

HaRav Yehuda Heschel HaLevi Levenberg

HaRav Yehuda Heschel HaLevi Levenberg, 29 Kislev, 5645 (Dec. 17, 1884) – 13 Shevat, 5698 (Jan. 15, 1938), was a well-known pioneer who worked to re-create the European Jewish community on the shores of America. In addition to his academic and communal contributions, Rabbi Levenberg also strengthened Shechita practices in America.

In his youth, Rabbi Levenberg studied under Rabbi Zalman Sender Kahana-Shapira and Rabbi Shimon Shkop in the Maltch yeshiva and later spent much time in the Slabodka yeshiva. At the young age of 19, he was known as “the shining light of Slabodka” and was chosen to give the hesped for the Kovno Rav. At the age of 20, he received Semicha from Rav Moshe Mordechai Epstein. He traveled to America in the summer of 1910 to raise funds for Slabodka, but ended up staying and soon thereafter was appointed as Chief Rabbi of Jersey City, New Jersey. In 1917, the Va’ad Ho’Ir of New Haven invited Rav Levenberg to become the Chief Rabbi of New Haven. In that capacity, Rabbi Levenberg was not associated with any particular shul and was in charge of the entire community. A gifted orator, Rav Levenberg would speak each week on a rotating basis at a different shul in the community. The shul would be packed an hour before the drasha began.

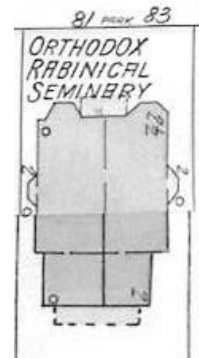
In 1923, Rav Levenberg founded his Yeshiva, one of the first Yeshivos in America, located at 83 Park Street in New Haven. Rav Moshe Don Sheinkopf also served as a Rosh Yeshiva before accepting the Rabbanus of Waterbury, CT in 1925. Afterwards, Rav Sheftel Kramer came to serve as Mashgiach in the Yeshiva. The Yeshiva grew in both size and prestige, with an enrollment ultimately above 100 talmidim. Prominent talmidim of the Yeshiva while it was in New Haven include Rabbi Shachne Zohn, Rabbi Nochum Dovid Herman (son of Rabbi Yaakov Yosef Herman – “All for the Boss”), Rabbi Chaim Pinchos Scheinberg, Rabbi Menachem Zvi Eichenstein, Rabbi Sender Linchner, and Rabbi Boruch Kaplan.

In 1929, Rav Levenberg moved to Cleveland, bringing the Yeshiva with him. Rav Yaakov Ruderman, Rav Sheftel Kramer’s son-in-law, joined the Yeshiva in 1931 and Rav Moshe Feinstein was a Rebbi in the Yeshiva from 1936-1937. In 1933, Rav Sheftel Kramer and Rav Ruderman left the Yeshiva, together with some talmidim, and traveled to Baltimore to found Ner Yisroel. The Yeshiva itself continued in Cleveland until the time of Rav Levenberg’s petira in 1938, and then disbanded. In 1941, Rabbi Eliyahu Bloch arrived in the United States and decided to establish Telz Yeshiva in Cleveland, because, as he said, “the old fire of Torah burns there.” Although Rav Levenberg was nifter in New York, he requested to be buried in New Haven, CT.

In his tzava’ah, Rav Levenberg wrote that he promises, with the help of Hash-m, to be an advocate in Heaven and beseech Hash-m on behalf of whoever davens to HaSh-m at his kever and donates to a Yeshiva in New Haven.

To visit HaRav Levenberg’s kever:

HaRav Levenberg is buried at the Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery, located at 50 Jewell Street, New Haven, CT 06515. From Whalley Avenue, turn onto Jewell Street. Congregation Beth Israel cemetery is the sixth entrance on the left. HaRav Levenberg’s kever is on the main path into the cemetery, the 29th kever on the right of the path.



For more information and detailed maps, please visit our website at www.yeshivanewhavensynagogue.org/cemetery.asp

Other Rabbonim Buried in the New Haven Area

Rabbi Chaim (Herman) Bick, Chief Rabbi of Lynn, MA, d. 11 Av, 5714 (1954). The Rav also served in Lawrence and Malden, MA and New Haven, CT.

Directions: Rabbi Bick is buried at the Adas Israel Upper and Lower Cemetery, located at 50 Jewell Street, New Haven, CT 06515. From Whalley Avenue, turn onto Jewell Street. Adas Israel cemetery is the seventh entrance on the left. Walk along the main path until you reach a path going off to your right, then continue along the main path, and Rabbi Bick's kever is the 9th kever in the second row to the right of the path.

Rabbi Binyamin Anteil, Rav and Shochet in New Haven, CT, d. 6 Av, 5661 (1941) & **Rabbi Yosef Shabsi Salovitz**, Rav in New Haven, CT, d. 6 Teves, 5687 (1926).

Directions: Rabbi Anteil and Rabbi Salovitz are buried at the Warshaver Relief/Ahavas Achim/Young Israel Cemetery, located at 50 Jewell Street, New Haven, CT 06515. From Whalley Avenue, turn onto Jewell Street and enter through Congregation Beth Israel, the sixth entrance on the left. Walk all the way down the path, turn left and then right. Turn left again at the second to last path (before the 8 foot drop). Rabbi Anteil's kever is the 8th kever in the row to the right alongside the path. Rabbi Salovitz's kever is the 24th kever in the same row.

Rabbi Gershon Grossman, Rav in New Haven, CT, d. 13 Teves, 5705 (1945) & **Rabbi Avrohom Abba Rosen**, Chief Rabbi of New Haven, CT, d. 26 Nissan, 5675 (1915). Rav Rosen was a founding member of the Agudath HaRabbonim.

Directions: Rabbi Grossman and Rabbi Rosen are buried at the Congregation B'nai Israel/Beth-El Keser Israel/Rose St. Shul Cemetery, located at 55 Warner Street, Hamden, CT 06514. Walk along the main path. After you pass a path going off to your right, Rabbi Rosen's kever is in the 4th row on the right, 24 kevarim down. Rabbi Grossman's kever is in the 5th row on the right, 22 kevarim down.

Rabbi Tzadok Bailey, Moreh Dasrah Sheves Achim Bnei Yaakov, d. 8 Shevat, 5661 (1901). The Rav served the communities of New Haven and East Haven for many years.

Directions: Rabbi Bailey is buried at the Bikur Cholim/B'nai Abraham Cemetery, located at 16 Brockett Place, East Haven, CT 06512. The entrance for Bikur Cholim/B'nai Abraham is the second entrance on the right. Rabbi Bailey's kever is located in the first row on the left, 6 kevarim down.

Rabbi Avrohom Hefterman, Rav in New Haven, CT, d. 12 Tammuz, 5741 (1981). Prior to his arrival in New Haven, Rav Hefterman was in Manchester, NH (1926-1954). The Rav's sefer, Azoi Leben Yidden, was published in 1963.

Directions: Rabbi Hefterman is buried at the Shevas Achim/Bikur Cholim Cemetery, located at 16 Brockett Place, East Haven, CT 06512. The entrance for Shevas Achim/Bikur Cholim is the first entrance on the right. Turn into the cemetery and walk along the main path. Count 14 rows to reach Rabbi Hefterman's kever, located directly next to the path on the left.