

## **Friendship Gatherings For Women With Cancer: Next Meeting, June 2**

Bikur Cholim of Boro Park, in partnership with CancerCare, ran its first ever monthly Friendship Gathering for Frum Women with Cancer on Tuesday, May 5. The confidential meeting attracted a group of women from a wide range of communities, from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights, Williamsburg, and even Monsey! Participants shared thoughts and suggestions with each other, while munching on fresh fruits and vegetables in the bright, welcoming conference room on 11th Avenue.

Some topics brought up were speaking with family about the diagnosis, coping with side effects, workplace issues, and adjusting to life post-treatment. Mrs. Shera Dubitsky, the guest speaker from Sharsheret, talked about finding personal meaning and inner strength, and, while thought-provoking, her remarks brought humor to an otherwise serious discussion.

Yafa, the project coordinator, greeted each woman warmly, and by the end of the gathering, feeling uplifted, the women spoke about taking greater roles in the group—arranging refreshments, suggesting guest speakers, spreading the word to their medical teams about the group, and calling others who can't make it in. Due to everyone staying to mingle, the group didn't disband for an hour after it was scheduled to end. Some women exchanged phone numbers to stay in touch throughout the month.

Some comments overheard: "I don't feel alone anymore"; "I wish this group had been around five years ago, when I was going through a difficult time. Count me in next month!"; and "I'm going to visit my friend right now to tell what I heard, because it will help brighten her day, like it did mine!"

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at 5216 11th Avenue in Brooklyn. Free of charge, it's open to women who are in treatment or have been in treatment for cancer. For more information, please leave a message for Yafa at 718-438-2020, ext. 7451, and tell her the best (private) way to reach you.

**By Elisa Stern, LCSW - Published on 21/05/2009**