

CELEBRATING  
A CENTURY  
OF TORAH,  
AVODAH AND  
GEMILAS  
CHASODIM  
IN CHICAGO.




# A VISION OF CARING BECOMES YEARS OF GIVING.

A century ago, the Zidichover Rebbe, HoRav Yehoshua Heschel Eichenstein zt"l, first set foot on these shores on a mission to spread hope and light. That vision turned into decades of passion, commitment and care.

This year, our community came together at a historical juncture — The Chicago 100 gala event — to celebrate 100 years of Chesed, Community and Responsibility.




100 YEARS OF *giving.*  
100 YEARS OF ANSWERING *Yes.*



*A day that you did  
not do chesed for your  
fellow Yid is a day  
that you did not live.*

— HORAV YEHOShUA HESCHEL EICHENSTEIN, ZIDICHOVER REBBE SHLITA



1922-2022

100 YEARS OF HISTORY

THE ZIDICHOV DYNASTY  
AND THE  
CHICAGO COMMUNITY





1922

# HORAV YEHOSHUA HESCHEL EICHENSTEIN ZT”L

In 1922, HoRav Yehoshua Heschel Eichenstein came to Chicago to raise funds for the decimated Galitzianer communities of which he was Rebbe — Zidichov and Chodorov. Inspired by his passion and his unique brand of Torah, Avodah and gemilas chasodim, the community begged him to stay. The Rav and Rebbetzin made the unprecedented decision to move from Galitzia to America.

For the people of the West Side, the Rebbe was a connection to the old world. He was fueled by a deep sense of achrayus and his mantra: “yenem’s gashmiyus iz dein ruchniyus” — “another’s physical needs are your spiritual needs.” Just four years later, the Rebbe built the prominent shul on Turner and North Christiana Avenues, establishing the pillars of Torah, Avodah and Chesed on American soil.



4492  
זידיטשובער רבי  
הרב יהושע העשיל אייכענשטיין  
1500 ס. קריסטיאנא עוו., געוועזענע טורנער עוו., שיקאגא, איל.  
פון הרב"צ ר' ישכר רוב ו"ל, נבר הקדושים ר' אייזיקל מוויזשניצער, אהרן סטערנאבעק, ר' אהרן סקארלין, ר' מרדכי טאנאוויטש, ר' שלמה סקארלין, ר' חיים מרדכי מרגליות בעהמ"ח שער השוה"ה, ר' נחמיה ליניצער בעהמ"ח השואת חן, ר' יום טוב ליפאן בעהמ"ח תוספת יום טוב, ר' יהודה צבי ספערעטין, ו"ע ועב"י.  
PHONE CRAWFORD 4492  
Ziditshover Rabbi J. H. Eichenstein  
1500 S. CHRISTIANA AVE.  
FORMERLY TURNER AVE. CHICAGO, ILL.

"People flocked to him. Everyone felt something that connected them to him."

— HoRav Pinchus Eichenstein Shlita, Nasi, The Chicago Center

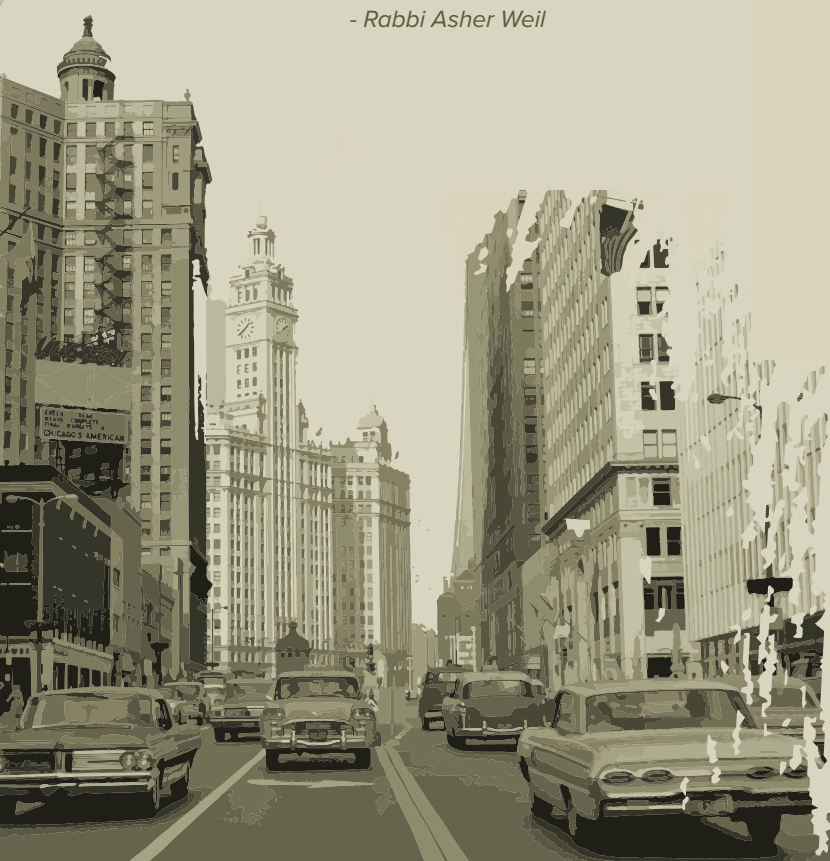
"His achrayus ultimately led to what we have now in Chicago."

— HoRav Yechezkel Eichenstein Shlita, Rav, Kehal Tiferes Avrohom Zidichov, Brooklyn

"MY GRANDPARENTS SET THE STANDARD OF OUR HOME BEING AN OPEN HOME FOR ALL PEOPLE TO COME. AT ANY TIME."

— HoRav Yehoshua Eichenstein Shlita, Zidichover Rebbe





“A person came to Union Station and he had to find a place to live. If he needed a job or if he needed a means of earning a parnassa, whatever needed to be done, HoRav Avrohom Eichenstein would do it.”

- Rabbi Asher Weil

1940

## HORAV AVROHOM EICHENSTEIN ZT”L

In 1940, HoRav Yehoshua Heschel Eichenstein zt”l’s life was tragically cut short and his eldest son, HoRav Avrohom Eichenstein, assumed the mantle of leadership.

Rav Avrohom was a tremendous talmid chochom who led by example. With complete commitment to Yiddishkeit, he gently drew balebatim to daven, learn Torah and get involved in chesed. Slowly, this transformed the entire community.

He was a pillar of warmth. He embodied אהבת ישראל and אהבת חסד. Together with his Rebbetzin, he followed in the ways of the Eichenstein family tradition and opened his home to all — broken individuals, Holocaust survivors, those with nowhere to stay. They were always there to respond with practical help, an eitzah, a brocha or a listening ear.



“I REMEMBER THE WARMTH. YOU WOULD FEEL KEDUSHA JUST BY BEING IN HIS PRESENCE.”

— Dr. Michael Friedman



“PEOPLE CAME OUT OF MY PARENTS’ HOME FEELING, ‘NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME LIKE REBBETZIN EICHENSTEIN.’”

— HoRav Yehoshua Eichenstein Shlita, Zidichover Rebbe



1967

# HORAV YEHOSHUA HESCHEL EICHENSTEIN SHLITA

In 1967 HoRav Yehoshua Heschel Eichenstein Shlita became Rebbe, and under his leadership, the empire of Torah, Tefila and Chesed flourished. The Rebbe had a dream to transform Chicago into a world-class city for Yiddishkeit. He believed every Yid could be “a shul Yid.” Everyone could be connected. He became a rebbi in the Skokie Yeshiva and a beloved mashpiah to Yidden of all backgrounds. It didn’t matter what kind of yarmulka you wore — everyone was welcomed with an open heart.

The groundwork for many of today’s most prominent initiatives was laid in those years: hachnosas orchim housing, around-the-clock learning, minyanim and the founding of The Chicago Center. His devotion and concern for the community’s ever-changing needs, both in ruchniyus and in gashmiyus, have set the stage for a thriving Chicago today.



“You are alive in order to do chesed for others’ was the DNA of our home.”  
— HoRav Yissochor Dov Eichenstein, Rav, Mercaz Torah U'Tefillah, Baltimore

“I HAVE A TREMENDOUS FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO.”

—HoRav Yehoshua Eichenstein Shlit”a, Zidichover Rebbe at The Chicago Center 90<sup>th</sup> year celebration

“The Rebbe was light years ahead of where Chicago was.”  
— Mr. Yossi Meystel

2022



# HoRav Pinchus Eichenstein and HoRav Zalman Leib Eichenstein lead The Chicago Center and usher in a new era of growth.



“THE PASSION AND SENSE OF ACHRAYUS TO EVERY YID IS SOMETHING WE GREW UP WITH AS CHILDREN”

— HoRav Pinchus Eichenstein Shlita, Nasi

“IT ISN’T ABOUT WHAT WE’RE ACCOMPLISHING. IT’S ABOUT THE CITY OF CHICAGO GROWING, AND BRINGING MORE KIDDUSH SHEIM SHAMAYIM.”

- HoRav Zalman Leib Eichenstein Shlita, Rov



## The Chicago Center has come a long way since 1922.

What began as the Eichenstein family’s personal mission is today the chesed epicenter of the Midwest, with five core divisions, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of recipients.

Shaped by the needs of the city and fueled by generations of devotion, The Chicago Center has come to represent 100 years of chesed — 100 years of building a city where Yiddishkeit can grow and thrive.

chicago 100

On November 20, 2022, the community came together at a historic event celebrating a century of caring and giving in Chicago.

OUR CITY.  
OUR EVENT.

With over a thousand people in attendance, there was a tremendous outpouring of warmth as members of the community reflected on the impact of the Eichenstein family and how far Chicago has come over the past 100 years.







*Rabbi Tzvi Bider, CEO*



*Mr. Yossi Meystel, Chairman*

*HoRav Zalman Leib  
Eichenstein Shlita, Rov*



*HoRav Pinchus  
Eichenstein Shlita, Nasi*



“THE CITY IS A DIFFERENT CITY  
BECAUSE OF THE CHICAGO CENTER.”

— Rabbi Moshe Katz



“WHEN YOU DO THINGS L’SHEIM SHAMAYIM, THIS IS WHAT  
HAPPENS. YOU CREATE AN ORGANIZATION THAT BECOMES  
PART OF THE FABRIC OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO.”

— Rabbi Yaakov Robinson, Rav, Beis Medrash Mikor Hachaim



**“THE REBBE VIEWED BEING IN CHICAGO AS A SIGN THAT HIS LIFE’S MISSION WAS TO DEDICATE HIMSELF TO THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY. THIS DEDICATION AND DEVOTION, SELFLESSLY FOCUSED ON OUR COMMUNITY, HAS NOW SPANNED FOUR GENERATIONS, AND WILL CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS AND GENERATIONS TO COME.”**

*Rabbi Tzvi Bider, CEO, The Chicago Center*



**100**  
YEARS

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