

## AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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Rabbi Heshey Billet provided *divrei Torah* and spoke about the imperative of parents to always put the interests of their children first as well as the importance of the community to better rally to the needs of divorcees and their children, whether in the shul, the school, or in the neighborhood.

The screening was accompanied by a lively panel-discussion moderated by David Mandel, CEO of Ohel, and included Dr. Norman Blumenthal, director of the Ohel Miriam Trauma and Bereavement Center and crisis response team; Dr. Mark Bانشick, noted author and

psychiatrist; and Mrs. Rochel Chafetz, well-known educator. Rabbi Shalom Axelrod, associate rabbi of the Young Israel of Woodmere, also addressed some questions from the audience.

Many poignant questions were posed to the panel. Derek Saker, Ohel's director of communications, credits the community for coming out in such large numbers. "The size of the audience, and the nature of the questions, clearly demonstrated the diversity of issues that affect everyone, and Ohel hopes the film will be a catalyst for much necessitated discourse and much belated action in every community, as it is incumbent upon us all to



Rising From Divorce panelists in Woodmere

provide help where we can," Mr. Saker said.

Ohel has been inundated with communitywide requests for screenings of the film and will be announcing additional

showings and accompanying panel discussions.

To see the trailer and for more information, please visit [www.ohelfamily.org/rising-fromdivorce](http://www.ohelfamily.org/rising-fromdivorce). ❖

## Not Just Talking: Action On Shidduchim

Everyone talks about the current *shidduch* scene. Numerous conversations revolve around dating and matchmaking at nearly every Shabbos table and community symposium.

On Sunday morning, April 26, over 200 community residents turned out to do something positive and constructive by demonstrating their support for an organization that is changing the Orthodox dating world.

The YUConnects benefit breakfast, hosted by Malky and Jay Spector in their Lawrence home, was an unqualified success. Not only did it raise much-needed funds for a worthy program, but it spotlighted the need for building healthy relationships and future Jewish homes.

YUConnects, which is open to the entire Jewish world, not just Yeshiva University students, is much more than a match-making website. In just a few years of existence, it has made 199 engagements (*kein yirbu!*) with approximately 40 stemming from the Five Towns area. It has over 3,500 members and 80 volunteer connectors (matchmakers), and arranges hundreds of dates each week through its online database, powered by SawYouAtSinai.

Its function as a one-stop dating resource is what makes YUConnects unique. With a friendly office, housed on the campus of Yeshiva University, it arranges unique social events and educational forums, conducts academic research, and offers guidance through the assistance of YU's *roshei yeshiva*, faculty, and experts. By partnering with communities across the country and other organizations, and even having a Singles Advisory Group giving feedback to the staff, YUConnects is truly transforming the current dating world.

Due to financial constraints, YUConnects is currently no longer funded by Yeshiva University, and the nonprofit needs to raise its budget from community generosity. At the breakfast, chaired by Margie and Rabbi Aaron Glatt, Laurie and Robert Koppel, Esty and Robert Levinson, Evelyn and Averim Stavsky, and Malky and Jay Spector, Malky spoke eloquently about the lack of networking opportunities for the current generation. "With limited opportunities for our kids to meet, YUConnects fulfills a vital niche for this generation," she explained in her *hakarot ha'tov* to YUConnects.

Dr. Efrat Sobolofsky and Margie Glatt detailed the ways YUConnects provides a kosher environment for these meeting opportunities and is responsive to the needs of the entire community. With amusing and

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insightful words of *berachah* by Rabbi Ya'akov Trump and practical suggestions by Dr. David Pelcovitz on deepening relationships in this digital age, those who attended gained knowledge about interpersonal skills and learned specifics about the work of YUConnects. Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt ended the morning's schedule with an impassioned plea for this worthy *tzedakah's* continued viability as he appealed for charitable support from our neighborhood.

The benefit breakfast was dedicated by Rabbi Dr. Aaron and Margie Glatt in memory of Ethel Korn, *a'h*, and had numerous local sponsors. Some of the YUConnects upcoming events include a trip to Washington DC in conjunction with NORPAC in May, a program geared for the Sephardic community at the Safra shul on **May 17**, and a local "Dine N Meet" Shabbos with the Young Israel of Woodmere on **June 12**. To learn more about the programs or ways to support YUConnects, e-mail [yuconnects@yu.edu](mailto:yuconnects@yu.edu) or visit [www.yuconnects.com](http://www.yuconnects.com). ❖

### Federation CEO To Speak In Five Towns



Eric Goldstein

Eric Goldstein, CEO of UJA-Federation of New York, is scheduled to speak in the Five Towns this Shabbos, *Parashas Emor*. Mr. Goldstein will be speaking at Congregation Beth Sholom on Shabbos morning and at Young Israel of Woodmere between *Minchah* and *Ma'ariv*. ❖

### Young Israel Congregation Hosts Massive Shabbaton For Kids Of Courage

"Not for himself was man created, but instead to help others." These words of Rav Chaim of Volozhin were clearly evident in the display of absolute kindness felt by Kids of Courage, as the Lawrence-Cedarhurst community welcomed 180 campers and staff members with open homes and warm hearts this past Shabbos. The Kids of Courage Five



Towns *Shabbaton* kicked off with an all-you-can eat barbecue at the home of Shaul and Batsheva Katz on Friday afternoon. The girls got makeovers while the boys were amazed by magic tricks, and all were treated to professional portraits. Smiles were in abundance and the excitement was palpable as every-



one looked forward to what promised to be an unforgettable Shabbos.

After last-minute preparations at their hosts, the Couragers and community were treated to a beautiful Friday-night *davening* led by Eitan Katz at Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst. Rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum and Rabbi Yaakov Trump made the Couragers feel like

part of the *kehillah*, and even opened up a position for the youngest Courager, Aryeh, as the assistant to the assistant rabbi.

All enjoyed a delicious Friday-night meal, catered by Meisner's Catering, where a melodious mix of *zemiros* and

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