

"MORE PRECIOUS THAN DIAMONDS"

Agra D'Pirka Maggidei Shiur Speak Out

If Agra D'Pirka is one of the Torah world's great success stories, then its *maggidei shiur* are among the heroes of that story. They deliver their thought-provoking and well-prepared *shiurim* in various locations on a regular basis, and keep participants intrigued and engaged. It may not be easy to give a *shiur* for Agra D'Pirka, but most *maggidei shiur* will tell you it's one of the highlights of their week.

Agra D'Pirka is a morning learning program geared towards professionals, business owners, college students, retirees, and anyone else who wishes to increase his *limud haTorah*. The program runs from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at each of its eight locations. Those involved in Agra D'Pirka are singing its praises, and once they get started, they usually maintain a permanent commitment.

Rabbi Daniel Glatstein gives a *parsha/inyanei d'yoma shiur* at the Queens location. "The group is very diverse," he says. "We have retirees, college students, and people who go to work late in the day. They're all engaged and take it to heart. It's obviously a meaningful part of their lives."

Rabbi Glatstein's *shiurim* are available on Torah Anytime, and he says he's been randomly approached by people who recognize him when he travels. "Oh, you're the rabbi who speaks for Agra D'Pirka," they'll tell me. The program is definitely entering the consciousness of the community all over the world."

Rabbi Benzion Gips is amazed at the level of enthusiasm of participants in his Flatbush *shiur*. "In *Mishlei*," he says, "Shlomo *Hamelech* speaks about the Torah being more precious than diamonds. For many years, I wondered what he meant -- until I walked into Agra D'Pirka."

Every week, says Rabbi Gips, "I hand out sheets for my *shiur* on contemporary *halacha*. They're simple, typed sheets, nothing fancy. But I'm amazed at how the people hold on to them as if they were gems. That's when I understood the *Mishlei* about Torah being more precious than diamonds."

Rabbi Benzion Bamberger gives two Agra D'Pirka *shiurim* in Monsey. His morning *halacha shiur* at FountainView is well attended and his Monday evening *shiurim* on *Sefer Hachinuch* are attracting a dedicated crowd. "I enjoy it tremendously," he says. "There's a lot of enthusiasm. These are good people, many are *talmidei chachomim*. They ask questions that are *tzum zach*."

Rabbi Bamberger explores *halachos* both on a practical level and a "lomdishe" level. "The *oilem* really enjoys it," he says. "Some take notes and write

down every source. They're not just sitting and listening. They are alert and asking questions."

Rabbi S. Y. Gruenstein gives his *halacha shiur* in Boro Park, and says participants enjoy it because the topics are constantly changing. "Some were going out of their minds when they retired. But everything changed once they came to Agra D'Pirka. Now



they're doing a *mitzvah* and they're having tremendous *hana'ah*."

Rabbi Gruenstein's *shiur* is given in English, so it's easily understood by anyone. "We did a vote 10 years ago when we started, and most people preferred English. Of course, there's a little bit of Yiddish thrown in as well."

In Miami Beach, Rabbi Dovid Schoen gives a weekly *shiur* on *Choshen Mishpat* "to create a greater awareness of that topic." The *shiur* is interactive, and, he says, "there's a lot of enthusiasm. "In Miami Beach," he adds, "the crowd is diverse. Some are *talmidei chachomim*, others less knowledgeable. But they're all intelligent."

In every location, *maggidei shiur* sing the praises of the program and especially its participants. They may be living in different places, or are at different life stages, but they all share a special passion for Torah.

Agra D'Pirka offers special *shiurim* on legal holidays to accommodate those unavailable on a regular basis -- a wonderful way to join the program. Agra D'Pirka will be having special *shiurim* in six locations this Thursday, July 4. Attend a *shiur* and see for yourself the preciousness of Torah.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Acheinu Summer BBQ

On Tuesday, July 16, a Summer BBQ to benefit Acheinu will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Simcha Applegrad, at 1261 E 32 Street in Flatbush. The gourmet BBQ will feature entertainment by Eli Levin.

Acheinu is a kiruv movement dedicated to developing *bnei Torah*.

Kollel Zichron Shneur Celebrates Chanukas Habayis

The Monsey community is invited to join *gedolei Yisroel* at a *chanukas habayis* celebration for Kollel Zichron Shneur.

The event will be held on Sunday July 7 at 150 Remsen Avenue in Monsey. Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky and Rav Aryeh Malkiel Kotler will be participating.

Mincha is scheduled for 2:30 p.m., followed by *divrei brocha* from the *roshei yeshiva* at 2:50 and singing and dancing at 3:30.

Kiryas Yoel Resident Named Paramedic of the Year in Orange County

The Volunteer Ambulance Corps of Kiryas Joel responded to 350 advanced life support calls last year, most of them with paramedic Avrohom Flohr responding as supervisor. That's why Orange County has named Flohr as its ALS Paramedic of the Year. For 20 years, Flohr has been a dedicated member of Hatzolah, both in KJ and in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

The KJ Ambulance Corps is one of only a few volunteer advanced life support first responders in the county. Last year, it responded to mutual aid calls in various county locations, including Port Jervis, Wallkill, Tuxedo, and West Point.

Hamaspik Holding Ribbon-Cutting for New Boro Park Home

An organization that houses children with development disabilities held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday morning as it prepares to open its newest home in Boro Park.

Hamaspik hosted a *kvias mezuzah* and grand opening of its Shvesterheim in the group home's location at 1471 49th Street. It was followed by a festive meal at the nearby Khal Chassidim hall.

Torah Utefillah of Flatbush Holds Adopt-a-Kollel Renewal Shabbos

Bais Medrash Torah Utefillah of Flatbush, led by Rav Shimon Alster, held an Adopt-a-Kollel renewal *Shabbos* on *Shabbos Parshas Behaaloscha*. The *kehillah* has partnered with Kollel Shir Chodosh of Zichron Yaakov, led by *rosh kollel* Rav Aharon Yungerman. Rav Alster had a close *kesher* with the founding *rosh kollel*, Rav Sholom Yungerman.

On *Shabbos*, Rabbi Chaim Heller, Adopt-a-Kollel's coordinator for the New York metropolitan area, addressed the *kehillah*.



CATSKILLS NEWS

Yarchei Kallah Event at Sheldrake Hills

Kollel Yisroel V'Shimshon of the West Side will be having its 25th Yarchei Kallah event at the Beis Medrash of Sheldrake Hills (formerly Sheldrake Dorms), located off Route 52 in Loch Sheldrake.

On Thursday, July 4, Rav Boruch Mordechai Ezrachi will be speaking at 10:30 a.m. on the topic of *brochos*. On Sunday, July 7, Rav Don Blumberg will be speaking on the topic of *birkas haTorah* at 10:00 a.m., and Rav Yaakov Friedman will be speaking on *inyanei brochos* at 11:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served.

Catskills Hatzolah Saves A Life

The summer has barely begun, and Catskills Hatzolah is already hard at work saving lives.

On Sunday, Hatzolah volunteers rushed to a swimming pool at Camp Morris, answering an emergency call about a near drowning. The four-year-old girl was pulled out of the water, conscious and alert. Paramedics treated the patient, after which she was transported to Ellenville Medical Center for observation.

Catskills Hatzolah praised the quick action of the lifeguard on the scene and urges all camps and bungalow colonies to always keep a working phone at pool areas in case of emergency.

Rt. 17 Construction Work: Portion of Road to Be Closed by Day

Construction on the "17" will leave parts of the interstate highway closed to traffic during some of the morning hours until further notice.

One lane on each of the east- and west-bound directions on Rt. 17 between exits 125 and 126 will be closed from 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for construction, weather permitting. The lanes are in the town of Goshen and are near the Legoland amusement park.

Westbound lane closures will be cancelled by noon on Fridays.

Rebbe Helps Police Nab Motorcycle Suspect

The Nikolsburg Rebbe of Woodbourne helped local police in their efforts to apprehend a speeding motorcyclist who attempted to escape the area and eventually tried to fight the police when they caught up with him. The incident was witnessed by the *rebbe*, who immediately requested backup. Members of Shomrim were also involved in assisting the officers and the suspect was eventually taken into custody.

The *rebbe*, Rabbi Mordechai Jungreis, is the *rov* of the popular Congregation Bnai Israel located on Route 52 in Woodbourne. The *shul* is widely recognized as the busiest center for *minyanim* in the Catskill region.