



DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN
Executive Director, OU Israel

“Rabbi Berman, I don’t know how else to say it. I’m jealous of my kids. They get to learn Torah for hours every day but for me that’s simply not the case. Between minyan, breakfast prep, carpool, work, running home in time for homework, dinner and bedtime with the kids, then finally using the quiet night hours to prepare for the coming day, I simply do not have time to learn. But we’re heading into the Yamim Noraim and I’m feeling anxious. How can I find time to learn?”

Each year I look forward to participating in *Avot u’Banim* programming with my kids, whether it is organized by our shul or my children’s schools. I find it particularly meaningful when participating in events leading up to *Yamim Noraim* for two reasons. First, I am delighted by the opportunity to learn with each child individually for a few hours and attend the various *shiurim* their teachers have prepared. Second, and perhaps more relevant to the majority of Torah Tidbits readers, in the weeks leading up to the *Yamim Noraim* I feel an added sense of urgency to dedicate more time to learning and connecting with Hashem each day.

Of course, for those who are fortunate to

learn every day in programs such as *Daf Yomi*, which just reached 100 years since its founding, there is tremendous merit in learning every day. However, I’ve come to appreciate that the pace of life can interfere with daily learning and have tried to come up with creative ways to bring Torah learning to the masses. Five years ago OU

Israel launched Torah Yerushalayim and held the event at the Ramada Jerusalem Hotel in the weeks leading up to the *Yamim Noraim*.

Past speakers included Rabbanit Shani Taragin, Rabbi Shalom Rosner, Rav Judah Mischel, Mrs. Raphaella Tabak, Charlie Harary, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rebbitzein Tziporah Gottlieb (Heller), Sivan Rahav Meir, Rebbitzen

Shira Smiles, and countless others who shared their words of Torah with those gathered. From its first year running, Torah Yerushalayim was a success. At last year’s event, following two years of virtual events during Covid, 2,200 participants joined us in person to share in the experience.

With the growing crowds, we recognized the importance of dedicating a set day in which people can come from around the

country to learn Torah together leading up to *Rosh HaShana*. We also appreciated those who traveled from far to join events in previous years and decided to make the event more accessible to people around the country. I am therefore thrilled to share that this year we are launching a new format and bringing Torah Yerushalayim on the road! This year's event will include some additional changes which I hope prove meaningful:

TORAH YERUSHALAYIM

Torah Yerushalayim is being moved from the Ramada Jerusalem Hotel to Beit Knesset Nitzanim, led by Rav Shai Finkelstein, in Baka. Partnering with the Nitzanim community has already been a wonderful experience, and I look forward to joining locals and travelers during the event which will take place on Tuesday, September 12 from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Thank you to OU Israel President Stuart Hershkowitz for all of his efforts on this program.

TORAH MODIIN

For participants who prefer an evening event, we worked together with our esteemed OU Israel board members Daniella Hellerstein and Jeremy Lustman to launch Torah Modiin. The event will be held at Kehilat Shaarei Yonah Menachem (KYSM), led by Rav Shlomo Sobol, on Wednesday, September 20 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM.

Shiurim in both locations feature a mix of dynamic speakers. I am hopeful that this year's programming will provide an opportunity for those looking to dedicate a few hours toward Torah learning in the weeks leading up to *Rosh HaShana* and will find

the experience motivational. I encourage you all to mark off your calendars and enjoy the thoughtful programming that has been created, which will soon be made available.

To recount the efforts that went into creating Torah Yerushalayim and Torah Modiin would be nearly impossible. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of OU Israel staff members, as well as the Nitzanim and KYSM community representatives, who have worked tirelessly to create stimulating programming. Moreover, I am proud to share that the OU Israel team has dedicated itself to adding a new community to partner with every year going forward!

These events would not be possible without the support of the Fund family who dedicate this annual program in loving memory of their beloved parents David & Norma Fund z"l. The Fund families dedicate themselves to building Torah and Jewish life in Israel and around the world. I had the great *zechut* to have known both David and Norma and remain inspired by their efforts to create *kashrut* in the United States as well as Torah infrastructures to ensure the continuity of *yiddishkeit*. Please visit www.ouisrael.org/elultishrei to see the full Torah Yerushalayim and

לעילוי נשמת

In loving memory of

פרידה בת ישראל דוד ושיינדל אסתר ע"ה

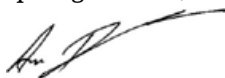
FRIEDA SCHORER a"h

כיג אלול, on her 6th yahrzeit,

*Schorer, Shames, Apelbaum,
Finkelman families*

Torah Modiin schedules and to register. I will be at both events and am eager to see you all there. In the meantime, I wish you all a meaningful *selichot* experience which begins this coming *motzei* Shabbat. As we focus our efforts in the coming days to refine ourselves and recommit ourselves to Torah and *avodat HaShem*, I hope the events we have planned will serve as meaningful catalysts as we strive to reach new heights in the coming year together.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



Rabbi Avi Berman
Executive Director, OU Israel
aberman@ouisrael.org

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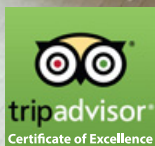
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