

US Senators and Jewish Leaders Salute Efrat on 30th Anniversary of Saving Jewish Lives

In an event attended by top US lawmakers and Jewish leaders, the Efrat organization and its president and founder Dr. Eli Schussheim were honored on Capitol Hill on April 25, 2007 at a luncheon for their 30th anniversary. Although their operations are based in Israel, because Efrat has the unique distinction of having saved over 25,000 Jewish lives by providing financial and emotional support to expectant women in distress, the group enjoys



(L-R) Honoree Hirsch Wolf, Dr. Schussheim, President, EFRAT, US Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN)



Dr. Schussheim, President, EFRAT with US Senator James M. Inhofe (R-OK)



(L-R) Michael Schnitzler, Dr. Schussheim, President, EFRAT, US Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL), Honoree Woli Stern, Honoree Aaron Teitelbaum, Director, EFRAT USA, Chagai Goldschmidt, Agudath EFRAT



(L-R) Michael Schnitzler, Ezra Friedlander, CEO, The Friedlander Group, Dr. Schussheim, President, EFRAT, US Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), Honoree Eduardo Ezban, Honoree Aaron Teitelbaum, Director, EFRAT USA, Chagai Goldschmidt, Agudath EFRAT

broad support from many US officials, and Dr. Schussheim has forged personal relationships with several US senators and many American Jewish leaders who respect his innovative approach.

Much of the afternoon was focused on recognizing the enormous efforts of Dr. Schussheim, who, after embarking on a career as a surgeon, decided to volunteer much of his time to Efrat because he “felt he could save more lives” that way. Dr. Schussheim spoke movingly of the value of each individual life. “Just as peoples’ faces are different, so too their opinions are different. However, we all agree that life has sanctity. He who saves a single Jewish life is considered to have saved the entire world.” Dr. Schussheim delivered heartfelt thanks to the many friends and supporters of Efrat, including luncheon Chairman Woli Stern, who has been instrumental in galvanizing support for Efrat in Brazil; prominent Efrat supporter Hirsch Wolf, who has dedicated himself to EFRAT in the United States; Aaron Teitelbaum, Director of the American organization Efrat C.R.I.B. (Committee for the Rescue of Israel’s Babies); Eduardo Ezban, Mexican Representative of Efrat; and Ezra Friedlander of the Friedlander Group, “who worked to make this event such a success.” Dr. Schussheim thanked Congress for “giving us the strength and power to continue. God bless America, a true friend of Israel.”

Rabbi Abba Cohen, Director of Agudath Israel of America’s Washington office, brought greetings from the Torah world, and poignantly reminded all that “life is never a burden.”

“[Of our] many responsibilities, none [are] more important than [protecting] children who otherwise would not be born...” Senator Mel Martinez (R- Fla), echoed the theme that resounded through the afternoon, of our duty to protect the sanctity of life, and the inestimable value of every single child.

Senator Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) wrote, “I believe that every human life is precious. But in these times of peril, the lives of Jewish babies in Israel are particularly precious,” in a letter read by Mike Schwartz, his chief of staff.

Those who attended this historic event left with a renewed understanding of the vital importance of ensuring the continuance of this lifesaving organization. All echoed the sentiment of Senator Jim DeMint (R- South Carolina), “Thank you for helping remind us of all the good that can be done.”

Second Printing Planned for *Od Avi Chai*

After stronger than expected demand depleted the entire first run of 3000 copies, plans are underway for a second printing of *Od Avi Chai*. The hardbound 90 page volume of inspirational anecdotes, insights, customs and details dealing with bereavement and beyond was written by Mrs. Sara Haddad in memory of her father, Jacob Beda Hacoheh ben Sara A”H.

The book begins with the basic laws and customs relevant to mourning, throughout the first year and culminating with the yahrzeit observances. The next section then explores numerous philosophical concepts that can bring comfort to the mourner, and the book ends by discussing the practical lessons that can be learned from a painful experience and how they can be implemented in daily life. Mrs. Haddad emphasizes that the book is not only for mourners, rather anyone who has ever lost a loved one can identify with the significance of keeping memories alive and can benefit from the heartening lessons of how to grow from difficult events.

A recent addition to the Shaare Rahamim series of Torah publications, the books were distributed free in synagogues throughout the community. To request a free copy, contact the author at 718-627-0634.

NeaTzit® Now Available in Wool

The famous innovation of Brooklyn resident Jack Falack, NeaTzit® is now manufacturing a new, 100 percent wool *sisit*, in addition to their 100 percent cotton version. Constructed of a lightweight knit jersey, the new garment is comfortable, breathes and moves with the wearer. According to some opinions, the Torah’s definition of a garment requires that *sisit* be made of wool. But some found this

