

YOUNG ISRAEL OF ELKINS PARK, PA A LEAFY OASIS TO CALL HOME

One crisp Shabbat day, a boy and his father stop on an overpass on their walk home from shul. Sunbeams shine through the trees above as a train barrels toward them on the rails below. In other neighborhoods, the tracks would be an unwelcome intrusion into the charm of the place. But here, they are woven in among a tangle of mottled oaks and winding roads. The engine's conductor sees the boy and sounds the horn as the train charges onward beneath. Seconds later, the only sounds are a boy's hoot in delight and the soft wind blowing through the peaceful streets above.

This is Elkins Park.

Located just outside Philadelphia, Elkins Park is an idyllic neighborhood, home to a warm, Torah-based Jewish community. Ancient, leafy trees line the streets, streams cross throughout the neighborhood, and children enjoy the terrific parks that dot the landscape. It is picturesque, spacious, and yet close enough for a weekend or weeknight trip to New York or New Jersey for a l'chaim or chasana.

At the heart of the local frum Jewish community is Young Israel of Elkins Park. Warm, friendly, and welcoming to visitors, you'll find families of a variety of types – from modern to yeshivish to Chassidic. Shul members can attend a variety of shiurim, on Gemara, on halakhah, on the works of the Rambam, as well as Hebrew language classes. Children enjoy Shabbat learning groups, like the one using NCYI's Moshesh Aviva curriculum.

Many of the shiurim are taught by the shul's Rav, Rabbi Dov A. Brisman. Rabbi Brisman is the head of the local Beit Din and Sgan Av Beit Din of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, and a well known talmid chacham. Rabbi Brisman always makes himself available for shul members to pose sh'eilos or to offer guidance on learning or personal matters. "One of the amazing things about living in this community is that you can develop a personal relationship with a rav of Rabbi Brisman's caliber," remarked one local, Rabbi Meir Reiner.

Rabbi Reiner recently moved with his family from Queens to Elkins Park. "We were looking for a close-knit community where we could continue learning and growing in Yiddishkeit. We also wanted an affordable suburban setting, with ample space for the kids



Rafi and son

and family-friendly activities." Elkins Park had it all.

The area hosts a supply of charming homes large enough to house a big family. Single family homes on spacious lots with 3, 4, or even more bedrooms can be purchased at prices far below the asking price for similar properties in the New York area. Looking for something smaller? The area also has townhouses, condominiums, and apartment buildings, offering housing opportunities for everyone no matter



Purim seuda

their taste or budget.

Parents can have their pick of two terrific day schools for their children, as Elkins Park is located between the two or the larger day schools in the Philadelphia area: Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia and Politz Hebrew Academy. Free busing is available to both from Elkins Park. Having a problem affording tuition? Right now, multi-year scholarships worth thousands of dollars are available for qualifying students who begin attending Philadelphia day schools.

Elkins Park is also conveniently located within an easy commute of many companies in a wide array of industries. It's just a short 25 minute trip to bustling downtown Philadelphia. The region has one of the hottest biotech markets in the country. Pharmaceutical companies abound, including Israeli drug maker Teva, whose American headquarters is located just 20 minutes from Elkins Park. Downtown Philadelphia is home to a vibrant legal community, including several AmLaw 100 firms and a wide array of legal practices of all sizes, fields, and types. Philadelphia's information technology sector is one of the largest in the country, with such giants as Comcast located here.

The area also is lucky to have several hospitals of national or international renown, providing both a major source of jobs as well as guaranteeing excellent health care for residents.

To help find jobs for people moving into the community, Young Israel of Elkins Park recently helped found the Old York Road Jewish Network (named after the main street in the neighborhood). Key to the network is a LinkedIn group where local Jewish professionals post information about employment and business opportunities in the region. You can join by visiting www.linke-din.com and searching for the



“Old York Road Jewish Network.”

Most everything you need for an observant life can be located and purchased in Elkins Park or its surroundings, including kosher restaurants and bakeries. Israel Roling, one of the proprietors of the award-winning Roling’s Bakery, offered, “Our family relocated our business to Elkins Park nearly ten years ago because we saw an increase in young families who moved to the community.” In addition, Elkins Park boasts the Zagat-rated Max and David’s restaurant. People come from miles around to enjoy its delicacies. Both Roling’s Bakery and Max and David’s are under the strict supervision of

Community Kashrus of Greater Philadelphia.

There is an eruv, and construction of the Elkins Park mikveh is nearing completion. In the meantime, a mikveh is accessible within a 10-minute drive.

Elkins Park offers a variety of recreational options, virtually all of them free, including playgrounds, tennis courts, skateboard parks, and basketball courts. There are even Jewish soccer, baseball, and basketball leagues. The local libraries offer periodic evening and/or summer programs for children such as concerts, magic shows, puppet theater, and science classes.

The township also offers a diverse assortment of inexpensive educational programs for adults and children covering a wide variety of interests and hobbies. The artistically minded can take advantage of the two art centers in the area.

Blessed with a beautiful setting, access to all needs for a Torah lifestyle, and affordable housing, it is no wonder one commentator wrote that “the warm and caring community in Elkins Park is one of the best-kept secrets in American Orthodoxy.” ▲

To learn more about Young Israel of Elkins Park or to visit, please see www.yiep.org.

Ramada Jerusalem Hotel

The Affordable Luxury Hotel



Exceptional facilities, outstanding service and elegant accommodations characterize this luxury hotel.

Featuring a selection of fine restaurants, a health club with large indoor heated pool, plus large landscaped outdoor pool, luxurious guest rooms and suites, meeting halls and all the accoutrements of a world class establishment likely to exceed your expectations.

Located in the most exotic city in the world, ancient and modern, sacred and secular, vibrant and vigorous, this magnificent hotel extends a warm and friendly atmosphere, providing the ideal Israel experience.



RAMADA
JERUSALEM

Leave the Rest to Us

MEHADRIN



Ruppin Bridge at Herzl Blvd, POB 3369, Jerusalem 91033 Israel, Tel: 972-2-659-9999, Fax: 972-2-651-1824
E-mail: ramadajerusalem@netvision.net.il, www.ramadainternational.com, or via your travel agent

YOUNG ISRAEL OF BRIGHTON BEACH, BROOKLYN, NY CELEBRATES THE WRITING OF A COMMUNITY TORAH



Mr. Steven Frohlich, President YIBB (R) and Rabbi Mordechai Roizman, Director of Synagogue Services, NCYI (L) at the Torah event.



Rabbi Efraim Zaltzman, Marah D'asra YIBB (center) and community members look on as Rabbi Zvi Chaim PinCUS of Tiferes Stam (R) demonstrates the writing of a Sefer Torah.