

Post your resume.  
Search for jobs.  
Get hired.



Make green.

recordjobs.com  
from the TIMES HERALD-RECORD

recordonline.com  
from the TIMES HERALD-RECORD

Customer Service | Subscribe

CLASSIFIEDS JOBS CARS HOMES SPECIAL PUB. COUPONS

- Home
- News
- Obituaries
- Weather
- Columnists
- National News
- Online Chats
- Sports
- Business
- Go Online
- Opinion
- Community
- Multimedia
- Archives
- Customer Service
- Web Feeds [RSS](#)
- Headline Email
- Advertise
- Contact Us
- Site Map

January 24, 2006

## No welcome for Jews staying near hospital

By Mike Dawson  
Times Herald-Record  
[mdawson@th-record.com](mailto:mdawson@th-record.com)



Times Herald-Record/TARA ENGBERG  
Rabbi Simon Lauber, CEO of Bikur Cholim, stands in front of the house in Suffern, where Orthodox Jews can stay during the Sabbath.

Suffern - "This is what I'm talking about," said Cathy Mills as she stood in her driveway across from Good Samaritan Hospital watching a young Hasidic man wearing a black suit and stovepipe hat walk briskly from the hospital into the house next door.

"This will go on all day and tomorrow. Complete strangers coming and going, coming and going," Mills said Friday.

The stranger was Isaac Guttman from Kiryas Joel. He was nervous and hungry, but mostly nervous. His wife was at Good Samaritan Hospital about to give birth to their first child.

Inside the house, he paced in the living room. Minutes later, as if readying for a deep-water plunge, he drew a large breath, opened the door and started back to the hospital.

On Friday and Saturday, Guttman had - at no charge - free reign of the house, which is owned and operated by Bikur Cholim ("visiting the sick"). The Monsey-based nonprofit group offers Orthodox Jews who are visiting family members at Good Samaritan a place to eat and sleep (and pace) during the Sabbath, which lasts from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Orthodox Jews are forbidden to drive during the Sabbath.

But Mills and her neighbors, along with village officials, call the yellow two-story house at 5 Hillcrest Road an illegal transient motel and say it should be shuttered. In response, Bikur Cholim has filed a federal lawsuit, claiming its religious rights are being violated.

The village denied a zoning variance for the home in November on the grounds that it was located on a residential block. Village Attorney Terry Rice said nowhere in the village is there zoning that would allow the Bikur Cholim house.

Bikur Cholim, which operates similar homes at hospitals in Nyack and Westchester Medical Center, had operated a Shabbos house a few streets over for years without any complaints or interference from the village.

Only when the group bought the home on Hillcrest in April did the village step in, citing the house for code violations and for illegal use.

"This is a religious institution that is used on the Sabbath and on about 10 holy days per year," said Rabbi Simon Lauber, CEO of Bikur Cholim.

Dr. Michael Lippe, director of emergency services at Good Samaritan, told the village Zoning Board that without a place to stay on the Sabbath, he feared Orthodox Jews might forgo coming to the hospital if it means breaking Sabbath laws.

Find Us on [SEARCHHV.com](#)

- E-mail story
- Print story
- Subscribe!

### Top Local News

- [Watershed event made big waves](#)
  - [Keeping tabs for kids with cancer](#)
  - [Police say diner nabbed smoking pot](#)
  - [A night of black history](#)
  - [Diana poised to make long wish list reality](#)
- >> [Today's stories](#)

### Featured Content

- [Remembering the fallen](#)

A tribute to the local soldiers we have lost.

- [Casino Watch](#)

Continuing coverage of the casino developments in the Catskills.

- [The death of Lt. Louis Allen](#)

Story archive and complete coverage of the death of Louis Allen.

### Daily E-mail Headlines

Have the top headlines from the Times Herald-Record e-mailed to you every morning. [Sign up here.](#)

### News Tips

Have a tip about a news story? Contact THR Managing Editor Meg McGuire at [mmcguire@th-record.com](mailto:mmcguire@th-record.com) or call 346-3041

Search Archives

2006  [Advanced Search](#)

[SEARCHHV.com](#)

Select Location

Select Category

RECORD MARKETPLACE

New Web Xtra

- Photos
- Extended Text
- E-commerce enabled

Build your classified ad online today and reach over **350,000** Times Herald-Record readers every day

[BUILD MY AD!](#)

VISA