

Monsey Matters

BY M. C. MILLMAN

Monsey's LOMED Celebrates First *Siyum*

On the second night of Chanukah, a group of young men came together to celebrate their first *siyum* on *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah*. Motty Braun started LOMED (Learn One *Mishnah* Every Day) with the idea that by learning just one *mishnah* a day, great things can be accomplished; his intention was to motivate young men to begin or increase their connection to Torah.

Despite the skepticism of many, including some of the young men Rabbi Braun approached to join the group, the participants were amazed at the effect this learning had on them. In the words of one member, "I was definitely skeptical that five minutes a day could change my life in any way. A year and a bit later, I am now sitting in Jerusalem, where I learn full time."

"LOMED is one of the greatest moves I have made in my life," said another. "No matter what happens during my day, I know that I won't go a day without learning something new."

A third commented, "I would like to thank LOMED because I would not know what the inside of a *sefer* looked like if not for you."

Many LOMED participants learn every day in the *beis medrash* of Khal Shaarei Tefillah, whose Rav, Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Schlesinger, encourages them. He also offered *divrei brachah v'chizuk* at the *siyum*.

Pirchei Agudath Israel Bowling Event

Following Pirchei Agudath Israel's successful ice-skating event, which took place on December 2 at Sport-O-Rama, there will be a Motzoei Shabbos bowling outing on December 29. This is a members-only event and promises to be just as much fun as the ice skating was.

A *Mishnayos Seder* In 10 Minutes

Darchei Noam's innovative *Mishnayos* program, which started last year with the eighth grade, is still going strong. The program has grown to almost 40 participants in grades six through eight. Every morning before *Shacharis* these *talmidim* gather in the Darchei Noam *beis*

medrash to listen to a 10-minute *Mishnayos shiur* given by Rabbi Peikes, using brand-new pocket *Mishnayos* that they received just for joining.

Monsey Schools Participate in Chai Lifeline Toy Drive

Monsey's schools participated in Chai Lifeline's annual toy drive. Students brought unwrapped gifts to school from November 26 through December 18; the toys were picked up at each school and taken to a central location for distribution by Chai Lifeline, bringing a smile to those in need of encouragement on Chanukah.

This year there were several partner stores that donated a portion of the purchase price of merchandise to Chai Lifeline's toy drive, which made it possible to buy even more toys. The participating stores were Totally Toys and Toys 4 U in Brooklyn, Toys 4 U in Monsey, and Judaica Plus in Cedarhurst.

Winter *Kiruv Kerovim* Initiative at Ohr Chaim

Bais Medrash Ohr Chaim, under the leadership of Rabbi Aaron Lankry, is now hosting a four-week Friday-evening *kiruv kerovim* lecture series at the shul at 18 Forshay Road in Monsey.

Rabbi Mordechai Becher will deliver the December 21 lecture for *Parashas Vayigash*, "Too Many *Mitzvos*? Is Judaism Obsessive-Compulsive?" He will investigate the reasons for the *mitzvos* and their many details.

Rabbi Ephraim Shapiro will give the December 28 lecture for *Parashas Vayechi*, "Achieving Greatness One Step at a Time." The lectures are open to men and women at no charge.

Ohr Somayach *Zos Chanukah Party*

Ohr Somayach hosted a gala *Zos Chanukah* family party on Sunday, December 16, the eighth day of Chanukah. The program offered fun for the entire family, including a sumptuous buffet, Chanukah treats, kiddie games and events, a professional juggler, arts and crafts, aerobic dancing for girls, a petting zoo, balloons, and prizes. The *Rosh Yeshivah*, Rabbi Yisroel Rokowsky, spoke to participants about Chanukah.

Ohr Somayach's students hail from across North America and from most countries that have a Jewish population. For many



The Zlotchover Rebbe lighting the *menorah* on *Zos Chanukah*.

JDN



At Monsey's LOMED first *siyum*.

students, the yeshivah is their first exposure to full-time Torah study.

The 10-acre Monsey campus includes a dormitory, and the adjacent Beit Shvidler complex is a 40,000-square-foot retreat and conference center that houses the Ohra V'Simcha family retreats and other occasions such as the Chanukah family party.

Ezer Mizion Evening Of Song and Dance

Ezer Mizion sponsored an afternoon and evening of song and dance on Sunday, December 16, at Rockland Community College in Suffern. The "Forever: Music for Life" concert starred Bracha Jaffe, Mina Black, the Davis Sisters, and Rachel Jakob.

Ezer Mizion, the Israel health support organization, offers an extensive range of medical and social support services to Israel's sick, disabled, elderly and underprivileged populations. Since its founding in 1979, Ezer Mizion has become one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Israel, benefiting over 650,000 people

every year.

Ezer Mizion has 29 branches in over 20 cities across Israel, with over 12,400 volunteers and an annual budget of over \$66 million. Its diverse array of services includes the world's largest Jewish bone marrow donor registry; it has facilitated 1,134 transplants and 4,936 matches. The organization also offers programs for children with special needs, cancer patients, the elderly, and terror victims.

Ezer Mizion has 18 ambulances and a blood bank with 3,200 potential blood donors, distributes 660,000 hot meals annually, loans 75,500 pieces of medical equipment, and makes over 43,000 medical referrals each year. Its food distribution program, today a nationwide operation that distributes half a million meals a year, began with a few meals sent every week by

the Chollak family to patients' family members.

Similarly, the Ezer Mizion Bone Marrow Donor Registry, today the largest Jewish registry in the world, began as a grassroots bone-marrow drive to find a matching donor for a leukemia patient. The organization is continually looking for new ways to help people face their challenges.

The next Ezer Mizion concerts are scheduled to take place at 8 p.m. on December 29 at Brooklyn College. Tickets are available at Eichler's in Boro Park and Flatbush, Judaica Place in Flatbush, and Torah Treasures, or online at ezer-mizionusa.org/forever. Tickets can also be ordered by phone at (877) EZER-MIZION or (718) 853-8400.

The concerts are for women only, and transportation is available from various locations.

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