

## Agudath Israel Pre-Election Legislative Breakfast Focuses on Keeping NYC Safe



Credits Shmuel Lenchevsky

L-R: NYS Assemblymember David Weprin, Menachem Lubinsky, Leon Goldenberg, Abe Eisner, Joseph B. Stamm, FBI Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Criminal Division Richard Frankel, Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Robert P. Morgenthau, Manhattan DA Vance, Sol Werdiger, Ezra Friedlander, NYC Councilmember David Greenfield, Radni Davoodi, Chaskel Bennett, Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz.

### JUDITH DINOWITZ

At Agudath Israel of America's Annual Pre-Election Legislative Breakfast, Jewish community activists, legislators and law-enforcement officials heard about the challenge of terrorism and its impact on New York City law enforcement. They were highly encouraged by reports of recent successes on our shores: preventions of attacks and indictments of terrorists and organizations that support them financially.

Held at the Down Town Association in Lower Manhattan, the breakfast was coordinated by The Friedlander Group and sponsored by Atlantis National Services, Inc. and MedReview. The two main speakers were Mr. Richard Frankel, FBI special agent in charge of the FBI Criminal Division, previously in charge of the Counter-Terrorism Division, and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr.

On the agenda as well was a tribute to the late Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. for his key role in establishing the U.S. War Refugee Board in 1944, during the waning days of World War II, which saved over 200,000 Jews. His grandson, Robert P. Morgenthau, represented the Morgenthau family and accepted the award on their behalf.

Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Agudath Israel's executive vice president and the breakfast chairman, acknowledged the partnership of elected officials with a politically engaged Jewish community, and recognized the hard work of Mr. Shlomo Werdiger, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Agudath



L-R: Rabbi Abe Friedman, Abe Eisner, FBI Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Criminal Division Richard Frankel, Joseph B. Stamm, Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Peter Rebenwurz speaking, Sol Werdiger, Ezra Friedlander standing, Robert P. Morgenthau, Radni Davoodi, Manhattan DA Vance.

Israel, and Rabbi Abba Cohen, Agudath Israel's vice president for Federal Affairs.

Mr. Abe Eisner, a friend of Agudath Israel, noted the presence of Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein and praised her for her key leadership role. Joseph B. Stamm, breakfast co-chair and CEO of MedReview, introduced Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, who in turn lauded Agudath Israel for its powerful voice in defending Israel and standing against anti-Semitism.

DA Vance said that, as the world financial center, New York City has a special place in the struggle against terrorism. Participants took strength, no doubt, from DA Vance's assertion that "our office, in partnership with the Federal government, is better prepared than ever to fight terrorism."

Mr. Peter Rebenwurz, chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Commission, acknowledged Mrs. Ruth Lichtenstein, founder of Project Witness, saying "we owe a debt of gratitude to an exceptional woman who

established an exceptional organization that educates and commemorates the Holocaust in ways that were never done before — Project Witness." Mr. Rebenwurz introduced Mr. Robert P. Morgenthau, who spoke movingly of his grandfather's quest to save lives. A silver charity box was then presented to the Morgenthau family by Mr. Werdiger in the name of Agudath Israel and the Holocaust survivors and their families.

Rabbi Abe Friedman, a community leader and law-enforcement chaplain introduced Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Criminal Division Richard Frankel, and praised him for thwarting the Bronx Synagogue bombing.

Rabbi Zwiebel acknowledged the presence of Judy Rapfogel, Chief of Staff to NYS Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; Rockland County Legislature Majority Leader Aron Wieder; Assemblyman David Weprin, Councilman David Greenfield, and Assemblywoman-elect Rodneyse Bichotte.

## Bonei Olam's Duvy Capturing Hearts in Unique Auction Campaign

SANDY ELLER

With just weeks left until Bonei Olam's annual Showcase Auction, plans continue to unfold at a fever pitch as hundreds work to ensure the success of this landmark fundraiser. Women from all across Williamsburg, Boro Park and Flatbush are eagerly anticipating the event, a yearly opportunity to help Bonei Olam finance its vital work while enjoying an exciting evening of camaraderie, fabulous prizes, incredible entertainment, inspiring speakers and tantalizing treats.

Titled "A Gift Called Duvy," the 2014 auction follows the unprecedented success of last year's campaign, which featured a couple who dreamed of finally having a child of their own. As they traveled the often difficult road to parenthood, the couple imagined their son, their Duvy, a precious dream that finally came true. Duvy reappears this year, now a delightful toddler, filling his parents' lives with never-ending joy, laughter and more than his share of mishaps.

It's hard not to laugh at Duvy and his antics. With his irrepressible smile and his golden curls, no mess seems too big and no act of mischief too outrageous as we follow him through the pages of the auction booklet. We can't scold Duvy when he upends the carefully tended flowerpots, because while we may have tended our lovingly cultivated plants, there are childless couples who long to nurture a baby of their own.

We can't chastise Duvy over spilled milk, because we know that seeing the good in every situation is a divine test, one that is infinitely preferable to endless batteries of fertility tests. How can we reprimand Duvy for decorating the walls with finger-painted handprints,

when we know people without children whose immaculate homes, free of toys and messes, are as empty as their hearts? How can we reprove Duvy for breaking a plate, when those who ache for children of their own have hearts that are shattered?

Clearly Duvy and his message of appreciating parenthood's more challenging moments have struck a chord as hundreds and hundreds have entered the Bonei Olam photo contest, sharing pictures of their own pint-sized Picassos, creating their own mess-filled masterpieces. Each photo is not only an opportunity to give thanks for each moment with our most precious gifts, our children, but also a chance to win a \$1,000 cash raffle with the three cutest pictures, as chosen by voters, winning \$1,500 worth of auction tickets.

"Our goal was not to create an auction theme that looked good on paper or in our advertising," said one of the coordinators of the Auction Showcase. "We wanted to create a powerful theme that had real meaning, that could give people perspective and add value to their everyday lives, as well as give them a real feeling for what we do at Bonei Olam."

As posters of Duvy appear all over the streets of Brooklyn, volunteers continue to see to the myriad auction details, with over 300 women turning out to offer their help for the auction, taking place on November 17 at Eden Palace in Williamsburg and on November 19 at Ateres Golda in Boro Park.

Children: To some, a gift, taken for granted; to others, a wish, yet to be granted.

For more information on this year's Showcase Auction, visit Bonei Olam online at [Boneiauction.org](http://Boneiauction.org) or call us at 718.289.0054.

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