Each person

is like a tree.

We need warmth,

light, caring,

and a place for our

individuality

to take root,

a place

to call

home.



THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED

OTTAWA TORAH CENTRE CHABAD





Thirteen years ago, Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad began as a small group of dedicated Jews inspired by The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson. In a makeshift basement centre, a dream of cultivating a bright Jewish future for ourselves and our children began to take root.

What emerged was a **Vision** of a community focused on Jewish spiritual discovery; a community that would **empower** each individual to aspire toward his or her personal potential; a place of **warmth** and acceptance that every Jew can call home, where every Jew is loved.

Over time, we realized that today's Jews are looking for a community that is **dynamic** and **responsive** to their needs, for a place where **diversity** and **inclusion** are not just professed ideals but values that are reflected in our community's social environment and program offerings. We listened carefully, and then set out to offer niche activities and create a place where we can all feel comfortable exploring our Jewish identity on our own terms.

And so this is the community we set out to create together.



"Looking back at the last thirteen years, we are amazed at how many people have been touched through OTC programs. The support and the warm welcome from the community that we experienced is really what made OTC such a success."

— Rabbi Menachem M. & Dina Blum

"At OTC we have learned to observe and celebrate our Judaism with understanding and meaning we had never experienced before. Everyone coming to OTC is made to feel welcome, whether they attend regularly or for an hour at a time. The many friends we've made at OTC help to provide a feeling of family and welcome at every event."

— Arlene and Perry Medicoff











THE CHALLENGE: An increasing number of Jewish residents in Ottawa are unaffiliated, intermarried or disengaged. OTC RESPONDS with a wide spectrum of engaging and inclusive programs for the entire community that cater to a variety of interests, creating social, spiritual and educational points of entry that are authentic and appealing.

THE CHALLENGE: Enrollment in Jewish schools is declining. OTC RESPONDS by delivering programs to public schools and libraries, working within the public sector to reach the Jewish children there with exciting learning experiences that give them a taste of Jewish life. And, for those interested in more intensive study, we offer the highly acclaimed Chabad Sunday Hebrew School, which has grown to over 70 students in just six years.

THE CHALLENGE: People's experience of Judaism and Jewish life is often removed and passive. OTC RESPONDS with the Living Legacy Workshops that invigorates participants – children, youth, and families – with a hands on experience, which generates a profound personal connection to Jewish practice.

THE CHALLENGE: People find synagogue services dry and alienating, and outright boring for children. OTC RESPONDS with an an authentic yet out of the box synagogue experience that caters to contemporary spiritual needs and expectations, offering meaningful, instructional prayer services, children's programs, and a focus on celebrating the Jewish experience and making it relevant.

THE CHALLENGE: An educated community demands a challenging and immersive learning experience. OTC RESPONDS with the Jewish Learning Institute adult education courses and lectures across Ottawa.

THE CHALLENGE: The community is dispersed over a wider geographical area now. OTC RESPONDS by extending its programs throughout Ottawa and creates a one-stop-shop for all Jewish needs servicing the western suburbs.











From our humble beginnings, OTC evolved into a successful, **multifaceted** organization, thriving because it has maintained its focus on warmth and **acceptance**.

Our programs are effective because they are dynamic and adaptable. OTC's reputation for being accepting and **engaging** is reinforced by our ability and willingness to collaborate with every community organization in the region.

At the same time, OTC serves as a **satellite facility** for Jewish activity in the Ottawa region. Jewish organizations tap into OTC's unique approach and expertise in presenting a Judaism that is relevant, exciting and meaningful. For example, the Soloway JCC has taken advantage of our hospitable attitude by offering its programs at the OTC, utilizing our geographic accessibility, resources and experience to increase Jewish community participation.





As the population of Nepean/ Kanata rapidly grows, the Jewish population keeps pace – with Jewish families settling in the western suburbs.

It is estimated that the population of the entire region, including Barrhaven as its fastest growing area, will double again in the next ten years, making it one of the most vibrant neighbourhoods in Ottawa, attracting large numbers of young families - including the fifth youngest Jewish population in Canada. The youngest median age in our Jewish community is found in Barrhaven. The growth in the area, coupled with the diversity of housing choices, makes this an ideal location for the new OTC Community Centre facility.

The future is here.











GROSS FLOOR AREA: 1153sq.m / 12,407sq.ft.







The new 12,000 square foot Ottawa Torah Centre will feature the following facilities:

GATHERING HALL
with flexible walls to
accommodate different size
functions

TEEN LOUNGE a place for chillin', homework and youth programs

CLASSROOMS

for extracurricular programs, Hebrew School classes, children's programs and adult seminars

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES with workstations, meeting rooms and resources for staff and volunteers

CIRCULATION GATHERING PLACE

OTC PROGRAM SPACE WASHROOMS, STORAGE & UTILITY









The new 1.4 acre OTC site in Barrhaven to serve the growing needs of the entire Ottawa Jewish community: It will allow us to house our wide array of activities under one roof; it will enable us to offer an increasingly broadening selection of program offerings; it will spawn the creation of niche programs for specific interests and population segments, such as seniors, youth and young parents.

By remaining true to our founding principle – that this is, above all else, a place where every Jew is **accepted** and **loved** – we will maintain the warmth as we bring our spiritual and uplifting approach to an **expanding** circle of participants who will experience the joy of Jewish life at OTC.

Our openness will encourage people to get involved and create their own programs and groups.

It is, after all, their home.



"OTC with the Blums' leadership has been inspirational for the Jewish Community of Ottawa. With respect to outreach, OTC is on the cutting edge. In addition, partnership programs with OTC are guaranteed successes."

- Arnie Vered

"Our children are learning so much in just a few hours a week. The environment is loving and warm and my girls love Hebrew school. They are always excited to go. We also love how we are all treated like family and included in many special dinners and Holiday celebrations."

- Nathalie & David Feldberg











that we can make for our future: Building Jewish identity through Torah and love.

For over 3,000 years, it is the **lifeline** that kept the collective heart of the Jewish people beating strong, no matter what the world threw our way.

The OTC approach is, as the name suggest, firmly rooted in this tradition. It looks to the **future** with a confidence that withstands the greatest test of all – the test of history.

The future is in our hands.

To discuss specific dedication opportunities for the new Ottawa Torah Centre, please contact Rabbi Menachem M. Blum (see reverse).



"I find their approach to be extremely warm, sincere and non-threatening which in turn enables members of our community to experience the joy of Jewish life. In a world of increased disconnection between Jewish people and things Jewish, the work of Rabbi Blum and OTC will represent an increasingly important role in ensuring our Jewish future."

- Ron Prehogar

"I congratulate you on the extremely positive response from the students and staff that participated in your Jewish holiday workshops. They are a powerful tool in supporting and furthering interfaith dialogue and understanding, while at the same time providing a sense of pride to our Jewish students by having their culture reflected in a school activity."

— Sherwyn Solomon, Ottawa Carleton District School Board



Adult Education
Bar & Bat Mitzvah Club
Chabad Hebrew School
Children & Youth Clubs
Community Service
Guest Lecturers
Holiday Community-Wide Events
Jewish Learning Institute
Jewish Women's Group
Living Legacy Hands-On Workshops
Mitzvah Campaigns
Outreach Initiatives

Shabbat Dinners
Social Events
The OTC Shul



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