

PHILADELPHIA



Izzy Shrager, a Masmid graduate, addressing the Masmid Banquet at the Philadelphia Community Kollel.

**Philadelphia Community Kollel Hosts Masmid Banquet**

On Sunday, March 1, approximately 150 people celebrated another year of father/mentor-son learning at the Masmid program organized by the Philadelphia Community Kollel.

The Masmid program, which has now entered its third decade of serving the community, is one of the kollel's most vibrant programs, and consists of 16 weeks of learning on Motzoei Shabbosos through the winter.

At the banquet, the boys were treated to a science show by Meir Licht of Terrific Science, after which they enjoyed a full *fleishig* meal, with *divrei brachah* from Rabbi Yechiel Biberfeld, *Rosh Kollel*. Spirited dancing in honor of Purim was enjoyed by all, and the evening was rounded off by many significant raffle prizes.

A truly significant moment of

*nachas* at each year's banquet is when a Masmid graduate gets up to speak. This year, Izzy Shrager, who together with his father and brothers, attended Masmid for many years, addressed the audience, expressing how much the program means to him and his family. Izzy quoted a particularly beautiful idea on the *passuk* "*Venishma kolo bevo'o el hakodesh.*" *Rabbeinu Bachya* says this (the sound of the *paamonim*) was so that the *Kohen* could inform the *Malachim* to leave the *Kodesh HaKodashim* so that he could go in and serve Hashem alone. Izzy mentioned that even though upon entering the Masmid program venue, one encounters a room packed with people learning vibrantly, the program still gave him the great gift of the private learning time with his father which he will always cherish.

The Masmidim left the event on a high, eager to resume their special Motzoei Shabbos learning at the beginning of next winter.



Yosef Herman (L) wins a set of *Mishnayos* at the Masmid Banquet at the Philadelphia Community Kollel.

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