

for his dedication.

Rabbi Steinberg finally arrived at the yeshiva in Mexico City late Thursday evening, where he was greeted excitedly. He immediately delivered a *shiur* in *hashkafah*, explaining the importance of in-depth learning.

After the *shiur*, Rabbi Steinberg began giving *bechinot* to the *talmitim* until the wee hours of the morning. On Friday, Rabbi Steinberg woke up early and spent the entire day giving more *bechinot*.

On Shabbos, *davening* in the yeshiva was very well attended, as all were very anxious to hear Rabbi Steinberg's *drashos* and *divrei Torah*. On *Leil Shabbos*, there was an *oneg Shabbos* with beautiful *zemiros*; the attendees especially enjoyed hearing the *zemiros* of the young Mordechai Leib Steinberg.

On Shabbos morning, Rabbi Steinberg continued giving *bechinot* and spoke several times in shul, including following *kiddush* and during communal *Shabbos seudos*.

After *Havdalah*, the *kehillah* presented Mordechai Leib Steinberg with some beautiful gifts in honor of his bar mitzvah. A gift and a plaque were presented to Rabbi Steinberg for his commitment, *chessed* and imparting teachings to the people of Mexico City.

One of the main messages relayed by Rabbi Steinberg during Shabbos was the importance of making Torah part of every aspect of our lives. "The *Gemara* in *Maseches Eruvin* states that Torah is not found with businessmen and merchants, but here we are testing *baalei batim*, and they are very knowledgeable. How can we resolve this contradiction?" Rabbi Steinberg questioned.

"The answer is that they may work during the day, but they are *bonei Torah*. If someone is a *ben Torah*, it is evident in everything that he does: the way he talks, walks, his honesty in business and his *shalom bayis*."

On Motzoei Shabbos, Rabbi Steinberg administered the final *bechinot*, before leaving for the airport early Sunday morning.

The Mexico City community was extremely inspired by Rabbi Steinberg's presence during Shabbos. Over the course of approximately 48 hours, Rabbi Steinberg spoke seven times, and administered 26 *bechinot* on the difficult topic of *amirah lakum*. He was extremely impressed with the proficiency and high level of learning of the *baalei batim*.

"It was delightful to hear them being able to accurately grasp these difficult *halachos*. I always find it extremely gratifying to encourage people who are involved in learning to learn even more. It was a very uplifting experience for both myself and my son."



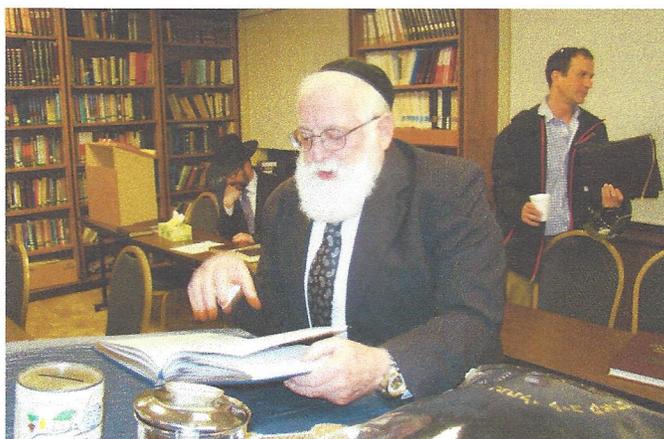
Ohio Jewish Communities

As part of the Ohio Jewish Communities Security Fly-In to Washington, D.C., Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) is in conversation with Mr. Oren Baratz (2nd L), SVP External Affairs, the Jewish Federation of Greater Cleveland. Mr. Jim Hartnett, director of Community-Wide Security of the Jewish Federation of Greater Cleveland (L) and Mr. Joel Marcovitch, CEO, JewishColumbus (R) listen.



Ohio Jewish Communities

Leadership from the eight Jewish federations across Ohio and leadership from Agudath Israel of Ohio meet with Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) to discuss safety and security for shuls, yeshivos, preschools and other *mosdos*.



L'chaim on completion of *Sefer Yirmiyahu* at the Providence Community Kollel; Reb Anshel Eliyahu Strauss, *mesayem*.

### Ohio's Jewish Federations Daylong Fly-In Focuses On Security

On Wednesday, March 13, lay and professional leaders from Ohio's Jewish Federations took to Capitol Hill to advocate for increased security funding for faith-based and cause-based nonprofits at high risk of terror attack.

"There's no nice way to say this. A lot of violent people out there hate Jews and want to murder us," said Mr. Howie Beigelman, executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities, the statewide government advocacy, public affairs, and community relations voice of Ohio's eight Jewish federations.

"But we aren't alone. Not in being targets, unfortunately. Many other religious or ethnic groups face similar violence and threats. And thankfully, we aren't alone in fighting back. Maybe, for one of the first times in Jewish history, law enforcement and policymakers have our backs."

The delegation met with both of Ohio's Senators, Mr. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), and Mr. Rob Portman (R-Ohio). Appointments were also set with 14 of the state's 16 Congressional offices.

Even small communities today face big-city security challenges, according to Mr. Rob Elston, the security director for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

"We need to be here, together with our larger communities, telling our story to the decision-makers. We're doing our best to protect people, and we need help in doing it," said Mr. Elston.

"Since the Pittsburgh attack and the arrest in Toledo, our community members have been trying to do more to keep everyone safe. We can't do it alone, especially if we are to meet our mission of helping those in need," noted Ms. Cathy Gardner, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton.

Indeed, based on very real, current safety priorities, the advocacy focused on the need to maintain and expand both FEMA nonprofit

security grant programs: the original Urban Area program and the NSGP-S, created last year through the leadership of Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio), which provided \$10 million overall to states ineligible for the original grant program.

Through that, Ohio nonprofits at risk of terror attack received nearly \$600,000 in needed grants for target-hardening against attack.

The advocates focused on the need for armed security personnel, as well, either as school resource officers or special duty officers, for nonpublic preschool and K-12 schools.

Security to guard houses of worship and schools is a top need of Mr. Joel Marcovitch, CEO of Jewish Columbus, who appreciated the time all three Central Ohio Representatives, Mr. Troy Balderson, Ms. Joyce Beatty and Mr. Steve Stivers gave the group. All that, along with the fact that it was a statewide mission, made the event particularly important to him. "It was each community supporting the other in their own advocacy," he stated.

It wasn't just the Ohio federations and the Jewish communities across Ohio who joined for this advocacy. Agudath Israel's Ohio director Rabbi Yitz Frank was with the group for part of the day.

Rabbi Frank thought it was especially important that a bipartisan slate of members and offices met with the group. "It was so encouraging to see both our Senators and our congressional delegation take such interest in the safety of the Jewish community. Their support is deeply meaningful to Jewish communities in Ohio and beyond."

On the national level, "JFNA, with its dedicated Washington Action Office led by Mr. William

*Continued on page 10*



At the Denver Community Kollel's 21st anniversary celebration (L-R): Kollel Associate Scholar Rabbi Akiva Stern with his *chavrusa*, Mr. Donni Basch.



At the Denver Community Kollel's 21st anniversary celebration (L-R): Rabbi Shachne Sommers, *Rosh Kollel*; Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, *Rosh Kollel* and Mr. Neil Olesky, honoree.

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Daroff, and especially, their homeland security policy lead, Mr. Rob Goldberg, were instrumental in crafting our legislative advocacy," added Mr. Beigelman.

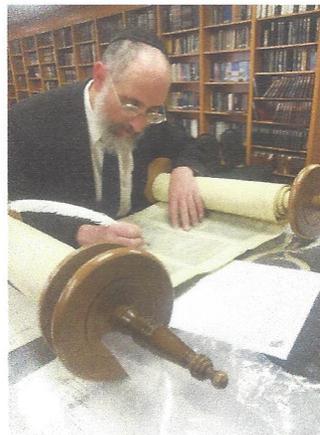
Prior to the Fly-In, Mr. Beigelman notes, the Jewish community's national community security umbrella, SCN, was consulted. National Director and CEO Michael Masters and Deputy Director and COO Patrick Daly offered insight and expertise regarding working with DHS and on current security best practices for local law enforcement and nonprofit agencies.

Mr. Mark Dowd, the director of SAFE Cincinnati, also sits on a SCN committee looking at ways to leverage local needs and national expertise. "The right thing for us to do is to examine and address our local security needs in a way that also supports and boosts the similar needs of other Jewish communities across the country. We were very encouraged to hear that our Ohio Congressional representatives felt the same and offered their continued support for these collective efforts," he remarked.

Beyond the immediate needs and legislative advocacy, the day was also an opportunity to update policymakers on innovative ideas and new directions in community safety, many of which require partnership with federal, state and local law enforcement.

"No one can do this alone. We treasure our relationships with our local departments all the way up to the FBI and DHS," remarked Mr. Jim Hartnett, director of community-wide security at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. "Going forward, it will be those connections and collaborations that make the difference."

And, everyone agreed that this week's Fly-In wasn't an end, but the beginning of an increased and sustained advocacy on community safety.



Rabbi Yitzchok Weinberger repairs a *sefer Torah* at the JEC of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

### Girls' STEM Day

On Monday, March 18, the American Technion Society (ATS) held a special Girls' STEM Day program on the Cornell Tech campus for female Jewish high school students, in partnership with Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE) and First New York City (First NYC). Participating schools included Tichon Meir Moshe, Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls, The Bruria High School for Girls and Yeshiva University High School for Girls.

The program featured an afternoon of hands-on learning with workshops that helped the students expand their knowledge of STEM and the digital world.

The agenda included various workshops. "First NYC STEM LAB" workshop was based on USER.TASK.CONSTRAINT from Design for America's work. The students used a deck of cards called mockups for their design-thinking exercises. The goal was to build quickly in a short amount of time.

The second workshop, "Creepy or Convenient," featured a discussion on how personal data is used all the



Rabbi Shachne Sommers, *Rosh Kollel*, delivering a pre-Purim *shmues* at the Denver Community Kollel's West Denver *beis medrash*.

time for ads, Google maps, and more, sometimes convenient, sometimes creepy. The students learned some of the ways information is used.

The program also included a meet-and-greet with Mrs. Judy Spitz, head of Women in Technology and Entrepreneurship in New York (WitNY). WitNY, a collaborative initiative with Cornell Tech, CUNY, and industry partners, propels women from high schools through graduate school into rewarding tech careers. Their programs focus on education, work experience and community building.

The event took place on Cornell Tech's Roosevelt Island campus, home of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute, which is a joint academic venture between Cornell University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

### Denver Community Kollel Holds Its 21st Anniversary Celebration

The Denver Community Kollel held its 21st anniversary celebration on Sunday evening, March 17.

The more than 275 attendees were treated to the classic Denver Community Kollel standard of great food and a short but inspiring program.

The theme of the evening, "Story-told," featured inspiring stories of Torah in the Denver Jewish community, told through three video productions.

"A Story of Dedication" focused on the evening's honorees, Mr. and Mrs. Neil and Vicki Bluma Olesky, and their commitment to Torah and *chessed* in Denver.

"A Story of Learning" was a musical video production that featured the story of the growth of Torah learning in the Denver Jewish community.

"A Story of Partnership" told the story of a unique Yissochor-Zevulun partnership. Mr. Donni Basch had opened a hedge fund in 2018 and entered into a Yissochor-Zevulun partnership with the *kollel*.

In December 2018, with the sudden market volatility, things looked bleak. At that point, Mr. Basch decided to begin learning at the *kollel*, and almost immediately witnessed an unprecedented market rebound that allowed his company to regain its footing.