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Message from the Chief Rabbi for Shapell's/Darche Noam 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner

I am delighted to send my very best wishes to everyone associated with Shapell's/Darche Noam as you celebrate forty remarkable years.

The well-known verse, "Etz chayim hi lamachazikim ba," - it is a tree of life for those who grasp hold of it, inspires us to provide opportunities for people to discover for themselves the immeasurable beauty of Torah. It is a truism that genuine love for Yiddishkeit is 'caught' more often than it is 'taught'. With this in mind, communities around the world all face a great common challenge - to find a model which engages and inspires the next generation so that they enthusiastically grasp Torah learning and observance and benefit from all that which our tradition has to offer.

This is no easy task and therefore I am delighted to recognise the success over the last 40 years of Shapell's/Darche Noam which is not only providing the gift of Torah to so many people but cultivating outstanding talmidei chachamim who will in turn share that gift with others.

Under the inspirational leadership of Rabbi Shaya Karlinsky, Rabbi Yitzchak Hirshfeld and Rabbi Yitzchak Shurin, Shapell's/Yeshiva Darche Noam and Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya have embodied that beautiful teaching from Ethics of the Fathers - "Hafoch ba vefafoch ba dekula ba." - Take the Torah, turn it this way and that and you will discover that it provides you with the potential to achieve your greatest dreams. Now, as you move forward under the leadership of Rabbi Karlinsky, Rabbi Shurin and your new Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Dovid Schoomaker, may you merit to continue in your tireless efforts "Lehagdil Torah uleha'adira" - to continuously magnify Torah and bring glory to its name.

With every blessing,



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

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