Community Briefs

GOLDERS GREEN

On March 17, Ezra Youth Movement, ORAH and Ahavas Yisroel hosted an evening of inspiration for women and girls to commemorate the 80th *yahrtzeit* of Sarah Schenirer, *a"h*. The evening took place in Golders Green and consisted of a choir run by girls from the Ezra youth movement, as well as a video presentation and a *shiur* by Rabbi Dovid Roberts, Rav of Netzach Yisroel, Edgware.

The evening began with the stirring last words of Sarah Schenirer to her students, in which she reminded them that Hashem is always guiding them, and urged them to guide the souls of *Klal Yisrael*. This was followed by Rabbi Roberts, who spoke animatedly of how Sarah Schenirer sought not merely to introduce women to the technical aspects of learning Torah, but rather she had a greater goal: to re-infuse the young girls with the purity of the *Yiddishe neshamah*. She realised and taught her students that this purity has the power to uphold the entire generation.

The evening was inspired by Rebbetzin Tamar Sokol of Ateres Bnos Yerushalayim, who heads the annual inter-seminary Sarah Schenirer *yahrtzeit* event in Jerusalem along with the Ateres student body. Former Ateres students were so inspired by last year's event — which included talks by Rebbetzin Rina Tarshish and Rebbetzin Blimie Birnbaum — that they felt it appropriate to continue this tradition, spreading the message of Sarah Schenirer to the London *kehillah*.

The aim of the evening was to demonstrate to women and girls that Sarah Schenirer's story remains unfinished, and that it is their duty to continue her legacy by inspiring and enthusing the next generation in their *Yiddishkeit*. Various events were held worldwide in commemoration of the 80th *yahrtzeit* this year, including Ateres' 5th annual event held in Jerusalem to an audience of over 1,000 people, and a gathering of 15,000 women and girls in the Barclays center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Pre-Pesach Events at Kesher

Pesach is more than getting rid of the *chametz,* and this message is apparent at the variety of courses run at Kesher this Yom Tov season. In addition to a welcoming Shabbos *kehillah davening*, Kesher runs a variety of stimulating educational programmes.

Rabbi Rashi Simon, in his articulate manner and with his wealth of halachic and Torah knowledge, has been giving several *shiurim* as part of this year's "Let My People Know" series. This is community-wide and open to men and women. In addition, on Monday nights Rabbi Simon has a *chavrusa* and small group-learning programme for men who want a tailor-made learning program.

Women are in on the action, too, with a Wednesday morning class for ladies who want a midweek dose of Torah inspiration.

This week Kesher's Women's Connection ran "Taming the Taskmaster" — an evening devoted to learning tips to declutter our homes and our souls. Whether a woman can be crowned Queen of Clutter, knows the King of Clutter, or seeks to de-clutter physically and spiritually, ladies flocked to hear Debra Gold, home stylist and professional de-clutterer. Rebbetzin Ruthie Simon also spoke, teaching ways to use the Pesach season to de-clutter and shake off more than the dust from our homes, our minds and our souls. Fascinating, practical, edifying and entertaining, Debra and Ruthie left the listeners wanting more.

HENDON

Communities Minister Visits Holocaust Survivors Centre

Lord Ahmad, the Communities Minister, visited Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivors' Centre in Hendon last week, with ambassadors from the Holocaust Education Trust.

The government minister said, "Learning about the Holocaust is not easy. Not easy because it means reliving the horrors that are sometimes too shocking for words.

"Over the past 70 years the survivors who have made the U.K. their home have done Britain and the world a great service. Not only have they made the country their own, they have also rebuilt their lives, contributing significantly to their local community.

"They speak not of hate and malice but to keep the memory alive. They are helping all of us learn the terrible consequences of when tolerance, respect and fairness are forgotten."

Bringing a Kosher Flavour To the IFE

KF Kosher, the certifying body of the

Last Thursday a fund-raising breakfast was held at Crowland Road shul to support David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, in his bid to become the next mayor of London. Hosted by Shmuel Davidsohn, the event was attended by long-standing supporter of the South Tottenham shul and former Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Sheila Peacock.

Rabbi Alex Chapper (third L) and congregants from Ilford Federation at the Minyanaires Dinner.

Lawrence Purcell

Rabbi Dr. Harvey Belovski, Rav of Golders Green United Synagogue, spoke to the Shema programme in Manchester on Sunday on the topic of "A Night of Tensions? *Seder* Night and Authentic Redemption."

Community Briefs

At the draw of the T'Mimei Lev/Torah Tots raffle. The raffle raises much needed funds for this expanding school which opened their Y.E.S.S. (Yeshiva Education for Special Students) division last year. They now cater for the whole age spectrum of special needs, from tots to teens. The Winners were from Manchester and London.

Federation, took a stand at the globally acclaimed International Food and Drink Event (IFE) at ExCel London this week, one of over 1,350 exhibitors taking part in the event.

KF Kosher supervises some 5,000 products across six different continents, and is particularly well-known for bringing U.K. household names to the Israeli and U.S. markets, including the popular Wrigleys' gum range, Red Bull, Skittles and Vidal sweets. This has the added advantage of allowing mainstream products to be sold in kosher stores with the KF *hechsher* for the U.K. market as well. In the immediate future, KF expects to see its logo on many more U.K. brands that will be on sale in big-name supermarkets too, including flavoured coffees and a brand-new candy range.

KF Kosher's Commercial Development Manager Rabbi Josh Bennett said, "Kosher is big business these days, with manufacturers and distributers alike recognising the need for certification — not only to appeal to kosher consumers in the U.K. and abroad, but to give their products an extra level of guarantee. Vegans, vegetarians, other religious groups and those who suffer from food allergies and intolerances all regularly seek out a kosher stamp as a reassurance that the product is suitable for them to eat."

During the course of the IFE, KF Kosher met with over 150 company representatives who expressed strong interest in obtaining kosher certification. KF ensure that their fees are competitive and the process of obtaining certification is made as simple and user-friendly as possible.

ILFORD

Minyanaires Dinner

On Tuesday evening, Ilford Federation Synagogue held its annual Minyanaires Dinner. The event, which was the brainchild of Rabbi Alex Chapper, is held to honour the group of men who regularly attend the community's weekday *minyan*. This year's dinner was sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. Maxim Segal to mark the *yahrtzeit* of his late father, Dr. Issy Segal, *z"l*, who was life president of the community.

During the evening, Rabbi Chapper thanked those who attended, saying, "The ongoing commitment these men make to ensure there's a regular *minyan* can be compared to the contribution the Bnei Yisrael made in building the *Mishkan* — and that makes them true Minyanaires."

UNITED SYNAGOGUE

Exciting New Post for US Living & Learning

The United Synagogue's Living and Learning department have announced an exciting enhancement of its team with the appointment of Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein as Education Executive. This part-time role will be combined with her existing position as Rebbetzin of Cockfosters & N. Southgate Synagogue.

Having joined Cockfosters & N. Southgate nine months ago after working in Israel as a journalist, she brings with her significant skills and experience to continue to develop the Living & Learning department, enhancing its communications and programming resource for US communities.

Rebbetzin Epstein's main duties will be to assist with the creation, development, writing and distribution of bespoke educational programmes. She will also assist with communications, website content and events, as well as providing another link between Living & Learning, local communities, Rabbis, Rebbetzins and lay leaders.

Rabbi Michael Laitner, Director of Education at US Living & Learning, commented, "I'm delighted that Rebbetzin Epstein has joined the team, especially on the back of the fantastic work that she and her husband, Rabbi Daniel Epstein, are doing in the Cockfosters & N. Southgate community. Ilana's arrival augments our programming and communications capacity, as well as bringing a talented educator to further improve the ways that Living & Learning serves our communities."

The US Living & Learning department provides educational and social resources for United Synagogue communities as well as helping them to share best practice. Recent and current work includes the Newly Weds programme, the *US Shiva Prayer Book*, the ongoing 70 Days for 70 Years Holocaust memorial project and general programming advice for communities.

Avi Yodaiken

Boys of Menorah Grammar School greet Harav Avrohom Gurwicz, Rosh Yeshivas Gateshead, who had just given a *drashah* to the boys.

Avi Yodaiken

Rabbi Shraga Kallus addresses Menorah Grammar School boys.

Lawrence Purcell

Rabbi Yaakov Moore of Gateshead addresses Manchester Mesivta *talmidim* as part of the Nisan Programme.