

Monsey Matters

BY M. C. MILLMAN

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony For New Chesed 24/7 Hospitality Room

Tuesday, December 3, marked the inauguration and ribbon-cutting ceremony of a beautiful new Chesed 24/7 Hospitality Room and Shabbos lounge at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. Calvary Hospital, known as the nation's leading specialty hospital in providing palliative care, has always strived to expand its programs and services to meet the emerging physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of patients and their families.

Chesed 24/7's mission is simple: to be there for anyone dealing with a medical crisis or illness, however and whenever possible. That mission is carried out via a host of different programs for which Chesed 24/7 has gained renown, including daily kosher meals, Shabbos Box packages,

soups, etc.

This room will serve as a "calm within the storm" for many families who are dealing with extremely difficult medical diagnoses, and the strain and exhaustion that comes with such diagnoses.

At the scene to discuss the partnership of Calvary Hospital and Chesed 24/7 at the ribbon-cutting event was the master of ceremonies, Mr. Frank A. Calamari, president and CEO of Calvary Hospital; Dr. Edward R. Burns, executive dean of Albert Einstein College of Medicine; and Rabbi Tzvi Miller, director of development at Chesed 24/7.

Rabbi Israel Spitzer, mayor of New Square, New York, presented an award to the hospital, which was accepted by the renowned and beloved Dr. Michael J. Brescia, executive medical director of Calvary Hospital. Dr. Brescia, a member of the hospital staff for over 50 years, delivered a

message for the residents at the Friedwald Center and Pine Valley in Spring Valley.

The girls in Rock L'Shira, who are in grades three through seven, meet weekly about a month before their performance. This year's performance preparations began on Sunday, November 10.

"It's so special for the residents to see the performance," Yocheved Magid says. "They just love to see the girls singing and dancing. It is also beautiful for the girls from different schools and different neighborhoods to be able to all come together doing the songs we know the residents know and love to join in."

The Rock L'Shira Dance Group, which is led by Tehilla Senter and Rachelli Resnik, includes: Ashira Magid, Neema Senter, Chana Avigail Rosenstock, Rosie Katz, Aviva Sussholtz, Rachelli Hajioff, Rachel Newhouse and Nava Orlian.

Practices take place at 9 Willows Road in Monsey. Rock L'Shira will perform next on Purim. For further information, to join or become a leader in Rock L'Shira, call Yocheved Magid at 914-309-6710 or Devorah Esther Almog at 845-521-2234.

Congregation Bais Torah Hosts Weekend of Special Community Outreach Events

On *Motzoei Shabbos Parashas Vayigash*, December 7, the Harry H. Beren Foundation of Ask OU Outreach and Congregation Bais Torah held a special community outreach event at Congregation Bais Torah on West Carlton Road in Monsey.

The first speaker was Rabbi Moshe Elefant, COO and executive rabbinic coordinator, OU Kosher, who spoke on "The Integrity of Kosher Meat After the Recent Meat Scandals," making a passionate plea for consumers to demand higher kashrus standards from their food providers. Following Rabbi Elefant was Rabbi Nachum Rabinowitz, senior rabbinic coordinator, OU Kosher, who delivered a highly informative PowerPoint presentation on "The Production of Kosher Wine and Liquor." The event was emceed by Rabbi Yosef Grossman, senior educational rabbinic coordinator and OU director of kosher education. There was a question-and-answer session at the end of each presentation, with priority given to questions that had previously been submitted via fax.

Dr. Steven Fessel, the President of Bais Torah, observed, "Wonderful powerful *shiurim!* It gave a sense of what the OU does and how dedicated the organization and its *mashgichim* are in maintaining the highest level of kashrus. Keep up the wonderful work. We look forward to another ASK OU presentation."

Admission was free for men and women and a free copy of *The*



Mara d'Asra Rabbi Gottlieb, Congregation Bais Torah

Daf HaKashrus-Daf HaShana, Volume 20 was distributed. The event was sponsored by the Harry H. Beren Foundation of New Jersey.

Dance Class For Chai Lifeline

Sunday night, December 15, ASHAR in New City hosted an event to benefit Chai Lifeline. The women-and-girls-only event featured exciting instructors, lively steps and more. All profits from the event went directly to Chai Lifeline.

Project Ochel's 7-Part Self-Parenting Lecture

Perel Abramowitz's seven-part series on self-parenting, entitled "Inner Child Work and Emotional Self-Regulation," continues. The event is not a parenting workshop. It is for women without children, women with children, older women and anyone who would like to connect to her inner child.

The fifth lecture in this series, which took place on Tuesday, December 10, featured a workshop on "Inner Child Writing." The workshop on Tuesday, December 17 will focus on "Outer Child Work." The last lecture, which will take place on Tuesday, December 24, will feature "Non-Dominant Writing."

The lectures take place at 31 Deerwood Road in Wesley Hills, from 10:15-10:45 a.m. with group *Tehillim*, followed by the workshop, which runs from 10:45-12:00. For more information on the workshops and to register, call 718-640-1878 or email victorial234@yahoo.com. Admission is \$10 per class.

Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim Benefit in Monsey

It is with great enthusiasm that the Monsey community anticipates the arrival of three Rabbanim from Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim for a Shabbos of *chizuk*. *Rosh Yeshivah* Harav Binyomin Carlebach, *shlita*, *Rosh Mesivta* Harav Binyomin Finkel and *Rosh Mesivta* Harav Moshe Aharon Friedman will be coming to America especially for Shabbos and for the benefit breakfast on Sunday morning.

Each one will be staying in a different Monsey neighborhood so that the entire *kehillah* can benefit from their messages of



Rabbi Moshe Elefant's presentation at the ASK OU event.



Rabbi Nachum Rabinowitz at the ASK OU event.

chizuk. Harav Carlebach will be hosted by Mr. Shea Dobner, a devoted *talmid* of the yeshivah, in Pleasant Ridge; he will speak in a number of shuls, including Khal Beis Elozor and Ahavas HaTorah. Mr. and Mrs. Dobner will host an *oneg Shabbos* at 8 p.m. on Friday night in their home at 6 Mariner Road. *Seudah shelishis* will take place after *Minchah* at Khal Ahavas Yitzchok, and all *talmidim* and friends of the yeshivah are welcome.

Mr. Nuty Horowicz, also a close *talmid* of the yeshivah, will host Harav Finkel in Hilltop. Harav Finkel will speak at Khal Avreichim, Harav Shneebalg's shul, and Khal Shaarei Tefilla, Harav Schlesinger's shul. Mr. and Mrs. Yitzchok Wagner will host an *oneg Shabbos* at 8 p.m. at their home at 15 Overhill Road.

Harav Friedman will stay at the home of a dear *talmid*, Mr. Yakov Zahler. The Zahlers will host an *oneg Shabbos* at 8 p.m. at 22 Dike Drive. Harav Friedman will speak at Khal Derech Emes and Beis Medrash Shaarei Tefilla, Harav Willner's shul. *Seudah shelishis* will take place at Harav Berg's shul, Kehillas Ateres Rosh.

The Monsey community is invited to attend the yeshivah's annual benefit reception Sunday morning. The drastic government cutbacks have affected the yeshivah's financial stability, making it imperative for Torah supporters to go the extra mile in support of this world-renowned *mosad*. The reception, which begins at 9:30 a.m., will be graciously hosted by longtime friends and supporters Mr. and Mrs. Yossi Kazarnovsky at 13 Bartlett Road.

The yeshivah's *hanhalah* and *askanim* look forward to greeting alumni and community members at the reception.



Rabbi Shulim Greenberg, executive director of Chesed 24/7; Dr. Michael J. Brescia, executive medical director of Calvary Hospital; Mr. Frank A. Calamari, president and CEO of Calvary Hospital; Dr. Edward R. Burns, executive dean of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Rabbi Israel Spitzer, mayor of New Square, NY.



Rabbi Nossan Biller of Yeshiva Darchei Noam with his third-graders on a visit to the Skverer Rebbe, *shlita*, on Zos Chanukah.

pomegranate juice for cancer patients and, of course, the Chesed 24/7 kosher Hospitality Rooms.

Calvary Hospital's kosher Hospitality Room is on the 15th floor, joining hospitals such as Columbia, Mount Sinai, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Cornell and Lenox Hill that have also acquired Chesed 24/7 Hospitality Rooms. The new room at Calvary Hospital features state-of-the-art appliances, tasteful furniture, and every amenity possible. It is fully stocked with all kinds of food and drink, including cake, coffee, juice, snack bags,

powerful message to the participants on improving the lives of those who suffer, and giving them the proper care and support.

Rock L'Shira Girls Choir

For the second year, Rock L'Shira, a girls' choir and dance performance group organized to bring happiness around the *chagim* to older women who are in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, or who are homebound, performed for two nursing homes on Sunday, December 8. The girls' presentation included a medley of Chanukah and classic Jewish songs as well as a dance perform-