

With Hope on Horizon, COJO Flatbush Holds Passover Food Distribution

Ma Nishtana: How was this year's COJO Flatbush Passover Food Distribution different from last year's?

Last year a palpable air of fear and uncertainty hung over the world as COVID-19 was just beginning its deadly rampage. This year, as a return to normality finally appears to be a realistic hope, an unmistakable spirit of optimism infused the distribution, even as health and safety regulations implemented at the start of the pandemic remained in effect throughout the proceedings.

Last year, COVID-19 started tearing through our social fabric as final preparations were being made for the 2020 Passover Food Distribution. "Which meant," said COJO Flatbush CEO Louis Welz, "that virtually at the last minute we had to make changes in the logistics of the distribution, while dealing with the reality that more food would be required to feed families that never before needed assistance."

This year's landscape may be somewhat less uncertain and daunting than last year's, but putting together a distribution of this size and scope is always a huge challenge even under the best of circumstances. Nevertheless, COJO Flatbush Director of Social Services Shulamis Shapiro oversaw the operation with her usual tireless attention to every detail. As a result, close to 300 families were able to celebrate *Pesach* with all the necessities and then some: *Shmura* matzah, chicken, gefilte fish, tuna fish, grape juice, apple juice, apples, melons, potatoes, onions, carrots, eggs, oil, cinnamon, paprika, and potato starch.



Volunteer balances a giant stack of boxes

Once again every effort was made to ensure the dignity of recipients, with deliveries made in a discreet manner, no different in appearance from a regular supermarket drop-off. Contact, interaction, and close proximity between deliverer and recipient were carefully avoided.

Welz credited the success of the Passover Distribution to "the generosity, dedication, and sheer effort of the COJO Flatbush Board of Directors, our donors, our staff, and our volunteers."

He was equally effusive in expressing appreciation for the efforts of City Council Members Chaim Deutsch and Kalman Yeger; NYC Department of Youth and Community Development; Met Council on Jewish Poverty CEO David Greenfield; the Orthodox Union; Brooklyn Community Board 14 District Manager Shawn Campbell; Glatt Mart President Dov Bauman; Nosson and Rivkie Shapiro; Rabbis Shmuel Wallerstein, Pinchas Wallerstein, Aaron Groner, Tzvi Wallerstein, and Yitzy Heller from Yeshiva Ohr Yitzchok and Mesivta Tiferes Shmuel; and community activist Dovi Zeitlin.

Welz also commended the New York City Sanitation Department for its expedited recyclable pickups, praising DSNY Brooklyn District 14 Superintendent Joseph Sciulara "for making sure that everything is properly taken care of after every distribution."



Delivery truck ready to be loaded with cartons of food

The Passover Food Distribution, said COJO Flatbush President Moshe Zakheim, "represents, along with our other distributions and the numerous programs we provide, our commitment to assisting the community in any way we can. I'm happy we were able to help make a *zeesen* – a sweet – *Pesach* for those in need."

COJO Flatbush wishes everyone health and *hatzlacha*, and may we experience a complete resumption of the routines of life we once so easily took for granted.



Volunteers pack cartons early on Distribution Day



COJO Flatbush gratefully acknowledges the institutions and individuals who helped us supply hundreds of local families with a generous food basket that included *shmura* matzah, chicken, gefilte fish, grape juice, tuna, apple juice, eggs, potatoes, oil, potato starch, produce, and more.

**NYC Councilman Chaim Deutsch
NYC Councilman Kalman Yeger
The Orthodox Union
Nosson and Rivkie Shapiro**

For financial assistance for this project

**David Greenfield, CEO
Met Council on Jewish Poverty**
For donating the chicken and much more

**Dov Bauman, President
Glatt Mart Supermarket**
For donating all of the boxes and assisting with purchasing and logistics

**Shawn Campbell
District Manager, Community Board 14**
For always helping us serve the community

**Yeshiva Ohr Yitzchok and Mesivta Tiferes Shmuel
Rabbi Shmuel Wallerstein, Rabbi Pinchas Wallerstein,
Rabbi Aaron Groner, Rabbi Tzvi Wallerstein and Rabbi Yitzy Heller**
For hosting the distribution

Yechiel Asia
Your organizational skills and dedication are exemplary

Dovi Zeitlin
Who makes all our distributions his own

אשריכם גבורי החיל
A tremendous *hachra'at ha'tov* to the dozens of community volunteers who packaged and delivered from early morning to past midnight

Simcha Asia	Yaakov Gelber	Solomon Moses	Tzvi Rothman	Yitzy Stender
Shmuli Bachon	Yitzy Goldberg	Eli Moskovitz	Chaim Shapiro	Shmuel Tarlow
Miriam Belyavsky	Mendy Greenblatt	Pinchas Obermeister	Meir Shapiro	Devoiry Welz
Chaim Berger	Mordy Grossberg	Yehuda Zvi Oppenheim	Moshe Ahron Shapiro	Kreindy Welz
Yossi Bienenstock	Yossi Halpert	Otniel Pacifici	Nechama Shapiro	Moishe Welz
Yoel Buchbinder	Chaim Horowitz	Yehuda Perlstein	Nosson Shapiro	Surie Welz
Moris Chalough	Yehuda Jacobowitz	Aryeh Rothenberg	Sara Shapiro	Tobi Welz
Simcha Drebin	Velvel Kaplan	Aryeh Rothman	Shloimie Shapiro	Zanvi Welz
Milton Farkas	Yechiel Kaplan	Chaim Rothman	Yaakov Dovid Shapiro	Avi Zagelbaum
Yaakov Frenkel	Yisroel Meir Miller	Mordechai Rothman	Yosef Sharabany	Akiva Zeitlin
Nissim Gadayer			Yosef Singer	Yisrael Zeitlin

(We apologize if we missed any of you)

COJO Staff
who went the extra mile
**Caroline Edri, Arman Harutyunyan, Eitan Jacobs,
Dorie Khachewatsky, Sonam Nematullah, Almira Nurzhanova,
Jason Maoz, Ruzigul Ruzieva, Zalman Waldman**

אחרון חביב
We are in awe of our dear friend **Malky Welz** who was with us from the moment we started packing until the last order was delivered

חג שמח
Moshe Zakheim, President
Larry Spiewak, Chairman of the Board
Louis P Welz, Chief Executive Officer
Shulamis Shapiro, Director of Social Services

