



# THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, Pennsylvania, USA

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are commanded to give special respect to the Torah. We stand when a Torah scroll is removed from the ark; we are prohibited from touching the actual parchment of a Sefer Torah; and there are many other laws which reflect the sanctity of the Torah. Yet the Talmud makes a very enlightening statement. "How foolish are the Babylonian [Jews]. They stand when a Torah enters the room, but they do not stand when a Torah scholar enters." A Torah scholar is like a living Torah because he learns, teaches, and exemplifies what the Torah represents.



**"Tnu kavod latorah"**

**Give respect to the Torah.**

day, this was an extraordinary event. Yet this great sage was very patient with each student and interacted with each of us individually. The students also witnessed the true humility of a tzaddik who refused to sit at the head of the table until I joined him so that he would not take that position by himself.

The students left with a sense of awe and appreciation for the content and manner of Rabbi Kaminetsky's



The UHI middle school students had a rare opportunity to visit and speak with one of the greatest Torah scholars of this generation. Thanks to Rabbi Sommer, our students met with Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetsky, the Rosh

Yeshiva (Dean) of the Philadelphia yeshiva. Rabbi Kaminetsky met with us to answer our questions and to encourage us to continue our growth in spirituality.

I was very impressed with the questions our students asked. Mikey Kaplan asked how human beings can have free will when G-d already knows what is going to happen in the future. Rabbi Kaminetsky pointed out that this question was posed eight hundred years ago by none other than Maimonides himself. It has perplexed Jewish philosophers and theologians for centuries. According to some of our sages, this question cannot be answered with our limited understanding of how this world operates. According to other opinions, G-d suspends his own complete control in order for us to make our choices in life.

Rabbi Kaminetsky met with the boys at the yeshiva and then met with all of us at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Levy. For a man who is busy every waking minute of the

vast knowledge of Torah. I suspect that this afternoon will remain with our students as one of the highlights of their entire education at UHI. Although I have met the great rabbi previously, I never did so in the relaxed and congenial atmosphere that took place at the Levy's home.

After Rabbi Kaminetsky left, Rabbi Levy served us a full meal including hamburgers and hot dogs. For those readers who remember Rabbi Levy when he was a principal at UHI, I want to assure you that he still feels very connected with our community. (He plans on joining us for the Shofar dinner on June 30.) On a personal note, I also enjoyed visiting my dear friend whom I have known since I was teenager.

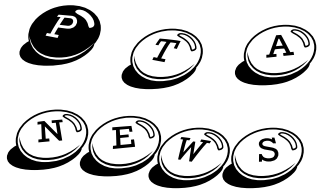
I want to thank Rabbi Sommer, a former student at the Philadelphia yeshiva for arranging the event and the Levys for hosting all of us. They enabled all of us to have this opportunity to meet and interact with this outstanding leader of world Jewry. Rabbi Raphael Nemetsky



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5/31 No Classes Memorial Day
- 6/2 Field Trip to Frances Slocum Park K-4
- 6/7 Nursery Closing Exercises 10:00 AM
- 6/8 Kindergarten Graduation 10:15 AM
- 6/9 8th Grade Graduation 7:30 PM
- 6/10 Last day of school 11:45 Dismissal





Thank you to the following people who organized our Flea Market project.

Gerry Kaplan

Eva Excalibur

Mary Lee Conway & Family



To

**Mitchell Pizarz**

for placing in the Wyoming Valley Poetry Society's Contest. Mitchell read his poem and received his award at the Fine Arts Fiesta on Sunday.



***HAVE A HAPPY  
MEMORIAL DAY***