



Community Currents



Elyon Recognized For Commitment To Special Needs Children

In January, Shema Kolainu – Hear Our Voices (SKHOV) held a Breakfast Recognition Ceremony honoring Brooklyn’s Elyon College with a Chinuch Excellence Award. The honor recognizes the college’s mainstream, hands-on general and special education programs. The two institutions share a goal to foster within each student a sense of confidence and a desire to make a positive change in society at large. Innovative programs challenge students to achieve their full potential and develop a love for lifelong learning.

Leading the event was Dr. Joshua Weinstein, SKHOV’s founder and president, who presented the award to Rabbi Chaim Waldman, president of Elyon. Recognizing a critical need for specially-trained professionals, Rabbi Waldman helped create and launch a premier program for young women interested in teaching students with autism and other related special needs. Seminary studies are offered in tandem with courses geared toward a college degree from an accredited academic institution, affording graduates

the opportunity to teach in yeshiva and Bais Yaakov educational programs.

Also attending the reception were longtime SKHOV friends and supporters Ezra Friedlander, founder and CEO of the Friedlander Group PR firm, and Rabbi Motty Katz of the Jewish Education Program and



(L-R) Ezra Friedlander, Rabbi Chaim Waldman, Dr. Joshua Weinstein, and Rabbi Motty Katz.

ICHH Demands Stronger Measures After Breach Of Har Hazeisim Fence

The International Committee for Har Hazeisim (ICHH) has lodged an official complaint with the Israeli Police after a security fence dividing Har Hazeisim from the adjacent Arab neighborhood of A-Sheikh was breached. The area just below the Afghanistan and Taiman sections used to be a thoroughfare for Arab vehicles crisscrossing the cemetery until it was closed with a new security fence ringing the Eastern section of the cemetery. The fence was erected after almost three years of lobbying by the ICHH.

Over the weekend, ICHH representatives learned that the fence was

torn down by Arab vandals and that vehicles were once again crossing through a road in the cemetery that was appropriately named “Derech Levayot.” Abe Lubinsky, chairman of the ICHH, said that the incident is “disappointing after a long period of relative calm in the cemetery which had restored public confidence and resulted in as many as 2,500 visitors a day.” Lubinsky blamed the relocation of border police from the Afghanistan section as one reason for the bold move by local Arabs. The border police moved to the area near Colel Polen and Ger, leaving the fence area without any security force.



Investment Technology Aids Talmud Study

Every year, Lubavitch communities divide up the entire Talmud. This year, Chicago investment adviser Akiva Goodman thought some of the technology he uses in his workplace could help people track their learning and become inspired by the

learning of others. He got to work and produced a smart sign-up system with online progress reporting and a large screen in his local Chabad synagogue lobby where everyone’s accomplishments are displayed.

In Chicago much of the studying takes place at a morning *kollel* organized by Rabbi Moshe Markowitz. The community recently celebrated another *siyum* on *Shas*.



Rabbi Meir Hecht, Director Jewish Learning Institute of Metro Chicago



Organizer Akiva Goodman



Rabbi Boruch Hertz, rav of Congregation Bnei Ruven

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