Over 400 people attended the 23rd annual dinner of the Etzion Foundation held on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York. Rabbi Scot A. Berman ’77, founding principal of Kushner Yeshiva High School, Livingston, NJ, was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award, together with his wife, Esther Meiersdorf. Nathan ’78 and Yocheved Lindenbaum of Teaneck, NJ received the Parent Recognition Award. This year’s dinner also honored the alumni of 1981 and 1982. The dinner program included addresses by Rosh HaYeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein and Rav Yakov Medan, Ram in the Yeshiva, as well as a video showcasing some of the yeshiva’s achievements and musical entertainment provided by alumni band “Kol Achai”.

Special thanks to the Dinner Co-Chairs: Howard ’79 and Chaya Balter, Bradford and Robin Klatt and Charles and Seryle Kushner, to the 1981 Alumni Committee – Arye Colton, Joel Steinmetz and Eli Weber, the 1982 Alumni Committee – Saul Burian, Abraham I. Katsman and Gidon Rothstein, and to David J. Landes ’73, Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation, Dorothy Berman, President, Tobias B. Schapiro, Vice-Chairman, and Shirley Schuster, Executive Director.
More than 40 alumni spent their winter break from university learning at Yeshiva this year. The following letter was received from alumnus Zev Nagel '00-'01:

"I want to thank the Yeshiva for opening its doors to me and for warmly welcoming all the alumni back to the Yeshiva to spend the winter break. It was a phenomenal experience and extremely heartwarming to once again feel the special relationship that we talmidim have with the Yeshiva. It’s a relationship that endures. Thank you very much and I look forward to being in the Yeshiva again in the future."

To arrange a visit to Yeshiva, email: office@etzion.org.il

Recruitment

Yeshiva continues to attract bnei chutz la’aretz students:

Sadly, the events in Israel over the past few years have caused a decline in tourism, which has affected overseas programs as well. Baruch Hashem Yeshivat Har Etzion has continued to attract a significant number of high caliber talmidim to its one- and two-year programs. The number of applications has remained steady and the Yeshiva has been blessed with some of its finest machzorim. In fact, the Yeshiva has enjoyed some of its highest rates of talmidim returning for a second year - a sign that students and their parents remain satisfied with the manner in which the Yeshiva is responding to the situation.

Members of the Yeshiva’s educational staff have been traveling to the US with greater frequency to meet with parents of current and prospective students. These trips are designed to afford parents a sense of comfort and security at the steps which the Yeshiva has taken to maintain the safety of their children. “Though these trips entail a slightly greater effort,” remarked Rav Moshe Taragin ‘83, “it’s very gratifying to be able to assist in allowing talented bachurim to continue to attend Yeshivat Har Etzion.”

New Building for Herzog College

Herzog College has commenced construction on a new building to solve the problem of overcrowding due to its steadily increasing student body and new programs.

In addition, two new departments are soon to be inaugurated: the first is a Special Education Department aiming to train Talmud, Tanach and Jewish Philosophy teachers to address the requirements of students with special needs. The second is a Literature Department which will enable limudei kodesh teachers to also teach literature, which has often been a neglected subject in Yeshiva school systems. Herzog College is currently in the process of attaining accreditation to offer a Master’s Degree in Education.

Mishloach Manot for Soldiers

Yeshivat Har Etzion third-year Hesder student Dan Shtemer, on active duty, receives mishloach manot. Mrs. Lisa Erdfarb, mother of Dovid ‘00-'01, of Oceanside, NY, collected money from her kindergarten students to buy mishloach manot for yeshiva chayalim.

Winter Visitors
The Bat Ayin Connection

"Yeshivat Bat Ayin is probably the world’s only Modern Orthodox Chassidic Yeshiva," says Rav Greenberg. "While the yeshiva is built on a strong base of serious classical imud, a spirit of chassidut permeates everything."

The Bat Ayin Yeshiva was founded seven years ago by Har Etzion alumnus Rav Natan Greenberg ’72-’79 in the Gush Etzion community of Bat Ayin. The yeshiva, intended for English-speaking ba’alei teshuva, is dedicated to the principles of Zionism, openness and spiritual intensity. It is well known for its emphasis on tefilla, midot and emuna, as well as an environment of total freedom to discuss intellectual and theological issues. The yeshiva has a growing Kollel for married students studying towards Semicha and an Israeli program is slated to open in the near future.

Yeshivat Har Etzion alumni figure prominently in this important kiruv work. Rav Greenberg’s co-Rosh Yeshiva Rav Daniel Kohen ’90-’92 H is also a Har Etzion alumnus, as are two of the yeshiva’s principal staff members: Rav Hanan Schlesinger ’80-’90 heads the Beginner’s Program and Rav Josh Amaru (’85-’89 Hesder/’91-’97 Kollel) is responsible for the top-level halacha and beki’ut shiurim.

"I’m not a typical Bat Ayin staff member – I’m the one who doesn’t allow any singing in the beit midrash," admits Rav Amaru with a smile, describing himself as a rationalist. He explains that while 95% of the curriculum is identical to the classic yeshiva curriculum – the main focus being on Gemara b’iyun and halacha – the additional 5% which emphasizes chassidic-style spirituality is responsible for creating the unique atmosphere of Yeshivat Bat Ayin.

Rav Natan fondly recalls Rav Amital’s shiurim on chassidut back in the ‘70’s and is grateful to Rav Amital for stressing the importance of educational shlichut and kiruv work and says, "I hope that the warm connection between Yeshivat Har Etzion and Yeshivat Bat Ayin will continue to grow in the future."

The Virtual Beit Midrash

The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash, established eight years ago, opens up the walls of the Beit Midrash to students all over the world. Today, the VBM has 18,000 subscribers and sends out over 30,000 shiurim each week.

SALT, which stands for Surf-a-Little-Torah, is a website maintained by the yeshiva with short divrei Torah updated daily. SALT enables even the busiest internet user to spend five minutes a day surfing Torah topics. To try it, set your web browser’s Home Page address to: www.vbm-torah.org/salt.htm

One subscriber says, "Thank you so much for putting SALT on your website. It is wonderful that I can set my browser to open on the SALT page when I log on to my computer in the morning. Surfing SALT is one of the first things I do. It really puts things in perspective for me and starts my day off right."

VBM Enrollment 1996-2002

The Beit Midrash of Yeshivat Bat Ayin
**NEWS BRIEFS**

- **Rav Medan in NY**

  In addition to speaking at the annual dinner in March, Rav Yakov Medan gave a number of **shiurim** in the greater NY area and discussed the teaching of Tanach with Judaic studies teachers. Rav Medan was in Teaneck for Shabbat, where a Friday night **tish** was held at the home of David Landes ‘73, and he delivered two well-attended **shiurim** on Shabbat afternoon. According to David Landes, “Everywhere Rav Medan spoke, he generated a great deal of excitement and interest and made a significant impact. Many people thanked me for arranging for him to come and asked where they can get copies of his articles and books.”

- **Rav Soloveitchik Study Evening**

  Herzog College sponsored an evening of study devoted to "The Educational Teachings of HaRav Soloveitchik and their Significance for our Generation" on March 30, 2003. The first segment of the evening, chaired by Rav Binyamin Tabory, featured lectures by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein, Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein and Rav Azarya Berzon, Rosh Yeshiva, Sha’arei Mevaseret Tzion. Lecturers in the second session, chaired by Shmuel Wygoda, Director of the Herzog College, were: Prof. Shalom Rosenberg, Head of the Jewish Thought Dept., Herzog College; Rav Dr. Danny Tropper, Director of “Gesher”; and Rav Yuval Sherlo ’76 H, Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshivat Hesder of Petach Tikva. The lectures are being transcribed and will soon be available through the Virtual Beit Midrash.

- **NY Alumni Shabbaton**

  This year’s annual alumni Shabbaton was held on Shabbat Parashat Vayigash in Great Neck, NY with the participation of 80 alumni. Rav Lichtenstein spoke in three shuls: Congregation Shaare Zion of Great Neck, Great Neck Synagogue, and the Young Israel of Great Neck. Meals were held at the Young Israel of Great Neck, and attended by the shul’s Rabbi Yaakov Lerner and family. The shabbaton included a Friday night **tish** and a **seuda shlishit**, both of which were also attended by members of the community. As in the past, the weekend was more than just a successful alumni Shabbaton; it was an event in which the entire community participated and benefited.

- **Melava Malka in New Rochelle**

  Rav Aharon Lichtenstein was the special guest at a Melava Malka held on Motzaei Shabbat, December 14, 2002, at the home of Amy and David Grauer, parents of Seth ’96-’97 and Zachary ’03. A large group of alumni, parents and others who were interested in hearing Rav Lichtenstein and learning more about Yeshivat Har Etzion, turned out to greet and welcome the Rosh Yeshiva.

  Rav Lichtenstein spoke about many of the child-rearing challenges faced by parents today, and he offered practical suggestions as well as personal anecdotes reflecting his all-encompassing Torah perspective. Rav Lichtenstein’s talk was followed by a lively question and answer session. Many of those who attended indicated that the presence of Rav Lichtenstein gave them great chizuk, and everyone felt enriched by the warm character of the evening.
study in Israeli yeshivot. Prospective students are told that one of the school’s goals is that its graduates study for a year or two in yeshivot in Israel, and almost every graduate has followed suit.

Rabbi Tirschwell earned a BA at Yeshiva College, semicha at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Seminary, an MA in School Administration and Supervision at the College of New Rochelle, and is planning on beginning a doctorate this summer. He studied for a year at Yeshiva University’s Gruss Institute, during which he spent every other Shabbat at Har Etzion. Serving as a rebbe on the NCSY summer Kollel in Efrat for two summers, it was a particular thrill for him to have a view of the yeshiva from his seat in the beit midrash. The influence of Yeshivat Har Etzion has been a constant. “From my shiurim to my talks addressing current events, the thought processes and hashkafat olam that I learned at the yeshiva have served as my guide.”

“Six years ago, I had a number of career paths before me, and I met with Rav Lichtenstein during one of his visits to New York to ask his advice. As always, Rav Lichtenstein carefully analyzed the options. He told me that creating a school in Boca would be the most important contribution I could make, since there was no one else to do it at the time. It was truly sage advice.”
**Marriages**

- Aharon ’72 and Miriam Adler on the marriage of their daughter Ahuva to Tamir Gaziel ’92 H
- Stuie ’76 and Shelley Schapir on the marriage of their daughter Shani to Ari Farkas

**Births**

- Judah ’82 and Beth Isaacs, Gabriel Shlomo, Oak Park, MI
- Yitzchak ’83 and Stefanie Etshalom, Avraham Uriel, LA
- Shalom ’83 and Rachel Berger, Temima Bracha, Alon Shevut
- Zalman ’84 and Gila Levine, Leeby Yocheved, Teaneck, NJ
- Jeff ’85 and Cheryl Kaye, boy, LA
- Laurence ’85 and Michelle Berkowitz, Yair Haim, Beit Shemesh
- Jonny ’86 and Michal Horovitz, Shalhevet Shoshana, Elazar
- Moshe ’86 and Kaeren Fish, Nechama Gila, Nokdim
- Jonathan ’87 and Tamar Koschitzky, Elianne Simcha, Antwerp, Belgium
- Shimmy ’87 and Judy Kreditor, Shai Amichai, Beit Shemesh
- Clive ’88 and Shira Lipsitz, Daniel Nachum, Teaneck, NJ
- Simcha ’88 and Chani Axelrod, Yosef Dov, Cedarhurst, NY
- David ’89 and Joanne Odes, twins: Gideon Daniel and Yehuda

**Aharon, Alon Shevut**

- Eli ’89 and Anat Schick, Chanan Amiad, W. Hempstead, NY
- Marc ’90 and Sharon Friedman, Shlomo Yonah, Lawrence, NY
  (Mazal Tov to grandparents Marty and Shirley Schuster, Executive Director of the Etzion Foundation)
- David ’90 and Yocheved Debow, Ayelet Zahava, Cleveland, OH
- Gedalyah ’90 and Miriam Berger, twins: Batya Rachel and Yaffa Sheindl, Mt. Vernon, NY
- David ’90 and Brigitte Silverberg, twins: Gavriel and Yehuda Leib, Alon Shevut
- Reuven ’91 PC and Judy Rosenzark, Yadidya Simcha, Efrat
- Jeremy ’91 and Aviva Winson, Chana Avraham, Ramat Beit Shemesh
- Yaaov ’92 and Leora Weinstein, Shoshana Chaya, Brookline, MA
- Daniel ’92 and Anna Yolikut, Chana Devora, Teaneck, NJ
- Aaron ’92 and Yael Katsman, Moshe Arieh, Jerusalem
- David ’92 and Shira Greenstone, Leora Bracha, Baltimore, MD
- Elisha ’93 and Rachel Ziskind, Miriam, Highland Park, NJ
- Emanuel ’93 and Naomi Cohn, Amiel Mor Eyal, Montreal, Canada
- Zev ’93 and Sada Jacobson, Yitzchak Avichai, Jerusalem
- Eitan ’93 and Sylvia Franklin, Raphael Ami, Australia
- Ari ’95 and Aviva Heller, Shemaya Yehuda, Alon Shevut
- Yehuda ’95 and Michelle Sarna, Chaya Batya, NYC
- Shlomo ’95 and Ronni Troodler, boy, Bala Cynwyd, PA
- Shai ’96 and Tova Gerson, Jonah Joshua, Mount Vernon, NY
- Benji ’96 and Alisa Zimmerman, Shoshana Bracha, Jerusalem
  (Mazal Tov to grandparents Rabbi Danny and Tova Rhein)
- Josh ’97 and Nava Wilk, Itiel Mordechai, Brooklyn, NY
- Aaron ’97 PC and Miriam Greenberg, Nediva Rachel, Canada
- Adrian ’97 PC and Gaby Treger, Yaakov Yair, Alon Shevut
- Yossi ’00 and Amira Kra, Akiva Yehuda, Riverdale, NY

Mazal Tov to HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the birth of granddaughter Renana Zippora, born to Esti and Herzl Rosenberg
Alumni Achievements in Chinuch

Rabbi Avi Nachshon '72 H, Rav, Yishuv Elad, Israel
Rabbi Lawrence Teitelman '85, Rabbi, Young Israel of Jackson Heights, NY
Rabbi Eitan Mor Yosef '87 H, Secretary-General, Bnei Akiva of Israel
Rabbi Rael Krengel '88, Rabbi of the Sandton Mizrachi Bnei Akiva shul and teacher at Yeshiva College, Johannesburg, is the new Rosh Kollel of the Mizrachi/Bnei Akiva Beit Midrash in Johannesburg, South Africa
Rabbi Gedalyah Berger '90 Rabbi, Fleetwood Synagogue, Mt. Vernon, NY
Rabbi Yehuda Rock '91 H Ram, Yeshivat Hesder in Otniel.
Rabbi Haim Navon '92 H Teacher of Jewish Thought at YHE and Herzog College, is pursuing a Masters Degree in Philosophy at Hebrew University and is a member of Yeshivat Har Etzion’s Kollel Gavoah. He writes a weekly column on Parashat Shavua for the "Mekor Rishon" newspaper.
Micah Gimpel '92, serving as “Shabbat Rabbi” at Stern College, NY. In Elul, he and his wife, Gila, are planning to join the Holliswood, NY, Kollel, which includes a commitment to teach in the community for about nine hours a week
Rabbi Yuval Arzi '93 H, community rabbi, Ra’anana, Israel
Rabbi Josh Cypess '95 PC, Assistant Rabbi of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in NYC
Rabbi Aaron Greenberg '97 PC, teacher at Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot in Toronto, Canada
Saul Adler '01-MTA - teaching Jewish studies, grades 7 and 8, at the Jewish day school in Cape Town, South Africa

PC = Post-College   H = Hesder

Bar/Bat Mitzva
Aharon Binyamin Lerner (Eli '75 and Sharon), Beit Shemesh
Yael Berkowitz (Michael '77 and Debra), Alon Shevut
Elyashiv Ephraim Leibtag (Menachem '77 and Thea), Alon Shevut
Elisha David Patinkin (Jonathan '78 and Ruth), Beit El
David Louis (Elazar Eliyahu) Steinmetz (Joel '81 and Elaine), Woodmere, NY
Neema Fischman (David '81 and Debbi), Ontario, Canada
Yekutieli Wecker (Alan '82 and Tzafira), Moreshet
Yocheved Tirschwell (Perry '82 and Miriam), Boca Raton, FL
Binyamin Aryeh Leib Berger (Shalom '83 and Rachel), Alon Shevut
Avigail Taragin (Maish '83 and Atara), Alon Shevut
Zeeva Levine (Zalman '84 and Gila), Teaneck, NJ
Devorah Leah Schreiber (Doniel '86 and Aviva), Alon Shevut

Mazal Tov to Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the bar mitzva of grandson, Yechiel, son of Yitzhak and Rochel Lichtenstein.

Aliya
David '94 and Sara Whitefield, Ra'anana
Shawn '94 and Tammy Ruby, Ra'anana

Condolences
To Laurence Berkowitz '84 on the loss of his mother, Eleanor z’l
To Seth Farber '86 on the loss of his mother, Esther z’l

יכון שם חכם בחוץ שאר אכלים צו וירשליים

Please send your news to: office@etzion.org.il
or fax 972-2-993-1298
New Books by Rav Lichtenstein

Leaves of Faith, vol. 1: The World of Jewish Learning (English) contains eleven articles revolving around the theme of Torah study – its rationale, methodology, interaction with other areas of life, and application in halachic decision-making – and concludes with portraits of two Torah masters greatly admired by the author: Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt”l and Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt”l.

By His Light: Character & Values in the Service of God (English) contains twelve chapters on Jewish values and the development of the religious personality. It explores the individual’s responsibilities towards his Creator, his community, and his self, and the balance between them. Originating as a series of lectures, this volume has been adapted for print by Rav Reuven Ziegler with an emphasis on accessibility to a broad audience, and is especially suitable for classroom and adult education use.

To order or to view tables of contents, see: http://www.vbm-torah.org/ralbooks.htm.

We are also pleased to offer discounts on the purchase of two new books by Rav Soloveitchik zt”l, drawn from the vast archive of manuscripts he left after his death:

Worship of the Heart: Essays on Jewish Prayer (English), edited by Shalom Carmy

Out of the Whirlwind: Essays on Mourning, Suffering and the Human Condition (English), edited by David Shatz, Joel B. Wolowelsky and Rav Reuven Ziegler:

These volumes were prepared by a team including many Har Etzion kollel students. For details on contents and purchase, see: http://www.vbm-torah.org/ralbooks.htm.

If you order books through these websites, a portion of the proceeds will go to Yeshivat Har Etzion.

To order books, please write to: office@etzion.org.il

Sichat Chul (English), a weekly newsletter by talmidei chul with divrei Torah and Yeshiva news, edited by Shana Bet talmidim Yehoshua Lindenbaum and Eliezer Shaffren.

Shefot Hashoftim (Hebrew) by Dr. Yisrael Rosensohn. A series of in-depth articles on the Book of Shoftim, which deal in a methodological manner with the central questions which arise in the book. It provides an overall view of Shoftim and its main ideas for the reader; with an emphasis on two central themes: the process of settlement, and the concept of leadership. Dr. Yisrael Rosensohn, a veteran teacher in Herzog College, has been involved in the teaching of Tanach and Eretz Yisrael studies for many years. Published by Tevunot Press, Herzog College.

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