

Project Witness Unveils Its New Eyewitness to History Program

How often has it happened that you meant to do something, earnestly planned to do it, and in fact, promised yourself faithfully that you **would** do it? And then, suddenly, you discover that the window of opportunity for completing the task has slammed tightly shut in your face. Perhaps it was an application deadline, or the renewal of your driver's license, or maybe it was just making sure that your car was inspected before the expiration date on your windshield. Whatever it was, somehow, it just slipped your mind, and now you will have to exert extraordinary efforts because you thought you had plenty of time.

In many cases, with a little extra effort, and perhaps with the payment of an extra fee, the situation can be remedied. But what if, due to procrastination, irreplaceable treasures are lost forever? Sometimes no amount of money can compensate for something we neglected to recognize while we had it. A new initiative, undertaken by Project Witness and titled **Eyewitness to History**, seeks to guarantee that the irreplaceable (and all-too often underreported) spiritually-rich memories of the Holocaust generation are permanently recorded and given a place of honor in the archives of our nation.

The Project Witness program ensures that the voices of the honored survivors of the

Holocaust, many of whom are finally agreeing to unlock their long-concealed life-stories after decades of self-imposed silence, will be heard for generations to come. The messages of inspiration their experiences can offer us are priceless. These unsung heroes will draw on the past, prepare us for the future, answer long-unsolved questions, and provide an unbreakable link in the chain of *Mesorah* that unites past, present, and future generations.

The time has come for families of Holocaust survivors to sponsor their own personal family memoirs while it is still possible. As part of our new **Eyewitness to History** program, Project Witness will provide sponsoring families with the services of a professionally trained interviewer who has already interviewed hundreds of Holocaust survivors and who is extremely sensitive to the needs and issues facing those who wish to record their personal family history for perpetuity. Pre-interviews are undertaken in order to ensure that the survivor being interviewed feels comfortable and secure, and then the interview itself will be conducted by the interviewer, using a professional videographer.

Family members will have the opportunity to share their own feelings and experiences at the close of the video, thus setting the stage for a meaningful

and unifying unique family memoir. The Project Witness **Eyewitness to History** program guarantees you and your family a priceless treasure that you can hand down with pride and love. Discuss this opportunity with your extended family members and make arrangements to jointly sponsor your own family video while the opportunity to do so is still available.

Equally important, with the permission of the interviewees, Project Witness hopes to make these interviews available to the public and to young people in schools. By so doing, Project Witness will play its part in making sure that the memories of the past will be used to inspire future generations. Additional plans call for archiving the interviews and making them available to researchers.

As more and more unreported and under-reported information of the spiritual courage and faith that kept *Klal Yisrael* alive during the era of total darkness is unveiled, it has become evident that many of the testimonies now being obtained represent new material that can serve the Orthodox community well.

You can find out more about the Project Witness **Eyewitness to History** program by contacting Project Witness at 718-305-5244 or by email at info@projectwitness.org.

Top Officials to Attend Shema Kolainu Breakfast

BY DAVID LOBL

On August 2, Shema Kolainu—Hear Our Voices, a school and center for children with autism, will host its ninth annual legislative breakfast at the Renaissance Ballroom in Brooklyn, New York. This year's breakfast will celebrate the important milestone of its bar mitzvah year, and will honor members of both the City Council and State Legislature in recognition of their efforts to help children with autism.

Additionally, Shema Kolainu—Hear Our Voices will be paying tribute to members of the Boro Park Shomrim Patrol for their heroic and tireless efforts to find Leiby Kletzky, z"l.

A primary goal of the annual event is to educate legislators about the urgency of the need for autism care and research, raise support and awareness, and share ideas about working toward combating autism through effective public policy and legislation.

In addition, communal leaders, civic and religious leaders, philanthropists, and elected officials will pay tribute to several outstanding public officials and community leaders for their dedication to the mission of Shema Kolainu. They include Comptroller John Liu, who will be honored with the City Leadership Award, and Phil Goldfeder, who will be presented with the Public Service Award by Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

Words of greeting will be offered by Congressman Jerry Nadler, New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel to New York, who will be attending as a special guest.

A special presentation will be made to select members of the New York City Council in recognition of their hard work and perseverance in gaining funding for the Autism Initiative. Shema Kolainu has been a past beneficiary of this initiative, which was originally introduced by Assemblyman David Weprin, who was then City Council finance chair, and his brother, Councilman Mark Weprin.

Councilman Weprin continues to lead the legislative battle for this important Council initiative, whose funding has gone a long way toward securing additional resources for families with children diagnosed with autism. The presentation will be made to Council members

Gentile, Levin, Greenfield and Lander, with special emphasis on the latter two for providing additional funding to Shema Kolainu, as well as for their advocacy of the Autism Initiative.

Shema Kolainu also expresses its appreciation to New York City Council finance chair Dominic Recchia for the important role he plays in the allocation of funding to various community-based organizations.

Special tribute will be paid to members of the State Legislature who cosponsored a historic bill, A.6305 and S.4005. This landmark legislation mandates that insurance companies pay for autism screenings. The bill will take a tremendous financial burden off the backs of parents, enabling quick testing, which in turn will lead to prompter treatment. Accepting this award will be Assembly members Benedetto, Heastie, Hevesi, Lavine, Titone, Weprin, and Weisenberg, and senators Adams, Carlucci, Parker, Golden and Squadron.

In light of the recent tragedy, Shema Kolainu will honor the Boro Park Shomrim Patrol with its Community Protection Award. Throughout the tragic saga that galvanized the entire community, Shomrim became the symbol of *Klal Yisrael's* unified efforts to search for Leiby Kletzky. Shomrim and Shema Kolainu share a mission of advocating for and protecting our most vulnerable population — our children. Shomrim leaders will be accepting this award on behalf of the entire Shomrim Patrol.

Thirteen years ago, Shema Kolainu, the first school and center of its kind, opened its doors to three school-age children. Today, hundreds of children benefit from Shema Kolainu's center- and home-based services and programs. Said Dr. Joshua Weinstein, founder and president, "It is a remarkable feat, accomplished with Hashem's help and guidance."

Chairing and acting as master of ceremonies for the breakfast will be Menachem Lubinsky, the president and CEO of Lubicom Marketing Consulting, and Kalman Yeger, formerly a high-ranking government official and currently a senior advisor to a number of elected officials.

The breakfast will be coordinated by The Friedlander Group. For security purposes, RSVP is required for entry and must be made in advance by calling (212) 233-5555, ext. 108, or by email at ShemaKolainu@TheFriedlanderGroup.com.

Sefer Dover Shalom On Perek Eilu Treifos and Hilchos Treifos

BY RABBI MORDECHAI KUBER

Review by Harav Chaim Zev Malinowitz, Senior Editor, ArtScroll Shas, Mara d'Asra, Beis Tefilla Yonah Avraham, Ramat Beit Shemesh

As the *Daf Yomi* cycle heads into *maseches Chullin*, many participants feel nervous about studying this difficult material, which deals extensively with the physiology of animals. Learning the third and fourth *perakim* of *Chullin*, which cover *hilchos treifos* — the laws of bodily defects and injuries that render an animal forbidden for consumption — means to tackle obscure terms and descriptions and seemingly disconnected themes.

The *sefer Dover Shalom*, written by renowned *talmid chacham* and kashrus expert Harav Mordechai Kuber, Mara d'Asra of Beis Medrash Nachlas Tzvi Ohel Avraham of Telz Stone and a sen-

ior *kollel* member of Mir Yerushalayim, does an admirable job of making this daunting material accessible. Structured as three *sefarim* in one, Rabbi Kuber first guides the student through the *perakim* on *treifos* with a *daf-by-daf* analysis of thorny issues. This section, called *Klal U'prat*, is a compendium of the details and results of the more lengthy scholarly analyses of the larger issues presented in the third part of the *sefer*, *Zeh Haklal*. All the issues are examined through two lenses — one keenly intellectual and the other very practical.

The author's arrangement of this section in small pieces on the *daf* offers the benefits of his scholarship and practical knowledge, which they can use in tandem with the day-to-day basic *Gemara* text. For the more inquisitive student, who wishes to see the complete analysis, Rabbi Kuber provides cross-ref-



erences to the relevant essays in the third section.

The second section identifies the many *treifos* enumerated by *Chazal*. Here the author, with keen acumen, takes issue with many of the identifications made in contemporary works.

For one who wants to learn the *Sugyos* of *treifos* in the time-honored style of deep, systematic scrutiny, *Dover Shalom* will prove extremely satisfying.