

PETITION FOR KOVOD HATORAH (FEBRUARY 1997)

The Orthodox Jewish Community of Los Angeles is outraged by the reputed community-wide *Loshon Hora, Rechilus, & Motsi Shem Ra* concerning Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan, *Shlitah*, and his *Hashgochos* that have apparently been motivated by various *Rabbonim* and have apparently been tolerated by the Rabbinical Council of California.

We commissioned attorney Baruch Cohen to express our concerns, and his two letters to the RCC regarding its treatment of Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan have accurately expressed our grievances. The RCC must respond accordingly.

Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan is known by the community at large to be a *Lamdon & Talmid Chochom*, well versed in *Shas & Poskim* and a *Yorei Shomayim*.

Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan has lived in Los Angeles since 1960, and has provided our community with Kosher food supervision since then, and we trust him and his *Hashgochos* - 100%. We have used Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan as our *Rav HaMachshir* and *Mashgiach* for years, at all of our (*Glatt*) banquets and functions including: Aish HaTorah of Los Angeles, Aish HaTorah of Jerusalem, Bais Yaakov School for Girls, Beth Jacob Congregation, Congregation Shaarei Tefila, Emek Hebrew Academy, Etz Jacob Congregation, Hillel Hebrew Academy, Kollel of Los Angeles, Shaarei Tzedek Congregation, Valley Torah High School, Yavneh Hebrew Academy, Yeshiva Gedoleh of Los Angeles, Yeshiva Rav Isacsohn Toras Emes Academy, & Yeshiva University of Los Angeles.

Many times Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan provided *Kashrus* supervision at no charge at all to various institutions and restaurants, *Leshaim Shomayim*.

By speaking badly of a *Talmid Chochom* of Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan's caliber and his *Hashgochos* (for any reason), the *Rabbonim* of the Rabbinical Council of California are in essence disparaging their own *Kovod Hatorah* and that of the Los Angeles *Torah* community.

Such actions are unworthy of any individual, and most certainly of a *Kashrus* agency such as the Rabbinical Council of California, and most certainly of the individual *Rabbonim* of the Rabbinical Council of California.

We can no longer, in good conscience, remain silent and tolerate such actions.

To maintain our support, and confidence, the following measures must be taken:

- The Rabbinical Council of California should issue a public written apology to Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan recognizing any impropriety of its past actions.
- The Rabbinical Council of California, and its individual *Rabbonim*, should refrain from speaking *Loshon Hora, Rechilus, & Motsi Shem Ra* of Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan and/or his *Hashgochos*.
- The Rabbinical Council of California, and its individual *Rabbonim*, should no longer exclude products supervised by Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan, from being sold and used at any establishments supervised by the RCC.
- The Rabbinical Council of California, and its individual *Rabbonim*, should no longer inform their constituents that Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan's Glatt supervision of hotels and caterers are not reliable and not Glatt Kosher.
- The Rabbinical Council of California should discontinue its policy of informing the public - that the community must only eat from a community *Hashgocho* or only from the Rabbinical Council of California's *Hashgocho*.
- The Rabbinical Council of California should decline future *Kashrus* accounts that are held by Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan.
- The Rabbinical Council of California should meet with representatives of Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan to discuss their grievances and any appropriate compensation that may be due to Rabbi Yehuda Bukspan.

Petitioners For Kovod HaTorah

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| Rabbi & Mrs. Eliezer Adler | Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Gove | Mr. & Mrs. Jack Nagel |
| Mr. & Mrs. Hymie Barber | Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hendeles | Mr. & Mrs. Tzvi Niman |
| Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Begin | Mr. & Mrs. Lazar Hendeles | Rabbi & Mrs. Aaron Parry |
| Rabbi & Mrs. Zvi Block | Mr. & Mrs. Moise Hendeles | Mr. & Mrs. George Phillips |
| Rabbi & Mrs. Joseph Bronner | Mr. & Mrs. Velvel Hershkowitz | Mr. & Mrs. Tzvi Ryzman |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Deutsch | Mr. & Mrs. Israel Hirsh | Rabbi & Mrs. Rafael Rose |
| Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Deutsch | Rabbi & Mrs. Rubin Huttler | Mr. & Mrs. Meir L. Rossman |
| Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Diller | Mr. & Mrs. Moshe A. Kagan | Rabbi & Mrs. Yossi Rubanowitz |
| Rabbi & Mrs. Morris Dolgin | Mr. & Mrs. Yankel Kahan | Mr. & Mrs. David Rubin |
| Mr. & Mrs. Peter Faber | Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Kamornick | Rabbi & Mrs. Akiva Schlussel |
| Mr. & Mrs. Walter Feinbloom | Rabbi & Mrs. Jacob Kasirer | Mr. & Mrs. Itzhak Shapiro |
| Mr. & Mrs. Avrohom Feingold | Rabbi & Mrs. Michael Katz | Mr. & Mrs. Norman Silverman |
| Mr. & Mrs. Shimon Feingold | Mr. & Mrs. Sol Kest | Mr. Ira Smedra |
| Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fogel | Rabbi & Mrs. Eliyahu Kin | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Solomon |
| Mr. & Mrs. Ira Frankel | Mr. & Mrs. William Last | Dr. & Mrs. David Stoll |
| Rabbi & Mrs. Aharon D. Friedman | Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Lehman | Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Stoll |
| Rabbi & Mrs. David Friedman | Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Levy | Mr. & Mrs. Warren Stoll |
| Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Friedman | Rabbi & Dr. George Lintz | Mr. & Mrs. David Striks |
| Rabbi & Mrs. Jacob Friedman | Mr. & Mrs. Ben Zion Mandelbaum | Mr. & Mrs. David Thumim |
| Rabbi & Mrs. Mendel Friedman | Rabbi & Mrs. Uri Mandelbaum | Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Vago |
| Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gardner | Rabbi & Mrs. Zalman Manela | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Weber |
| Mr. & Mrs. Alan Genauer | Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Meller | Rabbi & Mrs. Philip Weinberg |
| Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Giel | Mr. & Mrs. Sam Menlo | Mr. & Mrs. Abe Winter |
| Mr. & Mrs. Alan Goldstein | Mr. & Mrs. Frank Moritz | Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wintner |
| Mr. & Mrs. David Goldstein | Mr. & Mrs. David Nagel | |