

## Mazel Tov & Congratulations

### Adam Dubin Among Graduates in Largest Class from RIETS

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) and the Yeshiva University community celebrated the ordination of its largest class of *musmakhim* (ordained rabbis) on March 23. Among the more than 205 *musmakhim* is Adam Dubin of Charlotte.

"Growing up in Charlotte, Adam was always very interested in his Judaism, and wanted to attend school where he would not feel like a minority," says his mother, Ellen Dubin, Director of the Carolina Refugee Resettlement Association. "Dan (z"l) and I were very proud of him when he told us he applied to the RIETS school at Yeshiva University."

Adam was very active in the Jewish community while he lived here. He and his family were members of Temple Israel and he attended Religious School there, in addition to Talmud Torah classes at Chabad Lubavitch (before there was an Ohr HaTorah synagogue). He was a member of Jr. Kadima, Kadima, USY, and BBYO while attending Hebrew High.

The program at RIETS is very intensive and includes a curriculum on topics ranging from pastoral psychology and public



Rabbi Adam Rubin

speaking to leadership training and community building. In addition, students are exposed to contemporary *halakhik* issues they may encounter in fields such as bioethics, technology, and business.

"Our *semikha* students experience a training program like no other," says Rabbi Menachem Penner, acting dean of RIETS. "Aside from erudition and scholarship – which remain the emphasis of our program – we are producing professionally quali-

fied and sensitive individuals who have received the requisite professional skills to lead our community into the future."

"Adam had been told that most YU undergrad students and those who attended Yeshiva high schools usually took four years to complete their rabbinic program, and that he shouldn't be disappointed if he needed to spend five years or more to meet all of their requirements and studies," Ellen continues. "Through his hard work and dedication, Adam earned his *semikha* in just four years."

"Adam is a wonderful young man. Sensitive, humble and very kind. He is studious, determined, and in his quiet way gets things done," says Rabbi Yossi Groner of Ohr HaTorah.

Adam now has plans to serve as either a pulpit rabbi or as a rabbi in a college campus setting.

"I like to think that Dan was smiling down on Adam and the rest of our family" during Adam's ordination, Ellen concludes. ✨

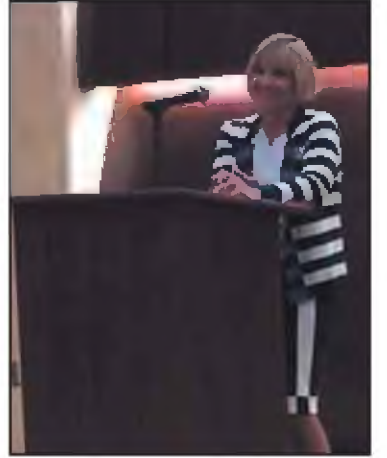


### Mecklenburg County Manager Discusses Current Events, Her Jewish Heritage, and More

Mecklenburg County Manager Dena Diorio spoke at Temple Beth El on Tuesday, March 11. The evening was arranged by the Temple Beth El Brotherhood and co-sponsored by Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Levine JCC, and The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Dena easily won over the crowd as she spoke about the history and current status of Mecklenburg County and her childhood growing up in a Jewish Conservative home with Orthodox grandparents. Attending that evening was an estimated audience of 100, comprised of members of both temples and the surrounding neighborhood. She reminisced about her grandmother's Matzah Ball Soup as well as attending Yom Kippur services and her Bat Mitzvah.

Rabbi Judy Schindler welcomed the county manager and guests and related the current Torah portion in Leviticus to the challenges faced by our county leaders and community members. Ms. Diorio spoke for 15 minutes, fielding a broad range of community questions about social services, county pensions, nurses in



Dena Diorio at the podium.

schools, charter schools, and more. It was an open discussion that left participants feeling confident in Ms. Diorio as their county manager. The crowd lingered long after the session formally concluded and Ms. Diorio remained until the end to answer additional questions and accept warm wishes from session participants. ✨



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