

SKVER PREPARES FOR MOMENTOUS HANOCHAS EVEN HAPINAH

BY DOV LEVY

Thousands of *chassidei* Skver the world over are looking forward to the laying of the cornerstone of the new Bais Medrash Tzemach Dovid in Shikun Skver.

Skver launched a multimillion dollar project to build a beautiful new *bais medrash* in the village of New Square after the current *bais medrash* became inadequate in accommodating the fast-growing *chassidus*.

Even on a quiet *Shabbos*, when the entire village *davens* together, there is insufficient room in the *bais medrash*. On *Yomim Tovim* and *Yomim Noraim*, when thousands of *chassidim* from all over converge on the *bais medrash*, there is surely not enough room.

The new *bais medrash* will be constructed in the heart of New Square right next to the current *bais medrash* and across from the home of the Skverer Rebbe. Several buildings were demolished to clear a huge area for the building, which will cover 150,000 square feet. The building will include a main *heichal*, several tiers of galleries, smaller rooms for weekday *minyanim*, a new *mikvah*, a *heichal haTorah*, and more.

The previous Skverer Rebbe *zt"l* famously threw himself into the daunting project of creating a *shtetel* for his *Chassi-*

dim, and then invested tremendous effort into the construction of the village's original *bais medrash*. Several years later, on 2 *Nissan* 5726 (1966), two years to the day before the *petirah* of the *rebbe*, a fire broke out in the *matzah* bakery in the basement and the resultant conflagration destroyed the *bais medrash*. It was a blow that troubled the *rebbe* to his last day, when he privately tasked his son and successor, the present Skverer Rebbe, with completing a new *bais medrash* building.

The new *bais medrash* served the community for the next 30 years. By then, it was so badly outgrown that its size was tripled. The building currently planned will expand on that many times over, becoming one of the largest sanctuaries for *tefillah* in the world.

The *hanochas even hapinah* of the new *bais medrash* will take place on 2 *Nissan*, the 51st *yahrzeit* of the previous *rebbe*, and the Skverer Rebbe will lay the first stones for the new building.

The event, this Sunday, April 7, will begin at 6:45 p.m., immediately before the annual *yahrzeit tish*. The traditional reciting of *Tehillim* for the *hanochas even hapinah* will take place at 5 p.m. this Friday, April 5, at the site of the future building at 18 Jefferson Avenue in New Square.

AGRA D'PIRKA'S SPECIAL PRE-PESACH YARCHEI KALLAH

BY MALKIE LOWINGER

It's well known that one should begin learning the *halachos* of *Pesach* 30 days in advance, but many people simply haven't managed to find an appropriate *shiur*. Agra D'Pirka is doing something about it. The celebrated Torah-learning program that has changed the lives of thousands is now offering a one-time evening *Yarchei Kallah* just in time for pre-*Pesach* learning.

The special program will be held on Sunday April 7 in three Agra D'Pirka locations. Knesses Bais Avigdor, located at 1720 Avenue J, will be featuring three outstanding *shiurim*. At 8:00 p.m., Rav Lipa Geldwerth will be speaking on the topic of "*Nisei Nissan*." At 8:30 p.m., Rav Aharon Kahn will discuss the *Arba'ah Bonim*. Rav Yisroel Ephraim's presentation begins at 9:15 p.m., on the subject of "*Kitniyos: An Agricultural Perspective*." The Flatbush program will be streaming live, thanks to the efforts of TorahAnytime.com.

The Flatbush program is sponsored by Ralph Hertzka of Meridian Capital, in memory of his parents, Esther Raasha *bas* Refoel and Rav Yaakov Yitzchok *ben* Nossan.

In Kew Gardens Hills, Rav Noach Oelbaum will speak at 8:00 p.m. at Khal Nachlas Yitzchak, located at 141-43 73rd Avenue on "*The Chiyuv of Havdoloh for Women B'Leil Haseder*," a topic that is especially relevant this year since *Pesach* falls out on *Shabbos*.

In Monsey, Rav Daniel Glatstein will be speaking at 8:00 p.m. in the Fountainview *shul*, located at 2000 Fountainview Drive, on the topic of "*The Pesach Seder; Creating the Geulah Sheleimah*." Rav Matis Stern will follow with a *shiur* entitled "*Matzah: Lechem Oni or Zecher Lecheirus?*" The Monsey program is co-sponsored by the Monsey Night Seder Bais Hame-



Rav Elya Brudny at Agra D'Pirka, Flatbush.



Rav Aharon Kahn at Agra D'Pirka, Flatbush.

drash.

Agra D'Pirka is a year-round organized morning *kollel* program for local professionals, business owners, college students, retirees, or anyone wishing to increase their *limud haTorah*, with programs in many communities across four different states.

For more information about Agra D'Pirka and the Pre-Pesach *Yarchei Kallah*, call 718 677 1377.

BNOS BRING PURIM CHEER TO SENIORS

Bnos Agudath Israel of America and Bnos Bikur Cholim (BBC) started their *mishloach manos* campaign on *Rosh Chodesh Adar*, when girls from 18 New York and New Jersey high schools packed up sugar-free hamantaschen and chocolate. Later, they delivered the senior-friendly goodies and *Purim* cheer to 32 local nursing homes.

For the seniors, it was pure joy to spend time with their enthusiastic and bubbly guests. Plus, receiving *mishloach manos* brought back warm memories of times gone by.

New for this year was an exciting collaboration with Bnos One on One, which matches middle school girls with high school "big sisters." Thanks to a grant from the Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivors Initiative, BBC connected Bnos One on One partners with survivors for personal visits. For *Purim*,

Bnos One on One pairs gave out *mishloach manos* packages to their survivor friends, dispelling some of their loneliness. It was a poignant reminder of the need to remember and perpetuate Holocaust history.

The *mishloach manos* campaign grows each year. Mrs. Chana Baila Hass, national director of Bnos, noted that many additional high schools participated this *Purim*. In fact, the initial order of 3,000 hamantaschen had to be upped to 4,500!

"We were literally swamped with phone calls from schools that wanted to join," said Mrs. Hass. "The girls' *ruach* is palpable. After *Purim*, we get phone calls from nursing homes asking if we can please bring the girls back again. And our Bnosers come away with the satisfaction of knowing they made a difference in someone's life."

YESHIVA TORAH VODAATH WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

BY VELVEL KOHN

Yeshiva Torah Vodaath will welcome a new General Studies Principal beginning September 2019.

Rabbi Yehuda Deutsch is an experienced *mechanech* and principal, completing his 15th year as a *rebbe* in Yeshiva Darchei Torah in Far Rockaway and his sixth year as principal of Yeshiva Karlin-Stolin. Rabbi Deutsch has a Master's Degree in Education and Educational Leadership from Azrieli Graduate Program at Yeshiva University, as well as certification in Educational Leadership from Bar Ilan University Educational Leadership Administration Initiative, sponsored by the Lookstein Center.

Rabbi Deutsch's experience will certainly aid in the smooth integration with the *yeshiva's* current *menahelem*, Rabbi Asher Sabo and Rabbi Shmuel Goldstein in the *yeshiva ketanah* and Rabbi Shlomo Stein in the *mechina*, who have built a program that is acclaimed by parents throughout Brooklyn.

Those who know Rabbi Deutsch, know him for his warmth and caring. In his role as the Assistant Head Counselor and Program Director of Camp Rayim for the past 18 years, he demonstrated his ability to inspire and motivate campers and counselors alike in a more



relaxed atmosphere.

Almost every conversation with Rabbi Deutsch includes a reference to his *rebbe*, Rav Yosef Elefant of Mir Yerushalayim. Rav Elefant is close to the *hanhalah* of Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and is involved in helping the *yeshiva* move into its second century of producing future generations of *talmidim*.

Earlier this year, the *hanhalah*, teachers, parents and students were saddened by the sudden passing of Mr. Yitzchok Fink, who led the General Studies Department of the *yeshiva ketanah* and the *mechina* for three and a half decades. Mr. Fink, a consummate professional educator, raised the level of the department to unprecedented heights, and Yeshiva Torah Vodaath earned its rightful reputation for having the premier program in the area.

With his untimely passing, the *yeshiva* began to search for someone who could continue the excellence that parents expect from Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, and maintain the constant education and growth they have become accustomed to.

"Yeshiva Torah Vodaath represents premier academic excellence," says Rabbi Deutsch. "I look forward to maintaining this track of excellence and sustaining it, as well as implementing strategies the students will need to face their future challenges. We hope to continue the trajectory of growth set in place so ably by Mr. Yitzchok Fink, *a"h*, and build our future on the solid foundation that he developed."