On September 5, 2010 (26 Elul 5770) Joel, Yedidia, Yekutiel and Amitai Koschitzky dedicated Revava: The Riva Koschitzky z”l Torah Enrichment Program in memory of their beloved mother and wife at a ceremony in the Yeshiva attended by the Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim, family and friends.

Arye Colton ’81, Etzion Foundation Chairman of the Board and Riva’s brother, was MC of the event. “Riva’s company, wisdom and generosity of thought are sorely missed by all who knew her,” he said. He explained that while the yeshiva’s core curriculum is made up of traditional Talmud study, the Yeshiva has always regarded the in-depth study of Tanakh, Halakhah and Jewish Philosophy as a vital element of Torah education and has traditionally offered students supplementary classes, chugim and chaburot in these topics. The Riva Koschitzky z”l Torah Enrichment Program aims to incorporate all these supplementary studies into one over-arching, organized framework that will maximize their impact.

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi spoke at the event and said, “It is our hope that the re-structured program will improve the quality of instruction and ensure that all Har Etzion students, both from Israel and abroad, will benefit from the fullest possible range of topics and lecturers.” He added, “Riva z”l understood the importance of not only looking inward, but of looking around to see what are the needs of society. She was always prepared to listen and help.”

Yekutiel Koschitzky, the son of Riva z”l and Joel and a hesder student in the Yeshiva, emphasized the challenge faced by every talmid: to be simultaneously anchored in the Beit Midrash and actively involved in the outside world. “This can only be achieved through the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The Revava program will help talmidim to better understand the complexity of our lives and give us the tools to grapple with this complexity and live full Torah lives,” he stated.

Following the unveiling of a dedication plaque in the lobby of the Beit Midrash building, Roshi Yeshiva Ray Yaakov Medan delivered a memorial shiur on “Malchuyot, Zichronot ve’Shofarot.”

This year’s annual Chanukah study seminar for students was dedicated in Riva Koschitzky’s name, as part of the Revava program. The Yeshiva is deeply grateful for the support of the Koschitzky family, and honored to pay tribute to the memory of Riva z”l. A listing of the courses in the Revava program can be viewed on the yeshiva’s website.

Riva Koschitzky z”l

Riva was born on August 19th, 1960 in Montreal, Canada to Joey and Annette Colton. Following her graduation from the Hebrew Academy of Montreal, she studied for a year at Michlalah-Jerusalem College in Bayit VeGan and continued on to Barnard College in New York, where she graduated with a BA in Computer Science. Riva married Joel Koschitzky in 1981, and together they made aliyah from Toronto one year later. Riva lived in Israel for 27 years and died from breast cancer on December 19th, 2008. Riva is survived by her husband Joel and her three sons: Yedidia (YHE Hesder ’05), Yekutiel (YHE Hesder ’07) and Amitai.
New Year in Yeshiva

In Elul 5770, seventy Israeli talmidim, from 32 high schools, began the Hesder program in the Yeshiva. This group, Machzor 43, includes 11 sons of Har Etzion alumni and 6 brothers of alumni and talmidim. Joining them were 58 new talmidim from the Dr. William Major Overseas Program, of whom 11 are from England and the remainder from North America.

Eric Wohlstadt, Shana Aleph student from Dallas, Texas, remarks on his Yeshiva experience thus far: "The only thing that I didn't expect from Gush is that everyone here is so caring — it really feels like a big family. Not only am I close with talmidim my own age, but I also have the opportunity to become close with many great talmidei chakhamim. It's the perfect balance of great minds and great hearts, and that's what's so special."

"I have been amazed and excited by the sheer intensity of the Beit Midrash and have been challenged and inspired by the Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim and avrechim," adds Tuvy Miller, Shana Aleph student from Baltimore, MD. "I relish the ability to sit for hours poring over a daf of Gemara, a perek of Tanakh or a chapter in Chovat HaLevavot. The beauty and serenity of the Yeshiva in particular, and of Alon Shevut in general, create a calming atmosphere that is very conducive to learning Torah and Avodat Hashem."

Alumni Return to Yeshiva for pre-Yom Kippur Learning

Wouldn't it be nice to come back to yeshiva as an adult? During the Asseret Yemei Teshuva (September 14-15), a group of alumni living in Israel returned to the Yeshiva for two days of intensive Torah study in preparation for Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

Avi Deitcher '87 from Modiin, a consultant on technology and operations, participated on one of the days and described the experience: "We learned in chavruta and then heard shiurim from Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Gigi, Rav Rachmani and Rav Medan; we ate lunch with the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim... all in one day! The balance between shiur and chavruta, Torah, Gemara, halakha, as always at Har Etzion, was just right. The intensity of an entire day of learning, from early morning until late at night, provided a powerful strengthening and spiritual uplifting, which completely changed not only that week and Yom Kippur, but my interactions with peers, friends and family in the following days.

“There were only two downsides. First, it was difficult to walk out of the yeshiva at the end of the day and go home; I would have been happy to stay for days on end. Second, it was painful to walk into the beit midrash and see the empty place at the front, where Moreinu HaRav Amital zt"l should have been. I stood and stared across at his seat, from the entrance, for several minutes. Each of us who learned from him truly owes him so very much.”

Shana Aleph Tiyul

Pre-Yom Kippur seminar for alumni in Israel
Yom Kippur Visitors

It has become a longstanding tradition for friends of the Yeshiva and bogrim from Israel and overseas to come to the Yeshiva for Yom Kippur for the inspirational davening, often with their extended families.

Among the visitors this year were: Rabbi Julius Berman Esq., Kalman Schorr, Steve and Adina Fredman and family, Eliezer and Yitty Glaser, Tobi and Gerson Schapiro, Eliezer and Yitty Glaser, Tobi and Gerson Schapiro, Aaron, Toby and Baruch Kinderlerer, Geoff and Debbie Levy, Marcel Weber, Harold and Louise Greenberg, Zvi and Tzippy Katz, and many more. Alumnus Eli Weber ’81–82,’86 PC led the Yom Kippur Mincha for the entire Yeshiva.

News from Migdal Oz

by Tali Schaum, third year student

In mid-August, as the year 5770 came to an end, the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women - Migdal Oz opened its doors to a new crop of students: close to 100 Shana Aleph students, including 30 from abroad, and 25 Shana Bet students, including five from abroad.

Zman Elul was filled with shiurim, sichot and singing in preparation for the new year.

The anticipation leading up to Yom Kippur was palpable as we packed into the Beit Midrash each night for selichot with close to five hundred people.

People came from all over the country to attend what has become a renowned spiritual experience. The selichot and singing were uplifting and continued into the wee hours of the night.

The Elul experience reached its climax on Yom Kippur. Hundreds of women filled the beit midrash; alumnae and their husbands, rabbanim, teachers and their spouses, as well as women from the Gush Etzion area.

“Being in a room with so many other people who wanted to be here all day added a lot to my kavanah. Since everyone was so wrapped up in their tefillah, I felt the freedom to express myself to G-d however I wanted,” said Dina Kritz, of Silver Spring. After a day of intense prayer, Yom Kippur ended with singing and dancing.

Then Bein HaZmanim (the Succot break) began and the overseas students set out on a three-day trip to the Golan. The days were spent building new friendships while hiking. “It was really nice to have a chance to hang out after an intense Elul, to get to know each other a bit outside the beit midrash,” said Yael Klausner from Boston.

Finally, the much-anticipated Zman Choref (winter semester) began. In honor of the commencement of learning Masekhet Sanhedrin, students were treated to a morning of shiurim delivered by Rav Meir Lichtenstein, Rav Yaakov Medan (Rosh Yeshiva of Har Etzion) and Rav Yitzhak Brand. They spoke about issues pertaining to the masekhet, of Israeli courts, and of our dual commitment to Jewish and civil law. Since then, everyone has been learning in earnest, and the beit midrash is abuzz.

We look forward to a fruitful zman, filled with growth, learning and lots of rain!

p.s. The graduates of 5770 recently released a CD comprised of nine songs, a combination of Carlebach tunes and Chassidic melodies which accompanied the girls on their journey through the year. Special thanks go to the generous sponsors. To order the CD write to miriamcoren@haretzion.org.il

Erev Shira V’Hitorerut

On the first night of selichot, The Etzion Foundation sponsored an evening of song and inspiration for women. The event was spearheaded by board member Sefi Lerner Hefter ’04 and organized in partnership with Maayanot High School and the SKA Beit Midrash for Women - Migdal Oz. Over 200 participants joined in song, which was followed by a shiur delivered by Migdal Oz alumna Dena Katz Block ’04, and selichot led by Har Etzion alumnus Rabbi Aaron Ross ’92.
IDF Machal Program

The Yeshiva is proud of the more than 120 Har Etzion talmidim from overseas who have served in the IDF over the last two decades, in the voluntary Machal Program. After two years in Yeshiva, these young men serve for a minimum of 14 months, often in elite combat units, together with their Israeli counterparts from Yeshiva.

The Yeshiva provides them with a home-away-from-home: a dorm room, food and laundry service, as well as gift packages of sefarim and other items and regular visits by Ramim and talmidim. They receive the Daf Kesher bulletin each week in the mail, as do all Israeli students in army duty, with davening and candlelighting times, short divrei Torah and answers to halakhic dilemmas faced by the religious soldier. Many Har Etzion Machal soldiers have excelled in their units, despite an initial language disadvantage, and their high motivation and Zionist spirit is an inspiration to the Israelis who are obligated to serve.

Daniel Gross from Teaneck, NJ, who joined the Kfir Unit in August, says he grew up in a Zionist home and went to Bnei Akiva’s Camp Moshava for 11 summers. When he visited Poland during his first year in Yeshiva, he became certain that his place was in Israel. He says that it’s hard being so far away from his family, but he is adjusting to army life, and the commanders go out of their way to help the chutznikim. “This is what I’ve been dreaming about all my life,” he says. “I am grateful to be here.”

Yeshivat Har Etzion students from overseas serving in the army this year:

- Daniel Gross, U.S.
- Meir Samberg, U.S.
- Yishai Schimmel, UK (named Outstanding Soldier)
- Gil Aronowitz, South Africa
- Binyamin Kahn, South Africa
- Rael Olwyn, South Africa
- David Belkin, Australia
- Ilan Buchbinder, Australia

A Special Fund for Machal Soldier

Ruthie Gregor Thwaites recently established the Ami Gregor z”l Machal Fund.

Every year, via the Israeli army’s Machal program, some of the Yeshiva’s overseas students join their Israeli peers in defending the Jewish state. The newly-established Fund will help these students with their learning expenses while in Yeshiva – such as tuition and books – and help improve their living conditions in Yeshiva. Whereas Israeli hesder students go home to Mom & Dad when they get a weekend off from the army, for Machal students the yeshiva dorm is home, and the Ami Gregor z”l Machal Fund will make it more comfortable and welcoming.

The Fund is in memory of Ruthie’s first husband, Ami Gregor z”l (1960-1993), who was himself a “lone soldier”. Ami Gregor came on aliya after high school and served for three years as a paratrooper in the Israeli army, after which he studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion for several years. He married Ruthie in 1986 and they lived in Alon Shevut, where Ami learned in the Yeshiva Kollel for what Ruthie describes as “three idyllic years.”

“The Yeshiva was the place that meant the most to him,” Ruthie explains. “He was grateful for the opportunity to study under great Torah scholars and later, we chose to make our home in Gush Etzion so that he could continue his relationship with Yeshivat Har Etzion.” After Kollel, Ami pursued a master’s degree in political science, worked in agriculture and studied in the Machon [now Herzog College] before being struck down by cancer at the age of 33.

If you wish to contribute to the Ami Gregor z”l Machal Fund please contact the Yeshiva office for more information.
Developing Torah Leadership

Within the framework of the Center for Torah Leadership, headed by Rav Doniel Schreiber ’86, yeshiva alumni are being encouraged to enrich the Torah lives of overseas communities and develop themselves as Torah leaders. They are giving shiurim and divrei Torah, leading prayer services and discussion groups, and generally infusing the communities they visit with spirituality and knowledge.

Some events of the past few months include:

- On May 22, Parshat Naso, a CTL Shabbaton was held in Plainsview, LI with Rav Menachem Leitbag ’77. It coincided with a Bnei Akiva Shabbaton in the area, and yeshiva alumni spent time with both shul members and Bnei Akiva youth, in shiurim, tefillah and discussions of Jewish issues.
- On June 12, Parshat Korach, a CTL Shabbaton took place in conjunction with a Gush alumni Shabbaton with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein in Teaneck, NJ.
- In August, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan visited Camp Moshava in Pennsylvania, where he led an intensive, educational Shabbat for campers and counselors.
- On the first night of selichot, Sept. 4, a CTL Selichot event was held at the Young Israel of North Woodmere. Yeshiva alumni led the davening and invested the evening with intensity and spirit.

The community’s rabbi, Rabbi Yehuda Septimus ’94 wrote, “I want to thank you so much for coming to our pre-selichot singing – it made all the difference in the world. Your ruach is contagious and inspiring. May HKB”H give you the strength to continue these wonderful activities ad meah ve-esrim!”

- On Nov. 6, Parshat Toldot, there were two CTL Shabbatonim: one in Toronto with Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein and the second in Edison, NJ with Rav Moshe Taragin ’83.
- On Nov. 20, Parshat Vayishlach, Rav Schreiber was the Scholar-in-Residence at the Young Israel of Woodmere. He was joined by alumni who gave divrei Torah and shiurim to the community, led the davening, and met with the rabbinic and lay leadership of Woodmere.

More Shabbatonim are planned for December and January, in Israel and in the U.S.

Another aspect of CTL is the Divrei Halakha Mentoring Program. For example, Alex Tsykin ’07 under the guidance of Rav Schreiber, is sending articles on halakha via email to B’nei Akiva members in Australia.

Rav Schreiber explained, “We feel that Har Etzion has a derekh that’s relevant and needed in today’s world – open-minded yet committed, combining spirituality and real learning, Zionist and caring. The CTL’s goal is to give our alumni the skills to transmit all they’ve learned in Har Etzion to other communities, beyond the confines of the beit midrash. In the future, we hope to reach out to many more communities in Israel and abroad.

Ashira l’Hashem

The Yeshiva is grateful to Hartley ’83 and Faye Koschitzky, parents of Adriel ’09, who generously contributed a music room with quality soundproofing and musical instruments.

The room will enable talmidim with a serious interest in music to continue to practice while in yeshiva, and will also be used to record the KMTT podcasts that spread the Yeshiva’s Torah around the globe.
Most readers of the Etzion Update are probably unfamiliar with the scope and scale of Har Etzion’s Herzog College. The installation of its new Director, Rabbi Prof. Yitzchak Kraus, is an occasion to get reacquainted with this influential, growing branch of Har Etzion.

Herzog College was founded in 1973, at the initiative of the Roshei Yeshiva, in order to produce bnei Torah with strong leadership qualities, dedicated to improving the quality of Jewish education in Israel and worldwide. It was originally called “the Machon” (Institute) and concentrated on expanding high-level Tanakh studies and offering yeshiva students basic teaching skills. Since then, the Machon has become a registered college that trains 420 teachers a year – men and women on separate campuses – in nine different fields (Tanakh, Oral Law, Jewish Thought, Literature, Hebrew Language, Eretz Yisrael Studies, Special Education, History and English).

In fact, Herzog College has become the premier religious teachers’ college in Israel. Its entering students have the highest psychometric exam scores of any teaching college in Israel and its graduates are the highest paid educators in the country. It boasts approximately 1,000 graduates, working in education, rabbinics and communal work across Israel and around the world. It also offers several master’s degrees and continues to grow and expand.

Rabbi Prof. Yitzchak Kraus, a Hesder graduate with a doctorate in Jewish Philosophy, is a noted scholar who has researched and written extensively about Jewish messianism. His most recent position was as Head of the Midrasha for Women at Bar-Ilan University. While working at Herzog during the week, he continues to serve on weekends as the rabbi of a congregation in Givat Shmuel, where he lives with his wife Sarit (a professor of computer science) and their five children.

Rabbi Prof. Kraus said, “To me, Herzog’s greatest strength is its connection to the Yeshiva. The fact that the roshei yeshiva teach in the College and there’s a constant exchange of ideas between academics and yeshiva bochurim or midrasha students means that this is the place in Israel where Torah and academia really meet. It’s not a theoretical synthesis, it really happens here.”

Rabbi Prof. Kraus spoke about the importance of Herzog College’s mission:

“I firmly believe that our future as Jews in our land depends on the education our children get today. The importance of Jewish education is not some tired cliché for us to pay lip service to, it’s something we have to commit to and work on every day. Herzog leads the way in educational innovation and outreach – to non-religious schools, to special education children, to the Ethiopian community. Wherever there’s a gap in Israel’s educational system, Herzog has stepped in to fill the gap, with professionalism and Torah values.”

This year, Herzog College will be inaugurating a Center for Jewish Renewal after the Shoah, in memory of HaRav Amital zt”l. The Center will research the ways in which individuals and communities spiritually rehabilitated themselves in the wake of the Holocaust. Also on the table is a comprehensive training center for Jewish teachers in South America. The College’s goal is to provide these teachers with skills, knowledge and even curricula and educational materials appropriate to their communities.

It’s not surprising that students from 17 hesder yeshivot across Israel study weekly at Herzog College. Due to its able administration, it has become the nation’s leader in Jewish education.
The Ethiopian Leadership Program

The Ethiopian Leadership Program, unique in Israel, has been a tremendous boon to the integration of Ethiopian immigrants within Israeli society, and greatly enhanced their participation in religious life in Israel. The program’s students – a select group of rabbis, educators and lay leaders – serve as a bridge between Orthodox Judaism and the community’s practices. Many ELP alumni are today serving as rabbis, educators and community leaders for the Ethiopian population throughout Israel.

The Yeshiva is grateful to the generous supporters of this program, including Nathan and Sandy Kahn (parents of Peter ‘06), the Wallach family and the Maks and Leah Rothstein Charitable Youth Trust.

The Tanakh Summer Study Days at Herzog

This past July 11-15, Herzog’s annual weeklong Tanakh seminar took place, with over 4,200 attendees who were privileged to hear lectures from Israel’s greatest Tanakh experts. In addition to the 175 lectures and ten Tanakh-based tours in Hebrew that participants could choose from, this year a full schedule of English lectures was offered on three days, as well as one tour in English.

One Out of a Hundred

For the first time in twenty-nine years, Israel’s Ministry of Education is sponsoring a Bible Contest for adults. In September, one hundred finalists gathered for a day of preparation at Herzog College. The contestants heard lectures by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan and Rav Shuki Reiss and participated in Bible-based tours in the Ela Valley, led by Herzog lecturers and guides, Chagai Misgav and David Nativ. The finalists represent a wide spectrum of Israeli society, including a range of professions – a farmer, a bus driver and a doctor – as well as a wide range of ages, from soldiers to grandfathers. One unusual participant was a young Bedouin teacher who decided to compete because of his love for the Book of Books.
Remembering HaRav Amital zt”l

Over the past few months, the memory of HaRav Amital was honored at numerous study evenings and memorial services initiated and organized by his talmidim throughout Israel and the world – in Gush Etzion, Beit Shemesh, Jerusalem, Petach Tikva, Ra’anana, Herzliya, Hoshaya, Tel Aviv, Nof Ayalon, Emek Ha’Ma’ayanot and Moreshet, as well as New York, London, Melbourne and many other places.

At the Yeshiva

On the 9th of Elul (August 19), a crowd of over 800 gathered for Torah study and eulogies in the Beit Midrash of the Yeshiva, to mark the shloshim of HaRav Amital zt”l.

Brief shiurim on the topic of the prayers of the Yamim Noraim were delivered in the afternoon by Rav Eliyahu Blumenzweig ’69H, Rosh Yeshivat Hesder in Yerucham, Rav Re’em Hacohen ’76H, Rosh Yeshivat Hesder in Otniel, Rav Yoel Amital, son of HaRav Amital and Ram in the Yeshiva, and Rav Yuval Cherlow ’76H, Rosh Yeshivat Hesder in Petach Tikva.

David Landes ’73, Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation, completed the Shas studied during the shloshim period by talmidim and bogrim of the Yeshiva.

In the evening, Mr. Shimon Peres, President of Israel, arrived and met with the Amital family, HaRav Lichtenstein and Moshko, the yeshiva’s founder. The evening program was attended by talmidim, alumni, Knesset members, prominent rabbanim and community dignitaries, and was moderated by Rav Shlomo Brin ’74H, son-in-law of HaRav Amital and Ram in the Yeshiva. “Students are called children and we are all HaRav Amital’s children,” declared Rav Brin.

Moshe “Moshko” Moskovic spoke of HaRav Amital’s unique ability to combine both vision and action. “He saw the cloud at the head of the mountain from afar, like Avraham Avinu, and transformed a desolate area into a thriving, magnificent Yeshiva.”

Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein recalled HaRav Amital’s ability to convey deep caring and sensitivity to bereaved families. As a genuine leader, HaRav Amital could simultaneously be a broken man on the inside while outwardly comforting others and taking control of the situation. “He was a man of truth – totally without artifice. He radiated genuine joy, and embodied both malkhut shamayim and chessed.”

President Shimon Peres described HaRav Amital as “a man of broad vision, who sought to build bridges and who pursued tikkun olam at every opportunity and in every place…He answered my call during a time of crisis, and inspired faith and comfort. Yehi zikhro barukh!”

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan spoke of HaRav Amital’s vast lamdanut which was not merely theoretical, but intimately tied to people and to reality. He delivered shiur yomi and shiur klali throughout the years – an awesome accomplishment. HaRav Amital was especially sensitive to chilul Hashem and would not compromise at all when it came to matters of the kavod of the shekhina.

Rav Medan said that in the realm of education, HaRav Amital taught that there are no magic formulas. One must work hard and struggle, fall, and quickly get up again. Rav Medan mentioned the great respect that HaRav Amital always showed to the workers at the Yeshiva, Jew and Arab alike. In addition, he was willing to let others express their voices publicly, even when he disagreed. He was opposed to elitism of any sort and feared only the Almighty.

Prof. Moshe Bar Asher, a student of HaRav Amital’s at Yeshivat HaDarom in Rehovot in...
the late '50s and early '60s, and President of
the Academy of the Hebrew Language, said:
“We, the students of HaRav Amital, felt that
he was a close friend even though we feared
him as well. We appreciated that the Amital
home was always open to us and everyone
felt welcome there.”

Prof. Bar Asher noted that HaRav Amital
was always very modest, and that perhaps
the only thing he ever boasted about was
bringing HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein to
the Yeshiva. HaRav Amital encouraged his
talmidim to think for themselves and to act
in accordance with the truth in their hearts,
personal integrity and the way of the Torah.

Rav Yehuda Gilad ’76H, son-in-law of
HaRav Amital, Rosh Yeshivat Maalei Gilboa
and Rav of Kibbutz Lavi, began his hesped
with the words: וטהר לבנו לעבדך באמת
(And purify our hearts to serve You with truth).

“HaRav Amital’s only motivation for all his
communal activities, “ said Rav Gilad, “was to
sanctify Hashem’s name in the world.”

On behalf of all the talmidim, Rav Gilad
thanked Rabbanit Amital for her full
identification with HaRav Amital’s mission,
her nobility, and her support throughout
the years.

In conclusion, the “Kel Malei Rachamim” was
recited by Rami Yanai ’71H, one of HaRav
Amital’s first students at the Yeshiva.

To view hespedim and videos, please visit
the Yeshiva’s website: www.haretzion.org

In New York
Submitted by Rabbi Nati Helfgot ’81

On Monday evening, August 9, 2010, close
to 500 people joined together to honor
the memory of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l at
the Jewish Center in mid-Manhattan. The
memorial service, sponsored by the Yeshiva
in cooperation with the Jewish Center,
brought together hundreds of alumni,
parents of current and former talmidim,
esteeemed rabbis such as Rabbi Dr. Norman
Lamm, chancellor and former president of
Yeshiva University, and Jews from all walks of
life who were enthralled by the personality
and legacy of HaRav Amital.
The evening was moderated by Arye Colton '81, Chairman of the Etzion Foundation. Leon Moed, Founding Chairman of the Etzion Foundation, opened the program with the words, “We have lost a great leader, a teacher and a friend.” This was followed by the recital of “Kel Malei Rachamim” by Cantor David Berson. The evening included eulogies and memories from Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein in English and Rav Yaakov Medan in Hebrew. Rav Mosheh spoke about the various aspects of HaRav Amital’s multi-faceted personality, and of how he fused deep intellectual knowledge of Talmud, Rishonim and Halakha together with his chassidic soul. Rav Medan touched on how HaRav Amital raised a generation of talmidei chakhamim who would be humane, normal and accessible to students and the public. Rav Binyamin Tabory said, “HaRav Amital was a gadol in Torah, yet he had no pretensions, no façade. He was a complicated person, but he had simple faith...The emuna and love that he exuded in his tefilot affected the neshama of every person.”

The evening concluded with moving personal remarks from Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt ‘77, who had remained close to HaRav Amital since his days at Yeshiva decades before and shared personal stories and insights, highlighting the nobility and majesty of HaRav Amital and his teachings. Rabbi Rosenblatt concluded the evening by reading the last portions of Tanakh as part of the worldwide siyum Tanakh undertaken in memory of HaRav Amital.

Many alumni have chosen to remember HaRav Amital by naming their newborn babies after him. This photo gallery includes some of those babies.

Rabbi Shaul Paves ‘91, the parent of one of the new babies, relates:

“The years when I studied in Gush, and was in contact with HaRav Amital and HaRav Aharon, impacted and inspired me ever since. When I became the principal in Yavne School in Sao Paulo, I hung the photos of both Roshei Yeshiva in my office, and I hope that all of us, their talmidim, will help spread their light and Torah.”

Overseas Events

Rav Yair Kahn in England

Rav Yair Kahn ’77 recently spent a number of days visiting alumni in London, where he was hosted by Rabbi Daniel ’87 and Na’amah Roselaar.

Rav Kahn spoke at “The Beis” in Hendon as well as at Kehillat Alei Tzion, where he noted how privileged he felt to speak in the community that Rav Binyamin Tabory led when he was in London.

Especially meaningful was a shiur given on Motzaei Shabbat, at the London School of Jewish Studies, revitalized by alumni Marc Weinberg ’93 z”l and Sammy Rubin ’84.
to about 25 young women at the Women's Student Beit Midrash. On Sunday, Rav Kahn travelled to Cambridge University, to give a shiur to students there and answer questions about the difficulties of being religious at university. The shiur was coordinated by Rav Simon Mandel ('04 Kollel), Jewish Chaplain at Cambridge.

This past summer, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi visited South Africa for a month with his family. In Johannesburg he gave shiurim at the Mizrachi Kollel, which was established by Har Etzion alumnus Rav Doron Podlashuk '96, and he also gave many shiurim and sichot to the wider community. In addition, Rav Gigi visited Cape Town for a Shabbat, where he met with community members there and gave shiurim in the local shul.

“Our bogrim in Johannesburg are very active in strengthening the Jewish community in general and raising the level of Torah in particular,” notes Rav Gigi with pride.

Rav Friedman in England

Rav Mordechai Friedman ’79 visited England in November where he met with alumni and interviewed an impressive group of prospective students for next year. “The alumni turnout was huge and the atmosphere over Shabbat was electric,” Rav Friedman reported. The Shabbat included lunch at “Ner Yisrael” and seuda shlishit at the home of Aviva and Ben Thwaites (’06 Kollel). Rav Friedman thanked all the alumni who organized the visit, and especially Jacky and Vered Schimmel, the parents of three sons – Yoni, Yishai and Itai – who are all in Yeshiva now!

“I was very impressed by how our alumni are leaving their mark on every facet of the Jewish community in London,” states Rav Friedman.

Hong Kong

On his way back from a recruitment trip to Australia, which included giving shiurim in Perth and Sydney, Rav Moshe Aberman stopped in Hong Kong, where he gave a shiur in the Beit Knesset and spoke to students in the Carmel Jewish Day School. The trip to Hong Kong was coordinated by Joey Israel ’07, who was on shlichut there.

NY: Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein speaks at a Lunch & Learn in the office of Meir Nordlicht’s ’86

Toronto: Randy Shiff (father of Jacob ’08) and Berl and Rebecca Nadler (parents of Hillel ’05) at reception for Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein hosted by Randy & Donna Shiff

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein speaks at Lower Merion Synagogue in Philadelphia, at event organized by Rabbi Yehuda Sief ’95

From left: Didi Saiman ’00, Rav Yehuda Sief ’95, Prof. Chaim Saiman ’96 PC, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Shlomo Troidler ’95 and son, Jonathan Seligsohn ’06, Michael Silverstein ’08 and Isaac Silverstein ’05

Rav Mosheh in Chicago with Aaron Shapiro ’07, Avi Matanky ’08, and Yitz Matanky ’05

Rav Mosheh in South Africa

Rav Gigi in South Africa

Rav Friedman in South Africa

Rav Mordechai Friedman
Har Etzion Alumnus **Chaim Saiman** ’96 PC, Associate Professor at Villanova Law School in Pennsylvania spoke about “*Pshara Krova Ledin:* The Law and Ethics of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Jewish and American Law” at a Lunch & Learn last summer, hosted by **Hillel Silvera** ‘91 at the offices of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. Chaim spoke on the same topic at a Dinner & Learn hosted by **Terry Novetsky** ’80 at the offices of Kaye Scholer LLP.

### Alumni Achievements

- **Dr. Morris Hartstein** ’81, director of Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, recently published a textbook in his field
- **Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot** ’81-’82 assumed the pulpit of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Teaneck, NJ
- **Rabbi Daniel Yolkut** ’92, Rabbi of Cong. Poale Zedeck, Pittsburgh, PA
- **Rabbi Aaron Frazer** ’94-’95, ’98-’99 Kollel, in conjunction with the Hillel of Ben-Gurion University, launched a *bikur cholim* project at Soroka Hospital in Be’er Sheva that will focus on Holocaust survivors who don’t have regular visitors. For more info: frazer@bgu.ac.il
- **Rabbi Mordy Friedman** ’95-’96, Ram, Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi, Jerusalem
- **Rabbi Yonah Feldman M.D.** ’97-’98, received Semicha from YU/RIETS and was named Chief Internal Medicine Resident at Winthrop University Hospital, Long Island, NY
- **Rabbi Avidan Freedman** ’97-’98, ’01 PC, teaching at Hartman High School, Jerusalem
- **Rabbi Ari Weiss** ’97-’98, selected as a Joshua Venture Group Fellow (a fellowship for Jewish Social Entrepreneurship)
- **David Shyovitz** ’99, ’04 PC, Assistant Professor of Medieval Jewish History at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL
- **Gabe Wintner** ’99, graduated from Northwestern University School of Law, passed the Illinois Bar Exam, and was sworn into the Illinois Bar
- **Rabbi Yehoshua Lindenbaum** ’01-’03, teaching Tanakh and acting as a *Shoel u’Mashiv* (halakhic advisor) at Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MTA), NY
- **Jonathan Schwab** ’05-’06, **Avi Rabinovich** ’05-’06, **Michael Greenberg** ’06, and **Goldie Guy** MO ’07 are members of a new Beit Midrash program at Yeshiva of Flatbush High School, NY

### Shabbaton at Yeshiva

On Parshat VaYetzei, in November, the Yeshiva hosted the largest Alumni Shabbaton in its history. The alumni from machzorim 21 and 22 and their families numbered over 420 people, and they filled the entire dormitory.

Over the course of the Shabbat, the alumni were privileged to hear Torah from Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Baruch Gigi, HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, Rav Yaakov Medan and alumnus Rav Yaakov Fisher, Rosh Yeshiva of Neve Shmuel High School in Efrat. Throughout the Shabbat, there were activities for the many children in attendance (over 250!) in order to allow the parents to enjoy the program and also have time to get reacquainted with one another.

**Rav Jonathan Snowbell** ’98 PC, Alumni Coordinator, reports, “There was a tremendous feeling that people enjoyed themselves and were uplifted. They all wanted to know when the next reunion at Yeshiva would be!”
Rabbis of the Valley

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein is proud of the fact that three talmidim who were in his shiur in 1991 are today serving as kibbutz rabbis at three out of the four religious kibbutzim in Emek Beit She’an (recently re-named Emek HaMa’ayanot). Rav Moshe (Kinli) Torpaz, of the same machzor, serves as principal of the Regional School in Kibbutz Sede Eliyahu. Many more alumni teach in yeshivot, ulpanot and midrashot in the area.

Due to its hot climate, Emek HaMa’ayanot is a sparsely populated region, but it has had a small religious Zionist population for a long time. In the decade before the State of Israel was founded, the Religious Kibbutz Movement established three settlement blocs – in the Negev, the Beit She’an Valley and Gush Etzion. It seems fitting that the connection continues and today, yeshiva students from Gush Etzion are strengthening the communities of the Beit She’an/Ma’ayanot region.

After nine years studying at Yeshivat Har Etzion in the Hesder Program and Kollel, Rav Pinhas (Asi) Blank went directly to Kibbutz Ein HaNetziv, where he has been for the past 12 years.

“There is a strong ideological connection between the Yeshiva and the Religious Kibbutz Movement, dating back to HaRav Amital,” explains Rav Blank. “It is the ideology of Torah Va’Avoda and staunch Zionist values.”

Rav Moshe Speter has served as Rav of Kibbutz Tirat Tzvi for the past seven years. The job includes the usual tasks of a community rabbi, as well as responsibility for the kashrut in the dining room, the kibbutz catering service, and its agricultural branches. Rav Speter answers questions, initiates Torah activities, and teaches classes to kibbutz residents. He maintains that the central foundation of his Torah world was acquired at Yeshivat Har Etzion. “The depth of Rav Mosheh on the one hand, and his human sensitivity on the other, were very significant in my life,” he says.

Rav Michael Setbon, Rav of Kibbutz Shluchot, was a talmid in Yeshivat Har Etzion for 10 years. It was Rav Mosheh who first suggested the idea of becoming a community rabbi. “When the opportunity arose, I thought to myself that this is a place where I can work with people, give, experience, and connect Torah to life. “When delivering shiurim to kibbutz members on Shabbat, he often finds himself quoting from the Torah of the Roshei Yeshiva.” There is something in their Torah, in the simplicity alongside the depth, in the complexity alongside the clarity, which I try to convey to my audience,” he says.
**Yeshiva Alumni News**

**Marriages**

Daniel Stern ’97 and Alexandra Goldrein  
Steven Exler ’98 and Shira Billet MO ’03  
Joseph Finkelstein ’01 and Abby Laub  
Simon Stern ’01 and Gabrielle Nejad  
Mayer Winkler ’01 and Eugenie Bridavsky  
Daniel Strauchler ’01 and Yael Ausubel  
Warren Sher ’01 and Monique Price  
Michael Stein ’02 and Liora Jonas  
Danny Mirvis ’03 and Althea Devorah Zeloff  
David Wermuth ’03 and Yael Landman MO ’05  
Yoni Grysman ’04 and Debbie Levy  
Meir Lindenbaum ’05 and Shani Gordon  
Ariel Allon ’05 and Rachel Meisel  
Josh Gutenberg ’06 and Sara Bordan  
Daniel Braun ’06 and Avital Shenker  
David Bardo ’06 and Ariel Shapiro  
Larry ’80 and Deena Rabinovich on the marriage of Aliza and Rabbi Chesky Gewirtz  
Rav Reuven ’91K and Judy Rosenstark on the marriage of Shifra and Yair Jablinowitz  
Mazal Tov to HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the marriage of their granddaughter Nechama to Moshe Kamin, and to parents Rav Yitzchok and Rahel Lichtenstein and the entire family  
Mazal Tov to Rav Baruch and Edna Gigi on the marriage of Koby ’03H and Tamar Mantzura  
Mazal Tov to Rav Shlomo and Tali Brin on the marriage of Akiva ’02H and Roni Blondheim and to Rabbanit Amital and the entire family  

**Births**

Meir ’86 and Dahlia Nordlicht, Ava Ruth, New Rochelle, NY  
Elisha ’86 and Melissa Rosenblum, Yaffa Bracha, Skokie, IL  
Sam ’88 and Ofira Michelson, Ayelet Shira, Alon Shevut  
Gavriel ’89 and Leora Lambert, Yeshayahu (Yishai) Eyal, NYC  
Gedalya ’90 and Miriam Berger, Shira Tiferet, Mount Vernon, NY  
Evan ’91 and Rivka Abrahams, Menachem Yehuda, Staten Island, NY  
Allon Franklin ’91 and Cheryl Provary, Gavriel David, Riverdale, NY  
Shmuel ’91 and Tamar Paves, Yitzchak Yehuda, Sao Paolo, Brazil  
David ’91 and Sara Tesler, Nili Aderet, Yonkers, NY  
Simon ’91 and Elana Jackson, Amichai Binyamin, Elazar  
Daniel ’92 and Anna Yolkut, Yehuda Hendel, Pittsburgh, PA  
Jay ’92 and Gita Lisker, Michal Yona, Jamaica Estates, NY  
Yossi ’93 and Esti Ziffer, Chaviva Leah, Baltimore, MD  
Carl ’93 and Karen Hochhauser, Penina Bat-Tzion, Beit Shemesh  
Howard ’93 and Vanessa Jackson, Levi Yisrael, Jerusalem  
Daniel ’93 and Leora (Kesten) Roth, Eden Yehudit, Jerusalem  
Jonathan ’93 and Heidi Nathan, Beniah Yitzchak, Chashmonaim  
Barry ’95 and Kally Kislowicz, Shefa Emunah, Beachwood, OH  
Arye ’95 and Nani Schreiber, Dov Malachi Yehuda, Jerusalem  
Elie ’96 and Avital Weissman, Yehuda Amitai, Plainview, NY  
Yechiel ’96 and Becky Septimus, Lev Amitai, Brooklyn, NY  
Aaron ’96 and Shayna Weisz, Lielle Tzion, Montreal, Canada  
Dov ’96H and Shani Daniel, Shlomo Yehuda, Bala Cynwyd, PA  
Yonah ’97 and Lisa Feldman, Noah, Plainview, NY  
Joshua ’98 and Gila (Loike) Skarf, Yochai, Jerusalem  
Shaul ’98 and Libby Epstein, Aaron Moshe, Cambridge, MA  
Meir ’98 and Aliza Belsh, Michal Bracha, NYC  
Aly ’98 and Clara Singer, Ilan Baruch, Jerusalem  
Josh ’98 and Sara Wunder, Moshe Chaim, Kochav Yaakov  
Elyakim ’99 and Shani Deutsch, Maya Livia, NYC  
Menachem ’99 and Avigail Danishefsky, Maya Shalhevet, Jerusalem  

**Marriages of Children**

Nathan ’78 and Yocheved Lindenbaum on the marriage of Meir ’05 and Shani Gordon  
Aryeh ’78 and Yocheved Fund on the marriage of Adina and Tuvia Cannon  
Howard ’78 and Debi Reece, on the marriage of Nechama and Aryeh Mann  
Rav Mordechai ’79 and Debby Friedman on the marriage of David and Clil Avichai-Kremer  
Ephraim ’79 and Amy Bassan on the marriage of Tobi and David Levin  
Rav Chaim ’79 and Chaya Balter on the marriage of Naftali and Perele Rausman  
Rav Yakoov ’80 and Malke Borow on the marriage of Moshe and Reut Iluz  

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**Yeshiva Alumni News**

Jay ’92 and Gita Lisker, Michal Yona, Jamaica Estates, NY  
Yossi ’93 and Esti Ziffer, Chaviva Leah, Baltimore, MD  
Carl ’93 and Karen Hochhauser, Penina Bat-Tzion, Beit Shemesh  
Howard ’93 and Vanessa Jackson, Levi Yisrael, Jerusalem  
Daniel ’93 and Leora (Kesten) Roth, Eden Yehudit, Jerusalem  
Jonathan ’93 and Heidi Nathan, Beniah Yitzchak, Chashmonaim  
Barry ’95 and Kally Kislowicz, Shefa Emunah, Beachwood, OH  
Arye ’95 and Nani Schreiber, Dov Malachi Yehuda, Jerusalem  
Elie ’96 and Avital Weissman, Yehuda Amitai, Plainview, NY  
Yechiel ’96 and Becky Septimus, Lev Amitai, Brooklyn, NY  
Aaron ’96 and Shayna Weisz, Lielle Tzion, Montreal, Canada  
Dov ’96H and Shani Daniel, Shlomo Yehuda, Bala Cynwyd, PA  
Yonah ’97 and Lisa Feldman, Noah, Plainview, NY  
Joshua ’98 and Gila (Loike) Skarf, Yochai, Jerusalem  
Shaul ’98 and Libby Epstein, Aaron Moshe, Cambridge, MA  
Meir ’98 and Aliza Belsh, Michal Bracha, NYC  
Aly ’98 and Clara Singer, Ilan Baruch, Jerusalem  
Josh ’98 and Sara Wunder, Moshe Chaim, Kochav Yaakov  
Elyakim ’99 and Shani Deutsch, Maya Livia, NYC  
Menachem ’99 and Avigail Danishefsky, Maya Shalhevet, Jerusalem
Steve ’99 PC and Natalie Gar, Yehuda Ephraim, Efrat

Aryeh ’99 and Penina Dienstag, Shimon Moshe, Woodmere, NY

Eli ’00 and Emily Isak, Benjamin Samuel, Wesley Hills, NY

Jeremy ’01 and Aviva Stern, Menachem Yehoshua, NYC

Shlomo (Myles) ’01 PC and Rocky Brody, Maayan Libi, Jerusalem

Danny ’01 and Anna Steel, Mia Lily, London, England

Stephen ’01 and Tamar Kaye, boy, Alon Shevut

Jeremy ’02 and Chavi Schwarzbaum, Sarah Gila, NYC

Mark ’02 and Natalie Steiner, Noa Leah, Sydney, Australia

Elad ’02 and Yael Smadja, Aharon Haim, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dani ’03 and Sarah Landman, Aryeh, Alon Shevut

Yisroel (Srully) ’03 and Yael Cohen, Dovi Tzvi, Chicago, IL

Craig ’03 PC and Devora Lubner, Yedidya Yitzchak, Brooklyn, NY

Nadav ’04 PC and Shifra Steindler, Gilad Yehuda, Acco

Josh ’05 and Rimone Hersch, Dovid Aryeh, Jerusalem

Births of Grandchildren

Rav Menachem ’72 and Rina Schrader, two grandsons, Yitzchak, to parents Baruch ’03H and Tirza Perlman and Elyashiv, to parents Binyamin ’02H and Michal Schrader

Rav Menachem ’77 and Thea Leibtag, granddaughter, Smadar, and to parents, Leah and Yedidya Reiss ’03H

Rav Raymond ’79 and Vicky Harari, grandson, Yishak Yair, and to parents Avi and Zahava

Rav Moshe ’83 and Baila Shulman on the birth of granddaughter Chienna Meirah and to parents Zippi and Motti Klein

Mazal Tov to Rabbanit Miriam Amital on the birth of a great-grandson Yair Yaakov and to the Amital-Karsh families

Mazal tov to HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the birth of a granddaughter, to Shai and Rivkah Lichtenstein

Bar/Bat Mitzva

Yisrael Meir Winiarz (Yossi Yeinan Winiarz ’77), Jerusalem

Avi Siegal (Yoni ’79 z”l and Yonina), Riverdale, NY

Yehuda Tor (Akiva ’80 and Naomi), San Francisco, CA

Gershon Avinoam Kreditor (Shimmy ’87 and Judy), Beit Shemesh

Rahele Ayala Taragin (Rav Reuven ’88 and Shani), Alon Shevut

Chaim Eisenberg (Michael ’89 and Yaffa), Jerusalem

Tzipora Elisheva Topp (Rav Kalman ’90 and Jordana), Los Angeles, CA

Elyasaf (Safi) Neustadter (David ’87 and Leah), Nof Ayalon

Alyia

Micah ’92 and Gila Gimpel, Efrat

Avidan ’97 and Devorah Freedman, Jerusalem

Noam ’97 and Aliza Shapiro, Efrat

Marc ’97 and Heidi Romain, Jerusalem

ELY Perelmuter ’98, Modiin

Natan Wiesenberg ’02

Jonathan Dyne ’04

Josh Berman ’04

Samuel McCartney ’07

Condolences

Josh Henkin ’82 on the loss of his father, Prof. Louis Henkin z”l

Rafi Epstein ’94, on the loss of his father, Dr. Jerry Epstein z”l, father-in-law of Shanan Sher ’85 and Daniel Wolf ’92

Gaby Fachler ’94 on the loss of his father Rabbi Mordechai Fachler z”l

Joe ’04 and Ben ’05 Scherban on the loss of their father, Mr. Ron (Yerachmiel Gavriel) Scherban z”l

Saadya Ehrenpreis, Darkaynu ’07-’10, on the loss of his father, Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Ehrenpreis z”l

The Yeshiva family mourns the tragic passing of Gilad Schwartz ’08 z”l, brother of Ariel ’03 and brother-in-law of Yehoshua Lindenbaum ’01.

From Gilad’s mother, Michelle: “Baruch Dayan Emet. It is with a broken and heavy heart that we share with you that Gilad Hillel has completed his journey in this world and has passed onto the next one. We are saddened beyond words for the void he has left in our life, but we are grateful for the years that we had with Gilad and for the joy, nachat, humor, liveliness and spirit of life that he brought to us.”

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Please send your updates to office@haretzion.org.il

PC = Post-College    H = Hesder    MO = Migdal Oz

Winter 5771/2010  15
Recent Publications


This book, based on Rav Brofsky’s Tefilla series in the Yeshiva’s VBM, offers a complete overview of the laws of prayer, developing each topic from the sources in the Talmud, through the Rishonim and Acharonim, until the modern day halakhic decisors. The discussion weaves together halakhic, conceptual and frequently philosophical and historical analyses, always concluding with the practical halakha.

To order: www.haretzion.org/torah/yeshiva-publications


The Admor of Piaseczna was a unique personality of 20th century Eastern Europe, who desired to revive the inner world of Chassidut and provide practical tools for spiritual worship to those who wish to progress in their worship of God. The book provides insights into his path. Dr. Wacks is a lecturer of Oral Law, Jewish Thought and Education at Herzog College and Lifshitz College in Jerusalem.

To order: books@herzog.ac.il

**Man - Between Creature and Creator: Studies and Reflections on the Torah** (Hebrew), by Rav Gad Eldad, Tevunot Publishing, Herzog College, 2010

Since man’s creation, his status and personality have been marked by tension. On the one hand, the Almighty bestowed man with much freedom and calls upon him to act and create in the world and to influence those around him. On the other hand, as a creature, he is expected to be subservient and duty-bound to God and to act according to His wishes and guidelines. Rav Gad Eldad is an alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion, Herzog College and Machon Eretz Chemda. He is a lecturer in Torah and Gemara in the Beit Midrash for Rabbis in Rome, and the rabbi of the Beit Shmuel synagogue there. He is also a dayan in Rome and Milano.

To order: books@herzog.ac.il

**A Practical Guide to the Laws of Kashrut** (English), by Rav Pini Cohen ’94, Ram in the Yeshiva, Maggid Books (Koren Publishers Jerusalem Ltd.) and Yeshivat Har Etzion, 2010

This concise and useful handbook on kashrut is specially crafted for the modern Jewish home and covers a range of frequently asked questions. With haskamot by Roshei Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein and Rav Baruch Gigi.

To order: office@haretzion.org.il or www.korenpub.com