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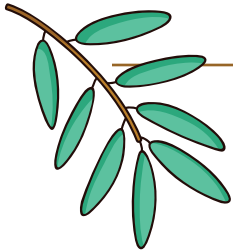
# IMPACT!

DONOR APPRECIATION REPORT

SPRING 2022



How YOU are making a difference...



## MY CAUSE



WHEN WE THINK ABOUT the legacy we want to leave to each of our children, there is a consistent feeling of pressure to do more today than our parents did. We both want to leave this world a better place for our families and for our people, but how do we do this?

My parents instilled in me all the wonderful practices, customs and traditions of Judaism and we were never far from a cooked-to-perfection brisket or Friday night Kiddish.

As an adult, I met Rabbi Mendy after receiving a personal invitation to attend Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in 2009. His ear-to-ear smile, gregarious laugh and heartwarming jokes was exactly what I was in search of when trying to find a new schul. My heart was so full.

After moving to Great Neck, it was important to me that I still remained a member of Chabad. Even though there are many synagogues in between Commack and Great Neck, I knew I wasn't going to experience the same love, light and sense of community that me and my children experienced at Chabad of Mid-Suffolk.

Years later, after meeting Elliot, it was so important for me to introduce him to Chabad as well. We started by attending Kabbalah classes with the Rabbi. His genuine approach of "we are here to teach, give and support" was the outreach Elliot needed to rekindle his passion towards Judaism. Rabbi Mendy blessed our union by officiating at our wedding. We are forever grateful for Rabbi and Brocha's guidance with all the many wonderful Jewish rituals for getting married.

The teaching of Jewish tradition and customs, the transfer of knowledge to our children and all our philanthropic endeavors still don't feel in comparison to what our parents and grandparents did for us. But it became apparent to me that Tzedakah is more than just to rectify the redistribution of wealth, or a moral obligation. Rather it is a blessed opportunity granted to every person to become a "partner with G-d in creation" and with that, I can stand humbly in comparison.

- Marla Leibowitz



## MY HOME

IN 2002, friends of mine invited me to a class on Kabbalah taught by Rabbi Tuvia Teldon at the Suffolk YJCC. It was the first time in my life that I identified my deeply held beliefs with Judaism. I had searched all my life, immersing myself in eastern religions looking for that very thing.

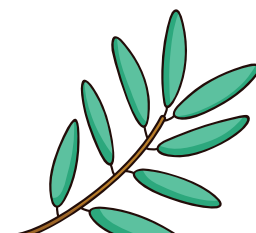
While my grandparents were observant, I grew up in a secular, but spiritual family, and did not have the benefit of a Jewish community or a spiritual Jewish Identity. Chabad gave me those gifts and more.

Chabad has been there though many of my life events and milestones, including my son's bar mitzvah, my mother's illness, the passing of both of my parents and my wedding. Rabbi Mendy is an extraordinary rabbi who has been there through it all. His youthful enthusiasm expressed through community programs and enlightening lectures complements his wisdom and compassion in the form of personal connection and just plain showing up and having my back. Rebbetzin Brocha was by my side at my wedding and has inspired me to bring love and beauty to my home through the meals I prepare and the environment I create.

During those early classes so many years ago, Rabbi's daughter, Chanie, who was about 10 at the time, sat patiently and did her homework in the JCC library. Years later, the very same Chanie and her mother, Rebbetzin Chaya, have become my teachers and inspire me through their beautiful stories and passion for service.

I love Chabad Mid-Suffolk and consider all of the community family.

- Robin Seidman



a. Our Hebrew School being represented at the Regional Championship for JewQ educational competition



c. While leading the 50 car Menorah Parade, even the police got a menorah on the roof.



d. The Adult Chanukah social kept everyone entertained.



g. The budding artists of the future get together at a CTeen meet.



h. Another home is blessed!



i. The Menorah in the middle of town being lit with the help of the Commack Fire Department.



b. Over 1500 Chanukah Boxes brought light and joy to the masses.

e. Groundbreaking class on Understanding Antisemitism had students online and in person.

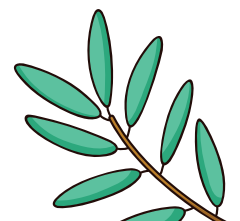


f. Intimate Challah bakes in homes around town brought the smells and tastes of Shabbat to so many.



k. Hebrew School students experience a tour of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem with VR glasses.

j. Another mitzvah. Another G-dly connection.





# RABBI'S LETTER

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Soon after the big event at Mount Sinai a few millennia ago, the dust settled and the sounds faded away. It seemed like the relationship between G-d and the Jewish people was formalized and good to go. But it wasn't.

That only happened 1,000 years later when a guy named Haman wanted to get rid of all the Jews and he was too-close-for-comfort to pulling it off.

It was only when the Jews stood up for their values and took a stand, that G-d

knew that we were committed.

So we need more people like you. Those that are standing up and engaging more Jews and giving them the confidence and tools to be active, educated and proud Jews. You being out there in building an even stronger Jewish community gives us a greater reason to celebrate this Purim.

Thanks for being a modern day Mordechai and Esther.

- Rabbi Mendel & Brocha Teldon



“ THANK YOU SO MUCH for inviting us to share Shabbat with you, your wonderful family, and members of the congregation. It was beautiful and a true feast.

- Joan

“ THE EFFORT to make packages for the Jewish community is not just lip service. It takes a lot of effort. To have Chabad of Mid Suffolk out here helping and serving the community is important to allow Jews to know, when they are called upon for religious obligations that they will do them properly.

- Steve

“ Thank you for the warm and wonderful gifts I have received at my door. Your Mitzvah - Chanukkah box inspired and guided me to speak (via Zoom) about the meaning of the “Festival of Lights” in front of a group of professional, interfaith women in Ireland, America and the UK. The little scratch off card of the menorah was a gift that delighted and preoccupied my grandson, who has autism.

- Ellen

“ I wanted to thank you for such an amazing time on Shabbat. I would love to bring my kids for Shabbat dinner next time so that they can see how it's really done

- Esther

“ I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU. We were beyond moved. I don't even have the right words. When we arrived on vacation, at our door was a complete Shabbat in a box. One of the kids from the other family that we were with was so excited that “There is Shabbat also in Hawaii!” Mission accomplished.

- Michelle

“ I would like to thanks you for the wonderful Shabbat handbook I received a few days ago. It is very helpful and much appreciated.

- Beatrice



## 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.