

## PHILADELPHIA



Harav Jaeger greeting *yungeleit* of the Philadelphia Community Kollel following the Erev Shabbos *shmuess*.

### Elevate Shabbos III At the Philadelphia Community Kollel

On *Shabbos Parashas Emor*, the Philadelphia Community Kollel held their annual Elevate Shabbos of Inspiration, with Harav and Rebbetzin Naf-tali and Tehilla Jaeger.

Three years ago, Rav and Rebbetzin Jaeger joined the Philadelphia community for their first Shabbos of Inspiration, which was a tremendous success. The community was looking forward to another unforgettable Shabbos, and they were not disappointed.

“When guest speakers connect with the crowd on a personal level, it is exponentially greater,” remarked Rabbi Yoel Dovid Zeffren, associate *Rosh Kollel*. “The purpose was not as much to hear *shiurim*, but to have the opportunity to have an *Adam Gadol* come to town with his Rebbetzin, and for community members to be able to ‘hang onto their coattails,’ as they go through Shabbos. It was an incredible experience.”

The weekend, which stretched from Friday afternoon through Sunday evening, was jam-packed with programming for men, women, and chil-

dren. There were very well-attended community Shabbos *seudos*, at which participants were able to speak with the Jaegers personally for a few minutes and obtain *eitzos* and *brachos*. A wide variety of *shiurim* were delivered throughout Shabbos.

At a Motzoei Shabbos *kumzitz*, while sitting around a bonfire, Rav Jaeger answered a variety of hashkafic questions. On Sunday morning, there was a Keshet mother and daughter program, in which Rebbetzin Jaeger spoke to the girls and then to young mothers. On Sunday, Rav Jaeger delivered a *shiur* on the topic of Pesach Sheini at a local shul.

An additional element of the program was the participation of Harav Yonason Sasportas, a Sephardi Rav who is a *Rosh Chaburah* in Beth Medrash Govoha and active in the Bais Horaah of Lakewood, as well as renowned *mechaneches* Mrs. Chaya Rivka Leiser from Lakewood.

On Sunday evening, Rav Jaeger addressed the final, keynote event, the Dr. David E. Epstein, *z”l*, Memorial Lecture, entitled “How to Survive the Challenges That Lie Ahead.” Rav Jaeger’s main message was that all the volatility in the world is indicative



Harav Jaeger at the Motzoei Shabbos *kumzitz/she'eilos u'teshuvos* session.



Harav Naftoli Jaeger (L) greeting community members.

of the fact that Hashem has put us in the driver’s seat. When a driver veers off course, it causes turbulence or worse. If we steer back onto the proper path, by pursuing Torah as a way of life, that will be our lifesaver during this storm. Whatever happens in the world reflects the way that *Klal Yisrael* is behaving, and the volatility is a message for us to get back on course.

Rav Jaeger mentioned many times throughout Shabbos that he found the Philadelphia community to be one with a tremendous warmth and *bikush* to learn. The desire to learn — *ratzon* —

serves as a pipeline — *tzinor* — to bring *brachah* down to the world, hinted to by the fact that both words contain the same letters.

In a reflection of how successful the Shabbos was in reaching its goal, one community member remarked that as he was leaving this final lecture, he felt a tinge of sadness, as he wished that the weekend would not come to an end.

“I personally felt a tremendous *aliyah*,” noted Rabbi Zeffren. “Just being in the presence of a *Gadol* like this, and spending Shabbos together, was very special. It made a big *roshem*.”

## TORONTO

### Evening of *Achdus* for Women

Following the tremendous tragedy that befell the Toronto community with the recent *petirah* of Rabbi Mendel Plotkin, *Mashgiach* of Yeshivas Lubavitch in Toronto, women of Toronto organized a beautiful evening of *achdus* and *chizuk* in his memory. Over 350 women from all different communities gathered together for this momentous occasion.

The event was emceed by Mrs. Malka Fridman. The first speaker, Chavchie Czermak, is a neighbor of the Plotkins. She spoke about the amazing way they raised their children and the love and care shown to everyone.

Mrs. Mindi Mintz, *Menahelas* of Bais Yaakov Elementary of Toronto, spoke about the power of *achdus*. When we *bentch* Rosh Chodesh every *Shabbos Mevorchim*, we say “*Chaveirim kol Yisrael*” — all the Yidden in companionship — because *brachos* come down when there’s unity and love. And how good it is for the Plotkins that they are the catalysts for such *achdus* in the community!

Last to speak was Mrs. Aydla Vechter, a close friend of the family. She spoke about Rabbi Plotkin’s tremendous *chessed* and *ahavas Yisrael*. He was always willing to help anyone who needed it, and he did it with a *geshmak*. The day he went

into cardiac arrest, he told over the *Hayom Yom* (a short daily thought) from Vav Adar, which says, “It is a wondrous trait, when G-d grants a person a warm sensitivity and a pleasurable satisfaction in doing a fellow Jew a favor.” This is the way that Rabbi Mendel Plotkin lived his life.

The Plotkins are all about *achdus* and unity with such warmth for every Yid. On that note, the community has launched a global, world-wide initiative, a six-week session on GPS — *Geulah Power Shiurim*, that will bring women together to learn about the *Geulah*, to help hasten the *Geulah*. More information can be accessed at [live-withgps.com](http://live-withgps.com).