Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman ’87 Appointed President of Yeshiva University

Gush alumnus Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman ’87 has been selected to be the President of Yeshiva University. The Yeshiva wishes Rabbi Berman much success in this new position.

After graduating MTA in 1987, Rabbi Berman attended Yeshivat Har Etzion for two years and studied in the shiur of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. Rabbi Berman commented, “Specifically for me, my relationship with Rav Lichtenstein has been one of my greatest blessings.” Rabbi Berman’s relationship with the Yeshiva has continued for many years and his sons, Shlomo ‘12H and Yehuda ‘14H, are currently in the Yeshiva. He added, “My years that I spent in Gush were far more significant than the two years that I actually learned there and they really impacted me for the rest of my life.”

Rabbi Berman graduated magna cum laude from Yeshiva University in 1991, received ordination from RIETS, and a masters in Jewish philosophy from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. He then taught Talmud in YU’s Stone Beit Midrash Program and served as the assistant rabbi, and later, the lead rabbi of The Jewish Center of Manhattan. He left his post at The Jewish Center when he moved to Israel in 2008, and recently completed a PhD in Jewish Thought from Hebrew University.

Before his election, Rabbi Berman was the head of the Hechal Shlomo Jewish Heritage Center in Jerusalem and served as a lecturer in Rabbinic Literature in Herzog College’s Department of Jewish Studies. In addition, he was selected to sit on its Executive Leadership Council, the governing body that establishes policies and sets direction for all major issues regarding the operation of the college.

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein said, “I wish Rabbi Dr. Berman much success and siyata dishmaya in his new role. Rabbi Berman, a faithful talmid of my father and an accomplished alumnus of the Yeshiva, brings to his new position an awareness of the challenges facing contemporary Modern Orthodoxy and Religious Zionism, a recognition of the need to productively and proactively deal with them and a vision, along with a roadmap, to lead Yeshiva University forward to great heights.”

Join us at
THE ETZION FOUNDATION
ANNUAL DINNER
ON MARCH 29, 2017
AT THE GRAND HYATT HOTEL
NEW YORK CITY

Honoring
Rabbi Danny Rhein
and Racheli Schmell (Rhein)
And paying tribute to the alumni of ’96 and ’97 on their 20th Anniversary

Rabbi Jeffrey Kobrin ’92PC
and Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin
Dor L’Dor Award
Alumnus of the Year

Simcha and
Barbara Hochman
Parents of the Year

For more information, please call 212-732-4874 or email usoffice@haretzion.org
ISRAEL NEWS

News from the Beit Midrash

The new zman is under way, with a vibrant Beit Midrash at its center. The Yeshiva currently has an impressive group of 67 first-year students in the Dr. William Major Overseas Program, and 90 in the Israeli Shiur Aleph. There are now over 450 students in Yeshiva, including 28 in the MTA Program, 9 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 Shabbat this year, and the Kollel is learning Hilchot Kashrut.

Overseas students on a Shabbaton in the Old City of Jerusalem

Shlomo Katz performs

Because there were so many incoming talmidim this year, particular care was taken by the Yeshiva staff to make sure the new students integrated into Yeshiva, and several events were held to encourage students to get to know each other and bond. This included a concert on the first Saturday night in Elul with the renowned musician Shlomo Katz, organized with the assistance of Yonatan Wiesen ’99.

Moishe Bane ’77 Becomes President of OU

Congratulations to alumnus Moishe Bane, who has been appointed President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, more commonly known as the Orthodox Union or OU. The OU is famous for its kosher certification and NCSY, but it also supports a large network of synagogues, on-campus student programs, Jewish and Religious Zionist advocacy programs, programs for the disabled, and religious study programs.

Bane is a senior partner at the international Ropes & Gray Law Firm, and he has many years of dedicated communal service under his belt, ranging from Kayama to Klal Perspectives to NCSY. In a recent interview, Bane recalled consulting with Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l on OU issues related to the broader community. He described Rav Aharon as “an incredible source of guidance. He was the most articulate proponent of Torah Judaism, a moradike ilu and the quintessential anav.”

Bane’s inauguration was kicked off with a day of public Torah learning at New York’s Citi Field, and we wish him continued success in spreading Torah Judaism in America.
Touring the Land

Rav Moshe Taragin speaking to talmidim while on a tiyul in Chevron

Shana Aleph talmidim at Armon haNatziv with Rav Menachem Leibtag

Shana Aleph talmidim in northern Israel, near Har Dov

Shana Bet in the Golan
Chutznik Sukkah Night

Talmidim usually spend Sukkot away from Yeshiva, but their thirst for inspiration and a connection to their rebeim remains even during their break. So for many years now, the Yeshiva has organized an open Sukkah night for talmidim. This year the event took place in the Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh sukkah adjacent to the Kotel. Talmidim enjoyed the opportunity to eat, dance, and learn with their friends, madrichim, and rebbeim.

Chanukah with New Olim

Overseas alumni who recently made aliya were invited to join the Yeshiva’s Chanukah mesiba. Talmidim were treated to a Dvar Torah by Rabbi Dr. Barry Kislowicz ’95. The alumni and their families participated in the candle lighting and dancing in the Beit Midrash, which was followed by a meal at which they got to hear a shiur from Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein. Many of the alumni stayed for the chagiga afterwards.
Bar Mitzvah Day

Rav Yoel Amital ‘69H with two of his grandsons at the former seat of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l. They came to Yeshiva for Bar Mitzvah Day, a biannual event in which Yeshiva alumni bring their bar mitzvah aged children to see the Yeshiva and meet the Roshei Yeshiva. This year’s highlights included a shiur from Rav Amichai Gordin and a tiyul to Givat haChish with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan.

VIP Visit

Shai Babad ’94H, currently the Director of Israel’s Ministry of Finance, came to the Yeshiva and was treated to a tour of the Yeshiva library, including getting to leaf through one of the oldest seforim in print.
Revava Yemei Iyun

On December 27-28, 2016, the Yeshiva students, together with dozens of alumni and local Gush Etzion residents, convened for the Revava Chanukah Yemei Iyun in memory of Riva Koschitzky z”l. In recognition of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, this year’s topic was Yerushalayim – The Mount, The City, and The Nation. Shiurim were given by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan, former UN Ambassador Dr. Dore Gold, former Prisoner of Zion and MK and current Jewish Agency head Natan Sharansky, Rav Chaim Yeshayahu Hadari, the founding Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Hakotel, Rav Yoel Bin-Nun, Rav Yitzhak Levy, and Rav Yaakov Shapira, the Rosh Yeshiva of Merkaz HaRav. Many students noted the wide array of views presented during the Yemei Iyun.

For many attendees, the highlight of each year’s Yemei Iyun are the panels that take place at the end of each day. On the first day, Rav Shlomo Brin moderated a panel on ascending Har HaBayit and the participants were Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, MK Rav Yehuda Glick ’83H, and Rav Yoichanan Fried, chairman of the Beit HaRav Foundation. On the second day, Rav Benny Lehman moderated a panel on the appropriate rules for the Kotel Plaza and the participants were Rav Amnon Bazak and Rav Ariel Bareli, Ram at Yeshivat Sderot and the head of Machon Mishpat La’am.

The event was live-tweeted on Twitter, and can be viewed on YouTube by searching Revava Yemei Iyun Chanuka 2016.

Thanksgiving in Yeshiva

Thanksgiving doesn’t exist in the Israeli calendar or the Yeshiva calendar, but it certainly does exist in the hearts of many of the American talmidim, especially when they are 6,000 miles away from home. However, they didn’t want to celebrate at the expense of the rigorous learning schedule in Yeshiva. This year, the American students started their own Gush tradition – a Thanksgiving feast, with all the trimmings, at 12:30 a.m. The dinner showed incredible commitment to Talmud Torah and the Yeshiva schedule. It also required and generated a great feeling of togetherness and camaraderie. Between purchasing, cooking, preparing, setting, serving, and cleaning, there was an incredible amount of cooperation necessary. The feast started with a Dvar Torah and there was time for each talmid to express his thanks for some part of this year’s experience. Overall, it was a nostalgic, bonding and even spiritual experience, sure to be the start of a new Gush tradition.

Bein Kodesh LeChol

There is a lot of great programming in the lives of the talmidim at Yeshivat Har Etzion. Much of it is organized by the Yeshiva’s dedicated staff, but some of it is student-run. One of the best programs organized by the students is Bein Kodesh LeChol – a series of lectures taking place on Saturday nights in the Yeshiva.

Gidi Sapir ’83H, a professor of law who is a nominee to the Israeli Supreme Court and an Alon Shevut resident, was invited to give the first lecture on the topic of legislating religious laws. Other featured speakers included Rav Mabruhato Solomon ’88H, a Herzog College alumnus and rabbi in the Ethiopian Community who explained the holiday of Sigd, and archaeologist Dr. Gabi Barkai on his project sifting the dirt from the Temple Mount. One of the students in charge of this year’s curriculum said, “We wish to enrich our knowledge on topics that are not part of our daily study. We focus on subjects that are important for a Ben Torah to know even though they don’t necessarily fit in the category of Torah we learn in the Beit Midrash but rather are somewhere between kodesh (holy) and chol (secular).”

A selfie photo talmidim took at their self-organized Thanksgiving celebration
Sixth Yahrzeit of HaRav Yehuda Amital z’t”l

In honor of the sixth yahrzeit of founding Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Amital z’t”l on 27 Tamuz, 5776, Rav Yoel Amital ’69H, the son of HaRav Yehuda Amital z’t”l, delivered a shiur to the Yeshiva on the topic of “Mitzta’er Patur Min haSukkah,” the exemption of one in pain from sitting in the Sukkah, a relevant shiur to the Yeshiva’s summer study of Masechet Sukkah.

After the shiur, Nadav Gilad, grandson of HaRav Amital z’t”l, taught some mishnayot in his memory. Current students were impressed that the memorial was attended not only by many members of the Amital family, but also by numerous former staff members and alumni, testifying to the deep impact that HaRav Amital had.

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 Marcos (Mordechai) Katz z’t”l, whose love of Israel and Torah led him to be one of the Yeshiva’s most dedicated supporters. The family has been attending the Yamim Nora’im davening at Yeshiva for nearly four decades and the timing of the Yom Iyun meant that many members of the family were able to be in attendance. Most of the shiurim were on the topic of the Yamim Nora’im and Sukkot, including a shiur by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan on “How Tzedaka Changes a Bad Decree,” a shiur by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi on Tefillat Ne’ila, and a shiur by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Moshe Lichtenstein on “The Difference Between Yom Kippur and Tu Be’Av.” This year’s panel, moderated by Rav Benny Lehman, was about the relationship between private and public prayer. The panel’s participants were Esti Rosenberg, Rosh Beit Midrash at Migdal Oz, Rav Nehemya Raanan, and the Yeshiva’s two ba’alei tefilla during the Yamim Nora’im: Amram Yanai ’70H and Rav Shlomo Brin. This year there were also two shiurim given in English, one by Rav Moshe Taragin and one by Rav Chanoch Waxman.

Leil Hoshana Rabba

For the second year, on Hoshana Rabba, the Yeshiva held a night of learning at Hechal Shlomo in Yerushalayim. The event, which was open to the public and included simultaneous classes in English and Hebrew, was attended by over 400 people. Among the speakers were Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman ’87, Herzog College Tanakh Lecturer Dr. Yael Ziegler, Yeshiva Ram Rav Moshe Taragin, Director of ATID Rav Jeffrey Saks, Yeshiva Ram Rav Dovid Gottlieb, Chief Rabbi of Israel Rav Dovid Lau, Dean of Herzog College Rav Dr. Yehuda Brandes, and Dean of Students at Herzog College’s campus at Migdal Oz Dr. Michal Tikochinsky. After the shiurim, attendees were treated to a musical performance.
Shiurim Across Israel

- **Rav Daniel Wolf** spoke at a conference of The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, together with the Buchmann Law Faculty at Tel Aviv University, Shaarei Mishpat College and Bar Ilan University on the “Impact of Technology, Science and Knowledge on Jewish Law and Ethics.” Rav Wolf’s topic was “Adapting Statistical Methods into the Halakhic Process.” Many other Yeshiva alumni spoke at the conference as well.

- In honor of the publication of *Mussar Aviv* by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l and *Resisei Tal* volume 2 by HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l, this past Elul the Yeshiva staff taught 20 shiurim in 11 cities across Israel.

- On Saturday nights in November and December, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan gave a series of shiurim at the Shtibalach in Katamon.

- On November 3, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan spoke at the Rimon Shul in Chashmonaim about the generation of the flood.

Book Launch – *Mussar Aviv*

On July 14, a special event was held at Sha’arei Yona Menachem Synagogue in Modi’in to mark the publication of *Mussar Aviv* by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. This was the first publication of the Mishnat HaRA’L Legacy Project in memory of HaRav Lichtenstein zt”l, which has been supported by many alumni and parents (see more about Mishnat HaRA’L on page 10).

**Rav Chaim Navon ’91H** discussed the status of religion and state in Israel with Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, and the Justice Neal Hendel, a Justice of Israel’s Supreme Court, discussed the contributions of HaRav Lichtenstein zt”l to the world of Jewish thought. The evening began with welcoming remarks from the shul’s rabbi, Rav Shlomo Sobol.

Elul in Ra’anana

- On Shabbat, September 16-17, Yeshiva Ram Rav Mosheh Taragin was the Scholar-in-Residence at the Shivtei Yisrael congregation, formerly headed by our beloved alumnus Rav Daniel Beller ’82 z”l, who served the community with dedication for nearly 20 years. His drasha at Seuda Shlishit was the timely topic of “Shiluach haKen, Harambe, and the Illusion of Animal Rights.”

- On September 28, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan was invited by Beit Midrash Bereishit to give a shiur on “Lashon Hara and Slander” at the Heichal Binyamin Synagogue as a part of a Yom Iyun in preparation for the Yamim Noraim.

- On Shabbat, September 30-October 1, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein was the Scholar-in-Residence at the Ohel Ari Congregation in Ra’anana. The Rosh Yeshiva’s topics were all appropriate for Elul and related to Avodat Hashem.

- On Shabbat, October 7-8, Yeshiva Ram Rav Dovid Gottlieb was the Scholar-in-Residence at the Ra’anana Community Kollel.

Hesder

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein gave a shiur on “Lashon Hara and Slander” at the Heichal Binyamin Synagogue as a part of a Yom Iyun in preparation for the Yamim Noraim.
Tanakh Summer Study Days

Now in its 25th year, the Herzog College Yemei Iyun b’Tanakh took place in August 2016. This immensely popular event attracted over 4000 people, who heard over 200 lectures over the course of 5 days. The event continues to be the largest conference of Tanakh study in the world. This year the Yemei Iyun were dedicated to the memory of Prof. Shmuel Shilo z”l, and many of the speakers spoke about him briefly at the beginning or end of their remarks. Prof. Shilo was a professor of Jewish Law at Hebrew University who served as the head of Herzog College from 2008-2010.

This year’s lectures included many that were geared exclusively for teachers of Tanakh, and featured topics such as how best to teach certain areas of Tanakh or new tools that are useful in teaching Tanakh. As in the previous two years, on two of the five days there was a full program of English-language classes, and there was another day of English “touring with the Tanakh,” including a tour led by Rabbi Alan Haber ’86.

Inaugural Mishnat HaRA’L Community Conversation at KJ

On Sunday November 13, over 150 people gathered in Manhattan, NY at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun to participate in a Community Conversation convened to commemorate and perpetuate the legacy of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. The day was organized by both Yeshivat Har Etzion and the Lichtenstein family as the first major program of the Mishnat HaRA’L Foundation.

Together with the Lichtenstein family, the program was designed by Rabbi Robert S. Hirt and a steering committee made up of YHE alumni, academicians and professionals from various fields. The day began with introductory remarks by Rabbi Hirt, followed by moving words from Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein. This was followed by two concurrent panel discussions on issues of social relevance: the first was titled Human Dignity, with a focus on Incarceration, and the second was about Civil Discourse. Presenters included Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, as well as other noted scholars and community leaders who discussed these multilayered topics. At the conclusion of the panel discussion, smaller interactive breakout sessions were led by a number of rabbis, educators, and lay people in which participants could further discuss and develop the ideas from the presentations. Finally, attendees selected a second interactive breakout session according to their area of interest: synagogue, yeshivot, or campus/informal Jewish education.

Overall, the day fleshed out complex themes, allowed participants to actively engage with these topics in small group discussion and finally, it encouraged people to think about these topics in practical terms and ask themselves: how do I take what I learned today and bring it to my community? In this manner the Community Conversation sought to highlight the legacy of HaRav Lichtenstein zt”l by combining rigorous analysis with independent thinking.

Two artists from a London-based company called Creative Connection overlaid the day with an eye-catching and creative visual summary of the community discussion. Using note cards provided to them by participants, Creative Connection filled in large publicly displayed boards with pictures, key-phrases, talking points, and messages from the day. In this way, participants could actually see what had been discussed, allowing them to review the conversation and to know that their words mattered and remained even after the conversation of that day had ended.
On Shabbat Parashat Vayera, November 18-19, the annual alumni Shabbaton took place at Rinat Yisrael Synagogue in Teaneck, NJ. Over 100 alumni participated in the Shabbaton, which included shiurim on a variety of topics and a tish with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Moshe Lichtenstein, Eli Weber, Director of the Overseas Program, and Mashgiach Ruchani Rav Daniel Rhein.

In conjunction with the Shabbaton, on that Shabbat the Torah of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l was taught in shiurim and sermons by his former students at 13 synagogues across Teaneck and Bergenfield. Yasher koach to alumni Rabbi Michael Taubes ’77, Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot ’81, Rabbi Howard Jachter ’81, Rabbi Perry Tirschwell ’82, Rabbi Yaakov Blau ’88, Rabbi Avie Schreiber ’88, Rabbi Aaron Ross ’92, Rabbi Duvie Nachbar ’96, Rabbi Yair Hindin ’98, Rabbi Moshe Stavsky ’99, Rabbi Daniel Fridman ’02, Rabbi Noah Gardenswartz ’02, and Rabbi Yosef Bronstein ’03 who shared Gush Torah with their communities.

On September 15, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi delivered a shiur to alumni in Columbia University, NYC, and then delivered a shiur to alumni in Yeshiva University, as well as the chizzuk talk at the weekly Chulent-and-Chizzuk event.

Rav Gigi delivering a shiur to alumni in YU

Rav Gigi delivering a shiur in Columbia University

Rav Gigi posing with alumni in YU

Ariel Hochman ’13 holding the candle during Havdala at the end of an inspiring alumni Shabbaton

Alumni posing after the Shabbaton at Rinat Yisrael
On Shabbat, September 16-17, Rav Baruch Gigi was the Scholar-in-Residence at the West Side Sephardic Synagogue, NYC, the congregation of Rabbi Eitan Ben-David ’02.

On September 18, Rav Baruch Gigi gave the opening Rambam shiur at the Beit Knesset of North Woodmere, NY, where he was hosted by Gavri Butler ’99.


On September 21, Dr. Yael Ziegler, Tanakh Lecturer at Herzog College and Migdal Oz, spoke about “Elijah the Zealot and Elijah the Penitent” at the office of Daniel Schwartz ’85, at York Capital, NYC.

On Shabbat, October 28-29, Yeshiva Ram Rav Dovid Gottlieb was a Scholar-in-Residence at the Or Chaim Minyan in Toronto, Canada.

On Shabbat, October 28-29, Rav Menachem Leibtag was the Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Maryland.

On November 16, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein taught a Dinner-and-Learn at the office of Donny Rosenberg ’02, at the office of Greystone & Co., NYC, on the topic “Jews and Palestinians – the Beer Sheva Accords between the Avot and the Pishtim.”

On November 17, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein taught a Lunch-and-Learn at the office of Hillel Silvera ’91, at the law firm of Gibson & Dunn, NYC, on the topic “Magen Avraham – Reflections upon Avraham Avinu’s Relationship with Hashem.”

On November 17, Rav Menachem Leibtag was the Scholar-in-Residence at the Young Israel of West Hartford, CT, the shul of Rabbi Tuvia Brander ’06.

On Shabbat, December 2-3, Rav Mosheh Taragin and Eli Weber were the Scholars-in-Residence at Bnei Yeshurun, in Teaneck, NJ and spoke multiple times throughout Shabbat, including a tish for the high school aged boys of the community.

On December 7, Rav Dovid Gottlieb spoke at the Young Israel of Woodmere, NY, as part of the Beit Midrasah program, on the topic “Structured and Spontaneous: Finding the Right Balance in Our Tefillot.”

On December 16-17, Rav Dovid Gottlieb was the Scholar-in-Residence at the Young Israel Shomrei Emunah in Silver Spring, MD.
South Africa

This past summer South African alumni were treated to visits by both Rav Pini Cohen and Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein. Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein gave more than ten shiurim in the Beit Mordechai Campus Kollel. Both Rav Pini Cohen and Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein taught classes to the grade 11 students at Yeshiva College, while Rav Pini’s itinerary also included a shiur to alumni in University of the Witwatersrand.

In November, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi also visited Johannesburg, accompanied by Yoel Weiss, the Executive Vice President of the Etzion Foundation. The Rosh Yeshiva’s visit included a Shabbat tish with alumni at the home of Daniel Kaplan ’03MTA and a shiur in the Mizrachi community. Rav Gigi also gave a shiur to alumni in the Bnei Akiva shul, as well as a shiur to the community that was hosted in the home of Marc and Melissa Chipkin, parents of Ari Chipkin ’14MTA. Rav Gigi also made a visit to Yeshiva College where he met with the staff and discussed educational issues, and gave a shiur to the Kollel.

The Etzion Foundation has signed up for Amazon Smile. Buy something at Amazon.com and .5% of your purchase will go to The Etzion Foundation at no cost to you.

How does it work? Sign up at Smile.Amazon.com, and select “The Etzion Foundation” as your preferred donation recipient.
On September 19, Rav Baruch Gigi spoke at Stern College, NYC, to the Advanced Talmud Program and then to Migdal Oz alumnae.

On November 13, Yerucham ’91 and Michal Rosenberg, parents of Adina ’16MO, hosted a parents meeting in their home in Teaneck, NJ with Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg and Shayna Goldberg, lecturer and Mashgicha Ruchanit at Migdal Oz.

On Sunday, December 4, Esti Rosenberg, Rosh Beit Midrash of Migdal Oz, and Shayna Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit of the Bnot Chul, gave shiurim about “Educating Towards Commitment and Spirituality in America and Israel Today” as part of a brunch at the home of Joy and Barry ’85 Sklar, parents of Yosef ’13 and Tova ’15MO.

Shabbaton

On Shabbat Parashat Lech Lecha, November 11-12, Migdal Oz bogrot gathered in Teaneck for the annual Migdal Oz Shabbaton with Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg and Shayna Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit of the overseas students. This year the Shabbaton was attended by over 60 alumnae from 5 different years at Migdal Oz. Just like when they were students in the Beit Midrash, the alumnae ushered in Shabbat together at Congregation Keter Torah with a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat and Arvit followed by dinner, during which there was a “seev”, in which everyone in the room had to answer a question thrown out by Esti Rosenberg. Each bogeret introduced herself and told the others about her most memorable day from her year in the Beit Midrash, with answers eliciting emotions from laughter to deep thought. The night concluded with a beautiful tish at the home of Yonina Silverman ’14MO.
On Shabbat after Shacharit, the bogrot heard a shiur from Esti Rosenberg. Lunch was also at Keter Torah, and for seuda shlishit the bogrot were invited to the home of Michelle Sklar '15MO. Shabbat ended on a high with many more songs, and parting words from Shayna and Esti. The perfect ending to a wonderful Shabbat was the beautiful singing of the Havdalah by all the girls, with Barry Sklar '85 singing the brachot. The Shabbaton was, as always, a highlight of the year for many alumnae.

Erev Shira and Selichot

The annual Migdal Oz Erev Shira V’Hit’orurut, which took place at Maayanot High School in Teaneck, NJ on the first night of selichot, Motzai Shabbat September 24th, brought together more than 150 women of all ages. The Migdal Oz alumnae, parents, and supporters brought along guitars and bongos, beautiful voices and a passion for singing to help capture the feeling of being at the awe-inspiring selichot of the Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz. The presence of Racheli Schmell, Overseas Director of Migdal Oz, who came in from Israel to participate in the event, added a great deal to the warmth and camaraderie.

After the singing portion of the evening, Atara Lindenbaum '03MO spoke on behalf of her family about her grandmother, Rita Grunberger z”l, and the reason that they sponsored the event in her memory. Atara then introduced the guest speaker, Rabbi Dr. Judah Goldberg '96, Ram at the Advanced Talmud and Halacha Program at Migdal Oz, who gave an inspiring shiur about “Teshuva of the Tired.” This was followed by a beautiful recitation of selichot by Adin Goldstein '12, who has led selichot at the Erev Shira for the past three years.

The alumnae were thrilled to come together for this event and one of the participants commented, “Even though we’ve left the physical confines of the Beit Midrash, it’s very special that when we come together in song and tefilla, we can recreate its inspiring atmosphere.”

Shayna Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit at Migdal Oz, wrote a very powerful essay for the Times of Israel about proper educational boundaries. Here is an excerpt:

There are healthy and positive ways to educate and to inspire growth, whether the trajectory in mind is chareidi, “modern,” or something else. These ways are usually rooted in respect, humility, responsibility and trust. Deeply respecting our students means wanting to understand and appreciate where they come from and who they are. It means valuing their relationships with family and friends and encouraging positive interactions as much as possible… Humility includes being able to admit our own failings and limitations. It is the ability to tell our students when we don’t know something. Humility also means realizing that our way is not the only way, and that sometimes someone else might know more, or know better, or simply have a different take on things. Humility means understanding that each person is an individual; that it is important for students to cultivate and develop that individuality and not suppress it; and that the goal is not to create miniature versions of ourselves… Teaching with responsibility means having patience, because real growth is a process that takes a long time.
PUBLICATIONS

Mibeit LaParochet (Hebrew)
Rav Avraham Stav ’03H
Yeshivat Har Etzion

This sefer discusses in a deep, yet clear, manner the different parts of the High Priest’s service on Yom Kippur, analyzing each action from the simple reading of the verses through the learned discussions of the sources, while discussing the spiritual ramifications of each act.

Jonah in the Shadows of Eden (English)
Yitzhak Berger ’88
Indiana University Press

Professor Yitzhak Berger advances a distinctive and markedly original interpretation of the biblical book of Jonah that resolves many of the ambiguities in the text. Berger contends that the Jonah text pulls from many inner-biblical connections, especially ones relating to the Garden of Eden. Focusing on Jonah’s futile quest and his profoundly troubled response to God’s view of the sins of humanity, Berger shows how the book paints Jonah as a pacifist no less than as a moralist.

Imrah Tzerufah (Hebrew)
Rav Steven Goldsmith ’88
Machon Be’er HaTorah

Rav Steven Goldsmith first studied the issues of Stam (Sifrei Torah, Tefillin, and Mezuzot) with Rav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l and Rav Daniel Wolf in the Yeshiva’s Kollel Gavoha in 5767. In this volume Rav Goldsmith explores the topics of Stam and tzitzit in depth, and acknowledges the important contributions made by Rav Yair Kahn’s Shiurei HaGrid, as well as Eved HaMelech by Rav Yehuda Rock ’90H.

Kol Melacha (Hebrew)
Rav Yehuda Rock ’90H
Mosad Harav Kook

Kol Melacha discusses the topics of Melechet Machshevet from conceptual and textual perspectives. The main topics include Mitasek, Eino Mitkaven, Tzerikha Legufa, Mekalkel, and various ancillary topics. The book includes both an elucidation of the major opinions of the Rishonim, and attempts to reach conclusions on the sugyot themselves.

A Taste of Eden (English)
Rabbi Ari D. Kahn ’80
Kodesh Press

In another collection of incisive essays on the weekly Torah reading and Jewish holidays, Rabbi Ari Kahn once again displays his remarkable ability to distill complicated philosophical, theological, and exegetical ideas into brief and accessible language for everyone at the Shabbat table. His writings are deeply steeped in Torah and rabbinic tradition, yet remain relevant to Jews across a broad spectrum of readership. Share these ideas at your Shabbat table, or study them beforehand to enhance your understanding of the parasha each week.

Ben Baruch (Hebrew)
Michael Eisenberg ’89
Self-published

Michael’s second sefer, Ben Baruch, is dedicated to his father Barry Eisenberg on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The book examines topics in Tractate Berakhot of the Jerusalem Talmud and compares and contrasts these topics with their coverage in the Babylonian Talmud.
Halakhic Morality: Essays on Ethics and Masorah (English)
Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik zt"l
eds. Joel B. Wolowelsky and Reuven Ziegler ’86
Maggid Books

Through an in-depth examination of the beginning of Pirkei Avot, Rav Soloveitchik’s essays cover a variety of themes, including charity and fellowship, law and ethics, styles of religious observance, and the centrality of humility in Jewish life. Maggid Books is honored to bring these hitherto unpublished essays to a long-awaiting public.

Resisei Tal, vol. II (Hebrew)
HaRav Yehuda Amital zt"l
Edited by Rav Yoel Amital ’69H
Yeshivat Har Etzion

This is the second collection of shiurim delivered in Shiur Klali by HaRav Amital zt"l, covering various aspects of the world of halacha.

Shiurei Bayit: Rav Soloveitchik on Marriage, Sexuality, and Family in Our Times (Hebrew)
Rav Chaim Navon ’91H
Yediot Aharonot Books

Rav Soloveitchik zt"l wrote about men and women, love and family, with penetrating psychological insight combined with fear of God and humility, with intellectual courage that did not impinge on faith to the halacha. Rav Chaim Navon’s eleventh sefer carefully analyzes Rav Soloveitchik’s writings to deliver a powerful message that is relevant for our times.

Megillat Rut: Gesharim u’Gevulot (Hebrew)
Dr. Yonatan Grossman ’88H
Tevunot Press

This close reading of Megillat Rut explains how the story acts as a bridge between the anarchic period of the Judges and the monarchical age that begins with the birth of David. This bridge is constructed from three main axes: the theological perception that human actions have the power to shape and advance reality; the moral-legal perception that the spirit of the law must be privileged over the letter of the law and social conventions; and the principle that the institute of monarchy must be based upon human compassion. The commentary shows how these three threads are skillfully woven into the narrative.

By His Light: Character and Values in the Service of God (English)
Addresses by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l
Adapted by Rav Reuven Ziegler ’86
Reprint by Maggid Books

For both those who have already experienced HaRav Lichtenstein’s profound and powerful teaching and those who have not, this is an opportunity to be enlightened by the depth and breadth of his learning, and inspired by the scope and beauty of his vision. What is Judaism’s role in the modern world? How can I best make my own individual contribution? HaRav Lichtenstein applies the eternal values of Judaism with historical and psychological sensitivity, thereby aiding each reader’s quest for self-understanding and religious growth.
Marriages

Daniel Mark ‘98 and Madeleine Brown
Sammy Chester ‘03 and Tete Magid
Dukie Morduchowitz ‘03 and Shari Korngold
Nahum Gedalla ‘04 and Deborah Fisher
Shalom Sokolow ‘05 and Sharon Volotzky
Dovi Broner ‘06MTA and Lori Gross
Aron Rubin ‘07MTA and Leia Wachsstock
Noam Mintz ‘08 and Lily Wilf ‘11MO
Alex Dover ‘10 and Kayla Fleischer
Yossi Mazurek ‘10 and Sara Koutcher
Dovi Nadel ‘10 and Michelle Levine ‘12MO
Aaron Chemel ‘11MTA and Esty Klejman
Shane Lipman ‘11MTA and Netanya Feifel
Benjy Ratzersdorfer ‘11 and Nicki Kornbluth
Shalom Rosenbaum ‘11 and Rivka
Kaminetzky ‘11MO
Joey Adler ‘12 and Eliana Sugarman
Yonatan Chamudot ‘12 and Robin Joshowitz
Hudi Chinskey ‘12 and Dina Katzwer
Benjy Berkowicz ‘13MTA and Elisheva Rina Sirote
James Mindell ‘13 and Judith Schaechter
Avi Peskin ‘13 and Bat-El Ettinger
Brett Sacks ‘15PC and Ashleigh de Winter

Births

Ezra ‘97 and Azadeh Frazer, Michal Elisheva
Avi ‘97 and Daniella Robinson, Ayala Bruria
Uzi ‘98 and Rachel Beer, Aviya Simcha
Yonah ‘98 and Rachel Berman, Ilan Lior Adin
Josh ‘98 and Tova Lennon, Aviya Simcha
Avi ‘98 and Esthie Rosenblatt, Akiva Avigdor Chanoch
Eric ‘98 and Lauren Siskind, Aharon Calev
Bezalel ‘98 and Deborah Stern, Shmuel Yosef
Josh Frankel ‘99 and Rachel Berger, Natanella Mira
Menachem ‘99 and Avigayil Danishefsky, Eden Nechama
Yehoshua ‘99 and Danielle Levine, Arielle Noa Bayla
Ezra ‘99MTA and Aviva Peretz, Zev Shalom
Avi-Gil ‘01 and Tamar Chaitovsky, Atara Or
Yitzya ‘01 and Rachel Ehrenberg, Yakira Ronit
Avi ‘01 and Anya Kleinman, Yedidyah Tzvi
Simon ‘01 and Gabrielle Stern, Asher
Daniel ‘01 and Yael Strauchler, Ezra Shlomo
Daniel ‘02MTA and Deganit Rand, Nachshon
Josh ‘02 and Yehudit Samad, Ariel Eleizer
Dale ‘02MTA and Batya Schaffer, Uriel
Simmy ‘02 and Elana Siegel, Micah Doav
Avinoam ‘03 and Golda Erdfarb, Netanel Chaim
Mark ‘03MTA and Deena Meyerson, Elisha
Danny ‘03 and Althea Mirvis, Eliana Rachel
Avi ‘04 and Aviva Cohen, Hannah Charlotte
Zach ‘04MTA and Claire Gomo, Rafi
Ben ‘04 and Raisel Freedman, Amitai Zev
Avi ‘04 and Lehal Miller, Ariya Leah Rose
Michael ‘05 and Dani Gottesman, Yona Aharon
Yonatan Schwab ‘05 and Esty Rollhaus, Nadav
Max and Yakira Malka
Ariel ‘06 and Alana Hersh, Binyomin Avraham
Shmuely ‘06 and Chanala Iser, Sarale
Peter ‘06 and Tova Kahn, Elizabeth Rose
Jonathan ‘06 and Tali Seligsohn, Nachum Simcha
Meir ‘07 and Rikki ‘08MO Dardashti, Yakir
Vigi ‘07 and Naomi Katlowitz, Ella Noa
Alex ‘07MTA and Ahuva Tsykin, Aharon Yehuda
Danny ‘08MTA and Liora Freidus, Liba Sara
Gavriel ‘08 and Sarah Metzger, Joseph Noam
Ron ‘08 and Sara Nahshon, Oren Moshe
Elli ‘09 and Rachel ‘12MO Rappaport, Itamar Yitzhak
David ‘09 and Adina Shyovitz, Ya’ara
Daniel ‘09 and Yardena Thwaites, Choni Yitzhak
Gavriel ‘10 and Ruchama Rosen, Michael
Shimi ‘11PC and Simone ‘07MO Marcus, Aminadav Chaim
Leo ‘12 and Rebecca Katz, Gidon Shama
Yoni ‘13 and Tova Lazarus, Asher Aharon
Yaakov ‘13 Kollol and Sivan Felder, Eden Tzivia
Rabbi Michael ‘14PC and Dorit Kohn, Binyamin Dov
Mazal tov to Chana and Uri Biran ‘06SH on the birth of Yagel Aharon, and Mazal tov to the grandparents Rabbi Joel ‘80 and Donna Zeff, and Rabbi Mayer and Michal Lichtenstein, and to the great grandmother, Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein.
Mazal tov to Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh and Michal Lichtenstein on the birth of a grandson, Hillel Shir, born to their children Yehudit and Tuval Onsdorfer. Mazal tov also to the great grandmother, Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein.
Mazal tov to Rav Mordechai and Debby Friedman on the birth of a grandson, Lev Simcha, born to their children Rachel and Hallel Tannenbaum.
Mazal tov to Rav Mordechai and Debby Friedman on the birth of a grandson, Erez Simcha Tzvi, born to their children David and Cilli Friedman.
Mazal Tov to Rav Danny and Tova Rhein (and former Yeshiva Comptroller Chaim and Sima Schmell) on the birth of a grandson, Shachar Aharon, born to Rachel (Overseas Director of Migdal Oz) and David Schmell (former madrich for Darkaynu).
Mazal tov to Debra and Michael Berkowicz ‘77 and to Sharon and Jeff Hausdorff ‘80 upon the birth of grandson Adin Yishai to Yerucham and Shani Hausdorff Berkowitz.
Mazal tov to “Shira B” and Rabbi Bezalel Borstein on the birth of a granddaughter, Tohar, born to their children Yochanan and Dora Borstein.
**Bar/Bat Mitzva**

Baruch, son of Philip ‘82 and Romy Braude
Shimon Yehoshua (Simon Jeremy), son of Morey ‘82 and Joy Ziegler
Netanel, son of David ‘87 and Chana Walles
Shaked, son of David ‘88 and Sara Eisen
Noam, son of Victor ‘89 and Caroline Ofstein
Matanya, son of Ravi ‘94 and Jordanna Epstein
Matan, son of Rabbi Dr. Barry ‘95 and Kally Kislowicz
Shmuel, son of Rabbi Dr. Barry ‘95 and Kally Kislowicz
Binyamin, son of Samuel ‘96 and Liat Jackman

**Aliya**

Rabbi Dr. Barry ‘95 and Kally Kislowicz
Dr. Aryeh ‘99 and Penina Dienstag
Dr. Daniel ‘01 and Yael Strauchler
Joshua ‘05 and Tamara Caplin
Daniel Smith ‘05MTA
Yoni Berger ‘11
Akiva Futter ‘11
Asher Parkes ‘11MTA
Alexander Cohen ‘12
Josh Girod ‘12MTA
Daniel ‘12 and Mikayla Reidler
Aryeh Broth ‘13
Elan Turitz ‘13
Ruby Marriot ‘14
Yosef Coleman ‘15
Ephraim Frucher ‘15
Gedaliah Zemel ‘15

**Condolences**

To Rabbi Menachem Leibtag on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Florence Leibtag z”l
To Rabbi Yotav Eliach ‘75 on the loss of his mother, Professor Yaffa Eliach z”l
To Rabbi Joshua Schreier ‘75 on the loss of his sister, Leah Kochanowitz z”l
To Avery Steinberg ‘76 on the loss of his father, Rabbi Nathaniel Steinberg z”l
To Shimon ‘80 and Dr. Beni ‘81 Gesundheit on the loss of their father, Avraham Gesundheit z”l
To Yoram Schwell ‘96 on the loss of his father, Bob Schwell z”l
To Irwin Shuman ‘02MTA on the loss of his father, Zeev Shuman z”l
To Yosef Coleman ‘15 and Rivka Coleman ‘15MO on the loss of their brother

**ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS**

In November, 28 people were nominated as candidates to fill the four empty seats on the Israeli Supreme Court. The list of candidates included five Gush alumni: David Mintz ‘77H, Aviad Hacohen ‘80H, Gidi Sapir ‘83H, Ram Winograd ‘84H, and Shahar Lifshitz ‘87H, an occurrence that Rav Amnon Bazak called “the realization of the dreams of the founding Roshei Yeshiva, that learned alumni could positively influence Israeli society at large.”

Tobi Kahn ‘72 had his artwork included in the “Rendering the Unthinkable” exhibit at the 9/11 Museum in New York.

Dr. Moshe Simon-Shoshan ‘88 was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Literature at Bar Ilan University.

Rabbi Avraham Bronstein ‘97 was appointed the Rabbi of the Hampton Synagogue, NY.

**Avi Robinson** ‘97 was named President of the Bess and Paul Sigel Hebrew Academy, Bloomfield, CT.

**Rabbi Uzi Beer** ‘98 became the Principal of The JEC Lower School in Elizabeth, NJ.

**Daniel Mark** ‘98 is an assistant professor of political science at Villanova University, and vice chairman of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

**David Fried** ‘06PC began teaching Judaics at the Hebrew High School of New England in West Hartford, CT.

**Rabbi Samuel Iser** ‘06 is now serving as a Rosh Kollel in Baltimore, MD.

**Rabbi Greg Bank** ‘06MTA is now the Youth Rabbi in Linskfield-Senderwood Hebrew Congregation in South Africa.

**Rabbi Alex Tsykin** ‘07MTA is now the OU-JLIC campus representative at the University of Maryland. Alex is in good company as OU-JLIC’s staff is replete with YHE alumni, including Rabbi David Pardo ‘06 at Brandeis University, Rabbi Noam Friedman ‘07 at Columbia University, Rabbi Chaim Finson ‘04H at Cornell University, Rabbi Aaron Greenberg ‘97 at the University of Toronto, Rabbi Joe Wolfson ‘04 at NYU, Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan ‘97 at UCLA, and Rabbi Shlomo Zuckier ‘05 at Yale University.

**Josh Blau** ‘12 is part of a research team at Yeshiva University that mapped the spread of the Zika virus using network science.

**Rabbi Michael Kohn** ‘14PC is now the Assistant Rabbi of Bern, Switzerland.