

THE JEWISH STAR

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Tehillim said by children thank G-d for sparing our lives during Sandy

By Malka Eisenberg

Yeshiva Shor Yoshuv in Lawrence, a hub of aid after Sandy to those devastated by the hurricane, filled with an overflow crowd of more than 2,000 men, women and children this past Sunday for a Tehillim (psalms) rally to thank G-d for surviving the storm.

"The power of Tefila (prayer) from tinokos shel bais Raban (Torah-learning children) is very special," explained Achiezer's Eli Weiss, who organized the event. "The schools and shuls did a tremendous job of promoting and encouraging attendance and involvement and we owe them a great debt of gratitude for contributing to the success that B'H it was."

Men and women, seated separately since it was a prayer rally, and many children filled the cavernous rooms on the main floor of Shor Yoshuv, 1 Cedarlawn Ave. Lawrence, with the crowd spilling into the entrance hall where video screens were set up to enable the crowd to see the speakers and read along as chapters of Tehillim were displayed.

As people entered for the hour-long event, they were handed colored markers



Some of the crowd at Sunday's Tehillim rally.

Photo courtesy Achiezer

for the children and a book of Tehillim for the adults. Each seat had a bottle of water and either a bag of cookies or pretzels. A feeling of achdus (unity) and the intensity of a gathering to pray, electrified the packed spacious sunlit room.

Achiezer President Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender spoke first, acknowledging the

more than 50 rabbanim seated at the dais. He said that in Sandy's wake, Shor Yoshuv opened its building to the community even though it had no electricity, serving as a center of the chesed and assistance that flowed to those in need in the nearby flooded and damaged areas.

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Now on sale in Far Rock Kasher diapers with Velco beat Pampers

With more than 275 vendors displaying their wares at this week's KasherFest in the Meadowlands, there were plenty of tasty takeaways.

But one vendor, instead of marketing a food item or service, was drawing a jocular crowd with "kosher" diapers, a product just now breaking into kosher supermarkets and convenience stores in frum neighborhoods.

"It's as good as Huggies and Pampers but cheaper, like Luvs," boasted Premium Kasher Diapers' representative Yechiel Kohn.

The diapers rely on Velcro rather than tape to stay tightly closed, avoiding a potential Shabbos violation, explained diaper man Terry Goldin.

The diapers, which have been available by mail order for some time, have been stocked by Kasher World in Far Rockaway for a few weeks.

"There is a demand for it [but] I don't think (people) know too much about it," store manager Benny Blackman told The Jewish Star.

Blackman recalled that "some rabbanim in Boro Park mentioned that it was a good thing but I don't remember if it was a *chumrah* (stringency) or *halacha* (Jewish law)."

"An *ehrlicha yid* (a Jew with integrity) wants to do something special for Shabbos," he said. "It's a good idea; it could pick up a lot."

"People are *makpid* (careful) on this," he said, but added, "I don't think there is an issue with the other ones. I don't make *halacha*."

"I myself don't use it," he said. Among other campy highlights on the show's first day: The unveiling by Empire Kosher Poultry of the world's largest chicken nugget, weighting over 45 pounds and measuring 3.25 feet long by 2 feet wide.

More KasherFest photos on page 13.



Yechiel Kohn promotes "kosher" diapers at KasherFest. Jewish Star

Mangano tells OU he backs Sandy shul aid

Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano said on Monday that he believes the Federal Emergency Management Agency should assist houses of worship damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

Republican Mangano, seeking reelection next Tuesday, addressed a crowd of Jewish community, synagogue and day school lay leaders at the Orthodox Union's Manhattan offices.

During the OU Advocacy-NY-sponsored forum, Mangano discussed issues of importance to the Jewish community, including cutting the deficit, job creation, expanded housing options, and other ways Nassau County residents can alleviate the damage incurred by Hurricane Sandy.

Last week, OU Advocacy hosted Mangano's Democratic rival, former Nassau County Executive candidate Tom Suozzi, who also supported Sandy aid for shuls.

On Wednesday, Nassau County's largest community newspaper group offered kind words for Suozzi's vision but endorsed Mangano.

"If we felt Suozzi was capable of delivering on his grand vision in any



Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano at the OU.

Ashley Macdam/Michael Priest Photography

meaningful way, our choice would be a no-brainer," the Herald newspapers, that includes the Nassau Herald in the Five Towns, said.

The editors called Suozzi a "grand visionary" but said that Mangano "seems

better able to build consensus and get things done in a Republican-dominated county."

"Mangano has a better shot at getting Nassau moving forward again."

Another OU photo is on page 9.

Shabbat Candlelighting: 5:33 pm. Shabbat ends: 6:33 pm. 72 minute zman: 7:02 pm. Torah Reading: Toldot
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Sunday's Tehillim rally filled the auditorium of Yeshiva Shor Yeshuv in Lawrence. Photo courtesy Achiezer

Tehillim said by children...

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The rooms that offered warm meals to those who had none and racks and tables and boxes of clothing for those who had lost so much now held rows of grateful attendees saying Tehillim.

Rabbi Bender said that the gathering was spearheaded by women "with the idea that one year post Sandy we wanted to collectively express our Hakaras Hatov (gratitude) to Hashem that, despite everything we as a community went through — and for many, continue to go through — there was, incredibly, no loss of life within our community."

He recalled a meeting with Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder and community activists, "huddled to come up with the best plan of action, facing an epic tragedy, overcome with fear and trepidation. Chasdei (mercies of) Hashem, there was no loss of life. At the peak of the storm, Hatzalah, the Shomrim, and other volunteers helped and so many were miraculously saved that night. That is why we are here, to thank Hakodosh Baruch Hu (G-d) for saving us and keeping us alive and the koach (strength) and achdus."

At the rally, rabbis from across the communities — from Bayswater, Far Rockaway, Long Beach, Lawrence, Inwood, Belle Harbor — were called upon to recite a chapter of Tehillim.

The audience listened attentively to noted speaker and author Rabbi Fischel Schachter explain that our lives are in Hashem's hands.

He recounted the story of a woman who survived a terrorist attack, the Divine Providence in her actions and the occurrences that day. At the moment when she thought

she would die, she said that she "never had such menuchas hanefesh (inner peace)" as she had then, how all her daily worries faded away and she thought, "my life is in Hashem's hands. I felt a certain peace not only then but for the rest of my life."

"Our entire life is now on a different level," said Rabbi Schachter, and he thanked the gathering for "giving me the zechut (merit) to be with you today."

Gavriel Weberman, a boy from Far Rockaway, spoke of his family's ordeal and his gratitude to Achiezer and other volunteers. He recounted that his house filled with two feet of water and they lived by his relatives, how the "plumbers worked 24/6" and he received "toys and presents from so many people and organizations." He said that his father and his siblings now volunteer for Achiezer.

Three more Tehillim were recited, line by line, and singers Boruch Levine on the piano and Eitan Katz on the guitar accompanied by a violinist sang songs of gratitude, a song with a stanza composed for the rally, Katz's Lmaancha and vzakaini. That was followed by Rav Shlomo Carlebach's Tov Lehodos and other lively tunes that brought the rabbis at the dais to their feet, holding hands and dancing in place and culminating in a rousing Bshana haba Beyerushalyim Habnuyah.

After the rally, Adina Weberman, mother of the boy who spoke, told The Jewish Star that they live on "one of the streets that was hit worst in Far Rockaway. We were flooded and without power for two weeks. I came to show Hakaras Hatov to Hakodosh Baruch Hu — we've built back and better than before. We have a lot to be grateful for boruch Hashem."

Mangano speaks at the OU...



Jake Adler and Zehava Birman, OU associate director for New York field operations; Jeff Leb, OU New York director of political affairs; Ed Mangano; Maury Litwack, OU director of state political affairs and outreach, and Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky, Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshiva of South Shore in Woodmere. Ashley Macdam/Michael Priest Photography

7'02

North Shore Hebrew Academy High School

OPEN HOUSE

DATES:
Sunday
November 3, 2013
Sunday
December 8, 2013

TIME:
10AM - 1PM

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