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## Agudah's Pre-Election Breakfast Hosts Political And Community VIPs

On Monday, November 4, key government figures will break bread and break ground with community movers and shakers at the Agudath Israel of America's special pre-election legislative breakfast.

Agudath Israel of America sponsors a broad range of projects in the fields of religion, education, children's welfare and social action affecting the lives of young and old throughout the Americas and overseas.

Purposely scheduled to dovetail with Tuesday's local and citywide elections, this timely event presents a unique and valuable opportunity for informed and involved Jewish community members to hear from noted political figures on highly relevant matters of concern to the Jewish community both locally and abroad.

Prominent litigation attorney, Joseph Zelmanovitz, a partner in Stahl and Zelmanovitz, will serve as chairman of the event. The featured speeches will include former CIA Director James Woolsey, whose keynote address will cover security issues in the Middle East and the role of democracies; New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who will share his insights on religious rights and economic justice; and Benjamin M. Lawskey, New York State superin-

tendent of financial services, who is slated to speak about New York banking laws and the enforcement of Iran sanctions.

The breakfast, hosted by Agudath Israel, is being coordinated by The Friedlander Group, whose CEO, Ezra Friedlander, said he views the organization's ongoing working relationships with political leaders as pivotal to its mission.

The event is being sponsored by Flushing Bank and Pomegranate, long recognized for their involvement within the Jewish community, as well as a wide range of prestigious, dynamic, and community oriented business groups.

The significance of the legislative breakfast is summed up by Rabbi David Zwiebel, executive vice president of Agudath Israel: "Our annual pre-election legislative breakfast gathering serves as an impressive demonstration of the high level of involvement of the Orthodox community and creates a timely and vital reminder that the Orthodox Jewish community cares deeply about where our government leaders stand on the issues of the day."

For more information, contact Ezra Friedlander at [ezra@thefriedlandergroup.com](mailto:ezra@thefriedlandergroup.com) or at 212-233-5555, x101



### "Sneak Peeks" From ArtScroll's "Menorah-ful" of Chanukah Titles:

#### Rabbi Twerski's Messages from the Mishnah

Here in Eretz Yisrael, where this column is being written, the sun is beaming down, the temperature is in the high seventies — and in the ArtScroll office, Chanukah's wintry excitement is in the air. We're busy preparing eight spectacular books — a "menorah-ful" of titles designed for every interest and age.

Books make fantastic and welcome gifts. In the next few weeks we'll be giving you sneak peeks at the books you'll love to give — and get — for Chanukah.

a wealth of varied Torah sources to examine the Mishnah, finding messages that are startlingly relevant to our personal lives as well as to today's issues and challenges. The halachos of the *Shema* can teach us how to avoid the dark side of technology; the laws of charity show us how to interact with others. Rabbi Twerski, in addition to his many other accomplishments, is a marvelous storyteller, and his tales of Chassidic masters enliven the book.

The roots of *Messages from the Mishnah* go back decades.

### The books you'll love to give — and get — for Chanukah.

Speaking of books you're going to love ... let's begin with one of our most beloved authors, **Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, M.D.** Rabbi Twerski is the scion of a great Chassidic dynasty, a psychiatrist who has spent a lifetime delving into the secrets of the human psyche, and, of course, one of the Torah world's bestselling authors. In his newest book, *Messages from the Mishnah* — his 40th (!) book published with ArtScroll — Rabbi Twerski brings his unique perspective, incisive intellect, and warm understanding of human nature to the timeless words of Mishnah.

In this beautifully designed, large-format coffee table book, the companion volume to **Twerski on Chumash**, Rabbi Twerski draws upon

As Rabbi Twerski remembers: "Back in 1945, I met Rabbi Yehuda Leib Ginsburg. [Rabbi Ginsburg was a Rav in Denver, a member of the Vaad Hatzalah, and an author of many important *sefarim*.] I was impressed by the man and his prolific writings. One of his projects was to show the *mussar* in the early prophets and in the Mishnah.

"Of course, *Pirkei Avos* is all *mussar*. But Rabbi Ginsburg showed that many of the 'purely halachic' mishnahs also contained *mussar* principles. That idea incubated from 1945 to the present, and led to my analyzing 'halachic' mishnahs for their *mussar* content.

"I hope this book will stimulate people to look for *mussar* insights in halachah."

## New Hospitality Apartment Near Presbyterian Hospital

When a patient is admitted into a hospital, a family is often thrown into disarray and their lives are interrupted with surgeries, procedures, medical jargon and constant unrest. Having a loved one at the patient's bedside not only affords the patient comfort, it also gives the family access to the latest medical updates.

The problem is that sleeping accommodations are either uncomfortable or non-existent. It is not always possible for a family member to sleep in the patient's hospital room for a night or two. For individuals and families who are not from the New York tri-state area, this issue is exacerbated as they really do not have a place to call their home. To help alleviate the problem, Chesed 24/7 has just opened the Chesed 24/7 Columbia hospitality apartment located minutes from NY Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center.

Sponsored by the Ziskind family, in memory of their grandparents Alexander and Chaya Ziskind, the renovated apartment provides luxurious accommodations that help make an otherwise stressful situation a little easier. The tastefully decorated apartment accommodates six guests, containing two bedrooms, a living room/dining room, a full kitchen and a full bathroom. Meticulously cleaned daily, the apartment includes many other amenities such as food, a Shabbos hot plate and urn, reading materials, toys and toiletries.

Everything is provided free of charge so that the families have little to worry about and can focus their attention and energies on their loved one. Located two blocks from the hospital, the apartment can be used year round, including *Shabbos* and *yom tov*.

Chesed 24/7 held a heartwarming *chanukas habayis* with the extended Ziskind family and the Chesed 24/7 board members in attendance. The event was graced by the presence of Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky and Rav Aron Mendel Twersky, eldest son of the Skvere Rebbe.

In his emotional address, Rabbi Kamenetsky pointed out the great benefits this apartment will have to *cholim* and their families and the *chesed* this apartment embodies. He spoke about the *zechuiyos* the Ziskind family are accruing and the *achdus* of their grandchildren in undertaking this project as a *zechus* for their grandparents.

The event culminated with Rabbis Kamenetsky and Twersky affixing *mezzuzos* to the apartment, with words of praise and thanks to Chesed 24/7 and their volunteers for their work throughout the year, with additional *brochos* that the apartment should only be used for good.

For more information on the apartment, contact 845-354-3233 x1123.

To sponsor an apartment at other hospitals, call 848-299-6284.