

GEORGETOWN, BROOKLYN

Congregation Beis Hillel In Georgetown Celebrates Has'chalas Sefer Torah

More than one hundred people gathered in the spacious ballroom of Congregation Beis Hillel in Georgetown, Brooklyn, on Sunday, March 14, to celebrate their *has'chalas kesivas sefer Torah*. The "Honoring the Past, Building the Future" campaign aptly describes the spirit of renewed energy in this 50+-year-old shul on the corner of Ralph Avenue and Avenue L.

The *sefer Torah* is being co-dedicated by the Kupfer and Finkelstein families. The Kupfer family is dedicating the Torah *l'zecher nishmas* Reb Aaron HaKohen Kupfer, a longtime Boro Park (and Deerfield Beach) resident and *gabbai* at the Agudah of 18th Avenue. He was *niftar* last March and was one of the first victims of the coronavirus. The Finkelstein family is dedicating the Torah *l'zecher nishmas* Mr. Avraham Finkelstein, a Holocaust survivor and beloved longtime Georgetown resident.

The Georgetown community, which is located a few minutes past Flatbush Avenue and a mere 10-minute drive from the center of Flatbush, has seen beautiful growth over the last few years with several young yeshivah families moving in.

The shul, Beis Hillel, a beautiful sprawling shul, has undergone a transformation in the recent past, with a major renovation, adding tables and chairs as well as a full library of *sefarim*.

Last summer, the shul hired its *Mara d'Asra*, Rabbi Akiva Plutchok, son of the beloved *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshivas Derech Chaim, Rabbi Yisroel Plutchok, *zt"l*. Rabbi



Rabbi Akiva Plutchok writing a letter in the Torah.



At the *kesivas osiyos* at Congregation Beis Hillel of Georgetown (L-R): Rabbi Pinchas Rappaport, Rabbi Akiva Plutchok, Rabbi Yisroel Perelson and Mr. Yehuda Kupfer (at the podium).

Plutchok, a noted speaker, is also a *Rebbi* in Derech Chaim as well at the Cheder/Mesivta Sholom Schachna.

Under the Rav and Rebbetzin's leadership, the shul is now known as a center for *tefillah* and *shiurim* that welcomes Jews of all backgrounds, with a major emphasis on *halachah* and growth in *avodas Hashem*. The Rebbetzin, Mrs. Malky Plutchok, is well-known in her own right as a talented *madrichah* and regularly hosts events for the ladies and children, including a recent Challah Bake that drew scores of ladies and young girls.

With home and rental prices in the neighborhood relatively more affordable than in other parts of Brooklyn, Georgetown is being seen as a good alternative for families looking to stay in Brooklyn but finding it otherwise unaffordable. Given its attractive properties and local *frum* conveniences, some would call it a well-kept secret.

Families that live in the community are very satisfied and also appreciate the relative calm and out of town atmosphere the neighborhood has to offer. Children from yeshivos such as Torah Vodaath, Torah Temimah, Chaim Berlin, Mir, Tiferes Yisroel, Tiferes Elimelech, as well as a multitude of girls' schools, have company in this established neighborhood, and they enjoy enriching Shabbos morning programming as well as Avos Ubanim on Motzoei Shabbosos.

"We welcome all to join our growing *kehillah*. If you are looking for a warm, non-competitive atmosphere in Brooklyn where everyone feels welcome and appreciated, where you will grow in your *avodas hakodesh*, this is the shul and community for you," says Rabbi Plutchok.

NEW YORK

Matzos Sent to Yidden in Arabic-Speaking Countries

Rabbi Yossi Eliav, director of special projects at Yad L'Achim, sent matzos to eight families in Arabic-speaking countries, who are secretly living as Jews, behind enemy lines. These matzos were sent from the United States, since there is no way to ship to these hostile countries directly from Israel.

This matzah shipment is a part of a larger project in which Yad Lachim has trained individuals who are fluent in Arabic to maintain a close relationship with the Arab-speaking Jews who are still living in various hostile countries.

The goal of these relationships is to give these Yidden the ability to connect to their Jewish roots as much as possible with the hope that soon enough they will be reunited with our people.



Rabbi Yossi Eliav, director of special projects at Yad L'achim, with Mr. Ezagui of CH Shipping Center.