VOLUME #2

לאחינו בני ישראל הנרונים בצרה... לאחייעור ולאחייסמן Understanding Tragedy with Compassion. Coordinating Crisis with Expertise.







On The Scene and Behind The Scenes

DISASTER/ACCIDENT

מת מצוה 🔵

חברה קדישא 🦳 כבוד המת

Dear Misaskim Friends,

In this issue we will explore various "Misaskim Matters" that transpired over the last 2 months. Kislev marked a huge milestone for the organization as its Shabbos Initiative was launched and is now B"H fully operational. After numerous tragedies struck on Shabbos and Yom Tov, Misaskim recognized the need to have a non-Jew on call in an effort to prevent a tragedy from escalating. It is only with much Siyata Dishmaya that this initiative came to fruition.

You will notice that several new features have been added to Misaskim Matters. The article titled From Our Volunteers: A Misaskim Moment, highlights a foundational theme that is evident in all of the responsibilities the organization takes on. We have only to open our eyes, step forward, and find ourselves presented with numerous opportunities to fulfill the mitzvah Misaskim set out to do long before the organization itself was officially

This issue also celebrates the 18th Sefer Torah - donated by the founded. Eisenberger/Sytner families – that joined Misaskim's family of Sifrei Torah. A momentous Hachnoses Sefer Torah was celebrated together with HASC adults in honor of the new Torah. Misaskim invites you to join the simchah on

Finally, Misaskim is eager to express its appreciation to the community for your generous participation in our Emergency Mes Mitzvah Appeal. The page 12. overwhelming response we received was invigorating and encouraging, and an endorsement of Misaskim's mission. We are certain that this great deed

is a zchus for all of Klal Yisroel.

Sincerely, The Misaskim Board

תעסק page **2**

NOTHING TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER MES MITZVAH

During the week of October 18th, Misaskim was notified that an elderly woman had died at Coney Island Hospital and that her body had been lying in the morgue for a

few days. This information led Misaskim to take on the highest Mitzvah of all: Mes Mitzvah.

The first course of action was to contact a niece of the deceased—the only A lead Misaskim had at that time. A Misaskim will s volunteer tried to get in touch with her directly numerous times but was unable to reach her. Misaskim was simultaneously in contact with the

Hebrew Free Burial Society, which stands side by side with Misaskim in ensuring kavod hames. It was through the Hebrew Free Burial Society that Misaskim learned that the deceased's niece had already approved and scheduled the cremation of her aunt's body.

"There is nothing in the entire Torah that takes precedence over Mes Mitzvah" (*Tur*). And there is certainly nothing that will stop Misaskim from using all its resources to prevent a cremation.

Misaskim volunteers left no stone unturned in their efforts to reverse this decision. Through a thorough and painstaking investigation, Misaskim discovered that the surviving niece's employer was a close associate to the organization. The employer agreed to intervene and the niece explained to the employer and Misaskim that financial reasons had prompted her decision. She was willing to approve a Jewish burial after

"There is nothing in the entire Torah that takes precedence over Mes Mitzvah."
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Misaskim offered to take responsibility for all the costs that a Jewish Burial entails. With the support of Misaskim, the niece contacted the

funeral home to call off the cremation. "It's a good thing I called now." she mentioned, "because they were about to do it." The body of the deceased had already been prepared for the cremation process and was moments away from causing irreparable trauma to her soul.

On Monday, October 25th, the body of the elderly woman was brought to Kever Yisroel and buried in a HFBS cemetary.

"The merit of Mes Mitzvah is i m m e a s u r a b l e , " explained the Misasakim member who oversaw the process. "May her soul evoke rachmei shamayim and blessings for all of Klal Yisroel."

> תעסקים Misaskin

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Misaskim's First Initiative Gets Underway

pleased to Misaskim is announce the implementation of a new initiative that has been developed to meet the needs of the community

during emergencies that may arise on Shabbos or Yom Tov. Under the new system, Misaskim's emergency hotline which until now was answered 24/6, now will be monitored on Shabbos and Yom Toy. The emergency hotline will be answered on Shabbos and Yom Tov by a team of trained and knowledgeable non-Jews who have been hired for this purpose.

Over the years, a number of tragedies have occurred on Shabbos or Yom during Toy, which time the assistance of non-Jews has proved invaluable in assisting the

Beth Din (Rabbinical Court) of Kollel Bais Talmud L'hornah 1556 - 53rd Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 Tel. (718) 435-1502 - 753-3613 Fax. 436-0846 הורש מרחשון שנת תשע"א לפ"ק

Pesach 2005

Early on the second day of Pesach, fire tore through the house and hearts of a family in Although Hatzolah members Williamsburg.

> מת דין צר. כארלסבורג כולל בית תלמוד להוו ברוקלין, נ.י. יע"א הנאוז רבי יהרקאי בעותש"ת

הן נתבקשנו ע"י ראשי העסקנים החשוכים מהארגון הנודע לשם ולתהלה "מתעסקים", לעורר בשער בת רבים, על הרברים דלהלן, בנוגע לשבת ויו"מ:

יהד עם כל כית ישראל, אנו פתחנגים ונכפחים ונשענים כרוב רחמיו וחסריו ית"ש, שיעכרו ימי השכתות על כאו"א מישראל בשלום, כמנוחת שלום ושלוה השקם וכמה, וכמו"כ הרגלים ומועדים הבאים לקראתינו לשלום, כולנו היים כריאים וקיימים, ואין יוצאת ואין צווחה ברחובותינו.

אך להיות שבעבר כאשר הי' צורך רח"ל לשיפול עם בר סינן שנעדר בשבת או יו"ש, הווקקו העסקנים הברי הח"ק השונים לפפל לפעמים עם שאלות המורות של הילול שבת ויו"ם למען כבוד הנפטר, אי לכן שכרו הארנון החשוב הניל וסידרו עם אינו יהורי סיוחר, שעל כל צרה שלא תבוא ח"ו יבצע ויעשה את כל המלאכות המצמרכות למען כבוד המת, ואשר לכן ראוי ונכון לפנות אליהם לעת כואת היל"ת (וטעולותיהם בכל אלו, הם תחת הוראות מרן הנאביר, אבוקיק קארלפבורג שליםיא), ובכן אנו סוצאים לנבון ולנתוץ להודיע ולפרסם להציבור הפרטים דלהלן:

א) האינו יהודי שהפעילו, עוסר הכן בשויו"ט לענות ולהתרבר עם האפים של ה"סעריקל עקועמינערי לסידור השיהרור של הבר-סינן מביהיה וחתיפת התעודה המצטרכת (לקבוה בייט וכרו' - אמנם ההחלשה באם וסהי ואך לעשות ההלוי ביו"ט ראשן, שני, על כא"א לשאיל ולטלאות אחרי ההודאות של רב ומורה שלו), וכמו"כ לענות לה"פאליציי" שמניעים בעת אסון ח"ו במקום שנעדר אחד מאחבנ"י,

בכרי לסנוע ניוול המת. ב) ובכן, על כל צרה שלא תבוא שנעדר אדם מישראל בשויו"ם, וקיים חשש שיניע לניוול הפת, ינסו הקרובים וישתרלו לסצוא אינו-יהורי שיצלצל להאפים של "פתעסקים" להא"י הקבוע שס, (ומשעה'ד שא אפשר למצוא א"י, או יצלצלו ע"י שנוי), והא"י ימפל ויעשה אך ורק מה שנצרך (המינימום) מה שמצמרך מיד ברחיפות לעשות כברי למנוע שלא יניע לניוול המת. וכמו"כ באם יש צורך, להודיע לקרובים-פתאבלים הנפצאים מעכר לים במקום שהוא כבר אחרי השבת או יו"ם, בכרי שיוכלו להגיע לההלויה, יעשה ואת הא"י.

ג) כמו"כ, כאשר יקרה – ח"ו היל"ת - מיתה-פתאומית לילד פעומ, יעשה הא"י את כל המצמרך והררוש, ככרי לפרד הרברים החוקיים עם השלשונות, לסנוע סיבוכים וקישויים חוקיים הרגילים להתתוות בסקרים כאלו, (ונמקים רחוף שקיים צורך גחל – כפי התוראות שקיבלו מהגאביר שלש"א - יתלווה אתו נם א' מהעסקנים, בברי למגיע הקישויים והתתנאות התפורות מרחיקות לכת המתהווים מסקרה כואת).

ומעתה, על כל צרה שלא תבוא ה"ו, ראוי ונכון לפנות אל האירנון החשוב הנ"ל, שמרחו וינעו לתקן ולסרר את כל אלה למען קרושת שויו"ם ולפובת ותועלת הציבור.

ובזכות ההתכוננות וההתאמצות והפעולות למען שמירה שכת ויו"מ כהלכתה מכה שלא ישמע שוד ושכר בגבולינו ויזכו כל בית ישראל לשבתות למנותה ומועדים לשמתה, ואין פרץ ואין יוצאת ואין צוותי הרחובוחינו אכי"ר.

בארם אים צר שלויד נאום הן יבחן שסי שנת אמריק דומים

families involved and in preserving kavod *hames* by avoiding *nivul* hames.

distraught family in dealing with legal processes on Yom Tov? How could it be arranged on Yom Toy that these bodies would be released in

arrived at the scene in record time and worked feverishly to try and resuscitate the victims, three precious kinderlach; one einikel and two children of the family, tragically lost their lives.

Amidst the heartbreak and confusion. the family desired to conduct some of childrens' the levayos while it was still Yom Tov. This posed several difficulties simply because it was Yom Toy and even more so because someone had to deal with the legal system so that the niftarim could be released from the Medical Examiner's Office. Who could step up and assist the



time? Where could the grieving family be directed on Yom Tov to coordinate between the Medical Examiner's Office and the various other agencies involved?



PART OF MISASKIM'S TEAM OF NON-JEWS, THAT WILL ASSIST ON SHABBOS AND YOM TOV, DURING A TRAINING SESSION WITH RABBI YECHEZKAL ROTH, *SHLITA*.

Misaskim accepted the challenge. Without the advantage of having a non-Jew on call, Misaskim was presented with the daunting dilemma of how to proceed according to *balachab* on Yom Tov. The organization reached out to members of the New York City Police Department who were kind enough to step in. In addition, the NYPD escorted Misaskim volunteers to the Medical Examiner's Office and it took only 45 minutes for the 3 niftarim to be released once they arrived at the Medical Examiner's Office. The first levayab was underway just a few short hours after the terrible tragedy occurred, thus preserving kavod hames to the greatest extent possible. It was this situation that prompted Misaskim to hire a non-Jew on Yom Toy.

Shemini Atzeres 2007

As the Goldman family was preparing for their seudab on Yom Tov morning, an electrical fire erupted in their third floor bedroom, claiming the life of seven month old Tuvia *a*"*b*.Who could guide the parents on Yom Tov in navigating the legal system to prevent an autopsy? Who would arrange the release of the niftur? In addition, the parents intended to bring the baby to kvurab in Eretz Yisroel on the Motzaei Shabbos midnight flight once the three-day Yom Tov was over. Mr. Goldman wanted his father to join him in accompanying the aron to Eretz Yisroel. Who could help the grief-stricken family communicate with out-of-town family members?

Misaskim volunteers were called in. They arrived on the scene, escorted by a non-Jewish employee

Shemini Atzeres 2010

This year's searing tragedy on Shemini Atzeres remains fresh in the minds of all members of the community. As the Krasny family of Midwood, Brooklyn celebrated Yom Tov in their *sukkab*, fire broke out indoors and quickly ravaged everything in its path. Five Krasny children were injured, while little 8-year-old Avigdor *a'b*, tragically lost his life.

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Misaskim volunteers were summoned to the scene and once again utilized the assistance of the non-Jew on call at the time. Guided by Misaskim volunteers, this individual worked to hasten all the legal procedures necessary. Misaskim's efforts resulted in the release of young Avigdor's body from the Medical Examiner's Office on the following morning. In addition, the non-Jew was available to assist the Krasnys who were also dealing with the other injured children during the three-day Yom Toy.

What About Shabbos?

While Misaskim has been gratified that the employment of non-Jews on Yom Tov has enabled them to better serve the community, a number of tragedies that occurred on Shabbos have illustrated the urgent necessity of having non-Jews available every single Shabbos to assist during times of tragedy and loss.

One year ago, tragedy struck a family in Williamsburg. While rushing to join his *Chevras*

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Tehillim group on the Shabbos preceding Rosh Hashanah, the 8-year-old son was struck by a car and killed. Mired in grief, the parents were considering the possibility of having their child's *levayab* take place immediately, on Motzei Shabbos.

However, all the legal procedures involved in cases of accidental death mandate the involvement of the Medical Examiner's Office which does not operate at night. Who can aid the family on Shabbos and communicate their wish that an autopsy not be conducted? How can hospital personnel be made aware that according to the Jewish tradition a mes should not be moved on Shabbos? Misaskim volunteers stood by the family throughout Shabbos and guided them every step of the way. In fact, it was through Misaskim that the Medical Examiner opened an office for the family at 11:00 at night. This ensured that the required external exam was completed in order that the niftar could be released sooner, should the levayab indeed take place on Motzei Shabbos.

Now, Misaskim has an arrangement in place in which the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will open one of its offices in the five boroughs at any hour of the night, provided that the *levayab* is planned for that same night.

On a recent Shabbos morning, an elderly gentleman visiting from Israel tripped and fell on a sidewalk. He was transported to an area hospital where doctors diagnosed a severe head injury. Sadly, he succumbed to his injuries a short time later. As is standard procedure in these situations, the hospital called in the Medical Examiner which unfortunately led to an autopsy being performed on the *niftar* on Shabbos. Had Misaskim's new Shabbos system been in place at the time, then someone could have contacted Misaskim on Shabbos, and the unfortunate autopsy might have been avoided.

On another Shabbos morning, a heartbreaking loss occurred in a small Brooklyn apartment when a mother discovered her infant lifeless in her crib. A full criminal investigation is required by law to ensure that the death was a result of SIDS, and not abuse or neglect. Although the investigation is extremely harrowing to the parents, it is of the utmost importance that they cooperate fully and promptly with law enforcement officials. Even while the parents are still at the hospital with their tiny niftar, law enforcement officials are already in their home investigating the incident. Often, there are other children at home, still unaware of the tragedy that has occurred and they become terrified and confused as investigators arrive. Parents face a barrage of painful questions, which must be answered confidently and correctly so as to avoid incriminating themselves in their panic and confusion.

The price parents can pay if they are suspected of a crime is heavy. In addition to losing their baby to SIDS, they can C"V risk losing their other children to Child Welfare officials, and face years of legal Proper support and compassionate trouble. guidance is crucial at this critical time. Who can guide parents who have been thrust into this nightmarish situation - especially on Shabbos? How can parents be encouraged to thoroughly answer a 25 page questionnaire usually presented by the Medical Examiner's Office under these traumatic circumstances? Misaskim has time and time again gently explained the process to parents and specifically outlined what they should expect in order to lessen their confusion. This has empowered the family to retain their presence of mind during these complex investigations.

It was these crises and all the challenges they presented that highlighted the need to have a non-Jew present on Shabbos. Misaskim discussed the issue with its leading *balachic* authority, Rabbi Yechezkel Roth, *Shlita*, and his *dayanim*, and thus began the implementation of the specifics of this new initiative. As a result, Misaskim now has a non-Jew answering the emergency hotline on Shabbos under the auspices of Rabbi Yechezkel Roth, *Shlita* and his *Bais Din.*



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BERGEN COUNTY BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DURING A TRAINING SESSION WITH MISASKIM.

Misaskim's Shabbos Initiative: How It Works

Since April, 2008, Misaskim has employed non-Jews to assist the organization on Yom Tov. Misaskim volunteers have spent endless hours testing and perfecting the initiative and this past August, Misaskim was able to implement this service on Shabbos too.

At the core of the program is a team of non-Jews who will be on call answering Misaskim's Emergency Hotline every Shabbos and Yom Tov. These people have spent hours undergoing intensive training under the direct guidance of HaRav Yechezkel Roth, *Shlita*, along with Misaskim volunteers.

These non-Jews have been trained to deal with questions that arise pertaining to *nivul hameis*. They are aware of the unique *halachos* which clearly outline the many *melachos* they may or may not do in the event of a Jewish death occurring on Shabbos or Yom Tov. In these cases, these individuals will notify Misaskim and work with the volunteers in taking any action necessary to assist families and prevent *nivul hames*.

Under the new system, law enforcement officials and medical examiners can now rely on Misaskim

every day of the week should they encounter a problem related to the death of a person of the Jewish faith. In an effort to perfect the system, Misaskim provides training for law enforcement agencies on how the system operates.

While this initiative is now operational in the five boroughs of New York City, Misaskim has arrangements in place on Shabbos and Yom Tov to assist neighboring communities that are currently serviced by Misaskim. In addition, Misaskim is exploring the possibility of connecting with an organization in Eretz Yisroel that will act on behalf of Misaskim. Thus, in the event that Shabbos is already over in Eretz Yisroel, and an individual there needs to arrange matters in the United States, the organization in Eretz Yisroel will act as Misaskim's liaison.

It is the sincere wish of every volunteer at Misaskim that *Klal Yisroel* should be spared all tragedy and loss on Shabbos, Yom Tov, and every other day of the year. Together, we wait for the day in which all tears will be dried and all heartbreak will turn to happiness and joy.









We have only to open our eyes to realize how often we are presented with numerous opportunities to fulfill our destined roles in Hashem's plans. For Mr. Yossie Margaretten, a longtime

Misaskim volunteer, the following story confirmed a role that was uniquely designed for him.

rom qur intep,

Mr. Yehuda Silberstein and his wife and infant rushed to Ben Gurion airport after learning of the tragic passing of Yehuda's father, Moshe Yosef, *Z"TL*. Confused, desperate, and distraught, he hoped to catch a flight back to Brooklyn so that he could spend the week of *shiva* together with his mother and siblings. However, before the flight took off, he was notified that the *kvurah* had already been completed. He urgently needed a *minyan* before boarding the plane so that he could say *kaddish* for the father who had been torn away from him way too soon.

With the plane only minutes away from departure, Mr. Silberstein reached out to the passengers rushing to board the plane and begged them to join him. Most passengers had already *davened maariv* and didn't pay much attention to him, while others were too distracted to take notice of the flustered couple.

In a last desperate attempt, Mr. Silverstein approached a *yungerman* who was boarding the plane and asked if perhaps he could help him with a *minyan*. Yossie Margaretten, a trained Misaskim volunteer, immediately recognized the the distraught look on Mr. Silberstein's face. He took stock of the situation and requested several passengers to join them for *kaddish*, assuring them that it would take only 2-3 minutes. It was clearly through Divine intervention that this volunteer's training and experience kicked in under these unusual circumstances, precisely when needed.

Mr. Margaretten guided Mr. Silberstein in tearing *kriyah.* "On the left side," he gently coached, explaining how it's done when one's parent passes on. Tearing kriyah in the airport, where all sharp objects are prohibited, is no easy feat, but one of the passengers who joined the *minyan* was able to use his bare hands to start the *kriyah* process. Next Yehuda said the *brachah* of Boruch Dayan

A Misaskim Moment

Emes and the *minyan* stood by for the emotionally charged *kaddish* – a son's first heart-breaking fulfillment of the *mitzvah* of in honoring his beloved father's *neshamah*. When *kaddish* was over, Mr. Margaretten positioned his suitcase so that Yehuda was able to sit *shivah* on it, while the participants in the *minyan* came over to him to be menachem aveil. As Mr. Margaretten boarded the plane together with Mr. Silberstein, he assured him that his family back in Brooklyn was also being cared for by Misaskim, as he just received a confirmation on his blackberry that Misaskim's *gmach nechumim* had already delivered all that was needed to the house.

"It was an unbelievable *siyatah dishmaya* that you were on Yudah's flight," the Silberstein family mused when the same volunteer, Yossie Margaretten, arrived at their home to collect the *shivah* chairs. "I was so confused and distraught," reflected Mr. Silberstein. "But somehow Misaskim was right there just when I needed them – even in Ben Gurion airport!"



During Chanukah, Misaskim received a call from a rabbi. The rabbi informed Misaskim about an elderly Jewish man who had recently passed away in a Denver nursing home.

The rabbi told Misaskim that the *niftar*'s family in New York had agreed to the Medical Examiner's request for an autopsy. In addition, they had inquired about the expense involved in bringing their father's body to New York for burial. After being quoted the exorbitant amount of \$8,000, they immediately changed course and decided on cremation, a much more inexpensive option.

Misaskim immediately swung into action. Volunteers contacted the family and gently persuaded them to forego the autopsy. Then, Misaskim helped arrange the transfer of the *meis* to New York. Thanks to the generosity of the Hebrew Free Burial Society and Misaskim, the *niftar* was buried in a Jewish cemetery, with strict adherence to Jewish law.

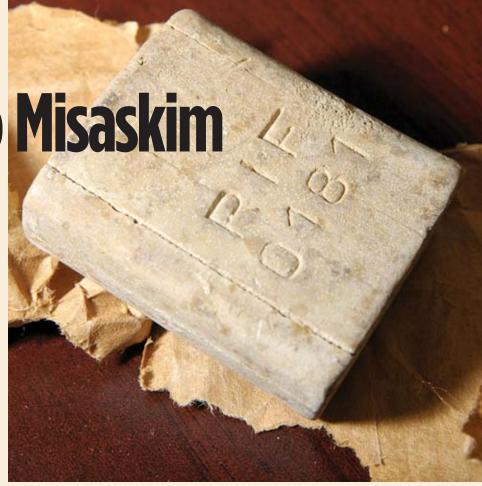




RIF Soap Handed to Misaskim // for Burial

At Misaskim, unexpected and realities of life are sad unfortunately a daily occurrence. But last week, Misaskim was presented with an even more perplexing question than usual: what to do with a bar of soap that many Holocaust survivors believe contains human remains? This rare bar of soap, engraved with the letters RIF, was recently discovered by the Mermelstein family while cleaning up the apartment of their aging uncle, Yosef Weinberger.

Weinberger was a young adolescent who survived during the Holocaust by hiding in bunkers. Of a family of 13, only Yosef and 3 other siblings survived. However, it wasn't only the chilling memories of his youth that shadowed Yosef each day. Tucked away in a faded green suitcase, he kept various items that were a testament to the inferno he survived. Among these objects was a tattered She'eris Hapleitah Siddur, books from the legal war era. immigration documents, and various wartime letters. Mr. Meremelstein. Yosef's



nephew, was startled when he also discovered a little package carefully wrapped in brown paper that contained a small, brownish, numbered bar of RIF soap.

Holocaust Many survivors believe that the RIF soap was made from the fat of Jewish victims during the Holocaust R'L. They have been told that RIF is the acronym for Reines Juden Fett. In fact, Nuremburg Trial judges, after accepting the testimony of a Polish national, Sigmund Mazur, ruled that the soap does indeed contain human remains,. Mazur told the judges that during the war he had worked as a laboratory assistant for Rudolf Spanner, a German

the Gdansk professor. at Anatomical Institute. Mazur related that he had been involved in the production of soap from human fat.

IPN 2006. Poland's In (Poland's National Remembrance Institute) announced that it had completed an inquiry that confirmed that the soap had been rendered from human fat. Professor Andrzej Stolyhwo, who conducted the study for the IPN, obtained a sample of the soap that was presented at the Nuremberg trials and tested its contents. Stolyhwo declared that his study proves that the soap was made between 1945 and 1946 under the direction of Professor Spanner.

However, today it is universally accepted by historians and Holocaust experts that only a small amount of soap was produced by Spanner and that the soap was never mass produced. They explain that RIF stands for Reichsstelle Fur Industrielle Fettversorgung (Reich Center for Industrial Fat Provisioning). Yad V'shem, The Simon Wiesenthal Center, and other prestigious Holocaust museums all agree that since no hard evidence was ever uncovered that the soap was produced from human victims, it was most likely a cruel rumor that the Nazis spread in order to psychologically torture Jewish inmates.

Victims in the concentration camps were taunted by the SS and told that they would soon be turned into soap. Survivors, who had

witnessed unspeakable horrors, firmly believed this to be true. Immediately after the war, public levayas were held in Austria, France, Germany, Romania, and Israel during which bars of RIF soap buried. Metzeivos were were erected at the burial sites memorializing those who were murdered by the Nazis and who had never received a proper burial.



Misaskim is currently consulting with its rabbinical authority to determine the appropriate way of treating the RIF soap, and whether it needs to be buried. It is Misaskim's sincerest hope — whatever the outcome — that this incident should serve to be *m'kadeish shem Shamayim* all those who perished in the Holocaust and who were never brought to *kvuras Yisroel.*



An Everlasting Yerushah

With the *petirah* of their mother, Mrs. Henya Yehudis Sytner *A*"*H*, her children, the Eisenberger/Sytner families, found themselves the recipients of a \$30,000 *yerushah*. Rather than divide the *yerushah* amongst themselves, the *niftar*'s three children decided that they would use the money to perpetuate the memory of their exceptional parents in a very special way.

Their parents, R' Aryeh *Z*"*L*, and Mrs. Henya Yehudis *A*"*H*, emerged from the ashes of Europe as the sole survivors of their respective families. With unshakable faith, they married and devoted their lives to building a true Torah home. Together, they raised their three children to be Torah Jews who are proud to be following in their parents' footsteps.

Upon receiving the yerushah, the Sytner/Eisenberger children decided that there was no better way to honor their parents' sacrifices for Torah and Yiddishkeit than to use the money to write a *Sefer Torah* in their memory.

Here at Misaskim, we were privileged to be chosen as the recipients of this very special





Sefer Torah. The family was determined to donate the Sefer Torah to an organization where the Torah was undeniably needed and would be in constant use. On Sunday night, the fifth night of Chanukah, family members and Misaskim volunteers met at Misaskim headquarters to partake in the Siyum Kesuvas Osiyos and Seudas Mitzvah.

The next day, Monday, December 6, a very unique *Hachnosas Sefer Torah* took place. Misaskim was delighted to host HASC adults at the celebration as a token of appreciation for these special individuals who volunteer at Misaskim each Monday. Accompanying the volunteers and their counselors were Executive Director, Shmiel Kahn and Clinical Director, Dr. Waslak.

The happiness and excitement at the celebration were tangible. The participants danced, sang, and rejoiced with the Torah. "It felt great to dance with the Torah," exclaimed Chanan, one of the participants. "Everything was great, the *latkes*, the soda, and the music." Another participant, Gedaliah, said that he loved "dancing with the Torah and singing on the mike."

Misaskim is pleased to welcome the Sytner Sefer Torah as its 18th Sefer Torah. The number 18 symbolizes *life* and this particular Sefer Torah is certainly a witness to the continuity of Jewish spiritual and physical life despite all odds.

Misaskim's Sifrei Torah are delivered as part of the package received by families who are sitting shivah. Occasionally, a Sefer Torah is also delivered to homes of homebound cholim to be utilized by minyanim brought to daven with the choleh on Shabbos or Yom Tov.

Last week, on Rosh Chodesh Shvat, The Synter/Eisenberger families marked the *yahrtzeit* of their father, R'Aryeh, *Z"L*. It is truly an *aliyah* for the *neshamah* of this lofty individual and a tremendous *zchus* for his family that their Sefer Torah was being used on that day, and will almost definitely be in use on every day thereafter.

Misaskim issues a hearty *yasher koach* to the family for helping us assist the community in times of crisis.





MISASKIM VOLUNTEERS ASSIST AT THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT IN AIRMONT THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF MRS. CHANA WALFISH A"H.



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POLICE



MISASKIM VOLUNTEERS CALLED TO THE FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT SCENE ON OCEAN AVENUE AND AVENUE N IN MIDWOOD.

MSASKM NACION



MISASKIM VOLUNTEERS DURING A TRAINING SESSION.





HASC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHMIEL KAHN DANCING WITH HASC ADULTS AT THE HACHNOSAS SEFER TORAH.

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THE EISENBERGER/SYTNER FAMILIES AND MISASKIM WELCOME THE 18TH SEFER TORAH.











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