

# NEWS

LIVING WITH MOSHIACH AROUND THE WORLD

## HUNDREDS PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL UNITY YOM IYUN FOR INYANEI MOSHIACH

On Sunday, 13 Iyar, a special Yom Iyun was organized by Dr. Tzvi Lang of Crown Heights for the dual purposes of *achdus* and the study of *inyanei Moshiach* and *Geula*. The event took place in Oholei Torah and began mid-morning and lasted well into the evening with speakers both in Yiddish and English.

*Rabbanim* and *mashpiim* of Crown Heights addressed various issues pertaining to *Geula*. *Achdus* was promoted by the wide array of speakers who brought out people of differing views to sit and learn *Toras Shel Moshiach* together. The speakers included Rabbi Nachman Shapiro, Rabbi Bluming, Rabbi Wolberg, Rabbi Majeski, Rabbi Charitonov, Rabbi Isser Zalman Weisberg who came in from Toronto especially for the event, Rabbi Michael Seligson,

Rabbi Korf and emcee, Rabbi Zvi Homnick.

The event was heard live via Radio Moshiach and on 770live over the Internet, which received over 4000

hits throughout the day. Tapes of all the speakers are available. It is hoped that similar “*achdus* events” take place in other cities as well, so that *together* we can greet Moshiach.



# AN EVENING OF HAKARAS HA'TOV

AT THE GRAND DEDICATION DINNER  
FOR THE CENTRAL YESHIVA TOMCHEI T'MIMIM LUBAVITCH

The dedication dinner of the United Lubavitcher Yeshivos, celebrating the completion of the Israel Henry Beren Residence Hall and the Israel Henry Beren Torah Center, took place in the Grand Broadway Ballroom of the New York Marriott Marquis on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Iyar, 5761. Organized as a gala event and attended by more than seven hundred people, the dinner radiated an unusual level of warmth and friendship.

"The Rebbe was always careful to express hakaras ha'tov," says director of construction and development for the Israel Henry Beren Residence Hall, Reb Mayer S. Rivkin. "The dinner was expressly for that purpose. To show appreciation for the many people who have helped revolutionize the living conditions for our bachurim...and baruch Hashem, the dinner accomplished just that."

Mayer Rivkin and the rosh yeshiva, Rabbi Zalman Labkowski, presented the guest of honor, Mr. Robert M. Beren, a gifted businessman and known philanthropist, with a sterling silver replica of the residence building. After working for years alongside Rivkin and Rabbi Labkowski on the building, Mr. Beren responded cordially to this sincere expression of recognition and gratitude.

Robert Beren is the nephew of the late Israel Henry Beren and sole trustee of the Israel Henry Beren Charitable Trust. Israel Henry Beren had been born and raised in Marietta, Ohio. He was a partner with his siblings in the oil and gas production and exploration business. In his will he bequeathed one million dollars to the United Lubavitcher Yeshiva Residence Hall.

Robert Beren was also born and raised in Marietta, Ohio. He is a Harvard graduate, a Baker Scholar and a veteran of WWII. He is chairman and owner of Berexco, Inc., an oil and gas exploration, acquisition and production company. He serves on many charitable boards as a member or as chairman. Notably, he is



chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University. Under his trusteeship of the Israel Henry Beren Charitable Trust, the Lubavitcher Yeshivos have received most of the funding necessary to complete the building of the new residence hall on the corner of Kingston Avenue and President Street, named the Israel Henry Beren Residence Hall, and Mesivta and Beis Midrash Chovevi Torah, named the Israel Henry Beren Torah Center.

Hakaras ha'tov was also shown to three alumni of Tomchei Tmimim who

received awards for their contributions of time, expertise and resources. Mr. Shaya Boymelgreen, dinner chairman and chairman of the building committee, was honored by the hundreds of guests who came to the dinner on his behalf. Boymelgreen accepted the Dinner Chairman Award from Mr. Avrohom Silver, of the building committee. Reb Sholom Ber Drizin accepted the Sar HaChesed Award from Rabbi Dovid Raskin, menahel ruchni, and building committee member Rabbi Laibel Motchkin. The Chesed Award was presented by Rabbi Moshe M. Gluckowsky, of the yeshiva administration, to Mr. Eran Ostfeld of Toronto, Canada.

The evening began with the reception area opening at 6:30 p.m. Guests arrived and mingled, while sampling innovatively presented hors d'oeuvres, sensational dishes of international cuisine. At 7:30 p.m. the guests entered the stately Grand Broadway Ballroom and took their seats in view of the dais and the large screen for the simultaneous viewing.

Master of ceremonies Rabbi Yosef Y. Jacobson introduced the program. Mr. Avrohom Lokshin washed for bread and made the bracha over a large challa, to officially begin the dinner.

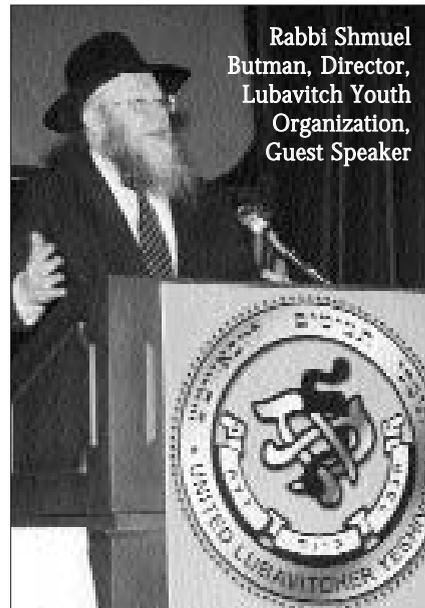
The audience rose to its feet as Rabbi Avrohom Osdoba read a letter from the Rebbe. The letter, dated thirty-one years ago, was addressed to a previous dinner days before Shavuot of that year celebrating the building dedication for the Central Lubavitcher Yeshiva on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn. Indeed, the message was very relevant to the current dedication



Guest of Honor Robert Beren greets Dinner Chairman Shaya Boymelgreen as Rabbi Zalman Labkowski Rosh HaYeshiva and Mayer S. Rivkin, Dinner Organizer, look on.



Avremel Lokshin (left) performing the "HaMotzie Ceremony" with Mayer S. Rivkin looking on.



Rabbi Shmuel Butman, Director, Lubavitch Youth Organization, Guest Speaker



At the dais, Rabbi Avrohom Osdoba of the Crown Heights Beis Din reading the Rebbe's letter. To his right is Rabbi Zalman Labkowski Rosh HaYeshiva, Mr. Robert Beren Guest of Honor, Mr. Shaya Boymelgreen Dinner Chairman, Rabbi Dovid Raskin Manhig Ruchnie and Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi Mashpia

dinner. In this letter the Rebbe writes: "Thereby will be built and sanctified a building...filled with students...whose education and conduct is based upon the three foundations of Chassidus: love of G-d, love of Torah, and love of a fellow Jew, which are all in essence qualities of 'Tomchei Tmimim'... Great is the merit of all those who helped in the actualization of this great endeavor of erecting the new building...and those

who as of yet have not acquired a share in this endeavor will do so now, becoming active partners in the Central Institution of the Yeshivas of Tomchei T'mimim Lubavitch."

Jews from all walks of life as well as non-Jews were in attendance to honor the people they knew and the project they respected. Following the reading of the Rebbe's letter, Rabbi Jacobson took the opportunity to describe to the



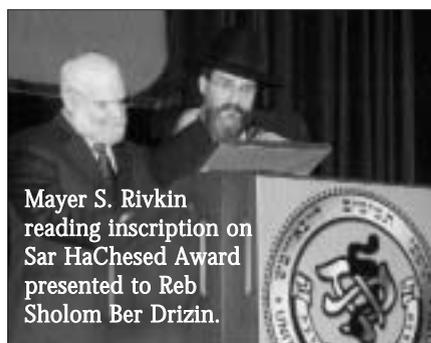
Rabbi Yosef Y. Jacobson, Master of Ceremonies



Rabbi Zalman Labkowski (left) and Mr. Avremel Silver presenting award to Dinner Chairman Mr. Shaya Boymelgreen



Mr. Eron Ostfeld of Toronto, Canada accepting Chesed Award from Rabbi Moshe Meir Gluckowsky, Administration.



Mayer S. Rivkin reading inscription on Sar HaChesed Award presented to Reb Sholom Ber Drizin.

audience the uniqueness of Tomchei Tmimim. “When the yeshiva was founded in 1897 by the fifth Lubavitcher Rebbe, he declared war on apathy, evil, and selfishness. Despite the fact that they were in the minority, the Rebbe instructed his students to proceed to battle by introducing goodness, holiness, and spirituality into a world so often cold and unholy.”

Rabbi Labkowski then took the podium to express genuine gratification upon the completion of

the building and his deep appreciation for the support given selflessly by so many people. Firstly, Labkowski gave hakaras ha'tov to the late Mr. Israel Henry Beren, of whom Rabbi Labkowski said “I am sure his soul is with us tonight.” Then Rabbi Labkowski spoke briefly about the guest of honor, Israel Henry Beren's nephew and sole trustee of the Israel Henry Beren Charitable Trust, Mr. Robert Beren, with whom he has cultivated a warm friendship, working together with him over the last five years. “Robert Beren is a generous benefactor who puts aside honor to himself, for the honor of his Uncle Henry.”

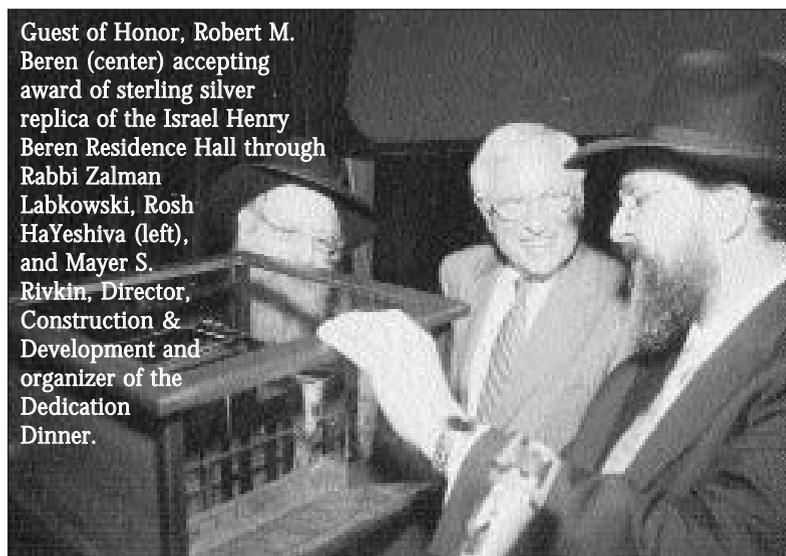
As Rabbi Labkowski took his seat, Mr. Shaya Boymelgreen stepped forward amidst applause to be

**“When the yeshiva was founded in 1897 by the Rebbe Rashab, he declared war on apathy, evil, and selfishness.”**

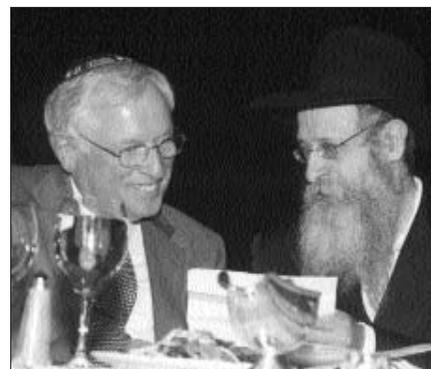
presented with his award. Boymelgreen attended United Lubavitcher Yeshivos in Kfar Chabad, Yerushalayim and Brooklyn. Today a successful real estate developer, Boymelgreen's participation in the details of the actual construction of the residence hall proved to be of great importance. As chairman of the dedication dinner, he was thanked for bringing many hundreds of guests to ensure the success of the dinner.

Reb Sholom Ber Drizin was then called upon to receive his award. As a child, Reb Drizin was one of the many Jewish children who risked their lives by studying Torah in the underground Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimim of Communist Russia. Living his life with acute attention to the paths of Chassidus, Reb Drizin is the patriarch of a fine Jewish family. He is commended as a munificent philanthropist and has exerted tireless efforts on behalf of the United Lubavitcher Yeshivos.

The Israel Henry Residential Hall is renovated with fine amenities, including quality solid oak furniture for each student and central heat and air conditioning that is individually controllable from each room. However, the library, kitchen and dining hall remain to be finished and



Guest of Honor, Robert M. Beren (center) accepting award of sterling silver replica of the Israel Henry Beren Residence Hall through Rabbi Zalman Labkowski, Rosh HaYeshiva (left), and Mayer S. Rivkin, Director, Construction & Development and organizer of the Dedication Dinner.



Mr. Robert M. Beren and Rabbi Zalman Labkowski, during a light moment at the Dedication Dinner.

furnished. Mr. Eran Ostfeld, recipient of the Chesed Award, has undertaken, together with the other honorees, to bring these facilities to completion. As he accepted his award he told the dinner guests that he and his family appreciated being able to reciprocate to the yeshiva for what it has done for them. Ostfeld praised the students of Tomchei Tmimim, “the fruits of the yeshiva are students who are committed to developing communities and teaching Torah the world over.”

The program then shifted to an exceptional video presentation presenting the history of Tomchei Tmimim, illustrating its unique goals and featuring comments by rabbis, students, professionals and politicians. The video produced by Jerry Levine of Miami, in close association with Mayer Rivkin, excelled in visual and audio presentation as well as content. “The video gives a wonderful perspective of Lubavitch from the time of the Rebbe Rashab to worldwide Chabad activities today,” commented one of the dinner guests. “Seeing it made me feel so proud to be connected to Lubavitch. I would like a copy of it to show my children.”

The video conveyed the undeniable message of the importance of the Israel Henry Beren Residence Hall and the Israel Henry Beren Torah Center, how the newly renovated

buildings will influence the life of students who will in turn, influence the world. Mr. Beren privately made mention of the excellence of the video and the impact that it made on him.

Completing the crescendo created by the video, Jacobson graciously introduced the guest of honor, Mr. Robert Beren. Embedded in Jacobson's stories and analogies was the message: “Money comes from G-d. And G-d chooses special individuals as agents to share with us...to build a Jewish tomorrow. Israel Henry Beren and his nephew, Robert Beren, are towering figures of kindness... In his business, Robert Beren uncovers oil and gas deposits in the earth. By participating in the buildings of Tomchei Tmimim, he is uncovering the spiritual treasures that are in the heart of every Jew.”

Before the keynote speaker, Rabbi Shmuel Butman, conveyed his message about the spiritual essence of Tomchei T'mimim, the main awards were given. Rebbetzin Sara Labkowski came forward to present Mrs. Rivka Beren with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and Rabbi Labkowski and Mayer Rivkin presented Robert Beren



Director of Tzivos Hashem Rabbi Yerachmiel Benjaminson (left) with Shaya Boymelgreen at reception

with a sterling silver replica of the Israel Henry Beren Residence Hall.

Upon receiving his award, Robert Beren shared his thoughts with the dinner guests. He recalled his father and two uncles being honored by Lubavitch many years ago. He expressed his respect for the young graduates of Tomchei T'mimim, who dedicate their lives to teaching Torah and building Jewish communities. He told the audience that just that afternoon he had gone to see the buildings, how pleased he was with what he saw and of his intention to assist in completing the unfinished kitchen, dining hall and library. He mentioned the pleasant persistence and warmth of Rabbi Labkowski and the thoughtfulness and co-operation of Mayer Rivkin.

Robert Beren concluded his message with very touching words: “As a committed Jew, though not a Chassid, I am inspired by the way the Lubavitchers are realizing the message of the Baal Shem Tov, that the Redemption will come to the Jewish people when you will bring the message of Torah and Yiddishkeit – especially the fervor and love taught by the Baal Shem Tov – to all the corners of the Jewish world. I am delighted that in our own way, my late uncle and myself can be of help to you in this great mission.”

The program was brought to completion by Keynote Speaker, Rabbi Shmuel Butman who praised the students of the Tomchei Tmimim. The Lubavitcher Yeshiva produces not only soldiers, it produces generals who bring light to their communities, their cities, and their countries. As the Rebbe tells us that this is the last generation of Galus and the first generation of Geula, it is they, the Chayalei Beis Dovid, the soldiers (and generals) of the Rebbe who prepare the world for the Geula, when the Rebbe will lead us out of Galus immediately.