

Around the **Community** 

## Yaakov Shwekey & Torah Academy of Boca Raton Make Memories at Annual Chanuka Concert

As the final moments of Chanukah ebbed away, Jewish music fans, young and old, turned out in force for Torah Academy's Fourth Annual Chanukah Concert featuring Jewish music international singing sensation Yaakov Shwekey and the Torah Academy Boys Choir.

Shwekey himself remarked to the crowd of nearly 2,000 before his final song, "I knew tonight was going to be great, but (the crowd) lifted it up to another level."

Shwekey not only brought his considerable talents, but an entire multi-media show encompassing lights, video, special effects, and crowd-pleasing participation from concert-goers. Seemingly effortlessly, he kept the concert interactive and energetic, interspersing medleys and ballads with upbeat, fast-paced hits. Using translation of Hebrew songs on the concert screen, all attendees could connect to the meaning behind the lyrics taken from Jewish liturgy and tradition. Torah Academy's students were particularly thrilled to be called up to the stage during one of the songs, to sing with Shwekey in a vis-



ible display of building and educating the next generation.

The concert was once again sponsored by Mrs. Linda Love Golden, a steadfast and generous supporter of the school. As this was a night to celebrate Jewish education, several numbers showcased the



Torah Academy Boys Choir, carefully orchestrated by the Torah Academy 8<sup>th</sup> grade rebbe, Rabbi Netanel Chait. In weeks of practice beforehand, Rabbi Chait encouraged participation from all his students no matter their singing skill level, while also giving opportunities to particularly musical boys to hone their talents through solos

and duets.

Using the characteristic big vision and tenacity that are hallmarks of Torah Academy, dean of the Yeshiva Rabbi Reuven Feinberg brought Yaakov Shwekey to town. "All year long, I look forward to our school's coordination of such an enjoyable event for the wider South Florida Jewish community," Rabbi Feinberg commented. "The night showcases the values we strive to imbue every day, of unity, joy in Jewish living, and celebration of our Jewish identity, all of which Mr. Shwekey so beautifully highlighted during his fantastic performance."

"I'm a happy parent when my children and I can enjoy the same music, and when that music reflects the values we instill in our family," enthused a happy attendee.

Torah Academy of Boca Raton is an Orthodox Jewish day school with pre-school, elementary, and separate boys' and girls' middle school divisions, with an enrollment this year of approximately 400 students. For more information, please visit [www.torahacademybr.org](http://www.torahacademybr.org) or call 561-465-2200.

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