



Our next  
Hachnosas Kallah Tea  
will take place IY"H  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**  
and will be sponsored by  
The Lindenfeld family  
in memory of  
**Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a"h.**

## Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a"h

Last May, the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills unanimously crowned our mother, Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a"h, as their אשת חיל, a true woman of valor in every sense of that age-old title. This is the name that our mother acquired for herself, through her deeds and through her actions. In a community where every single woman is an אשת חיל in her own right, they bestowed upon her the honor of being the preeminent woman of valor! רבות בנות עשו חיל וזאת עליה על כולה! She indeed had risen above them all!

Our mother lived a life of חסד, of אהבת הים, of compassion, of caring for others. She touched the lives of so many, and was indeed a role model for us all. She nurtured the poor and the weak, tended to the frail, healed the broken hearted, rejoiced with the celebrants, counseled the perplexed, and sheltered the homeless. But perhaps her greatest triumph of all was, נודע בשערים בעלה. At such a young age, she assumed the responsibility of becoming the Rebbetzin of a community bereft of their first, beloved Rebbetzin ע"ה. Like the Biblical Ruth who followed Naomi to בית להם and inextricably intertwined her life with that of her husband's family, she not only took on the challenges of loving us, her children, but of loving the people of Kew Gardens Hills as well.

Exhibiting true grace under pressure, she rose to the occasion with great aplomb. Finding time for everyone, and with so much love in her heart, she embraced this special community, as they in turn embraced her. Our mother cherished each and every person, and each one had a special place reserved for them in her heart. Her great love for all these people could only be matched by their love for her as well. Kew Gardens Hills has truly flourished as an enclave of אהבת ישראל and גמילות חסדים because Rebbetzin Schonfeld was at the helm.

Our mother always said that what made Kew Gardens Hills so special for her were the people who comprised this unique community. Amongst those who were so near and dear to her was Mrs. Erna Lindenfeld. Mrs. Lindenfeld was a great personal friend to our mother and to all our family. Her innate kindness, her compassion for others, and her tremendous חכמת נשים – feminine wisdom – affected the lives of all those who knew her. Her determination to defy the evil plans of Hitler and the Nazis, empowered her to rebuild her own life, to bring four wonderful sons into this world, and to actively bring about the rebirth of עם ישראל. Our mother so admired Mrs. Lindenfeld for all this and was so inspired by her ability to

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## A Special Friendship



Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a"h, and Erna Lindenfeld, a"h, had a very special relationship. They were close friends who shared not only a European, Jewish, Hungarian background, but a wisdom and determination borne from some difficult life experiences. From the time they met, they were kindred spirits who understood much about each other instinctively. Theirs was a friendship that arose from circumstance, need and similarities in attitudes, and of sharing the belief of always putting on a good face physically and emotionally, with the understanding that moving forward with a smile is the only way to build a decent Jewish life and a happy family. They shared

an external and internal beauty, always punctilious in how they looked and spoke. It was their warmth and sincerity when they spoke to a person that made that person feel cared for.

While they were close friends, Rebbetzin Schonfeld was also and perhaps most importantly Erna's Rebbetzin, and as such, Erna looked up to her as a role model. They had children the same age and shared advice on their rearing. Each of these two "regal" women was truly an eshet chayil who stood behind and brought out the best in their husbands as well.

Erna was taken at a young age, but the two of them still had 20 years of friendship together. After Erna's petira, Rebbetzin Schonfeld wanted to do something that honored in perpetuity Erna's friendship and midot tovot that are her legacy. This Hachnosas Kallah Fund that bears Erna's name was Rebbetzin Schonfeld's idea. The Rebbetzin felt this organization would perfectly personify Erna's dedication to her friends, community, and to the continuity of Klal Yisrael. Rebbetzin Schonfeld, together with

some of Erna's other friends and many dedicated women, made this amazing organization what it is today. This thriving organization is not only a testament to the Yiddishkeit that Erna Lindenfeld lived, but to the amazing friendship that these two remarkable, strong women shared.

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# Hachnosas Kallah: An Obviously Not Obvious Mitzvah

BY RABBI YOEL SCHONFELD

Ask anyone for the source of the *mitzvah* of *Hachnosas Kallah* and they will point you to the quote from the *Gemara Shabbos* (127a) and *Mishneh* (1:1) in *Peah* which we recite from the *siddur* every morning: "These are the precepts that have no prescribed measure... and these are the precepts whose fruits a person enjoys in This World but whose principal remains intact for him in the World to Come. They are: honor due a father and mother, acts of kindness (*gemilas chassadim*)... hospitality to guests (*hachnosas orchim*), visiting the sick (*bikur cholim*) and providing for a bride (*hachnosas kallah*) etc.

The problem is that neither the *mishneh* nor the *gemara* quoted above actually mention *hachnosas kallah*. Most of the other *mitzvos* are mentioned. Someone along the

way of the composition of the *siddur* decided it belonged there. In fact I am not aware of anywhere in the Talmud that the words *hachnosas kallah* appear.

Yet the *Shulkan Aruch* (Y.D. 249:15) states "*Gabbaim* of *tzedaka* that have (undesignated) money in their hands should assign it to needy brides as there is no greater *tzedaka* than that."

That is quite remarkable. Although there is scant discussion of *hachnosas kallah* in the *gemara* or *halacha*, it is considered the highest form of giving. That is probably why the editor of the *siddur* saw fit

to insert *hachnosas kallah* with all the other great charitable acts mentioned. Some things are so obvious in their importance, so critical and so impactful that they need not be dwelled upon for discussion. *Hachnosas kallah* is one of those things. It is obvious that

it belongs up there with the "Hall of Fame" *mitzvos* whether or not it received much *halachic* discussion.

My mother, Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a"h, was wholly dedicated to the Erna Lindenfeld *Hachnosas Kallah* Fund which she helped found. To her it was more than a labor of love. It was a commitment to necessity. The necessity of assisting brides and their families as they face the increasingly difficult challenge of making a dignified Jewish wedding. As the *Shulkan Aruch* stated, there is no greater *tzedaka* than that.

My mother had a keen intuition as to what was right, what was worth investing time, money and effort; what a Jewish mother, a community *rebbetzin* should be devoted to. Like the author of the *siddur*, she *knew* the importance of *hachnosas kallah*.

In her *zechus*, in the *zechus* of all the women dedicated to this very worthwhile and holy project, and in the *zechus* of all those who give generously to its cause, may we merit to dance with *chasanim* and *kallas* in the streets of Yerushalayim, speedily in our time. Amen.



## CHANGE HAPPENS: BUT THE MISSION OF ELHK TEA REMAINS THE SAME

BY LOREY FRIEDMAN

Perhaps it is not by chance that the theme of this year's play "Never Say Never" reminded us that sometimes change is inevitable, a part of life that often seems hard to avoid. After all, who would have expected amongst a sea of changes: career, seminary, marriage, and babies, that the Grandma would be getting married! However, amidst the multitude of life's changes, we are Baruch Hashem fortunate that the goal and mission of the Erna Lindenfeld *Hachnosas Kallah* Fund of Queens remains steadfast in its commitment to help



needy *kallahs* around the world.

This year, on Monday night, November 14, 2016, scores of women from near and far attended the 33rd Annual Tea for a spectacular evening, of fun, entertainment, socialization and good food. Regardless of age, location, occupation or shul, the women who attended and gathered in the Elechster Electrical building shared a common goal – to support *Hachnosas Kallah*. Round tables with beautiful "Fall" candle-lit decor added to the elegant and serene ambiance of the evening. Scrumptious salads, fruit and desserts were artistically displayed for all to enjoy. The united efforts of so many volunteers was once again spearheaded by the talented and dedicated Nechama Biderman. Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Risa Bamberger, thanked all the sponsors for

their generous donations to the Tea. Special thanks were also given to the other sponsors of the evening.

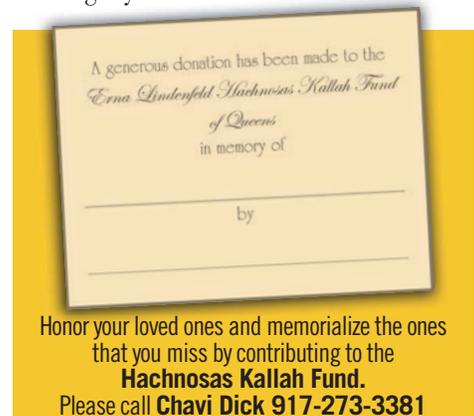
The Queens community is fortunate to have such a strong, sweet, and holy woman like Shifra Witty to lead the organization. With her calmness and diplomacy, Mrs. Witty expressed her appreciation to work with such a wonderful group of women, too many to mention by name. Special thanks went to the founder Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld A"H.

Miri Faber, representing the Frenkel family, spoke poignantly about her grandmother, Mrs. Slava Frenkel, A"H, and her love of Torah and chesed. *Hachnosas Kallah* of Queens is proud to have dedicated the evening in Slava's memory as she personified the essence of doing good deeds and performed countless acts of loving kindness throughout her life. Similarly Gabrielle Lindenfeld spoke beautifully about how proud the Lindenfeld family is to be associated with this organization and for it to bear Erna's good name.

This year's hilarious play was written by Zisi Naimark and directed by Sherri Kaye. Musical accompaniment was by Karen Daitchman. The cast was "composed" of local women, mothers, wives, professionals who have busy active lives. Yet, they took countless hours from their schedules to rehearse,

practice, and devote themselves to helping *Hachnosas Kallah*. The superb "actresses" were Chaya Sara Hammer, Elianna Kaye, Naomi Lamm, Rochie Moskowitz, Riselle Naimark, Zisi Naimark and Tova Zern. As it does each and every year, the play dazzled us with side-splitting comedy that also included heartwarming and even comical life lessons.

Terrific prizes were given out to the lucky winners. In an ever changing world and society that surrounds us, it's good to know two things that have stayed the same and hopefully will for many years to come. One is that the goal and mission of *Hachnosas Kallah* remains grounded and committed to its cause of helping Jewish brides. The other is that the *Hachnosas Kallah* Tea continues to be a spectacular night out for women filled with friends, entertainment and good food. It is here we can join together to take part in the *Mitzvah* of *Hachnosas Kallah* and ensure that Jewish newlyweds begin their marriage with dignity and *simcha*.



## Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a”h

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embrace life to the fullest despite all that she had personally endured. The pain which she surely carried in her heart every day never hindered her ability to think of others, to proffer a helping hand, to rejoice in life in all its vicissitudes. Mostly what our mother saw in Mrs. Lindenfeld was a kindred spirit, two women who realized that the only way one could successfully rebuild their own lives was by rebuilding the world around them. עולם חסד יבנה. Through bringing joy and kindness to others, they would build a new and better world for all.

When Mrs. Lindenfeld passed away so tragically many years ago, it seemed only natural to our mother that the best way to honor the memory of this esteemed woman was by establishing a special צדקה enterprise in her name. Our mother felt that a חכמת כלה fund would be so important to our community and would indeed represent all the values embodied by Mrs. Lindenfeld. As is well known, our mother devoted over thirty years to making the Queens חכמת כלה such an acclaimed success. It was her way of perpetuating the memory of her dear friend and of continuing their legacy of עולם חסד יבנה. It was her way, together with the Lindenfeld family, of assuring the very future of ישראל עם.

It is extremely moving for us, the family of Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, A”H, to know that this year’s חכמת כלה tea is being given in her honor. Our mother was involved in so many חסד projects throughout her long and blessed life, but none were as close to her heart as this.

אלו דברים שאין להם שיעור. The Mishna tells us that there are things for which no limit is prescribed. Salient in this list is גמילות חסדים – kindness, personal service and charity to all.

אלו דברים שאדם אוכל פרותיהם בעולם הזה והקרן קיימת לו לעולם הבא... וגמילות חסדים... והכנסת כלה...”

These are the things the fruits of which a man enjoys in this world, while the principle remains for him in the hereafter... practice of kindness and dowering the bride...

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## Rita Grunberger, a”h

On the 25th of Tamuz, our dear mother, Mrs. Rivka (Rita) Grunberger was niftes. Kew Gardens Hills was the neighborhood she loved, starting with our parents move-in year of 1956. Here is a snapshot of our mother’s involvement with the Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah Organization.

In the 1950’s and 1960’s Kew Gardens Hills was a growing community, built by a varied, devoted group of families. There were second and third generation Americans, and Holocaust survivors. Some of the men were veterans of WWII and some had participated in the 1948 war of Israel Independence. They worked together to build shuls, schools, a mikvah, hevra kadisha and a functioning community. Mrs. Lindenfeld, the mother of 4 rambunctious boys, was a favorite. The untimely death of their gracious, generous friend, Erna, left her friends bereft.



As they contemplated how to honor her memory, the idea of a Hachnosas Kallah Fund was born. Mrs. Grunberger was one of the founders and on the presidium of the organization. The founding women created a grass roots type of movement with little overhead, a lot of elbow grease and an ethic of assuring that money raised went directly to deserving kallot. They focused on the halachos of tzedakah when deciding how money should be allocated.

Our mother learned these basic tenets of Judaism – Torah, Avodah and Gmilit Chasadim in the 16 short years she had with her parents Gavriel Chaim and Malka Perel Elbogen, and her grandmother, Bluma Elbogen, in the small village of Kemesce, Hungary. As her children and grandchildren, we were often amazed at how much basic halakhah and minhagim she knew. She may not have known what sefer or posuk it was from, but Mommy learned it from simply living in her parents’ home.

Our mother learned Torah regularly in her beloved community. She was a faithful attendee of Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld’s Tuesday morning shiur, helped organize Emunah monthly classes, and was even “Maavir sedra” to the best of her ability, even during her last years. Her avodas Hashem was her essence. She believed that she was saved from the fires of the churban in order to live her life in service of Hashem and did whatever she could to create a Torah based home. But Gmilit

Chesed was her added crown. Our mother was a regular participating member of the Chevra Kadisha, held many Maos Chitim teas in our home, and had an open door policy for our friends and for various people who may have gotten stuck at Booth Memorial. Mommy happily gave of her home for those who needed temporary shelter, for organizational meetings and large scale bulk mailings. Even when she needed to move to new living quarters, Hachanosas Kallah items still had a home in her garage.

Our mother was quietly proud of her accomplishments, and saw yad Hashem everywhere. After performing a tahara for an elderly woman whose family was not strictly

observant, they contacted her looking for a place to make a donation of gratitude. Mrs. Grunberger suggested Hachnosas Kallah. The relationship between the family, our mother, and Hachnosas Kallah is still continuing. Not only did they send a donation then, but have continued to send regularly

ever since. Mommy marveled at the very tangible example of “mitzvah goreres mitzvah”.

In addition to her participating in communal endeavors, there were many quiet, neighborly actions, ones which we still strive to emulate. Our mother had a swap arrangement with a neighbor. Mommy cooked and baked for the S family, and Mrs. S helped us with our homework.

Another neighbor became a widower at around the same time our father was niftar. Whenever it snowed, Mr. O (who was in his 70’s at the time) and my mother (in her 60’s) each tried to shovel each other’s snow first. Mr. O was concerned about a widowed woman shoveling her own snow and Mommy was worried about her elderly friend. Mommy dropped a portion of chicken soup on his porch every Friday afternoon, and he reciprocated with fresh vegetables from his garden.

Our parents’ have been blessed with “good dividends” as Mr. Grunberger liked to say. There are almost 2 handfuls of Yitzchak Yaacovs named for our father, and a great-granddaughter and a great-great-granddaughter named Rivka for our mother. We are grateful to our mother whose life has brought us lots of nachas. We hope and pray that we, her family and community do the same for her.

יהי זיכרון לברכה. May their memory indeed be for a blessing.

### RECIPE Rebbitzin Schonfeld’s Fruit Cake

#### Batter

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 lb. fruit cocktail (not drained)
- ¼ cup oil

#### Topping

- Chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- Optional ¼ cup sugar

Mix batter and spread out in a 9” x 13” ungreased pan. Add chocolate chips, walnuts (and ¼ cup of sugar, which is optional)

Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes



### Bubby Grunberger’s Honey Cookies

- 3 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- ¾ cup honey
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. baking soda

Mix together eggs and sugar  
Beat in honey  
Beat in dry ingredients  
Drop on baking sheet by teaspoonfuls

Bake at 300 degrees for 15 minutes

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## Rebbetzin Ruth Schonfeld, a"h

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Both Mrs. Lindinfeld and our mother knew no limit to the pursuit of kindness and charitable acts. They had set out to rebuild the world, and הַסֵּד was the cornerstone of the world they built. Assuredly they reaped the rewards for their efforts in this world, by knowing how much joy they brought to others. But it brings us great comfort and happiness to think of how both these illustrious women must now be enjoying the principal of their reward

*Dear Rebbitzin Witty and all the generous women who help with this organization לא"ר,  
לגא, !מזל טוב! An engagement! A חתונה!  
But a financial stress, coupled with an incapacitated breadwinner, can create havoc at the time of the שמחה! Thank you for your generous financial help!  
May מקור הברכה, the הקב"ה, bentsch you and yours with טוב... פרנסה... נחת, גזנט and גואל צדיק to greet the זוכה.  
With love,  
XXXXXXXX*

in a world that is כולו אור וכולו טוב, filled with the light and the goodness of His domain.

Now that these dearest friends have been reunited in eternal life, may they continue to look down upon us all and be comforted by the continuation of their life's work in this world. By virtue of the empire of הַסֵּד to which they dedicated their lives, may our work here continue to be blessed.

יהי זיכרונו לברכה. May their memory indeed be for a blessing.

*Dear Devoted Friends of Hachnossas Kallah of Queens,  
Thank you so much for your generous donation on behalf of my childhood friend, now marrying off her fifth daughter, ב"ה, in Bnei Brak. Your kindness, financial and moral support is a great chizuk to the family and has enabled ----- and ----- to start on their life goal of building a true bayis neeman b'Yisroel. Their mother personally asked me to express her appreciation for helping in this wonderful but challenging time.  
May all of you be blessed with nachas from your families and community as you continue your noble efforts...*

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**Tefilos Booklets are available for rental to use at your wedding.**

**The booklets are provided in memory of Mrs. Joan Maybruch, a"h.  
For information, please call Chanie Jakubowicz at (718) 263-3873.**

**With much hakaras hatov, we would like to thank Mr. Mark Frankel and Mr. David Graubard for the many hours they devote to Hachnosas Kallah. Their dedication to the klal has been immensely helpful to our organization.**

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