

BALTIMORE

Bais Yaakov of Baltimore Hosts Technology Event

As part of Bais Yaakov of Baltimore's effort to bring educational awareness to faculty and to their students' parents on the impact of technology, the school hosted another excellent evening of inspiration and learning on this topic on Monday, May 30.

Rabbi Zev Steen, director of TAG (Technology Awareness Group) Baltimore, opened the evening with an explanation of the types of controls available to help parents and children protect themselves from the potential negative impact of phones and devices. He pointed out that we work to protect our children from the culture of the world around us, yet allowing uncontrolled access to technology undermines that protection.

Rabbi Steen explained that TAG's philosophy is to work with everyone to find a solution that is right for their family.

Rabbi Eytan Feiner, Rav of the White Shul in Far Rockaway, shared the importance of joining together before Shavuot as one nation to help each other grow in this area of safety in technology. He enthralled the audience with his dynamic presentation, explaining that, working together, we will



Rabbi Zev Steen addressing the technology event.



Rabbi Eytan Feiner addressing the technology event.

receive much help from Hashem, just as He gave the Torah only after we became as "one man with

one heart" at Har Sinai. Rabbi Feiner's powerful words penetrated the hearts of each participant.

CATSKILLS

Sparks Reignited: An Oorah Bar Mitzvah

A non-religious family from Brighton rented a house upstate to celebrate their son's bar mitzvah. They didn't know much beyond the fact that a Rabbi was supposed to "do something Jewish." The local Chabad *shaliach* wasn't available but remembered that Oorah was holding a *Shabbaton* for their *kiruv* families that week, located just a short drive away at TheZone in Stamford, New York.

Rabbi Yisroel Kleinman, veteran Oorah volunteer, agreed to drive down on Sunday, even though he had been in a rush to leave. There, he met "Jake," who didn't know his own Hebrew name, nor what it meant to become bar mitzvah.

"We're not going to have time to

discuss all the responsibilities that a Jew has, but let's at least start your career today by learning about the *mitzvah* of *tefillin*," Rabbi Kleinman said.

He gave Jake a *yarmulke*, helped him wrap the *tefillin*, and together, the two said the *brachos* word-for-word. Those in attendance followed every move with fascination, and Rabbi Kleinman helped them all recite *Shema Yisrael* and *v'Ahavta*. One by one, the men lined up to take a turn with Rabbi Kleinman's *tefillin* — all but one, that is.

Jake's father held out until the very end, saying that the last time he had put on *tefillin* was 40 years before. At the very end though, he, too, approached Rabbi Kleinman and explained that as a child growing up in the Soviet Union, he'd never had a good feeling about religion. But



Oorah volunteer Rabbi Yisroel Kleinman shows an unaffiliated bar mitzvah boy how to put on *tefillin*.

maybe, he admitted before beginning to cry, "There's something to having a base in this world where nothing is solid." He rolled up his sleeve and

readily accepted Rabbi Kleinman's help in putting on the *tefillin* straps.

All in all, a productive day for the Oorah staff! *Baruch Hashem!*

QUEENS

'Turn Saturday Night Into Motzoei Shabbos' Celebrates Two Years!

Chazaq recently celebrated the two-year anniversary of their weekly "Turn Saturday Night into Motzoei Shabbos" lecture series

with Rabbi Dovid Goldwasser and Dr. David Lieberman. The series started right at the peak of the COVID pandemic.

With the country quarantined and staying at home, live in-person events became an impossibility. So, Chazaq started a weekly online

shiur with Rabbi Goldwasser and Dr. Lieberman, giving mental and emotional strength to people.

Rabbi Goldwasser teaches life lessons that are gleaned from *Pirkei Avos*, while best-selling author Dr. Lieberman uses his years of expertise in the psychology field to help

people transform their relationships.

The lectures also include a Q & A where viewers can have their personal questions addressed by Dr. Lieberman on the show, anonymously. For more information, please contact info@chazaq.org.