

## Monsey Matters

BY M. C. MILLMAN

### Town Supervisor Visits Bas Mikroh Girls School

It is not unusual for Bas Mikroh Girls School to have guest speakers who sport a yarmulke, talk about regular learning of *hilchos lashon hara* from inside *Sefer Chofetz Chaim*, or encourage the girls to do *chesed*. What is unusual is that on Tuesday, February 28, the visitor who did all of the above was none other than the Town Supervisor, Christopher St. Lawrence.

He held the audience captive as he spoke about the difference between knowing what is in one's head and taking what is in the head to heart. He spoke about the difference every girl can make. Just as one has a responsibility to one's younger siblings, one may feel a similar sense of responsibility to a friend and, in fact, it is important to watch out for everyone.

He suggested recycling as a means of showing a sense of responsibility to the community and invited the girls to visit the town's recycling facility to see exactly how the process works in the Town of Ramapo. Recycling, St. Lawrence stressed, is a way to use the land wisely so that additional natural resources do not have to be removed from the ground, one way of doing something good for the world in general.

The Town Supervisor ended by telling the girls how blessed they are to have such wonderful teachers and staff and urged the girls to take to heart the lessons imparted by their teachers.

### Chinese Auction in Monsey For Rabbi Sholom Rubashkin

As if raising \$100,000 wasn't enough, Elky Stefansky, a twelfth-grader at Bais Yaakov of Monsey, wanted to do as much as she could to help the Rubashkins. After a successful campaign during a November Small Business event, in which sixty of Elky's friends camped out in her house and made phone calls asking people to donate money to the Rubashkin Fund, Elky felt she still wanted to do more. The Chinese Auction to help Rabbi Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin that took place on Monday, February 27, at Yeshivah of Spring Valley Boys Building, was the result.

This time, Elky got even more girls from her school involved, as well as girls from Bais Rochel and Bas Mikroh. These girls organized, arranged and provided the manpower for this Chinese Auction on their own. A large percentage of the prizes for the auction were given as donations, due to the unflagging efforts of Elky and her friends.

"Seeing girls from different schools is really inspiring," Elky says of the event she worked on for over two months, "and really nice, and I just loved it."

Mrs. Rosa Hinda Weiss, Rabbi Rubashkin's daughter, was the featured speaker at the event. Money raised at the Chinese Auction will go towards the Rubashkin Fund. Anyone who missed the auction and would still like the opportunity to participate in the *mitzvah* of *pidyon shevuyim* is asked to send donations to: Klal Yisroel Fund, 53 Olympia Lane,



Rav Moshe Tuvia Liefv speaks at Acheinu's annual Monsey parlor meeting.

Monsey, New York, 10952, or donate online at [www.rubashkin.org](http://www.rubashkin.org). Please keep Sholom Mordechai Halevi ben Rivka in mind in your *tefillos*.

### 42nd Annual Chevrah Kaddisha of Monsey Zayin Adar Seudah

The Chevrah Kaddisha of Monsey held its 42nd annual Zayin Adar *seudah* on Wednesday, February 29, in the Beth Medrash of Monsey on Harvest Court. The opening address was delivered by Rav Hershel Waxman, president of the Monsey Chevrah Kaddisha and *Rosh Kollel* of Beth Medrash of Monsey. The guest speaker at the event was Rabbi Chaim Schabes, Rav of Congregation Knesses Yisroel.

### Annual Purim Yeshivas Mordechai Hatzaddik

The annual Purim Yeshiva Mordechai Hatzaddik will take place at Yeshivah of Spring Valley in the boys' building on Thursday, Purim morning, between 8 to 12:30. Participants from ages six and up are invited to spend forty-five minutes learning for a chance to enter a raffle drawing for numerous prizes. Fathers, or other adults, who join their sons will be entered into a raffle for \$180. *Shacharis* will be at 5:40 a.m., followed by *Megillah-leining*. To help sponsor this program, call Rabbi Shamai Blobstein at 845-425-1392 or Rabbi Yechezkel Samuel at 845-352-4925.

### Refuah Health Center To Celebrate Grand Opening With Children's Health Fair

Refuah Health Center's new facility in Monsey, located at 5 Twin Avenue at the corner of Maple Avenue and Twin Avenue, is celebrating its grand opening with a Children's Health Fair. The Children's Health Fair will be edu-

cational and entertaining, promoting healthy living habits for children of all ages with a variety of booths featuring giveaways and healthy living tips. The public will have the opportunity to meet the medical staff and the building will be open for tours. Pre-registration forms will be available for patients who would like to schedule future appointments.



Rabbi Reuven Hoff's sixth-grade *talmidim* at Yeshivah Darchei Noam of Monsey visit Harav Yisroel Falk, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Bais Medrash Elyon.

The event will take place on March 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. for families, with an additional hour from 4 to 5 p.m. for men only.

### Harav Moshe Tuvia Liefv Speaks at Acheinu's Annual Monsey Parlor Meeting

This past Thursday, March 1, Acheinu held its annual Monsey parlor meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Yitzy Scheiner.

During the event, Mr. Scheiner described his recent visit to an Acheinu yeshivah and how he witnessed the incredible work that the organization is doing.

Harav Moshe Tuvia Liefv, *Mara d'Asra* of Agudas Yisroel Bais Binyomin in Flatbush, then addressed the audience. Rav Liefv recounted a visit to the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv over three decades ago, where he saw a group of secular Israeli youths behaving in a deplorable manner. "I thought to myself, 'These could be the grandchildren of Rav Akiva Eiger or the Rambam,'" he recalled.

Fast-forward to 5772, and Rav Liefv's recent visit to Yeshivas Acheinu, where he delivered a *shiur*. "The *talmidim*, who a few years ago were similar to the ones I saw in the Tel Aviv bus station thirty-five years ago, were learning *maseches Sukkah* with *Rashi* and *Tosafos* and had just taken a *bechinah* by Harav Aharon Leib Steinman, *shlita*," he related.

After being bewildered by the scene, Rav Liefv was reminded of his initial reaction in Tel Aviv, when it was pointed out to him that one of the Acheinu *talmidim* he saw was a grandson, *ben achar ben*, of the Kaf Hachaim, *zt"l*.

During the evening there was also a new, special audio-visual presentation in tribute to Acheinu's *Nasi*, Hagaon Harav Michel Yehuda Lefkowitz, *zt"l*.

The large crowd that came to show support for Acheinu's work included Rabbanim and *chashuve*

*baalei batim* from the community. The host committee included Danny Breiner, Ephraim Finkelstein, Yitzy Fogel, Shaymah Gewirtzman, Leiby Grohman, Yisroel Hartman, Zvi Mermelstein, Yehuda Avrohom Most, David Newman, Yitzy Scheiner and Naftoli Silberberg.

Harav Dovid Schustal, *shlita*, *Rosh Yeshivah* in Bais Medrash

Rabbi Bezalel Rudinsky, the *Rosh Yeshivah*, spoke about the newly formed Nedivim Society, a group of parents who have agreed to give or raise a certain amount of money each month so that the yeshivah's budget can be met every month. Rabbi Rudinsky said that such giving of *shemen* enables Yeshivah Darchei Noam to light the *neiros* of *limud*



Town Supervisor Christopher St. Lawrence speaking at Bas Mikroh

*haTorah*. Rabbi Rudinsky invited the dinner participants to join the Nedivim Society.

Rabbi Rudinsky introduced Rabbi Yosef Pruzansky, second-grade *rebbe* and recipient of the Harbotzas Torah Tribute. Rabbi Pruzansky is typical of the Yeshivah Darchei Noam *rebbeim*, who transmit a unique brand of *warmkeit* to their *talmidim*. This warmth makes each *talmid* feel like he belongs. It is a warmth so strong that it cannot be penetrated by any wordly *tumah*. With his friendly, down-to-earth manner and his trademark stories and songs, Rabbi Pruzansky is beloved by his students, as demonstrated by two of his *talmidim*, Shimmy Senter and Yossi Book, who stepped up to the mike to read a poem about their favorite *rebbe*.

Rabbi Pruzansky thanked Rabbis Horowitz and Lazar for believing in him when he began his position nine years ago and taking him under their wings. Rabbi Pruzansky shared his tribute with all the members of Yeshivah Darchei Noam, for *chinuch* is a joint task.

Rabbi Yakov Horowitz, Dean, spoke about the sense of *aliyah* and growth at Yeshivah Darchei Noam's. He awarded Shai and Aliza Goldman with the Parents of the Year Award. Rabbi Horowitz introduced Shai Goldman as a dedicated parent who is there when you need him.

The evening ended with a video of the boys learning and participating in many enjoyable and meaningful school activities. Providing the backdrop to the video was a song beautifully sung by Yeshivah Darchei Noam *talmid* Ari Yeger.

Yeshivah Darchei Noam provides its 270 *talmidim* with a challenging *Limudei Kodesh* program headed by Rabbi Yonah G. Lazar, as well as a General Studies program, headed by Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb.

Govoha in Lakewood, recently attributed Acheinu's success to its revolutionary approach to *kiruv*, where these distant youths are brought closer to *Yiddishkeit* primarily through Torah, and not the more traditional *kiruv* methods of emotional get-togethers and the like. Acheinu runs three of its own yeshivos and is affiliated with an additional thirty suitable *mosdos* across Eretz Yisrael, where they place boys and girls. Acheinu also runs ten "Batei Chizuk" youth centers that typically serve as the first step in the youths' path to yeshivah or Bais Yaakov.

In the nearly two decades that Acheinu has been at the forefront of the *kiruv* world in Eretz Yisrael, the organization has earned renown for its success rate, *b'ezras Hashem*. Approximately 10,000 boys and girls from very weak backgrounds have been turned into devoted *bnei Torah*. This figure represents over ninety percent of the youths that have interacted with Acheinu.

If you were unable to attend the event, please send a donation to Acheinu or Yitzy Scheiner at 22 Mariner Way, Monsey N.Y. 10952.

For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities, contact Rabbi Moshe Simcha Levine at 718-412-3540.

### Yeshivah Darchei Noam's 15th Annual Dinner

On Motzoei Shabbos, 10 Adar/March 3, approximately 300 participants gathered at Ateres Charna for Yeshivah Darchei Noam's 15th Annual Dinner.

The evening began with a greeting from the dinner chairman, Dr. Ephraim Book. Dr. Book compared *tzaddikim* who share their Torah with the *Klal* to the faculty of Yeshivah Darchei Noam, who give so much of themselves for their *talmidim*. Such giving, said Dr. Book, instills true *simchah* in the *lev* of each *talmid*.