New Beginnings

A New Year in Yeshiva

Since Rosh Chodesh Elul, the beit midrash has been filled with the vibrant sounds of Torah learning. The 42nd Machzor of the Yeshiva began with 226 talmidim in the Hesder Program. This year the Yeshiva welcomed 53 Shana Aleph and 25 Shana Bet talmidim from North America, England and France. In addition, there are a total of 26 talmidim from South Africa and Australia in the Shana Aleph and Bet MTA Program. And, the Darkaynu Program for special needs students boasts 10 talmidim this year – from NY, NJ, Michigan, California, and Perth, Australia.

The Yoni Jesner z”l Elul Learning Program

The Yeshiva is deeply grateful to Steve and Renée Adelsberg for their generous support of the Yoni Jesner z”l Elul Learning Program at Yeshiva. The Adelsbergs’ son, David ’01, was a chevruta and dear friend of Yoni Jesner, an outstanding Shana Bet talmid tragically killed in a suicide bus bombing in 2002. In Yoni’s memory, over 40 former talmidim from the U.S. and U.K. returned to the Yeshiva for summer and Elul Zman to re-charge their spiritual batteries before continuing their university studies.

Leo Arkush ’06 from England shared what the opportunity meant to him: “The three weeks back in Yeshiva were very special, both in terms of the learning and the opportunity to immerse myself in the Yeshiva’s environment and its inspiring personalities. After two years in university, returning to Gush for even a short period helped to strengthen the values that the Yeshiva taught me, and integrate them into my university life back in the U.K.”

Yom Kippur and Simchat Torah Minyanim

Two groups of Har Etzion Hesder talmidim spent Yom Kippur in Tel Aviv (together with Rav Danny Rhein) and in Chavat HaNoar in Jerusalem, where they gave classes and led services in...
conjunction with the TA’IR organization. Asaf Greenbaum, a 6th Year Hesder talmid, explained that the minyan in Tel Aviv has been going on for 9 years and consists of a mixed crowd of about 200 people. “We do this so that more people can experience Yom Kippur. It’s a good feeling to give to others,” he said. Other Har Etzion talmidim led the Yom Kippur davening in Mitzpe Hila and in Kibbutz Ma’agan Michael in the north with Rav Yoel Bin-Nun.

Daniel Gross and Eli Lesser, two Shana Bet students from Teaneck and Toronto respectively, spent Simchat Torah in Hadera with the Ethiopian community there. “It was evident that we were able to bring lots of simcha to these children and it was an incredible opportunity to spread our love and enthusiasm for Torah to others who are not as fortunate to have constant exposure to Torah,” Daniel said.

For a beautiful description of Simchat Torah in Yeshiva this year written by 2nd Year Hesder talmid Binyamin Frankel, please see: http://www.etzion.org.il/dk/5770/1195maamar7.html

Yeshiva Salutes
The 40th Anniversary Pillars

Rav Aharon Lichtenstein noted Rav Tabory’s genuine love of the Yeshiva and said that “all the fibers of his being love the Kadosh Baruch Hu and Torah.” Rav Tabory responded that it has been a wonderful merit for him to be in the presence of such authentic talmidei chachamim as HaRav Amital and HaRav Lichtenstein. “It has always been a joy for me to learn here in Yeshiva,” he said. He explained that he hopes to further develop his learning, delving into topics which interest him and areas that he has not yet mastered and, in conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to his wife Naomi, asserting that the party was really in her honor.

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Rav Amnon Bazak, Ram in the Yeshiva, expressed his tremendous appreciation to Rav Tabory, who was his Shana Aleph Ram 25 years ago, and enumerated three special qualities of Rav Tabory’s which he seeks to emulate — greatness in learning, a pleasant manner in the classroom and a warm, personal connection with talmidim. HaRav Yehuda Amital praised Rav Tabory for being a “normal” person in the best sense of the word, and assured him that retirement need not signal the cessation of all work but rather that he should continue to learn, teach and enjoy life. HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein noted Rav Tabory’s genuine love of the Yeshiva and said that “all the fibers of his being love the Kadosh Baruch Hu and Torah.”

Friend, family and colleagues attended a farewell party for Rav Binyamin Tabory who has retired as a Ram in Yeshivat Har Etzion after 30 years of dedicated teaching.

A Ram at the Yeshiva since 1979, Rav Tabory received Semicha and a Master’s degree in Jewish Philosophy from Yeshiva University. He previously served as Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Bnei Akiva High School in Toronto and was the founding Rosh Kollel of the Toras Mitzion Kollel in Cleveland, the first Zionist Kollel in North America. He was also the Director of the Advanced Talmud Program at Stern College and served as the Rav of the Alei Etzion Congregation and Rabbinic Scholar in Residence at the London School of Jewish Studies. Rav Tabory has authored shiurim for the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash and gives a weekly shiur on KMTT, the Yeshiva’s Torah podcast.

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Yeshiva News

IDF Officers Visit Yeshiva

Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan hosted two groups of high-ranking IDF officers from Israel at the Yeshiva on November 11 (50 officers from the National Defense College) and November 18 (200 from The Command and Staff College, the most elite instructional institution in the IDF). Harav Medan discussed current issues and received a resounding round of applause at the conclusion of both lectures.

"Yeshivat Har Etzion’s aspiration is that the Torah studied here not be limited to our students," explains Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Medan, "but that it constitute a central component of Zionist society in Israel and abroad. The Yeshiva aims to project the authenticity of its Torah together with the heritage of Gush Etzion, which is an integral part of its essence, to the public at large including the societal elite. The fact that each year, senior officers find their way in an official manner specifically to Yeshivat Har Etzion, in order to hear its message – is an expression of the realization of that aspiration."

The Halakha Center

In response to the critical need for organized, in-depth and user-friendly didactic material for the study of Halakha, Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon, Ram in the Yeshiva, Rav of Alon Shevut South and founder of Job Katif, created The Halakha Center at the Yeshiva.

"Jewish educational institutions are desperate for assistance in teaching Halakha and the general public, too, is seeking such material. Community rabbis in Israel and abroad are also looking for help in answering practical halakhic questions," explains Rav Rimon.

In the Kollel of The Halakha Center, talmidim study various halakhic topics which are not usually studied in yeshiva, but are included in the Chief Rabbinate’s exams for certification as a rabbi of a city. The goal is for these talmidim to not only receive regular rabbinic ordination (semicha) but to also be certified to serve as rabbis of cities. Topics studied include the laws of circumcision, conversion, synagogues, mitzvot dependent on the Land of Israel and more.

Beyond the study and shiurim with Rav Rimon, the members of the Kollel discuss the halakhic questions that Rav Rimon receives from around the world and together they delve into the depths of halakha and attempt to arrive at answers that will connect Torah to life.

The Halakha Center is also a partner in the publication of Rav Rimon's books and shiurim, which follow the development of halakha from the sources through to the practical contemporary ruling in a pleasant, user-friendly manner. The Halakha Center's aim over the coming years is to publish books for the general public on most halakhic topics in Hebrew and English, and additional books geared for elementary and high school students. The overall goal is to restructure the study of halakha so that those who study it will forge a stronger connection to Judaism through a deeper understanding of the practical and philosophical aspects of halakha.

HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein and Rav Doniel Schreiber in North America

Alumni Shabbaton in Woodmere

Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Aharon Lichtenstein was guest of honor at this year’s alumni Shabbaton together with Rav Doniel Schreiber ‘86 in November at the Young Israel of Woodmere. More than 70 alumni joined together to share their memories of the Yeshiva with each other and with the Rosh HaYeshiva, enjoying shared meals and sichot in a warm Shabbat atmosphere. Many members of the surrounding communities came to hear Rav Lichtenstein speak over the course of Shabbat.
Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim Overseas

Rabbi Heshie Billet, Rabbi of the YI of Woodmere (father of Duvie ’95, Avi ’96, Shira MO ’03 and Nava MO ’04) and talmid of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, addressed the alumni at Friday night dinner. Craig ’03 PC Lubner, Coordinator of the Overseas Program at the Yeshiva for the past three years, and his wife, Devorah, also attended the Shabbaton.

2003-2004 Alumni Reunion

On Motzai Shabbat, Rav Lichtenstein and Rav Schreiber attended a reunion with alumni from 2003 and 2004 at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in NYC. The alumni spoke about what they are currently doing and how the yeshiva can continue to contribute to their spiritual lives. Rav Schreiber told the alumni that the choices they make at this transitional point of their lives will have a lasting impact. Noach Lerman ’04 spoke about how the Yeshiva continues to influence him today and a slideshow presentation brought back fond memories.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Rabbinic Programs

On Sunday morning alumni and their children of bar/bat mitzvah age met with Rav Lichtenstein and enjoyed a shiur with Rav Schreiber about hilchot Kiddush. Rav Aharon also met privately with each parent and child. Later that day, Rav Lichtenstein met with a group of alumni in chinuch and the rabbinate. In response to questions submitted in advance, Rav Lichtenstein discussed topics affecting communities and schools today.

Rav Lichtenstein gave shiurim at two Lunch & Learns in Manhattan, one hosted by Dan Schwartz ’85 at York Capital and another by Allen Friedman ’79 at JPMorgan.

Rav Lichtenstein was hosted by Berl and Rebecca Nadler (parents of Hillel ’05) in their home in Toronto, Canada where they held a dinner reception in honor of the Rosh Yeshiva and Gush. Rav Lichtenstein also participated in a community-wide program that was run jointly by Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpana Orot, where Rabbi Scot Berman ’77 has recently assumed position of Headmaster. The program was co-sponsored by and held at Congregation Shaarei Shomayim where alumnus Rabbi Chaim Strauchler ’95 is rabbi.

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein in S. Africa

As part of the Yeshiva’s ongoing commitment to the South African religious Zionist community and its relationship with the Yeshiva alumni, Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein visited South Africa in August, where he and his wife Michal were warmly received by the community and the bogrim.

Rav Mosheh visited the Johannesburg and Cape Town
communities, spoke at the local shuls and Bnei Akiva branches, and participated in other programming that ranged from a melave malka with local rabbanim and meetings with communal leaders to teaching at father-son learning groups and at Yeshiva College.

As in the past, Rav Mosheh expressed his appreciation and sense of privilege to assist a Modern Orthodox community that is actively involved in furthering religious goals and aspirations and his pride in the central role of the Yeshiva’s alumni in educational and communal affairs. “The pleasure of meeting bogrim in their local community, of interacting with their families, seeing their wonderful work and observing their commitment to Torah Yisrael, Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael was uplifting,” he said.

The visit was organized by Rabbi Jonathan Glass ’83, Gavin Glick ’90 and Warren ’01 and Dean ’04 Sher and was greatly assisted by Leon Welcher ’82 and Rabbi Ramon Widmonte ’94.

Rav Gigi in the U.S.

Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi spent an event-packed week in the New York-New Jersey area in September. His busy schedule included meeting with parents of Har Etzion and Migdal Oz students at the homes of Alain and Renee Klapholz in Woodmere, NY and Raphael and Reena Novogrodsky in Teaneck, NJ, giving a Lunch & Learn shiur at the Manhattan office of Hillel Silvera ’91 and another at the office of Terry Novetsky ’80. He spoke at Stern College for Women to a crowd of over 100 women and at Maayanot Girls High School in Teaneck, NJ, as well as at Congregation Zichron Mordechai of Teaneck, NJ under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Taubes ’77.

Sefer Torah Dedication

Rav Gigi spoke at the home of Shira and Clive Lipshitz ’88 during Shabbat in honor of a Sefer Torah dedication that was donated by the family to Yeshivat Noam in memory of Clive’s sister, Ariella Shlomit bat Yitzchak Halevi z”l. The Rosh Yeshiva also participated in completing the writing of the Sefer Torah the following day.

Columbia University Hillel Selichot Event

On the first night of selichot, September 12, 2009, the Etzion Foundation partnered with Yavneh and the Beit Midrash Committee at the Columbia University Hillel to present a shiur by Rav Gigi in memory of Uriel Liwerant z”l, a talmid of the yeshiva (Machzor 39) who was recently killed in a military training accident. The event was organized by Daniel Swartz ’06, a junior at Columbia. The shiur, on the laws of shofar blowing, was attended by approximately 100 students from Columbia and YU. Before the shiur, yeshiva alumni had a chance to talk with Rav Gigi, which spontaneously led to singing, dancing and words of chizuk in preparation for the Yamim Noraim.

Save the Date!
Annual NY Dinner
May 24, 2010
at the Grand Hyatt Hotel
News from Migdal Oz

This year at the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz there are 31 Shana Aleph students from overseas – 3 from the UK, 3 from Canada and 25 from the U.S. – and 2 Shana Bet students from the U.S. The program is fully integrated with the Israeli program, which this year has an enrollment of 65 Shana Aleph and 25 Shana Bet Israeli young women.

According to Miriam Coren, Coordinator of Overseas Students, “Rigorous learning, high motivation and the desire to accomplish clearly characterize this year’s Shana Aleph students. Their devotion to learning and determination to take advantage of everything the Beit Midrash has to offer is truly inspiring. Thanks to the students’ wonderful ruach and the ongoing day-to-day help of two very special madrichot – Nechama Twersky and Racheli (Rhein) Schmell – the year has gotten off to a very successful start.”

“Zman Elul was intense,” relates Leah Sarna of Boston, MA. “The days began with tefillah at 8 and ended after selichot and singing at 3 am.” Zman Elul concluded with a very special Yom Kippur davening attended by approximately 500 people – 450 of whom were women! Afterwards, the overseas students embarked on a three-day trip to the Golan.

Now, during Zman Choref, is the time when the students settle down and start to feel more at home.

Rachel Weber of Teaneck, NJ, describes the learning program: “One of the best things about learning in Migdal Oz is the wide variety of options. We have classes ranging from Chasidut to Hilchot Kashrut – not to mention Tanach classes taught by the most accomplished Tanach teachers in the world. On the other hand, there’s also a focus on chavruta learning. You can find girls learning in the Beit Midrash at any time of day and there’s always an older girl available to answer questions.”

Chanuka activities included a two-day Seminar which focused on women in the public realm in the Jewish and secular worlds, a festive chagiga, and a day trip to the Dead Sea area.

Shira Aberman z”l Torah Library

The dedication of the Shira Aberman z”l Torah Library took place in the presence of family and friends at the Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz on November 26, 10 Kislev, on her second yahrzeit. Avrumi Aberman (Machzor 12), Shira’s husband, expressed the feelings of family and friends, that the dedication of a vibrant Torah library is a most fitting tribute to Shira. Among the speakers were Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, Moshe “Moshko” Moskovic, Rav Moshe Aberman (Avrumi’s brother and Ram in the Yeshiva) and Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash. Friends of Shira described her special smile and gentle laughter, her warmth, empathy, tranquility and unique combination of confidence and humility.

Yehi zichrah baruch.
Annual NY Dinner

“Yeshivat Har Etzion has inspired thousands of students with a devotion to Torah, a passion for excellence and a lifelong national commitment,” said Mrs. Dorothy (Dottie) Berman, President of the Etzion Foundation, opening the annual NY Dinner on May 13 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. “The very strong support from our alumni, many of whom are now sending their sons and daughters to study at the Yeshiva and Migdal Oz, truly reflects their feeling of gratitude to this institution.”

The honorees at this year’s dinner were Steven and Adina Fredman, the Guests of Honor, Rabbi Marc ‘88 and Adeena Penner, Rabbinic Leadership Award, and Rav Binyamin Tabory, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award (See p.2 “Farewell Party for Rav Tabory at Yeshiva”). There was also a special tribute to the Alumni of ’87-’89. Short films were screened in honor of each of the honorees before the presentation of their awards. The crowd was addressed by Roshei Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein and HaRav Mosheh Lichtenstein and brief remarks were made by Dorothy Berman, President, Arye Colton, Chairman of the Board, and Yoel Weiss, Executive VP of the Etzion Foundation. In addition, a panel discussion on the current state of religious Zionism was held with HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein, HaRav Mosheh Lichtenstein and Rav Binyamin Tabory, moderated by Rabbi Marc Penner.

Guests of Honor: Steven and Adina Fredman

Steven and Adina Fredman of Scarsdale and Jerusalem, have a longstanding connection to Yeshivat Har Etzion. Their two sons, Asher ‘02 and Elisha ‘04, both studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and Asher returned to Israel in the middle of his studies at Harvard University in order to do army service within the framework of the Yeshiva. Rav Gigi officiated at Elisha’s wedding and Rav Amital officiated at Asher’s. Asher made aliya in June 2008 and is continuing his studies in the kollel at Yeshivat Har Etzion.

“We are here to express our thanks to Yeshivat Har Etzion,” said Steve, and Adina added, “To the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim, thank you for the love of Torah learning that you inspire in our children and the love of Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael that you instilled in them.”

Rosh HaYeshiva Rav Aharon Lichtenstein thanked all the honorees, noting their shared appreciation of the values of Torah and Eretz Yisrael. He told those in the audience that their support and help in sustaining the Yeshiva is doubly appreciated during this difficult economic year. His spiritual message was about the need to combine contentment in our lives with a passionate striving for continual growth in Torah and mitzvot.

Rabbi Marc (‘88-’90) and Adeena Penner

Rabbi Marc Penner (‘88-’90) is the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Holliswood in Queens, NY and founder of the Ateret Seminary for Women on the Queens College Campus. Rabbi Penner serves as Director of Advisement for the Center for the Jewish Future and the Director of Professional Rabbinics for RIETS. His wife Adeena, who received the award together with him, works as an occupational therapist and kallah instructor, cares for their five children and is a devoted rebbetzin.

Rabbi Penner thanked the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim for all that they do and expressed his personal thanks to his family and members of the congregation who came to participate in the dinner and support the Yeshiva.

HaRav Mosheh Lichtenstein said that, “Any educational vision requires two components: a dream and people of action, who know how to translate that dream into reality…The Yeshiva has been blessed by Roshei Yeshiva and supporters who are full partners, who believe in the Yeshiva’s message and are willing to put that belief into action.”
Yoel Weiss, Executive VP of the Etzion Foundation, thanked all those who worked so hard to make the dinner a success – Mrs. Dorothy Berman, President, Shirley Schuster, Executive Director, Dinner Co-Chairs, Geet and Hirsh Wolf, Alma and Andrew Klein ’75, and Marla and Robert Stark. The Alumni Co-Chairs were Ami Aharon ’87, Andrew Borodach ’87, Lawrence Burian ’87, Simcha Axelrod ’88, Josh Joseph ’88, Clive Lipshitz ’88, Daniel Ottensooser ’89, Eli Schick ’89 and David Schwartz ’89. He also paid tribute to the classes of ’87, ’88 and ’89 who were honored at the dinner.

To see the films shown at the dinner produced by Channah Koppel, featuring the honorees, see: http://www.haretzion.org/ info/videoclips.htm

News from Herzog College

Herzog College continues to experience tremendous growth in response to its outstanding programming. The incoming class in the men’s division numbers 245 students, while the incoming class of the more recently established women’s division numbers 99 students, an overall increase in enrollment of 25%.

Both divisions of the College opened B.Ed. tracks in Special Education this year. This is the country’s only religious college for men to offer a degree in Special Ed. The response was so enthusiastic that the women’s division had to open two parallel classes to accommodate the many qualified applicants. Next year the College also plans, pending final approval from the Council of Higher Education, to open B.Ed. programs in History (General and Jewish) and in English Language and Literature, two areas in which there is great demand for qualified teachers.

The master degree programs continue to expand and develop. In addition to the Master’s Degree in Tanach and Education that the College previously offered, this year it is also offering M.Ed. degrees in Jewish Philosophy (Machshevet Yisrael) and Oral Law (Torah Shebe’al Peh).

To deal with the influx of students, it was imperative to construct a two-floor building in Migdal Oz to house the women’s division. The new building contains a library and computer room, as well as classrooms of varying sizes, some of which have electronic partitions that enable the rooms to be re-divided according to need.

Under the dedicated leadership of Prof. Shmuel Shilo, Herzog College has become Israel’s leading institution for educators and attracts the country’s highest level students; the Israeli media recently reported, based on the annual Government Statistics Report, that incoming students of Herzog College have the highest average psychometric scores of students at any teachers college in the country, religious as well as non-religious. The report also found that, compared to graduates of other teachers’ colleges, the average salary of Herzog College graduates is among the highest in the country.

Ethiopian Leadership Training

Harav Yosef Hadani, Chief Rabbi of the Ethiopian community in Israel, delivered a guest lecture to participants in the Ethiopian Leadership Training Program of Herzog College and Yeshivat Har Etzion, now in its 10th year. The lecture was the day before the Sigd celebration, declared a national holiday this year by the Israeli Knesset. Rav Mahbrato Solomon, head of the program (pictured on right), taught about the significance of the holiday. There are 10 participants in the program this year from Jerusalem, Kiryat Ekron, Lod, Netanya, Netivot and Pesagot. The curriculum consists of Halacha with Rav Shlomo Levy, Festivals with Rav Chezi Cohen and Ethiopian Tradition with Rav Solomon and a variety of classes in Tanach, Jewish Thought, Psychology and Pedagogy. Har Etzion gratefully acknowledges the support of this program by the Kahn, Wallach and Dyckman families.
Summer Study Days

This year, a record number of over 4,000 participants from Israel and overseas attended the Summer Study Days in Tanach (Yemei Iyun B’Tanach) organized by Herzog College. The Summer Study Days, now in their 18th year, have become a popular sensation on the international Torah learning scene. They include 4 days of top-level lectures in Tanach and two days of Tanach-based tiyulim.

By popular demand, for the first time ever, this year’s Summer Study Days included two full days of classes in English, which were attended by hundreds of men and women. The English-language classes were delivered by prominent lecturers Rabbi Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rabbi Dr. Avraham Walfish, Rabbi Dr. Chaim Brovender, Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, Dr. Yael Ziegler, Rabbi Daniel Tropper, and others.

Rivkie Stern Lamm, visiting from West Hempstead, NY, said, “Attending the Yemei Iyun B’Tanach was an extraordinary experience. The program was well organized, the classes were excellent and it was inspiring to see thousands of people from all parts of Israel (and a number from the golah) who took time from their busy lives and schedules to devote themselves to limud Torah. I especially got a kick out of seeing people, old and young, running to get front seats, to soak up the words of Torah.”

Rachel Ayalon, one of the original residents of Gush Etzion, attended the Yemei Iyun this year. Born in 1927, her family moved to Migdal Eder when she was about a year old. They struggled to develop the land under difficult conditions until the day in 1929 when, on the eve of the Arab riots in Hevron, some of the local Arabs - with whom they had good relations - informed them that a massacre was imminent. The Jews of Migdal Eder fled and Rachel’s family moved to Tel Aviv. Rachel met her future husband, Tzvi, in Jerusalem, while studying education at Hebrew University, and soon after their marriage, they moved to Be’ersheva where they lived from 1953 until 1980. However, their connection to Gush Etzion remained strong. Their two sons, Shuki and Motti, did the Hesder Program at Yeshivat Har Etzion and Shuki is a dentist in Alon Shvut to this day.

Rachel was very excited to attend the Yemei Iyun this year and enjoyed the experience tremendously. “I was so surprised, because I hadn’t been on the Har Etzion campus in several years, and I couldn’t believe how beautiful it was and how much it had grown. It was very moving because I remember what it looked like in the early years, when my sons went to hesder there. Also, to see the amounts of people who come to learn Torah there…it was very touching, I was so glad I went.”
Alumni Achievements

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Yehuda Sarna ’95 and Simcha Gross ’05 on being among the 36 Under 36 young innovators who are “reshaping the landscape of Jewish life,” chosen by The Jewish Week, NY. Migdal Oz alumni Elana Stein Hain, a Migdal Oz alumna, was also one of the 36. See: http://www.thejewishweek.com/Breaking_News/c371/News/36_Under_36_TJW.html

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Yehuda ’84 and Adina Rothner who are being honored by the Fuchs Mizrachi School in Cleveland with the “Guardian of Zion Award” on March 14, 2010. The school is paying tribute to them “for their steadfast commitment to Zionist ideals and their many years of leadership in our school, our community, and Camp Stone. They have set an example of Chesed and communal involvement for all of us to emulate.”

Rabbi Scot Berman ’77, Headmaster; Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot, Toronto, Canada

David Bachmann ’86, has recreated his web programming team, DBTech Programmers, and is seeking to enlarge their existing client base from Europe and U.S.

Rabbi Kalman Topp ’90, Senior Rabbi at California’s Beth Jacob Congregation of Beverly Hills, CA, a thriving shul with over 750 member families.

Daniel Epstein ’91, Director of Development and Government Relations, The Arad Foundation

Rabbi Menachem Linzer ’95, PC, Principal; Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School, Skokie, IL

Rabbi Noam Shapiro ’97, Assistant Rabbi at Beachwood Kehilla, OH

Avi-Gil Chaitovsky ’01, Mazal Tov on receiving Semicha from RIETS

Robbie Dinte ’07, beginning new position as Merakez Bnei Akiva, Sydney, Australia

Russell Levy ’07, Kollel, YU Torah MiTzion Beit Midrash, Toronto, Canada

Gideon Shaw ’01 enrolled in the IDF Shlav Bet program for olim chadashim who are over age 23. After completing basic training with olim from around the world (India, Russia, Ethiopia, and New Zealand), he is now working for the IDF Rabbanut in Yehuda and Shomron. The job entails providing for the religious needs of all the soldiers in the area - from pairs of tefillin to dvar Torah sheets for Shabbat- and to ensure that any soldier who is interested in finding out more about Judaism has the ability to do so.

Craig Lubner ’03, Coordinator of the Overseas Program at Yeshiva for the past three years, is currently on shlichut in NY, with his wife, Devorah and son, Yeshaya, where he is a Ram and Science teacher at the Yeshivah of Flatbush.

Joel Braverman High School.

“I miss living in a community which is built around and focuses towards the Yeshiva,” says Craig, “I miss my Beit Midrash, surrounded by my Rebbeim, mentors and beloved teachers. I miss looking up and seeing so many people engaged in Torah. I miss seeing the incoming Shana Alef talmidim on the first day - and then comparing that picture to the same boys leaving after a year in Yeshiva. Above all though, I miss the davening at Yeshiva.”

Craig encourages his fellow alumni to “always nurture your connection to the Yeshiva. Never be afraid to be in touch or come and visit. It’s important to draw from the time spent in Yeshiva and tap into that energy and inspiration.”

Alumni News

Marriages

Adam Feldman ’96 and Miriam Grossman
Josh Frankel ’99 and Rachel Berger
Daniel Friedman ’00 and Becky Auster
Bernard Freudenthal ’02 and Abigail Lebrecht
Shlomo Javitt ’02 and Elka Gotfryd
Yoni Levinson ’03 and Rachel Horwitz
Sruly Cohen ’03 and Yael Richtman
Daniel Singer ’04 and Dena Lifshitz
Daniel Kahn ’05 and Tamar Weinberg
Chaim (Julian) Horowitz ’05 and Elishavka Kaplan
Ori Kanefsky ’07 and Rena Greenfield

Marriages of Children

Shael ’72 and Sabina Frimer on the marriage of their daughter Chani to Yehuda Fischer
Ray Aharon ’72 and Miriam Adler and Reuven (’83 H) and Sharon Mushkin on the marriage of their children Eitan and Hadar
Ray Moshe ’76 H and Deena Aberman on the marriage of Tzvi, Machzor 39, and Yehudit Macales
Ezra ’77 and Menucha Chwat on the marriage of their daughter...
Chamutal and Ariel Malik
Rabbi Hanan ‘80 H and Ayala Schlesinger on the marriage of their
daughter Bat-hein Schlesinger and David Bratspis
Peretz ‘82 and Lisa Hochbaum on the marriage of their daughter
Shani and Aaron Malitzky
Mazal Tov to Shosh Tal, Yeshiva Office Manager; on the marriage of
her daughter; Idit and Elyashiv Zalevsky

Births
Simi ‘80 and Rachel Weber, Shifra Gittel, NYC
Yossie ’84 and Phyllis Hecht, Calev Yerachmiel Binyamin, Chashmonaim
David ‘91 PC and Prina Rosenstark, Shir Emuna, Beit Shemesh
Ariel ‘93 H and Gittit Ness, David Yitzchak, Teaneck, NJ
Jonny ‘94 and Aimee Hass, Ella Sarah, Toronto, Canada
Dovi ‘95 and Ginat Friedman, Danya Oria, Hong Kong
Yehuda ‘95 and Michelle Sarnia, Avraham David Levy, NYC
Josh ‘95 PC and Rebecca Cypress, Sarah Zavaha Chaya, New Haven, CT
Shlomo ‘95 and Ronni Troodler, Yitzchak Gavriel, Bala Cynwyd, PA
Shmuel ‘95 and Talya Bloom, Liora Rachel, Hamilton, Canada
Judah ‘96 and Shayna Goldberg, Netanel Tsviael, Bergenfield, NJ
Ari ‘96 and Chana Billet, Yonatan Michael, Hollywood, FL
Zvi ‘96 and Sari Goldstein, Eden, Jerusalem
Ari ‘97 and Daniella Robinson, Chaya Shindel, Brookline, MA
Noam ‘97 and Aliza Shapiro, twins - Akiva Netanel and Doron
Yehuda, Cleveland, OH
Ari ‘98 and Esthie Rosenblatt, Aliza Temima, Beit Shemesh
JJ ‘98 and Tamar Brandler, Elisha Moshe, Bronx, NY
David ‘99 and Adina Shoyovitz, Aryeh Shahar, Riverdale, NY
Ariel ‘99 and Tirza Bayewitz, Moshe Tzvi, Teaneck, NJ
Yonatan ‘99 and Shira Schechtler; Yitzchak Yair, Alon Shevut
Josh ‘99 and Kirsten Zilberberg, Chedva Tzopha, Sydney, Australia
Aaron ‘00 PC and Leah Cypress, Hadasah Sarah, Brookline, MA
Yehoshua ‘01 and Yocheved Lindenbaum, Avital Yael, Baltimore, MD
Eli ‘01 and Miriam Lopian, Eytan Yehuda, Salford, England
Sam ‘02 PC and Michal Zibman, Rinat Hodaya, Jerusalem
Hillel ‘02 H (former madrich for MTA Program) and Adina Mann,
Betzalel Ori, Potach Tkker
Jonny ‘04 and Rachael Granby, Gabriel Joshua, Jerusalem

Rabbi Raymond ‘79 and Vicky Harari on birth of grandson,
Rachamim (parents: Michal and Avi Geffner)
Beni ‘81 and Nadine Gesundheit on the birth of Yonatan (parents:
Yshai, Machzor 36, and Adi), Alon Shevut
To Rav Ezra and Itta Bick on the birth of Tome Yehuda (parents:
Moshe and Hadas Bick)

Bar/Bat Mitzvvas
Yosef Baer Gutenmacher (Danny ‘74 and Nomi), Jerusalem
Asher David Taragin (Rav Maish ‘83 and Atara), Alon Shevut
Ariella Berkowitz (Laurence ‘84 and Michelle), Beit Shemesh
Itamar Horovitz (Jonny ‘86 and Michal), Elazar
Ariel Ephraim Axelrod (Simcha ‘88 and Chani), Cedarhurst, NY
Elisha Gerson (Seth ‘88 and Lori), Chashmonaim
Yehoshua Pesach Wallach (Tani ‘89 and Miriam), Moreshet
Shaul Yechiel Friedman (Marc ‘90 and Sharon), Lawrence, NY
(special Mazal Tov to grandparents, Executive Director of the Etzion
Foundation, Shirley and Marty Schuster)
To Harav Baruch and Edna Gigi on the bar mitzva of their son,
Yonatan.

Aliya
Adam Van Heerden ‘07

Condolences
Aharon Bejell ‘75 on the loss of his father; Mr. Avraham Bejell z’l
Larry Finson ‘75 on the loss of his father, Mr. Morris Finson z’l
Michael Berkowitz ‘77 on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Ruth Berkowitz z’l

In Memoriam
The Yeshiva mourns the tragic death of
Har Etzion Hesder talmid Uriel Liwerant z’l, Machzor 39, who died
in Kiddush Hashem in a tank accident
during a training exercise in the Golan
Heights on Wednesday, August 5, 2009
(15 Av). Uriel, the tank commander,
was killed and three other crew
members were lightly injured. Uriel, 21, of Efrat, was born in Jerusalem
to American olim parents, Aharon and Joni. He is buried in Har Herzl in
Jerusalem.

“Uriel personified gentleness and at the same time, readiness to lead, as
he showed as the commander of his tank,” said Ray Yaakov Fischer, his
high school Rosh Yeshiva, “He was a real tzaddik, a brilliant student who would have become a
Talmid Chacham.”
Yona, a member of his tank crew, said:“He had a mischievous smile.
He was a simple person – that is to say, uncomplicated. He never
yelled, never argued, never complained. He always helped, always acted
with happiness. He was the one who always carried the jerrycan and
wouldn’t let anyone switch with him. His last words warned the tank
crew to assume emergency procedure, thereby saving their lives.
Yehi zichro barukh.

יהיה זיכרו благו

Births of Grandchildren
To Rav Shlomo ’73 H and Tali Brin on the birth of Eitan and to great-
great-grandparents Harav Yehuda and Miniam Amital (parents: Shmulik and
Yifat Barzilai)
Raphi ‘74 and Gittit Pollack on the birth of their first grandson,
Yonatan Chaim, firstborn son to Michal & Yishay Weil
Zvi ‘74 and Rahel Bessin on the birth of Hodaya Chana (parents:
Tamar and Eytan Rund)
To Nathan ’78 and Yocheved Lindenbaum on the birth of Avital Yael
(parents: Yehoshua ’01 and Yocheved)
Overseas Events

Migdal Oz Reception

A dessert reception was held at the home of Mindy and Jonathan Kolatch (parents of Deni, MO ’04, and Noah ’09) in Englewood, New Jersey in honor of Mrs. Esti Rosenberg.

Head of the Beit Midrash for Women and to help raise funds for the educational program and scholarship fund of Migdal Oz. Esti spoke on the topic of “Akeidat Yitzhak.” Deni Kolatch shared a few words about her experience at Migdal Oz and a film “A Day in the Life at Migdal Oz” was screened.

The Etzion Foundation office has moved to Teaneck, NJ to accommodate its growing needs. The new office space now includes a conference room for shiurim and meetings.

Please note our new contact information below.

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