



## Federation's fiery forum

Rabbi Haber addressing Rabbonim

PHOTO: ANDREW WILLIAMS

### Aryeh Friedman

The distinguished mechanech Rabbi Yaakov Haber, of Ramat Bet Shemesh, was guest speaker at the annual conference of the Federation of Synagogues for its Rabbonim. It took place at the Prince Regent Hallmark Hotel in Chigwell, and was organised by Director of Education, Rabbi Dovid Roberts. This year's theme was 'Nurturing people, families, *kehillos*'. In keeping with the Federation's stated objective, to serve as a premier, frum, kehillah-focused organisation, the conference was aimed firmly at supporting the kehillah rabbonim in their avodas hakodesh.

Rabbi Haber has had a distinguished and highly successful career in *kehillah rabbonus* for over 35 years, in the US and Australia, and more recently in Eretz Yisroel, in both large and small Jewish communities. He served as the National Director of Jewish Education for the Orthodox Union; the Rabbi of Congregation Beis Torah in Monsey; and as the founder of the Australian Institute of Torah and the Torah Centre of Buffalo. He is a founding member of AJOP (the Association of Jewish Outreach Professionals), has published numerous articles, books and DVDs and is a sought-after international lecturer.

His charisma, knowledge and experience was very much on display,

in an extremely well-attended and lively set of presentations and round-table discussions. The focus for the afternoon was on identifying and replicating best practice in successfully nurturing people, to build vibrant, dynamic kehillos in an often fragmented and frenetic world.

The dayonim and rabbonim of the Federation were engaged and inspired by Rabbi Haber's ideas, enthusiasm and strategies. The challenges presented by the stresses and strains of modern living were highlighted, and innovative approaches for connecting to people and encouraging them to grow in their *ruchniyos* were identified.

Following the event, Rabbi Roberts, who is also the rov of the Federation's Kehillas Netzach Yisroel in Edgware, was optimistic and upbeat. "The energy and cross-fertilisation of ideas generated by Rabbi Haber, coupled with the dedication and enthusiasm of our fantastic group of bnei Torah who lead our varied kehillos, puts us firmly in the epicentre of frum Anglo-Jewry. The renaissance of the Federation as a frontline organisation, supporting kehillos and providing a range of services that promote authentic Torah-values whilst maintaining integrity and professionalism, is continuing apace."



The Viznitz London Rebbe with some of the boys in the Canvey cheder

## Model Mikdosh



Pupils of Beis Medrash Elyon school in North West London visited the home of Rabbi Avrohom Neuwirth to see a scale model of the Beis Hamikdosh. Menahel Rabbi Z Lebovic is seen here explaining the model to the boys according to the Mishnayos they recently learnt.

### CANVEY ISLAND

The Viznitz (London) Rebbe visited Canvey Island this week for a bris, the father being Reb Levi Zilber. The Rebbe arrived for Shacharis and was Sandek at the bris. A large crowd attended the seudah where the Rebbe spoke warm words in honour of the simcha and the new shtetl.

He then proceeded with a visit to the Talmud Torah, making a special effort to go into each classroom and sing Niggunim of hisorerus with the children. A little later all the top classes gathered in the Simcha Hall where the Menahel, Rabbi Yoel Yosef Teller spoke to the children about the merit of having the Rebbe visit us and how the Rebbe's late father from Monsey was dedicated to spreading limud Torah to others.

The Rebbe then addressed the children, urging them to make the most of their younger

years and especially highlighted the privilege they have to live in Canvey, away from the crowded streets in London. It is here that they can grow so much in *ruchnius*.

The Rebbe was then met by the Roshei Kehilla who expressed their appreciation for the visit.

The Rebbe, in return, wished the fledgling kehilla much hatzlocho and brocho.

### HENDON

Nancy Reuben Primary School has appointed Rabbi Joshua Conway as Head of Kodesh from September.

He will also be stepping into a newly-created role as designated lead for Pastoral Care. Rabbi Conway will be joining Nancy Reuben from his post as Assistant Headteacher at Menorah Foundation Primary School.

An alumnus of Hasmonean High School, Rabbi Conway spent four years at Yeshivas Beis Yisroel and Mir. He also graduated with a first-class honours degree after which he worked for a Technology Start-Up before leaving to pursue a career in teaching.

Rabbi Conway has taught both Kodesh and secular subjects, led the Kodesh Special Needs department, and has been a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Menorah Foundation. As Assistant Headteacher, he has written and implemented progressive curricula integrating Kodesh and Secular subjects.

He is the popular Youth Rabbi at Beis Hamedrash Beis Yisroel (Dayan Ehrentreu's shul) and is proud to be an Apple Teacher and a Jewish Interactive Ambassador bringing considerable experience in the use of computing and IT in education.