

CHIZUK FROM OUR CHACHOMIM



Next Friday, כ' אלול, marks the 53rd Yohrzeit of the Ponevezher Rov, **Harav Yosef Shlomo Kahaneman** זצ"ל.

Yosef Shlomo was born in 1886 to Reb Yehuda Leib and Ita Leah Kahaneman. He grew up in the small town of Kuhl in Lithuania, where a third of the 500 inhabitants were *Yidden*. At the age of 14 he went to learn in Telz where he became one of the pioneers who embraced the learning of מוסר in the ישיבה. He also spent a year in Novardok where he served as the temporary רב after the passing of the ערוך השולחן and then left to Radin, where he learned in the כולל of the חפץ חיים, becoming a close תלמיד of the חפץ חיים and Rav Naftoli Trop זכרונם לברכה.

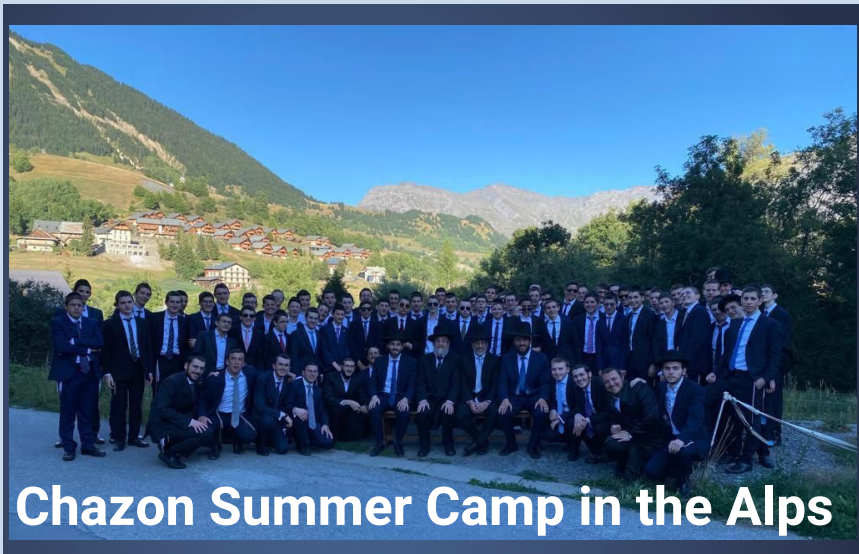
In 1911 he married Faige Rubin, the daughter of the רב of Vidzh and he was appointed as רב there later that same year. In 1919 after Rav Itzele Rabinovich זצ"ל was נפטר, he became the רב of Ponevezh, one of the biggest תורה centres in Lithuania. Whilst there, he was also elected a member to the Lithuanian parliament.

In 1940, whilst on a visit to ארץ ישראל, he learned that the Russian army had occupied Lithuania, so he decided to stay where he was. 4 years later, he built the famous Ponevezh Yeshiva, one of the most prestigious ישיבות in the world with thousands of בחורים. He also built orphanages and personally raised money and cared for hundreds of orphans.

After the war, Rav Kahaneman travelled around Europe looking for Jewish children that were being raised in Christian orphanages to save them and to bring them to ארץ ישראל. Upon walking into one of the orphanages he asked the Christian nun to please allow him to rescue the Jewish children. She refused, saying, 'None of your kind are here.' Rav Kahaneman walked in and cried out, שמע ישראל ה' אלוקינו ה'! Suddenly many of the children started screaming, 'Tatte! Mamma!', remembering how their own parents had put them to bed each night with those timeless words. In this way, he succeeded in saving many *Yiddishe* children.

יהי זכרו ברוך

To receive **ChazuBonai** via email and to hear about boys' events or to sponsor an edition of **ChazuBonai**, please email info@chazon.org.uk



Chazon Summer Camp in the Alps



CHIZUK IN OUR LIVES

Yankel was a poor Yid living in ירושלים who made a living by going around to מקומות הקדושים and refilling the oil by the קברים. When his eldest daughter was engaged to be married to a fine בחור, he didn't know where he would begin to cover the wedding expenses. He borrowed \$22,000 to cover the חתונה costs. The night before the wedding, a thief broke into their apartment, ransacked the place, found the money underneath some floorboards and stole the whole lot.

The next morning Yankel came down the stairs and saw the ransacked apartment. He ran to the hiding place where he had stored the money and realized that it was all gone. He looked at his wife and merely said, 'גם זו לטובה'. Yankel went to *daven* and proceeded straight to the wedding hall where he showed the hall owner the police report. The owner told him, 'I will only charge you 10% of the original costs and you can pay me over time.' The caterer told him, 'the food is on me, you can pay whenever you get the chance.' He proceeded to speak to the photographer and the band and they each told him the same thing. Yankel was amazed at the *chessed* of his fellow *Yidden* despite the fact he still had some hefty bills to pay.

As they were in the car park waiting to leave to the *chasuna* hall, Yankel's six-year-old daughter came running out of the building, and didn't see a truck heading straight for her. She flew into the air, landed with a thud on the concrete and... simply picked herself up, dusted herself off and joined her family, without so much as a scratch. Yankel closed his eyes, and screamed, 'Tatte, thank you for taking the money!'