

IMPACT!

DONOR APPRECIATION REPORT

MARCH 2026



THE LIVES YOU ARE IMPACTING

Find out how YOU raised Jewish pride and commitment throughout our community





MY CAUSE

My support of Chabad has a beautiful symmetry to it - after the many years that Chabad has supported me and my family. Chabad values begin and end with its people and for forty years we have been the recipients of a kindness and generosity of spirit that continues to move and inspire me. This friendship began with Rabbi Tuvia and Chaya Teldon and now continues with Rabbi Mendel and Bracha Teldon.

Forty years ago this year my fiancé and I were looking for a rabbi to marry us. On a random Friday afternoon, when he was buying shabbat wine at a local liquor store, he “bumped into” a Chabad rabbi in Commack and that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. We were always welcomed with open arms and no judgment about how little or how much we observed Jewish customs and laws. In a world of light speed judgment, this was a welcome respite.

Our son was the first Bar Mitzvah in the new (now old) shul on Vets Highway. The respect Rabbi Teldon showed my non Jewish father was especially touching. It was my dad who supported the search for my Jewish roots when I was a teen. And it was Rabbi Teldon who demonstrated by example what loving your neighbor really means. It confirmed to me that we shared the most important values - loving kindness, compassion and acceptance for all people.

All these years later, I am now an enthusiastic participant in the JLI classes and look forward to Rabbi Teldon's weekly classes. The classes have reignited my passion for Judaism and in particular Jewish learning. The Teldons open home has been a beautiful space to see an observant Jewish family in action. It is one permeated by love and acceptance. I am so grateful that we have the Teldons in our community and I look forward to many more celebrations together.

- **Audra Dehan**



MY COMMUNITY

For most of my life, my Judaism was fragmented.

After my bat mitzvah, I rarely stepped inside a synagogue. My family's story around Judaism was complicated, and when my parents divorced, even the holidays faded. What remained was ambivalence, shame, and a quiet sense that something essential in me was unfinished.

Somewhere in my 40's, something felt deeply missing. Feeling scarred from my past experiences, I took to learning on my own as I watched Chabad of Mid-Suffolk from a distance. I wanted to reach out. I wasn't ready.

Then after internet stalking Rabbi Mendy, I sent him an email saying I've been working through my “ish” and that I was Chabad curious.

After two years of thinking I wasn't ready, I told him “I'm ready now”

When we met, I asked awkward questions — about separate seating, about services, about whether I was ready for this step. He didn't flinch. Prayer, he explained, is vulnerable. Services are only a small part of what it means to live Jewishly. Then he called Brocha and told her to add four plates for Shabbat dinner.

That Friday night changed everything.

Now we celebrate Shabbat nearly every week. We sing Shalom Aleichem. We wash hands. My son and husband instinctively reach for their kippahs. I've been to the Ohel. I've danced on Simchat Torah.

When Brocha asked me to help cook for the High Holidays, I felt deeply honored. Being put to work made me feel useful... in a very Jewish way.

On Yom Kippur, Mendy spoke about Hineini — here I am — and Shalcheini — send me. When I wrote, “I'm ready now,” I was saying Hineini.

Chabad of Mid-Suffolk has given me a place to show up for my people and to live my purpose as a Jewish woman. To fulfill the mitzvah of raising children who stand proudly as Jews and gathering openly, joyfully, as a community.

Now, I'm saying Shalcheini.

- **Tara Newman**

a. Our JLI class loves to keep learning



a.



b.

b. Bringing the community together during Chanukah

c. Bright new beginnings



c.



d.

d. Fun times at our adult social event

e. Commack High School making chocolate bars after learning about Tu Bshvat



e.



f.

f. C-Teen making graffiti challah boards at our Challah Bake

g. Great night learning at Yeshiva night

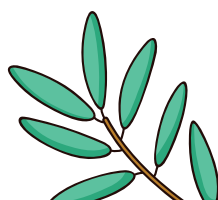


g.



h.

h. So many artists at Chabad





THOUGHTS FROM THE RABBI

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are squeezed in between two of my favorite holidays. Purim and Passover.

When Mordechai and Esther were under pressure to save the Jews, they didn't publish opeds or launch campaigns on Twitter (later changed to X). They gathered Jewish children and educated them. And that is what guaranteed the future of the Jewish people.

And then on Passover we are going to dip the vegetable into salt water, bring the pillows down from the bedroom, hide the afikoman and do some more exciting stuff, in order to engage and educate the next generation.

Because that is what we do. We educate.

And thanks to your donation, your impact now reaches, not just our Hebrew School and CTeen programs but new programs in the local High School and Middle Schools as well!

That is how you are insuring the future of the Jewish people.

So thank you for making that happen. The current and next generation thank you!

- Rabbi Mendel & Brocha Teldon

“ BEAUTIFUL SERVICE ON SHABBOS. You have inspired me to put Tefillin on and pray in the morning.

- Jack

“ I TRULY ENJOYED THIS PARTICULAR COURSE. I've left with additional mantras to help me live through the more difficult moments (helping me to let go and trust...); there is a reason/purpose that I am here at this very moment.”

- E

“ JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP. I really appreciate you being instrumental at shabbat dinner! Mazel Tov on the new building!

- Caryn

“ MOM, this is the best place ever!

- Olivia, age 4, after Friday Night Services

“ I MADE SURE TO WRITE THIS LAST CHECK ON MY BIRTHDAY, it's like the best gift I could give myself, knowing that I am helping to support and fuel a mission I truly believe in.

- Marla

“ WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING. The Paint night was so much fun! Thank you Brocha for hosting this. Was amazing seeing you both with wide smiles and happiness in our new "Home"! BH you shall dwell in this beautiful place and the future beautiful building forever. ❤️

- Wendy

“ MAZEL TOV ON YOUR NEW HOME IN COMMACK! I know your presence there will be a blessing to many.

- Joyce



LEAVE AN ETERNAL LEGACY

Contact Rabbi Mendel Teldon about the spiritual and financial benefits that a legacy gift can bring to you and your family: 631.767.3144.

Remember Chabad of Mid-Suffolk in your will.