Israel Dinner

In November, an astounding 900 alumni and friends of the Yeshiva gathered at Neve Ilan to support Yeshivat Har Etzion and honor its founder, Moshe “Moshko” Moskovic, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

The evening, coordinated by Director of Institutional Advancement Hillel Mann, began with 3 simultaneous sessions in which alumni met with the Roshei Yeshiva and heard about the Yeshiva’s history, its current situation, and plans for the future.

During dinner, the featured guest speaker was Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked. She spoke about the Yeshiva’s important role as a leader of the Hesder movement and said that the Yeshiva has positively influenced government policy on many occasions.

The audience was treated to a moving video about Moshko and his life, after which Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi spoke, and Moshko was presented with a chanukia. Moshko spoke about some of the accomplishments of the Yeshiva and his aspirations for the Yeshiva to continue to grow. He told the audience that between the Yeshiva, Migdal Oz, and the mens’ and womens’ divisions of Herzog College, there are now 2500 students enrolled in Har Etzion’s educational system and he would like to double that number.

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan spoke about how the Yeshiva has never shied away from complicated issues. He also mentioned that the Yeshiva has had more students become IDF officers than any other Yeshiva.

The dinner took a more solemn note as alumnus Rav Moshe Tarshansky ’84H spoke about the recently murdered alumnus Rav Yakov Don ’84H, Hy’d (read more about him on p. 10).

One of the especially nice aspects of the evening was that over 60 alumni who were unable to attend chose to sponsor seats for alumni who could not afford to attend, so that as many alumni as possible could take part in the celebrations.

Yoni Holzer, CEO of Yeshivat Har Etzion, commented, “Everyone in attendance felt strength – the strength of a Yeshiva that is able to gather together so many alumni and friends, the strength of a Yeshiva that has led the community in Torah and education for close to 50 years, and the strength of a Yeshiva that knows how to honor and respect its founding generation while simultaneously encouraging the following generation to realize its own important mission. Everyone present joined in the feeling that we are blessed to be part of this special Beit Midrash.”

Pictures and videos from the dinner can be viewed on the Yeshiva website.
News from the Beit Midrash

The Yeshiva’s guiding precept this year is perpetuating the legacy of the founding Roshei Yeshiva while continuing to grow and progress in light of their Torah. We mourn the losses of recent years but are committed to carrying on and moving the Yeshiva forward. In this spirit of renewal, at the beginning of Zman Elul Deputy Chairman of the YHE Board Rav Shlomo Brin ’73H announced that the three current Roshei Yeshiva would move their seats to the front of the Beit Midrash. Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein is sitting at the desk formerly occupied by his father, HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l, Rav Yaakov Medan has moved to the makom of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l, and Rav Baruch Gigi is learning at a new table in front of the aron kodesh.

With the realization that the incoming Shana Aleph talmidim will never have the opportunity to learn directly from HaRav Amital zt”l or HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l, the Yeshiva has created a new chug dedicated to passing on their Torah. A different Ram speaks each week, giving over some Torah or discussing the hashkafa of the Roshei Yeshiva zt”l. It is a unique opportunity for talmidim to get a glimpse of the greatness of the Roshei Yeshiva zt”l, become familiar with their central messages, and see how they managed to impart their message so effectively to so many talmidim over the years.

There are now over 450 students in Yeshiva, including over 90 in the Dr. William Major Overseas Program, 23 in the MTA Program, 10 students in the Darkaynu Program, over 250 in the Hesder Program, and over 50 in the Kollel. In addition, another 44 students are currently in active service in the IDF. The Yeshiva is learning Masechet Bava Metzia this year, and the Kollel is learning Hilchot Nidda.

New Staff

The Yeshiva has 2 new Ramim on staff this year. Rav Shmuel Shimoni, currently teaching second-year Israeli students, was himself a student at Yeshiva. He joined the Beit Midrash in 1995 and served through Hesder in the IDF artillery unit, after which he continued learning in the Yeshiva and later in the Kollel Gavoah. Rav Shimoni holds a B.Ed. from Herzog College, as well as a Law degree from Hebrew University. After clerking at the Supreme Court and working as a legal assistant and then as an attorney, Rav Shimoni returned to the Yeshiva as a Ram. Last year he taught night seder and now he is giving a daily shiur.

When asked how his legal background influences him as a Ram, Rav Shimoni responded, “It is important to me not to be satisfied with merely analyzing the structure and logic but also to understand why a certain halacha is correct, and what the ramifications are for us as individuals and as a society.”

Rav Dovid Gottlieb is teaching second-year overseas students and Shoel u-Meishiv of morning seder. He is the former rabbi of Congregation Shomrei Emunah, in Baltimore, MD. Rav Gottlieb studied at Yeshivat Shaalvim and then at Yeshiva College and Bernard Revel Graduate School. He received semicha from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and was also a member of the Wexner Kollel Elyon. In 2009 Rav Gottlieb spent a sabbatical year learning and teaching in the Yeshivat
Har Etzion Beit Midrash. During that year he and his wife decided to make aliya, and since then he has taught at a number of yeshivot and seminaries. Rav Gottlieb is also the rabbi and co-founder of Ganei Ha’Ela, a new community being built in the suburbs of Ramat Beit Shemesh.

...And they’re back!
The Yeshiva is privileged and honored that many of this year’s Israeli Shana Aleph talmidim are the sons of alumni, a testimony to the Yeshiva’s enduring legacy.

Yaakov Oren, son of Avraham ’77H
Eitan Tzur, son of Zev ’78H
Asaf Bari, son of Aharon ’79H
Itai Ayalon, son of Motti ’80H
Yishai Breitbard, son of Amir ’82H
Avishai Simon, son of Itamar ’83H
David Schwartz, son of Yair ’84H
Asaf Solomon, son of Daniel ’86H
Ari Biller, son of Aviad ’87H
Aviya Gemara, son of Eliyahu ’87H
Elyasaf Neustadt, son of David ’87
Eitan Locker, son of Dov ’88H
Daniel Herman, son of Alex ’89H
Elyashiv Segal, son of Michael ’89
Chisdai Zik, son of Efraim ’91H
David Shimon Gershowitz, son of Ori ’92PC
Yaakov Shmidman, son of Avi ’92
Yakir Hexter, son of Joshua ’93

Role Models
This year the Yeshiva inaugurated a new program for first year overseas students. Every Sunday afternoon, talmidim attend one of eight different chaburas given by alumni whose daily jobs are not in education or the rabbinate but who continue to learn and have Torah to share. The program was the initiative of Eli Weber ’81, Director of the Overseas Program, who explains, “It was a perfect confluence of circumstances. On the one hand, so many of our non-chinuch bogrim are fascinating personalities and talmidei chachamim who want to stay connected to the Yeshiva. On the other hand, we are always looking for role models and personal attention for our guys.”

New Overseas Alumni Coordinator
The Yeshiva is pleased to announce that Rav Yonatan Shai Freedman is the new Overseas Alumni Coordinator. His responsibilities include arranging events for overseas alumni, keeping them informed about Yeshiva news, and generally staying in touch with recent alumni, especially those currently in university.

Many alumni are already familiar with Yonatan Shai, who has been running the GushAlumni Yahoo! group for years, and recent alumni know him from the many different jobs he has held in Yeshiva, including being in charge of afternoon or night seder, giving chabura or vaad, and regularly delivering shiurim and sichot. Many also know Yonatan Shai because he, his wife Rachel and son Akiva live in Alon Shevut, where they often host talmidim for Shabbat meals, tishes, and the occasional BBQ.

If you would like to arrange for a yom iyun, lunch-and-learn, shabbaton, scholar-in-residence, or guest shiur in your local school or community, please contact Rav Freedman at yfreedman@haretzion.org.il
Fifth Yahrzeit of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l

Dozens of alumni joined the Yeshiva students, staff and Amital family to honor the memory of founding Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Amital zt”l on the occasion of the fifth yahrzeit on 27 Tamuz, 5775.

Rav Shmuel Shimoni ’95H opened with a shiur based on HaRav Amital’s Torah on the topic of the recitation of Shema, and his talk highlighted the warm, mutually respectful relationship of the two founding Roshei Yeshiva for over 40 years.

Rav Amnon Bazak ’84H spoke about the centrality in HaRav Amital’s worldview of being a normative human being, and shared a few anecdotes that illustrated this hashkafa. For example, some students once opted not to wear their glasses while walking around Yerushalayim so as not to see anything inappropriate. HaRav Amital explained that if they wore their glasses – in the usual way – they would see that there are things that are good in the world and things that are bad in the world, and they could strive to focus on the good and perhaps even improve that which was less good. But without glasses, everything could seem bad or threatening, even an innocuous item like a traffic sign. HaRav Amital explained to the students that this is not a normal and healthy way to live, and hence they should wear their glasses, and see the world as it really is.

Rav Bazak concluded by noting that this was the first yahrzeit event for HaRav Amital since the passing of HaRav Lichtenstein zt”l. He reminisced that both the Roshei Yeshiva strongly identified with the song from the High Holiday prayers, אשרי איש שלא ישכחך ובן אדם יתאמץ בך, but with one crucial difference. HaRav Lichtenstein always emphasized the word יתאמץ, to put in effort. HaRav Amital always emphasized the words בן אדם, a human being. Both approaches were crucial to turning the Yeshiva into what it has become and what it represents.

The event concluded with a siyum by HaRav Amital’s grandson, Yair Brin, followed by the recitation of Kel Malei Rachamim by alumnus Rami Yanai ’70H.

During the summer of 2015, talmedim learned Masechet Chulin. In order to help bring the material to life, the Yeshiva arranged for a lecture from Bar-Ilan professor Ari Zivotofsky ’80, complete with many samples of split hooves and other items relating to kosher animals.

Debating Conversion Issues

On a Motza’ei Shabbat at the end of August, the Yeshiva hosted a fascinating panel discussion that focused on a recent controversy concerning conversion in Israel.

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan recently helped form a beit din for conversion to operate independently of the official conversion court of the Israeli Rabbinate. This made headlines in Israel and abroad, and the panel was an opportunity for Rav Medan to defend his view. The evening was moderated by Rav Amnon Bazak and he alternated questions between Rav Medan and Rav Shlomo Levi, the Rosh Kollel of the Yeshiva, who disagreed with Rav Medan’s decision and in fact had previously signed a public proclamation against the new beit din. Both had strong arguments to back them up, and Rav Bazak noted that the fact that the Yeshiva is willing to publicly debate and critique a decision made by one of its Roshei Yeshiva is itself an accomplishment worthy of praise.

After the shiur, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein commented to Rav Yoel that his shiur was, in many ways, reminiscent of the shiurim that HaRav Amital zt”l gave – “from the style of the shiur, to the style of the mekorot, and certainly the pithy delivery.”
Leil Hoshana Rabba

On Hoshana Rabba, the Yeshiva held a night of learning at Hechal Shlomo in Yerushalayim. The event, which was open to the public and had simultaneous classes in English and Hebrew, was attended by over 500 people. Among the speakers were Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, Dean of Herzog College Rav Dr. Yehuda Brandes, Yeshiva Ram Rav Amnon Bazak, Rav Yeshiva at Otniel Rav Re'em Hacohen, Yeshiva Ram Rav Moshe Taragin, YU Rosh Yeshiva Rav Assaf Bednarsh ’88, and Rosh Beit Midrash at Migdal Oz Esti Rosenberg.

VIP Visits

On November 28, 2015, Eli Groner, the Director-General of the office of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke to talmidim in the Yeshiva. He spoke about the importance of work in the public sector and the feeling of shlichut, being on a mission, that one gets in that sector. Director-General Groner briefly discussed the security situation and spoke of how complicated a topic it is. His talk was followed by a long question-and-answer session in which he fielded questions from the talmidim about the natural gas supply controversy, building in Yehuda and Shomron, and more.
Chanukah with the IDF

The Yeshiva sees great value in showing our appreciation to the soldiers who protect the region on a daily basis, and in the last few months soldiers in Gush Etzion faced many challenges. Therefore the overseas program decided to organize a large Chanukah event for local soldiers.

After coordinating with the rabbi and officers at the local army base, on Monday night of Chanukah the students travelled to the army base adjacent to Carmei Tzur, where they constructed a pyramid of over 200 jelly donuts for the soldiers, set up a sound system and danced with the soldiers to live music, and of course lit Chanukah candles. Since the army activity was ongoing, soldiers came and went, and the students got to meet a very large number of them.

At the end of the event, the rabbi of the base thanked the students for their participation. He said many people come to brighten the day of the soldiers, but this special group – made up of dati-leumi overseas students – gives a special feeling to the soldiers. The talmidim benefitted as well, gaining a greater sense of responsibility for, and dedication to, the State of Israel and its people.

Revava Yemei Iyun

On December 9-10, 2015, the Yeshiva students, joined by dozens of alumni, convened for the Revava Chanukah Yemei Iyun. This year’s topic was the Torah and Legacy of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, and over the course of the two days attendees also heard talks by HaRav Aharon’s children, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Mayer Lichtenstein, Rav Shai Lichtenstein, and Toni Mittelman. In addition, Rav Yitzi Blau ’86 and Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi gave shiurim as well. Two panel discussions took place, one on HaRav Aharon’s approach to secular culture and one on his approach to religious Zionism.

As a first for the Yeshiva, the Yemei Iyun were live-tweeted on the Yeshiva’s TwitterTM account, @atthegush.

Shloshim for Dr. Brayer

For many years, Dr. Meyer Brayer z”l served as the beloved Director of the Overseas Program and Resource Development of Yeshivat Har Etzion. He worked hard to make the overseas students feel at home and did his best to keep parents updated of their child’s wellbeing, long before internet and smartphones made that easier.

When Dr. Brayer passed away earlier this year, many alumni were very saddened by the loss and the office began receiving dozens of heartfelt letters that were forwarded to his family. Many former students reported that when they could not afford to remain at the Yeshiva for a second year, Dr. Brayer arranged discounts, scholarships, and payment plans that facilitated their ability to remain and learn. In November and December, alumni and parents raised over $100,000 to form the Dr. Meyer Brayer Scholarship Fund to help future students learn in the Yeshiva even when their finances are limited.

To mark the shloshim after Dr. Brayer’s passing, the Yeshiva held a memorial event in the Beit Midrash. In attendance were many current and former members of the Yeshiva staff, as well as Rabbanit Miriam Amital and many of Dr. Brayer’s family members. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein opened the event and introduced Yedaya Hacohen, Dr. Brayer’s longtime partner in the Yeshiva office. Other speakers included Rav Mordechai Friedman ’79 and Dr. Brayer’s son Motti Bar-Or ’78H and grandson Eitan Bar-Or ’12Kollel. Yehi zichro baruch.
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

VBM: Live Gemara and More

The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash 5776 curriculum is well under way, with classes on a range of topics and levels, including Tanach, Talmud, Halacha, and Jewish Thought.

We will shortly be sending out our holiday packet and recommend that you subscribe at www.etzion.org.il/en/user/register if you have not yet done so.

Miss the Yeshivat Har Etzion Beit Midrash? Our most exciting new update this year has been the addition of audio files from the archives. To date, shiurim from 5772-5775 have been added, and we are in the process of uploading this year’s classes, as well as those prior to 5772.

If you are looking for a more interactive way to participate in the Beit Midrash, sign up for Rav Bick’s Live Gemara and More. The advanced Talmud class on Bava Metzia meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 9 PM (Israel time) through a live video feed that enables participants ask questions and discuss issues together. To join, email ebick@etzion.org.il

Gush Remote

What do the following people have in common?
- A doctor who lives in Israel but still works in the US and needs a chavruta to fit his erratic schedule
- A businessman from LA who wants a Hebrew-speaking partner with whom to learn about the chagim and enrich his holiday experience
- A middle-America high school student who is more advanced in Gemara learning than the rest of his class and needs a Gemara teacher geared to his level

These are just some of the beneficiaries of the new Gush Remote program, who learn via Skype with a Gush Kollel member. This exciting opportunity allows Torah learning with a high-level partner at a convenient time and location. There are many more chavrutot available, and there is also an option for women to learn with a member of the Migdal Oz Advanced Talmud Scholars Program. Interested? Contact Yonatan Shai Freedman at yfreedman@haretzion.org.il

Dear Mr. Moskovic,

My name is Nathan Weissler and I am a college student in the Washington, DC area. I attended Yeshivat Darkaynu during the 5773 school year. My year in Israel changed my life in very important and positive ways, and it continues to have a significant impact for me.

I am writing to thank you for your role in enabling Yeshivat Har Etzion to become what it is today, which was essential in enabling me to have had the opportunity to study at Yeshivat Darkaynu. Indeed, your work has been essential in helping me to become the person that I am and develop the soul that I have today.

After my year in Israel, I had a job at the synagogue that my family attends, writing summaries of Parshat HaShavua and questions for children to discuss and share with their families. My experiences in Israel enabled me to do this, and to appreciate the opportunity.

Furthermore, I am seriously considering working in a profession in which I will be able to positively impact the Jewish People, after completing my studies. I will always cherish the positive impact that your work has had and continues to have for me.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Nathan Weissler

cont’d on next page

Screenshot of the new website of the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash
We are pleased to announce the return of Hillel Mann ’01H to Yeshivat Har Etzion. After learning at Yeshiva for 7 years, Hillel obtained his bachelor’s degree in Law and practiced corporate and commercial law for several years. In March 2015, Hillel joined the Yeshiva as Director of Institutional Advancement. He is also overseeing the Yeshiva’s Israel alumni affairs and directing the Career Placement Initiative (details on p. 15). Hillel has already led significant alumni and community activity while playing a pivotal role in spearheading a successful Dinner in Israel.

Translation of letter by Moshe Moskovic:
Dear Nathan,

Thank you so much for your letter, I was very moved by it. You are an example, and proof, that the Yeshiva’s decision to adopt the Darkaynu Program was a worthy one, and deserving of full recognition.

I was especially happy to read in your letter that you are continuing your studies at university, and I am convinced that the foundation you received here will help you in the future. I was thrilled to hear that your stay here in Yeshiva not only provided you with academic achievements, but also contributed to molding your personality and your Jewish identity.

Please write us periodically, telling us how you are doing and what you are up to.

All the very best,
Moshko

New Director of Institutional Advancement

Hillel Mann
Erev Shira and Selichot

The annual Migdal Oz evening of singing and selichot at Maayanot High School in Teaneck, NJ brought together more than one hundred women of all ages — Migdal Oz alumnae as well as many friends and supporters. The women came with guitars, beautiful voices, a passion for singing... and popcorn (a Migdal Oz tradition!) to help them sing and dance the night away. After the singing portion of the evening, guest speaker Mrs. Shayna Goldberg spoke about “Recognition, Responsibility and Rectification: A Journey through the Yamim Noraim” and kept the crowd engaged, despite a fire alarm scare that forced everyone out to the parking lot for a few minutes. The participants were undeterred and everyone remained for a spirited recitation of selichot at 1 am. One of the participants commented, "It was a very uplifting evening that will keep me inspired for a long time...probably until next year’s erev shira!"

Migdal Oz Alumnae Shabbaton

On Parshat Toldot, Migdal Oz bogrot gathered in Teaneck for the annual Migdal Oz Shabbaton with Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg and Racheli Schmell, Head of Overseas Students. This year had the largest turnout yet, with over 70 bogrot from four different years. Just like when they were students in the Beit Midrash, the alumnae ushered in Shabbat together with a beautiful kabbalat Shabbat and Aravim followed by dinner at Congregation Rinat Yisrael, during which there was a “seviv,” in which everyone in the room had to answer a given question. Each bogeret introduced herself and told the others about her favorite day from her year in the Beit Midrash, which resulted in many inspiring stories. The night concluded with a stirring and soulful tish at the home of Ayelet Hochman '11MO. After Shacharit, the bogrot heard a shiur from Esti Rosenberg. Lunch was also at Rinat Yisrael, and for seuda shlishit the bogrot were invited to the home of Naomi Kadish ’13MO. Shabbat ended on a high with many more songs, and parting words from Rachel and Esti.

The Shabbaton is a highlight of the year for many alumnae. Jennifer van Amerongen ’13MO commented that, “The annual Shabbaton not only connects us back to our experiences in the Beit Midrash, but it also allows us to spend time together in the present and continue growing with each other into the future.”

Migdal Oz Brunch

The Annual Migdal Oz Brunch took place on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at the Riverdale home of Donny ’02 and Arielle Rosenberg. Mindy Feldman Hecht ’04MO opened the event and introduced the guest speakers. Guests were honored to hear a conversation between Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein and Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg on the topic: Reflections on the Thought of the Rav z”l. Together with the distinguished guests comprised of alumnae, parents, and supporters, they analyzed Rav Soloveitchik’s essay “Out of the Whirlwind,” which led to an active discussion and Q&A session.

Annual Gush Alumni Shabbaton

On Shabbat Parashat VaYetzei, November 20-21, 2015, the Gush alumni Shabbaton took place at Bnei Yeshurun Synagogue in Teaneck, NJ. Over 85 alumni signed up for the whole Shabbaton, and an additional 100 alumni joined for the programming, which included shiurim and a tish with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, Head of Overseas Students Eli Weber, and Mashgiach Ruchani Rav Daniel Rhein.

Events at YU

On October 18th, Rav Chanoch Waxman ’84 joined alumni in YU for a Motzei Shabbat parsha shiur. More than 30 alumni came to see Rav Waxman and hear his divrei Torah on Kayin and Hevel. On October 22nd, alumni of all ages came to meet Rav Dovid Gottlieb for a Thursday night “Chulent and Chizuk” sponsored by the Yeshiva.
On October 29th, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein met alumni for a shiur and dinner. Rav Mosheh spoke about various mitzvot incumbent upon Beit Din and afterwards stayed to catch up with talmidim.

**Rav Mosheh at Columbia**

On October 27th Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spoke at Columbia-Barnard to a packed room, crowded with many alumni of both Yeshivat Har Etzion and Migdal Oz eager to hear Torah from the Rosh Yeshiva. Rav Lichtenstein presented a shiur on the topic of "הדביק פת בתנור" – a sugya in Masechet Shabbat that deals with the permissibility of transgressing a lesser prohibition in order to prevent a more severe transgression from taking place. The shiur was followed by a Q&A session in which Rav Lichtenstein addressed some issues that frequently arise on university campuses.

**Lunch & Learn, NYC**

The ever-popular Lunch & Learns in New York City continue:

In October, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spoke about "Abraham's Journey – the Transition from Avram to Avraham". He was hosted by Hillel Silvera ‘91 at the offices of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

In November, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi spoke on the topic "A Perspective on the Ideal Relations Between the Jewish People and the Nations". He was hosted by Terry Novetsky ‘80 at the offices of Kaye Scholer.

**Rav Gigi at Rambam**

If you picked up The Jewish Star on the week of December 4th, 2015, you might have read about Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi’s surprise visit to Rambam Mesivta in Lawrence, NY. Rav Gigi had flown in for a lightning three-day visit in order to attend the Gush Alumni Shabbaton. On the spur of the moment, he decided to squeeze in a quick visit to Rambam, as part of the longstanding relationship Rambam has with Yeshivat Har Etzion.

In December, Rav Menachem Leibtag gave a talk titled, "The 'Prophet' Who Stole Chanukah: the Biblical Roots of the First Rabbinic Holiday". He was hosted by Terry Novetsky ‘80 at the offices of Kaye Scholer.

Rav Gigi spoke to the high school students about the lessons to be learned from Yakov Avinu, who, even when working for the treacherous Lavan, fulfilled his responsibilities to the best of his ability. He also mentioned how when HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l used to play basketball with his talmidim, he would chastise those who did not run back on defense for not putting forth their full effort, because he believed that everything one undertakes should be done whole-heartedly. The talmidim truly enjoyed the shiur and were inspired by Rav Gigi's words.
Opening Day

On October 11th, over 600 students, male and female, attended an event celebrating the opening of the new school year. Herzog College Dean Rav Dr. Yehuda Brandes blessed the students that they be able to study in quiet and security, and be able to contribute to society at large by raising up all its citizens with better education. As part of the event, the students heard a lecture from Dr. Tzuriel Rashi, Head of the Communications Department, on “Could Obama, Bibi, Begin, and the Queen of England have been educators?” He explained that a good teacher, like a good speaker, needs to not only convey information but also to pique the interest of the listeners so that they pay attention.

New Dean of Students for Women

Dr. Michal Tikochinsky has been named the new Dean of Students at Herzog College’s campus for women at Migdal Oz. Dr. Tikochinsky is a leading scholar with a distinguished career. A mother of seven, with a master’s degree in Law and a doctorate in Talmud, she has taught at numerous academic institutions, including Herzog College, Sha’arei Mishpat College and Shalem College, and headed the Women’s Beit Midrash at Beit Morasha and the Advanced Scholars Program at Migdal Oz. She has established a forum for leaders in Torah education for women, and is a member of the Beit Hillel organization. In addition to a weekly column on parshat hashavua, Dr. Tikochinsky has published numerous articles in the fields of Jewish scholarship, biblical commentary and halacha. Herzog College is honored to have her on board.

The Ultimate Tanakh Website

At the Summer 2015 Yemei Iyun, Herzog College debuted their new website hatanakh.com. Developed in partnership with the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash, hatanakh.com is an informative, aesthetic and interactive website. The user can browse to any chapter of Tanakh and the site will automatically generate links to commentary, articles, and audio and video shiurim relevant to that chapter. There are many additional resources for the inquisitive student or teacher. For example, for every biblical tale the site provides multiple maps illustrating where the story took place – topographical, historic (at the time of Tanakh), and modern maps showing what the area looks like today, often with appropriate satellite images. The names of all people mentioned are hyperlinked to background info about that biblical personality. Each chapter is accompanied by a timeline that provides a broader context for the chapter within the Tanakh, as well as links to characters, events, and maps that are related to the text.

Civil Society

Herzog College opened a new department for teachers of civics, geared for today’s Israeli society. Every Israeli high school student must pass a course in civics in order to graduate. Herzog College is the first religious teacher’s school to offer training in civics, a field currently dominated by a strongly secular, left wing curriculum and textbooks. The course materials include the Israeli political system, the different values and value systems in Israeli society, history of the State and theories of government. The hope is that this program will produce educators who can broaden the public debate, and educate students who can tackle issues of economics, religion and democracy, social legislation, etc. with a fresh and well-informed voice.
In Memoriam

Herzog College cancelled afternoon classes one afternoon in late November to host a memorial for Rav Yakov Litman Hy'd and Rav Yakov Don Hy'd, both tragically killed in violent terrorist attacks.

Rav Litman, a 44-year-old father of six, was a Herzog alumnus who lived and taught elementary school in Kiryat Arba. He was shot and killed, along with his son Netanel, in a terrorist attack near Otniel on November 14, 2015. The Litman family was on the way to the aufruf of the young man engaged to marry their daughter the following week.

Rav Don, a 49-year-old father of four, lived in Alon Shevut and was a very popular high school teacher (mechanech) in Gush Etzion. He was shot to death in a terrorist attack near the Gush Etzion junction on November 19, 2015, the same attack in which Ezra Schwartz Hy'd of Boston was killed. Rav Don mentored numerous Herzog students; they observed him teach, had their first teaching experiences in his classroom and were coached by him to improve their pedagogical technique. After he was killed, the Herzog students whom he was mentoring took over his classes and now teach in his place.

The event took place in the Beit Midrash and the students heard moving remembrances from the Dean of Herzog College, Rav Dr. Yehuda Brandes, and from Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan.

Tanakh Summer Study Days

The Herzog College Yemei Iyun b'Tanakh took place in August 2015. It was the 24th year that this immensely popular event took place and it attracted over 7000 people, who heard over 200 lectures over the course of 5 days. It is now the largest conference of Tanakh study in the world. This year the Yemei Iyun were dedicated to the memory of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l, and many of the speakers spoke about him briefly at the beginning or end of their remarks. This year’s lectures included thematic topics such as geography, architecture, leadership, and more. On two of the five days, there was also a full program of English-language classes, and there was another day of English “touring with the Tanakh.”

The upcoming Yemei Iyun are scheduled for August 7-11, 2016. More details will appear on the Herzog College website in June.
Giving Thanks

Through posters and costumes, a comical skit and a traditional turkey dinner complemented by divrei Torah, the American bnot chul shared with Israelis what Thanksgiving means to them.

Yemei Iyun

On the first 3 days of Chanukah, Migdal Oz talmidot were treated to an intensive series of lectures and discussions on the relationship between religious and secular Israelis. The Yemei Iyun featured a wide variety of speakers with divergent viewpoints. Some highlights: Rav Yisrael Ze’ira, head of the Rosh Yehudi organization which offers shiurim, minyanim and Jewish culture events in Tel Aviv, advocated for the importance of acceptance and non-coercive discussion. In contrast, Rav Re’em Hacohen, Rosh Yeshiva of the Hesder Yeshiva in Otniel, said that the bottom line is that we must strive to bring all Jews to religious practice.

Naomi Perl, founder of Shluchei Tzibur, a program for charedi students at Hebrew University, opined that charedim can have more productive dialogue with secular Jews about religion by virtue of their highly contradictory views, as opposed to the dati-leumi sector, which has less distance from secular society. Students were left with much food for thought and debate.

Chanukah Trip to the Knesset & Supreme Court

On the last day of Chanukah, before shiurim resumed at Migdal Oz, overseas students had the option to spend a day at the Knesset and Supreme Court in Jerusalem. The informative day included touring the buildings and hearing from prominent figures in the parliament and court system. Talmidot learned how the judicial system operates in Israel, saw how the architectural symbolism of the Supreme Court building represents various pesukim in the Torah about justice, and sat in on two different court cases, where they were entertained by the manner in which the lawyers and judges interacted and argued.

In the Knesset, the group met MK Aliza Lavie, Head of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, who spoke about the importance of women in Jewish tradition. Later, they heard from MK Zev Elkin, the Minister of Aliyah and Absorption, who himself is a Russian ohol. The talmidot got to observe the weekly Monday night debate between representatives of various parties. They enjoyed the drama, as well as watching well-known figures mingling with each other during the speeches. Emily Hollander of Australia said, “It was a fun day full of new information, possibly sparking the passions of the future lawyers, judges and politicians among us.”
Aseret Yemei Teshuva

This year the Yeshiva dedicated its alumni Yom Iyun that traditionally takes place between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to the memory of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. Most of the shiurim were on the topic of Sukkot, and this year’s special mitzva of Hakhel, but the feature was the concluding panel on teshuva in light of the passing of HaRav Lichtenstein. Rav Ezra Bick, Rav Hillel Rachmani, and Rav Mayer Lichtenstein participated in the panel, which was moderated by Rav Nechemya Ra’anan. Over 60 alumni were in attendance.

In the early afternoon the fathers and sons enjoyed a hike on historic Derech Ha’Avot (the Path of the Patriarchs) with Rav Yitzhak Levi. Over lunch the alumni and their children heard from Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan about how much the Yeshiva appreciates the alumni taking off a day of work to enjoy a day of learning together with their children.

The annual Bat Mitzva day in Yeshiva was on June 4th, and it was attended by 75 girls. The majority of the girls came with their fathers, but 3 came with their grandfathers who are Yeshiva alumni, and 11 came with their mothers who are Migdal Oz alumni. The day began in Migdal Oz with preparing the mekorot for a shiur from Rav Netanel Buchs '02H, a Ram in Migdal Oz. Afterwards, the girls participated in an interactive quiz and the young women and their parents heard a shiur from Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash for Women. The girls then went on a tour of Migdal Oz while their parents went on a separate tour with Rav Yitzhak Levi. Everyone returned to Yeshivat Har Etzion for lunch, where they heard from Roshei Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan and Rav Baruch Gigi.

Shabbattonim

Bnei & Bnot Mitzva Visit Yeshiva

Part of being a religious Jewish parent is passing on the tradition and values that we hold dear to the next generation. On November 5th, in what has become a bi-annual event, alumni with sons who are turning 13 this year came to the Yeshiva for a day of learning and fun. The Bar Mitzva boys learned in the Beit Midrash in the morning with their fathers, often sitting in the same seats their fathers sat in many years earlier. They were then treated to a shiur by Rav Michael Edrei on the halachot of tefillin, after which the Bar Mitzva boys got to meet personally with the Roshei Yeshiva.

In the early afternoon the fathers and sons enjoyed a hike on historic Derech Ha’Avot (the Path of the Patriarchs) with Rav Yitzhak Levi. Over lunch the alumni and their children heard from Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan about how much the Yeshiva appreciates the alumni taking off a day of work to enjoy a day of learning together with their children.

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Chanukah 5776

On December 8th, the third night of Chanukah, a special alumni event took place in the Yeshiva, the first of its kind in the Yeshiva’s history: all overseas alumni living in Israel were invited to a family-friendly Chanukah party!

Over forty families were in attendance, which – including women and children – totaled over 150 participants. It was especially significant to note that some alumni brought both their parents and children, such that three generations were celebrating together, enjoying the traditional latkes and donuts.

The event featured a shiur by Rav Ezra Bick on using the oil in the Chanukah candles. To free the adults for the shiur, students in the Yeshiva entertained the children with a juggling and unicycle act, games, and arts & crafts.

After the shiur, everyone reconvened for dinner accompanied by music from the Yeshiva band. Ramim and Roshei Yeshiva joined the alumni and their children for lively dancing. The event concluded with all the participants joining the Yeshiva talmidim for candle lighting in the Beit Midrash, followed by singing, dancing and Ma’ariv.

Joel Jerozolim ’97 commented, “It was wonderful connecting with old friends and allowing my children to be exposed to the place where I grew so much.”

Career Placement Initiative

Many alumni and alumnae of Yeshivat Har Etzion and the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz dedicate themselves to different roles in rabbanut and chinuch, such as being communal leaders, teachers or rabbis in schools, Roshei Yeshivas and Ramim, as well as shul rabbis. This is one of the best ways for the unique Torah of the Gush to spread to Jews in Israel and the diaspora.

With a generous grant from Murray and Basheva Goldberg, Yeshivat Har Etzion has created a Career Placement Initiative that will assist graduates of Yeshivat Har Etzion and Migdal Oz to find careers in education and the rabbinate across the country.

As part of this effort, we will be happy to hear from our alumni and alumnae who would be interested in helping out or from anyone who can inform us of available positions. This initiative is directed by Hillel Mann ’01H, the Director of Institutional Advancement, who can be reached at HillelMann@gmail.com
Ma’amar haFla’ah (Hebrew)
by Yeshiva Staff
YHE Press

In memory of Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l, the Yeshiva’s Kollel Gavoah produced this volume which comprehensively analyzes the concept of hafla’ah (vows and oaths) as it appears in masechtot Nedarim, Nazir and Shevuot. This learned sefer includes articles by the Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim, and members of the Kollel Gavoah. Order at discount from tel. +972-2-993-7300, extension 0.

Torat Etzion: Shemot (Hebrew)
Torat Etzion: Vayikra (Hebrew)
Torat Etzion: Devarim (Hebrew)
by Har Etzion Staff
YHE Press and Maggid Press

Three more volumes that masterfully demonstrate the famed Herzog College/Yeshivat Har Etzion approach to pshat, which elucidates the plain meaning of Tanach by creatively combining traditional biblical commentary with modern academic tools.

To Stand and Serve: On Being a Kohan
YHE Press and Maggid Press

Essays in English and Hebrew in memory of alumnus Marc Weinberg ’93 z”l. This book examines the essence of priesthood, and how both kohanim and non-kohanim can live up to the moral and educational ideals that kehuna represents. The volume contains contributions from many of Marc’s friends and mentors – including HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l and HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l and many faculty members and alumni of Yeshivat Har Etzion.

When God is Near:
On the High Holidays
by HaRav Yehuda Amital and Rav Yoel Ami
Maggid Press

HaRav Ami zt”l always spoke in Yeshiva at critical junctures in the davening of the Yamim Nora’im. This compilation of those drashot illuminates HaRav Ami’s wisdom, sensitivity, humanity, and uncompromising search for truth, and will inspire readers on the path to sincere prayer and true repentance. Translated from the Hebrew Et Ratzon.

Barchi Nafshi (Hebrew)
by Rav Haim Navon ’91H
Yediot Aharonot Books

An essential guide to the blessings on food and drink – everything from Krembo to brandy. Rav Navon explains not only which blessing to say but why, with clear explanations based on passages from the Gemara and halachic literature through the ages. This is Rav Navon’s tenth book.

Beyond Sectarianism:
The Realignment of American Orthodox Judaism
by Rabbi Prof. Adam S. Ferziger ’82
Wayne State University Press

Winner of the 2015 national Jewish Book Award. In a series of interconnected essays, Professor Ferziger traces the evolution of Orthodox Judaism in the U.S., including the development of the day school system, debates over the role of women in communal institutions, the Soviet Jewry movement, the expansion of outreach programs, and more.
Between the Lines of the Bible
(revised edition)
by Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom ’83
Urim Publications and OU Press

In recent decades, anthropology, archeology, philology, and literary analysis have given new perspectives to traditional Tanach study. In this rich volume, 26 essays on the book of Genesis demonstrate the methodology through which traditional study meets academic rigor, adding insights into the meaning of the text.

Torah and Western Thought: Intellectual Portraits of Orthodoxy and Modernity
Edited by Stuart W. Halpern, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Rabbi Shlomo Zuckier ’05
Maggid Press

Portraits of ten luminaries of Modern Orthodoxy, each of whom bridged the worlds of Torah and the West in a unique way. Included in the ten are Har Etzion’s two founding Roshei Yeshiva, HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l and HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. The Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University solicited these in-depth essays, and contributors include YHE alumni Dr. Alan Jotkowitz ’82, Dr. Yehudah Mirsky ’78, Rav Dr. Itamar Warhaftig ’72H, Rav Reuven Ziegler ’86, and Rabbi Shlomo Zuckier ’05 who co-edited the volume and co-authored the article on HaRav Lichtenstein zt”l with Rabbi Shalom Carmy.

A River Flowed from Eden
by Rav Ari Kahn ’80
Kodesh Press

54 thought-provoking short essays, one for each of the weekly Torah portions. In accessible, engaging language, Rav Kahn illuminates the remarkably contemporary issues of morality and faith, society and sanctity contained in each parsha. In the words of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l, Rav Kahn’s writings are “rooted in text and rooted in values.”

Alumni Achievements

Naftalie Hershler ’89 started “Jewish Heritage Expeditions”, custom designing high-end tours for any community, family or other group to explore the Jewish heritage of Europe.

Dr. Marc Romain ’97 qualified to practice nephrology in Israel.

Dr. Chaim Garfinkel ’00, a senior lecturer at the Institute of Earth Sciences at Hebrew University, received a major research grant from the European Research Council.

Jeffrey (Chaim Halevi) Rosenfeld ’01PC was a part of a research team at the American Museum of Natural History and Rutgers University that mapped the genome sequence of the common bed bug.

Rabbi Daniel Mirvis ’03 was appointed Rabbi of Kehillat Ohr David and Rosh Kollel of Mizrachi Beit Midrash, Melbourne.

Rabbi Tuvia Brander ’06 was appointed Rabbi of Young Israel of West Hartford, CT.

Rabbi Shua Solomon ’07 was appointed Rabbi of Bondi Mizrachi Synagogue in Sydney, Australia.

Joshua Pomerance ’08 was appointed Executive Director of Mizrachi UK.

Josh Nagel ’10, a senior at Yeshiva University, received a research grant from Psi Chi, an international psychology honor society, to support Nagel’s psychology honors thesis which explores various aspects of interpersonal relationships that could create better workplace environments.

Yakov Ellenbogen ’13 was one of two Yeshiva University students selected to present his research at Princeton University’s Undergraduate Jewish Studies Conference. Yakov, a history major, presented his research on the Rambam’s attitude towards demons.

Got news? Please send it to office@etzion.org.il

Introducing the New USA Chidon Tanach Coordinator!

Ezra Frazer ’96 is stepping down as coordinator of the US division of the famed international bible quiz. Ezra is passing the baton to Dovi Nadel ’10. Dovi is a former Chidon champion and is currently studying toward a master’s degree in Bible at Yeshiva University.
ALUMNI NEWS

Marriages
Mauricio Sidi Algamin ’97 and Daniella Singer Algamin
Benjamin Behar ’02 and Avital Lavan
Yosef Novetsky ’05 and Rebecca Lewin
Brendan Stern ’06 MTA and Sarah Nevis
Avika Berger ’07 and Gabrielle Hiller
Yishai Katsch ’07 and Penina Grunseid
Yoni Schimmel ’07 and Kreindy Schlaff
Aminadav Grossman ’08 and Rachel ’09 MO Friedman
Tani Isaac ’08 and Molly Ratzker
Adam Pershan ’08 and Serena Covkin
Daniel Rosen ’08 and Lauren Singer
Joshua Sevitz ’08 and Jordanna Meisler
Josh Botwinick ’09 and Margot Reinstein
Moshe Broner ’09 and Gabriela Moreno
David Clements ’09 and Tali Portal
Eitan Fleishman ’09 and Ariella Cohen
Zvi Lapp ’09 and Adi Sheetrit
Gavriel Rosen ’09 and Rachuma Amiel
Noach Singer ’09 PC and Orly Kaplan
Robbie Schrier ’10 and Ora Laufer
David Shaw ’10 and Miriam Seitzler
Adir Feifel ’11 and Adi Goldberg
Yakir Forman ’11 and Rebecca Gross
Gavi Dov Hochstein ’11 and Talia Greenstein
Noam Polster ’11 and Emily Sobol
Daniel Reider ’12 PC and Mikhayla Bibi
Daniel Saus ’12 MTA and Chen Smadja
Elad (Stephenson) Eshel ’14 MTA and Ilana Goldstein
Mazal tov to Darkaynu madrich Daniel Tanen on his marriage to Sara Lerner.
Mazal tov to Aharon and Leora Bejell upon the marriage of their son Oriel to Zohar Rotenberg.
Mazal tov to Shira and Rabbi Bezalel Borstein on the marriage of their daughter Hadassah to Shlomo Dahan.

Mazal tov to Rav Mordechai and Debby Friedman on the marriage of their daughter Rachel to Hallel Tenenbaum.
Mazal tov to Rav Yair and Hadassa Kahn on the marriage of their daughter Shani to Ido Sofer, and their daughter Shira to Ofer Alexander.

Births
Israel ’87 and Judy Jacobs, Avigail Adira
Yaakov ’88 and Sara Blau, Rena Basya
Clive ’88 and Shira Lipshitz, Ezra
Tani ’89 and Miriam Wallach, Mevaseret Zivya
Craig ’91 and Leah Berkowitz, Ephraim Aharon
David ’91 and Sara Tessler, Naomi
Michah ’92 and Gila Gimpel, Sara Frumit
Ben ’94 and Corie Draiman, Emunah
Yossie ’95 and Yael Bloch, Malachi Eliyahu
Elai Silverman ’95 and Adi Bitter, Aharon Etam
Reuven ’95 and Nechama Weiser, Ayelet Tehilla
Ezra ’96 and Azadeh Frazer, Nava Tiferet
Avraham ’97 and Daniella Bronstein, Shai Yaakov
Aaron ’97 PC and Miriam Greenberg, Gila Nava
Jonny ’97 and Laura Newman, Aryeh Eliezer
Rafi ’98 and Atara Eis, Mordechai Shmuel Amichai
David ’98 and Yael Goldfischer, Aharon Noam
Arwy ’99 and Penina Dienstag, Aharon Tal
Daniel ’99 and Ruth Hanstater, Raphael Dow
Ethel ’99 and Nili Isenberg, Daniel Tzadok
Josh ’99 and Michelle Younger, Hannah Grace Hodaya Chen
Dov ’00 and Rachel Erdfarb, Mia Ruth (Meira Rut)
Mordechai ’00 and Jen Raskas, Yair Raviv
Trevor ’00 and Leah Silverman, Alon Aryeh
Shlomo ’01 and Rocky Brody, Shaked Shulamit
Binyamin ’01 and Miriam Casper, Aryeh Leib
Ari Liam
Ilan Y. ’01 and Anna Cohen, Elisheva Shalva
Joseph ’01 and Avigayil Finkelstein, Amir Eliezer
Moshe ’01 and Danielle Halpern, Aya Yocheved
Yehoshua ’01 and Yocheved Lindenbaum, Gilad Natan ’01 and Daniella Rickman, Aharon Yedidyah
Yechiel ’01 and Ariella Robinson, Jacob Jonathan
Jeremy ’01 and Aviva Stern, Eliav Aharon Naftali
Mayer ’01 and Eugenie Winkler, Nurit Herut
Ari ’02 and Mor Anouchi, Tali Avigayil
Eitan ’02 and Sara Roer Bendheim, Charles Fritz
Uriel Chaim
Yossi ’02 and Nicole Farkas, Max Ezra
Jonathan ’02 and Rachel Frank, Aryeh Tzedek
Asher ’02 and Esther Friedman, Naveh Yehuda
Ari ’02 and Shoshana Friedman, Ruth Yael
Aaron ’02 and Miriam Frolisch, Maayan
Eli ’02 and Stacy Lansey, Shoshana Ruth
Michael ’02 and Liora Stein, Itiel Ziseh Aharon
Ariel ’02 and Rachel Tepperman, Shalev David
Benjamin ’03 and Leah Levy, Yakira Malka
Ari ’03 and Rachel Schwab, Elyasaf Meshulam Myles
Shlomo ’03 and Tammy Shellium, Elia Liora Rachel
Netanel ’04 H and Odelia Afek, Itiel Shaya
Aaron ’04 Nilly Ciner, Miriam Aviva
Jonathan ’04 and Tali Dyne, Yakira Tova
Daniel ’04 and Talya Gutenberg, Menachem Meir
Daniel ’04 and Sarah Landman, Shlomo Aharon
David ’04 and Beth Perkel, Moshe Chaim
Yehoshua ’04 and Erit Rabinowitz, Dvir Kalman
Dani ’04 and Ariella Shaffren, Sarit Rivka
Eli ’04 and Rosalyn Tilson, baby boy
Josh ’05 and Tamara Caplin, Eden Hodaya
Rafi ’05 and Penina Ellis, Yedidyah Yakir
Marc ’05 and Debbie Herman, Hillel Aron
Daniel ’05 and Tamar Kahn, Ruth Hallel
Greg ’06 and Hannah Bank, Gefen Tanchum
Alexander
Alex ’06 and Miriam Berman, Olivia Yona
Simeon ’06 and Adira Botwinick, Adin Yisrael
Yonatan ’06 and Marlena Cantor, Yehuda Yosef
Ariel ’06 and Cypora Cohen, Ayahal Sarit

H = Hesder MO = Migdal Oz PC = post-college • The year indicates the commencement of study

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Ari ’06 and Hannah Goldberg, Noa Tziporah Daniel ’06 and Cheron Meyrowitz, Gabriella Leah Ariel ’06 and Judith Marks, Eliav Moshe Chaim ’06 and Elianna Mitnick, Yakira Leah Avishai ’06 and Karen ’06MO Schaum, Revaya Yuta Chana Jonathan ’06 and Ora Ziring, Aharon Yehuda Russell ’07 and Miriam Levy, Amiel Aharon Moshe ’07 and Ilana Peters, Lila Pnina Noam ’08 and Rut Grynman, Oran Tanchum Ian ’08 and Sharona Lurie, Allie Liron Shifra Aron Dov Halevi ’08 and Hadar Wasser, Ian ’08 and Sharona Lurie, Allie Liron Shifra Noam ’08 and Ruth Grysman, Oran Tanchum Moshe Aryeh, son of Aaron ’92 and Yael Katzman Doron, son of Yossi ’93 and Esti Ziffer Yitzchak Simcha, son of Micky ’95 and Rena Siev Ephraim, son of Shmuel ’96 and Liat Jackman Ayelet, daughter of Noam ’97 and Aliza Yosef Dov, son of Rabbi Dovid and Ilana Gottlieb Gila, daughter of Rav Doniel ’86 and Aviva Schreiber

Condolences

To tobi Kahn ’72 on the loss of his father, Herbert Naftali HaCohen Kahn z”l

To Gary Remer ’75 on the loss of his father, Nathan Remer z”l, and to Amos ’14 on the loss of his grandfather Shlomo Yonah, son of Marc ’90 and Sharon Friedman, and grandson of Marty and Shirley Schuster Odelle Rachelle, daughter of Rabbi Daniel ’91 and Ilana Epstein

Rebecca Julia, daughter of Hillel ’91 and Saritte Silvera

Moshe Aryeh, son of Aaron ’92 and Yael Katzman Doron, son of Yossi ’93 and Esti Ziffer Yitzchak Simcha, son of Micky ’95 and Rena Siev Ephraim, son of Shmuel ’96 and Liat Jackman Ayelet, daughter of Noam ’97 and Aliza Yosef Dov, son of Rabbi Dovid and Ilana Gottlieb Gila, daughter of Rav Doniel ’86 and Aviva Schreiber

To Rav Moshe Aberman ’76H and Avrumi Aberman ’79H on the loss of their father, Rav Reuven Aberman z”l

To Yossi Winiarz Yeinan ’77 on the loss of his brother, Rav Dovid Winiarz z”l

To Rabbi Ron Yitzchok Eisenman ’79 on the loss of his mother, Lorraine Eisenman z”l

To Allen Friedman ’79 on the loss of his mother, Devora Friedman z”l, and to Elie ’05 and Yosie ’11 on the loss of their grandmother

To Zvi Marans ’79 and Nina Kample Marans, on the loss of their son Judah Aaron Marans z”l, and to Sara Marans ’09MO on the loss of her brother

To Pini Orzech ’82MTA, Daniel Foreman ’86, and Andy Riffkin on the loss of their mother, Helen Foreman z”l

To Rabbi Nahum Spinn ’83 on the loss of his mother, Dr. Regina Spinn z”l

To Rav Todd Berman ’93 on the loss of his mother, Florance Berman z”l

To Mr. and Mrs. Sueke on the loss of their son, Henri Sueke ’95 z”l, to his wife Dani and their four children, and to his brother Daniel ’98

To Jeffrey Miller ’98 on the loss of his mother, Rochelle Miller z”l

To Chaim Dovid Lazear ’99 and Benyamin Kahn ’08 on the loss of their father, Stanley Bernard Kahn z”l

To Jonathan Moses ’03 on the loss of his mother, Susan Moses z”l

To David Kishenevsky ’04K on the loss of his mother, Ella Kishenevsky z”l

To Elie Weiner ’04PC on the loss of his wife, Batya Levine Weiner z”l, and to her parents Raphael and Letha Levine, and brothers Rabbi Dr. Zalman Levine ’84 and Yehoshua Levine ’99

To Jonathan ’06, Ezra ’08, and Akiva ’11 Seligsohn on the loss of their mother, Sharen Seligsohn z”l

To Yoel Balk ’11Darkaynu on the loss of his father, Mendel Balk z”l

To Rav Shlomo Brin on the loss of his father, Moshe Brin z”l

To Rav Michael Hattin on the loss of his mother, Cecile Hattin z”l

To Rav Shlomo Brin on the loss of his father, Moshe Brin z”l

To Executive Director Shirley Schuster on the loss of her father, Naftali Trauring z”l

The place will comfort you within the shaliach tzibbur and Yerushalayim
Book Launch: The Weekly Mitzva

On Friday December 4th, Roshei Yeshiva, Ramim, alumni and friends of Rav Binyamin Tabory gathered in Alon Shevut to celebrate the launch of “The Weekly Mitzva”, a book based on Rav Tabory’s audio and text shiurim for the VBM, published by Maggid Press. Rav Aviad Tabory ’90H spoke and read a letter written by Rav Tabory, who was in attendance. Also speaking was Rav Reuven Ziegler ’86, editor of Maggid as well as the VBM, who oversaw the project. David Rosenstark ’91 and Michelle Elmaleh, former students of Rav Tabory, described some of their experiences learning from him, and the event ended with words of thanks from Mrs. Naomi Tabory.

Book Launch: Sukkot

A book launch event for “Sukkot”, the new volume in the Be’er Miriam series on the holidays, took place on Chol Hamoed Sukkot. The event took place with the generous support of Itzchak Blau ’81H in the Hapoel Mizrachi Synagogue in Tel Aviv. Itzchak opened the event by blessing the crowd and mentioning his mother, in whose memory this volume was dedicated, and he thanked Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan for his efforts in publishing this new volume. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring Rav Medan and Rav Haim Navon ’91H on the significance of the holiday from biblical times to the present.

Book Launch: Netivei Nevuah

In October, a special event was held at Sha’arei Yona Menachem Synagogue in Modi’in to mark the publication of Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein’s recent book on the haftarot, entitled “Netivei Nevuah”. The evening was moderated by Avraham Taub ’72H and speakers included Rav Yehuda Tropper ’86H, the National Supervisor for Bible Studies in the Education Ministry, and Rav Amnon Bazak.

Rav Mosheh spoke about the uniqueness of the haftarot. He explained that on a superficial level it may seem that the haftara repeat themselves, but careful analysis shows that each haftara has a different emphasis, in additional to multiple rich meanings that can help us deal with...