コッフコ



הרב יוסך כן מנחם מענדל הלוי ע"ה

HaRav Joseph Lichtman a"h

Rabbi Lichtman's *levayah* was held Monday afternoon at the *Eretz HaChaim* Cemetery near Beit Shemesh, a city where he and his wife, Liz, *y'badlah lichayim aruchim*, have lived since making Aliyah from Elizabeth almost ten years ago. As many may he been aware, his health had declined over the years and lived at home with his family nearby. He died peacefully in his sleep.

Rabbi Joe's contributions to Bais Yitzchok are legendary. Rabbi Alan Greenspan, who has lived in Yerushalayim for decades, reflected on his friendship with the Lichtmans of over thirty years. He spoke at the funeral as a close friend, a *chavrusa*, and a companion each *Shabbos* as he and Rabbi Lichtman, walked from their respective homes in the Elmora section of Elizabeth to Bais Yitzchok, about a mile walk. Over the years he and others were part of a *Chavrusa*, meeting in one another's homes each week to study *Gemara*. This was mentioned by Rabbi Greenspan as it was characteristic of Joe's love for learning.

Rabbi Lichtman was *Sheliach Tzibbor* of the Shul for over forty-five years. He did not see himself as the *Chazzan*, for his goal was simply to lead the congregation in prayer. Yet, his expert knowledge of *Nusach Hatefilah*, a strong and euphonious voice, innovative melodies always anchored in tradition, made him more than just a leader of prayer. He was also part of the continual learning which was characteristic of Bais Yitzchok: a *d'var Torah* at the weekly Shabbos Kiddush, *Sefer HaChimuch, Mishna Brurah*, a Holiday Thought for the shul bulletins, community classes, etc. The Shul gave the Lichtmans a fond send-off on Sunday, June 28, 2009 with many long-time and new friends present. Perhaps the inscription on the gift of a wood and silver Challah board tells it all, "with eternal thanks and gratitude for decades of friendship, devoted service and love." Our condolences to his wife, Liz, his sons, Noam, Rabbi Hillel Lichtman and Rabbi Moshe Lichtman, daughter, Hadassah Greenbaum and his sisters, Shifra Adler and Doris Newman and the many grand and great-grandchildren.

You may contact them in Beit Shemesh during Shiva which runs though Sunday morning June 25th at telephones: (02) 999-1842 US number: 908 (485-3585) and 054 599-2721 (Moshe).

May Hashem comfort the family with all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem