

22 Sivan, 5778

**Rabbi Yosie Levine
The Jewish Center,
131 W 86 th St., New York, NY**

Dear Rabbi Levine,

It is our honor and pleasure to send you and the entire Jewish Center family our best wishes of Mazal and Bracha on the occasion of your Centennial celebration. We look to Shuls like the Jewish Center who stand for the highest ideals and values of Orthodoxy in America today. Your Shul is truly a beacon of light to the Orthodox world in New York and beyond.

The great success of the Jewish Center has, in so many ways, reflected the extraordinary accomplishments of its stellar rabbinic leadership. Great congregations have great Rabbis, and the leadership and scholarship that has come from the Jewish Center's rabbinate has inspired and enriched the community far beyond 86th street. It is therefore especially auspicious that the Jewish Center's Centennial highlights the contributions of your Rabbis, Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung zt"l, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Dr. Isaac Bernstein zt"l, Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman and your own.

From the earliest days under Rabbi Leo Jung zt"l, there has been a special connection between the OU and the Jewish Center, with Rabbi Jung serving in the early leadership of the Union during his time at the helm of the Jewish Center. It was during those years that he cemented a hashkafic foundation of Orthodox Judaism as rooted in halachic observance and "Torah True". The impact he had on the Jewish world has not diminished in the years since he passed the baton of the Jewish Center's leadership to Rabbi Lamm.

Rabbi Lamm is one of the living legends of our Orthodox world. From his pulpit at the Jewish Center, he was a fountain of wisdom that served as a moral and hashkafic compass for American Jewry. In a sermon at the Jewish Center in 1960, Rabbi Lamm coined the phrase "Kindler and a Carrier of Jewish Light", an appellation that is certainly fitting to a Torah figure of his stature. We wish him continued strength and good health.

The next steward of this great shul was Rabbi Isaac Bernstein zt"l. Also a master orator, Rabbi Bernstein enthralled audiences with his insightful analysis and genuine personality. He was known as a person who made the Torah come alive and is sorely missed both by his congregants in Manhattan and in the United Kingdom.

Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter followed Rabbi Bernstein and is known to the Jewish world as the Rabbi's Rabbi – a true master of the craft of rabbinic leadership. Rabbi Schacter inspired not only members of the Jewish Center, but his influence is felt by lay and professional leaders the world over. Rabbi Schacter brought true Kavod to the congregation and further cemented the Jewish Center's place as a flagship of the American Orthodox scene.

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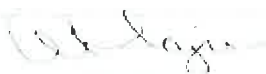
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Following Rabbi Schacter's tenure, Rabbi Ari Berman took the mantle of leadership of the Jewish Center and built upon the strong foundation of his predecessors. During his tenure, the congregation continued to thrive and was infused with a new life of programming, scholarship and community advocacy. With his aliya, Rabbi Berman lived true to the Zionist ideals that are part of the fabric of the Jewish Center's ethos, and we welcome him back stateside as he takes on the mantle of the leadership of Yeshiva University.

Today, the Jewish Center is led by you, Rabbi Levine, and it is clear that the Congregation has gone *ליחמם ח לא לי*. Under your leadership, The Jewish Center remains the standard bearer for high level Jewish learning, innovative programming, and advocacy for the highest values that are the bedrock of our community. We wish you a special measure of Bracha as you guide this shul into its next century. May you and the shul see only continued Hatzlacha, and we are proud to be a part of a community led by shuls like the Jewish Center and Rabbanim like you.

You so much to be proud of and we feel blessed to stand by your side L'hagdil Torah UI'haadira.

With best wishes,



Allen Fagin
Executive Vice President, Orthodox Union



Moishe Bane
President, Orthodox Union

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