

R. Yehuda Yitin

1879-1965



R. Yehuda Yitin was born in 1879 in [Chislavichi](#). His father, R. Yosef Yitin was known as a brilliant expert in Torah. For many years he was elected for the position of “scholar” at the board of Shor synagogue in Chislavichi. R. Yehuda also was educated in one of the best yeshivas inside the Pale. But his living he provided from trade, being the 1st Guild merchant in Tsaritsyn and later in Astrakhan’. At some stage he joined the Zionist movement and became the head of local Zionist organization. After Bolshevik revolution in 1917, to stay in Russia for wealthy businessman which he was became extremely dangerous. In 1919 he succeeded to flee from Russia via Odessa, Istanbul and Beirut to Eretz Israel. He managed to secure his capital and bring some part of it with him. He was one of the first residents of Hadar-Hacarmel, the newly founded Jewish quarter in Haifa, and among its leadership. He decided to build a house in Hadar Ha-Carmel, and hired for this aim the engineer Gedalyahu Wilboshevitz known for his design of the Old Technion building. The construction of R. Yitin’s house was finished in 1920. This year he secretly came back to Russia to bring his wife and their four children. He started to purchase lands and sell them to construction contractors. With his help many housing projects in Hadar were completed. He was busy with this activity without any profit, just for the sake of the city’s residents. His living he made from the importing company he had founded. Later he became the agent of P. Rutenberg (Palestine Electric Co.) and M. Novomeysky (Palestine Potash Ltd.) being in charge of the seaport and customs issues. He co-founded “Chevra Yamit” company which owned cargo ships for delivering goods by sea and was its General manager.

As prominent communal figure, he contributed much to the life of Haifa in general and Hadar Hacarmel in particular. He was among the founders of the city’s Chamber of Commerce and for twenty years was its President. He also served the President of Bank for Savings and Loans in Haifa. He initiated construction of the Central synagogue in Haifa and for scores of years was its gabbai.

His activity was not limited by the city limits: for scores of years he was the Head of Haifa branch of the Mizrahi movement, while in 1944 he was elected into its Eretz Israel Board. He also supported the “United Religious Front List” before the first elections to Knesset in 1949.

His activity was given due credit: in 1960 he was awarded with the title of “Honored citizen of Haifa”, and after his death one of Haifa streets was given his name.

R. Yehuda Yitin deceased on the 23rd day of Adar II, 5725 (25.03.1965) and was buried in Haifa.



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