



L-R: Dr. Harvey Kranzler, Rabbi Sendy Ornstein, Dr. Charles Kaufmann, Dr. Brett Blatter

Relief Resources Holds Evening Of Awareness

BY CHANI GREENBLATT

On Wednesday, June 15, Relief Resources, an organization that addresses mental health issues in the *frum* community, held its annual cultural awareness conference. The event was held in a restaurant in Manhattan and was attended by fifty prominent psychiatrists from across the New York area.

The evening began with an introduction by Rabbi Binyomin Babad, Relief's director. Rabbi Babad stressed the vital work that Relief has done over the past ten years for those suffering from mental illness, and its continued commitment to providing referrals, answers and guidance to those in need of quality mental health care.

Dr. Lewis Opler, a professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University who has been listed in "Best Doctors in New York City" and "Best Doctors in America," discussed innovative treatment options for those with bipolar disorder

and schizophrenia. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion in which practitioners discussed topics pertaining to Jewish culture and religious practices that affect treatment.

The same evening, Relief in Toronto hosted the third part of a lecture series for a select group of *mechanchim*. Rabbi Motti Rapoport, director of Relief Resources' Canadian branch, gave an introduction, and Avrum Nadigel, a Toronto-based social worker specializing in adolescent and family therapy, discussed adolescent mental health within the family system. The first two parts of the lecture series featured Dr. Uri Wolf, who spoke about psychiatric issues in adolescents, and Dr. Nosson Westreich, who outlined the differing roles of *mechanchim* and therapists in assisting those with mental illness.

You can subscribe to Relief Resources' monthly email newsletter by contacting editor@reliefhelp.org.

Congressional Leaders Pay Tribute to Jackson-Vanik Amendment at Shuvu Event

Leaders of the United States Congress gathered to pay tribute to Shuvu Return, an Israeli school education network that provides a stellar education to Jewish children who emigrate from Russia to Israel. Shuvu, founded by Rav Avraham Pam, *zt"l*, educates over 15,000 children throughout Eretz Yisrael.

The event featured powerful members of the current Congress, including both House Whips, Democrat Steny Hoyer and Republican Kevin McCarthy, Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chair Darrell Issa, House Homeland Security Committee chair Peter King, House Intelligence Committee ranking member Dutch Ruppersberger, House Ways and Means Committee ranking member Sandy Levin, and Representatives Jerrold Nadler, Eliot Engel, Ted Deutch, Marcia Fudge, and Nan Hayworth of New York State, who graciously hosted the luncheon.

The keynote address was delivered by Michael Oren, Israeli ambassador to the United States.

The event paid tribute to the memory of Congressman Charles Vanik, whose commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry enabled millions of Russian Jews to make Israel their home. In 1974, Vanik sponsored the Jackson-Vanik Act in the House of Representatives, which helped refugees, particularly minorities and Jews, to immigrate from the Soviet bloc to Israel. The Jackson-Vanik amendment, sponsored by the late Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson in the Senate, was credited with pressuring the Soviet leadership to allow immigration to Israel. The late congressman's wife, Betty Vanik, and his daughter, Phyllis Vanik, attended the luncheon.

Shuvu chairmen Abe Biderman and Yossi Hoch said, "Shuvu now educates tens of thousands of children in the spirit of our forefathers. The great



At the Shuvu luncheon. (L-R:) Mendy Greenberger, Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren, Rabbi Heshy Augenbaum, Yanky Elbogen, Tzvi Bertram, Abe Biderman, Ezra Friedlander, and assistant Democratic leader James Clyburn (speaking).



(L-R:) Rabbi Levi Shemtov, Ezra Friedlander, Abe Biderman, Yossi Hoch, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, and Moshe Fuchs.



(L-R:) Mendy Greenberger, Yosef Moshe Aranoff, Yossi Hoch, Shloime Dachs, Abe Biderman, Rabbi Levi Shemtov, Rabbi Heshy Augenbaum, Yanky Elbogen, Abe Belsky, Yanky Deutsch, Tzvi Bertram, Ezra Friedlander, Shimi Greenberger, Moshe Fuchs, and Avromi Schon.

humanitarian leadership of the late Congressman Vanik contributed to that effort."

Ezra Friedlander, CEO of the Friedlander Group, which coordinated the event, stated, "This event was an extraordinary opportunity for members of Congress to pay homage to one of the architects of the Jackson-

Vanik Amendment, an act of Congress that literally brought the Soviet Union to its knees. This theme was echoed throughout the program by congressional leaders who expressed their deep admiration to the late congressman and felt privileged to do so in the presence of Mrs. Vanik and her daughter, Phyllis."

Summertime Inspiration Brought to You by Irgun Shiurei Torah

What better way to end a long summer day than with some spiritual inspiration? Irgun Shiurei Torah is proud to offer yet another season of outstanding lectures for men and women every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. all summer long. The program is being held in the Bostoner Bais Medrash on the corner of Avenue J and East 29th Street in Flatbush, but it can be enjoyed in many other locations by live video hookup courtesy of the Torah Conferencing Network.

The summertime lectures began this past Monday with

Rabbi Shmuel Dishon speaking about "Enough with the Negativity: Focusing on the Good Within Us." And on Tuesday evening, Rabbi Mordechai Becher addressed the topic of "Why Good Things Happen to Bad People and Bad Things Happen to Good People." On Wednesday, Rabbi Shlomo Pearl was scheduled to discuss "101 Opportunities to Love the *Ribbono shel Olam*."

The summer lectures are invariably riveting, and the topics are relevant and thought-provoking. Irgun Shiurei Torah *askanim* have gathered a collection of our

community's most sought-after speakers and lecturers to provide night after night of extraordinary inspiration. To date, thousands have taken advantage of the *shiurim* and most of them come back every evening. "No matter how tired I am after a hot summer day," says one participant, "I always feel rejuvenated at the end of the *shiur*. It's the best way to end a long summer evening."

For more information, or to introduce a video hookup in your area, call Irgun Shiurei Torah at (718) 851-8651 or contact tapecenter@yeshivanet.com.

Innovative Design and Layout

Superb Workmanship

High Quality Materials

BUILDING CLOSETS THAT GIVE YOU SPACE

Custom
CLOSETS
347-242-0909