Toldos Aharon Rebbe Visits Side by Side

Side by Side were honoured by a visit of the Rebbe of Toldos Aharon, *shlita*. The Rebbe was in London to attend the *chasunah* of his grandson, the son of Reb Moshe, *shlita*, the Rav of Toldos Aharon in London.

The Rebbe made time during his stay in London to visit Side by Side, at the request of the *hanhalah*, who related some of the wondrous results unfolding every day at this special *mossad* where experienced and dedicated staff invest boundless warmth and effort into helping children with additional needs reach their full potential.

The visit was a tremendous source of *chizuk* for all members of the administration and staff.

The Rebbe, accompanied by an entourage of Rabbanim and esteemed members of his *mosdos*, was eagerly and reverently greeted by Reb Yosef Margulies, the long-standing director of Side by Side, and his brother, Reb Chaim Mordechai Margulies, *Rosh Mesivta* at Vizhnitz Yeshivah and a governor at Side by Side, among others.

The students were already assembled in anticipation of the Rebbe's visit. After warmly greeting each member of the *hanhalah* personally, the Rebbe was escorted to his seat, along with his host, the *Rosh Hakahal* of the Toldos Aharon *kehillah* in London, Reb Chaim Pesach Reiner; and other close acquaintances of the Rebbe.

A brief but poignant speech by Reb Mordechai Margulies welcomed the Rebbe and expressed his feelings of immense gratitude for the *chizuk* a visit of this caliber endows upon each hardworking, devoted member of staff.

JDN

The Toldos Aharon Rebbe (R) at Side by Side.

A particularly moving highlight of the visit was when the children sang several songs with youthful purity and sincerity, eliciting tearful emotion from the audience.

Following this the Rebbe was *mechazek* the staff, encouraging them to continue their vital work, which is of the utmost importance and has inestimable value.

The Rebbe concluded with *divrei brachah* for all participants, particularly for the *hanhalah* who ensure the continuous smooth-running and advancement of the school; and included an extra *brachah* for the female staff who invest unceasing thought, care and effort in helping each child achieve according to their abilities and develop their talents, making every day a joy and a success.

The visit left a remarkable impression on all present, inspiring them to continue with their invaluable work with renewed passion and enthusiasm.

Elstree Federation Set to Expand

This week the Federation announced the acquisition of land behind the Ohr Yisroel shul in Elstree, which will allow the growing *kehillah* to accommodate the demand for more facilities and space for its burgeoning membership.

Elstree and Borehamwood make up what's arguably the fastest growing Jewish community in the South East, and the Federation shul is one of five rapidly expanding Orthodox *minyanim* in the area. The Federation's *kashrus* authority, KF kosher, licenses a local branch of Mr. Baker Express and several other kosher establishments have opened their doors there in recent years.

The Ohr Yisroel *kehillah* was established in 1999 as a constituent member of the Federation, which recognized the fact that increasing numbers of *frum* families were moving into the area and in need of suitable infrastructure. For the first three years of its existence, it was housed in a local community center under the leadership of Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft (now the Rav of the Federation's Beis Hamedrash Nishmas Yisroel in Hendon).

Some 60 people attended its first Friday night *minyan* — but by the time it moved to its current premises on Theobald Street in early 2003, it was attracting around 100 members to Shabbos *tefillos* on a weekly basis. Today, the shul regularly welcomes over 200 people every Shabbos morning, including many children.

Since 2005 the *kehillah* has been ably led by Gibraltarian Rabbi Raphy Garson and his wife Deborah. With a dynamic weekly programme of *shiurim*, annual trips to Poland and Morocco and other family-oriented activities, the shul also houses "Little Bicks," an Ofsted registered nursery, and acts as a SEED center for the local area run in conjunction with HLX, the organisation set up by Rabbi Garson in memory of the late Rabbi Shmuli Kass, *z"l*.

The vision for development of the new plot of land, which will be realized over the next few years, includes a larger shul, a *simchah* hall, and a number of other rooms specifically designed to enhance community facilities, particularly those geared toward young children — as the community is young and growing.

Rabbi Garson said, "This exciting development is absolutely critical to ensure continued growth for our Ohr Yisroel family. A new purpose-built shul will ensure there are proper facilities to cater for the ever-growing number of young families in the area. After ten years at the shul we are excited that our dreams are becoming a reality and we are looking forward to the next chapter in our community's story."

Open University Exam Clashes With Yamim Norai'm

Students advised to contact University Jewish Chaplaincy

Review, worry and possibly sleepless nights are some of the signs that exams are approaching. For some, however, passing their exams is not their only concern.

This is the case, unfortunately, this year, with Open University exams scheduled for both Rosh Hashanah and Simchas Torah. Sometimes, students manage to sort out the difficulty on their own; often, they turn to University Jewish Chaplaincy for support. Jewish Chaplains are stationed in main cities throughout the United Kingdom, and every university is assigned a chaplain that is closest to its region. In this way, chaplains offer multifaceted guidance and support to thousands of Jewish students of all affiliations, including helping to rearrange exam clashes.

Rabbi Gavin Broder has been the London Regional Chaplain for the past 15 years and has assisted hundreds of students who have found themselves in the "exam quandary." He explains that with the many Universities, departments and exam offices across London, each student has to be dealt with individually, and it is through Rabbi Broder's ongoing developed relationship with the universities that he is able to assist the students satisfactorily. This can result in an administrative nightmare often stretching over several months!

To ensure that conditions are met, students find themselves "quarantined" in the Chaplain's home for one or two days — and sometimes more — with mobile phones and laptops "confiscated." Though the chaplain will try and sweeten the student's incarceration, they have to come to terms with being away from home, sometimes leaving spouses, children or grandchildren behind. Last year Rabbi Broder quarantined students from seven different campuses and enlisted help to accompany the students to their various exam centers.

The earlier the Chaplains are contacted, the easier it is to deal with the issues. There is a process which must be followed and universities will not accommodate students who, in true student style, leave this to the last minute.

Should you or anyone you know need assistance in the future, in particular for the autumn Yamim Tovim, please do not hesitate to contact rabbibroder@mychaplaincy.co.uk or visit www.mychaplaincy.co.uk to find your local chaplain if you are outside London.

Volunteers get their moment in the spotlight at care awards

BY JC REPORTER

► PRESENTING AWARDS to some of Jewish Care's star volunteers, comedian and writer Ivor Baddiel paid tribute to those who helped his father, Colin, at the Leonard Sainer Day Centre in Edgware.

The centre supports those with dementia and Mr Baddiel said: "I know first-hand the work you do and the commitment, dedication, thought and, of course, care that goes into it. He's just one of the many, many, people that you care for and who benefit so greatly from what you do."

The youth group award went to Redbridge Jewish Community Centre's leadership programme, Mike, whose teenagers volunteer in the centre's weekly clubs run for the primary school age group.

Among "unsung heroes" honoured was Pearl Franic, a volunteer at the Brenner Centre in Stamford Hill since 1992, who was described as "the personification of kindness and charm. She never seeks praise and always does a great job without any fuss."

Another was Jackie Lawson, a long-serving volunteer with Jewish Care's family carers team, who recently organised a "young bridge queens" fundraiser. There was also a collective accolade for the co-ordinators of Jewish Care's minyan team, which ensures that when people with few family or friends pass away, there are sufficient people to say Kaddish.

Others recognised for their contribution at the Golders Green ceremony included survivor Janine Webber for her fundraising in support of the Holocaust Survivors' Centre and Sidney Baker for the relationship he has developed with a resident at Jack Gardner House, helping those with mental health issues. The pair enjoy weekly visits to a Whetstone snooker club.

Jackie Lawson and Pearl Franic with Steven Lewis

PHOTOS: JUSTIN GRAINGE

It's closing time for Harold Hill

BY SIMON ROCKER

► ANOTHER ESSEX Orthodox synagogue is to close its doors. The 68 members of Harold Hill, a United Synagogue affiliate founded in 1953, will be transferred to neighbouring communities and the premises sold.

US president Stephen Pack said Harold Hill "approached us and said they had reached a stage where they can't support a minyan on Shabbat and even on the Yomim Noraim [High Holy-Days]".

Clayhall and Newbury Park merged to form the Redbridge United Synagogue this year. The new Woodford Forest Synagogue was formed out of the amalgamation of Wanstead and Woodford United and the independent Waltham Forest shul.

The shop frontage

Butcher's to become a Mersey museum piece

► LIVERPOOL CITY Council has announced that the historic frontage of a butcher's shop which supplied kosher meat to the Titanic will be preserved as a Museum of Liverpool display.

Trading from 1907 to the late 1970s in Pembroke Place, Galkoff's was the city's last kosher butcher. Its distinctive green Art Deco tiles were put up in 1930 and the frontage received listed status in 2007.

Assistant Mayor Councillor Nick Small said the frontage would be removed when work begins on the expansion of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, which now owns the site.

"I'm delighted that we've been able to find a way forward. We shouldn't forget our past."

Family spokesman Lawrence Galkoff said "there can be no more fitting tribute to the significance of the Galkoff building and its importance in the history of the city and the community".

It is anticipated that the display will be installed in the museum within 12 months.

MILL HILL JOINS THE LONDON ERUV CLUB

► MP MATTHEW Offord was among the Shabbat guests who helped Mill Hill Synagogue members celebrate the local eruv going live. The religious boundary, which stretches to Apex Corner, Five Ways Corner and from Mill Hill East to the M1, joins up with the Edgware and north-west London eruvs. Eruv committee chair Gill Gallick said beforehand that the project had taken seven years but the persistence and determination of the committee had reaped its reward. "We can leave a legacy both for existing members and for all those who will join the community in the future."

FEDERATION EXPANDS ITS ELSTREE SHUL

► THE FEDERATION of Synagogues has acquired land behind its Ohr Yisrael Synagogue in Elstree to provide a larger shul incorporating a functions hall and rooms for activities, particularly for young children. Established in 1999, Ohr Yisrael has grown to 100 families, accounting for 400 people, and regularly attracts Shabbat morning attendances in excess of 200. Minister Rabbi Raphy Garson said that "this exciting development is absolutely critical to ensure continued growth with proper facilities to cater for the young families in the area".

CITIZEN GAIN FOR £100K CANCER FUNDRAISER

► A SOLIHULL mum who has raised more than £100,000 for cancer care has received a British Citizen Award for services to volunteering and charitable giving. Joyce Rothschild, 59, was 40 when she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. After her mastectomy, she had to wait a year for further treatment because the correct equipment wasn't available.

This prompted the Birmingham Progressive member to raise money for the equipment for the local Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She compiled and sold a general knowledge quiz which now brings in funds from a devoted worldwide clientele for Macmillan Cancer Support. Mrs Rothschild was among the top ten in the *JC*'s Mensch of the Year.

Joyce Rothschild with her award

Spreading the light in Elstree

Ohr Yisroel Federation Shul in Elstree this week announced plans to expand. Land behind its current building is set to be used to create a new facility to accommodate the needs of its growing kehilla. The Jewish Tribune spoke to the shul's Rov, Rabbi Raphy Garson and the Fed President Andrew Cohen.

Tell us about the area and the Jewish community

ELSTREE and Borehamwood is the fastest growing Jewish community in the South East of England, and the Federation shul is one of five rapidly expanding Orthodox minyanim in the area. The Federation's kashrus authority, KF kosher, licenses a local branch of Mr Baker Express, and several other kosher establishments have opened their doors here in recent years.

How does Ohr Yisroel fit into the equation?

The kehillah was established in 1999 as a constituent member of the Federation, in response to the increasing numbers of frum families who were moving into the area and in need of a suitable infrastructure. For the first three years of its existence, it was housed in a local community centre under the leadership of Rabbi Dovid Tugendhaft (now the Rav of the Federation's Beis Hamedrash Nishmas Yisroel in Hendon). Some 60 people attended its first Friday night minyan – but by the time it moved to its current premises on Theobald Street in early 2003, it was attracting around 100 members to Shabbos tefillos on a weekly basis, and today regularly welcomes over 200 people every Shabbos morning, including many children.

The last decade has been quite exciting

Indeed, in 2005 I was privileged to join the kehillah with my wife Deborah. There is a dynamic weekly programme of shiurim, annual trips to Poland and Morocco and other family-oriented activities. The shul also houses 'Little Bicks', an Ofsted registered nursery, and acts as a **seed** centre for the local area run in conjunction with 'HLX', the organisation set up by myself in memory of the late Rabbi Shmuli Kass zt"l.

Artist's impression of new Ohr Yisroel shul complex

What plans are there for the expansion?

The development of the new plot of land, which will be realised over the next few years, includes a larger shul, a simcha hall, and a number of other specifically designed rooms to enhance community facilities, particularly those geared towards young children – the community is young and growing.

This exciting development is absolutely critical to ensure continued growth for the Ohr Yisroel kehilla. A new purpose-built shul will ensure that we have proper facilities to cater for the ever-growing number of young families in the area. After ten years at the shul I am excited that our dreams are becoming a reality and look forward to the next chapter in our community's story.

The President of the Federation is Andrew Cohen. How important is this development in Elstree to you?

The Federation, which is constantly proving itself to be a powerful force for Orthodox Jewry in this country, recognises its responsibility to communities that are expanding. We will invest in this demand, providing facilities and support that enable members to strengthen their commitment. Ohr Yisroel is a young, vibrant kehillah which has become a victim of its own success – there's just no more room! We are fortunate to have acquired this land which will enable an exciting development in keeping with the popularity of the community and the broad demand it generates.

ק"ק בית המדרש גלדרס גרין
The Golders Green Beth Hamedrash Congregation
The Riding - Golders Green Road
London NW11 8HL - Tel 020 8455 2974

תשעה באב

We are pleased to announce that

Mr Yisroel Abelesz נ"י

will speak on תשעה באב at
7.30pm in the
Miriam Rachel Wohl Hall (air conditioned)
about his
experiences during the Holocaust

There will be a question and answer session following his talk

מנחה 8:30pm

Youngsters especially welcome

ק"ק הנדן עדת ישראל
HENDON ADATH YISROEL CONGREGATION
11 Brent Street NW4

THE SHOAH COMMITTEE
Cordially invite all Ladies and Gentlemen
to a special programme

'Visas for life'

How Chiune Sugihara, a heroic Japanese diplomat saved Jewish refugees during the Shoah.

Programme:
8:00pm - Film - Sugihara, conspiracy of kindness.
9:00pm - Personal reflections - Rabbi Yitzchok Abraham שליט"א

On:
Sunday 19th July - ג' מנחם אב
at 8.00pm in the Shul hall.

(מנחה ומעריב at 7.30pm)

Young people especially welcome!