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VOL. 13 NO. 48

24 ELUL 5773

נצבים-וילך

AUGUST 30, 2013

Israelis Line Up For Gas Masks



Under threat of attack from the U.S., Syria announced that it would in turn attack Israel. The population in Israel set out to get fitted for gas masks in case of an emergency. See Page 77

FROM THE EDITOR

BY LARRY GORDON

Election Choices

The long-discussed political season is about to reach its first peak, that is the September 10 primary day for selected important positions in New York City as well as here on Long Island. After 12 years and a shaky stability that was

Continued on Page 8

A Response To Tragedy

A Rosh Hashanah 5774 Message

BY RAV ARYEH Z. GINZBERG

For the past dozen or so years, the editor of this newspaper has asked me to write an article as an introduction to the yom tov season that would



Aaron Tepfer, a'h

Continued on Page 14

HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE

BY LARRY GORDON

Shuls On Rosh Hashanah

It is especially at this time of year that shuls everywhere will be filling up. So when I dwell on the idea of the Jewish New Year, my mind wanders in varied directions and is focused on prayer. When it comes to Rosh Hashanah, it seems that



Rabbi Yaakov Nayman, zt'l

Continued on Page 24

OFF TO ISRAEL!



Rabbi Yisroel Kaminetsky, menahel of DRS, saw his talmidim off as they were leaving for Eretz Yisrael. See Page 66

LIGHTING A BEACON OF HOPE

AHH Barbecue, September 1

BY ROCHELLE MARUCH MILLER

Avigdor's Helping Hand serves as a beacon of hope amid a sea of despair, a veritable lifeline for bereaved families in their darkest hours.

Continued on Page 26

LAWS OF ROSH HASHANAH

Halachic Musings

BY RABBI YAIR HOFFMAN

Erev Rosh Hashanah. We recite more *Selichos* on the day of *erev Rosh Hashanah* than on other days, because it is even more favorable for Hashem's forgiving our sins. Many people fast on *erev*

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on his face. He would pull his hand over his face, seemingly in an attempt to remove or deal with his troubling frustration about the matter. He often said it was an elongated hiddenness that reached back to the war years and the unfathomable and inexplicable death of so many. It stretched all the way to our modern times, that is our yearning for the presence of Hashem in our lives, our *davening* and beseeching Him to be good and kind to us, yet we often find a profound silence and a deeply mysterious concealment. Another one of his consistent messages to the shul was to "make sure that you are always needed." That way, Rav Noyman explained, you are somewhat indispensable down here on earth because others are depending on you.

In his late nineties, after all those decades of experience, having lost so much he still could not grasp what it was that Hashem was telling us by being so obscure and so still.

The rabbi *davened* at the front of the relatively small shul with such intensity. His presence for all those years after all that he had endured was a source of comfort, hope, and inspiration. Just being in his presence for all those years was a very special privilege.

I once saw a rather poignant billboard in Israel that read, "The Jewish future is in our past." It's a pithy little sentence but one that rings especially true at Rosh Hashanah. After all, we are indeed the sum total of our experiences. I suppose that it is that precious personal past that makes us who we are and allows us to act as a conduit to our children and grandchildren and somehow communicate to them what it was like to *daven* on Rosh Hashanah in the presence of greatness and all that was good with the world. At this time of year, all I have to do is close my eyes, which enables me to see it all so clearly. *Kesivah v'chasimah tovah* to all. ❖

Comments for Larry Gordon are welcome at editor@stjtc.com.

AVIGDOR'S HELPING HAND

Continued from Front Cover

Visit their website and you will surely be touched, as was this writer, by the many beautiful and heartfelt letters of appreciation from individuals and families who have been helped by this outstanding *chesed* organization.

Everything is done *b'derech kavod u'v'derech tzniyus*—with the utmost degree of respect and modesty. Every name of an individual or family helped by AHH has been deleted from any letters or documents appearing on their website. The following two letters speak volumes about AHH's exemplary efforts in helping orphans build *batei ne'eman b'Yisrael*.

"Dear Mr. Eli Glaser and the entire staff of Avigdor's Helping Hand," writes the grateful mother of a recently married daughter, "From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank everyone who made my daughter's wedding a beautiful possibility. Because of you and your generous gift, my daughter was married last

Wednesday with dignity and with her head held high. This would not have been possible without your generous help.

"I am in and out of the hospital, undergoing painful chemotherapy. Only with *chasdei Hashem* was I allowed to come out and take my daughter to her *chuppah*. . . . Being confined to the hospital, I was unable to shop for her and do all the things that a mother does with her daughter for her wedding. With your help, she was able to get a wedding gown and all the necessities for her big day. Words cannot express my feelings for your generous *chesed* and help. May Hashem always help you continue this important work. I know the difference it made in our lives. There is no one more deserving of your *chesed* than my daughter, who does so much *chesed* of her own. She thanks you also from the bottom of her heart. I pray for a recovery so that I may one day repay you for your kindness. In the meantime, I can only thank you again from the depths of my heart for allowing my daughter to get married with dignity and a wonderful start on a new life. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Sincerely, Mrs. R."

"To the incredible volunteers of Avigdor's Helping Hand," writes another grateful beneficiary: "Not long ago, I received a check in the mail. This was no ordinary check. Yes, it provided me with tremendous financial assistance I very much needed; however, this check gave me so much more than that. That tiny piece of paper brought a sense of relief and lifted a huge burden off my shoulders. There are no words to express how much *hakaras ha'tov* for every single person who has helped me through their dedicated efforts on behalf of Avigdor's Helping Hand. Making a Jewish wedding is no small feat. *Baruch Hashem*, I come from a very loving home, I have three younger siblings and, up until five years ago, two very loving parents. In July of 2008, my mother returned to her Creator at a very young age after a four-year battle with cancer.

"Needless to say, that left my family emotionally, physically, and financially depleted. My father does everything he can to provide for me and my three siblings. Unfortunately, wedding expenses are just out of his capabilities. A little over a year ago, my sister, *b'H*, got engaged. My father really had nothing to give and so I took it upon myself to find the much-needed finances. I wanted to make sure my sister wouldn't have to stress as a *kallah* and that my father would not have to feel embarrassed about being able to provide financially. *Baruch Hashem* for your incredible organization a huge load was taken off and I was able to hand my father a sizable amount of money to be able to help out with the wedding.

"I knew at that point that, *iy"H*, when my time came that there would be financial help out there for me. *Baruch Hashem*, this past March I became engaged to an incredible guy. My *chassan's* family was amazing when he explained my family's financial situation to them. They themselves are not wealthy in any way,

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yet they took on the financial burden upon themselves and told me not to worry about anything. As amazing as it was, it left me with a guilty feeling. It wasn't fair to leave the entire burden on them. When I received the call that Avigdor's Helping Hand would be providing me with \$5,000, I can't tell you the relief and happiness that flooded me. I was able to pay my in-laws back, even just a fraction of the money they have been spending on this wedding.

"The way that Avigdor's Helping Hand has dealt with me has been in such a pleasant and *kavodikeh* manner that I never once felt embarrassed or ashamed that I had to ask for financial help. To my knowledge, AHH is the only organization out there that helps provide actual financial assistance in making the wedding itself. I cannot tell you how much you have helped my family alone. I can only imagine how many other *chassanim* and *kallos* out there don't feel alone and abandoned, because of the effort every single one of you puts into the organization. Thank you a million times over for everything you have done for me and my family."

Avigdor's Helping Hand is a *chesed* organization like no other, whose essence is to render succor and emotional support during those first moments when tragedy strikes, *R'l*. Often, they are the first call a family makes when suffering the loss of a loved one, even prior to making funeral and burial arrangements. A disaster-relief fund, Avigdor's Helping

Hand has been picking up the pieces and rebuilding shattered lives one at a time.

Through its wedding program, the organization provides much-needed financial assistance to orphans who are approaching their *simcha*. All too often, however, what should be the happiest time of their young lives is, instead, marred by pressure and financial distress. Compounded by the loss of one or both parents, the poverty is compounded, creating an untenable situation. Avigdor's Helping Hand

extraordinary young man was a successful bankruptcy attorney at a prestigious Manhattan law firm.

Tragically, Avigdor was just 30 years old when he passed away, on September 29, 2005, leaving his family devastated. His *petirah* left a terrible void in the entire community. Overwhelmed though they were with grief, Avigdor's family and friends immediately sought to create a charity that would perpetuate his precious life and be a treasured legacy for this exemplary *ba'al chesed*. For Frumi,

Everything is done with the utmost degree of respect and modesty.

provides funds to qualified *yesomim*, thereby alleviating the anxiety that can distress their happiness.

Avigdor Glaser, *z'l*, was the very essence of a *ben Torah*. Adored by his wife Frumi and their three children and beloved by his parents and siblings, he touched the hearts of all who knew him. He was blessed with the ability to succeed in all of his endeavors; to know Avigdor was to love him.

After studying in Merkaz HaTorah in Eretz Yisrael, he pursued his undergraduate studies at Queens College, and then went on to Fordham Law School, where he graduated at the top of his class. Brilliant and gifted, yet unassuming and personable, this

the most fitting legacy to memorialize her beloved husband would be a *chesed* organization that would offer comfort to grieving families during a time of chaos and intense, unbearable pain. Thus was Avigdor's Helping Hand established.

We all know of families that have suffered the tragic loss of the primary wage-earning husband or wife, leaving the surviving spouse and children bereft and in unbearable pain. They are people whose lives have been similar to our own until tragedy struck, wreaking havoc on their lives.

For those who are left behind, the effects of such a loss are devastating: children bereft of their precious par-

ents, wives without their beloved husbands, and husbands without their cherished wives. Even before the economic impact begins to engulf them, the magnitude of their suffering is too much to bear.

Even in cases where insurance or governmental assistance are available, it may take weeks or months for these benefits to be processed and made accessible to the family. Avigdor's Helping Hand seeks to provide immediate emergency short-term financial relief to the families in our community who have suffered the recent loss of their primary breadwinner.

"Everything is done according to *da'as Torah*," Eli Glaser, Avigdor's father, told the *5TJT*. "Among the esteemed *rabbanim* who are our rabbinical advisors are Rabbi Noach Isaac Oelbaum, who is our *posek*, Rabbi David Weinberger, Rabbi Peretz Steinberg, Rabbi Yisroel Reisman, Rabbi Henach Savitsky, and Rabbi Yakov Friedman. We consult with them whenever a *she'eilah* arises."

Since its inception, Avigdor's Helping Hand has dispensed \$3.2 million, made approximately 485 weddings for orphans, and helped 125 qualified families who have suffered the tragic loss of a spouse. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, AHH dispensed \$20,000 to families who had been devastated by the storm in the affected communities of the Five Towns, Bayswater, Belle Harbor, and Sea Gate. Each applicant is required to submit two letters

Continued on Page 29

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AVIGDOR'S HELPING HAND

Continued from Page 27

with his or her application: one from their rabbi, the second from a *chesed* organization.

"Every application involves a very intense due diligence process," Eli explains. "We have established a committee to evaluate each applicant with the utmost degree of confidentiality and sensitivity. We step in immediately with a cash stipend to provide the spouse and family with financial support. Every application is reviewed with complete confidentiality, and all details are handled *b'derech kavod* and with dignity." Featured on the website is a *berachah* from the Bostoner Rebbe, *shlita*, who had advised a family to contact this outstanding organization. The money is discretionary and may be used to offset any expense such as food, housing costs, mortgage payments, child care, utility payments, etc. Every donation to Avigdor's Helping Hand goes directly and completely to providing emergency financial assistance to the families.


For the dedicated volunteers who give selflessly of themselves, AHH is a labor of love. "The devotion of our dedicated volunteers is immeasurable," Eli says. "They tell us how their lives have changed, of the tremendous *chizuk* they are getting as a result of being part of Avigdor's Helping Hand. Each of these wonderful young people is our partner. They are the reason, *b'ezras Hashem*, for our success. Because of them, every cent of your donation goes directly to help the widows and orphans. We have no overhead, Everything is done in its entirety by volunteers."

Each year, Avigdor's Helping Hand features a gala barbecue that is one of our community's most highly anticipated and successful events. You are cordially invited to enjoy an elegant evening of world-class cuisine by the inimitable Michael Schick and relaxing music at the Eighth Annual Avigdor's Helping Hand Gala Barbecue. The event will take place on Sunday, **September 1** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of David and Bilhah Moradi, 72 Muriel Drive in Lawrence. Always a not-to-be-missed event, this enchanting evening will feature an exciting raffle with upscale prizes.

Please show your support for this exemplary *chesed* organization by gracing the event of the year with your presence. To help AHH in any way or to obtain additional information please call 718-568-9720 or visit www.avigdorshelpinghand.org. *Tizku l'mitzvos!* ♦

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