



### **Bergen County History Bee and Bowl**

On Sunday, November 22, over 100 students from fourteen high schools in the New York Metropolitan area took part in the second annual Bergen County History Bee and Bowl which was held at Torah Academy of Bergen County in Teaneck. The event is one of approximately 100 regional tournaments around the country organized by The National History Bee and Bowl, an organization founded by Ridgewood native and former 19 day champion on *Jeopardy!*, David Madden. Attending students took part in both the History Bee (for individual students) and the History Bowl (for school teams). Thirty teams competed; eight of which were in the Junior Varsity Division teams composed of students in 10th grade and younger. Aside from students from Torah Academy, other Bergen County schools in action included Ridgewood High School, Tenafly High School, Bergen Academies – Hackensack, Northern Valley Regional High School at Demarest, and Academy of the Holy Angels. Yeshiva High Schools in attendance included, in addition to Torah Academy, Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School (which is in Teaneck), SAR High School, Yeshiva University High School for Boys and Yeshiva University high school for Girls. The top half of students and teams in the Bee and the Bowl qualified for a chance to attend the 2016 National Championships next April in Arlington, Virginia.

After a long day of high level competition, the results came in. In the Junior Varsity History Bee competition, Torah Academy was able to dominate as Yosef Kahan (TABC '18) took the first place medal and Nathanael Vinar (TABC '19) took second place. Both students also qualified for the National Tournament. In the Varsity History Bowl, Julian Ubriaro of King Park High School on Long Island took first place. While Aaron Fishkind (TABC '16) of Torah Academy also qualified for the History Bee finals, Aaron along with Jeremy Rosenblatt (TABC '16) and Orrin Kigner (TABC '16) also qualified for the national tournament.

In the team competition there were both Varsity and Junior Varsity division. The Junior Varsity History Bowl was won by a team from the Newark Academy which eliminated Torah Academy (which had gone 4-1 in the preliminary rounds) during the semi-finals. Both of Torah Academy's teams qualified for the day's playoffs and the team eliminated in the semi-final also qualified for the National Tournament. On the Varsity level the competition came down to a close final between Bergen Academies and Ridgewood High School which Bergen Academies won. Both of the host's team qualified for the playoffs and the top varsity squad was eliminated in the quarter-finals by one of the two final teams. One of Torah Academy's varsity teams qualified for the national tournament.

In each of the four categories, Torah Academy team members finished ahead of all the other Yeshiva in attendance.