

kabalah I'zecher nishmaso. "Let's all bring one friend to Agra Dpirka," he said. "It doesn't cost anything but it's priceless. And in this way we will all have a shutfus in this great Torah endeavor."

R'Ari Halpert is actively involved in coordinating the Monsey Agra D'Pirka programs. He saw this Melave Malka as a tremendous opportunity. "We thought it would be appropriate," says Ari, "to organize this event in tribute to Reb Sholom. He was with the Monsey program from the very start and he made significant contributions as an active member of the chaburah."

Ari had another goal in mind when preparing for this event. "About thirty people attend the program on a regular basis and it continues to grow. So we thought it would be helpful to create a level of community among the members. This was an opportunity for everyone to develop friendships, strengthen relationships, and share some social time together." Wives were invited to the Melave Malka and organizers were delighted to see that overwhelmingly they had decided to attend.

The Agra D'Pirka maggidei shiur in attendance, added an extra level of distinction to the event. Says Ari, "We were heartened to interact with the talmidei chachomim who give the shiurim." Agra

Dpirka's Executive members, R'Ezra Klein and R'Chaim Fuhrer, both from Brooklyn, joined as well. "It shows us just how committed they are in developing the program for us here in Monsey," Ari points out.

Indeed, Monsey is the home of the latest Agra D'Pirka innovation, a pilot program scheduled in the evening hours. That program, which started just a few weeks ago, is already making significant waves in the community. It's a wonderful opportunity for Torah learning, especially for those who aren't available during the day.

Rabbi Avrohom Braun gave divrei chizuk v'hisorerus. He spoke about the tremendous significance of Agra D'Pirka, emphasizing that those who have time during the day have no greater zechus than Talmud Torah. He encouraged the members of the program to recognize the value of this zechus. "And the noshim," he added, "are equal partners."

In fact, said Rabbi Braun, the word 'program' doesn't really do it justice.

"Agra D'Pirka," he suggested, "is not really a program. I would like to call it a Yeshiva."

For more information about Agra D'Pirka and its Monsey programs, call 212-661-9400.



*R' Eliezer Goldfischer speaking at the Monsey Agra D'Pirka Melave Malka*

