



High School Acceptances

Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School is proud to announce the prestigious high schools to which our fabulous 8th graders were accepted. A hearty *"Mazel Tov!"* to each and every one of our graduates, as they embark upon the next chapter of their lives.

On the list of acceptances for our graduates, we are proud to include the following distinguished institutions:

Abraham Joshua Heschel High School	Eleanor Roosevelt High School	Ramaz High School
Bard High School Early College	Ezra Academy	SAR High School
Birch Wathen Lenox	Frisch Academy	School of the Future High School
Bronx High School of Science	High School for Mathematics, Science, & Engineering at City College	Solomon Schechter of Westchester High School
Cardozo High School	Manhattan Village Academy	Stuyvesant High School
Collegiate Preparatory	NYC Lab School for Collaborative Studies	Westchester Hebrew High School
Columbia Grammar and Prep School	North Shore Hebrew Academy High School	York Preparatory School
The Dwight School		Humanities Preparatory

As our 8th graders depart from Park East, it is our dream for our students that each one sets off with the gift of both excellent academics as well as the highest standards of Jewish values that have become a central focus in their lives. We are so proud of this wonderful group of young people. Congratulations to all!

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RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER
 PARK EAST DAY SCHOOL

PATHWAYS

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One Alumna's American Tale: An Education and Home at Park East

by Elizaveta Kvint, Alumna of the Year

My family moved to the United States in April of 1990. It was snowing in New York that day and my sister, Valeria, and I worried that we had brought the winter with us from Russia.

Despite having a comfortable life, our brave parents decided to leave the old Soviet Union so that Val and I (6 and 7 years old at the time) could grow up free and proud of our Jewish heritage in America.

We arrived in this country with an abundance of hope, determination, and \$45.00 of start-up funds for the entire family. Our parents, Natalia and Vladimir, are people of incredible strength and would have fought their way down this path no matter the obstacles, but our journey was immeasurably aided by kindness from near-strangers. *Continued page 2*

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My Home at Park East Day School

by Joy Avitan, Educator of the Year

Every morning I wake up with a surge of anticipation. I look forward to greeting my pupils at school. I feel that as I enrich the lives of my students, my own life is enriched. Becoming a teacher was the realization of my fondest dream, pursuing it first as a new immigrant in Israel. An *Intifada*, with a series of terrorist attacks against Jewish targets, and the loving pleading of my parents, brought me back to America to my parents' home in Woodmere. Armed with a newly minted Master's degree in Applied Linguistics, I was hired as a first grade Hebrew teacher at The Brandeis School in Lawrence, using the *Tal Am* program and approach. After I completed my year, I wanted to return to Israel, but my parents convinced me to extend my time back in the United States. I moved to New York City and applied for a position in the famed Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School. *Continued page 3*

PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE and RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER PARK EAST DAY SCHOOL

123rd ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at the Waldorf-Astoria

DR. MICHAEL AND SABINA REICH

Patrons of Education and Cantorial Arts

As long-time members of Park East, Dr. Michael and Sabina Reich have dedicated themselves to the enrichment of the Park East community and the city around them. Dr. Reich, a graduate of Yeshiva University, has been a prominent surgeon in Queens since the 1970s. He serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Cantorial Committee at Park East. Under his tutelage, he originated and became Chairman of the Annual Cantorial Concert to benefit education. A retired registered nurse, Sabina is an active member of Sisterhood. Beyond Park East, Dr. and Mrs. Reich have a long history of involvement with various Jewish philanthropic organizations. ■



LES AND BARRI LIEBERMAN

Youth Enrichment Center Award

Les and Barri Lieberman have long been involved in charitable work. Les, an entrepreneur, investor, and manager of finance-related businesses, and Barri, a successful television executive and producer, are founders of the Barri and Les Lieberman Pediatric Fund for Critical Medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital's Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, benefiting children with cancer and blood disorders, at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. In addition, they serve as Chairs of the Children's Cancer and Blood Foundation's annual fundraising event, the Break-through Ball. Barri is an active fundraiser for Trinity School, as well as a supporter of many other children's and women's charity events. The Liebermans' commitment to Park East extends to their devotion to the Youth Enrichment Center, the weekly religious school program that all three of their children attend. The Liebermans live here in Manhattan. ■



TAMIR SAPIR

Benefactor of Education

Tamir Sapir, an immigrant from Tbilisi, Georgia, left the Soviet Union in 1973, and began his life here in the United States. Investing his life savings in a taxi medallion, as well as wholesale electronics store on lower Fifth Avenue, Mr. Sapir created an enclave for New York's growing Russian community, and for visiting Soviet dignitaries and trade delegations seeking to purchase state-of-the-art electronics. He later became a member of the U.S.S.R. Trade and Economics Council, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations (COJECO). Mr. Sapir believes in preserving Georgian culture and helping other former Soviet Union immigrants get started in the U.S. He was honored by the New York Association for New Americans for his staunch support, and built the Congregation of Georgian Jewish Synagogue in Rego Park, Queens, as well as a synagogue in Israel. He is an avid collector of rare European ivory, which he plans to house in a future museum. Mr. Sapir is an active supporter of the educational programs of the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School and the Park East Synagogue. ■



GEORGE & MONIQUE NEWMARK

Young Leadership Award

Both actively involved in the community, George and Monique Newmark bring a vibrant energy and dedication to everything they do. As leaders of the Park East Young Couples group, they enhance and ensure the ongoing vitality of this institution. Actively involved in many charitable organizations, such as Parkinson's Research, Cornell Hospital and Beit Sherman, both Monique and George Newmark were raised in the tri-state area. Monique began her career as a special education teacher, and went on to expand her skills to the gifted and talented. George, an engineer, is an executive in his family business at G & S Technologies. Married by Rabbi Schneier in 2009, the Newmarks live in New York City with their son, Hudson Bradley, who is a student in the Taste of School program here at Park East. ■



Elizaveta Kvint *Continued from cover*



Evelyn Kenvin and Art Rosenbloom, people my parents hardly knew, took us into their home and gave us a place to live. Ron and Vicki Weiner devoted endless care and energy to help us gain a foothold. Vicki also brought us to Park East Day School to meet with Rabbi Arthur Schneier. Even though we had no way to cover tuition, Rabbi Schneier admitted Val and me right away and provided us with tutors, as we didn't speak a word of English.

Our family is truly living "The American Dream." Now, as I pursue my own career, I know that every success is built on the mighty foundation of kindness, generosity and support that was given to me.

I am incredibly humbled to be honored as the Park East Alumna of the Year. My sister and I were scared little strangers when we arrived at Park East. The education, love and ceaseless encouragement we received there were invaluable in forming us into happy, successful people. It is now our responsibility to "pay it forward" and honor those that raised us up on their shoulders by extending our hands to the next generation.

Park East Day School offers close to 40% of its students financial assistance; it offers 100% of its pupils a spectacular educational base in a warm, loving, and nurturing environment. The people of the Park East community are inspiring in their generosity. The Park East Synagogue and Rabbi Arthur Schneier Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance allow Park East to give even more children the confidence and education they need to become our future leaders. I cherish this opportunity to express my family's gratitude by participating in this wonderful event. ■

Our family is truly living "The American Dream." ...I know that every success is built on the mighty foundation of kindness, generosity and support that was given to me.

Joy Avitan *Continued from cover*



From the start, I sensed the special Park East warmth emitted by committed colleagues, visionary administrators, engaged parents, and enthusiastic pupils. Being involved in Judaic studies, as well as being a First Grade and Early Childhood Enrichment teacher, make me a conduit for passing on our rich heritage to the next generation. This is a responsibility I gladly acknowledge and strive to fulfill, while experiencing my own satisfaction and deepening understanding of Judaism. It is my huge *zahut*, responsibility, to nurture and teach the children to love and be proud of their Jewish identity, to love Israel, and to become proficient in Hebrew reading, speaking, and the fundamentals of prayer.

Apart from my professional connection, Park East is the place where I forged numerous friendships, the locale where I met my husband, Peri, and where our engagement party was held (later, Rabbi Schneier expedited the formal arrangements with the *Rabbanut* in Israel, where the nuptials were held), and where my daughter, Raquel, and son, Daniel-Asher, attend classes.

The birth of my first child added another dimension to my teaching, as the perspective of parent was added to my orientation as an educator. Our administrator, Toby Einsidler, has developed a popular Shabbat program for kids, creatively showcasing to would-be couples and parents, the advantages of living a full Jewish life. In that aspect, I am happy to do my part, encouraging young parents to join our children's services and festive *Kiddushim*. We are privileged to have a spiritual leader, Rabbi Schneier, a Holocaust survivor, whose life has been dedicated to bringing diverse people together to seek understanding, tolerance, and the elusive peace to which we all aspire. He regularly makes requests to diplomats and world leaders to appear in our school and synagogue, enriching our educational enterprise immeasurably.

It is easy to sing the praises of our school, as I sing a song of appreciation and gratitude to *Hashem*, for giving me a second home at Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School. ■



Israel *in my Soul*

ארץ ישראל בנשמה

Zachor
it is important to remember and never forget our past as we celebrate the moments of the present and anticipate a glorious future.

Immediately following *Pesach*, we arrived at the days of *Yom Ha'Shoah*, the day of Holocaust remembrance, *Yom Ha'Zikaron*, the commemoration of those who have fallen at the hands of enemies in war and terror, and *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, Israeli Independence Day. Our 8th grade students researched and prepared a dramatic presentation of the Nuremberg trials, which they presented to our younger students as part of our *Yom Ha'Shoah* program. Learning about life as a soldier in the Israeli army by our security guard, Yoni Glantz, and seeing a video about a *Yizkor* service following the liberation of the concentration camps, powerfully narrated by Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, emphasized Jewish resiliency and historical role on *Yom Ha'Zikaron*.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut was joyful as our early childhood students took an airplane ride to Israel, had their passports stamped, watched an in-flight movie of *Rechov Sum Sum*, (*Sesame Street* in Hebrew) and enjoyed Israeli snacks. Singing and dancing with Israeli flags added to the festivities. Our older children were actively engaged in an Israeli fair, including arts and crafts projects, floor puzzles, trivia games, a Jewish version of Jeopardy, and smoothies made to order. *Kachol v'lavan*, blue and white, were the colors of the day. Festive pride and jubilation filled the air on *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*.

It is through *zachor*, remembering, that we continue to distinguish ourselves as a Jewish people and nation. "*Eretz Yisrael B'Neshamah*", "the land of Israel is in our soul." ■

Park East Marches in 2013 The Celebrate Israel Parade!

The Celebrate Israel Parade is scheduled for June 2nd, and Park East Day School will once again participate in this outstanding event. Members of Park East Synagogue, the Enrichment Center, as well as Shkola, are invited to join us. Marching proudly up Fifth Avenue, our school will take its place for this grand display of Jewish pride.

Attending this season by special invitation as winners of last year's parade (and at no cost to Park East), we fully expect to wow the crowds once more. The amazing distinction we earned in 2012 was a product of several factors: our vibrant, visually commanding school banner, the precision of our children's dance formation, and the passion which was evident by students, administration, and teachers alike. We were acknowledged and voted by the judges as unequaled by any other school!

We expect another fabulous year, so come out and show your support of our incredible school- join us with your families and friends, and be part of this year's Celebrate Israel Parade! ■



2012-2013 Math Awards

Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School is thrilled to congratulate our students for their remarkable placements in both this year's American Math Competition as well as the New York Mathematics League Competition.

We salute Mrs. Galina Spektor for our students' remarkable accomplishments year after year.



Michael Weisberg
FIRST PLACE
TOP 1%



Ephraim Kozodoy
SECOND PLACE
TOP 5%



Talia Meshel
THIRD PLACE
TOP 5%



Meir Schulsinger
THIRD PLACE
TOP 5%

American Math Competition

In a competition that included over 2,200 schools, and more than 150,000 students, our students placed as follows:



– 8th Grade –

Michael Weisberg Ranked in the top 1%
Ephraim Kozodoy Ranked in the top 5%

– 7th Grade –

Talia Meshel Ranked in the top 5%

– 5th Grade –

Meir Schulsinger Ranked in the top 5%

New York Mathematics League Competition

– 7th Grade –

Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School

Ranked #12 in New York State out of 76 schools-whole grade
Ranked #4 in New York City region-whole grade

Sara Goldstein

Ranked #10 in New York State amongst students in 76 schools-whole grade
Ranked #3 in New York City region-whole grade

– 8th Grade –

Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School

Ranked #5 in New York State amongst students in 67 schools-whole grade
Ranked #1 in New York City region-whole grade

Ephraim Kozodoy

Ranked #2 in New York State amongst students in 67 schools-whole grade
Ranked #1 in New York City region-whole grade

Michael Weisberg

Ranked #10 in New York State amongst students in 67 schools-whole grade
Ranked #3 in New York City region-whole grade

Ben Kanter

Ranked #20 in New York State amongst students in 67 schools-whole grade
Ranked #4 in New York City region-whole grade