

JULY
2024



תמוז
תשפ"ד

to מזל טוב Our Executive Director

With gratitude to Hashem we would like to wish מזל טוב to our Executive Director Yerachmiel Stern on the birth of a baby boy, Efraim Elimelech Stern. We welcome him into the Pesach Tikvah family. לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים.



We'd like to wish a שנת הצלחה to all our staff with July birthdays. We are so grateful to have you as a member of our staff. You should be blessed with everything you need materially and spiritually.

Pesach Tikvah Welcomes New Vaad HaRabbonim

For 40 years, Pesach Tikvah has been the leader in mental health care for the Heimishe community. We were founded by committed people with a sincere desire to help others. This organization has been built from the ground up and has grown to be the phenomenal operation that it is. Every step of the way has taken work and determination from our incredibly committed staff.

Pesach Tikvah is the foremost provider of mental health services for the Chassidishe community. As such, Daas Torah has been instrumental in navigating the difficult times we live in. It is a point of pride that Pesach Tikvah has built an excellent reputation in the community and has maintained great relationships with Rabbonim and community leaders.

Pesach Tikvah's esteemed Board of Directors and our Executive Director have taken a new step to work even more seamlessly with the community: A Vaad HaRabbonim has been established for the organization. When halachic or hashkafic issues arise, we now have a dedicated team of eminent Dayanim to consult with. These Dayanim are longtime members of the Williamsburg community who have consulted on mental health issues for many years. It is an absolute privilege to work with them.

With great respect and gratitude, we would like to welcome our Vaad HaRabbonim:

הרה"ג רבי ישראל ראזענבערג שליט"א
מו"ץ בקהל תורת חיים וויזניץ

הרה"ג רבי דוד לייב פישער שליט"א
מו"ץ בק"ק פאפא

הרה"ג רבי משה ראזענפעלד שליט"א דומ"ץ ביהמ"ד
ברך משה סאטמאר סקילמאן

הרה"ג רבי זושא כ"ץ שליט"א מו"ץ
בקהל יעב לב סאטמאר

We are grateful to work with these distinguished Dayanim. We look forward to the continued growth of Pesach Tikvah.

Senior Services Holds Group Therapy Kickoff Event

On Tuesday evening, June 4th, Senior Services launched a new initiative: group therapy for women 55+ in the Williamsburg community. The kickoff event was at Le Chateau; about 60 women attended. Mr. Zalman Kotzen, Director of Senior Services said, "We knew there was a need for group therapy to overcome challenges to do with relationships with other people, bereavement and loss, and trauma (most of them are daughters of Holocaust survivors). This is not a population that would typically go to the clinic and see a therapist. But if you present it in a very user-friendly way, they will participate. We have a good reputation for making nice events."

The event was led by three therapists: Malky Gestetner, Susan Weinberger, and Judith Blumenthal. Their talks received a very positive response from the attendees. Senior Services staff member Sarah Blima Gestetner gave a motivational talk and introduction to the speakers, which was also well received. At the end of the evening, a floral designer demonstrated how to make a beautiful floral centerpiece, which was raffled off. To enter the raffle, attendees filled out forms that detailed which subject they were most interested in; the forms will be used to recruit and form therapy groups.

"We informed them about what support groups are all about, and we invited them to join a support group," said Mr. Kotzen. Group therapy will begin soon. A great thanks goes out to Mr. Kotzen, Sarah Blima Gestetner, Fraidy Moskovitz, Malky Gestetner, Susan Weinberger, Judith Blumenthal, Ruchie Weinberger, and Shoshi Sobelman for producing this excellent, effective event. We wish them much הצלחה with the group therapy program. This program is made possible by a grant from Jewish Federations of North America.

CORE Staff Appreciated at Annual Dinner

On Tuesday, June 18th, the CORE staff gathered at the 5309 Conference Room for the Annual Staff Appreciation Dinner. The dinner featured a beautiful dairy buffet and offered an opportunity for staff, who typically work in isolation in the field, to socialize with their colleagues in a convivial and festive atmosphere.

A power point presentation on the topic of The Golden Thread: Documentation Done Right was presented jointly by Pearl Ostreicher, M.S., and Leah Laufer, LMSW. Practical considerations regarding improving note taking and documentation were covered. A lovely, informative, and educational time was had by all!

Esther Deutsch Joins Yerachmiel Stern as Director of Borough Park Clinics

Esther Deutsch, LMSW, has joined our Executive Director Yerachmiel Stern managing the operations of the Borough Park clinics. Esther Deutsch was previously the Assistant Director and has served Pesach Tikvah nearly ten years with great skill and compassion. A native of the Borough Park/Kensington area, Esther Deutsch understands the community well, is versed in Yiddish, and brings much cultural sensitivity to her work. She will work under the guidance of Mr. Stern, who remains closely involved in the daily operations of the Borough Park clinics.

“A huge Mazal Tov to Yerachmiel Stern for his new role as Executive Director at Pesach Tikvah. Yerachmiel’s dedication and vision have transformed the Borough Park clinics from a humble beginning into a thriving community resource serving

nearly 600 clients weekly. His hard work and commitment are truly inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to our amazing administrative staff for their invaluable contributions, and to our dedicated therapists for their passion and commitment to our clients’ well-being,” said Esther Deutsch.

In addition to her roles of seeing clients, conducting intakes, and leading a DBT group, Esther is focused on enhancing the overall therapist and client experience. “I’m working on improving the care at the front desk, communication between departments, supporting therapists both clinically and with their paperwork, and streamlining the onboarding process for new clinicians to help them feel welcome and prepared,” she shared.

Yerachmiel and Esther will collaborate closely on the daily operations of the Borough Park clinics, including audit preparedness, community outreach, recruitment, and implementing Yerachmiel’s comprehensive vision for the future. They will be supported by Adira Tannenbaum, our long-time Psychiatric Administrator, whose expertise has been pivotal in expanding psychiatry services across all our outpatient clinics.



Focus On:
Shlomi Helwa, *HR Administrator*

Q&A



Each month, we feature an unsung hero of Pesach Tikvah – someone who contributes something indispensable to the organization. This month, we spoke with our HR Administrator, Shlomi Helwa, about his work. Mr. Helwa has been with Pesach Tikvah for fourteen years. Zack Teper, HR Director, said this about Mr. Helwa: “Shlomi is the glue that holds this department together.”

Q: What do you do as HR Administrator?

A: My responsibilities include onboarding new employees and assisting them with the new employee packet. Additionally, I process their onboarding paperwork. I collaborate with various departments to meet each department’s specific OMH and OPWDD requirements for employee paperwork. I also manage tasks that enhance the work environment, such as stocking the kitchen, and supervising the maintenance crew to ensure cleanliness and a pleasant atmosphere. During events at Pesach Tikvah, I help with coordination and setup for events held in the office. Employees often require various types of paperwork once they start working such as income letters and/or assistance with disability and paid family leave.

Q: What do you like about working at Pesach Tikvah?

A: The people make work enjoyable – everyone is very nice. Zack Teper is an excellent boss, and I love working for him. I like the work I do, and the leadership at Pesach Tikvah, with whom I’ve always had a good relationship.

Q: What are some new projects you are working on?

A: We are trying to implement new HR software. As our organization grows, we need to work more effectively, so I’ve been involved in informing everyone about our requirements for the new system.

Q: What are you looking forward to in the future at Pesach Tikvah?

A: I am eager to see Pesach Tikvah grow. As the company expands, so do the opportunities for personal growth. The organization’s growth benefits everyone involved.

A great thanks goes out to Shlomi Helwa for his dedication to Pesach Tikvah, and the vital work he does. Would you like to suggest an unsung hero of Pesach Tikvah for next month’s newsletter? Email ckurtz@pesachtikvah.org to make a suggestion.

Good News from Pesach Tikvah Programs

June was a productive month at Pesach Tikvah. **א גרויסע דאנק** is owed to every single Pesach Tikvah staff member. We take our work personally; everyone is just so dedicated, and it shows in the successes of our programs. You all are the best!

Clinics: With a new program and great performance, the clinics continue to help thousands of people to live happier, healthier, more meaningful lives. Thank you to our clinic directors, therapists, and administrative staff for your phenomenal work.

- The Borough Park clinics held an event for their administrative staff at T Fusion. Awards were given to the staff. It was a night of staff unity and **חיוון**.
- The OASAS program, Hearts and Minds, has come to fruition. If you have clients who could benefit from substance use/alcoholism/gambling/compulsive internet use counseling, please refer them.
- The Borough Park clinics are working on spreading awareness of their groups. The purpose of group therapy is not to replace but to support individual therapy. Group participants have reported good outcomes. Clients really appreciate how group therapy helps them go deeper with their individual therapists.
- Clients and staff are enjoying the renovation of the 4111 Family Center.
- The 926 Family Center has been getting a lot of referrals from outside agencies.
- Groups are getting off the ground at the 926 Family Center.

School Satellite Program: The School Satellite Program is booming! Its growth is tremendous. A huge acknowledgement is owed to its director, Rabbi Avrum Grunwald, to Aaron Zev Herbstman for his help with supervision, and to the many skilled and dedicated therapists.

- The School Satellite Program is closing out the school year strong.
- It is expanding into several additional schools in the upcoming school year.
- A cohort of new therapists will be joining the staff in the upcoming school year.

Senior Services: In addition to the fabulous group therapy kickoff event, Senior Services brought even more light and love into the lives of Holocaust survivors.

- Senior services hosted a pre-Shavuot baking class for Holocaust survivors at the 926 conference room. The attendees made cheese braids. Everyone made her own mixture and filled her own dough. The attendees brought their cheese braids home in aluminum pans ready to bake. There was a dairy lunch and an inspiring story by Sarah Blima Gestetner. It was an opportunity for the Holocaust survivors to enjoy each other's company and trade ideas. Everyone loved the event and was excited to share her cheese braid with her family.

- This month the Senior Services team will be hosting an arts and crafts and luncheon event for Holocaust survivors at a local event space.

Health Homes:

- Throughout the past month, NYCHA has been accepting applications for its Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section 8. Health Homes care managers have been working tirelessly to ensure that all eligible members get their applications submitted. Although no one is guaranteed, our members felt supported and cared for. Kudos to Health Homes devoted staff!
- **מזל טוב** to Chaya Moskowitz on her wedding.
- **מזל טוב** to Sheina Sandhaus on her upcoming wedding.
- Health Homes is hiring adult Care Managers. Please contact Jacob Lichtman at jlichtman@pesachtikvah.org to apply.
- Welcome to the new Health Homes staff members: Hershel Jacobowitz, Ricki Mangel, and Suri Hoffman.

COMHAB: COMHAB continues to serve the community with great care.

ICF: The ICF continues to be one of the best culturally sensitive residential programs for developmentally disabled women. Praise is due to Chanie Shindler, Izzy Tropper, Diana Masri, Joe Bistricher, and their staff.

CORE: Pesach Tikvah's CORE program (Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment) is currently seeking an LMSW, LCSW, or LMHC to function as an Assistant Program Manager, doing a combination of direct client counseling as well as some administrative work (Individualized Service Plans, Assessments, Reviews, Group and Individual Supervision with staff, etc.). The position is for 20 hours weekly, 8 hours on-site and 12 hours off-site. Salary commensurate with licensure and experience.

Please address inquiries to Postreicher@pesachtikvah.org or call 718-875-6900 x1212.

CFTSS/Simpatco: CFTSS is closing out another successful school year. A great thanks goes out to Bruchy Endzweig, Gitty Kahan and their always growing team of providers for improving the lives of thousands of children across the five boroughs.

- **מזל טוב** to Fraidy on the birth of a baby boy!
- **מזל טוב** to Hinda Dalfin on her wedding!
- Groups for boys, girls, and mothers will be running this summer at the 926 Family Center.
- CFTSS has acquired many new referral sources.
- Internal compliance reviews are taking the team to the next level.
- CFTSS has providers who speak nine different languages. Leadership is in the process of creating compliant forms and session note documentation that are culturally appropriate and sensitive to their needs.