

Chizuk for Chabad sheluchim

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MAINTAINING the high standards which Chassidus demands even in far flung corners of the world was the theme of this year's sheluchim kinnus of Chabad Lubavitch in the US. Over 4,000 sheluchim attended the 5-day convention in New York with representatives from almost every country on the planet, including a large delegation from the UK.

There were over 120 workshops, shiurim, farbrengens and networking sessions, with the highlight of the weekend a grand banquet where sheluchim were joined by approximately a thousand ba'alei batim and lay leaders. Over 5,000 men were served a three-course dinner in a beautifully decorated pier warehouse in Brooklyn.

Britain's Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, one of the guest speakers, addressed the assembled on the guidance and direction that he had received from the Lubavitcher Rebbe which led him to the position he holds today.

One of the UK representatives,



A group of UK sheluchim at Sunday night's banquet

Rabbi Odom Brandman of Chabad Buckhurst Hill, told the *Jewish Tribune*: "For me, one of the most inspiring parts of the evening is the roll call. Rabbi Kotlarsky, who chairs the evening, goes around the globe, with pictures and a map on the screens, calling out the number of sheluchim in each country. It's just amazing to see the scope of the work of Chabad, the mesiras nefesh of those who go to literally the far-flung corners, and the amazing achdus felt by everybody as we come together to learn and give each other chizuk."

Chabad in the UK has seen phenomenal growth over the last few years, with a number of new Campus Chabad Houses opening and other centres serving the wider community. The arrival of Rabbi Bentzi Sudak a few years ago has injected new young blood into the leadership of Chabad in the UK, with a wealth of new initiatives and programmes under his direction.

The growth here, though, is but a reflection of the expansion of Chabad outreach around the globe, a phenomenon that always makes headlines at the annual kinnus.