

Monsey Matters

BY M. C. MILLMAN

Bais Alter Chaim Tzvi Of Pomona Announces Appointment of New Rav

Bais Alter Chaim Tzvi of Pomona has announced the appointment of Rabbi Saul J. Berman as their new Rav. Rabbi Berman was ordained at Yeshiva University, and also studied law at many prestigious institutions in the United States and Israel. He has served as a Rabbi in various locales in the United States and has also taught classes in Jewish law and ethics at various schools, including Columbia University, New York University and Stern College.

Rabbi Berman was brought in as interim Rabbi two months ago and has been delivering stimulating *divrei Torah* and *shiurim*, meeting with families, running events and more. He was voted in by the membership and will begin under his new title upon his return from Eretz Yisrael.

Bnos Bracha Takes Special Bas Mitzvah Trip To Philadelphia

On Tuesday, January 14, Bnos Bracha Elementary School took a group of their pre- and post-bas mitzvah girls on a memorable trip to Philadelphia. In addition to stopping at the traditional sights, such as the Liberty Bell and Congress Hall, site of President George Washington's second inauguration, the trip had a much deeper and more inspiring fundamental purpose, as the girls paid a visit to Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, *shlita*, and his Rebbetzin.

Before the trip, the school's principal, Mrs. Sarah Eidlitz, had asked Harav Kamenetsky to suggest an important *mitzvah* for the girls to take upon themselves as a special *kabbalah* for life. In response, the Rav took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the girls and give them *divrei brachah*. He



Rabbi Paysach Krohn speaking at Kehillat New Hempstead.



Creations of Rabbi Yosef Pruzansky's class at Yeshiva Darchei Noam for Yetzias Mitzrayim Project.

suggested that the students be *mekabel* the *mitzvah* of *tznius*. The *Rosh Yeshivah* also discussed the great merit a woman earns for supporting Torah.

"The trip to Philadelphia to see Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky was inspiring, exciting and interesting," said Basy Kahn, a sixth-grader at Bnos Bracha. "The Rav and Rebbetzin spoke about the importance of *tznius*, and the Rebbetzin talked to us about why we are special. Their home was very cozy, and we got to *daven Minchah* in their living room. I felt very honored to be there; Harav Shmuel came from yeshivah just to speak to us. I left feeling very proud to be a daughter of Hashem (which

also happens to be my name)."

Rebbetzin Kamenetsky spoke to the girls at length, stressing that *bnos Yisrael* are all daughters of the King. The girls were highly attentive to the message that as princesses they have been given the Torah, which is, among other things, a book of etiquette that tells them how to speak with refinement and act with refinement.

The Rebbetzin went on to explain that as children of the King, princesses don't need the approval of the rest of the world to know they are special. They

know who they are — princesses — and therefore conduct themselves with the utmost dignity in their dress and speech.

They treat their bodies with dignity as well, not only through *tznius* but also by having self-esteem and eating healthy foods, thereby showing respect for their bodies inside and out. In this way, Rebbetzin Kamenetsky was able to convey her unique message to her eager listeners, showing that *tznius* is all-encompassing and not done just for the outside.

She also cautioned the girls not to think that because they dress in a *tzniusdig* fashion, they should be judgmental of



Harav Moshe Green, Rosh Yeshivah, Yeshivah D'Monsey, speaks at the Skverer Yeshivah in New Square.

others who don't dress in the same way. The Rebbetzin suggested that the girls use their innate sensitivity not to hurt others but to understand with the *binah yeseirah* unique to women how to help and not hurt others. The girls were noticeably impressed by what they heard.

"I love what Rebbetzin Kamenetsky said about *tznius*," said Raichel Arons, one of the sixth-graders.

Before they all *davened* a moving *Minchah* together, Rebbetzin Kamenetsky went on to tell the girls that women have a special *middah* of *chessed* built into them. To illustrate her point, the Rebbetzin mentioned the *brachah* of "*She'asani Kirtzono*," where women say that they are *like* Hashem, Who does *chessed*. Thus, she suggested that the girls work on developing this *middah* to do *chessed* and nurture others.

Rebbetzin Kamenetsky suggested that Bnos Bracha include in its curriculum *mitzvos bein adam lachaveiro*, starting from the youngest grades. Apparently Bnos Bracha has already begun to do this. Developing this *middah* of *chessed* will undoubtedly serve Bnos Bracha students well as part of the future of *Klal Yisrael* and as a continuation of our *mesorah*.

Chasdei Chashie L'Kallah Eleventh Annual Chinese Auction

Chasdei Chashie L'Kallah held its 11th Annual Chinese Auction on Wednesday, January 15 at the home of Mrs. Rivky Kleiman in Wesley Hills. The event was held *l'iluy nishmas* Rebbetzin Rivkah Zucker, *a"h*, and Mrs. Kleinman's mother, Mrs. Rochel Gitelis, *a"h*.

Inspiration was offered by Mrs. Bassi Einstadter, with hilarious comedy by Avigayil Rottenberg. There was a magnificent musical slide presentation as well: "Giving Is Living." Prizes included a Miriam Tzinman *sheitel* and a summer

retreat with Vermont Menucha.

Bais Alter Chaim Tzvi Of Pomona Hosts Family Fun Day

Bais Alter Chaim Tzvi of Pomona held a family fun day on Sunday, January 12. The event featured the Ballooner Rebbe, who fashioned a wide variety of balloon shapes for all the children in attendance. There were also Tu B'Shvat-themed crafts and snacks for all participants.

Kehillat New Hempstead Hosts Rabbi Paysach Krohn

Rabbi Paysach Krohn was the featured guest speaker at Kehillat New Hempstead on Motzoei Shabbos, January 11. Rabbi Krohn spoke on the topic of "Reaching Beyond: Growing in All Aspects of Life." The event took place at the shul on Union Road in New Hempstead.

New Series of Shiurim Offered for Women

On Thursday, January 16, Rebbetzin Batsheva Berger gave the first of her weekly *shiurim* on *Sefer Ohel Rachel* at the home of Caren and David Redlich on Gladwyne Court. The week's theme concerned inspiration and celebration of Tu B'Shvat.

Rebbetzin Esther Baila Schwartz Speaks In Pleasant Ridge

Rebbetzin Esther Baila Schwartz spoke in Pleasant Ridge on Tuesday, January 14 on the topic of *Nishmas*, at the home of Jay and Perel Grossman. The learning for the evening was dedicated as a *zechus* for a *refuah sheleimah* for Aliza bas Rachel.

Hamodia would like to include events and news from the general Monsey area, because Monsey matters. If you have any newsworthy items you would like to see included, please email MonseyMatters@hamodia.com.

Torah Umesorah

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a gala *melaveh malkah* of *achdus* and *chizuk*. Some *rebbeim* even made the trip from Kiamesha, New York, where a prominent *Vizhnitz cheder* is located.

The evening commenced with a learning component. Networking occurred in which *rebbeim* of each level joined colleagues from similar schools for an hour of group discussion about educational issues. At 9:30, the *olam* washed for the beautiful *seudas mitzvah* and were welcomed by Rabbi Reichberg.

The evening was sponsored by well-known Monsey *askan*

Reb Yaakov Engel, who in his greetings dedicated the event to the memory of his late father, Reb Yissochor Dov, *z"l*, and shared *divrei zikaron* in his honor.

The opening address was delivered by Torah Umesorah's *menahel*, Rabbi Dovid Nojowitz. An additional speaker at the event was Rabbi Aharon Bayer, of Yeshivas Bais Dovid in Monsey.

Rabbi Bayer, who is a graduate of the Naheil Adasecha principals' program, another function of AALEH, shared the view that change and constant upgrades are necessary if we hope to keep pace with the changes in children.

The highlight of the event

was an address by the evening's keynote speaker, Harav Shaul Yehuda Prizant, Klausenburger *Dayan* of Union City, New Jersey. The audience was enthralled as he spoke brilliantly of the pivotal role that current *mechanchim* play — more than ever in the past — in the upbringing of today's children.

The *rebbeim* in attendance were electrified by the event, as they had never before experienced this type of camaraderie with colleagues from different schools, and certainly not on such a grand scale. In the final minutes of the event a request was overheard that many more such events be planned for the months and years ahead.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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