



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Reports to the Community



Summer 2014

Dear Friend,

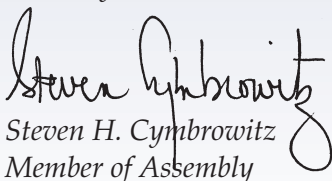
Family and community are the pillars of any society. In the 13 years I've been your Assemblyman, I've placed great priority on keeping our community strong by doing all I can to make life easier for the people I represent.

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter, which contains good news about the 2014-2015 New York State budget that will be of particular interest to yeshivas and families. Other articles in the newsletter pay tribute to hardworking people in our community who spend time helping those around them. You'll also learn about some of the things I've done to help keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.

As the son of Holocaust survivors, I've taken a leading role in assuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten. I've spoken at conferences in Munich, Latvia and Moscow sponsored by the organization World Without Nazism to decry the rise in anti-Semitism and neo-Nazi organizations. Each year I sponsor a contest that gives children the opportunity to depict through the creative arts what they have learned about the Holocaust and the importance of tolerance and understanding.

Feel free to visit my district office any Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., and Fridays until 5 p.m. You can reach me at (718) 743-4078 or email cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us. If you're on social media, please "like" my page on Facebook and visit me on Twitter @stevecym.

Sincerely,


Steven H. Cymbrowitz
Member of Assembly



Good News for Yeshivas, Parochial Schools and Families in New York State Budget

The 2014-15 budget contains exciting initiatives that will help the State's hardworking yeshiva families and keep Jewish day schools strong.

One such initiative is the Smart Schools Bond Act, a \$2 billion referendum that voters will consider in order to provide new educational technologies to schools across the state. The bond act was the subject of a letter-writing campaign spearheaded by Assemblyman Cymbrowitz to ensure that yeshivas and other non-public schools would be among the beneficiaries. With the help of the Orthodox Union, Sephardic Community Federation and Catholic Conference of NY, thousands of parents signed petitions urging Governor Cuomo to change the language of the bond act to expand it beyond public schools. Happily, these efforts were successful.

The budget also provides \$16 million in additional support for nonpublic mandated services related to the Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) program, continues \$4.5 million for safety equipment, and makes permanent the provision allowing after-school transportation for K – 6 students who attend classes until after 4 p.m.

"I am pleased that the 2014-15 New York State budget includes so much positive news for yeshiva families and schools," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said. "Much of the good news resulted from collaboration, persistence and focusing on the goal we all share – helping our children and families."

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Hosts Ceremony Honoring Winners of Holocaust Essay, Poetry, Performance and Art Contest

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz honored the winners of his annual Holocaust Essay, Poetry, Performance and Art Contest during a ceremony that featured stirring remarks by Zipora Yakuboff, a Holocaust survivor who shared her poignant story of loss and courage and her eventual escape from a Nazi death camp.

"It is imperative that we never forget the lessons of those who survived the Holocaust, as well as the tragic lessons of those who did not survive," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said. "In an era in which some historians are trying to rewrite history and deny that the Holocaust ever happened, we need to hear these stories and preserve them. We need to pass these stories on to future generations to remind people of what can happen when hatred is allowed to grow."



The contest is sponsored by Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center, the Lena Cymbrowitz Foundation and the Holocaust Memorial Committee.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Hosts Meeting to Discuss Youth Drug Addiction in Jewish Community



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz hosted a meeting with the commanding officer of Brooklyn South, other law enforcement representatives, drug prevention and treatment groups and stakeholders in the Jewish community to talk about an issue that's rarely discussed out in the open: drug addiction among young people in the Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewish communities.

"Too many people, including families within the Jewish community, don't believe that such a problem could even exist here, or they're simply unaware of the extent that the opiate crisis is devastating families not just in their own community but all over New York State and across the entire nation," said Assemblyman

Cymbrowitz, Chair of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee.

"The tragic reality is that this is a serious problem that can't be ignored or hidden. Prescription painkillers and heroin are destroying Orthodox and Sephardic kids the same as everywhere else. An addict is an addict no matter where you live," he said.

Those in attendance from law enforcement included Assistant Chief Owen Monaghan, Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South; Deputy Inspector James Rooney, C.O., and Det. John Nevandro and P.O. Thomas Hopkins of the 60th Precinct; Captain Hayward and Community Affairs Officers Samuel Shaya and Benjamin Go of the 61st Precinct; and Captain Cani of NYPD Narcotics.

Leaders from the drug prevention/treatment community included Ruchama Bistritzsky-Clapman, Founder of MASK (Mothers and Fathers Aligned Saving Kids); Ike Dweck, Executive Director, and Abe Chera of the SAFE Foundation; Vickie Griffiths and Sharon Darack of JACS/JBFCS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others/Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services). Also in attendance were Avi Spitzer of Sephardic Community Federation and Jake Adler of the Orthodox Union.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Commends Agreement to Benefit Families of Special Ed Kids

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz announced that the state reached agreement with Mayor de Blasio on the placement of special needs children in private schools to ensure that families receive resolution of their impartial due process hearing and tuition reimbursement in a timely manner.

“While federal law requires school districts to pay private school tuition for special needs children if it is deemed the most appropriate placement, for too long New York City has refused to pay or has dragged out legal proceedings challenging these placements. Meanwhile children are denied their fundamental right to a sound education and parents must shell out thousands of dollars to either pay tuition or challenge these decisions,” Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.

He said that while the Assembly has passed legislation in previous years to address this issue, Mayor de Blasio has pledged to make administrative changes to end this practice and implement a system that is fairer to families beginning in the upcoming school year.

“Families with special needs children face a mul-



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz joined his colleagues and Jewish leaders at City Hall for an announcement that will benefit parents of special education children. Shown with Assemblyman Cymbrowitz are: Community Leaders Chas-kal Bennett and Shmuel Lefkowitz, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder and Rabbi David Zweibel of Agudath Israel.

titude of challenges including finding the right fit for their children’s education. We must do all we can to remove barriers and give these children an equal opportunity to succeed,” he said.



HONORING A KEEPER OF MEMORY:

At the recent 29th annual gathering held at Holocaust Memorial Park, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented a citation to Pauline Bilus, director of the Holocaust Memorial Committee, who, with her late husband Ira, was instrumental in creating the park as a memorial to the six million who perished during history’s darkest era. This year’s gathering commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Allies’ ground operations which led to liberating the concentration camps.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Danu Radio Team Up to Ensure that Memory of Holocaust Victims Lives On at Yad Vashem

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz wants to ensure that every man, woman and child murdered by the Nazis receive their due place of honor at Yad Vashem, the Jewish people’s living memorial to the Holocaust.

He recently teamed up with Danu Radio (87.7 FM) asking people to fill out a form commemorating the lives of family and other people they know who were lost during the Holocaust. Since 1955, Yad Vashem, located in Jerusalem, has worked to fulfill a mandate to preserve the memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

“There will come a day, not so long in the future, when no one will be able to recall the image of the mother, father, sister, brother or best friend whose life was brutally cut short,” said Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, the son of Holocaust survivors. “These were lives that mattered, people who laughed and loved. It is critically important that their names are committed to permanent memory.”

Forms are available at Assemblyman Cymbrowitz’ office, 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road, Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., and Fridays until 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 743-4078.



DOING ‘GOOD’ WORK: Assemblyman Cymbrowitz recently presented a check to Sephardic Bikur Holim to operate a “goods pantry” that will stock clothing, wedding supplies and other items for the community. “With so many families struggling, I commend this organization and its hardworking staff for wanting to do its part to help those who need it the most,” Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Helps the Community....

Robbed at night in front of a Yeshiva, Ms. Eleonora T. couldn’t walk down the street without fear. A place of learning and contemplation for most became one of trauma for her. She needed help and came to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz’s office. The staff alerted her to her rights as a victim, helped her get a copy of the police report, and filed a claim with Victims Services. The site, Avenue Z Jewish Center, was recognized as target of anti-Semitic graffiti just one year earlier, and a heinous burglary before that. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz recognized that inadequate lighting made the area a prime target. At his request the Department of Transportation will be installing more lighting in the area to keep our community safe.



Assemblyman
**STEVEN
CYMBROWITZ**
Reports to the
Community



CELEBRATING ISRAEL:

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz took the opportunity to greet the crowd at the Kings Bay Y’s annual outdoor extravaganza celebrating the State of Israel. “As the home of more Jewish residents and more Holocaust survivors anywhere outside Israel, Brooklyn is spiritually linked with the Jewish homeland -- a link that can never be broken,” he said.