

## Monsey Matters / By M.C. Millman

### Yeshiva Darchei Noam's *Mechiras Yosef* Play

BY PESHIE NEEDLEMAN

On Sunday, February 17, Yeshiva Darchei Noam's parents and grandparents sat enthralled at the performances of the two third grades' *Mechiras Yosef* plays. Under the direction of Rabbi Nosson Biller and Rabbi Binyamin Plotzker, the third-graders outdid themselves in their roles. At times touching and heartwarming, at times so funny that the audience felt like rolling on the floor with laughter, the performances were definitely unique. With authentic costumes, props, live musical accompaniment, rousing songs and entertaining dialogue, the plays were a culmination of their completion of *Parshiyos Miketz* and *Vayigash*. The script and songs were written by Rabbi Biller.

The plays were done in typical Darchei Noam style. No *talmid* was pressured to do more than he wanted. In fact, before each *rebbe* did casting, each *talmid* received a list of characters with pertinent information — that is, if a role had singing or not, if a role was funny or serious, if it involved memorizing many lines. Each boy filled out a questionnaire, thus enabling him to make an “informed decision” about which part he felt would suit him.

The result was that each *talmid* felt a sense of satisfaction as he challenged himself in the role that best suited him. Various talents were utilized, including singing, dancing and gymnastics.

As usual, the parents were greatly involved, raising money for a playbill in order to fund the play, arranging for a delicious dessert reception, and helping their boys practice. In fact, there were a few parents mouthing the lines along with their sons. I asked one mother, “Do you know your son's lines as well as he does?” and she pointed to her five-year-old daughter sitting beside her and laughed, “Even she knows her brother's lines!”

The *rebbeim* took this opportunity to teach the boys a bit about public speaking. Using the acronym CLASS, the boys learned to say their lines Clear, Loud, And Super Slow. The audience was indeed amazed that a group of eight-year-olds did such an outstanding job of saying their lines with such drama and clarity.

Dancing mustachioed Arabs, a fearsome King Pharaoh and his servants, a faithful Yosef Hatzaddik, *Shevatim*, a riotous jester, *Sar Hamashkim*, a braided Serach playing “her” harp and a resilient Yaakov Avinu all contributed to the production of this remarkable play, and it ended perfectly, with the *talmidim* dancing in a circle with their *rebbeim* and taking bows to some well-deserved, *nachas-*



*Mechiras Yosef* play at Yeshiva Darchei Noam, directed by *rebbeim* Rabbi Nosson Biller and (seen in background) Rabbi Binyamin Plotzker.

fueled applause.

### New Hempstead Shuls Host Pre-Purim *Shiur*

Kehillat New Hempstead and Kehillas Bais Yehuda held a special joint pre-Purim *shiur* given by Rabbi Dani Staum, Rav of Kehillat New Hempstead and author of *Hamodia's Inyan* magazine's weekly *Parashah verter* column, and Rabbi Josh Blass, Rav of Kehillas Bais Yehuda. The *shiur* was given on Sunday night, 8 Adar/February 17 at Kehillas Bais Yehuda on Lime Kiln Road.

### N'shei Kehillas Yeshorim Of Wesley Hills Continues Rosh Chodesh *Shiur* Series

On Tuesday, February 19, N'shei Kehillas Yeshorim of Wesley Hills presented renowned speaker Mrs. Esther Bayla Schwartz, who spoke on the topic “How to Find Inner Happiness — What Can We Learn From Esther.” The *shiur* took place at the home of Ricki Dembitzer, *l'iluy nishmas* Moshe Elyahu ben Elyakim.

### Continued Ohr Monsey Lecture Series

Ohr Monsey, inspired by Ohr Naava of Brooklyn for women and girls of all ages, is offering an ongoing lecture series. The last lecture in the series was given by Mrs. Chani Juravel, who is delivering a relationship series that started on Wednesday, February 13 on the topic of “Tolerating Others, Tolerating Ourselves.”

The next class in the series will take place on Wednesday, February 27, when the topic will be “Relating to My Role as a Woman.”

The last class in the lecture will take place on Wednesday, March 13, on the topic “Relating to the Stuff in My Life.” All classes will take place at 8:00 p.m. at 6 Tokay Lane in the Concord area — basement entrance. Refreshments will be served. A \$5 donation is requested for each class. For more information on the lecture series, call (718) 647-6228, or email infor@ohrnaava.com.



Rabbi Bezael Rudinsky, *Rosh Yeshivah*, Yeshiva Ohr Reuven/Darchei Noam, addressing the crowd.



Do you know what \$1,100 in coins looks like? Meir Efraim Turner does. For the fifth straight year in a row, this disabled young man raised over \$1,000 in pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters for his favorite *tzedakah* by collecting daily in shul after *davening*. Over the years, he has raised close to \$6,000! The money that Meir Efraim raised was donated on Purim evening to Chesed 24/7 (Chesed of New Square) to help support their many hospital Kosher Hospitality Rooms, the local area Medicine Chests, the Hospital shuttle, the Boost in a Bottle program, and the many other activities Chesed runs. The small change that YOU donated goes a long way! Thanks to all of you who helped Meir Efraim once again reach this milestone. We look forward to him beating his own record by next Purim!

### Yeshiva Darchei Noam's 16th Annual Dinner

BY PESHIE NEEDLEMAN

On Monday, 8 Adar/February 18, over 250 parents, staff and supporters of Yeshiva Darchei Noam gathered at Ateres Charna for Yeshiva Darchei Noam's 16th Annual Dinner. The evening began with opening remarks by dinner chairman Rabbi Ari Senter, Rav of Kehillas Yeshurin, and himself a Yeshiva Darchei Noam parent. Rabbi Senter remarked that the true honorees of the evening were the dedicated *rebbeim* and teachers, and the 275 *talmidim*.

To the delight of the audience, the next presenters were mini in

stature but maximum in passion, as Menachem Kahn and Sruli Resnick, two poised third-graders, described how much they love learning in Rabbi Nosson Biller's class. Next came Reuven Goldberg and Shmuel Monczyk, two kindergarteners who informed the audience of how much fun they have under Morah Faigy Biller's tutelage in kindergarten.

Rabbi Nosson and Morah Faigy Biller received the Harbotzas Torah Tribute, a well-deserved honor for a couple who are true treasures of the yeshivah. Morah Faigy's warmth, creativity and professionalism combine to make each boy feel beloved, and Rabbi Biller's cre-

ative teaching methods and *hartzige* lessons have his *talmidim* enjoying every day of yeshivah.

In truth, every *rebbe* in Yeshiva Darchei Noam has a special affinity for his *talmidim*, proof of which was seen when the speakers continually referred to “the two sets of children we have been blessed with: our biological children and the children who are our students.” The *rebbeim* and teachers work together as a team, and the goal of educating their *talmidim* and instilling in them a love of Hashem and His Torah is a joint goal.

*Divrei brachah* were given by Rabbi Bezael Rudinsky, *Rosh Yeshivah*. He then presented Yehoshua and Rivkie Feiner with the Parents of the Year Award. The Feiners put their hearts and souls into the yeshivah, spearheading many fund-raising events. With their combined energy and resourcefulness, their enthusiasm is catching.

Rabbi Yakov Horowitz addressed the audience and explained how “*Devarim hayotzim min halev nichnasim el halev*” is demonstrated by the staff, who make the boys feel special because they are each treated as unique individuals. Rabbi Horowitz quoted Harav Samson Raphael Hirsch, who asserted that the true test of a *rebbe* and parent is to make himself obsolete by instilling self-confidence and life skills in each child.

A video presentation gave those present an inside look at what goes on in the classrooms, as well as the extra-curricular events sponsored by the N'shei. During dessert, the gathering was entertained by Rabbi Reuven Hoff's sixth-grade boys' choir, accompanied by Rabbi Hoff on his guitar and Binyomin Zev Dorfman on his drum set.

Yeshiva Darchei Noam is well known in Monsey as the school where learning is accomplished with a *geshmak*, as each *rebbe* uses his talents to infuse his *talmidim* with a passion for learning, providing 275 *talmidim* with an academically challenging *Limudei Kodesh* program and a General Studies program of instruction and essential skills development.

The *talmidim* are taught in a positive, nurturing, and child-oriented environment, reflective of “*Deracheha darchei noam*,” the ways of the Torah are ways of pleasantness. It is the yeshivah's goal to develop within each child a sense of *derech eretz*, a heightened sense of self-esteem, along with clear recognition of individual and collective responsibility to the community. Their program, along with positive partnership with the home, stimulates *talmidim* to become *bonei Torah* and *machzikei Torah*, leading meaningful, happy and productive lives.