

## OTC at Torah U'Mesorah Convention

**O**hr Torah of Cincinnati was invited by Torah U'Mesorah to present at this year's 63rd Annual Torah U'mesorah Leadership Convention which took place in Kalahari resort in the Poconos. The Ohr Torah staff was thrilled to join close to 2,000 other from educators at the Convention. The fo-

cus of our presentation was on early childhood education. Topics included understanding the key developmental needs of young children and how to build classrooms that support children in their development of greatness, leading them to excel. Rabbi Zev Meisels also led a beautiful Havdalah at the Convention!



Mrs. Yiddes Bidnick presenting



Dr. Chaviva Randolph presenting



Rabbi Zev Meisels leading Havdalah



The Ohr Torah Group at the Convention



Mrs. Leila Kibel presenting

## Yom Iyyun at Atara

**T**he Atara girls had a beautiful, thought provoking Yom Iyyun on Music on Monday, May 13th. A Yom Iyyun is a day or half day long program where the girls get to study and explore one topic in depth. At Atara, all our programming is original, and we share it with schools around the U.S.

Our Yom Iyyun was created and led by Mrs. Penina Teitelbaum, Mrs. Chana Rivka Black, Mrs. Rivka Laghie, and by our wonderful stu-

dent heads, Malka Freedman and Gila Weinschneider. We began with an explanation of the sources, with the girls moving around centers and studying excerpts from the Sfas Emes, Rav Matisyahu Solomon, and others. They also discussed famous quotes, such as "A Neshama in this world communicates through music," and "Music holds the key to your brain's pharmacy," and "Music has a powerful koach."

The high schoolers heard from

Mrs. Rivka Laghaie, Rabbi Yitzchok Rosedale, Mrs. Penina Gilbert, Mrs. Leila Kibel, and they had a powerful wrap up with Rabbi Avrohom Weinrib. The speakers presented classes on the raw koach of shira, it's root in the Olam Haruchni, the deep internal impact song makes on a person, and shira's capacity for kedusha! They learned about the guiding principles that one should use in engaging productively with music.

Additionally, a panel of women

from the community; Mrs. Dena Leah Pfeffer, Mrs. Shifra Motzen and Mrs. Chava Kugel talked about their connection to song, and how it has impacted their lives. Hearing dynamic and relevant role models discuss their personal take on the topic always resonates deeply with the girls.

The students were superb! They were engaged in listening and processing, and asked excellent questions which were addressed by Rabbi Weinrib at the wrap up. We closed the next morning with the students responses and each one wrote a personal reflection in her "personal growth journal." The feedback was beautiful, b"H!

