



## The Long Island Link



Photo Credit Ivan Norman

L-R: Rabbi Yechiel Spero and Rabbi Dovid Weinberger at the Mishmeres HaShalom event.

BY HENYA GORDON

### First Place for YOSS SET<sup>3</sup> Team

The Yeshiva of South Shore's Science Engineering Teamwork, Technology and Training (SET<sup>3</sup>) team was awarded First Place in the recent CIJE SET<sup>3</sup> Competition. The competition was held at the yeshiva, where the team included eighth-graders Jacob Minkin, Shlomo Graber, Eli Roth, Natan Samson, Zach Joseph, Yosef Halpern, Dani Grunstein, Zach Farrell and Adiv Cederbaum, and the team advisor, Mrs. Elisheva Pinsky, who competed against other local and regional yeshivos.

This year's competition was entitled "The Big Hill." Each school's team had to develop a solution that would advance an O-gauge train and its target cargo of 4 kg. from the floor to a height of 12 inches and back down again. This sounds simple enough, but trains work most efficiently along a horizontal plane; any deviation in height from that ideal creates major issues with regard to speed and torque, for which the students had to devise solutions. The YOSS team met weekly with Mrs. Pinsky to acquire the knowledge and background skills necessary for designing a winning solution.

Logic, analytical thinking, perspective, drawing on prior experience and, most important of all, perseverance, are among the abstract skills the boys have learned from their experience on the SET<sup>3</sup> Team. As Advisor, one of Mrs. Pinsky's responsibilities is to identify and coordinate the strengths and abilities of the individual boys and build on those talents to create a winning team.

In addition, the boys learn some of the laws of physics, calculating speed, simple machines, torque and mechanical advantage. Their parents are thankful for Mrs. Pinsky's efforts and inspiration as well, and Mrs. Pinsky is extremely proud of her students and all they have accomplished. "It was rewarding to see students take ownership and pride of their finalized project," said Mr. Daniel Winkler, Associate Principal of the middle school at YOSS.

CIJE is The Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education, under the direction of Mrs. Judy Lebovits. Mr. Joel Javitt is Supervisor of the Scientific Engineering Programs at CIJE



The Yeshiva of South Shore first-place winners.

and serves as mentor to the SET<sup>3</sup> advisors at participating schools. Mrs. Pinsky and the team members were pleased to welcome Mr. Javitt at their meetings, approximately every other week throughout the year. The YOSSSET<sup>3</sup> Team was awarded their First Place Trophies during the eighth-grade graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 9. *Yasher koach* to the entire team!

### 19th Annual Siyum At Yeshiva Derech Aysan

One of the highlights of being a Yeshiva of Far Rockaway parent or grandparent is attending the annual *siyum* and being a part of the *simchas haTorah* that is experienced at this occasion. This annual event draws family and friends to join a *siyum* and *seudas mitzvah* where high school and *beis medrash bachurim* celebrate the culmination of a year's worth of learning.

This year, on Sunday, June 9, Rosh Chodesh Tammuz, a grand celebration was held at the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway (Yeshiva Derech Aysan) on Hicksville Road, in the spacious gymnasium. This 19th Annual *Siyum Hamishnayos* was truly amazing, as more than 70 *talmidim* completed *maseches Kesubos* with *Rebbeim*, *Roshei Yeshivah* and families joining the *simchah*. The *nachas* felt by all the friends and relatives was surpassed only by the pride visible on the faces of the *talmidim* of the yeshiva and its *hanhalah*. Rabbi Aaron Brafman, *menahel* of the yeshiva, began the program by welcoming the many guests and thanking all those who were instrumental in bringing the *siyum* to fruition. Rabbi Brafman asked each *talmid* who was making a *siyum* to stand when his name was called so that recognition was given to all the *mesaymim*. A number of boys spoke and participated in the *Hadran* while the other *mesaymim* read the *Hadran* quietly from where they stood at their tables.

The guest speaker at the *siyum*, Harav Shalom Kamenetsky, was introduced by the *Rosh Yeshivah*, Harav Yechiel Perr, who told the audience about the close *kesher* between the Perr and Kamenetsky *mishpachos* that goes back many years. Rav Kamenetsky, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshiva Gedolah of Philadelphia, then spoke, offering *divrei chizuk v'brachah*. A delicious and beauti-

fully presented *seudah* was catered by Silver Creek Caterers, followed by the *leibidig* dancing that is a hallmark of Yeshiva of Far Rockaway *simchos*. *Mazel tov* to the *Rosh Yeshivah*, Harav Yechiel Perr and to the *menahel*, Rabbi



Rabbi Abraham Katz, JD, speaking at the Living Will Workshop.



Rabbi Aaron Glatt, MD, Assistant Rabbi, Anshei Chesed and Young Israel of Woodmere, at workshop.

Aaron Brafman, on the beautiful *simchah* of the *siyum*. *Mazel tov* also to all the *mesaymim* and their families, and a great *yasher koach* to the *Rebbeim* and *hanhalah* of the yeshiva, whose efforts make the yearly *siyum* possible.

### Cong. Shaaray Tefila Hosts Living Will Panel

The National Association of Chevra Kadisha and Congregation Shaaray Tefila recently joined to bring an informative program entitled "It's Time To Do the Living Will the Halachic Way" to our neighborhood. The program and sign-up event was held at Congregation Shaaray Tefila, where the speakers were: Rabbi Dovid Weinberger, *Mara d'Asra* of Congregation Shaaray Tefila; Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, Director of the Chevra Kadisha of the Vaad of Queens; Rabbi Aaron Glatt, MD, Assistant Rabbi at Anshei Chesed and Young Israel of Woodmere



Photo Credit Ivan Norman

Rabbi Aaron Brafman speaking at the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway *siyum*.

and Executive VP and CAO at Mercy Medical Center; and Rabbi Abraham Katz, JD, LLM, attorney, Katz Law Firm, PLLC, founder of JewishEstatePlanning.com. Following the speakers, light

well as *divrei brachah* by Rabbi Dovid Weinberger, *Mara d'Asra* of Congregation Shaaray Tefila. A CD of the program is available from Mr. Ivan Norman; call 212-461-0087.

### Tournament to Benefit Priority-1's Teacher Training Institute

On Thursday night, June 27, top Jewish athletes will compete in a 5-on-5 basketball tournament at the Aviator Sports Center. Eight all-star teams from Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Five Towns will battle for the championship crown and \$500 cash prize. The tournament will feature eight of the top basketball teams from the New York area. Several of the teams have won league championships in the various Jewish sports leagues, which are ongoing throughout the year.

All proceeds from this exciting event will be donated to the Priority-1 Teacher Training Institute, a dynamic program that provides young men with the training and guidance necessary to become expert *rebbeim* and leaders of the Jewish community.

This program, which is based in Bayswater, NY, is focused on giving young men the tools necessary to be expert *mechanchim*, by providing special training courses. The goal is to teach techniques beyond the standard classroom management and discipline methods taught elsewhere and to teach skills in detecting issues and challenges before they spiral out of control. The program also provides the training and experience to understand the issues and be able to address them through early intervention with students, families and schools. Today, there are *rebbeim* teaching in yeshivos around the country who have been a part of this program and are making a difference in guiding the next generation of young students to a successful education.

For more information about this unique competition or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please call: Effie Hoffman at 818-984-9969 or email [jdivisionhead@gmail.com](mailto:jdivisionhead@gmail.com).

To submit a *mazel tov*, an idea for the Rockaway riddle or news about important events in your school, shul or organization located in Far Rockaway or the Five Towns for the Hamodia, please contact Henya Gordon at [longislandlink@hamodia.com](mailto:longislandlink@hamodia.com).



Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, Director, Chevra Kadisha, Vaad of Queens, at the Living Will Workshop.



Rabbi Dovid Weinberger speaking at the Living Will Workshop.

refreshments were served, while staff members were available to answer questions and help fill out the EMES card, the Agudath Israel's "Halachic Medical Directive" and RCA's "Halachic Health Care Proxy." This event was co-sponsored by Boulevard-Riverside Chapels of Hewlett, NY. A CD of the program is available from Mr. Ivan Norman, who can be reached at 212-461-0087.

### Mishmeres HaShalom Program At Shaaray Tefila

On Wednesday evening, June 12, the Far Rockaway/Five Towns Committee of Mishmeres HaShalom proudly presented its fourth annual community-wide inspiring event in our neighborhood, at Congregation Shaaray Tefila. The event, entitled, "Building the World ... One Peace at a Time," featured Rabbi Yechiel Spero, noted lecturer and author of the *Touched by a Story* series, as