

## AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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raptly to their treasures, the Lev Chana kindergartners, perform a medley of songs. They then join their grand-

pily as they spot their beloved grandparent, while the grandparents wave back and whip out their smartphones in anticipation of their performance. Family portraits taken in front of a beautiful colorful backdrop, created by



children at various centers in creating beautiful memories to take home. The children smile widely and wave hap-

the kindergarten children, are eagerly awaited by grandparents as they check their mail for the special manila enve-



lope with the familiar Lev Chana return address.

The guests were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the program. Mrs. Joyce Weiss, Ariella Melohn's grandmother, who flew in from warm and sunny Los Angeles, commented, "As a teacher, I have done grandparents' day. Today was calm, relaxed, no pressure,

and we enjoyed every moment of it! Thank you for inviting us." Sammy Butler's grandmother, Nina Butler, a principal in a day school, drove in from Pittsburgh to spend an hour with her grandson to create "priceless jewelry, family trees, and enjoy a musical presentation." Max Karkowsky's grandfather, Irving Goldfinger, succinctly summed up the sentiments of many there when he said, "I have been a HALB parent and grandparent for 35 years. I just want to say thank you to the HALB Yeshiva for doing such a great job. My older kids, who are now grown and who have their own children, are doing fantastic. I want to thank the HALB family for making them into the men they are today." A fantastic time was had by all. We can't wait until next fall. ❖

### JCC/JCCRP Chanukah Toy Drive A Big Success

This past Monday, the JCC of the Greater Five Towns and the JCCRP had another successful Chanukah Toy Drive in memory of Rochel Baron, *a'h*. With gifts in hand and spirits high, the community is getting ready to celebrate Chanukah.

Rochel Baron, *a'h*, the originator of the toy drive, had the sensitivity and the caring to ask, "Why are sick kids the only ones to get gifts? What about people who cannot afford them?" And just like that, the idea of the toy drive was created. Years later, we still see her tremendous impact; one thoughtful person can truly create a ripple effect and change in the community.

Community residents volunteered their time and energy, excited to be helping others in this meaningful project. Families donated money and went shopping as well to buy gifts for other people's children. On Sunday, over 50 volunteers helped get the gifts ready and perfect to present to the fami-

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lies. Toys were distributed to the families in a sensitive, private manner, and were arranged by age, ranging from 0-19. Many volunteers brought their children to help package gifts, energetically and excitedly picking out toys for other kids. On Monday, the families came to pick up their toys, gift cards, and doughnuts for Chanukah. Over 500 local children from struggling families were the recipients of these toys. None of this could be accomplished without the commitment and dedication of toy-drive coordinators: Shani Abittan, Adi Aryeh, Danielle Kupferman, Daphna Mishaan, Fraidy Osina, Rebecca Richman, Rocky Stern, and Lily Weichholz.



*Bat mitzvah girl and friends who packaged 300 gifts*

Bayli Sinensky, a Bnos Bais Yaa-kov student from Woodmere, generously donated many of her own *bat mitzvah* toys and gifts to share with the community. In total, she donated hundreds of gifts and gift cards, truly conveying a strong sense of community and deep caring toward others. Even at such a young age, she has succeeded in setting a tremendous example of what it means to be such a caring and giving *bat Yisrael*. The toy-drive committee extends its gratitude to Bayli and her family and wishes them a sincere *mazel tov* on the occasion of her *bat mitzvah*.

The committee would like to express its deep gratitude to all the donors and generous sponsors: Brach's, Five Towns Judaica, Gourmet



*Rocky Stern, coordinator, packing up toys with other volunteers*



*Ariel Richman packing up toys*

בסי"ד  
*Shomer Shabbos*

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