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Community News

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Ramat location, this exemplary program provides a warm, welcoming, and nurturing environment for 50 youngsters, ages 4-16, to experience the joys of childhood in an atmosphere devoid of pain and pressure. A veritable "home away from home," Kids' Corner affords these children, who have experienced immeasurable tragedy and turmoil in their innocent young lives, a place to relax and reenergize following the rigors and routines of a full school day.

Little wonder Kids' Corner is an eagerly anticipated part of the children's daily schedule, a place to "come home to" after school. For these children, eating a delicious, nourishing meal represents a dream brought to fruition. It is a cherished memory of a perfect life that existed before that dreaded moment of terror. But at Kids' Corner, dreams can come true. Each child is given an individually packed hot meat meal, a drink, fresh fruit, crisp salad, and snack. Highly trained teachers specializing in their respective areas of specialty are on hand to supervise the children—from kindergarten fun games and learning activities to helping children with their homework assignments and reading skills. Highly motivating and exciting books and educational toys as well as enrichment materials are provided to advance the educational experience. Kids' Corner provides the children with free dental care, new clothes and shoes, as well as school supplies and books.

Wholesome fun should be an integral part of every child's formative years. Chag-themed activities, special events, and daily arts and crafts all help transform a child's tears into laughter.

"Just as every Jewish mother feels that whatever is good for her children is good for her, a mother always wants what is best for her child," explained Li-ora Tedgi, founder and executive director of Ohr Meir U'Bracha. "This is human nature—the essence of a 'Yiddishe Mamme.' Here we have the opportunity to give each of these mothers an opportunity to feel good and to know that her child is being well taken care of and getting what she herself is unable to give."

Please see the Ohr Meir U'Bracha ad on page 43 of this week's 5TJT, or visit www.terror-victims.org.il, to see how you can feed and clothe a hungry child in Israel. *Tizku l'mitzvos.* ♦

150+ Transplants Since Its Founding, Renewal Is Stronger Than Ever

You usually don't think of organ donation as something to celebrate. Don't tell that to the people of Renewal. On Thursday, May 17, over 300 people got together for a lavish reception at the Renaissance Ballroom in Brooklyn to honor their kidney donors, an elite group of selfless individuals who have given the gift of life to others, often to complete strangers.

It was perhaps the largest gathering of organ donors in one place—76 donors, together with many of their healthy recipients and some of the organization's principle financial supporters.

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Community News

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Institute of Culinary Education (ICE).

Barnett needed to consult with a rabbi to make sure that she could attend ICE while still adhering to her strict, traditional Jewish practices. Barnett was concerned about having to prepare non-kosher food, but her rabbi said that she could, provided she doesn't taste or eat the food or cook a potentially kosher piece of meat with milk.

"If I'm cooking a steak with butter, I'll have someone throw the steak in, throw the butter in, and I finish it off," Barnett said. "They're doing the cooking."

Initially, her classmates found her customs odd. Why did they have to help her with some of her cooking? And wasn't one of the benefits of attending culinary school getting to taste the food you're preparing? Though they were always respectful, a funny thing happened along the way: They went from being respectful to knowledgeable in the preparation of kosher food.

"A lot of them tell me, 'Alison, you can't have this,'" she said. Once some-

one asked her if she could eat lobster. Before Barnett could reply, someone else told him, "No, it has to have fins and scales."

Besides the practical difficulties that not tasting the food can place on a chef, it's not easy to be in that environment without sampling anything.

"It is a little like torture," she said "It's really difficult right now because we're doing baking, and that is hard."

There's an upside, though. Unlike many of her classmates, she says that she's not gaining any weight.

Although Barnett had planned to earn a master's in nutrition, she had always dreamed of becoming a chef and couldn't resist the opportunity to go to cooking school. After ICE told her that she could attend while working full time, she started the year-long program in 2011. She is scheduled to graduate in May, though her degree is conditional on her working for 210 hours at a restaurant.

Barnett wants to use her experience in culinary school and the skills she's learned to spice up the food that she can eat. She's always asking her class-

mates to describe the dishes they create.

"My goal in life is to take the non-kosher culinary world and make it more accessible in the kosher world," she said. "I ask people in the class what things taste like and about the texture. When things are really good I ask my friends to tell me so I can recreate it at home."

Since beginning culinary school last year, Barnett started a blog, *Alibabka.com*, to detail her experiences, share recipes, and write about her passion for cooking. She's started quite the following as the site already averages a few hundred hits per day. Barnett even included a page describing what she can and cannot do at school, according to Jewish tradition.

Barnett, who comes from Columbus, Ohio, graduated from Touros Lander College for Women-The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School in 2010, majoring in psychology and a minor in biology. She said that the faculty was particularly helpful in securing an internship at an obesity clinic at St. Luke's hospital in Manhattan.

"It catered to both of my interests, nutrition and cooking," she said of the internship. "It was a great experience because it really opened my eyes to how to conduct research in a real life setting." ♦

Friendship Gathering For From Women With Cancer, June 5

Bikur Cholim of Boro Park, in partnership with Sharsheret and CancerCare, hosts monthly friendship gatherings for *from* women who are in treatment for or have been in treatment for cancer. The next confidential meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 5, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in Bikur Cholim of Boro Park, at 5216 11th Avenue, and will be free of charge. Come hear interesting guest speakers and have opportunities to meet others who understand, while enjoying a light, healthy snack. For more information, please leave a message for Shlomis at 718-438-2020, ext. 7432, and tell her the most private way to reach you. This project is sponsored by the Caring Commission of the UJA Federation of Greater NY. ♦

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Waging War On Child Hunger: Ohr Meir U'Bracha Establishes Kids' Corner

By Rochelle Maruch Miller

They are the youngest victims of terror, their precious lives forever changed by the horror and havoc resulting from an act of pure evil. Robbed of the joys of childhood, their loving families have been rent asunder, reduced to living in poverty as the result of a beloved family member being impacted by a terrorist attack.

Eretz Yisrael is our homeland; the place we all long to be. But for many of our brethren, living there comes with a high price. A family member is felled by a suicide bomber, leaving the grief-stricken survivors bereft of their primary means of financial support. A family member may be severely injured or incapacitated, thereby becoming completely dependent upon his or her spouse and diminishing the family income. As a result of a heinous act of terror, what was once an intact, emotionally healthy and financially secure family unit is now shattered, in dire emotional and financial straits and reduced to relying on the kindness and compassion of others for even the most basic essentials.

Familiar though we may be with the issue of world hunger, how many of us are aware of how deeply entrenched this devastating problem is in Israel and its insidious growth throughout the country? Hunger is on the rise in Israel as never before. Increasing numbers of people are relying on emergency food packages to meet their family's nutritional needs. According to the National Insurance Institute, approximately 783,600 children live below the poverty line and two out of five children go to bed hungry every night.

In an effort to combat child hunger and restore joy into the lives of the innocent youngsters, Ohr Meir U'Bracha-The Terror Survivors' Support Center, has established Kids' Corner as its battleground. Situated at Ohr Meir U'Bracha's