

Agudath Israel Breakfast Focuses on Keeping NYC Safe from International Terrorism

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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 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 is credited with saving 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 Israel, and Rabbi Abba Cohen, Agudath Israel's Vice President for Federal Affairs and Washington Director.

Abe Eisner, a friend of Agudath Israel and Chairman of the Board of HASC

Center, noted the presence of Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein and praised her for her key leadership role, particularly in the area of special education which resulted in key policy changes impacting our community.

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.

Radni Davoodi, founding partner of Atlantis National Services, Inc., and an Iranian Jew who found refuge and success in the United States, expressed gratitude to this country and introduced District Attorney Cy Vance.

large portion of those funds were used for counter-terrorism equipment for the New York Police Department.

The challenge, Mr. Vance said, is in finding radicalized individuals who aren't tied formally to Al Qaeda, such as Zarein Ahmedzay, indicted for planning to explode a bomb in the New York City subway system. Attendees 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."

Peter Rebenwurz, Chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Commission, which led the efforts to award Raoul Wallenberg with a Congressional Gold Medal this past summer,

be ignored, and persuaded President Roosevelt to establish the board.

Robert Morgenthau, son of the legendary former Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau Jr., 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 who enjoys a close working relationship with the FBI and works closely with Agudath Israel, introduced Special Agent in Charge Frankel, and praised him for thwarting the Bronx Synagogue bombing.

Special Agent in Charge Frankel said that since 9/11, the FBI has become a major force in counter-terrorism. One key was the growth and greater efficiency of the Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF), which pair the FBI with other law enforcement agencies. Started in 1970, there are now over 100 JTTFs nationwide, with more than 4,000 members (over four times the pre-9/11 total).

Finally, SAC Frankel voiced concern over proposed legislation that would allow much stronger encryption by technology companies such as Google, preventing access to information that has saved lives in the past.

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 Rodney Bichotte.

In closing, Agudath Israel Board Member Chaskel Bennett passionately illustrated that even a handful of votes can determine the outcome of an election and urged the community to exercise its communal responsibility and vote.



DA Vance said that as the world financial center, New York City has a special place in the struggle against terrorism. His office, with a staff of 530 lawyers and a workload of over 100,000 cases a year, has become a home for counter-terrorism. He prosecuted seven major cases against financial institutions that violated United States sanctions and financed terrorist regimes. BNP Paribas, a French bank, was fined 8.9 billion dollars for financing the Sudanese, Iranian and Cuban regimes; a

spoke of the significance of this year being the 70th anniversary since the establishment of the War Refugee Board by Henry Morgenthau Jr. The Board recruited Raoul Wallenberg to save the remnants of Hungarian Jewry. He also spoke about the prevalence of anti-Semitism even at the highest level of US government which prevented the rescue of European Jewry with the notable exception of Mr. Morgenthau who felt that the overwhelming evidence of the Holocaust could no longer

The Carlebach Shul Yahrzeit Concert

The Carlebach Shul's annual Yahrzeit Concert celebrating the musical legacy of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach *zt"l* returns to the West Side Institutional Synagogue on November 8th marking the 20th anniversary of Reb Shlomo's passing.

Originally a small event held at the Carlebach Shul, the evening has evolved into a professional production with over 1,000 attendees. Past performers have included Soul Farm, Eitan Katz, Moshav Band and others...this year Rabbi Moshe Shur a long time friend and student of Reb Shlomo will take the stage. There are so many facets to Reb Shlomo's life, and though this particular



event highlights his music and songs, everyone's experience is unique. For some it's a night of singing and dancing to the songs they love, for others

it's a more personal night as they remember Reb Shlomo, a friend and teacher.

Elli Kranzler who has performed for nearly a decade at the show reflects: "For those of us who've been *zoche* to be connected to Jewish music in our generation, Reb Shlomo is the source, the headquar-

ters. That is for what he taught everyone, and those of us who were blessed with the gift of *negina*, there was a special resonance to that part of his teaching which resonated with our soul, and so it opened the gates for us. It's 20 years since Reb Shlomo's Petira and the strength of his living Torah and how strong it remains 20 years later bears witness to the depth of its truth."

Yisroel Williger who will perform again this year, feels it's about communicating the sublime:

"Through the music and Torah of Reb Shlomo you are able to give over messages that are immeasurable."

Unique to this Concert is its house band Krohn Brothers Orchestra.

In many concerts with various acts, the house band is simply hired musicians who

support the performers, but this band is as much of a featured act as anyone there.

Band leader Nochi Krohn: "This concert is an opportunity to connect to the music and teachings of Reb Shlomo. It's an opportunity to grasp onto this incredible inspiration and let it take us through the year. It was always Reb Shlomo's desire that people use his music and teachings to bring oneself and others closer to Hashem."

Featuring Yehuda Green, the Baal Tefilla of The Carlebach Shul, this will no doubt be a memorable evening so purchase your tickets now!

Musical Director Yaakov Dov Miller and Master of Ceremonies Zale Newman will be working together for the first time to help create a unique experience.

Ticket and schedule info can be found on the Shul's website www.carlebachshul.org