

crown
heights
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community

Magazine

A Crown Heights Community
Council Publication
Issue 1

The Community Is the Mission

CEO Rabbi Mendel Marasow
looks back and ahead

**A New Era for One
Crown Heights**
Building one community
from many

Forged in Fire
The struggles, resilience,
and faith that shaped
Crown Heights Jewish
Community Council

**The Vaad, On
the Record**
The six members of the
Vaad Hakohol speak
candidly about housing,
security, politics,
unity and the future
of Crown Heights.



Community Magazine

Published By:

crown heights
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Produced By:

eMeS
CREATIVE

Photo Credits:

Dovber Hechtman
Shalom Ross

ADVERTISING:

magazine@CHJCC.org

Editorial Inquires or Submissions:

work@emes-creative.com

Advertisements appearing in this magazine are paid placements and do not constitute an endorsement by the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council (CHJCC). The CHJCC is not responsible for the accuracy of advertising claims or the products and services offered by advertisers. Readers are encouraged to exercise their own judgment before purchasing products or engaging services.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information published, the CHJCC assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. All information is subject to change.

**Crown Heights Jewish
Community Council**

www.chjcc.org

info@chjcc.org

WhatsApp 718-771-9000

Phone: 718-771-9000

CONTENTS

4

The Community Is the Mission

Rabbi Mendel Marasow reflects on his first year as CEO.

14

Forged in Fire

The struggles, resilience and faith that shaped the CHJCC.

22

A New Era for One Crown Heights

Building connections across the neighborhood's diverse communities.

30

The Vaad, on the Record

Six members speak candidly about Crown Heights' pressing issues.

40

The Rebbe, the Mayor, and the Council

The Rebbe's vision for communal leadership and representation.

48

Not Bored at the Board

Why Community Board meetings deserve your attention.

56

What Can CHJCC Help You With?

A practical guide to community services, benefits and assistance.

pure JOY

DOUBLE YOUR LUCK
TenYad
 THROUGH OCT 28



BUY AUCTION TICKETS
 & ATTEND LIVE IN CONCERT

**SUNDAY,
 NOV. 1**

כ"א חשוון, תשפ"ז

tenyad.org

718-756-1482



TENATHON INVESTORS



SHAREHOLDERS



AUCTION SPONSORS



BY ESTHER KAYSER

THE COMMUNITY IS THE MISSION

CEO RABBI MENDEL
MARASOW LOOKS
BACK AND AHEAD





Just under a year ago, the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council announced the appointment of a new CEO: Rabbi Mendel Marasow, a longtime communal leader and nonprofit executive.

Originally from Montreal, where he spent years leading communal organizations and cultivating relationships with public officials, Rabbi Marasow brought extensive experience and a fresh perspective to the Council.

One year into the role, he reflects on what he expected coming in, what he found once inside, and where he hopes to take CHJCC next.



Rabbi Marasow assisting with day-to-day operations at the CHJCC.

Before we get into your role, let's take a step back and look at the bigger picture. What is the CHJCC, and what is it actually here to do?

The CHJCC is the community's central organization for social services and representation. Those are really its two distinct functions.

On the service side, the Council helps residents with food assistance, benefits, housing, health insurance, immigration, senior services, weatherization and many other needs. Federal, state and city governments have many programs that can benefit families in the community. Our job is to make sure residents know what is available and can actually access it.

The second function is representation. A community needs to have its voice heard by elected officials, government agencies, the police and others. That affects security, neighborhood needs such as street paving and sanitation, as well as funding for community programs.

The Council is the body that represents the community in those areas.

The CHJCC also has an elected board. How do the roles of the board and the CEO differ?

The elected board governs the organization and represents the community. It sets policy and priorities, provides oversight, advocates on behalf of the community and helps ensure the CHJCC has the relationships and resources it needs.

The CEO is responsible for managing the organization and carrying that direction forward. A large part of the role is outward-facing: advocacy, building relationships, raising the organization's profile and developing new opportunities.

Many of those efforts are long-term and need continuity beyond any one elected board. So the board governs and sets direction; the CEO manages the organization and works to execute it.

You came into the job with a background in advocacy and running community organizations. What did you expect the role to look like, and what did you actually find?

As I mentioned, I expected the role to be largely outward-facing. I also thought I would spend much more time identifying needs in Crown Heights and developing practical initiatives to address them, especially things that do not necessarily cost a lot of money but can have a major impact.

A life insurance awareness campaign is a good example. You do not need to create another expensive social-service program, but simply getting families to think seriously about adequate life insurance can potentially prevent financial devastation later. The same is true of financial education, career resources, helping homeowners access existing programs and many other areas.

That was the question I expected to be asking every day: What is missing in Crown Heights, and what can we practically do about it?

What I did not anticipate was how much of the CHJCC's internal infrastructure needed updating, and how difficult it was for the organization to communicate effectively with the broader community. I would say 75 percent or more of my time and energy this first year has gone inward.

Before launching more initiatives, we had to make sure the organization itself was working as well as it could. That has meant upgrading systems and technology, rebuilding the website, improving our finances and compliance, strengthening how we track and respond to requests, and making changes to the physical office.

The CHJCC has been around for more than half a century. At some point, an organization that old has to stop and ask whether the structure that got it this far is still the right structure for the next generation. Are we using our staff well? Are we maximizing the programs and funding we already have? Are we getting the results we should be getting?

A lot of this first year has been about answering those questions so that the CHJCC can ultimately do more for Crown Heights.



With Quebec Minister of International Relations Pierre Arcand and Russian Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar during a visit to Moscow.



Presenting a donation to support the families of fallen Canadian military personnel.

The CHJCC has been around for more than half a century. Why was this the moment to rethink how it operates?

Half a century is a long time for any organization. Government has changed. Compliance has changed. Technology and communication have changed. And the needs and expectations of the community have changed along with them.

At the same time, the CHJCC has an incredibly loyal staff. Many people here have spent years, and in some cases decades, serving this community. That experience and institutional knowledge are a major reason the organization has endured and continued helping people all these years.

So restructuring is not about saying that what came before was wrong. It is about building on what is already

here and adapting the organization to the way it needs to operate today.

That means clearer responsibilities, stronger accountability, better systems and better ways to measure what we are doing. You respect what got you here, while recognizing that it may not be enough to carry you through the next 50 years.

After a year inside the organization, what has surprised you most about where the CHJCC is strong and where it still falls short?

The communication gap was probably my biggest surprise.

You can have tremendous services available, but if residents do not know they exist, do not understand what the CHJCC does, or do not see it as somewhere they can turn, you lose much of the potential impact.

But communication also has to work in the other direction. It is not enough for us to tell the community what we are doing. We need to understand what people actually need.

That is one of the reasons we are changing our intake process. Someone may walk in and say, “I need help applying for SNAP.” Of course we will help with SNAP. But we also want to ask: How else can we help you?

Why does this family need SNAP? Is someone out of work? Is there a housing issue? Are they struggling with health insurance? Are there benefits they are missing? Is there a broader financial problem they may not initially be comfortable discussing?

The request someone walks through the door with is not necessarily the underlying problem. So instead of measuring success simply by whether we completed the SNAP application, we want to understand whether there are other ways we can help stabilize that family.

That is a major shift, and it takes time. We are changing intake, technology, tracking, staff responsibilities and, ultimately, organizational culture. You cannot flip a switch and expect everyone to operate differently the next morning.

We are moving in that direction, but I do not want to pretend we have already arrived.

Presenting an award to New York City Council Speaker Julie Menin at a recent CHJCC legislative brunch.



What was the hardest decision you had to make in your first year?

Probably accepting that much of the outward-facing agenda I came in with would have to wait while we focused on rebuilding internally.

It is much more exciting to launch a new initiative than to spend time fixing the machinery behind the scenes. But if the foundation is not strong, every new program only adds another layer of strain.

So we made the decision to build from the bottom up.

That also means having some patience. A lot of what we are putting in place now may not produce an obvious result tomorrow, but it should make the CHJCC much more effective over time.

A lot of that work is behind the scenes. What tangible progress have you seen so far?

Quite a bit, actually.

We rebranded, rebuilt the website and made it much easier for people to reach us directly, including through WhatsApp. We also outsourced grant management and compliance to bring in professional expertise, and we have made that resource available to the broader community as well. If a local shul, school or nonprofit wants to pursue funding, we want to help them explore those opportunities.

Internally, we have also created what I call “inventory.” In any busy operation, you need to know what is coming in, where it is going and whether it was handled. We now have much better systems for managing intake, tracking requests and understanding the actual volume of work.

And that volume is significant. Close to 400 individuals a week, and sometimes more, come through our doors or access our services. The CHJCC is a very active organization. There is a tremendous amount happening here every day that most people simply do not see.

The challenge has been making all of these changes while continuing to provide those services every day.

I hear that. But many residents would still say there are major problems in Crown Heights that remain unresolved. How do you look at those bigger issues?

There are definitely bigger issues. Affordability is an obvious one: housing, food, tuition, insurance and basic living expenses.

But here’s the story: We have to be very honest about what the CHJCC can and cannot do. Some problems we can address directly. Some we can help people navigate. And some are far beyond the ability of any one community organization to fix, though we may still be able to lessen their impact.

Crown Heights is actually a relatively small community. That may surprise people because it has tremendous visibility and influence, but we are talking about perhaps 4,000 families, compared with other communities that may have 30,000 families or more. That matters when you talk about resources and expectations.

We are not going to fix the cost of housing in New York City. We are not going to eliminate tuition costs or the overall cost of living. I do not think we serve anyone by pretending otherwise.

The question is where we can actually make a difference. Where can a relatively small amount of money or effort have a significant impact? Where can advocacy move something? Where can a partnership accomplish more than we could on our own? Where can early intervention prevent a crisis six months later? We need to listen better.

Being ambitious does not mean pretending every problem is solvable. It means knowing where you can actually move the needle.

You mentioned affordability. Where do you see the CHJCC actually being able to make a difference on that front?

Affordability is a problem in Crown Heights, just as it is across the country. The cost of housing, food and basic living has gone up tremendously. We cannot control all of that, but one area where we can have a real impact is employment.

Most people do not necessarily walk into the CHJCC saying, “I need a job.” They come because they need help making ends meet. Then you start asking questions and

trying to understand what is really going on. Very often, somewhere underneath the immediate financial crisis is an employment or income problem.

Maybe someone is not working. Maybe they are not earning enough. Maybe they lost a job or a business, or they simply need a better way to support their family. It is a much bigger issue than I realized before taking this position, and I personally spend a tremendous amount of time on it.

The range is enormous. It can be a young person coming out of high school who needs a first opportunity. It can be someone who has been unemployed for months. And it can be a successful business owner or senior executive whose business collapsed or whose career suddenly ended, and who is now broke, embarrassed and desperate to get back to work.

This year alone, we have probably helped close to 100 people with employment in one form or another, and frankly, we have not even had the manpower or systems to track it properly.

Crown Heights does not lack headhunters, career counselors or employment organizations. There are good people doing this work, and the CHJCC partners with some of them. We do not need to become another one.

But despite all those resources, the basic cry of “I need a job” is still overwhelming. A person can have a beautiful résumé, meet with a career counselor and attend three seminars, and still wake up the next morning unemployed.

Those services are important tools, but they are tools, not the outcome. Sometimes what is needed is much more basic: making calls, thinking about where someone might fit, making an introduction and trying to open a door.

It is not a problem we are ever going to solve completely. But it is one we are putting a tremendous amount of effort into, because helping someone get back to work can change an entire family’s situation.

Crown Heights has many organizations, including some with national and even global reach. Where does the CHJCC fit into that landscape?

Crown Heights has many organizations doing tremendous work, each with its own strengths, mandate and leadership.

Specifically because of that, and especially in a relatively small community, duplication does not make much sense. If another organization is already doing something effectively, I would rather ask how we can work together, help them access resources or strengthen what they are already doing.

The CHJCC’s role should be to coordinate where appropriate, advocate for the community, bring resources into Crown Heights and help residents find the right place to turn.

The question isn’t, “How can the CHJCC create a program?” It should be, “How do we get this problem addressed?”

One of the most visible parts of the CHJCC’s work is its relationship with elected officials. Beyond the events and photo ops, what does that actually accomplish for the community?

What ends up online is usually the photograph, but the photograph itself is not worth very much. The real value is what happens afterward.

Can we pick up the phone when there is a problem? Can we get an agency to respond? Can we advocate effectively for a community concern? Can we bring funding and resources into Crown Heights? Can we help another local organization access an opportunity?

If we want the answer to those questions to be yes, then those relationships have to be built over time. That means meetings, dinners, events and regular contact, so elected officials know who we are, understand the community and know what we bring to the table.

Does a photo op produce something for the community the next morning? Usually not. But building those relationships is what makes it possible to get results when they are actually needed.

Coming back to your own role, what has been the most personally rewarding part of the job?

Seeing an actual problem get solved.

There are endless meetings, budgets, grants, reports and emails. They are all necessary, but they are not the purpose.

When someone comes in overwhelmed and leaves with a solution, or at least a clear path forward, that is what makes the work worthwhile.

The same is true when we can help another Crown Heights organization succeed. The CHJCC's name does not need to be on everything. If we can help a shul, school or community organization obtain funding or resources and they deliver the service effectively, the community still benefits.

Who gets the credit matters much less than whether the problem gets addressed.

How would you sum up your first year?

Restructuring, rebuilding and maximizing.

Before asking for another dollar, I want to know we are getting the most out of the dollars we already have. Before adding another position, are we using our existing staff effectively? Before creating another program, are we making full use of what we are already funded to provide?

The goal is to build a more effective organization, not a bigger one.

And all of that internal work is meant to get us to the next stage: being more proactive, communicating better, building stronger partnerships and having greater capacity to advocate for Crown Heights.

As you head into year two, what do you want to change, both for the CHJCC and in how you spend your own time?

The biggest change I want to see is for us to become more proactive and less reactive.

Social services are naturally reactive. Somebody cannot pay the rent, loses insurance or has been out of work for months, and eventually they come through our door because they are in crisis. We obviously have to be there when that happens. But I also want us asking: What



could we have done six months earlier?

That may mean providing a service ourselves, but not always. Sometimes the answer is a partnership. Sometimes it is advocacy. Sometimes it is simply connecting the right people. We do not need to own every solution. We need to help make sure the solution happens.

For me personally, I do not want 75 percent of my time to remain focused internally. The whole purpose of strengthening the foundation this year was to free up more time for advocacy, fundraising, communication, community engagement and developing new opportunities for Crown Heights.

I also want us to become increasingly focused on results. Not simply what programs we run or how busy we are, but whether we are actually helping people and addressing needs effectively.

None of this happens overnight. Some changes are already in place, others are underway, and some will take much longer.

Ultimately, the goal is not to see how big we can make the CHJCC. It is to see how much stronger we can help make Crown Heights.

Thu, Sep 4



7 am — Carpool

8 am — Work

9 am — Work

10 am —  American Express,
P.O. Box 981535, El Paso, TX 79998-1535

Presorted First-Class
Postage USPS
Permit No. 7777

11 am —

12 pm — 
Isaac Levi
742 Atlantic Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11217

1 pm —

PAST DUE

2 pm —

3 pm — Work

4 pm — Shabbos Shopping

5 pm — Dinner

6 pm — Chavrusa

Debt doesn't ask what
time works for you.

We're a nonprofit on a mission to help thousands of Jewish families
like yours get a handle on your debt and get your day back.
No agenda nor commissions. 1 year, 1,500 families, \$6.5 million saved.

BEGIN AT →

KosherDebtHelp.com



KOSHER DEBT HELP
BY COLLECTIVE KINDNESS



THE DAILY GIVING FUND
KEREN EST. 1953
HASHANA
 קרן השנה

BE A GIVER EVERY DAY WITH THE REBBE'S DAILY GIVING FUND

*"All those who
 wish to trust me,
 may contribute the
 said amount to the
 General Fund under
 my auspices..."*

-The Rebbe, 24 Tishrei, 1953



Donate now:

MyKerenHashana.com

Forged

BY MENDEL LEVINE

THE STRUGGLES,
RESILIENCE, AND FAITH
THAT SHAPED CROWN
HEIGHTS JEWISH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



IN Fire

IN THE LATE 60S, CROWN HEIGHTS WAS BLEEDING JEWISH RESIDENTS.

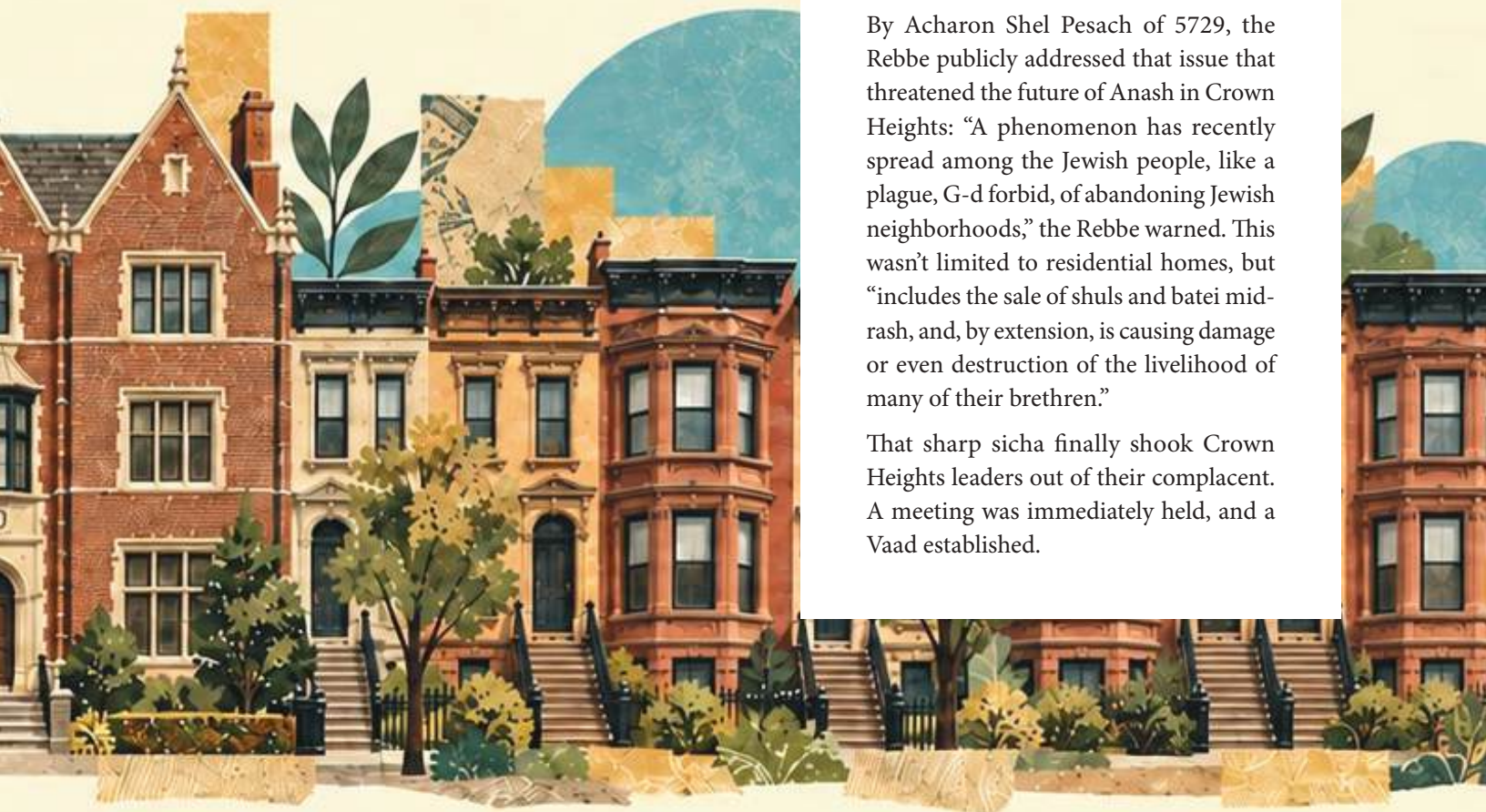
Speculators were going block to block, spreading word of high crime and dangerous streets, encouraging residents to sell. In some cases, they went so far as installing unsavory tenants in buildings to drive out the rest of the population.

It worked.

Mirroring demographic shifts across the country, Crown Heights began to change. What was once the upper-class Jewish neighbourhood of New York City with its tree-lined parkways and ritzy synagogues was now home to recent Caribbean immigrants and Lubavitcher families.

By Acharon Shel Pesach of 5729, the Rebbe publicly addressed that issue that threatened the future of Anash in Crown Heights: “A phenomenon has recently spread among the Jewish people, like a plague, G-d forbid, of abandoning Jewish neighborhoods,” the Rebbe warned. This wasn’t limited to residential homes, but “includes the sale of shuls and batei midrash, and, by extension, is causing damage or even destruction of the livelihood of many of their brethren.”

That sharp sicha finally shook Crown Heights leaders out of their complacent. A meeting was immediately held, and a Vaad established.



IT WASN'T ALWAYS THIS WAY

Today, the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, the formalized outgrowth of the Vaad, serves as a central address for Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Crown Heights seeking social services, community assistance and neighborhood support.

On any given day, the CHJCC offices might see a mother seeking help securing health insurance, a young chosson looking for assistance finding an apartment, a homeowner meeting with staff about utility assistance, the head of a local shul discussing a security grant, or a recent immigrant seeking guidance in navigating the legal system. And those are only a few examples of the work taking place each day.

Throughout the year, the CHJCC works closely with the NYPD, local organizations and community institutions, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, to help ensure that events large and small are held safely and that the neighborhood remains secure. At the same time, relationships with elected officials are continually built and maintained so that Crown Heights has a voice in City Hall, Albany and, when necessary, Washington.

But it was not always this way.

The CHJCC's early years were marked by deep inter-community tensions, protests and, at times, outright violence, including the firebombing of its offices.

It took considerable courage and persistence for the organization to continue its work through those years. Over time, the CHJCC grew from an institution operating amid intense division into one that today serves as a bridge across the community.

That history is what makes the present-day CHJCC all the more remarkable.

A TENUOUS START

Early CHJCC leaders included Rabbi Arnold Wolf, the first chairman; Rabbi Sol Eisner, a secretary and vice president; Rabbi Mendel Shemtov; Rabbi Nochum Pinson; Rabbi Yisrael Rosenfeld, who later became the first Chassidic Jew elected to state office in 1982; Rabbi Abraham Gelb; and Rabbi Samuel Schrage, a noted Crown Heights activist.

Yet, despite the Vaad's valiant first efforts, several months after its founding, during Chanukah of 5730, the Rebbe lamented that the meetings had not borne fruit.

Only five days earlier, on Dec. 2, 1969, had the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council been incorporated, formalizing the more ad-hoc effort that had begun in the late spring and early summer.

The work of the council began on several different fronts: tackling poverty; fighting crime; and stemming the flight from Crown Heights.

A JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency) report from June 5, 1969, details an undercover police operation brainstormed by the NYPD and Rabbi Arnold Wolf, the chairman of the nascent CHJCC: "A bearded man in a beaver hat and a black caftan walking the streets of the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn today is in much less danger of being threatened or assaulted than a few months ago. The man might be a policeman disguised as a Hasidic rabbi. Twenty-four police officers, all non-Jews, disguised themselves as Hasidim in order to combat a rash of beatings suffered by Hasidim by local hoodlums 'Imagine the amazement and stultification,' [Wolf said], 'when a tough attacked what he thought was a defenseless Hasid, only to find him fighting back and identifying himself as a policeman.'"



Wolf attributed a sharp drop in crime to this daring program.

On the anti-poverty front, Abraham Gelb ran Operation Belfrye, an acronym for Better Living for Residents of Yiddish-Speaking Environments, which fought for equal distribution of federal anti-poverty funding for the Jews of Crown Heights.

But the most direct response to the Rebbe's impassioned calls came in the form of tackling the mass-flight.

"This is when the Council started influencing people not to move, when it started buying houses from people who ran away, and seeing that there should be a balance in the community and it shouldn't be abandoned," Mendel Shemtov, a former chairman of the CHJCC, told author Jerome Mintz in *Hasidic People: A Place in the New World*. "If we knew that someone was running away and wants to sell his house we would buy the house to preserve it and then resell it, most of the time at a loss ... We started fighting that a shul should not be sold to a church. Of the 40 shuls in our community only one was sold to a church. In another community all 40 would have gone."

'THE COMMUNITY WOULD RETALIATE'

These efforts were undermined by violence and intimidation.

In the summer of 1970, a spate of ten firebombings over a two-week period culminated in the bombing of the CHJCC offices. "According to witnesses, a car containing three...teenagers pulled up in front of the Council headquarters about 5:36 a.m. One got out and tossed a -home-made bomb through the window, then got back in the car which sped off," the JTA reported on July 21, 1970.

The writing was on the wall, and the resistance to the community organizing itself and pushing back on the blockbusting and crime had been simmering for months, without a response from city officials. "I was tempted to send the Mayor a telegram saying 'I told you so' when I heard of the fire bombing of our headquarters yesterday," the JTA quoted Rabbi Sol Eisner from the Council saying in the aftermath.

The JTA report described some of the tensions that



A protest in Crown Heights following the 1991 riots.

had preceded the attack. Several months earlier, a militant group from Bedford-Stuyvesant had staged a sit-in at the offices of the Crown Heights Community Corporation, accusing its director, Simon Levine, of favoritism and of directing more funds to Jewish-sponsored programs.

"Mr. Levine, black and Protestant, said funds were allocated on the basis of the latest (1960) census data," the JTA reported. "Mr. Levine began receiving telephone warnings that 'the community would retaliate' unless Operation Discovery was refunded. Mr. Gelb said the harassment and recent fire bombings were 'outside directed' efforts to render Operation Belfrye inoperative."

While Mayor John Lindsay promised to repair the building, the fractured neighborhood relations wouldn't mend as quickly.

The tide began to turn in the late 1970s, due in large part to the CHJCC's sustained efforts.

"Formation of a new coalition of Blacks and Jews in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, world center of the Lubavitch Hasidic movement and long an area of inter-racial tension and conflict, was announced at a press conference today held at the Brooklyn Public

A new era: Rabbi Eli Cohen introduces new 77th Precinct officers to Crown Heights' Chasidic community.



Library,” the JTA reported in spring of 1979. “The nine Black and nine Jewish members of the coalition, headed by Rev. Heron Sam and Mendel Shemtov, president of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, were present for the press conference.

“Sam and Shemtov declared in a jointly-presented statement of the coalition’s goals that the coalition comprised ‘concerned individuals, holding positions

of responsibility and /or residing in the Black and Jewish communities of Crown Heights,” the report continues.

“The joint statement declared that ‘recognizing that Crown Heights is the established locale of Blacks and Jews, and other minorities; conscious that the above groups have long contributed to the stability and development of this community; appreciative that these groups consider it home, deserve and intend to remain in this area; convinced that the atmosphere of trust necessary for the stability and growth of the community can be achieved only by mutual cooperation, we have banded together jointly to build our community.’”

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

But while the conference marked a pivotal point, much work remained. It would take years of continued effort before tensions began to ease.

During those years, Crown Heights residents acutely felt the need for the CHJCC. Many felt that established Jewish organizations were not adequately addressing the neighborhood’s needs, leaving the community largely to fend for itself.

A JTA article from 1987 describes this grim reality: “... American Jewish leaders do nothing to help us,’ Rabbi Yisrael Rosenfeld of the Council is quoted addressing a



gathering of eighty city officials, rabbis, black community leaders and activists at a meeting in Oholei Torah. He noted that “...not even one Jewish leader or organization sent a letter to the Jewish community of Crown Heights in the wake of the murder of two Hasidic Jews in separate incidents in the area several months ago. The two victims were Yisroel Rosen, a native of Australia who came to visit his son in Crown Heights and who was beaten to death reportedly by six Black teenagers at a subway station; and Shlomo Fishman, a homeless elderly man who was stabbed about 17 times by unknown assailants. The murderers in both cases are still at large.”

Tensions reached a boiling point during the 1991 Crown Heights riots, a chapter of the neighborhood's history that has been well documented elsewhere.

In the aftermath, the Council played a central role in pressing for justice for the community and in holding accountable the city institutions that had failed it.

While nobody could undo the damage and trauma afflicted on the community, the Council fought against the gaslighting of the Jews and helped shape the official narrative. As the central lawsuit against the City wound down by early 1999, the JTA reported on the mood in the streets: “In the wake of an official apology and financial settlement by New York City — as well as the sentencing of one of those involved in the murder of a Jewish scholar — there is [...] at last, partial closure to what Jews in the Brooklyn, N.Y., neighborhood universally refer to as ‘the pogrom.’ The apology and financial settlement are ‘very important for the people of Crown Heights psychologically,’ said [Michael] Chazan, who installs security systems for a living. In a strongly worded statement issued last week, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani apologized to the neighborhood's Jewish residents, nearly all of whom are connected with the Lubavitch Chasidic movement. The apology came as part of a settlement in which the city agreed to pay a total of \$1.1 million to the 91 plaintiffs involved in a class-action lawsuit that had been filed after the melee in August 1991.”

The settlement drove home the very *raison d'être* of the Council from its earliest days. Jewish Crown Heights needed a voice to fight for the dignity of its residents in a world where the city too often looked the other way and other New York Jewish organizations didn't prioritize “the Orthodox” who refused to abandon their



neighborhood.

Today, the streets of Crown Heights tell a very different story. A vibrant Chabad community serves as the headquarters of the global Chabad movement, alongside a thriving and growing Black community. Rather than existing as separate worlds, the two communities are deeply intertwined in the life of the neighborhood.

Relations between them are warm and robust, with open lines of communication and ongoing cooperation across the community.

And while those years of tension are thankfully behind us, it is worth remembering where the CHJCC came from and how far it has grown. The lessons of that history remain relevant today, both in sustaining the progress that has been made and in ensuring that Crown Heights continues to serve as a model of cooperation and communal harmony.

Natural
Beautiful
You

Sheeba
WIGS

BEAUTY • CONFIDENCE • YOU

MORE
THAN A WIG
A MORE
CONFIDENT YOU



Whatever your hair looks like...
WE DO THAT.

CURLY • WAVY • STRAIGHT • SHORT • LONG

CUSTOM WIGS MADE TO LOOK LIKE YOU.



CUSTOM
WIGS



FALLS &
TOPPERS



REPAIRS &
CUSTOMIZATIONS



VIRGIN &
RAW HAIR

Beautiful hair. A more confident you.



1564 UNION ST, 2ND FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NY



332-213-6739
CALL/WHATSAPP



@SHEEBAWIGS
FOLLOW US

WIGS • CARE • CONFIDENCE • ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU



Set the tone for 5787

Every week, Jews around the world sign up to learn Torah. They just need someone like you, who is willing to study and connect for half an hour a week.



JOIN TODAY!
WWW.JNET.ORG

A NEW ERA FOR ONE CROWN HEIGHTS

BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY FROM MANY

By Moshe New



n the wake of the Bondi attacks last year, a press conference was held outside of the Jewish Children's Museum where the NYC Anti-Hate Taskforce reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety of New York's Jews. The crowd was not made up of just Crown Heights Jewish residents. Also present were a coalition of neighbors, elected officials, and community leaders who stood together to send one message: hate has no place here.

That coalition is One Crown Heights, and since its inception in the early 90s, has been connecting the various communities of Crown Heights—black, Jewish, Hispanic, Caribbean, and more—with the eventual goal of creating a singular canopy and vision for the neighborhood.

The idea isn't new. After the 1991 Crown Heights riots, Mayor David Dinkins came to the Rebbe seeking a way forward. Dinkins spoke of "communities on both sides" coming together. The Rebbe stopped him and told him to forget both sides. Instead he suggested the framing be different: "we are one side, one people, united by the management of New York City." That reframing of seeing the disparate communities in the Crown Heights

neighborhood as not two camps sharing a neighborhood, but one community became the founding idea behind what eventually grew into *One Crown Heights*.

Early efforts by grassroots leaders like Dr. Dovid Lazerson—known as Dr. Laz—and Richard Green laid the groundwork, which was later held together for years by longtime community champion Arna Lipkind before officially rebranding as One Crown Heights in 2016.

"There have been multiple studies that prove that when people are in close proximity to one another, working on a shared goal and getting to know people they wouldn't normally mingle with it reduces bias," says Simcha Baez, One Crown Heights' new director. "Our goal is to bring together people from all backgrounds in the neighborhood so we can collectively source ideas, get to know each other, and talk about shared community issues."

That idea has grown from a small circle of like-minded people to encompassing most of the neighborhood's institutional backbone, becoming a functioning coalition of more than thirty organizations; including: the 67th and 77th Precinct Community Councils, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Brooklyn Borough President's and District Attorney's offices, the ADL, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, JCRC-NY, UJA-Federation, SUNY Downstate, Repair the World, Neighbors in Action/Save Our Streets, the Crown Heights Local Development Corporation, and elected representatives from the City Council up through the State Senate and



Celebrating together at the One Crown Heights Festival.



Black and Jewish community leaders tour the Jewish Children's Museum.

Governor's office alongside grassroots groups like Love Hoops NY, Ker A Velt, and Epic Village Community.

What's Happening Month to Month

If the coalition sounds abstract, its calendar isn't. In January, One Crown Heights ran a street cleanup and daffodil-planting day on Kingston Avenue; an MLK Day of Service project funded by the UJA-Federation; registration for its Boys' Crown Clinics basketball program; and a partnership announcement for HeARTwork Against Hate, a citywide youth art contest run with the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes.

Its Rekindle Brooklyn cohort met with Pastor Gil Monroe and Rabbi Eli Cohen to talk through what long-term partnership across faith lines actually looks like. Volunteers joined IDCC, the 67th Precinct's clergy council, and Grandma's Hands at the Ebbets Field Apartments to hand out toys and connect residents with services. And after a night of latkes and donuts, neighbors gathered at Repair the World to hear the history of Yiddish in Crown Heights from Raul Rothblatt, followed by live music.

None of that made headlines and that's the point according to Baez. It's the unglamorous, repeated contact between people who wouldn't otherwise cross paths that the coalition is built on.

And she's seen its success already starting to shape opinions:

"At one of our events, a longtime Crown Heights resident who'd lived his whole life just north of Eastern Parkway came and met Orthodox Jewish women for the first time," she said. "You could see the negative stereotypes melt off of him."

What Changes With Full-Time Leadership

Until now, this entire footprint—the coalition meetings, the events, the rapid response when something goes wrong—ran on relationships and volunteer hours, often stitched together between people's day jobs.

Following advocacy from the Community Council to former Mayor Eric Adams and the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, the city has gone forward with funding One Crown Heights' first full-time Director role, now held by Baez, alongside Maayan Zik as Director of Development and Programming.

"This is more than a job—it's a shlichus, a life's mission," Zik says.

The new funding has allowed for a paradigm shift in how the organization's leaders can approach this mission. Now, a crisis response—a task also under the purview of One Crown Heights—no longer has to compete with a lunch break, and programming that used to run on whatever time was left over now has room to grow.

"We're now able to act like a normal organization as opposed to a coalition," says Baez. "Instead of just

meeting together, now we can hold those relationships and turn them into something more.”

To Baez, this sustained presence is about preventative care. “Working with the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes is a preventative measure, just like taking vitamins,” she explains. “Youth and neighbors talking to each other and understanding who Jewish people are sows the seeds for stopping hate crimes before they happen.”

Crucially for the neighborhood's religious residents, Baez stresses that bridging cultural divides never requires compromising standards. All programming is structured in consultation with local *rabbonim*, with strictly kosher food provided and gender-separated youth activities where halakhically appropriate. Her hope is that this mutual respect fosters shared pride across lines: “I’d love to see the Black community look at a Sukkah hut and feel proud of it, and for Jewish residents to be proud to be part of Caribbean New York.”

Asked how close the neighborhood actually is to the Rebbe’s vision of one community, Baez is honest: “I don’t think we’re very close yet.” Though she points to individual blocks where it’s already true. Her ask for Jewish community members is simple: see the neighbor who doesn’t look like you as your community, not someone else’s. Say hello. Help them carry their groceries up the steps.

“Befriend the people you see all the time,” she adds, pointing to the Rebbe’s guidance on sharing the Seven Noahide Laws and building genuine trust with non-Jewish neighbors.

Baez is excited about what this new chapter holds. For residents looking to get involved, Baez encourages joining their mailing list, reaching out on social media with community ideas, or attending upcoming events. For those wanting to see the work in action, Baez and is already casting her eyes forward to the organization’s flagship sukkot event. One Crown Heights is co-presenting a Children’s Sukkot Celebration in Prospect Park, near the Carousel at the Willink Entrance, on Monday, September 28, 2026, from 12:00–4:00 PM. All are welcome, rain or shine to shake the lulav, ride the carousel, and meet the coalition behind it.



One Crown Heights Festival.



We're Hiring!



JOIN OUR TEAM IN WILLIAMSBURG

WE'RE HIRING FOR MULTIPLE ROLES



Scheduling
Coordinator



Sales
Representative



HR Onboarding
Specialist



Case
Manager



STARTING SALARY

\$50,000 – \$65,000

depending on experience

+ BONUS OPPORTUNITIES



SCHEDULE

9AM – 5PM

MONDAY – FRIDAY

FULL TIME



LOCATION

IN PERSON

WILLIAMSBURG, BROOKLYN



SCAN TO
WHATSAPP US



SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
talent@anchorhc.org



KippahsPlus

Your custom Kippah concierge

There's a reason why
customers from
400 cities
across
22 countries
choose us for the
custom Kippahs
needs.

**In person
appointments
available** at our
centrally located
Crown Heights
location.

**Free shipping,
worldwide.**



 469-KIPPAHS (469-547-7247)

 orders@kippahsplus.com

 www.KippahsPlus.com

Follow us on social media

 [Instagram.com/KippahsPlus](https://www.instagram.com/KippahsPlus)

 [Facebook.com/KippahsPlus](https://www.facebook.com/KippahsPlus)

BS"D

**PEPPER
MART**

**CHK
Meats and
Poultry**



Free Local
Delivery on
orders \$100+

**MORE CRUNCH FOR YOUR BUCK!**

Shop Now! 



PepperMart.com



**Grocery
Basics for
Less**



**Shop
Online**



**For Crown
Heights
Families**

**PEPPER
MART**



THE VAAD,

The six members of the Vaad Hakohol speak candidly about housing, security, politics, unity and the future of Crown Heights.



ON THE RECORD



It feels like only yesterday that elections were held and a new board was chosen to lead the Vaad Hakohol and CHJCC. In fact, the board is already nearing the end of its term.

We sat down with its members for a crossfire-style conversation, raising some of the issues most discussed and debated in Crown Heights and giving each member the floor to respond.

Here is what they had to say.

BIKE LANES



Shmuel Rosenstein: We've met with elected officials, the DOT and the mayor's office to explain what these lanes would mean for our schools, families and traffic. It wasn't simply, "We don't want bike lanes." We raised specific safety concerns, but the plan moved ahead without what we felt was real consultation with the community.



Berel Hildeshaim: What we basically heard from the DOT was, "The lanes are coming whether you like them or not." A meeting was arranged between the DOT and the schools, where school leadership explained their safety concerns, particularly the problems the bike lanes would create during drop-off and pickup. But very little changed.

PARKING AND STREET CLEANING



Shmuel Rosenstein: We have alternate-side parking much more often than many other neighborhoods. We've asked Councilwoman Crystal Hudson to take away at least one day. Moving every car several times a week is a tremendous burden, and the streets aren't becoming noticeably cleaner. More public garbage cans that are actually emptied regularly might do a lot more.



Dovid Halon: A lot of the time, the sweepers accomplish almost nothing. Everyone moves their cars, people lose time and get tickets, and afterward the street looks the same. It starts to feel more like a ticketing system than a cleaning system. When Crown Heights doesn't speak with one voice, it's easier for the city to brush us off.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Zalman Friedman: We have close relationships with the 71st, 77th and 67th precincts, as well as with the community security organizations. The police understand that this is a dangerous time and that the Jewish community faces particular threats. But residents also have to stay alert. If you see something unusual, report it.



Shmuel Rosenstein: When we call the NYPD with a serious concern, they listen. We've seen that during Tishrei and after several troubling incidents in the neighborhood. A lot of the work happens quietly, so people don't necessarily see it, but the relationships are there and we know whom to call.



Dovid Halon: We're very fortunate to have both Shomrim and Shmira. There are dedicated volunteers and a lot of experience in both organizations. I would love to see their resources and expertise coordinated more closely. That would be a tremendous benefit to the whole community.



Yitzie Kamman: We worked closely with the precincts, Shomrim and Shmira, while making sure Crown Heights was properly represented in meetings with law enforcement. The responders do essential work, but you also need people who can sit down with the police and maintain those relationships.



Zalman Friedman: Tenants have to be treated fairly. But we also can't treat every landlord or developer as the enemy. If people feel that investing in Crown Heights will only bring hostility, they'll invest somewhere else. There are still many properties that could be developed. The best time to buy may have been yesterday, but the next-best time is today.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Shmuel Rosenstein: Housing is probably one of the biggest problems facing Crown Heights. Young couples want to stay near their families, shuls and community, but many simply can't afford it. We need property owners and developers who are willing, when possible, to accept a lower offer or make a little less profit so that housing can remain available to Jewish families.



Berel Hildeshaim: We formed a housing committee early in our term, but there's no simple solution. You need buildable property, investors who can wait years for a return and developers willing to make less. Without those pieces, you're not going to produce truly affordable apartments.



Dovid Halon: We also have to expand what we think of as Crown Heights. There are nearby blocks in East Flatbush where Jewish families can move. Somebody has to be the first family on the block. That family becomes a lamplighter. Then another family comes, and eventually you can have a minyan, a shul and a whole new community.

HOMELESS SHELTERS



Dovid Halon: These shelter plans were going through the government process for years before most people knew about them. By the time everyone protested, approvals were in place and money had been invested. That's why we need a communal body watching from the beginning. Even now, organized pressure may still secure something for local families.



Zalman Friedman: Most people are busy with their families and parnassah. They can't spend their day monitoring every government proceeding. That's why you need a functioning Vaad and CHJCC. Someone has to notice what's happening two or three years before the construction equipment shows up and make sure Crown Heights is represented.



Shmuel Rosenstein: The CHJCC has written many letters to city and state officials and continues to raise the community's concerns. The reality is that a number of these projects were approved before this Vaad came in. We can't promise to stop every



plan, but we can make sure the community's position is heard and try to catch future proposals much earlier.



Meir New: This really comes down to political representation. If Crown Heights doesn't vote, attend community-board meetings and maintain a strong central organization, decisions will keep being made before most residents even know the discussion started.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION



Meir New: Voting matters beyond deciding who wins. When you call an elected official's office about street noise, a business you're unhappy with or any other issue, they can look up your individual voting history. It's the political equivalent of a credit score. Politicians pay more attention to people who vote regularly, so voting is in your own interest. And, of course, when we vote as a strong bloc, it benefits the entire community tremendously.

Shelters, bike lanes and zoning issues also reach community boards long before the public hears about them. We need qualified Crown Heights residents in those rooms.



Shmuel Rosenstein: Whenever community-board applications open, the CHJCC publicizes them and asks people to apply. We can't wait until afterward and complain that nobody represented us. We need people willing to show up before there's a crisis.



Zalman Friedman: We should appreciate the people who volunteer for community boards and other communal work, even when we disagree with them. Sometimes people criticize one result without knowing how many meetings, phone calls and unpaid hours went into getting even that much. If you think something should be done differently, get involved.



Yitzie Kamman: We tried to bring some order and unity among the Crown Heights people working in politics and government relations. When everyone is operating separately, the community loses influence. When they communicate and approach officials with an organized message, we're much stronger.

COMMUNITY BUSINESSES



Zalman Friedman: Supporting local businesses is part of supporting Crown Heights. The money you spend here helps employ local people and comes back to our schools, shuls and organizations. When you buy everything from a major online retailer, that money leaves the neighborhood. We also need to encourage more people to open businesses and create jobs here.



Berel Hildeshaim: People assume that shopping locally always costs more, and it's not necessarily true. I once checked an item in a Crown Heights store against Amazon, and the local store was actually cheaper. Before automatically ordering online, give the local business a chance.

ANTISEMITISM



Shmuel Rosenstein: It's a frightening time, but the Rebbe taught us not to live as frightened Jews. We have to live proudly and keep strengthening Jewish life. One Crown Heights is important, too. Relations between the Jewish and African American communities are very different today from the period surrounding the 1991 riots, and those open lines of communication matter.



Zalman Friedman: The Rebbe taught us to look at the Jewish future with confidence. Of course we have to take security seriously and do everything practical that needs to be done. But we can't allow antisemitism to decide how openly or proudly we live as Jews.



Berel Hildeshaim: It can start with something as simple as greeting your neighbors. When you treat people with respect and they get to know you as a person, it changes the atmosphere. That's not just being friendly; it's part of making a kiddush Hashem.



Meir New: The rhetoric has become much more open and brazen, and we have to take that seriously. But taking it seriously doesn't mean becoming frightened. We're in contact with the NYPD and other agencies. A lot is happening behind the scenes that we can't necessarily discuss publicly.

YOUNG FAMILIES



Dovid Halon: The growth of neighborhood shuls and class shuls has made a tremendous difference for young families. A couple can find a rav, friends and people who will notice when they need help. A shul isn't only a place to daven. It can become your entire support system.



Berel Hildeshaim: These shuls have become real communities. There are children's programs, early-morning shiurim, mikvaos, women's programming and family events. The adults build relationships, the children grow up together and people feel that they belong somewhere.

770



Dovid Halon: From the beginning, we talked about what the relationship between the Vaad and 770 should look like. At the end of the day, 770, the Vaad and the neighborhood shuls are all parts of one community. There should be a more organized connection between them, but it has to be built gradually and with trust.



Shmuel Rosenstein: A lot of our work involving 770 has been about security. We've worked with the NYPD and other organizations to strengthen protection and arrange street closures for major events. During Tishrei especially, you can't wait until the last minute. All of that has to be planned in advance.

TISHREI



Shmuel Rosenstein: Before every Tishrei, we sit down with the NYPD to discuss street closures, crowds and security. We look at what happened the year before and what needs to change. There are many practical issues, and they require the Vaad, police and local institutions to work together.



Dovid Halon: The number of guests coming for Tishrei is almost equal to the regular Crown Heights population. Many of them save all year to come to the Rebbe. Not every family is able to host, but if you can offer a bed, a meal or even a little hospitality, you should understand what a tremendous opportunity that is.

ELECTIONS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS



Shmuel Rosenstein: The basic message is that everyone needs to register and vote. Politicians pay attention when a community turns out consistently. The Vaad was elected to represent Crown Heights, and when officials ask where the

community stands, there needs to be an established body able to answer and, when appropriate, make an endorsement.



Meir New: We need more capable people to become involved in politics and communal leadership. If you understand government, care about the community or feel you have something to contribute, don't sit on the sidelines. More qualified candidates, volunteers and informed voters will give Crown Heights a much stronger voice.

COMMUNITY UNITY AND LEADERSHIP



Meir New: We try to work with anyone who is willing to work with us. Obviously, we're not all going to agree on everything. But there still has to be one elected body that represents the community as a whole. Otherwise, officials hear conflicting messages and conclude that nobody really speaks for Crown Heights.



Berel Hildeshaim: We met with practically every Crown Heights faction, as well as political leaders and security organizations. Unity doesn't mean thinking the same way. It means communicating respectfully and understanding that we're far more effective when we approach the outside world together.



Zalman Friedman: The six Vaad members reach different parts of Crown Heights, and that's a strength. If someone doesn't feel comfortable approaching one member, he can usually talk to another. But within the Vaad, we're united. We don't operate as six separate organizations.



Dovid Halon: When we came in, there was a lot of distrust. We learned quickly that winning an election doesn't mean people automatically trust you. You have to earn it. Building relationships with people who were initially hesitant to work with us has been one of the important accomplishments of this Vaad.



Yitzie Kamman: Especially early in the term, we built a strong relationship with the netzigim, and that connection is important for continuity. The Beis Din, Vaad, CHJCC and the rest of the communal structure can't operate as separate islands.

I came in from the outside and didn't fully appreciate everything the Beis Din and rabbonim do until I saw it up close. People will always disagree, but strong leadership is the connective tissue of a community. You don't have to agree on everything. Find the areas you care about and help move them forward.

KASHRUS



Zalman Friedman: The kashrus operation has been modernized. There are new people, updated systems and stronger protocols. Kashrus is an essential communal service, but it's also an important financial arm of the Vaad. When you strengthen it, you strengthen the broader communal structure as well.



Yitzie Kamman: The CHK went through a complete overhaul and is on much more solid footing today. There's still a lot of room to grow. Every establishment that comes under the CHK brings in revenue and gives the community another kosher option. A restaurant recently returning to CHK certification is a good example of the opportunity that's there.

CLOSING STATEMENTS



Dovid Halon: I compare our role to Dovid Hamelech preparing for the Beis Hamikdash, although Shlomo Hamelech would build it. We inherited a difficult situation, and much of our work has been clearing obstacles, repairing relationships and laying a foundation. The next Vaad should start from a stronger place. That foundation must include a properly supported Beis Din and rabbonim.



Shmuel Rosenstein: The CHJCC today looks completely different from the organization we walked into. There's a new CEO, a clear direction and a much stronger connection to the community's everyday needs. People now come to us about parking tickets, trees and all kinds of neighborhood problems. We can't solve everything, but the fact that they see us as an address shows that trust is coming back.



Meir New: One thing we've accomplished is making it acceptable, maybe even "cool," to care about community affairs. People who once stayed away now want to know what's happening and how they can be involved. That change matters, because no Vaad can succeed if the community itself isn't interested.



Berel Hildeshaim: A short time ago, residents went elsewhere for benefits and social services. Today, people come to the CHJCC for programs they can't get elsewhere. It has become a welcoming place with an open door.

I am fortunate to meet and work with individuals who generously give their time, expertise and money to the community. Some prefer to remain anonymous, but I encourage them to become familiar with the Rebbe's sichos on the importance of recognizing those who give. Public recognition encourages others to step up and contribute, both through their time and efforts and financially.



Yitzie Kamman: We came in when the Vaad Hakohol and CHJCC had been shaken to their core. Much of our term was spent rebuilding: finding a new home and CEO for the CHJCC, paying the rabbonim, hiring the Vaad's first executive director, strengthening the

finances and restoring credibility. Foundation work happens underground, so people don't always see it. But it's now there for future boards to build on.

There's always room to help. Pointing out problems is important, but the next question is, "How can I help fix this?" You don't need to be elected. You can give time, expertise, financial support or help with one project. Like shlichus and hafatzas hamayanos, every small act matters.



Zalman Friedman: Sitting in this seat has shown me how much work still needs to be done, but also how much better this community can and should be. There are so many ways we can strengthen Crown Heights and make life better for the people who live here.

The potential is already here. We just need more people to come together, take responsibility and make it happen. I believe that day is coming soon. And when it does, we'll be able to accomplish far more together than any one person or organization could do alone.

B"H

Tax Season
is almost here...
The stress doesn't have to be.



TARLOW
ACCOUNTING

INDIVIDUAL & BUSINESS TAX
NONPROFIT (FORM 990) FILING
ADVISORY & PLANNING

Shneur Tarlow, MAcc
917.399.6882
shneur@tarlowaccounting.com

ב"ה

Ask the Rav
אתרא דרב

**Your halachic questions,
answered.**

Online anytime. By phone during hotline hours.



**Ask online
anytime**

AskTheRav.com



**Hotline
(718) 604-8000**

Ext. 1

Hotline Hours

Weekdays:	11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Erev Shabbos & Erev Yom Tov:	9:00 AM – one hour before licht bentchen
Motzoei Shabbos & Yom Tov:	One hour after Shabbos – 10:30 PM

AskTheRav is a 501(c)(3). Become a member at AskTheRav.com/donate



Nourish

Crown Heights

strengthening families →
supporting our Community

FREE Meals! Sign Up Today!

- Pregnant or Post-partum women
- Individuals with medical conditions
- With Medicaid Managed plan
- Resides in Brooklyn



Serving
hundreds of
CH Families

CHK
Hashgacha
Catering

Meals
Delivered to
your home

Apply *now!*

www.nourishcrownheights.org

nourishcrownheights@gmail.com

Text: 833-518-3310



Nourishing families through many of our Crown Heights local businesses!

EG  PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

THE ARENA EXPERIENCE

R E L I V E T H E M A G I C

S T R E A M I N G W O R L D W I D E

SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 5

SHAINDY PLOTZKER.COM

SHAINDY PLOTZKER

LIVE 2026



THE REBBE, THE MAYOR, AND THE COUNCIL

A clear
vision for
communal
cohesion

When elected officials wanted to discuss problems facing Crown Heights, some of them turned directly to the Rebbe.

The issues varied. The people writing varied. But the Rebbe's answer was strikingly consistent: when it came to matters affecting the Crown Heights community, they should work with the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council.

Those exchanges offer a revealing window into how the Rebbe viewed the structure of Crown Heights.

This was, after all, no ordinary neighborhood. Crown Heights was, and remains, "the Rebbe's shechuna," the place of which the Rebbe said "kan tzivah Hashem es habrachah," and the headquarters of Chabad-Lubavitch.

It is filled with prominent mosdos, shuls, organizations and activists, many of them carrying responsibilities that reached far beyond the neighborhood itself.

Yet precisely in that setting, the Rebbe repeatedly pointed to the need for a clear communal address.

Today as well, Crown Heights has much to be proud of. Its shuls, schools, organizations, activists and volunteers each play an important role. Some provide Torah and chinuch. Others offer social services, advocacy, programming or assistance to families. Still others represent Crown Heights far beyond the borders of the neighborhood.

But a community cannot function simply as a collection of strong institutions and energetic individuals. It also needs a structure through which the community as a whole can act.



The Rebbe, Mendel Shemtov, Rabbi Shmuel Fogelman, and New York Mayor Ed Koch at a farbrengen gathering at 770 Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights.

Fogelman family collection via Chabad.org

That distinction appears clearly in the Rebbe's approach.

The Beis Din and elected rabbonim provide halachic leadership. Shuls and mosdos run their own institutions and programs. Organizations carry out their respective missions. Residents and activists raise concerns, propose ideas and push important issues forward.

The Vaad Hakohol provides elected communal leadership, while CHJCC serves as the community's social-service, advocacy and governmental representative.

These roles are different by design, but each has to fulfill its role for the community as a whole to function effectively.

That was the significance of the Rebbe's response to those who approached him directly. Rather than bypass the community's institutions, he directed them back to

the body established to represent the community.

It is a model that remains relevant today.

Crown Heights will always have strong personalities, independent institutions and differing opinions. That is part of what makes the community dynamic. But on matters that require Crown Heights to speak as a community, those many voices need a common address.

And perhaps the clearest way to understand the Rebbe's position is not through a summary at all, but through his own words.

The following letters show exactly how he responded when public officials and others brought Crown Heights matters directly to him.



Letter to the Rebbe from
Mayor Edward I. Koch
regarding certain issues
in Crown Heights.

Grand Rabbi Shneerson
April 2, 1987
Page 2

are beginning or ending. At all other times, cars will not be stopped and pedestrians should confine themselves to the sidewalks. I would ask you to meet with representatives of the Police Department to work out the details of this plan.

I have also heard troubling reports

In view of these reports, I have asked the Police Commissioner to work with the Lubovitch community to develop an expanded and integrated civilian patrol under the auspices of the Police Department in the 71st Precinct. I believe that an integrated patrol would not only strengthen our enforcement efforts, but also foster a spirit of cooperation in Crown Heights.

These are two concerns that have been called to my attention. I am sure that you have other issues on your mind of equal importance concerning the safety and well-being of your congregation. I would like an opportunity to discuss all of these issues with your representatives at a meeting at City Hall. I will be in touch with you to find a time.

I am hopeful that by working together we will be able to address issues that otherwise might create unnecessary tensions in Crown Heights.

Sincerely,


Edward I. Koch
MAYOR



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

April 2, 1987

Grand Rabbi M. Shneerson
Lubovitch Community
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213

Dear Rabbi Shneerson:

I am writing to you to express my concern about reports of increasing tensions between groups in the Crown Heights community.

In the past, we have been able to draw the support of the Lubovitch leadership to find ways for all members of the community to live together peacefully. I would like to try again.

In that spirit, I invite you to join me in a discussion of your concerns and see if we can once again meet the diverse needs of the Crown Heights community.

You should know that I recently met with Police Commissioner Ward and discussed some of the problems that seem to be causing friction in the community. In particular, the Police Department is concerned about traffic obstructions in the area immediately surrounding 770 Eastern Parkway. It is a difficult situation for those in vehicles as well as for pedestrians trying to walk on the sidewalk. Therefore, the Police Department will strictly enforce traffic regulations in this area.

In deference to the heavy pedestrian traffic on the Sabbath, the Department will continue to regulate traffic on Eastern Parkway during the times when services

By the Grace of G-d
7th of Nissan, 5747
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Honorable E. I. Koch
Mayor of the City of New York
Office of the Mayor
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Mr. Mayor:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 2, 1947, in which you express your concerns about reports of increasing tensions between groups in the Crown Heights community. The letter details allegations about certain incidents, etc., and concludes with a suggestion to discuss those and other issues with my representatives at a meeting at City Hall.

Needless to say, I was greatly astonished to receive this letter, since it reflects an apparent unawareness at City Hall of the right address to which your letter should have been sent.

As you surely know, my position as Head of the world-wide Lubavitch movement is the same as that of my predecessor, my father-in-law the Rebbe of saintly memory, who transplanted the Lubavitch Headquarters from Europe to the U.S., in New York City, in 1940. Since then, during the last decade of his life, and subsequently for nearly four decades, the functions and activities of my office have faithfully followed clearly defined guidelines, which have been generally recognized and understood. These functions are confined solely to the sphere of spiritual affairs. Whether in the immediate surroundings of Crown Heights, or in the wider confines of the City and State of New York, or in other States of the Union, or, for that matter, in any part of the world, it has never been the function of my predecessor, or myself, to be involved in community affairs and interrelationships, and the like. This was always left to local community leaders, both religious and lay. In the present case, namely, Crown Heights, it is well known that there is the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, which represents all the various Jewish groups, Chasidic and non-Chasidic, religious and non-religious, who live in this part of the City.

In light of the above, I regret that I cannot avail myself of the opportunity you suggested, since any and all issues

The Rebbe's
response to Mayor
Edward I. Koch

Mayor Koch

Page Two

7 Nissan, 5747

and problems relating to the general wellbeing of the community have to be worked out with community leaders and bodies whose function and responsibility it is.

I am confident that, as Mayor of the City of New York, it is your desire to promote the wellbeing of all the good and law-abiding citizens of this great City, and I do hope that you and your administration will do your very best in this direction also for the Crown Heights community.

To conclude on a timely note apropos the upcoming Passover Festival, I hope and pray that the "Season of Our Freedom," proclaiming freedom for all humanity, will inspire and bring forth a growing measure of true freedom - freedom also from all anxieties, tensions and distractions - to people of all races and creeds, to live and let live in a spirit of mutual understanding, respect and dignity.

I take this opportunity of extending to you, as to all fellow-Jews, the traditional blessing of the season - for a kosher and inspiring Pesach.

Sincerely,

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK**

April 28, 1989

Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson
Lubavitcher Rebbe
Lubavitcher World Headquarters
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11225

Dear Rebbe Schneerson:

I have been the Commanding Officer, Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, consisting of thirteen precincts, since January 1, 1987, a period of twenty-eight months. During this time my staff and I have worked tirelessly and closely with Rabbi Joseph B. Spielman, Rabbi Leib Groner, and other distinguished members of the Lubavitcher Hassidic Jewish Community to promote and maintain peace and racial harmony in Crown Heights.

Together, we have successfully overcome the most serious and significant threats to the stability of the Crown Heights Community in the past thirty years, i.e. the arson fire at the residence of ... February 26, 1987, the CHANT demonstration on April 11, 1987, and the confrontational demonstrations by the Black Men's Movement Against Crack and the New York Eight, which took place every Monday evening from April to September, 1987.

Working closely with the aforementioned members of the Hassidic Jewish Community, and with the cooperation of Reverend Heron Sam of St. Marks Episcopal Church, Reverend Clarence Norman of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, and Reverend Hardy Smallwood of the Bereen Baptist Church, we have reestablished the Crown Heights Coalition, opening lines of communication that had not existed since 1982, created a police-sponsored, integrated Community Patrol, and established a "hot-line" telephone system to improve communications and dispel rumors.

While our joint accomplishments have indeed been substantial and have promoted a measure of community stability, I feel compelled to bring to your attention the actions of an individual, which, if allowed to continue unchecked, threaten to undermine the gains that we have achieved.

I am referring to...

Accordingly, I believe that only through your direct intervention can further ... be prevented...

Wishing you continued good health and success in your future endeavors, I remain

Sincerely Yours,

Joseph P. Calzerano
Assistant Chief
cc: Police Commissioner
Chief of Department
Chief of Patrol

**A letter to the
Rebbe from Joseph
P. Calzerano,
Assistant Chief of
the New York City
Police Department**

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
770 איסטערן פארקווי
ברוקליין, נ.י.

Corrected Copy

By the Grace of G-d
28th of Nissan, 5749
(May 3, 1989)
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Joseph P. Calzerano
Assistant Chief
Police Department
City of New York

Greeting and Blessing:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 28, 1989.

I am aware of, and sincerely appreciate, your consistent efforts - in your capacity as Commanding Officer, Patrol Borough Brooklyn South - to promote community harmony in Crown Heights.

Indeed, your personal attention and cooperation with all segments of the community, Jewish and gentile, has been a crucial factor in maintaining racial harmony in Crown Heights.

As for the concerns which you express in your letter, I see it as further attestation to your dedication and resolve to keep up your good work.

On the other hand, I am somewhat surprised at your suggestion that I directly intervene in a matter involving certain complaints, etc. It is generally well known that any and all matters relating to the local community have always been handled by the Jewish Community Council of Crown Heights in cooperation with your Department, and, as you attest in your letter - competently and successfully. Moreover, as you write, you have met with representatives of the local Jewish community in the past and maintain direct communication with them. I am confident that you will continue to do so, and with concerted efforts and goodwill on the part of all concerned, there should be no problem too difficult to resolve.

I have reason to believe that all good citizens of Crown Heights, myself included, recognize the difficult responsibilities you and your Department have to face, and appreciate your good efforts all the more.

With prayerful wishes for your continued success,
Cordially and with blessing,

→
FAXED
7/11/89
11:30 A.M.

By the Grace of G-d
12 Cheshvan, 5742
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Rabbi I. N. Trainin
Federation of Jewish Philanthropies
130 East 39th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Sholom uBrocho:

Thank you very much for your letter of 8 Cheshvan, with enclosure, referring to your previous correspondence on the subject of the JBFCS' desire to provide social services for the Crown Heights community.

I am sorry to note that my reply to your previous letter has evidently not reached you.

As I recall, my reply - as in all similar situations - was that in all matters relating to our neighborhood community, wherein also non-Lubavitcher Jews live, it is necessary to approach the Jewish Community Council of Crown Heights, which is the representative body of the entire community.

To make up in some measure for lost time, this letter is being mailed by Special Delivery.

With esteem and blessing,

The Rebbe's
response to Joseph
P. Calzerano.

A letter to Rabbi Isaac
N. Trainin, a member
of the Federation of
Jewish Philanthropies.

For life's big moments. And lunch.



Call or WhatsApp 718-778-1733

BAKERY

BREAKFAST

LUNCH

CATERING

GROCERY

ב"ה



ארבע כנפות
ARBA KANFOT

4kanfot.com

Arba Kanfot already brought you
the best prices on
Tzitzis, Talleisim and Kittels



KITTELS



TALLEISIM



TALLIS KATAN

Stay tuned for
Chanukah...

COMING SOON



By Tzemach Feller

Not **BORED** *at* *the* **BOARD**

An illustration of a curved, dark-colored conference table with several black chairs around it. On the table, there are several sheets of white paper, some overlapping. The background is a textured, light brown surface with some faint, abstract shapes and lines.

**Why Crown Heightsers
should be paying
much more attention
to Community
Board meetings**



Perhaps one of the least-well-known bodies of government in New York City are the community boards. In all, 59 of them serve the Five Boroughs, and they are the most hyper-local, grassroots form of government. Each board covers an area of as small as a few neighborhoods, and its members are required to live, work, or otherwise be involved in them.

They are relatively obscure, but by design, the community boards can have a tremendous impact on how the city serves each community. Their recommendations affect how the city decides what to improve, how to spend tax dollars, and how to use city land.

They are the way the city asks to hear citizen's voices — but not enough people in the Crown Heights community even know they exist.

As part of its mission to liaise between the city's leadership and the Crown Heights community, the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council actively encourages participation in Community Board Meetings.

Brooklyn Community Board 9 serves most of the Crown Heights area. Currently, of its 50 board members, fewer than 10 are members of the local Jewish community. Numerous Crown Heightsers — understanding the bigger picture of how government operates in the Big Apple — join the ranks of the audience members at the monthly general Community Board meetings, as well as the smaller committee meetings. They spend precious hours listening to debates over liquor licensing, zoning variances, and salary approvals, because they understand that here is an opportunity to make our community's voice heard at the most local level of government.

Crown Heights resident Menachem Mahpour was a member of Brooklyn Community Board 9 for a year, and continues to attend meetings and otherwise remains involved in local politics. He agreed to be interviewed for this article, explaining why he feels it is crucial for more members of the Crown Heights community to take the time to get involved in local politics.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

My name is Menachem Mahpour. I grew up and currently reside in Crown Heights. Through my work and everyday life in the neighborhood, I have had the opportunity to speak with residents, business owners, and neighbors from across the community.

What first got you interested in community matters?

My interest in community matters grew after I got married and began raising a family. I started looking at Crown Heights differently, not just as the place we live today, but what it will look like in the future. Will it still be a place where families can afford to live, feel safe, raise their children and remain connected to the community? Will the things that make this neighborhood special still be here?

Those questions made me pay closer attention to what was happening around us and to the decisions being made about housing, development, public safety, transportation, and quality of life.

What would you say to someone who feels that New York City is so big that their opinion won't make a difference?

It is easy, especially in a city as large as New York, to say, "What difference will my opinion make?" or "The city is going to do whatever it wants anyway." When enough people think that way, we give up our voice without using it. You may not be able to change everything, but that doesn't mean you can't change anything. One vote may seem insignificant in a city of millions. One phone call may seem insignificant. One person attending a meeting may seem insignificant. But communities are made up of those individual people. When thousands of people decide that their voice doesn't matter and stay home, that decision has an impact too.

Have we actually seen examples where community involvement changed something?

Yes, including right here in Crown Heights. When concerns arose over the planned protected bike lanes on Kingston and Brooklyn Avenues, a group of local residents organized and went to court. On August 19, 2026, Judge Rachel Freier temporarily halted further installation so their concerns could be heard.

Another example is the Creedmoor redevelopment in Queens. After significant community input and concerns about the size and density of the project, the plan was modified and the number of proposed apartments and supportive housing units was substantially reduced.

What would you tell someone who says they simply don't have the time to get involved?

Everyone is busy. We have families, jobs, businesses, community responsibilities and personal obligations. There needs to be a healthy balance.

I don't believe community involvement means living and breathing politics or attending every meeting. Community affairs shouldn't consume our lives. Sometimes being involved simply means knowing what is happening.

It can mean knowing who represents you, who the candidates are in the next election, reading about an issue, making a phone call, sending an email, attending the occasional meeting when something important is happening, or simply showing up to vote.

What about someone who isn't comfortable speaking publicly or isn't the type of person to be loud and outspoken?

Not everyone has to be the person out front or the face of an issue.

We are fortunate to have many dedicated people in our community who are willing to put themselves out there, attending meetings, speaking up, asking difficult questions and advocating for others. Many of them also spend a great deal of time building relationships with government officials and community leaders so that when an issue comes up, there is already a line of communication and someone willing to make the case for the community.

That takes time, effort and courage, and they need to know they aren't standing alone.

Even if being the face of an issue isn't for you, there are still many ways to help. When you see someone doing this work, simply tell them, "I appreciate what you're doing. Keep going," or ask, "What can I do to help?"

Sometimes that means making a phone call, signing a letter, sharing information or simply showing up to support them.

“YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE EVERYTHING, BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN YOU CAN’T CHANGE ANYTHING.”

You don't need to have the loudest voice to make a difference. Sometimes the most important thing you can do is stand behind someone who is willing to use theirs.

How important is voting when it comes to community involvement?

Voting is extremely important, and it doesn't only mean showing up for the presidential election or the general election in November. Over the years, I've spoken with people who tell me, “Of course I vote - I voted for President.” But local elections matter too, especially the primaries. In many New York City races, the primary can be one of the most consequential stages in determining who ultimately will be in office. Recent races have shown just how much can be decided before voters ever get to November.

At a minimum, people should understand the process, know when elections are taking place, learn about the candidates, show up and encourage family and friends to do the same.

We can't complain about public safety, housing, transportation, bike and bus lanes, quality-of-life issues or elected officials while ignoring the elections that help determine who makes those decisions. If we want elected officials to pay attention to our community, we also have to pay attention to them.

What about people who say, “Whatever is meant to be will be”?

I understand that approach to a certain extent. We can't control everything that happens around us, and not every political or community issue needs to consume our lives, but I also don't believe complete disengagement is the answer. When something important is happening that may affect your family or community for years to come,



February 2026 General Board Meeting



September 2026 ULURP/Land Use Committee Meeting

that is a time to pay attention.

Sometimes your involvement may simply be voting. Sometimes it may be supporting someone else. Sometimes it may be making one phone call or attending one meeting.

The goal isn't to become consumed by politics. The goal is simply not to become so disconnected that we only start paying attention after a decision has already been made.

Anything else you would like people to take away from this?

I would encourage people to think about the future of the community and become aware of what is going on around them. The future of Crown Heights is being shaped by the decisions made today. Stay informed enough to recognize when something matters. Speak up when you can. Support the people who are willing to lead. Ask what you can do behind the scenes. And when it comes time to vote, show up. Being involved doesn't mean doing everything, it can mean caring enough not to do nothing.



BEHIND
THE
SEAMS

with Zeldy



ב"ה

SEWING CLASSES!

Girls • Teens • Ladies

Learn to hand sew, use a sewing machine,
mend clothing, sew buttons and so much more!

WE ALSO DO EMBROIDERY!

Bags • Blankets • Knapsack
(just to name a few)



Contact Info:

Sewingwithzeldy.com

347-543-7503

Crown Heights

eMeS
C R E A T I V E

For when you need that *creative* human touch

WRITING • MARKETING • STRATEGY • PR • AI CONSULTING

Motti S. Wilhelm

mottiswilhelm@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 651-497-0797

Kingston

BAKE SHOP

YOUR ADDRESS FOR SOMETHING GOOD.

Coffee • Danishes • Pastries • Cakes • Cheesecake • Challah
Bagels • Sandwiches • Paninis • Salads • Breakfast • Lunch

EAT IN • TAKE OUT • ORDER ONLINE

SUN-THU 6 AM-5 PM • FRI 6 AM-2 PM

380 KINGSTON AVENUE • (718) 467-2047 • KingstonBakeShop.com



BH



MR-FIX-IT

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN

No JOB TOO SMALL!

FAST • RELIABLE • AFFORDABLE

WE WANT MOSHIACH NOW!

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Air Conditioning Installation
- ✓ Window Screen Repair
- ✓ Picture Hanging
- ✓ Window Guards Installation
- ✓ Video Screen Mounting
- ✓ Window & Door Repair
- ✓ Sink & Tub Drain Snaking
- ✓ Washer & Dryer Installation
- ✓ Door Lock Install & Repair
- ✓ Furniture Assembly
- ✓ Tree Trimming
- ✓ Faucet Installation
- ✓ And Many More!



A/C INSTALLATION



SCREEN REPAIR



TV MOUNTING



FAUCET INSTALL



ASSEMBLY



TREE TRIMMING



CALL OR WHATSAPP

347-410-2650



MRFIXITOFCH@GMAIL.COM



QUALITY WORK
DONE RIGHT



ON TIME
EVERY TIME



HONEST &
RELIABLE



LOCAL &
TRUSTED

**IF YOU HAVE TWO LEFT HANDS,
LET ME BE YOUR RIGHT HAND MAN!**



Apple Drugs

COMPLETE PHARMACY & HEALTH FOOD CENTER

376 Kingston Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel: 718-467-6700

Fax: 718-467-2461

4676700@gmail.com



FREE DELIVERY



**CAN RENEW YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS
24/6 THROUGH OUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM**



CELEBRATING
WITH YOU

📍 640 MONTGOMERY ST. BROOKLYN, NY 11225

📞 718-771-3924

🕒 SUNDAY-THURSDAY 11:00-6:00 • FRIDAY 11:00-1:00

📱 @KIRSH_JEWELERS

YOU ASKED AI HOW TO FIX YOUR HINGE. GOT A 19-STEP TUTORIAL. STILL BROKEN?

ChatGPT has delusions. We have solutions.

We may solve your problem with our hands, but first we analyze it with our minds to make it work better than the day you got it. No quick fixes or superficial repairs - we stand behind, under, and over every drawer, hinge, closet and piece of furniture we touch.



Call or WhatsApp **Shmuel Edelman**
📞 718.288.8899 | 📧 woodwizny | woodwizny.com



Furniture Repairs
and Assembly



Fixtures, Mounting
and Installations



Custom Closets
and Shelves



Drawers, Tracks
and Hinges



Basic Electric
and Plumbing



Custom
Carpentry

*Wishing a sweet and joyous new
year to all my Jewish constituents.*

Chag Sukkot Sameach!

As the Assemblymember for the 57th district and a lifelong Crown Heights resident, I will continue to fight for peace and freedom for all the communities I represent. I am committed to honoring our shared history, building the bonds of our peoples, and passing legislation that allows all of us to reach our full human potential.

Assemblymember
PHARA SOUFFRANT FORREST



**TRAVEL BEAUTIFULLY.
KEEP KOSHER.**

Personalized kosher vacations, all year round,
for couples, families and groups.

**Hotels & Villas • Private Chefs • Shabbat
Dining • Experiences**

NOW PLANNING:

YESHIVA WEEK & PASSOVER 2027

SAINT BARTH • CARIBBEAN • GREECE
ITALY • FRANCE

**PLANNING YOUR
NEXT TRIP?**

Scan to speak with our kosher
travel concierge team on WhatsApp.

@kosherliving_travel

Phone / WhatsApp: +33 6 85 77 24 57

www.kosherliving.co



SCAN TO PLAN YOUR TRIP

COMMUNITY SERVICES & BENEFITS

**A practical guide to
benefits, services and
programs CHJCC can
help residents**

You do not need to know which program you need before calling. CHJCC staff can review your situation, help determine which programs may apply, assist with applications and renewals, gather documentation, troubleshoot existing benefits, and connect you with the appropriate agency or resource.

IMPORTANT

Eligibility varies by program and may depend on income, age, disability status, household size, immigration status and other factors. Program rules and benefit amounts can change.

WHAT CAN CHJCC HELP YOU WITH?

Food & Financial Assistance

SNAP / Food Stamps

Help applying for, renewing and maintaining SNAP food benefits for eligible individuals and families.

Cash Assistance / Public Assistance

Help determining eligibility for cash-assistance programs and navigating applications, renewals and documentation.

Food Pantry & Food Assistance

Groceries and food assistance for individuals and families in need, including assistance for elderly, disabled and homebound residents who may have difficulty accessing the pantry.

One Shot Deal / Emergency Assistance

Help applying for emergency assistance when a household faces a qualifying urgent expense, such as rent, utilities or another emergency need.





Health Insurance & Medical Benefits

Medicaid

Help with applications, renewals, documentation, eligibility issues and problems with existing Medicaid coverage.

Pooled Income Trust

For certain people whose income is above the Medicaid limit, help navigating pooled-income-trust arrangements that may allow them to qualify for or maintain Medicaid coverage.

Essential Plan / Other Public Health Coverage

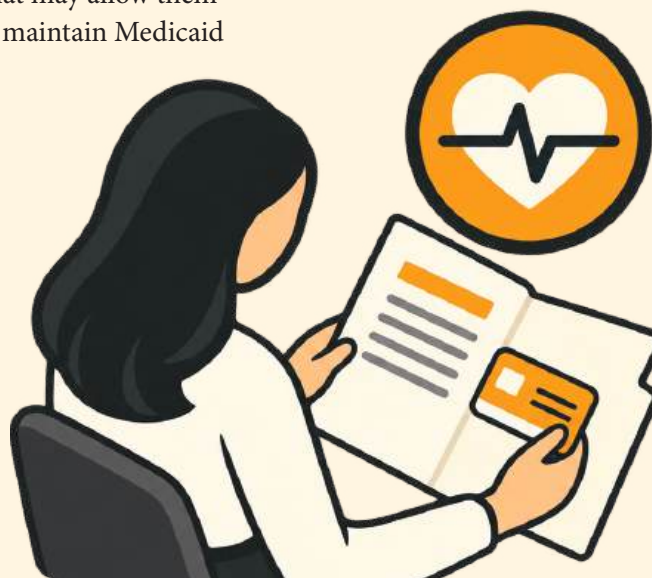
Help determining which public or subsidized health-insurance program may fit a household, including options for those over the Medicaid income limit, and navigating enrollment.

Medicare Advantage / OTC & Utility Benefits

Help eligible Medicare and Medicaid clients identify benefits offered by their health plan, which may include OTC, grocery or utility allowances. Amounts and permitted uses vary by plan.

Medicare Savings Program

Help eligible Medicare recipients apply for programs that may pay Medicare premiums and, depending on the program, certain other Medicare costs.



Senior & Disability Benefits

Social Security Retirement Benefits

Help seniors navigate Social Security benefit questions, applications and related issues.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Assistance and referrals for individuals seeking disability benefits based on their work history.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Help eligible seniors and people with disabilities navigate SSI applications, renewals and benefit-related issues.

SCRIE - Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption

Help eligible senior tenants apply for New York City's rent-freeze program.

DRIE - Disability Rent Increase Exemption

Help eligible tenants with disabilities apply for the corresponding New York City rent-freeze program.

Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE)

Help income-eligible senior homeowners navigate this New York City property-tax exemption.

Property-Tax Relief & Homeowner Benefits

Help eligible homeowners identify and apply for available exemptions and other property-tax relief programs.

Reduced-Fare Transportation

Help qualifying seniors and people with disabilities navigate reduced-fare transit benefits.



Utility & Energy Assistance



HEAP - Home Energy Assistance Program

Help eligible households apply for assistance with heating and energy costs.

Emergency HEAP

Help eligible households access emergency heating assistance when the benefit is open and applicable.

EAP - Energy Affordability Program

Help eligible utility customers access discounted gas and electric rates through participating utility-company affordability programs.

Cooling Assistance Program

Help eligible households apply for seasonal cooling assistance, which may provide an air conditioner or fan under the HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit.

Utility Payment Assistance

Help residents identify programs or emergency assistance that may address past-due or unaffordable gas and electric bills.

Weatherization & Home Energy Improvements

Weatherization Assistance Program

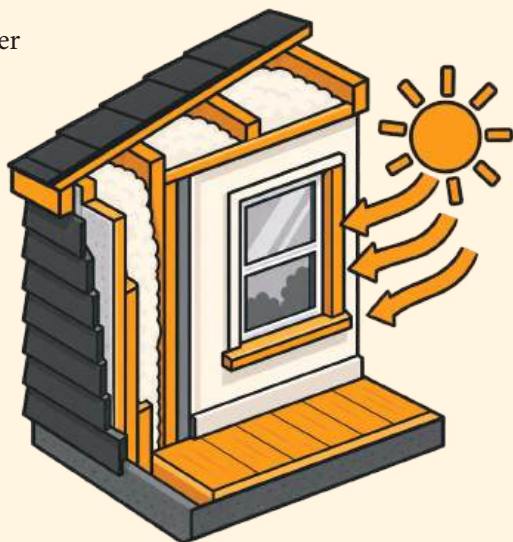
CHJCC helps eligible homes and multifamily buildings improve energy efficiency and reduce utility costs. Improvements may include insulation, air sealing, heating-system work, windows and other energy-saving measures.

NYSERDA / EmPower+

Help eligible households navigate energy-efficiency programs that can provide qualifying home improvements.

Heating-System / Boiler Assistance

Help homeowners identify available programs for qualifying boiler, heating-system and related energy-efficiency work.



Housing Assistance

Tenant Assistance

Help with housing problems, benefits, paperwork, government-agency issues and appropriate referrals.

Affordable Housing

Help residents navigate affordable-housing resources and applications.

Rent & Housing Emergencies

Help identify available resources when a household is facing an urgent rent or housing problem.

Housing Advocacy

Help communicating with government agencies, housing providers and other organizations when intervention is needed.

Senior Services

Individual Senior Benefits Assistance

Separate from the Shalom Senior Center, CHJCC helps seniors navigate benefits, housing, Medicaid and Medicare-related issues, food assistance, home-care resources, utility programs, rent and property-tax benefits, Social Security and other needs.

Help for Family Members

Family members caring for an older adult can contact CHJCC for help identifying programs, organizing applications and connecting with appropriate resources.

Shalom Senior Center

Senior Programming & Community

The Shalom Senior Center provides meals, social interaction, activities, educational and recreational programming, and a welcoming place for seniors to stay active and connected.



Additional CHJCC Services

Holocaust Survivor Services

Specialized assistance for Holocaust survivors, including help accessing benefits, food assistance, home-care resources and other supportive services.

Immigration & Citizenship Assistance

Help navigating immigration-related paperwork, including green-card and citizenship applications, with referral to qualified legal professionals when legal representation is required.

Crime Victim & Domestic Violence Assistance

Confidential assistance navigating benefits, emergency resources, protections and specialized services for victims of crime and domestic violence.

Family Crisis & Family Preservation

Help assessing urgent family situations, identifying resources, coordinating assistance and connecting families with appropriate agencies and community organizations.

Employment & Workforce Development

Employment guidance, job opportunities, referrals, workforce training, career resources and connections with employers and training organizations.

Bikur Cholim & Medical Support

Help connecting individuals and families dealing with illness to appropriate community and Bikur Cholim resources.

Community Safety & Security

Work with government, law enforcement and community partners on public-safety and security concerns affecting Crown Heights residents and institutions.

One Crown Heights & Community Relations

Community events, civic engagement, dialogue and collaborative initiatives that strengthen relationships among the different communities of Crown Heights.

Government Advocacy

Advocacy with City, State and other government agencies on individual and broader community issues, including benefits, housing, public safety, sanitation, infrastructure and social services.



Not Sure Where to Start?

Call CHJCC at 718-771-9000. You do not need to know the name of the benefit or agency. Staff can help identify the right place to begin.

Even if these programs aren't relevant to you, they may be exactly what a relative, friend or neighbor needs. Please pass the word along.

Will every
family
**in our neighborhood
celebrate with joy?**

That depends on YOU.
Donate today.



—❧— **KerenAnash.com** —❧—

ב"ה. חודש השביעי, ה'תשפ"ז

Keren Hashono - Ato Horeiso

שיחי' To All Of Anash And Tmimim

The Rebbe was accustomed to request after the selling of the Pesukim of "**Ato Hereiso**" that the following should be announced "Your word to Hashem is equal to physically giving to a person." In many of his Sichos the Rebbe recalled words of the Alter Rebbe concerning the greatness of the quality of alacrity in all matters pertaining to Torah and Mitzvoths, especially regarding the Mitzvah of Tzedaka, he stressed, that one should act as quickly as possible.

In keeping with this dictum we wish to remind all those who had the merit of buying a Posuk of Ato Hereiso this Simchas Torah - to mail their pledge in as expeditiously as possible to the address or website below.

Keren Hashono: A special tzedoko fund which the Rebbe established in 5714, from which tzedoko is given twice a day (except Shabbos and Yomtov), before Shacharis and before Mincha. This assures that all participants in this fund, fulfill the mitzvo of tzedoko twice a day. One is to contribute sums in the amount of days of the coming year. This year, 5787 has 385 days. The sums can be in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars etc., for each member of the family.

May giving of this Tzedaka speed the coming of the full Geulah through the revelation of Melech Hamoshiach.

VAAD KUPAS RABBEINU

Reb Samuel Melamed

The Groner family

Rabbi Yosef Baruch Spielman

P.S. Of course, you may send to Kupas Rabbeinu all contributions that you would send to the Rebbe; all will be devoted to the activities to which the Rebbe would devote them. You may also send Maimad, Keren-Hashono (this coming year 5787 - 385 days), Vov Tishrei, Yud Gimmel Tishrei Magbis etc. to Kupas Rabbeinu

Important Note:

Please make all checks out to "Kupas Rabbeinu" and send only to the following address:

Kupas Rabbeinu, P.O.B. 288, Brooklyn, New York 11225

Via Zelle: kupasrabbeinu@gmail.com • Paypal: kupasrabbeinu@gmail.com

www.kupasrabbeinu.org



DR. ABIE GOTTESMAN

**Pediatric & Adolescent
Medicine**

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME



Same day appointments



**Personal relationship
with your provider**



Televisits



After hour visits available



**Whatsapp messaging
with provider**



**Caring, courteous, and
professional staff**



555 Lefferts Avenue



Tel: 646.757.8751



Whatsapp: 718.594.0503



gottesmanmedicalpc@gmail.com



*When every word counts
you can count on us.*



MACHONSTAM.COM