

# AN EVENING OF CHIZUK FOR RESIDENTS OF EMANUEL, ISRAEL

On Wednesday, Teives 11, an Erev Chabad in Emanuel was held to provide residents with *chizuk* in the wake of the recent terrorist attack there. The director of the Emanuel's Chabad House, Rabbi Yehuda Alcharrar, organized the evening with the help of Merkas Tzeirei Chabad in Kfar Chabad.

Rabbi Aharon Eliezer Tzeitlin of Tzfas attended as the guest speaker, as well as Rabbis Shmuel Lewis, Mordechai Shechter and Yosef Solomon of Kfar Chabad. Rabbi Tzeitlin said that the desire of the

victims was that Emanuel continue to be settled in greater measure than ever. Tzeitlin urged people to take *hachlatos* they would actually keep.

Mr. Charir, the driver of the attacked bus, gave a first-hand description of the terror: "When the bomb went off, I fell off my seat, but I didn't lose consciousness. I got up immediately, sat back down and stepped on the accelerator to get out of there as quickly as possible. Passengers were screaming, some of them telling me to stop, but I heard shooting behind us and knew that if

we'd stop we'd be in greater danger. "*Baruch Hashem*, I managed to drive the bus a few hundred meters away, thus *b'chasdei Hashem* saving the lives of many passengers."

Rabbi Gerlitz, currently raising money for families affected by the attack, spoke next. He said the families of those who were killed or wounded needed financial and moral support. Many people came forward at the end of the evening and signed a commitment to support them.

# TWO-DAY CHANUKA CELEBRATION AT KINYAN HA'ZAHAV MALL

"Two days of *chassidic* celebration at the Kinyan HaZahav," read the advertisement. The directors of the Kinyan HaZahav Chabad Center in Rishon L'Tziyon planned the huge event to get as many people as possible to participate in a special Chanuka celebration.

The program began Tuesday night with a giant children's rally. Police increased security due to the ever-growing crowd, with the mall's

management estimating that about 6,000 people had come. *Chazanus*, entertainment, and of course, the *menora* lighting followed the rally. The mall was decorated with Moshiach signs, and earlier on, Lubavitchers had circulated among the shops, being *mizakeh* the merchants with the lighting of Chanuka candles.

Festivities continued the next night, with a performance by the

Nagel Family, which led to the *bachurim* on hand bursting into spontaneous dancing with the crowd, followed by a march through the mall distributing doughnuts and *menoras* to storeowners and shoppers alike. In the midst of the march, one shopkeeper stood on a chair and shouted out his blessings for the Chabad Center "for the great *simcha* they brought to the mall. "May all this bring *bracha* and *Geula* to *Ahm Yisroel*," he concluded.

# 400 DAYS OF CHINUCH

*In honor of the Rebbe's 100th year, four mayors declared "100 Days of Education."*

*\* These declarations were made at the menorah lighting ceremonies during Chanuka.*

*\* Public menorahs were placed in 15 business centers, malls, and public squares, and were seen by thousands of people. \* 2500 Jewish families participated in Chanuka events. \* Bris Avrohom – always at work.*

Four New Jersey cities with large Russian-Jewish populations held official Chanuka events, with the participation of local governments.

## ELIZABETH

The mayor of Elizabeth, Chris Bulge, hosted a large group of Russian Jewish immigrants. He was presented with a *menora* and then praised the work of Bris Avrohom, which, he said, not only educated people about Judaism, but simply "raised good Americans."

Rabbi Kanelsky responded by thanking G-d, that instead of experiencing fear during Chanuka, as these Jews did in the past, now they experience peace and freedom in the spirit of the holiday.

## JERSEY CITY

A similar ceremony took place in this North Jersey city, this time with Mayor Glenn Cunningham in attendance. Cunningham said how much he admired the work of Bris Avrohom, and how much he respected Jews and their holidays. He related a story from his childhood, which, in hindsight, was what made him "recognize the uniqueness of the Jewish people," he said.

When he was a boy, he grew up in a very poor family of nine. They didn't have a cent, and nobody came to their aid, except one Jew: Mr. Guttman of the local grocery, who told a young Glenn he could continue buying food despite the unpaid bill. "That's when I learned who the Jews

are, and how much kindness is ingrained in them. Now I am able, and want to, repay the favor. Thank you."

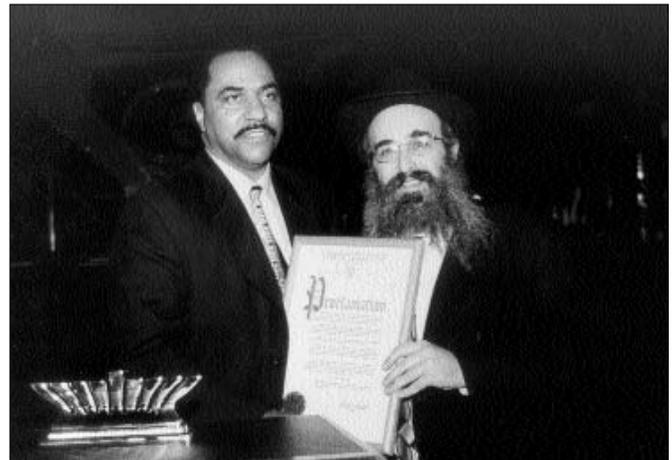
Radio personality Nachum Segal of JM in the AM, lit the public *menora*.

## FAIRLAWN

Mayor David Ganz participated in the Chanuka celebration attended by 500 people, including 150 children. The emcee highlighted the works of the Galinko sisters, who came up with a wonderful idea for their *bas mitzva*: sending letters to every Jewish family in town, asking for donations of toys and games for the Russian children who would be attending the Chanuka party. They



(From right to left) Rabbi M. Kanelsky, Elizabeth mayor Chris Bulge, Rabbi D. Kahane, Rabbi Dovid Vilensky, Rabbi Boruch Levkivker, Rabbi Eliyahu Kogan, Rabbi Yisroel Davidson



With the mayor of Jersey City, holding the proclamation of 100 Days of Education in honor of the Rebbe



Rabbi Berel Zaltsman, Rabbi Kanelsky, Fairlawn mayor David Ganz and his aide

received a positive response, and the toys were distributed during the course of the program.

The mayor said the concept of freedom, which is the message of Chanuka, is one all the nations learned, and that he took special pleasure in rejoicing with Jews who left an oppressive land for a land of freedom.

## HILLSIDE

Representatives of various Jewish organizations including Hadassah, Young Israel and others joined the *menora* lighting festivities and expressed their appreciation to Bris Avrohom.