



אגודת ישראל באמריקה  
AGUDATH ISRAEL  
OF AMERICA

97

# NATIONAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 1, 2019  
ל' חשוון - ג' כסלו תש"פ

## PROGRAM - DRAFT

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GROWTH AS A KLAL,  
LET US ALSO REFLECT ON THE INDIVIDUAL STORIES  
THAT MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE.



YOURS. THEIRS. OURS.

Ronnie Wilhelm  
Ezra Zaafarani  
CONVENTION CHAIRMEN

  
CROWNE PLAZA<sup>®</sup>  
HOTELS & RESORTS  
STAMFORD



## CONVENTION SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 4:00 PM **Check In and Registration**  
FRONT DESK

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- 4:00 PM **Tea Room / Hospitality Center Opens**  
GAZEBO LOUNGE & CAFE TERRACE

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- 4:00 PM **Mincha**  
NATHAN HALE, ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)

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- 5:00 PM **Dinner**  
VARIOUS DINING ROOMS: STATE, CROWNE, CAFE, GAZEBO, JP MORGAN (RABBANIM)

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- 5:15 PM **Maariv**  
ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)

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- 5:30 AM **Pirchei and Bnos Meetings**  
FISKE (2ND FLOOR)

### PAI AND BAI LEADERS

Rabbi Sholom Kamenetsky  
*Rosh Yeshiva, Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia*

## THURSDAY EVENING

6:00 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

### **LEADERSHIP LOUNGE: SUCCESSFULLY WALKING THE TIGHTROPE BETWEEN LIFE, WORK AND FAMILY**

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM WEST

**Rabbi Zvi Soroka**

*Rebbe, Yeshiva Darchei Torah*

**Howard Tzvi Friedman**

*Chairman of the Board, Bais Medrash Govoha*

**Naftali Miller**

*National Director of Development, Agudath Israel of America*

MODERATOR

**Elchanan Schwarz LMHC**

*Director of Crisis Intervention, BINAH*

### **AGING PARENTS: IMPORTANT ISSUES PARENTS AND CHILDREN MUST KNOW**

HARTFORD

HOW FAR KIBUD AV A'EIM GOES

**Rabbi Yisroel Mantel**

*Morah D'Asrah, Khal Adas Yeshurun*

AVOIDING YERUSHA MACHLOKES

**Rabbi Ari Marburger**

*Director, Business Halacha Institute*

CHAIRMEN

**Rabbi Gedaliah Weinberger, Rivie**

**Schwebel**

MODERATORS

**Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, Rabbi Eliezer**

**Gewirtzman**

7:00 PM **Agudah Live**  
CAFE TERRACE



### **AGUDAH LIVE: INTERVIEWS, RECAP AND MORE FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER**

HOSTS

**Rabbi Avi Schnall**

*Director, Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office*

**Rabbi Shai Markowitz**

*Director, Lefkowitz Leadership Initiative, Agudath Israel of America*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 6:00 PM

## THURSDAY NIGHT

7:15 PM **Maariv**  
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM EAST

7:30 PM **KEYNOTE SESSION**

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM (EAST AND CENTRAL)

### **STORIES: WRITING YOUR NEXT CHAPTER**

MESSAGE FROM THE MOETZES GEDOLEI HATORAH

**Rabbi Malkiel Kotler**

*Rosh HaYeshiva, Bais Medrash Govoha*

**Rabbi Yaakov Bender**

*Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Darchei Torah*

**Rabbi Yoir Adler**

*Rav, Bais Medrash Shoavei Mayim*

VIDEO

**Her Story...Our Story**

CO-CHAIRMAN

**Ronnie Wilhelm**

*Convention Chairman*

9:30 PM **Dessert & Tea Room**

GAZEBO LOUNGE, CAFE TERRACE, STATE BALLROOM (MEN ONLY)

9:30 PM **Agudah Live**  
CAFE TERRACE



### **AGUDAH LIVE: INTERVIEWS, RECAP AND MORE FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER**

HOSTS

**Rabbi Shai Markowitz**

*Director, Lefkowitz Leadership Initiative, Agudath Israel of America*

**Rabbi Avi Schnall**

*Director, Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office*

10:00 PM **Yarchei Kallah**  
ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)

### **BUSINESS HALACHA: OPERATING BUSINESSES ON SHABBOS & MORE**

**Rabbi Yosef Kushner**

*Dayan, Bais HaVaad of Lakewood; Mechaber of the Sefer: Commerce and Shabbos*

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| <b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS   10:00 PM</b>  | 10:00 PM <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>  |
|  | <b>Q&amp;A: "I'M ASKING FOR A FRIEND..."</b>                                       |
|  | <b>INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM WEST</b>   |
|  | <b>Rabbi Elya Brudny</b><br><i>Rosh Yeshiva, Mirrer Yeshiva, Brooklyn</i>          |
|  | <b>Rabbi Aaron Lopiansky</b><br><i>Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshiva of Greater Washington</i> |
| <b>MODERATOR</b>   |  |
| <b>Yisroel Besser</b><br><i>Editor, Mishpacha Magazine and Bestselling Author</i>  |  |
| <b>THE POWER OF ONE</b>  |  |
| <b>HARTFORD</b>  |  |
| <b>Rabbi Zechariah Wallerstein</b><br><i>Menahel, Ohr Naava, Ateres Naava, Bnot Chaya Academy for Girls</i>                |  |
| <b>Rabbi Yossi Bensoussan CASAC</b><br><i>Mashgiach Ruchani, Yeshiva High School of Cleveland; CASAC, Private Practice</i> |  |
| <b>LESSONS FROM ADDICTION: REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES. REAL IMPACT</b>  |  |
| <b>CROWNE BALLROOM</b>   |  |
| <b>Menachem Poznanski LCSW</b><br><i>Director of The Living Room</i>   |  |
| <b>Moshe Frankel CASAC</b><br><i>Clinical Case Manager at Amudim</i>   |  |

**FRIDAY MORNING**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 5:30 AM      | <b>Tea Room</b><br>GAZEBO LOUNGE & CAFE TERRACE   |
| 6:20-8:00 AM | <b>Shacharis</b><br>INTERNATIONAL BALLROOMS, ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)  |
| 7:00 AM      | <b>Breakfast</b><br>VARIOUS DINING ROOMS: STATE SOUTH, CAFE, GAZEBO, JP MORGAN (RABBANIM)   |
| 8:30 AM      | <b>Daf Yomi</b><br>ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)<br><b>Rabbi Mordechai Eisenberg</b><br><i>Rosh Kollel, Kollel Hora'ah of America</i> |

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|---------|---|
| 9:15 AM | <b>Conference of Synagogue Rabbonim of Agudath Israel (Closed Session)</b><br>JP MORGAN<br><b>Dr. Norman Blumenthal</b><br><i>Trauma specialist and licensed clinical psychologist; former Director of Bereavement and Crisis Intervention Services, Chai Lifelin</i><br><b>Rabbi Moshe Heinemann</b><br><i>Rabbinical Supervisor, Star K Kashrus</i> |
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|----------|---|
| 10:15 AM | <b>Yarchei Kallah (shiur at 11:30)</b><br>ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)<br>שיעור בעניני תפילה<br><b>Rabbi Yitzchok Lichtenstein</b><br><i>Rosh Hayeshiva, Yeshiva Torah Vodaath</i> |
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| 9:45 AM  | <b>Concurrent Sessions I</b>   |
| <b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS   9:45 AM</b>   | <b>HELPING TEENS FACE REJECTION</b>  |
|  | <b>HARTFORD</b>  |
|  | <b>Rabbi Zechariah Wallerstein</b><br><i>Menahel, Ohr Naava, Ateres Naava, Bnot Chaya Academy for Girls</i>    |
|  | <b>Matis Miller</b>  |
|  | <b>COMPASS - THE NEXT STEPS: NO SINGLE LEFT BEHIND, NAVIGATING THE SHIDDUCH WORLD, A NEW AGUDAH INITIATIVE</b> |
| <b>NATHAN HALE</b>   |  |
| <b>Yechiel Rhine</b><br><i>Director, Compass</i>                                   |  |
| <b>Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lief</b><br><i>Morah D'Asra, Agudath Israel Bais Binyomin</i> |  |
| <b>Rabbi Bentzion Kokis</b><br><i>Rav, Khal Zichron Mordechai, Mansey</i>          |  |

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 11:00 PM**

11:00 AM **Concurrent Sessions II**

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**LEARNING AND EARNING: OPPORTUNITES FOR HARBATZAS HATORAH FOR BALABATIM**

NATHAN HALE

Harry Rothenberg

Barry Lebowitz

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**HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE**

HARTFORD

Alan Proctor  
*Regional Business Director, Madison Title Agency, LLC*

Rabbi Dani Staum LCSW  
*Rebbe and Guidance Counselor, Heichal HaTorah; Principal, Mesivta Ohr Naftoli*

WOMEN

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**SINCE WHEN HAVE CHILDREN BECOME THE PARENTS**

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM EAST

Dr. Norman Blumenthal Ph.D.  
*Trauma specialist and licensed clinical psychologist; former Director of Bereavement and Crisis Intervention Services, Chai Lifeline*

Dr. Faye Zakhiem Ph.D., LCSW  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor, NYU Silver School of Social Work*

12:00 PM **Lunch**

PREFUNCTION OF INTERNATIONAL WEST, STATE EAST, GAZEBO, CAFE, JP MORGAN (RABBANIM)

**EREV SHABBOS / KABBOLAS SHABBOS**

2:30 PM **Toameha / Refreshments**  
GAZEBO LOUNGE

4:10 PM **Licht Bentschen**  
HOTEL ENTRANCE LOBBY

4:15 PM **Mincha and Kabbolas Shabbos**  
CROWNE BALLROOM

**IMPORTANT:**  
LICHT BENTSCHEN IS IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS IN THE HOTEL LOBBY. IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO LIGHT CANDLES IN GUEST ROOMS OR ANYWHERE IN THE HOTEL OTHER THAN THE DESIGNATED AREAS.

**WELCOME MESSAGE**

Shloime Werdiger  
*Chairman of the Board, Agudath Israel of America*

4:15 PM **Mincha and Kabbolas Shabbos - For Women**  
STATE BALLROOM

WOMEN  
ADDRESS  
Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Liefiff  
*Morah D'Asra, Agudath Israel Bais Binyomin*

5:30 PM **Seudas Shabbos**  
ASSIGNED DINING ROOMS (INTERNATIONAL WEST AND CENTRAL, CAFE, GREENWICH,)

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

8:30 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

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**5 LIFE CHANGING LESSONS I LEARNED FROM THE LIVES OF GEDOLIM: RAV SHACH AND RAV SVEI**

NATHAN HALE

Rabbi Henoah Plotnik  
*Rosh Mesivta, Yeshivas Me'or HaTorah, Chicago*

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**ETERNAL DEPOSITS**

HARTFORD

Rabbi Daniel Osher Kleinman  
*Rav, K'hal Nachlas Dovid*

WOMEN

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**GETTING THE MOST FROM OUR TEENS**

CROWNE BALLROOM

Rebbetzin Ruthie Assaf  
*Dean, The New York Seminary*

Mrs. Chaya Gornish  
*Menahelas, Bnos Bais Yaakov*

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 8:30 PM**

## 9:30 PM FRIDAY NIGHT KEYNOTE SESSION

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRAL

### **MAKING AN IMPACT: AS INDIVIDUALS, AS COMMUNITIES**

**Rabbi Uren Reich**

*Rosh HaYeshiva, Woodlake Village*

**Rabbi Dovid Ozeri**

*Rav, Congregation Yad Yosef*

**Ezra Zaafarani**

*Convention Chairman*

### 10:30 PM **Tea Room**

GAZEBO LOUNGE AND CAFE

### 10:45 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **ONEG**

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM WEST

**Rabbi Aron Weinberg**

*Magid Shiur, Yismach Moshe, Nirbater*

**Rabbi Mordechai Finkelman**

*Mashgiach Ruchani, Yeshivas Ohr HaChaim*

### 10:45 PM **Leil Shabbos Inspiration**

CROWNE BALLROOM

#### **BRING OUT THE BEST WITHIN YOURSELF**

**Rabbi Yechiel Spero**

*Lecturer and Author of the Touched by a Story Series,  
Baltimore*

**Rabbi Zechariah Wallerstein**

*Menahel, Ohr Naava, Ateres Naava, Bnot Chaya Academy  
for Girls*

### SHABBOS MORNING

### 5:30 AM **Early Morning Coffee Service / Breakfast**

GAZEBO LOUNGE

### 6:05 AM **Shacharis K'Vasikin - Ashkenaz**

STATE BALLROOM

### **Kiddush for Vasikin Minyan**

PRE FUNCTION STATE BALLROOM

### 7:15 AM **Daf Yomi**

CROWNE BALLROOM

**Yossi Gleiberman**

*Magid Shiur Daf Yomi*

### 8:00 AM **Shacharis - Sefard**

CROWNE BALLROOM

DRASHA

**Rabbi Aharon Feldman**

*Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshivas Ner Yisroel, Baltimore*

### 8:00 AM **Shacharit - Edot Hamizrach**

HARTFORD

### 10:00 AM **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Q AND A WITH RAV SHMUEL SHLITA**

STATE BALLROOM

**Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky**

*Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Gedola of Philadelphia*

**Rabbi Daniel Osher Kleinman**

*Rav, Khal Nachlas Dovid*

### 10:45 AM **Kiddush**

REGISTRATION AREA (MEN ONLY), GAZEBO,  
CAFE FOYER

## 11:30 AM SHABBOS MINI-KEYNOTE

### **GADLUS HAADAM: BEING BETTER PEOPLE AND BETTER JEWS**

STATE BALLROOM

**Rabbi Mordechai Finkelman**

*Mashgiach Ruchani, Yeshivas Ohr HaChaim*

**Rabbi Henschel Plotnik**

*Rosh Mesivta, Yeshivas Me'or HaTorah, Chicago*

### **MAMLECHES KOHANIM VGOY KADOSH: ELEVATING THE NEXT GENERATION TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS**

CROWNE BALLROOM

**Rabbi Sholom Kamenetsky**

*Rosh Yeshiva, Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia*

**Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lief**

*Rav, Agudas Yisroel Bais Binyomin*

### 12:30 PM **Seudas Shabbos**

ASSIGNED DINING ROOMS (INTERNATIONAL  
WEST AND CENTRAL, CAFE, GREENWICH)

**SHABBOS AFTERNOON**

2:00 PM **Tea Room**  
GAZEBO LOUNGE & CAFE TERRACE

2:45 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 8:30 PM**

**HELPING OUR FAMILIES GROW IN YIDDISHKIET**

HARTFORD

**Rabbi Yossi Bensoussan**  
*Mashgiach Ruchani, Yeshiva High School of Cleveland; CASAC, Private Practice*

**Rabbi Daniel Osher Kleinman**  
*Rav, K'hal Nachlas Dovid*

**DEALING WITH LIFE'S "LITTLE" TRAUMAS**

NATHAN HALE

**Rabbi Ariel Shoshan**  
*Rav, Ahavas Torah, Scottsdale, AZ*

**Dr. Norman Blumenthal**  
*Trauma specialist and licensed clinical psychologist; former Director of Bereavement and Crisis Intervention Services, Chai Lifelin*

**HOW TO TALK SO THEY WILL LISTEN**

JP MORGAN

**Mrz Zipora Schuck, MS/AS**  
*NYS School Psychologist*

3:50 PM **Mincha**  
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRAL

**SHOLOSH SEUDOS- 4:20 PM**

**Men - English**  
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM WEST

**Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky**  
*Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Gedola of Philadelphia*

**Rabbi Uren Reich**  
*Rosh HaYeshiva, Woodlake Village*

CHAIRMAN  
**Ronnie Wilhiem**  
*Convention Chairman*

**Men - Yiddish**  
STATE BALLROOM

**Rabbi Yoir Adler**  
*Rav, Bais Medrash Shoavei Mayim*

**Rabbi Aron Wienberg**  
*Magid Shiur, Yismach Moshe, Nirbater*

**Men - Lefkowitz Leadership Initiative**  
GREENWICH (CORRIDOR TO HOLIDAY INN)

**Rabbi Yosef Ozeri**  
*Rosh, Yeshivat Mekor Haim; Rav of Kahal Shaare Tefilah*

**Rabbi Yaakov Bender**  
*Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Darchei Torah*

**Women**  
CROWNE BALLROOM

ADDRESS  
**Rebbetzin Ruthie Assaf**  
*Dean, The New York Seminary*

5:40 PM **Maariv and Havdalah**

## MOTZOEI SHABBOS

6:30 PM **Hospitality / Tea Room**  
GAZEBO LOUNGE & CAFE TERRACE

7:15 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

### STORIES OF GEDOLIM: THE WRITERS PERSPECTIVE

HARTFORD

**Rabbi Yisroel Besser**  
Contributing Editor, Mishpacha Magazine

**Rabbi Shmuel Bloom**  
Former Executive Vice-President, Agudath Israel

### KI HEIM CHAYEINU: TORAH - THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

NATHAN HALE

**Rabbi Yosef Ozeri**  
Rosh, Yeshivat Mekor Haim; Rav of Kahal Shaare Tefilah

**Rabbi Eliezer Gewirtzman**  
Member, Machon Chayim Aruchim

7:30 PM **Yarchei Kallah**  
ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)

### HALACHIC ASPECTS OF AMIRA L'AKUM

**Rabbi Yerchamiel Fried**  
Rosh Kollel, Dallas Kollel-DATA

8:00 PM **Agudah Live**  
CAFE TERRACE



### AGUDAH LIVE: INTERVIEWS, RECAP AND MORE FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER

HOSTS

**Rabbi Avi Schnall**  
Director, Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office

**Rabbi Shai Markowitz**  
Director, Lefkowitz Leadership Initiative, Agudath Israel of America

## 8:30 PM KEYNOTE SESSION

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM

MESSAGE FROM ERETZ YISROEL

**Rabbi Berel Povarsky**  
Rosh Yeshiva, Ponovezh; Member, Moetzes Gedolei Torah

**Rabbi Yaakov Perlow**  
Novominsker Rebbe, Rosh Agudath Yisroel

**Rabbi Elya Brudny**  
Rosh Yeshiva, Mirrer Yeshiva, Brooklyn

**Rabbi Yechiel Spero**  
Lecturer and Author of the Touched by a Story Series, Baltimore

**Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel**  
Executive Vice President, Agudath Israel of America

VIDEO

**Our Story...Agudah Impact Across the Nation**

11:00 PM **Agudah Live**  
CAFE TERRACE

### AGUDAH LIVE: INTERVIEWS, RECAP AND MORE FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER

HOSTS



**Rabbi Avi Schnall**  
Director, Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office

**Rabbi Shai Markowitz**  
Director, Lefkowitz Leadership Initiative, Agudath Israel of America

11:00 PM **Melave Malka**  
VARIOUS DINING ROOMS: CROWNE, STATE, CAFE, GREENWICH, JP MORGAN

11:30 PM **Post Melave Malka Dessert**  
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM WEST & CENTRAL

**RUACH AND ZEMIROS**

## SUNDAY MORNING

6:00 AM **Hospitality / Tea Room**  
GAZEBO LOUNGE & CAFE TERRACE

6:20-8:00 AM **Shacharis**  
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOMS AND ATRIUM  
CONFERENCE #3 (2ND FLOOR)

7:15 AM **Breakfast**  
STATE SOUTH, INTERNATIONAL WEST, CAFE

7:30 AM **Daf Yomi**  
ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)  
**Rabbi Shmuel Zvi Berkovicz**  
*Rav, Khal Yereim of Passaic NJ*

9:30 AM **Concurrent Sessions**

### MAKING "CENTS" OF FINANCES

NATHAN HALE

**Rabbi Baruch Ber Bender**  
*President, Achiezer Community Resource Center*

**Rabbi Shmuel Zvi Berkovicz**  
*Sgan Menahel, Yeshiva Ktana of Passaic; Rav, Khal Yereim of Passaic NJ*

WOMEN

### ADVOCACY MADE SIMPLE: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A PRESENTATION BY AGUDAH'S GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

STATE BALLROOM

**Rabbi Abba Cohen**  
*Vice President for Government Affairs, Washington  
Director and Counsel, Agudath Israel of America*

**Rabbi Yitz Frank**  
*Director, Agudath Israel of Ohio*

**Rabbi Yisroel Gelb**  
*Director, Agudath Israel of California*

**Rabbi Moshe Matz**  
*Executive Director, Agudath Israel of Florida, Rav of  
Aventura Shul, Florida*

**Rabbi Ariel Sadwin**  
*Director, Agudath Israel of Maryland*

**Rabbi Avi Schnall**  
*Director, Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office*

**Rabbi Yeruchim Silber**  
*Director of New York Government Relations, Agudath  
Israel of America*

**Rabbi Shlomo Soroka**  
*Director of Government Affairs, Agudath Israel of Illinois*

MODERATOR

**Rabbi A.D. Motzen**  
*National Director for State Relations, Agudath Israel of  
America*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS | 8:30 PM

10:00 AM **Yarchei Kallah**  
ATRIUM BOARDROOM #3 (2ND FLOOR)

כונה בתפילה: ר' חיים בריסקר והחזון איש

**Rabbi Shlomo Gottesman**  
*Editor, Yishurun*

## 11:00 AM CLOSING KEYNOTE SESSION

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM EAST AND CENTRAL

### RISING ANTI SEMITISM: IS THERE A WAY OUT?

**Rabbi Sholom Kamenetsky**  
*Rosh Yeshiva, Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia*

**Malcolm Hoenlein**  
*Executive vice chairman, Conference of Presidents of  
Major American Jewish Organizations*

**Rabbi Avi Schnall**  
*Director, Agudath Israel of America New Jersey Office*

MODERATOR

**Rabbi Labish Becker**  
*Executive Director, Agudath Israel of America*

12:30 PM **Mincha**  
INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM EAST AND  
CENTRAL

1:15 PM **Farewell Hospitality**  
CROWNE BALLROOM