Edgware marks massechta milestone

▶ Brian Gordon

A BEAUTIFULLY catered Siyum has taken place at a north-west London restaurant to celebrate the completion of Masseches Kiddushin after a period of seventeen years.

The celebrants were the members of a 25-strong Gemoro Shiur held weekly at the Edgware Adass Yisroel Shul led by Mr David Rabson. They were joined for the festive occasion by members of Rabbi Yehonoson Royde's Daf Yomi Shiur for their own siyum on Kiddushin which meets at the same Shul at 6am every morning. Also present were the wives of the participants.

Before being *mesayem* the Massechta Mr. Rabson paid tribute to all the members of his shiur who had attended loyally and enthusiastically for so many years. He said "No matter what jobs people have, irrespective of their community responsibilities and domestic commitments, our shiur has become an entity and family unit of its own, every one of us playing our role, all bound by a love for learning Torah." He also expressed appreciation to Rabbi Royde who established the shiur and from whom he took over as Maggid Shiur 17 years ago due to the former's increasing duties elsewhere.

Rabbi Royde was *maschil* Masseches Makkos, which the shiur is now commencing. With some fascinating mathematical calculations, Rabbi Royde contrasted the speed of learning - in terms of pages covered - of his Daf Yom shiur with that of Mr. Rabson's shiur. This was a clear illustration that with limmud Torah, both quality and quantity can count. He observed that regardless of one's style of learning, to be a true *ben Torah*, one's whole outlook and mindset has to be trained to conform to Torah values. He said "In secular society, things that were once rightly regarded as immoral and an abomination are now not only permitted but have become compulsory as teaching to pupils in schools! This is the antithesis of Torah, whose morals and teachings are constant and unchanging."

Maggid Shiur Mr Dovid Rabson (front row, far left) celebrating the Gemoro siyum with attendees. Mr Rabson's father, Ronald, is seated next to him.

The Guest of Honour, Dayan Menachem Gelley, Rosh Beis Din of the London Beis Din, explored the source for holding a Siyum. He said that the words of hadran meaning "We toil and receive a reward" could be understood to refer to the joy and satisfaction derived from the understanding of sometimes complex Torah teachings. This achievement was itself a reason for celebration. This is why Shlomo Hamelech woke up in the night and made a feast to celebrate the wisdom bestowed upon him that he had requested from Hashem.

Rabbi Zvi Lieberman, Rov of Edgware Adass Yisroel, thanked Mr. Rabson for his tenacity in conducting the shiur for such a long period. He said it was a privilege for his Shul to be the venue for it and he hoped it would continue for many years to come. He acknowledged the contribution of the participants' wives whose support and encouragement to their husbands was invaluable.

Senior shiur member Mr Michael Steel chaired the proceedings and thanked Mr Rabson for his dedication. Similar sentiments on a light-hearted note were expressed by another regular member Mr Michael White. Mr David Vogel, a shiur participant from its inception, presented sets of seforim to Edgware Adass Yisroel on behalf of the members of the shiur, and a medical kit to Edgware Hatzola. The evening concluded with bensching, led by long-standing askan, father of the maggid shiur and attendee Mr Ronald Rabson.

Fed increases Sheimos facilities

▶ Chaim Zelig

FOLLOWING the successful installation of its first Sheimos Bank at the Beis Hamedrash Nishmas Yisroel shortly before Pesach, the Federation has now rolled out its 'Sheimos L'Geniza' community service to three other sites across London. Smart new purpose-designed banks were delivered to the Sinai *shul* in Golders Green, the Yeshurun in Edgware and Ohr Yisrael in Elstree last week.

The Federation's Sheimos L'Geniza service is available for the benefit of the entire community – there is no mandatory charge for making use of the facility although donations are invited per bag of *sheimos* to help defray the running costs. When the banks are full, the contents are taken to the organisation's Beis Olom in Rainham for *kevura*.

The Federation has put together a helpful pack detailing frequently asked questions on the subject, which is available in a dispenser at the side of the banks or on request from the organisation's Head Office.

Trustee Mr Moshe Winegarten said: "We are delighted to make our Sheimos L'Geniza service available to the wider *kehilla* with these new installations in NW London, Edgware and Elstree. The Federation is committed to providing community facilities that further *shemiras hamitzvos* and raise awareness of important *halochos* such as these."

Father's joy in son's siyum

Rebbe Sprei with Class 2 of Pardes House Primary School this week.

▶ Alex Elmkies

A MOST WONDERFUL VIBE permeated the halls and classrooms of Pardes House Primary School this week as a group of smiling boys sung and clapped. They were celebrating the consummation of genuine Torah achievement; this while most other schools in North West London have "shut shop" for the holidays.

I was privileged to share in my son's Year 2 class siyum led by the Mechanech Ruchni, Rebbe Chaim Sprei, having accomplished Perek1 of Mishnayos Succah, much of it by heart too.

I joined the boys as they *shokeled* to a beautiful rendition of *Ribono Shel Olam, geb mir a bissele koach*. While they were singing, the smell of barbecued sausages being prepared wafted into the atmosphere. The boys were clearly enamoured of the setting, breaking into chorus after chorus of 'Bar Yochai' spontaneously, seemingly inspired by the 'bonfire' of the meats sizzling on the disposable barbecue.

I was made to feel most welcome, and shared with the boys a halocho riddle based on the meal they were having. Clearly aware of the rule that one must rinse between milk to meat, I then challenged the boys to think of a case when one is banned from eating either. Informed that hard cheese followed by meat is like meat followed by milk, they worked out that if one accidentally ate meat after this hard cheese, they would be stuck, unable to carry on eating meat or revert back to cheese since they just ate meat.

The whole class showed immense knowledge of the Mishnah inyan they had learnt. From easier questions of 20 amos + high succahs and more sun than shade invalidating a succah, to harder ones of fly protector sheets under the *schach* permitted — which is why we can hang decorations — all boys had their hands raised aloft, eager to answer. Boys also showed understanding of Gemoro logic to questions like: can one dig out *schach* from a pile of hay? No, because a Succah must be made, not pre-made!

Aside from what they knew, it was so pleasing to see the genuine simcha the boys have in their learning, which underlined the importance the school attaches to this.

MGS valedictory

Rav Schlesinger-front row-right-with Rabbi Reuven Ross and the boys of Year 11 and 12

RAV Yeshaya Schlesinger gave an inspirational address to Years Eleven and Twelve of Menorah Grammar School at a Seudas Pereidah (for the outgoing Year Twelve) and Siyum of Maseches Succah. This was completed by almost thirty talmidim over the last year.Speaking in the presence of Rebbeim and fathers, Rav Schlesinger stressed the importance of the boys taking with them the motivation achieved at this Siyum as a stimulus to their future growth in yeshiva. Akiva Kahan recited the Hadran and Michoel Gabbai commenced next year's Massechta -Bava Metzia. Mordi Rabson of Year Twelve and Yossi Scher of Year Eleven also delivered Divrei Halocho.