

Book Review

Reviewed by
Rabbi Yochanon Donn

Reb Moshe! Even among the popular vernacular that recognizes *Gedolim* based on their first name, it is a rarity that a name conjures up such emotion. The term "Reb Moshe" brings to mind amazing clarity in *halachah*; it invokes the tremendous *mesirus nefesh* that he had for Torah. The name "Reb Moshe" brings to mind total devotion to the truth and the special *siyatta diShmaya* that he merited in its wake.

However, that phrase also emphasized long forays into Reb Moshe's *sefarim* — *Igros Moshe* and *Dibros Moshe* — which has usually been the exclusive domain of *Rabbanim* and *talmidei chachamim*, due to the length of every *siman* and the span of information it contains.

Until now. Which is why I jumped at the opportunity to review the new *sefer*, *Shmaatsa D'Moshe*, which purported to address those very issues mentioned. And I was pleased to discover that the *sefer* does indeed bring Reb Moshe's vast tomes to the level of every individual.

If someone *davens* in a shul whose *kehillah* has a different *havarah*, is he allowed to hear *Parashas Zachor* there? Is there an obligation to be *maavir sedra* on *Parashas Zachor*? Reb Moshe discusses these and many more questions in detail. *Shmaatsa D'Moshe* takes out the give-and-take and presents the reader with the clear *psak*. (For the record, the answers are yes and no, respectively.)

Arranged according to the *Shulchan Aruch*, with the *Mechaber* and *Rama* on top and *Shmaatsa D'Moshe* under-



Sefer Shmaatsa D'Moshe: Psakim of Reb Moshe Now for Everyone

A comprehensive digest of *halachic psakim* of Harav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l*, based on the *Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim*, *siman* 530-697

By Machon Asukei Shmaatsa

543 pgs

neath it, the *halachos* are culled from all eight volumes of *Igros Moshe* and the multi-volume *Dibros Moshe*. At the end is a compilation of *halachos* collected from people who heard *psakim* directly from Reb Moshe, called *Shmuos Moshe*.

Harav Dovid Feinstein, *shlita*, son of Reb Moshe, was very happy and encouraging about this work, as indicated in the foreword: "Reb Dovid encouraged us greatly [in our work] that it is a good thing. He maintains that this [*sefer*] would add to those studying Reb Moshe's works."

Reb Dovid elucidated many of his father's halachic decisions and added his own appendices at the end of the

sefer. Harav Nosson Tzvi Finkel, *shlita*, Rosh Yeshivas Mir in Yerushalayim, gave a *haskamah* on the *sefer*, although it doesn't yet appear in it.

The *sefer*, of which a third printing is already being prepared, is on the complicated laws of Chol Hamoed, *taanis*, Tishah B'Av and all the *Yamim Tovim* in the months of Tishrei through Adar. In *Shulchan Aruch*, it corresponds to *simanim* 530-697.

An added benefit of the *sefer* — one which Reb Dovid Feinstein was especially pleased about — is the inclusion of *Mekor Halachah*, an on-the-page review of the reason why Reb Moshe *psaken* as he did. Whenever possible, Reb Moshe's own language was used. It was not always feasible to have this — not always did Reb Moshe explain his reasoning — so the authors attempted to reconstruct an explanation based on what other *Poskim* are saying.

On the bottom of the page is a section titled *Hagaos V'Ha'aros*, a synopsis of other *Acharonim* on the *sugya*. The *Avnei Nezer*, *Chasam Sofer* and others — including such classics as the *Mishnah Berurah* and *Kaf Hachaim* — are cited for reference.

Shmaatsa D'Moshe offers a *Shulchan Aruch*-style compilation of Reb Moshe's *psakim* on every *siman* in *Shulchan Aruch*, with a more in-depth explanation on the bottom for those who choose to delve further into the *sugya*.

Shmaatsa D'Moshe is an excellent *sefer* for anyone who wants to easily retain Reb Moshe's *psakim* on the above *halachos*. Buy it for your husband, *shver*, *eidem* or yourself. It will be treasured for a long time to come.

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life.

Mr. Envoy Rickman, who was appointed by President Bush as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, is highly regarded for his strong and passionate leadership of this mission, and will be delivering the keynote address.

Warren Miller, chairman of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, will be receiving the National Leadership Award in recognition of the Commission's commitment to the protection of cemeteries abroad, an issue of utmost concern to the Jewish community.

UJO will also be honoring Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm Smith; Edwin Mendez-Santiago, N.Y.C. Commissioner for the Department of the Aging; David M. Pollock, associ-

ate executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York; and Shromim Public Safety Patrol.

Waste Management will be presented with the Community Service Award for their commitment to the Williamsburg community. Greetings will be delivered by Tom Early, CEO of Health Plus. William Rapfogel, CEO of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, will serve as breakfast hairman.

The Legislative Breakfast is being sponsored by Health Plus, an innovative not-for-profit healthcare plan committed to quality healthcare and dedicated to the health and well-being of our culturally diverse communities. Other sponsors include The Lichtenstein-Kozlik Group — Development and Construction, Yeled v'Yalda and Con Edison.

The UJO was established in 1966 to serve as an umbrella organization, to provide and coordinate a vast range of

social, educational, health and housing services for the rapidly growing chassidic community of Greater Williamsburg. Since its establishment 40 years ago, and throughout the last 17 years with Rabbi David Niederman at the helm, UJO has earned the respect of both the residents of Williamsburg and its elected officials, for representing the community on quality of life issues.

The UJO works closely with nearly 150 organizations and civic associations, connecting those they represent with the information and services that these institutions provide, such as health insurance, career training, crisis care, legal assistance, Head Start programs and numerous other vital programs. The UJO also formulates a consensus on policy matters pertaining to neighborhood concerns.

For more information, please contact the event's coordinators, The Friedlander Group, at 718-436-5555 or via email at Info@Friedlandergrouppr.com.

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