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Making The Grade: Regents Success—The Premier Prep Program For Scoring Higher

By Rochelle Maruch Miller

That Regents Success is the prep program of choice of high-school students and their parents is not surprising. Coordinated by Eddie Martin, an educator par excellence who established the program twenty years ago, Regents Success has helped thousands of high-school students throughout the Five Towns and Brooklyn prepare for and score high on the New York State Regents exams.

So successful is this superb program that Mr. Martin begins receiving inquiries regarding registration for the courses offered as early as in November. At Regents Success, mediocre scores are never an option. Every one of the courses offered features six hours of intensive topic-by-topic review with an emphasis on key questions. Regents Success provides students with a comprehensive review of all topics, as well as test-taking strategies to help students maximize their scores.

To fully prepare students for each of the three New York State Regents examinations in mathematics, Regents Success offers 6-hour intensive prep courses in Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and Math B. The Living Environment, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics courses are outstanding in scope, as are those offered in Global History, Geography, U.S. History and Geography, as well as English.

"Every one of our teachers is New York State licensed and certified," Mr. Martin said. Each teacher is a consummate professional and is an expert in the subject and Regents examination material he or she teaches. Prior to teaching their respective courses, all of our teachers spend months of prep time familiarizing themselves with the details and intricacies of the most recent Regents exams. All of our teachers return year after year and each one is an integral part of the Regents Success team, working in tandem to maximize every student's score. Two of the math regents curricula have recently undergone drastic changes; our teachers have written the Regents exams and are eminently qualified to prepare our students for Regents success. In addition to teaching their respective topics and test-sophistication skills, our teachers infuse their students with a sense of confidence and truly prepare them for Regents success."

Regents Success prep courses

are given at HAFTR High School and at their Brooklyn center at Yeshivah of Flatbush Elementary School. Advance registration is requested and advised; walk-ins are accepted. To register for Regents Success, please call Mr. Eddie Martin at 516-568-7996 or Mr. Rader at 888-955-5700 between the hours of 6:00-10:00 p.m. Please see their ad on page 36 for course dates. ❖

Historic Turnout For Achiezer's Second Annual Far Rockaway Event

By Chaia Frishman

Chani B. just didn't have enough time. The 25-year-old mother did not lack hours because she was busy tending to her three young children. Nor was she too wrapped up in her

job as a speech therapist. Chani B. had to undergo brain surgery in order to survive. The moments flew past her as her family, friends, and even local doctors desperately sought a way to pay the specialists. It was doubtful that an emergency fundraiser would collect the \$70,000 necessary.

Time was running out.

This past Memorial Day, in an overwhelming showing, nearly 500 members of the Far Rockaway community took time out from their evening to gather and reflect on the incredible work that Achiezer has done for over 900 families since September 2010. Hosted in the beautiful home of Rabbi and Mrs. Zvi Bloom, the barbecue was an appropriate cele-

bration of Achiezer's tremendous growth.

Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender founded Achiezer over two years ago. He began the program by pointing out that in *Bamidbar*, last week's *parashah*, each Jew in *Klal Yisrael* was counted through the donation of half a shekel. "Because" as Rabbi Bender noted, "a Jew is never whole when others are in need." To that end, he presented the *hakaras hatov* award to Mr. Phil Goldfeder, director of international affairs in Senator Charles Schumer's office. Rabbi Bender thanked him for all his constant assistance in making sure that others in need are taken care of with alacrity and professionalism. In turn, Mr. Goldfeder said that he wished to

thank Achiezer for all the help they give the community.

The word help encompasses many things in the Achiezer office. It means dignified mental health support, eldercare programs, financial aid, hospital support and patient advocacy, and, of course, insurance assistance.

Which is where Achiezer came in to help Chani. As soon as the case was brought to Achiezer's office, they went to work. Hundreds of e-mails and calls were exchanged between insurance companies, hospitals, and New York State government offices. Achiezer appealed directly to the heads of the insurance companies, and vari-

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ous officials. Achiezer staff members went so far as to rush to Manhattan in order to meet the executive director of the insurance company, on his way home from the office.

Just 72 hours before the surgery was scheduled to take place, faxes and e-mails began to buzz, and with true *siyata diShmaya*, the insurance was approved, leaving Chani time to go through the surgery with a promise of a normal future.

It is not just the services that they provide, it is the real people that they help and the lives that they change—families are kept intact, anxiety is relieved, dignity is preserved, crisis is averted. People are given peace of mind knowing that there is a caring expert at their side to help through their difficulty.

Rabbi Yissachar Frand lauded the work of Achiezer noting that they are the “One Stop Shopping” of organizations because, regardless of the complexity or nature of the issue that may arise, Achiezer’s vast resources are always ready to respond. Achiezer acts as a triage when an existing resource is there, and become interventional when a service is needed to be provided. This saves time and resources for our community.

Time is precious. Every moment is an opportunity and gift from Hashem. With the amazing work of Achiezer and its current bank of over 110 volunteers, Achiezer minimizes the stress of those who seek its help. Achiezer is not only a timesaver, it’s a lifesaver. ❖



L-R: Rabbi Yissocher Frand, Rabbi Shmuel Bloom, Rabbi Zvi Bloom, Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender, Rabbi Yaakov Bender, and Rabbi Elchonon Zohn at the Achiezer event.



Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender, Baruch Chiya Aryeh, and Rabbi Zvi Bloom, host of the event.

DRS HALB Honors Students Who Serve

On Lag B’Omer, the DRS HALB Yeshiva High School for Boys held its inaugural Nedivei Lev Service Society induction ceremony. The society, which recognizes those DRS students that have shown exemplary service to their school and community, was developed earlier this year as part of a multiyear partnership with Yeshiva University’s Institute for University School Partnership, part of the Azrieli Graduate School for Education. The Institute’s RUACH program, designed to research and improve levels of “Religious Purposefulness” among Modern Orthodox high school students, provided a variety of resources to DRS, including tools for the school to do a self study and better understand the mindset of current students. Additionally, noted education and mental health professionals, including Institute Director Dr. Scott Goldberg and Dr. David Pelcovitz, have worked with the DRS administration to develop programs and strategies to promote growth among the students.

The Nedivei Lev Service Society was one of the programs developed in consultation with Yeshiva University, and it began this year as a pilot program for the current graduating class of DRS. The induction ceremony honored 13 members of the senior class who have served their school and larger community with distinction. The ceremony was attended by the entire student body, as well as faculty and parents. Rabbi Kenneth Hain,

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A black and white photograph of a young boy and girl standing together. The boy is on the left, wearing a light-colored suit and white shoes. The girl is on the right, wearing a light-colored dress and white shoes. They are surrounded by a large pile of white flower petals on the floor. The background is dark and out of focus.

Capturing the moment...

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Danny Fischman
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AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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rav of Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence, served as the keynote speaker, and he praised the students for their

commitment to serving others. What made the program truly unique was the participation by some of the recipients of the *chesed* done by the DRS students. Mr. Faivy Fuchs, a neighbor of the yeshiva with limited mobility, presented

induction certificates to seniors Max Ottensoser, Yoni Pollock, and Daniel Genachowski. He thanked the boys for coming to his home each and every day to help him put on his *tallis* and *tefillin*, and in doing so, developing a strong

friendship with him as well. Mrs. Anet Kaufman and Mrs. Dina Intrator of Chai Lifeline's iShine program for siblings and children of those fighting cancer, commended Benji Renov and Mordechai Aryeh on their exemplary leadership and



Some of the DRS students receiving their induction certificates.

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selflessness in working with the children on the program. Mr. Gideon Bari, formerly of the Eliezer Project, presented induction certificates to Elliot Samimi, Ilan Portnoy, and Mayer Schein, in honor of their hard work raising money and distributing food to those in need as part of the DRS Tomchei Pesach program. DRS faculty members Mr. Daniel Stroock and Rabbi David Friedman presented certificates to Jared Bruh and David Freilich, editors of the yearbook and *D'varim Hayotzim Min Halev Torah* publication, respectively. David Shetrit was honored by Mr. Steve Gormley for his service to the school and community by coordinating several blood drives, and Adi Pasternak was honored by Rabbi David Shenker, director of JEP, for his hard work in reaching out to unaffiliated Jewish youngsters. Finally, Mr. Elan Shimmel honored Aryeh Bodner for his efforts in raising funds to find a cure for the disease Familial Dysautonomia (FD). Mr. Shimmel, whose daughter suffers from FD, expressed his profound thanks for Aryeh's determination and leadership, and for setting an example for others to follow.

DRS *menahel* Rabbi Kaminetsky noted that all of the participants and guests were profoundly moved by the event: "Having the beneficiaries of our students' *chesed* programs here today has shown all of our students that when they give of themselves, they can absolutely change another person's life." DRS Director of Student Activities Rabbi Eli Brazil, who coordinated the creation of the society and organized the induction ceremony, noted that "this program is important not only because it gives recognition to those who have devoted their energy to helping others, but it also serves as an inspiration for our younger students to hopefully follow in the footsteps of these student leaders in giving back to the community. We are grateful for Yeshiva University's help and support in coordinating this program, and we look forward to continuing to partner with them to help our students realize their potential." ❖

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