

IMPACT!

DONOR APPRECIATION REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025



THE LIVES YOU ARE IMPACTING

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





YOUR CAUSE

For decades, I was the quintessential lapsed Jew—proud of my heritage, committed to making the world a better place, and steadfast in doing mitzvahs, acts of kindness, and good deeds. But beyond that, my connection to Judaism was largely dormant. My career as an executive coach, family business advisor, and bestselling author consumed my life. Despite my achievements, including winning a precedent setting case in the NY State Supreme Court on behalf of women, I found myself feeling lonely and isolated, detached from the deeper meanings of life.

Then, three years ago, something unexpected happened. A gift from Chabad arrived at my doorstep to celebrate Chanukah. Accompanying it was an invitation to Shabbat dinner at Rabbi Mendy and Brocha Teldon's home. Out of curiosity, I accepted. That night, I was awe-struck by what I found: beautiful rituals, profound guidance on living an ethical life, a vision of a Higher Power beyond the punishing figure I had imagined, gourmet food, and a model of family life that was both loving and dynamic. The six (6) Teldon children, all smart, lively, and joyful, were fully integrated with the room full of caring, intelligent adult guests. That dinner was the beginning of a journey that has enriched and, in many ways, transformed my life.

Over the past three years, I've engaged in deep, meaningful conversations with the Rabbi, and his gracious and wise parents, Tuvia and Chaya Telden, attended Jewish education classes, and sat at the Shabbat tables of other Orthodox families. I traveled to Israel with a group of wonderful people, also Chabad members, and helped launch a network group for Jewish business leaders. This dogged pursuit of answers to my biggest life questions has brought me to a place of greater meaning and connection.

What I discovered through Chabad was startling. The gap between the richness of Judaism and the way I had been taught to understand and experience it was profound. Chabad showed me why Jewish ethics and traditions matter and how their profound messages are more relevant today than ever. I learned that Judaism isn't just about rituals; it's about living an ethical life, asking hard questions, and engaging in meaningful debates to make the religion of your childhood truly your own.

Supporting Chabad has become important to me because their mission aligns with my own core values. Chabad's dedication to spreading Jewish knowledge, fostering community, and encouraging personal growth resonates deeply with my belief in lifelong learning and ethical living. Their work is not just about preserving Jewish traditions but about making those traditions accessible, relevant, and meaningful for Jews of all backgrounds.

In a world with millions of charitable organizations, I choose to support Chabad because they have given me something priceless: a renewed connection to my faith, a deeper understanding of my heritage, and a community that has enriched my life in ways I never imagined. Through Chabad, I have found timeless wisdom, spiritual connection, and a path to living a more meaningful life. For that, I am eternally grateful.

- Ellen Cooperperson



YOUR COMMUNITY

When we moved to Commack 20 years ago, we initially chose to spend the High Holidays each year with our parents because we didn't have any connection to the local community. A few years later when David was working at a Passover program in Puerto Rico, by coincidence he met Andrew Glick, from Commack, who was also part of the staff. Over the next 2 weeks Andrew and David got to know each other better. At one point he asked which Temple we went to and the honest response was that we haven't found one that makes us feel at home. Andrew invited our family to an 'Open House' bbq to meet Rabbi Mendy, Brocha and members of Chabad. Not only was everyone friendly and welcoming, but it was the first time we felt a part of a community.

Some of our fondest memories were spent at the hotel for the High Holidays, dinners in the Sukkah and Shabbat dinners at the Teldon home. Throughout all this time, we developed a friendship with the entire Teldon Family.

One by one, our 3 boys attended Hebrew School. As they approached their 13th birthday, they studied one on one with Rabbi Mendy. At each of their services when the Rabbi spoke about them, it was personal because he had taken the time to get to know them and their interests.

Being a part of the Mid-Suffolk Chabad has given our family a stronger Jewish identity. Chabad has meant always having an extended family to share Simchas, support in times of sorrow and a community who comes together to pray for peace, strength and health.

- Lisa & David Cooper



a. Bound to our Father in Heaven



a.



b. The ladies having a blast at the Chanukah social.

b.

c. A new menorah welcoming people to the Hauppauge Industrial Park



c.



d. Bringing physical and spiritual blessing to the community

d.

e. A full house learning Jewish advice on deepening our relationships



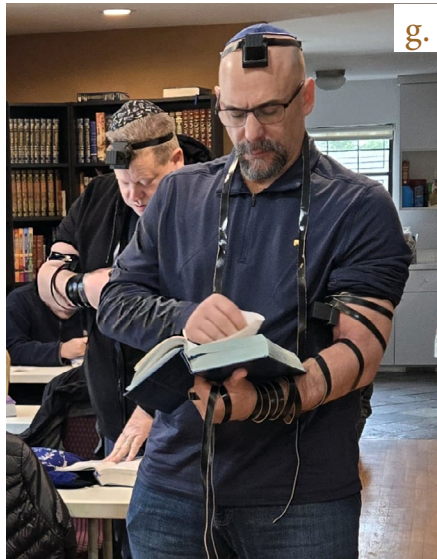
e.



f. Another home is blessed

f.

g. Wrapping up with meaning and connection

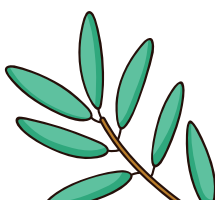


g.



h. An evening of light, laughter, and l'chaim at the Menorahs & Martinis

h.





THOUGHTS FROM THE RABBI

DEAR FRIENDS,

Purim.

Just saying the words bring forth the smells of freshly baked Hamantashen, the sounds of happy children and the sights of costumes in all colors.

As one of the happiest days on our calendar we look forward to all that goes in making it so.

Of course we are celebrating how we were on the edge of destruction and G-d worked His wonders and behind the scenes moved all His chess pieces to make it all work out.

At the time, we couldn't see it. But in hindsight, we say: Aha! That's what was really happening.

That idea is woven into the traditions of the holiday. The Hamantash, the costumes, even the L'Chaim—each reminds us that there is more than meets the eye. The poppy seed hidden in the dough, the face concealed behind the mask—these are all echoes of a deeper truth: G-d is orchestrating everything.

At Chabad, we see this same truth in action. Every family we touch, every child we inspire, every senior whose face lights up—it's because of you. You, the donor, working behind the scenes to make it all happen.

And for that, I raise a glass and say: L'Chaim!

- Rabbi Mendel & Brocha Teldon

“ THE COURSE WAS STIMULATING, thought provoking, and insightful. As always, you did a sensational job condensing and delivering a vast subject into understandable bite sized pieces that can immediately be applied.

- Ellen

“ I ALSO WANTED TO THANK YOU for the immeasurable contribution Chabad makes to the Jewish community in western Suffolk.

- Shari

“ I TOTALLY ENJOYED THE COURSE on relationships and what the Torah teaches as it reinforced and added (yes added) to what I “taught” my whole professional life.

- Esther

“ IT WASN'T JUST A DINNER. It was an experience.

- Larry

“ IT WAS AN HONOR and a unique pleasure to share Shabbat with you and the “Yeshiva boys”! Such fascinating stories. Thank you for bringing me closer to my roots.

- Mitch

“ Having not grown up in an orthodox observant community, I find it very informative and interesting to learn how our religion developed from the Bible, or even before the Bible, to how it is practiced and observed by many Jewish communities today. Looking forward to the rest of the course for even more understanding.

- Allan



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.