

Shema Kolainu-Hear Our Voices Promotes Autism Awareness

By Elisheva Mochkin

Autism is growing in epidemic proportions, and Shema Kolainu-Hear Our Voices, a school and center for children with autism, is devoted to promoting awareness of this widespread disability, diagnosed in one out of every 150 children.

On Tuesday morning, July 17, Shema Kolainu hosted its 5th Annual Legislative Breakfast in the Renaissance Ballroom in Brooklyn, New York. The event was intended to educate legislators about the urgent need for autism care and research, to raise support and awareness, and to share ideas for combating autism through effective public

policy and legislation.

Mr. Joshua Weinstein, founder and president of Shema Kolainu, remarked, "Autism knows no [boundaries]. It finds its way into all ethnic groups, neighborhoods, and communities. Autism does not discriminate."

Menachem Lubinsky, president and CEO of Lubicom Marketing Consulting, acted as master of ceremonies. He noted that one of the purposes of the breakfast was to recognize the efforts of those who have changed the tense of Shema Kolainu from "Hear Our Voices" to "Our Voices Have Been Heard." Many of the elected officials in attendance have visited the Brooklyn facility;

Councilman David Weprin remarked that after he took a tour of Shema Kolainu he became "committed to this cause which affects everybody," and he presented autism as a primary initiative to Council members.

Councilman Simcha Felder presented the Shema Kolainu City Leadership Award to Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who recently allocated much-needed funding to Shema Kolainu. Mr. Chuck Meara, Speaker Quinn's chief of staff, accepted the award on her behalf.

Shema Kolainu is proud of its Bronx facility, which provides home-based early intervention and preschool services to hundreds of children and families, and it is grateful for the support and friendship of Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. President Carrion received the Shema Kolainu Appreciation Award, presented by Councilman Bill de Blasio, who praised Shema Kolainu for "being ahead of the curve and necessity for autism awareness years before it was popular." President Carrion added his own congratulations to the Shema Kolainu team for



(L-R:) Ezra Friedlander, CEO, The Friedlander Group; Mr. Peter Rebenwurz, vice president of Shema Kolainu; Councilman Vincent J. Gentile; Mr. Joshua Weinstein, president and founder of Shema Kolainu; Mr. Chuck Meara, chief of staff, NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn (accepting the award); and Councilman Simcha Felder.

"assisting children [with autism] and families in a dignifying and humane manner."

Shema Kolainu, located in Brooklyn, New York, was founded by Joshua Weinstein in 1998. It is a nonprofit, non-denominational organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of children with autism in the five boroughs of New York. Renowned for its pioneering approach based on the science of

applied behavior analysis, it offers education and a broad spectrum of services. Shema Kolainu hopes to build awareness and support to enable more children and families to benefit from the school's valuable services and programs.

This event was coordinated by The Friedlander Group. For more information on Shema Kolainu, please call 718-686-9600.

SPARKS to Support Postpartum Women

By Frimet Blum

Physicians, therapists, and alternative medicine specialists gathered Wednesday evening, July 18, at the Renaissance Hall in Boro Park to participate in the launching of SPARKS, a new organization dealing with women's postpartum wellness issues. SPARKS, which stands for Serving Postpartum women and families with Awareness, Relief, Knowledge, and Support, will provide assistance to women in the vulnerable peri-natal phase, before and after childbirth.

SPARKS was founded by Mrs. Esther Koenigsberg, a Boro Park therapist, who noted a marked increase in anxiety and behavioral issues in some children soon after the birth of a baby in the household.

"The children were telling me that their mothers were sad; that they ignored them; that they were yelling a lot. I realized that there is a tremendous incidence of Post Partum Depression (PPD) in our communities, and that it is going mostly undiagnosed and untreated. The women and their families are suffering, and it is so sad, because PPD is treatable."

At the SPARKS initiation

gathering, Mrs. Rus Devorah Wallen, SPARKS Clinical Advisor, urged attendees to look out for patients who might be suffering from PPD. She also discussed the hesitation of many in our community to seek help for this syndrome, because of the perceived stigma of having a mood disorder.

"PPD happens in one out of ten births. It is more prevalent than gestational diabetes or any other childbirth-related disorder. With women in our communities having large families, the chance that any woman will have PPD is very great."

The program at the event included an informative visual presentation, and talks by Molly Teryer and Chris Lindsay-Abaire, who suffered from PPD and went on to found the Brooklyn PPD Support Group.

Several therapists have expressed their willingness to volunteer their services and conduct support groups for SPARKS. The organization hopes to expand to a full-service Women's Wellness Center, providing therapeutic and wellness services to all women.

To join a SPARKS support group, or to learn more, please call 718-2-SPARKS.

THE WORLDS MOST POPULAR SHAS FROM
עוז והדר
BEAUTIFULLY BOUND IN 25 MAGNIFICENT VOLUMES
IS NOW AVAILABLE IN A MEDIUM SIZE

ש"ס עוז והדר
פודמט בינוני
12 1/4 x 9 1/4

Completed!

כמה מעלות טובות!

- הש"ס היחיד שנערך מחדש, בעמל וביגיעה של 20 שנה, בידי מאות תלמידי חכמים מופלגים
- הש"ס היחיד שנוספו בו אלפי קטעים ושורות מדפוסים ראשונים וכתבי יד,
- הש"ס היחיד הכולל עשרות חיבורים והגהות מגדולי האחרונים
- הש"ס היחיד בו נערכו לראשונה הר"ף והמרדכי והתוספתא ונושאי כליו, בתקון מאות אלפי טעויות, מתוך כת"י
- הש"ס היחיד שנוספו בו מאות אלפי ציונים ומראי מקומות, בגמרא ובמפרשים
- הש"ס היחיד שרבות-רבבות בחורי ישיבה ואברכי כולל אינם מוותרים עליו
- הש"ס היחיד שהוכנסו בו כל המעלות והשיפורים למען יוארו עיני הלומדים בו

הש"ס היחיד
שילדכם - תלמידכם ילמוד בה באהבה וחשק!

Especially For:

Shuls, Kollelim, Yeshivas, Balei Batim

Available at your local Seforim and Judaica store

עוז והדר

For Wholesale and Bulk Sales Call: **Hamoer Book Dist.**
1359-39 Street
718.437.0054
Brooklyn, NY 11218

עוז והדר

Do-All
Travel Co., Inc.

4620 18th Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11204
TEL: 718.972.6000 FAX: 718.972.6011
sales@doalltravel.com | www.doalltravel.com
HOURS: MON. thru THURS. 9 AM - 6 PM | FRI. 9 AM - 1 PM
EXTENDED PHONE HOURS: SUN. thru THURS. 6 PM - 10 PM

❖ *Guaranteed lowest rates*
on **EL AL** ✈️
IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE. IT'S ISRAEL.

❖ *Specializing in groups*
and corporate travel

❖ *Low fares to Toronto*
and Montreal

Israel Rosh Hashana **\$675**
VIA EUROPE

Uman Rosh Hashana **\$729**
NON-STOP flight

Israel Succos **\$818**
VIA EUROPE

Winter Special **\$776**
EL AL ✈️
IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE. IT'S ISRAEL.

We now have a travel consultant specializing in travel info worldwide. Make your vacation a lifetime memory. Direct line: 718-301-1391

AIR | CARS | HOTELS | CRUISE | RAIL | TRAVEL INSURANCE | CELL PHONES
ALL FARES ARE PLUS TAX. FUEL SURCHARGES MAY APPLY. BASED ON AVAILABILITY. MAY EXPIRE AT ANY TIME.