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Protecting Our Homes



At a Flatbush "Filterthon" event in a tent set up in front of Khal Veretzky (Landau's shul), more than 20 technicians installed filters and answered technology questions for hundreds of residents at no charge, all day Sunday. The event was organized by Venishmartem.

Senator: IRS Targeting Of Tea Party Is 'Chilling'

WASHINGTON (AP) – Republicans said Sunday that the Internal Revenue Service's heightened scrutiny of conservative political groups was "chilling" and further eroded public trust in government.

Lawmakers said President Barack Obama should apologize personally for targeting tea party organizations, and they challenged the tax agency's blaming of low-level workers.

"I just don't buy that this was a couple of rogue IRS employees," said Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine). "After all, groups with 'progressive' in their names were not targeted similarly."

If it were just a small number of employees, she said, "then you would think that the high-level IRS supervisors would have

Continued on page 3

Resounding Election Victory For Pakistan's Sharif

Questions remain about Sharif's stance on Islamists. More on page 2

Rafsanjani's Late Entry Transforms Iranian Race

The former president, considered a moderate, registered with just minutes to spare. More on page 3

Fed Probe of Legislature Raises Race Question

Experts say that the corruption investigation is not singling out blacks and Latinos. More on page 5

At Stop-Frisk Mayoral Forum, Liu Reigns Alone

Liu was the only candidate at the forum on police tactics. More on page 6

Brouhaha Over Sky-High Bed Costs

Netanyahu reportedly spent \$127,000 on a special sleeping cabin for a five-hour flight. More on page 8

New York City Water Rate Hike Approved

BY YOCHONON DONN

NEW YORK – The New York City Water Board approved a rate hike on Friday, meaning that New Yorkers will be paying an average of \$62 more a year starting in July.

The 5.6-percent increase was recommended by Carter Strickland, commissioner of the city's Department of Environmental Protection, who said it needs the money to maintain services.

"For the water we consume, for the water we wash with, for the water we use to flush our toilets, and also the responsible disposal of that water, the environmentally acceptable way to dispose of that water, it's maybe \$1, a little over \$1 a day, something like that, for each of us," said Alan Ross, chairman of the Water Board.

Critics pointed to the increase in bills over the last five years as proof that New Yorkers should not have to pay more. The

Continued on page 6

Thousands of Women Gather To Defend Kosel Traditions

BY HAMODIA STAFF

YERUSHALAYIM – When a group of *askanim* came up with the idea of inviting women who value Jewish tradition to come to the Kosel early Friday morning, which was Rosh Chodesh, for a special *tefillah* gathering as a response to the Nashot haKotel (Women of the Wall), they were hoping for a sizable turnout.

They didn't imagine that a crowd estimated by the police to be between twelve and fifteen thousand women would respond to these calls by *Gedolei Yisrael* and arrive from all over Eretz Yisrael by 6:30 a.m. on Rosh Chodesh Sivan. These *ehrlliche* women filled up the entire *ezras nashim* (women's section) of the Kosel; subsequently, the Nashot

Continued on page 8

Syria and Hizbullah Threaten to Open Golan Front Against Israel

BEIRUT (Reuters) – Threats from Damascus and its Lebanese ally Hizbullah to turn the Golan Heights into a "resistance front" against Israel could end nearly four decades of calm across the increasingly tense ceasefire line separating Israeli and Syrian forces.

President Bashar al-Assad, and his father before him, kept the front line between Syria and the Golan quiet despite an official state of war between the two countries and Syria's support for terrorists in Lebanon and Gaza.

But following Israel's air raids near Damascus a week ago, Assad was quoted as saying he would turn the Golan into a "resistance front" – suggesting he had given a green light to guerrilla groups to launch retaliatory attacks.

Assad's ally Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hizbullah, followed with a promise to support his efforts "to liberate the Syrian Golan."

The Syrian side of the frontier has already become a battleground between Assad's forces and rebels seeking his overthrow.

Continued on page 9

After 17 Days, Woman Pulled Alive From Rubble

SAVAR, Bangladesh (Reuters) – A young Bangladeshi woman who spent 17 days buried alive under a collapsed garment factory was rescued on Friday when astonished workmen heard a voice calling, "Save me, save me" from the rubble.

Pale, drawn, but seemingly unhurt, Reshma Begum was cut from the ruins and hoisted onto a stretcher to wild cheers in a scene that captivated a nation which had long given up hope of finding any more survivors.

When the eight-story building collapsed on April 24, Begum was trapped in a lightless, cell-like nook – alone, but alive. She managed to survive by taking sips from bottles of water buried with her.

"To save water, I used to drink only a small quantity," Begum, 19, said from her hospital bed.

Hours earlier, crews had pulled the 1,000th dead body from the wreckage.

By the end of the day, a spokesman in the army control

Continued on page 2



Venishmartem 'Filterthon' Event to Feature New Technology

A new breakthrough internet filter will be unveiled on Sunday at a Flatbush event for Venishmartem, where more than 20 technicians will be available to install filters for free.

The event is being sponsored by two prominent Brooklyn *askanim* who asked not to be named but said they want to help people strengthen themselves when confronted with the dangers presented by the internet.

The Venishmartem program, for which they coined the term "filterthon," will be held at a giant tent in front of Khal Veretzky (Landau's shul) on Avenue L and E. 9th Street, and will bring to Flatbush a program that has already enabled thousands of Yidden, easily and free of charge, to change their electronic machines from devices with the potential for grievous spiritual harm into clean computers, smartphones or tablets capable of all their previous work, while removing their pitfalls.

Dovid Hecht, a computer technician who volunteers often for Venishmartem's filtering programs, said that as careful as a *yungerman* may be, the dangers that are latent in computers and smartphones are omnipresent.

"As technology keeps evolving and progressing," Mr. Hecht said, "so do the dangers that come with it."

Mr. Hecht also said even that if people think they are immune to



Computer technologists assisting participants installing filters at Karlsburg Hall in Boro Park last year.

the darker side of technology, other family members may unwittingly fall prey.

"It's just too easy for a child playing with a parent's old phone to connect to any WiFi network and get complete unfiltered access," he said. "Merely typing the wrong address can somehow end up opening the worst possible sites. The least we can do is protect ourselves and our families from these mistakes."

About two dozen experienced technicians will be available at the tent all day Sunday, from 8 in the morning until 11 at night, to help with installing filters and guiding users on the best plans for filtering. The workers are professional and have varied experiences, so anyone who comes in will have someone there who can help him. Some have expertise with smartphones, while

others are experts on computers.

Venishmartem officials say they are excited about a new filter they are unveiling on Sunday for the first time, which they say addresses many of the problems people have had with current filtering systems.

The new filter, called the Venishmartem Cloud Filter, or VCF (www.vcf.co.il), was invented by the founder of Jnet. This person has recently sold Jnet and spent \$6 million to develop a filter that would act smartly, filtering the bad sites while allowing quick access to harmless sites.

He has succeeded in doing even better. VCF filters can even discern harmful pictures or videos on a single webpage. The filter allows access to the page, while blocking any inappropriate parts.

The VCF brochure explains, "You won't have the option of



Technicians installing filters in computers.

instantly removing the filter during a weak moment. Removing VCF requires the assistance of our customer support, and takes at least 24 hours."

The advantages of VCF are manifold. If you want to unblock a certain site, it can now be done remotely, without the user needing to open his software first. There are many levels of protection, and the filter can be set to different levels for different users.

The password lies with the VCF team, eliminating the need to share passwords. Since the filter blocks at the cloud level, it is impossible to uninstall or circumvent.

"Our program is installed on your computer and insures that all your browsing is routed through our servers," the VCF brochure asserts. "So it makes no difference how you connect; you will always be filtered."

Users do not have to change Internet Services Providers, since VCF works with any ISP. Thousands of CDs are ready for distribution on Sunday for instant setup and a clear guide for the filter. The service costs \$4.99 a month (\$7.99 for the Pro version), but is free for those who cannot afford it.

VCF does not slow down the computer, takes five minutes to install and can be done at home by yourself.

Venishmartem was launched before Pesach last year, when an event at the Karlsburg Hall in Boro Park drew hundreds of people.

Two months later, the Venishmartem website (www.venishmartem.com) was launched. The Venishmartem staff will be available on Sunday to help all comers. While the event is for men only, anyone can call 718-GET-HELP.

Flatbush Focus



Yeshiva Bonim Lamokom celebrated a *siyum on hilchas tefillah*. Harav Yosef Savitsky, *Rosh Yeshiva* in Yeshiva Torah Vodaath, came to conduct the *farher*, at which the *bachurim* excelled. It was a true *kiddush Hashem*.

night, following the Shabbos *seudah*. Men and women are invited to join Rabbi Mizrachi at Khal Bnei Torah, where he will discuss the Jewish educational system.

On Shabbos morning Rabbi Mizrachi will join Khal Bais Mordechai for *davening*. Later that afternoon, at 4:45, Rabbi Mizrachi will speak to women only at Khal Adas Yeshurun on "The Prestige of Jewish Women."

The closing session, for men only, will take place at 6:30, at Khal Tiferes Avraham, where Rabbi Mizrachi will explore the topic, "How to Stay Happily Married." For more information, please call the JCC at (718) 407-1832 or email info@jccmp.org

Shavuot at the Brooklyn Jewish Experience

Shavuot, which celebrates *Mattan Torah*, is one of the most important Yamim Tovim, yet, astoundingly, an overwhelming number of Jews have never heard of it.

Reb Dovid Neiburg, one of the guest speakers for Shavuot at Brooklyn Jewish Xperience (BJX), Brooklyn's *kiruv* center, shared his feelings: "So many open Jewish *neshamos* in Brooklyn — where can they go for inspiration and sincere exposure to authentic Judaism without feeling judged or out of place? Can such a place exist? The address is BJJ at 2915 Avenue K. With such warmth, people cannot help but be attracted to what BJJ has to offer, with Rabbi Fingerer at the center of this motivating force," he said.

Rabbi Fingerer spoke passionately about Shavuot in a special BJJ lecture, several days prior to Shavuot, and laid out the exciting program details.

The results of the BJJ Shavuot-night program, held in the beautiful, new *kiruv* and Torah center, were astonishing. As Rabbi Fingerer says, "I was absolutely awestruck. It was *nes gadol hayah po* — a miracle transpiring before my very own eyes."

A delicious catered *seudah* was followed by an evening of learning and five different exciting *shurim*, spanning topics as fundamental as the Oral Law and as esoteric as reincarnation. More than 50 students participated in the night of learning which concluded at 4 a.m. — over 50 *neshamos* that otherwise

would never have been exposed to the *kedushah of Mattan Torah*.

Mr. Yisroel (Jerry) Gross said, "To see so many eager Jewish souls willing to take a giant leap and step into a shul Shavuot night was awesome. I watched them open their eyes, ears, and hearts, all willing to absorb the words of Torah from Sinai."

Those who want to help BJJ reach out to the precious *neshamos* of Brooklyn can help sponsor a program. Please call (646) 397-1544.

'Filterthon' Takes Flatbush By Storm

What do you get when dozens of talented technicians, concerned community *askanim* and lay leaders, and a community looking to purify their homes and protect their souls in advance of the holy Yom Tov of *Kabbalas HaTorah* gather in one tent? Why, a Filterthon!

Well over 1,600 Yidden came through the large tent that was erected outside Khal Veretzky in Flatbush last Sunday with desktop computers, laptops, phones, and other devices in tow, in need of filtering for proper internet usage.

The event, co-sponsored by *Hamodia*, was arranged by a few concerned activists who feel that the best way to help the community to protect their families is by offering professional-grade filtering solutions for their devices, with the added incentive of bringing the solutions to their doors — in this case outside the shul where thousands come through on a Sunday.

To this end, a large tent was erected on Avenue L, with stations manned by trained technicians, each station geared to different kinds of devices. From 8 a.m. until midnight, they offered solutions and installed many various kinds of filters, according to need.

Hamodia sat down with the people behind Venishmartem, the powerhouse organization behind this Filterthon, the Filterthon in Boro Park one year ago, and hopefully many more as long as one Jewish home still possesses open internet.

"The goal of Venishmartem is to solve the internet problem at its root, by providing effective and easy-to-use filtering solutions for *Klal Yisrael*. Venishmartem aims

to help tens of thousands of Yidden from all over the world to install effective filtering in the coming years. Venishmartem's team of technicians researches every existing up-to-date solution for every type of device," Yaakov, the organization's founder, told *Hamodia*.

Venishmartem has since its inception been on the lookout for effective, sophisticated solutions, and after constant experimentation have arrived at the VCF (Venishmartem Cloud Filter) solution, complete with a call center which, for a minimal monthly fee, provides a full and tailored service to each customer.

On the heels of their success at the Boro Park event last year, as soon as a sponsor was found for this Flatbush event, they came here.

Yaakov relates one event that expresses the effectiveness of the Filterthon: "One guy came with seven devices! Two laptops, a



Harav Sholom Noach Landau, *Rosh Yeshiva*, Yeshiva Ohr Shraga and Mesivta Bais Aron Tzvi Veretzky, with the guests of honor at the yeshiva's 28th Annual Dinner at the Dyker Beach golf course.

few moments of my sharing a few stories with him, he promptly agreed to filter all his devices," Yechezkel told *Hamodia*.

Despite having spent many years in the arena, Yaakov is nevertheless inspired. "It was so inspiring to see how many Yidden from all walks of life came to get protection on their devices."



Talented computer technicians from our community volunteering at the Venishmartem Filterthon, where over 1,600 internet filters were installed on a gamut of devices.



Harav Yochanan Kugelmann, a well-known *talmid chacham* and *masmid* who is also a technology whiz, sacrificing time from his busy schedule to volunteer at the Venishmartem Filterthon last Sunday.

tablet, a phone, a notebook and two gaming devices... We sat him down with one of our top volunteers who worked with him for over an hour and got all his devices filtered."

Meanwhile, Yechezkel, a psychologist with addiction counseling training, and his partner at Venishmartem relate his highlight of the day: "A father came in and asserted that in his opinion, filtering isn't necessary. After a

Yaakov says to the community, "While hundreds came to get filters, thousands of *frum* Yidden out there still have open internet on their computers and devices. Many people think that filters will slow down their computers or block them from things they like to do, but this is not necessarily true at all.

"The problem is that people are used to not having filters and are therefore afraid of what the

filter will do. This whole situation has to change. We must ensure that the coming generation doesn't even have a question about whether to use internet without a filter. Just like *frum* families today don't have a television, it should be understood that no *frum* person uses unfiltered internet.

"Our children will not be frustrated that the filter blocks the things they like — because they never will have had the experience of using the internet without a filter in the first place. It should become a given for every *frum* Yid that unfiltered internet is a danger to the very fabric of Jewish life. The next generation of *frum* Yidden must grow up with the concept of filtered internet as a basic prerequisite to being an *erlicher Yid*," he says.

What is their petition to the community? "We need your help!" says Yechezkel, co-founder. "Get in touch with us so we can bring this campaign worldwide, and effect the change that Yaakov speaks of."

To those who want to answer the call of "*Mi laShem eitai*," Yaakov can be contacted at info@filterthon.com or at (646) 600-8100 Ext. 3.

As Rabbi Shain told *Hamodia*: "One of the reasons for the *minhag* to eat *milchigs* on Shavuot is that the utensils of *Am Yisrael* were rendered *treif* due to receiving the *mitzvah of basar b'chalav* at *Kabbalas HaTorah*. What we saw today was people of all stripes coming to, *l'havdil*, 'kasher' their 'keilim' in order to receive the Torah on Shavuot in a more elevated and purified manner."

As a public service, Venishmartem filter guides are available free of charge, describing the many different types of filters in detail, for many types of devices. There is an accompanying CD that allows you download protection directly, for a computer or laptop. Rabbanim and principals are welcome to call (347) 869-7331.

EXPANDED FLATBUSH FOCUS

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Hamodia would like to include your news and pictures from the general Flatbush area. If you have any newsworthy items you would like to see included, please email flatbushfocus@hamodia.com.

Home » Regional »

About 1,600 Filters Installed at Free Flatbush Event

By Dovid Cahan

Monday, May 13, 2013 | ד' סיון תשע"ג

Flatbush - An estimated 1,600 computers, smartphones and tablets received a free filter, and their users got free advice, from more than 20 technicians at a "Filterthon" Sunday at a tent set up in front of Rabbi Landau's shul in Flatbush, organizers said.

Organized by Venishmartem, the event hosted the official release of a new, state-of-the-art filter, named "VCF" (Venishmartem Cloud Filter).



At the Flatbush "Filterthon" in front of Rabbi Landau's shul all day Sunday. (Venishmartem)

The development of an intelligent filter is very practical, since it does not block websites, but rather looks at each individual page to make sure no inappropriate content is leaking through.

"The world wide web is like a storming river, and a filter for it, accordingly, must be something like a filter for water, which filters every drop of water passing through, [that doesn't] just rely on a pre-set list of information," one of the directors of Venishmartem said.

VCF Pro filter is available for free for computers and laptops, as well as smartphones, the Safari browser and all apps.

At least 1,600 people downloaded the new VCF filter. If you missed this event, you can still reach Venishmartem, at 718 GET-HELP, for advice and for help installing a filter that's most practical for your business or home.

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Filed under: Internet

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