

## REVERED AS HUMANITARIAN AND MAN OF THE YEAR



Coney Island's rabbi Moshe Wiener.

LONDON-This is not a Broadway's premiere. It is real life. A good one. It is about rabbi Moshe Wiener, a Jewish community leader in Coney Island, New York. Recently, this rabbi has been written up in numerous publications and by news agencies, including the World Jewish News, The Globe Weekly News, Jewish Press, Jewish Week and the New York Monthly Herald. In short, he is making a big buzz. His good deeds were noticed by the public and the media. The

New York Monthly Herald elected him man of the year. So did the Jewish Agency.

### AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

So you find yourself destitute. Things happen. Off shoring, merging, downsizing. Who cares about the reason, here you are at the bottom of the barrel, and not much ale left in there to cheer you up with, either. Let's say you have contacted, whined to, applied to, and net-worked everyone from the big shots you had known so well in your glory days to your uncle Harry in New York. You blasted the Internet with your resume and harassed all the head hunters you could think of. And nothing happens. No one is helping. So you call a rabbi. An important rabbi who owes you a favor or two from those good old days. What did you want from the rabbi? Suppose he came to your place, looked at your less than spectacular mode of living, seemed rather shocked, and said "Let's go tomorrow and pray together." Do you really need an intermediary with the Almighty, or would you rather have him act like the father of his congregation, use his considerable resources, and give you some material help? I did not make up this rabbi story, it happened. But no further comment about it is needed. Some rabbis have simply forgotten that it is their job to be their brother's and sister's keepers. To be the helpers and the providers. To be our last chance.



They do their religious duties, and if they are powerful enough they associate with the high and mighty, but they are not closely associated with the material needs of their people. Their congregation is, to all intents and purposes, orphaned. A very different rabbi lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. His name is Moshe Wiener and he is the Executive Director of SJCC and of JCCCGCI, the Community Council of Greater Coney Island. The mayor of NY also appointed him as a member of the Senior Advisory Council for the Department of the Aging. Plenty on the good rabbi's plate, you would think. These organizations are not limited to Brooklyn – they work with the entire city – helping Jews and non-Jews alike.