

Pittsburgher Rebbe to Spend Two Weeks in LA

RABBI ARYE D. GORDON

The Pittsburgher Rebbe, Harav Mordechai Yissachar Ber Leifer, *shlita*, returned to Los Angeles on May 1, for his annual visit. The Rebbe schedules his yearly trip of two weeks to be in LA for Lag BaOmer.

While the Lag BaOmer celebration around the world is accompanied by great fanfare, the Los Angeles community looks forward to joining in the *simchah* with the honor of having the Pittsburgher Rebbe lead the *olam* in joyous dancing and singing, following the *hadlakah* of the Lag BaOmer bonfire at the Los Angeles Cheder.

The history of the Pittsburgh chassidic dynasty is an interesting one.

In 1924, Harav Yosef Leifer, *zy"ta*, a descendant of Harav Mordechai of Nadvorna, came to the United States and settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he founded the Pittsburgh chassidic dynasty. He served as Rebbe until his death in 1966 at which point



Arye D. Gordon

The Pittsburgher Rebbe with host David Goldstein and the Rebbe's assistants, Reb Binyamin Peterman and Reb Shmuel Einfeld, following *Havdalah*.

his son, Reb Avraham Abba, *zy"ta*, succeeded him. While this group continued to grow in America, around 1970, they decided to relocate to Ashdod in Eretz Yisrael.

When Reb Avraham Abba Leifer was *niftar* in 1990, the present Rebbe, Harav Mordechai Yis-

sachar Ber Leifer, followed in his father's footsteps and supervised the growth of his community. Today the Rebbe, whose base is in Ashdod, has seen his Chassidim spread out to Yerushalayim, Bnei Brak, Beit Hilkia, New York, and California. The Rebbe has devel-

oped Torah institutions which he runs and supports. The Rebbe, who speaks Hebrew and Yiddish, is fluent in English as well.

The Rebbe, who is being hosted in Los Angeles by Mr. and Mrs. Rafi Katz and Mr. and Mrs. David Goldstein, spent *Shabbos Parashas Acharai Mos-Kedoshim* in the Los Angeles/Hancock Park community. The Rebbe *davened Kabbalas Shabbos* at the Kollel Yechiel Yehuda and held a *tisch* at 9:45 p.m. at the *kollel*.

On Shabbos morning the Rebbe *davened* at Shaare Tefilah and was the *baal tefillah* for *Shacharis*. The Rebbe's *nusach* and *tefillos* were *meorer* the *olam* and added much *hislahavus* to everyone's *davening*. Following *Krias haTorah*, the Rebbe shared *divrei Torah* on the *parashah*.

The Rebbe *davened Minchah*, ate *shalosh seudos* and *davened Maariv* at the Young Israel of Hancock Park.

The Rebbe will be in LA until May 13 and will be available for private consultation. To arrange a meeting, call 347-989-6821.

Los Angeles Reception for UK Chief Rabbi Mirvis

RABBI ARYE D. GORDON

Congregation Beth Jacob of Beverly Hills was honored by the presence of Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, who was invited as the Scholar-in-Residence, *Shabbos Parashas Achrei Mos-Kedoshim*, May 1-2.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis is the 11th Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. Chief Rabbi Mirvis was installed 2013 in a historic ceremony attended by the Prince of Wales. This was the first time that a member of the royal family attended a service for the installation of a Chief Rabbi. Chief Rabbi Mirvis succeeded Lord Jonathan Sacks.

Rabbi Mirvis was the Chief Rabbi of Ireland (1984-92), a position previously held by Lord Jakobovits, and Rabbi of the Western Marble Arch Synagogue in London (1992-96), a position previously held by Lord



Arye D. Gordon

R-L: Chief Rabbi Mirvis being introduced by Rabbi Kalman Topp and host Dr. Shlomo Melmed at the Los Angeles reception in his honor.

Johnathan Sacks. Chief Rabbi Mirvis was appointed Senior Rabbi at Finchley United Synagogue in 1996, a position which he held until becoming Chief Rabbi in 2013.

Rabbi Mirvis delivered the Shab-

bos morning *drashah* and spoke again at a Shabbos luncheon, on the topic, "Strategies for Keeping Our Faith in the Modern World." Later in the afternoon Rabbi Mirvis delivered a keynote address, "*Frum Jews*

Are Not the Only Ones Who Count."

The weekend began Thursday evening, April 30, with a reception in his honor hosted by Dr. Shlomo and Mrs. Ilana Meled in their home. A select group of Beth Jacob members, mostly those who hail from South Africa and known to Rabbi Mirvis, were in attendance.

After greeting the guests, Rabbi Mirvis spoke about the qualities necessary to being a leader. A very interesting part of the evening was Rabbi Mirvis's response to the audience regarding the situation of the Jews in England, the upcoming elections and anti-Semitism in his country.

Another question of interest that was asked was, "Who do you go to for advice?" In a clear and direct response, the good Rabbi replied, "To my wife."

This first visit of the Chief Rabbi to Los Angeles was a success all around.

Introducing:
New staff of high-end designers
creating unique arrangements.

Guaranteed freshness,
timely deliveries direct
from our warehouse.

שבת סבת קודש

FOR EVERY OCCASION!

New Service:
An upgraded array of floral
arrangements for your שבת שמחות.

It's a Boy / Girl!

Get Well!

Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

שבת כלה

באוורפן

קדושים

בר מצוה

מזל טוב

718.697.7813

Now delivering to Williamsburg and Boro Park