

# **Agudath Israel Convention to Focus on Improvement and Excellence**

October 31, 2016

This year's annual Convention of Agudath Israel of America, scheduled to take place from Thursday November 17, through Sunday November 20, Shabbos Parshas Vayeira, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Stamford, CT, focuses on the theme "Who We Are - Yisroel Asher Bcha Espa'ar", an exhortation for excellence for the Torah community and the individual.

The "Agudah Convention", as it is affectionately known, has always been a highlight of the Jewish communal year. Klal Yisroel gathers for four days of camaraderie, achdus and the chance to hear words of chizuk and hisorerus from Gedolei Torah, as well as other rabbinic speakers and Torah personages. Over the years, the Convention has also become the incubator of ideas benefiting klal yisroel and inspiring numerous new organizations and initiatives l'tovas haklal.

In line with the theme of pursuing excellence, many sessions will examine avenues for improvement on a communal, family and personal level. Members of the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah will be present, lending their prestige to the gathering, including Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, the Novominsker Rebbe and Rosh Agudas Yisroel; Rabbi Aharon Feldman, Rosh HaYeshiva, Ner Yisroel, Baltimore; Rabbi Dovid Feinstein, Rosh HaYeshiva, Mesivta Tifereth Yerushalayim; Rabbi Yosef Frankel, Vyelopoler Rebbe; Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Gedolah of Philadelphia; Rabbi Aryeh Malkiel Kotler, Rosh HaYeshiva, Beth Medrash Govoha of Lakewood; Rabbi Yosef Harari Rafal, Rosh HaYeshiva, Ateret Torah; and Rabbi Aharon Schechter, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Mesivta Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin.

The Thursday night keynote session will address the convention theme. The speakers are Rabbi Yosef Elefant, Rosh Yeshiva, Mir Yeshiva, Yerushalayim; Rabbi Yissochar Frand, Rosh Yeshiva, Ner Yisroel; and Rabbi Yisroel

Reisman, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Torah Vadaath and Rav, Agudath Israel of Madison.

The Motzoei Shabbos program will include The Novominsker Rebbe, special guest from Eretz Yisroel Rabbi Daniel Alter, Rosh Kollel, Ari Shebi'chabura, Yerushalayim; Rabbi Yitzchok Sorotzkin, Rosh HaYeshiva, Telshe Yeshiva and Mesivta of Lakewood; and Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, Executive Vice President of Agudas Yisroel.

The Chairman of the Convention is the well-known publisher of Yated Ne'eman, Rabbi Pinchos Lipschutz. The Co-Chairman is Rabbi Dovid Lefkowitz of Baltimore, son of the outstanding Agudas Yisroel askan, Rabbi Yisroel Lefkowitz. Rabbi Shlomo Soroka, director of Government Affairs for Agudath Israel of Illinois, will serve as Convention Coordinator.

"We are so pleased that last year's convention was a sell-out, and that those who attended were highly satisfied. Many thousands of people who listened and watched the broadcast of the Convention were able to participate as well," said Dr. David Diamond, member of the Board of Trustees of Agudath Israel of America and Chairman of Major Events. "We are especially pleased that at last year's Motzoei Shabbos Convention Session, a proposal was made to undertake an effort to increase the prestige and remuneration of our rebbeim and moros. As a result, a new initiative began which is raising millions of dollars to help elevate the status of those who are so critical to the future of our community."

He concluded, "We invite everyone to make their reservations for this year's Convention as quickly as possible, as the rooms are going fast."