

150 Frum Families Attend Arachim Event

By Boruch Shubert

An enthusiastic crowd of 150 families enjoyed an inspirational Shabbos Nachamu with Arachim, the renowned *kiruv* organization, at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury, Conn. Based on Arachim's standard outreach presentations but adapted for the *frum* community, the program featured an array of distinguished speakers who discussed fundamental aspects of *emunah* and used powerful proofs to demonstrate the indisputable authenticity of *Torah min haShamayim*.

Rabbi David Ordman, who has gained worldwide acclaim for his expositions on Torah beliefs, spoke several times during the weekend. In a two-part lecture entitled "Failsafe" and a separate discussion called "The Psychology of the *Mitzvos*," Rabbi Ordman held the audience spellbound with insights into various *mitzvos* and proofs of their Divine Source.

In an address called "Protecting Your Child's *Yiddishkeit*," Rabbi Shaya Cohen, director of Priority-1, emphasized the importance of building a proper relationship with one's children and instilling in them a profound sense of pride in their Judaism. Rabbi Cohen stated that if our children are genuinely happy living in a Torah-centered environment, they will be unlikely to abandon Torah and *mitzvos* in their teens.

Rabbi Alon Joseph, a special guest from South Africa, gave a talk called "The Meaning of Life," underscoring the need to use the limited amount of time we have in this world as wisely and productively as possible. In a lecture called "Body and



Rabbi Ordman lecturing

Soul," Rabbi Yionon Kalazan offered guidelines for uniting one's physical and spiritual capabilities in order to serve Hashem. There was also a special lecture for women given by Mrs. Ivy Kalazan called "A Unique Approach to the Concept of Modesty."

The families delighted in uplifting *tefillos*, beautiful *seudos*, and a Friday-night *oneg Shabbos* featuring a stimulating question-and-answer discussion with Arachim staff members.

On Motzoei Shabbos, Rabbi Joseph Wallis, CEO of Arachim, offered an in-depth look at the key role that religious outreach efforts play in maintaining the viability of *Klal Yisrael* as a Torah-true nation, and described his own poignant journey to *frumkeit*. He astounded the audience with a summary of the many tangible benefits Arachim seminars in Israel and around the world have produced, preventing many intermarriages, encouraging couples to enroll their children in yeshivos and raise them in the Torah tradition, and improving *shalom bayis* in many families.

Rabbi Wallis provided eye-opening details of Arachim's extensive *kiruv* activities in several countries, including Hungary, where the seminars have inspired more than fifty percent of participants to become *shomrei Torah u'mitzvos*. In India the organization has three branches offering lectures on the basics of Judaism as well as classes in martial arts, food, and other appealing topics, designed to attract the many Israeli youths who visit the country. There is also an Arachim "yeshivah" in Tel Aviv that has a division featuring gatherings in the relaxed style to which Israelis who frequent the Far East are accustomed.

Rabbi Wallis described Arachim's speakers as intellectuals with diverse backgrounds whose presentations are all the more compelling because of their distinctive talents and interests. The seminars, which use a logical approach to prove the eternal truth of the Torah and its Divine mandates, are heavily fortified with facts gleaned from research about the secular world that is regularly conducted by Arachim's scholarly Manof Institute in Israel.

After Rabbi Wallis's address, a gala *melaveh malkah* rounded out the evening, featuring the music of guest performer Sruly Wulliger.

Mrs. Chana Kupfer, a resident of Crown Heights in Brooklyn who attended the Shabbos Nachamu weekend with her husband and children, said about the event, "It was such an inspiring and beautiful atmosphere that we really did not want to leave. My entire family sat for hours listening to all the interesting lectures, which were so rich in thought... Everyone who attended was warm and friendly as well."

While the crowd consisted of *frum* families, one participant, a non-observant woman who is actually descended from the Baal Shem Tov, came because she was in the process of reassessing the course of her life and wanted to learn more about Judaism. She left clearly affected by everything she had heard and seen — but no less so than all the other guests, testifying to Arachim's ability to reach out to all Jews and bring them closer to the Torah and to true *emunah*.

ZAKA Tribute Luncheon to Take Place on Capitol Hill

By Esther Birnbaum

The historic Cannon Caucus room located in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., will be the setting for an extraordinary event paying tribute to victims of terror and the courageous volunteers of ZAKA who have saved hundreds of lives. The luncheon, to be held on September 16, will also honor members of Congress for their support of the relationship between the United States and Israel. The special guest speaker will be H.E. Sallai Meridor, ambassador of Israel to the U.S.

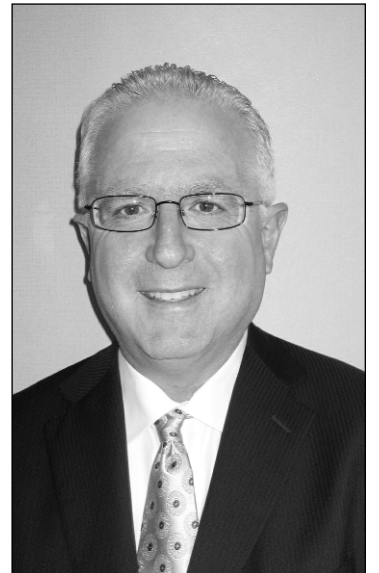
ZAKA, the organization based in Israel that has become synonymous with supreme courage and kindness during times of crisis, has recently been reorganized, with a new corporate structure and oversight board. Founded in 1995, ZAKA Search and Rescue provides more than 1,500 volunteer members with specialized training in paramedic and disaster management services. It has become widely recognized as the premier non-governmental rescue, lifesaving, and recovery organization in Israel.

The work of ZAKA has spread beyond Israel to all parts of the world. One of only three Israeli organizations to be recognized by the United Nations as an NGO, ZAKA Rescue and Recovery has provided its professional and compassionate services after disasters such as the tsunami in Thailand and the devastating earthquake in Turkey. Dignitaries including Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and American Ambassador to Israel Richard Jones have lauded ZAKA for its outstanding work during times of great crisis.

The luncheon will honor members of Congress who have supported the relationship between the U.S. and Israel and who recognize ZAKA's central role in spreading the common values of Israeli and American democracy throughout the world. Among those to be honored are Representatives John Barrow, Shelley Berkley, Leonard Boswell, Yvette Clarke, Eliot Engel, Steve Israel, Peter King, Ron Klein, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., Jerrold Nadler, William J. Pascrell, Jr., Steven R. Rothman, John P. Sarbanes, Christopher Shays, Edolphus "Ed" Towns, and Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The event will also pay tribute to individuals who are dedicated to the U.S.-Israel relationship and who have shown exemplary support for Israel in times of need.

Robert Rimberg has been a practicing attorney in New York since 1986. He is a partner at Goldberg and Rimberg, a general practice firm with



Robert Rimberg

offices in New York and California. Mr. Rimberg has sat on the Board of Directors for Chai Lifeline, Young Israel of Monsey and Wesley Hills, and the Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy.

Jack Avital is a leader in the Jewish Syrian community who has been instrumental in forging relationships between Syrian Jews and their places of origin in order to protect Jewish heritage sites. He served as an advisor to former prime minister Sharon and enjoys a close relationship with Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, the former Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel.

Lauren and Ryan Karben have served the Jewish community and humanitarian causes with great devotion. Ryan is the principal of the law office of Ryan Scott Karben and the managing director of FHGR, a national lobbying and political consulting firm. Lauren is a prominent elementary school educator at the Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy in Monsey, N.Y.

Working with the police and other emergency personnel, ZAKA's selfless volunteers respond in record time to traffic accidents, natural disasters, and terror attacks. Using sophisticated medical equipment, they provide emergency care to traumatized victims and engage in the difficult task of recovering human remains for proper burial. In 2007 alone, ZAKA was involved in more than 18,000 lifesaving incidents.

The luncheon will be a wonderful way for participants to show support for an organization whose efforts are invaluable to the world, and to members of Congress for their leadership in enhancing the U.S.-Israel relationship.

In light of security regulations, you must RSVP to attend by contacting The Friedlander Group, event coordinators, at (718) 436-5555 or by e-mail at ZAKA@FriedlanderGroupPR.com.

Polish Orphanage Thanked For Protecting Jewish Children

On Thursday, August 21, an unusual ceremony took place at the Baudouina Orphanage in Warsaw, Poland. This orphanage saved more than 150 Jewish children during World War II. At a time when they were barely able to provide for the children because of a lack of food and medication, they risked their lives to protect them. Miraculously, they were never caught by the Nazis. This orphanage has been in existence for more than 200 years and is now struggling financially.

Two years ago, the Israeli Embassy presented the Righteous Among the Nations award of Yad Vashem to the former director of the orphanage. Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, attended the ceremony and later stated, "Since that time, I have been looking for a small way to help this

orphanage."

A few months ago, Rabbi Schudrich met Chagai Stern of Israel to the Nations, an Israeli NGO working to provide aid in 11 countries. Stern jumped at the opportunity to do something for the orphanage and arranged a shipment of toys and clothing.

This past Thursday, there was a small ceremony at the orphanage. "Thank you for giving us a chance to do something very small for you," said Rabbi Schudrich. "We can never do enough to really say thank you, but at least we can offer this small gesture."

The orphanage staff was overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of the gifts. Some of the toddlers were soon racing around on small tricycles. So many items were delivered that the Baudouina Orphanage will share some of them with other orphanages.