In an outpouring of admiration, appreciation and affection, the Yeshiva celebrated the 80th “Gevurot” birthday of Moreinu Ve’Rabbeinu HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein shlit’a. More than 1500 students, alumni, family members, rabbis, dignitaries and friends gathered at the Yeshiva to mark this significant milestone in the life of our esteemed Rosh Yeshiva on Friday morning, Rosh Chodesh Sivan (May 10). The tribute event began with a selection of shiurim by all six of the Lichtenstein children – Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh, Rav Yitzchok, Rav Mayer, Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg, Shai and Toni Mittelman.

Following a festive reception, the main program took place in the Beit Midrash, and large screens were set up in the lobby and dining hall to accommodate the huge crowd. Many tears flowed as Rav Yaakov Fischer ‘70H, Principal of Neveh Shmuel High School, read an original ode, and while watching the film prepared for the occasion, which focused on varying aspects of what it means to be a talmid of HaRav Lichtenstein.

Among the speakers at the event were Roshei Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi and Rav Yaakov Medan, Gush Etzion Founder Moshe Moskovic, Rav Shlomo Brin, Rav Haim Sabbato, Yedaya Hacohen and Rabbanit Miriam Amital.

“I thank the Almighty for sending you to be my husband’s partner,” Rabbanit Amital said. “The two of you had a true connection, with no competition, and all your energies were directed exclusively to Avodat Hashem.”

“All that I have, all that we all have, is thanks to the Kadosh Baruch Hu,” HaRav Lichtenstein began his emotional address, in which he was so choked up that he struggled to speak at first. “I was born in Paris in 1933, where the spiritual and Torah life were virtually non-existent. The chances for me, born in the Trousseau Hospital, of reaching this...
momentous juncture, were infinitesimal.” HaRav Lichtenstein proceeded to express his heartfelt gratitude to all those who assisted in the establishment of the Yeshiva, and contributed to its growth and prosperity over the years. "First and foremost, I want to thank HaRav Yehuda Amital zt"l, for his vision and initiative in founding the Yeshiva, and for his selfless act of lovingkindness to me – almost too incredible to believe – when he offered me the keys to the Yeshiva, in what some would term an act of madness. I am indebted to him personally, and we are all indebted to him for his tremendous contribution to the State of Israel and the religious Zionist world in Israel. This tribute today, as I view it, is largely a tribute to him." HaRav Lichtenstein noted the pleasant atmosphere prevalent in the Yeshiva throughout the years, without jealousy or competition, following in the path of tzedaka and mishpat of Avraham Avinu. He emphasized the importance of a rigorous work ethic and of always striving for the highest standard possible. He urged everyone, no matter what field they are in, to make a contribution toward Jewish education. “I don’t ask from my students or colleagues or family more than I ask of myself,” he said.

HaRav Lichtenstein continued with words of praise for Rabbanit Miriam Amital and for his wife, Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein. “All that was said about me was exaggerated, but all that was said about Tovah is true,” he said.

HaRav Lichtenstein concluded: “May God uplift us and bless us in our endeavors. We must invest the effort and pray that God bless us, and the entire Jewish people.”

Everyone in attendance was deeply affected by the event.
In an article published in the Jerusalem Post after the event, David M. Weinberg ‘82 wrote: “Religion stems from the most sophisticated and complicated thinking. It probes the most difficult quandaries of human existence, metaphysical presence and purpose, identity, and spiritual makeup… It is more relevant and needed than ever in the modern age. I learned much of this complex approach to religious thinking from Rabbi Dr. Aharon Lichtenstein… Rav Lichtenstein has taught that critical thinking and humanism characterize the Oved Hashem… He has taught that full involvement in Israeli society and a passion for social justice are key religious obligations…”

“I am so indebted to the Yeshiva for all it is has given me,” remarked Tani Wallach ’89. “I arrived home on an emotional high, having ‘refreshed my batteries’ and been reminded in many subtle and not-so-subtle ways of the important things in life – both in the realm of Torah, and in terms of family and community. Each of the speakers (and the movie) touched on various aspects of the Yeshiva and the Rosh Yeshiva, striking different chords in mind and soul. During the event, many memories and emotions were evoked – ranging from laughter to tears. Rav Aharon’s talk at the end tied things together, putting his many years of service and leadership in perspective, and they also reminded me – and probably many others in the audience – to strive to emulate his incredible personal example. May we merit to continue to be students of Rav Aharon in deed, thought and Torah learning for many more years.”

The film screened at the event, and many more photos, can be seen on the Yeshiva website.
A Shabbat Celebration

On Shabbat Be’ha’alotcha (May 25), Yeshiva talmidim, with representatives from all the shiurim, initiated and organized a Shabbat program at the Yeshiva in celebration of HaRav Lichtenstein’s 80th birthday.

Friday night featured talks by Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Daniel Wolf, Rav Michael Edrei and Rav Yitzchak Levy. At a kiddush on Shabbat morning, family and friends, including Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein, Shosh Tal, recently retired YHE office manager, and Dr. Michal Lichtenstein, shared stories about HaRav Lichtenstein. On Shabbat afternoon, shiurim featuring “Rav Lichtenstein Torah” were delivered by Rav Amihai Gordin and Rav Eliakeim Krumbein, and Rav Ezra Bick shared some “Rav Lichtenstein stories” at seuda shlishit. The emotional Shabbat concluded with a musical Melave Malka.

Prestigious Rav Kook Award Goes to HaRav Lichtenstein

Mazal Tov to Rosh HaYeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein upon receiving the prestigious Rav Kook Award for Original Torah Literature 5773 from the municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo. The award was granted in recognition of Shiurei HaRav Lichtenstein on the Talmud. Yashar Koach to Rav Daniel Wolf ’75 and Rav Amihai Gordin ’91H, whose efforts and scholarship helped bring this project to fruition.

The ceremony took place on December 30th, in the presence of the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo Mr. Ron Chuldai and the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv-Yafo HaRav Yisrael Meir Lau.

The judges explained in their deliberations that, “HaRav Dr. Lichtenstein’s books on the tractates of the Talmud are based on the renowned Brisker approach to Talmudic study, which he refined to perfection. At the same time, they constitute a genuine breakthrough, perhaps even a revolution, in the study of Talmud and the understanding of its concepts...

“HaRav Dr. Lichtenstein’s methodological innovation is expressed in his approach, according to which there is no need to raise difficulties and resolve them in order to construct a conceptual and ideological world upon which the various halakhic sources stand. Exposure of the principles, the conceptual, ideological and ethical world of each sugya and each halakhic area stand at the basis of his endeavor to understand the sugya.”

Mazal Tov also to Prof. Simcha Emanuel, ’76H, who received the 5773 Rav Kook Award for Research Literature and Religious Reference Books, for his two-volume work Responsa of the Maharam of Rothenburg and Colleagues (read more about it on p.15).

Special Sale on Shiurei HaRav Lichtenstein

In honor of HaRav Lichtenstein’s 80th birthday, the 8 sefarim of Shiurei HaRav Lichtenstein published by the Yeshiva – on Masechtot Pesachim, Gittin, Bava Kama (Dina De’Garmei), Bava Metzia, Bava Batra, Zevachim, Taharot and Horayot (new) are now available at a special price of 120 NIS for the whole set or 25 NIS per volume. To order: office@haretzion.org.il

More books by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein
**Yeshiva News**

**Revava Chanuka Seminar**

The Revava Chanuka Study Days, dedicated in memory of Riva Koschitzky z"l, took place in Yeshiva on December 11-12 on the topic of “The Israeli Judicial System and the Torah Judicial System: Can the Two Meet?” Prominent Roshei Yeshiva, rabbis and dayanim discussed various aspects of the topic from both theoretical and practical perspectives, including Rav Yaakov Ariel, Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan, and alumnus Justice Noam Solberg ’85, Justice in Israel’s Supreme Court, who opened the Seminar with an overview of the different approaches to integrating Torah law within the laws of the State of Israel.

**V’Schavu Banim Program for MTA Alumni**

A week filled with tailor-made learning, recharging and special events was held for South African and Australian MTA alumni at the end of their December holidays. It was an opportunity to gain inspiration from the Torah, expand horizons and meet with old friends.

Alumni heard from the Roshei Yeshiva, connected with their former Ramim and enjoyed tiyulim. A panel addressing issues of modernity and Torah values took place.

**Shana Bet Enrollment Up**

We are happy to report that 45 overseas students will be returning for a second year of study next year, including 10 MTA students from South Africa and Australia. Eli Weber, Director of the Dr. William Major Overseas Program, commented, “On one level, this is gratifying because it speaks to the success of our Shana Aleph Program, but on a more fundamental level, having 45 serious and thoughtful talmidim return helps us provide a special atmosphere and great role models for our incoming students.”

**Yeshivat Darkaynu Does It Again**

Yeshivat Darkaynu, the innovative program for religious young men with special needs at Yeshivat Har Etzion, has completed another successful year. The program is designed for students who want to continue their learning, develop vocational skills, build independence, and expand their love of Israel and the Jewish people. There were ten participants in the program this year. Two will be returning for a second year and six new students will be joining the program next year.

Some of the highlights of this year’s program were weekly volunteering at the local army base and in the community (such as at the Golden Age Club), an end-of-year trip to the Golan, an inspiring seuda shlishit at the Alon Boded (the ancient oak tree for which Alon Shevut is named), and siyumim culminating year-long chevrutot with other Har Etzion students. The annual “press conference” with Rosh HaYeshiva Harav Lichtenstein was especially meaningful and memorable.

**A Special Siyum by Daniel Shibley ’12PC**

Last August I arrived at Yeshivat Har Etzion amid the excitement of making aliya and starting a new chapter in my life. As I settled in, the word from continuing students was, “I can’t wait for the Darkaynu guys to arrive.” As promised, the Yeshivat Darkaynu students joined us after Sukkot... [Read the continuation of this article on our website].
Poland Trip

The annual trip to Poland took place prior to Pesach. Thirty-six overseas students went on the trip, which was led by Rabbi Dr. Shalom Berger ’77, and accompanied by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi and Eli Weber ’81, Director of the Dr. William Major Overseas Program. The group was also accompanied by several fathers of talmidim: Steve Wagner ’77 (father of Shmuel), Stanley Fortgang (father of Tal) and Richard Sieger (father of Jonah).

“I certainly learned a lot from the rabbanim, students and parents who were on the trip. I trust that the students learned a lot, too, and solidified relationships that will serve them well in the years to come,” Rav Berger said.

“There were moments of unspeakable sadness and moments of inspiration, moments of confusion and moments of clarity,” added Eli Weber. “The discussions we had about faith, commitment, historical cycles and simple emotion were both childlike in their purity and sophisticated in their maturity. We were able to combine serious Torah learning with singing, dancing and thoughtful reflection. We were able to discuss cause and effect without judgment and begin a conversation that, God willing, will go on for years to come.”

Distinguished Visitors

Har Etzion was honored to host President of Yeshiva University Richard Joel on January 17. Following shacharit, President Joel joined the overseas students for a festive breakfast and later visited with the Midrasha students at Migdal Oz. Richard and Esther Joel are the parents of alumna Kira ’08MO.

Colonel Justice Richard Kemp CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) made a hugely successful visit to Yeshivat Har Etzion, thanks to Har Etzion student Joseph Benedyk ’12, who arranged the May 19 visit.

Colonel Kemp served in the British Army from 1977 to 2006. He was Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan, infantry battalion Commanding Officer, worked for the Joint Intelligence Committee and COBR (Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms), and completed 14 operational tours of duty around the globe. Since retiring from the army, he has turned to writing and his first book, Attack State Red, an account of the 2007 campaign undertaken by the Royal Anglian Regiment in Afghanistan, was a bestseller.

In Yeshiva, the Colonel received a tour of the complex and also met with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan and other rabbis. Rav Medan praised Colonel Kemp for his continued advocacy in support of Israel. The Colonel then spoke to a packed audience of English-speaking students who thoroughly enjoyed listening to his insights and opinions. "Israel has a right to exist and defend itself, and it mustn't allow lies to go unchallenged," Kemp declared.

IDC Students

Students from the Argov Program of the School of Government at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya spent a day at Yeshivat Har Etzion and Migdal Oz on June 10th, meeting with staff and students. The Argov Program is a leadership program for outstanding students, many of whom go on to work in government, diplomacy and NGOs.

Rabbi Daniel Beller ’82 organized the trip together with Rabbi Jonathan Snowbell ’98PC, Director of Alumni Programming in Israel. Rabbi Beller teaches a two-semester course on Judaism and contemporary society at the IDC. “The overwhelming majority of these students lack the most basic knowledge and understanding of Judaism, even after 12 years of schooling in Israel, and despite being top students in their respective fields,” says Rabbi Beller.

The day in the Gush concluded a year of study with Rabbi Beller, and the students were enthusiastic about the shiurim and conversations with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan, Rabbis Yair Kahn, Amnon Bazak and Shuki Reiss and Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg. A visit to the library was especially enlightening for the students.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the students’ only regret was that they would have liked still more time to talk. The Head of the Argov Program, Dr. Alisa Rubin, said that the day was a complete revelation for her. She had no idea that an institution such as Har Etzion exists, and she hopes to find a way to do a joint project with Herzog College in the near future.

Rabbi Beller said, “It was enormously gratifying to facilitate a meeting between these vastly different ‘worlds’ in Israeli society, and I hope to make the trip an annual event in the IDC curriculum.”
Outstanding Educators

Rav Yoni Berlin ’84H received an award for Outstanding Principal from the Mayor of Ramat Gan in recognition of his exceptional accomplishments at the Amit Bar-Ilan Yeshiva High School for Boys in Ramat Gan. During his four years, the school has become a model for combining serious Torah studies with high scholastic achievements.

Rav Sefi Sherman ’85H, who has been Principal of the Reishit High School in Tel Aviv for the past thirteen years, was featured in Israel’s Globus newspaper due to his success in turning around the difficult inner-city school. This year, a record 97% of graduates were drafted to the IDF. This is significant because in Israel military service is generally a prerequisite for gainful employment. Perhaps even more impressive, under Rav Sherman’s leadership the percentage of students who graduate with a matriculation certificate has increased dramatically from 19% to 80%!

Rav Sherman explained that before he accepted the position at Reishit, he was debating between four job offers. He consulted with HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l, who advised him to accept the position with the fewest number of applicants, because that would be the place where he would be most needed and could make the greatest contribution. Although the socio-economic level of the students is very low, Rav Sherman has succeeded in motivating the students to reach impressive scholastic achievements and break out of the poverty cycle.

Tizki le’Mitzvot

Many YHE alumni know office staffer Debra Berkowitz, who manages the VBM and Yeshiva websites, and her husband Michael ('77 and ‘86-’89K). If you do, you probably also know that they regularly open their home to Har Etzion students, alumni and other guests. Uncomfortable with the over-efficient thanks their hospitality sometimes engenders, they have been known to say, "Relax, it’s not like we donated a kidney." Well, they may need to come up with a new line: in November, Debra donated one of her kidneys, through the Matnat Chaim organization (www.kilya.org.il), to a woman she hadn’t previously known who suffered from a life-threatening kidney disorder. The operation, which took place at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikvah, saved the woman’s life. The donation process involved many tests, hospital visits and, of course, internal surgery. Debra, in her usual laconic style, commented, “No big deal. I have another one.”

Debra was interviewed about her experience on Israeli television. Inspired by Debra’s lead, now there are others in Alon Shevut, including members of the yeshiva faculty, who have begun the donor process.

The Legacy Project

Many Gush alumni are making their mark in their professions in the State of Israel. This year, for the first time, current talmidim had an opportunity to meet some of them, with the intent of broadening the Yeshiva experience, providing additional role models outside of the Beit Midrash and instilling a sense of pride in our Yeshiva and in the State of Israel. Every few weeks on Wednesday night, after Night Seder, students heard from alumni who are leaders in various fields. Among those who the Yeshiva hosted this year were: Dr. Alan Jotkowitz ’82, Director of the Medical Ethics Center at Ben-Gurion University, Michael Eisenberg ’89, a partner at Benchmark Capital, which provides funding to Israeli startups, Josh Hexter ’93PC, Executive Director, Corporate In-Licensing at BioLineRx, Arye Schreiber ’95, Founder and CEO of Meirzerz Ltd, and Rav Boaz Mori ’95PC, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Lev HaTorah.

Did You Know?

Rav Shai Piron, Israel’s new Minister of Education, in his opening address to the Knesset, quoted HaRav Amital zt”l and told the famous story of “To Hear the Baby Cry”, which describes the raison d’etre of the Yeshiva. See a video of Rav Piron’s talk on the Yeshiva’s Facebook page.
School Named in Memory of HaRav Amital zt”l

The Gush Etzion regional school, celebrating its 40th anniversary, renamed the Upper School for Boys, which serves grades 5-8, “Carmei Yehuda” (Yehuda’s Vineyards) in memory of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l.

Fifteen of HaRav Amital’s grandchildren studied in the regional school. There are 450 students in the Upper School for Boys and many of the parents and educational staff, past and present, were students of HaRav Amital. The school considers Yeshivat Har Etzion a model for its educational goals, and currently runs a program for grades 7-8 with the Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Amihai Gordin and Rav Nadav Caspi.

Speaking at the naming ceremony which was held on June 12th, Tali Brin, daughter of HaRav Amital, teacher in the Girls’ Division and former Principal of the Boys’ Division, spoke about her father’s special love of children. “I think that his warm connection with children had to do with the character trait which he so admired and appreciated, and which he found in children – honesty,” she said. “The natural and simple honesty of children captured his heart.”

“My father believed in his students and wanted each of them to have his own thoughts and opinions. He valued independence, creativity and self-expression,” she added.

Daniel Shai, grandson of HaRav Amital, lit a torch on behalf of the Amital family.

A memorial corner was set up at the entrance to the school, organized by Rav Reuven Wieder ’00H, Educational Counselor and Board Member of the school, and a tribute movie was screened. Many parents, who are alumni of the Yeshiva, were visibly moved. “Today is the culmination of a series of programs in the school on the topic of leadership, emphasizing HaRav Amital’s teachings,” Rav Wieder said. “We hope to preserve the legacy of HaRav Amital which is based on a deep commitment to the Torah and yirat Shamayim, together with sensitivity to the needs of Am Yisrael and great tolerance for all.”

This is the second school to be named after HaRav Amital; the first is in Har Choma, Jerusalem.

Solving the Cairo Genizah Puzzle

“Computer Network Piecing Together a Jigsaw of Jewish Lore” was the headline of a May 27th article in the NY Times reporting on how Roni Shweka ‘84H and his father, Cairo-born computer scientist Prof. Yaacov Choueka, have successfully harnessed computer technology to help reassemble more than 100,000 document fragments of the famed Cairo Genizah, which contains Jewish documents that span 1,000 years.

Roni Shweka explains, “The big problem with the Genizah documents is that so many pages have been torn over the years or separated from the manuscripts they came from. It’s like a monumental jigsaw puzzle. In one hour, the computer can compare 10 million pairs of fragments -- something a human being cannot do in a lifetime. This new technology means that within a few seconds, a researcher working on an individual fragment will be able to find the other fragments that go with his. It’ll be like actually finding the needle in the haystack.”

Children look at picture of HaRav Amital zt”l in the hallway of the newly-named Carmei Yehuda School

Roni Shweka (left) and Prof. Yaacov Choueka examine Genizah fragment

Har Etzion soldiers in the IDF Kfir Unit. Motti Gutman ’06H, Hesder Program Coordinator, is pictured back row third from left. Yair Colton, son of Chairman of the Board, Arye Colton, is pictured bottom row on left.

Current British Talmidim at Yeshiva with Danny Mirvis ’03, Director of CTL (top row, second from left)
Annual NY Dinner

On March 10, 2013, nearly 500 members of the Gush family gathered in NYC for the Etzion Foundation Annual Dinner. The Dinner was a kickoff for the celebration of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein’s upcoming 80th birthday and provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni, parents, family and friends to celebrate this momentous occasion together.

Heshe and Harriet Seif, parents of Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Seif ’95, were the Guests of Honor. Heshe and Harriet are both long-time Etzion Foundation Board members and supporters of the Yeshiva and Migdal Oz. They were instrumental in the establishment of the Migdal Oz Advanced Scholars Program in Talmud and Halacha (see page 13).

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna ’95 was named Alumnus of the Year and honored together with his wife Dr. Michelle Sarna, for their tremendous contributions to the Jewish community at New York University and to khal Yisrael.

The Dinner was preceded by a series of content-rich shiurim dedicated to the teachings of HaRav Lichtenstein, delivered by Roshei Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan and Rav Baruch Gigi, and Rosh Beit Midrash of Migdal Oz, Esti Rosenberg. Following the shiurim, the audience was treated to a discussion with HaRav Lichtenstein. Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein gave a brief, warm introduction and Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Seif moderated.

The evening began with a buffet dinner, followed by a program of moving videos and presentations which paid tribute to the contributions of all the worthy honorees. Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis ’76, incoming Chief Rabbi of the UK, spoke on video:

“Throughout the Jewish world today, Rav Aharon has an enormous impact, through the many rabbanim and mechanchim who share his Torah and reflect his ways within their kehillot. Consequently, his contribution to Am Yisrael is simply immeasurable and in truth, our hakarat hatov cannot be encapsulated in mere words.”

Newly-appointed Foundation President Andrew Borodach ’87 recognized the great contributions made by outgoing President Dottie Berman, and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein presented Dottie Berman with a gift in gratitude for her years of dedication and hard work. The evening ended with lively dancing and a delicious dessert reception.

Josh Rochlin ’84, father of Michael ’11, commented, “This year’s dinner captured so much of what the Yeshiva stands for. The videos, presentations, and dancing were inspiring.”

Sharon Rifkind, Associate Director of Development at the Etzion Foundation, summed up, “To see nearly 500 people come together to honor Rav Aharon and pay tribute to the Seifs and the Sarnas with such spirit, warmth and enthusiasm was truly a special experience. The videos, the speeches, the dancing, the reunions – all celebrated the uniqueness of the Har Etzion institutions.”

On Parshat HaChodesh, the Shabbat immediately preceding the Etzion Foundation Dinner, nearly 100 rabbis from across the world dedicated divrei Torah, shiurim and drashot to the Torah of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein in honor of his upcoming 80th birthday.

Special thanks to Rabbi Dr. Seth Grauer ’96 and Lior Arussy ’85H for envisioning and organizing this initiative, and to the Center for Torah Leadership for helping to make this happen.
Second Annual Rabbinic Conference

For the second year running, in conjunction with the annual Dinner, the Yeshiva hosted a two-day conference for alumni working in chinuch and the rabbinate. The conference was supported and coordinated by the YHE Center for Torah Leadership (CTL), and over 50 participants enjoyed the array of shiurim, sessions and discussions.

This year, alumnae of the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women at Migdal Oz who are professionally involved in chinuch or Jewish leadership, as well as spouses of alumni who are involved in the field, participated in all parts of the conference. Participants were fortunate to spend time with, and learn from, all four Roshei Yeshiva, as well as Rosh Beit Midrash Mrs. esti Rosenberg. Alumna Mrs. Dena Block ‘04MO, Rabbi Nasanayl Braun ‘92, Rabbi Rafi Eis ‘98, and Rabbi Dr. Aaron Ross ‘92 took active roles in the panel discussions, as did Rabbi Moshe Taragin ‘83 and Rabbi Doniel Schreiber ‘86, Head of the CTL. Rabbi Hershel Billet, Rabbi Yaakov Lerner and Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach shared from their knowledge and experience, and Rabbi Dr. Michael Rosensweig ‘73 gave a shiur in honor of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein, in celebration of his eightieth birthday.

The conference created an important opportunity for the participants to connect with each other, the Yeshiva, its Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim. It has now become a highlight of the CTL year and we look forward to its continued growth and development in the years to come.

The Yeshiva Abroad

- In late January and early February, Rav Mordechai Friedman and Rav Yair Kahn were in the US for student interviews and had the opportunity to connect with alumni, parents and friends along the East Coast. Among other things, Rav Kahn spoke at Congregation Sharei Tefilah in Newton, MA (led by Rabbi Benjamin Samuels ‘86), at the Maimonides School Minyan (led by Rabbi Yaakov Jaffe ‘98) and at the Young Israel of Brookline, MA (organized by Raphi Schoor ‘93 and eli Sanders ‘85). Rav Mordechai enjoyed a wonderful Shabbat at the University of Pennsylvania and then travelled up to Brookline, MA for a shiur (given during a snowstorm!) at the home of Eli ‘85 and Cheryl Sanders.

- In March, HaRav Aharon and Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein spoke to a crowd of young Har Etzion alumni, wives and friends at the home of Donny ‘02 and Arielle Rosenberg in Riverdale, NY. The presentation and questions that followed were related to raising children, chinuch, and juggling parental and religious responsibilities. It was an educational, enlightening, and enjoyable evening for all.

- Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi gave a shiur to Migdal Oz alumnae at Stern College for Women and then joined YHE alumni at YU for a Thursday night evening of “Cholent and Chizuk”. He spent Shabbat in North Woodmere, arranged by Rabbi Yehuda Septimus ‘94 and Gavri Butler ‘99.

- After the Etzion Foundation Dinner, Rav Medan headed to Cleveland for a number of pre-Pesach shiurim. He started his visit with an inspiring and lively talk delivered to a crowd of over 60 Yeshiva alumni, community members and rabbis. In his uniquely effusive style, Rav Medan exhorted the audience to challenge their assumptions about the Seder night, and to arrive at a revolutionary new approach to the Maggid experience. Later that evening, Rav Medan baked matzot with members of the community at the Fuchs home of Rav Mordechai Friedman with Eli Sanders and Rabbi Dov Huff ‘00

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Mizrachi School, at an event arranged by Rabbi David Katz ’96PC. The next morning Rav Medan delivered a short address to the entire Fuchs Mizrachi High School student body about the concept of freedom (cherut) and then gave a shiur to the upper-level 11th and 12th graders about “The Meaning of Matzah.” The student body and entire community were energized by Rav Medan’s visit. Many thanks to Yaakov Fleischmann ’97 for helping to organize this trip.

In May, Rav Shlomo Brin, Ram and incoming Yeshiva Board Chair, spent a busy week connecting with alumni in the United States. Rav Brin visited Yeshiva University, where he met with alumni Rabbi Josh Joseph ’88, Vice President and Chief of Staff at YU, and Rabbi Menachem (Marc) Penner ’88, Acting Dean of RIETS. Rav Brin then continued on to a lively lunch with Har Etzion alumni learning at Yeshiva College and in the semicha program. He ended his visit with a tour of the university, led by Matthew Schwartz ’04 of the YU Admissions office.

Rav Brin and Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein teamed up in New York for a Lunch & Learn at the offices of Terry Novetsky ’80 at Kaye Scholer. They spoke about the relevance of the Hesder model in contemporary Israel to a crowd of alumni, parents and friends.

The Etzion Foundation Board had the opportunity to hear a shiur by Rav Brin entitled “The Fast of 20 Sivan as a Basis for Establishing a Fast to Commemorate the Shoah,” after which they received an update on the Yeshiva from both Rav Brin and Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein. The meeting was hosted by Donny Rosenberg ’02 at Greystone & Co in NYC.

Rav Brin spent Shabbat in Teaneck, NJ where he spoke at Kehilat Zichron Mordechai, led by Rabbi Michael Taubes ’77, as well as at Congregation Rinat Yisrael and Congregation Sharei Orah, led by Rabbi Howard Jachter ’81.

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spent a wonderful Shabbat in Los Angeles, CA speaking at Bnai David-Judea led by Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky ’81, Young Israel of Century City, and Congregation Sharei Orah, led by Rabbi Howard Jachter ’81.

Rav Brin had the opportunity to visit Kohelet Yeshiva High School in Merion Station, PA where he lunched with the limudei kodesh staff, which includes many alumni: Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbi Tzvi Sinensky ’98, Assistant Head of School for Judaic Studies Rabbi Rafi Eis ’98, Jonathan Seligsohn ’06, Jonathan Moses ’03, Aaron Horn ’03 and Miriam Coren ’01MO. He also taught two classes at Kohelet to the top-level juniors and seniors. The day ended with a fun BBQ and shiur at the home of alumnus Dov Daniel ’95H.

Also in May, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein participated in a panel discussion in Toronto titled: The Life and Impact of Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik zt”l. Speaking to a full audience at the BAYT in Thornhill, Rav Mosheh shared thoughts and impressions of his grandfather, and answered questions from the moderator and audience. The next day, Rav Mosheh visited and taught at the Bnei Akiva High Schools – Yeshivat Or Chaim, the boys division, and Ulpanat Orot, the girls division, and had lunch with local alumni.

Rav Mosheh continued on to NY to give shiur at a Dinner & Learn at the law offices of Fried Frank, hosted by Etzion Foundation Board Member Hillel Silvera ’91.
Merger of Herzog and Lifshitz Colleges

The upcoming academic year 2013/2014 marks a historic merger between Herzog and Lifshitz teachers colleges, a bold move which will provide students with a wider spectrum of quality educational opportunities. The two colleges each had a reputation for excellence, both for the high level of students and for their leading lecturers, and the merger has been in the works for a while.

Students in the new Herzog Academic College will be able to choose from 14 different departments which offer Bachelor of Education degrees, and 5 programs that lead to Master of Education degrees. The undergraduate studies will take place in Gush Etzion, at the Alon Shevut campus for men and the Migdal Oz campus for women. The Master degree programs, and programs for professional advancement for teachers, will take place at the former Lifshitz campus in French Hill, Jerusalem.

College President Rabbi Prof. Yitzchak Kraus says, “We are now the country’s largest religious college and have the largest number of departments of any religious college - including topics such as mathematics, natural sciences, communications and computer studies. For years now, we have had the highest standards of any teacher’s college in Israel, and of course we intend to make sure that that continues.”

Summer Tanakh Seminar

Over 5,000 men and women from Israel and overseas streamed into Alon Shevut on July 7-11 to immerse themselves in the thrilling annual Tanakh study festival known as the Summer Tanakh Seminar. Participants enjoyed a wide array of stimulating classes covering the gamut of topics in Tanakh, taught by prominent rabbis and lecturers of Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College. As usual, excitement was high and the event ran like clockwork, a huge credit to the Herzog College logistical team which works on the Seminar year-round.

On Wednesday and Thursday of the Seminar, hundreds of English speakers had the chance to choose from 20 English-language classes by outstanding teachers, such as Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein '78H, Rav Dr. Aharon Adler '72, Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot ’81, Rav Daniel Tropper, Dr. Yael Ziegler and Dr. Lisa Fredman, and many also joined two day-long tours for English speakers, with Shulie Mishkin (“The Last Days of the Kingdom of Judah”) and Ezra Rosenfeld (“The Pelishtim and the Early Israelite Monarchy”).

For the second year in a row, Herzog College lecturers traveled to the Golan Heights, where a two-day parallel Tanakh Seminar was offered on July 3-4. On July 18, the College wrapped up the Summer Seminar with ten day-long Tanakh-based tours, all of which were sold out almost immediately, including one for English-speakers led by Shulie Mishkin tracing the “Divided Kingdom – Rehoboam, Jeroboam and the Samaritans.”

Tzurim: Training Tomorrow’s Leaders

The Tzurim Educational Leadership Program at Herzog College was initiated by Rav Amihai Gordin ’91H several years ago, to provide enhanced training for Yeshivat Har Etzion students enrolled in Herzog College. Tzurim aims to fill the strong need for outstanding and capable leadership in Israel’s educational system. “Our goal is to offer these talented and motivated students even more than the regular Yeshiva program and Herzog College curriculum gives them, so that they can realize their huge potential as future leadership in the educational realm,” Rav Gordin explains.

The program emphasizes practical training, such as honing rhetorical skills, and also works to expand students’ horizons through encounters with leading figures in Israel today. Each student is matched with a star mentor who provides one-on-one guidance during their practical teacher training in elementary and high schools. The program is very much in demand, and enrollment continues to grow.
The Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women

Impressions of My Year at Migdal Oz

by Eleorah Sandman ’13MO

The year here has just come to a close. There are no words to describe what the past months in Israel have meant to me. I do not think I could have asked for a more perfect year. I have learned so much – Torah, but also what it means to be part of Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael.

Migdal Oz is beautiful. To be able to learn in a Beit Midrash that sits atop a hill overlooking Gush Etzion is deeply inspiring. The teachers teach with passion and commitment. It is an honor to learn from Esti Rosenberg, the Head of the Beit Midrash, and from the Roshei Yeshiva of Gush and all the other esteemed teachers.

Learning outside of classes is even more intense than what goes on in the shiurim themselves. Girls are in the Beit Midrash from early in the morning until late at night. In addition to the girls from Shana Alef, Bet, Gimmel, and Dalet, there are alumnae, visitors, chayalot, Sherut Le’umi girls, parents, and older women, all of whom add to the vibrant atmosphere… the culture of Torah and Halacha permeates the Beit Midrash.

My motivation to learn and daven has greatly increased over the past year. More than ever, I appreciate the importance of learning. I’ve come to understand that intellect is a necessary tool to be able to better live a religious life, and to do what HaShem commands. I am humbled by what my year here has given me, and I cannot wait for the opportunity to return.

Advanced Scholars Program

The groundbreaking Advanced Scholars Program in Talmud & Halacha of the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women in Migdal Oz has successfully completed its first year of study. “We have begun the process of producing women who are truly talmidot chachamot,” says Esti Rosenberg, Head of the Beit Midrash, whose vision and determination helped make this dream a reality. The two-year program has ten hand-picked students this year. “The participants were chosen for their leadership potential and the program is providing them with advanced Talmudic and halachic skills so that in the future, when they go out to teach and take leading roles in their communities, they will be ready and able to take full part in the Torah discourse of our generation.”

“After working for the past few years in various places and struggling to find time to further my Gemara learning, the opportunity to learn Gemara and Halacha at an advanced level was a dream come true,” says Adina Mann, one of the participants in the program. “Gemara took on a new spin for me this year, as we had the privilege of studying with Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, who taught us to analyze sugyot using the Brisker method, while Rabbi Dr. Judah Goldberg ’96, our Ram Beit Midrash, constantly challenged us to think and scrutinize each topic at hand with the new tools and style we had acquired throughout the year. We are all very grateful to Esti for opening so many doors for religious women who wish to advance in their Torah learning and we admire her and appreciate all she has given us.”

“Learning together with a group of women from diverse backgrounds added so much to this unique experience. There is much to be gained from the insights of everyone in the group, and we all grew together throughout this amazing and uplifting year. We are really looking forward to returning to the Beit Midrash in Elul,” adds Adina Mann.

Thank you to the Feldman, Hochstein, Kolatch, Schoor, Seif, Strauss and Wiesen families for their generous support of the program.
Esther: Scrolls of Secrets (Hebrew) by Rav Dr. Yonatan Grossman ’88H. Published by Yeshivat Har Etzion and Maggid Press.

The Megilla transmits both obvious and hidden messages on a myriad of topics, such as the role of women, the pitfalls of monarchy, the workings of divine Providence and the nature of Jewish existence in the Diaspora. This book analyzes the story, examines its heroes, and explores the secrets hidden between the lines.

The book is dedicated by the author in honor of his beloved parents, Prof. Avraham and Rachel Grossman, and by Aviva and Ben Adler (parents of Yoni ’09H and Elisheva ’11MO) in honor of their parents, Prof. Yosef and Leah Kahane and Miriam Adler, and in memory of Ben’s father, Yehuda Arye Leib Adler z"l.

To order: office@haretzion.org.il

I Samuel: A King in Israel (Hebrew) by Rav Amnon Bazak ’84H. Published by Yeshivat Har Etzion and Maggid Press.

In his systematic, clear style and with great sensitivity, Rav Bazak clarifies Samuel I, which focuses on the establishment of the monarchy, its intricacies, virtues and dangers. The author’s literary analysis combines traditional and modern approaches to reveal the latent message within each of the stories, the complexity of the characters, and basic questions found within.

To order: office@haretzion.org.il

My Constant Delight – Contemporary Religious Zionist Perspectives on Tanakh Study (Hebrew, titled Hi Sichati). Chief Editor: Rav Reuven Ziegler ’86, with editorial board: Rav Shlomo Brin, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Yosef Marcus and Rav Yehoshua Reiss. Published by Yeshivat Har Etzion/Herzog College and Maggid Press.

The blossoming of Tanakh study in our generation raises many questions: How does one study a divine Torah expressed in human language? What is the status of modern versus traditional exegesis? What is the proper attitude towards biblical heroes in terms of their greatness and humanity? And how is Tanakh study unique within the world of study in the Beit Midrash?

In this book, prominent rabbis and educators of Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College confront these profound questions in depth. Among the contributors: HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein, Rav Amnon Bazak ’84H, Rav Yoel Bin-Nun, Rav Mordechai Breuer z”l, Rav Yonatan Grossman ’88H, Rav Re’em Ha’Cohen ’75H, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein ’78H, Rav Yaakov Medan, Rav Yosef (Seffie) Marcus ’98H, Rav Yehoshua Reiss ’81H, and Rav Yuval Cherlow ’75H.

To order: books@herzog.ac.il

Mincha Ve’Zevach (Hebrew) by Rav Daniel Wolf ’75. Published by Yeshivat Har Etzion.

Kodshim, which deals with the laws concerning the Temple and sacrifices, constitutes a significant part of the Talmud but it is not studied in most yeshivot, and rabbinic literature on the topic is sparse. The student who seeks to get beyond the basic meaning of the text and understand the underlying concepts of Kodshim has always encountered difficulty. Rav Wolf, with his lucid style and perceptive analysis, familiar to all those who have studied his previous books on Seder Teharot and Nashim, has written a book that illuminates these topics.

To order: office@haretzion.org.il

Special discount offered upon purchase of all 3 Rav Wolf sefarim


Rather than view prayer as an enjoyable and uplifting experience, many Jews regard it as an obligation that is at times meaningless and empty. This book strives to connect the mind and the heart by allowing the laws of prayer, which many know so well, to enhance the prayer experience in ways that were previously unexplored.

Et Ratzon: Sichot L’Yamim Nora’im by HaRav Yehuda Amital z”l

Edited by Rav Yoel Amital, Afterword by Rav Yehuda Gilad. Co-published by Yeshivat Har Etzion and Maggid Press.

“They say in the name of the Kotzker Rebbe that the beautiful matters we learned throughout the year are placed on the heart, so that at a time of favor, when the heart opens, they will be able to penetrate. Let
us exploit this time of favor and open the gates to our hearts, so that the gates of Heaven will open to those who come knocking penitently."

HaRav Yehuda Amital zt"l customarily delivered this message before leading the Ne’ila prayer on Yom Kippur. His drashot from the High Holiday season, which penetrated the hearts of all who heard them, have been collected in this special anthology of readings for the Yamim Nora’im.

Otzar Ha’Tefillot: Iyunei Tefilla on Parshat HaShavua (Hebrew), by Dr. Beni Gesundheit '81. Published by the Halacha Education Center and the World Zionist Organization.

The book is based on pithy Torah insights which the author shared on a radio show on “Reshet Moreshet” which aired on Friday afternoons and arvei chag in 2011. The book draws connections between the Jewish calendar, with its weekly Torah readings and periodic holidays, to central ideas in the world of prayer.

To order: www.tefilah.org or b.gesund@gmail.com

The Map of Israel: For the Shabbat Table (Hebrew) by Amos Safrai '69H. Published by the Eliner Library.

An educational view of Parshat HaShavua, in which a relevant map of Israel accompanies each parsha, along with illustrations of scenery, stamps and coins connected to topics in the parsha. The book is intended for families, teachers and anyone with a love for the Land of Israel.

To order: oritavit@gmail.com

New Siddurim by Koren Publishing, edited by Rav David Fuchs '91H and Rav Hanan Benayahu '94H

Koren Publishers recently completed the publication of a series of siddurim. Two volumes in the Ashkenazic tradition, nusach Ashkenaz and nusach Sfard, were edited by alumnus Rav David Fuchs, and a volume in the Sephardic tradition was edited by alumnus Rav Hanan Benayahu. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi reviewed the prayer texts and some of the halachot in the Sephardic tradition siddur. He also contributed insightful comments and a personal note expressing his regard for the design and content-rich features of the new siddur.

Responsa of the Maharam of Rothenburg and Colleagues (Hebrew) by Prof. Simcha Emanuel '76H. Published by the Rav Rosen Foundation.

Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg, a foremost Torah scholar in 13th century Germany, was one of the greatest authors of responsa literature during the Middle Ages. His 1500+ responsa were printed in a series of anthologies, and now 501 new teshuvot, never previously published, have been brought to light. Some of the responsa were authored by the Maharam and some by his contemporaries. The responsa were collected from dozens of manuscripts, and Prof. Emanuel added comments, a lengthy introduction and detailed indices to the two-volume work. The author was awarded the Rav Kook Prize for Research Literature and Religious Reference Books for this publication.

To order: jewishst@vma.huji.ac.il or call +972-2-532-5841

Imra Tzrufa (Hebrew) by Rav Shmuel Yehuda (Steven) Goldsmith '98. Published by Be’er HaTorah Institute.

The book is conceived as a chevruta for the study of Masechet Yoma; it includes summaries of the halakhot covered in the masechet, such as for the Service of the High Priest (Seder ha’Avoda) and the laws of affliction on Yom Kippur. HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein adds his accolades in the introduction to the book.

To order, contact the author at: slg456@gmail.com

Ad HaYom HaZeh (Hebrew) by Rav Amnon Bazak '84H. Published by Herzog College and Yediot Aharonot Press.

Rav Bazak addresses basic questions that arise for the modern religious person who engages in Tanakh study such as the existence of seemingly contradictory texts, verses that appear to be from different time periods, approaches to archaeological findings, and the relationship between the straightforward meaning of the text and midrashic readings. The book presents an approach developed over the years in Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College that combines modern critical methods with unyielding belief in the sanctity of the Torah.
Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis ’76
Appointed Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom

The Yeshiva expresses heartfelt Mazal Tov wishes to Valerie and Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis ’76 on his appointment as Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, and to their children: Melanie & Hillel ’01, Althea & Danny ’03, Noam ’05 and Eitan ’07.

In a video message screened at the NY Dinner in March, Rabbi Mirvis said: “It was an enormous zechut for me to sit in the shiur of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein shlit”a when I was studying at Yeshivat Har Etzion. I was impacted, not only through his formal teaching, but also through the personal example that he set. In Rav Aharon, I find a modern-day fusion – similar to that which Moshe Rabeinu was blessed with – of one who is an anav mikol adam coupled with being a man of deep principle and conviction, willing to stand up and to be counted on the critical and crucial issues facing Am Yisrael today.

…Like many other rabbanim throughout the world, I have been enormously influenced and my Rabbanut has been shaped through the teachings and example of Rav Aharon.

The Koren Talmud - Har Etzion Connection

The Koren Talmud Bavli, an English translation of the Talmudic text and commentary of Rav Adin Even-Israel (Steinsaltz) is being produced by an impressive team of scholars and editors, translators and proofreaders, artists and graphic designers, many of whom are alumni of Yeshivat Har Etzion. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, six masechtot have been published to date and the plan is to complete the entire Talmud within the next few years. Each volume includes the entire original text, with the Gemara text and Rashi vocalized and Tosafot punctuated, in the traditional configuration and pagination of the famed Vilna edition of the Talmud. It also provides a clear English translation in contemporary idiom, faithfully based upon the modern Hebrew edition.

The Har Etzion alumni working on this project span four decades. They include: Rav Joshua Schreier ’75, Executive Editor, Rav Jason Rappoport ’91, Managing Editor, Rav Dr. Shalom Z. Berger ’77, Senior Content Editor, Rav Joshua Amaru ’85, Coordinating Editor, Rav Avishai Magence ’05K, Content Curator, Rav Eliahu Misgav ’97H, Illustrations, Rav David Strauss ’73, Rav Michael Siev ’95, Rav Dov Karoll ’95, Rav Binyamin Zimmerman ’96, Rav Stephen Kaye ’01, and Rav Yonatan Shai Freedman ’01.

Mazal Tov to the whole team on being awarded the 2012 National Jewish Book Award in Modern Jewish Thought and Experience!

Har Etzion Alumni in JLIC

Many Har Etzion alumni and their wives are helping Orthodox students navigate the college environment, and balance their Jewish commitments with their desire to engage the secular world, through The Heshe and Harriet Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC). The JLIC educators offer weekly shiurim and classes, bring guest speakers and events to campus, and make key Orthodox practices, such as kashrut and Shabbat, easier to observe and more meaningful.

Rabbi David ’06 and Ariel Pardo are the new JLIC Directors at Brandeis University. "We want to help create an incredible Jewish experience by empowering students to build an exciting community and learning environment, making Brandeis a dynamic go-to place of Torah and model Jewish community," says Rabbi Pardo.

Other Har Etzion alumni currently serving as Directors in JLIC with their...
spouses are: Rabbi Aaron ’97PC and Miriam Greenberg at York University of Toronto, Rabbi Aryeh ’97 and Sharona Kaplan at UCLA, Rabbi Dani ’02H and Mazalit Appel at the University of Illinois and Rabbi Gideon ’01 and Aliza Black at NYU. The Founding Director of JLIC is alumnus Rav Menachem Schrader ’72, who remains active in the organization to the present day.

Tobi Kahn ’72 – Lumina is the title of the new paintings exhibition featuring Kahn’s work at The Museum of Biblical Art in Dallas, TX. Kahn’s paintings and sculptures have been shown in over 40 solo exhibitions and over 60 museum and groups shows.

Rav Shmuel Klitsner ’75 published an article in Tradition Spring 2013 titled: Victims, Victimizing, and the Therapeutic Parable: A New Interpretation of 2 Samuel 12. Rav Klitsner is the Director of Midreshet Lindenbaum’s Institute for Halakhic Leadership, training women for communal leadership and heter hora’ah (which will allow them to adjudicate questions of kashrut, shabbat, nidah, and avelut).

Rabbi Joel Finkelstein ’81 and his wife Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein were honored by Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation in Memphis, TN for their 16 years of service to the community. Mazal tov, too, to their son Asher on winning the Chidon Tanakh (Bible Quiz) in the USA Hebrew High School Division.

Alan Wecker ’82 was awarded the Graduate Studies Dean’s Prize from Haifa University for his outstanding Master’s thesis on “Uses of Information Technology for Cultural Heritage.”

Rabbi Lawrence Teitelman 85, the rabbi of Young Israel of New Hyde Park, NY recently celebrated with his community the dedication of a new mikveh, called Mikveh Yisrael, an event that was sixteen years in the making.

Rabbi Menachem (Marc) Penner ’88, currently Associate Dean of Operations at RIETS and Rabbi of Young Israel of Holliswood, will assume the position of Dean of RIETS this coming academic year.

Rav Menachem Weinberg ’90, Ram, Machon Meir, Jerusalem.

Rabbi Dr. Richard Hidary ’93, Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow, Congregation Shearith Israel, The Spanish & Portugese Synagogue, America’s First Jewish Congregation.

Rabbi Dr. Seth Grauer ’96 has been appointed Rosh Yeshiva and Head of School of Bnei Akiva Schools in Toronto, which consists of boys high school Yeshivat Or Chaim and girls high school Ulpanot Orot.

Max Halpern ’02 graduated from SUNY Upstate Medical University and is beginning a residency in pediatrics at Einstein-Jacoby Hospital.

Leron ’02 and Sarah Bernstein are on shlichut in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he is serving as Principal of the Limudei Kodesh department at Yeshiva College Boys’ High School.

Leo Arkush ’06 graduated from UCLA Medical School.

Rabbi David Fried ’06PC received Semicha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, NY.

Rabbi Avron Swartz ’08 received Semicha from Rabbi Levy Wineberg in South Africa.

Rabbi Aaron Potek ’09PC received Semicha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, NY.

Neal Daskal ’08 and Josh Gordon ’09 have been elected National Chairman and Rosh Machaneh of Bnei Akiva South Africa respectively.

YHE Alumnus Takes Second Place in International Adult Bible Contest

Congratulations to Rabbi Ezra Frazer ’96 for his second place showing in the International Adult Bible Contest, which was held in Jerusalem on the fifth night of Chanuka and attended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and then Education Minister Gideon Sa’ar.

Ezra won the American nationals in 1994 as a sophomore at the Torah Academy of Bergen County and placed fifth in the 1995 international competition. He is an instructor of Biblical Hebrew at Yeshiva University and has served as Coordinator of the United States national quiz since 2009.

From left to right: Shlomo Ventura, Ministry of Education representative, 4th place winner Daniel Cohen from France, Rabbi Ezra Frazer, 3rd place winner Lenny Warner from Canada, then-Education Minister Gideon Saar, 1st place winner Refael Meyuchas from Israel, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Director General of Ministry of Education Dalit Stauber, and moderator Avshalom Kor.
ALUMNI NEWS

Marriages
Raphael Cooper '02 and Anna-Leah Bergin
Aryeh Falk '02 and Maayan Dauber
Dean Sher '04 and Tamara Gritzman
Lior Chernick '05 and Gina Posner
Simeon Botwinick '06 and Adira Lautman
Ariel Diamond '06 and Rivky Twersky
Gilad Bendheim '06 and Tzippy Quint
Daniel Schay '07 and Tali Miller
Alon Glassman '07 and Aviva Lazarus
Binny Schimmel '08 and Meechal Winfield
Jesse Schneider '09 and Aimee Greenstein
Gavriel Metzger '09 and Sara Edinger
Dani Schwab '09 and Shira Lieman
Ya'akov Waller '11 and Leah Gordon

Births
Gili '91 and Chaya Houpt, Adi Tzipora Shalva, Jerusalem
Uriel '91 and Shani Lubetski, Rivka Bluma, Memphis, TN
J.J. '92 and Aliza Sussman, Yitzchak Shimon, Modiin
Daniel '92 and Anna Yolkut, Yaakov Dov, Pittsburgh, PA
Zev '93 and Sada Jacobson, Talya Bracha, Beit Shemesh
Shalom Holtz '94 and Leebie Mallin, Tal Aminadav Hillel, Riverdale, NY
Elie '95 and Emily Jesner, Toby Emanuel, London
Aaron Koller '95 and Shira Hecht, Amitai Mordechai, Holliswood, NY
Yehuda '95 and Orit Seif, Ilan Yaakov, Bala Cynwyd, PA
Mordy '95 and Limor Friedman, Daniel Yehuda, Efrat
Hillel '95 and Yael Maizels, Noam Elazar, Ariel
Yosef '95 and Yael Bloch, Boaz, Ma'alei Adumim
Judah '96 and Shayna Goldberg, Tzofiya, Alon Shevut
Aaron '96 and Shayna Weisz, Talya Chaviva, Montreal, Quebec
Avi '97 and Daniella Robinson, twins: Avigail Ora and Yehuda Simcha, W. Hartford, CT
Tuvy '97 and Nicole Meyer, Clara Fay (Chana Freydel), Lawrence, NY
Yair '98 and Talia Hindin, Gavriel Yaakov, Riverdale, NY
Joshua Skarf '98 and Gila Loike, Rena Sophia, Jerusalem
Binyamin '99 and Deborah Radomsky, Tamar, Elazar
Daniel '99 and Ruth Hanstater, Rebecca Rose, London, England
Aryeh '99 and Penina Dienstag, David, Woodmere, NY
Dov '99 and Tali Horowitz, Roni Miriam, New Haven, CT
Etan '00 and Rivka Hindin, Carmel Liat, West Orange, NJ
Nachum '00 and Danielle Braun, Adira, West Hempstead, NY
Jamie '00 and Naomi Feinmesser, Michal Shoshanna, Modiin
Reuven '00 and Danielle Pepper, Emma Allie (Eliana), Springfield, NJ
Shlomo (Myles) '01PC and Rocky Brody, Amalia Sarit, Modiin
Binyamin '01 and Miriam Casper, Tali Lianna, Woodmere, NY
Ilan '01 and Anna Cohen, Maayan Nechama, Jerusalem
Warren '01 and Monique Sher, Ora Natanya, Johannesburg, South Africa
Elichai '01 and Havi Bitter, Matanyahu Yehuda, Alon Shevut
Alexander '01 and Jennifer Chester, Erez Shlomo, Cambridge, MA
Ryan '01 and Rosy Hollander, Zacharia, Johannesburg, South Africa
Jonathan '02 and Shari Lauer, Ezra Yitzchak, NYC
Ariel '02 and Rachel Pepperman, Eden Ruth, Jerusalem
Avi '02 and Mori Anouchi, Liat Nechama, Givat Shmuel
Mark '02 and Nat Steiner, Ariel Shimon, Australia/Alon Shevut
Shmuel '03 and Dinah Kraus, Rachel, Jerusalem
Danny '03, Rakaz Bnei Chul, and Atheia Mirvis, Liora Tehilla, Alon Shevut
Tzvi '03 and Michelle Urkowitz, Devora Yaffa, Univ. Heights, OH
Shlomo '03 and Tami Shellim, Matan, Sydney, Australia
Michael '03PC and Channy Platt, Devorah Leah, Jerusalem
Yehoshua '04 and Erit Rabinowitz, Bina Tchitsky, Jerusalem
Avi '04 and Rochelle Chazen, Tehilla Emuna, Alon Shevut
Yoni '04 and Debbie Grysman, Itai Meir, Ra’anana
Ilan '04 and Tzivia Perez, Sara Batya, Johannesburg, South Africa
Daniel '04 and Talya Gutenberg, Miriam Hodaya, Jerusalem

The year listed indicates the commencement of study
PC = Post-College  H = Hesder  MO = Migdal Oz  K=Kollel
Hillel ‘04PC and Talia Katchen, Shoshana Esther, Jerusalem
Hillel ‘05 and Tova Nadler, Yosef Shimon, Chicago, IL
Yonatan ‘06 and Marlena Cantor, Dena Hadassah, NYC
Ilan ‘07 and Shira Shapiro, Moshe Yechezkel, Johannesburg, South Africa
Omri ‘07 and Naomi Zeifman, Akiva Boaz, Toronto, Canada
Yisrael ‘09PC and Ilana Rappaport, Amital, Kochav HaShachar

Bar/Bat Mitzva
Roi Binyamin Susman (Rav Yehuda ‘81 and Louisa), Efrat
Aviya Susman (Rav Yehuda ‘81 and Louisa), Efrat
Eliezer Avraham Zvi Wildes (Morey ‘82 and Joy), NYC
Temima Taragin (Rav Moshe ‘83 and Atara), Alon Shevut
Yael Teitelman (Rabbi Lawrence ‘85 and Nehama), New Hyde Park, NY
Ariella Rivka Glatt (David ‘85 and Michal), Beit Shemesh
David Amaru (Rav Joshua ‘85 and Ruthie Amaru), Alon Shevut
Netanel Roselaar (Rabbi Daniel ‘87 and Na’amah), London, England
Daniel Feiziger (Rav Ari ‘88 and Meira), Beit Shemesh
Yitzchak Aryeh Smilowitz (Rav Mark ‘88 and Michelle), Beit Shemesh
Yissachar Shmuel Wallach (Tani ‘89 and Miriam), Moreshet
Ayelet Esther Schoor (Kalman ‘90 and Jordan), Modiin
Miriam Shlomtzion Debow (Rav David ‘90 and Yocheved), Alon Shevut
Shira Sussman (JJ ‘92 and Aliza), Modiin
Tzvi Yehuda Greenberg (Aaron ‘97 PC and Miriam), Ontario, Canada

Aliya
Ari ‘98 and Ilana Erdfarb, Efrat
Jeremy ‘01 and Aviva Stern, Efrat
David Lawrence ‘04, Jerusalem
Ari ‘07 and Leora Soffer, Shilo
Daniel Winer ‘07, Jerusalem
Nadav Ellinson ‘08, Jerusalem

Condolences
Rabbi Scot Berman ‘77 on the loss of his brother, Frederick Berman z”l
Moshe Stepansky ‘77H on the loss of his mother, Sara Stepansky z”l
Hal Hirschfield ‘84 on the loss of his father, Seymour Hirschfield z”l
The Yeshiva mourns the loss of alumnus David Simons ‘84 z”l, and extends heartfelt condolences to his brother Michael ‘88 and the entire family.
Joel ‘85 and Daphna Hirsch on the tragic loss of their son Noam Yehoshua z”l, brother of Yosef Hirsch, Shiri Dalet.
Rabbi Boaz Mor ‘95PC on the loss of his mother, Rena Mor z”l
Sammy Steiner ‘06 on the loss of his father Dr. Henry Steiner z”l
Yehuda Chinskey ‘12 on the loss of his stepfather Elliot Wapniak z”l
Ryan Rosen ‘13 on the loss of his father, Neil Rosen z”l

Migdal Oz alumnae, please send in your news to chanaf@haretzion.org.il

Mirea Potaznik ‘04MO recently received her M.A. in Dance Education from the Steinhardt School of NYU.
Alana Ebin ‘06MO graduated Hebrew University with a Masters degree in International Community Development.
Avigail Kranzler ‘09MO is living in Haifa and studying mechanical engineering at Technion Institute.
ALUMNI EVENTS IN ISRAEL

- In December Rav Moshe Lichtenstein spoke to a large crowd in Ra’anana on the topic of “Modern Orthodoxy and Current Challenges” at the home of Ellen and Emanuel Kronitz, parents of Arye ’11H.

- An Alumni Shabbaton for Machzorim 34, 35, and 36 (2001-2003) held in April was attended by a new record of 100 alumni!

- Nearly 200 people participated in a special event on the topic of “Rabbinic Leadership” with Rosh HaYeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein and Rav Yuval Cherlow ’75H, Rosh Yeshiva of Orot Shaul Hesder Yeshiva in Petach Tivka. The program, which was moderated by Rav Ephraim Zik ’91H, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Bnei Akiva High School in Ra’anana, took place on April 25 at Congregation Ohel Ari in Ra’anana. The evening was dedicated by Alan and Randi Gelman (parents of Uri ’08H) on the occasion of the 17th yahrzeit of their beloved father, Rabbi Aaron S. Gelman z”l.

- A Shabbaton was held in Ra’anana in April with Rav Michael Edrei and Rav Moshe Taragin who gave shiurim in many shuls throughout the city.

- At an Alumni Shabbaton at Yeshiva in February for Machzorim 6, 7, 8 and 9 (1973-1976), alumni and their families enjoyed the chance to re-connect with old friends and experience a special Shabbat in Yeshiva. Many alumni agreed that the highlight of the Shabbaton was a discussion with Rosh HaYeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein in which he shared his educational outlook from the perspective of four decades in the Yeshiva.

- The Bar Mitzvah Program on April 18 was attended by 56 alumni and their bar-mitzvah aged sons.

- The Bat Mitzvah Program on May 23 was attended by 48 alumni and their bat-mitzvah aged daughters.

- The Bar Mitzva Program Rav Yehuda ’86H and Matanya Tropper

- The Bat Mitzvah Program Seth ’88 and Tamar Gerson

To make your tax-exempt donation, please contact any of our offices:

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