of our *musmakhim* and their areas of expertise.

In recent years, RIETS through the CJF has intensified its efforts to reach out to communities in the States and Canada to share with them, in some measure, some of the programs which have until now been available only to its students. This initiative has inspired and motivated many communities to strive for greater goals and has enhanced the influence of our Yeshiva.

Rabbinic Alumni of RIETS is grateful to our yeshiva for all that it has given us and continues to provide. We recall the pioneering efforts of Dr. Bernard Revel and Dr. Samuel Belkin ZT”L, and the achievements of Dr. Norman Lamm Shlita. At present, we acknowledge the tremendous efforts of President Richard Joel in re-envisioning and reinvigorating the institution to which we owe so much. We also express our *hakarat hatov* to Rabbi Kenneth Brander, The David Mitzner Dean of the Center for the Jewish Future, for providing the rabbis in the field with a myriad of resources and professional growth opportunities. We especially thank Rabbi Yona Reiss, the Max and Marion Grill Dean of RIETS, the RIETS Roshei Yeshiva and entire staff for finding the time in their busy schedules to answer our *shailos* and share Torah with us via phone, email, texts, the internet, Rabbinic Alumni’s publication, *Chavrusa*, as well as by traveling to our communities. In an issue celebrating Rabbinic Alumni, it is most appropriate to acknowledge the initiation of the Elef L’Mateh society and the more than seventy *rabbonim* who are pioneers in this new initiative to help give back and support the Torah activities of the Yeshiva.

The great Rav Chaim of Volozhin is said to have proclaimed America as the last “*achsania of Torah*” before the arrival of Moshiach. At that time, our Yeshivat Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan will surely be recognized for its instrumental role in shaping the course of twentieth and twenty first century Jewry leading up to this cosmic event.

May Hashem continue to bless all who are involved with furthering the goals of RIETS.

Shana Tova to all,

The Yeshiva University Rabbinic Alumni Advisory Committee

Rabbi Adam Berner • Rabbi Binyamin Blau • Rabbi Kenneth Hain
Rabbi Elazar Muskin • Rabbi Moshe Neiss • Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Rybak
Rabbi Shmuel Silber • Rabbi Perry Tirschwell • Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach
Rabbi Howard Zack • Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler



ישיבת רבנו יצחק אלעזר

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary

An Affiliate of Yeshiva University

CENTER FOR THE JEWISH FUTURE