

# BURNING OF CHAMETZ

## A COMMUNITY EVENT

**F**or the past three years, The Jewish Center of Teaneck has held the Joy Amsel Memorial Community Biur Chametz. For three decades, friends of the Amsel family have participated in a memorial tribute to Joy Amsel by getting together before the start of Passover in the family's backyard. There they gather around the fire pit to share in the act of Biur Chametz. Otherwise known as The Big Bread Burn, Biur Chametz involves destroying all leavened bread to make households ready for Passover.

Last year, the event extended beyond family and friends to embrace the community at large, hundreds of people coming out despite the drizzly weather. Rabbi Lawrence Zierler, of the Jewish Center of Teaneck and one of the borough's volunteer Fire Department chaplains, greeted the people donned in his regulation firefighter's coat.

He said, "We welcome the Teaneck Fire Department and their dedicated men, the two fire trucks, and the officers who are helping to create a learning experience in stressing fire safety for young children and families."

The high point for many of the younger set was being allowed to get into one of the fire trucks and then, it is imagined, doing a little pretending.



At the event, from left, are Heidi Fuchs, daughter of Joy Amsel, Amy Wasserman, coordinator of The Big Bread Burn, Myra Aksler and Rabbi Lawrence Zierler of the Jewish Center of Teaneck.



The large dumpster used for the Big Bread Burn was decorated with bright red flames painted on all four sides and closely watched by members of the Teaneck Fire Department; Pictured above, right, one of the fire department trucks at the event.



### FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

**FORMER ENGLEWOOD MAYOR MICHAEL WILDES**, a New York based immigration attorney and security expert, plans a trip to visit the United Kingdom with a group of Jewish community security leaders to assess the security situation of synagogues and Jews in the United Kingdom. He recently represented Frumet Teitelbaum whose husband was murdered by terrorists last year in a Chabad Center in Mumbai. Wildes, a former federal prosecutor, has met with many homeland security directors. He will share his experiences with U.S. leaders.

BURNING: COURTESY OF MICHAEL LAVES; WILDES: COURTESY OF MICHAEL WILDES