

Chassidic Service To Mark Rebbe Leifer Purim Yahrtzeit

The Pittsburgh Jewish community is invited to join in marking the first Yahrtzeit since the demise of the beloved and revered Grand Rabbi Joseph Leifer.

Referred to in Chassidic tradition as "Yom Hillulah", its observance is to be marked at the Purim Seudah on Sunday, March 26 at the Ahavas Israel Congregation, 5807 Bartlett Street at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Leifer is buried at Har Menuchot in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

For more than 40 years, Rabbi Joseph Leifer served the Pittsburgh and area Jewish Community as a faithful, dedicated and sincere leader.

A congregation statement said:

"He was the confidante of untold masses of Jewish men and women who visited with the Rebbe to seek his counsel and advice.

"Congregation Ahavas Israel, which was his Beth Hamedrash, has always been the gathering place for visiting Rabbis from other cities as well as for local men and women who gather there for T'filah (prayer).

"The Hachnosas Orchim (hospitality) that is displayed at the

Rebbe's home has become legendary in the Pittsburgh community."

Since the Rebbe's demise, his son, Rabbi Abraham Leifer has been installed in the Rabbinic Chair left vacant by his venerable father. This is in keeping with the tradition and request of the late Rebbe, and Rabbi Abraham Leifer has continued the warm and meaningful practices of his revered father.

Rabbi Abraham Leifer has just returned from Jerusalem where he made all of the necessary arrangements for the setting of Matzevah (tombstone) at the Rebbe's grave. He was met by thousands of Chasidim who gathered in the Warsaw Beth Hamedrash in Jerusalem to pay their respects to the memory of the late Pittsburgh Rebbe. At that time Rabbi Leifer expressed the deep feelings of gratitude in behalf of Rebbitzen Leifer to the great outpouring of Chassidim who held the Rebbe in such great esteem.

Accordingly, Rabbi Abraham Leifer will conduct the Purim Seudah on Sunday and will lead in the observance of the Yom Hillulah. To honor the memory of the late Rabbi Joseph Leifer, rabbinic and lay leaders in the community will be in attendance. The public is invited to participate.