

BREAKING NEWS

It is an absolute obligation on all our diverse kehillos to come together as one" — Gedolei Yisrael

Wallenberg Commission Meets Speaker Boehner, to Say 'Thank You'



Shmuel Lenchevsky/The Friedlander Group

Yesterday morning's New York meeting between the Board of Governors of the Wallenberg Centennial Commission and Speaker of the House John Boehner was an opportunity to thank the Speaker who saw to it that legislation awarding Raoul Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal was prepared and brought to a vote. The legislation passed the House unanimously on April 17, and now must pass the Senate. (L-R): Abe Biderman; Ezra Friedlander; Sidney Greenberger; Speaker of the House John Boehner; Peter Rebenwuzel and Ezra Kattan.

Empire State Building About to Lose Status as Tallest in NYC

(Reuters) - One World Trade Center, being built at the site of the fallen twin towers, could surpass the Empire State Building as the tallest building in New York as soon as next week, an official said yesterday.

The iconic Empire State Building, built in 1931, was the city's tallest at a height of 1,545 feet to the tip of its broadcast antenna until 1972 when it was overtaken by the original World Trade Center towers. It then regained the title after the September 11, 2001 attacks,

which destroyed the complex.

Construction started six years ago on the new World Trade Center and now the skyscraper, formerly called the Freedom Tower, is poised to surpass the 102-story Empire State Building, Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye told reporters.

"Weather permitting, we expect that we could exceed the height of the Empire State Building on Monday," Foye said.

One World Trade Center will stand at 1,776 feet to the tip of its

antenna when it is completed, possibly by late 2013.

The skyscraper, only 55 percent of which is leased, will be higher than the former twin towers, which were toppled in the 2001 attacks in which more than 3,000 people were killed. The north tower stood 1,727 feet including its antenna.

Calling One World Trade Center a "newer, taller cousin," the Empire State Building's spokesman in a statement said: "We've watched you grow and now we salute you."

Community Board 12 Meeting



Yosel Rapaport

Yidel Perlstein (standing) chairing his first community board 12 meeting yesterday evening. Seated, L-R: Berish Freilich, member of the board; the new commander of the 66th precinct Michael Deddo; Vice Chairman Yeruchim Silber, Moshe Wieder, First Vice Chair; Larry Jayson, Sergeant-at-Arms

Mi LaShem Eilai: Gedolim Unite in Support

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Every community requires tremendous encouragement and practical guidance on how best to deal with the challenge [of modern technology.]...Thus it is an absolute obligation on all our diverse kehillos to come together as one...and lovingly accept upon ourselves the [resolution] to withstand this test."

Among the signatories are leading *Roshei Yeshivos* and Rabbanim of Askenazic and Sephardic kehillos, and the Rebbes and *Dayanim* of Bobov, Boyan, Novominsk, Rachmastrivka, Sanz-Klausenberg, Skulen, Skver, and Vizhnitz, *shlita*.

The full *kol korei* can be found on page D7.

In a separate letter (which

can be found on page C22-23) Hagaon Harav Aharon Leib Steinman, *shlita*, Hagaon Harav Chaim Kanievsky, *shlita*, and Hagaon Harav Shmuel Halevi Wosner, *shlita*, also urged attendance at the event.

Hagaon Harav Tuvia Weiss, *shlita*, *Gavad* of the Eidah Hachareidis, along with other members of his *beis din*, issued a letter supporting the gathering, as did Hagaon Harav Shmuel Auerbach, *shlita*, and Hagaon Harav Yehudah Addas, *shlita*.

As we went to print, we learned that the Satmar Rebbe, Harav Zalman Leib Teitelbaum, *shlita*, and members of his *beis din* are also about to issue a letter urging their followers to attend the event.

Meeting With the Senator



The Vaad Hanhalah of Agudath Israel of America met tonight in the Rieder Boardroom at the National Headquarters of Agudath Israel of America. State Senator Marty Golden addressed the crowd as part of an ongoing dialogue with elected officials.

(Top) L-R: Senator Marty Golden; Rabbi Gedaliah Weinberger, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Agudath Israel; Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, executive vice president; Rabbi Shlomo Gertzulin, vice president for finance and administration, and Rabbi Labish Becker, executive director.

(Bottom) A partial view of the crowd.