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at the Pittsburgh Kollel on *Motzoei Shabbos Parashas Tetzaveh* as 65 boys in grades 1-8 and their fathers, and even some grandfathers, came to celebrate the grand finale of The Alvin Weinberg Father and Son Learning Program.

This closing event is the culmination of 15 weeks of *Motzoei Shabbos* learning sessions which began in November with fireworks and Torah study. The boys were treated to a *fleishig melaveh malkah*, live music and dancing, and a prize for each boy. A grand prize raffle was also held with prizes such as *sefarim* and bicycles.

The name of the program is the Alvin Weinberg Father and Son Learning Program and is dedicated in memory of Mr. Alvin Weinberg, *z"l*, by his wife, *tbl"c*, Mrs. Shirley Weinberg; daughter, Mrs. Lisa Antin, and the extended Weinberg family.

Mrs. Weinberg and Mrs. Antin take great pride in providing an opportunity for fathers and sons to bond in a meaningful Jewish way. It is for this reason they have made it a mission to create an amazing program where the boys are excited to participate week after week. Each week, the boys and fathers are treated to pizza and soda, and there are weekly raffles of great prizes handpicked by Mrs. Antin.

"This was our most successful year," says Rabbi Avrohom Weisswasser, director of the program. "We had 70 boys on the roster and more than half of those boys had almost perfect attendance for the 15 weeks of the program." The program will restart again this coming November.

New Class at Kesser Israel Of Portland

The Portland Kollel is hosting a new series, "The Purpose of Creation," led by Rabbi Yekusiel Brodtkin. This class is based on Harav Moshe Chaim Luzzato's *sefer, Daas Tevunos*, and will tackle important questions such as: What is the meaning of life? What is the purpose of evil? And much more.



Harav Menachem Zupnik addressing the Agudath Israel of America Annual Shabbos of *Chizuk* in Atlanta.



Harav Shmuel Khoshkerman, Rav of Congregation Ner Hamizrach, addressing the Agudath Israel of America Annual Shabbos of *Chizuk* in Atlanta.



A *Purim Kattan tisch* in Yeshiva Bais Mordechai of Teaneck.



Tzvi Eliyahu Rabhan, a proud first-grader at Rambam Day School of Savannah, at his class's recent *Siddur* presentation.

on Wednesday evenings, at 8:00 p.m., beginning on March 9, at the Portland Kollel, 6688 SW Capitol Highway, and is open to all skill levels.

Agudath Israel's Shabbos of Chizuk In Atlanta

Congregation and Kollel Ner Hamizrach were privileged this past Shabbos to host the Agudath Israel of America's Annual Shabbos of *Chizuk*. Harav Menachem Zupnik, Rav of Congregation Torah U'Tefillah in Passaic, New Jersey, was the scholar-in-residence.

The Atlanta community was treated to a beautiful *oneg Shabbos* at the home of Rabbi Eliezer Cohen, *Rosh Kollel* of Ner Hamizrach. The men and women enjoyed inspiring *divrei Torah* and stories, *zemiros*

and refreshments.

On Shabbos day, before *Mussaf*, Rav Zupnik spoke to the congregation about the obligation we have to think about others and not just about ourselves. He quoted the last *Rashi* on *Chumash* which says that Moshe Rabbeinu's greatest moment was when he broke the *luchos*.

He explained that Moshe Rabbeinu had to think about what was best for *Klal Yisrael* and not about his own legacy. Rav Zupnik emphasized how hesitant Moshe Rabbeinu must have been to break the *luchos*, and yet he knew that this was the right choice for the benefit of *Klal Yisrael*.

On Shabbos afternoon, Rav Zupnik delivered an incredible *pilpul shiur* that demonstrated his vast knowledge of *Shas* and *poskim* and left the audience of both men and women wanting to hear



Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Providence Hebrew Day School pose outside the Rhode Island State House with their Civics teacher Mr. Jeffrey Stoloff, after touring the State House as part of their unit on state government.

more.

That opportunity came on *Motzoei Shabbos* at a gala *melaveh malkah*. One hundred community members came to hear Rav Zupnik address the topic of "Torah and Exuberance of

Youth." The Rav explained that Yehoshua is referred to as a *naar* when in fact we know that he was an adult. The Ibn Ezra and Ramban explain that Yehoshua's strength was that even

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Rabbi Bentzion Ettlinger, a *talmid* of Harav Shimon Schwab, *zt"l*, speaking to the seventh-grade of YRSRH (Breuer's) on Rav Schwab's *yahrtzeit*, which was on Purim Kattan.



Orlando Torah Academy students celebrate at a *Chumash Siyum* party.

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though he was old, he nevertheless exhibited the strength of a young man in his dedication to Torah and the *Klal*.

Rav Zupnik further explained that the *kravim* on top of the *Aron Hakodesh* had faces of children and this is the place from where Hashem spoke to the Jewish people. We, too, can experience that youthful exuberance every time we learn Torah with a *chavrusa*. Hashem speaks to us through His Torah when we commit ourselves to learning with diligence.

In conclusion, Rav Zupnik explained that the definition of a true *ben Torah* is as the Vilna Gaon explains on the *passuk* in *Mishlei* (15:24), "The way of life for the wise leads upward, that he may depart from the depths." We must always strive to grow upward in our *Yiddishkeit*.

In our generation, we were fortunate to see these characteristics of striving to grow and youthful exuberance exemplified by Harav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, *zt"l*, who just like Yehoshua, enthusiastically learned Torah until the age of 101.

Harav Yisrael Meir Lau to Visit Phoenix

On Monday, March 14, Ahavas Torah, the Scottsdale Torah Center, will host an Evening of Inspiration, featuring Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv Harav Yisrael Meir Lau, a child survivor, confidant of presidents, and world leader. This historic evening

will mark Rav Lau's first visit to Arizona.

The event will also honor Mr. Eddie and Mrs. Lisa Pantilliat. It will be held at the Chateau Luxe, 1175 E. Lone Cactus Drive, in Phoenix. The VIP reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., with the program following at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please contact 480-467-4593.

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