



Ezer Mizion: A Hand in the Dark And in Time of Crisis...

They came regularly with a burning desire to help, almost never missing their scheduled day. It was not honor that pushed them to don hot, uncomfortable “spacesuits” and go from bed to bed dispensing compassion that would bring a rare smile to the faces of their patients. For some, it was dialing the phone number of a family member so that they could hear the voice of a loved one. For others, a drink when they had lain there for hours, unable to procure a glass of water, or perhaps it was a delivery of goodies baked especially for the patient by a loving daughter. Or silently holding the hand of a patient on a ventilator. And for too many, it was saying *Shema* and *Vidui* as their *neshamos* ascended with no family member able to be there.

It was not honor that drove these dedicated Ezer Mizion volunteers, but now, as the situation eases, it was others who felt a powerful desire to honor them, to acknowledge the impact of the Ezer Mizion volunteers on the national disaster.

Rabbi Chananya Chollak, founder of Ezer Mizion, together with the Ezer Mizion senior staff members and branch directors, was invited to the Knesset for a ceremony and national recognition with MK Moshe Gafni, chairman of the Knesset’s financial committee. Yisroel Yeret, director of the Ezer Mizion Yerushalayim branch, and Moshe Hillel, the activity coordinator, were honored with a certificate for their selfless devotion, caring and professionalism during the Covid

crisis, assisting all those in need throughout the pandemic.

Another prestigious ceremony was held at



the Asaf Harofeh Hospital in Be’er Yaakov. During the thick of corona, Ezer Mizion

worked alongside hospitals across the country recruiting and training people who had recovered from Covid to assist in the corona wards with whatever necessary to ease the workload of the nurses and medical staff. Even such basics as feeding patients and bringing drinks could not be handled by the overloaded staff. The Ezer Mizion volunteers literally saved lives.

•••••

Ezer Mizion provides services to over 660,000 of Israel’s population annually, in addition to its Bone Marrow Registry, which saves the lives of Jewish cancer patients the world over.

For further info, call 718. 853.8400 or visit www.ezermizion.org.

Klal Yisroel Celebrates Legal Holidays with Agra D’Pirka

BY EZRA BEN AVRAHAM

Americans traditionally celebrate the Fourth of July with barbecues and fireworks, but *Klal Yisroel* has other priorities, utilizing legal holidays as opportunities for increased Torah study. And Agra D’Pirka, the morning Torah study program, provides *shiurim* by esteemed *maggidei shiur* during legal holidays as well as all year long.

On Sunday, July 4, a special program will be held to accommodate the many Agra D’Pirka participants vacationing in the Catskills. At 10:00 a.m., Rav Noach Isaac Oelbaum, *rov* of Khal Nachlas Yitzchok and one of Agra D’Pirka’s founders, will be speaking at the Lake Forest *beis medrash* in South Fallsburg, introducing fascinating insights for *Tisha B’Av*. His *shiur* will be followed at 10:45 a.m. by Rav Bentzion Gips, who will speak on the subject of the International Dateline and the Northern Circle in *halacha*.

The upstate *shiurim* present an outstanding opportunity for anyone in the area. Nes-

tled among the rolling hills and scenic views of the Catskills, the Lake Forest *bais medrash* is a perfect venue for these exceptional *shiurim*.

The legal holiday program will continue



Rav Noach Isaac Oelbaum delivering an Agra D’Pirka *shiur*.

on Monday, July 5, in two Lakewood/Jackson locations and in Flatbush. Rav Yochanan Metzger, *rov* of *bais medrash* of Jackson, will speak on the topic of “Keeping One’s Word in Business,” at 10:15 a.m. His *shiur* will be followed by Rav Micha Cohn, *rov* of *bais medrash* of Oakly Hills, at 11:00 a.m.,

who will discuss *shailos* about technology on *Shabbos*. This program will be held in the *bais medrash* of Jackson at 146 South New Prospect Road.

A second program will be held at Congregation Kol Chaim on 618 Caranetta in Lakewood. Rav Chaim Meir Roth, *rov* of Sterling Forest, will speak at 10:15 a.m. on the topic of “Keeping Your Words Truthful: The *Issur*



Rav Aharon Kahn delivering an Agra D’Pirka *shiur*.

of *Sheker*.” His *shiur* will be followed by Rav Chaim Weg, *rosh kollel* of Bais Hava’ad L’inyonei Choshen Mishpot, at 11:00 a.m., who will discuss “*Aveilus* on the *Churban*.”

A program is also planned for the Flatbush community on July 5 to be held at Knesses

Bais Avigdor. The morning will begin with a *shiur* by Rav Yisroel Ephrati on the topic of “*Churban* and *Geulah* in *Sefer Yirmiyohu*” at 10:15 a.m., followed by Rav Reuven Scheinberg, *rov* of Kehillas Orach Chaim, at 11:00 a.m., who will discuss the question of “How is it possible to mourn the *Churban* without having personally experienced it?” A third *shiur* at 11:45 will feature Rav Aharon Kahn, *rov* of Knesses Bais Avigdor, who will speak about the “Three Weeks Concept of *Bein Hametzarim*.”

All Agra D’Pirka programs will be livestreamed at TorahAnytime.com, but those who are able to attend in person will be enriched and delighted with the length and breadth of Torah knowledge they will experience.

For more information about Agra D’Pirka and its programs in Flatbush, Queens, Lakewood, Boro Park, Williamsburg, Baltimore, Monsey, Miami, West Palm Beach, and Boca Raton, call 212-661-9400 or visit agradpirka.org.

TORAH UMESORAH’S “DIVERSE LEARNERS INITIATIVE”

BY SHMUEL FLEISHER

Torah Umesorah’s Diverse Learners Initiative (DLI), with the generous sponsorship of the Karfunkel family, has committed to meet the needs of every child in the mainstream classroom by training a qualified learning specialist in each school who will oversee the tutoring, services, and assessments taking place, ultimately affecting every student in the school.

At the conclusion of the first two years of the DLI program, participating and prospective schools were invited to the DLI “*Shabbos* of *Chizuk*” over the weekend of *Parshas Chukas* at the Holiday Inn in Stamford, Connecticut.

Participants got to interact with DLI directors, Mrs. Rivky Perlow and Rabbi Chaim Wein, and the staff in attendance. Presenters of DLI training, including

Rabbi Dr. Aharon Hersch Fried, Rabbi Dr. Zev Brown, and Dr. Shmuel Mandelman, clinical director of DLI, delivered training sessions over the weekend and were available for consultations. A panel on *Shabbos* afternoon with Rabbi Dr. Brown, Rabbi Avraham Y. Altusky, and Rabbi Simcha Sussna, gave practical suggestions for common classroom dilemmas surrounding weaker learners, social skills deficits, and attentional difficulties.

For many participants, the weekend provided an opportunity to reflect on all they have accomplished over the past years, and a chance to consolidate what they learned in their 20 training sessions held over the school year. The *DLI Toolbox*, a publication of remediation strategies and ideas, provided insights to take back to their schools and share with their staffs.

Most importantly, participants spent *Shabbos* in the company of *roshei yeshiva* who addressed the event. Rav Elya Brudny of Mir Flatbush set the tone with his charge after *Kabbolas Shabbos*. Rav Aharon Dovid Goldberg, *rosh yeshiva* of Yeshivas Telz Cleveland, joined Rav Brudny for a Q&A session on *Shabbos* afternoon. Participants had submitted their questions in advance, and the *roshei yeshiva* provided direction on a range of issues. TU’s *menahel*, Rabbi Dovid Nojowitz, addressed the audience as well.

Rabbi Ahron Kaufman, *rosh yeshiva* of Yeshiva Ateres Shmuel of Waterbury, spoke of his personal experiences with *bochurim* on whom others might have given up. He told of a time *rabbeim* came to tell him that a certain *bochur* needed to leave the *yeshiva*. They gave their ultimatum — either him or them. Rabbi Kaufman read

to them from the *Igros Chazon Ish* and ultimately, they agreed that there might be hope. In that case, asked Rabbi Kaufman, whom should he throw out? The *bochur*, or the *rabbeim* who could not figure out how to work with him?

On Sunday morning, Rabbi Shlomo Goldberg, principal of Yeshiva Aharon Yaakov-Ohr Eliyohu of Los Angeles and trainer in the TU Aish Dos Principals’ Training, helped the DLI learning specialists conceptualize their role in the school. He offered leadership suggestions and provided practical ideas from his school on how DLI’s mission could be brought to fruition within the regular school environment.

The networking, collaboration, and *chizuk* left participants charged and invigorated, ready to help their schools reach every child.