

Around the Community

Torah Academy Chanukah Concert Delights a Sold-Out Crowd

It was a night of Jewish music unlike any other, as Torah Academy of Boca Raton's Fifth Annual Chanukah Community Concert dazzled a sold-out audience of more than 2,300 people with its unique lineup of seasoned and fresh-faced performers, pitch-perfect venue, and mesmerizing special effects. The event featured Jewish singing megastar Yaakov Shwekey, a worldwide performer who has been at the forefront of Jewish music for over two decades; Mordechai Shapiro, a young rising star adding hit after hit song to his repertoire; a group of talented, enterprising 12th-grade boys from the Mesivta of Waterbury in Connecticut; and Torah Academy of Boca Raton's own Boys Middle School Choir, who performed their own arrangements and sang with Shapiro. With an ideally-outfitted auditorium, the event was enhanced by a multi-media show on three giant LED screens, allowing video, lights, and digital enhancements

to electrify the room. The performers repeatedly brought the crowd to its feet, with Mordechai Shapiro inviting all the children in the audience on stage to sing one of his songs with him.

The concert was rife with meaning in both the songs reverberating around the room and the people taking center stage. The spotlight was shared several poignant times during the show, beginning with Shwekey and Shapiro reuniting for a duet of an early Shwekey hit as they remembered singing together when Shapiro was a young boy. Even in his heart-thumping, blood-pumping rhythms, Yaakov Shwekey sang of igniting the soul and appreciating the potential within, a beautiful complement to a night celebrating Jewish education.

Fittingly, several numbers showcased the Torah Academy Boys Middle School Choir, carefully orchestrated by their teacher 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 small collaborations. One of the choir participants, seventh grader Avi Rosman remarked, "It was unforgettable to have the chance to sing with these world-famous performers." Aharon Weiss of the sixth grade commented, "At first it was scary to perform in front of so many people, but as I got more comfortable it became really exciting!"

The concert was once again principally sponsored by Linda Love Golden, who has been a steadfast and generous supporter of the school for many years. As a show of Torah Academy's deep gratitude, she was presented with a framed picture of a stageful of Torah Academy children singing with Shwekey, with hundreds of signatures of grateful students dotting the

photograph's mat.

Rabbi Chaim Glazer, Torah Academy administrator and concert coordinator, commented, "This is not just a night to clap to the beat. It's an opportunity to thank our supporters in a meaningful, memorable way, and to showcase performers that maximize their G-d-given talents to uplift and unite our People. That is a powerful educational message for the children of our school and our community that mirrors Torah Academy's philosophy."

Torah Academy of Boca Raton is a yeshiva with preschool, elementary, and separate boys' and girls' middle school divisions, with an enrollment this year of approximately 450 students. For more information, please visit www.torahacademybr.org or call 561-465-2200.

(Photo credit: Boruch Len of Lens Photo World LLC and Legacy Art & Photography)



A sold-out TABR Chanukah Concert



Juda, Abe, and Jo Jo Lutz singing their original arrangement



Mordechai Shapiro and Rabbi Netanel Chait with TABR Boys Middle School Choir



Mordechai Shapiro with TABR students



Rabbi Reuven Feinberg and Dr. Allen Wolnerman



Yaakov Shwekey energizing the crowd

Scheck Hillel Community Chanukah Celebration

More than 400 people participated in Scheck Hillel Community School's yearly Chanukah celebration for the community at large.

The event included live music, carnival games and a taste of the school's academics with a Chanukah Coding interactive station led by lower school students. In this station, students in Grades 2 through 5 taught visitors how to code robots to move

through Chanukah-inspired patterns. The Menorah was lit during the event and traditional Jewish holiday food favorites were enjoyed.

"We are very excited to celebrate the joyous holiday of Chanukah with our students' families, alumni, faculty and greater community," said **Dr. Ezra Levy**, Rabinic Head of Scheck Hillel Community School.

Scheck Hillel Community School educates and inspires students 18 months-Grade 12 to become exemplary global citizens with enduring Jewish identity and values through an individualized college preparatory curriculum highlighted by STEM and design, Capstone, college dual enrollment, arts, athletics and community service. Its 14-acres include a 115,000-sq-ft athletic complex with additional ex-

pansion plans. Set within a nurturing, diverse community, Scheck Hillel is one of the world's largest Jewish community day schools and a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. For more information about Scheck Hillel Community School or to arrange a visit to the school, please contact our Admissions office at 305.931.2831x173 or write to admissions@eHillel.org

