

Chicago: Ruach in the Windy City

Congregation Adas Yeshurun Hosts Rabbi Zev Leff

On *Shabbos Parashas Vayeira*, the Chicago community hosted Harav Zev Leff, Rav of Moshav Matityahu and *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshiva Gedolah Matityahu (YGM), who visited the community as Congregation Adas Yeshurun's Ray Stein Scholar in Residence.

On Friday night Rav Leff spoke about the importance of *achdus*, focusing on the correct understanding of *shalom* as symbiotic perfection where different paths share a common goal. Just as an army has various divisions with different uniforms, he explained, it is important that there remain many different approaches to *avodas Hashem*. An *oneg Shabbos*, where Rabbi Leff fielded questions, followed.

On Shabbos morning RavLeff delivered the *drashah* at Adas Yeshurun, discussing the question of why Avraham chose not to take from the spoils of the king of Sdom, but did take spoils on three other occasions. Rabbi Leff explained that *chessed* can be performed not only in our giving acts, but also when we are seemingly taking, depending on one's intentions.

On Shabbos afternoon over 500 women gathered in Adas Yeshurun for a *shiur* on *tznius*, hosted by Adas Yeshurun's Women's Learning Division. Rabbi Leff described the essence of *tznius* as the need to cover the body so as not to detract from the



L-R: Rabbi Zev Leff with Rabbi Zev Cohen

neshamah, which is the *ikar*; women have an extra *kedushah* and therefore have an extra need to protect that *kedushah*.

On Motzoei Shabbos over 160 people from around Chicago participated in a *melavah malkah* where Rabbi Leff decried the proliferation of *segulos*. Hashem gave us *mitzvos*, not to be fast and easy, but rather to help us accrue our eternal reward. He also talked about the importance of *simchah* in our lives.

The Scholar-in-Residence weekend was sponsored in memory of Ray Stein, the first President of Congregation Adas Yeshurun. "In those early days," Mrs. Stein recalls, "we *davened* in a damp, leaky shul, but the camaraderie was warm. We worked hard to beautify the shul and it was Ray's belief that it was more important to have a beautiful

place to *daven* in than it was to have a beautiful home." "Ray was a 'shul man' of a breed that (almost) doesn't exist anymore," Rabbi Zev Cohen said. "Ray lived and breathed the shul."

Ray's dream was that when he retired he would be a *shammash* at the shul and spend his whole day there. Unfortunately he was *niftar* at the age of 53, but his love for the shul is carried on through his family, which takes personal pride in Adas Yeshurun and knows that Ray would be pleased to see how far the shul has come. This weekend was clearly an *aliyas neshamah* for Refael Chaim ben Alter Binyamin.

While in Chicago — for a longer-than-planned visit due to Sandy — Rav Leff spoke at many area schools and spent time with the Chicago Choshen Mishpat Kollel.

Harav Weiner is a renowned lecturer and author on *halachah* and medical issues who serves as a consultant to Chayim Aruchim of Agudath Israel of America on end-of-life issues. The presentation will include real-life situations presented by Harav Weiner to Harav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, *zt"l*.

Shacharis will begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast and *shiur* preparation. The *shiur* will take place from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; it is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Davis, *l'iluy nishmas* Simcha Eliezer Dovid Davis. For more information, please call Rabbi Daniel Muskat at (773) 763-4005.

Behind Closed Doors — Understanding the Unconscious Mind

NefeshChicago and CRC offer a special presentation called "Behind Closed Doors: Understanding the Unconscious Mind" with world-renowned speakers Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz and Dr. Frank Summers, who will discuss issues in counseling and their halachic and professional implications.

The presentation, which offers a unique networking opportunity for mental health professionals,

Rabbanim, and Rebbetzins, will take place Sunday, Nov. 18, 2:00-5:00 p.m., at the WiFi building, 8170 McCormick in Skokie. For more information and pre-registration, please call (773) 807-8920 or the CRC at (773) 465-3900, or email srclion@aol.com.

Hilchos Tzedakah At Khal Chassidim

The men of the Chicago community are invited to attend Rabbi Zvi Feiner's interactive *shiur* on *hilchos tzedakah*, which takes place every Sunday morning from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Khal Chasidim. Each *shiur* is a self-contained unit.

Rabbi Gottlieb at Shaarei Tzedek Mishkan Yair

Shaarei Tzedek Mishkan Yair is pleased to announce that world-renowned author and lecturer Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb will be the scholar in residence for *Shabbos Parashas Toldos*, November 16-17. The community is invited to attend the *melavah malkah* on November 17 at 8:00 p.m.; the program includes dinner, a speaker, a dessert buffet and a special musical guest. For tickets and more information, please contact Sue at (773) 274-2223 or at sue@shaareitzedek.com.

Madraigos Midwest Holds Inaugural Dinner

On Wednesday evening November 7 Madraigos Midwest held its inaugural dinner, honoring Rabbi Morris and Mrs. Delecia Esformes for their commitment to Madraigos and dedication to helping the children of Chicago overcome their struggles.

Madraigos Midwest is committed to addressing the social and emotional needs of the community, providing prevention and intervention to the Orthodox Jewish families of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.

The dinner was a great success, with over 500 people attending in support of this organization that has had such an impact on Chicago in the three years since it was established.

Rabbi Dov Silver, founder of Madraigos of the Five Towns and executive vice president of Madraigos Midwest, welcomed the guests, acknowledged the large turnout, and thanked all those who are involved in Madraigos on a daily basis, making special mention of the three dinner chairmen, Mr. Shua Ray,



Rabbi Yissocher Frand

work for Madraigos, and mentioned the devotion of his own *talmid*, Mr. Shua Ray, to this organization that does such vital work for the Chicago community.

Following an elegant dinner, a video was shown highlighting the many worldwide philanthropic projects of Rabbi and Mrs. Esformes. Mr. Shua Ray then presented the award to Rabbi and Mrs. Esformes, speaking eloquently about Madraigos and about the contributions of the Esformes family. "When we



Mr. Nachy Shabat, Mr. Shua Ray, Rabbi Morris Esformes, and Mr. Yehoshua Davis

Mr. Nachi Shabat, and Mr. Yehoshua Davis. He also thanked Rabbi and Mrs. Esformes for their constant support of Madraigos.

Participants watched a video depicting the various services of Madraigos, its success in helping those in crisis, and its prevention services, which are offered in a non-stigmatizing way.

Rabbi Silver expressed appreciation for the devotion and expertise of the clinical directors, Mr. Yankie Greenberger and Mrs. Rachel Karesh, who serve their clients with warmth, caring, and professional excellence.

Mr. Barry Ray, a member of the executive board, thanked the guests of honor for establishing Madraigos, and his son, Mr. Shua Ray, for all of his hard work for the organization. He then introduced guest speaker Rabbi Yissochar Frand, a *Rosh Yeshivah* in Yeshivas Ner Yisrael in Baltimore. Rabbi Frand highlighted the *mitzvos* that such an organization performs, including *pikuach nefesh* and *hashavas aveidah*. He expressed admiration for Rabbi Esformes for his

started this organization three years ago with a handful of children, we could not imagine we would ever be where we are today. We put all of our faith in *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*, and we have seen exponential growth; today we serve hundreds of children and their families.

"The honorees and the entire staff of Madraigos devote *lev va'nefesh* to the organization to assure that our children are cared for properly. Our goal is to make the community aware that we are here and that all *Yiddishe kinder* get the opportunity to succeed, no matter what."

Mr. Ray also announced the establishment of the Esformes Family Parent Support Center, named as a gift to Rabbi Esformes. The center will offer support services 24 hours a day to any parent who is struggling.

Rabbi Esformes, accepting the honor, expressed his hope that despite any challenges that may arise, with Hashem's help Madraigos will remain a resource for Chicago's children for many years to come.

Harav Ephraim Wachsman In Chicago

The Chicago Community Kollel invites the community to spend *Shabbos Parashas Toldos* with Harav Ephraim Wachsman. There will be an *oneg Shabbos* at 8:00 p.m. Friday night at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Yonatan Glenner, 6118 Sacramento.

On Shabbos morning following *Shacharis*, which begins at 8:50 a.m., Harav Wachsman will deliver a *drashah* at Khal Chassidim. *Minchah* will be at 3:30 p.m. at the *kollel*, followed by *seudah shelishis*, which is sponsored *l'iluy nishmas* Reuvain Chaim ben Yoel Leib Halevi, *z"l*, and Sorah bas Binyamin, *a"n*.

On Motzoei Shabbos there will be a *melaveh malkah* at 8:30 p.m., for men only, at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Zvi Feiner.

Simcha Davis Legal Holiday Program

On Thursday, November 22, the Chicago Center for Torah and Chesed will hold a legal holiday learning program called "Babies by Design: *Halachos* of Genetically Engineered Babies," with Harav Yaakov Weiner, dean of the Jerusalem Center for Research — Medicine and Halachah.