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High season for calendars: Elul, time for a new luach



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Aside from the Hebrew Ezras Torah wall calendar, as noted above, Ezras Torah published, in both Hebrew and English, a pocket size version for daily use.

According to the publishers, these calendars, over the past century, have become an extremely popular and almost indispensable tool for thousands of rabbis and gabbais as well as laypersons throughout the United States and Canada.

The popularity of both this luach, and the increasingly popular Luach Colel Chabad, can be attributed to many societal factors. Among these is the increasing demand for a more refined resource for reliable Torah knowledge in the English language made available to all in a convenient format for daily use.

Further, the welcome use of English has greatly improved the ritual observance of many who would otherwise founder when confronted with problems in the observance of correct ritual law.

Also, it should be noted that the Conservative/Masorti movement has in the past decade developed an attractive luach, Luah Hashanah, that goes into great detail in explaining to their followers the laws and customs according to their tradition of observance, for both shul and home. The attractive graphic format and layout merits attention for its effectiveness as a learning tool to be emulated. In addition, their instituting a website and email address for updates and corrections helps to further make current technology all that more relevant to assisting all in the observance of our faith.

Remembering Rav Kook

This Friday, August 9, 3 Elul, is the yahrtzeit of Rav Avraham Yitzchak HaKohen Kook, zt"l. This prompts me to bring to your attention a portion of the text of a hesped made at that time [1935] by the then president of the Jewish National Fund, Menachem Ussishkin, in tribute to Rav Kook's legacy.

Given the tenor of our times, his words concerning Rav Kook deserve your attention.

"Many of you have heard of Rav Kook's remarkable reply to a prominent rabbi – a rabbi who criticized him for his cordial relationship with the anti-religious youth. 'How can you join forces with these people in common causes?'

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