

OU Kosher *Halacha Yomis* Program Completes First Year With Over 11,000 Subscribers

STEVE STEINER

Late in January 2016, OU Kosher announced a new program, *Halacha Yomis*, in which a *kashrus halachah* would be emailed to subscribers each working day. The program was organized in response to a severe illness that threatened the life of its *posek*, Harav Chaim Yisroel Belsky. As OU Kosher noted, the program was launched with the hope “that by uniting and connecting through learning a *halachah* a day, Harav Belsky will merit a full recovery.”

Unfortunately, shortly after the announcement, Hagaon Harav Chaim Yisroel Belsky, *zt”l*, passed away.

Rather than cancel the program before it even started, Rabbi Menachem Genack, CEO of OU Kosher; Rabbi Moshe Elefant, COO of OU Kosher and Rabbi Yaakov Luban, Rabbi Yosef Grossman, Rabbi Eli Gersten and Rabbi Moshe Zywic, the developers of the original initiative, determined to go ahead with the program, now with a different aim.

“It is with great excitement that we present to the general public, OU Kosher *Halacha Yomis*,” they said in a statement. “We believe that this feature will be of great value and importance to *Klal Yisrael*. We launch this new endeavor during the week of *shivah*, as we mourn the passing of the Rav. Our joy and pride is now intertwined with sadness and sorrow.”



Harav Chaim Yisroel Belsky, *zt”l*.

As the Rabbis explained, “The original impetus for this project was a desire to disseminate short halachic tidbits as a *zechus* for Rav Belsky, with the hope he would have a *refuah sheleimah* from his illness. As halachic consultant for the OU for more than 28 years, the imprint of Rav Belsky is felt in all areas of OU halachic policy. Many of the selections of the *Halacha Yomis* are based on *psakim* of Rav Belsky. With the passing of Rav Belsky, we are now dedicating this program in his memory. We are certain that OU Kosher *Halacha Yomis* will bring an *aliyas neshamah* of this great *Gadol*, whose past contributions to OU Kashrus will continue for years to come.”

The program, now with over 11,000 subscribers, has received many expressions of admiration and delight from the OU Kosher constituency. And these statements don’t come just from Brooklyn, or other traditional locations of Orthodox Judaism. “I would like to tell you how much I enjoy these short daily *halachos*,” wrote a resident of Hong Kong. “This *Halacha Yomis* is such a great invention,” a follower wrote in an email from Antwerp, Belgium.

Closer to home, that is, OU Kosher’s home in lower Manhattan, came this comment from Passaic, NJ: “I have suggested this to numerous friends of ours and everyone is very excited to have this in their email. *Yasher koach* to all involved!” and from Brooklyn, “My deepest thanks for this daily email. I love starting my day with it.”

To receive the OU Kosher *Halacha Yomis* each workday, subscribe at oukosher.org/halacha-yomis-email. OU Kosher has archived past issues there on its website as well.

Subscribers can ask their own questions on *kashrus* issues and send them to Rabbi Grossman at grossman@ou.org or call 212-613-8212 or 914-391-9470. These questions and their answers may be selected to become one of the Q and A’s on OU Kosher’s *Halacha Yomis*. The above contact information can be used for any difficulty in subscribing as well.



The Friedlander Group

L-R: Sen. Steve Daines (next to the *pushke*), with, clockwise: Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, Mr. Ezra Friedlander, two Daines staffers, Mr. Sol Goldner, Mr. Rubin Margules, Dr. Marc Berger, Mr. Chesky Blau, Mr. Maurice Bortz, Mr. Stanley Treitel, Mr. Aubrey Sharfman and Mr. Peter Rebenwurz.



The Friedlander Group

L-R: Mr. Rubin Margules, Mr. Aubrey Sharfman, Mr. Sol Goldner, U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, Mr. Ezra Friedlander, Mr. Chesky Blau, Mr. Peter Rebenwurz, Mr. Stanley Treitel, and Dr. Marc Berger.

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with H.E. Babacar Diagne, Senegal’s Ambassador to the U.S. The relationship between the mostly Muslim West African state of Senegal and Israel has been steadily improving since the 1990s; however, Senegal voted for U.N. Resolution 2334, heavily straining the relationship between the two states, and causing Israel to recall its ambassador. Therefore, the Alliance’s meeting with Ambassador Diagne was primarily to discuss ways that the countries could mend relations, and move forward from the vote.

The co-chairs of the Alliance concluded the day tired, but grateful and smiling.

“It was an outstanding day. We cov-

ered a lot of ground and I think that we are probably going to see a lot of support for Israel coming out of this,” assured Mr. Sol Goldner, CEO of Goldstar Healthcare. “It was interesting because Prime Minister Netanyahu was meeting with President Trump, so the Senators had one eye on them and one eye on us, and were giving us updates on what was going on in the White House. Israel was the topic of the day in Washington. Hopefully the right kind of pressure — financial and otherwise — to accomplish the goal of voiding vote 2334 and being more fair to Israel in the future.”

“We traveled to Washington to see what damage control can be done after the shameful U.N. Resolution 2334. The

purpose of the trip was both to educate and to thank the Senators for their support,” explained Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, CEO of MedReview.

“We had a lot of robust dialogue vis-à-vis Israel, and there was bipartisan support with respect to what happened to Israel. There were mixed opinions on whether to defund the U.N., but there was a clear understanding that a lot of damage was done to Israel and it’s important for this new administration to work toward rectifying that,” said Mr. Aubrey Sharfman, executive director of Morgan Stanley’s Sports Division.

Mr. Rubin Margules, who is on the National Board of Zionist Organization of America, explained: “It is always important to show yourself, to be

counted, and to have your representatives see you.”

“As a bi-coastal group from Los Angeles to New York, our advocacy resulted in enhanced support for U.S.-Israeli ties on multiple levels including how to address lopsided U.N. actions that negatively impact Israel unfairly,” said Mr. Stanley Treitel, Board Member of the Jerusalem Conference and the Raoul Wallenberg Commission.

The Mission was aptly summarized by Mr. Peter Rebenwurz, chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Commission and board member of Maimonides Medical Center, quoting *Ethics of Our Fathers*: “It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it.”