

Yeshivas Novominsk Kol Yehuda  
קול יהודה ישיבת נאומינסק

27<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Dinner

Call Today For Reservations  
Ad Deadline - May 22

GUEST OF HONOR  
**Mr. Shlome  
Chaimovits**

ATERES ZEKAINIM AWARD  
**Mr. Zev Drew**

ALUMNI AWARD  
**Rabbi Boruch  
Lichtenstein**  
**Rabbi Moshe  
Lichtenstein**

DINNER CHAIRMAN  
**Shmuel Chesir**

*Ateres Chaya Hall*

כ"ו אייר תשע"א - Monday May 30, 2011  
Reception 6PM Dinner 7PM

TO PLACE YOUR AD AND OR RESERVATION

PLEASE CALL: 718-438-2727 x.108 OR FAX TO: 718-438-2472

E-MAIL: [dinner@novominsk.com](mailto:dinner@novominsk.com)

## Monsey Matters

### Shabbaton for the Visually Impaired in Rockland County

BY M. C. MILLMAN

For the first time in its 85-year history, a pioneer pilot program for the visually impaired took place at The Vision Center on Blindness in Pomona, New York. The center, dedicated to the needs of the visually impaired, usually focuses on people in the five boroughs of New York City.

The Vision Center has summer camp sessions for individuals and families. It provides rehabilitation — helping people who attend to become more independent and to develop personal skills, as well as vocational and technological skills.

The sessions are geared toward adults and children who are visually impaired. There are sessions for adults and their families, for children with their families, for adults only, and for other relevant combinations.

However, until now, The Vision Center on Blindness has never done anything for the Orthodox population, who would have a difficult time attending the regular camp sessions.

Betsy Fabricant, a senior administrator, worked with *frum* parents of visually impaired children. She helped them write up a proposal for Orthodox families with visually impaired children.

The Vision Center was awarded a grant by the NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) for 20 children and their families to attend a kosher weekend hosted by The Vision Center for Blindness to provide rehabilitation and recreation.

Since there are only twelve family units available on premises, two *Shabbatons* were planned, one for higher-functioning children and one for those with multiple disabilities, which is tentatively scheduled for June 10.

Workshops were given on the following topics: *Advocacy for the Visually Impaired Child; How Best to Help the Visually Impaired Family Member; What to Do in an Emergency; How Braille Works; How to Best Guide a Visually Impaired Person; and more.*

Along with the families who attended, Rabbi Dovid Ribiat was on hand in case any *she'eilos* concerning *hilchos Shabbos* should

arise.

Rabbi Becker of Agudas Israel was involved from the beginning. He took care of planning, kashrus issues, providing the *sefer Torah* and *sefarim*, and arranging for cultural sensitivity training for the non-*frum* rehab staff who were there for the weekend.

Rabbi Nachum Lehman, the founder of Computer Sciences for the Blind (CSB), played a big part in making the event happen. Rabbi Lehman has transcribed *sefarim* into Braille: *Chumashim*, *Gemaras*, etc. He has done custom Braille orders when needed and has produced large-print *sefarim*. His computer programs include some that can read the requested *passuk* and the Rashi out loud.

In addition to the rehab staff's workshops, there were *frum* volunteers: Mrs. Rochel Yenty Bodek, a case manager at Ydei Chesed and advocate for children with special needs and her husband Mr. Bodek; Mrs. Jenny Jacobson, who works as a TVI (Teacher for the Visually Impaired) in Monroe public school; and Mrs. Edie Goldman, a TVI at the New York Institute in the Bronx, a special education school for the blind. They all gave workshops to the visually impaired children, their parents, and their siblings.

On Motzoei Shabbos there was a Lag BaOmer bonfire, complete with roasted marshmallows, music played by two dedicated *bachurim*, and heartfelt singing. "For any outsider looking in," one participant noted, "no one would realize that the *kesher* of such an obviously close-knit group had only been formed over the past Shabbos that they had shared."

For further information on this or any future events, contact Mrs. Rochel Yenty Bodek at [rachelbodek@aol.com](mailto:rachelbodek@aol.com).

*VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB) is a program of VISIONS / Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a private, non-profit rehabilitation and social service agency located in New York City. For more information on VISIONS programs, contact: Betsy Fabricant, Senior Administrator VISIONS / Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 500 Greenwich St., 3rd Floor, New York, NY, 10012 Phone: (212) 625-1616, ext. 124 Email: [bfabricant@visionsvcb.org](mailto:bfabricant@visionsvcb.org).*

#### Continued from page C35

spoke as well. Following the program, there was a question and answer session and an opportunity was offered to schedule private consultations.

#### Proposed 8.8% Budget Increase Vote Defeated

East Ramapo voters overwhelmingly rejected a \$200.5-million school budget for 2011-2012 that would have meant an 8.8% budget increase. Voting turnout was so heavy that people had to wait on line at eight out of ten polling places. The three *frum* candidates, Yehuda Weissmandl, Daniel Schwartz and Moshe Hopstein, were victorious by an average of 2,000 votes each. The election results ensured that the Board of Education will retain its *frum* majority.

#### Bikur Cholim Offering Ongoing Practical Parenting Workshops

The Bikur Cholim Center for Applied Psychology is offering Practical Parenting Workshops sponsored in part by the East

Ramapo Central School District. The workshops began on Tuesday, May 17, and will continue through July 5. They take place from 1-2 p.m. in the conference room of The Center for Applied Psychology (CAP) at 25 Robert Pitt Drive, Suite 101, in Monsey. The facilitators are Stephanie Hartman, Psy.D., and Yel Mayefsky, M.A. Workshops coming up:

June 7 - Setting Limits; Behavior Plans  
June 14 - Dealing with Noncompliance  
June 21 - Avoiding and Ignoring Misbehavior  
June 28 - Preventive Strategies and Review

July 5 - Wrap Up  
CAPS also provides individual psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults; couples and family therapy; psychopharmacology; health and wellness programs; school-based counseling; community education; and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

For more information or to register for the workshops, call (845) 425-6252, ext. 300.