



Jewish Community and Politicians Enjoy Tu B'shvat Seder

Sunday January 27, 2013, a unique and wonderful Tu B'shvat Seder was hosted in Boro Park by Ezra and Gabriella Friedlander, and officiated by Rabbi Steven Burg, Eastern Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, featuring special guest, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

Also participating in the Seder were NYC Councilman Brad Lander, President of the City Council in Yonkers Charles Lesnick, Assemblyman David Weprin, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, of the NY Board of Rabbis, Abe Eisner, Yeruchim Silber of the BPJCC, Aleksander Rapaport of Masbia, Dr. Joshua of Shema Kolainu, Dr. David Moskovits, Leon Goldenberg, Moshe Friedman of Community First, Meir Laufer, founder of New York Wheel, Isaac Sofer, Ari Weiss, Shomrim, Naftali Reiner of Bobov, Cynthia Zalisky of the QJCC, Esther Henny Jaroslawicz, Boro Park Bikur Holim, Zev Brenner of *Talkline Communications*, Jonathan Zalisky of Healthplus-Amargoup and many other local community leaders and activists.

"Sharing our traditions with elected officials allows us to get to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and having Council Speaker Quinn join us demonstrated her sensitivity to our community," said Ezra Friedlander, CEO of The Friedlander Group.

Guests were treated to all the traditional fruits of the holiday. In addition about a dozen readings from the Torah Sages were distributed and read by different participants. The topics discussed ranged from the importance of conservation to the unity and responsibilities of the Jewish people. The attendees were able to exchange candid and thought provoking ideas.

Speaker Quinn emphasized the urgency to take care of our children. She said, "make the most right now in your work, in your tending to your

children and your future. Make sure that there are educational resources—it is important in all our work, but particularly in government—never forget that."

"Her full participation at the Seder is indicative of her sensitivity to our community, and her willingness to learn about our traditions can be viewed as important to her as an elected official in terms of understanding the various communities which encompass NYC," said Mr. Friedlander.

Participants spoke about caring for the environment and one another and praised the special outreach from the community during and after Hurricane Sandy. Councilman Brad Lander stressed that all that compassion is rooted in the hesed organizations of the Jewish community. □