Investiture of New Roshei Yeshiva

On the last day of Chanuka, 2 Tevet 5766, in the Beit Midrash of Yeshivat Har Etzion, Harav Yaakov Medan shlit”a and Harav Baruch Gigi shlit”a, were inaugurated as Roshei Yeshiva, serving alongside Harav Yehuda Amital shlit”a and Harav Aharon Lichtenstein shlit”a. This much heralded event was witnessed by hundreds of students, alumni, relatives and honored guests.

“It was an unbelievably inspiring and emotional event,” remarked post-college talmid Aryeh Dienstag ‘99. Highlights for me included Rav Lichtenstein dancing Rav Gigi to his new makom, the packed beit midrash with prominent guests from Gush history, dancing in the mevoah to Rav Amital’s favorite niggunim, and watching Harav Amital and Harav Lichtenstein embracing during the ceremony. Ashrei ayin ro’ota zot. I felt pride in the Yeshiva, in what it stands for, what it has done, and where it is going.”

Visibly moved, Harav Amital read pesukim from Tehillim Chapter 119 “Ashrei temimei derech…” and warmly welcomed all those gathered, including talmidim who are now serving in the army who received special leave to attend, as well as the many bogrim present who have remained so connected to the Yeshiva throughout the years.

Harav Amital noted that we are now creating two chiddushim: First, we are hereby solidifying the two-Rosh Yeshiva model of our Yeshiva to permanent status, and second, the founding Rosh Yeshiva, who is nearing retirement, initiated the appointment of the incoming Roshei Yeshiva. “I think that this second chiddush is even greater than the first,” he stated.

“We have selected two extraordinary Roshei Yeshiva from among our Ramim,” Harav Amital declared. He introduced Harav Yaakov Medan, a student of the first machzor, as “a talmid chacham and baki in all areas of the Torah, whose yiru precedes his chochma, who is extremely creative, and who exhibits great responsibility towards the Yeshiva and the State of Israel.”

Harav Medan delivered a shiur on the topic of “Poverty and Social Welfare”. He explained that he selected this topic because Harav Amital founded the Yeshiva with this idea in mind. Based on the model of the famous story of the Ba’al HaTanya and the crying baby, the Yeshiva has always punctuated the message that Torah must be studied with ethical sensitivity. Rav Medan explained that the second reason that he chose
the topic is related to his work to help strengthen the humanitarian dimension of Israeli society, which has become a tremendous problem in recent years. Rav Medan has been actively involved in this regard working with people from all segments of Israeli society including secular academics and religious leaders.

In introducing Harav Gigi, Harav Lichtenstein noted that although not a member of the founding machzor (he was in the 7th), Rav Gigi has established himself as one of the central figures in the development of the Yeshiva. After serving as a Ram in Yeshivet Ma’alot, Rav Gigi became a Ram at Yeshivat Har Etzion. He is also a lecturer and mentor in the Herzog College, a pillar of Torah study for women at the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz, and serves as Rav of the Sephardic Shul in Alon Shevut. “He is involved in all areas of Torah. He is a mechadesh as a lomed and a posek and all he touches is affected by his unique combination of vitality and sound judgment, together with the vast knowledge which he has acquired over the years,” Harav Lichtenstein stated.

Harav Gigi delivered a shiur on the topic of the Halacha that a talmid cannot engage in hora’ah in the presence of his Rav, which is mentioned in Eruvin and Sanhedrin. “We have learned so much from the Roshei Yeshiva – in terms of derech halimud and how to lead our lives,” said Harav Gigi. “This beit midrash is full of energy and life. It is a tremendous makom Torah and will remain so, with God’s help, for many years to come.”

“Today is a Yom Tov,” declared Moshe (Moshko) Moskovic, Chairman of the Board and co-founder of the Yeshiva with Harav Amital. “These have been great years for the Yeshiva as an outstanding institution of Torah learning. Rav Medan and Rav Gigi are among our greatest talmidim. May they continue to teach Torah and yirat shomayim to many talmidim in future years.”

“We stand today with a penetrating and heartfelt feeling, with pride in the past and a vision for the future,” said Harav Lichtenstein. “On this occasion, we need to re-think where we are going and in which direction. To appoint new Roshei Yeshiva is a tremendous zechut, reminiscent of the Gemara in Horayot which calls events both a zechut (merit) and a chovah (obligation).”

“We can see before us the combination of zehirut (caution); of ahava (love) and yira (fear),” Harav Lichtenstein said. “Zehirut represents ‘sur me’ra’ – turning away from evil. Zerizut demands initiative and motivation. The job of Rosh Yeshiva demands tremendous zehirut. However, this is not enough. A chacham must be zariz in his words and much more so in his actions. Zerizut as a value is a heartfelt feeling that must be ingrained in an oved Hashem.”

“We are appointing two outstanding talmidei chachamim, who are absolute paradigms of ovei Hashem, who both consistently personify in their own ways zehirut and zerizut,” Harav Lichtenstein stated. “Yehi ratzon that Yeshivat Har Etzion and all those connected with it should constantly move forward towards kedusha, in the order that the Ramchal quoted, with yira and ahava.”

Harav Lichtenstein called upon David Landes, ’73, Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation, to address the gathering. “Lichvod Roshei Hayeshiva, I came to Israel to participate in the ceremony today in order to strengthen the connection with friends of the Yeshiva in the U.S.” he said. “I want to give a bracha to the new Roshei Yeshiva who have already both visited us in the United States and to wish Harav Lichtenstein and Harav Amital many more productive years as Roshei Yeshiva.”
“It is not easy to be a Rosh Yeshiva for almost 40 years,” admitted Harav Amital. “I promise you that I will strive to be a chacham and not a navi, since a navi cannot hold back his prophecy but a wise man can. I will not tell you what to do. This is one of the most important things to learn in chinuch – when to talk and when not to talk.”

“Reb Baruch and Reb Yaakov, the job of a Rosh Yeshiva is a tremendously difficult one. You have accepted upon yourselves many challenges,” Harav Amital cautioned. “You have to work with Ramim, to connect to talmidim in the army, to connect to other Roshei Yeshiva, and with other institutions. You have to be strong. I am so very grateful to you for undertaking the challenge.” Harav Amital concluded: “I am unbelievably moved by this day. I have tremendous gratitude to the Kaddush Baruch Hu who gave me the zechut to be here today.”

Chanuka Study Days

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary since the death of the Sefat Emet, the Yeshiva held a two-day study Seminar during Chanuka. Participating in the program were: Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Aharon Lichtenstein; Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Yehuda Amital; Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Yaakov Medan; Rosh Yeshiva Shevuot Yisrael Harav Shabtai Rappaport; Rosh Yeshivat Hesder, Shilo; Harav Arele Harel, Assistant Rosh Yeshiva; Yeshivat Sha’alavim Rav Aryeh Hendler; Ram in Midreshet Shuva, Ofra Rav Moshe Shapiro; Yeshivat Har Etzion Ramim Rav Shlomo Brin, Rav Moshe Aberman and Rav Beni Lehman, and Ram in Migdal Oz, Rav Dan Hauser.

The Yeshiva is grateful to the Lipsker Family of Tel Aviv for sponsoring the Study Days in loving memory of Avraham Noach and Sara Lipsker, zichronam livracha.
**Gush Katif Families at Yeshiva**

A week before Z’man Elul, 12 families from Shirat Hayam in Gush Katif arrived at the Yeshiva. They were greeted at midnight by mashgiach Rav Yitzhak Levy, and Kollel members. The Yeshiva had received only a few days notice and therefore, students who were still on vacation were called in to help with the necessary preparations. Within a week, the Yeshiva organized a day care center, a clubhouse, kitchenettes and a game room. Likewise, the older students in Pirniah Tet cleared out their rooms to make space for the new arrivals.

The majority of Shirat Hayam families are young and idealistic whose dream was to establish a settlement near Neve Dekalim. Some had grown up in Gush Katif and wanted to start their own homes there. During the five months that the families were guests of the Yeshiva, close ties were formed with the Yeshiva students. Rav Yitzhak Levy and Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon assumed a leadership role in trying to provide all of the families’ needs, both physical and spiritual. During their stay, a team of Yeshiva students was established to help the families. Soon after their initial acclimation, the families began their search for a permanent home. Today, they are involved in establishing a new settlement in the Jordan Valley called Maskiot. At a farewell party held at the Yeshiva for the families, they presented a gift to Benzi Verker, head of the Kitchen, and the Yeshiva students gave each family a mezuzah. Aviv Simchi, on behalf of the families of Shirat Hayam, read an original poem, signed: “From the families of Shirat Hayam in the Gush to those of Shirat HaHar in Yeshivat HaGush and all the people of Alon Shevut. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the roof over our heads, bread to eat, clothing to wear, for caring for our children... for the laundry... the heaters... and most of all, for the love, the caring and achdut (unity). Yehi ratzon that we quickly merit the everlasting building of Jerusalem.”

Aviv plans to join the other families in Maskiot but for this year he has joined the Yeshiva’s Kollel.

**Rebuilding the Greenhouses**

Among the long and varied list of volunteer activities undertaken by Har Etzion students this year, busloads of talmidim, together with their Ramim, traveled south to the area of Netivot, to help Gush Katif farmers rebuild their greenhouses.

One Har Etzion student writes:

As Yeshiva students, we sometimes feel that we are not doing enough for those outside the walls of the Beit Midrash. This feeling became especially powerful in light of the events of this past summer in Gush Katif with the eviction of Jewish families from their homes and the dire ramifications for the evacuees. We all felt the need to help them, especially the farmers, for whom the financial damages incurred were particularly heavy. Our volunteer work in helping to rebuild and replant the greenhouses which were transplanted from Gush Katif gave us a feeling that we were actively participating. The fact that we helped families rebuild and reconstruct their lives allowed us to fulfill the commandment “And your brother shall live among you,” in a practical and tangible manner.

Other students, both Israeli and chutznikim, have visited Gush Katif families from Neve Dekalim at the hotels where they are staying in Jerusalem and have run programs for them in the hotels.

The day after the disengagement, Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon was talking to people from Neve Dekalim in Jerusalem. He recounts that they thanked him for helping them get settled in the hotel and for all the programs which volunteers ran for the children from the moment they arrived. Rav Rimon answered them: “We thank you, for the amazing zechut to be around those who have sacrificed so much for Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael.” Rav Rimon has been working tirelessly to help Gush Katif families, particularly in trying to find them jobs. He is running an organization whose purpose is to find employment for the Gush Katif evacuees. See their website: http://jobkatif.org.il
The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash:
Announcing Kol Etzion – Radio Station KMTT–
Ki Mitzion Teitze Torah

http://www.vbm-torah.org/kmtt

The Virtual Beit Midrash and Yeshivat Har Etzion are proud to announce the launch of the first daily Torah podcast in the world, called Ki Mitzion Teitze Torah. According to Rav Ezra Bick, head of the VBM, who initiated this latest development: “KMTT plans to send 30-40 minute shiurim every day, Monday-Friday, which is perfect for commuters, exercisers, and any one else who wants to fill an hour with Torah.”

The shiurim are in MP3 format, so they can be played on your computer, but more usefully, on your portable music player. Why waste your time sleeping on the train or listening to the radio while driving to work, when you can use the time to learn from the Rabbanim at Yeshivat Har Etzion?

The shiurim are distributed as podcasts, to which you can subscribe. Once subscribed, your computer will receive the shiurim automatically, and then you can easily transfer them to your MP3 player or other portable device capable of playing MP3 files. If you do not know what a podcast is or how to subscribe, see our short tutorial: www.vbm-torah.org/kmtt.

The pilot shiur was delivered on Chanuka by Rav Binyamin Tabory and we have now embarked on the regular schedule of shiurim. “To date, there are already over 300 listeners per shiur and the feedback has been very enthusiastic,” notes Rav Bick. “So go now, get the software and subscribe. Make traffic jams an opportunity in Torah.”

For questions, comments or helpful suggestions, please write to: kmtt@kimitzion.org

Mazal Tov to Prof. Israel Aumann of Hebrew University, Jerusalem, upon receiving the Nobel Prize for Economics for his mathematical research in game theory. Father of Har Etzion alumnus, (’80 Hesder), and grandfather of David (’97 Hesder), and Yaakov (’97 Hesder), Prof. Aumann delivered a shiur in Yeshiva in the context of the Motzai Shabbat “Bein Kodesh LeChol” Program and was recently the guest of honor at a special gathering of the Etzion Foundation in New York.

Mazal Tov to Prof. Ya’acov (Gerald) Bidorstein of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva, who has been awarded this year’s Israel Prize in Jewish Thought, Israel’s highest honor. Prof. Bidorstein is the father of two Har Etzion alumni – Rav Avi (’85 Hesder), a Ram in Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi, Jerusalem, and Moshe (’00 Hesder). He is an internationally-renowned scholar in Maimonides’ halachic law and philosophy, with a special emphasis on political philosophy.

Some responses to the KMTT:

“I am very grateful for the KMTT. This morning, I listened to Rav Tabory’s shiur while walking down the street and it helped transform a “chol” walk to “kodesh” by using this time efficiently.”

With best wishes,
Rabbi Yehoshua Grunstein ’95 H
Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

“I have been listening to KMTT since the first broadcast, and I want to tell you that the mitzva you are doing with broadcasting these shiurim is very much appreciated. There is no beit midrash in the city where I live, and I never thought that I could receive such high-quality Torah learning here until I found the VBM. The fact that I can now also listen to some Torah when I am driving to work is astonishing. I listened to your first broadcast in tears because it has been so long since I have been in a place of real Torah learning. Thank you so much!”

Daniel Nachman
Austin, Texas

“I have taken to walking just to have time to listen.”

Dr. Morton Taragin,
Center for Computing
The Weizmann Institute of Science

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During recent visits to England, both Rav Yair Kahn ’76 and Rav Mordechai Friedman ’79, Ramim in the Yeshiva, were extremely impressed with the wonderful work our bogrim are doing there. “They are accomplishing amazing things,” states Rav Friedman. “They’re learning well and they’re having a most positive effect on the community - in the Hasmonean high school and in Bnei Akiva to name just two. Rav Friedman was guest of honor at the Yeshivat Har Etzion Alumni Shabbaton held on Parashat Vayeze which was extremely well-attended despite the fact that so much was happening in London on that Shabbat. Rav Friedman adds that he immensely enjoyed attending the weddings of two bogrim in England, Binyamin Radomsky and “DJ” Jacobson and finds it uplifting to participate in semachot of his talmidim. The Yeshiva is looking forward to a strong machzor from England next year based on the record-breaking number of applicants.
Alumnus Feature
Setting Priorities in Life

Growing up in Forest Hills, NY, Moshe Feldman received the ongoing message from his father, Prof. Louis Feldman, a professor of Classical Languages at YU, that his primary goal in life should be to strive to become a talmid chacham.

Taking this message to heart, Moshe spent two years studying in Israel after his first year at YU, took a year off from Harvard Law School to study at Yeshivat Har Etzion in 1989-1990, and spent another year studying in the YU beit midrash after graduating law school. Afterwards, for a decade, he practiced as a tax law specialist, working primarily for large law firms in the New York area. Two and a half years ago, he made aliyah to Beit Shemesh with his wife (Nava) and children (Yossie, Yair and Shalom) and a year later; they moved to Neve Daniel in Gush Etzion. Soon after the move to Neve Daniel, Moshe began to attend morning seder at Yeshiva, learning in Harav Lichtenstein’s chabura with chevruta Micky Siev ’95, then a Shana Bet Midrash. This year, mornings, he continues his work as a tax attorney, working at home for some Israeli-based clients as well as doing research on the Internet for U.S. law firms which send him their overflow work. Not having to be in a specific place at a specific time leaves him more time for learning. Every afternoon, he goes to Rav Shlomo Levy’s Hilchet Nidda Shiur. “I really feel a part of the Yeshiva,” he says, noting that he is friendly with Kollel members and Ramim, some of whom were talmidim with him in previous years.

“I think that having been a part of the work world in the U.S., and a part of the intense atmosphere of U.S. law firms, I don’t really feel the need to pursue a very intensive career now. Though I enjoyed the intellectual challenge, I didn’t find it particularly meaningful,” he says. “Being part of a makom Torah is my priority, and when my children see their abbu go to study everyday in the beit midrash, I am setting an important example for them. Perhaps had I remained in the U.S. my standard of living would have been higher; but my quality of life here in Israel has gone way up.”

Alumni Achievements in Chinuch and the Rabbinate

Rabbi Yaakov Borow ’80, working with Rav Vittman, Rav of Tnuva (who studied in one of the first machzorim of the Yeshiva) for the past 7 years, responsible for approving ingredients for Tnuva and contact with suppliers and their rabbanim machshirim within Israel and abroad.

Rabbi Judah Goldberg (’96-’97, ’99 PC, ’03, ’04), combined MD/Masters in Bioethics Program at U. of Penn and involved in adult education in the Phila. area through Chelkeinu, a joint educational project of YU and the Stern Hebrew High School, together with his wife, Shaya, a Yoetzet Halachah.

Rabbi Amichai Gordon ’91 H, Ram, Megama Toranit, Sha’alvim

Rabbi Josh Joseph (’88, ’94 PC, ’96 Kollel), Director; Special Projects, YU, Gottesman Library

Rabbi Gad Krebs ’01 PC, Youth Rabbi at Kehillat Masada and working at the Jewish Learning Centre (formerly Ohr Chadash) in Sydney, Australia under Rabbi David Blackman (’85, ’95 Kollel).

Rabbi Yair Meron ’94 H, Ram, Mekor Chaim High School, Kfar Etzion

Rabbi Yehuda Rock ’90 H, Rosh Kollel (2nd year), Boca Raton, Florida

Rabbi Daniel Roth (’93-’00 H), teaching Chumash at Pardes Institute and completing his MA in Talmud at Hebrew U. He is involved in developing Torah-based conflict resolution curricula for Israeli schools.

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna (’95-’96), Rabbi, The Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU, and part of JLI on campus

Rabbi Yehuda Seif (’95-’96, ’00 Kollel), JLI at U. of Pennsylvania

Rabbi Shmuel Shimoni (’95 H, teaching bekiyut at Har Etzion

Rabbi Micky Siev (’95-’96, ’03-’05 Kollel) teaching, Yeshivat Lev HaTorah, Beit Shemesh

Rabbi Jonathan Snowbell (’98 PC, ’99 Machal, ’00-’04 Kollel), Mechanach for 11th grade, Himmelfarb High School, Jerusalem

Teaching in the Yeshiva’s Overseas Program this year:

Naftali Balanson ’97, Rabbi Asaf Bednarsh ’88 (also teaching at Gruss Institute), Eli Cohn ’00, Rabbi Ezra Frazer ’96, Menachem Lazar ’98, Daniel Light ’03 PC, Rabbi Motti Novick ’92, Shlomo Dov Rosen ’93 H, and Aharon Segal ’99.

Mazal Tov to Avi Shmidman ’92 on completing his Master’s Thesis at Bar Ilan University, entitled “Epithalamia for the Grace after Meals from the Cairo Geniza”. A common element among early siddurim in Eretz Yisrael is the presence of poetic forms of birkat hamazon. Avi gathered 33 poetic versions of the birkat hamazon which were composed to serve nuptial celebrations. He provided a critical edition of the texts based on manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza, along with an introductory analysis examining their structural and literary properties.
Torah MiTzion Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Rav Mosheh ’78 H and Dr. Michal Lichtenstein were scholars-in-residence at Torah MiTzion’s Annual N. American Shabbaton held in Cleveland in December, in celebration of Torah MiTzion’s 10th anniversary. Special programs were planned for the bachurim and families, as well as numerous activities in the local community.

The theme of the Shabbat was: “Bridging Between Heaven and Earth: Learning as a Spiritual Experience.”

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein was also a Scholar-in-Residence on Shabbat Parashat Toledot at the Young Israel of St. Louis, gave shiurim at schools and Kollelim in Montreal and Boca Raton, and met with prospective students.

Pioneering the Torah MiTzion Kollel Program were the Cape Town Kollel, founded by Har Etzion Alumnus Rav Jonathan Glass, and the Cleveland Kollel headed by Roshei Kollel: (all Har Etzion Ramim or alumni) Rav Binyamin Tabory, Rav Herzl Hefter, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein and Rav Eli Blum. Among other Har Etzion Ramim and alumni who have headed Torah MiTzion Kollelim are: Rav Moshe Aberman, (Chicago), Rav Yehuda Susman (Chicago) and Rav Chanoch Waxman (Chicago), Rav Moshe Shpeter (Washington), Rav Yossi Slotnick and Rav Ori Einhorn (Capetown, SA), Rav Yuki Meir (Montevideo, Uruguay), Rav Moshe Pinchuck and Rav Noam Himmelstein (Melbourne, Australia). Zeev Schwartz ’85 serves as Executive Director of Torah MiTzion and Rav David Rifkin ’85 is Coordinator of Screening and Training.

Har Etzion Alumni on Shlichut this year through Torah MiTzion:

Rav Avi ’86 H & Dafna Knai, Rosh Kollel, (Memphis, TN)
Rav Aaron (’94-’95, ’98-’99 Kollel) & Adena Frazer (JLI-Brandeis University, MA)
Rav Jason (’91-’92, ’93 Machal, ’94-’98 Kollel) & Meira Rappoport (JLI-Yale University, CT)
Rav Nir (’93 H) & Hadas Grossman (Montreal, Canada)
Rav Efraim ’91 H & Mini Zik (Lima, Peru)
Rav Doron (’96-’04) & Keri Podlashuk (Johannesburg, SA)
Rav Aryeh (’97-’98) & Sharona Kaplan (JLI-UCLA,CA)
Asher Shafrir ’00 H (Melbourne, Australia)
JLI = Jewish Learning Initiative

Fathers and Sons in the Beit Midrash

Terry Novetsky ’80:
“Returning to learn in our Beit Midrash with my son was a tremendous zechut, a fulfillment of a life dream. I am grateful for the efforts of all of the Ramim, and particularly his Ram, Rav Moshe Taragin, for making Yosef’s experience in the Yeshiva so meaningful.”

Allen Friedman ’79:
“My visit to the Yeshiva reminded me very quickly of why we were confident that our son, Elie, would flourish here: the intellectual rigor of the learning, the love of Torah and the warmth of the Ramim, the students and all the staff. And, I have to say, the food was a lot better than I remembered it from my time. My biggest regret is that I didn’t have more time to spend here.”

Larry Cohen:
“I really don’t have the proper words to describe how wonderful it was to live and learn in the Yeshiva with Boaz for several days.”
News from the Herzog College

The Dovrat Commission and subsequent implementing committee determined that the Yaacov Herzog College is to remain an independent institution, while the vast majority of other teachers' colleges in Israel will merge in larger clusters within the near future. "This is certainly testimony to the achievements of the Herzog College," states Dr. Shmuel Wygoda, Herzog College Director. Another decision of the Dovrat Commission was to implement the psychometric exam as part of the acceptance requirements for all teachers' colleges, thus raising the entrance level to the teaching profession in Israel. It is interesting to note that the Herzog College has achieved the highest matriculation (bagrut)/psychometric mark among all teachers' colleges in Israel. Furthermore, the number of students who applied to the College has increased from last year, with a current enrollment of 259 first-year students.

Several new programs have been submitted to the Council for Higher Education, first and foremost, a Master's Degree Program in Teaching of Bible and its Commentaries, as well as two Bachelor degree programs in Special Education and Literature.

The Yaacov Herzog College will provide training for graduates of the Institute Andre Neher (IAN) in Paris. This institute is the central organization of the Jewish community in France dealing with education. The agreement entails an opportunity for graduates of the teacher training program of IAN to complete their studies towards a teachers' degree certificate for the State of Israel. The first group arrived in February 2006.

New Tanach Lecture Series in Gush Dan - A new Beit Midrash for Tanach has been established in the Gush Dan area in cooperation with the Herzog College of Yeshivat Har Etzion. An alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion, Ariel Har Tov, together with Moshe Ernst, Vice-Chairman of the Religious Ministry of Givat Shmuel, were the initiators of this endeavor. They felt that there was great potential in the area for high-level Tanach classes. On Thursday evenings, once a month, top rabbis and lecturers from the Herzog College speak to audiences of 300-500 men and women at the "Heichal Rachamim" Synagogue in Givat Shmuel. Participants come from throughout the Gush Dan area, including many Har Etzion alumni. Coordinating the curriculum and lecturers at the Herzog College are Dr. Ezra Kahalani and Yoav Barzilai. After four trial sessions, a continuing program for the rest of the year has been built with the intention to continue next year as well. The lectures are publicized through the Virtual Beit Midrash of the Yeshiva and the Herzog College site (www.vbm-torah.org or www.herzog.ac.il).

The debut event took place in Elul with shiurim by Rav Elhanan Samet and Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Yaakov Medan. Subsequent lecturer teams have included Rav Yoel Bin-Nun and Rav Amnon Bazak, Rav Yuval Cherlo and Rav Yonatan Grossman, Rav Hanan Porat and Dr. Yisrael Rosenzon, and Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon and David Nativ. Coming up are Rav Avraham Shamah and Dr. Yehuda Brandiss, Harav Yaakov Medan and Dr. Eliyahu Assis, and Rav Elhanan Samet and Rav Yehoshua Reiss. For updates and information on the Beit Midrash for Tanach in Gush Dan, contact: tanachdan@walla.com

The Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women

Under the capable leadership of Esti Rosenberg and the spiritual guidance of the Roshei Yeshiva, the Beit Midrash for Women continues to grow and flourish, attracting outstanding and highly-motivated young women from throughout Israel and overseas. There are 124 students in the Beit Midrash this year, including 20 from overseas. After several years of effort, the Beit Midrash for Women has been accredited by the Ministry of Education for a four-year program of intensive study of Jewish sources along with pedagogic studies and training, leading to a Bachelor of Education degree. This is a major step in the development of the Beit Midrash. Mrs. Miri Schlissel, formerly principal of Ohr Torah Stone High School in Ramot, has been appointed Director of the Pedagogic Program.
Marriages
Jonathan Glass ’83 and Toni Milhner
Dan Oren ’90 and Naomi Steiner
Binyamin Mayefsky ’95 and Chava Weiss
Gary Silverman ’96 and Chava Lipsyc
Naftali Balanson ’97 and Rachel Koller
Baruch Stein ’97 and Rivka Friedman
David Stern ’98 and Aliza Holzer
Noah Baron ’98 and Tova Ganz
Jeff Miller ’98 and Allison Sturm
Aaron Segal ’99 and Chaya Poupko
Yaakov Liss ’99 and Danielle Muth
Martin Smulovitch ’99 and Shimrit Zagori
Binyamin Radomsky ’99 and Deborah Myers
Hillel Hurwitz ’99 and Dini Gluck
Daniel “DJ” Jacobson ’00 and Dina Falk
Udi Engelsman ’00 and Anna Granville
Yoni Gross ’00 and Andrea Gelnick
Aaron (Dov) Cypess ’00 PC and Leah Suslovich
Danny Steel ’01 and Anna Joseph
Eliezer (EZ) Shaffrin ’01 and Shira Shaffrin
Michael (Rafi) Rosman ’01 and Elana Sokolow
Binyamin Casper ’02 and Miriam Klein
Ariel Tepperman ’02 and Rachel Berkowitz
Noam Siev ’02 and Elissa Riss
Barzilai and special Mazal Tov to grandparents Harav Yehuda and Mrs. Miriam Amital.

Births
Morey ’82 and Joy Wildes, Chanoch R’phael (Henry Phillip), New York, NY
Michael ’85 and Ellen Solomon, Avraham Elazar, Ramat Beit Shemesh
Danny ’86 and Gabrielle Foreman, Yehuda Leib, Beitar Elite
Ami ’87 and Lea Aharon, Benjamin Samual, New York
Raphael ’87 and Tamar Danziger, Eitan Raziel, NYC
Yitzchak ’88 and Ditzia Berger, Tova Gittel, Far Rockaway, NY
Gavriel ’89 and Leora Lambert, Yehoshua Hersh (Tzvika), Tel Aviv
Jonathan ’90 and Sarit Gelberg, twins: Elianne and Yakir; Ra’anan
Simon ’91 and Elana Jackson, Tikva Bracha, Elazar
Uriel ’91 and Shani Lubetski, Yaakov, NYC
Betzalel ’92 and Shana Posy, Avraham Acyeh, Riverdale, NY
Nasanyi ’92 and Tamar Braun, Eitan Eyal, Oakhurst, NJ
Yossi ’93 and Shari Mosak, Ariel, Bronz, NY
Robbie ’93 and Maren Scharf, twins: Shimon Alexander and Yakir Ephraim, Teaneck, NJ
Carl ’93 and Karen Hochhauser, Yair Shmuel, Edison, NJ
Ari ’94 and Shoshana Memelstein, twins, Riverdale, NY
Ari ’95 and Dana Zimmerman, Gili Shira, Ariel
Boaz ’95 PC and Liora Mori, Tiferet, Beit Shemesh
Micky ’95 and Rena Siev, Talia Chaya, Ramat Beit Shemesh
Hillel ’95 and Yael Mazzal, Hodaya Chaya, Alon Shevut
Avi ’96 and Chana Billet, Yehuda Yosef, Brooklyn, NY
Shai ’96 and Tova Gerson, Temmy Devorah, Bergenfield, NJ
Judah ’96 and Shayna Goldberg, Eyal Shemesh, Mordechai Chaim (Motti), Alon Shevut
Ruben ’97 and Sarita Gober, Yisrael Yosef, Brooklyn, NY
Aaron ’97 PC and Miriam Greenberg, Ezra Chaim, Thornhill, Ontario
Hananya ’97 PC and Chana Dena Cohen, Avi Ayelet, Baltimore, MD
Tuvia ’98 and Carol Lazar, Eliyahu Yitzchak, NYC
Natan ’98 and Lindsay Bourkoff, Ezri Hirsch, Beverly Hills, CA
Sholem ’98 and Rochie Hurwitz, Merav Odeya, Alon Shevut
Eliot ’98 and Sima Steinmetz, Noach Ami, Forest Hills, NY
Ari ’98 and Ilana Erdofar, Yaakov Zecharia, Teaneck, NJ
Births of Grandchildren

Shael ’72 and Sabina Frimer on the birth of Nachshon Nachman to Chaya Shira and Achiam Boaz Frimer
Shmuel ’76 and Shaine Sohn on the birth of Elyashiv Moshe to Atara and Gilad Lewis
Michael ’77 and Debra Berkowitz on the birth of Shani to Kalman and Dikla Berkowitz
Mazal Tov to Toni and Oded Mittelman ’96 H, and to Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the birth of daughter/granddaughter, Tama Bluma.
Mazal Tov to Ray Yitzhak and Rochel Lichtenstein and to Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the birth of a son/grandson

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Amitai Klitsner (Steve ’75 and Judy), Jerusalem
Shmuel Natan Finson (Larry ’75 and Lynn), Jerusalem
Eitan Menachem Aberman (Moshe ’76 H and Deena), Alon Shevut
Elisheva Ruth Arnowitz (Yehoshua/Edward ’77 and Yocheved), Neve Daniel
Roi Yisrael Karnei-Re’em (Reuven ’77 and Hadassah), Efrat
Noam Borow (Yaakov ’80 and Malke), Nof Ayalon
Eli Michael Richter (Daniel ’80 and Carole), Zurich, Switzerland
Dalit Gita Richter (Daniel ’80 and Carole), Zurich, Switzerland
Yonah Tur (Akiva ’80 and Naomi), Beit Shemesh
Yair Gesundheit (Beni ’81 and Nadine), Alon Shevut
Menachem Weber (Elia ’81 and Elka), Teaneck, NJ
Yonatan Freedman (Binny ’81 and Doreet), Efrat
Baruch Mordechai Susman (Yehuda ’81 and Louisa), Efrat
Hadassah Tirschwell (Perry ’82 and Miriam), Boca Raton, FL
Dov Eizer Weinberg (David ’82 and Bonnie), Nof Ayalon
Atira Chaya Kahane (Zvi ’82 and Deena), Teaneck, NJ
Aviad Shalom Fierziger (Adam ’82 and Naomi), Kfar Saba
Shai Berman, (Elie ’83 and Miriam), Teaneck, NJ
Avi Weisz (Adam ’82 and Naomi), Kfar Saba
Shai Berman, (Elie ’83 and Miriam), Teaneck, NJ

Condolences

To Shmuel Sohn ’76 on the loss of his mother Mrs. Lily Sohn z”l
To Carl Sherer ’79 on the loss of his mother, Chana Rivka Sherer, z”l
To Terry Novetsky ’80 on the loss of his father, Mr. Morris Novetsky z”l.
To Michael Kaufman ’81 on the loss of his father, Mr. Herbert Kaufman z”l.
To Danny ’84 and Jonny ’86 Shine on the loss of their mother Mrs. Janet Shine z”l
To Rabbi David Flatto ’97 PC on the loss of his mother, Prof. Zehava Flatto z”l
To Rav Ezra Bick on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Sonia Bick z”l
To Amos Safrai, Israeli alumni chairman, on the loss of his father Mr. Avigdor Moshe Safrai z”l
To Yael Ziegler, teacher in Migdal Oz, on the loss of her mother Mrs. Naomi Zeiger z”l
To Rav Shlomo Brown, ’80 Director of Midreshet Lindenbaum, Jerusalem on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Tova Brown z”l.
To the family of Bradley Jacobs ’76 z”l, an alumnus of YHE, devoted friend of Israel who dedicated the bulk of his time to spreading news about Israel in Chicago despite serious physical limitations.
To Mr. Larry Roth, Torah Mitzion Chairman, and family, good friends of the Yeshiva, on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Esther Rachel Roth z”l.

Please send your news to: shira@etzion.org.il
PC=Post-College
H=Hesder
Recent Publications

The sixth sefer in the Talmud Shurim series of Rashi Hoyeshivo Harav Aharon Lichtenstein has recently been published by the Yesiva on Masechet Pesahim, edited by Ronen Katz, Matan Gildai, and Chaim Navon. The sefer is dedicated in loving memory to Rabbi Meyer and Yocheved Horovitz, zt”l, by their children, Aviva Baum, Hillel Horovitz ’81 and Abba ’83 Horovitz. Previous sefarim in the series are: Tohorot, Zevahim, Baba Metzia, Baba Batra and Dina Di’Garmi. Two new sefarim are in the planning stages – on Masechet Gitin and Masechet Bava Batra. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the publication of these sefarim in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please contact Dr. Meyer Brayer: office@etzion.org.il.

The Kolel Gavoah of the Yesiva, headed by Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, will soon be publishing a new sefer Ma’amor HaZevach on Masechet Zevahim and Chulin. Their previous sefer was Yabnim on Masechet Nequam. To order: office@etzion.org.il.

Alonei Etzion - The Yesiva has put out a CD which is searchable and works with Windows XP including: Daf Kasher: Volumes 1-1034; Alon Shevut: Volumes 100-165; Alon Shevut Le’Bogrhim: 28 issues; Alei Etzion (English): 1-13; Kasher Tekufot: 22 issues; Siach Basadeh: 1-3; and Sirachat Chul: (English): 1-17. To order: books@herzog.ac.il

Nekudat Peticha (Hebrew) by Rav Amnon Bazak ’84 H.Ram, published by ToraMet Institute

A collection of short discourses on Parashat Hashavua which previously appeared in Rav Bazak’s weekly column in “Shabbat B’Shabbato” from 2003-2005. The approach is peshuto shel mikra, through the use of varied literary devices.

Shirei Harav Soloveitchik: Avodat Yom HaKippurim (Hebrew)

Divrei Torah by Harav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik - the Rav zt”l, written and edited by Harav Aharon Lichtenstein. Published by Mossad Harav Kook, Jerusalem, 2005.

The bulk of this sefer is based on five intense weeks between Rav Aharon Lichtenstein and Rav Soloveitchik, which took place during the summer of 1964. It was previously printed, at the Rav zt”l’s request, in 1986. This second edition was carefully edited by Rav Tair Kahn. 76, Ram and Head of Overseas Program in the Yesiva, who introduced additional material relating to Avodat Yom HaKippurim, which was taught by the Rav zt”l on various other occasions. It is the second volume in the Shirei HaGrid series.

Yom Tzom Kippur Yehatemun (Hebrew)

Edited by Rav Amnon Bazak ’84 H.Ram, Yeshivat Har Etzion. Published by the Herzog College

This volume, the second in a series of books dealing with the holidays, following Beresh Hashanah Yikatevun, addresses five aspects of the holiest of days, Yom Kippur: the nature of the day; the Kohen Gadol’s service, the Book of Yonah, the special prayers of the day, and repentance.

Festival of Freedom: Essays of Pesah and the Haggadah

New Book by Harav Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt”l

Edited by Joel B. Wolowelsky and Rav Reuven Ziegler ‘86, Managing Editor of the VBM. To order: www.vbm-torah.org/ravbooks.htm

Shitat Ha’Behinot (Hebrew)


The first section of this volume is a collection of Rav Breuer’s essays articulating his pioneering approach to the challenge posed to traditional Judaism by biblical criticism, ranging from his first essay, published 46 years ago, through an essay published here for the first time. The second section includes critiques of his approach and his response to those critiques. The third section presents a personal perspective, including autobiographical notes about Rav Breuer and the manner through which he developed his approach, and an interview conducted by one of his students.

A special study evening marking the publication of the book was held on February 1, 2006 at the Herzog College. Rav Amital made opening remarks and Rav Breuer and several of his outstanding students delivered lectures relating to his groundbreaking approach.

Murder in the Mikdash, by Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rodstein ‘82

Booksurge Publishing 2005

To order: www.gidonrodstein.com, www.amazon.com or gidon@att.net

Rachel Tucker; an ABC News anchorwoman temporarily living in Israel, has just had a baby and lost her best friend to sudden respiratory distress. Her attempts to find the real cause of that friend’s death force her to confront uncomfortable truths about the Messianic society that Israel has become, about herself, and about how she can or cannot find her place in that world.

Excerpts from a review by Gil Student – “Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rodstein does us all a favor in presenting his vision of the transitional period at the onset of the Messianic Era in his recent book, Murderer in the Mikdash. Set within the plot of an exciting murder mystery that takes place a few years after the arrival of the Messiah, while the world is still in transition, Rabbi Rodstein’s book outlines a functional model for a benign theocratic monarchy in which the laws of the Torah are followed.”

Exclusion and Hierarchy: Orthodoxy, Nonobservance, and the Emergence of Modern Identity by Rabbi Adam S. Ferziger ‘82

Gwendolyn and Joseph Strauss Fellow in Jewish Studies in the Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry at Bar-Ilan University Published by University of Pennsylvania Press

This book traces the evolution of Orthodox Judaism’s approach to its non-practicing brethren, shedding new light on the emergence of Orthodoxy as a specific movement within modern Jewish society.

http://www.upenn.edu/ppress/book/14135.html

The Three Pillars

Am Yisrael, Torat Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael by Rabbi David Milston (‘83, ’94-’95 Kollel)

The Foundations of Judaism as Revealed in Sefer Bereishit (English)

In a refreshingly original study, Rabbi David Milston, Director of Overseas Programs at Midrash HaRova, masterfully shows how our forefathers laid the foundations for Jewish history on three solid pillars: Am Yisrael, Torat Yisrael, and Eretz Yisrael.