

Monsey Shabbos

By: Temima Lewin

Mrs. Kinzer's Eleventh Grade class was privileged to spend Shabbos Parshas Behar in Monsey, New York. We first stopped off at Mrs. Kinzer's mechutanim, the Rosenwassers, where we were welcomed with piping hot potato kugel and other delicacies. We were then treated to a tour of New Square by Rabbi Rosenwasser. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the cemetery in New Square, where we were zocheh to daven at the kever of Rebbitzin Vichna Kaplan, the founder of Bais Yaakov in America and a student of Sara Schneirer. Mrs. Esther Tillim, Rebbitzin Kaplan's niece, spoke about her aunt's incredible accomplishments and how much time she devoted to the Klal. We all left this meeting so inspired!

After touring Monsey and learning about its numerous chesed organizations, we arrived at the home of our hosts, the Swiatyckis. We were greeted warmly and settled in to prepare for Shabbos. After a beautiful recitation of Kabbalas Shabbos, we were served a delicious seudah, during which we had a stimulating "Ask the Rabbi" session with Rabbi Swiatcky. Many insightful questions were presented, and we all left with satisfying answers.

In the morning, we walked to the house of our day hosts, the Nakdimens, where we enjoyed a sumptuous seudah. Noted speaker Rabbi Menachem Apter offered an enthralling message about Hashgocha Pratis. He explained that although we generally anticipate hearing positive outcomes to problems, it is still hashgocha pratis even if the ending isn't as expected or hoped for.

After a lively brachos/Amen party and some much needed rest time, we regrouped to hear from Mrs. Esther Friedman, who delivered an uplifting and motivational message about maintaining our Torah aspirations while juggling our many responsibilities. We were then treated to a panel discussion on the topic of jealousy, where our many perceptive questions received some truly profound, thought-provoking answers. At a most appetizing Shalosh Seudos, this writer offered an short- but significant- Dvar Torah about Hashgocha Pratis.

Following Havdala, we headed to Shelley's, a pizza shop located in the Evergreen Shopping Center, after which we headed home. We all left Monsey Shabbos inspired with a renewed feeling of class unity, and with a deeper appreciation for how much our teachers do for us. Thank you so much Mrs. Kinzer for sacrificing your own Shabbos with your family to give us this unforgettable experience.