Close to 500 alumni, friends and supporters of Yeshivat Har Etzion attended the Annual Dinner which took place on May 24, 2010 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. We thank Honorary Chairpersons Jacob and Vered Schimmel and Jack and Gitti Bendheim, as well as dinner co-chairs Amy and David Grauer, Rivi and Avi Katz ’76, Tamar and Ethan Benovitz ’86, Aliza and Steven Major ’86 and Karen and Michael Raskas ’87.

Mrs. Dorothy Berman, President of the Etzion Foundation, welcomed the guests and noted that many alumni are now sending their children, the next generation, to study at the Yeshiva and Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz.

Honored Alumnus of the Year was Rabbi Seth Grauer ’96. Rabbi Grauer is an Assistant Rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan and a veteran faculty member of the Ramaz Upper School. Upon accepting the award, together with his wife Leba Grauer, he commented, “Had it not been for the influence of Gush, I don’t think there’s any way that I would be where I am today. I want to truly thank the Yeshiva for everything it’s done for me and my family.”

Rabbi Grauer has devoted countless hours to Yeshivat Har Etzion, originally serving as Director of Alumni Affairs and now as a Board Member of the Etzion Foundation.

The Guests of Honor were David ’73 and Faye Landes. “Our lives have been enriched by our involvement with the Yeshiva throughout the years,” David said. “The Yeshiva is a unique institution, always at the center of the debate, whose faculty and alumni take direct action whenever the need arises. The Yeshiva’s consistency and approach to learning is the source of its strength and creative overflowing energy.”

David, a private investor who recently received a Ph.D. in anthropology from Princeton University, served as Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation from 2001-2007. Faye is a securities analyst and a managing director at Consumer Edge Research, an independent equity research firm.

Faye and David have four children. Their daughter Chana, an editor at Random House, was among the first American
students to attend the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women at Migdal Oz in 2001-2002. Their son Yitz, who previously studied at the Yeshivat Hesder in Otniel and served as a tank commander in the IDF, studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion this past year. Matanya is a student at SAR High School, and Adir is a student at SAR Academy.

The Rabbinic Leadership Award was bestowed upon Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since September 1991. "It’s wonderful to be here at this celebration of a truly great institution," declared Chief Rabbi Sacks. "Yeshivat Har Etzion is a place whose Torah I love, whose teachers I admire and whose talmidim and talmidot are the mainstay and inspiration of our communities. Nowhere does Torat Eretz Yisrael exist more beautifully than in Yeshivat Har Etzion! This is the Torah that has the power to transform the Jewish world."

Special thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Berman, President of the Etzion Foundation, Arye Colton ’81, Chairman of the Board, Yoel Weiss, Executive Vice President, Mrs. Shirley Schuster, Executive Director and Jeremy Schwarzbaum ’02, Alumni Coordinator, for all their hard work in ensuring the success of the dinner.

The films shown at the dinner (produced by Channah Koppel and Gi Orman) can be accessed at the Yeshiva’s new website, www.haretzion.org

Two New Scholarship Funds Established

At the dinner, Rabbi Seth Grauer thanked the Yeshiva for establishing the Rabbi J. Shelley Appblbaum Scholarship Fund in memory of his grandfather, who devoted his entire life to Jewish education and the Jewish people. "I’m certain that my grandfather would be so proud to know that he was playing a role in enabling students to spend time learning Torah in Israel," Rabbi Grauer said.

In addition, Dr. Mark and Susan Wiesen of Teaneck, NJ dedicated a scholarship fund in memory of their fathers, Yaacov Rieder z’l and Zvi Wiesen z’l. The Weisens are the parents of three alumni: Ari ’95, Yonatan ’99 and Rena MO ’04.

Pre- and Post Dinner Visits

Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Baruch Gigi travelled to New York in advance of the dinner in order to serve as Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Etz Chaim of Kew Garden Hills, NY, which is led by Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg, father of Yair ’06. Friday night featured a lively Oneg Shabbat for alumni at the home of Larry ’80 and Deena Rabinovich, parents of Avi ’05.

Yeshiva Ram Rav Doniel Schreiber ’86 attended the dinner and remained in New York afterwards to meet with talmidim at Yeshiva University and promote a new Torah Leadership initiative among rabbis, communal leaders and supporters (see page 11 for more details). He was also a Scholar-in-Residence at the Beis Medrash of Bergenfield on Shabbat Parshat Beha’alotcha (May 29) and led a tish on Friday night for yeshiva alumni.
Launch of New Website

The Yeshiva is proud to announce the launch of its new website, built by alumnus David Suna ’83. This improved channel of communication will enable the publication of news, photos and video clips in “real time.” The goal is for alumni to play an active role in happenings at the Yeshiva and for them to share their news with the Yeshivat Har Etzion family. We welcome your suggestions and input.

Please visit often: www.haretzion.org

Bat Mitzvah Program

Fifty-six alumni and their bat mitzvah-aged daughters participated in the second Bat Mitzvah Day Program organized by the alumni association of the Yeshiva, which took place on Thursday, May 6.

The day began in Migdal Oz with a joint father-daughter learning session in the Beit Midrash in preparation for a shiur by Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon (who participated in the program with his own daughter!). While the girls enjoyed a musical workshop with the Migdal Oz students, Esti Rozenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash, addressed the fathers about the history and uniqueness of the Beit Midrash. HaRav Yaakov Medan led the group to the roof of the Beit Midrash building for a lookout and fascinating explanation of the area. This was followed by a festive luncheon for all at the Yeshiva, after which the group was addressed by Roshei Yeshiva HaRav Aharon and HaRav Mosheh Lichtenstein. The girls were introduced to the Roshei Yeshiva by their fathers, there was a treasure hunt in the library and the day ended with a short tiyul.

Dr. Tani Wallach ’89 (Dept. of Mathematics, Technion), summed up the occasion as follows: “Eliana and I enjoyed the Bat Mitzvah program very much. It is always uplifting to return to the yeshiva, and the opportunity to give my daughter a chance to taste from the Torah of the Yeshiva was very special. As a parent, I found Esti Rozenberg’s discussion of some of the challenges with which the Midrasha had to deal quite fascinating. It is wonderful to know that there is such a place for girls who wish to learn, le’echatchila, to go to.”

Eliana added: “I liked the whole day. I enjoyed the treasure hunt in the library. I liked seeing all the old books and learning about the people. I also enjoyed learning together with my father.”
HaRav Medan in the Army

Yeshivat Har Etzion talmidim in the IDF Givati Unit received special permission from their commander to have their Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Yaakov Medan join their “Masa Kumta,” the most grueling trek of basic training. Harav Medan joined the last segment of the trek for the “Masa Alunkot,” which includes carrying soldiers on stretchers. At the closing ceremony, the group of Yeshiva students (from Har Etzion and other yeshivot) won the award for overall excellence of the entire regiment.

Visitors from Harvard

This past March, alumnus Mordechai Raskas ’99 and his wife Jen Rubin Raskas, led an eye-opening trip to Israel for 45 Harvard Kennedy School graduate students. The diverse group included students from 18 countries whose ages ranged from the early 20’s to late 40’s. During their packed week-long journey, the students met with political leaders, toured the country and delved into its history. On Wednesday, March 17th, the students spent the morning in Gush Etzion and were warmly received at the Yeshiva by Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Mosheh Lichtenstein. Most of the 45 students had never been to Israel and had certainly never seen a yeshiva.

One student from India commented, “Once I saw the Yeshiva and the students’ passion for their tradition and land, I understood the country better. I wish my people could have this type of enthusiasm for our home.” Another student mentioned that seeing the Yeshiva “was extremely important to understanding Jewish culture.” The trip to Gush Etzion was a highlight for many of the students.

A Rabbi on Sabbatical

“I feel blessed to have been able to spend this past year learning and teaching at Yeshivat Har Etzion. I have long been an admirer of the Yeshiva, the Roshei Yeshiva, and the Ramim and I have greatly benefited from my time in the Yeshiva. To learn in the same bier midrash – let alone to learn from – HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein, has truly been a privilege. I have also enjoyed interacting with and teaching many of the fine talmidim of the yeshiva. I would enthusiastically recommend this experience to anyone who has the opportunity.”

Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb
Congregation Shomrei Emunah
Baltimore, MD
Halacha in Action

On Tuesday, June 22, The Halacha Education Center of the Yeshiva, headed by Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon, visited a number of slaughterhouses in the area of Hadera. The hashgacha at these factories is given by Rav David Werner, the chief rabbi of Hadera and a prominent figure in the world of kashrut, who accompanied the group throughout the day.

“We feel that it is so important to take the time and see how the halachot that we study in the yeshiva are implemented in the real world,” says Avishai Magence, a member of the Halacha Center. “It truly brings liveliness into our Torah learning and makes it a Torat chayim.”

Praise for KMTT – Torah Podcasts from Har Etzion

From Ralph Siegel:

“Who would have thought that an hour and a half commute from Skokie to Milwaukee could be filled with learning? Or that one could bring kedusha to a drive filled with heavy traffic, snow, and rain? KMTT has made what could be a frustrating waste of time into very productive time. The shiurim, which cover a wide range of topics, have enriched my life greatly. I appreciate what KMTT has done for me, and I look forward to downloading the podcasts several times a week. Thanks to the rabbis and teachers who provide the shiurim, and to Har Etzion for producing these wonderful podcasts.”

Podcasts can be downloaded at: www.kimitzion.org

News from Migdal Oz

The 5770 school year in Migdal Oz is coming to an end. Shira Telushkin, an American overseas student, relates some of her experiences from the past few months:

“Zman Kayitz (the “spring semester”) with its commemoration-studded calendar, makes it impossible to ignore the outside world. There was Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzma’ut, and Yom Yerushalayim. Migdal Oz ensured that the students recognized these days as integral to the beit midrash. Just as before other holidays, there were many special shiurim that discussed the State of Israel and prepared us to think about the meaning behind what we were remembering.

On Yom HaZikaron students sat together, singing and sharing the stories of those who had fallen for this country. Gush Etzion was captured exactly one day before the state was declared, making Yom HaZikaron a particularly poignant day for this part of Israel. At night, the ceremony organized by the children of Kibbutz Migdal Oz transferred us to the heights of Yom HaAtzma’ut. The day was celebrated with dancing and, of course, barbecues. Yom Yerushalayim took us on a moving tour of Jerusalem with the entire beit midrash. The density of these days marked Zman Kayitz as a time to finally look up from our books and celebrate why we chose to spend this year learning Torah in Israel.

Leah Sarna ’09 and Naomi Friedman ’09 in the beit midrash

As the weeks marched on, we also had the incredible experience of Shavuot in Migdal Oz. Packed to capacity, populated by guests and past students as well, the students spent the night toiling in Torah. Throughout the night people gave siyumim on various completed learnings from the year. The atmosphere was very exciting. We watched the sun rise as we davened together and finally went off to sleep…”
YHE Alumni Play Key Role in South African Jewish Community

Over 30 Har Etzion alumni served as madrichim at the December Machaneh in South Africa, a three week Bnei Akiva camp attended by over 750 campers.

Chanuka Party

Talmidim celebrate Chanuka with children at Beit HaYeled in Jerusalem

Alumni Visit

January 2010: Rav Moshe Taragin hosts alumni from abroad, visiting the Yeshiva during their winter break

Darkaynu

The Darkaynu Program for special needs students concluded the 5770 year with tremendous success. Over the course of their year in yeshiva, the Darkaynu students learned the art of independent living – including holding down a job, shopping, managing a budget, cooking meals, and caring for their living space, possessions, and roommates. Their growth in independence was paralleled only by their social and spiritual growth, as they made lasting friendships with their mainstream peers and created a deep bond with Eretz Yisrael, Am Yisrael and Torat Yisrael. Some end-of-the-year highlights included all-night chavruta learning on Shavuot, a camping trip in the Galil, and the students’ siyumim and speeches in which they summed up their learning, Israel experiences and gratitude to Yeshivat Har Etzion.

Five of this year’s nine students will be returning to the Yeshiva next year (5771), as the program continues to grow from strength to strength.

At the Chazon Yeshaya soup kitchen in Jerusalem, where Darkaynu students volunteer every week
Israel Dinner

This year the Yeshiva held a dinner in Israel which was attended by over 650 people. It was gratifying to see that in a time of economic uncertainty and in a country without a “dinner culture,” so many of the yeshiva’s loyal supporters contributed their time and resources to ensure the event’s success.

The dinner, which took place in March at the Keter HaRimon Hall in Bnei Brak, was chaired by Dr. David and Mrs. Jemima Jeselsohn and the guests of honor were Dr. Joshua and Mrs. Aviva Rosensweig, parents of YHE Hesder alumni Elisha, Hillel and Yedidya.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Moshe “Moshko” Moscovitz, Yedaya Hacohen and Dr. Meyer Brayer for their many years of dedication and devotion to the Yeshiva. HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein spoke about the vast accomplishments of HaRav Yehuda Amital, founder of the Yeshiva, and his co-Rosh Yeshiva for 40 years. Harav Amital was unfortunately unable to attend due to poor health but sent warm greetings via video. Prof. Yisrael Aumann, Nobel Prize laureate in economics, also addressed the gathering with characteristic charm and humor.

The evening ended close to midnight with dancing and the screening of a short film depicting highlights of the 40th year celebrations in Israel.
On Sunday March 7, the Yeshiva held a reunion for alumni of the 1990’s at The Jewish Museum in Manhattan. The event featured a discussion between HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, moderated by Rabbi Yehuda Seif ’95 on the topic of “The Dynamics of Family Relationships.” The program was a great success, with more than 60 people in attendance. The discussion was interesting, enlightening and entertaining, ranging from the centrality of children in the home to the division of responsibilities among parents.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and feel a little taste of being back in yeshiva again. The insights offered by Rav Aharon and Tovah were just wonderful. I’ve told my wife so much about how much I loved yeshiva and how much it means to my life today; it’s always great to have the opportunity to share a little bit of that experience with her,” said Abe Mezrich ’98 PC.

Chaim Saiman ’96 added: “In Yeshiva, we saw Rav Aharon as the Rosh HaYeshiva and aspired to emulate him in that way. Fifteen years later, it turns out none of us are Roshei Yeshiva, but most of us are husbands and fathers. It was a great opportunity to see Rav Aharon cast in a different role where we can continue to learn from his and Dr. Lichtenstein’s example.”
The Yeshiva Abroad

Rav Mordechai Friedman ’79 and Rav Danny Rhein were guests for Shabbat at the University of Pennsylvania on Shabbat Parshat Bo, January 22-23. Attending alumni enjoyed the chance to reconnect with each other, with two of their beloved Ramim, and with the Yeshiva. Thanks to Eitan Adler ’07 and Geoffrey Kiderman ’05 for organizing the event.

Rav Moshe Taragin ’83 was Scholar-in-Residence on Shavuot at the newly-renovated Ahavat Torah Synagogue of Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, and at the East Hill Synagogue of Rabbi Zev Reichman, both in Engelwood, N.J. Rav Taragin was hosted by Sam ’80 and Debby Moed and attended a festive Shavuot luncheon for Friends of Har Etzion, hosted by Jerry Gontownik and his wife Anne in their Engelwood home. On the same trip, Rav Taragin was honored to attend the bris of the Gontowniks’ new grandchild, Netanel Chaim, the son of Ari Gontownik ’01.

Rav Taragin was also Scholar-in-Residence at the Young Israel of Riverdale of Rabbi Shmuel Hain for Shabbat, and he delivered a lecture entitled “Flag of Love” in honor of the Salute to Israel Parade at the YU Midreshet Yom Rishon for Women. In February, Rabbi Taragin was Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Etz Chaim in Kew Gardens Hills, NY and in Hillcrest, NJ at the shul of Rabbi Ricky Weiss.

A Lunch & Learn with HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein on the topic of “T’a’am Matza uMaror” was hosted by Meir Nordlicht ’86 of Platinum Partners on March 9th.

A shiur titled “Insight into the Laws of Chanuka” was delivered by Rav Yair Kahn ’77 on November 26 at the Torah MiTzion Kollel in Montreal in conjunction with the Canadian Friends of Yeshivat Har Etzion. Rav Kahn was also a Scholar-in-Residence at the Bais Medrash of Bergenfield in February 2010.

On Yom Hazikaron, April 19th, Har Etzion alumnus IDF Colonel (res.) Bentzi Gruber ’76 H gave a special presentation on “Ethics in the Battlefield” at the offices of Terry Novetsky ’80 (Kaye Scholer LLP), in the context of a lecture tour at college campuses, government offices and communities throughout America.
Rav Mordechai Friedman ’79 gave a shiur to alumni in the Boston area at the home of Raphi ’93 and Yonit Schorr on January 26. Rav Mordechai said, “It was heartwarming to see so many bogrim in the area who took time from their busy schedules to learn Torah!”

Hartley ’83 and Faye Koschitzky, parents of Adriel ’09, hosted a fascinating evening in their Manhattan home in March – a conversation with Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on “Modern Orthodoxy and Religious Zionism: Past, Present and Future – A Religious and Social Perspective.” The discussion was moderated by Rabbi Adam Mintz of Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim, father of Noam ’08.

In March, HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein met with alumni of the 90’s for an open discussion of topics of personal interest to them, and an update on the Yeshiva. The event was hosted by Terry Novetsky ’80 at Kaye Scholer (LLP).
Torah Leadership

In partnership with the Etzion Foundation and the Israeli Alumni Association, Rabbi Doniel Schreiber ’86 has embarked on an initiative to empower alumni in Israel and abroad to take leadership roles in Jewish education and communal life. The following programs are part of this new initiative. YHE and MO graduates are invited to contact Rav Schreiber through the yeshiva office for more information about the initiative and to join up.

Yom Ha’Atzma’ut Celebration in Tel Aviv School
by Chesky Kopel, Shana Bet Student

This year’s Yom Ha’Atzma’ut festivities were especially memorable for several dozen Har Etzion students. It began when the group, which included about 20 Shana Bet overseas students, traveled on the late afternoon of Yom HaZikaron (Israel’s Memorial Day) to the Reishit School in southern Tel Aviv. They arrived just before nightfall to participate in the Tekes Ma’avar or “transition ceremony,” in which Yom HaZikaron is concluded with a solemn commemoration of Israel’s fallen soldiers, followed by joyful celebration of Israel’s Independence Day.

Reishit is a religious public school located in a particularly secular and impoverished area of the city, run by Yeshiva alumnus Rabbi Sefi Sherman ’86H. Due to its unique identity and location, the school does double-duty, serving as a religious community center in an area sorely lacking other resources. The Har Etzion students watched and applauded as the Reishit students performed in honor of the holidays, and then helped give life to the dancing and the festive Ma’ariv (led by Har Etzion student Gilad Brounstein) in honor of Yom Ha’Atzma’ut.

The Tel Avivians and yeshiva students all enjoyed the experience, and for the overseas students in particular, the encounter with the Tel Aviv community served as an important exposure to the diversity of the communities in Israel, and to the reality of the nation’s religious demographics. The Yeshiva has been involved in many such programs in the past and hopes to continue supporting communities-in-need in the future.

We are deeply thankful to Josiah and Gila Rotenberg of Jerusalem for their help in publishing a special siddur for this occasion and for sponsoring this program.

Shabbat in Haifa

For Shabbat Parshat Teruma, 2nd Year overseas students and 4th Year Israeli students traveled to Haifa with Rav Yair Kahn ’77, Rav Menachem Leibtag ’77, Rav Assaf Bednarsh ’88 and their families.

They were hosted for Friday night dinner by members of the Ahuzah Religious Community Center, after which they joined high-school and college-age members of the local Bnei Akiva for an Oneg Shabbat. On Shabbat morning, Har Etzion students met with the Israeli Minister of Science and Technology, MK Rabbi and Professor Daniel Hershkowitz, who engaged the talmidim in a discussion about the flight path of rockets as a metaphor for life.

Rav Sha’ar Yashuv Cohen, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Haifa, met with yeshiva talmidim after lunch and shared his experiences during the Israeli War of Independence, experiences which were closely tied to the history of Gush Etzion. Rav She’ar Yashuv did his military training in Gush Etzion and his commander was HaRav Medan’s father, Meir z’l. He was severely injured in the fighting to defend the Old City and walks with the help of a cane as a result of the wound he sustained in his leg. When the Jewish Quarter fell, he was captured by the Arab Legion. Together with the survivors of Gush Etzion and the defenders of the Jewish Quarter, he was taken to Amman and spent seven months in the “Mifrak” prison camp in Jordan. After he was freed, he served in many important capacities in Israeli military, political and religious life.

It was an inspiring and mind-opening weekend for all who participated.
Shana Alef Shabbat in Ra’anana:
A Study in Community

Following a muddy Friday tiyul in Nachal Katlav, students of the Overseas Program were hosted by the Ohel Ari synagogue in Ra’anana for Shabbat Parshat Shemot. The synagogue is named in memory of IDF Sgt. Ari Weiss hy”d, the son of Rabbi Stewart and Susie Weiss, who fell in battle in 2002 against Hamas terrorists. We thank the Ohel Ari community for its gracious hospitality.

Talmidim joined Rabbi Seth Farber ’86, Rabbi of Kehillat Netivot, for a Friday night tish. Rabbi Farber is Founder and Director of ITIM: The Jewish Life Information Center, which helps secular Jews navigate the Israeli religious establishment during critical moments of Jewish life.

Rabbi Daniel Beller ’82, Rabbi of Kehillat Shivtei Yisrael, is the founder and director of “Bakehilla,” a community-based educational project that seeks to make Judaism more accessible, relevant and personalized to the secular Israeli public. Rabbi Beller urged talmidim to take full advantage of their year of study in Yeshivat Har Etzion which he referred to as a “Palace of Torah” and then challenged them to use this knowledge for the betterment of Jewish communal life worldwide.

Thank you to Shana Alef madrichim Ariel Brounstein, Ariel Cohen, and Eitan Martin (all from Ra’anana) for organizing the Shabbaton and welcoming talmidim into their homes.

Herzog College News

Herzog College at Har Etzion continues to grow and expand in its role as the nation’s premier institute for training religious Zionist educators. Registration for next year is higher than ever, and registration in the women’s program has jumped by 50%, thanks in part to the new and highly successful Special Education Program.

Recent innovations at Herzog include:
- Bachelor degree programs in English and History (both General and Jewish)
- Diploma programs in art therapy and drama therapy, scheduled to open this coming year
- The College was selected, after winning a public tender, to open a special program for training school principals
- A school for gifted children, slated to open this year. Gifted elementary school children from the surrounding region will be bused to the Herzog College campus one day a week for advanced classes in the sciences and limudei kodesh

Prof. Shmuel Shilo, Dean, notes that two government ministers recently visited Herzog College – Minister of Education MK Gideon Sa’ar and Minister of Communication MK Moshe Kachlon. Both were very impressed with what they saw and heard. Minister Sa’ar expressed particular interest in the program to train Judaic studies teachers for secular schools (temporarily suspended due to lack of funding), as well as the Ethiopian Leadership Training Program and the Summer Study Days in Tanach.
Alumni Achievements

Gush alumni Dr. Baruch Sterman '78 and Dr. Ari Greenspan '81 were honored at the Young Israel Rabbis in Israel dinner in December. They were awarded the “Halachic Initiatives Award” along with Rav Elyahu Tevger and Joel Guberman in recognition of their founding of The Ptil Tekhelet Foundation. The Foundation produces tekhelet for tzitzit and provides educational programming and resources pertaining to tekhelet. The work is done lishma – for the express purpose of making tzitzit as the halacha requires.

Rabbi Michael Balinsky '74, Executive Vice President of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and a Trustee of the Council of the Parliament of World Religions

Rabbi Ari Kahn '80 was the recipient of the Keter Torah Award from the OU Israel Center at their 7th Annual Dinner on Yom Yerushalayim. Rav Kahn is Director of the Foreign Student Programs at Bar-Ilan University, where he is also a senior lecturer in Jewish Studies. He is Vice President of Migdal Ohr Institutions and a senior educator at the Aish HaTorah College for Jewish Studies and Matan. Rabbi Kahn is the author of Explorations, an in-depth analysis of the weekly Torah reading and Emanations, an in-depth analysis of the Jewish holidays.

Jarred Myers '98, National Controller at an NGO called MaAfrika Tikun – www.maafrikatikun.org.za – a Jewish-led initiative that builds and runs community centers in underprivileged areas in South Africa and offers a host of facilities to enable a better life for the children in these areas.

The Maccabeats. Yeshiva University’s a cappella group, released their first album “Voices From the Heights.” Michael Greenberg '06 was the founder of the group, and Julian Horowitz '05 is the musical director. Dani Landman '03 (currently in the Gush Kollel) was a past musical director.

See more at www.maccabeats.com

Rabbi Aaron Adler '72, Rav of Ohel Nechama Synagogue in Katamon, Jerusalem

Rabbi Dr. Shimon Rapport '82, Principal/Rosh Yeshiva of a new yeshiva high school in Zichron Yaakov

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar '87, Rav of Alei Tzion community in Hendon, UK

Rabbi Avi Baumol '88, Rosh Midrasha Tzvia, a new Midrasha in Jerusalem combining Torah, Zionism and creativity

Yoni Raff '99, associate, Gornitzky & Co. Law Firm, Tel Aviv

Jeremy Stern '01, Director, ORA (The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot), New York

Phil Getz '08 PC, Assistant Editor of a new magazine called The Jewish Review of Books, Cleveland, OH

Mazal Tov to all the YHE alumni who received their Semicha at the recent Chag HaSemicha 5770 of RIETS (YU). We hope we didn’t leave anyone out – if so, please let us know:

Rabbi Noah Baron '98
Rabbi Uzi Beer '98
Rabbi Elichai Bitter '01
Rabbi Avi-Gil Chaitovsky '01
Rabbi Yehudah Chanales '98
Rabbi Eli Cohn '00
Rabbi Saul Epstein '98
Rabbi David Goldfischer '98
Rabbi Steven Goldsmith '98
Rabbi Yair Hindin '98
Rabbi Jesse Horn '96
Rabbi Noam Lipshitz '99
Rabbi Asher Oser '99 PC
Rabbi Gil Perl '96
Rabbi Avi Robinson '97
Rabbi Simcha Schaum '97
Rabbi Shmuel Segal '00
Rabbi David Shabtai '98
Rabbi Tzvi Sinensky '98
Rabbi Eric Siskind '98
Rabbi Moshe Stavsky '99
Rabbi Jay Weinstein '00
Rabbi Oran Zweiter '99 H

Mazal Tov to Dr. Pinny Sanders '82 who received Semicha from the YU Gruss Kollel
Alumni News

We do our best to include all relevant information accurately, but undoubtedly have missed something – our apologies in advance. Please send your news to: shira@etzion.org.il

Marriages

David Greenberg ’81 and Tamar Feder
Yair Moskowitz ’97 and Shira Rothschild
Josh Rosman ’97 and Aliza Sturm
Hillel Zukor ’99 and Deborah Schwartzman
Josh Podolski ’01 and Miriam Goldman
Josh Ettinger ’02, former madrich of Overseas Program, and Tamar Zucker
Yosef Bronstein ’03 and Batya Reichman
Noah Gardenswartz ’03 and Aliza Forman
Joseph Hanstater ’03 and Hannah Lipman
Daniel Kaplan ’03 and Andy Sandler
Michael Platt ’03 PC and Channy Zeltzer
David Wermuth ’03 and Yael Landman MO ’05
Ricki Bornstein ’04 and Shelley Carr
Yossi Dinnen ’04 MTA, ’09 PC and Tzipora Zussman
Mauro Ejzenberg ’04 and Alya Vingrovich
Benji Levy ’04 and Renana Kestenbaum
Ben Chiel ’05 and Tonya Rosenblatt MO ’06
Yoni Hain ’05 and Ronna Boltin
Yitzi Matanky ’05 and Aviva Rosenbaum
Hillel Nadler ’05 and Tova Wiener
Yonatan Schwab ’05 and Esty Rollhaus MO ’06
Tani Cohn ’06 and Naomi Sharon
Daniel Poliak ’06 and Jen Adler
Isaac Silverstein ’06 and Caryn Keller
Josh Wiseman ’06 and Taliia Solomon
Yisrael Rappaport ’09 PC and Ilana Epstein

Births

Ami ’87 and Lea Aharon, Maayan Shoshana, NYC
Adrian ’87 and Rayna Benosiglio, Leah, London, England
Kalman ’91 and Jordana Schoor, Daria Esther, Modiin
Etan ’91 and Esther Tokayer, Moshe Hillel, Brooklyn, NY
Moti ’92 and Laurie Novick, Itiel Yehuda, Jerusalem
Zev Schubin ’92 and Ilana Brownstein, Leo David (Dovid Levi), NYC
Daniel ’92 and Rachel Wolf, Eden Moriah, Alon Shevut
Amichai ’94 and Jody Erdfarb, Roza Avigayil, Riverdale, NY
Menachem ’95 PC and Devora Linzer, Miriam, Skokie, IL
Hillel ’95 and Yael Maizels, Ayelet Rut, Ariel
Donny ’95 and Gila Rose, Nadav, Modiin
Ben ’95 and Shuli Sandler, Miya, NYC
Chaim ’95 and Aliva Strauchler, Zvi, Toronto, Canada
Henri ’95 and Dani Suke, Adina Rivka, Halebarns, England
Ariel ’96 and Shifra Chana Penkower, Matan, Hillside, NJ
Jonathan ’96 and Nechama Price, Ariella Ahuva, Bergenfield, NJ
Naftali ’97 and Rachel Balansohn, Ami Yosef, Maaleh Adumim
Avraham ’97 and Daniela Bronstein, Elisha Chanan, Westhampton Beach, NY
Tuvy ’97 and Nicole Meyer, Rae, Manchester, NY
Avi ’97 and Daniella Robinson, Chaya Shaindel, Brookline, MA
Yehuda ’98 and Elissa Chanales, Tova Adina, Bergenfield, NJ
Tzvi ’98 and Tova MO ’00 Sinensky, Moriah Meital, Riverdale, NY
David ’98 and Aliza Stern, Lielle Galit, NYC
Elli ’99 PC and Pesha Fischer, Shlomit Ahuva, Modiin
Ethhan ’99 PC and Nili Isenberg, Aminadav Shalom, LA, CA
Chaim Dovid (CD) ’99 H and Leora Lazare, Hadar, Efrat
Jarred ’99 and Joanne Myers, Ora Tziona, Johannesburg, South Africa
Binyamin ’99 and Deborah Radomsky, Elsheva Yehudit, Elazar
Yoni ’99 and Adina Raff, Avigail Sima, Modiin
Yaakov ’99 and Adina Rydzinski, Moshe Isaac, NYC
Avi ’99 and Chanie Wiesenberg, Oz Calev, Ra’anana
Gabe ’99 and Ellen Wintner, Yishai, Chicago, IL
Trevor ’00 and Leah Silverman, Noa Abigail, London, England
Aharon ’80 and Tova Naiman on the marriage of Avital (Tali) and Tzuri Dotan
David ’81 and Debbie Fischman on the marriage of Gillit and Yair Manas
David Greenberg ’81 on the marriage of Sacha and Arieh Edel
David ’82 and Tova Kestenbaum on the marriage of Daniella and Amit Nistenpover
Rabbi David ’85 and Paula Riffkin on the marriage of Eliana and Michael Lichtenstein
Mazal Tov to HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the marriage of their grandson, Uri Biran (Hesder ’06) and Chana Zeff, and to Uri’s parents Rav Mayer (Hesder ’81 ) and Michal Lichtenstein

Marriages of Children

Rav Meir ’72 and Malka Schweiger on the marriage of Shoshi and Har-el Avrahami
Rav Michael ’73 and Smadar Rosensweig on the marriage of Moriah and David Weiss
Dr. Barry ’75 and Suri Reiner on the marriage of their son, Benjamin and Alyssa Hofmann and their daughter, Yocheved and Vitzy Kramer
Rav Scot ’77 and Esther Berman on the marriage of Renana and Benji Levy ’04
Rav Jonathan ’77 and Tziporah Rosenblatt on the marriage of Tonya MO ’06 and Ben Chiel ’05
Dr. Irv ’79 and Debbie Chiotto on the marriage of Shmuel and Gali Stenger

Etzion Update
Danny ’00 and Debra Wunder, Shayna Mazal, Flushing, NY
Elichai ’01 and Zahava Bitter, Shalva, Alon Shevut
Binyamin ’01 and Miriam Casper, Goldie, Woodmere, NY
Greg ’01 and Rebecca Eliason, Levi Yair, NYC
Ari ’01 and Shira Gontownik, Netanel Chaim, Englewood, NJ
Daniel ’01 and Shira Schneck, Netta Hodaya, Jerusalem
Ez ’01 and Sorah Shaffren, Menucha Leah, Teaneck, NJ
Asher ’02 and Ester Fredman, Ruth Hallel, Alon Shevut
Shlomo ’02 and Michal Wadler, Itiel, NYC
Joshua ’03 and Sheryl Dubin, Reuven Chaim, Teaneck, NJ
Tzvi ’03 and Michelle Urkowitz, Ezra Yeshaya, NYC
David ’04 PC and Beth Perkel, Eliana Malka, Chicago, IL
Russell ’07 PC and Miriam Levy, David Moshe, Toronto, Canada

Mazal Tov to Darkaynu Coordinator Shalom and Bryna Ozarowski on the birth of Nachala Sarah.

Births of Grandchildren

Rav Elyakim ’72 and Sara Krumbein on the birth of granddaughter Tamar and to parents Bat-Tzion and Guy Aviram and granddaughter, Gila Tova and to parents Chava and Gershon Bass.
Zvi ’74 and Rachel Bessin on the birth of grandson, Yair Yehuda and to parents Miriam and Lazer Loew
Rav Shmuel ’75 and Judy Klitsner and Dr. Shalom ’77 and Dr. Esther Friedman on the birth of grandson, Ilai Shalev, and to parents Ariella and Akiva Klitsner
Rav Eli ’75 and Sharon Lerner and Carl ’79 and Adina Sherer on the birth of granddaughter Chana Rivka and to parents Avraham Yaakov and Meira Sherer
Rav Eli ’75 and Sharon Lerner on the birth of grandson, Yisrael Dov, and to parents Ezra and Fayge Lerner
Shmuel ’76 and Shainde Sohn on the birth of grandson, Adam, and to parents Aderet and Binyamin Kop and grandson, Yedidya Efraim and to parents Atara and Gilad Lewis.
Dr. Avi ’78 and Judy Auerbach on the birth of a granddaughter, Leora Yael, and to parents Ezra and Nili Auerbach
Nathan ’78 and Yocheved Lindenbaum on the birth of a daughter, Dahlia Rosa and to parents, Jeremy Bressman and Atara Lindenbaum MO ’03
Carl ’79 and Adina Sherer on the birth of a grandson, Yeichiel Yaakov, and to parents Rabbi Levy and Avigayil Sheinfeld
Dr. Pinny ’82 and Lisa Sanders on the birth of a granddaughter, Ariella Miriam, and to parents Talia and Jonathan Ifrah
Mazal Tov to David and Dassie Schreiber on the birth of grandson, Aaron Netanel, and to parents Blanche and Yedidya Buchwald, and aunts and uncles Rav Doni ’86 and Aviva Schreiber and Rabbi Avie ’88 and Navi Schreiber

Sofia Freudenstein (David ’79 and Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein), Toronto, Canada
Yechiel Naiman (Aharon ’80 and Tova), Efrat
Noam Greenberg (David ’81), Ra’anana
Michael Jonah and Joshua Tzi Wiener (Steven ’82 and Lisa Wise Wiener), Palo Alto, CA
Aharon Berlin (Yehoshua ’82 H and Rahel), Efrat
Ariella Berkowitz (Laurence ’84 and Michelle), Beit Shemesh
Maayan Israel (Rav Alex ’85 and Aliza), Alon Shevut
Avi Meth (Uri ’87 and Devorah), Baltimore, MD
Yehuda Chanan Brofsky (Rav David ’90 and Mali), Alon Shevut
Reut Rappoport (Rav Jason ’91 and Meira), New Haven, CT
Adira Tova Schorr (Eli ’92 and Efrat), Alon Shevut
Yoni Kornblau (Rav Barry ’96 PC and Dina), Bayside, NY
Mazal Tov to Rav Binyamin and Naomi Tabory on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Tzvi Yonatan Porat

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Eliyahu Yehuda Hefter (Rav Herzl ’75 and Batya), Efrat
Noa Berkowitz, (Michael ’77 and Debra), Alon Shevut
Yoseph Dov Friedman (Rav Mordechai ’79 and Debby), Alon Shevut

Sofia Freudenstein (David ’79 and Anna Urowitz-Freudenstein), Toronto, Canada
Yechiel Naiman (Aharon ’80 and Tova), Efrat
Noam Greenberg (David ’81), Ra’anana
Michael Jonah and Joshua Tzi Wiener (Steven ’82 and Lisa Wise Wiener), Palo Alto, CA
Aharon Berlin (Yehoshua ’82 H and Rahel), Efrat
Ariella Berkowitz (Laurence ’84 and Michelle), Beit Shemesh
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Yoni Kornblau (Rav Barry ’96 PC and Dina), Bayside, NY
Mazal Tov to Rav Binyamin and Naomi Tabory on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Tzvi Yonatan Porat

Aliya

Abe Katsman ’82, Jerusalem
Avi ’99 and Chanie (and Yakir) Wiesenberg, Raanana
David ’04 and Michal Lashansky, Modiin
Ben Wittenberg ’04, in Yeshiva

Condolences

Rav Shmuel Klitsner ’75 on the loss of his sister, Mrs. Betsy Shapiro z”l
Rav Daniel Beller ’82 on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Ruth Beller z”l
Daniel ’83, Anthony ’86 and Jonny ’86 Kitsberg on the loss of their father, Mr. Leo Kitsberg z”l
Reuven Bell ’90 on the loss of his father, Mr. Alex Bell z”l
Hillel Silvera ’91 on the loss of his father, Mr. Richard (Yehoshua) Silvera z”l
Rav Pini Cohen ’94 on the loss of his father, Rav Chaim Cohen z”l
Eliav ’95, Noam ’96 and Yair on the loss of their mother, Mrs. Anita Silverman z”l
Noah Baron ’98 on the loss of his father, Mr. Bernard Baron z”l
Yonah Berman ’98 on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Bonnie Laks Berman z”l
Jerry Gontownik on the loss of his brother, Mr. Sidney Gontownik z”l, uncle of Ari ’01 and Hillel ’09
Jonathan Bloch MTA ’01 on the loss of his father, Mr. Harold Bloch z”l
The yeshiva mourns the tragic death of our alumnus Marc ’93 Weinberg z”l. Our condolences to his wife Natalie, daughters Yonah and Ma’ayan, parents Syman and Henry, and sister and brother-in-law Debra and Rabbi Aviad Tabory.

המוות ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
Recent Publications

Ma'amor Ha'Zevach (Hebrew)
Published by the Kollel Gavoah of Yeshivat Har Etzion
This volume is a collection of articles on Mesechetot Zevachim and Chulin, written by students of the yeshiva's Kollel Gavoah. The Kollel Gavoah is under the direction of Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein and generously supported by Rabbi Chaim '79 and Chaya Balter. Special thanks go to alumnus Lenny (Aharon) Gross for his sponsorship of this project.
To order: books@herzog.ac.il

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by Rav Mordechai Breuer z’l
Edited by Yosef Ofer, published by Tevunot Press, Herzog College
The author’s previously published writings dealt almost exclusively with the Torah; this posthumous collection is the first to analyze a book of the Prophets. The author’s son, Yochanan Breuer, relates in the book’s Foreword: “After my father’s death in 2007, I put his papers in order and was surprised to find a complete and systematic commentary on the first six chapters of Isaiah…My father’s unique style is apparent in this commentary more than in any of his writings. Not only do the rhythm and language echo Biblical poetry, but the entire composition merges together with the words of the prophet.”
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Published by the Halacha Education Center of Yeshivat Har Etzion
A brief summary of the halachot of Grace After Meals, including a discussion of the Talmudic sources, rishonim, achronim, and additional clarifications and information. The author also offers a preface to each of the Shabbat zemirot, pointing out the main ideas and the acrostics at the start of each zemer.
Rav Rimon is a Ram in the Yeshiva and Head of its Halacha Education Center.
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by Rav Chaim Navon ('90 H)
Published by Yediot Books
Rav Navon describes the book as “a novel of spiritual suspense, the story of two yeshiva students who discover an ancient sefer on their table. Something in the book captures their attention and they embark on an internal and external adventure. The style of the book is a modern suspense novel, however, the suspense is not ‘who murdered whom’ but rather ‘who wrote what’ and all, of course, taken from the world of Torah study in a Yeshivat Hesder.”
Rav Chaim Navon teaches at Yeshivat Har Etzion, Herzog College and Migdal Oz, and serves as Rabbi of the Shimshoni congregation in Modiin.
To order: http://www.ybook.co.il