Gimmel Kislev 5768 marks 40 years since the establishment of Yeshivat Har Etzion. We have Baruch Hashem merited the realization of the dream: building the Yeshiva as a living memorial to those who fell defending Gush Etzion and as a place of intensive and creative Torah study, together with the Herzog College and Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz.

Amos Safrai, Machzor Bet, Chairman of the Alumni Organization, welcomed members of the first and second machzorim of the Yeshiva, who re-visited Kibbutz Kfar Etzion, where the Yeshiva officially began on Gimmel Kislev 5728 (following their basic training in the army). They remembered embarking from the #440 bus in pouring rain and windy, cold Gush Etzion weather, pointing to where the Beit Midrash was first located in a rugged, round-roofed Jordanian metal structure, hugging old friends, and catching up on news. Walking down the path, they reminisced about the early days of the Yeshiva and enjoyed trying to identify who was who in the pictures of the old days set up along the pathway.

Harav Yoel Bin-Nun made the bracha of “Shehechiyanu” and Harav Amital was greeted with an animated round of clapping and singing. The weather was beautiful and the feeling was one of great joy in meeting old friends and pride in hearing of all the Yeshiva’s accomplishments over the years.

Back in the Beit Midrash after mincha, joined by the current talmidim and hundreds of boshim from throughout the years, the Yeshiva choir sang “Ma Tovu Ohalecha Yaakov Mishkinotecha Yisrael.”

Harav Amital thanked HaKadosh Baruch Hu for granting him the privilege of opening the 40th year celebrations of the Yeshiva. He explained that 40 years has special significance, and that the messages upon which the Yeshiva was founded are still relevant today. The Yeshiva was founded with the challenge of retaining the best of the “old” Yeshiva world, together with the spirit of renewal in Israel following the Six Day War. We are especially proud of those talmidim from Machzor Aleph who have remained with the Yeshiva throughout the years – Rav Yaakov Medan, Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Shlomo Levy, Rosh Kollel, and Rav Uzi Friedlich, Mashgiach Ruchani. “We have weathered wars and two intifadas and have paid a heavy price,” Harav Amital said. “Many things have changed and there are numerous problems but I pray for good and have hope for this country.”

Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Yaakov Medan remarked that when coming to Yeshiva there is a feeling of coming home to family. He mentioned the three educational partners to Harav Amital from the beginning – Rav Yehuda Shaviv, Rav Hanan Porat and Rav Yoel Bin-Nun.

Rav Hanan Porat declared that the hills of Hevron merited hearing words of Torah after so much blood had
been spilled here. After the Six Day War, he explained, the feeling was that we needed to establish a Yeshiva here. Harav Amital, who survived the death camps of the Shoah, never imagined that one day he would be a Rosh Yeshiva in the hills of Hevron.

Harav Yoel Bin-Nun took a moment to remember fallen comrades, zichronam l’vracha. He cited Harav Amital’s clear and brave style of teaching, combined with his powerful personality and leadership qualities.

Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Baruch Gigi said that the 40th year, the stage of bina (insight), is cause for celebration and an opportunity to assess accomplishments alongside the challenges for the future.

Harav Lichtenstein thanked all those active on behalf of the Yeshiva and expressed his hope that they will merit “itzumo shel yom” in the future. This expression has two meanings – the body of the day and the power of the day. The body of the day entails the historic perspective, the memories and the chain of generations. “As we celebrate the 40th year since the Yeshiva’s founding, we remember the vision which inspired Harav Amital and Moshko and we remember the past.” Harav Lichtenstein said.

Looking around the crowded Chadar Ochel, Harav Lichtenstein noted what an impressive and historic gathering it was, including alumni from differing segments of Israeli society. He noted the intensity of the day, its electric atmosphere and emotional power, in which we are all strengthened in our d’vekut to the Yeshiva. He said the day encompasses a combination of memories and ambition for the future, with many spiritual and social challenges which still lie ahead.

After ma’ariv and dinner in the Chadar Ochel, which was packed to capacity, Gidi Sapir, Machzor 16, briefly interviewed Moshe “Moshko” Moskovic, Yedaya Hacohen and Harav Amital.

After providing some impressive biographical information, including being a member of Kibbutz Massuot Yitzhak for 60 years and Head of the Local Council of Sha’ar for 27 years, Moshko exclaimed, “In 1967 I again tied my fate with these rocks.” He said that meeting Harav Amital in the summer of 5728, through our friend, Yaakov Drori of Kibbutz Sa’ad, was the pivotal moment of his life. “Harav Amital’s personality enchanted me immediately and my admiration for him grew from meeting to meeting.”

Moshko emphasized that the Yeshiva is based, first and foremost, on the Roshei Yeshiva and it is thanks to them that we have accomplished all that we have. Beyond the traditional goals of a Yeshiva, Yeshivat Har Etzion had three lofty goals: Furthering religious Zionism; serving as a memorial for those who fell in the battle for Gush Etzion; and spurring renewed settlement in Eretz Yisrael.

“The Yeshiva is the jewel in my crown, the pinnacle of all my accomplishments,” declared Moshko with pride. He concluded by stating that “while today we have 50,000 people living in Gush Etzion, between Jerusalem and Hevron, my goal is to double that number!”

Yedaya Hacohen met Harav Amital even before the Yeshiva was founded. “I loved Harav Amital from the very beginning,” he says. “I felt that I had found my Rebbe.”

As to why he established the Yeshiva in Gush Etzion, Harav Amital responded with a big smile and twinkle in his eye, “It was my only offer!”

Regarding his decision to invite Harav Lichtenstein to join him as co-Rosh Yeshiva, Harav Amital, who had never met Rav Lichtenstein previously, said he knew he was a great lamdan,
but more importantly, he heard of his “midot tovot” and that was the kind of person he knew he could work with.

Harav Amital shared some of the Yeshiva’s impressive statistics, including the Torah Library (70,000 volumes), Summer Study Days in Tanach (2,700 participants), the Herzog Advanced Pedagogic Program for Women (300 participants - in addition to those enrolled in the Beit Midrash for Women), the VBM (18,000 copies of shiurim circulated weekly), KMTT and Keshet (500 English-speakers and 500 Hebrew-speakers listen to Yeshivat Har Etzion shiurim each day), and number of employees of the Yeshiva (230).

With his characteristically warm and effusive smile, Harav Amital shared his joy that Shana Aleph students recently approached him asking that he give shiur every week, rather than every two weeks. “The fact that talmidim still wish to hear my Torah is the greatest compliment I could receive. I will continue coming to Yeshiva,” he promised.

Yishar Koach to Yoni Holtzer, Machzor 11, for his initiative in implementing this successful event, in his new position as CEO of the Yeshiva.

Hillel Mann, Machzor 34, Coordinator of the 40th Year Celebrations Committee of the Yeshiva, noted that many events are being planned for the year - Shabbatonim where talmidim of the yeshiva will visit communities throughout Israel, special programs for alumni, including alumni from overseas, alumni Shabbatonim at the Yeshiva according to the decade of their machzor, and a big happening on isru Chag Shavuot. “It was exciting to see the caring and involvement of alumni from all the various machzorim which was very palpable throughout the day,” remarked Hillel. “We look forward to maximum alumni participation during this historic year of the Yeshiva, thereby strengthening their kesher with the Yeshiva and strengthening the Yeshiva as a result.”

Anyone who would like to contact Arye directly can email him at colton.arye@gmail.com or on his cell at 646-247-0604.

In appreciation

We are grateful to David Landes for his many years of dedication to the Yeshiva and we are sure he will continue to serve as a pillar of Yeshivat Har Etzion in the future. “David brought us many new friends and supporters and devoted countless hours on behalf of the Yeshiva,” notes Dr. Meyer Brayer, Executive Director. “We are very grateful as well to his wife, Faye, for her full support and partnership in all his endeavors.”
Reflections on Simchat Torah 5768:

“U’v’chen tzaddikim yiru v’yismachu”  
-Rav Dov Karoll ’95

Returning to Yeshiva this year after four years teaching at the Ida Crown Jewish Academy in Chicago, I was quite excited to once again be able to spend Simchat Torah in the Yeshiva, as the celebration of Torah I experienced here was always so much more intense and powerful for me than anything I experienced anywhere else.

During the Asseret Yemei Teshuva, Harav Amital shlit’a informed the talmidim in Yeshiva that he would appreciate their joining him for his last Simchat Torah as Rosh Yeshiva before retiring. The Yeshiva responded en masse and the entire mevoa (lobby) was filled throughout the Hakafot.

What was unique this year goes beyond the healthy congestion for the dancing. The singing of the traditional songs was similar to previous years, with the caveat that most of these songs were sung for a little less time each. It was amazing to see Harav Lichtenstein shlit’a dance with the Torah, with intensity, after the painful and difficult year he experienced as a result of an injury. As always, his insights during the Hakafot were quite poignant.

Harav Amital sang many of his traditional niggunim - including “ashrei ish”, “mi-pi Kel”, “ha-adderet ve’ha’emuna”, and “hava nesapeir” – with great energy and enthusiasm. In the evening Hakafot, during Harav Lichtenstein’s Hakafa, Harav Lichtenstein spoke briefly about the Sefer Torah that he held which was dedicated in memory of his grandmother who was killed in the Lodz ghetto, and asked Harav Amital to speak about his special Simchat Torah experience. Harav Amital began by admitting that chagim have always been difficult for him, for when he says the paragraph of “Atta bechartanu”, describing the special relationship between the Jewish people and Hakadosh Baruch Hu, he often thinks of the Jews who were in Auschwitz. He then explained how he was liberated on Simchat Torah 1944, with his commander giving them the wonderful news after they completed Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereishit in the minyan they had been allowed to form. He added that he subsequently went out to the street to see the Russian soldiers who were entering the town, looking to see if he could find any Jewish soldiers. His tzitzit were out, despite the fact that he usually wore them in, and a soldier spotted him, telling him in Yiddish that his unit had held a minyan on Rosh Hashana. So, even in the Russian army, there were Jews observing mitzvot. This was a further consolation at that time. But, Harav Amital concluded, that is just his personal story, which is negligible relative to the great simcha of celebrating the Torah.

During the morning Hakafot, one of the songs was a fast tune of “Va’ataher libbenu”, which was, of course, the cue for Harav Amital to lead the assembled in eight to ten rounds of his favorite and beloved tune of “ve-taher libbenu”.

As would be expected, Harav Amital was the Chatan Torah, and when he was called up, the entire Yeshiva sang “Yamim al yemei melekh”. I won’t speak for anyone else, but I know that I got very choked up while singing. Harav Amital also davened Musaf with geshem and we merited hearing his special nigunei tefilla.

The chag ended, in the manner traditional in Yeshiva, with the singing of “U’v’chen tzaddikim yiru v’yismachu”, which was certainly quite appropriate on this very special Simchat Torah in Yeshiva.

Talmidim 5768

The Yeshiva welcomes all its new and returning talmidim. There are 53 Shana Aleph talmidim from North America, 9 from Europe, 14 from Australia and 13 from South Africa, as well as 21 Shana Bet talmidim from North America, 4 from Europe, 5 from Australia and 2 from South Africa. There are 53 Israeli talmidim - Machzor 40 - beginning the Hesder program. Eight talmidim are in the Darkaynu program, 4 Shana Aleph and 4 Shana Bet. B’hatzlacha to all!
Yeshivat Har Etzion 2007 Trip to Poland

To all who organized and led the trip to Poland, I want to extend a heartfelt Yishar Koach. I shall always remember your open-hearted invitation to join you and your warm welcome for the 48 hours that I spent with you. More than that, you were even prepared to divert the group to visit Kalisz, the first Jewish community in Poland where Jews came in 1138, and the hometown of my own Arkush family. It was an emotional experience to accompany my son, Leo, to the Jewish cemetery and Memory House there, and to reflect on the fact that we were the first members of the family to be in Kalisz since numerous uncles, aunts and cousins were taken from there in the Shoah, never to return.

It was a privilege for the group to be led by Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi and Rav Yair Kahn ’77, Ram, Head of Overseas Program. Their divrei Torah and insights were highly pertinent and meaningful. They are rightly held in deep respect by the talmidim with whom they interact with modesty and warmth.

The group was fortunate to have Rav Shalom Berger ’83 to lead its educational program and convey the many significant historical episodes and messages with great skill, a lightness of touch and a knack of making history meaningful and relevant. Thank you also to Craig Lubner ’03 PC, Coordinator, and to the madrichim, Marc Herman ’05 PC and Aharon Herskovitz (’02-’03 and Hesder). The talmidim themselves were as ever an inspiration. They undertook the trip with a sense of great responsibility and sensitivity. I shall always remember with pleasure the outstanding Shabbat we spent together in Lodz. The ruach in the intimate Reicher shul, the only one in Lodz that was not destroyed, was quite incredible. Together with the divrei Torah from the Ramim, their kavana, singing and dancing, brought that shul alive again.

As a parent, I can only feel gratitude that the Yeshiva is building on the firm foundations that are the eternal legacy of those pre-war generations in Poland. Thank you.
- Jonathan Arkush, London, UK

Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Baruch Gigi Visits NY (October 11-16)

People were really excited to hear Rav Gigi was coming and this was evident when he arrived. The atmosphere was very warm. It wasn’t some rabbi coming; it was our rabbi coming.

College is so busy, with everyone worrying about credits and workloads and grades, that it becomes very easy to forget about Yeshiva. In Yeshiva, the busy atmosphere, despite its fast pace, exuded calmness and confidence. The rush was comforting, an assurance that all was moving smoothly and according to plan, and that if you kept with the current you’d move along safely to where you belong.

In college, the rush is different. It’s more hectic and less organized, with more energy and less structure. Whereas in Yeshiva it felt safe to move with the current, in college the current can pull you under if you’re not careful. Even the Torah learning takes on a different quality. It’s more businesslike: I have to learn this now, so that I can do that later. That’s why it’s so important for the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim to visit us, and that’s why it means so much when they do. Their visits serve as a reminder of what was, a glimpse back at an atmosphere and mindset that now seem so distant. They serve to remind us of what our goals were back in Yeshiva, and to reassure us that those goals are still attainable. Their visits allow us all to get together again, to hear some Torah from a Rav we trust, and to take a step back and readjust where we’re headed.

-Simeon Botwinick ’06, currently at YU

For a full report about Harav Gigi’s visit and visits of other Ramim overseas, see page 11.
The Annual NY Dinner

The Annual Etzion Foundation Dinner honoring the Family of Dr. William Major z”l, father of alumni, Eugene Major ’80 and Steven “Yankie” Major ’86, Rav Moshe Taragin ’83, Ram, Yeshivat Har Etzion and the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women, and Miriam and Elie ’83 Berman, Alumnus of the Year, took place in the spring at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in NYC.

David Landes ’73, Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation (Arye Colton ’81 has since assumed the chairmanship - see page 3), remarked that this was the largest and most successful dinner ever, and was the first time that all the honorees were alumni of the Yeshiva or members of their families. He thanked Dorothy Berman, President of the Etzion Foundation, and Shirley Schuster, Executive Director, for all their efforts in ensuring the success of the dinner, and Rabbi Seth Grauer ’96 for his work with younger alumni and in coordinating events with the Roshei Yeshiva. He also thanked Yoel Weiss, Executive Vice-President of the Etzion Foundation, for leading the Yeshiva’s development efforts with commitment and professionalism.

Elie thanked the Yeshiva for what it gave and continues to give him. He said that he went to the Gush because he wanted to learn how to learn, and he gained that, while also learning how to live. “I learned from Harav Lichtenstein that when approaching a sugya or an important existential issue, there are few simple answers; invariably one must struggle. In Rav Lichtenstein’s shiur, I came to appreciate the profound depth and breadth of his Torah knowledge and realized that his genuine piety, humility, righteousness and entire personality, are even more beyond comparison than his learning.”

On a personal note, despite the strenuous objections of his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Berman, Elie declared, “I stand before you tonight as a proud son of a woman who over the last two decades has given more of herself than anyone else to this Yeshiva. Thanks Mom.”

“It was the greatest miracle for our sons to learn in Israel,” attests Mrs. Gabriella Major. “It was my husband’s dream come true. He was so proud that his sons went to Yeshiva and remained involved with the Yeshiva and Torat Eretz Yisrael.”

Adds Eugene, “My father believed in the Hesder concept and thought that Har Etzion was the most beautiful, incredible place. My parents, both Holocaust survivors, thought that Gush was it.”

On a sentimental note, Steve remembers the Friday night tisch in Yeshiva with Harav Amital. “I can still hear him singing; it is always in my heart, to this day.”

The Dr. William Major z”l Overseas Program at Yeshivat Har Etzion is a fitting tribute to Dr. Major z”l, a Holocaust survivor, devoted psychiatrist, and above all, a lover of Israel in general and Yeshivat Har Etzion in particular.
Rav Moshe Taragin '83 has been a Ram at Yeshivat Har Etzion for the past 13 years. He earned Semicha from RIETS, a BA in Computer Science from YU, and an MA in English Literature from City University. Rabbi Taragin previously taught Talmud at Columbia University, lectured in Talmud and Bible at the IBC and JSS divisions of Yeshiva University, and served as Assistant Rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue. He is the author of a VBM shiur entitled “Talmudic Methodology” with over 5,000 subscribers, and has delivered several series of weekly audio shiurim through the Yeshiva's KMTT. Rav Taragin and his wife, Atara, have eight children ranging in age from 16 years old to 17 months. Despite their busy lives, the Yeshiva's talmidim know they are always welcome at the Taragins' home away from home.

Rav Taragin Honored

Harav Lichtenstein described Rav Taragin as a role model through his midot, kavod HaTorah, kavod Habriyot and learning, who has greatly enriched the program for overseas students.

“He is a great individual, a great talmid chacham and a gifted educator,” added Harav Amital. “The students like him and admire him. My wish for him is that he merit to help raise many talmidei chachamim.”

Yom Iyun: A special morning of shiurim and presentations took place prior to the dinner at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in NYC. The shiurim were delivered by Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan, Rav Moshe Taragin and Mrs. Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women. Special thanks to the Yom Iyun Coordinators – Rivi and Avi Katz '76, Sally Mendelson and David Lowenfeld, and Yocheved and Nathan Lindenbaum '78.

Elie and Miriam Berman live in Teaneck, NJ where they are active members of the community. Elie studied at the Yeshiva for two years in 1983-1984 and returned for an additional year in 1987 after graduating Yeshiva College. He received his JD from Columbia Law School and Semicha from RIETS. He is Chief Litigation Counsel at IDT Corporation. Elie has assisted Yeshivat Har Etzion with many of its alumni programs, has given numerous shiurim at Congregation Rinat Yisrael and gives a weekly Minchat Chinuch shiur on Shabbat mornings. Elie and Miriam are the proud parents of Shai, Aryeh and Sarah.

Eugene Major received a BSE in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University and an MBA from Columbia Business School. He is a founder and the chief investment officer of Dunbar Capital, a money management firm. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Rochelle, and their three sons, Cal, Sammy and David. For the past several years, he has organized a weekly gemara shiur given by Har Etzion alumnus and KJ/Ramaz rabbi and teacher, Rabbi David Flatto (‘97 PC), at his mother’s home. He also attends a weekly shiur given by another Gush alumnus and Yeshiva University Rosh Yeshiva Rav Michael Rosensweig ’73.

Steven "Yankie" Major received a BA in English from YU, an MBA from Columbia Business School, and was an Analyst in the Investment Banking Division of Goldman, Sachs & Co. He is currently a Managing Member of Corsair Capital Management, LLC, an investment management firm based in NYC. He lives in New Rochelle with his wife, Aliza, and children, Abigail, Reuben, Jessica and William.
On July 16, 2007, Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av 5767, Jerry and Rosalind Siegal, the parents of Yoni Siegal z”l, established the Yoni Siegal Memorial Scholarship Fund at Yeshivat Har Etzion in order to commemorate Yoni’s first Yahrzeit that took place on the 11th day of Av.

The Yoni Siegal Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide assistance to students in need of financial aid at the Yeshiva, where Yoni z”l learned during his year in Israel after high school in 1979.

We hope and pray that the Yoni Siegal Memorial Scholarship Fund at Yeshivat Har Etzion will carry on Yoni’s legacy of love for Torah, Am Yisrael and devotion to Eretz Yisrael for many years to come. May his memory be for a blessing.

Yoni’s wife, Yonina, and three children - Avi, Zevi and Yehuda - live in Riverdale, NY.

For more information about the Scholarship Fund, please contact: yoel@haretzion.org

New Programs

Two new programs which were approved by Israel’s Council of Higher Education – a Master’s Program in Tanach and a Bachelor’s Program in Hebrew Literature (both for men and women in separate classes), successfully began in September this year. The demand for participation in the Master’s program exceeds the number set by the Ministry of Education and Herzog College is currently absorbing the extra cost in order to accommodate as many students as possible.

The ongoing programs in Tanach, Toshba (Oral Law), Machshevet Yisrael (Jewish Thought), Limudei Eretz Yisrael and Hebrew Language continue to grow and develop. Master’s Programs in Machshevet Yisrael and Toshba are currently in the advanced stages, as well as a new program to train teachers for Special Education. Other programs being developed focus on Theatre and Cinema and on Jewish History.

Another new program which began last year trains future teachers and Ramim to implement a course in yeshiva high schools on ‘Adolescence and Family Life’, coordinated by Rav Matanya Ben Shachar, a Har Etzion alumnus and Rav of Neve Daniel. As part of the program, doctors, psychologists, noted educators and other guest lecturers are invited to share their expertise with the teacher trainees. Feedback has been very positive.

The Spiritual Leadership Training Program for Ethiopian Hesder graduates continues to flourish, and many graduates
of the program are today serving as rabbis, teachers and community leaders for the Ethiopian community in various locations throughout Israel.

Study Seminars for the Community

Herzog College runs Study Seminars throughout the year, attended by hundreds of participants each time. Recent seminars have focused on “Hashmonaim”, “Chassidut”, “The Literary Approach to the Study of Tanach – David and Michal”, launching two new books by faculty members, Harav Amnon Bazak and Dr. Jonathan Jacobs, “Creative Religious Literature”, in honor of the opening of the Hebrew Literature Track, and “Religious Parshanut in Modern Times”, an evening in honor of Prof. Amos Chacham, launching the publication of “Teshura Le’Amos” – a collection of articles on Biblical parshanut, edited by Moshe Bar-Asher, Noach Chacham (Amos’s son) and Yosef Ofer.

Tevunot Publishing of Herzog College continues to publish many sefarim by rabbis and teachers as well as its ongoing journals, Megadim (on Tanach), Al Atar (Limudei Eretz Yisrael) and Netuim (Torah She’be’al’pe).

Herzog College has incorporated the internet site called Da’at, the largest Jewish studies site, with a wealth of resources, with approximately 350,000 hits each month, moderated by Prof. Yehuda Eisenberg.

For details, see the Herzog College website: www.herzog.ac.il

Reaching Out to the Community

Herzog College faculty members travel to different communities where hundreds of alumni and the general public can learn and enjoy high-level shiurim in Tanach and Machshava close to home. Two years ago, a monthly series began in Givat Shmuel, in the center of the country, initiated by Har Etzion alumni, and last year, new series were established in Beit Shemesh and in Rechovot, which are all continuing this year:

For details, see the Herzog College website: www.herzog.ac.il

The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash

The new schedule for the coming year has been posted on the website, with some new courses, as well as continued favorites:

Parsha, Introduction to Parsha, Eliyahu, the Book of Shemuel, Kiddushin, Talmudic Methodology, Introduction to Talmud, Sheviit, Mikdash, Faith and the Holocaust, Kuzari, Understanding Halacha, Sichot, Halakha, Laws of Prayer, Mishna Berura, and more.

Have you joined KMTT - The Torah Podcast?

Everyday, a half hour audio shiur (MP3) is downloaded automatically to your computer - perfect for commuting, walking, lunchtime, any place!

http://www.kimitzion.org

Favorite Feedback

“Thank you for your fantastic Torah podcasts. Your shiurim are excellent: they fit into the 45 minutes I spend walking to and from work everyday, and are at an appropriate level for my Torah and Hebrew knowledge. The choice of topics is really good - I like the balance between Chumash, Tanach and Halacha, and I also like that it is possible to really learn something without necessarily having to have the text in front of you. Todah Rabbah for your amazing efforts.”

Dr. Abigail Wood, Department of Music, University of London.

“KMTT is an excellent program that is long overdue. The quality and level of shiurim are simply unavailable elsewhere. For those of us accustomed to high-level learning but whose hours are erratic and don’t lend themselves to attending shiurim at a pre-determined time, the solution is ideal. Affording people outside the Yeshiva the opportunity to hear shiurim from Harav Medan, Harav Rimon and others on a daily basis is a wonderful undertaking and is truly magdil Torah. Thank you for your efforts and may the program continue to grow.”

Ariel Greenberg - Ramat Beit Shemesh

http://www.vbm-torah.org
Summer Study Days in Tanach - Three Days of “Spiritual Bliss”

More than 2,700 people – men and women, young and old, religious and secular, from throughout Israel and abroad – attended this year’s Summer Study Days in Tanach, held at the Yeshiva in July, in memory of Harav Mordechai Breuer z”l (1921-2007), one of the leading Bible scholars, exegetes and educators of our generation. Veteran Herzog College faculty member, Rav Breuer was renowned for his unique approach to Tanach, in which the text is analyzed as a composite work reflecting the multiple attributes of its Divine author (shitat ha’bechinot).

The first three days included a choice of 120 shiurim on all sefarim of Tanach, Pedagogical Topics, Parshanut, Language and Tradition, Shemitta and Yovel, and more. Special shiurim focusing on Harav Breuer’s unique derech limmud were given by Rav Avraham Shamah, Rav Yoel Ben-Nun, Rav Dr. Avraham Walfish, Dr. Yonatan Jacobs and by Rav Breuer’s children, Dr. Yochanan Breuer and Dr. Elisheva Hacohen. On the fourth day, there was a choice of 11 Tanach-based tiyulim throughout the country. To view a short video with highlights of the Yemei Iyun, see: http://etzion.org.il/vbm/archive/video/Yemei_Iyun_BeTanach_2007/mp4

Barbara Kessel from Edison, NJ, Director of Administration at the Board of Jewish Education of Greater NY and author of Suddenly Jewish: Jews Raised as Gentiles Discover their Jewish Roots, traveled to Israel especially to attend the Summer Study Days in Tanach. She explained that her brother Ed Baras (whose three sons studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion) and his wife, Sondra, from Neve Aliza, have been attending the Yemei Iyun since their inception and encourage her to attend every year. “It was everything I could have hoped for,” she says. “The classes were spectacular. I knew I would enjoy Rav Samet’s classes, for example, because I heard him once before, but Nili Samet (his daughter-in-law) was just as enjoyable. I was so impressed by the caliber of the younger speakers, and I felt privileged to be taught by some of the more senior staff. As soon as I returned to America, I brought my notes to Shabbat lunch and shared some of what I had heard with my friends. Now they want to come with me next year; I brought back three CDs and have begun listening to them, to extend the pleasure and the learning. I am grateful beyond words for the experience of a lifetime.”

Another participant commented, “I felt uplifted during these days from the richness and depth of content of the exhilarating and innovative shiurim. I was amazed by the organization and attention to every detail.”

“The Yemei Iyun were three days of spiritual bliss,” exclaimed one satisfied participant.

Wheelchair Accessibility Project

The major construction project which began last spring to render the Yeshiva wheelchair-accessible, including ramps alongside all staircases, and a pathway with no steps from the Chadar Ochel to the Pedagogic Library - was successfully completed in the summer. Final work is underway to install the new elevator to the Beit Midrash and the second stage will also include the installation of an elevator to the Torah and Pedagogic libraries. We are very grateful to Eli Schorr ’92 for taking the initiative to help raise funds for this most worthy project among his family and fellow alumni, and to all those who contributed to this cause.
Visits of Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim Overseas

Over the past year, in addition to the annual Shabbaton and Dinner, numerous alumni events have taken place overseas with the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim, initiated and organized by Yoel Weiss, Executive Vice President of the Etzion Foundation. For more information about upcoming events and fundraising opportunities, please contact Yoel at: yoel@haretzion.org

Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Baruch Gigi in NY/NJ (October 11-16)

Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Gigi delivered shiurim for Har Etzion and Migdal Oz alumni at YU, Stern College, Columbia University and Chovevei Torah. Additional shiurim were given on Shabbat at Rabbi Raymond Harari’s shul in Brooklyn, on Sunday at Cong. Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, and at NYU, where Har Etzion alumnus Rabbi Yehuda Sarna ‘95 serves as Rabbi of the Edgar Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life.

“It was an honor to meet with Harav Gigi and I really enjoyed the Lunch & Learn shiur at the office of Eli Weber ’81, as well as the shiur given recently by Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein,” says Clive Lipshitz ’88. “I look forward to similar shiurim in the future.” Lenny Gross ’92 adds: “It made my day and week much more meaningful. It was also a very nice opportunity to connect with the chevra and feel the sense of community. Thank you again for your efforts.”

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein in NYC (September 6-9)

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein (’78 Hesder) met with alumni and gave shiurim at a Lunch & Learn at the law firm of Hillel Silvera ’91, a Dinner & Learn at the office of Meir Nordlicht ’86, and a Brunch & Learn at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in NY. His visit included shiurim at YU, NYU and Columbia University. He was a guest at the KJ shul in NY for Shabbat. Rav Lichtenstein gave pre-Selichot shiurim at KJ and at Cong. Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ.

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein in South Africa (July 27-August 11)

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein visited South Africa with his family in a trip organized by Rabbi Jonathan Glass ’83 (founder and past director of the Yeshiva of Cape Town) and his wife, Toni, with the assistance of Gavin Glick ’90 and Warren ’01 and Dean Sher ’04. He spent two Shabbatot in Johannesburg where he spoke at local shuls and schools, at community events, and met with alumni. Rav Lichtenstein was the guest of honor at a Melave Malka hosted by the Welcher Family. He participated in the launching of the South African Friends of Yeshivat Har Etzion, initiated by alumni. The trip concluded with Shabbat, a Melave Malka and a Sunday Breakfast & Learn in Cape Town.

“It was an exciting trip and there was great chemistry with the community,” says Rav Lichtenstein. “There were a lot of events which were well-received and well-attended. It was wonderful to meet so many alumni and re-connect with them, and to see firsthand all their efforts and communal involvement.”

Rav Tabory on Sabbatical in England

Rav Binyamin Tabory is spending a Sabbatical Year in England where he is serving as Rabbi of the Alei Tzion minyan, founded by his son, Rav Aviad Tabory and Marc Weinberg ’93. He is also serving as Rosh Kollel of the new Torah MiTzion Kollel at Immanuel College in Hertfordshire, as well as giving classes at LSJS, and weekly shiurim at Edgware Adas and at the Ner Yisrael Beis Midrash. All alumni and the community at large are encouraged to take full advantage of Rav Tabory’s presence in England this year.

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Michael Rosensweig ’73 at the office of Daniel Schwartz ’85

For more pictures and information about other recent events, including visits by Rabbi Mordechai Friedman, Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, Rabbi Daniel Schreiber and Rabbi Moshe Taragin, see:

www.haretzion.org/update/Winter 2008/appendix1.htm
Alumni Achievements

**Rabbi Aaron Adler ’72** has been serving a newly-formed Kehillah, “Tiferet Yisrael”, in Zurich, Switzerland as their “Visiting Community Rabbi”. He spends one weekend per month there, providing a full range of shiurim (in English to the adults and Hebrew to the youth) on various topics presented in several Zurich Synagogues. While not in Zurich, he functions by “remote control” from Jerusalem via the use of video-taped shiurim broadcast over the internet, E-mails, and phone calls (for immediate questions and guidance).

“My two-pronged agenda consists of exposing the members to Torat HaRav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik zt”l, as well as cultivating an active connection to Eretz Yisrael,” says Rav Adler. “This includes direct promotion for Aliya, encouraging regular visits to Israel (especially on the Yamim Tovim), as well as considering a community-wide plot in the Bet Shemesh cemetery for Chevra Kaddisha purposes. All this accurately reflects the letter and spirit of the Rambam, Hilchot Melachim 5:11.” Rav Adler’s activities can be followed (in German!) on the Tiferet Yisrael internet site at: www.tiferet.ch

**Shmuel Stoch (’84, ’86)** runs “The Center for Cognitive Enhancement” in Los Angeles, CA, which helps children and young adults who have learning disabilities overcome their issues and find success. He attends a morning Kollel everyday learning Gemara B’Iyun and thanks Yeshivat Har Etzion for giving him the tools to become a lifelong learner and for enabling him to give those tools to the next generation, especially to those who are not “getting it” in the mainstream educational system.

**Rabbi Lawrence Teitelman ’85**, Rabbi, Young Israel of New Hyde Park, Queens/LI, NY, where several Gush alumni (as well as some from other yeshivot) have a weekly “chabura”.

**Shawn Zelig Aster ’87**, Assistant Professor of Bible, Yeshiva College, NY

**Adam Segal ’88**, Deputy Principal and Head of Jewish Studies, Leibler Yavneh College, Melbourne, Australia

**Rabbi Simcha (Simi) Mirvis (’89-’90, ’94-’96 Kollel) has been serving as Rav Moshav at Moshav Sede Ilan in the Galil for almost 10 years.

**Akiva D. Roth (’89, summer ’91)** After serving as Hillel Director at Drew University for the past eight years, he is now the Northeast Region Synagogue Initiative Director for AIPAC. “This is a brand new position in the AIPAC world and I am very excited to bring my corpus of knowledge on Yahadut and Israel to shuls of all ‘flavors’,” he says.

**Rabbi Ilan Raanan (’89-’96)**, Dean of Leila Bronner Yeshiva College Girls’ High School, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Michael Sieff ’90**, National Director, ORT South Africa

**Rabbi Daniel Roth ’93**, completed an MA in Talmud at Hebrew University and started a doctorate in Rabbinic Approaches to Reconciliation at Bar Ilan University. He teaches advanced Talmud at Pardes Institute in Jerusalem.

**Rabbi Avi Heller ’94**, Director of Jewish Education at the Florence and Chajetz Hillel House at Boston University. This position fills a critical need in the expansion of Jewish educational opportunities on campus. Through traditional study classes (from beginning to advanced) and through new programming, Jewish literacy will be at the fingertips of every Jewish student on campus. He is in the process of creating the Center for Jewish Learning and Experience (CJLE) as a department of Hillel to move forward with innovative and eclectic venues of Jewish study. He also acts as a Rabbi to the student community vis-à-vis davening, counseling and halachic observance.

**Rabbi Aharon Frazer (’94-’95, ’98-’99)**, has returned from shlichut at Brandeis University and is now coordinating the second year of the Amiel Rabbinic Training Program and the Yachad Program for Rabbis in Matnasim (JCCs) as well as coordinating the Bekiut Program at Yeshivat Hamivtar.

**Rabbi Ramon Widmonte (’94-’99, ’02 PC)**, Head of Bnei Akiva Center Initiative, South Africa

**Rabbi Shmuel Bloom (’95-’01)**, Rav of Minyan Sheni, Beit Knesset Harel, Katamon, Jerusalem

**Rabbi Menachem Linzer ’95 PC**, Associate Principal, SAR Academy, Riverdale, NY

**Dr. Henri Sueke ’95** qualified as mohel, England

**Rabbi Ezra Frazer (’96-’99, ’01-’03, ’05-’06)**, Adjunct Instructor of Bible at Yeshiva University, NY

**Rabbi Ari Weiss (’97-’99)**, received Semicha from YCT and is working as a Rabbinic Fellow at NYU.

**Rabbi Avidan Freedman (’97-’99)** received Semicha from YCT. He is teaching Gemara and Tanach at SAR High School, NY
Rabbi Yehuda Chanales ('98-'99, '02), Rebbe at TABC, NJ
Rabbi Yonah Berman '98 received Semicha from YCT. He is serving as assistant rabbi at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal, Canada. A special thanks to Yonah for managing the Yeshivat Har Etzion alumni list for more than five years.

Rabbi Shaul Epstein '98, Kashrus Coordinator of the Vaad Harabonim of Massachusetts

Rabbi Jay Weinstein '00, Intern at Shaare Tefilla with Rabbi Ari Perl '92 and working in the YU sponsored Community Kollel, Dallas, TX. Jay and his wife, Sharon, invite all alumni who may be in Dallas to come visit.

Rabbi Myles Brody ('01 – '03), Ram in Yeshivat Hakotel

Elichai Bitter ('01-'02). A full-time Semicha student at RIETS, Elichai has served as the Beit Midrash Coordinator and Sho’el U’Meishiv for a new program at Stern College for Women, an advanced program for undergraduate Bible study, modeled after a similar program for Talmud that has thrived at the university for many years. He and his wife, Zahava, are Kollel Fellows at the Young Israel of Holliswood/ HJC in Queens, NY, for the third year, where they give shiurim and learn b’chevruta with members of the community.

Saul Kaplan ('01-'02), Head of Jewish Studies at Herzlia High School and Head of JIPSY (Jewish Informal Programmes for Students and Youth), Cape Town, South Africa

Warren Sher ('01-'02), National Chairman of Bnei Akiva South Africa 2006/2007

Daniel Kaplan ('03-'04), Rash Machaneh Bnei Akiva for December 2007

Shimon '05 and Daniel '05 Gillis, Northern Fieldworkers for Bnei Akiva UK

Har Etzion Alumni Serving as Chidon HaTanach Coaches

Nearly a decade ago, Yaakov Jaffe '98 joined Yehuda Chaneles, Rafi Eis and Yair Hindin as members of the '98 machzor of Har Etzion. Today, Chaneles, Eis and Hindin serve as Chidon HaTanach (US National Bible Contest) coaches for three different high schools in three different states, in addition to their regular teaching duties, accounting for roughly 20% of the active coaches currently working on the program across the United States. This is in addition to several other Har Etzion alumni from other years who are working for the Chidon HaTanach program in various capacities.

“It’s nice to see these teachers taking the values they learned at Yeshiva, the same values of the Chidon - Tanach study, Hebrew language and a recognition of the importance of Israel – and now sharing them with their students,” says Yaakov, who works at the Chidon’s NY office.

Talmud Chai: Adventures Through Semantic Space

An Ambitious New Project by Alumnus Yehuda Newman ('99-'01)

Ever been reading a Gemara and wished for a means to hold and organize your thoughts? Ever wanted to recall the details of previous discussions or share them with others but never had the means to do it?

Alumnus Yehuda Newman ('99-'01) has begun researching and developing tools for these purposes. It began, he says “while studying Math and Computers at the Bachelor’s level. I came across the concept of tagging text and saw ways it could support a talmid.”

“Talmud Chai is not an attempt to create a program that learns Gemara by itself,” he explains. “Computers aren’t obligated to learn. We are. Nor is it going to provide an expert body of Torah knowledge. Rather, Talmud Chai is a tool that supports one’s own learning.”

Rav Moshe Taragin says about the project, “Yehuda’s work on Talmud Chai represents the best of the Yeshiva’s ideals. Searching for a way to enhance Torah study for wider audiences, Yehuda has launched a project which will hopefully exploit technological resources in the service of Talmud Torah.”

Yehuda made aliya from England last year. He lives in Jerusalem and currently works as a programmer in Tel Aviv. For more information visit the project’s webpage: www.talmudchai.com or to arrange a demo, contact Yehuda directly at info@talmudchai.com.
Note: Due to rising printing and postage costs, we will be printing “Etzion Update” less often while sending out E-Newsletters more frequently. In order to receive E-Newsletters, please send us your current email: office@etzion.org.il

Refuah Shleima
We all join in wishing a Refuah Shleima B’toch Cholei Amcha Yisrael to:
Marc Weinberg ’93 - See facebook for messages to cheer him up and give chizuk: ‘Marc Weinberg-Let’s help him smile’.
Yehuda Solomont (’01 Hesder) - See: www.judahsolomont.com

Marriages
Jonny Hass ’94 and Arnee Jurkowitz
Joel Shapiro ’97 and Joni Benjamin
Zvi Halpern ’98 and Michelle Lundy
Jared Myers ’98 and Joanne Ehrlich
Yonatan Reich ’98 and Suzy Schneider
Arze Saka’i 00 and Aliza Moskowitz
Nachum Braun 00 and Danielle Reisbaum
Eli Rosenberg 00 and Talia Wohlgelernter
Dov Erdelbarg 00 and Rachel Edelblum
Gideon Morrison-Wood 00 and Ariela Lew
David Adelsberg 01 and Jocy London
Baruch Baigel 01 and Emma Sherman
Eli Rosenberg 01 and Miriam Minman
Noam Schneid 01 and Noemi Presby
Ari Gontowskie 02 and Shira Irwin
Matt Borowsky 02 and Mihal Epstein
Josh Friedman 02 and Rebecca Trachtman
Aaron Friedlich 02 and Miriam Deutsch
Avi Berman 02 and Shira Brofsky
Josh Dubin 03 and Sheryl Berman
Josh Berman 04 and Alexandra Elbaum
David Harari 04 and Milcah Harari
Nadav Steinfeld 04 PC and Shifra Markowitz
Michael Friedman 05 and Sara Davidovits
Ari Posner 06 and Gabi Davidovitch
Daniel Meyrowitz 06 and Chenon Baker

Marriages of Children
Rav Aharon ’72 and Miriam Adler on the marriage of Yehuda (’98 Hesder) and Yoel Gottesman
David ’74 and Joyce Friedman on the marriage of Josh 02 and Rebecca Trachtman
Sue ’76 and Clare Hershelowitz on the marriage of Chaviya and Yair Libin
Azi ’78 and Shani Feigel on the marriage of Zivya and Elan Mosbacher
Nathan ’78 and Yocheved Lindenbaum on the marriage of Atara MO 03 and Jeremy Bressman
Rabbi Raymond ’79 and Victoria Harari on the marriage of David 04 and Miklah Haberman
Rav Danny and Towa Rhein on the marriage of Shmuel (Kollel ’07) and Meital Malka

Births
Yehuda ’78 and Tamar Minsky, Nofet Shira, Jerusalem
David ’83 and Adina Milston, Reut Chana, Alon Shemesh
Lawrence ’84 and Michelle Berkowitz, twins: Gilad Halil and Gati Joy
Yocheved, Beit Shemesh
Daniel ’86 and Nechama Saks, Pinchas David Teaneck, NJ
Toni ’86 and Tamar Benowitz, twins: Avital and Yokira, New Rochelle, NY
Avi ’87 and Lira Aharon, Avigail Batsheva, NYC
Avi ’87 and Deborah Deitcher, Elisheva Tehilla, Riverdale, NY
Mark ’88 and Michelle Smilowitz, Yocav Ulit, Beit Shemesh
Jerome ’88 and Michal Puznik, Merav Lea, Zürich, Switzerland
Daniel ’89 and Leora Lambert, Ayelen Rose, Tel Aviv
Victor ’89 and Caroline Ofstein, Efrain Yolot, Ramat Beit Shemesh
Simmy ’89 and Elke Mirvin, Yisrael, Moshav Sede Ron
Mashe ’89 and Nova Feldman, Yehuda Ariel, Neve Daniel
David ’90 and Mali Briskin, Hadar Bella, Alon Shemesh
Mashe ’90 and Gilah Karnblum, Yehuda, Ramat Beit Shemesh
Avi ’90 and Rena Sussman, Itzchak Chaya, Berlin, Germany
Ur’el ’91 and Shani Lubetski, Yehuda, Baltimore, MD
David ’91 and Sara Teleser, Amiel Zecharia, Riverdale, NY
Gil ’91 and Chaya Hapaz, Yemima Bracha and Bara Avigail Niss, Passaic, NJ
Aarao ’92 and Tappy Ross, Tiferet Chana, Bergenfeld, NJ
Jeffrey ’92 and Michelle Kabron, Liviya Ayellet, Riverdale, NY
David ’92 PC and Penina Rosenstark, Rachel Brehend, Beit Shemesh
Il ’92 and Aliza Sussman, Chaim, Modin
Yussi ’93 and Shani Masaq, Avigail Shmuel, Riverdale, NY
Daniel ’93 and Leora Roth, Hadas Yarden, Jerusalem
Asher ’93 and Anat Alshu, Tzira Adi, Jerusalem
Eitan ’93 and Sylvia Frankin, Ezra Simcha, Sydney, Australia
Anthony ’94 and Eliza Greenfeld, TD twins, Maytar Malka and Lital Adira, Sydney, Australia
Aharon ’94 and Adina Frazer, Shira Devora, Alon Shemesh
Avi ’94 and Shira Heller, Uziel Moshe, Brakslane, IL
Benji ’94 and Atara Shaler, Hila Nova, Riverdale, NY
Yoni ’94 and Tami Ross, Yair Shimon, Beit Shemesh
Ari ’95 and Aviva Heller, Yisrael Yitzchok, Jerusalem
Adwin ’95 and Rachel Holzer, Tzipora Shoshana, Birmingham, AL
Menachem ’95 and Devora Linzer, Talia Frumma, Riverdale, NY
Henni ’95 and Dan Suke, Yanatan Yisrael, England
Reuven ’95 and Neshama Weiser, Ari Chana, Jerusalem
Booz ’95 and Liora Mor, Aviel Shalom, Ramat Beit Shemesh
Yoram ’96 and Ayelet Schwell, Odeliya, Hillside, NJ
Aarao ’96 and Shayna Weisz, Emanuah Shalva, Canada
Benjamin ’96 and Yoel Resnick, Nitzan Tiferet, Valley Village, CA
Shai ’96 and Tova Gerson, Noa Daniella, Bergenfield, NJ
Avi ’96 and Chana Billet, Plainview, NY
Steven ’96 & Jennifer Frankel,Yehoshua Yoel, (Joshua Solomon), W. Hempstead, NY
Elie ’96 and Avital Weissman, Noam, Lawrence, NY
Judah ’96 and Shany Goldberg, Akiva Ephraim, Boro Wyn, PA
Zak ’97 and Tova Sofia (Akkerman-Feig), Ami Yitzhak, Jerusalem
Avda ’97 and Devorah Freedman, Nachonel Binyamin Yoel, Riverdale, NY
Jacob (J) ’98 and Tziporah Levine, Nova Zmira, Jerusalem
Doodie ’98 and Anna Bankier, Yechezkel Zelig (Chezki), Caulfield, Victoria, Australia
Tzvi ’98 and Tova MO ’99 Smensky, Bezael Yisrael, Englewood, NJ
Jonathan ’98 PC and Atara Snowbell, Rinnat Channah, Alon Shevut
Avi ’98 and Estie Rosenblatt, Neshama Devorah, Montreal, Canada
Edan ’98 and Miriam Shapiro, Ari, Riverdale, NY
Ariel ’99 and Tzira Bayewitz, Nesya Shoshana, Teaneck, NJ
David ’99 and Adina Shyovitz, Aliza Rivka, Riverdale, NY
Joshua ’99 and Kirsten Freedman, Binyamin Natan, Sydney, Australia
Moshe ’99 and Mirel Stovsky, Ora Temima, NYC
Gavi ’99 and Shani Butler, Yehoshua Yitzhak, NYC
Yehuda ’99 and Rachel Newman, Shira Tzipporah, Jerusalem
Daniel (DJ) ’00 and Dinu Jacobson, Rimona Esther, London, England
Eitan ’00 and Rivka Hindin, Sarena Nechama, Givat Shmuel
Elisha ’01 and Zahava Bitter, Neria Shoshana, Tel-Aviv
Myles ’01 PC and Rocky Brady, Shalom Amichai, Jerusalem
Tuvia ’01 and Dina Snowbell, Nenava Eretz, Holon, Israel
Tzachi ’02 and Dena Gura, Aharon Menachem, Baltimore, MD
Danny ’02 and Ariel Rosenberg, Etzion, N.Y.
David ’04 PC and Beth Perkel, Tzvi Hirsh, NY
Russel ’07 Kolel and Miriam Levy, Yehuda Aryeh, Canada
Ari ’98 and Anna Bankier, Yechezkel Zelig (Chezki), Caulfield, Victoria, Australia
Tzvi ’98 and Tova MO ’99 Smensky, Bezael Yisrael, Englewood, NJ
Jonathan ’98 PC and Atara Snowbell, Rinnat Channah, Alon Shevut
Avi ’98 and Estie Rosenblatt, Neshama Devorah, Montreal, Canada
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Moshe ’99 and Mirel Stovsky, Ora Temima, NYC
Gavi ’99 and Shani Butler, Yehoshua Yitzhak, NYC
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Daniel (DJ) ’00 and Dinu Jacobson, Rimona Esther, London, England
Eitan ’00 and Rivka Hindin, Sarena Nechama, Givat Shmuel
Elisha ’01 and Zahava Bitter, Neria Shoshana, Tel-Aviv
Myles ’01 PC and Rocky Brady, Shalom Amichai, Jerusalem
Tuvia ’01 and Dina Snowbell, Nenava Eretz, Holon, Israel
Tzachi ’02 and Dena Gura, Aharon Menachem, Baltimore, MD
Danny ’02 and Ariel Rosenberg, Etzion, N.Y.
David ’04 PC and Beth Perkel, Tzvi Hirsh, NY
Russel ’07 Kolel and Miriam Levy, Yehuda Aryeh, Canada
Aliya
Carl ’93 and Karen Hochhauser, Beit Shemesh
Dov Karoll ’95, Alon Shevut
Yoni ’99 and Kinneret Kna, Jerusalem
Yehuda ’99 and Rachel Newman, Jerusalem
Shlomo Stern ’02, Jerusalem
Greg (Moshe) Bank, ’06 - ’07 Kolel
Natan ’00 and Meg Alexander, Givat HaMivtar, Gush Etzion
Ari ’00, ’07 Kolel and Aliza Sokol, Alon Shevut
Dovid ’00 - ’01, ’07 Kolel and Elia Erdfarb, Alon Shevut
Mazal Tov to Executive Vice President of the Etzion Foundation Yoel and Zamrah Weiss on the birth of Bat Sheva Gila
Mazal Tov to Ray Herzl and Esti Rosenberg on the birth of Tehilla Perl and to grandparents Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein
Dov Karoll ’95, Alon Shevut
Yoni ’99 and Kinneret Kna, Jerusalem
Yehuda ’99 and Rachel Newman, Jerusalem
Shlomo Stern ’02, Jerusalem
Greg (Moshe) Bank, ’06 - ’07 Kolel
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Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Moshe Ze’ev Hefter (Herzl ’75 and Batya), Efрат
Ami Yitzhak (Avraham ’78 and Shana), Alon Shevut
Rachel Levy (Avraham Yitzhak Halevi ’78 and Tamar), Modi’in
Eliezer Yitzhak (Avraham Yitzhak Halevi ’78 and Tamar), Modi’in
Eliezer Yitzhak (Avraham Yitzhak Halevi ’78 and Tamar), Modi’in
Eliezer Yitzhak (Avraham Yitzhak Halevi ’78 and Tamar), Modi’in
Elisha Yitzhak (Avraham Yitzhak Halevi ’78 and Tamar), Modi’in
Mazel tov to the extended Berman family on the loss of Meyer Berman, a devoted friend of Yeshivat Har Etzion
We regret to inform you of the passing of Elayakim Chaim, baby of Ariella and Steven Goldsmith (’98, Kolel ’07)
Mazel Tov to Ariyeh Ashkenazi, Beit Shemesh
Natan ’00 and Meg Alexander, Givat HaMivtar, Gush Etzion
Ari ’00, ’07 Kolel and Aliza Sokol, Alon Shevut
Dovid ’00 - ’01, ’07 Kolel and Elia Erdfarb, Alon Shevut
Mazal Tov to Executive Vice President of the Etzion Foundation Yoel and Zamrah Weiss on the birth of Bat Sheva Gila
Mazal Tov to Ray Herzl and Esti Rosenberg on the birth of Tehilla Perl and to grandparents Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein
Births of Grandchildren
Nissan ’72 and Felice Zisken on the birth of a granddaughter and to parents Ariel (’07 Kolel) and Yoel
Mendel ’73 and Sema Reich and Howard and Tova Weisbrod on the birth of a granddaughter
Danny ’75 and Susan Wolf on the birth of a granddaughter
Michael ’75 and Bethesda Goldenhersh on the birth of a grandson and to parents Mani (’00 Hesder) and Tzufa Polack
Ari ’78 and Yochayeh Fund on the birth of a granddaughter
Rav Binyamin and Naomi Tabory and Henry and Syma Weinberg on the birth of a grandson
Rav Ezra and Itta Bick on the birth of a grandson
Yedaya Hacohen on the birth of a grandson
Mazal Tov to Harav Shlomo and Tali Brinn and to Harav Yehuda and Miriam Amihael on the birth of a granddaughter/great granddaughter
Please send your news to: shira@etzion.org.il
Recent Publications

**Tikva Mi’Ma’amakim** (’’Hope from the Depths’’) (Hebrew)
An in-depth study of Megillat Rut
By **Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan**
Why did Naomi return alone to the fields of Beit Lechem? How did Rut join **Am Yisrael** and what was the nature of her conversion? Why did it take the marriage of Rut and Boaz to produce Israeli kingship? Why did they have to meet in a threshing floor in the middle of the night? The sefer offers surprising answers to these questions and more. To order: books@herzog.ac.il

**Hilchot Sheviit** (Hebrew)
Two new sefarim about **shemitta** by **Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon**, Ram in the Yeshiva, have been published by the Yeshiva. They explain the topics of **shemitta** in detail in a clear and simple way, tracking the sources through to **halacha le’ma’aseh** with accompanying charts and illustrations to clarify the various permitted and prohibited actions. The first sefer, published together with the Ministry of Education, is currently being used by 3,000 students in yeshiva high schools and ulpanot throughout Israel during this **shemitta** year. The second, more expanded version, is intended for a wider audience. The English translation of the sefer will be published shortly. The Yeshiva has also produced a **shemitta** card game, modeled after “Go Fish”, to introduce the concepts of **shemitta** to children in a fun and colorful way.
To order the sefer and/or card game: books@herzog.ac.il

**The Three Pillars: Am Yisrael, Torat Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael** (English)
By **Rabbi David Milston** (’’83-’84, ’’91-’95 Kollel), Director of Overseas Programs at Midrashet HaRova, Jerusalem
The Foundations of Judaism as Revealed in Sefer Vayikra
To order: www.midrashetharova.org.il

**Tikon La’ad – Studies of the Sefat Emet** (Hebrew)
By **Rav Shlomo Rosenberg** (’’96 Hesder**)
Published by Yeshivat Har Etzion
The **Sefat Emet** – written by the second Gerer Rebbe, Rebbe Yehuda Leib Alter, who was subsequently referred to as the Sefat Emet - is one of the most popular sefarim on Chassidut, which broke new ground in introducing principles and fundamentals in the study of Chassidut. Due to its unique style, many people shy away from its study. This book aims to grapple with this hesitancy and pave the way to understanding the teachings of the **Sefat Emet** (on Bereshit and Shemot). Rav Shlomo Rosenberg, an alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion, presents the language and concepts of the Sefat Emet in a clear and thorough fashion and transforms them into messages relevant to modern reality. The sefer is a collection of shiurim delivered via the Yeshiva’s Virtual Beit Midrash for youth – Nekudat Hibbur – founded and run by Har Etzion **talmidim**. www.hibbur.org

**Flipping Out - Myth or Fact:**
The Impact of the Year in Israel
(English)
By Rav Shalom Berger Ed. D. ’’83, et al
Yashar Books, 2007
An in-depth exploration of the issues arising from the widespread phenomenon of American students spending a post-high school year studying in Israel. Shalom Berger, Daniel Jacobson and Chaim Waxman, writing from the perspectives of an educator, a psychologist and a sociologist, respectively, chart out the changes experienced by students and their impact on the Jewish community, and present fascinating data and conclusions on the subject. The book has an introduction by Richard Joel, President of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Berger is on the faculty of The Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, School of Education at Bar-Ilan University and has served as the resident historian on the Yeshivat Har Etzion trips to Poland for the past three years.
To order: www.yasharbooks.com/Flipping.html

Yeshiva website:
www.haretzion.org