

Ruach and Unity at Hillel Yeshiva on Rosh Chodesh



Fourth graders Danielle Goot, Debra Greenstein, Isaac Steinberg and Sammy Levy

Friday, March 7th was a Rosh Chodesh tinged by the tragic and shocking news of the attack on Yeshivat Merkaz Harav Kook in our holy city of Jerusalem. The importance of strengthening our connection to our brethren in Israel was the additional message to our students on this day of Rosh Chodesh, which is traditionally a day of joy only, celebrating the first of the Hebrew month. Our thoughts and feelings were expressed through the recitation of Tehillim (Psalms) and special prayers.

Another gesture of our support to Israel was the packaging and sending of Mishloach Manot to victims of bombings and terrorism in Sderot and Ashkelon, cities in Israel. Students at Hillel, in grades Nursery through 8, prepared 600 individually wrapped baskets of food and snacks which were flown to Israel, courtesy of El - Al Airlines, in time for Purim!

To create the cheerful mood of Rosh Chodesh at Hillel, Yaakov Sheweky, the world famous singer of Jewish music, performed an hour long concert for our students. An atmosphere of joy and excitement pervaded the school as *MeSheh Nichnas Adar Marbeem B'simcha* (from the time that the month of Adar begins, the Jewish people increase their merriment) was actualized at Hillel.



Yaakov Sheweky

As Yaakov Sheweky sang *Im Eshkacheych Yerushalayim* and *Shema Yisrael*, the glistening eyes and longing expressions of the audience revealed their fervor, deep yearning, and love for Jerusalem and Israel. The students sang along with Sheweky

and danced with him and their rabbis at the conclusion of the concert. Students in the lower grades danced their way back to class as they left the auditorium.

Thanks to Yaakov Shwekey's *hitlahavut* (enthusiasm) and inspirational music, students and faculty truly fulfilled the misva of welcoming Rosh Hodesh Adar with abounding joy. *MeSheh Nichnas Adar, Marbeem B'Simcha* perfectly describes the ambiance at Hillel that day. Hillel Yeshiva students, faculty, and the parent body appreciate the efforts of Drs. Gayle and Brian Krost in bringing this concert to fruition.



Kindergarteners Sharon Tawil, Sarah Levy and Mitchell Seruya