Yeshivat Har Etzion First-Ever Rabbinic Conference

This year, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner, the Yeshiva hosted a two-day conference for rabbinic alumni at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in NYC. The conference, supported by the Yeshivat Har Etzion Center for Torah Leadership (CTL), was attended by over 50 YHE alumni professionally employed in either Jewish education or the rabbinate, including participants who flew in especially from England, Brazil and Australia.

The first day of the conference featured shiurim and presentations by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein, Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, Rav Baruch Gigi, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein and other prominent rabbis associated with the Yeshiva.

Mrs. Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz, joined the Roshei Yeshiva for an engaging and interactive panel discussion on the second day of the conference, which was hosted at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue by Rabbi Seth Grauer ‘96, Associate Rabbi of the Synagogue, Assistant Principal at the YU High School for Girls, and one of the major driving forces behind the conference.

Advanced Scholars at Migdal Oz

This September saw the opening of an all-new flagship program at Migdal Oz. Four days a week, ten select women aged 25-35 are participating in the groundbreaking Advanced Scholars Program in Talmud & Halacha (in Hebrew: Tochnit Mitkademet be’Gemara u’be’Halacha).

Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash, explains, “This is a hand-picked group of the brightest and best, who will be studying intensively for two years. Our goal is to produce women who are truly talmidot chachamot.”

(continued on page 8)
The New Year Begins – Welcome Machzor 45!

The 45th machzor of the Yeshiva began on Rosh Chodesh Elul. The Beit Midrash was joined by 51 first-year Israeli Hesder students and 57 first-year students from North America and England, and 6 post-college overseas students. Sixteen first-year talmidim in the MTA program, from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, began their studies in January. The Beit Midrash also welcomed ten talmidim studying in the Darkaynu Program for special needs students; this is the largest group since the program began seven years ago. The 140 students, this is the largest group since the Darkaynu Program for special needs students; this is the largest group since the 305 talmidim already in Yeshiva, making for a total student body of 445 (of which 87 are currently in active army service). The Yeshiva is currently studying Masechet Bava Batra.

"We are blessed with an exceptional group this year," says Eli Weber ’81, Director of the Dr. William Major Overseas Program. "The sign of a successful beginning in Yeshiva is for talmidim to accept the challenge of being here and jump into Yeshiva life with a feeling of joy and belonging. And that is exactly what's happened."

Sam Grill, first-year talmid from Long Beach, NY shares his impressions of the first three months in Yeshiva: "On the first day of zman Elul, we English-speakers fresh out of high school, were thrown into a bustling Israeli Beit Midrash. The energy in the air that day was almost overwhelming, yet definitely inspiring.

What astounds me most is the character and dedication of the diverse talmidim of the Yeshiva. Never have I been exposed to a group with such a will to grow in the ways of Hashem. To me, this is the most impressive component of Yeshivat Har Etzion, not to mention the all-star staff of prominent and caring Rabbeim, the beautiful surroundings, and the special atmosphere that the Yeshiva provides for us. All of these components together have created for me and my peers an entirely new definition of what it means to study Torah.

Not only have I felt a significant improvement in my Torah study, but almost every aspect of my avodat Hashem has gained greater depth and understanding. It's hard to express the feeling of awe that was experienced when the first recitation of the shelosh esreh middot was wailed by the tzibbur on the opening night of Selichot. That feeling was carried with us through the rest of Elul zman, continuously learning and preparing for what were to be the most powerful Yamim Nora'im that I can recall. There was never an instance where I experienced such sincerity and clarity of mission as I did during the closing prayers of Ne'ilah.

After a very exciting and fun-filled bein ha'zmanim, my hope is to continue to not only gain the most that I can, but also to contribute my tile to the elaborate mosaic that is Yeshivat Har Etzion."

Revava Expands

Revava – The Riva Koschitzky z”l Torah Enrichment Program is enjoying an impressive start to the new Yeshiva year. In addition to the vast array of chugim traditionally offered, the program has branched out to include guided study tracks in the areas of Tanakh, Halacha and Machshava. Guest speakers and engaging panels have been introduced to enrich the regular learning cycle.

This year, a strong emphasis is being placed on developing the Shana Bet schedule to reflect the added potential and background of second year overseas students. Rav Binyamin Zimmerman ’96 is leading the new Shana Bet program, providing valuable guidance and mentoring for the participants.

A key element of Revava is the "Preparation for Life" program, for Israeli students in their fifth and last year of the Hesder Program. Headed by Rav Hillel Rahmani and Rav Benny Lehman, the program aims to prepare students for life beyond yeshiva. Experts address personal, halachic and even economic questions which may arise in all areas of life. Topics covered include dating, marriage, home management, decision-making, and more. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi explains, "Alongside our ongoing educational work, we strive to provide our talmidim with the capabilities to successfully confront the many challenges they will face in their lives after Yeshiva, as they work to forge a path of avodat Hashem in our complex world."

Yoni Jesner z”l Tenth Yahrzeit

The tenth yahrzeit of Yoni Jesner ’01 z”l took place on the 14th of Tishrei. Yoni, an exceptional talmid from Glasgow, Scotland,
was mortally wounded on a bus traveling to Tel Aviv that was attacked by a suicide bomber.

Rav Yair Kahn, speaking at the azkara, said, "Yoni’s drive and determination were fueled by a belief in Mankind. It was not a naive trust that all men are inherently good, but a profound understanding that Man has the potential of improving himself and the world around him. He constantly worked on changing himself, always striving to become a better person. Yoni’s legacy to us is to be inspired by his example to always strive to improve ourselves, and to try to make the world a better place."

Overseas alumni who return to Yeshiva for the period leading up to the Yamim Nora'im are subsidized by the Yoni Jesner z”l Elul Program, established with the generous support of Steve and Renee Adelsberg, whose son David ‘01 was a chevruta and close friend of Yoni.

### B’Ron Yachad

YHE alumnus and musician Yoni Genut ‘92H has released an album titled Ot Le’Ot, in cooperation with popular Israeli singer Ehud Banai. The album features a single called B’Ron Yachad, dedicated in memory of HaRav Amital z”l. For many years, it has been customary at the Yeshiva to sing this soulful piyut at the end of every Thursday night mishmar. The beautiful words, written by Rav Shmaya Kosson, challenge Man to moral and religious awakening just as the morning stars emerge.

A clip of the song on YouTube features photos taken during the all-night mishmar that ended the summer zman at Yeshivat Har Etzion. The clip begins with a photo of the plaque over HaRav Amital’s seat in the Beit Midrash which succinctly states, "Through his Torah, tefillot and path, he drew the hearts of his students closer to the Almighty." The clip can be seen on the Yeshiva website.

### Torat Chaim: Live from the VBM

The Yeshiva has invested increased effort in recent years in strengthening the connection with alumni, and the most natural connection is through Torah study. The VBM now offers a live shiur iyun taught by Rav Ezra Bick, in which students can ask questions online, as the shiur is in progress. The shiur is given on Wednesdays at 9 pm Israel time. For more details and to register: http://www.etzion.org.il/vbm/merkaz.php

### New! Phone App "Lalechet b’Drachav" – Daily Torah Study for Youth

In cooperation with the Virtual Beit Midrash, a new application for cell phones has been uploaded by Har Etzion talmidim, dedicated to the memory of talmid Uriel Liwerant ‘07H z”l, a tank commander in the IDF who was killed in a tragic training accident three years ago. The application, which is in Hebrew and updated every month, covers a wide range of topics – Machshava, Parashat HaShavua, Halacha, Tefilla and more. For free download, scan the QR code. For more details: lalechetbed@gmail.com
Remembering Zachary Baumel

To mark 30 years since Yeshiva talmid Zachary Baumel went missing in action during the Sultan Yaqub battle, a gathering was held on Thursday evening, June 7, in the Beit Midrash. Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein expressed the hope that we will soon merit to see the light through the current fog as to the plight of Zachary and all missing soldiers. 

Colonel (Res.) Bentzi Gruber ’77H, described his memories of the battle and of Zachary and expressed the IDF’s ongoing commitment to each and every soldier. Mrs. Miriam Baumel, Zachary’s mother, told of the importance of continuing to be active on behalf of the missing soldiers. The evening ended with the heartfelt recitation of selected chapters of Tehillim on behalf of all of Israel’s missing soldiers.

Zachary (Zak) Baumel was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1960 to Yonah and Miriam Baumel. In 1970, the family made aliya to the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Motzkin. After graduating high school, Zak joined the Hesder program at Yeshivat Har Etzion and served in the IDF Armored Corps, where he rose to the rank of tank commander. At Yeshiva, Zak was a serious student and he was also dorm counselor for the American students who had come for a year of study.

Zachary had nearly completed his military service when he was called up to serve in the Lebanon War. He had been accepted to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and, come fall, was planning to study psychology. During that fateful summer of 1982, he had also secured a job working with youth from abroad as part of a Jewish Agency program. On June 11, 1982, just hours before the declaration of a cease-fire, Zak and his colleagues were sent into battle near the Lebanese village of Sultan Yaqub. 21 Israelis were killed that day, and many more were injured. Three soldiers – Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz – are still missing in action.

In the years since, the Baumels traveled the world, following every clue and knocking on every door that might bring closure for themselves and the other MIA families. As time went on, they became the address for the parents of other MIAs (both Israeli and Arab) who have needed help in their own search for information regarding their missing children. After many years of ceaseless searching for his son, Yonah Baumel passed away on Shavuot 5769 (2009).

Discovery! An Inscription from the Chafetz Chaim

A week before Rosh Hashana this year, an inscription with a blessing and signature handwritten by the Chafetz Chaim, HaRav Yisroel Meir HaKohen of Radin zt”l, was unexpectedly discovered in a sefer in the Yeshivat Har Etzion Torah Library. The book is a first edition of Chomat HaDa’at, a book of mussar by the Chafetz Chaim from 1905, which has been in the Yeshiva library for 25 years, as part of the collection of Rav Yissachar Tamar z”l. The inscription was addressed to a friend, Rabbi Baruch

Liwerant Memorial in the Library

A Memorial Corner was dedicated in the library on August 23 (5th of Elul), in memory of Uriel Liwerant ’07H z”l, in the presence of his family members, the Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim and talmidim. A short film was screened, after which Ido Tal ’07H, a friend and chevruta of Uriel, related some personal memories. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Moshe Lichtenstein shared words of Torah and chizuk.

Mrs. Miriam Baumel, Zachary’s mother, speaks in the Beit Midrash

Students view informative display about MIA Zachary Baumel

Memorial Corner in Library for Uriel Liwerant z”l
Meir, wishing him success in spreading the greatness of Hashem and his Torah in the world. The book appeals to “every Jewish man to strengthen himself and others towards the study of Torah and the fulfillment of mitzvot.”

“The excitement became even greater when we realized that the discovery was made a day before the Chafetz Chaim’s yahrzeit, which is on the 24th of Elul,” relates Aharon Bejell, Head Librarian. “Even the Lithuanian and Brisker ‘Gushnikim’ had to admit that it was clearly a ‘mofes.”

Schreiber Scholarship Fund

The Roshei Yeshiva and administration express their heartfelt gratitude to David and Ruth Schreiber of Jerusalem, parents of Zvi ’86, Daniel ’89, Benji ’92 and Arye ’95, for establishing a Scholarship Fund for Hesder and Machal Students at Yeshivat Har Etzion. This year there are 227 Har Etzion students in the five-year Hesder program, 87 of whom are currently on active duty, the majority in combat units. Each year, a number of YHE students from overseas join their Israeli peers in defending the Jewish State through the voluntary IDF Machal Program. More than 100 Yeshivat Har Etzion students have served in the Machal Program to date. Many of them have excelled in their units, despite an initial language disadvantage, and their high motivation and Zionist spirit is an inspiration to all.

Rav Rhein visits YHE students in Paratroopers Unit. From left: Moti Gutman, Erez Levy, Dor Furer, Dovy Olwyn, Rav Danny Rhein, Itai Schimmel, Elitzur Schimmel, Gilad Hasa

Inscription by the Chafetz Chaim

IDF induction ceremony for YHE talmidim joining the Kfir Infantry Unit

The annual trip to Poland, led by Rav Shalom Berger ’77, was enhanced by the presence of Rav Itiel Oron ’95H, Rav Amnon Bazak ’85H and Eli Weber ’81

Operation Pillar of Defense: YHE talmidim entertain children in a bomb shelter in Beer-Sheva

Rav Yaakov Medan hosts IDF officers of Pikud U’Mateh (The Command and Staff College, the most elite instructional institution in the IDF) at Yeshiva in June

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

In May, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein visited the NY area to participate in a variety of learning programs. Among them were a Lunch and Learn hosted by Meir Nordlicht ’86, and a Dinner and Learn hosted by Donny Rosenberg ’02.

Rav Gigi at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck

Rav Baruch Gigi visited the United States in September. Alumni, alumnae, parents and friends enjoyed his shiurim at a Lunch and Learn hosted by Hillel Silvera ’91 and a Dinner and Learn hosted by Terry Novetsky ’80. Among Rav Gigi’s other stops were a shiur at the Chicago home of Drs. Sharon and Yossie Goldberger, parents of Adina ’06MO, Sara ’09MO and Michal ’11MO, a Shabbaton at Mt. Sinai Jewish Center in Washington Heights, NY, a pre-Selichot shiur at Columbia University, NY and a Sunday morning shiur at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ. Sharon Rifkind, Associate Director of Development at the Etzion Foundation, commented, “Even though it was a very quick trip, Rav Gigi managed to connect with a large number of alumni and alumnae from many machzorim, as well as with parents, donors and friends of the Yeshiva.”

Rav Gigi at Goldberger home in Chicago

Alumni Reunion

Eighty alumni (’91H and ’92H), their wives and almost 300 children, converged upon the Yeshiva for a special Shabbat program on Parashat Va’yera, November 2. It was the largest alumni Shabbaton to date at Yeshiva. Oren Hadar ’91H from Petach Tikvah said, “It is difficult to describe the wonderful Shabbat we experienced. The encounter with the Roshei Yeshiva and spending time with old friends was very moving. The Yeshiva, as always, was well-organized and everything ran like clockwork. Today, I am better able to appreciate that nothing is accomplished without great effort, so I would like to express my sincere Yashar Koach to all involved.”

Rav Taragin in England

Kehillat Alei Tzion of London, England hosted Rav Moshe Taragin on Shabbat Bereshit. Rav Taragin’s many speaking arrangements included a keynote lecture Shabbat afternoon on “Divine Redemption and Secular Zionism” and a Motzaei Shabbat panel on “The Religious Encounter of the Modern Orthodox Jew”.

Rav Gigi at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck
In May, on Yom Yerushalayim, over 400 members of the Gush family gathered in New York City for the Etzion Foundation Annual Dinner. It was a beautiful and moving program, honoring YHE parents Ben and Aviva Adler; Alumnus of the Year Andrew Borodach ’87; and Rabbinic Leadership Award recipients, Rabbi Nasanayl ’92 and Tamar Braun.

Three hundred dinner attendees arrived an hour early to attend Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein’s shiur entitled, Yerushalayim: Royalty Redoubled. The standing-room-only crowd was privileged to have the opportunity to benefit from the Rosh Yeshiva’s insights and scholarship.

Yeshiva alumnus Jonathan Hefter ’02 commented, “Hearing Rav Lichtenstein speak about Yerushalayim made this year’s celebration so much more meaningful for me.”

While enjoying a delicious dinner buffet, attendees had the opportunity to hear from Roshei Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein and Rav Baruch Gigi, and from Mrs. Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash at Migdal Oz. There were also video presentations that paid tribute to the Foundation’s well-deserving honorees.

The Foundation presented the honorees with artistic plaques and thanked them for their generosity and continued support of the Yeshiva. Everyone in attendance received a special Yeshiva publication called “That Goodly Mountain” with scholarly articles on the Yeshiva’s Torah and educational path written by the Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim and alumni, and with feature stories about overseas alumni.

Yoel Weiss, Executive Vice President of the Etzion Foundation, said, “It is always wonderful to have so many alumni, parents, and friends together in one place celebrating what makes the Yeshiva special.”
Yeshivat Har Etzion First-Ever Rabbinic Conference
(continued from page 1)

The conference, in addition to providing a chance for alumni to learn from and reconnect with the Roshei Yeshiva and other YHE Ramim, was also a welcome networking opportunity – enabling alumni who are involved in chinuch and the rabbinate across the globe to share ideas and experiences and to discuss common challenges.

Reflecting on the conference in a letter to the participants, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein wrote, "The ability to benefit from different perspectives and to gain from the combined experiences of the participants was extremely valuable. I returned home with much food for thought, as well as important insights that will be helpful in my educational work."

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar ’87, Rabbi of Alei Tzion in London, commented, "I found it very inspiring to listen to the Roshei Yeshiva again and also found the sessions to be very relevant and useful. It was probably the most worthwhile conference that I have attended in 17 years in the rabbinate!"

Rabbi Dr. Judah Goldberg is the Ram Beit Midrash, who assists students with their learning and also delivers shiurim. He says, "They’re very bright and motivated learners, and they bring fresh insights to the material. Right now we’re studying the laws of theft. The women fully engage in interpretation and analysis of the classic halachic positions, but they will also notice understated elements, such as the perspective of the victim."

Alona Gleizer is a 31-year-old mother of five who lives in Yerucham in the Israeli Negev, and spends two and a half hours a day traveling to and from the Advanced Program. "It’s worth it. This is a dream come true for me," she says. Alona has a longstanding relationship with the Beit Midrash. She studied in Migdal Oz after completing high school, did two years of sherut leumi, and then returned to Migdal Oz for another year of study. Soon after, she married and moved to Yerucham, where she began teaching while simultaneously pursuing a degree at Herzog College in Migdal Oz. She majored in Tanakh and Oral Law and for the past few years has been teaching full-time in Midrashet Be’er, a midrasha for young Israeli women in Yerucham. "I’d been away for a few years but when I heard about this program, I just knew I had to head back to Migdal Oz," Alona relates. "I’m so glad they accepted me because I’ve always wanted to have the opportunity to learn really seriously. The learning style I was used to was based on knowledge acquisition, bekiut, so sometimes I find the in-depth iyun learning challenging – but it’s also very enjoyable! We’re extremely lucky to have Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein teaching us, and the other women in the program are truly quality people, each and every one."

"The presence of these advanced scholars in the Beit Midrash adds tremendously to the atmosphere," Esti Rosenberg comments. "They are role models for the younger women, they set a tone of serious learning and as the year goes on, they’ll be expected to lead chaburot in the Beit Midrash and share their learning with others. As always with Torah study, the ultimate goal is to give to others – lilmod u’lelamed."

The leadership and faculty of the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women of Yeshivat Har Etzion at Migdal Oz wishes to thank the Feldman, Hochstein, Kolatch, Leiter, Schoor, Seif, Strauss and Wiesen families for their partnership and generous support.

Advanced Scholars at Migdal Oz
(continued from page 1)

Esti Rosenberg adds, "We intentionally chose women who have demonstrated leadership abilities, and we are giving them advanced Talmudic and halachic skills so that in the future, when they go out to teach and take leadership roles in their communities, they will have all the knowledge and skills necessary to take full part in the Torah discourse of our generation."

Three days of the week are devoted to Gemara study and a fourth day is dedicated to practical halacha. The women are studying Bava Kama with Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion, and Halacha with renowned expert Michal Tikochinsky. Rabbi Dr. Judah Goldberg is the Ram Beit Midrash, who assists students with their learning and also delivers shiurim. He says, "They’re very bright and motivated learners, and they bring fresh insights to the material. Right now we’re studying the laws of theft. The women fully engage in interpretation and analysis of the classic halachic positions, but they will also notice understated elements, such as the perspective of the victim."

Alona Gleizer

A session with HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein

Alona Gleizer

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein giving shiur to the Advanced Scholars

Rabbi Dr. Judah Goldberg with students in Beit Midrash
This summer’s second Nefesh B’Nefesh Aliya charter flight from the U.S.A. arrived on August 14th, with 350 new olim, including two Har Etzion talmidim: Josh Kahn ’11 from Oak Park, Michigan and Chanan Linder ’11 from West Hempstead, NY. Rav Moshe Taragin met them at the airport. Mazal Tov! V’shavu Banim Le’Gvulam!

Education and Family in the Modern World

In May, HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein addressed issues of education and family to an audience of nearly 600 alumni and friends of the Yeshiva at Congregation Ohel Ari in Ra’anana. The event was dedicated by Alan and Randi Gelman (parents of Uri ’08H) on the occasion of the 16th yahrzeit of their beloved father, Rabbi Aaron S. Gelman z”l. The evening was moderated by Rav Dr. Benny Lau. Rav Ronen Neuwirth, Rabbi of Ohel Ari, welcomed the large crowd and noted that Yeshivat Har Etzion has succeeded in raising a generation of students simultaneously dedicated to Torah and involved in the community.

HaRav Lichtenstein responded to a number of thought-provoking questions on issues such as family planning and career vs. family obligations. “I learned what avodat Hashem is while growing up at home,” Dr. Lichtenstein said. She stressed that, “Raising children is the most powerful thing. Kids give back to their parents more than the parents give. Both parents must raise their children together, with equal responsibility.”

Rav Lau thanked the Lichtensteins for providing such a wonderful personal example and role model in all of the areas discussed. An audio recording of the event (in Hebrew) is available on the Yeshiva website, www.haretzion.org

The Ra’anana Connection

In addition to the above event, over the course of last year, Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim delivered a series of shiurim in Ra’anana and the surrounding region. On Parashat Emor, Rav Yaakov Medan and Rav Moshe Taragin were hosted by the Ra’anana community and gave shiurim and derashot in five different shuls over the course of Shabbat. After the Yeshiva took the step of hiring two younger Ramim to join the educational staff, the community of Ra’anana decided to contribute towards this endeavour by establishing the Ra’anana Chair at the Yeshiva. The Yeshiva is grateful to all who gave so generously to this cause.

Aseret Yemei Teshuva

A Study Day for alumni took place during Aseret Yemei Teshuva on September 24, with a full day of limud in Gemara, Machshava and Tanakh, in preparation for Yom Kippur. In addition to the shiurim by the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim, the day provided an opportunity to reconnect with friends and recapture the inspiring Yeshiva experience for a day. In the evening, a special program took place at Beit Knesset HaNasi in Jerusalem. Reuven Gafni ’93H told the story of the Beit Knesset, Rami Yanai ’71H led Yamim Nora’im singing, and Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan spoke.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Programs

Alumni at Aseret Yemei Teshuva shiur

Rami Yanai sings Yamim Nora’im melodies

“A big yashar koach for the amazing program. I thoroughly enjoyed both the Yom Iyun and the evening program, and they made a huge difference in my preparation for Yom Kippur,” wrote Arye Schreiber ’95, originally from London and now living in Jerusalem. “Particularly moving were the melodies of the Yamim Nora’im with Rami Yanai, interspersed with stories about how and why HaRav Amital z”l introduced the niggunim we all know and love.”

Nearly 600 people attended the event

HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein

Avi ’77H and Shirel Bloch at Bar Mitzvah Program in June

Roni ’92H and Avinoam Lesser at Bat Mitzvah Program in October
HERZOG COLLEGE

Herzog College continues to be Israel’s premier teacher’s college. There are currently 600 men and 430 women studying towards their Bachelor of Education degrees, and in the Master of Education programs there are 68 men and 67 women.

Some new courses instated this year include a certification class for tour guides and a training program for school principals. Here are two more innovative Herzog programs you may not know about:

Amital Program for Holocaust Studies and Teaching

The goals of the program are to increase awareness of the Shoah and to address religious, ethical and existential dilemmas that arise from the destruction of European Jewry. In the framework of the program, students discuss in-depth educational topics related to the teaching of the Shoah, and research the resurrection of the Jewish nation as a whole, and of religious Jewry in particular, in the wake of the Shoah. Graduates of the program receive certification from Herzog College attesting to their ability to serve as Coordinators of Holocaust Study in schools and in the community.

Gevanim: Teaching Judaic Studies in Secular Schools

Gevanim is a program that trains educators to teach Tanakh, Jewish Thought and Jewish Culture in non-religious state schools. The idea is to promote familiarity with Jewish heritage and sources, so that all Israelis share a common language and culture. The curriculum includes enrichment classes on topics related to identity, tools to create dialogue in situations of conflict, special practical training, educational trips, and Study Days.

Summer Study Days in Tanakh 2012

The 21st Annual Summer Study Days in Tanakh of Herzog College took place on July 22-26 and were dedicated to the memory of Hanan Porat z”l, a veteran lecturer at Herzog College and one of the founders of Yeshivat Har Etzion. A day of educational touring took place on July 11, with ten optional routes throughout the country. A first-ever one-day parallel Yom Iyun program was held at Midreshet Hagolan, in Hispin in northern Israel.

Over the course of five days, Herzog College hosted over 200 shiurim, including 25 shiurim in English. The shiurim covered a wide range of topics and addressed aspects of all 24 books of the Bible. The number of participants reached an all-time high, with over 1,500 daily participants. As in the past, the lecturers were renowned Roshei Yeshiva, rabbis, university professors and scholars.

"The annual Herzog College Bible study seminar is a magnificent enterprise, an intellectual treat, and an exhilarating spiritual experience," wrote David M. Weinberg ’82, in an article which appeared in the Jerusalem Post on July 31, 2012.

"I was overwhelmed, seeing thousands of people coming from all over to study Tanakh with such enthusiasm," said Jane Seidemann, a school psychologist from Lawrence, NY. "It was thrilling and invigorating to learn Tanakh with such dynamic teachers who make Tanakh come alive."

Prof. Yitzchak Kraus, Director of Herzog College (left) and Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan (right) welcome guest lecturer HaRav Yaakov Ariel, Rav and Av Beit Din of Ramat Gan, a leading posek among Religious Zionist rabbis.

Five members of a Chumash study group that has been meeting 2-3 times a week for about six years in Kew Gardens Hills, NY, attended the Yemei Iyun for the first time.

Malka Stern of Monsey, NY, who comes every year with her extended family, said, “The Yemei Iyun were inspiring and spiritually uplifting. I would like to give kudos to the committee for the extremely efficient organization.”

Atara Snowbell delivers shiur as part of the program for English-speakers

Rav Yuval Cherlow ’76H delivers shiur to an overflowing crowd
Rav Menachem Leibtag, Rav Amnon Bazak, Rav Chanoch Waxman and Rav Yitz Etshalom, all lecturers at the Yemei Iyun, have also all been guest lecturers at the Kew Gardens Hills group. "It's been a thrill seeing these rabbis in the broader context of the Herzog College and the Yemei Iyun, and some of them hosted us for Shabbat meals as well," said Ezra Dyckman '84. He added, "The shiurim were amazing, both the content and presentation. Of course, the biggest problem was worrying about what you were missing in all of the parallel sessions..."

Is your bookshelf up-to-date?

Journals currently available:
From Herzog College (www.herzog.ac.il)
Megadim vol. 53 (Tanakh, Hebrew)
Netuim vol. 17 (Torah SheBe‘al Peh, Hebrew)
Al Atar vol. 16 (Eretz Yisrael Studies, Hebrew)

From Yeshiva (office@etzion.org.il)
Alon Shevut vol. 174 (Torah, Hebrew)
Alei Etzion vol. 17 (Torah, English)

Studying with the Prime Minister

Before Shavuot, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu renewed the tradition of holding Tanakh classes in his official residence, as was the custom in the days of David Ben-Gurion and Menachem Begin. PM Netanyahu was inspired to do so by the memory of his late father-in-law, Shmuel Ben-Artzi, a famed Tanakh teacher. Among those who gathered for the study group were Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan, Head of the Women’s Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz Esti Rosenberg, and Head of the Women’s Program and Tanakh lecturer in Herzog College, Rav Dr. Yehoshua Reiss ’82H.

See the Yeshiva website for more details and video.
The New Year Begins

The Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women, now in its fifteenth year, has a total of 120 students in the Beit Midrash, including 31 students from overseas (28 first-year and 3 second-year). Some classes are now open to the broader public on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings, and they are attracting women from across the country. Plus, the exciting new Advanced Scholars Program opened its doors this year – read more about it on the front page of this newsletter.

Elishova Rabinovich, first-year student from New York, describes the beginning of the year in Migdal Oz. "We landed on Friday morning, and after Shacharit at the Kotel, we arrived at Migdal Oz. We had a quiet Shabbat with only the overseas students and then on Sunday the Israelis joined us and the program got started."

Soon after the initial adjustment period, it was almost Rosh Hashana. "Hundreds of women from all over Israel came for Selichot which lasted until the morning hours. Some nights there were flutes and violins, some nights there was dancing, and every night was beautiful and touching," says Elishova. "Yom Kippur was one of the most moving and intense days of my life. I will never forget the experience of over 500 women singing and clapping 'marei kohen' after a full day of davening."

Yom Kippur was followed by a three-day tiyul up north, and then it was back to the Beit Midrash for zman choref. In addition to the regular shiurim, there are weekly chaburot and extra learning opportunities such as Daf Yomi and Bekiyut Tanakh, as well as voluntary chesed activities.

To sum up, Elishova says, "So far, my year in Migdal Oz has enabled me to learn and experience a lot and to have lots of fun, too. I know it will only get better."

Singing & Selichot in NJ

By Shayna Goldberg

Three years ago Migdal Oz launched a Selichot night event for its alumnae in America so that these women could reconnect with the intense experience that they had had in the Beit Midrash during the weeks leading up to the Yamim Nora'im. Each year the event is held in Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School in Teaneck and is open to women and girls of the immediate community and beyond.

I attended the first annual event in Teaneck and I remember feeling very moved by the spiritual and sincere singing, as well as by Dr. Yael Ziegler's shiur. I looked around the room feeling very happy for (and almost jealous of) these young women, who very clearly felt a passionate and deep connection to the year they had spent learning Torah and growing religiously in Migdal Oz's Beit Midrash. It struck me then how students of different years, who had never met before, bonded that night over the shared heritage of songs, experiences and Torah that they had received from Migdal Oz. Knowing that aliyah was in our plans, I remember hoping that I would have the opportunity to become a member of this special community of women.

After our aliyah last summer, I began teaching in Migdal Oz and immediately connected with the wonderful overseas students, who were bright, sophisticated, and strongly committed to their learning. That is why I was so thrilled when the Etzion Foundation invited me to join these alumnae and others at this year's Selichot event in Teaneck. It was incredible for me to reconnect with these students....The ruach in the room was palpable as we sang the songs of the Beit Midrash over and over again and then ended the initial singing portion of the night with a spirited round of dancing. That energy lasted through the shiur and continued into a beautiful and heartfelt recitation of the Selichot, which was led by Avi Block, husband of alumna Dena Katz Block.

Although my trip to America was only a couple of days long and I expected to be exhausted from the flights and the jet lag, I returned to Israel feeling invigorated and inspired by our alumnae and the attachment that they continue to feel to their powerful experiences in Eretz Yisrael.

This book is a halachic guide for Ethiopian Jewry ("Beta Yisrael"), who have returned to Israel with a rich tradition of thousands of years. Rav Prof. Daniel Sperber writes: "This is a wonderful contribution, written with a deep understanding of the complex needs of the Ethiopian community living in Israel."

Rav Shalom made aliyah from Ethiopia in 1982 during Operation "Bat Galim". He attended high school in Merkaz Shapira, studied in Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College, and received rabbinic ordination from Israel's Chief Rabbinate. He is currently the Rav of Congregation Kedoshei Yisrael in Kiryat Gat, is completing his doctorate in Jewish Philosophy, and lectures at Michelet Orot Yisrael in Elkana, at Bar Ilan University and at the university's Machon Gavoah LeTorah. Rav Shalom explains that several motives led him to write this book, which involved collecting sources that were dispersed in many places and interviewing the wise men and spiritual leaders of the community. The first was a personal need to find a practical path in Avodat Hashem. The second was to teach the customs and present the beautiful heritage of Ethiopian Jewry to Israeli society. The third reason is connected to the spiritual leaders of the community – the Keisim – who feel delegitimized as spiritual leaders.

"It is my hope that this book will open a window into the conceptual world of Ethiopian Jewry, and will pave a path leading to dialogue and unity," writes Rav Shalom. "May it be His will that the Beta Yisrael will become an inseparable part of the mosaic of the Jewish people."
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Marriages**
Ari Weiss ’97 and Sara Kranzler ’02MO
Yonah Berman ’98 and Rachel Stein
Justin Goldberg ’99 and Michelle Bernstein
Adam Steiner ’99 and Miriam Kahn
Dov Aharon Goldstein ’03 and Elisheva Kupferman ’04MO
Daniel Fienberg ’04 and Eden Sagman
Joe Wolfson ’04 and Corinne Shmuel
Jeremy Litton ’04 and Jackie Itzkowitz
Dov Lerner ’05 and Miriam Weiss
Geoffrey Kiderman ’05 and Miryam Spiegel
Shimon Gillis ’05 and Naomi Boyar
Jonathan Seligsohn ’06 and Avital (Tali) Muroff
Alex Tsykin ’07 and Ahuva Camille Gandara
Daniel Bomsztyk ’07 and Abi Saffer
Periel Shapiro ’08PC and Michal Lieblich
David Greenberg ’08PC and Chana Kaye
Yoni Adler ’09H and Eliana Kupietzky
Benjy ’09 H and Sarah Joffe, Leo Stuart (Yehuda Chai), NYC

**Births**
Tani ’89 and Miriam Wallach, Tzuriel Rachamim, Moreshet
Gavriel ’89 and Leora Lambert, Yehuda Yakir, New Rochelle, NY
David ’90 and Bracha Silverberg, Yonatan Moshe, Alon Shevut
Marc ’90 and Sharon Friedman, Yaakov Yair, Lawrence, NY
Etan ’91 and Esther Tokayer, Yedidyah Mordechai, Brooklyn, NY
Allon ’91 and Cheryl (Provorny) Franklin, Yaakov (Koby) Saadya, Riverdale, NY
Jonathan ’93 and Heidi Nathan, Chana Moriah Esther, Chashmonaim
Rav Pini ’94 and Ilana Cohen, Yehuda Chaim, Alon Shevut
Amichai ’94 and Jody Erdfar, Yehuda Menachem, Riverdale, NY
Benjy ’95 Shana Bet and Sarah Joffe, Leo Stuart (Yehuda Chai), NYC

Jonathan ’95 and Esther Gruenhut, Asaf, Jerusalem
Yehoshua ’95H and Tali Grunstein, Ayelet Hodaya, Efrat
Henri ’95 and Dani Sueke, Eliya Miriam, Halebars, England
Benji ’96 and Alisa Zimmerman, Moshe Yair, Alon Shevut
(Mazal Tov to grandparents YHE Mashgiach Ruchani Rav Danny and Tova Rhein)
Jason ’96 and Rachel Cyrulnik, Corey Daniel, Teaneck, NJ
Duvie ’96 and Jenny Nachbar, Chananya Baruch, Riverdale, NY
Avi ’96 and Chana Billet, Temimah Pearl, Hollywood, FL
Ezra ’96 and Azadeh Frazer, Tamar Avigayil, Teaneck, NJ
Joel ’97 and Lauren Jerozolim, Noa Zahava, Efrat
Steven ’98 and Ariela Goldsmith, Yocheved Miriam, Kfar Haroeh
David ’98 and Yael Goldfischer, Yehuda Yonah, Teaneck, NJ
Ari ’98 and Ilana Erdfar, Ezra Itiel, Teaneck, NJ
Eric ’98 and Lauren Siskind, Dovid Sinai, Manhasset, NY
Avi ’98 and Esthie Rosenblatt, Binyamin Moshe Zev, Beit Shemesh
Mordechai ’99 and Jen Raskas, Aaron Adir, Houston, TX
Ira Karoll ’99 and Shoshie Butler, Lily Anne (Elia Aderet), Pittsburgh, PA
Josh ’99 and Michelle Younger, Aiden Judah (Aryeh Leib), Riverdale, NY
Ezra ’99 and Chana Schneck, Eli Yonah, Teaneck, NJ
David ’99 and Adina Shyovitz, Keren Tair, Evanston, IL
Jay ’00 and Sharon Weinstein, Eitan Binyamin, East Brunswick, NJ
Adam ’00 and Liliana (Martinez) Sales, Amital Colores, Ann Arbor, MI
Daniel ’00 and Becky Friedman, Annabel Sophie (Anael Leiba), NYC
Aaron ’01 and Gaby Godfrey, Elisha Rephael, Jerusalem
Jeremy’01 and Aviva Stern, Revital Bracha, NYC
David ’01 and Yael Strauchler, Ayelet Vita and Yardena Freda, Riverdale, NY
Noam ’01 and Nomi Schneck, Brielle Chana, Teaneck, NJ
Joseph ’01 and Abby Finkelstein, Elyasaf Ariel, Jerusalem
Azi ’01 and Gavi Grysman, Miriam Alexis, NY
Jonathan ’02 and Sefi MO ’04 Hefter, Naama Batsheva, Riverdale, NY
Donny ’02 and Arielle Rosenberg, Micah Gedalya, Riverdale, NY
Asher ’02 and Ariela Orkaby, Naftali Simchah, Brighton, MA
Daniel ’03 and Sarah Landman, Chaim, Alon Shevut
Dan ’03 and Daniela Rosenblatt, Gil, Zurich, Switzerland
Aaron ’03 and Abi Djanogly, Yehoshua Zvi, London, England
Yossi ’04 and Tzipora Dinnen, Mayrav, Jerusalem
Ricki ’04 and Shelly Bornstein, Talia Sara, Jerusalem
David ’04PC and Beth Perkel, Ahuva Bracha, Chicago, IL
David ’04K and Sarah Kishenevsky, Batsheva, Jerusalem
Elisha ’04 and Anna Fredman, Maayan Bracha, University Heights, OH
Tzvi ’05 and Alex Cohen, Zalmy, Chicago, IL
Yitzi ’05 and Aviva Matanky, Meital, Chicago, IL

Mazal tov to Darkaynu director Avi and Chana Esther Ganz on the birth of Talya Emuna Chava.
Mazal tov to Darkaynu educational director Shalom and Bryna Ozarowski on the birth of Nachala Sarah.
Mazal tov to Executive Director of the Etzion Foundation, Shirley and Marty Schuster on the birth of granddaughter Naama Elisheva and to the parents, Lisa and Michoel Abel, and on the birth of grandson Yaakov Yair to Sharon and Marc Friedman ’90.
Mazal Tov to Rav Mordechai ’79 and Debby Friedman on the birth of granddaughter Tiferet Hanna, and to parents David and Clil Friedman.

Bat/Bar Mitzva

Dov Yitzchak Friedman (Shalom ’77 and Esther), Jerusalem
Binyamin Jachter (Rabbi Howard ’81 and Malca), Teaneck, NJ
Yedidya Weinberg (David ’82 and Bonnie), Nof Ayalon
Noam Taragin (Rav Moshe ’83 and Atara), Alon Shevut
Yoel Jacobowitz (Rav Menachem ’83 and Chani Jacobowitz), Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem
T’mea Hecht (Yossie ’84 and Phyllis), Chashmonaim
Elnatan Riffkin (Rav David ’85 and Paula), Nof Ayalon
Benjamin Rosenblum (Elisha ’86 and Melissa), Skokie, IL
Basi Meth (Uri ’87 and Devorah), Baltimore, MD
Trevor ’00 and Leah Silverman, Modiin
Stephen ’01 and Tamar Kaye, Alon Shevut
Tal Kohn ’05, Alon Shevut
Josh Kahn ’11, IDF, Garin Tzabar
Menachem Schindler ’11, in Yeshiva, Shur Bet Hesder
Daniel Cohen ’11, in Yeshiva
Shmuli ’03 and Dinah Kraus, Jerusalem
Aryeh ’03 and Chemda Gluck, Jerusalem
Chaya Tova Ross (Rabbi Aaron ’92 and Tzippy), Teaneck, NJ
Avi Braun (Rabbi Nasanayl ’92 and Shira), Jerusalem
Talya Tzion Shmidman (Avi ’92 and Shira), Alon Shevut
Shmuel Yehuda Ross (Rabbi Aaron ’92 and Tzippy), Teaneck, NJ
Avi Braun (Rabbi Nasanayl ’92 and Shira), Longbranch, NJ
Rav Josh Schreier ’75, on the loss of his mother, Toby Schreier z”l
Rabbi Joel Tessler ’77, on the loss of his mother, Gertrude Bennett-Fox z”l
Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Rosenblatt ’77 on the loss of his mother, Jaclyn Rosenblatt z”l
Rabbi Benzion Scheinfeld ’79, on the loss of his father, Rabbi Herb Scheinfeld z”l
Rav Daniel Harbater ’84, on the loss of his mother, Sylvia (Harbater) Cohen z”l
Rav David Riffkin ’85 on the loss of his father, Cyril Riffkin z”l
Rav Jonny Horovitz ’86, on the loss of his mother, Gittel Bracha Schmell z”l
The Yeshiva mourns the untimely loss of our alumnus, Jeremy Barkan ’85 z”l. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife, Lisa, to the children and the entire family.

The Yeshiva mourns the untimely loss of our alumnus Jeffrey Friedman ’86 z”l. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his parents and brother.

The Yeshiva mourns the untimely loss of Uriel Minzer z”l, alumnus, board member, and father of our talmid, Benaya. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife, Channa, his children, his mother Sarah, his brother Dani, and his sister Dr. Michal Lichtenstein.

The Yeshiva Comptroller Chaim Schmell, on the loss of his mother, Gittel Bracha Schmell z”l
The year listed indicates the commencement of study.

The tenth yahrzeit of Yaakov Matanky ’99 z”l took place on the 2nd of Av. Yaakov set an example to others with his warmth and humor, his enthusiasm for life, and his commitment to Torah and mitzvot. A scholarship fund at Camp Moshava, to which he was so devoted, has been established in his memory. For more information, see: www.hakolkolyaakov.org

Please send your YHE alumni news to: office@etzion.org.il or update directly at www.haretzion.org under alumni menu
Please send your Migdal Oz alumnae news to: chanaf@haretzion.org.il
For more news, see our website: www.haretzion.org
Publications

New Books by the Har Etzion Community


Original, insightful essays on the book of Devarim by Yeshivat staff and alumni, employing the rigorous and creative interpretive method developed at Yeshivat Har Etzion.

**Chanuka**, Vol. 3 of the “Be’er Miriam” series (Hebrew), edited by Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Yaakov Medan**, Yediot Aharonot Press and YHE Press.

The series of essays by Yeshiva staff and alumni is dedicated to the memory of Miriam Blau z”l by the Blau Family, whose son Yitzhak ‘82H is an alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion.

**Iyunim b’Parashat HaShavua: Bereishit, Shemot** (third series, Hebrew), by **Rav Elhanan Samet**, Yediot Aharonot Press.

Rav Samet, veteran lecturer in Herzog College, utilizes his signature innovative and literary approach on selected units in the *parasha*, interweaving a wide range of commentaries and stressing the *peshat* understanding of the text.


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