

KOL Kallah

The Newsletter of
the Hachnosas Kallah Fund of Queens
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Annual Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah Tea Smashing Success



BY SUSIE GARBER

On Monday evening November 10, Electric Industry Center at Electchester in Flushing filled to the brim with women from our community for the annual Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah of Queens Tea. As always, women of all ages came to support this worthy organization and to enjoy a fun evening of entertainment as well. The evening was dedicated in memory of Sara Zissel Berger, A"H, by her children David and Paula Berger.

Mrs. Risa Bamberger welcomed everyone. Next, Mrs. Shifra Witty, long-time President of the organization, spoke. She thanked Mrs. Nechama Biderman and her committee for the beautiful set up of the tea and Mrs. Rozy Weinstein for her tireless efforts on behalf of Hachnosas Kallah of Queens as well as all the volunteers and the evening's sponsors. She shared a d'var Torah from Parshas Chaya Sarah about Sara Emeinu.

Following this, Chaya Lieba Berger spoke on behalf of the Berger family about her grandmother Sara Zissel Berger, A"H. Chaya Lieba spoke with love and admiration about her grandmother who was truly courageous and had incredible emunah. She miraculously survived so many harrowing experiences during the Holocaust

including a time she saved her sister's life and ran with her 25 kilometers and then hid in the hay in a farmer's barn. Though Nazis arrived and poked at the hay with a pitchfork, they were not discovered.

Chaya Lieba expressed how fortunate she was that she grew up near her grandmother. Her grandmother loved meeting people. She had a true zest for life. Chaya Lieba also shared the remarkable way her grandmother insisted on marrying her grandfather who was eternally grateful that she had. Chaya Lieba concluded, "Everyone loved her. She made everyone laugh."

Next, Mrs. Simone Oppenheimer spoke on behalf of the Lindenfeld family. She shared the story of how her grandfather had to trade cigarettes in the 1940's to save up to make a nice wedding for her



grandmother. She explained that her grandparents felt a special connection to the Hachnosas Kallah organization because they didn't want young Jewish couples to have to struggle like that to make a wedding. They wanted to empower Jewish

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NOTE DATE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Our Next
Hachnosas Kallah Tea
will take place IY"H

Tuesday ★

November 10th, 2015 ★
and will be sponsored by
the Shafran families, ★
in memory of ★

Julia Shafran, ★
z"l. ★

JULIA SHAFRAN

Julia (Yehudis) Shafran was born on August 6, 1922, in Bratislava Czechoslovakia, and lived in the city Galante. She was the only child of Yissochar Dov and Toba Chaya Hirsh. Despite all the horrors that Mrs. Shafran endured she remained steadfast in her "emunah" and "yiras shamayim." After losing her entire family and surviving the Geheinom of WWII, she ultimately moved to Williamsburg. Shortly thereafter, she was introduced to, and married, Yehoshua Shafran.



Mr. and Mrs. Shafran built their family anew, and raised two sons with the chinuch they recalled from their parent's homes. They established their home in Kew Gardens, where the couple lived until Mr. Shafran's petira in 1999. Mrs. Shafran was a devoted and caring mother and wife, whose focus in life was to raise her family "al pi Torah." Mrs. Julia Shafran was the matriarch of her family and passed on the baton of Yiddishkeit to future generations.

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Golda Gross Gown Gmach

BY ETTIE ZELMANOWITZ

I had the privilege of speaking with Golda Gross, who runs a Kallah Gown Gemach, right here in Kew Gardens Hills. The Gemach was born 26 years ago after a conversation between Golda, and her friend, Gail Weiss, who both wanted to involve themselves in a Chesed activity.

The gowns are purchased brand new and are all up to date, waiting to make a Kallah's day.

Golda and Gail began the Gemach in Gail's basement in Kew Gardens, but it moved many years ago, and has been based in Golda's home for more than twenty years. The organization is run with Golda at its head, but she made the point repeatedly that she could not do it without an amazing army of volunteers who have become the lifeblood of the organization and its continuity.

These wonderful volunteers greet the Kallah and her family with poise, grace, and a smiling face. All who enter are offered drinks and refreshments and a place to sit and rest if they have traveled from far or have to wait a bit for their appointment.

An appointment is made, and a half hour is allotted to the Kallah in privacy where she is assisted by

a volunteer. She may try on gowns, and once she has chosen, she then picks out her head piece. The gown is packed up in a garment bag and off to the Simcha.

The Gemach continues in memory of Golda's father, R' Tzvi Menachem ben Shmayahu a"h.

The fees are a \$200 refundable deposit and a \$75 cleaning charge. Over the years, many people left the \$200 deposit for the Gemach, but whatever donations are made, large and small, are used to purchase new gowns, cover cleaning and repair fees, purchase garment bags, etc.. These donations allow the Gemach to continue without any additional fundraising efforts.

The kallahs are of all backgrounds, chassidish, modern, local and out-of-town, comfortable and less comfortable, small sizes and large sizes, and everything in between (sizes 2-26). Gowns have even been sent to Russia, Israel, and many other places.

Indeed, over the years there are many wonderful stories to tell. One Kallah started to cry when she looked in the mirror and said she never thought she could or would look so pretty. Another Kallah called the night before her wedding. It seemed she was not that frum and her Rebbetzin was encouraging her to have a kosher wedding. So, Golda and her team made sure to get the Kallah something she was happy in. One Kallah came from out-of-town, straight from the airport and was terribly tired. Golda had

the Kallah sleep in an upstairs guest room until she was able to regain her strength.

The founders share a laugh when they recount their beginnings and how they wanted to get the word out when they first started. They put up a sign or two with the phone number and which days and hours to call. They were genuinely concerned no one would know about them and their Gemach. Within weeks, they no longer needed the sign and were getting calls at all hours. Apparently, the phone number was out, though, interestingly enough, word of the hours and times to call did not spread as quickly as the phone number.

And, 26 years, and many, many, many, many gowns later...they don't count, they just keep going.

To reach Golda and her wonderful staff of volunteers, please call for an appointment at 347-495-1011.



The "Amen" Group Contributes

BY TOVA WELL

At 8 A.M. on the first day of each Rosh Chodesh, the walls of the Bais Medrash of the Young Israel of Hillcrest echo with the sounds of women answering Amen to the Birchos Hashachar (morning blessings). The highlight of the davening is the spiritually uplifting Hallel, led and sung by Mrs. Rena Greenberg.

After the inspirational davening, the ladies again put the power of Amen to use by partaking in a "Brochos party" where blessings are said on various foods. Each Brocho symbolizes a specific request on behalf of those who are making the blessing. For example, a blessing on fruit corresponds to a request for children.

The Amen group was organized approximately ten years ago by Mrs. Pearl Beylus, at the request of several women in the community. After hearing Rena perform at the Hachnosas Kallah Tea, Pearl approached her to join the Amen group. Upon consulting with her Rav, who strongly encouraged her, Rena graciously accepted. She brought and continues to bring a special fervor to the davening.

Pearl also realized that unfortunately there were many people who were sick and many who had passed away in the community

She was asked to say Tehillim on their behalf, but Pearl felt that more could be done. She recalled a story she had read about Rabbi Chaim Kreiswirth from the Antwerp Kehilla who had come to Israel to daven at the graves of Tzaddikim, as his doctors had given him only three weeks to live. He was told by the Steipler Rav in Eretz Yisroel that there are three Mitzvos that are written together in the Torah - Bikur



Continued from cover page

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couples to be able to carry on our way of life. She imparted. "This organization is a testament to my grandparents' love story. Thank you for coming to support this organization. I know my grandmother thanks you."

Following this, a talented cast performed "He Said, She Said," a humorous skit with some important messages about communication and ways to strengthen our marriages. Debbie Firestone, Chaya Sara Hammer, Naomi Lamb, Rivky Lutz, Rochie Moskowitz, Rochie Rock-off and Libby Zlotnick offered an all-star performance. The singing was especially wonderful. The musical accompaniment by Mrs. Karen Daitchman further enhanced the wonderful performance.

The Erna Lindenfeld Hachnosas Kallah Fund of Queens was established thirty-one years ago in memory of Mrs. Lindenfeld by her children who are still active in the organization. Her sister-in-law, Billie, is an active board member. Hachnosas Kallah donates around \$150,000 annually for Kallahs in the United States and Eretz Yisrael. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be sent to Roz Weinstein 137-37 71st Avenue, Flushing, NY 11367.



Cholim (visiting the sick), Hachnosas Kallah (providing for needy brides) and Levayas Hameis (accompanying the deceased).

The question was asked as to why two sad things are coupled with a happy one? The answer is that the

commandment of Hachnosas Kallah has the ability to disrupt the natural order of illness and death. Indeed, Rabbi Kreiswirth outlived his doctors' predictions.

Pearl decided to introduce to the Amen group the concept of contributing to the Hachnosas Kallah Fund. However, she first wanted to get approval from R. Chaim Kanievsky in Israel. Not only did Rav Kanievsky approve, but he stated that he remembered the story about Rav Chaim from his father. He encouraged Pearl to pursue her idea of donating to Hachnosas Kallah, and added the blessing "B'hatzlocho" (with success).

Every penny of Tzedakkah collected by the Amen group of Queens goes directly to our Hachnosas Kallah Fund in Queens. The donations have been generous and we hope that all prayers for good health will be answered.

We congratulate Pearl for her wonderful initiative and wish her continued success in all that she does.

Pearl invites all the ladies in the community to come and join the Amen group the first day of Rosh Chodesh for a truly inspirational start to the month!



Nechama Biderman's Bow Ties & Pesto Salad

16 oz. baby bow ties
1/2 cup chopped basil (or 8 frozen cubes)
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup pine nuts
Pinch of salt

Cook bow ties and set aside. Combine the other ingredients in a blender. Mix one spoon of dressing at a time with bow ties. (The amount you add will be according to your taste.) Store extra dressing in the refrigerator for a week.

Baila Biderman's Cabbage Salad with a Twist

1 pkg cole slaw mix (cabbage mixed with carrots)
1 pkg Romaine lettuce cut up
1/2 pkg Cracker Crisps, 10.6 oz., sour cream & onion
1/2 pkg slivered almonds toasted, 10 oz.
1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup oil
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 water
2 Tbsp mustard
2 tsp lemon juice
2 tsp crushed garlic

Combine mayonnaise, oil, sugar, water, mustard, lemon juice and garlic and blend in a blender. In a large bowl, mix cabbage and lettuce. Toast slivered almonds in oven on 350 for 5-10 minutes. Sprinkle over salad. Before serving add 1/2 dressing and crushed crackers over the salad.

Daphna Biderman's Edamame Salad

1 pkg edamame (without shell)
3 Tbsp lemon juice
1 Tbsp olive oil
1 tsp salt
1 tsp black pepper
4-5 tsp chopped dill
6 small frozen corn on the cobs
Or 3 whole cooked

Defrost edamame and corn overnight in refrigerator. Combine lemon juice, oil, salt, and pepper. Next stand corn upright and cut kernels off with a knife, including a small amount of the stalk. (It's nicer if the corn stays together.) Add dill and slowly combine with the corn. Mix corn gently with the edamame mixture.

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Newsletter

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Shul Affiliations

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Roz Weinstein

*Dear Rebbetzin Witty,
Mazel Tov - an Engagement! What a simcha. But financial difficulties can change these moments of joy to a time of stress, discomfort and worry. However, your financial help alleviated this burden. Simcha can once again reign supreme. Accordingly, expressions of gratitude are unequal to the task of thanking you.
May Hakodosh Baruch Hu, the Makor Habracha bless Rebbetzin Witty and her helpful kehilla with Kol Tov, Parnassah, Nachas and Gezunt.
May your Gemilus Chesed of Helping Anachnu Bnei Yisroel from all walks of life, display to Hakodosh Baruch Hu, our Achdus and bring the Goel Tzedek Bimhaira Vyamainu.
With Much Appreciation
XXXXX*

*Dear Mrs. Witty,
In the name of my family and the Chosson and Kallah, I would like to thank you for being instrumental in getting the generous wedding gift for them. This is an important brick in the building of their Bayis Ne'eman - where the need is very great. May Hashem Yisborach bless you with Kol Tov for your kindness.*

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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