

# DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



**Rabbi Avi Berman**  
Executive Director,  
OU Israel

One of the major advantages of having our administrative offices in the same building as the OU Israel Center is seeing the thousands of people who participate in our shiurim and programming on a daily basis. I miss running into everyone and having the opportunity to check in and share what's going on with each other's lives. While we try to keep in touch over the phone and zoom, it's not the same. It is for this reason – to keep the warm connection with the OU Israel family – that I decided to share some personal thoughts. I and the rest of the OU Israel staff would love to hear from you as well. Please feel comfortable reaching out via phone and email. We miss you.

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Saba? Zayde? Grandpa? This year I had the tremendous zechut and exciting opportunity to choose which of these titles I wanted to be called when I was blessed with becoming a grandfather for the first time. I spent a long time thinking about which name sounds better. How will my grandchildren view me? Which name is cooler?

The first ten days of Elul are always more meaningful to me than the rest of the month. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of Elul is the yahrtzeit of Rav Avaham Yitzchak HaCohen Kook zt"l.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of Elul is my zayde's yahrtzeit (my father's father) and the 10<sup>th</sup> of Elul is my grandpa's yahrtzeit (my mother's father).

Beyond everything else, both my grandfather and my zayde taught me the importance of religion, commitment, and dedication to Torah and davening, especially when it wasn't always easy to do these things. They were trailblazers, starting minyanim where there were no minyanim and being the first to arrive for davening. "B'makom she'en ish, hishtadel l'hiyot ish" (in a place where there is no man, strive to be a man). The message from both of them was always make sure to do what's right and not what's popular.

My grandparents were always there to give me advice and share stories; even when I didn't ask them for advice they somehow knew what I needed to hear. "Sha'al avicha v'yagedcha ziknecha vyomru lach" (Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders will say it to you). Our sages teach that you need to ask your father, but your grandfathers will tell you what you need to know, whether you ask and whether you are physically together or not.

So, returning to my original question, I chose to go by zayde. I knew that if I did not choose this title this traditional name would probably be lost from our family, and I wanted to keep this part of our tradition. To me, the Yiddish version connects the

past to the present; the older world of my grandparents and great-grandparents to me and my precious grandson here in Israel. I feel blessed to wake up every day in Israel, teaching my children how special it is to be here and contributing to Israeli society in our own individual ways. At the same time, I recognize it would be a crime not to incorporate the dedication, traditions and work ethic from the generations that preceded us. It is my prayer that by being a Zayde to my grandson and, B'ezrat Hashem, future grandchildren and progeny I will be able to link them to a legacy which is strong and rich with Torah and meaning.



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## The OU Israel mourns the loss of

# HaGaon HaRav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg zt"l

One of the great Talmidei Chachamim and poskim of our generation. HaGaon HaRav was a Chief Justice of the Rabbinical High Court in Jerusalem and the chief editor of the Talmudic Encyclopedia. He was the Rosh Kollel of Kollel Shevet U'mechokek, Rosh Yeshiva of the Beit Hamidrash in Machon Lev and of Yeshivat Da'at Torah (Sadigura). Over the years Rav Goldberg delivered tens of thousands of Shiurim and educated thousands of Talmidim worldwide.



OU Israel was honored to host the eminent Rav Goldberg at the 'Torah Yerushalayim' gathering a year ago, one of his last public appearances. At that event he served as one of the three gedolim to sign the certificates for the Semichat Chaver Program.

*HaGaon HaRav Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg zt'l together with HaGaon HaRav Rav Shlomo Amar shlita, at the Siyum for OU Semichat Chaver Program from last year's OU Israel Torah Yerushalayim gathering*

**ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.**