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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To List Your Organizational Event:

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### July 2017

4-9 | Ohr Somayach International's Mentors Mission

to Eretz Yisrael

17 | N'shei C.A.R.E.S./Maimonides Rickey

Halperin, a"n, Birthing Center Tours

18 | Mesivta Bais Shraga, 60th Anniversary Dinner

18 | Ponevez Yeshiva Ladies Auxiliary Monsey Tea

18 | Shuvu Annual Summer Buffet Dinner

19 | Kovets Al Yad Evening of Inspiration

25 | Bikur Cholim Chesed Organization - Discussion

Group for Children of Holocaust Survivors

### August 2017

14 | N'shei C.A.R.E.S./Maimonides Rickey

Halperin, a"n, Birthing Center Tours

### September 2017

11 | N'shei C.A.R.E.S./Maimonides Rickey

Halperin, a"n, Birthing Center Tours

### October 2017

16 | N'shei C.A.R.E.S./Maimonides Rickey

Halperin, a"n, Birthing Center Tours

### November 2017

12 | Ten Yad Action

19 | Yeshiva Beth Abraham-Slonim of Jerusalem

Annual Dinner

## Congress Honors Efrat on Capitol Hill Marking 40th Anniversary



Shmuel Lenchevsky

L-R: Mr. Michael Kierszenbaum, emcee, introducing Senator Rand Paul; Mr. Woli Stern; Senator Rand Paul; Dr. Eli Schussheim; Mr. Ezra Friedlander.

### CHEYENNE PLOTT

On June 15, dozens of Jewish leaders from Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Israel, and the U.S., along with Christian leaders and legislators, gathered on Capitol Hill in honor of the 40th anniversary of Efrat, an innovative Israeli organization dedicated to helping Israeli women choose life for their babies.

Efrat accomplishes this mission through educating women and the public; easing the emotional pressure through counseling; and providing food, housing, and needed equipment, such as strollers and cribs. While the celebration included speeches from U.S. legislators, the main emphasis was to honor the heart and soul of Efrat: President Dr. Eli Schussheim and Mr. Woli Stern, the director (Brazil).

The event was coordinated by The Friedlander Group and emceed by Mr. Michael Kierszenbaum.

To date, Efrat has saved more than 70,000 lives. In Israel this is the equivalent of saving an entire city.

After an opening prayer for the victims of the recent shooting attack at a Congressional baseball practice, U.S. Representatives Trent Franks (R-AZ), Mr. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Mr. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Mr. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Mr. Doug Collins (R-GA), and Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) delivered remarks championing the cause of life and praising Efrat for their successes.

"We need more groups like yours," said Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ). Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) discussed how fundamental the right to life is, saying "It's hard to figure out how to get to all these other rights [freedom of religion, freedom of speech, etc.] when you don't exist." Many of the legislators echoed what Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) articulated: every child "has the image of G-d stamped on his soul."

Among the Jewish and Christian lead-

ers present, Mr. Richard Hellman, founder of the Christians' Israel Public Action Campaign (CIPAC), described the importance of having a thriving Jewish population and that it's "important for Israel to be a Jewish state — free, democratic, respecting the same Judeo-Christian values that we do here in the United States."

Mr. Joshua London, the co-director of government relations for the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), underscored the significance of a growing Jewish population, saying that Efrat is the "most effective organization at attempting to solve a holy demographic issue."

Dr. Eli Schussheim's eyes danced quietly as he listened to each speaker, and when it was his turn to deliver remarks, he did not hold back.

"He roars like a lion" when he speaks of life, concluded Rabbi Abba Cohen, vice president for federal affairs and Washington director and counsel, Agudath Israel of America.

Dr. Schussheim honored his friend and long-time nonprofit partner, Mr. Woli Stern, who has directly saved more than 6,300 lives. In a powerful moment, Dr. Schussheim presented Mr. Stern with a "Book of Life" listing all the names of the children saved through his efforts, and he tearfully, joyfully noted that many of these children were now having children of their own.

The event concluded by honoring the generous supporters of Efrat who, along with Dr. Eli Schussheim and Mr. Woli Stern, are the modern day Miriam, saving the lives of Jewish babies whose mothers think they have no other option.

Rabbi Baruch Valt of Sao Paulo, Brazil, noted that "an orphan nation is a nation without children." Efrat's mission is central to ensuring that Israel never becomes an orphan nation. Efrat's work is not only crucial to maintaining the Jewish State but also a profound example to the rest of the world of how to create a culture of life.