

#### Upcoming events...

A TIME, an organization for couples experiencing infertility, is holding its bi-annual medical conference this coming Sunday at Lander College, locat-ed at 227 West 60<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan.

The full-day conference will bring together hundreds of Jewish couples, dozens of medical specialists, and rabbinic experts trained in this field. In addition to the many lectures and workshops, lunch will be served and attendees will have the opportunity to meet with different exhibitors, representing fertility centers and pharmacies.

The keynote addresses will be given by Drs. Owen Davis and Peter Schlegel of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at Cornell University, Dr. Richard Scott of RMA NJ, and Dr. Lawrence Grunfeld of RMA NY.

Rabbi Tzvi Flaum, mashgiach ruchani and professor of Judaic Studies at Touro's Lander College for Women and a rabbinical consultant for TIME, will give the rabbinic address.

Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call 718-686-8912, ext. 205, email events@atime.org, or visit www.atime.org.

\* \* \*

Ohel Children's Home & Family Services, Americare and Senior Care will host a free seminar on Tuesday, June 5, entitled "You're Getting Older – Now What?"

Speakers include Fran Silverman, LCSW of Beth Israel Hospital; Pinny Heller of Senior Care; Harriet Blank, LCSW of OHEL; and Lawrence Gabe, Esq. of Jankoff and Gabe.

The seminar starts at 7 p.m. at Mercaz Hasimcha at 1898 Bay Avenue in Brooklyn. Call 718-972-9338 for more information.

\* \* \*

Professor Richard Stone, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at the 38th Annual Commencement Exercises of the Lander Colleges on Sunday, June 10, at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center.

Stone is a lifelong Jewish activist. In the 1970s he lobbied for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment calling for free emigration of Soviet Jews. He is a senior leader at the Jewish Community Relations Council and spent 10 years as head of the Institute for Public Affairs at the Orthodox Union. Stone is a longtime board member of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, The Hebrew Loan Society and the America-Israel Friendship League. He is also in his

second term as chairman of the National Conference for Soviet Jewry.

#### \* \* \*

The Young Israel of Avenue K will host "Coverage Of The Iran Threat: What We Can Do For Israel's Security" on Monday, June 11, at 8 p.m. Eli Ovits, TIP Israel's Director of Communications, The Israel Project, is the guest speaker. The program is free; refreshments will be served. The shul is located at 2818 Avenue K in Brooklyn.

#### \* \* \*

The Jewish Community Council of Marine Park will host Rabbi Paysach Krohn as its scholar-in-residence on Shabbos Parshas Shelach, June 15-16. His first address, "Reaching Upward and Searching Outward," will take place following the Friday night seudah, at 9:15 p.m. at Khal Bais Mordechai (3301 Avenue P). On Shabbos morning, at Khal Bnei Torah (3523 Avenue S), Rabbi Krohn wil speak on "Tefillah – Making a Connection." On Shabbos afternoon, at 4:30 p.m., he will speak to women on chinuch, "Passing the Flame From Generation to Generation" at Khilah Marine Park (3605 Quentin Road). Finally, at 6:15 p.m. at Khal Tiferes Avrohom (4012 Avenue P), Rabbi Krohn will speak on "iPod, iPad, iPhone -From Self-Involvement to Self-Improvement."

#### \* \* \*

Yeshiva & Mesivta Torah Vodaath will hold its 93rd annual dinner on Sunday, June 17, at The Palace in Brooklyn. "Where Legendary Leadership Begins" is the theme of the evening, as the yeshiva focuses on the role it has played in the development of *Yiddishkeit* over the last 100 years.

Rav Yitzchok Scheiner will receive the Kesser Torah Award. Rosh yeshiva in Kaminetz in Israel, a chaver Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah and a close talmid of Rav Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz, zt"l, Rav Scheiner will be traveling to America specifically to accept this award and help the yeshiva during these difficult economic times.

Other honorees include Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Cywiak, Mr. and Mrs. Moti Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Avrumi Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Dovid Stahl, and the Class of 1987. The Yovel Class of 1962 will receive an award marking 50 years of devotion to the community. And the Class of 1952 will celebrate 60 years of service to *klal yisrael*.

The deadline for journal ads is Sunday, June 10. For further information, contact the yeshiva's dinner office at 718-941-8000 ext. 205 or dinner@torahvodaath.org.

### Inspiring Book Hits The Market

We have always thought "our brain shapes us." A new book, The Woman Who Changed Her Brain by Barbara Arrowsmith-Young, argues that the re-verse is equally true. We can "shape our brains." The book features stories of young boys and girls in yeshivas who changed their brains and, as a result, no longer struggle with learning disabilities.

Imagine having a brain that is capable and incapable at the same time. Growing up, Arrowsmith-Young had severe learning disabilities. She lived in a world that was confusing and incomprehensible. She could not understand cause and effect, and so felt buffeted by random events, not being able to see the "why" of things. She walked around in a fog, relying on her excellent memory and her drive and determination to find an answer to what plagued her. As a young psychology grad student, frustrated with the enormous expenditure of energy required to work around her problems, she came across the research of Russian neuropsychologist Alexander Luria. Dr. Luria had studied soldiers who had suffered head wounds. Using Luria's detailed descrip-



tions of the functions of various brain regions, she identified 19 unique learning dysfunctions. And after reading the research of Mark Rosenzweig who demonstrated that stimulation could improve the brains of rats, she theorized that a person could transform weak areas of the brain through repetitive and targeted cognitive exercises. With much reading and an intuitive under-

standing of the brain's functioning, she invented a series of cognitive exercises to "fix"

JDA (Jewish Diabetes Association) will hold a JDA Run for Diabetes 5K/10K for Women on August 5 in Rockland Lake State Park to help spread awareness and raise much-needed funds for the organization.

\* \* \*

To sponsor and/or receive a registration packet, call 718-303-5955, Sunday-Thursday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., or e-mail jewishdiabetes@aol.com.

#### In recent news...

#### **Group Commemorates Holocaust** In Bardejov, Slovakia

An international group of 130 travelers, including Holocaust survivors and their families, came together in Bardejov, Slovakia on May 14-17 for an historic gathering commemorating the  $70^{\rm th}$  anniversary of the deportation of the town's Jewish population in 1942.

Visitors, ranging in age from 2 to 87, traveled from six countries - Australia, Canada, England, Israel, Mexico and the USA. For some it was a homecoming, for others a chance to meet relatives for the first time or to see a place they had only heard of in family reminiscences. Local government officials, clergy, townspeople and student groups welcomed the guests and joined them in a number of the public activities.

Highlighting the commemoration was a Solidarity March on Tuesday, May 15, that began at the Train Station – the Jews' final departure place from Bardejov – and ended in the historical heart of this town, which had been a thriving Jewish community of over 3,000 prior to World War II. Roughly 500 people participated in the walk, which closed down Bardejov's main street for the first time in the city's history, according to local police records.

In addition, an overflow crowd attended a ceremony in the Old Synagogue, and 140 people crowded into the Town Hall's Government Chamber for a special reception with the mayor, who welcomed visitors back to Bardejov and gave each a certificate of participation and a flower, and had them sign the city log book. On the historic Town Square, 400 people crowded in to hear speeches from a representative from President Ivan Gasparic and Mayor Boris Hanuscak, as well as Bardejov Holocaust survivor Emil Fish, now a resident of Los Angeles, California.

The "7 Righteous of Bardejov" were honored, and students solemnly read the names and number of family members of each family that had lived in Bardejov prior to the 1942 deportations. (The 437 family names represented one third of the town's population at that time; Bardejov today is "a town without Jews.") Seminars, local tours, and presentations on genealogy and family history were also part of the multifaceted activities.

For additional information about the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration and the Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee, visit www.bardejov.org. (See pictures on page 47.)

#### Intergenerational Shabbaton

Seven local high school students from Kew Gardens Hills and Hillcrest took part in a unique Shabbaton experience under the auspices of NCSY. The group of teens, accompanied by a handful of NCSY staff members , joined the Shabbos morning *minyan* at Margaret Tietz Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and stayed for the communal Shabbos lunch. During the break between davening and the meal, the students spent quality time interacting with the residents. With the lovely weather beckoning, many took advantage of the outdoors to sit with residents in the gardens and get to know them on an individual basis. The seudah that followed was replete with spirited singing, divrei Torah, and trademark Shabbos food by Chef Yossi and Eli.

Today, her program – ad-dressing learning problems such as dyslexia, auditory processing, attention, non-verbal learning, executive functioning, and auditory and visual memory – is being widely used in pub-lic and private schools in Canada and the U.S.

The Arrowsmith Program is currently being offered at the following yeshivas: Bais Yaakov of Boro Park, Beis Chaya Mushka in Crown Heights, Eitz Chaim Schools in Toronto, Jewish Educational Center (JEC) in Elizabeth, NJ, Yeshiva Degel Hatorah in Monsey, and Yeshiva Tiferes Torah in Lakewood.

Material for Community Currents should be e-mailed to community@jewishpress.com



# **Community Currents**

On May 14-17, 130 people commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the depor-tation of the Jews of Bardejov, Slovakia, in 1942. (See article on page 46.)



Bardejov, Solvakia Town Square.



Bardejov, Slovakia Jewish Cemetery.



The Bardejov, Slovakia Solidarity Walk on May 15 closed down the main street for the first time in the city's history.

(Photos courtesy of Corrie Siegel)

Over 200 people attended Lubavitch on the Palisades's recent groundbreaking ceremony for a 10,000 square foot expansion of its facilities.



(L-R) Elana Prezant, Jeffrey Prezant, Rabbi Yitzchak Gershovitz, Michael Young, Rabbi Mordechai Shain, David Mintz, Mayor Peter Rustin, Aron Forem, and Dr. Lawrence Katz. (Photo credit: Rafael Dayan Photography)



On Wednesday, May 16, the Aleh Foundation hosted is annual Awards Dinner, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, celebrating 28 years of service to disabled children. Among the honorees were New York State Senator Dean G. Skelos, Dr. Jeffrey Wisoff, Jack and Violet Harounian, and Drs. Andrew and Violet Harounian.



Senator Richard Blumenthal together with Rabbi Yehoshua and Freida Hecht of Beth Israel of Westport/Norwalk, Connecticut, pose at the Eighth Annual "Circle of Friends" Evening of Recognition, honoring 130 teenage volunteers. More than 300 people attended the gala dinner and Chinese auction fund-raiser held at Beth Israel of Westport/Norwalk, CT. (Photo credit: Steve Laitman)





Standing (L-R): Jeffrey Tenenbaum; Dr. Alisa Kasachkoff; Dr. Galina Zaretsky, Humanitarian Awardee; Dr. Jeffrey Wisoff, Medical Leadership Awardee; Jack Harounian, an honoree; Nina Miner, Memorial Tribute Awardee; Leslie and Michael Kule, Estie and Rabbi Dr. Abadie; and Zev Brenner. Sitting (L-R): Susan Settenbrino; Violet Harounian, Tribute Honoree; Chana Braun, Rabbi Shlomo Braun; and Jay Arthur Goldber, Journal Chairperson.

Standing (L-R): Aleh Foundation President Dr. Jeffrey Tenenbaum, New York State Senators Dean G. Skelos and Martin Golden, and Rabbi Shlomo Braun, founder and director of the Aleh Foundation. Sitting (L-R): Naomi Mauer, publisher of The Jewish Press and Aleh Foundation Tribute Chairperson, and Shaindy and Dr. Michael Fuchs.

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