

The great 19th century thinker Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can.” As Orthodox Jews, we believe that this quote represents the paradigm of the mentor-disciple relationship, a teacher who drives the student to find wholesomeness and achievement within themselves.

When the Senior Class got together and thought about whom we should dedicate the 2019-2020 yearbook to, we knew it would be hard arriving at a decision. But it wasn't long before we all came to an agreement on an exceptionally deserving person:

Rabbi Elyakim Milikowsky.

When our class entered high school in 2016, it was also Rabbi Milikowsky's first year in the school. Ever since that memorable first day, Rabbi Milikowsky's impact on the growth of each and every member of the class has been tremendous. Aside from teaching

Gemara to almost everyone in the grade, Rabbi Milikowsky pushed every student in a personalized way, aiming them toward a challenging but not impossible goal. His unique ability to look into a person sent each of us on a path of exponential growth.

We wondered: how does Rabbi Milikowsky have such a deep connection with our class - How is it that he was able to motivate us and push our limits? How is it that he connected with us so well on our senior trip to Poland and Israel? The answer is that Rabbi Milikowsky not only looks at himself as our Rebbi, but also as one of us. Just like our class was new to high school, he was too. Rabbi Milikowsky viewed his adjustment no different than ours - we were all in it together. It was through our achdus that we bonded. Even in the years after teaching our class, Rabbi Milikowsky was involved with our class on so many levels. Many of us have asked him for general advice in addition to our shailos in Gemara.

We've helped him coordinate In-Shabbosim, as well as eaten many Shabbos meals at the Milikowskys. Each interaction we have had together further reinforced our strong, unbreakable bond.

It goes without saying that this “chief want” during our time in Yeshiva has been fulfilled by the role of Rabbi Milikowsky. The Yeshiva is truly lucky to have such a leader and friend in him. Thus, it is our greatest honor to dedicate this yearbook to him, as a token of hakaras hatov for all that he has done for us, on all of these levels.

YGW Class of 2020

