

## Al Jazeera Airs In New York City Area

By Jewish Press Staff

On August 1, Time Warner Cable became the first network in the tri-state area to host Al Jazeera English, the English version of the internationally renowned Arab news network, on Regional News Network's RISE channel. Verizon FiOS is also expected to begin carrying the network in the coming days. The station is available in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, and New Jersey.

Before airing in New York, Al Jazeera only aired in pockets of the United States, including Vermont, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, and Ohio. "We're delighted to now be on televisions across New York," said Al Anstey, Al Jazeera English's Managing Director, on Al Jazeera's website. "We are already part of the media landscape here, with one in ten people having got information on events in America and the world from our website this year alone. We get more web traffic from New York than any other city on earth.... We're delighted to be broadcasting global news onto televisions throughout the global melting pot that is New York."

The New York based Regional News Network (RNN) is a privately owned television network that broadcasts for third parties. It currently has an audience of six million viewers. RNN President Dick French commented in an Al Jazeera article that he was "thrilled to be working with Al Jazeera English to meet the demand that exists for more international news in the New York City area, one of the most culturally diverse in the world." He added that Al Jazeera would provide New Yorkers with stories from "often under-reported regions" like Africa and the Middle East.

Al Jazeera English was established in 2006 and gained immense popularity during the Arab Spring of 2011. Currently, over 250 million households in 130 countries watch the network. It has been described by some analysts as one of the most influential forces in the Arab Middle East, especially regarding the Arab-Israel conflict; after years of government-controlled media, citizens are excited to listen to a network that openly engages in controversial debates.

American attitude towards Al Jazeera has changed over the years. Before September 11, 2001,

many officials lauded Al Jazeera for its work in the Middle East as an independent news source. After the war in Afghanistan started, however, some

claimed that the network was biased. Nonetheless, in March Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "Viewership of Al Jazeera is going up in the United States because it's real news. You may not agree with it but you feel like you're getting real news."

Al Jazeera English will broadcast a daily 5 p.m. news show and children's programming on weekends.

## Shema Kolainu Honors Boro Park Shomrim



Shema Koleinu held its legislative breakfast August 2 at the Renaissance Ballroom in Boro Park. The highlight of the breakfast was the honoring of the Boro Park Shomrim Patrol with the Community Protection Award. Shomrim was honored for its consistent dedication to protecting the community's children for the past 25 years. Representing the Boro Park Shomrim were Sam Follman, Jackie Daskal, Marc Katz and Simcha Bernath. Among the dignitaries who came to show their support were New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; New York City Comptroller John Liu; New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio; New York City Council Members Lew Fidler, Mark Weprin, David Greenfield, Brad Lander, Letitia James, Steve Levin, Vincent Gentile and New York State Assemblyman David Weprin. Also shown are Shema Kolainu board members Milton Weinstock and Dr. Joshua Weinstein, who is the ICare4Autism Founder & CEO.

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