Emotional *Zayin Adar Seudah*

This year's *Zayin Adar seudah* for the Federation's *chevrah kaddisha* was more emotional than most, as it included *divrei preidah* from Dayan Y.Y. Lichtenstein, outgoing *Rosh Beis Din*, who oversaw the establishment of the *chevrah kaddisha* 29 years ago and has carefully nurtured, advised and supported the group over the years.

The evening was held at the Adeni Shul in Stamford Hill and was chaired by Rabbi Lawrence Littlestone, Head of Burial, who treats all aspects of his role as *avodas hakodesh*, frequently relaying stories of *hashgachah pratis* which have occurred at the cemetery.

On Erev Yom Kippur, for example, Rabbi Littlestone had resigned himself to performing the *kevurah* of an elderly Holocaust survivor at Edmonton Cemetery without the requisite *minyan*. Before he could feel too sad over the lack of *kaddish*, a car pulled up with the exact number of men they needed. The arrivals had come to *daven* at the *kever* of Harav Eliezer Gordon, *zt"l*, and were only too pleased to participate in an additional *mitzvah*.

On another recent occasion, an elderly, non-Jewish man came to present Rabbi Littlestone with a donation for Rainham Cemetery. He explained that he had grown up in the East End and, rejected by his family, began getting into trouble on the streets — until a Jewish tailoring firm took him in. They taught him the trade and encouraged him to progress, until he eventually ended up working for the rest of his working life at a tailoring business in Savile Row. He had ingrained *hakaras hatov* toward the Jewish community and wanted to give back now that he could.

Dayan Lichtenstein, who, together with the members of the *chevrah*, had learnt *Seder Nashim*, was *mesayem* and gave *divrei preidah* to the members of the *chevrah kaddisha*. The Dayan said that he has remained impressed by the commitment to *dikdukei halachah* and *kavod hameis* displayed by every member of the group, and by the level and frequency of *she'eilos* that have been asked over the years. As Dayan Lichtenstein posed for a photo with the *chevrah*, the warmth and connection was palpable

The guest speaker was Rav Yosef Weinberg, Rav of Tiferes Yisroel, an old *chavrusa* and long term *chaver* of the Federation's recently appointed Rav and *Av Beis Din*, Harav Shraga Feivel Zimmerman. He began by declaring that it was his delight and London's fortune that Rav Zimmerman has taken his new position with the Federation.

In his impassioned *drashah*, Rav Weinberg explained a teaching of the Ben Ish Chai that the month of Elul is spent on "preparations for *charoses*." Why should such a long period of time be required, Rav Weinberg asked — and he answered that this refers to the *avodah* of taking that which is bitter and sweetening it. This, he said, is analogous to the work of the *chevrah kadisha*.

Harav Zimmerman himself gave the final *divrei brachah* to the *chevrah*. "Theirs is truly a *chessed shel emes*," he declared, explaining that this is the only type of *chessed* one can perform whose end result cannot be tainted by events subsequent to it.

The Rav paid special tribute to Dayan Lichtenstein for having formed the Federation's *chevrah kaddisha* almost 30 years ago, noting that the Dayan's undertaking was not for its quantitative impact for the organization. Instead, it had been purely to raise the quality of the standards of *kavod hameis*, and Dayan Lichtenstein had successfully invested tremendous efforts to that end.

At the Federation Chevrah Kaddisha seudah: (L.-R.) Rabbi S.F. Zimmerman, Rav and Av Beis Din; guest speaker Rabbi Yosef Weinberg, rav of Tiferes Yisroel; Dayan Y.Y. Lichtenstein, outgoing Rosh Beis Din.

New ***Minyan*** in Stamford Hill

A new *minyan* has started for Rachmestrivka *chassidim*, presently in the premises of the Beis Yaakov Seminary on Lordship Road.

The *minyan* was started after the Rachmestrivka Rebbe of Eretz Yisrael asked Reb Y.Y. Orzel to help Rachmestrivka *yungeleit* start their own *minyan*. More than 60 people participated at the *tefillos* last Friday night.

Rav Rubinfeld, Rav of Kehal Chareidim, gave *divrei pesichah* between *Kabbalas Shabbos* and *Maariv*, and a special letter was read out from the Rachmestrivka Rebbe of Boro Park, in which he encourages the *mispallelim* to organize *shiurei Torah* in their new shul, as well as communal *melaveh malkahs*.

Photo Lawrence Purcell

Reception pupils in Bury and Whitefield Jewish Primary School washing their hands.

Photos JDN

A seudah took place to mark the first yahrtzeit of the Liezh Rebbe. The event was graced by the presence of many chashuve local Rabbanim. Speakers included the Viznitz Rebbe (L.) and Rabbi C M Biberfeld, rav of Chortkov in Stamford Hill, (R.).