

New Netzach Rov inducted

Kehillas Netzach Yisroel, Edgware have celebrated the inauguration of Rabbi Reuven Stepsky. The Federation community were honoured by the presence of its Rov and Av Beis Din, Rav Shraga Feivel Zimmerman and Rosh Beis Din, Dayan YY Lichtenstein. Also present was Rabbi Stepsky's Rov and mentor of the past 30 years, Rabbi Yaacov Abenson, Mashgiach Ruchani of Sunderland Yeshiva, and all the local Rabbonim.

The evening, chaired throughout by Federation Trustee, Geoffrey Douek, started with an introduction about the community by the Shul chairman Mr Simon Carr who outlined the Shul's history, including its founding over 20 years ago by Rabbi Yisroel Roll of Seed and thanked in particular, the kehilla's most recent Rov, Rabbi Dovid Roberts, who served for 18 years. He remarked that the community has already formed a close bond with the Stepskys in the six months since they took up the position, a function of the care and hospitality they have shown the kehilla's members.

The Shul was packed with members, Edgware locals and admirers of Netzach's new Rov and Rebbetzen from further afield, all of whom had come to share in the simcha of the inauguration.

After the kehilla's recital of Tehillim, Rabbi Yaacov Abenson, who had also been the shadchan of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Stepsky, noted that when a

Shul chooses a new Rabbi, that is also a shidduch and from what he has heard and now seen, he believes the Shul's appointment of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Stepsky is a perfect shidduch. The Shtar Rabbonus was read in Hebrew by Dayan Lichtenstein, in English by Rabbi David Lister and presented to Rabbi Stepsky by Mr Stephen Ufland, one of the longest serving members of the Shul. Rav Zimmerman's keynote address to the Kehilla and their new Rov focused on the importance of choosing good neighbours and being involved in a vibrant community with a Rov who is dedicated to taking it forward. He extolled the virtues of Rabbi and Rebbetzen Stepsky, especially the care and attention taken to share their load.

Edgware's senior Rov, Rabbi Eliezer Schneebalg followed with his Divrei Brocho and Misheberach and Dayan Elimelech Vanzetta recited a Misheberach to the Kehilla.

The community was delighted that Rabbi Stepsky's father, Mr Joe Stepsky was able to make the journey from Israel and prior to Rabbi Stepsky's address to the kehilla, he was poignantly and emotionally bensed by his father and then presented with a new tallis by long standing member, Mr Jonny Phillips.

The Rov began with a Birchas Shehecheyonu on the tallis and the new position and thanked his Rebbes, family,



Rabbi Stepsky with Rav Zimmerman (left) and Dayan Lichtenstein.

friends and the community for all the support he has received. A special thank you was made to Rebbetzin Stepsky for all the support she has given him, without which, he would not have been able to serve the Klal and together with her he looks forward to serving Kehillas Netzach Yisroel.

The ambience of the evening was

enhanced by interludes of light music provided by Mr Danny Shine of the Neshama band.

The inauguration concluded with a celebratory l'chaim excellently prepared by Mrs Adele Aremband and the event's success was due to the hard work of Mrs Nicole Levitus, Mr Jonny Phillips and Mrs Francine Wunsh.

KIRUV BRIEFS

SEED

Seed's Bar and Bas Mitzvah trips were once again heavily oversubscribed this year. Both trips were interwoven with inspirational moments and activities such as camel riding in the Judean desert, meeting Holocaust survivor Leah Kaufman and tours of the Old City.

The Seed LINKS trip - with learning, touring and unique Israel experiences for girls in their Bas Mitzvah year and their mothers - is now in its sixth year. This year's trip led by Rebbetzin Joanne Dove included a visit to the Shuk HaCarmel in Tel Aviv and food packing for needy families at Yad Eliezer. Rebbetzin Dove said: "We hope that these trips and the varied activities, locations and speakers will help these mums and girls to want to grow in their learning and be proud members of the Jewish community."

For the second time, Seed also ran a 'CONNECTIONS' Bar Mitzvah trip for fathers and sons. Highlights included making tzitzis, a tefillin workshop and a guided tour of the magnificent Belz Shul. One of the dads commented: "thank you for bringing religion to life for us!"

The Seed Shul's Rabbi Dov Birnbaum, who led the boys' trip, said: "We are proud to offer this shared opportunity for parents and their children to gain an appreciation of their Yiddisheit. At a key moment in their Jewish lives, we give children and their parents the opportunity for meaningful Jewish experiences together in Israel."

AISH UK

Aish UK raised an incredible £1.8 million in just 30 hours during their Causematch matched crowdfunding campaign. With the help of more than 100 teams of fundraisers, and a group of generous matching donors who committed to treble every pound donated, Aish were able to raise this fantastic amount of money.

The Aish UK team, led by Executive Director Rabbi Daniel Rowe, together with an army of volunteers, spent 30 hours hitting the phones for their biggest fundraiser of the year. With two call centres, one in the Aish UK building in Hendon and the other in the Aish Manchester building, Aish UK embarked on their fundraising campaign last Sunday afternoon, continuing through until Monday evening. The money raised will go towards Aish UK projects over the next year with the goal of connecting as many young Jews as possible to Judaism and to the Jewish community.

Aish UK aims to inspire a deeper connection to Judaism, making the wisdom and beauty of Judaism accessible to every young British Jew, from when they are about to leave home until they build their own, empowering young Jews to build a brighter future for the community. Aish UK operates eight full

time branches and provides educational opportunities at over 18 schools, 15 universities and six young professional hubs around the country, reaching thousands of young Jews every year. The £1.8 million raised will allow Aish educators to continue their vital work, creating connections for young Jews

as well as providing various 'homes away from home' for students and young professionals all over the country.

Aish UK matchers include Olami and Yad Mordechai, the Ralph Levy Charitable Trust, Jonathan and Sharon Goldstein, as well as several other generous anonymous donors.

