

Agudath Israel Event in Brooklyn



Top photo: Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, executive vice president of Agudath Israel of America, addresses yeshivah administrators at an Agudath Israel event in Brooklyn this past Tuesday, called to deal with the alarming threat of funding cuts by both New York City and State.

Bottom photo (L-R): Mordechai Biser, Esq., general counsel for Agudath Israel of America; Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, executive vice president of Agudath Israel of America, and Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, vice president for Community Services. Rabbi Biser outlined that the proposed city budget would severely cut child care vouchers that are utilized by our community. At the state level, the proposed budget would cut mandated services reimbursements, which benefit all of our yeshivos and day schools.

Harav Mattisyahu Salomon Gives Chizuk at HASC Melaveh Malkah

BY ESTHER DREZDNER

On *Motzoei Shabbos Kodesh Parashas Pekudei*, parents of children with special needs were treated to an inspiring *melaveh malkah* highlighted by *divrei chizuk* presented by Harav Mattisyahu Salomon, *shlita*, *Mashgiach* of Bais Medrash Govoha, Lakewood.

He held the audience spellbound as he depicted the rigorous procedure of turning grapes into fine wine. He described a person watching as heavily laden baskets of plump juicy grapes are harvested with joy and pride. However, the difficult wine-making process is not easy to comprehend, as the luscious grapes are subsequently squashed and mutilated, stomped on and squeezed to get out as much pure, aromatic liquid as possible. The wine is then bottled and stored in a dark, musty cellar for an interminable amount of time, seemingly forgotten, as it ferments and turns sour.

Someone watching this process might think, "What a waste of an entire harvest of grapes!" Indeed, the grapes seem damaged and spoiled, but after the process is done, we are rewarded with the highest-quality, pure wine. In fact, the

Mashgiach pointed out that the *halachah* is that when a special wine is brought to the table, we say the *brachah Hatov v'Hameitiv* when we drink it and appreciate the pleasures of the wine.

"*Samcheinu, kiyemos inisanu...*" Parents entrusted with special-needs children will eventually see the glorious "light" which, based on our present understanding, is dimmed by the hardships and seemingly insurmountable difficulties. We at HASC, along with all the wonderful parents, anxiously await that day when we will be able to rejoice with these children.

Mr. Abe Eisner, HASC Center's Board of Directors President, joined the assemblage via video. In his message to the parents, he expressed the hope that this evening would give them *chizuk* as they continue to care for the "*heilige neshamos*" that have been entrusted to them.

Reb Meir Fogel, supervisor of HASC's yeshivah day program in Boro Park, was Master of Ceremonies. He told a moving story of how, during the times of the holy Baal Shem Tov, a special-needs child was *zocheh*, on Yom Kippur, to save a town from destruction, with his simple yet pristine *avodas Hashem*.

Rabbi Dr. Chaim Wakslak, Clinical Director, welcomed the parents and thanked the dedicated staff of HASC for providing quality, professional care. He discussed the variety of services provided by HASC, such as day programs, vocational programs and residential programs, and emphasized that everything HASC has accomplished has been for the ultimate benefit and growth of individuals with special needs.

HASC's Lev Tova took center stage as the only *frum* respite home in our community. Parents were again informed that they are welcome to bring their children to Lev Tova for the very necessary respite breaks in their lives. Whether for a wedding the family wants to attend, the joyous arrival of a new baby, or just a very tired Mommy, their special-needs children are welcomed with open arms. Staff is available to ensure that the children are cared for in the best way possible while parents enjoy a much-needed break. One parent commented, "Now that we have Lev Tova, we don't know how we ever managed without it!"

Birkas Hamazon was announced, and a wonderful evening drew to a close. *L'shanah habaah biYerushalayim!*

From Shuly's With Life

BY ELKY ROSENFELD

Many of the perfectly-styled wigs sold at Shuly Wig Salon have a story to tell. The first chapter began when Shuly decided to connect her company with charitable causes by donating wigs to various Chinese auctions. From there she went on to donate upscale wigs to brides in financial need.

In this spirit, during the months of March and April, Shuly will donate a portion of the profit from every wig sold to Chai Lifeline. Appropriately, these are the months in which Purim and Pesach fall, auspicious periods for giving *tzedakah*.

How did a trendy wig salon in Brooklyn come to be involved in this campaign? Much has transpired from the first Chinese auction to the present charity campaign. Shuly Wigs has raised the bar of *tzedakah* to new heights.

A few years ago, Shuly attended a meeting run by Ohel that focused on helping victims of domestic violence. She did not have the time to volunteer regularly for the organization, but she realized she could donate her expertise in order to make women who were victims of domestic violence feel special. On Chanukah, she closed the store for one day and ran a Day of Beauty to pamper these women and even gave each one a bag of cosmetics from her personal line to take home.

Shuly decided that giving back

to the community would be the credo of her business, with a focus on women's issues. She began the second chapter in her charity campaign by partnering with the renowned organization Chai Lifeline, using her talents to help both adults and children who are going through trying times.

Shuly Wigs rose to the forefront in providing fashionable wigs for those undergoing chemotherapy and suffering from alopecia. She knew that young girls wanted wigs that would be appropriate for their age. She designed a special hairpiece for the back of the head that would enable them look like all the other young girls with long hair. Even young boys benefit from Shuly's ability; she creates *peyos* for boys so that they will feel part of their community and look no different from their friends and classmates.

To quote Shuly, "My motto is 'Beauty and Beyond.' One can create beauty within, not only on the surface. Outer beauty and inner beauty can go hand in hand." She stresses that looking nice can make people with serious problems feel good about themselves.

Shuly has checked with Rabbanim and learned that one may use *maaser* money for the percentage of the price of a wig that goes to Chai Lifeline.

For more information, please call (718) 851-7778 or visit shulywigs.com.

ICARE Autism Awareness Event on Capitol Hill to Honor J. Morton Davis

The International Center for Autism Research and Education (ICARE), which announced plans to create the world's first Global Autism Center on Mount Scopus in Yerushalayim, Israel, will be hosting a tribute at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on March 16 in honor of noted philanthropist and humanitarian J. Morton Davis.

ICARE, founded by Mr. Joshua Weinstein, who also founded Shema Kolainu in New York City and Tishma in Yerushalayim, is building the first ever global research center for autism with a mission to catalyze breakthrough innovation in autism research and treatment by driving powerful multidisciplinary collaborations among the world's leading investigators, educators and clinicians. Its Scientific Advisory Council is headed by Dr. Eric Hollander. The number of children diagnosed with autism is growing by epidemic proportions: A new case is diagnosed every eighteen minutes, with over 25,000 new cases each year. *Icare4autism* offers a strong sense of hope for children and families.

A select group of Mr. Davis's closest friends, colleagues and family members will be joining the event to properly hail a true American icon whose impact on

our country has enhanced the quality of life for millions of his fellow Americans.

J. Morton Davis grew up in Brooklyn during the Great Depression era and went on to a career on Wall Street, eventually becoming chairman of DH Blair Investment Banking Corp, which specializes in identifying and investing in emerging growth companies.

Mr. Davis is a believer in the human spirit and bases his lifelong philosophy of investing in the person, the singular whose creativity and genius will be the spark for the next great idea. Throughout his career, Mr. Davis has helped over 400 companies raise more than \$3 billion and in turn create thousands of jobs. His *raison d'être* is empowering people to maximize their full potential by investing in them and harnessing the power of each individual.

This philosophy is on full display in his bestselling book, *Making America Work Again*, which was noted by President Reagan in his praise for Mr. Davis. In an interview, Mr. Davis said, "The hardest thing to find is hard working people." Morton Davis proves that working effectively is deeply satisfying and [he is a] prime example of [the] individuals that make America work."

As a majority shareholder in the parent company of "The Hill," Mr. Davis is often called upon to write for the publication on how America, by investing in each individual, can once again be at the forefront of innovation and success. In light of this attention and dedication to the individual, ICARE will be paying tribute to Mr. Davis by presenting him with its Lifetime Achievement Award, which will rightfully recognize his authentic American ingenuity and humanitarian contributions.

ICARE, which has the strong support and enthusiasm of Yerushalayim Mayor Nir Barkat, expects to open in 2014 at its five-acre campus (currently the home of Bezalel Academy of Art and Design) and will include many unique elements, including a state of the art research center, the world's first university-level school of professional autism studies, a comprehensive educational center, and an international autism foundation.

Ezra Friedlander, whose firm The Friedlander Group is coordinating the Capitol Hill luncheon, said that, "This event will herald a new level of cooperation between the United States and Israel in an area where new territory needs to be chartered — which is what ICARE will accomplish in the autism-related arena."