



Assemblywoman
DIANA C. RICHARDSON
Reports to the People

SUMMER 2016

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

As we draw further into the year, and recognize special occasions which retain much meaning and depth for us, we can reflect on positive notions of family, prosperity and community. We are nearing the Three Weeks. For many in the Jewish community, now is a solemn time. This is a time where many reflect on the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish People and mourn for the destruction of the two temples that stood in Jerusalem. The only physical remnant today of the temple is the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism and yearn for a rebuilt temple in our times.

The culmination of this solemn mourning period will be on August 14, 2016 (Tisha B'av). After the completion of this mourning period, there is a renewed happiness and time of rejoicing and weddings and the like. May we take the message of the Three Weeks and Tisha B'av of not forgetting the powerful and poignant histories that bind all people while hoping for better days ahead. Through this medium, you will have the opportunity to join me in my community involvement and gain new safety tips for the holidays.

Many occasions worth spending with our family and friends are imminent, and in preparation for these moments, I want to share a few safety precautions you may utilize in order to prepare for upcoming festivities in the best possibly way. It is my hope that through this newsletter, we can continue to strengthen a dialogue to encourage increased community activity and safety. I am committed to the continued monitoring of issues to provide solutions and maintain growth and prosperity and security in our neighborhood.

At your convenience, you may reach out to me at assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Diana-C-Richardson for any queries you may have. With esteem, I wish you a joyous and prosperous holiday, and I appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson

RICHARDSON CONNECT



Rabbi Mike Miller, Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, and Assembly Speaker Heastie.



Assemblywoman Diana Richardson gathers with fellow officials on the Sea of Galilee.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIANA C. RICHARDSON

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TOGETHER WE STAND

I had the privilege of seeing so many traditions in the Chabad community in my first year as your representative in Albany and I intend to get to know the issues, concerns and problems even more. It is vital that our diverse communities that occupy various stretches of Crown Heights see the humanity in all of us and the common issues that all of us face whether it is good

schools for our children, affordable housing, crime issues and general quality of life concerns. As we are coming up on the 25th anniversary of the disturbances that rocked this community and shattered any notions of oneness in the community, we need to double down and seek ways to unify ourselves even more so to stand as one when hate seeks to divide us.



L-R: Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, Jennine Berger of Melissa Mark-Viverito's office, Rabbi Yaacov Behrman, Rabbi Yehudah Krinsky, Chairman of Chabad Worldwide, Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky, Vice Chairman of Chabad Worldwide and Rabbi Lipa Brennen.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN RICHARDSON CONTENTED WITH WOMEN'S SHLUCHUS CONFERENCE

Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson had the privilege of attending the Women's Shluchus Conference of Chabad-Lubavitch. This conference allowed the Assemblywoman to see the sacrifices that many of these very women on Shluchus make on a daily basis. Many of these ladies have familiar ties to Crown Heights and a good percentage were even born and bred here. A few of the Shluchus participants live in isolated Jewish communities where kosher food is brought in bi-annually, where Jewish education is lacking or non-existent, but they all persevere in order to continue the mission that they hold so dear to their heart of bringing Judaism to the four corners of the earth.

The ladies of the Shluchus Conference exuded a considerable amount of warmth, authenticity and commitment to everyone. "It warmed my heart to be greeted by such a special group of women who work hard for their families and the community," said Assemblywoman Richardson. Many of the ladies participating in this conference remained active, while also maintaining

households, where not only are they communal leaders in partnerships with their husbands, they often have to juggle the needs of their children and families all while being available to the community at large. While at the Shluchus conference the assemblywoman was able to meet Rabbis' Krinsky, Kotlarsky and other esteemed individuals. "It is amazing to see the struggles and sacrifices these ladies make on a daily basis, and many of the women in the community right here in Crown Heights, continue to make sacrifices as well," added Assemblywoman Richardson.

Although there might be ample kosher food, and yeshivas and Bais Yaakov's abound, people are struggling to afford living in this neighborhood with increased schooling and rising prices on food and other staples. Assemblywoman Richardson recognizes these issues as well as the issues of crime and terrorism that are on the minds of the community, and remains committed to fighting for the members of the community in Albany.



Assemblywoman Diana Richardson gathers with multiple women leaders in the community.



L-R: Public Advocate Letitia James, Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR OBSERVANCES

Preparation and Cooking

Fifty percent of all apartment fires and one-quarter of the fires in private homes start in the kitchen. Most home cooking fires involve the stovetop portion of the range. One-third of these fires result from unattended cooking. The majority of fires and burns can be prevented during food preparation by taking safety precautions.

Follow these precautions when preparing the kitchen and cooking, especially for the Sabbath and holiday meals when there is increased activity in the kitchen:

- Stay in the kitchen—don't leave cooking food unattended.
- Wear tighter or snug-fitting sleeves. (Loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles.)
- Take extra precaution when handling boiling water.
- Cook at indicated temperature settings, rather than higher settings.
- Don't become distracted by attending to children or answering phone calls or doorbells.
- Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around your stove.
- Keep area clear of towels, papers or anything that could burn.
- Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall, to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.
- Have a pot lid and container of baking soda handy to smother a pan fire. **DO NOT USE WATER.**
- Treat burns immediately with cool running water and seek medical attention.

Fire Candle Safety

More than 33 percent of candle fires occur when candles are left unattended. Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home are younger than 20 years of age, with most of the victims between the ages of five and nine. Burns and fires are the leading cause of death in the home for children and young adults.

Holiday time means candles, matches and fire. When burning candles, make your home safer by:

- Using sturdy candleholders, with flame-protective non-combustible (glass or metal) shades or globes.
- Placing candles at least four feet away from curtains, draperies, blinds, kitchen cabinets and bedding.
- Placing candles out of reach of small children and pets.
- Never leaving burning candles unattended.
- Securing hair and clothing, such as sleeves or aprons, from the flame when handling candles.
- Keeping candles, matches and lighters, including lit memorial containers and Chanukah menorahs, out of reach of children. When searching for hametz, keep candles away from bedding, tablecloths, clothing or anything that can burn. Use a flashlight for hard-to-reach places.



L-R: Assemblyman Walter Mosley, Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder, Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, Assemblyman Charles Lavine, and Jeff Leb.

CONNECTING WITH YOUNG COMMUNITY LEADERS OF CROWN HEIGHTS

“Together we can build our community, increase safety and encourage growth.”

— Assemblywoman Richardson

Assemblywoman Richardson met with young leaders, entrepreneurs and activists to address issues affecting the Jewish Community. The gathering was organized by community leader Yaacov Behrman and included directors of the Friendship Circle Yaldei Hashluchim, Shomrim, CHYE, and many others. Some of the many topics discussed included development plans which could impact the community economically, and concern about resident safety after the tragic attack on Laiby Kletzky, which still leaves many unsettled.

“It has been an honor and pleasure meeting with young leaders making changes in the neighborhood of Crown Heights. There are many changes surrounding our neighborhood that we must tackle, and the best way to do so, is to stand together as a community,” said Assemblywoman Richardson. “Together we can build our community, increase safety and encourage growth.”



The young community leaders of Crown Heights.



Leaders, entrepreneurs and activists address issues affecting the Jewish Community with Assemblywoman Diana Richardson.



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Rabbi Berel and Chani Majesky, directors of Friendship Circle Brooklyn.



Assemblywoman Diana Richardson and Chaim Goldman.