

# Community News From Around The World

## U.S. Officials Discuss Security At Agudah Breakfast

By Boruch Shubert

A number of officials representing the U.S. government at key levels of influence addressed several hundred communal leaders at the Second Annual Legislative Breakfast of Agudath Israel of America on Monday at the Down Town Association in Lower Manhattan. Speaking to the event's theme of "Safety and Security in Our Communities," the officials outlined a variety of ar-

reas in which government agencies are acting vigorously to ensure the physical well-being of the greater Jewish community both domestically and overseas.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Loretta E. Lynch, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, noted that her office has expanded its focus from the aggressive pursuit of terrorist prosecutions to include an emphasis on the prevention of terrorist acts. "We work closely with the FBI and the New York Police Department to immediately investi-



gate any threats of terrorism," Lynch asserted, highlighting multiple recent cases where in potential attacks on public transportation and other largely populated areas were thwarted. Detailing specific concerns

in this regard, she said authorities are on the lookout for Al-Qaeda-mobilized single, "lone wolf" individuals who may attempt to commit acts of terror on their own; homegrown U.S.-based terrorists; and global ter-

ror cells that gain strength and adherents through strategic communications via the Internet.

The audience was also treated to Special Greetings from Jarrod Bernstein, President Obama's recently appointed Director of Jewish Outreach, who was making his first public appearance in his new role. Bernstein was introduced by Rabbi David Zwiebel, Executive Vice President of Agudath Israel, who recounted how, just two days before this past Yom Kippur, he received word that a large shipment of *lulavim* was being held up at the airport due to security-related bureaucratic red tape, thereby causing numerous Jews to potentially be unable to fulfill the vital *mitzvah* of *arba minim* on the impending Sukkos holiday. After a quick phone call to Bernstein, who was then an official at the Department of Homeland Security, the *lulavim* were released in a few hours.

Reprising his appearance at last year's Legislative Breakfast, Senator Charles Schumer, who was introduced by breakfast chair, Joseph Zelmanovitz, reiterated Congress' firm support for the security of Israel, specifically with regard to planned attempts to further cut off Iran's banking powers and to fully fund Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system.

The large audience—which included such dignitaries as NYC Fire Commissioner Sal Cassano, NY State Senator Daniel Squadron, NY State Assemblymen Alec Brook-Krasny and Rory Lancman, and New York City Councilmen Lew Fidler and Brad Lander—heard important remarks from several members of Congress with close ties to the Jewish community. Newly elected Congressman Robert (Bob) Turner spoke about his appointments to the crucial Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees. Avowing Congress's strong backing of Israel, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney recalled the unusually enthusiastic response from the entire membership of Congress when it was addressed by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. Commenting on the dismal economy, Congressman Jerrold Nadler spoke against the idea of massive spending cuts by the government.

The audience also heard from community activist Abe Eisner, who read a message of support for Agudath Israel from New York Governor Andrew Cuomo; Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer; New York City Controller John Liu; and Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz.

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