



Yeshivat Har Etzion
Newsletter for בוגרים of MTA

News N' Shmooze

Time for a change

Welcome to the Chanukah edition of **גושפנקא**. Here in Yeshivat Har Etzion, we believe in modernizing without compromising. We strive to think creatively, innovate new *svarovot* and work to reinvent ourselves as improved *ovdei Hashem*. In a similar vein, we recently changed our editorial staff, and we hope you enjoy our new design.

The official ceremony was held by Rav Pini's makom (still next to HaRav Amital's makom in the far front) two weeks ago, where Ori Cohen (MTA 08) was handed a pile of sefarim by Rav Pini, and thanked for all his efforts over the past year. **גושפנקא** too, would like to thank Ori for the countless

hours he dedicated to this publication. We wish you hatzlacha raba in all your future endeavours!

Moshi Broner (MTA 09) was, given the job of editor, with very little time to put together this Chanuka edition. Benjy Levy (MTA 04), now co-editor (due to his unusually large knowledge of "all the current goss"), helped with the task and this edition has B'H been successfully completed.

And it is our privilege, to present to you, the bogrim of Yeshivat Har Etzion, this Chanukah edition of **גושפנקא**!



Then and now: the evolution of the gush logo throughout the ages.

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MTA coming to a close...

Most kids dread the last day of Chanukah because it means no more Chanukah gelt or presents, for MTA the last day of Chanukah also means the last day of MTA. This being the case, final touches and preparations are being made. These include sichot

from each of the Roshei Yeshiva, MTA Ramim dinners, BBQ's / Braai / Mangals, and last minute Q+A sessions. HaRav Medan's farewell sicha stressed his appreciation and respect for students from South Africa and Australia, as they

carry the huge responsibility of spreading Torat Yisrael, Torat Gush Etzion, and Torat Har-Etzion to their home communities.

Did You Know:

- The Yeshiva now closes for Shabbat once every three weeks.
- Corn-schnitzel has officially been dropped from the dinner menu.
- The Yeshiva is currently learning mesechet Bava Metzia
- Except for binyan ך and ך all binyanim have been renovated.

After the Rosh Yeshiva's sicha, HaRav Medan took questions, which ranged from, "How MTA students can continue their learning in Chu"l" to "How to respond to left wing thinkers in our home communities". Shmuel Rhein's final Halacha Chug ended with his very own home baked chocolate cake, while Va'ad was closed with Burger's

Bar from Efrat, and Barbecues that both went late into the night.

"MTB" and "C" guys had a warm farewell tish after Night Seder one night. It was an opportunity to praise their achievements over the two years they spent in the Yeshiva. The main theme of this Tisch was, 'no matter how far you go, you have made a keshet with the Ramim and the Yeshiva that can never be broken.

The six young men staying on for Shana Bet give us a sense of continuation and continuity. Kol Hakavod to them, and we wish them good luck in their learning this upcoming year. As for the rest, we are sure they will be seen again soon, in holidays, for smachot, or after making Aliya!

Welcome Back!

The Gush-Panka would like to take this opportunity to welcome back the following Bogrim:

Daniel Mainzer
Ilan Buchbinder
Doron Lavan
Robbie Dinte

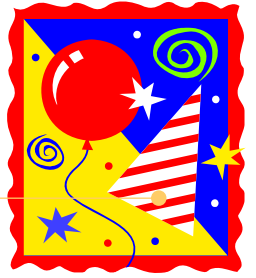
Enjoy your stay, and *shteig* hard!

Message from the Ramim: Rav Mordechai Freidman

I look at this year's MTA and feel proud to be a small part in your accomplishments. Each of you has grown immensely in so many ways. The dedication you have shown for Torah learning will serve your families and communities well! Lastly, I will miss you guys!

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH
Rav Mordechai Freidman.
mfriedman@bezeqint.net

Mazal Tov's



Engagements - נישואין to:

Daniel Kaplan (MTA 03) and Andy Sandler

Aryeh Gluck (MTA 03) and Chemda Klein

Yossi Dinnen (MTA 04) and Tzipora Zussman

Itzhik Hazkel (honorary MTA) and Beila Balk

Aliyah - עלייה to:

Yossi Dinnen (MTA 04)
Shmuel Ozhekh (MTA 04)
Daniel Lashansky (MTA 04)

Marriages - נישואין to:

Daniel and Pam Oralowitz (MTA 01)
Shmuel and Sarah Ozhekh (MTA '04)
Daniel and Dina Singer (MTA '04)
Adam and Miriam Feldman (MTA '96)

Births - לידות to:

Steve Gar (Kollel 02) on the birth of twins.
Gilon Hessleson (MTA 03) on the birth of a son (MTA 2027???)

Refuah Shelaima – Rav Amital

A few weeks ago, overseas talmidim spent a beautiful Shabbat in "Ir Ha'atika". The highlight was meant to be a 'pizza melave malka' with HaRav Amital, however, it was cancelled due to his poor health.

HaRav Amital, shlita, still learns and gives shiurim in the Bet Midrash. For the past few weeks, his presence has been sorely missed.

Talmidim added special Tehillim for the Rosh Yeshiva. One particular mincha, HaRav Medan, led the entire Bet Midrash in an emotional heartfelt tune to the "Mizmor Ledavid" for Moreinu HaRav Amital.

Therefore, when MTA was invited to HaRav Amital's house on Friday for a small farewell sicha, they felt especially blessed with the gift of this precious time.

We wish HaRav Amital a speedy recovery, and request that you add "**Rav Yehuda ben Devora**" to your teffilot for cholim.

New Koleliim in Sydney and Johannesburg

JLC & Bnei Akiva, the two leading Religious Zionist movements in Sydney have announced the opening of Torah Mitzion in Sydney under the leadership of Rabbi David Blackman (MTA 80s). The Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Danny Eisenberg (MTA 90s) is an MTA graduate and one of the bachurim, Yossi Martin, recently completed Hesder in Gush.

A similar venture will be starting in Johannesburg.

Inspirational Quote

The first letter of the Aleph-Bet is an Aleph. What is an Aleph? Just a 'yud' above and a 'yud' below, connected by a line. The first and most important thing to know, is that every Jew is connected to ה' above by a line of 'yirat shamayim'.

(adapted from "Sefer Hayom Yom")

Sicha from MTA's Visit at HaRav Amital Shlit"a Erev Shabbat Chanukah 5770

"...one of the biggest things about Chanukah, according to the Rambam, is "chazra malchut leyisrael"..."

Rambam in Hilchot Chanukah states: "In the days of Bayit Sheni, when the Greeks were ruling, they made decrees against the Jew nation, stopping them from learning Torah and keeping the Mitzvot...and when the Chashmonaim, Kohanim, stood against them, they returned the kingship to the Jew nation, for an additional two hundred years." The Rambam writes as an introduction to the laws of the festival of Chanukah.

HaRav Amital shlita ask talmidim to imagine, two hundred additional years of 'malchut'! Anyone who has learned a bit of history knows, (and Chazal explain as well), that they were not such good people! They fought with each other and they were on an incredibly low level, yet the Jewish kingship existed! An amazing thing! There are those who say that a Prime Minister who is not a tzaddik, is not worth anything; yet the Rambam tells us that one of the greatest miracles of Chanukah is, "chazra malchut leyisrael", the kingship returned to Israel. The Rambam understood the agony and terror of a bad reign, yet he appreciated the glory of self rule. This is important to remember today as well.

The miracle of the jug of oil lasting eight days, is a "nes gadol", however, putting it into historical perspective, it is Jewish self-rule or kingship that the Rambam puts in the forefront. And self rule is worth fighting for.

The Rambam suggests that the true miracle of Chanuka was that Jewish people were willing to fight for freedom. A small soldier could go out to war, and have a lasting effect on Jewish destiny.

In a similar way, may Hashem help all of us this Chanuka.



Kfar's Visit to the Gush (By Dovi Flax)

Kfar, a group of grade ten students from South Africa and one from Perth, Australia, experienced a week of intense shteiging at the Gush! They experienced Yeshiva lifestyle with the typical morning gemara shiur. To understand the uniqueness of Gush Etzion they were treated to a tiyul; on derech avot.

Every afternoon each kfarnik was paired up with an mta/b/c/d/e/f/...z talmid to learn hilchot Chanukah! This gave them a deeper, truer understanding of the chag. Prior to their week at the Gush they were already chanting the "famous" song "kfar must go to Gush"

Kfar boys were based in Kfar Etzion at the Mekor Chaim High School which is a five minute walk away from the Yeshiva. This allowed for frequent visits from the Yeshiva bochrim from South Africa to see their chanichim and Australian, Aaron Posner to visit his brother.

HaRav Gigi, in his Dvar Torah at the joint Mta/Kfar Kiddush on Shabbat, complimented the kfar participants! HaRav Gigi reported that he received only positive comments from Rabanim that taught them during the week. HaRav Gigi expects to see all participants back in the Yeshiva in the near future.

Kids Korner

In an attempt to make the GUSH-panka™ more relevant and exciting to readers, we would like to introduce a new section; the "Kids Corner".

This section will include pictures, optical illusions, riddles, etc. that will Im"H be fun for all ages, whether that's your kids (for our older readers) or you yourself want to feel like a kid for a few minutes...

While unfortunately prizes will not be offered, Im"H the first person to e-mail in the answers will have their name published in the next edition of GUSH-panka™.

GOOD LUCK!

Just for Laughs...



After a day of Gush Soccer...

Views from the Gush



Can you guess which yishuv in Gush Etzion this picture was taken in.
Hint: if you look very closely at the skyline, you can see the Yeshiva!

Torah Giant Riddle:

HOW MANY SONS DID AVRAHAM AVIENU HAVE???

(Think carefully, it's not as simple as it first appears - no reference to the song)

Comic Strip

Spot all 10 Differences

<p>Hey Abba! The new Gush-Panka has a "spot the difference" section!</p>  	<p>It says there are 10 differences, but I can only find one...</p>  		
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Contact Us

**Gush-Panka
Head Office:
Yeshivat Har-Etzion**

Technical problems,
general inquiries relating
can be sent to the
Yeshiva:
office@etzion.org.il

Question, comments,
suggestions, personal
stories, Mazal Tov's,
related to the
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Moshi Broner –
Moshibro@gmail.com

For halakhic queries (to
be passed on to a Ram of
your choice), nostalgia
and if you just simply
want to be in touch:

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We love to hear from you! Please send in articles, stories, mazal tovs,
or anything else of interest to be published in the next Gush-Panka.

The Ramim welcome your e-mails!

Halakhic questions can be presented to any of the Ramim in the Yeshiva
please don't hesitate to put forward your questions!

www.vbm-torah.org
for further Torah insights
For a daily Torah Podcast, from Yeshiva:
www.kimitzion.org

For a short D'var Torah updated daily:
www.vbm-torah.org/salt.htm

This edition was edited by Rav Pini Cohen and Moshi Broner.

Pictures

