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Local IDF Members Honored



IDF "lone soldier" David Golombek, originally of the 5 Towns, with his parents, Anne and Shelly, at the Friends of the IDF gala dinner last month. See Page 74

FROM THE EDITOR

BY LARRY GORDON

Occupied Minds

At the One Israel Fund dinner the other night in Lower Manhattan, the main course was intelligence and clarity on the issues of the day. The organization that works to assist all communities up and down the map of Judea

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Turning Judaism Outward

BOOK REVIEW BY YOCHANAN GORDON

Biographies are published practically daily. So why did it take 20 years for an authoritative biography of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, zt'l, to be written? It's remarkable that

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Reb Chaim Miller

HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE

BY LARRY GORDON

Meet Avi Fertig

We have a great race for New York State Assembly taking place in the Five Towns and surrounding communities through this summer and into the coming fall. If he can pull it off, it could have a ripple effect statewide if Repub-

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Shidduch Therapy

"Whose fault is this mess?" That question seemed to be the essential underlying theme of a session this past Shavuot that was supposed to shed some light on the issue of *shidduchim* and matchmaking in our communities. It was a raucous

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ACHDUS AND ACHIEZER



Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender addressing the crowd at Achiezer's annual awards dinner on June 1 at the Sands. See Page 66

MAKING THE CUT

Halachic Musings

BY RABBI YAIR HOFFMAN

Warning: The article found below is not for the faint of heart. Indeed, the author himself needed to recover twice while writing it.

"You did WHAT?"

"I didn't want to tell you because I didn't want to get you nervous. And besides, it is

Continued on Page 27

RECASTING CANTOR

From The Other Side Of The Bench

BY DAVID J. SEIDEMANN, ESQ.

A few years back, when I contemplated running for a seat in the United States Congress, the first person I met in Washington DC was Congressman Eric Cantor from Virginia. We spent about a half hour together in

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Achiezer's Second Annual Dinner

Achdus and *Achiezer*. The two words are frequently mentioned together in the same sentence, because somehow they just seem to fit together. On Sunday evening last week, the juxtaposition could not have been more apparent.

Achiezer's second annual tribute dinner once again gave more than a thousand people from all neighborhoods of the Far Rockaway/Bayswater and Five Towns community a chance to set aside shul affiliation, yarmulke type, and personal interests, to join together in support of one undisputed cohesive agent: *chesed*.

Achiezer's work is well known throughout our community and beyond, but this dinner gave attend-

ees a unique chance to get an in-depth, hands-on view of Achiezer's inner workings. The upper level of the Sands featured "The Foundry," a fiery display and spectacular walk-through of Achiezer solutions, as they're forged. Utilizing The Foundry's interactive iPad stations, the guests perused Achiezer's programs and services (including crisis intervention, medical recommendations, behavioral health, health insurance, and more), gaining a real understanding of the process through which the community's problems are solved at Achiezer.

To quote one guest: "I always knew that Achiezer had an organized and



David Barrere, C.O. of NYPD Patrol Borough Queens South; William P. Wynne, Deputy Inspector; Alex Werberger; Sgt. Leslie Moulds; Deputy Inspector Kenny Huttler; Lt. Gary Shapiro; and Danny Gluck, C.O. of NCPD Auxiliary



Pesach Osina, Eli Weiss, Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder, Shalom Jaroslawicz, Rabbi Baruch Rothman and Rabbi Boruch B. Bender

detailed infrastructure, but getting to see it close up was just eye-opening." Indeed, all of the guests—those already familiar with Achiezer, and those less so—entered the main ballroom accompanied by the comforting knowledge that virtually every problem in our community has a solution.

Following a sumptuous buffet dinner catered by Sharmel Caterers as well as a delectable sushi bar by the Sushi Spot, the program commenced promptly in the *chuppah* room. Master of Ceremonies Dr. Moshe Schlusberg, a Woodmere resident, opened the program with some personal reflections of Achiezer's modest beginnings, followed

by a brief synopsis of Achiezer's mission and accomplishments. Mr. Shulie Wollman, Achiezer's chairman of the board, discussed Achiezer's availability—literally 24/7/365—and incredible determination to assist our community, despite all the odds. Achiezer senior board members Mr. Ronald Lowinger and Mr. Michael Krengel led the assemblage in *Tehillim*, after which Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender rose for the keynote address.

In a passionate account, Rabbi Bender shared the story of Ruth, an Achiezer volunteer whose regular visits to the nursing home were singularly responsible for bringing a woman back from the brink of depression, to the doc-

Cöngo Juice



Coming Next Week (hopefully :))



tors' amazement. The story was a clear demonstration of what was to become the theme of the evening: the concept that no act of *chesed* can be considered small and that even a small kindness can save a life and recreate a soul. Describing Achiezer's 24-hour emergency hotline, Rabbi Bender provided a true-to-life behind-the-scenes view of the lifesaving work that Achiezer does on a regular basis—in myriads of ways, both large and small.

Awards were presented to the evenings honorees: Dr. Marcel Scheinman (Physician Appreciation Award); Yoni and Esther Novak (Hakaras HaTov Award); the Community Assistance Fund (Community Appreciation Award); and Rabbi Zev and Leah Bald (Kesser Shem Tov Award). The feature video,

fittingly titled "Our Community's One Call for Help," included personal and emotional anecdotes shared by community members, as well as messages of support from a variety of local *rabbanim* and community leaders. Despite the relatively late hour on the Sunday evening just before Shavuot, the crowd stuck around to enjoy the lavish dessert spread and bask in the sheer enjoyment of the evening for just a while longer.

The evening was a celebration of the past and a commitment to the future, which left guests from across the spectrum inspired and committed to joining this bastion of *chesed*.

Achdus and Achiezer. The two words go together . . . not just for one magical evening, but for every single day, of every year. ❖



Rabbi Dr. and Mrs. Aaron Glatt



Rav Binyamin Kaminetzky, Rav Elya Ber Wachtfogel, Rabbi Boruch B. Bender, Rabbi Meshulem Gorelick and Rabbi Yaakov Bender



Shalom Jaroslawicz, Eli Weiss, Shulie Wollman, Rabbi Boruch B. Bender, Yoni Novak and Esther Novak



Shalom Jaroslawicz, Shulie Wollman, Dr. Marcel Scheinman, Rabbi Bender and Eli Weiss



Shulie Wollman, Rabbi Dovid Greenblatt, Elisha Brecher, Lloyd Keilson and Rabbi Bender



Shulie Wollman, Rabbi Shay Shachter, Rabbi Yaakov Bender, Rabbi Zev Bald, Rabbi Naftali Jaeger and Rabbi Boruch B. Bender



Suri Bender, Rabbi Boruch B. Bender, Ronald Lowinger and Dr. Brucha Lowinger

PHOTOS BY MOSHE GERSHBAUM AND TSEMACH GLENN