

THE BETH HAMEDRASH HAGADOL
SANDTON
בית המדרש הגדול

Langdon Road, Morningside, Tel: (011) 883 4210, Fax: (011) 883 4245
P.O. Box 65230, Benmore, 2010
e-mail: sandtonshul@sandtonshul.co.za www.sandtonshul.co.za

Rabbi Dr Ivan Lerner
11209 Watermill Lane
Silver Spring, Maryland
20902 USA

Elul 5771/
September 2011

Dear Rabbi Lerner

At the conclusion of your first visit to Beth Hamedrash Hagadol Sandton, you were immediately approached by our Gabbai, Henry Blumenthal, inviting you to return for Shavuot 5771

The invitation was as a direct result of the enormous impact you had made on so many members of our community.

It was a blessing from Hashem that you were able to accept this invitation and once again it was an honour to have you as our scholar-in-residence over the Chag.

The interaction between you and the congregants of our community was of such reciprocal warmth, I was not surprised to see the number of people attending your sermons and shiurim increase substantially on every occasion. I was fortunate enough to participate in many and was captivated by the insight you have on such a diverse array of subjects. Your reference to personal experiences is a unique quality which further endears you to your audience.

I am able to say without fear of contradiction that the accolades and praise for you during both visits were of the highest order.

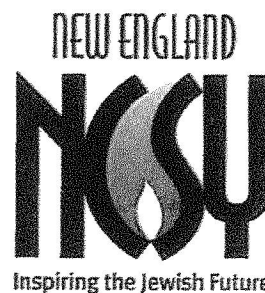
Allow me to quote from an article written about your visit, which is to be published in our forthcoming Rosh Hashanah magazine: "The community at Sandton has once again been privileged to have been addressed by a Rabbi, a Doctor, an International Speaker and above all a mensch!"

I wish you continued Hatzlacha with your inspiring work.

Warm regards

Selwyn Trakman

Chairman-Congregational Affairs



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וכל בניך למודי ה'
ורב שלום בניך

NCSY is the youth movement
of the Orthodox Union

January 13, 2009
17 Tevet, 5769

Dear Rabbi Dr. Ivan Lerner,

Thank you of being our **Guest Speaker** at our **46th Annual Inspiring Celebration**. It was truly the highlight of the evening.

As you know, this event is our primary fund-raiser for the work we do with Jewish teens from all walks of life. Our aim of the celebration is to provide our guests with an evening that informs them of our work and offers them a most enjoyable and meaningful evening.

Your presentation on *Perspectives on Raising Children* was perfect. Our guests were both entertained and enlightened as you wove personal vignettes and insights from Jewish sources. Guests approached me after the event and remarked how personal and 'real' your talk was and how they were moved by your words.

Thank you once again for helping to make our event the success that it was.

With Heartfelt Appreciation,

Rabbi Shmuel Miller

45 Years Inspiring



Adler House
735 High Road
North Finchley
London N12 0US
Telephone 020 8343 8989
Facsimile 020 8343 6262
Website: www.unitedsynagogue.org.uk

Chief Executive:
Rabbi Saul Zneimer MA (Oxon)

19th April 2004

Reference for Rabbi Dr Ivan Lerner

To whom it may concern

I have had the pleasure and privilege of inviting Rabbi Dr Lerner to participate as a speaker in various outreach programmes in England over the past few years. He is, in my view, one of the best presenters of authentic Orthodox Judaism in the English speaking world.

Ivan Lerner's blend of wit and humour, together with his deep understanding of Judaism, allows him to challenge, inspire and uplift his audiences. Whether dealing with matters of ultimate purpose, psychology, family or indeed any of the issues that trouble the contemporary Jew, Ivan always has at his fingertips a wealth of appropriate anecdotes, invariably tied in to authentic Jewish sources.

One of the best accolades that can be paid to him is that, despite his American accent, he is as effective a communicator in London as he is in New York. I have no hesitation in recommending Rabbi Lerner as a first rate speaker.

Rabbi Saul Zneimer
Chief Executive
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Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa
58 Oaklands Road, Orchards, 2192, Johannesburg, South Africa. Tel: 485 4865 Fax: 485 1497
P O Box 46559, Orange Grove, 2119

From Chief Rabbi Cyril K. Harris.
B.A., M.Phil. F.J.C.

Beneficiary of the UCF UNITED COMMUNAL FUND
(No. 1100-201-0002)

4 April 2001
11 Nissan 5761

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

re: RABBI DR. IVAN LERNER

I have known the above for some ten years.

Rabbi Lerner is a highly skilled spiritual leader, psychologist and educational expert. In the past decade he has energetically transformed the large Claremont Synagogue in Cape Town into a vibrant centre of Jewish religious, cultural and communal activity.

He has pioneered adult Jewish education programmes, seminars and campaigns of the highest quality, and as an outstanding organiser of synagogal activities has inspired a range of events on Shabbatot and Festivals which have proved invariably successful.

Complementing his pastoral skills, Rabbi Lerner is an educational psychologist of high standing and in his previous work in Australia coordinated the life skills curriculum for day schools in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. A clinical psychologist, he also specialises in marriage and family issues.

Possessed of a most pleasing personality, Rabbi Lerner relates well to young and old and the genuineness of his beliefs always shines through. He served as President of the Cape Rabbinical Association, where his leadership qualities revitalised the scope and activity of the Association.

Mrs. Arleeta Lerner, a past principal of a California girls' high school, has extensive experience in Jewish communal work, including advertising and fund-raising. She has been instrumental in teaching marriage preparation programmes in Cape Town and these have proved of immense value.

I strongly recommend Rabbi Lerner to any Jewish congregational or educational post, as I feel he will undoubtedly prove an asset to any Shul or school or Jewish organisation fortunate enough to obtain his services.

(SIGNED)

C.K. HARRIS
CHIEF RABBI





בתיה 'ס המאוחדים הרצליה UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS

Association of HEBREW PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN (CAPE TOWN BRANCH) Fund raising No. 01-100-126004-1

אם תרצו, אין זו אגדה

"If you will it, it is no legend"

27th July 2001

Rabbi Lerner
Claremont Hebrew Congregation
Grove Ave
CLAREMONT 7700
C A P E
Fax 6833011

Dear Rabbi Lerner,

Thank you for your outstanding talk given to our parents and staff of the Association of Hebrew Pre-primary Schools on 'Getting your children to do what you want them to do' on Tuesday, 24th July 2001.

Your talk was stimulating, entertaining and thought provoking. The audience response indicated the interest generated. I have had a lot of positive feedback from those who attended. It was very exciting to see many fathers present. The anecdote about your son Daniel's fire engine ladder is a most precious memory for you and Arleeta. I hope the young father who was concerned that your child rearing methods lacked opportunities for flexibility and choice appreciated the depth of your sound, practical and connected relationship with Daniel.

May we all take the opportunity of bidding you a fond farewell and may you, Arleeta and your family enjoy good health and happiness.

Thank you for giving us your time and Shabbat Shalom.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

JOS HORWITZ
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

Educational Administration
Association of Hebrew Pre-primary Schools
The Max and Rose Leiserowitz Building cor Kloof &
Clarens Rd Sea Point 8005 PO Box 808 Sea Point 8060.
Tel +27 21 434-5814 Fax +27 21 434-3966
E-mail: hprimary@nwweb.co.za

Central Financial Administration
United Herzlia Schools
MEI Goldschmidt Avenue Highlands Estate,
Cape Town 8001 PO Box 3508 Cape Town 8000.
Tel +27 21 464-3300 Fax +27 21 461-2367
E-mail admin@herzlia-admin.wcape.school.za

Adler House 735 High Road London N12 0US
Telephone: 020 8343 6301 Fax: 020 8343 6310
info@chiefrabbi.org www.chiefrabbi.org

Rabbi Dr I Lerner
Claremont Hebrew Congregation
PO Box 23035
Claremont 7735
South Africa

Ref: MA/CR 6140/3500

Wednesday 4th April 2001

To whom it may concern:

Rabbi Dr Ivan Lerner

I have come to know Rabbi Dr Ivan Lerner through his work at the Claremont Hebrew Congregation in Capetown, South Africa. It was immediately clear to me, when I visited this community, that Rabbi Lerner is one of the most remarkable spiritual leaders it has been my privilege to encounter. He has transformed the community, making it one of the most dynamic in South Africa. Everything I saw on my visit testified to the presence of an unusually gifted, charismatic and transformational personality.

Rabbi Lerner is a man of wide and varied expertise - in education and psychology as well as the rabbinate. I have no hesitation in giving him the highest commendation as a communicator, pastor and educator, but there is no doubt that it is as a leader that his gifts are most striking and rare. He combines charm, sensitivity and a strong moral sense, and would be a great asset to any organisation.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks



Rabbi Gedaliah Anemer

בס"ד

YOUNG ISRAEL SHOMRAI EMUNAH
of Greater Washington

Business Office: 1132 Arcola Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902
811 University Boulevard West, Silver Spring, MD 20901
Phone: (301) 593-4465 Fax: (301) 593-2330

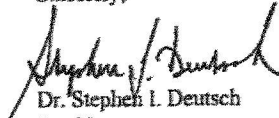
November 19, 2002

Rabbi Dr. Ivan Lerner
1121 University Blvd. W., #305
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Dear Rabbi Lerner,

On behalf of our entire Shul and community, I am writing to thank you for your successful inauguration of our Social Tisch series. You have already become a major Rabbinical asset in our community. I hope that we will be merit continued exposure to your scholarship and warmth for many years.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stephen I. Deutsch
President



Claremont Hebrew Congregation

GROVE AVENUE, CLAREMONT 7708

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 25035, CLAREMONT 7735

☎ (021) 671-9006/7/8 FAX (021) 683-3011

E-MAIL: clarshul@iafrica.com

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ASST. MINISTER : RABBI MOSHE KORNIJUM

CANTOR : EZRA ALTSCHULER

PRESIDENT : HOWARD KATZEFF

BAAL KOREAH : DAVID RIFFKIN

Monday, April 16, 2001
23 Nissan 5761

RABBI DR I LERNER

As treasurer and president of the Claremont Hebrew Congregation, I have had the pleasure and privilege of working closely with Rabbi Dr Ivan Lerner for the past 7 years.

It has been a privilege because one is rarely afforded the opportunity of experiencing first-hand the power of righteousness in a tangible form in modern society whilst learning so much at the same time. It has been a pleasure because of the positive environment that Rabbi Lerner creates as a consequence of his enthusiastic, dedicated, energetic, persistent and sincere approach to all that he does.

Rabbi Lerner transformed the Claremont Hebrew Congregation (CHC) into a dynamic and highly successful Community Centre Synagogue, enriching the lives of not only the members, but also serving the community of Cape Town in several ways. The Jewish Community has benefited by also participating in the various programmes offered by CHC. Perhaps more importantly, various organizations have been spurred to action because of the dynamism and positive changes at CHC. The outreach programmes initiated by Rabbi Lerner have impacted positively on the wider community.

Rabbi Lerner is gifted with very special qualities seldom found in one person. He is a well organized, energetic, conscientious and highly effective chief executive. A good communicator with an inclusive management style, Rabbi Lerner works well with others but being a self-starter and a "now" person acts decisively doing whatever it takes to complete the task. Kind, sincere and caring, Rabbi Lerner is a gifted and respected teacher and a wise and experienced counsellor. An inspiring and motivational speaker, Rabbi Lerner has the ability and capacity to motivate and influence people.

Rabbi Lerner is a realist and determined to achieve his goals. I can recommend him with great confidence to any organization in the knowledge that it will have good fortune and benefit from his considerable talents.

I wish him well in all his endeavours.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or elaboration.

Yours sincerely


M L Kovensky
Immediate Past President

... "And all of thy children shall learn of the Lord" ... Isaiah

Arundel Road, Erina Heights, N.S.W. 2260
P.O. Box 999, Wamberal, N.S.W. 2260
Telephone: (043) 67 6766
Fax: (043) 65 1860



Headmaster:
Mr Richard Lornie
B.Sc.(Econ.), P.G.C.E., M.A., M.A.C.E.

CENTRAL COAST GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A.C.N. 002 839 607

From The Headmaster

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am happy to be able to write a recommendation on behalf of Dr. Ivan Lerner. My most recent contact with Dr. Lerner was in regard to a seminar held for my middle management staff in February, 1992.

The theme of the Seminar was "team building", but a number of other topics were also covered including goal setting; time management; positive thinking and self-image. The middle management team at the Central Coast Grammar School consists of Subject Heads of departments, Year Co-ordinators and House Co-ordinators. The three groups constitute the middle management team, but also operate as semi-autonomous teams themselves. The basic goal of the workshop was to enable these three groups to work more closely together in harmony with the schools overall aims and objectives. In discussing the planning of the workshop with my Director of Studies, we realised that this goal was a most ambitious one, but from earlier dealings with Dr. Lerner I was happy to recommend him as the ideal person to engage as the group facilitator for the day.

All members of the middle management team were impressed with the manner in which the workshop was conducted. The evaluation schedules that were completed were all very positive about the outcomes of the workshop. I would be happy to employ Dr. Lerner again to conduct workshops at my School, and I know he would be well received by my staff, and I consider this to be a very strong recommendation on his behalf. I consider Dr. Lerner to be well organised, well researched and able to relate well to teachers because of his theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

Dated this 5th day of March, 1992

R. LORNIE
HEADMASTER

*Striving for excellence in all endeavours
in a happy, caring and supportive environment.*

B's'd



Congregation Etz Chaim

1 Lafayette Court

Livingston, New Jersey 07039

Phone: 973-597-1655 e-mail: etzchaim@comcast.net Fax: 973-597-1659
www.etzchaimlv.com

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June 16, 2005


Rabbi Dr. Ivan Lerner
1121 University Boulevard West
Suite #305
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Dear Rabbi Ivan:

6/24/05
Thank you again for a most meaningful and successful Shavuot program.
I look forward to having you and your wife eventually.

As you wander the globe, remember our little "shtetle".

B'Yedidut,


Rabbi Shlomo Krupka
Encl.
/id