

~SPEAKER BIOS~
47TH ANNUAL N'SHEI U'BNOS CHABAD WINTER CONVENTION
BOULDER, COLORADO

- **Yitzchok (Sidney) Abramowitz** is Vice President, Investment Consultant and Director of Advanced Planning with Gary Goldberg Financial Services in Montebello, NY. He has dedicated his career to helping retirees, and those about to retire, achieve real peace of mind. From his early years, Mr. Abramowitz has dedicated his life to service, trust and integrity.

Mr. Abramowitz graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Long Island University School of Pharmacy. He then attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Abramowitz's career as a pharmacist brought him into contact with a large number of seniors. He joined the management committees at a number of senior residences and learned first hand about the seriousness, urgency and complexity of the problems that faced many residents.

From that experience evolved a lifetime of dedication to solving the financial issues facing retirees. He began a program of studies to learn as much as possible about seniors' special financial needs and about the opportunities available. He stresses a "low risk" approach to investing for retirees. As he puts it, "seniors need choices, not take chances."

Mr. Abramowitz is a Registered Financial Consultant (RFC), Certified Estate Planning Professional (CEPP), Certified in Long Term Care (CLTC) and a certified IRA Distribution Specialist. His experience and expertise has made him a much sought after speaker, as well as a trusted financial advisor. He has lectured widely on financial topics at over 200 workshops in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut. Mr. Abramowitz also assists charities and non-profit organizations. He has worked as a consultant for the New York Legal Assistance Group (NY, NY), Cheder Chabad of Monsey (Monsey, NY) and Mayanot Institute (Jerusalem, Israel).

On a personal note, Mr. Abramowitz and his wife, Yehudis, are active members of the Monsey Anash Lubavitch community in Monsey, NY. They discovered their true Jewish roots nearly thirty-five years ago and began living an observant Jewish lifestyle ever since. They have four married children, all living beautiful observant Jewish lifestyles. They "shep Yiddishe and Chassidishe nachas" from their sixteen grandchildren and from their first great grandchild, ka"l!

- **Roberta Babinet** holds Masters Degrees in Education and in Counseling. A mother of three sons, she works with groups and individuals in creating personal transformation.

- **Rabbi Levi Brackman** is a columnist for Ynetnews.com, the English website of the Israeli daily newspaper Yedioth Acharonot. He is the founder and director of several Jewish

outreach organizations including Judaism in the Foothills and Movement for a Tolerant World.



• **Rabbi Yossi Chazan** was born in New York, USA and educated at the celebrated Mesifita TorahVo'Daas. He is a graduate from Yeshivas Tomchei Temimim (Lubavitch) in Kfar Chabad, New Haven, Montreal and New York.

In 1981 Rabbi Chazan became a Kollel fellow at the Yeshiva Centre in Melbourne, Australia, from where he developed a reputation for scholarship and excellence. In 1984 he was appointed Director of Education at the Jewish Cultural Leisure Centre where his reputation grew as a vibrant and challenging leader serving both the immediate North Manchester Jewish community and regionally in the North of England.

In 1991 Rabbi Chazan accepted the offer of Rabbi of the prestigious Holy Law and South Broughton Hebrew congregation and his skilled erudition extended his widening fame within the community, interpreting with lucidity and clarity difficult and problematic portions of Torah, Talmud and Halacha.

For many years his weekly summer series of Shabbat afternoon Shiurim have attracted a broad spectrum of North Manchester Jewry, with men and women attending regularly in their hundreds. Rabbi Chazan is a tireless worker within his congregation, which is very proud of his unstinting parochial work from giving Shiurim to visiting the sick in hospitals, to helping individuals, couples and the young and old in a friendly and welcoming manner.

He is known locally as "...The Rabbi who never sleeps...", for if Rabbi Chazan is not working for his own shul, every other minute of the day is taken-up with learning, visiting local high schools, delivering Shiurim and offering a whole host of associations, friendship groups and individuals his support and energy. All this is completed with time to spare for what has become an energetic yearly international speaking tour, which can include three of five continents.



• **Rabbi Yisroel Engel**, together with his wife Leah, is one of the senior shlichim of Chabad Lubavitch of Colorado, and Rav of Bais Menachem. During his 26 years in Denver, Rabbi Engel has touched the lives of 83,500 children through the myriad of children's program, innovative workshops, and Living Legacy Program.



• **Yehudis Fishman** has been teaching Torah and Chassidic philosophy to people of all ages and backgrounds for over fifty years. For the last six years, she has lived in Boulder, Co. and continues to teach and counsel. Her qualities of erudition, relevance, sensitivity, and humor endear her to a broad spectrum of multigenerational students.



• **Yitta Halberstam Mandelbaum** co-author of the Small Miracles series, is the daughter of a Chassidic Rabbi and scion of a famous Chassidic dynasty that traces its roots back to King David. She pursued graduate studies in American Literature at New York University and taught Literature of the Holocaust at Baruch College. She has also worked as a newspaper reporter, writer for Seventeen Magazine, public relations director, press aide and high school teacher. Published since the age of nine, Yitta's work has appeared in more than 50 Anglo/Jewish publications and secular magazines such as Parade, Money, Working Woman, and New York. She is also the author of another non-fiction book Holy Brother: Enchanted Tales and Inspiring Tales about Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach.

Yitta has toured extensively in the United States over the last four years, speaking to both Jewish and non-Jewish groups alike, including: The National Convention of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds; Kaiser-Permanente affiliated hospitals; United Jewish Appeal Lions of Judah chapters; Federation Pomegranate luncheons; Hadassah chapters, EMUNAH of America chapters, HOTELS, dozens of Jewish book fairs, and hundreds of temples, synagogues, bookstores, and women's groups. Last year, Yitta was named by Jewsweek.com (a Jewish on-line magazine) as one of the fifty most influential Jews in America.

• **Judy Hall** - Director of the Boulder Women's Committee associated with the Federation, is the Boulder Community Director for AJF of Colorado. She has lived in Colorado for three years and hails from Long Island and CT where she worked for several non-profit organizations including the JCC of Greater New Haven, the Anti-Defamation League, Ability Beyond Disability and more. Hall has a doctorate in social work administration and has worked in the non-profit world for the past 25 years. She has three lovely children –Jordan, Sam and Nikki and currently resides in Broomfield.



• **Rebbetzin Helana Herman** is the codirector of the Chabad Center of Raleigh, with her focus on the needs of the local women. Helana teaches at the Jewish Day School,

Hebrew School, and has monthly gatherings for women. She is also committed to helping people in their relationships as well as achieving their personal goals. Mrs. Herman is originally from Long Beach, CA.



- **Marci Kaplan** has been married for 20 + years and is the mother of two girls, Alizé (14), and Ruby (6). She has been practicing yoga for over 15 years. She holds a Masters in Counseling Psychology. She works for a non-profit, The Eye Contact Foundation out of Basalt, Colorado. Marci has a horse (Dazzle) and loves teaching dance fitness which she calls 'Cool Pop-Dance'.

- **Susan Kramer** has an extensive background of over 20 years that includes experience in for-profit and non-profit businesses, as well as with education and community service organizations. Her background includes working as an entrepreneur, business owner, and public affairs and marketing specialist. Susan has a BS in Psychology from the University of Maryland and a Masters in Nonprofit Management from Regis University.

- **Leah Namdar** - Co-Director of Chabad in Goteberg, Sweden. She was born in London, England to Chassidic and academic parents as the second child of a large family, most of whom are currently serving as the rebbe's shluchim around the world. Attended the Lubavitch Schools in London until age 16, and taught in Hebrew schools in the London area. In 1987-88 she studied Bais Rivka Seminary in NY, where she was involved in a variety of youth activities as is common amongst Chabad students, after which she taught in Bais Rivka High School and Machon Chana. In 1989, she married Rabbi Alexander Namdar of Milan, Italy. Altogether, she was privileged to spend 5 years in NY, where she had the opportunity to absorb the atmosphere life in the court of the Lubavitcher Rebbe on a daily basis. In 1991 the young couple and their 6 month-old baby were privileged to be sent by the Rebbe to Gothenberg, Sweden, to found the first Chabad Center in Scandinavia. Leah and her husband are grateful to Hashem to be parents to a large family, who are being raised on shlichus in Sweden. Leah has spoken for audiences of Jewish women, teens and children in Europe, USA and Australia about Chassidic life and Judaism.

- **Rabbi Yisroel Meir Popack** was assigned by the Lubavitcher Rebbe in 1978 to be his Shliach and Regional Director of Chabad Lubavitch for the State of Colorado. Rabbi Popack has been instrumental in bringing all the Chabad Shluchim and their families to this state and in building eighteen Chabad centers in all parts of Colorado. With his encouragement and direction, Chabad Lubavitch of Colorado is constantly developing and broadening it's dynamic outreach activities for all Jews regardless of background.

- **Devorah Leah Popack**



- **Laya Saul-Jackson** is the author of the inspirational, motivational book for teens, 'You Don't Have to Learn Everything the Hard Way.' She has been working with teens for years and currently teaches teen girls in a seminary in Tzfat. She is also the mother of two teens. In this workshop, Laya gives you some tools to take home to support you in successfully parenting your teens. Teens are welcome to participate too!

- **Chany Scheiner** is the co-director of Chabad Lubavitch of Boulder County and a Jewish Learning Institute instructor. Chany is a Chassidic feminist as well as a dynamic, insightful teacher. She has taught a number of JLI courses including classes on Jewish Civil Law and the Kabbalah of Character.



- **Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski** was raised and educated in Australia. He is the director of Chabad of South Denver servicing the University of Denver and the Washington Park neighborhood. His appealing methods of teaching and lecturing make him a popular speaker. He excels in adult education and has been a guest at all the major synagogues in Denver as well as numerous Chavurot and groups and teaches three semesters annually for the Jewish Learning Institute.

- **Naomi Weinstock** is a master teacher with 25 years experience. She has a masters degree in early childhood education, is a licensed school psychologist and a certified Somatic Experiencing Practitioner. She has worked extensively with emotionally handicapped children and parent groups in the Middle Schools. At present she has a private practice with an emphasis on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Trauma Reduction.