



Community Currents



VitalOne Flies Injured U.S. Army Sergeant To Potentially Life-Saving Treatment

Three weeks ago, Dr. Theresa Louise-Bender Pape, deputy associate chief of staff and clinical neuroscientist at the Edward Hines JR VA Hospital, was ready to give up.

For months, she had been attempting to secure medical air transport for U.S. Army Sergeant Jordan Adams, who was languishing in a coma in California after suffering a traumatic brain injury in a stateside accident. Pape's innovative treatment could potentially save the man's life, yet it remained beyond the reach of his distraught family, for the simple reason that his military health coverage did not cover the cost of air ambulance transport for experimental treatment.

Then she spoke to ER physician and VitalOne medical director Robert Glatter, who in turn contacted Isaac Leider, VitalOne founder and director. Within 24 hours, the trip was arranged. On Jan. 5, VitalOne flew Adams to Chicago for transcranial magnetic brain stimulation. Fishel Litzman, paramedic supervisor of the operation, said, "The doctor was actually waiting at the hospital as we arrived and they took Sergeant Adams in right away for the treatment. Hopefully, we will see wonderful results."

Litzman's team was a vital component of the delicate operation, equipped and ready to respond to any in-transit emergency. "We are delighted and ecstatic to be part of this," he said. "We all signed

on voluntarily. We want to give back. We're about doing the right thing, for the right reasons, and this is a tremendous honor to us personally."

In this case, "us" is a team of three highly-trained critical care staff: Litzman, Yitzy Goldsmith, BSN, RN, EMT-B, and David Zidell, respiratory therapist/paramedic. They flew from New York to California in order to accompany Jordan throughout the transport, providing bedside to bedside medical care, free of charge. Once in California they transferred and escorted the sergeant and his parents to the airport where they boarded a Falcon 900 jet donated by a Chicago philanthropist.

Leider was waiting at the hangar in Chicago when the transport touched down, along with a crowd of nurses and doctors, who greeted the plane with cheers and clapping. Adams's mother tearfully expressed her thanks to Leider and his company, calling the flight crew her "three angels." Chicago Hatzalah members joined forces with the VitalOne transport team and together they completed the seamless transfer to Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital.

"Knowing that this young hero's only chance of recovery was impossible just because of logistics was unacceptable," stated Leider. "We are very proud to have orchestrated this complex transport and donated our services to ensure Sergeant Adams receives the best treatment available."

A Rising Political Star



Freshman U.S. Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa pictured with Ezra Friedlander, CEO of the Friedlander Group. The senator is considered a rising star in the Republican Party.

To submit pictures of your organization's activities to the Community Currents section, e-mail Community@JewishPress.com

A Tanya Printed In Brighton Beach

By Rivkah Shafir

January 16 marked the day of a dual event in Brighton Beach in Brooklyn. The *Tanya* was printed for the first time in the beach-side community often dubbed as Little Odessa by the Sea. In a neighborhood heavily populated by Russian immigrants, where Tanya is most often associated as a common woman's name, a novelty was introduced in the Hebrew Alliance F.R.E.E. (Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe) shul. Dedicated to its author, Rabbi Shenur Zalman of Liadi, the first rebbe of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, and to Rabbi David B. Hollander, whose *yahrzeits* fall out on the same day.

The event included words from Rabbi Hershel Okonov, the shul and community rav; Isaac Liberman, the *gabbai*; Rabbi Moshe Chaim Levin, who spoke about how he printed the *Tanya* in cities all over Russia in 1989; and Rabbi Shlomo Galperin, who shared inspirational stories until well past midnight.

The *Tanya* was originally published at the turn of the 18th^h century. After numerous pogroms and false messiahs, the downtrodden atmosphere of the Jewish Eastern European community was raging with a feeling of purposeless life.

The philosophy of chassidism explains that each Jew has a soul that is an actual part of the Creator, making us all equal to one another. With this attitude, Torah study was no longer limited to the aristocrats of the shtetl society, but to the peasant farmer as well. Rabbi Shneur Zalman, called the Alter Rebbe by followers, used this philosophy to answer the why's. He revealed the inner sparks of Torah with the founding of the Chabad movement, where a Jew has the opportunity to know, understand and internalize the concept of G-d and His commandments.

The latest Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn, stressed the importance of reprinting the *Tanya* so that it can be found in every region of the world.

The Jan. 16 event took place in the shul where

Rabbi David B. Hollander served as rabbi for years, and spending much effort preserving traditional-*halachic* Jewish practice as the Reform movement progressed. The rabbi's concern for the Jewish nation was not limited by his locale, as he traveled to the former Soviet Union seven times, providing incarcerated Jews with support physically, spiritually and monetarily. He even managed to persuade the anti-Semitic Soviet government to print Jewish prayer books for the people.

Rabbi Hollander became the rabbi of the Hebrew Alliance shul in Brighton Beach which later partnered with Rabbi Hershel Okonov, the executive director of F.R.E.E., which serves as a synagogue and community center for Russian-speaking Jews. The rabbi lived the final years of his life surrounded by Jews from the Soviet Union who survived thanks to him and many brave advocates. Rabbi Hollander passed away at 96, as the oldest rabbi in America to have never retired from his job. The printing of the *Tanya*, in his memory, was a time to reflect on the rabbi's great accomplishments.

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