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# IMPACT!

DONOR APPRECIATION REPORT

MAY 2024



**THE LIVES YOU ARE IMPACTING**

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





## MY CAUSE



I was born into an amazing kosher home, surrounded by Jewish traditions my entire life. Once our family moved from Queens to Long Island, Chabad has been in our lives ever since. We were welcomed with open arms into an incredible community that started with Rabbi Tuvia Teldon and his wife, Chaya, and which has now continued with Rabbi Mendy Teldon and his wife, Brocha.

Over the years, I have seen Chabad do amazing things for the Jewish community without any strings attached. Chabad of Mid-Suffolk has been there for us, through good and bad times. When my father was sick, I watched Rabbi Tuvia and Rabbi Mendy come to my house numerous times to talk and put on Tefillin with my father and to blow Shofar. After finding out that my father never had a Bar Mitzvah because of the Holocaust, Rabbi Mendy immediately got to work and made him a Bar Mitzvah. It was two weeks before he passed away. He needed help standing to say his Haftorah, but when he finished and we lifted him up on a chair to carry him around, his smile was from ear to ear. My family and I will be eternally grateful for what they did for my father and our family, but also what they do for our Jewish community.

Rabbi Mendy Teldon and Chabad of Mid-Suffolk consistently go above and beyond. I've watched them bring Judaism to our local community in so many ways—whether it's driving around with a menorah on the roof of his car during Chanukah, dressing up during Purim, preparing and dropping off care packages on many Jewish holidays, or checking in on Jewish community members and making all of us feel seen, Chabad is always helping and giving in a way that I've never experienced before. And I have to confess, I even look forward to hearing his sermons. They're always informative, very interesting, and he has a natural ability to bring humor into his sermons. Chabad is a place that allows congregation members to feel like family, and both Rabbi Mendy and Brocha are perfect community leaders, scheduling events that make Judaism fun and engaging, and getting to know each congregation member on a personal level.

When I support Chabad, it means continuing the tradition of spreading Judaism in our community and keeping our faith going.

- Julian Miller

## MY COMMUNITY



Rabbi Mendy and Brocha have created a home for our family at Chabad of Mid-Suffolk. It's a vibrant community that has enriched our lives, providing us with a sense of belonging, spiritual guidance, and a connection to Jewish traditions that have been both grounding and uplifting.

We've lived in Commack for 20 years, enjoying the community and maintaining a thriving social life. However, it wasn't until we were introduced to Chabad that we truly became part of their family and active members of the community. Since then, we have both been on several spiritual and educational trips, and David has visited Israel twice with Mendy. On one occasion, he and Mendy were roomies!

We have enjoyed many Friday night Shabbat dinners at the Rabbi's home, and we cherish the warmth, love, prayers, and sense of purpose it brings us to light candles and enjoy a gourmet Shabbos meal cooked by Brocha. We have even started our own Shabbat dinner group with other members - who knew Shabbat dinner could be so much fun! We dine, we dance, we sing, and we pray - all while feeling that we are contributing to the love, strength, and fortitude of Jews around the world, especially those in Israel who are being held hostage.

Chabad's commitment to social responsibility and active kindness has resonated deeply with us, inspiring us to be more proactive in giving back to our community. We have distributed menorahs in our community during Hanukkah, and for two years now, we have been appointed Passover Matzah Ambassadors. Recently, David has led a guitar class with fellow friends, congregants, and even Rabbi Mendy! Can you imagine walking through our front door and hearing Rabbi and others jamming out to "Am Yisrael Chai"?

Chabad has become a vital part of our lives, offering a sanctuary for spiritual nourishment and growth, a hub for communal engagement, and a source of inspiration and social action. It has not only enriched our lives but also empowered us to contribute positively to the broader community, embodying the essence of Jewish life and continuity. Thank you!

- Terri & David Karpe

a. The next generation of Jewish leaders learning their Aleph Bet.



c. Delivering Purim costumes to the families that are evacuated from Israel's North.



e. The whole town smelled like homemade Hamantaschen after our Pre-Purim women's event.



g. Over 1000 families received handmade shmurah matzah to bless their Passover Seder table!



b. Learning Jewish medical ethics and getting CME/CLE credits in the process!



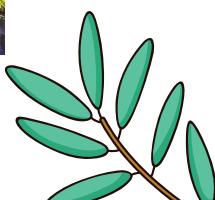
d. Business leaders networking over a good bagel and an impactful lecture.



f. Nothing like a Hebrew School grad coming back 10 years later for a mitzvah!



h. Laughs all around at our annual Purim comedy show.





# THOUGHTS FROM THE RABBI

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Who would have thought that we would still be here, 8 months later, still in the heat of battle?

Of course, we continuously show support for those in the Holy Land and those defending it. As you can see on the front cover, members of our community have visited IDF soldiers wounded in the war.

We are fighting in Israel and around the world for our survival. Although they are different types of battles, but in Gaza, on college campuses, and on the screens of our devices, the rights of a Jew are being threatened. At times I wonder what we can do here locally and daily to strengthen the cause.

I realized an age-old truth: If you don't exercise your rights, you lose them. The more we use our rights as Jews, the stronger they get. And as your doctor tells you, if you don't use it, you risk losing it. It will atrophy. Sometimes from internal causes and sometimes from external ones.

Part of the purpose for which the war is being fought is that we can practice our Judaism and proudly and actively embrace our faith. We need to continue working on the muscles of our Jewishness. That in itself is a victory!

Because of that, thousands of people have strengthened their Judaism over the past few months. And because you have helped all those people exercise those rights, by extension, you have strengthened the entire Jewish people.

So, thank you. Thank you for your support and thank you for making the Jewish people stronger!

**- Rabbi Mendel & Brocha Teldon**

THANK YOU SO MUCH for the box of Shmurah Matzoh! What a pleasant surprise to find the box of matzoh when I arrived home. We will enjoy it at our Seders. Wishing you and yours, a very healthy, happy, kosher, peaceful, and zissen Passover.

**- Marsha**

THANK YOU AGAIN for a very beautiful dinner. And thank you because the guests around the table were all very gracious with donating towards the supplies for the IDF unit and now we only have two boots left to raise towards our goal of 60 pairs.

**- Michelle**

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL IDEA! I have all the fixings we need and I will invite a few couples/families to join us for Shabbat Together!

**- Bonnie**

GREAT LESSON. I never realized that the Talmud had so much to say on these current topics. Fascinating.

**- Dave**

THANK YOU FOR THE BOOK I think it's a nice choice to send because many people are in need of guidance about what is going on in Israel. I will certainly share my thoughts after reading it.

**- Ron**

THANK YOU and Brocha for such a wonderful Shabbat dinner last night. It was incredibly special to join your family and friends, and to be welcomed into your home. The meal was as legendary as described, and the company equally so! Many thanks and blessings!

**- Jennifer**



## 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.