

## Rambam Record Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech

### Francine Solomon Z"L Memorial Library Dedicated at Rambam Mesivta

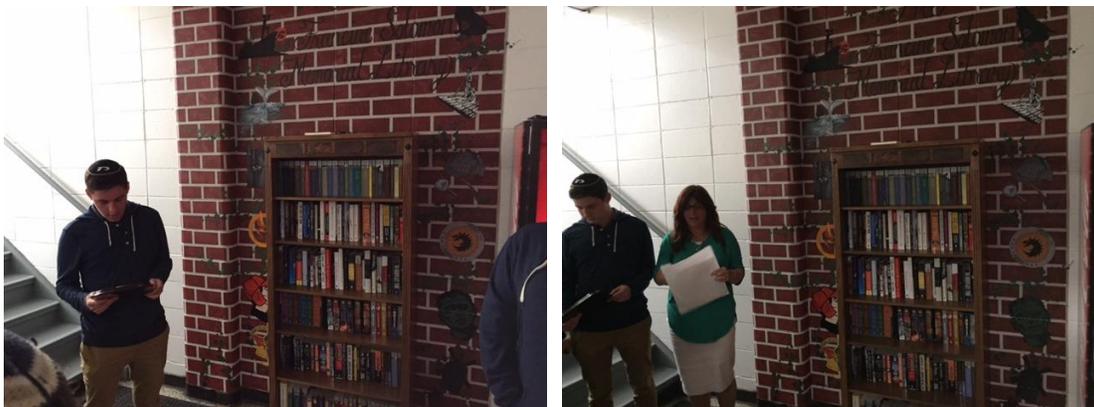
The halls of Rambam Mesivta have been forever enhanced and beautified by the new "Francine Solomon Memorial Library," dedicated by the Deutsch and Solomon families in memory of their mother. The daughter of Mrs. Solomon, Carolyn Deutsch, is a President of the Rambam's Women's League, and has two sons in Rambam, Eli, a senior, and Dovi, a freshman. Her oldest son, Jonathan, graduated from Rambam in 2015 and currently is Director of Technology at Shalhevet High School for Girls, Rambam's sister school.

Francine was a school librarian who was committed to the written word and assisting young readers in finding books that would speak to them in that special way that only certain books can.

The Library is situated in the hallway so that students have access to it at all times. Books are checked out via the honor system and recorded in a journal that sits atop the shelf. The books are surrounded by a spectacular mural created by Gila and Morgan Roslyn, that depicts ivy hugging the bookcase. Embedded in the bookcase are iconic images from famous books such as *The Great Gatsby*, *The Call of the Wild*, *Huck Finn*, *Harry Potter*, and more. The Library features classic works of literature, as well as modern classics, and books on Zionism, History, Science, Math, and Business.

At the dedication ceremony, Carolyn Deutsch spoke about her mother's life, and her son Eli read the dedication plaque that described Mrs. Solomon's life as "one well-lived and well-read." Carolyn was joined by her husband and family, and her brother Jared led Shacharis for the Rambam Minyan. Following the ceremony all those present were treated to a bagel breakfast sponsored by the Deutsch and Solomon families.

The Library has only been up a few days and already dozens of books have been checked out. It is an appropriate memorial to a life that embodied the idea of giving as the library is truly a gift that keeps on giving.





### **9/11 First Responder Speaks at Rambam**

The student body seated at Rambam Mesivta's 16th Anniversary 9/11 Commemoration was comprised primarily of an audience that had yet to be born at the time of the tragic events. The junior and seniors were all of one or two years old when the Twin Towers fell. With the passage of time the tragic events of that fateful day become more and more distant, and for some of the younger audience, more and more historical and even alien. With that thought in mind it was Rambam's tremendous honor to recognize their security officer, Tommy Milano, a First Responder, who spoke to the students and gave his eyewitness account of his September 11th experience.

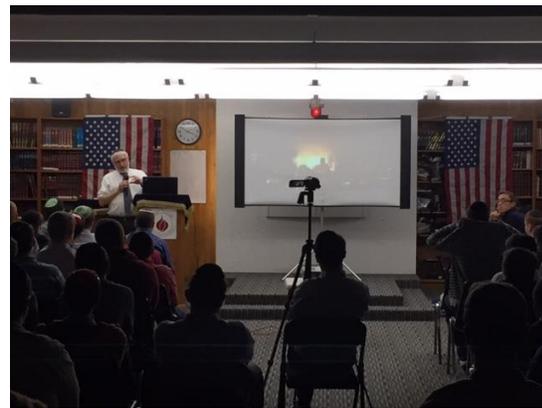
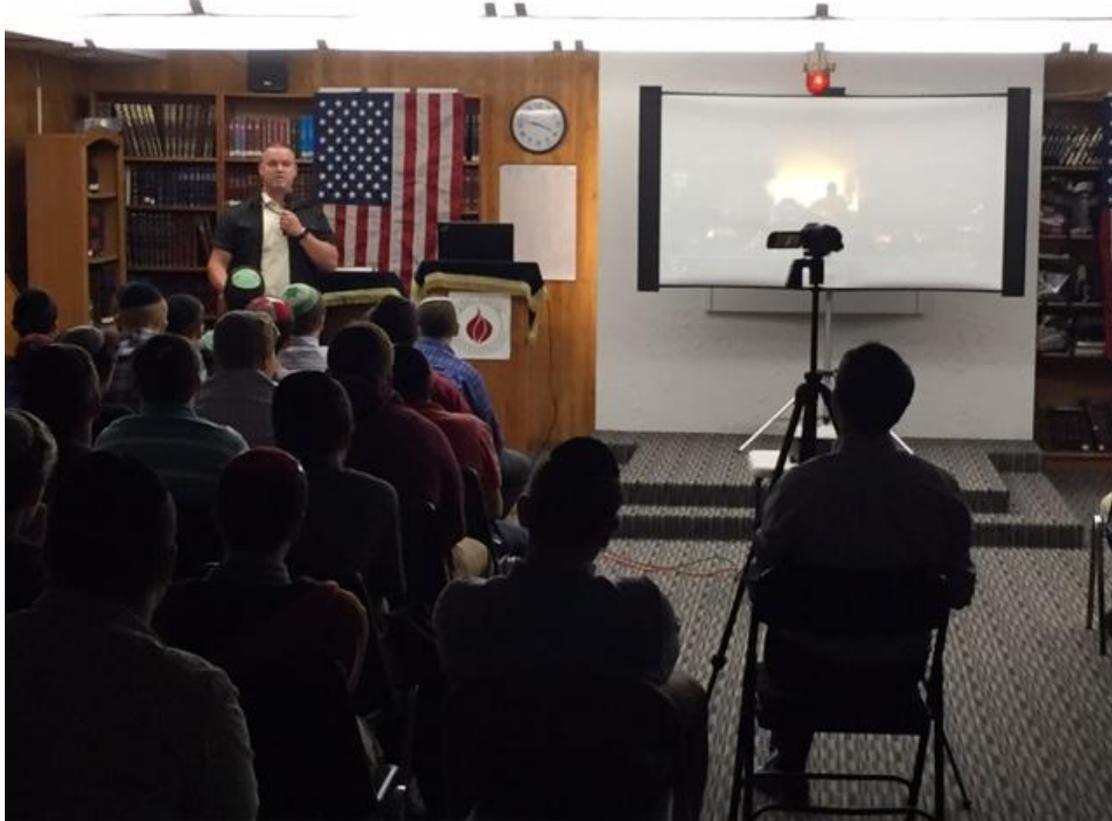
Against a backdrop of American flags, Principal Rabbi Yotav Eliach set the tone for the assembly by sharing videos about Osama Bin Laden's emergence as a major force of terror. He provided an in-depth summary of the events of the day, including the multiple attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; and he recounted the heroism that took place on Flight 93.

Rosh Mesivta, Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, also shared his thoughts about the significance of the day. He discussed hearing the tragedy while school was in session and the reaction of the talmidim and the significance of doing the right thing and reacting in the right way in times of crisis. Rabbi Friedman also discussed the Halachic implications of catastrophic events and offered a focused account on how dedicated Rabbanim worked tirelessly to identify missing persons; so crucial in determining, in some cases, if a woman is in the category of an almanah.

Tommy Milano was an officer at the time of 9/11 and he was on the ground helping people, searching the rubble for victims, and offering his services wherever needed. He spent three continuous days helping. He lost two relatives who worked in the World Trade Center in the Cantor Fitzgerald Investment Banking Firm. He shared that, "I have over 30 years' experience in Law Enforcement and I still do what I do because I

want to continue helping people."

It was a historic assembly in every sense of the word, but also an instance where history came alive to honor those who are no longer with us.



### **Rabbi Dr. Andrew Sicklick Joins Rambam Staff: Tefillah in Focus**

One of the new enhancements to Rambam Mesivta's outstanding program is the addition of Rabbi Dr. Andrew Sicklick to the morning Limudei Kodesh staff. Dr. Sicklick, a well-known Orthodontist, has always expressed a passion for Torah learning and received Semicha from RIETS.

Aside from helping out administratively, Rabbi Sicklick will be giving special shiurim focusing on Tefillah, based upon a curriculum that he developed.

According to Rosh Mesivta, Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, "We are very excited that Rabbi Dr. Sicklick has joined us. He is the ideal role model that personifies our mission-an individual who is steeped in Torah knowledge and values while concomitantly succeeding in the professional world. The well-planned shiurim of Tefillah that he has put together are important enrichments of our day to day davening ---which has become routine for so many. The structure and content of those shiurim are important for all high schoolers to learn and Rabbi Sicklick has graciously offered other schools

across the Metropolitan area access to those materials."

Senior Yoni Grossman feels that "Davening is something that we do three times a day every day and is one of the main parts of being a Jew to focus on that is a noble endeavor."

Rambam Mesivta has traditionally been at the forefront of promoting involvement in issues that concern the Jewish community at large. It has dedicated itself to providing its students with Torah, Midos and Excellence in a warm nurturing environment. It was awarded the coveted National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Education in 2015 for its outstanding scores on nationally recognized exams and innovations in education. To that end Rabbi Sicklick is a perfect fit and a welcome addition to Rambam.



### **Freshmen: A Day of Chesed**

On Wednesday, September 13th, Rambam Mesivta's 9th Graders (except for the Kohanim) went to clean up a Jewish Cemetery in Staten Island. We had the honor of doing the chesed, because many of its residents passed in in the early 1900's, and their graves have been neglected by family members because many don't know that they have relatives buried there.

When we arrived at the cemetery, we hurried to get gloves, rakes, and wheelbarrows, and in the short amount of time allotted to us, we tried to gather as many leaves, sticks, and pieces of loose garbage that we could find. Some, upon seeing the condition of the cemetery, wanted to try to get the whole school to come out and help clean up the cemetery, and maybe even try to raise some of the fallen headstones that were unfortunately scattered throughout the area.

The freshmen, who did all of this out of the kindness of their hearts and their mature respect for the deceased, made a huge Kiddush Hashem on Wednesday. We'd like to thank the administration and Rambam graduate, Andrew Parver, Director of Operations of Hebrew Free Burial Association, for giving us an opportunity to let our new classmates bond over doing chesed.

The Kohanim had their own day of chesed, working to help the elderly and those in need with their packages as they came out of local grocery stores and Amazin' Savings. They sent a powerful message that there are still those asking, "How can I help?"

*By Netanel Maroof (9th Grade)*



