

AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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emanates throughout the day, make the yeshiva a unique institution.

In addition to the immeasurable *limud Torah* emanating from inside the yeshiva, its *bachurim* and *yungerleit*, led by R' Dovid Zomick and R' Mordechai Picker, with the collaboration of the local shuls, have taken upon themselves to ensure that the community's *eiruv* is maintained at the highest standards. It is a testimony to the yeshiva that it has quietly kept a watch over the *eiruv*, spending countless hours day and night, checking and correcting any potential flaws. The yeshiva recently produced an *eiruv* booklet, detailing the Lawrence-Far Rockaway *eiruv*, in the same fashion as the one produced last year for the Five Towns.

The guests of honor at the *melaveh malkah* will be two truly special individuals, Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Alissa Nadata. Michael has been intimately involved in the yeshiva for many years and has made the yeshiva's *shiurim* and *chavrusa* learning a focal point of his life. Michael, the successful owner of New York Rehabilitative Service, LLC, is the most unassuming of men, who prefers to keep out of the limelight and go about his remarkable *chesed* and learning activities with discretion. The *rosh kollel*, Rabbi Knobel, expressed great admiration for Michael, who set aside his aversion to publicity to accept the award of Guest of Honor, solely because he felt that the opportunity to help the yeshiva in such a meaningful way could not be missed. Alissa too, plays a very supportive role in

Michael's activities for the yeshiva that enables him to accomplish so much in *limud* and *hachzokas haTorah*.

The Alumnus of the Year award will be given to Dov Singer. Dov, a close *talmid* of both Rav Knobel and Rav Katzenstein for more than 15 years, has been involved with the yeshiva throughout. He personifies the ideals that the yeshiva desires to pass on to its students. He and his wife Tova serve as examples par excellence of a special spiritual relationship with Torah and *middos* that an alumnus of the yeshiva retains even years after leaving its insulated walls. Dov, who works for MV Sport, can be found nightly learning in the yeshiva as a *chavrusa* with a member of the *kollel*. Even though it has been years since Dov left yeshiva, he has remained a *talmid* of the *rebbeim* and maintained a close connection through his learning and presence.

The yeshiva invites the entire community to attend the upcoming *melaveh malkah* and to support this community *makom Torah*. For more information on the yeshiva, or to join a *shiur* or *chavrusa*, please call 516-295-8900, ext. 5. ❖

MK Dr. Arieh Eldad To Speak At YI Kew Gardens Hills, February 13

On Saturday, February 13, The World Committee for the Land of Israel will host MK Dr. Arieh Eldad, a prominent member of the Israeli Knesset, in a program intended to update the audience on the challenges facing Israel in the year 2010. This program is co-sponsored by the Queens Jewish Community Council and is being publicized throughout the New York area. The lecture will take place at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills,



MK Dr. Arieh Eldad

70-11 150th Street, Kew Gardens Hills, on Saturday February 13 at 8:00 p.m. Complimentary admission.

Dr. Eldad is a published medical doctor who holds the rank of Brigadier General in the Israeli Defense Forces and was its Chief Medical Officer from 1997 until 2000. The entire community is invited to hear this articulate defender of Israel and to show support for the State of Israel. ❖

KBYT Announces Weekly Shiurim Of Rabbi Mansour And Rabbi Frand

Kehillas Bais Yehuda Tzvi proudly announces that beginning this Thursday night, February 11, the widely popular weekly *shiurim* of Rabbi Eli Mansour and Rabbi Yissocher Frand will be presented

in the main *beis medrash* of the new shul building, 391 Oakland Avenue in Cedarhurst, via the Torah Conferencing Network. The Thursday night simulcasts will be in addition to the shul's Thursday late night *sefer* featuring independent learning, *chaburos*, and *chulent*. The program schedule will be as follows:

Rabbi Mansour's *shiur* 7:45 p.m.
Rabbi Frand's *shiur* 9:00 p.m.
Weekly *chaburah* 10:15 p.m.
Ta'amei HaMitzvos shiur 11:00 p.m.
Ma'ariv 11:15 p.m.

KBYT invites the community to join on a weekly basis for this inspiring (and delicious) program. ❖

Rambam Senior Named National Merit Finalist

Rambam Mesivta Maimonides High School senior Jonathan Drory has been named a finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. In advancing Jonathan from semi-finalist status (announced in September 2009) to finalist status, the National Merit Scholarship Program commended him for "demonstrating through distinguished performance high potential for future academic accomplishment."

Jonathan's achievement is based on his outstanding performance on the 2008 PSAT he took as an eleventh grader. The College Board, which sponsors the PSAT, shares the results of that test with the National Merit Program.

His National Merit achievement is reflected in the rigorous academic program he has taken at Rambam Mesivta

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High School in Lawrence. He has enrolled in an amazing seven advanced placement classes, performing wide-ranging college-level work while in high school. He has also taken 15 honors-level courses.

Jonathan is one of four Rambam Mesivta seniors who have been accepted to the prestigious full-tuition Yeshiva University Honors Program on an early acceptance basis. He is involved in the math and stock market teams; is editor of *Hamasmid*, Rambam's weekly Torah publication; and is a captain of the school's debate team. As

one of 15,000 finalists, Jonathan is eligible for one of the 8,200 Merit Scholarships that will be announced in March. ❖

Legislation To Protect Individuals With Disabilities

Assemblyman Tom Alfano recently announced the passage of legislation that would create new class D and E felonies for paid or court-ordered caregivers who endanger the welfare of incompetent or disabled individuals (A.9534). Alfano called the measure "long overdue and an issue of social justice."

Under current law, endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person is only a class A misdemeanor, but endangering the welfare of a vulnerable elderly person by a caregiver is a class E or D felony, depending on the harm inflicted. This legislation recognizes that mentally or physically disabled individuals in the care of others should be afforded the very same protections the law gives the vulnerable elderly.

"This bill, when signed into law, will finally close a dark chapter in the abuse of those who have physical and mental

challenges in our society. The families of special children and adults need peace of mind and must have protections against abuse," said Assemblyman Alfano.

"With passage of this legislation, those who are the most vulnerable in our society will finally have the needed protections that up until now have been woefully inadequate," said Assemblyman Tom Alfano, adding, "it is a complete and total disgrace that abuse toward an animal gets a larger penalty than that of a physically or mentally challenged person."

Michael Carey whose son, Jonathan, an autistic 13-year-old from upstate New York, died in February 2007 while in the care of two health aides, said, "This vital legislation is another important part of reforming New York's mental health care system, prompted by the tragic abuse and death of our son Jonathan. We fully expect Governor Paterson to swiftly sign this legislation into law, to provide the necessary protection for vulnerable disabled people that the elderly and companion pets already have from abusive caregivers."

If enacted, this legislation would make it a class E felony for a caregiver to endanger the welfare of an incompetent or disabled individual when he or she intentionally or recklessly causes physical injury to that person or subjects that person to sexual contact without his or her consent. The bill would raise the penalty to a class D felony if such conduct results in serious physical injury. In response to Governor Paterson's veto of similar legislation last year, the bill clarifies that the class of persons protected are individuals who are unable to care for themselves because of physical disability, mental disease, or defect, a definition long recognized by the law and courts.

In 2007 the Assembly passed "Jonathan's Law," which requires the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to provide access to investigative reports and records that contain allegations of abuse or mistreatment as far back as 2003. It also requires the director of a facility to notify the parents or caregivers of a patient of any incident within 24 hours of the initial report.

"The passage of Jonathan's Law in 2007 was a victory for both individuals with disabilities and their families and guardians, and the legislation approved would add further protections for those with mental and physical disabilities," said Speaker Silver (D-Manhattan). "Creating new felony offenses will help ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are protected under New York State Law."

Other measures previously approved by the Assembly to protect individuals with disabilities include enhancing standards to determine if abuse has occurred; prohibiting the withholding of food or drink to modify behavior; and creating a body to review work hours for direct care employees. ❖

Young Israel Files Supreme Court Brief In Landmark Religious Discrimination Case

The National Council of Young Israel (NCYI), in conjunction with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, recently filed a legal brief in the United States Supreme Court on behalf of a coalition of minority religious groups—including Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, and African American and Hispanic Christians—to defend the right of religious organizations to remain



L-R: Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, Mr. Ira Schildkraut, Jonathan Drory, Rabbi Yotav Eliach, and Rabbi Peretz Hochbaum of Rambam Mesivta.

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