


Arizona

Yeshiva High School of Arizona Dedicates *Sefer Torah*

On Sunday, October 28, Yeshiva High School of Arizona (YHSA) invited the entire Phoenix and Scottsdale communities to celebrate the dedication of its first *sefer Torah*.

YHSA was founded in 2010 to provide local and out-of-town boys with a quality Torah and secular high school education. Before its establishment, there was no Torah high school option in Arizona. Families either moved out of town or sent their boys away for high school. YHSA started with four boys and now has 16 boys in three grades.

Rabbi Gavriel Goetz, *menahel* of YHSA, and board members Mr. David Segal, Mr. Morris Friedman, Mr. Daniel Feld, Mr. Ezra Zilcha, Mr. Oren Ephraim, Mr. Scott Stein and Mr. Albert Yusupov invited the entire community to celebrate the historic dedication of this new *sefer Torah*, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Shaya Semel and Mr. and Mrs. Yaakov Segal in memory of David and Ruth Semel, *z"l*.



Rabbi Binyomin Mandel, *rebbe* at Torah Day School of Phoenix, dancing with Phoenix *kinderlach*.

The festivities began with an elaborate *fleishig* brunch hosted by Rabbi and Mrs. Yossie Semel, and the final letter-writing, conducted by Rabbi Tzvi Holland of the Star K, former head of the Phoenix Community Kollel and a longtime friend of the community.

More than 300 men, women and children from across the

community participated in this momentous event. Hundreds of families took part in the final letter-writing, and dozens of children were invited to craft Torah flags to wave during the procession.

The lively procession started at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Goetz and ended at the Torah's new home at the yeshivah.



Rabbi David Rebibo, Rav of Beth Joseph Congregation of Phoenix, with Rabbi Zvi Holland, Rabbinic Supervisor, Star K, Baltimore, MD, writing the final letters in the new Torah.



Dancing with the *sefer Torah* — Mr. Shaya Semel of Quality Kosher Foods, donor of the Torah.

Rabbis from community shuls and schools danced in the procession, including Rabbi David Rebibo of Congregation Beth Joseph and the Phoenix Hebrew Academy, Rabbi Reuven Mann of Young Israel of Phoenix, Rabbi Landesman of Shearim Torah High School for Girls, Rabbi Shoshan of Ahavas Torah of Scottsdale, Rabbi Laibel Blottner of Chabad in Mesa, Rabbi Boruch Cohen of Shaarei Tzion Ohel Bracha, Rabbi Pinchas Nisanov of Shaarei Tzion Ohel Bracha, and Rabbi Field of Torah Day School of Arizona. Visiting Rabbis included Rabbi Levi Osboda of Congregation Bais Yehuda in Belle Harbor, New York, and Rabbi Sholom Tendler, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Mesivta Birchos Yitzchak in Los Angeles, California.

Area residents watched the procession in amazement. Some even stopped their cars to take photos as the huge parade made its way through the streets of Phoenix, with men dancing, mothers pushing strollers, and music playing in the back of a pick-up truck flanked by police.

Rabbi Sholom Tendler spoke before the *sefer Torah* was placed in the *aron kodesh*. He told a story that he had heard from Harav Avrohom Ausband, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Yeshivas Telshe Riverdale, about Harav Elya Meir Bloch, *zt"l*, dean of the famed Telshe Yeshiva of pre-World War II Lithuania, who arrived in the United States in 1941 to restart the yeshivah in

Cleveland, Ohio.

Harav Bloch entered a Jewish bookstore in Manhattan and asked for a copy of the *sefer Ketzos Hachoshen*. The owner looked at Harav Bloch incredulously, amazed at the naiveté of this European rabbi who thought a Talmudic work of this kind could be found in America. Nonetheless, he searched and found an old copy, which he presented to Rabbi Bloch as a gift, saying, "I am certain this is the last *Ketzos Hachoshen* ever to be found in America."

However, the owner was proven wrong. The renaissance of Torah Judaism in America in just over half a century has seen the *Ketzos Hachoshen* published many times in a variety of editions. In the small library of the Yeshiva High School of Arizona, there are several editions of this seminal Talmudic work, which are studied by American teenagers.

Perhaps not even Rabbi Bloch could have envisioned hundreds of people parading through the streets of Phoenix, Arizona, escorting a *sefer Torah* to a yeshivah high school. The Phoenix community was celebrating not just the *sefer Torah* but the miraculous survival and rejuvenation of traditional Torah Judaism and the establishment of a yeshivah — where the Torah is studied as it has been studied since it was given on Har Sinai 3,400 years ago. Even in the desert of Arizona, the Torah is eternal.





BRAND NAME COATS
Ralph Lauren - Calvin Klein etc.
Mens, Boys, Long, 3/4, Short

Don't Get Stuck In The Cold Without A Coat



1837 Coney Island Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11230
718-951-9533