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פרשת ויצא

**NOVEMBER 8, 2013** 

#### **Zaka Arrives In New York**



Meir Gurvitz was welcomed as the new chairman of Zaka International in a ceremony organized by the Friedlander Group. Above (L–R): Ezra Friedlander, Rabbi Dr. Elie Abadie, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, James Woolsey, Meir Gurvitz, Malcolm Hoenlein, Menachem Langer, Yotam Goren, Zvi Gluck, and Akiva Grunewald. **See Page 89** 

### FROM THE EDITOR

BY LARRY GORDON

#### Senator Joe And The Rebbe

This past Sunday was the 30th annual International Conference of Chabad Emissaries, or the Kinus HaShluchim. Some 5,200 people came together under one roof from the far-flung reaches of the world to advance their

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#### The Gym And The Carpool

#### **Halachic Musings**

BY RABBI YAIR HOFFMAN

It is unclear why exactly it is happening, but often the stop that immediately follows yeshiva drop-off is . . . the gym. Whether it is Club Central, Koko Fit Club, or a private trainer, numerous mothers are leaving for these gyms with barely enough time to get to the yeshivos to



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#### HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE

BY LARRY GORDON

#### Girls, Boys, And Toys

Who doesn't love a new toy? Here on the South Shore of Long Island there is now a Chanukah toy drive under way. The *chag* arrives rather early this year, with the first day of Chanukah coinciding with Thanksgiving.





Aaron Tepfer, a'h

## REFLECTIONS ON ELECTIONS

BY LARRY GORDON

I like to think of the de Blasio victory in New York City on Tuesday as more of a tale of two tails as he promises to shift New York into reverse and seeks to implement his unworkable progressive vision. Message to Bill: just take a look in the rearview

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# DIVINE INTERVENTION From The Other Side Of The Bench

BY DAVID J. SEIDEMANN, ESQ.

You can't sign up for it because the computers we spent millions of dollars on won't let you. If you are one of the few Americans who did sign up for it, the statistics show that over 85%

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Abe Biderman, Bill de Blasio, and Assemblyman Dov Hikind at an event last Motzaei Shabbos at the Biderman home.



Chaim Torah Center in Cedarhurst, notes the significance of this milestone anniversary: "Eighty is not only a time to recognize past gevurah, it is a time of renewed commitment to face new challenges in new generations." •

#### At Agudah Keynote Session, Focus On Eretz Yisrael

The difficult situation facing the Chareidi community in Eretz Yisroel will be the focus of the *Motzaei Shabbos* keynote session at the upcoming 91st National Convention of Agudath Israel of America.

The topic will be addressed by Rabbi Eliezer Yehuda Finkel, Mir rosh hayeshiva, son of the previous rosh hayeshiva, Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel, zt'l, and Rabbi Ephraim Wachsman, rosh veshiva of Meor Yitzchok. Rabbi Finkel and Rabbi Wachsman will address the theme "The Unprecedented Assault on the Chareidi Community in Eretz Yisrael," and give insight as to how we can help impact the situation in a positive way. In addition to the speakers, a special audiovisual presentation, "Slashing the Social Safety Net: the Human Face of Poverty in the Holy Land," will poignantly highlight the situation in Eretz Yisrael.

The legendary leader of the Sephardic community, Rav Ovadia Yosef, zt'l, will be remembered at the keynote session by Rav Yosef Harari Raful, rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva Ateret Torah and member of the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah. He will speak about the legacy of Rav Yosef and the growth of Sephardic Torah communities around the world.

The evening will also feature an address by Agudath Israel Executive Vice President, Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel; and an audiovisual presentation "Getting Involved: Energizing the Next Generation" which will feature the involvement of young people in the diverse and multifaceted activities of Agudath Israel of America.

Mr. Hashi Herzka, convention chairman and member of the Board of Trustees of Agudath Israel of America, will chair the session.

"The Motzaei Shabbos keynote session of the Agudas Yisroel convention has always made a deep impression on all those who are privileged to be in attendance. Indeed many vividly remember keynote sessions of the past. The messages that are delivered stay with us throughout our lives," said Shlomo Werdiger, chairman of the board of trustees.

Rabbi Eliyahu Simcha Bamberger, of the Torah Projects staff of Agudath Israel, noted that because of the crowd expected at the convention, those who wish to participate in the Motzaei Shabbos keynote session are encouraged to attend broadcast locations throughout the metropolitan area and around the country.

For more information regarding satellite locations, please e-mail *Torahprojects@agudathisrael.org*.

The convention will take place at Hilton Woodcliff Lake in Montvale, New Jersey, Thursday, **November 14 to Sunday, November 17**, Shabbos *Parashas Vayishlach*.



Some of the attendees at the Zaka ceremony

#### Zaka Ushers In New Era With Chairman Gurvitz

A room full of dignitaries, political and religious leaders, and activists watched last Sunday as renowned investor and philanthropist Meir Gurvitz was inaugurated as the chairman of Zaka International with a brief, symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony organized by the Friedlander Group.

While Zaka was founded 24 years ago to deal with the grim realities of terror attacks, it has grown to encompass several divisions—including mortuary, medical, missing persons, and canine units—and over 2,800 volunteers in 15 countries.

Zaka was being acknowledged by the United Nations in 2005 as an international humanitarian volunteer organization. Since then, Zaka has been called in during many times of crisis, including the Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts, the terror attack in Mumbai, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

"The New York office, created this past summer, will be the primary coordination office, both financially and operationally, for all of Zaka's various components worldwide," said Zvi Gluck, director of operations for Zaka International, as he opened the program. He introduced Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis, who thanked Zaka "for doing what you do. Because if you wouldn't do it. who would?"

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, pointed out that the work of Zaka "is really the highest *mitzvah*."

Yotam Goren, Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN, also wished Meir Gurvitz well, saying, "As an Israeli, I know all too well the important work that Zaka does."

James Woolsey, a former CIA director, described Zaka as "a remarkable institution that embodies the Jewish community's sense of service to the rest of the world and does so in a beautiful, self-sacrificing and noble way."

Rabbi Elie Abadie, spiritual leader of Congregation Edmond J. Safra in New York City, called Zaka International's work a true "m'lechet hakodesh—holy work." He added "May they not be needed. But if needed, may they be there"

In his response to the warm greetings, Gurvitz recounted the dramatic tale of his first encounter with rescue

and recovery work. "I was an 18-year-old yeshiva student during the Yom Kippur War," he said, "and I decided to volunteer with the *chevrah kadishah*." Gurvitz was assigned to the Sinai desert, where he helped retrieve the remains of Israeli soldiers from their smoldering tanks. The experience made a tremendous impression on him.

Shortly after the ribbon cutting, Zvi Gluck discussed the organization's ambitious plans for the future. "Our dream," he said, "is to create a real coalition of community leaders, religious leaders, activists, medical personnel, former military personnel, young leadership, and people who will support us so we can continue our vital mission to assist all of humanity around the world." \*

# And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah

(Bereishis 29:25)

When Yaakov said to Rochel, "Will you marry me?" she replied to him: "Yes, but father is a sharper, and you will not be able to hold your own against him."

"I am his equal in trickery," said Yaakov.

Asked Rochel: "May the righteous indulge in trickery?"

Said Yaakov: "Yes. 'With the pure be pure, and with the crooked be crafty' (Shmuel 2, 22:27)."

So Yaakov gave over to Rochel identifying signals [to protect themselves against Lavan's deception]. But when Leah was being led into the bridal chamber, Rochel thought, "My sister will now be disgraced," and she entrusted her with these signals ... Thus Yaakov did not know that it was Leah he married until morning.

(Talmud; Rashi)

All that night, Leah was impersonating Rochel. When Yaakov woke in the morning and saw that she was Leah, he said to her: "Daughter of The Deceiver! Why have you deceived me?" Said she to him: "And you, did you not deceive your father, when he asked you, 'Are you my son Eisav?""

