



# AROUND NEW YORK

## ACHIEZER TO PRESENT SPECIALCARE+ EXPO FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY

On Tuesday, May 31, 2016, Achiezer will be hosting SpecialCare+, an innovative event featuring a vendor expo and workshops geared specifically towards the unique needs of the special needs community.

The event will take place in Congregation Beth Sholom, in Lawrence, New York, starting at six-thirty p.m.

The vendor expo and showcase will include organizations and professionals who work with the special needs community on a daily basis. Parents and caregivers will be given the opportunity to learn about the services and resources available to them.

The vendor expo will serve as a forum for participants to learn more about insur-

ance, legal services, education, emotional and medical support. Other products and services that will be featured include adult planning, advocacy, family resources, specialized equipment and extracurricular programs.

Additionally, the SpecialCare+ Expo 2016 will feature dynamic workshop presentations given by experts in the field. These breakout sessions will be divided into parallel sessions, each geared towards specific life stages.

Achiezer has been carefully planning the SpecialCare+ Expo for quite some time already. Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender, president of Achiezer, explained, "So many parents and caregivers are overwhelmed with the daunt-

ing task of figuring out which services and programs will be best for their children. In bringing all these resources together under one roof, we can help them learn how to best navigate the world of special needs."

After seeing the incredible success and tremendous positive feedback of its Eldercare Conference, which over the past few years has become known as the premier eldercare event for the Jewish community, Achiezer decided to follow this model and offer an event that would provide answers for those caring for children with special needs.

At the end of the event, each attendee will be presented with a valuable resource book. It will include a comprehensive listing of the

relevant resources available.

The SpecialCare+ Expo promises to convey a great deal of relevant, hands-on information that will help ease the burden of those with children who have special needs. Rabbi Bender remarks, "We're thrilled to be able to introduce this initiative as a source of resources, information and support. We are hopeful that SpecialCare+ Expo 2016 will be a real success, and will truly provide the relief that so many are seeking."

For more information about the SpecialCare+ Expo 2016 or any of Achiezer's programs and resources, please call 516-791-4444, email [specialcare@achiezer.org](mailto:specialcare@achiezer.org), or visit [www.achiezer.org/specialcare](http://www.achiezer.org/specialcare).

## HASVIVA FLATBUSH UPCOMING MEETING

Hasviva Flatbush is a women's peer support and networking group dedicated to sharing workplace challenges and achievements to maintain perspective, gain awareness, and empower members to navigate spiritual workplace challenges and foster personal development.

At the initial meetings, participants shared motivation for joining and workplace challenges. Participants mentioned social challenges, religious bias, and the capacity to dissociate effective assertiveness from aggressiveness. They also focused on constructive workplace social interaction benefits and

improper socializing hazards, and career development while maintaining standards and the related difficulties women face. Understanding workplace interactions implications is essential for maintaining proper balance.

The upcoming meeting will feature Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lief, who will answer *shailos*.

The meeting will be held *motzoei Shabbos*, May 21st at 10:15 p.m., at 1123 East 13th St. Newcomers are welcome.

For information about joining a group, or for access to Hasviva's past teleconferences, call 845-263-9679 or email [info@hasviva.org](mailto:info@hasviva.org).

## FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL DINNER OF YESHIVA SH'OR YOSHUV

BY LIBA LIEBERMAN

Molding a nation takes place one person at a time. Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv's legendary founder and *rosh yeshiva*, Rav Shlomo Freifeld *zt"l*, deeply understood the implication of that truth and opened Sh'or Yeshuv using the principle from *Mishlei* 22:6: *Educate a young man according to his way, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* At the time of its opening, the *yeshiva* was a haven for unconventional *yeshiva* students and assimilated youths, both of whom were drawn to the *rosh yeshiva's* warmth and vast Torah erudition. That compelling combination of being warm as well as being a *talmid chochom* became the trademark of Sh'or Yeshuv's *rabbeim* and continues to this day as one of the great hallmarks of the *yeshiva*. The upcoming forty-ninth annual dinner of Sh'or Yeshuv Institute, to be held on June 6 on the *yeshiva* campus, will celebrate the *yeshiva's* continuity of purpose with the theme "The Legacy Lives On." The dinner will mark the twenty-fifth *yahrtzeit* of its beloved founder and *rosh yeshiva*.

All those decades ago, Rav Freifeld came to Far Rockaway as a *rebbe* at Yeshivas Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin, which for a short period of time relocated to the peninsula. When Chaim Berlin decided to return to Brooklyn, Rav Freifeld discussed with his *rosh yeshiva*, Rav Yitzchok

Hutner *zt"l*, the idea of forming a new *yeshiva* with a number of his students who he felt would benefit from a smaller and more personal approach to *limud haTorah*. Rav Freifeld opened Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv with eighteen of his own students whose spiritual needs were embedded in his own heart. It became known that a new kind of *yeshiva* had opened in Far Rockaway. Soon, assimilated and disaffected *yeshiva* youth began showing up on the *yeshiva's* doorstep. Following the educational philosophies of his own *rebbe*, Rav Hutner, Rav Freifeld set in motion an example of reaching out by reaching in that has been copied many times throughout the world. It worked then and it works now.

Today's *bochurim* at Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv speak with the same fondness and appreciation for the *yeshiva* that characterized its earliest *talmidim*. Ariel Sonnenblick explains, "The closeness and *varmkeit* of the *yeshiva* allow for growth. The *rosh yeshiva* makes himself available."

The respect for each *bochur's* individuality is seen in this *yeshiva* member's reflections.

Binyamin Safrin points out, "Sh'or Yeshuv is very open. You are led in the right direction, but you can be who you are. There are guys here from all over the world, from Brazil, from France. You're learning with guys who are often more advanced than you are in learning. It's

both challenging and inspirational. That's what Sh'or Yeshuv is. People who want to learn are here because they want to learn."

Of course, the biggest draw are the *rabbeim* themselves. They are the living embodiments of the philosophy of inclusion and warmth to be celebrated at the upcoming dinner. *Yeshiva* member Leon Mayer shares, "There are great *rabbeim* at the *yeshiva*. The warmth that was always the trademark of Sh'or Yeshuv is the main draw to go here as opposed to anywhere else." As is the learning itself, as poignantly expressed by another member of the *yeshiva* community, Andy Stimmel: "The learning is so deep. Having a *yeshiva* that is friendly and warm is a plus, but we're here to learn Torah. That's the *ikkar*. When you join the *shiurim* and speak with the *rabbeim*, that's even better than the warmth. That's the real warmth."

At this year's dinner, Rabbi and Mrs. Avraham Mordechai Freifeld will receive the Mesores HaTorah Award. Rabbi Freifeld is upholding his esteemed father's vision as *rosh kollel* of Yeshiva Cheshek Shlomo in Yerushalayim, spiritually guiding members of his *bais medrash* with the same warmth and respect for each *bochur's* individuality that characterizes Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Gladstone are the recipients of the Kesser Shem Tov Award. Andy is a

valued alumnus who has served as the *yeshiva's* loyal *gabbai* for many years.

The Harbotzas Torah Award will be given to Rabbi and Mrs. Zev Bald, loyal *kehillaj* members who are not only deeply valued within the *yeshiva*, but are also well-known for their caring efforts for all of *Klal Yisroel*.

The dual values of honoring Torah while also honoring individuality were the *yeshiva's* original *raison d'être* and have remained its guiding principle throughout decades of growth and expansion. The types of students have changed and will continue to change as the needs of *Klal Yisroel* grow in an ever challenging world. What has remained constant throughout the years are the open doors of Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv, whose *rabbeim* are ready and willing to teach Torah to anyone prepared to commit himself to *limud haTorah*. The range of *talmidim* continues to include seasoned *yeshiva bochurim* as well as newly-minted *baalei teshuvaj*, all of whom merge into a single unit of committed *bonei Torah* within the *yeshiva*. They come to be molded into new and better *Yidden* in the expert hands of Yeshiva Sh'or Yeshuv's *rabbeim* and remain with these *rabbeim*, some for decades, as they evolve.

To make a dinner reservation or place an ad, call 516.239.9002, ext. 102, or email [admin@shoryeshuv.org](mailto:admin@shoryeshuv.org)