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New learning initiative is burning brightly

► Eliezer Lipman

ONE month after its launch, Orah, the new learning project for ladies, is already making an impressive mark upon North West London.

Following its inspirational opening with special guest speakers led by Rabbi Zechariah Wallerstein of Ohr Naava, Orah has opened its doors to women of all ages. This has received very positive and enthusiastic response from every segment of the community. Its objective, to promote the ongoing spiritual development amongst women of all backgrounds, has clearly filled a very real gap in the community.

Recent events include a pre-Purim evening of inspiration, featuring talks by Rabbi Yosef Grunfeld of seed and Rabbi Yehoshua Hartman of the Hasmonean Beis Medrash programme, with over 100 women in attendance. The wide varied programme runs two evenings a week (Sundays and Wednesdays). Other shiurim in the weeks have included shiurim by Rabbi Dr. Akiva Tatz, Rabbi Shimshon Silkin, Dayan Yonasan Abraham, Rabbi Dovid Roberts, Rabbi Yehuda Levenson, and Rabbi Eliezer Zobin to name but a few. Other initiatives include several charitable activities including food packaging with GIFT organisation and a card-making session, the products of which were distributed in hospitals and care homes on Purim.

A highly popular presentation has been the first two of a three-part series on the Haggadah delivered by Rabbi Daniel Rowe of Aish UK. Rabbi Rowe provided a backdrop to Seder night as a whole, the objective of the Haggadah being to jolt us out of our complacency and prod us to question – turning us into “searchers” of our Jewish heritage. We can then appreciate that the very existence of the Jewish nation is utterly dependent on sustaining an eternal



Rabbi Daniel Rowe

relationship with Hashem which is encapsulated in the selected verses the Haggadah chooses to relate the redemption from Egypt.

In the third and final part of the series, due to take place next Sunday 25th March, Rabbi Rowe will delve into the key mitzvos of Seder night and demonstrate how these help us to achieve the ultimate purpose of the evening.

The variety of speakers and topics aims to provide for a range of interests and personal learning styles, and Orah's timetable for March likewise caters for everyone, with a range of speakers including Rabbi Raphy Garson, Rabbi Dr. Harvey Belovski and Rabbi Jeremy Golker. The shiurim are scheduled for Sunday and Wednesday evenings from 8:15pm and held at Hasmonean Girls School.

Orah, which is a communal project of Hasmonean, is open to suggestions and ideas from women in the community to expand this successful programme after Pesach.

Fathers relish home improvement course

► Eliezer Lipman

AN INNOVATIVE four-week programme for fathers on ways of creating a respectful atmosphere in the home has just completed its course in North West London.

Under the tutelage of Mr Jonathan Rabson and directed by the organisation Al Pi Darko, the course's aim was to facilitate children giving the honour due to parents and enabling them to follow the direction of their fathers. Using the unique Al Pi Darko methodology, the fathers who attended commented on how their relationship with their children had improved. They could now interpret and respond to behaviour effectively and lead their children in every way.

Most of the participants commented on how the course met or surpassed their expectations by furthering their understanding of how to

build self-esteem. All the fathers who attended the course have requested follow on Al Pi Darko courses so that they can not only maintain but also build on their new-found parenting skills.

Private sessions, whereby parents learn the same methodology but tailor-made to their particular needs, give the opportunity for a family to grow and develop positive strategies together. This is resulting in progress being made far more quickly in those families, enabling them to make real strides forward in their relationships with their children and their ability to interpret behaviour appropriately, as well as understand learning from many aspects.

Further Al Pi Darko courses for both mothers and fathers are now planned for after Pesach, both in NW and N London. Opportunities for private sessions are now also available for after Pesach.

Rabbonim boost school's free plan

► Dina Rosell

TORAS HASHEM Primary School has received a welcome vote of confidence from Rabbonim in North West London. It came at a crowded meeting last Motzoei Shabbos as parents keen to send their children to the Hendon school, are currently awaiting its recognition as one of the new Free Schools. Divrei Brocho and encouragement came from local Rabbonim for the school's future success. Rabbi Shimon Winegarten praised the school's highly professional and experienced staff and warm, positive atmosphere.

Rabbi Yisrael Moshe Friedman, Rov of Sadigur, added that he was confident Free School status was likely to be approved, since the school was operating Leshem Shomayim and under the

guidance of Rabbonim.

Rabbi Dovid Roberts pointed out that, as a result of regular visits to the school over the past six months, he was most impressed with the quality of education and general atmosphere within the school, which were likely to make it a first choice for parents seeking a school for their children. Chair of Governors Mr Benjamin Rietti and Headmaster Rabbi Nessanel Lieberman fielded questions pertinent to their areas of expertise, while Mr Jonathan Rabson, Executive Director of NAJOS, spoke briefly about this year's schools' application procedures.

Prospective parents stayed on after the hour-long meeting to discuss details of the school with the Rabbonim, teachers and parents of Toras Hashem. Most of those present accepted an open invitation to visit the school and see it in action.



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