



ACHIEZER  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

One Community. One Resource.  
2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



ACHIEZER  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER  
One Community. One Resource.



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ACHIEZER  
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CommUnity

SUNDAY  
JANUARY 6, 2019

THE SANDS  
ATLANTIC BEACH

SEE INSIDE PAGE 12

24/7 | 365:  
RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE  
ACHIEZER IS THERE.

**2018 YEAR IN REVIEW  
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- LIST OF SERVICES**
- 24 Hour Urgent Hotline • Bereavement Counseling • Crisis Intervention • Community Camp Fund
  - Eldercare Conference • ElderCare Support • Family Crisis Division • Health Insurance Enrollment
  - Home Repair Team • Hospital Respite Rooms • Hospital-Based Support • Legal Network
  - Meals 'N More • Medical Recommendations • Mental Health Support • SpecialCare Conference
  - Specialty Equipment Depot • Community Volunteer Network
  - Westwood Financial Management Division • Zichron Dovid Chessed Shel Emes Division



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A  
Message  
from  
**Our  
President**

Dear Friends,

Last year, we celebrated a monumental milestone together - ten years of Achiezer. Ten years of this community joining hands to support one another in a most unique way.

As we look ahead, we are excited to focus on our unique strengths as a community. The only way we are able to accomplish what we do is by working together to make things happen, by listening to one another, by looking past external differences and finding the similarities that unite us.

What we have seen is that when we are connected; when we act as one cohesive unit, sharing our resources, knowledge and goodwill, there is no limit to what we can do for one another.

As we reflect back on our many accomplishments and continue to look ahead, we know that there is still so much more that we can do when we work together.

Looking forward to another decade of continued growth,



Boruch B. Bender

**Welcoming a New Board Member**

**Michael Weiss**

Achiezer's leadership is pleased to welcome Michael Weiss to its Executive Board. Michael and his wife Tess have been residents of the Lawrence community since 1987 and are valued friends and longtime supporters of Achiezer initiatives. Michael has an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and has used his extensive finance experience in guiding numerous couples towards fiscal independence through Achiezer's Westwood Financial Management Division. No doubt, the organization stands to gain immeasurably from his extensive professional and communal experience, and we are excited to have him on board.





# Rest and Reprieve

Achiezer's Network of Respite Rooms



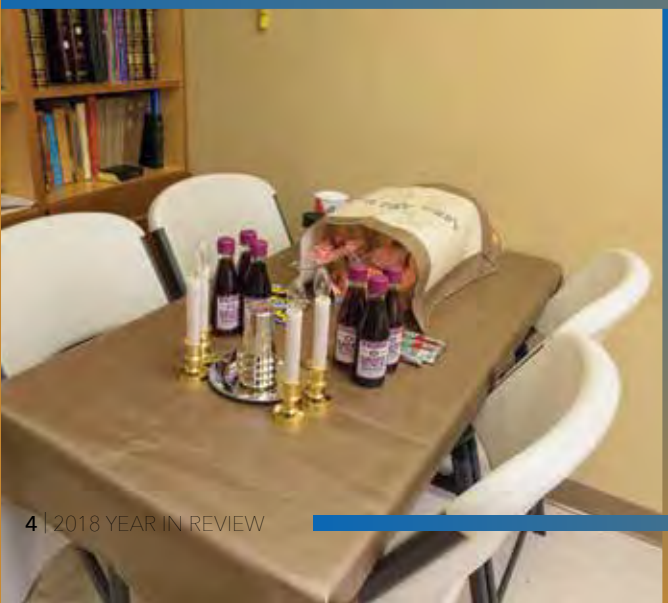
What started as a single respite room in South Nassau Communities Hospital has mushroomed into an organization within an organization - an impressive program that rivals the efforts of many chesed organizations dedicated solely to the mitzvah of bikur cholim.

"Achiezer is well-known for its medical referral service; with an ever-growing database of doctors and connections to many difficult to reach professionals and hospital executives, we are uniquely positioned to offer the community exceptional assistance with medical care," explains Aliza Wartelsky, Achiezer Program Coordinator. "But that is only one side of what we do. The goal of our hospital services is that patients and their families should be as comfortable and cared for as possible."

That is why Achiezer is currently expanding its well stocked, beautifully appointed respite rooms to as many area hospitals as possible. Readers may be familiar

with the rooms operating in South Nassau and Mercy Hospitals. To date, construction of our newest respite room has just been completed at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, and is well underway at Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ). The room in LIJ, which is centrally located on the first floor for easy access, is the largest room yet. "We researched what other organizations offer so that we could fine tune what to provide. Also, we have had the full support of LIJ hospital staff in building this room, as they are personally invested in this project. A special thank you is due to Mr. Sruly Lieber of Dynamic Cabinetry for his generosity and superb work in helping us create a gorgeous and functional room," shares Aliza.

**An organization within an organization**





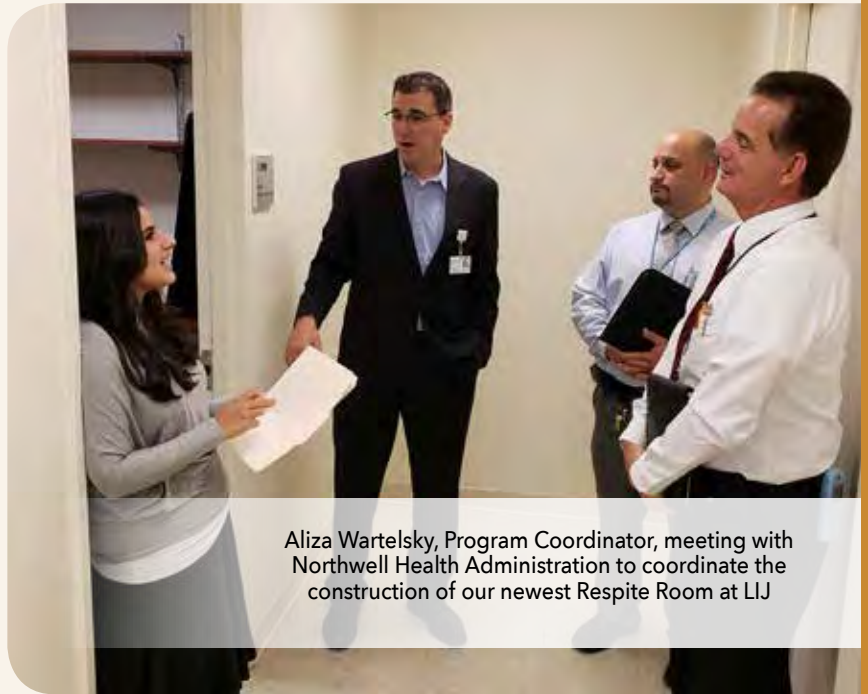
Yet there is even more to come. Construction is slated to begin on a room in NYU Winthrop Hospital and plans have been drawn up for a room in St. Francis Hospital as well. The new rooms at LIJ, St. John's and Winthrop Hospitals have all been generously sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Barbara Silber in memory of their parents, Abraham and Sara Silber and Solomon and Rachela Scheiner. The Silbers are previous partners in this project, having sponsored the room at Mercy Hospital.

Each room is furnished with comfortable couches, books and sefarim, magazines and games. Volunteers stock the rooms several times weekly with an amazing variety of fresh food, generously donated by Gourmet Glatt, a vital partner in this endeavor. Achiezer personnel check in regularly to ensure that the rooms are adequately supplied with everything from coffee to wraps and sandwiches to yogurts, string cheese and snacks. Rooms are supplied each Friday with delicious Shabbos food for all three meals. Those who have benefited from these well-equipped rooms attest to the amazing oasis they provide in the midst of the draining hospital experience.

Aliza has also familiarized herself with the locations of Bikur Cholim rooms and respite facilities in hospitals across the country so that she can guide callers to find what they need, wherever they may be. Erev Shabbos is her busiest day, with calls sometimes coming in minutes before the onset of Shabbos. Staying up to date with this information means constantly researching the facilities and reaching out for feedback. It's all part of Achiezer's commitment to providing the best support possible for patients and their families.



Srlly Lieber of Dynamic Cabinetry and a Northwell representative, discussing the upcoming room at LIJ



Aliza Wartelsky, Program Coordinator, meeting with Northwell Health Administration to coordinate the construction of our newest Respite Room at LIJ



At the ribbon cutting ceremony at our new Respite Room at St. John's Episcopal Hospital. L-R: Renee Hastick-Motes, Vice President, External Affairs at St. John's, Gerald Walsh, CEO of St. John's, Boruch Ber Bender, Srlly Lieber of Dynamic Cabinetry, Boris Noble, Community Liaison to St. John's



A year ago, the Zichron Dovid Chesed Shel Emes Division was founded at the behest of the Adest family, to provide practical help and emotional support to families immediately following the loss of a loved one. Now, Achiezer is taking the next step by spearheading the formation of a Five Towns/Far Rockaway Chevra Kadisha. While several local shuls operate their own chevros kadisha, many new shuls have opened in recent years, whose relatively young members have understandably not been focused on meeting this growing need. As our community continues to grow, so has the need for a large-scale chevra kadisha to service the entire community.

The general concept of this chevra kadisha is for community members to have somewhere to turn when this need arises.

The viability of such an endeavor is dependent on dedicated volunteers who are committed to hours and hours of training and then being on call to carry out their duties. Not surprisingly in our chesed-oriented community, a complete cadre of volunteers - approximately twenty men and twenty women - have already been recruited, hailing from across the Five Towns - Bayswater, Belle Harbor, Cedarhurst, Far Rockaway, Hewlett, Inwood, Lawrence, North Woodmere, Oceanside, West Hempstead and Woodmere. As one volunteer shared. "I always wanted to get involved with this mitzvah, but I wasn't sure how. This was a golden opportunity to do so." The volunteers met at the home of Mrs. Baila Adest for an initial three-hour training conducted by Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, director of the Chevra Kadisha of the Va'ad Harabanim of Queens.

The only way to truly prepare however, is through hands-on training. These forty individuals began by observing others perform the taharah process and then graduating to participating themselves. A volunteer commented, "There is always more to learn. It was actually reassuring for me to hear a longtime volunteer at a recent taharah bring up an issue that she wasn't sure how to handle. It meant that we don't have to learn everything at once, and it's always okay to ask."

Once the training is complete, these selfless volunteers will be on call for the community on a rotation basis, as the need arises. Whatever the circumstance, Achiezer is committed to providing the highest level of support and availability at the most sensitive of times.

"...community members to have somewhere to turn when this need arises"

## Filling a Need as Never Before: Five Towns/ Far Rockaway Chevra Kadisha





# Filling the Void Spotlight on Achiezer's Health Insurance Department



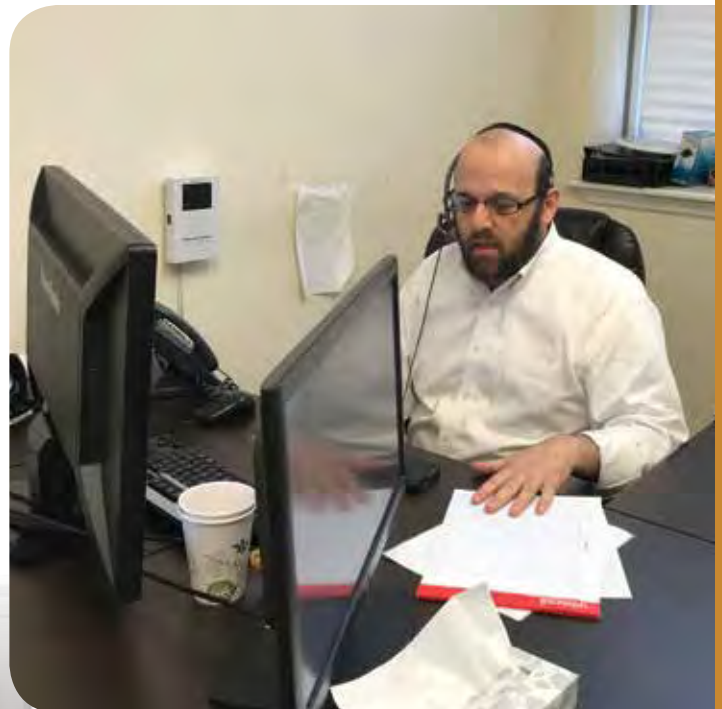
When Achiezer's Health Insurance Department was formed, no one could have imagined what a vital resource it would very quickly prove to be. The biggest indicator of its importance is the dramatic growth it experienced in such a short time span.

What started almost a decade ago with one staff member servicing 400 families soon grew to two staff members servicing 700 families to three people servicing 1,400 families. Currently, it assists 2,300 families in receiving health insurance!

Besides for providing assistance with basic enrollment, Achiezer offers insurance advocacy

to ensure that clients receive the services and care they need. In addition, those who seek medical referrals, one of our most basic and frequently tapped services, can ensure that their insurance will work with them, ameliorating much unnecessary aggravation for those already dealing with stressful situations.

The unparalleled expertise of the Insurance Department is no secret, which is why many have traveled from Queens, Brooklyn, Monsey and other locations throughout New York to benefit from what we have to offer. There's no question that the need for assistance with insurance is growing - and we keep filling that need!





# Citifield Jewish Healthcare Conference and Expo

Sponsored by Northwell Health

Our Jewish Healthcare Conference & Expo that took place at CitiField was the largest gathering of its kind with every imaginable resource for the Jewish caregiver under one roof.



L-R: Dovid Bloom, Achiezer Executive Board Member, Jason Naidich, MD, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of Northwell Health's Central Region, Boruch Ber Bender, Rabbi Yaakov Bender, Moshe Bloom, Achiezer Board Member



L-R: David Slifkin, Chief Executive Officer of Boulevard Health Management and Dr. Zev Carrey



L-R: Rabbi Tzvi Flaum and Mr. Ronald Lowinger, Achiezer Trustee



L-R: Joel Yarmak, Achiezer Executive Board Member, Boruch Ber Bender, HaRav Dovid Cohen Shlita, Yosef Wartelsky





# The Highest Form of Tzedaka: Employment and Career Services



Out of work? Re-entering the workforce? Looking for a secondary source of income? Seeking a job for the very first time? No matter the need, Achiezer has the resources to ease the search.

Our goal has always been to give community members the tools for financial independence. True to the Rambam's dictum that the highest form of tzedaka is to give someone a job, we are proud to offer a full array of employment and career services, from career counseling to navigating the job search process to helping applicants ace that interview.

Achiezer is fortunate to have Mr. Alex Pfeffer, H&R Logistics Consultant at Castlepoint Counseling, generously volunteer his time for applicants, setting up appointments to advise them on appropriate career direction. Once the options are narrowed down, he is also able to guide applicants through the job search process.

Volunteers Racheli Zimmer and Gittie Neufeld offer their expertise in drafting resumes and preparing applicants for interviews - whether applying for a job or for acceptance into a college or training program.

Achiezer also operates a Job Board, administered by Executive Coordinator Mrs. Elke Rubin, to help facilitate the connections between employers and employees.



True to our name, we want to help and we want to help you help others. Need a job? Know of a job? Available to help others in their search for a job?

**Call Achiezer's  
Employment and Career  
Services today at  
(516) 791-4444 ext 125.**

## Meeting the Need

# 24/7

## 3 A.M., MOTZEI YOM KIPPUR

A family is facing an emergency medical crisis. Whom can they call?

When Achiezer first implemented its Urgent Line, callers would leave a voicemail marked urgent and an Achiezer representative would try to return the call as soon as possible. With time, however, this service has undergone major modifications to meet a major need.

Today, our Urgent Line is manned live literally 24/7. Outside of Hatzalah and 911, this level of availability is non-existent. So it was that over the summer, Achiezer became the go to for numerous injuries and incidents upstate that required medical transport and other support. "I don't know what I would have done when my children were in a late night accident on Motzei Shabbos, had I not been able to reach Achiezer," shared a grateful father.

Our Urgent Line has unequivocally become a lifeline for our community - and beyond.

Urgent Line staff benefited from an extensive training course presented by renowned psychologist Dr. David Pelcovitz. Dr. Pelcovitz offered invaluable guidance for manning a crisis hotline and addressing emergencies ranging from financial crisis to sudden death, potential suicide, missing persons and more.



# 10



Achiezer Executive Board Members, recognized for ten years of dedication

## Achiezer's 2018 Tribute of a Decade Dinner



Mrs. Rookie and Rabbi Hershel Billet, Joel Yarmak and Boruch Ber Bender

"Ten people in our community saw the potential of what could be done. They dared to believe when Achiezer was nothing more than a piece of paper and a dream. They realized that if we want to help people, then the sky is the limit." With those words, Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender paid tribute to its ten founding Executive Board Members at Achiezer's Tribute of a Decade Dinner this past February.

1,500 supporters turned out in recognition of these ten amazing individuals and in support of Achiezer's vital efforts on behalf of the community.

Highlights of the evening included a fascinating audiovisual presentation tracing Achiezer's growth; a moving personal story by a beneficiary of Achiezer's assistance; a surprise presentation to Mrs. Elke Rubin, Executive Coordinator; and a poignant presentation to Mr. Anthony Vero, General Manager at LaGuardia Airport.

The success of the Dinner propelled us forward, as we continue to build on the vision that translated into ten years of amazing accomplishments.



Councilman Donovan Richards, Nachum Segal, Charlie Harary and Joel Kaplan





The Doctors and Administration of NYU/Winthrop Hospital



L-R: Menachem Lieber and Aron Solomon



L-R: Rabbi Moshe Weinberger and Jay Gelman



L-R: Moti Hellman, Boruch Ber Bender, Yossi Katz, Nochum Wolf, Menachem Pollack and Moshe Schreiber



L-R: Shalom Vegh, David Klein, Devorah and Uri Dreifus





# Be There for the CommUnity

## Achiezer Gala 2019

Community is both the means and the reason for Achiezer's explosive growth and huge array of resources. Achiezer is unique in that it is not representative of any one group, but rather of our entire community, and it continues to function because of the exceptional community in which we live- because of the varied volunteers, professionals, Rabbanim, and those who offer their resources, time and knowledge to benefit others. Throughout the year, Achiezer runs a few fundraisers for specific needs, but our annual dinner is the only time we ask you to support the organization and its fifteen staff members so that we can continue to serve the community.

Achiezer's Gala, slated for January 6, 2019, promises to be an extraordinary event, celebrating and supporting the power of unity, the power that is our community. We are humbled to present our honorees, representing a cross section that is only possible in a community like ours. Be there and empower Achiezer's continued success.

## Dedication of the Edith Lowinger a"h Achiezer Volunteer Network

to be installed by the  
Lowinger, Keilson,  
Rosenman  
and Zafir families



With the endowment of the Edith Lowinger Achiezer Volunteer Network, Achiezer and the Lowinger family recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Edith Lowinger, a"h.

Mrs. Lowinger was known to have said, "Volunteers shouldn't be born!" Indeed, her commitment to helping others was by choice - and she made it her way of life. At age ten, she volunteered to open her father's business each day to allow him more time to learn. During the war years, she helped run a soup kitchen in the Budapest ghetto. Once married and living in America, she and her husband supplied many new immigrants with desperately needed jobs. Years later, she cared for many Jews who escaped Communist Russia, marrying off young girls and gifting each one with beautiful linen to start her new life. She and her husband established three shuls; following Mr. Lowinger's passing, she also established a night kollel in his memory. Her home was always open to those in need, helping them in the most gracious way.

Today, her family carries on this legacy of dedication to one's fellow Jews, as longstanding members of the Achiezer team. Mrs. Lowinger's son, Mr. Ronald Lowinger, is a founding Trustee and his wife, Dr. Brucha Lowinger, is the Coordinator of the Mental Health Department. Her grandson, Mr. Ben Lowinger serves on the Executive Board. Mrs. Milka Keilson, Achiezer's dedicated Event Coordinator, is a granddaughter, and two other grandchildren, Mrs. Sarah Zafir and Mrs. Leah Rosenman, volunteer weekly as part of our hospital respite rooms program.

Achiezer's ability to function in areas big and small is largely dependent upon its cadre of 400 devoted volunteers. Those who dedicate their time and resources as Achiezer volunteers are mirroring Mrs. Lowinger's listening ear, generous hand and open heart. How fitting it is that her family has chosen to dedicate Achiezer's volunteer network in her memory.



## Pillars of Chesed Awardees Yossy and Miriam Lea Ungar

Many lucky parents and children know Yossy and Miriam Lea Ungar as beloved educators in our community. Their expertise and consideration in their respective positions as first grade rebbi in HALB and preschool morah in TAG have benefited scores of students over the years.

But their community involvement extends far beyond the classroom setting. The Ungars have been Achiezer volunteers since its inception, and they have involved their entire family in their efforts. They are constantly looking for ways to enhance programs and services, so that our work can benefit even more people, more effectively. Their door is open to those in need, and their car is truly a chesed-mobile. In fact, upon obtaining a new car, they approached Achiezer with the following request: "Do you have any chesed opportunities for us? We want our first trip to be for chesed!"

It is thus most appropriate that Achiezer will be honoring the Ungars with the Pillars of Chesed Award at this year's annual Gala.



## Man of the Year Michael H. Goldberg

Executive Director,  
Long Island Jewish Medical Center  
Northwell Health



As Executive Director of LIJ Medical Center, Mr. Michael Goldberg bears the mammoth responsibility of seeing to the smooth operation of a facility that comprises 583 beds, 6,500 employees and 4,000 physicians. Yet he has consistently proven to be remarkably approachable and available and a truly dedicated partner in Achiezer's work.

Liaising with Achiezer on a weekly and even daily basis, he smooths the way for families facing serious medical situations; ensures attention is given to the community's cultural sensitivities; and guarantees that the unique requirements of Orthodox patients are being addressed. Whatever the need, Mr. Goldberg is always extremely responsive and gracious and continues to extend himself far beyond the parameters of his actual responsibilities.

Without a doubt, there is no more appropriate candidate for this year's Man of the Year Award than Mr. Michael Goldberg.



## Excellence in Medicine Awardees **Dr. Martin Kessler** **and Dr. Ari Hoschander**

Partners, KH Plastic Surgery, P.C.

Dr. Martin Kessler, M.D., F.A.C.S., is a much beloved physician who has dedicated his expert abilities to helping and healing so many in our community. Renowned for his skill as a plastic surgeon and hand specialist, he currently serves as the Chief of Plastic Surgery at South Nassau Communities Hospital and as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery at The Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. He is often sought out by colleagues for his professional advice, and he has been listed as one of New York's top doctors for twenty consecutive years. What sets him apart beyond his expertise, however, is his devotion to his patients and his community. Over the last thirty three years, whether called upon by Achiezer, Hatzalah or a private community member, Dr. Kessler always comes through, offering healing and exceptional care, along with kindness and true concern.



Dr. Ari Hoschander, M.D., F.A.C.S., completed his general surgery training at North Shore - LIJ and plastic surgery specialty at University of Miami. While completing his training, Dr. Hoschander authored and edited a textbook on plastic surgery titled, *Operative Procedures in Plastic, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery*. Upon returning to Long Island several years ago, Dr. Hoschander and Dr. Kessler joined forces and started their practice, KH Plastic Surgery. Dr. Hoschander has become extremely sought after for his skill, attentiveness, warm bedside manner and willingness to help anyone in need. He has rushed to assist in literally thousands of emergency situations over the course of the last five years. His responsiveness and consideration, whatever the time, whatever the need, are truly outstanding.

Together, Drs. Kessler and Hoschander make an extraordinary team, devoted to their patients and to their community. We are proud to recognize their efforts with this year's Excellence in Medicine Award.





## Young Leadership Awardees Shalom and Leah Jaroslawicz



By now, individuals far beyond the Far Rockaway - Five Towns area know that when crisis hits, there is no reason to go it alone; Achiezer is always on call, offering a lifeline of support, literally 24/7.

Our Urgent Line is only possible to maintain due to the extraordinary dedication and assiduousness of Achiezer's Crisis Coordinator, Shalom Jaroslawicz. Whether Shabbos at 3:00 a.m., Sunday afternoon, at shul, or during the Pesach Seder, Shalom is on call.

In most cases, he is the first person a desperate caller will actually speak with. With expert care and sensitivity, he handles and coordinates crisis intervention in a myriad of situations. Shalom's role encompasses so much more than his official job description. It means he is prepared to help, no matter the hour, no matter the need. Amazingly, this is only one aspect of his community involvement

- he is also Coordinator of the Zichron Dovid Chesed Shel Emes Initiative, a Hatzalah volunteer and a Registered Nurse.

Shalom's dedication to his work and the community is only possible through the gracious support of his wife, Leah, who is far more than just a willing partner. Supporting her husband's vital efforts means sharing his time and energy with the community literally day and night. Aside from "holding down the fort," when necessary, Leah has stepped in to assist in various emergency situations. It is not uncommon for her to answer the phone in her husband's stead, ensuring that no call ever goes unanswered. Leah's encouragement and assistance continue to play a key role in enabling Shalom's unparalleled dedication to those in need of immediate assistance.

It is with much pride and gratitude that we have chosen to bestow the Young Leadership Award upon this very unique and selfless couple.



**1.6.19**

For more information visit [www.achiezer.org/dinner](http://www.achiezer.org/dinner)

🐦 @AchiezerFR\_5T    📷 @Achiezer





# At a Recent Achiezer Board Meeting

Representatives from across the entire Far Rockaway and Five Towns community meet to discuss Achiezer's present and future activities



## Noteworthy Meeting with Administrators at South Nassau Communities Hospital/ Mount Sinai Health System



Achiezer continues to move forward in our commitment to ensuring optimum sensitivity and care for Jewish patients in local hospitals. About a year and a half ago, Achiezer met with representatives of Northwell Health System, along with Rabbanim and community leaders, to explore health and hospital related issues relevant to the frum community.

That was only the first in a planned series of meetings with other hospitals in the vicinity. Recently, Achiezer conducted a meeting with administrators of South Nassau Communities Hospital, which has merged with the Mount Sinai Health System. The meeting centered around how the hospitals can best meet the needs of the Jewish community through day to day chaplaincy; providing adequate kosher food; offering Shabbos-friendly accommodations; and in death-related matters. Liaising with hospital staff in this way ensures that wherever community members might be, their needs will be met in the best way possible.

**“...ensuring optimum sensitivity and care for Jewish patients in local hospitals”**





We are grateful to Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato for spending time at our offices to discuss several important communal items and projects



**ACHIEZER**  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS  
One Community. One Mission.

Boruch Ber Bender delivering the invocation at a breakfast hosted by New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio

## Various Achiezer Meetings, Initiatives and Events



Achiezer staff collaborating with the team from the Gural JCC exploring the valuable services available to those experiencing varying crises



Meeting with the leadership of St. Francis Hospital and their Pastoral Care Directors at our offices exploring a new venture which will assist hundreds of religious patients and their families who travel from far to their specialty center





# Our Kids Know About Drugs Do We?



Achiezer recently collaborated with several other organizations including the Gural JCC and Madraigos, for an inaugural educational event for local parents, held on July 16. The program, moderated by Achiezer President Boruch Ber Bender, offered participants valuable and practical information about drug use and abuse. Panelists included local Rabbanim, professionals, a representative of Hatzalah and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder.



## Appreciating Police Commissioner Ryder



On Erev Pesach 2018, Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender presented Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder with a plaque recognizing the numerous occasions upon which he had collaborated with our community during pressing and difficult circumstances.



This dedicated group of Achiezer volunteers spent their Purim afternoon in various hospitals bringing the joy and happiness of Yom Tov to those who were otherwise unable to enjoy their Purim



Achiezer staff and volunteers spent hours preparing, cleaning and stocking numerous hospital Respite Rooms in anticipation of Pesach



An Achiezer delegation including Boruch Ber Bender, Mordechai Picker, Operations Coordinator and Avromi Goldfeder of Cooling Heating & Beyond went down to Houston in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey



Young Meals 'N More Volunteers





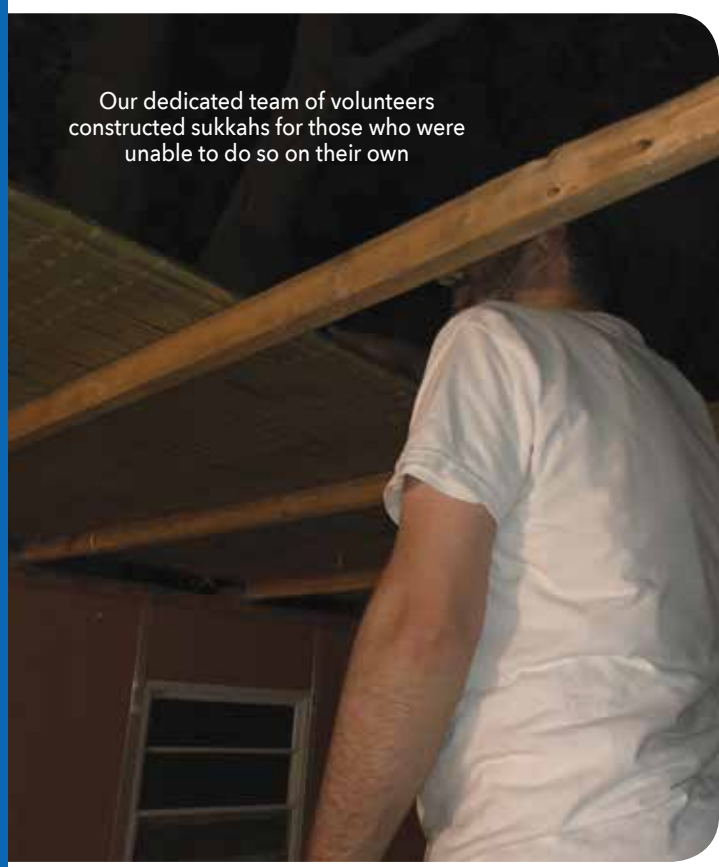
# The Gift of Simchas Yom Tov

Our focus has long been on encouraging families to achieve financial independence. To date, more than 400 families have journeyed in this direction with the help of our Westwood Financial Management Division. But we understand that along the way there are times that can be financially overwhelming for anyone - namely the Yom Tov seasons of Pesach and Succos.

That is why this Pesach season alone, Achiezer with the generous help of Gourmet Glatt distributed over \$120,000 to worthy families. The money was carefully allocated in a dignified fashion to numerous hardworking families in the community with the help of Intake Coordinator Mrs. Esther Novak. Our goal? To ensure that every family has what they need for true simchas Yom Tov.



**Achiezer distributed over \$120,000 to worthy families**



Our dedicated team of volunteers constructed sukkahs for those who were unable to do so on their own



More than a dozen men read megilla at varied homes and hospitals for those who were unable to go to shul this Purim

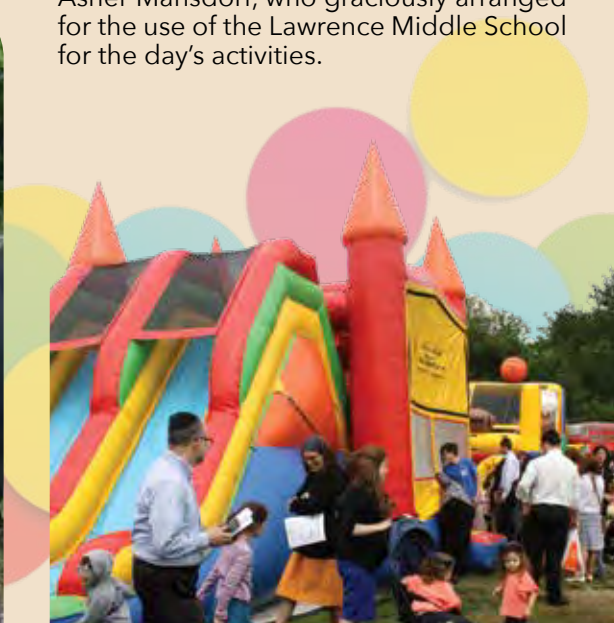


# Memorial Day: Fun and Safety in One

Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day - scores of children enjoyed an exciting Community Safety Fair generously sponsored by The Jewish Home, in conjunction with Achiezer. The goal of the event was to educate families about as many safety topics as possible in a fun and relaxed environment. These included Fire Prevention, Summer Vehicle Safety, Water Safety, CPR, Cycling Safety, Stranger Safety and Allergy Awareness.

Every aspect of the day's program was expertly coordinated by Achiezer's Event Coordinator, Mrs. Milka Keilson. Participants enjoyed a free carnival and concert by Pumpidisa and a special Memorial Day tribute to Jewish veterans, with a rendition of the National Anthem by Mosey Kaplan. Other highlights included a chance for children to explore a local Hatzalah ambulance and a fire truck from the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department; tips on seatbelt safety by the New York State Police Department and tips on stranger safety by the Nassau County Police Department; a pool safety demo by Mr. Yehuda Klinkowitz, veteran lifeguard; and a cycling safety station sponsored by Mr. Sam Travis of Cadence Cycling Center. Delicious refreshments were provided throughout the day by Josh's Brick Oven Pizza.

A special thank you is extended to Dr. Asher Mansdorf, who graciously arranged for the use of the Lawrence Middle School for the day's activities.







Sunday, October 21 - More than 500 people, young and old, trekked out to Beach 76th Street and the Far Rockaway Boardwalk for the third annual CIMBY Run. Yes, the temperatures were a bit nippy and the winds were fierce, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm and excitement of those gathered. Over the past two months, more than 140 runners spent time fundraising for three essential Achiezer programs that benefit so many in our community, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year:

**CHESED SHEL EMES  
HOSPITAL RESPITE ROOM DIVISION  
FAMILY YOM TOV FUND**

Last year saw the launch of CIMBY Junior Runners, geared for boys in grades 4-7. This year, the program was expanded, and nearly 100 Junior Runners participated, enjoying the fun while supporting these important programs.

Special recognition is extended to top fundraiser, Junior Runner Shalom Gutman, who raised over \$1,500, and to Naftali Muller, Eli Chaikin, Mordechai Picker, Daniel Levitin and Yaakov Winzelberg for reaching incredible fundraising goals.







Emcee Mosey Kaplan once again did a phenomenal job recognizing the amazing sponsors of the event and enthusiastically announcing the name of each runner as he sprinted past the finish line. Following the Junior Run, the children were treated to exciting entertainment, expertly coordinated by Yitzy Haber.

Due to high winds, the post-run barbeque, catered by Carlos and Gabby's, was moved from its original tent location to Yeshiva Darchei Torah of Far Rockaway, whose administration graciously offered use of the dining room. In a beautiful show of achdus, hundreds of community members joined in the festivities. Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender offered his thanks to the runners for participating and for their amazing fundraising efforts, and he encouraged participants to continue with their chesed activities, as they show their care and support for other community members.







## The Camp Fund A Unifying Force

Camp in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not a luxury. With two working parents in most households and physical and spiritual dangers literally at our doorsteps, a summer spent home alone is a scary prospect for our children. So what happens to those families for whom camp is financially out of reach?

Enter our community's Summer Camp Fund Campaign, a twenty-four hour matching campaign, held on May 30, in which a generous donor matched every dollar donated. The entire community was galvanized into action, so that we not only met our initial goal of \$200,000 - but exceeded it! To add to the excitement, radio personality Nachum Segal broadcasted live from Achiezer's office on the afternoon of the campaign, joined by community Rabbanim and other guests. The broadcast was generously sponsored לילוי נישמס and לאה מלכה בת שלום.

This year, with your help, the fund assisted over 900 children, with \$212,000. With no overhead costs at all, every penny collected was leveraged to help our neighbors and friends, and every penny made a difference. As one mother shared: "Waving my girls off each

morning as they race to join their friends in camp, I think of the alternative and I am overwhelmingly grateful." This story was repeated in homes all across the Five Towns.

We've grabbed the opportunity to be there for each other, working together as one unified, special community. What the necessity of summer camp in 2018 spawned is something else very special - true unity.

**"...the fund assisted over 900 children, with \$212,000"**





# Spotlight on Queens: An Interview with Mr. Nechemiah Hoch



## Making the Connection

I first met Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Since the central Queens community was not affected by the Hurricane, we were uniquely positioned to reach out and offer significant relief to those heavily hit in the nearby Far Rockaway/Five Towns vicinity.

## Neighborly Support

In the ensuing years, as Achiezer has grown to include various departments, Queens residents frequently reach out for various kinds of support. This year, an entire delegation from the Queens based Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva community attended the Achiezer dinner, in appreciation of the tremendous benefit their members have had from Achiezer's health insurance department.

Rabbi Bender often reaches out to me, as well as Mr. Ari Elbogen, as a connecting point and for a better understanding of local infrastructure; although we are not far apart distance wise, since we are not part of Nassau County, there are different officials and Rabbanim to contact, differences in regulations, etc.

I have to say that in all the years I have worked with Achiezer and watched them benefiting the Queens community, the focus has only been on "what can we do to better service the Queens area" and never has there been any suggestion of "what can you give back to us."

## What Sets Achiezer Apart

Achiezer is exceptional in that they take a holistic approach to the issue at hand. It's not just, "How can we address the problem?" Rather, their goal is to determine what can be done to alleviate the underlying issue. It's the difference between treating and curing. So many in this community have benefited from this strategic approach. As an added benefit, we've learned to apply this mindset to other areas of community efforts.



## On the Horizon

Achiezer does not turn anyone away, and their services for those here in Queens have significantly expanded. We are therefore looking at setting up something more formal in the Queens area. Thus far, I can say that I have been really gratified to play a part in the impact Achiezer has made on the greater Queens community, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

L-R: Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zweibel, Executive Vice President of Agudath Israel of America, Shimmy Pelman, Nechemiah Hoch, interviewee, Rabbi Baruch Rothman, Director of Development Yeshiva Darchei Torah all speaking with the late Michael Simanowitz, a dedicated Queens Assemblyman who tragically passed away in 2017 at the age of 45.



What has Achiezer been busy with over the last few months?  
Take a peek at an excerpt from a recent report shared  
with Achiezer's Executive Board.

## Did You Know?

**Achiezer is currently constructing brand-new respite rooms in three different hospitals. Week after week, our staff and volunteers stock hospital respite rooms with every item a patient's family might need.**

Each Friday, our Meals 'N More volunteers prepare hundreds of meals to be delivered to numerous hospitals.

**More than 900 children from our community experienced a summer of joy thanks to hundreds of community members who contributed to our Summer Camp Campaign.**

Staff members were consulted more than 100 times this summer regarding patients who required transportation from the Catskills to the City for medical treatment.

**More than 2,300 families have been placed on health insurance plans with the help of our Health Insurance Department over the last year.**

Our Mental Health Department has seen dozens of clients, many of whom had nowhere else to turn, free of charge.

**More than ten dozen couples visited the office for financial counseling sessions since January.**

Dozens of individuals are receiving ongoing employment and career guidance in our office.

**Our new community-wide Chevra Kadisha has reached its next phase and will soon be operational.**

On many days, we handle over 100 calls just within our Medical Referral and Crisis Departments.

**Calls regularly come in after hours, sometimes in the wee hours of the morning, and they are always handled by a live Achiezer staff member.**

Throughout the Five Towns, Queens, the surrounding areas and well beyond, when an individual or family experiences a crisis or pressing need, they dial one number, all the time: 516-791-4444.

Today, as you read this report, step back for a minute and recognize what we are accomplishing daily, weekly and monthly in our offices and far beyond its walls.

## Guidestar Platinum Award

Achiezer is proud to have been awarded GuideStar Platinum Status, the highest-level commendation by charity watchdog GuideStar. Achiezer has always maintained its focus on transparency and fiscal responsibility. Our three pronged approach to maintain razor sharp financial integrity includes an on-staff accountant who oversees all bookkeeping; an independent CPA who serves as treasurer to supervise financial operations on behalf of the Board of Directors; and a voluntary third-party audit once a year.







# Kos Tanchumim

## Achiezer Mourns the Recent Loss of Several Exceptional Individuals



### MR. AND MRS. JACK AND LILA WOLLMAN

parents of Chairman of the Board Mr. Shulie and Ahuva Wollman

Until her passing, Mrs. Lila Wollman (together with her husband Jack, who passed away several years ago) was a pillar of chesed in the community. She was a dedicated supporter of Achiezer and strongly encouraged her children in their work on behalf of Achiezer.

### ELISHEVA KAPLAN

Elisheva Kaplan's tragic passing on Chol Ha'moed Pesach, along with her chassan, Yisroel Levin, left the entire community bereft and shaken; the loss was keenly and personally felt by Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender and Achiezer's entire executive staff. Elisheva's father, Mr. Joel Kaplan, has been a tireless consultant to and supporter of Achiezer for many years, and we stand together with the entire Kaplan family during this difficult time.

The Kaplans have recently launched Simchas Elisheva, an initiative to provide stipends for sheitels and clothing for kallahs l'ilui nishmasah. **For more information, visit [www.simchaselisheva.com](http://www.simchaselisheva.com).**



**SIMCHAS ELISHEVA**  
 יו"ר: אהבה רבקה  
 יו"ר: אהבה רבקה



### MIRIAM HOLMAN

Miriam Holman was an exceptional Achiezer volunteer who was determined to invest whatever effort she could to help others. On behalf of nearly 380 Achiezer volunteers, we extend our deepest condolences to her family upon her untimely passing.



### MRS. EDITH LOWINGER

Mrs. Edith Lowinger, mother of Achiezer Trustee Mr. Ronald Lowinger, was a paragon of chesed even as a young woman in war-torn Budapest, and then in the years to come, as she rebuilt her family and the future of Klal Yisrael. She has undoubtedly inspired her beautiful family to follow in her footsteps.



### MR. SOL TEICHMAN

We are saddened to note the passing of Mr. Sol Teichman, father of Mrs. Ahuva Wollman. Mr. Teichman was a dear friend and longtime supporter of Achiezer, who strongly believed in our mandate to be there for every person in need. Mr. Teichman truly embodied this value, supporting Jews across the country and around the world.







334 Central Avenue  
Lawrence, NY 11559  
Phone: 516.791.4444  
www.achiezer.org

# CommUnity

THE ACHIEZER GALA

ONE COMMUNITY  
UNITED IN NEED  
UNITED IN PURPOSE

SUNDAY  
JANUARY 6  
2019

THE SANDS  
ATLANTIC  
BEACH

SEE INSIDE PAGE 12