



Hymie Shamah, Ricky Cohen, Morris Bailey, Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Richie Chalme and Joey Shamah

Barkai Yeshivah's Capital Campaign Launch



Barkai Yeshivah launched its Capital Campaign at a recent gala brunch at Beth Torah. Barkai continues to expand, with enrollment at an all-time high. The campaign launch was attended by a cross section of the community, including rabbis, parents, political leaders and professionals from sister organizations and other yeshivot.

In an unprecedented move, Barkai President Joey Shamah turned the podium over to representatives of other community organizations to discuss their missions and how they would ultimately benefit Barkai and the community at large. Speakers of the morning included Chief Rabbi Shaul Kassin, Ezra Ashkenazi on behalf of the Sephardic Rabbinical College and Allegra Franco School of Educational Leadership, Hymie Shamah President of the Sephardic Community Alliance, Albert Laboz

Founder and President of Project Education, Barkai parent and Councilman David Greenfield, Barkai's Chairman of the Board Ricky Cohen and Rosh Yeshivah Emeritus Rabbi Joseph Dweck.

Chief Rabbi Kassin reminded the attendees that the Torah is the single thing that has unified generations of Jews throughout the years and that Barkai students learn every word of the Torah in *Lashon HaKodesh* (Hebrew). He continued to bless the yeshivah with growth and success in its future.

Ezra Ashkenazi spoke of the importance of developing teachers and leaders from within our community. Hymie Shamah explained that for our community to continue to thrive, we need platforms for our organizations to work together. If our shuls, schools and hesed organizations can have open dialogue with one another, organizations would be able to work together and maintain relevance in an ever changing religious landscape. The Sephardic

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Ricky Cohen and Councilman David Greenfield



Albert Laboz



Barkai President Joey Shamah

Community Alliance is making this a reality.

Project Education, an institution started by Albert Laboz, is working on changing the paradigm of gift giving in the community. Albert explained that we need to make our educational institutions a priority in our gift giving for the schools to maintain affordability throughout the community as well as focus on academic excellence within the schools.

Councilman David Greenfield spoke about the central value of Jewish education and the key role it plays in the future of the community. As a proud Barkai parent, he reflected on the warm and nurturing climate that is evident at the yeshivah and the smiling faces of both the students and faculty that greet him each time he enters the school building. Ricky Cohen expressed his pride in being at such a special event.

The morning culminated with a special visitor from "across the pond," Rosh Yeshivah Emeritus and current Senior Rabbi of the



Rabbi Daniel Kahana and Ezra Ashkenazi

Spanish Portuguese community in London, Rabbi Joseph Dweck who said, "When guiding a child towards understanding the importance of studying the arts and sciences through the lens of the Torah, you are building a solid future for *Kelal Yisrael*. It is a future full of well-rounded individuals who have strong identities and deep roots imbedded in Torah values who simultaneously aspire to better the world." □



Michael and David Hidary