

Bein Adam Lechaveiro Initiative to Be Launched at AJOP Convention

Harav Yitzchok Berkovits, *shlita*, Rosh Kollel of the Jerusalem Kollel, will be launching a unique new initiative at the upcoming AJOP convention, to be held in Baltimore on Jan. 20-24. "Harav Berkovits is one of the leading *poskim* in the world today and a renowned expert in the area of *bein adam lechaveiro*," said Rabbi Yitzchok Lowenbraun, Director of AJOP.

After serving as *menahel ruchni* of Yeshivas Aish HaTorah for twenty years, Rav Berkovits founded the Center for Jewish Values, which now includes fifteen night *kollelim* dedicated to learning a *bein adam lechaveiro* curriculum developed by Rav Berkovits.

Rabbi Peysach Friedman, Director of the Center for Jewish Values, is eagerly anticipating the upcoming AJOP Convention. "Our mission is to enhance the knowledge and awareness of mitzvos *bein adam lechaveiro* within all segments of Jewry, around the world. In this regard, we are placing a particular emphasis on developing a curriculum that is designed to work in a *kiruv* setting."

This new curriculum will debut at the AJOP Convention. The curriculum demonstrates how the mitzvos of the Torah are relevant to the daily life of every Jew — in relationships, in the workplace; virtually everywhere — and how Torah *hashkafah* and halachah can act as guides in various interpersonal situations. At the AJOP convention, a pilot curriculum for the mitzvah of *dan lekaf zechus*, judging others favorably, will be presented to hundreds of *kiruv* professionals from around the world.

The highlight of the presentation will be a live satellite hookup with Rav Berkovits from Yerushalayim. Rav Berkovits will discuss how the teaching of these mitzvos can be effectively used to introduce people with little or no background to the beau-

ty and meaning of Torah. AJOP participants will then be addressed by Rabbi Peysach Freedman, who will present a fully-developed lesson plan complete with source materials, a teachers' guide, points for discussion and more. Rabbi Freedman commented, "AJOP is a major force for the worldwide growth of *kiruv* and the perfect setting for not only launching this initiative, but for partnering with those in the field to fine-tune the curriculum. We will be in close contact with everyone at the convention who implements this program in their community for the purpose of gaining feedback on how it can be enhanced and made as effective as possible."

Under the leadership of Rabbi Yitzchok Lowenbraun, AJOP has become the launching pad for a number of national *kiruv* efforts. Every year, AJOP brings together over six hundred *kiruv* professionals to share their experience and expertise with one another, to discuss the challenging issues they confront on a daily basis, and to brainstorm new approaches to bringing the light of Torah to a generation of Jews that is mired in darkness.

"In a sense," said Rabbi Lowenbraun, "AJOP is the world's largest think tank devoted to addressing the frightening crisis of massive assimilation. I have no doubt that the launching of the *bein adam lechaveiro* curriculum will be an important new step in doing everything we can to address the great challenge we face. That a *talmid chacham* of Rav Berkovits' stature is devoting so much of his time and energy to the cause of *kiruv* speaks volumes about just how important this work is."

AJOP is not only for *kiruv* professionals. Major portions of the convention are tailored to lay people who have an interest in *kiruv*. For information about the convention, call (973) 597-1552, ext. 6.