

AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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Congratulations to the new members of the Honor Society: Orit Bitton, Ariella Bodoff, Frumie Ganeles, Adina Hart, Rachel Hersch, Gila Joseph, Ratzel Kirsch, Elana Krauss, Ayelet Lerner, Aliza Maslow, Devora Najjar, Ayala Perlysky, Gratzia Rose, Rachel Rose, Elana Schreier, Sivan Shahar, Daniella Shayestehfrouz, Michal Shlagbaum, Estee Siegel, Merav Silverstein, Rena Stahler, Shira Stavsky, Jennifer Strauss, Zissy Turner, Adina Unger, Deborah Watman, Lauren Winter, and Rachel Zehnwirth. ❖

Rambam Open House Draws Full House

A standing room only audience attended Rambam's 19th annual Open House this past Sunday. Students from the Five Towns, Brooklyn, and Queens turned out in droves to learn what Rambam is all about. Students from HAFTR, HALB, HANC, Har Torah, Toras Chaim, Tiferes Moshe, YCQ, Yeshiva of Flatbush, and Yeshiva Ketanah joined with students



SKA Honor Society inductees.

from eight other schools to meet Rambam's *rebbeim*, teachers, and *talmidim*.

In typical Rambam style, the feature presentations were made by the Rambam boys. They spoke about the amazing *kesh-*

er they have with their *rebbeim*, the warmth of the school, the level of learning, and the challenging academic program.

Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman, the *rosh mesivta*, emphasized the importance of

teaching students the methodology of 'thinking' and using good judgment to apply Torah to every aspect of our lives. "Whether one is a doctor, lawyer, accountant, *rebbe*, psychologist, businessperson, social worker, etc., opportunities abound to live a Torah lifestyle and make a *Kiddush Hashem*," he said. Rambam graduates are sought after by the top *yeshivot* in *Eretz Yisrael* and are disproportionately represented in the top *shiurim* wherever they attend. Rambam's *limudei kodesh* program has received endorsements and accolades for many *roshei yeshivot* and *rabbanim*.

Rabbi Yotav Eliach, the principal, summarized Rambam's long-standing track record of academic excellence. He mentioned that Rambam has consistently garnered approximately \$1.25 million annually in merit-based scholarships for its graduating classes of 40 students. "The average SAT score for all students is approximately 1260 (based on the old scale), approximately 50% of our students score 90 and above on all Regents exams, students are disproportionately admitted to Cooper Union, Macauley Honors College, and other top universities (two gained acceptance to MIT last year), and the list goes on and on," he said.

Rabbi Peretz Hochbaum, the associate principal, spoke about the amazing *chevrah* that comprises the Rambam student body. "Aside from the terrific and challenging program that is offered in both *limudei kodesh* and college preparatory studies, the most impressive thing about Rambam is the *chevrah*," said Rabbi Hochbaum. He spoke of their stellar *midos* and their sensitivity in all areas, especially as pertains to *ben adam l'chaveiro*. "It is great to get together with the *talmidim* at our various Shabbatonim, Friday night *tishes*, and *chagigot*. They really are a special bunch." He cited the *tefillah* of *v'zakeni* said by many women before they light candles Friday night, asking Hashem to enable them to raise families committed to Torah, *mitzvos*, and *midos*. "We work hard to help you fulfill the dream."

The mood of those present was best summed up by one who e-mailed afterwards, "What a fabulous Open House we were privileged to attend this past Sunday! The presentations were not only informative but so infused with enthusiasm! Rambam is an exceptional institution and we look forward to further pursuing enrollment for our son. Thank you!" ❖



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