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Rabbi Moshe Levy was the guest speaker at the annual Ohr Chodosh melaveh malkah.

AJEX JMA to Air Exclusive Interviews This Weekend

As part of their fundraising campaign this coming Sunday and Monday (26-27 February), the Jewish Military Association are sharing two exclusive interviews. In the first, Edgar Santos, a JFS pupil and cadet, had the opportunity of a lifetime interviewing 98-year-old D-Day veteran Mervyn Kersh. This poignant interview highlights why Remembrance and AJEX's work is so important.

Additionally on Sunday, 26 February, AJEX will host an exclusive interview with Rachel Riley MBE. AJEX National Chair Dan Fox, will discuss with Rachel her thoughts on combatting antisemitism and what she has faced in the public eye. The interview will be broadcast from www.charityextra.com/ajex at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

These two interviews are part of an urgent campaign to raise £150,000. Funds raised will ensure the charity can continue their vital work in Remembrance, in Welfare Services for veterans and their families, as well as its education and outreach work.

Eighteen-year-old Edgar and Mervyn Kersh met at the House of Life, Willesden Jewish Cemetery, and discussed Mervyn's time as a soldier. He was called up to serve at the same age Edgar is now. They spoke about the importance of keeping remembrance alive through the annual AJEX Parade and Ceremony and education in schools. Mervyn stressed how it is vital that today's young people continue the legacy of so many Jewish servicemen and women who fought for our freedom.

Mervyn said, "Connecting the older generation with the newer generation is very important. In ten years' time there will be

nobody who is left who was in the War [Second World War]. It is important that this education is passed onto a younger generation, so it can be continued. It mustn't be allowed to disappear."

The fundraising campaign – themed on "Our Duty is to Care" – illustrates the importance of Remembrance, Education, Welfare and combatting antisemitism. The cost of living is a huge burden to so many and the AJEX Welfare fund will be needed more than ever this forthcoming year.

Edgar shared, "Meeting Mervyn was an experience of a lifetime. Not only to hear his fascinating stories, but to recall the once again precious value of memory and Remembrance moved me and made me feel proud to be the continuation of this memory. Mervyn's indisputable Jewish pride made me feel invincible in light of today's challenges – his courage and determination throughout the war years are true witnesses to this pride. To interview someone who has exactly 80 years of life between us both feeling such a poignant sense of pride was indeed something I will remember forever."

AJEX JMA Chief Executive, Fiona Palmer, said, "Our duty at AJEX is to care and we are immensely proud of our work. People rely on our help and we can't do all of this without the care and help of people from across the community. We hope many will support us this weekend."

The target for AJEX is to raise £150,000 in 36 hours during which all donations will be doubled through generous match funding. Make a difference and support AJEX this weekend and watch the interviews at: www.charityextra.com/AJEX



Edgar Santos (L.) interviewing D-Day veteran Mervyn Kersh for AJEX.

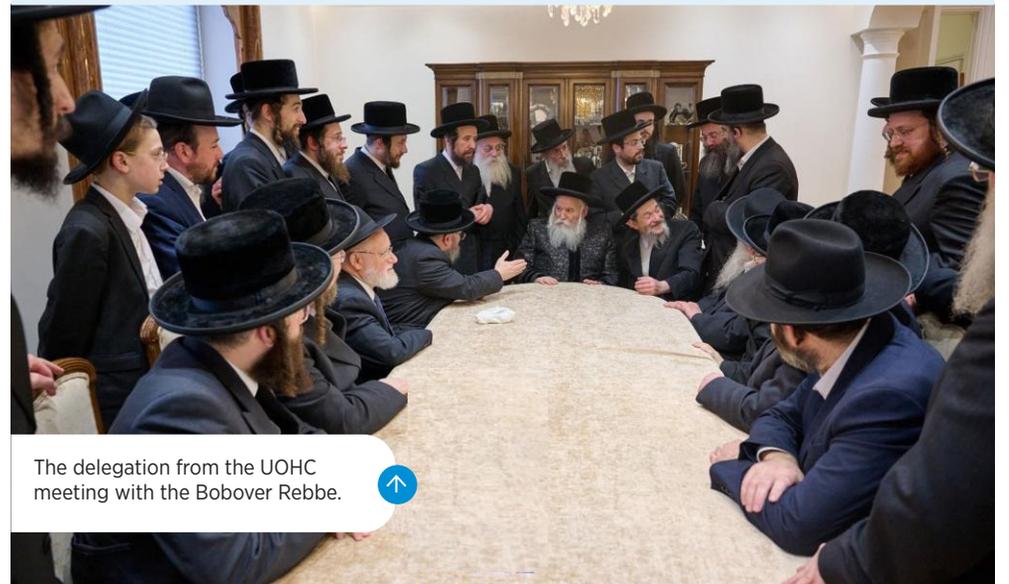
UOHC Delegation Greet Bobover Rebbe

A delegation consisting of members of the Executive and Honorary Officers of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations came to greet the Bobover Rebbe during his visit to London this week, in honour of the opening of the new Bobov Girls School on Amhurst Park in Stamford Hill and *hachnasas sefer Torah* of the Bobov shul in Egerton Road, as well as an *even hapinah* for a new *mikveh*. The Rebbe spent the previous *Shabbos Parashas Mishpatim-Shekalim* in London, the first official *Shabbos* there since becoming Bobover Rov 18 years ago.

The event took place at the house of Dayan Benzion Blum, Dayan of the Bobover *kehillah* in London and Moreh Tzedek of the UOHC Beis Horaah, at 30 Ravensdale Road. At the meeting were Reb Binyomin Stern, UOHC president; Mr Shlome Sinitsky, Kedassia Chairman; Rabbi Chaim Pinter, Mr Nusson Binyomin Binder, Mr Ezriel Brinner, Mr Yakov Shlome Goldman, Mr

Shia Chaim Grussgot, Mr Aron Klein, Mr Shloime Laufer, Mr Michael Just, Mr Binyomin Roth, Mr Yakov Mordche Stern and Mr Chayim Schneck, UOHC secretary.

At the meeting, the delegation briefed the Rebbe about recent *kehillah* activities, elaborating with regard to *chinuch* issues and to the recent developments in *mikvaos*. The Rebbe showed his interest in how the *askanim* are configuring the recent requirements from Ofsted to cover topics in *mosdos haTorah*, which are contrary to pure Torah education. The Rav stressed the fact that in all generations *Am Yisrael* stood up stalwartly against similar government requirements, never compromising when it meant any opposition to the Torah and *mitzvos* and that in the USA there are similar issues and the *askanim* there are fighting a similar battle. The Rebbe gave his *brachah* for success of the *askanim*, *b'ezras Hashem*.



The delegation from the UOHC meeting with the Bobover Rebbe.

CNSS Members Mark Official Reopening of Hall and New Shabbos Lift

Cockfosters & N Southgate United Synagogue recently marked the official opening of their Shabbos-compliant lift, and the refurbished Maurice Tillkoff Hall. With over 160 people in attendance, this was one of the biggest gatherings at an event the shul has seen since the pandemic.

Guests included The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Alison Moore, Mayoress Ms Helen Gordon and Deputy Mayor Cllr Suna Hurman.

Attendees heard from the head of the lift/hall refurbishment committee, Marilyn Doff, who described the process of the project. President of the United Synagogue Michael Goldstein then gave a short address before the ceremonial ribbon cutting to declare the lift and refurbished hall officially open.

The project cost close to £170,000. Funds were raised through a number of means, including a grant from the United Synagogue, a sponsored walk by the Rabbi and members of the community, a Charity Extra matched funding campaign, and National Lottery funding.

Attendee and CNSS member Myrna Sass said, "I would like to say thank you to Marilyn and her committee for all their hard work and splendid efforts in management and completion of the lift and the communal hall. It's a pleasure now to come to the shul on a Shabbat and Yom Tov without having to struggle to ascend and descend the staircase. I now feel much more part of the congregation."

Marilyn Doff, from the organising committee said: "What a superb finale to a four-year project! Please G-d the community should share many more events and *smachot* together in our beautifully refurbished hall, now accessible to everyone, for many years to come."

Rabbi Meir Shindler, Rabbi of CNSS, said, "I am delighted that we were finally able to acknowledge all the effort and generosity of those that brought the hall refurbishment and new lift into a reality. This achievement is really just the start of a clear and articulated vision for a very bright tomorrow for Cockfosters & N Southgate Synagogue."