

Monsey Matters

BY M. C. MILLMAN

Inspiring Evening By N'shei Chofetz Chaim Kiryas Radin

On Tuesday night, March 5, the N'shei of Chofetz Chaim Kiryas Radin sponsored Mrs. Esther Baila Schwartz as guest speaker. The well-attended *shiur* took place at the home of Mrs. Vardy Grunwald. Mrs. Schwartz's enthralling speech dealt with the topic of "How to Be the Best You Can While Preparing for Pesach."

Mrs. Schwartz discussed the *yetzer hara's* tactics in its daily efforts to wear people down. Rather than focus on transgressions that people would never even consider, such as entering a McDonald's, the *yetzer hara's* ploy is to encourage people not to have the right attitude and mood on any given day. By encouraging people to be negative, the *yetzer hara* can pull people down and successfully achieve its goals.

Mrs. Schwartz also discussed the biggest *chessed* that women can do, which is at home. Even if a mother has trained her family members to always say thank you after every delicious supper, one should not be fooled.

"Deep down," Mrs. Schwartz insisted, "the children who just said thank you still feel that *they* were the ones doing the *chessed* by thanking their mother for doing what they strongly feel was only coming to them anyway." Since doing *chessed* in one's own home is basically a thankless job, one earns the biggest *zechus* for it, relative to almost any other *chessed*.

Mrs. Schwartz also advised women to stay kind, calm and patient during stressful times, especially when challenged by a home full of small children on Erev Pesach, behavior that will in turn cause Hashem to reflect the same kindness, calm and patience with all of *Klal Yisrael*.

"Even if one loses one's cool," Mrs. Schwartz expounded, "there is no rule that says that if one is yelling, one must finish off the sentence or even the word in the same tone. Every day one is alive is a new opportunity for growth."

To reinforce her point, Mrs. Schwartz related the story of a student she had encountered at her first teaching job in Cleveland. This girl, who was training to become an Olympic diver, had poise and grace, thanks to her athletic ability and constant focus, but she didn't have a childhood. Her every waking moment was dedicated to her chosen goal. Even her summers were spent at diving camp, not on vacations. Every day was spent trying to improve on the goals she had met the previous day.

Her classmates were shocked to hear that her coach, rather than offer praise, would constantly berate her and her fellow trainees about how unimpressive their skills were and how much further they had to go.



Yeshiva Darchei Noam visits the New Square matzah bakery.



Yeshiva Darchei Noam visits the New Square fish market.

Mrs. Schwartz suggested that this girl's dedication to her Olympic training might be applied to how a *frum* Jew should view his own life. Each day one should become something more than the one before; every day, we should set new goals and reach for higher standards, having in mind not the gold of an Olympic medal but the ultimate reward of *Olam Haba*.

R.C.C.S.'s Second Annual Garage Sale in the Works

R.C.C.S. is planning their second annual garage sale at the old Yeshiva of Spring Valley building, on Sunday, April 14. The Rofeh Cholim Cancer Fund provides an array of services, primary among them the subsidizing of health insurance premiums that enable people to obtain the best possible medical care. The first and foremost goal of RCCS is to ensure that every cancer patient is covered by the absolute best medical coverage that money can buy.

The garage sale is accepting donations of toys, books, home accessories, house wares, tools, fashion jewelry and accessories, baby gear, accent furniture and small appliances, but NOT clothes or shoes. The drop-off location is the new Amazing Savings parking lot, on Sundays from 12-2 p.m. For drop-off information in New Square, call (845) 354-1211. For questions concerning the garage sale, call (845) 262-0284.

Last Class of Ohr Monsey Lecture Series

Ohr Monsey, inspired by Ohr Naava of Brooklyn, for women and girls of all ages, has been offering an ongoing lecture series. The last lecture in the series will be given by Mrs. Chani Juravel, who has been delivering a series of lectures on relationships. The last class, which will take place on Wednesday, March 13, will discuss the topic of "Relating to the



Harav Shea Stern speaking at a *shiur* on *maseches Shabbos* in Khal Chasidim Shul in Monsey led by Harav Baruch Schwartz.

Stuff in My Life." It will take place at 8:00 p.m. at 6 Tokay Lane in the Concord area — basement entrance.

Refreshments will be served. A five-dollar donation is requested for the *shiur*. For more information call (718) 647-6228, visit www.ohrnaava.com or email infor@ohrnaava.com.

Farm-Fresh Produce Available for Rockland County

The Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) has recruited several regional farmers who are interested in bringing farm-fresh produce to Rockland County during the 2013 growing season. These farmers, who grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, are willing to bring produce on a weekly basis to a worksite, community group, organization or any other location for consumers who would like to cook, eat, share, enjoy and realize the benefits of a healthful diet.

The RCDOH will help to link groups to a local farmer. Many of the interested farmers offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) type programs and are looking for a minimum of

Oiz Vehadar Breaks Ground for World Center

An impressive group of leaders from across the Torah community is expected to gather in Monsey at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 6 Nisan/March 17, to participate in the groundbreaking for the new Oiz Vehadar international center of Torah learning and research at 36 Herrick Ave. Spring Valley.

The center is the brainchild of Harav Yehoshua Leifer, *shlita*, who founded Oiz Vehadar nearly 25 years ago. He is the son of the revered Rav of Temeshvar, *zt"l*, in Yerushalayim, and a son-in-law of Harav Moshe Neuschloss, *zt"l*.

The center will house a magnificent *beis medrash* and *mikveh*. It will be a gathering place for researchers who have produced over 300 volumes on *Shas*, *Yerushalmi*, *Tanach*, and other works. The popular *Mesivta* is used by *Daf Yomi* participants throughout the world as the most comprehensive commentary on *Shas* and *Poskim*, opening up new vistas for those who seek illuminating additions to the *Gemara*, *Rashi* and *Tosafos*.

Oiz Vehadar makes available various options for learning *Daf Yomi*, from full volumes such as *Mesivta* to smaller soft-cover editions for travelers. Most of the other publications also elucidate the content in an unprecedented manner, enabling students to learn with a special kind of intensity. Many *Gedolei Yisrael* have called these *sefarim* the most important Torah works in modern history.

Oiz Vehadar has attracted a broad constituency of Jews

around the globe whose lives have been changed as a result of the unique presentation that characterizes Oiz Vehadar publications.

"Our main mission is to strengthen *limud haTorah* at all levels and to enable Jews to learn Torah the way they were meant to," said Harav Leifer, pointing out that thousands of students have used these materials to advance from basic learning to serious comprehension of Torah texts.

The second story of the new Oiz Vehadar building will house a sizable Torah center, the Heichal HaTorah. This hall will be used for intense learning and will have an *otzar sefarim* with tens of thousands of *sefarim* on all aspects of Torah. In addition, there will be a special hall with all of the magnificent *sefarim* of Oiz Vehadar.

At the Heichal HaTorah, a team of researchers, under the guidance of Harav Leifer, will continue to research and develop new *sefarim*. The center will sponsor frequent *shiurim* and seminars, including special sessions on working with manuscripts.

"The holy work of Oiz Vehadar will take on new momentum in Monsey, which will complement the operation in Eretz Yisrael with some 400 *talmidei chachamim* who are delving into the depths of Torah to illuminate its rich well of knowledge," said Harav Leifer.

In addition to Harav Leifer, many *Gedolei Yisrael* are expected to address the participants at the groundbreaking ceremony.

10 persons/families per site in order to deliver produce. CSA is a popular way for consumers to buy local seasonal food directly from a farmer. A consumer pre-pays for a 'share' in what the farmer grows. Fresh produce is then delivered on a weekly basis during the farming season, typically late June to early November.

Some of the benefits of CSA include eating fresh food — usually picked that morning — that is full of flavor and essential vitamins, being exposed to new vegetables, and experiencing new ways of cooking. In addition to the CSA, there may be opportunities to bring small farm stands to various sites.

The Rockland County Commissioner of Health acknowledges the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and states, "Providing access to vegetables and fruits will help Rocklanders live healthier lives.

The RCDOH is proud to act as a conduit for communities to access local produce."

In 2012, the RCDOH helped three worksites to organize a weekday produce delivery for employees; over 90 people participated during the season. The department also connected worksites with farmers, enabling worksites to hold mini farmers' markets.

The department has also helped residents with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (formerly Food Stamps) to access their benefits at the Spring Valley Farmers' Market by operating an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) machine on market day.

For those interested in farm fresh produce this coming season, contact the RCDOH's Steps to a Healthier Rockland Initiative at 845-364-3610 or email steps@co.rockland.ny.us.

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