

Holocaust Support Group Gathers to Remember the 'Six Million'

By Craig McGuire

During *Yom Hashoah*, the solemn week of Holocaust remembrance, Brooklynites came together in Kensington to honor the memory of the millions who were killed, and to reach out to those who survived.

Selfhelp Community Services, an organization dedicated to assisting Holocaust survivors, held a ceremony marked by a memorial prayer sung by Rabbi Tzvi Mandel, and the light-

ing of memorial candles by Holocaust survivors Nissan Israel and Frieda Price from Poland, and Senni Borngasser from Germany.

On this somber occasion, Selfhelp dedicated its new Kensington Office, 419 Church Avenue, where the ceremony took place.

Selfhelp was recently awarded a major grant to assist elderly victims of Nazi persecution now living in Brooklyn.

The \$300,000 grant was made available by the Ger-

man federal government to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, a group of 24 national and international Jewish organizations representing Holocaust survivors.

The grant will be used to expand the limited facility, currently existing at the Church Avenue location, to a full-service community office for victims of the Nazis.

Selfhelp provides services including social work, home care, a senior center,

housing for the elderly, and special services for families with AIDS.

According to Richard Aronson, executive vice president of Selfhelp, "At this location we currently serve approximately 900 people per month, which we will be able to be dramatically increase by 250-300 new clients."

New York City Department of Aging Commissioner Herbert Stupp was on hand to congratulate Selfhelp on the opening of the new branch, and ex-

pressed his own personal interest in seeing the program succeed.

"While I am not Jewish, I am the son of two German Catholics," said Stupp, "and my mother was in a camp, which sensitizes me." Stupp added that when his parents emigrated to the United States his mother worked with other Holocaust survivors.

"This issue is close to me, and close to my heart," said Stupp. "This is a great day. You are truly doing the work of the Almighty."

Not all in attendance were as overwhelmingly positive as the commissioner.

Selfhelp-Kensington is the agency's first new community office for Nazi victims since its Jackson Heights facility opened in 1978.

Survivors of Nazi persecution, age 62 or older, are eligible to benefit from Selfhelp's services. For information, call (212) 971-5475.

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