Federation Holds Conference for Rabbanim and *Dayanim*

As part of the ongoing commitment of The Federation toward the professional development of its Rabbanim and *Dayanim*, a half-day conference was held at The Pillar Hotel last week. Organised by Federation Director of Education Rabbi Dovid Roberts, the event was themed to reflect the diverse demands and expectations made of the Rav in an increasingly complex world.

The conference was built upon the recognition of the reality that a Rav needs to function as *posek*, educator, mediator, gateway to therapeutic help, as well as being a friend and support. Many of these skills are honed and perfected over time, with "on the job" learning, utilising experience. However, the opportunity to hear from experts in the field is clearly a preferred route.

The participants were afforded the opportunity to engage on an array of subjects, including a *shiur* from Dayan Yehonoson Hool, newly appointed to the Federation Beis Din, on the parameters of *psak*, and the nuanced approaches needed to ensure that the person is *paskened*, as well as the case.

Rabbi Yoni Hamilton of Relief Resources enlightened the audience on the challenges of ensuring that the Rav is cognisant of the numerous avenues available in terms of modern psychotherapy and psychological support. This ensures that the Rav, as gateway to professional support, has access to a comprehensive list of suitable practitioners and clinicians.

Mr. Jonathan Rabson delivered a sobering yet pertinent presentation on the subject of keeping the *kehillah* and the Rav safe, in a world where sadly, there are individuals who are not safe to be with our precious young charges. A mix of statistics, techniques and advice on how to be vigilant and utilise best practice to keep everyone protected and safe, was presented with a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation.

Dayan Yehoshua Posen, another recent addition to the Federation, is a man of many talents. His experience as a professional commercial and divorce mediator was the final formal session of the afternoon. With a fascinating insight into the world of mediation, he conveyed some key methods of appropriate ways to interact with litigants and conflicted parties, as well as a healthy dollop of common sense approaches and an all-important list of do's and don'ts for a Rav dragged into the world of dispute.

A roundtable debate followed, with the Rabbanim and *Dayanim* discussing a range of contemporary issues that they encounter in their *avodas hakodesh*. President of the Federation Andrew Cohen and Rabbi Avi Lazarus, CEO, joined the discussion to share the plans and vision they and the trustees have to take the Federation to the next level in its provision of services to the *kehillah*.

A dinner at The Pillar for all the Rabbanim, *Dayanim*, and their wives followed, elegantly catered by Arieh Wagner.

Rosh Beis Din Dayan Lichtenstein, after expressing his pleasure at the opportunity to sit and discuss important issues with the Rabbanim, urged the Rabbanim to remember that as well as *paskening* and giving *shiurim*, the Rav needs to be conscious that his main role is to support his *kehillah*, and to help them grow in their *Yiddishkeit*.

Andrew Cohen outlined the many exciting developments the Federation has undertaken in the last few years, and shared a number of new developments in the pipeline, in the field of *mehadrin kashrus* and new communities lining up to join. He declared his commitment to ensuring that the resurgent organisation would continue down the path of renewed energy and dynamism, and is well placed to make a real impact on the *frum kehillos* of the United Kingdom.

A similar conference is planned for the Rebbetzins, in due course.

Fund-Raising to Save French Jews at Home of Satmar Rebbe, *Zy"a*

A *mesibah* was held at the home of the Satmar Rebbe, *zy"a*, in Monroe, led by *ybl"c* the Satmar Rebbe, Harav Zalman Leib Teitelbaum, *shlita*, on behalf of the children of the French *olim*.

The Rebbe called for the *mesibah* to help raise funds for the *chinuch* of children of French *olim*. The *mesibah* was arranged by Reb Moshe Shmuel Zupnick.

As we have covered in great detail, the Satmar Rebbe is one of the *Gedolim* who is spearheading the efforts to help the thousands of French Jews who emigrate to Eretz Yisrael in recent years, due the declining security situation in France. Once in Eretz Yisrael, however, the Jewish Agency is sending the children to schools that are barely religious — with much lower standards of Torah education and religious practice than these Yidden had in France. Within a short time, the attitude of the children toward Torah and *mitzvos* plummets. The parents are often still busy acclimating themselves to a new country, and by the time they realize what is happening, it is too late.

In recent months, the Rebbe, with other *Gedolim*, have held numerous events to this end, for the common cause of *hatzalas nefashos* in *Klal Yisrael*.

In the words of the Satmar Rebbe, "The French children are in their own *galus* — the *galus* of schools in which they cannot remain *frum*. If we want the *Ribbono shel Olam* to take us out of our *galus*, we must help take them out of their *galus*."

(JDN)

The Satmar Rebbe, shlita (C), leads the mesibah to raise funds for children of French olim.

Lawrence Purcell

Manchester L'Chaim Chabad Lubavitch held a farewell dinner for *yeshivah bachurim* and community members who have learned together during the year.

JDN

Harav Boruch Nosson Halberstam Rav of Satmar, Stamford Hill (L), visits the Satmar Rebbe (R).