

# Celebrating the cornerstone of Beis Gavriel's new home

In a moving ceremony, young and old have joined together for the *hanochas even hapinah* of the new premises of the Federation's Beis Gavriel-Lubavitch *shul* and Gan Menachem kindergarten in Hendon. The event was particularly emotional for the founders and original members of the once-fledgling minyan, which was established ten years ago, in the memory of Rabbi Gavriel and Rivkah Holtzberg, dedicated Chabad *shluchim* who were killed in a terror attack in Mumbai. The ambitious vision of an established community centre, complete with a *shul*, *beis hamedrash*, nursery and communal events for members of all levels of observance, was finally being realised.

In attendance were prominent leaders of both the Federation and the Lubavitch movement. Dayan Yisroel Yaakov Lichtenstein, Rosh Beis Din of the Federation, paid tribute to Rabbi Menachem Junik's role in this astounding success story. "As the communal leader of the *shul*, Rabbi Junik has drawn many people closer to Yiddishkeit through his warm and welcoming approach," enthused the Dayan. He went on to state how proud he feels that, on accepting Beis Gavriel as its newest constituent member, the Federation

is now associated with such a wonderful *kehilla*, adding that it is a pleasure to have Rabbi Junik, who served as a Federation Rov many years ago, back in the team.

Rabbi Junik spoke about the potential espoused by the cornerstone in its raw, building site surroundings, referring to the giving of the Torah in a desert as the ultimate expression of a foundation on which to build. He gave a brocho that the sandy surroundings of the event should similarly bear tremendous fruit.

The campus is to be a state-of-the-art centre, catering to many varied needs within the community, including provision for children, teenagers and adults. The site will be the hub of much Torah learning for all levels and will even include a specialist facility for victims of abuse.

President of the synagogue, Mr Mendy Freundlich, elaborated on the design plans, "we hope eventually to be able to build a *mikvah* and apartments for the disabled members of the community who want to be near a local *shul*, for whom there is currently no provision".

Mr Andrew Cohen, President of the Federation commented, "It was a privilege



From l-r Rabbi Junik, Dayan Lichtenstein, Rabbi Feivish Vogel and Rabbi Shmuel Lew  
**PHOTO: RAIF IBGI**

to be present at the event, at which a vibrant and diverse membership attended in their numbers to celebrate the *kehilla's* great milestone. We continue to support growing and energetic communities

that ascribe to our vision, aiding in their development and expansion. I look forward to a continued fruitful partnership between the Federation and Beis Gavriel."

# PaL tackles problem questions

A tutor training session for women tutors based in London has been held under the auspices of PaL – Phone and Learn, the UK's leading Jewish telephone learning organisation.

Rabbi Shimshon Silkin, Director of Klal Chazon, delivered a challenging question and answer session. With a steady stream of sources, examples, anecdotes and stories, Rabbi Silkin answered questions which are often discussed during PaL learning sessions.

Drawing on his many years of experience in Kiruv, outreach and education, Rabbi Silkin inspired the crowded room of PaL tutors explaining how important it is to ensure that the parameters of halocho are adhered to, whatever Kiruv situation one finds oneself in.

PaL tutor Mrs Miriam Ollech commented, "The tutor training session was both thought-provoking and very helpful. Individual questions aired were

relevant to all attendees and the answers provided by Rabbi Silkin were highly informative and enlightening. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to being part of the PaL programme."

PaL tutors find these sessions extremely valuable in giving them the tools and inspiration to continue their PaL partnership. Currently, PaL is actively looking to increase their pool of tutors, who are able to dedicate an hour a week to teach someone on the phone.

To sign up as a tutor, please contact the PaL office on 0800 055 3276 or email [info@phoneandlearn.org](mailto:info@phoneandlearn.org)



Rabbi Shimshon Silkin

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