

horse to victory went to pray for success on the eve of his third and final "Triple Crown" race, the Belmont Stakes, at the nearby gravesite of the Lubavitcher Rebbe in Queens.

The visit by the jockey, accompanied by several Chabad-Lubavitch representatives, was featured on Channel 2 NY News and other media. It was touching to see how this non-Jew placed his faith in the sanctity of a *kohen*-like Jewish *tzaddik* as a place to pray for his own material success and health. Needless to say, his prayers seemed to have been answered.

I learned afterwards from my good friend Nelson Obus of Princeton, NJ, who visited Israel soon after that race, that experts in horseracing, whom he knew personally, had predicted that American Pharoah would fail miserably at the third race for a variety of reasons: its tender age, the longer distance involved, and the horse's solid but unspectacular racing history. All indicated failure. They mocked the novices who placed their money on what they expected to be a losing bet.

American Pharoah not only triumphed, but in the final furlongs outperformed by a full second every other horse in Belmont history, save one, including the famed Triple Crown winner Secretariat (1973). I was inspired to learn that indeed this was somewhat of a miracle performance. Both "tails" strengthened my conviction that attaching ourselves in our material quests to *kedushah* and *tzaddikim* offers us both redemption and deliverance. ❖



AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

Shalhevet Meet-And-Greet For New Students

As another terrific school year comes to an end, and students are packing up their bags for the summer, the incoming class of Midreshet Shalhevet met at the home of principal Mrs. Esther Eisenman for a delicious brunch. The girls were treated to an exquisite array of pancakes, bagels, yogurt parfaits, assorted pastries, iced coffees, and cereal. Incoming students from various neighborhoods and elementary schools joined

together to get to know each other. Some even discovered that they would be spending the summer together at the same camp! Members from Shalhevet's G.O. joined the party as well and introduced a game of human bingo, allowing the girls to learn fun facts about one another. Each student then created her own Shalhevet Class of 2019 tie-dye shirt. Mrs. Eisenman shared some *divrei chizuk* before wrapping up the beautiful morning. Shalhevet is excited to welcome the Class of 2019 and is look-



Shalhevet's meet-and-greet

ing forward to another wonderful year ahead. Shalhevet also wishes all of their graduates continued *hatzlachah* in their academic pursuits, whether here or in Israel. ❖

Tomchei Shabbos Yad Yeshaya's \$10,000 Raffle

"Tomchei Shabbos is an organization that crosses all borders. Even in an affluent community like the Five Towns, we have a great need for their services," says Rabbi Heshie Billet, rabbi of the Young Israel of Woodmere.

Tomchei Shabbos Yad Yeshaya, founded in 1985, currently provides 285 local families with food before every Shabbos and every *yom tov*. The weekly packages include *challah*, grape juice, chicken, gefilte fish, potatoes, eggs, and more.

Tomchei Shabbos is able to do all of this thanks to an army of volunteers. Every week, girls at TAG pack approximately 200 boxes, while a group of families come to the Young Israel of Woodmere to pack an additional 85 boxes.

The boxes are then delivered by a team of volunteer drivers. In order to maintain the dignity and privacy of the recipients, the deliveries are done discreetly—the drivers simply leave the box on the doorstep of the address on their list.

Tomchei Shabbos relies completely on the community for funding. One of its major annual campaigns, the mega raffle, is under way. The grand prize is \$10,000. The second prize is two tickets

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(4) Smackin vs (5) Lobos

American League

(1) Bombers vs (4) Rita's
(2) Other Guys vs (3) Avengers