Sometime ago, Harav Amital shlit’a, although not planning to retire as yet as Rosh Hayeshiva, expressed interest in initiating steps to choose his eventual replacement. To this end, a committee was established, consisting of representatives of the Ramim, alumni of the Yeshiva in Israel and abroad, and the administration. The committee dealt with the matter for several months and presented its recommendations to the Roshei Yeshiva and the administration. The recommendations were accepted and they chose Harav Yaakov Medan, who studied in the Yeshiva’s first machzor and Harav Baruch Gigi, who studied in the Yeshiva’s 7th machzor, as designated Roshei Yeshiva. The actual appointment will become effective during the 5766 academic year, at which time the two new Roshei Yeshiva will serve alongside the two current Roshei Yeshiva. When Harav Amital shlit’a retires, the Yeshiva will be headed by three Roshei Yeshiva. At some future date, with an eye to Harav Lichtenstein’s eventual retirement, another Rosh Yeshiva will be designated to serve jointly with Harav Medan and Harav Gigi as co-Roshei Yeshiva. We trust that these present and future steps will ensure the orderly transfer of leadership and provide, with the help of God, the proper balance of continuity and innovation.
New Dedications at Yeshiva

The Roshei Yeshiva and administration are grateful for the following new dedications at the Yeshiva:

The Dr. William Major Foreign Students Program was dedicated in loving memory by his family. Dr. William Major z"l graduated high school in Hungary during the Shoah. For him at that time, a place such as Yeshivat Har Etzion not only did not exist, but was not imaginable. Together with his wife, Gabriella (ibidel lechaim), Dr. Major considered sending his children (Eugene ’80 and Steven ’86) to the Yeshiva as the greatest gift he could give to them. He was forever grateful to the Roshei Yeshiva, faculty and staff for the profound impact that they had on his children and his entire family.

The Cheder Ramim of the Yeshiva was dedicated in loving memory of his father, Mirein (יוסף יצחק) Klitsner z”l - יי י民警 by Rav Shmuel ’75 and Judy Klitsner.

The Lea and Maks Rothstein English Library of the Yeshiva was dedicated by Mr. & Mrs. Maks Rothstein of Florida. The Yeshiva has developed an impressive English library collection of over 2,500 titles on topics relevant to Yeshiva studies: limudim kedushah, machnawah, biographies of Rabbanim, translations of classic Jewish texts and books on chassidut and ethics for the individual and the family. The goal is to present the standard texts as well as the latest works in Jewish fields being published today to enrich the lives of the students and to serve the community at large.

Annual Alumni Shabbaton in N Y

The 15th Annual Har Etzion NY Alumni Shabbaton with Harav Aharon Lichtenstein took place in December in New Rochelle, N.Y. Alumni representing all machsomim joined for an enjoyable Shabbat, sharing meals, shiurim and sichot in a warm atmosphere. Special thanks to the Shabbaton Committee: Michael Raskas ’87, Ethan Benovitz ’86, Seth Grauer ’96-’97, Mordechai Raskas ’99-’00, Adam J. Steiner ’99-’00 and David Goldfischer ’98-’99 for all their help. Despite a major snowstorm, more than 80 alumni attended and the various talks by Rav Lichtenstein were well-attended and well-received by the community at large. A Melava Malka, sponsored by Irene & Hirsh Cogan and Steven & Adina Friedman, was attended by 50 people, an impressive number considering the treacherous weather conditions. A meeting for parents with Harav Lichtenstein took place at the home of Dr. Bernie and Linda Weiner (parents of Dani) in Riverdale, N.Y.

Harav Lichtenstein in England

Harav Aharon Lichtenstein was a guest of Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks at the annual Conference of Rabbis held in London just prior to Rosh Hashana. He addressed a distinguished audience of Rabbanim and Dayanim on the subject of Teshuva. Though he was in London for less than 12 hours, Rav Lichtenstein also met alumni and potential students, delivering inspiring words of chizuk in anticipation of the Yamin Noraim. Rav Lichtenstein was introduced by Rabbi Daniel Roselaar ’87, Rav of Belmont Synagogue, and a presentation was made to Mr. Sydney Faber in recognition of his work running the office of the British Friends of Yeshivat Har Etzion for more than a decade.

Ramim Abroad

Rav Elyakim Krumbein ’72 was one of the featured speakers at the second annual Mussar Kallah Conference held in Houston, Texas in May, co-sponsored by the AishDas Society, the Salant Foundation and the Jewish Community Center of Houston. Rav Krumbein has given shiurim on Mussar in the Yeshiva and for the Virtual Beit Midrash which are the basis of a forthcoming book.

Rav Moshe Aberman ’76, former Rosh Kollel of Kollel Torah Mitzne in Chicago, visited the Chicago community in February. A festive Melava Malka on behalf of the Yeshiva was held at the home of Patti & Allen Ray in Skokie. Rav Aberman also spoke at the RZC Center, at an O neg Shabbat at the home of Sandy & Arthur Aberman, and on Shabbat afternoon, at the Or Torah Congregation.

Rav Daniel Schreiber ’86 visited South Africa at the end of August where he met with bnei Akiva administration and gave shiurim to the bnei Akiva and to the community. He was mesader kedushin at the wedding of Layne Rabinowitz ’03 and Gina Nellfield. It was Rav Schreiber’s first visit to S.Africa and he was very impressed with the scholot of the community and the commitment of both the youth and adults to try to improve the community. “I was especially happy to see the Bnei Akiva Beit Midrash getting stronger and to see our talmidim flourishing,” he said.
Excerpted from a letter sent to the alumni mailing list:

Dear Fellow Talmidim of Yeshivat Har Etzion,

When Moshe Rabbeinu and Bnei Yisrael sing the praises of the be’er in Parshat Chukat, they say of it, “Be’er chaflanu sarim kanuha ne’edve am.” In a beautiful comment, the Or Ha-Chaim suggests that the be’er alluded to in the pasuk refers not to a well of water but to Torah itself. The pasuk, then, is describing how successive generations of Jews throughout history have continued to dig and drink from the same source of wisdom - each one finding something familiar, yet also mining further, digging deeper, unearthing new waters that are ever more pleasant.

Sometimes, a single generation, or a single individual, has the privilege to return to its own well and dig it anew. The experience can be profoundly fulfilling in two different senses. On the one hand, simply to return to one’s original source after a period of maturation and to discover that the well seems ever deeper, that the sustenance it offers is even more plentiful, and that the only limitations on how much water can be drawn is how big a vessel one brings to fill, can bring enormous satisfaction. It restores faith in one’s education and reaffirms, against the cynical eye of time, that one has built himself on solid foundations. But more than that, how much further one can dig, how much more deeply one can drink, how much tastier and more refreshing these waters seem to a palate that is far more sophisticated but has grown weary and tired!

Chevrah, I am writing to invite you to consider returning to Yeshivat Har Etzion for another period of study. I am not writing in any official capacity, but as someone who has come back (twice) since my pre-college years and has found more and more depth, wisdom, and opportunity for growth each time. I returned, single, for one year between my graduation from college and my start of medical school, and currently I am here, with my wife and baby, on a two-year leave of absence from medical school. Each experience has truly been more wonderful than the last; each time I have felt that my prior growth, both personally and in learning, has opened up new doors for me and allowed me to tap sources of wisdom whose surfaces I had barely scratched in years past. Many of you have had a taste of this by either visiting the Yeshiva during vacation times or just interacting with the Rebbeim during their trips abroad.

If you are looking to invest serious time into high-level learning on your way to a career in chinuch/rabbanut, or want to learn for a year or two before pursuing a different career track, I highly suggest that you consider coming back to the Yeshiva as an option. I am eager to offer any guidance and whatever assistance I can to anyone who is interested.

With best wishes for continued growth and fulfillment in Torah,

judahg@mail.med.upenn.edu
American phone number in Israel: 516-620-4238

A letter from Dr. Leeber Cohen ’77, Great Neck, NY

My visit to the Yeshiva this past summer was a dream come true. I was not sure how I would fit in after an absence of 26 years (and now being about twice the age of most of the student body). But the experience was perfect on every level. I immediately felt part of the Yeshiva and was astonished at how much had not changed. The Beit Midrash was as awe-inspiring as ever, full of hundreds of students in diligent study. Still, much was bigger and even more impressive than before; the extraordinary library, for example, was certainly different from the room in the basement that I remembered. The learning was great. It was wonderful to speak with Rav Lichtenstein and analyze marei mekomot with my chevruta in preparation for his shiurim. After shiur we compared notes on Rav Lichtenstein’s brilliant Torah, continuing an unbroken tradition. The Yemei Iyun ‘B’Tanach lectures at the Herzog College were a wonderful surprise. I had, of course, heard of the program, but until experiencing the energy of hundreds of scholars converging on the Yeshiva, I had no idea how invigorating and inspiring it would be. The lectures that I attended were superb; well-prepared and full of insight.

Each night, on the way back to Yerushalayim, I could not wait to return the next morning. When the two weeks were over, I felt sad to be leaving the Yeshiva once again, yet rejuvenated because of the Torah I had received and hopeful that I would be able to make another visit before too long.
24th Annual Dinner

“This is the biggest and most successful dinner ever,” said David Landes ’73, Chairman of the Board, of the 24th Annual Dinner of Yeshivat Har Etzion held March 16, 2004 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in NYC. He attributed the high turnout, despite the stormy weather, to the tireless efforts of Dorothy Berman, President of the Etzion Foundation, Shirley Schuster, Executive Director, Eli Weber ’81, head of the alumni drive, Dr. Meyer Brayer, Executive Director of the Yeshiva, and many others.

Rabbi Yehuda Amital, speaking in Hebrew, discussed imyanei d’yoma, concerning the exodus from Egypt, exploring the differences between being a slave to Pharaoh and being an eved to the Kadosh Baruch Hu.

Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein discussed the challenge of striking a balance between tradition and novelty, with particular relevance to the world of kedusha. “In many contexts,” he said, “Yeshivat Har Etzion has sought to initiate, to lead and to pioneer, through a fusion of responsibility and responsiveness.” He introduced the six honorees, stating that they each “manifest, enhance and advance the ideals which the Yeshiva encourages and towards which it strives to educate.”

“We are truly privileged to be associated with Yeshivat Har Etzion,” responded Eliot Lauer, adding that the Yeshiva “is an intellectual fortress, indomitable but open, which has armed its talmidim with superb analytical skills, accompanied by an enduring love of Torat Yisrael, Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael. The talmidim have the confidence of Calev and the passion of Nachshon to pursue our sacred mission.”

Alumnus of the Year was Dr. Howard ’76 and Paula Friedman of Teaneck, NJ, active members of the Jewish community, whose son Zvi was a second-year talmid last year. They are further linked...
to the Yeshiva in another way. Paula is the daughter of Manfred and Barbara Joseph who, together with Irwin and Ruth Shapiro, enabled the construction of the central facility within the complex of the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz, the Alexander and Rose Shapiro z’l Beit Midrash, dedicated in loving memory of their parents.

"My year at Yeshivat Har Etzion and my family’s close contact with the Yeshiva has helped guide me through the years," said Howie. "While the years have gone by the message, the hashkafa and the energy of the Yeshiva, the Roshei Yeshiva and the Ramim, have remained and strengthened throughout the years.”

Howie Reece, on behalf of the machzorim of 1977-1978, made a presentation to the Yeshiva of a security fund earmarked for the Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz.

The Roshei Yeshiva and talmidim dancing at dinner

Alumni Achievements in Chinuch and the Rabbinate

Rav David Riffkin '85-'87, educational development and training coordinator for Torah MiTzion’s head office in Jerusalem
Simi Chavel '87, develops Jewish studies curriculum for day schools in the Diaspora, Melton Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Raw Avie Schreiber '88, '94, Teaching, Yavneh Elementary School, Paramus, NJ
Raw Avie Rednash '88, '92 PC, Ram, Gruss Kollel, Jerusalem
Daniel Marcus '90, Teaching at Immanuel College High School, London, England
Rabbi Jeff Kohnin '92, Assistant Dean, Educational Administration, Ramaz Upper School, NY
Rabbi Yoni Krest '92, '97-'99 Kollel, Israel advisor and teaching at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy; Silver Spring, MD
Rabbi Chaim Kantorovitz '93, Rabbi, Manchester, England
Benji Balint '93-'94, made aliya, Associate Editor of Azure, journal of the Shalem Center
Rabbi Yoseif Bloch ('95-'96, '01-'02 Kollel), Beth Jacob Congregation, Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada
Aaron Koller '95, Teaching, Bible Dept. at Yeshiva College, NY
Rabbi Josh Cypess '95 PC, Rabbi, Young Israel of New Haven, CT
Elie Weissman '96-'97, Teaching, Yeshiva of Flatbush High School and working at Young Israel of W Insor Park, Bayside, NY
Avraham Bronstein '97-'98, Jewish Studies teacher, MSTA – YU High School for Boys, NY
Yaakov Martin '97 H, teaching Limudei Kodesh at a midrasha for women and giving shiurim for the community, Frankfurt, Germany, a Ronald S. Lauder project
Josh Wunder '98-'00, Shekel U Meishiv in morning seder at Mevaseret (YSMZ), Israel
Rabbi Elli Fischer '99-'01 Kollel, Jewish Learning Initiative, University of Maryland
Moshe Towolsky '99 H, Shaliach Mercazi for Bnei Akiva in Miami, Florida
Saul Adler '01, Teaching Middle School at Herzlia Jewish Day School in Cape Town and Vice-Chairman of Bnei Akiva Cape Town, South Africa
Saul Kaplan '01 MTA, Chairman, Bnei Akiva Johannesburg and bar mitzvah director of Sydenham Highlands North Shul, South Africa
Rav Aviad Tabory, Rosh Bnei Akiva, England
On Sabbatical - Rav Binyamin Tabory - Senior Ram in the Yeshiva, teaching in the Beit Midrash Program of Stern College, NY
Bhatziada to the following Har Etzion talmidim who have embarked on shlichut in the framework of "Torah MiTzion" Kollelim abroad:
USA:
Manhattan: Oded Friedman, Katriel Ziurol, Aryeh Weinrib and Moshe Bacher
Cleveland: Rav Shmuel Zieidman, Rosh Kollel Avi Asulin, Kollel member
Boca Raton: Rav Yehuda Rock
Melbourne, Australia: Nadia W Ilner, Ohad Fixler, Amital Marmon, Aharon Novogrotsky and Avigdor Einat

Mazal Tov to Ariel Bayewitz (99-'00) on being chosen valedictorian of Yeshiva College’s graduating class and to Yaakov Rydzinski (99-'00) on being chosen valedictorian of YU’s Mazer Yeshiva program.
Breaking the Ice in Halifax

Alumnus: Rav Yehoshua Grunstein

Why would a Gush Kollel student, very happy and content in Israel, enjoying the social and spiritual benefits of living among bnei Torah in Alon Shevut, teaching the foreign students and serving as Educational Director of “Amiel” (a Jerusalem-based organization that trains Israeli rabbis to serve in Jewish communities abroad), choose to leave it all in order to serve as Rav in Halifax, Canada? Why would he submit himself to sleeping in the Sukka in a winter coat, burning the chametz on Erev Pesach with snow falling and having to fill the mikva with ice and then blow torch the ice to melt it? The answer, explains Rav Yehoshua Grunstein, relates to three aspects of Yeshivat Har Etzion experienced by every student who studies there.

First, each student receives a unique gift from the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim – the freedom to assume responsibility. From a talmid’s very first day in Yeshiva, he is taught the importance of taking responsibility. The world of learning is placed before him and it is up to him to take advantage of the opportunity. Indeed, the plight of Jewish communities in the “hinterlands” is such that they are indeed “free”, but void of the accessibility to Torah due to a lack of rabbis and educators. “So, how could any student of our Yeshiva, after developing his own personality and learning, not pass on this same gift to these communities?” he asks.

Second, the Yeshiva imparts to each student an additional gift – extreme clarity of thought in learning and teaching at a high academic level. This is the underpinning of any shiur in the Yeshiva and indeed is expected from students when delivering shuirim or writing in the Yeshiva’s diverse publications. “In the short time that I’ve been in Halifax, I can prove the point that I have always suspected while in Yeshiva; that the most complex piece of lomdus, the most ‘mundane’ parsha, and the most obscure halacha, can be made interesting even to those Jews who are far from committed, by maintaining clarity at a high academic level, and constantly supporting one’s ideas with proof and mekorot,” Rav Grunstein maintains. “I can attest to sermons and shiurim delivered to a crowd of Jews who never had a Jewish education past age 13 in afternoon Talmud Torah, who were able to listen to pure lomdus and not only listened attentively but later sent questions by e-mail, attesting to their understanding.”

Thirdly, while learning is the most important experience in Yeshiva, no student can easily leave without having been affected by the profound experience of Shabbat and Yom Tov celebrations, together with days of mourning which are hard to describe in words. No student can disregard the responsibility towards the Jewish world, especially in the spiritual realm, after hearing Rav Amital cry out to Hashem on the Yamim Noraim, with the problems and shortcomings of the Jewish people weighing on his mind.

“How can one deprive the Jewish communities of the Hinterlands the dancing and spiritual devotion we all feel on Purim and Simchat Torah?” asks Rav Grunstein. “How can we just say nebach and go about business as usual after experiencing those many “20/20” speeches from Rav Lichtenstein, as our learning could not go on until sensitivity was shown regarding Jewish life within and outside the Yeshiva?”

Thus, Rav Grunstein’s decision to leave Alon Shevut for Halifax, together with his wife, Tali and son, Noam (and recently born Aviva), was born and bred within the Yeshiva itself, in the wonderful framework in which he felt privileged to live for eight years.

Rav Grunstein is serving as rabbi of the only Orthodox synagogue, Beth Israel, with a membership of 175 families. There is a daily minyan three times a day, as well as an eruv. Kosher food is available in local supermarkets but meat must be flown in periodically from Montreal and Toronto. There are no kosher restaurants. Living in a city of 350,000 people whose Jewish population is estimated at just 1,500 presents its own challenges, but Rav Grunstein has gone out of his
way to build bridges. He proudly notes that Beth Israel conducts a number of joint programs and activities with both the Conservative synagogue and the Chabad House in town. Under his leadership, Beth Israel runs a joint Hebrew school together with Shaar Shalom, the Conservative congregation, wherein children from kindergarten through second grade, meet a couple of times a week to learn about Judaism and Jewish history. They held a joint Hannuka celebration and a community-wide commemoration of Israel Independence Day. "What unites us is far greater than what divides us"– Rav Soloveitchik’s approach is the one I took with me to Halifax; anything that is halachically and ethically possible to unite on, I do my utmost to make happen, seeing it as our mission and obligation to reach out to every Jew," he states.

Rav Grunstein’s major goal is to enhance the level of Jewish education available to Halifax Jews of all ages. He has launched an adult-education program together with the local Chabad rabbi called Lunch & Learn, where a group of local Jews meet to explore Jewish texts over a meal. As for the youth, "The biggest liability I believe we have right now is that there is no Jewish day school. I hope to promote the idea and hopefully plant the roots to see it materialize. While an eruv, mikva and daily minyan is a great achievement for a small community, to establish and maintain quality, high-level Jewish education is the key to our existence in history and the key for Halifax today."

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar explains that one of the greatest challenges presented by a community like his is quite simply the diversity of religious commitment. At any given time he finds himself trying to inspire and motivate a very broad spectrum of people, ranging from those who come to shul every day to those who come once or twice a year for a yahrzeit or other special occasion. "I try to make sure that every service and every event is meaningful to as many people as possible," he says. One of his most successful enterprises was filling a tent in the synagogue parking lot with nearly 400 people for an explanatory service on Rosh Hashanah.

Not surprisingly, Rabbi Roselaar regards Jewish education as the most important part of his rabbanut. He gives a range of different shiurim in the community as well as participating in "Lunch and Learn" shiurim for business people in the City of London. He has delivered a series of shiurim in the historic Treasury offices in Whitehall at the heart of British government and found it a very moving experience teachingTorah "in the corridors of power." He also makes sure that he has time to learn with the teenagers in the community and encourages them to spend time learning in yeshivot in Israel after finishing high school.

He says that one of his proudest moments was bringing a group of congregants on a tour of the Yeshiva as part of a solidarity mission to Israel that he organized for his community.

Rabbi Roselaar looks back fondly at the years he spent at Yeshivat Har Etzion, commenting that he still feels part of the yeshiva community and that he is constantly grateful for the training and inspiration that he found within the walls of the Beit Midrash.

Alumnus Feature

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar - Belmont Synagogue, London

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar (‘87-‘97) has been the rabbi of Belmont Synagogue in North-West London since 1997. It is a community of some 500 families with activities taking place in the shul almost every day of the week.

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Seminars

Summer Study Days in Tanach

The annual summer study days in Tanach were a resounding success. Following months of preparation, over 2,200 participants converged upon the Yeshiva for three days of shiurim delivered by top Herzog College lecturers. The program offered 120 shiurim in Tanach and related pedagogic topics as well as a choice of 11 Tanach-based tiyulim. "Herzog College has assumed a leadership position in the study and teaching of Tanach in Israel and worldwide since its establishment 30 years ago," stated Dr. Shmuel Wygoda, Director of Herzog College. "Each year participation in the Yemel lyn B’Tanach grows by 10% and this year we have reached full capacity." He noted that participants came from as far as Metula and the Golan Heights in the North to Eilat in the South, as well as representatives from abroad, including a delegation from France.

As in the past, the organization of this major undertaking was very impressive - the Yeshiva lobby was transformed overnight into a giant communication center with computerized registration and a massive sale of Yeshiva and Herzog College publications and CD’s. The new classroom annex of the Herzog College was ready just in time to absorb the overflow crowd, thanks to the frenzied work schedule prior to the Study Days.

Rabbi Yitz Etshalom ’83, Associate Director of Project Next Step of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, who attended the study days at Yeshiva, commented: "The study days were inspiring, stimulating, challenging and ennobling. They are the most powerful - and empowering - gathering of great Tanach teachers and students anywhere."

Alan Wecker ’82 from Haifa added, "I’ve been coming to the Yemel lyn B’Tanach for more than 5 years and I greatly enjoy them each time. The Yeshiva is my spiritual home; there’s something special here which you can’t get anywhere else."

Rabbi Yehuda Seif ’95, who heads the Jewish Learning Initiative at U. of Penn with his wife, Orit, has attended the Yemel lyn B’Tanach for the past 9 years. He says the Yemel lyn have enhanced his understanding of Tanach tremendously and it is a great help to him in preparing shiurim. "My appreciation for the Yeshiva and Herzog College continues to grow. I can’t resist coming each year."

Rushin to the next shur


Emergency Medicine and Halacha

The Yeshiva held a two-day Seminar on "Emergency Medicine and Halacha" in memory of Dr. David Appelbaum and his daughter, Nava, HY”D during Chanuka. Prof. Yonatan Halevy, Director of Sharei Zedek Hospital, delivered the opening lecture, presenting an overview of the emergency room at Sharei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, which was directed by Dr. Appelbaum until his murder. Rosh Hayshiva Rav Yehuda Amital gave a shiur on "Shomer Petayim Hashem: Principles in Defining Danger."

A panel discussion focusing on medical ethics and emergency...
by Rav Yair Kahn

Speakers on the second day were Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, Rav Shabtai Rappaport, Rav Yeshiath "Shevut Yisrael", and Dr. Alan Jotkowitz, Internal Medicine, Soroka Hospital, Beer-Sheva, moderated by Rav Ezra Bick. Speakers on the second day were Naffati Raanan, an alumnus of the Yeshiva and "Zaka" member; Rav Yaakov Ariel, the Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan, Rav Shlomo Levy, Rav Kell, Yeshivat Ha Etzion, Rav Re‘em Haacohen, Rav Yeshiath "Otniel" Hesder Yeshiva, Dr. Yehuda Frankel, School of Psychiatry, Hebrew University, Eliahu Ackerman, Head of Psychological Services, Kiryat Arba, which was moderated by Rav Benny Leheman.

"Shiuré H aGrid" - Shiurim by HaRav Yosef D ov Halevi Soloveitchik zt"l on Tefillin, StaM and Tzitzit


The Rav zt"l delivered shiurim for more than 40 years at Yeshivat Rabbeinu Yitzhak Elchanan, characterized by a combination of rigorous analysis together with brilliant, sweeping chidushim. The Rav viewed himself primarily as a teacher, concentrating on the oral transmission of his Torah to his students. Only towards the end of his life did he publish some of his yahrzeit shiurim in memory of his father, Hagan Harav Moshe zt"l. ("Shirurim L'Zecher Avi Mori" - two volumes). In addition, he left a number of manuscripts, some of which were eventually published. However, those 40 years of shiurim remained largely inaccessible to the community at large. So when Mosad Harav Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein approached Rav Yair Kahn, Ram and Head of O versei Talmidim at Yeshivat Har Etzion, to undertake the project of helping to publish the Rav's shiurim, he responded with "joy and trepidation."

"My goal was to put out the Rav's Torah in the best format possible to the widest audience possible," he says. "It was a very exciting venture and a lot of hard work," says Rav Kahn who, like his father, was a talmid of the Rav. "It was a feeling of being part of something bigger than myself."

Although a number of sefarim containing the Rav's shiurim have recently appeared, this sefer is unique insofar as it is based primarily on recordings of the shiurim themselves. The project involved listening to hours of tapes of the Rav's shiurim delivered at Yeshivat Rabbeinu Yitzhak Elchanan, mainly in 1961, when the Rav was at the height of his power, transcribing the material, gleaning through various handwritten manuscripts, and then deciding on the best format to present the material. After numerous trials and re-trials and much thought, Rav Kahn decided to organize the material by topic, believing that to be the way in which the most authentic and readable version of the Rav's Torah would emerge. The sefer contains 31 chapters, followed by a brief hashkafic section, which Rav Kahn felt was an important complement to the halachic section.

The Rav's shiurim on Orach Chaim are a bridge between the Rav's philosophical and scholarly approach, and to a certain extent, an area where the Rav's contribution to the Torah world is most acute, explains Rav Kahn. In the preface to the sefer, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein writes that, over the years, the Rav developed a special love for the area of Orach Chaim, which encompasses the halachot of our daily existence. The Rav saw the advantage, especially regarding his shiurim to the community at large, of dealing with familiar subjects, from both the practical and conceptual perspectives, in order to help enrich knowledge, behavior and worship. The Rav viewed the study of these sugyot as having unique importance. The mitzvot of tefillin and tizitzit, mitzvot mentioned in the parshiot of kiyaat shema, dealing with kabbalat ol malchut shamayim, are central to our spiritual world.

Prof. Moshe Koppel '74, Math Dept., Bar Ilan U., remarks on the sefer: "Rav Kahn's presentation of the Rav's shiurim is exceptionally lucid; he successfully distils the essential ideas in each shir. I have never before enjoyed a written rendition of the Rav's Torah as much as I have this sefer."

The sefer is available at your local sefarim stores.
Marriages

Ami Aharon '87 and Lea Muth
Adrian '87 Bensoiglio and Rayna Baum
Shlomo Dov Rosen '93 and Surale Cherkasky
Asher Aftshlur '93 and Anat Mufkadi
Dov Daniel '95 H and Shani Krieger
Duvi Billet '95 and Anouchie Kremer
Chaim Strauchler '95 and Avital Wacht
Adam Levin '96 and Paula Blumenau
Yoni Kosovsky '96 H, madrich, and Dina Permutt
Aviva Ehrlich '96 and Tehilla Hadar
Avraham Bornstein '97 and Daniela Weiss
Aron Berger '98 and Rivka Bina Rafael
Josh Lennon '98 and Tova Goldstein
Tuvia Lazar '98 and Carol Leman
Ariel Hozer '98 and Julie Tuttle
Meir Belsh '98 and Aliza Saltman
Yehoshua Levine '99 and Danielle Motofsky
Gavri Butler '99 and Shani Libin
Seth Jacobson '99 and Al Lederer
Mani Pollak '99 H, madrich, and Taffa Goldenhirsch
Yehuda Neuman '99 and Rachel Goldman
Yoni Kra '99 and Kim Eisenberg
Dovid Erdofar '00 and Elli Berkower
Jay Weinstein '00 and Sharon Elant
Bruno Belaciano '01 and Rachel Kahn
Elchay Bitner '01 and Zahiya Lerner
Tovia Lewinsky '01 and Rachel Baer
Laye Rabinowitz '01 and Gina Neifeld
Asher O'Koby '02 and Ariela Sherman
Mark Ginsberg '03 RC and Hindy Cooper
Zwi '74 and Rahel Bash on the marriage of their daughter,
Miriam, to Eliezer Loew.

Births

Hard '75 and Batya Hefter, Aharon Noam, Efrat
Carl '79 and Adina Shemer, Yechezkel Yehuda Ariel, Jerusalem
Nati '81 and Rachel Helfgot, Nehemiah Dvir, NYC
David '82 and Bonnie Weinberg, Liora Maayan Miriam, Nof Ayalon
Howie '82 and Marcy Oster, Tova Chana, Ginot Shomron
Modie '83 and Atara Taragin, Shmuel Levy, Alon Shevut
Yitz '83 and Stefanie Etsahalom, Yaakov Nucham, LA, CA
Morey '83 and Joy Wein, Shimon Yehoshua, New York, NY
Yaakov '84 and Odelia Francus, Tehilla Emuna, Alon Shevut
Gerson '84 and Mindy Schapiro, Sarah Devora, Ranan
Zalman '84 and Gila Levine, Leebly Yocheved, Teaneck, NJ
Michael Hattin '85 and Rivka Epstein, Miriam Shalhevet, Alon Shevut
Alan '86 and Monica Haber, Elisha Yisrael, Alon Shevut
Yitz '86 and Noa (Jesselson) Blau, Tehilla Nava, Alon Shevut
Yuri '86 and Alie (Aiperovich) Epstein, Emma Frances (Ayelet Zipor)
Yuri '86 and Alie (Aiperovich) Epstein, Emma Frances (Ayelet Zipor)
David '87 and Adina Miller, Yonatan Yisrael, Alon Shevut
Israel '87 and Judy Jacobs, Sarina Malka, Toronto, Canada
Zelig Aster '87 and Ariel Rothstein, Yehoshua Rachel, Philadelphia, PA
Simi '87 and Audrey Chavel, Yonatan Gilad, Jerusalem
Uri '87 and Devorah Mith, Akiva, Baltimore, MD
Avi '88 and Meira Ferziger, Hadar Bryna, Alon Shevut
Zvi '88 and Ruti Shimon, Tsofia Bruria and Yair Yosef, Jerusalem
David '88 and Sara Eisen, Shaked Akiva, Bet Shemesh
Assaf '88 and Leora Bednarsh, Sarina Adi, Alon Shevut
Tani '89 and Miriam Waliach, Revital Gealya, Moreshet
Todd '90 and Nomi Berman, Ztabla Ronit, Efrat
Yakov '90 and Michal Nagen (Genack), Zohara, Tel Aviv
Davit '90 and Mall Brofky, Yonatan Shmuel Yehudayahu, Alon Shevut
Kalman '91 and Jordan Schorr, A-diele Bracha, Riverdale, NY
Betzelel '92 and Shana Posy, Moshe Yehuda, Riverdale, NY
David '92 and Rahel (Berkovitz) Asental, Eliza Shana Yosef, Jerusalem
Daniel '92 and Rachel Wolf, A-saf Israel, Cleveland, OH
Moti '92 and Laurie Novick, Bina Channa, Alon Shevut
N-oam '92 and Ziona Handler, Joel Joseph, Manchester, England
Jay '92 and Gila Lisker, Bala, Jamaica Estates, NY
Chaim 92 and Leah Marcus, Yosef Yechezkel, Springfield, NJ
Daniel '93 and Osnat Lipczer, Glad Zvi (and Michal Chana previously), London, England
Doron '93 and Batya Friedlander, Tehilla Nava, Ramat Bet Shemesh
Josh '93 and Aviva Friedman, Moshe Avraham, NY
Josh '93 and Chaya Hexter, Ezra Yaakov, Jerusalem
Elton '93 and Sylvia Frankel, Yonatan Gilad, Sydney, Australia
Elon '93 and Carine Weinreb, Eden Hodaya, Ra'anana
David '94 and Sara W. Hitefield, Lishia Adi, Raanana
Amichai '94 and Jody Erdfarb, Dviera Shayna, New Haven, CT
Eliahu '95 and Adi Silverman, Hodaya, Cliffside Park, NJ
Boaz '95 PC and Leora Mori, Shira, Beit Shemesh
Micky '95 and Rina Sfei, Akiva Ezra, Alon Shevut
Josh '95 and Rebecca Gypsum, Benjamin Montachchi, NYC
Mordy '95 and Limor Friedman, Noa Sarah, Jerusalem
Yehoshua '95 H and Tali Grunstein, Aviva Yonit, Halifax, Canada
Benji '96 and Emily Rickman, Naftoli Meir and Elisheva Rena, London, England
Benjamin '96 and Yael Resnick, Meital Shachar, Teaneck, NJ
Daniel '96 and Miriam (Leventstein) Schwab, Sarah, Jerusalem
Yoram '96 and Ayelet Schwell, Netanel Shlomo, Englewood, NJ
Yaakov '96 and Yocheved Lipshitz, boy, Chicago, IL
Noam '97 and Aliza Shapiro, Ayelet Zahava, NYC
Yakov '97 and Estee Fleischmann, boy, Teaneck, NJ
Daniel '97 and Sarah Sueke, Yoav Yaacov, London, England
David '98 and Yael Goldfischer, girl, W. Orange, NJ
Rafi '98 and Atara Eis, Ahuva Zisel, NYC
Josh '98 MTA and Shoni Nagel, Rafael Tzion, Sydney, Australia
Ari '98 and Ilana Erdfarb, Gavriella Tova, Teaneck, NJ
Ellie '99 PC and Pesha Fischer, Raphael Amichai, College Park, MD
Mosheh and Michal Lichtenstein, Rachel, Alon Shevut
Aharon '72 and Miriam Adler on the birth of a grandson, Benaya, to Chaim and Avigail Adler.
Josh '75 and Shira Schreier on the birth of a grandson, Uriel, to Nomi and Avishai Magence.
Mazal Tov to Raw Ezra and Itta Bick on the birth of a granddaughter, Horodaya Rivka, to Rachel and Ariel Hessel.
Mazal Tov to Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the birth of a granddaughter, Yosef Dov, to daughter, Toni, and granddaughter, Rachel, to Raw Mosheh and Michal Lichtenstein.

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Rachel Koppel (Moshe '74 and Channah), Efrat
Aviezer Guttenmacher (Danny '75 and Nomi), Jerusalem
Zippora Schreier (Josh '75 and Shira), Efrat
Miriam Berger (Shalom '78 and Rachael), Alon Shevut
Dani Harari (Raymond '79 and Yaffi), Brooklyn, NY
Rikki - Ruchi Meirav - Novotsky (Terry '80 and Gil), Teaneck, NJ
Elie Goldfarb (Brian '81 and Lori), Bet Shemesh
Atara Yonit Burian (Saul '82 and Sylvia), New Rochelle, NY
Rachel Shmidman (Yoseph '82 and Yaffi), Jerusalem
Shoshi Taragin (Maish '83 and Atarai, Alon Shevut
Gavriel Sina (David '83 and Susan), Alon Shevut
Avigail Sina (David '83 and Susan), Alon Shevut
Yoni summer (Hezly '83 and Lis), Bet Shemesh
Yitzhak Dov Clark (Elie '84 and Judy), Bet Shemesh
Batheva Haber (Alan '86 and Monica), Alon Shevut
Shira Reich (Gil '87 and Faye), Eli

To Harav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein on the bat mitzvah of granddaughter Nurit Bluma, daughter of Herzl and Esti Rosenberg.

Aliya
Avery '76 and Rebecca Steinberg, New Daniel, Gush Etzion
Mosheh '88 and Bracha Simon (Shoshani), Bet Shemesh
Assaf '88 and Leora Bednarsh, Alon Shevut
Benjy Balint '93, Jerusalem
Gillon Hesselson '03, Machon Lev, Jerusalem

Condolences
To Tobi Kahn '72 on the loss of his mother, Ellen Kahn z'l.
To Aaron Berger '97 on the loss of his mother, Rebecca Berger z'l.
To Josh '09 and Avi '03 Strauss on the loss of their father, Benjamin Strauss z'l.
To Mr. Bruce Shoulson, friend of the Yeshiva, on the loss of his mother z'l.
The Yeshiva mourns the loss of Yosef Peretz, z'l, the Yeshiva's beloved gardener for 25 years (www.haretzion.org/peretz memorial)

Please send your news to: shira@etzion.org.il

H=Hesder
PC=Post-College
Leaves of Faith, Volume II: The World of Jewish Living (English)
by Rosh Hayeshiva Harav Aharon Lichtenstein

This volume contains 16 chapters on the practice and implementation of Torah. It covers broad issues such as religion and state, the relation of Halakha to an independent ethic, spiritual response to suffering and the parameters of tolerance, as well as specific issues such as conversion and abortion. The volume concludes with analyses of the place of modernity within Judaism, and suggestions for Orthodoxy’s future direction.

Can be ordered through the Yeshiva’s website: vbm-torah.org/ralbooks.htm

Shiurei Harav Aharon Lichtenstein on Baba Batra (Hebrew) - A fifth compendium of shiurim by Harav Lichtenstein was recently published by the Yeshiva on Baba Batra. The sefer is dedicated in loving memory of his grandparents, Abraham and Esther Gross and William and Bertha Bernstein, who devoted their lives to their children and grandchildren and to the furtherance of Torah, Gemilut Chassadim and the State of Israel, by Har Etzion alumnus, Leonard J. Gross ‘92 PC.

MiSinai Ba - Iyunim B’Parshat Hashavua (Hebrew) by Rav Yehuda Shaviv
Published by Mossad Harav Kook, Jerusalem, 2004

The lectures and discussions all originate in questions relating to the simple meaning of the verses and their order and location, however, as they develop, they turn to other areas: homiletics and philosophy, form and Jewish law. The topics at times relate to the period of the year during which the Torah portions are read, for example, Hanukah in Parashat Vayeshev and the Yamim Noraim in Nitzavim, VaYelech and Ha’azinu.

Thank you to Mr. David Morrison, devoted friend of the Yeshiva, for dedicating the sefer Sha’arei Ora by Rav Shlomo Levy in memory of his dear wife, Jo Ann Morrison z’l, an exemplary woman of valor.

Daf Kesher - Hebrew newsletter sent to Har Etzion talmidim on active duty delivered to their army bases, now available on the web: www.vbm-torah.org/dk

Calling all teenagers - A new website (Hebrew) by Har Etzion talmidim offers a wide range of weekly shiurim on Emuna, Machshava, Tanach and Gemara, intended for high-school aged surfers. Check it out - www.hibbur.org