Over 1,500 Har Etzion alumni, family and friends of Harav Amital from throughout the country gathered at Binyanei Ha’Uma in Jerusalem on Friday morning, Lag Ba’Omer to honor Harav Amital on the occasion of his 80th birthday. In an outpouring of love and admiration, the exciting and inspiring program paid tribute to this extraordinary individual who founded the Yeshiva and has served as its spiritual leader for the past 36 years, together with Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Lichtenstein shlit"a.

A stirring video, highlighting Harav Amital’s life, including interviews and footage of the early days of the Yeshiva, was screened, produced by Yitzhak Recanati, of machzor bet of the Yeshiva. The happening was also marked by brief interviews with various Yeshiva alumni who have assumed leadership positions throughout Israeli society. Each was asked to capture a different feature of their Rebbe - Harav Amital.

This historic occasion was marked by both enormous pride at the Yeshiva's accomplishments as well as profound gratitude to Rav Amital and his inspired leadership these past four decades. The celebration will hopefully further strengthen the close ties between the thousands of Har Etzion alumni and the Yeshiva. A CD with highlights of the event is being prepared and will soon be distributed to alumni and friends. Special thanks to Alumni Coordinator Amos Safrai, of the Yeshiva's first machzor, Director of Emunah College, and to Oshrit Setbon, event coordinator.
Siyum Shas in Honor of Moshko

A festive luncheon was held at the Yeshiva on February 15 on the occasion of the Yeshiva’s Daf Yomi group’s completion of the Shas, the third cycle for the Yeshiva. The Siyum was dedicated to Moshe (“Moshko”) Moskovic, Chairman of the Board, in honor of his 80th birthday. Rav Yehuda Shavi made the Siyum, noting Moskovic’s boundless energy and vision which drive him to always do more and more.

Moshko, who began the new machzor of study, founded the Yeshiva with Harav Amital 36 years ago and has been actively involved ever since, alongside his activities in the building and settling of Eretz Yisrael. “We have merited the establishment of a glorious Yeshiva, with the help of God, which is a fitting tribute to the memory of the fighters of Gush Etzion,” said Moshko, a survivor of the 1948 battle for Gush Etzion.

Nack Visit to Yeshiva

Mrs. Frieda Z. Nack, Vice President and Chair-Elect of the B’nai Israel Jewish Centre, and her son Daniel, visited the Yeshiva, the Beit Midrash for Women, and the Herzog College on June 16th.

These past years have been difficult ones for B’nai Israel as they have lost their two leaders, Saul H. Nack, Esq. of blessed memory and Sydney J. Goldner, Esq. of blessed memory. These men of vision, together with their esteemed spiritual leader, Rabbi Dr. Nahum H. Rosenbloom, first introduced B’nai Israel to Moshe “Moshko” Moskovic, with whom a close friendship and partnership developed. Yeshivat Har Etzion is grateful for B’nai Israel’s ongoing support, thus furthering the study of Torah in Eretz Yisrael and the training of qualified Judaic Studies teachers and spiritual leaders for future generations.

NEWS BRIEFS

- The Roshei Yeshiva and administration express their heartfelt thanks for an anonymous contribution towards a scholarship fund for second-year overseas talmidim at Yeshiva by a parent.
- The 16th Annual Yeshivat Har Etzion Alumni Shabbaton took place at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, N.J. this past winter. On Friday night, Roshei Yeshiva Harav Aharon Lichtenstein addressed the topic of “Current Religious Zionism: Loyal Opposition and Opposing Loyalties,” followed by an Oneg Shabbat. On Shabbat morning, Rav Mordechai Friedman ’79, Ram in the Yeshiva, gave a parsha shiur for alumni. Harav Lichtenstein gave a shiur on Shabbat afternoon and a sicha during seuda shlishit.
- Rav Moshe Taragin ’83, Ram in the Yeshiva, spent Shabbat Parashat Nasso in Brooklyn, N.Y., delivering shiurim at the Young Israel of Ave J and the Young Israel of Flatbush. He also gave shiurim on Shavuot at the Lincoln Square Synagogue, at the invitation of Har Etzion alumnus Rabbi Natan Y. Braun ’92.
- Rav Moshe Aberman ’76 H, Ram in the Yeshiva, visited Johannesburg, Cape Town, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Auckland during the month of June where he interviewed prospective students for this February’s new MTA group, met with alumni and gave shiurim.
- Interest in aliyah increased after a Shabbaton held at Yeshiva on Shabbat Parashat Behar. Talimdim on the Dr. William Major Overseas Program at Yeshivat Har Etzion greatly benefited from meeting with bogrim and representatives of Ravne O’lan and Nefesh B’Nefesh. In order to encourage ongoing dialogue regarding aliyah, a network is being created between current students of the Yeshiva and bogrim planning aliya with bogrim now living in Israel. For more information, contact Dovid Davies ’01 or Sammy C. Hester ’03: smue85@yahoo.com
- The Annual Summer Study Days in Tanach of the Herzog College took place July 11-14 at the Yeshiva, with over 2,000 participants. Look for photos and details in our next issue.
- Dr. Shmuel W. Ygoda, Director of the Herzog College, is pleased to report that the planning committee for reducing the number of academic teachers’ colleges, has recommended that the Herzog College continue to function as an independent teachers’ college, testament to the high regard in which the College is held by the Ministry.
- The proposal submitted by the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Wemen in Migdal Oz for its Pedagogic Program has been approved by the Pedagogic Department of the Ministry of Education for a class of 25 students. “This, too, is a satisfying development, recognizing the high level of our Women’s Beit Midrash Program,” states Dr. W. Ygoda.
Har Etzion Trip to Poland
Mordechai Raaskas ’99, madrich

“Stop! Pull over here;” yelled Yankel, in Polish, to our bus driver. We had come to call these incidents, “Yankel Specials” - unique places in Poland that seemed to be known only to our guide, Yankel. We unloaded the bus and stood staring at a monstrous yellow building. Why could it be? Yankel led us around the back and up stairs that one could only guess how sturdy they truly were. After climbing several flights, now being guided by flashlights, we pushed our way through garbage and old clothes to realize we were in the attic with the roof only four feet above our heads. “Step only on the crossbeams otherwise you may fall through,” we were told. After reaching the far side, we all saw it. A large curved inscription that read, “Ma Norah Hamakom Hazeh Ein Zeh Ki Im Beit Elokim,” “How awesome is this place, this is none other than the house of God,” a verse uttered by Yaakov thousands of years ago. Apparently this was the top of the aron kodesh, and we were standing in a century-old shul now converted into a three storey apartment building. Why does this stop stick out so clearly in my mind? Precisely because it isn’t special. Let me explain.

It took place during my visit to Poland with Yeshivat Har Etzion, shortly before Pesach. Most people probably never heard of Dabie, the town where we stopped. Throughout this trip, I gained an appreciation for the pervasiveness of Jewish life throughout Poland. Every town with several thousand Jews, and there were hundreds, if not thousands of these, had an ornate and grand shul. The Jews were a presence and they invested their efforts and time in constructing their synagogues. The flip side of course is that it makes one more accurately assess the destruction of the Holocaust and its scope and ramifications. Dabie, a now meaningless Polish name, was once a home and symbol to a Jewish culture and population now gone.

The trip consisted of 30 students, together with myself and three other staff members. Rabbi Shalom Berger ’83, an alumnus of our yeshiva, was our guide and historian, and Rabbi Moshe Aberman ’76 H and Rabbi Danny Rhein were our spiritual guides. The planning for the trip began early in the year as a creative initiative by Rabbi Yair Kahn ’77. The goal was to provide a trip to Poland for our students that was educationally designed to be an integrated part of their experience this year and economically viable. While the week-long mission to Poland has become so commonplace that the itineraries of various trips look quite similar, we added one afternoon that was quite thought-provoking. After spending Shabbat in Krakow, we traveled to a nearby village, Dzialoszyce. Two indications remain that the town was once primarily Jewish. A large synagogue stands in ruins and multiple doorframes testify to the past presence of mezuzot. Near the ruins of the synagogue, we met with a dozen local high school students. We spent a few hours touring their town and discussing topics ranging from popular music to how the Holocaust has impacted us. Having just walked through the ashes of Auschwitz and the once Jewish streets of Krakow, this inter-cultural experience left an indelible impression on our students.

Rav Moshe Aberman, who was visiting Poland for the first time, adds: "The goal of the trip was twofold: To understand Jewish life in Poland before the Holocaust and to better understand the Holocaust itself and related topics. I felt that these two goals came together very well by bringing out the intensity of the Holocaust in light of the greatness of Jewish life which existed previously. The trip helped students understand their place in a long tradition of Torah and brought forth their responsibility to maintain this chain and revive Torah vigor to its glory. Traveling as a separate group, it was a more unique and internal experience and students were better able to share their feelings in a way that may not have occurred in a broader forum."
Secular Mechino Visit Yeshiva

In recent years, a relatively new phenomenon in Israel has been the establishment of secular Mechinos – Pre-Army Programs, whose goal is to better prepare young men and women for the army, particularly for a life of contribution to society and to the country. The program focuses on issues related to Jewish History, Citizenship, Judaism and Zionism. Several such Mechinos, at their initiative, have visited the Yeshiva and the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women this year. The visits generally entail a tour of the Beit Midrash, library and grounds, a shiur by one of the Ramim and chevruta-learning with students.

According to Rav Shlomo Brinn, Ram in the Yeshiva, “It is a chance for the Mechino students to meet with staff and students, to see firsthand what a Yeshiva is in general, and a Yeshivat Hesder in particular, to gain a glimpse of the religious world, and to better understand our students’ commitment to Torah study and to Am Yisrael. For our talmidim, it is a chance to be exposed to their world and an opportunity to verbally explain their world to the visitors. The experience has proven to be very positive and constructive all around, bringing two segments of society closer together.”

The Mechino of Ma’ayan Baruch in the Upper Galilee visited the Yeshiva Rosh Chodesh Adar Aleph. They studied sources b’chevruta with Har Etzion students on the topic of “Torah Study: Force or Free Choice”, followed by discussion groups and culminating in a midnight shiur by Rav Yaakov Medan, Ram and Rosh Yeshiva-elect. The Mechinos were so enthusiastic about the visit and the need for further dialogue, that they initiated the publication of a newsletter called “V’Nishma”, aimed to further explore issues which were raised during their visit, such as Eretz Yisrael vs. the Diaspora, God’s involvement in the world, reward and punishment, and more.

Fifty students from the Rabin Mechino in Kiryat Tivon visited the Yeshiva on June 1st. They toured the Yeshiva, heard shiurim by Rav Kahn and Rav Brinn and learned b’chevruta with students.
Alumni Achievements in Chinuch and the Rabbinate

Rabbi Ilan Raanan (‘89-’94), Rav of Bnei Akiva South Africa and Rav of Yeshiva College Girls School
Rabbi Naasayl Braun ’92, will be assuming the position of Rav at Congregation Brothers of Israel in Long Branch, N J
Rabbi Barry Kislowicz, Ed.D. ’95, Junior High Director, Fuchs Mizrachi School, University Heights, O H
Rabbi Menachem Linzer ’95 PC, Assistant Principal of Jewish Studies grades 5-8, SAR, N Y
Rabbi Chaim Strauchler (’95-’96, ’00), Rabbi Beit Chaverim Synagogue, Westport, CT
Rav Doron Podlashuk (’96-’04), Rabbi of the Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash and Mizrachi Young Adults Community, Johannesburg, South Africa
Yonah Berman (’98-’99, ’02-’03), currently pursuing Semicha at Yeshiva Chovevei Torah in New York, is the rabbinic intern at Congregation Beth Sholom in Providence, RI
Rabbi Tzvi Sinensky (’98-’99, ’02), Navi Rebbe at MTA, N Y
Hillel Hurwitz ’99, Head of the Division of Informal Jewish Education (DJE), Johannesburg, South Africa
Michael Sassoon ’01, Ram in Yeshiva College, Johannesburg, South Africa
Saul Kaplan ’01, Head of Gypo, Informal Education, Cape Town, South Africa
Ryan Davis ’01, Rosh Machaneh, Bnei Akiva, South Africa

Army Mazal Tovs

To Noam Schreiber and Meir Winkler who became commanders in the Israeli army.
To Solomon Javitt, Chayal Mitzyan Machlaka
To Ariel Tepperman, Chayal LeMofet Pelugah Bet
To Yoni Zarbiv, accepted as Atudai. The Israeli army is sponsoring his studies at Hebrew University Medical School and when he graduates, he will serve as an army doctor.

Winter Study Days

Two study days and a festive mesiba took place during Chanuka in honor of Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Amital’s 80th birthday. Harav Beni Lehman delivered the opening presentation. Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Lichtenstein gave a shiur on ‘Kevod Habriyot’. A panel consisting of Harav Yuval Cherlo, Rosh Yeshivat Hezder in Petach Tikva, Rav Yoel Amital, Rav in Sha’alavim and Harav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Ram in the Yeshiva, was chaired by Rav Baruch Gigi, Ram and Rosh Yeshiva-elect. Shiurim on the second day were delivered by founding Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Sha’alavim, Rav Meir Schlesinger, and Harishon L’Tzion, Harav Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, former Chief Rabbi of Israel. The closing shiur was delivered by Harav Amital on “A Convert’s Acceptance of Mitzvat.”

Harav Amital delivers shiur in Beit Midrash
Annual NY Dinner Honoring Rosh H'ayshiva Rav Yehuda Amital

“The Gush has inspired thousands of students with a devotion to Torah, a passion for excellence and a lifelong commitment to Am Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael,” stated Mrs. Dorothy Berman, President of the Etzion Foundation, welcoming the many guests to the annual dinner of Yeshivat Har Etzion on April 6, 2005 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in NY. “The very strong support of our alumni, many of whom are now sending the next generation, both men and women, to study at their alma mater, truly reflects their hakarat hatov for this wonderful institution.” On a personal note, she added, “Imagine my nachas during a trip to Israel this year to have my husband, son and grandson learning together in the Yeshiva.”

Rav Lichtenstein introduced the recipients of The Rabbinic Tribute and Educational Leadership Award - Rabbi Haskel and Audrey Lookstein, whom he has known for over 45 years. Rabbi Lookstein has served as Rabbi of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun since 1958 and Principal of the Ramaz School since 1966. Mrs. Lookstein is currently Chairman of the National Board of AMIT.

“Their contribution to Jewish life has been a source of gratification to all who have known them,” said Rav Lichtenstein, noting the honorees’ impressive record. Building on his father’s foundation, Rabbi Lookstein has expanded and enriched the KJ community and has diversified and intensified its spiritual content. Likewise, Ramaz, where a large proportion of seniors go to learn Torah in Eretz Yisrael, including Yeshivat Har Etzion and Migdal Oz. Six Har Etzion alumni are currently teaching in the Upper School of Ramaz, which has close ties with the Herzog College.

“W hen Rav Lichtenstein asked us to be guests of honor, there was no way we could say no,” Rabbi Lookstein responded. “We thank Yeshivat Har Etzion for including us in this glorious celebration and for giving us and the KJ/Ramaz community the opportunity to provide support for this great center of learning whose impact on thousands of students in Israel, America and around the world is beyond adequate description.”

Rav Lichtenstein next introduced the Alumnus of the Year, Rabbi Yehuda ‘95 and Orit Seif. Yehuda and Orit are currently serving as the Jewish Learning Initiative (JLI) Couple-on-Campus at the University of Pennsylvania. Rav Lichtenstein explained that the JLI, initiated by Rav Menachem Schrader ‘72, and supported by the OU, provides the framework for young, qualified rabbanim and their wives to offer shiurim, halachic guidance and spiritual inspiration to college students.

“The Yeshiva is a place I felt and still consider to be my home,” Rabbi Seif asserted. “W henever I've returned to learn there, including learning in the kollel after we married, I became immersed in the environment of Torah, further developed my relationships with the Ramim and chevra and deepened my experience with Torah.” He added that there are thousands of Orthodox Jews on college campuses thirsting for Torah and Jewish experience and JLI is helping to fill this need. “I encourage other young mechanchim to undertake this challenge,” he said.
David Landes ‘73, Chairman of the Board, thanked Executive Director Shirley Schuster, President Dorothy Berman, Leon Moed, Eli Weber ‘81, Eugene Major ‘80, Rabbi Seth Grauer ‘96, and Dr. Meyer Brayer, for all their efforts in ensuring the success of the dinner. He announced a special, magnanimous gift to the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz, in addition to the substantial generosity extended to Yeshivat Har Etzion in the past, by Mr. S. Daniel Abraham in honor of Harav Amital’s 80th birthday.

"Harav Amital’s personality and lamdanut need no introduction," stated Rav Binyamin Tabory, Ram in the Yeshiva who has spent the year heading the Kollel at Stern College in N Y. "I can’t imagine Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur without the tefillat Harav Amital. I can’t imagine going into ne’ilat ha’levav without hearing Harav Amital’s message ‘liftoah et ha’levav’. Harav Amital is a talmid chacham whom we admire, an ish emuna u’tefilla whom we try to emulate, and above all, a person whom we love."

"First of all, I thank God for giving me the strength to continue learning and teaching, and I thank all those who worked so hard to organize this dinner in my honor," began Rav Amital, visibly moved by the occasion. He recalled being honored at a Yeshiva dinner 10 years earlier and claimed he hasn’t changed since then, nor have his views changed. "I have, however, become more humble," he admitted. "The problems of the Dati Le’umi community are so great. I have less faith in my ability to form revolutions. I have chosen to be less involved in public life and more involved with my students and those close to me."

"Everything I’ve accomplished is due to the Yeshiva," he declared. "The Yeshiva has always attracted the best students and I am proud that Rav Medan and Rav Gigi, who studied in the early years of the Yeshiva, will be Roshei Yeshiva. Rav Lichtenstein became my partner and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside him. I would not have been able to continue without him." Rav Amital said that the religious Zionist world is facing a huge crisis, a crisis of belief. "There is a need to get emuna back. We need to be grateful to the Kadosh Baruch Hu. We have, Baruch Hashem, 5 million Jews living in Medinat Yisrael. I pray for many more years, together with my colleague, Harav Lichtenstein, and for the strength to continue le’gadel l’Torah combined with authentic, pure emuna."

A Yom Iyun was held on Sunday, April 3, 2005 in honor of Harav Amital at The Jewish Center in NYC. Shiurim related to "Areivut: Responsibility and Loyalty to Others in Halacha and Jewish Thought" were delivered by Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Aharon Lichtenstein, Rav Amnon Bazak, Ram and Rav Binyamin Tabory, Ram. This special event was chaired by Rabbi Nati Helfgot ‘81.

Baruch Schreiber, the newly hired Director of Development for Yeshivat Har Etzion, a graduate of the Yeshivat Hesder in Yamit, comes from the world of hi-tech, most recently serving as a manager of the Israel Debito Touche Consulting firm in the Mergers and Acquisitions Department. In describing his aspirations in his new position, Baruch says a major goal is to publicize the Yeshiva’s numerous accomplishments, particularly in the area of social activities on behalf of Am Yisrael, to a much wider audience, and to increase Torah study activities for alumni and the community at large via the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim. He also plans to recruit North American chapter members in central geographic locations, and later to branch out to other continents as well, and to form an international directorship for the Yeshiva and Beit Midrash for Women. Moreover, he hopes to streamline the development and fundraising activities on behalf of the Yeshiva, Herzog College, and Beit Midrash for Women, including raising the level and efficiency of the information technologies (IT), in order to successfully implement development plans and educational projects. Noting the unique message of the Yeshiva in general, Baruch hopes to facilitate the dissemination of the Yeshiva’s credo of Torah with Derech Eretz among a much broader audience. We wish him much hatzlacha in all his endeavors!
Excerpted from a letter to the Yeshiva from Bnei Akiva South Africa:

Bnei Akiva South Africa owes an incredible debt of gratitude to the Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim and administration of Yeshivat Har Etzion. The effect that your institution has had on the South Africa Jewish community is immeasurable.

For so many years, our chaveirim have passed through the doors of your yeshiva. Not only do the bogrim of the Gush become some of the finest lomdei Torah, but we have also found the Gush to be the incubator for community leadership and chinuch. Today, the South African community sees the head of the South African Zionist Federation, the head of the Jewish Board of Deputies, the head of the informal education department in the largest Jewish day schools and myself, the head of the largest Zionist youth movement in South Africa – all bogrim of the esteemed Yeshiva Har Etzion. Because of the Gush, there are more people learning Torah, living a Torah way of life in South Africa and fulfilling the religious Zionist ideal in Israel.

The Ramim who have visited our community in the last three years, Rav Moshe Aberman, Rav Doniel Schreiber and Rav Mordechai Friedman, can testify to the explicit difference the Yeshiva has made on an individual level to so many of our chaveirim as well as to Bnei Akiva and the entire South African Jewish community.

Over the past two years, our chavura have had the privilege of coming back to the Yeshiva after participating in the Bnei Akiva summer machanei held for 1,000 campers through the Bema'aleh Program. The program has been a wonderful success; this is the only forum that exists for chavura of our hashkafa to learn in a religious Zionist Yeshiva during the southern hemisphere summer holiday after machanei. We wish the Yeshiva the bracha of continuing "le'hagdil Torah u'le'hadira." Bevirkat Torah Ve'avoda,

Hillel Hurwitz '99, National Chairman
Bnei Akiva South Africa

On Shlichut in Sydney, Australia

Steve ('99-'03) and Natalie Gar have been on shlichut in Sydney, Australia for one year and are planning to stay for two more years. They were blessed with a little boy, Gavriel Reuven, in Tishrei. Rabbi Gar is involved in Moriah College, a Jewish Day School in Sydney as well as with the Informal Jewish Education Department, running Shabbatonim, Counterpoint Seminars, etc. He is also teaching a Talmud Torah elective which includes the Rambam's Shemoneh Perakim, Gemara and Parashat Hashavua. In addition, he teaches a course called "Design for Jewish Living," which is a basic introduction into Jewish Philosophy for students with no religious background.

Bnei Akiva in Sydney is growing at a good rate. This year, an Amud Yomi shiur, a daily mincha/ma'ariv minyan with a Mishna Berura shiur and a Sunday breakfast minyan and shiur were introduced. All these initiatives were extremely successful and have been enhanced by the strong MTA group that returned from the Yeshiva. "This last year's group really had a powerful experience in the Yeshiva, with the majority wanting to do Shana Bet," he reports. "They have enormous praise for Rav Pini Cohen ('94 MTA - '05) who had a tremendous impact on their year."

Aaron '77 and Ami '04 Friedman, father and son, learning together in Yeshiva

"It was an amazing experience to visit Yeshiva and spend time learning with Ami," says Aaron, a real estate attorney who lives with his wife, Mati and family in Teaneck, NJ. "I've wanted to do this for a long time. When they're teenagers, they generally don't want to learn with you and in college, there's no time, so now is the perfect time. I encourage others to take advantage of this opportunity and to come learn with their sons in Yeshiva. Ami studied in an Israeli shiur with Rav Shlomo Brinn and has grown so much over the year. For me personally, as a Boger of the Yeshiva, it was a nostalgic visit, a re-living of the past, and a chance to better understand now what I did then, back in Yeshiva, and to better appreciate it."
Alumni in Chinuch

Rabbi Dr. Michael Berger (’80 - ’81) took an unusual step this past year. A tenured professor of Religion at Emory University in Atlanta, he took a 2-year leave of absence to assume the headship of the local Modern Orthodox high school, Yeshiva Atlanta.

"When the vacancy presented itself last spring, I thought about the many sichot of Rav Lichtenstein about the religious and moral imperative of chinuch as a career. I wrote to Rav Lichtenstein and spoke with him. He encouraged me to take this opportunity. As in the past, my years at the yeshiva and connection to it inspired me."

"I felt the first thing to do was to establish a clear identity. Years of serving many different constituencies made people reluctant to state a clear position on various goals. It was now time to state proudly who we were - a modern Orthodox, Zionist high school. I found the power and precedent to articulate that mission in the words of our Roshei Yeshiva."

Included in the school are a Torah Mitzion kollel and a role for Sherut Leumi young women. This past year, Yeshivat Har Etzion received its first Yeshiva Atlanta student, Daniel Goldstein, who thrived in the Yeshiva.

"It is rare for a person in his 40’s to have a chance to try another career. I am fortunate that Emory gave me this opportunity, but I am truly blessed that I had the experiences in my background to seize the opportunity and to make the most of it," Rabbi Berger said.

Rabbi Yaakov Blau ('88-'90, '92), teaches Talmud, Navi and Jewish History at The Frisch Yeshiva High School in Teaneck, N.J., advises students on Israel programs and is coordinating an innovative intersection of Limudei Kodesh and Limudei Chol for the high school.

"I view this as fulfilling what the Yeshiva tries to teach in terms of Torah U’madda and how the synthesis gives a richer picture of every issue in life," says Rabbi Blau. "That was certainly a message that I took from Gush."

Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon, Ram in the Yeshiva, was teaching his Gemara shiur (Berachot 36a). In order to demonstrate a "tzalaf" (caper), he went outside to the Yeshiva grounds and picked a branch to show to the class. One of the "chutznikim" called home to tell his father, who responded, "Now I know why I sent you to study Torah in Eretz Israel!"
MARRIAGES

Moshe Kestenbaum '78 and Johanna Friedman
Haskell Nussbaum '87 and Sharon Kasten
Etan Tokayer '91 and Esther Najar
Uriel Lubetski '91 and Shani Bruker
Anthony Greenfield '94 and Ellya Kaplan
Hillel Maizels '95 and Yael Berdugo
Jonathan Gruenhut '95 and Esther Sternfeld
Henri Suke '95 and Dani Garfagnini
Dov Friedmann '95 and Gitin Sasson
Eliezer Kahan '96 and Idith Weill
David Krieger '96 and Bella Tendler
Daniel Sprung '97 and Eliehva Deutsch
Rafi Cohen '98 and Avital Weilsbrod
Steve Goldsmith '98 and Ariella Tanzer
Tzvi Sinersky '98 and Tova Warburg
J.J. Brandler '98 and Tamar Belsh
Isaac Hakimi '98 and Tamar Schiller
Avi Rosenblatt '98 and Estee Leipnik
Aaron Leib '98 and Leora Felt
Ira Karoll '99 and Shoshi Butler
Ariel Bayewitz '99 and Tirza Schlenger
Kevyn Cryulnik '99 and Amanda Dunec
Joshua Freedman '99 and Kirsten Hyman
Yonatan Wiesen '99 and Shira Freundlich
David Shyultz '99 and Adina Zeitan
Ezra Schneck '99 and Chanah Szeyf
Noa Lipshitz '99 and Alex Galbut
Teddy Kahn '99 and Shayna Greenwald
David Feder '99 and Hindy Freid
Yahel Tsidli '99 and Emunah Ben Yehuda
Danny Wunder '00 and Debra Benet
Chaim Kagan '00 and Heather Verstaendig
Etan Golubchik '00 and Sarah Kornreich
Josh Haar '00 and Doron Chana Sosnowik
Yoni Schwartz '00 and Rochie Senter
Dov Huf '00 and Eliahu Shanker
Etan Hinds '00 and Rika Weinberg
Sanny Sultan '00 and Jenny Pick
Yitzky Spinner '00 and Rachel Moss
Saul Adler '01 and Melissa Schwartz
Meir Perez '01 and Maya Cohen
Ryan Hollander '01 and Rosy Schaffer
Aaron Godfrey '01 and Gaby Shapiro
Jeff (Chaim) Rosenfeld '01, PC and MiriamAbrams
Yochi Lipshitz '02 and Lara Zadel
Donny Rosenberg '02 and Arielle Brasler
Yuval Kraus '03 and Dina Berkowitz

BIRTHS

Avraham '76 and Leah Safar, Safari Menucha, Jerusalem
Yehuda Mirsky '78 and Tamar Biala, Nehara Shulamit, Jerusalem
Yoni '82 and Bashi Schwartz, Ori Maya, Efrat
Dani '82 and Nuri Hechel, Matayim, Merkaz Shapira
Eliezer '83 and Shuly Kivass, triplet boys!!! - Yehuda, Shimon and Yehezkel
Michel, Ramat Bet Shemesh
David '83 and Susan Sana, Yitzhak Shlomo, Alon Shevat
David '84 and Yael Zinberg, Yehuda Yair, Teaneck, NJ
Eric '84 and Leah Levy, Yonathan Zvi, W.O. Range, NJ
Chanoch '84 and Michelle W axman, Ilan Elior, Chicago, Alon Shevat
Alex '85 and Aliza Israel, Yehuda Simcha, Alon Shevat
Simon '85 and Clare Brookes, Israel Abba, Ramat Bet Shemesh
Elisha '86 and Melissa Rosenblum, Sarit Meital, Skokie, IL
Ari '86 and Chaya Shames, Tzuriel Nachshon, Belt Shemesh
Jonathan '86 and Yael Shine, Alyssa Lydia / Aliza Liora, Shira, London, England
Sam '88 and Ofer Mishelons, Shira, Yehuda, Tova Shlomit, Belt Shemesh
Alex '88 and Avi Shieles, Chennai, Alon Shevat
Davey '88 and Nomi Shleizer, Zevi Nachum, Teaneck, NJ
Moshe '88 and Bracha Shoshan (Simon), Yehuda Shlomit, Belt Shemesh
Lance '88 and Wendy Kahn, girl, Johannesburg, SA
Moshe (Mark) '88 and Chanie Jacobs, Ariel Boaz, Toronto, Canada
Michael '89 and Yaffa Eisenberg, Moshe Shmuel, Jerusalem
Daniel '90 and Jodi Preston, Ayelet Devorah, Caulfield, Australia
Aharon '90 and Sandra Galer, Arieh Yehonathan, Givat Shmuel
Reuven '90 and Rochelle Lavi, Ashira Bracha, Alon Shevat
Paul '90 and Talya Lewin, Yonathan Yehudah, Leib, Sydney, Australia
Aaron '92 and Tzipora Ross, Shimon Chizkya, Menucha, Alon Shevat
Avi '92 and Shira Shmide, Chaya Shmuel, Alon Shevat
Ellie '92 and Elazar Schorr,收纳Yitzchak, Silver Spring, MD
J.J. '92 and Aliza Sussman, Yair, Shalom, Jerusalem
David '92 and Sara Tesler, twins: Lyla Shoshana and Dalia Zehava, Bronx, NY
Zev '93 and Sara Jacobson, Alon Shevat, Belt Shemesh
Yakir '93 and Rachel Franklin, triplets!!! - Eldana Idit, Yehuda Eliezer and Matayim
Bracha, St. Ives, Australia
To Rav Aaron ’72 and Miriam Adler on the birth of grandchildren, Naomi to Ahuva and Tamir Ganel ’92 H and Moriya to Chaim and Avigal Adler.

To Zvi ’74 and Rahel Betsy on the birth of granddaughter, Noam Ro’s, to Miriam and Lazer Love.

To Rav Avraham ’76 and Leah Safer on the birth of a grandson, Chanan Henoch, to Hadassah and Chaim Marchant.

To Rav Danny and Tova Rhein on the birth of grandchildren, Ariel Dov to Yoni and Dassie Ben-David and Yisroel Dov to Alisa and Benji Zimmerman ’96.

To Harav Aharon and Dr. Toviyah Lichtenstein on the birth of a grandson, David, and to parents Rav Meir and Michal Lichtenstein.

To Marty and Shirley Schuster on the birth of granddaughter, Liana Bella/Batya Tzella, to their daughter Laurie and Rafi Tare.

To S. Daniel and Ewa Abraham on the birth of a baby boy.

Mazel Tov to Harav and Rabbanit Yehuda Amital on the birth of a great granddaughter Ta’ila

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Yehayahu Goodman (Avriel ’72 and Zipora), Jerusalem
Betzalel Dov Strauss (Dovid ’73 and Phyllis), Efrat
Eitan Yaakov Pollack (Rafi ’74 and Gittel), Ramot, Jerusalem
Daniel Meir Eisenberg (Yehuda ’74 and Ariela), Efrat
Aviya Esther Hefter (Hersz ’75 and Batya), Efrat
Tziporah Ayelet Reifer (Maxi ’77 and Sharon), Ra’anana
Ruchama Yael Ehrenhalt (Steve ’78 and Adina), Woodmere, NY
Hajim Yeshurun Katzman (Daniel ’79 and Hannah), Petach Tikva
Aviva Yisrael Friedman (Mordechai ’79 and Debbi), Alon Shevut
Yishai Nechemiya Kahn (Ari ’80 and Nomi), Givat Ze’ev
Hillel Berger (Michael ’80 and Elsheva), Atlanta, GA
Yedidia Kaplan (Gershon ’81 and Sara Leah), Beit Shemesh
Aliza Schwartz (Yoni ’82 and Bashie), Efrat
Elisha Summer (Hershy ’83 and Lisi), Beit Shemesh
Elana Shira Levy (Eric ’84 and Leah), W. Range, N.J
Ronit Zelina Linzer (Moshe ’84 and Rebecca), Or. Ratin
Chana-Rina Schreiber (Dov ’86 and Aviva), Alon Shevut
Moshe Kweitz (Rusell ’86 and Aliza), Silver Spring, MD
Mazel Tov to Harav Aharon and Dr. Toviyah Lichtenstein on the bar mitzvah of grandson, Yisrael Zev, son of Yitzhy and Rachel Lichtenstein, and Itiel, son of Meir and Michal Lichtenstein.

Mazel Tov to Harav Yehuda and Miriam Amital on the bar mitzvah of grandson, Yonatan, and to parents, Rav Shlomo and Tal Brinn MazelTov to Lulita and Baruch Schreiber, Director of Development, on the bar mitzvah of Yair Neria.

A Special Mazal Tov:

To Rav Aaron ’72 and Miriam Adler on the birth of grandchildren, Naomi to Ahuva and Tamir Ganel ’92 H and Moriya to Chaim and Avigal Adler.

To Zvi ’74 and Rahel Betsy on the birth of granddaughter, Noam Ro’s, to Miriam and Lazer Love.

To Rav Avraham ’76 and Leah Safer on the birth of a grandson, Chanan Henoch, to Hadassah and Chaim Marchant.

To Rav Danny and Tova Rhein on the birth of grandchildren, Ariel Dov to Yoni and Dassie Ben-David and Yisroel Dov to Alisa and Benji Zimmerman ’96.

To Harav Aharon and Dr. Toviyah Lichtenstein on the birth of a grandson, David, and to parents Rav Meir and Michal Lichtenstein.

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To S. Daniel and Ewa Abraham on the birth of a baby boy.

Mazel Tov to Harav and Rabbanit Yehuda Amital on the birth of a great granddaughter Ta’ila
Recent Publications

Resiel Tal (Hebrew)
by Rashi Hayesdiah Rav Yehuda Amital
Edited by Rav Yoel Amital
Published by Yeshivat Har Etzion, 2005

In this first book of Halakhic discourses, Rav Yehuda Amital includes a variety of topics covering various aspects of the world of halacha, ranging from Kriat Shema, the festivals and ritual purity and impurity, to the laws of atonement and the laws governing the wearing of wigs. Publication of the book was made possible by close friends and admirers of Harav Amital, in tribute to his personality and leadership and activity.

To order: office@etzion.org.il

Jewish Values in a Changing World (English)
Co-published by Yeshivat Har Etzion and KTAV Publishing House, Inc., 2005
Edited by RavYonnon Bazar, Ram in the Yeshiva; translated from the original Hebrew (entitled "Ha'aretz Natan LuXed Adam") by David Strauss '73
This volume encapsulates Rav Yehuda Amital's educational philosophy. It discusses both general issues, such as the importance of natural morality and what it means to fear God in today's world, as well as deeply personal matters, such as dealing with crisis and developing the ability to make decisions independently. While highlighting the importance of expressing one's individuality, Rav Yehuda Amital also emphasizes the need to be part of the community. Rav Yehuda Amital's philosophy is particularly marked by its insistence on the importance of the interpersonal commandments, of being a "mentsch", and of respecting all people created in God's image. He advocates a fully human engagement in religious life, believing that religious life does not contradict one's humanity, but rather must flow from one's humanity.

A World Built, Destroyed and Rebuilt (English)
RavYehuda Amital's confrontation with the memory of the Holocaust by Moshe Maya, translated by Kaeren Fish
Co-published by Teuven Press, Yeshiva University and KTAV Publishing House, Inc., 2005
Sixty years after the annihilation of European Jewry in the philosophical and existential confrontation with the memory of the Holocaust is only intensifying in this context, there is particular significance to the views of thinkers who experienced the horrors of the Holocaust first hand. Rav Yehuda Amital has always attempted to address the Holocaust and its ramifications on both the educational and spiritual levels. His confrontation with the memory of the Holocaust is characterized by authenticity, honesty and courage.

Musar for Moderns (English)
by Rav Elyakim Krumbein '72, Ram in the Yeshiva
Musar, one of the elevating and enriching fields of traditional Judaism, is the branch of Torah which is devoted to ethical self-improvement, through study and conscientious practice. While Musar emphasizes personal spiritual growth it is more timely than ever. Most people think of it as belonging to Eastern Europe of a century ago. Western society is in transition as everyday life. Rav Meir not only gives answers but also provides a lucid and inspiring presentation of underlying ethical concepts, with special emphasis on the insights of Jewish tradition. The discussions sensitize the reader to ethical concerns in all areas of life, and build a comprehensive foundation of concepts to help resolve these concerns. In discussing topics such as marketing, human resources, and fair competition, attention is given to build a comprehensive foundation of concepts to help resolve these concerns. In that to discuss topics such as marketing, human resources, and fair competition, attention is given to building a comprehensive foundation of concepts to help resolve these concerns. In their entirety, the series is a revisit and expanded version of the popular Yeshivat Har Etzion's Virtual Beit Midrash series.

Community, Covenant and Commitment: Selected Letters and Communications
by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik '21
Edited by Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot '81
The book contains scores of actual questions on ethical dilemmas in business as well as everyday life. Rav Meir not only answers questions but also provides a lucid and inspiring presentation of underlying ethical concepts, with special emphasis on the insights of Jewish tradition. The discussions sensitize the reader to ethical concerns in all areas of life, and build a comprehensive foundation of concepts to help resolve these concerns. In discussing topics such as marketing, human resources, and fair competition, attention is given to building a comprehensive foundation of concepts to help resolve these concerns. In their entirety, the series is a revisit and expanded version of the popular Yeshivat Har Etzion's Virtual Beit Midrash series.

The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash
www.vbm-torah.org

The 1,000th issue of Daf Kesher has been published.
Daf Kesher is a newsletter for Har Etzion talmidim on active duty in the IDF with divrei Torah, Yeshiva news and timetables for Shabbat and davening.
See: www.etzion.org.il/dl5765/1000main.htm

Teenagers – Har Etzion talmidim are busy preparing special material especially for high school aged surfers to occupy them in a constructive way during summer vacation. The website is in Hebrew. www.hibbur.org