

Wallenberg Congressional Luncheon to Celebrate Heroes of Past and Present

Members of the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Commission have much to be excited about. After tirelessly lobbying Congress, the RWCCC obtained two-thirds of the Senate for co-sponsorship of the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act. The bill awards Raoul Wallenberg the highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal, for risking his life to save 100,000 Jews during the waning days of the Holocaust.

In honor of the momentous occasion, the RWCCC will be hosting, on July 11, 2012, a Congressional Celebratory Luncheon on Capitol Hill. The luncheon will feature prominent senators including: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who introduced the legislation, Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA-Jr.), Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT-Sr.), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR-Sr.), Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI-Sr.), Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-08) and other members of Congress, who will pay tribute to the heroic efforts of Wallenberg.

The event will remind future generations how important it is to look beyond ourselves and help other people, even at great risk.

The program will highlight Project Witness — an organizational partner of the Wallenberg Commission — for its groundbreaking educational resource center, its trailblazing and innovative programming geared toward the young generation, as well as its acclaimed textbook, *Witness to History*. A special presentation by Ms. Matty Lichtenstein, executive editor of *Witness to History*, will express the sentiments of the community to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, in grateful recognition of her role in the passage of the legislation to award Raoul Wallenberg with the Gold Medal. The Luncheon will be chaired by Andrew Friedman, Esq. who serves as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners.

A special award will be presented to the following individuals from the RWCCC Board of Governors for their unwavering support of the Raoul Wallenberg Commission. Stanley Black is the co-founder of KB Management and a philanthropist. The charitable William Nussen is the President of Designs by FMC. Ken Abramowitz is co-founder and Managing General Partner of NGN Capital. He campaigns for Israel in the hostile global environment. NYC Real Estate executive Peter Rebernwurzel's father-in-law was rescued by Wallenberg. His father provided canned goods to the Budapest Ghetto. Abe Biderman is Managing Director of Eagle Advisers, Inc. and chairs Shuvu/Return, a network of schools in Israel for Russian immigrants. Leon Goldenberg, the son of Holocaust survivors,

educates the public about the heroism of Wallenberg. Sidney Greenberger is CEO of AristaCare and a strong supporter of legislation relating to Wallenberg. Stanley Treitel, a leader in the Los Angeles community, has advised numerous elected officials on the U.S. and Israel relationship. The Turkish invest banker Erol User is a human-rights advocate. Healthplus Amerigroup and Flushing Bank will also be recognized for their corporate sponsorship of the RWCCC.

The luncheon, coordinated by The Friedlander Group, will be honoring Andrew E. Stevens, Emil Fish and Dr. David Moskovits. Andrew E. Stevens, originally from Budapest, survived the Holocaust by using forged documents. Refusing to hide quietly, Stevens risked his life to forge and distribute false documents to other Hungarians whose lives were in danger, some of which were used by Raoul Wallenberg. Stevens detailed his survival and participation in the underground resistance movement in his book, *Rebel with a Cause*, published by Allied Artists.

Emil Fish, also a Holocaust survivor, spent the war in the concentration camp, Bergen-Belsen. Sixty years after being liberated, Fish returned to his hometown, Bardejov, Slovakia, in June 2005. After seeing the disrepair and poor conditions of the Jewish cemetery and synagogue, he founded the non-profit organization, Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee. The organization restores Jewish properties of Bardejov and advances knowledge of Jewish ancestry and heritage. On Dec. 23, 2009, he was appointed to the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad by President Obama.

The third honoree, Dr. David Moskovits, is President of the Endowment for Democracy in Eastern Europe. He has also established the American Endowment School, the first foreign national Jewish school in Hungary. President Reagan described Dr. Moskovits as a "true champion for democracy and humanitarian causes in East-Central Europe."

The RWCCC will be marking the 60th anniversary of the historic agreement between Germany and The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The organization persuaded West Germany to pay restitution to Jewish victims of Nazism. The luncheon will pay tribute to its leaders who continue to press Germany to meet its moral obligation to survivors.

A major announcement will be made at the Luncheon regarding the legislation awarding Raoul Wallenberg with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi *Bachurim* Visit East Coast

Bachurim graduating the eighth grade at Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi recently enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the East Coast. The three-day whirlwind adventure combined *ruchniyus* and *gashmiyus*, and presented one last opportunity for the boys to strengthen their *keshet* with their *rebbeim* and friends before moving on to yeshivos across the United States.

Rabbi Chaim Mordecai Turin, the eighth-grade *rebbe*, explained that the *bachurim* experienced *hisorerus* and *chizuk* when they saw others pursuing the same path. The Novominsker Rebbe, *shlita*, said to the boys, "Although we are spread apart, we are really all united; we are all learning the same Torah!"

The trip began with a *vasikin minyan* on Sunday morning, followed by three days packed with East Coast *Yiddishkeit*. The itinerary took the boys through New York, Lakewood, and Williamsburg, and included stops at the Satmar *beis medrash*, the Living Torah Museum and Hatzolah of Boro Park. The boys heard *divrei chizuk* from leading *marbitzei Torah*, *shlita*, including the Novominsker Rebbe, Harav Mattisyahu Salomon, Harav Malkiel Kotler, Harav Avrohom Schorr, Harav Yisroel Reisman, Harav Simcha Bunim Cohen and Harav Zev Smith.

They also took a trip on the Staten Island Ferry and visited the Statue of Liberty. Then they joined *bachurim* from several yeshivos in New York and New Jersey for a fun-filled afternoon at Blackbeard's Cave. Exhausted but enriched, the boys *davened Maariv* in the terminal upon their return on Tuesday evening.

With great *siyatta diShmaya*, under the supervision of *rebbeim* Rabbi Chaim Mordechai Turin and Rabbi Yossi Lowinger, all went smoothly.

Benzion Bider, who will be attending Telshe Chicago, commented, "I especially enjoyed



Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi *bachurim* at Bais Medrash Govoha, Lakewood, NJ.



Harav Mattisyahu Salomon greeting Chaim Y. Neuman and other *bachurim*.



The Novominsker Rebbe with some *bachurim*. To the right is Rabbi Chaim Mordecai Turin, YTT *rebbe*.

visiting the Lakewood Yeshiva. Seeing thousands of *bnei Torah* learning was amazing!"

The boys created a *kiddush Hashem* on the trip. A number of them reviewed the entire *perek of Gemara* they had learned dur-

ing the year. At one point, a flight attendant remarked to Rabbi Lowinger how amazed she was to see teenagers like this growing up in today's world.

May the boys go *mei'chayil el chayil* in their lives.

Shivah Asar B'Tammuz Program of Inspiration

Torah Connections, a Flatbush-based group, will offer a series of three *chizuk* lectures to the public on the fast day of Shivah Asar B'Tammuz, Sunday, July 8, at Yeshiva of Brooklyn (boys' division), 1200 Ocean Parkway (corner of Avenue L). For those outside Brooklyn, the Torah Connections program will be available on live video outlets through the Jewish Teleconferencing Network.

The theme of this year's program is "Finding Meaning in the Three Weeks." It will begin

with *Minchah* at 5:30 p.m. and will include inspirational talks by Harav Shmuel Dishon, *menahel* of Yad Yisroel-Karlin Stolin; Harav Eliyahu Brudny, *Rosh Mesivta* of the Mirrer Yeshiva of Flatbush; and Harav Fischel Schachter, a *maggid shiur* at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath. The program will conclude with *Maariv*.

Admission to the program is \$10 per person or \$30 per family.

Torah Connections will also offer its major Tishah B'Av program of inspiring lectures at

Ateres Chynka on Motzoei Shabbos and Sunday, July 28-29.

These summer programs of *chizuk* for the Three Weeks of mourning have taken place in Flatbush for more than a quarter of a century and have attracted thousands of men and women from all segments of *Klal Yisrael* and all parts of the metropolitan area.

For more information and to learn about sponsorship opportunities, please call (718) 998-5822 or email TorahConnections@yahoo.com.