ETZION FOUNDATION ANNUAL DINNER
YESHIVAT HAR ETZION · MIGDAL OZ

Generation to Generation
HONORING
DAVID AND DASSIE SCHREIBER
RELLA FELDMAN AND MINDY HECHT ’04 MO
RAV MORDECHAI ’79 AND DEBBY FRIEDMAN

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS ’76
CHIEF RABBI OF THE UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City

212-732-4874 www.thegushdinner.org

SAVE THE DATE · APRIL 2, 2014
Revava: Chanuka Yemei Iyun dedicated to the Torah of Rav Ovadia Yosef zt"l

The fourth annual Chanuka Yemei Iyun sponsored by Revava: the Riva Koschitzky z"l Torah Enrichment Program, were devoted to the legacy of former Sephardic Chief Rabbi and foremost halachic authority, Rav Ovadia Yosef zt"l. The two-day event was attended by his son, the current Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rav Yitzchak Yosef, who spoke about his father’s method of halachic decision-making (psikat halacha). The event was attended by a large number of talmidim, alumni and visitors. Additional speakers included former Sephardic Chief Rabbi Rav Shlomo Amar, Rosh Kollel Rav Shlomo Levi and Rav Dr. Binyamin (Benny) Lau, who spoke movingly about Rav Ovadia Yosef’s deep desire to alleviate the suffering of agunot and mamzerim.

The final event was a lively panel discussion on “Halachic Unity and the Ingathering of the Exiles” moderated by the rabbi of Tenuva, Rav Ze’ev Vitman ’71H, and with the participation of Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, Rav Yoel Bin Nun, and the Chief Rabbi of Afula, Rav Shmuel David ’75H. Concluding words were delivered by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein.

Motti Guttman, Coordinator of Hesder Students, commented, “It is no coincidence that Rav Yitzchak Yosef and Rav Amar felt comfortable participating in the Yemei Iyun at Har Etzion and delivering serious halachic shiurim. There is no replacement for the world of Torah as a bridge between the religious Zionist and haredi publics.”

Chanuka at Yeshiva

On the first night of Chanuka, overseas talmidim visited Beit Zion Blumenthal Children’s Home in Jerusalem and created a festive atmosphere for the children who live there. The Yeshiva has maintained a tradition for over 15 years of talmidim visiting the Children’s Home on both Chanuka and Purim.

Also on Chanuka this year, the annual mesiba (party) honored alumni who have recently made aliya. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein began his remarks to Yeshiva students with an address to the alumni and each of the olim was presented with “Chanuka”, the third volume of the Yeshiva’s Be’er Miriam publications on the Jewish holidays. Participants included: Rabbi Benjamin ’96 and Yael Resnick, Ari ’98 and Ilana Erdfarb, Yonatan ’99 and Shira Shechter, Chaim ’00 and Sarah Garfinkel, Aaron ’03 & Abi Djanogly, Avron Olwyn ’06, and Daniel Winer ’07.

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein greets Aaron Djanogly

Yoni Nouriel, Sam Grill, Zachy Rosenthal, and Sam Glauber, bnei chul 2012 who returned as Shiur Bet Israelis
Aliya

In the same vein, a recent article on kipa.co.il highlighted the role that Hesder yeshivot play in encouraging aliya and profiled Har Etzion’s own Daniel Thwaites, who came to Yeshiva from Manchester, England in 2009. Daniel made aliya in 2010, while still a Shana Aleph student, and joined the Yeshiva’s Hesder program. He has since completed his army service and is currently serving as madrich for the Overseas Program. He also takes care of the Yeshiva’s “lone soldiers” (chayalim bodedim), young olim like himself without immediate family in Israel.

Remembering the Yom Kippur War

This year, the Yeshiva once again had a day of learning for Israeli alumni during Aseret Yemei Teshuva. The day was dedicated in memory of Uri Mintzer ’72H z”l, whose first yahrtzeit was a few weeks later. The day began with many shiurim and the happy buzz of learning. People had a chance to catch up with one another over lunch, after which there was a panel discussion devoted to “Et Ratzon” – the book of HaRav Amital’s drashot for the Yamim Nora’im, edited by his son Rav Yoel Amital ’69H. This was followed by a session in memory of Uri Mintzer z”l on Social Justice, a topic that was close to Uri’s heart.

The day ended with a Yeshiva-wide memorial ceremony in the Beit Midrash to mark 40 years since the Yom Kippur War and remember the Yeshiva’s eight talmidim who fell in the war. The event was attended by the friends and families of the fallen, as well as current talmidim, and the Beit Midrash was packed. Rav Yoel Bin Nun and Rav Danny Tropper spoke about the war in retrospect, Rav Yaakov Fisher ’71H read a moving poem, and Dr. Yehuda Schwartz ’68H related his personal tale of a long, difficult recovery from injuries sustained in the war. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan spoke movingly about the connection between the prayers of Yom Kippur and the battlefield.

Social media are a convenient way to connect the Har Etzion family. They present the message and values of the Yeshiva and Beit Midrash in an engaging platform, opening up the walls of the beit midrash to anyone who wants to be part of the community and to be inspired by the ongoing spiritual work and learning that take place in Yeshiva and at Migdal Oz. As Rav Moshe Taragin says, “Follow my Twitter feed for 5 minute middot, 10 minute Rashi and weekly parsha mp3s”.

Find the Yeshiva on Facebook at Yeshivat Har Etzion

Tweet that!

Yeshivat Har Etzion has always been a trailblazing institution – creating successful joint leadership, a unique derech limmud, a college for educators, a beit midrash for women – and even in the use of the internet. For many years, the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash has been bringing Torah to tens of thousands of people via email and podcasts. Recently, we’ve expanded into social media, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
The Legacy Project

The Legacy Project invites Yeshiva alumni to speak with current talmidim and expose them to the many career opportunities available to bnei Torah in the modern world. The three speakers this year have been Rabbi Jeremy Stern ’01, Simon Wolf ’92 and Rav Moshe Stavsky ’80.

Rav Stern learned in the Yeshiva in 2001 and 2002, and he served as a volunteer in the Israeli Army (Machal) in 2003. He and his family made aliya in the summer and he is the Executive Director of ORA, The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot.

Simon Wolf learned in the Yeshiva in 1992 and now lives in Beit Shemesh and works in the financial district in Tel Aviv. He spoke with talmidim about life after Yeshiva – both in terms of Torah learning and in terms of the challenges of the workplace.

After working for 25 years in Jewish education in America, Rav Stavsky made aliyah to Neve Daniel with his wife Aliza and six children. He is now the Director of Orot Etzion, a network of schools which service over 1,500 students in the Gush Etzion area.

Rav Stavsky spoke about how his time in Yeshiva helped shaped him as an educator. He recalled “a sicha from HaRav Lichtenstein shlita which focused on the way in which Yaakov approached his father when ‘stealing’ the brachot – ‘crying and with shaking knees.’ Sometimes, said the Rosh Yeshiva, it is necessary to take certain actions but we need to realize that these actions are not the tzurah of a Jew. They should be undertaken crying and with shaking knees. Each time I had to consider expelling a student from school I recalled this sicha of Rav Lichtenstein and it helped me to assume the decision with a proper perspective. I have no doubt that there are countless sichot which have similarly impacted the many talmidim who have attended the Yeshiva in their chosen paths and careers.”

An enthused talmid commented, “The speakers were very mind-opening. Sometimes in Yeshiva you forget about the diversity out there in the world. These lectures have stimulated a lot of ideas and discussion among my friends. I think Har Etzion is really unique in that it’s serious about Torah but not scared of the outside world.”

Talmidim visited Zomet Institute, the world’s leader in combining technology with halacha, and heard from Zomet staffer Rav Israel Krengel ’88 about some of the many issues involved in merging halachic Judaism with modern life.

In November, Yeshiva talmidim volunteered to spend Shabbat in the Nurit Absorption Center in Be’er Sheva, running programs for the children who live there. Since the 1980’s the Nurit Absorption Center has been helping Ethiopian olim to adapt to life in Israel.
On tiyul in the Golan

In September, newly arrived students from the Northern Hemisphere spent a spiritual Shabbat in the Old City of Jerusalem, and went on an informative tour with Rav Menachem Leibtag on Friday.

Rabbi on the Run

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan recently paid a surprise visit to Yeshiva students doing weapons training. Motti Guttman, who accompanied Rav Medan, reports, “I don’t know who was more surprised – the talmidim who saw us get out of our car in exercise clothes and run the track with them or their commanders who couldn’t believe that a Rosh Yeshiva could run the course easily – finishing first! – and even give a shiur afterwards.” The visit was part of the Yeshiva’s ongoing effort to keep in close touch with its students in the army.

Photo Album: Shana Aleph

Below, a glimpse of what our Shana Aleph students are up to.

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The publication of “Et Ratzon”, the collection of drashot by HaRav Amital zt”l for the Yamim Nora’im, was celebrated at Yad HaRav Nissim in Jerusalem. Speakers included Yeshiva Ram Rav Benny Lehman, Deputy Chairman of the YHE Board Rav Shlomo Brin, and Dr. Aviad Hacohen ’81H, Dean of Sha’arei Mada u’Mishpat College.

“Et Ratzon” was dedicated by Marcus and Adina Katz in tribute to their Rav and close friend, HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l.

The publication of “Et Ratzon” prior to the Yamim Nora’im generated wide and impressive media coverage in Israel. In his review of the book published in Israel Hayom, YHE alumnus Prof. Alan Jotkowitz ’82, director of the Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics at Ben-Gurion University and a senior physician at Soroka University Medical Center in Beer-Sheva wrote:

“Again and again, HaRav Amital emphasizes the importance of simplicity and honesty in standing before God in prayer. Another important recurrent motif in Rav Amital’s thought is that one’s prayer on the High Holy Days should focus on the community as opposed to the individual. This is consistent with his oft-repeated message that Torah learning cannot be divorced from one’s environment, and his challenge to his students to be leaders of their communities.”

Prof. Jotkowitz ends his review with the following poignant words, “Notwithstanding the power of the collected essays, something is missing from the collection, and that is Rav Amital’s presence. For anyone who had the privilege of hearing him give one of his discourses before Neila in his trademark singsong voice, surrounded by hundreds of his students hanging on to his every word, the book invariably brings about a feeling of longing and an awareness of what once was, and has been lost.”

Baruch Rofeh Cholim

On the tenth day of Adar Aleph, Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein shlit”a, who is recovering from back surgery, returned to the Beit Midrash. He was greeted with joyous singing and dancing, and the emotional recital of Tehillim said in thanksgiving. HaRav Lichtenstein spoke, thanking the talmidim, expressing his appreciation for the Beit Midrash and emphasizing the importance of the Yeshiva’s mission. Read more and see additional photos on the Yeshiva website.

Simchat Beit Shoeva

In the Beit Midrash

Students lined the path to the Beit Midrash with candlelit lanterns, giving new meaning to the phrase “the light of Torah”.

This Tevet, we experienced the biggest snowfall since 1950…and finally, native Canadian Jon Singer ’09H, counselor for Shana Alef students, felt at home! Jon is our photographer extraordinaire as well as a proud Israeli.

Et Ratzon

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Over 150 women came together on the first night of Selichot for the Annual Erev Shira v’Hitorerut which took place at Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School in Teaneck, NJ. Alumnae, mothers, daughters, sisters and friends began the evening with beautiful, uplifting songs and nigunim led by Migdal Oz alumnae, which led to spirited dancing. Shoshana Fruchter Samuels ’03MO delivered a compelling and powerful shiur entitled Between Selichot & Tefila: Approaching HaShem during the Yamim Noraim. The evening culminated in an inspiring Selichot service.

Rav Kahn spoke at a Lunch and Learn at the office of Hillel Silvera ’91 in downtown Manhattan on the topic of Magen Avraham – the First Bracha of Shemoneh Esrei.

In late October, Rav Doniel Schreiber traveled to England to reconnect with alumni, meet with prospective talmidim, and give shiurim at various communities. He says, “I really wanted to better understand where our British talmidim come from, and also what their lives are like after they leave Yeshiva. What types of Torah communities do they live in, what challenges do they face, and what are the resources available to them?”

Rav Schreiber stayed at the home of Ben and Aviva Thwaites in Hendon. An alumni Shabbaton in London included seudot at the Thwaites’ home and at the home of Bernard and Sylvie Bollag (parents of Daniel ’08), a Friday night tish and a melave malka. Rav Schreiber spoke and gave shiurim at many locations around town, including the Hasmo Beis Medrash, The Midrasha for women, Alei Tzion United Synagogue, led by Rabbi Daniel Roselaar ’87, Ner Israel Synagogue, led by Rabbi Dr. Alan Kimche, and Kehillas Toras Chaim, led by Dayan Yonason Abraham. He also met with Sinai madrichim and spoke at “Start Your Day the Torah Way” in Golders Green.

Rav Schreiber summed up, “My experience in England left me deeply impressed…I had a chance to see the continued Torah commitment of our bogrim, their dedication to minyan, to learning b’chavrusa, da’f yomi, going to shiurim, some of them even getting up as early as 5:30 in the morning to make sure they prepared their da’f. It was thrilling to see that many of them are married with children, and have beautiful Torah homes and Torah families.

“It was particularly heartwarming to hear the great appreciation and hakarat ha’tov of our bogrim for the Yeshiva and the impact it has made on their lives. I returned to Israel energized and filled with genuine admiration for our bogrim in England, for the way they conduct their lives, and for their hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future.”

On Shabbat Parashat VaYetzei, over fifty Migdal Oz alumnae flocked to Teaneck, NJ for the annual Migdal Oz Shabbaton. Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg and Racheli Schmell, Director of Overseas Students, joined the young women who had come in for the occasion from a variety of college campuses. Shabbat was spent singing, davening, learning, eating and catching up with old friends. The main meals were at Congregation Rinat Yisrael. In addition, Michelle Levine ’11MO and her family hosted a tish on leil Shabbat, and Rivka Kaminetzky ’11MO and her family hosted seuda shlisheit.
On Motzai Shabbat, Esti and Racheli headed into the city for a gathering of older Migdal Oz alumnae hosted by Leah (Greenstein) ’09MO and Avi Grumet ’06.

On Sunday, Esti Rosenberg and Racheli Schmell met with current Migdal Oz parents at the home of Chaye and David Warburg, parents of Penina ’13MO, in Englewood, NJ.

Welcome to our new Alumni Coordinators, Penina ’10MO and Jacob Bernstein ’10!

In an effort to provide more programming for college-aged alumni, the Bernsteins organized two successful programs with Eli Weber ’81, Director of the Dr. William Major Overseas Students, on November 14th. Eli visited Yeshiva University to attend a Gush Alumni Va’ad at YU, and to speak at Chulent & Chizzuk. The Va’ad, which took place at 11 pm, attracted alumni not only from YU but also from Columbia, NYU, and Rutgers. The discussion topics included making life choices, paths to achieving happiness, and creating a balance between fulfillment and responsibilities. At Chulent & Chizzuk (a weekly late-night event held in Washington Heights), Eli gave a dvar Torah and caught up with alumni.

Penina and Jacob Bernstein opened their home on Sunday, December 1st to host the first-ever Chanuka party for both Har Etzion and Migdal Oz graduates. Participants shared dveirei Torah, played dreidel and ate delicious Chanuka fare. It was a very enjoyable evening, and the Bernsteins hope to expand these joint programs to larger crowds and different communities.

On December 8, alumnae, parents and supporters of Migdal Oz enjoyed a discussion by and about Migdal Oz alumnae in communal leadership positions with Esti Rosenberg, Miriam Coren ’01MO and Shoshana Samuels ’03MO, at a Sunday brunch graciously hosted by Rabbi Dr. Gidon ’82 and Elizabeth Rothstein (parents of Tamar ’12MO). Greetings were delivered by the Etzion Foundation’s Associate Director of Development Sharon Rifkind and by Tamar Rothstein. The program, moderated by Rachel Weber Leshaw ’09MO, presented the different perspectives of the panelists regarding leadership in their communal positions. Many of the speakers mentioned that Migdal Oz had provided a foundation and context for its alumnae to take on challenging leadership roles.

“Sundaes and Shmooze” was a great success! Over ice cream sundaes, Migdal Oz alumnae had an opportunity to catch up with their fellow alumnae and spend some time with Esti Rosenberg and Racheli Schmell, who were in from Israel to conduct interviews with prospective students.

Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spent a busy five days in NYC in December. Included in his visit was a Lunch and Learn at the offices of Fried Frank, hosted by Hillel Silvera ’91. Rav Mosheh’s topic was, Yitaka Beshofar Gadol – Deciphering the Haftora of Shmot and its Relationship to Contemporary Society.

Later in the day, a group of alumni and supporters came together in midtown Manhattan for a Dinner and Learn with Rav Mosheh at Kaye Scholer, hosted by Terry Novetsky ’80. Rav Mosheh’s shiur, Bezekh Nashim Tzidkanyot – Miriam as an Expression of Leadership in Egypt and the Wilderness, was very well-received, and a nice segue into the Etzion Foundation Board meeting which followed.
The next day, alumni and parents came to a Lunch and Learn with Rav Mosheh, hosted by Dan Schwartz ’85 of York Capital. Rav Mosheh spoke on Reflections upon Iyov in Light of his Relationship to his Children.

The same evening, Rav Mosheh gave a shiur at the Stern College Mishmar program.

Rav Mosheh’s trip culminated with the Annual Yeshiva Alumni Shabbaton in Teaneck, NJ. Over 50 alumni joined Rav Mosheh, Eli Weber and Rav Daniel Rhein for spirited davening, learning, meals, conversation and more. Older alumni and community members also joined the group for seuda shlishit.

The Shabbaton began with a beautiful “Gush” davening led by Yehoshua Katz’11 in the Congregation Rinat Yisrael Beit Midrash. Rav Mosheh delivered a sicha between Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma’ariv. Dinner followed, and a spirited tish topped off the evening. On Shabbat morning following minyan, Eli Weber delivered a shiur entitled Tzipporah, Moshe and the Role of Women in Bris Milah not only to Gush alumni, but to Rinat members and guests as well. Lunch transitioned into Mincha and seuda shlishit, where older alumni and parents from the community joined the group for a shiur by Rav Mosheh. A special Gush Havdala marked the end of a great Shabbaton.

Following the Shabbaton, Eli Weber and Rav Rhein had a meeting with parents of current talmidim, hosted by Barry ’85 and Joy Sklar, parents of Yohef ’13. Eli and Rav Rhein gave the parents an update on what’s going on at the Yeshiva and were able to talk one-on-one and answer questions.

Rav Mosheh went to New Rochelle to deliver a shiur to a crowd of alumni and local friends at the home of Michael ’87 and Karen Raskas. Rav Mosheh spoke about Reflections upon Rav Ovadia Yosef’s Halakhic Methodology and Legacy.

Rav Mordechai Friedman visited the University of Pennsylvania for an alumni Shabbaton on Parashat Terumah (February 1st). Over 35 college-age alumni came together for meals, a tish, shiurim and more - for what has become an annual visit from Rav Mordechai. It was a great opportunity to connect with alumni from other schools and with a well-loved Ram.

The Brookline, MA community was treated to a visit from Rav Mordechai Friedman at the end of January. Alumni, parents and friends gathered at the home of Raphi ’93 and Yoheit Schorr to hear an engaging and practical shiur by Rav Mordechai entitled, The Halachic Snow Man: Investigating Snow from a Halachic Perspective.
The Merger is Complete!

After much hard work, Herzog College and Lifshitz College jointly opened their doors this fall, as the newly-formed Herzog Academic College. With over 2000 students on its three campuses, Herzog is now the largest college for religious educators in the country. Rector Dr. Ezra Kahalani says, “It’s almost as if we created a new college. We’ve put together an incredibly talented staff, started new programs, and seen our net enrollment increase by 30%.”

Rabbi Prof. Yitzhak Kraus, President of the College says, “It was not easy to merge two veteran institutions, each with its own management culture, but we worked on it carefully and patiently, and now we’re seeing the fruits of our labors. The merger is a huge boon to students who now have more departments, classes and instructors to choose from than ever before. And we now have greater financial stability and the ability to tackle larger goals, like increasing research.

“In addition, this merger sends an important message to the national-religious public: we must not let small differences divide us. On the contrary, we need to develop tolerance for others and rediscover that our whole is greater than the sum of our parts. The mishna describes that when all of Am Yisrael stood in the Beit HaMikdash it was crowded, but when they bowed down there was room for all, which seems logically impossible. We can learn from this that when people insist on taking a strong stand and holding fast to their positions, everyone feels cramped, but if we allow ourselves to bend a bit to the will of another, then there is room for all.”

The English Department – A Novel Approach

Israel is facing a severe shortage of English teachers; Yeshiva high schools, in particular, are desperate for competent male English teachers who are bnei Torah. In response to this pressing educational need, the English Department of Herzog College was established in 2010. It is the only program in Israel which trains male English teachers in a religious setting. There is also a parallel division to train female English teachers at Herzog’s Migdal Oz campus. In the short time since its founding, the number of students in the department has grown from just a handful to the current enrollment of 72 students, 35 of whom are male.

From the outset, the English Department has championed a unique approach aimed at improving the caliber of English teachers and subsequently raising the level of English in the Israeli classroom. This approach, while providing practical teaching tools to ensure success, also places a heavy emphasis on nurturing creativity.

“We believe that in order to be a creative teacher one must be a creative learner,” explains Department Head Dr. Amy Gelbart. Gelbart came on aliya from the U.S. in 1987 and earned a PhD in American Literature from Bar-Ilan University. She has taught Jewish, Christian and Moslem teens in Ramla, which led her to understand the profound impact that teachers can have on their students. “Being a teacher means thinking on your feet and out of the box. If you have a lot of different tools in your toolbox, you will bring them with you into the classroom,” she says. “We strive to train teachers who are lifelong learners and who are caring and passionate about their subject matter.”

The Department prides itself on providing a warm and caring environment for all students, who range in age from 21-45, and include veteran Israelis as well as new olim. With its growing reputation, the Department is attracting stronger students from year to year.

Students learn how to prepare lessons, manage a class, write tests and apply alternative evaluation methods. The program offers a variety of workshops, such as Journalism, Language Acquisition, and Theater, and it includes two years of supervised fieldwork. Students have extensive opportunities to express themselves, through speeches to their peers, writing children’s books in the Children’s Literature course, and even penning their own poetry.

“We live in an era in which English skills are essential,” says Rabbi Prof. Yitzhak Kraus, President of the College. “Our goal is to train growth-minded, resilient, and capable individuals who are ready and willing to take on the considerable challenges facing teachers today.”

Summer Tanakh Study Days

Only a few months to go! The immensely popular annual Yemei Iyun b’Tanakh featuring the world’s top Tanakh scholars will be taking place this year on July 27-31, 2014. Tanakh-based hikes will take place ten days earlier, on July 17.

Registration will open online a month in advance of the Yemei Iyun, on the College’s website, www.herzog.ac.il
Chag haSigd

In honor of the Ethiopian Jewish holiday Chag haSigd, the entire Beit Midrash departed from its usual night seder and devoted the evening to a celebration of Ethiopian Jewish history and culture, organized by talmidot of Ethiopian origin. Chag haSigd takes place 50 days after Yom Kippur, and historically celebrated the renewal of the covenant between God, Bnei Yisrael, and His Torah. Now the holiday also serves as an annual gathering of the entire Ethiopian community and is seen as an opportunity to strengthen their affinity to their history and culture.

Overseas student Leeza Hirt gave her impressions of the event: “EinaT, Tallal, Sarah, and a few other girls prepared a really interesting evening. We were broken up into groups and rotated between several different stations which included dance, food, song, stories, and crafts. At the end of the night, the Ethiopian students of the Beit Midrash shared their incredible personal stories, which were truly awe-inspiring.”

The Beit Midrash has a program called “Tochnit Miriam” dedicated to the education and advancement of Ethiopian women, preparing them to assume leadership roles within their community.

Welcoming Olot

In December, Migdal Oz hosted its first-ever event for former students who have made aliya. Over 80 alumnae have made aliya and over 40 were able to attend the event, some with husbands and children.

The proud staff was out in full force, as well. Tikva Shore ’09MO, Madricha of Overseas Students, explains, “It is important to the Beit Midrash to reach out to its alumnae, and specifically to those who have made the difficult decision to leave their families and move to Israel – at the Erev Olot Bogrot, we celebrated their decision, and invited them to return to, and remain a part of, the Migdal Oz family.”

Rav Meir Nehorai, Ram in the Beit Midrash, opened the evening, followed by Rosh Beit Midrash Esti Rosenberg. Both spoke about the strength and difficulties that come with aliya. Dinner was served, after which Dr. Tovah Lichtenstein addressed the group, and Dr. Yael Ziegler gave a shiur on the Joseph stories in Sefer Breishit. Tikva Shore summed up, “It was a wonderful opportunity for bogrot to re-connect with each other, and with the Beit Midrash, and we hope to host more events for olot bogrot in the future.”

Chanuka Yemei Iyun

This year’s Chanuka seminar was a three-day symposium devoted to the topic “The Relationship between Culture and Judaism: A Conflict or an Opportunity?” The symposium included sessions with artists, educators, writers, filmmakers, musicians and rabbis, which enabled students to analyze issues from many different angles.

Kibbutz Family

The bnot chul (overseas students) have adoptive families in Kibbutz Migdal Oz, who provide the students with a home away from home. The kibbutz families frequently host the girls for weekday dinners and Shabbat meals, and were especially hospitable during this year’s snowstorm, hosting the girls for evenings of hot chocolate & movies. In return, the bnot chul planned a Chanuka party in the Beit Midrash for their adoptive families which included games for the children and jelly doughnuts for all.

Overseas student Keshet Eklove says, “The truth is that it’s hard being so far away from home. Having a family on the kibbutz makes such an incredible difference. I love how comfortable I can be around them and the way they make me feel at home. Also, since, be’ezrat HaShem, I plan on staying in Israel, it is reassuring to know that I have a home base whenever I need it—that’s definitely a comfort.”
Advanced Talmud and Halacha Scholars at Migdal Oz

The new year of the Advanced Talmud and Halacha Scholars Program (Tochnit Mitkademet) has brought with it new and exciting opportunities as our scholars delved into Masechet Gittin with Rav Michael Edrei. Rabbi Dr. Judah Goldberg ’96 supervises the scholars in the Beit Midrash, helping them to develop their skills. The halacha aspect of the program is focusing this year on the laws of family purity, under the tutelage of the learned Rabbanit Michal Tikochinski. In addition, the scholars spend two afternoons a week studying Sefer HaKuzari with Rav Yaakov Medan, Rosh Yeshivat Har Etzion.

The new year has brought a deeper emphasis on providing opportunities for the women to present original scholarship. Many of them are functioning in adjunct teaching roles within the Beit Midrash, which has proven to be mutually enriching for both the scholars and the younger students. Overseas student Yael Lilienthal commented, “The advanced learning of the women in the Tochnit Mitkademet adds another dimension to the Beit Midrash.”

In December, the Advanced Talmud and Halacha Scholars Program was privileged to enjoy a visit from Rella Feldman, who, along with her daughter Mindy Hecht ’04MO, is among the honorees at the upcoming Etzion Foundation Dinner. Rella is also among the initial group of funders of the Advanced Scholars Program. Rella met with the women of the program to discuss its progress and significance. She spoke about how the landscape of women’s learning is constantly changing as new opportunities for advanced studies arise, and how the program fills a crucial niche that allows these women to delve into their learning in an engaging and inspiring way. She said, “These dedicated scholars enrich the atmosphere of the Beit Midrash and provide a model of limmud Torah that empowers the women of the Beit Midrash.”

Heavenly Matters

In January, Migdal Oz dedicated a roof and lookout point. The newly developed space, located above the Dining Hall and Herzog College wing, is adjacent to the Beit Midrash and will provide a beautiful place to sit and learn, as well as a venue for shiurim and special events. At the dedication, Rav Meir Nehorai, Ram in the Beit Midrash, explained the halachot concerning building a fence around a roof, and the bracha on completing a fence was recited.

Twelve New Olot

Migdal Oz proudly welcomes twelve alumnae who’ve made aliya this year.

Jessica Margolies 2011  
Biotechnology student, Bar-Ilan University

Bracha Lamm 2011  
Political Science and Jewish History student, Bar-Ilan University

Randi Prince 2011  
Nursing student, Tel Aviv University

Michal Novetsky 2007  
Law student, Hebrew University

Leora Niderberg 2008  
Urban Design student, Bezalel Academy; Program Manager at Ayeka

Derora Tropp 2005  
Law student, Bar-Ilan University

Hannah Dimbert 2012  
serving in IDF

Nechamie Saxon 2012  
Sherut Leumi at Alyn

Shira Lebowitz 2012  
Sherut Leumi at Gan Safa

Adina Israel 2012  
serving in IDF

Dina Lustiger 2008  
Administrator at Yeshivat Sha’arei Mevaseret Zion

Talia Allen 2010  
Social Work student, Bar-Ilan University

Leora Niderberg gets her Israeli ID card upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport
ALUMNI EVENTS IN ISRAEL

Shiurim

To keep in touch with our alumni and spread the Yeshiva’s Torah to the community at large, Har Etzion Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim speak around the country at a wide variety of events. A quick sampling:

- Petach Tikva: Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi & Rav Hillel Rachmani delivered shiurim centered on the Yamim Noraim.
- Bar-Ilan University: Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan and Rabbi Prof. Yitzhak Kraus, President of Herzog Academic College, lectured in honor of the publication of the Yom Kippur volume of the Yeshiva’s Be’er Miriam series on Jewish holidays.
- Ra’anana: Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spoke about Rosh Hashanah at the home of Stuie ’76 and Shelley Schapiro.
- Ra’anana: Rav Doniel Schreiber gave an introduction to the Laws of Shemitta in October.
- Ra’anana: Deputy Chairman of the YHE Board Rav Shlomo Brin spoke in November on the religious and national significance of Chanuka.
- Ra’anana: Rav Moshe Taragin spoke in January on “What Changed When the Red Sea Split?”

Alumni Shabbatons

Returning to Yeshiva is a wonderful way to refresh one’s spiritual batteries, and to reconnect with the Yeshiva’s Torah and with old friends. On Parshat VaYera, the Yeshiva hosted alumni from the Hesder machzorim 18 and 20 (who began learning in Yeshiva in 1985 and 1987). See them above in the traditional “photo by the fish pond”.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Seminars

The Yeshiva and Migdal Oz continue to host these popular and meaningful events, at which bnei and bnot mitzvah come to learn in Gush Etzion with their parents, meet roshei yeshiva and enjoy some fun educational activities. Here are the dates for upcoming seminar days:

- Bar Mitzvah Day Thursday May 1, 2014
- Bat Mitzvah Day Thursday June 12, 2014

If you will be in Israel on these dates and would like to receive more details, please contact office@etzion.org.il

Shavu Banim

Shavu Banim is a program that runs for two weeks during the Southern Hemisphere summer, in which MTA alumni from Australia, South Africa and New Zealand return to Yeshiva for a special learning program designed especially for them. The program was founded and is directed by Rav Pini Cohen ’94. This year, sixteen alumni used their vacation time to make the long journey to Alon Shevut and reconnect with Yeshivat Har Etzion. Shua Solomon 07MTA was their madrich.

Rav Pini explains the purpose of this program: “Shavu Banim helps to maintain a connection between alumni and the Yeshiva – not only with the talmud Torah of Har Etzion but also with the Ramim. This empowers both sides to continue in all their endeavors. It gives the alumni chizuk and it show us that the Torah of the Yeshiva is having a lasting impact on students.”

One of the highlights was Shabbat. On Parshat Yitro, the Shavu Banim talmidim were joined by MTA alumni who’ve made aliya, former MTA madrichim, and current kollel members, creating a broader MTA Shabbaton with 115 people in attendance, including wives and children. The oldest alumnus in attendance was from MTA 1988 and the youngest was from MTA 2013. Rav Hillel Maizels ’95MTA of Ariel was the guest rabbi, and the ruach was fantastic.
Jewish Renewal in Krakow

In September, alumnus Rabbi Avi Baumol ’88 took on the challenging position of rabbi in Krakow, Poland, where the weight of Jewish history is ever-present. Rabbi Baumol is the Rabbinic Representative of the Chief Rabbi of Poland as well as an Emissary for Shavei Israel, and he is based in the Jewish Community Center of Krakow. His multi-faceted job includes teaching Judaism, tending to the Jewish community’s needs and acting as a liaison to the broader Polish public. A recent article of his in “The Times of Israel” documented a typical work week – including encounters with Polish schoolchildren, a priest, and a righteous gentile, a visit to Birkenau, a class with young adults who believe their grandparents were Jewish and are finding their way back to Judaism, an urgent search for a mohel, and a warm, welcoming communal Shabbat.

Rabbi Baumol writes, “I am inspired by the thirst that the community has to learn about Judaism, participate in communal activities and identify themselves as the Jewish community of Krakow—home to the great Rem’a, destroyed almost completely during the Holocaust and Communism but brought back to life in the past decades.”

A Rabbi Who Makes the Cut

Rav Hillel Maizels ’95MTA, the rabbi of Ohel Efraim synagogue in Ariel, could not help but notice the anxiety caused to new parents in his city by the lack of a local mohel. “Whenever a baby boy was born in Ariel, the first thing the parents had to do was run around looking for a mohel. And if the brit mila was supposed to be on Shabbat, that was a real problem,” he explains…and so, he took it upon himself to learn the trade and become a mohel! Rav Hillel says, “I’m here to serve the community, and that’s what was needed. Now finally there’s someone in Ariel who can meet with the couple before the brit, accompany them through the process and follow up with them and the baby afterwards.” May he be zocheh to contribute to many smachot in the community!

An Outstanding Oleh

Professor Jeffrey Hausdorff ’80 won the Nefesh b’Nefesh 2014 Bonei Zion Award, in the Science & Medicine category. The award recognizes outstanding Anglo olim who encapsulate the spirit of modern-day Zionism by making a significant contribution to the State of Israel. In 2000, Prof. Hausdorff left his faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School to make aliyah. In Israel he lectures at Tel Aviv University, in addition to being the founder and Director of the Neurodynamics and Gait Research Laboratory at the Tel Aviv Medical Center. Prof. Hausdorff’s team conducts pioneering and award-winning research in mobility, cognitive function, fall risk and quality of life. His cutting-edge findings have been advancing science and medicine throughout the world, spreading the good name of Israel with them.

Rabbi Chaim ’93 and Rebbetzin Bianca Kanterovitz became the Senior Rabbi and Rebbetzin of the Borehamwood and Elstree United Synagogue of London, one of the largest shuls in Europe.

Jarred Myers ’98 was recently appointed Education Program Officer at the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation in South Africa.

Zach Abramowitz ’99 founded a startup company called ReplyAll that has been featured on BloombergTV and Above the Law.

Eitan Bendavid ’02 NY completed his tenure as a Rabbinic Fellow at Lincoln Square Synagogue and will be starting a new position as the Rabbi of the West Side Sephardic Synagogue.

Rabbi Benji Levy ’04MTA has been appointed Dean of Jewish Life & Learning at Moriah College, with 1800 students, 5 preschools, primary school, middle school and high school, in Sydney, Australia.

Rena Wiesen Whisler ’04MO received a Master’s degree in Public Health from NYU and became a Registered Dietitian.

Jacob Bayer ’05 received a Master’s degree in Semitic Languages and History, as well as becoming the Administrative Director of ZAKA International, New York.

Dena (Katz) Block ’05MO received certification as a Yoetzet Halacha from Nishmat in August, 2013.

The recent issue of Torah u-Madda Journal contains lengthy reviews of books by Rav Ezra Bick and Rav Reuven Ziegler ’86, as well as articles by alumni Rav Yaakov Nagen ’90PC, Rav Shlomo Zuckier...
YHE Student Wins First Prize in Torah Essay Contest!

Benaya Mintzer, a fifth-year Hesder student in Yeshivat Har Etzion, was the winner of this year’s Torah Literature Prize sponsored by Mifal haPayis, the Israeli state lottery. His halachic essay on “Mutual Responsibility” (arevut hadadit) was selected from among hundreds of works submitted by outstanding and talented writers. The prize consists of 20,000 NIS, as well as the publication and distribution of a book of Benaya’s Torah writings.

Benaya said, “This award is thanks to the high level of study and uncompromising demand for excellence at Yeshivat Har Etzion. Without this education and without the vast Torah that I learned from my rabbis and study partners in the Beit Midrash, I would not have accomplished this.”

Benaya’s family has a longstanding connection to Yeshivat Har Etzion. His recently deceased father Uri z”l was in the fifth machzor of the Yeshiva’s Hesder Program (’72-’76) and was a Har Etzion board member, his grandfather Yisrael Mintzer z”l was a close friend and supporter of Rav Yehuda Amital z”l, and his aunt Dr. Michal is married to Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein.

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi congratulated Benaya and praised “…his willingness to analyze a topic to its very core, combined with his ability to express those ideas in a creative manner. With his pleasant personality and contribution to the flourishing of Torah, Benaya serves as a model for all.”

In November, Dr. Yehudah Mirsky ’78 spoke on Faith in Complexity: The Life & Teaching of Rav Yehuda Amital z”l at Yeshivat Or Chaim, Toronto as part of a Torah in Motion lecture series on influential Jewish thinkers.

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler ’95 of Toronto was invited to be part of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s delegation to Israel in January. He shared some thoughts on his blog:

“It was beautiful to see Canadian and Israeli flags flying through Jerusalem….

“One of the nice things about the trip was the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with the other delegates on the trip. I spoke to businessmen, ambassadors, MPs, as well as deepened my relationship with my colleagues in the clergy.

“…I personally gave the PM the thanks of Shaarei Shomayim [Congregation] and a bracha. I said, ‘May God bless you with the strength to continue to serve our country with honour and honesty for many years to come.’”
Harerei Etzion
Editors-in-Chief Jacob Bernstein ’10 and Tuvy Miller ’10.

This monthly online publication with original divrei Torah on the parsha is a new initiative of alumni of Yeshivat Har Etzion and the Women's Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz. The editors explain, “The values that continue to inspire us, and other Har Etzion and Migdal Oz graduates, include harbatzat Torah, concern for and commitment to the Jewish people, and the enterprise of individual and unique Torah study. We hope that Harerei Etzion becomes a source of vibrant, engaging Torah that strengthens our Yeshiva community and by extension, the Jewish nation as a whole.”

To submit articles, write to: harerei@haretzion.org

II Shmuel: The Davidic Dynasty
by Rav Amnon Bazak ’84H. Maggid Press. (Hebrew)

The royal house of King David and the multi-faceted character of the founder of the Messianic dynasty are presented to the reader in all their power and complexity in II Shmuel. Rav Bazak treats well-known narratives to a fresh analysis which reveals latent themes and novel elements that intensify the narratives and underscore their modern-day relevance.

Hilkhot Moadim: Understanding the Laws of the Festivals
by Rav David Brofsky ’90. Maggid Press.

The dynamic Jewish calendar provides constant religious challenges and spiritual opportunities. In this work, based upon shiurim originally delivered via the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash, Rav Brofsky masterfully demonstrates that through the in-depth study of the Torah and the halachot of the festivals, one can enrich one’s personal religious and spiritual experience. Rav Ari Enkin wrote on his Torah Musings blog, “This may very well be the highest caliber halachic work to emanate from the modern Orthodox world in recent times.”

I Kings: Torn in Two
by Rav Alex Israel ’85. Maggid Press.

The Book of Kings narrates the vivid and turbulent history of Israel and its monarchs. In I Kings: Torn in Two, Rav Israel uncovers the messages hidden between the lines of the biblical text and draws rich, indelible portraits of its great personalities. Using traditional commentaries and modern literary techniques, the author offers a dynamic dialogue between the biblical text and its interpretations. The result is a compelling work of contemporary biblical scholarship that addresses the central themes of the Book of Kings in a wider historical, political and religious perspective. The book is based upon shiurim originally delivered on the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash.

Awakening to a New Day – A Renewed Reading of Torah and Life
by Rav Yaakov Nagen ’90PC. Maggid Press. (Hebrew)

As society becomes ever more materialistic, the yearning for spirituality and meaning also becomes more pronounced. Rav Nagen grapples with modern existential and spiritual questions through a unique reading of parshat ha’shavua. He expertly weaves Talmud, mysticism and chassidut with personal anecdotes. Rav Nagen’s honest and optimistic perspective dialogues with Israeli and world culture, and provides the reader with the opportunity for daily renewal and a distinctively Jewish joie de vivre.

Yom HaKippurim, Vol. 4 of the Be’er Miriam Series
edited by Rav Yaakov Medan. Yediot Aharonot Press and YHE Press. (Hebrew)

Essays by Yeshiva staff and alumni examine myriad aspects of Yom Kippur. This is part of the Be’er Miriam Series on Jewish holidays, dedicated to the memory of Miriam Blau z”l by the Blau Family.
Echoes of Eden – Sefer Bamidbar; Spies, Subversives and Other Scoundrels.


In this fourth volume of his series on parshat shavua, Rabbi Kahn continues to ask provoking questions and offer intriguing insights. In Sefer Bamidbar, he examines the challenge, from biblical times to this day, of forging a relationship with God once the unique conditions of Sinai were left behind.

Esther in Ancient Jewish Thought

by Aaron Koller ’95. Cambridge University Press.

The book of Esther was a conscious reaction to much of the conventional wisdom of its day, challenging beliefs regarding the Jerusalem Temple, the Land of Israel, Jewish law, and even God. The author situates the book of Esther, and its many interpretations, within the intellectual and political contexts of Ancient Judaism, and discusses its controversial themes. Prof. Koller, who is an Associate Professor of Bible at Yeshiva University and an Assistant Dean at Yeshiva College, also recently published “The Semantic Field of Cutting in Biblical Hebrew”.

Stories of the Law: Narrative Discourse and the Construction of Authority in the Mishnah

by Dr. Moshe Simon-Shoshan ’88. Oxford University Press.

Winner of Honorable Mention in the Jordan Schnitzer Book Awards of the Association for Jewish Studies.

A groundbreaking study of Jewish law and rabbinic story-telling. Focusing on the Mishnah, the author argues that narrative was essential in early rabbinic formulations and concepts of law, legal process, and political and religious authority. Stories of the Law presents an original and forceful argument for applying literary theory to legal texts, challenging the traditional distinctions between law and literature that underlie much contemporary scholarship. Moshe Simon-Shoshan lectures on rabbinic literature and biblical interpretation at the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Siah Yishi: Tefillat Shemona Esrei veYesodot haEmunah

by Rav Ezra Bick. Published by YHE Press and Maggid Press (Hebrew).

The Shemona Esrei is one of the basic texts of Chazal relating to all aspects of the life of a Jew. An extensive analysis of each of the blessings discloses the principles of Jewish thought embedded in the text and leads to a deeper understanding of prayer and of Jewish values in general.

The Rav Rimon Haggada Series

by Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon. Published by The Halacha Education Center.

The great success of the Shirat Miriam Haggadah by Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon is being followed up with several new volumes: a 300-page Family Edition, a Children’s Haggadah and Seder Night — Halacha MiMekorah, a sefer on the halachot of the Seder night. Available at www.alljudaica.com

Herzog Books Launch

Herzog Academic College hosted a scholarly gathering at Heichal Shlomo in Jerusalem in honor of the publication of Ad HaYom HaZeh (Hebrew, by Rav Amnon Bazak) and Hi Sichati (Hebrew, by Har Etzion staff, ed. Rav Yehoshua Reiss ’81H of Herzog College). Both books highlight the interpretive approach to Tanach developed in Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College, which emphasizes the elucidation of the literal meaning of the text (pshat) by use of midrash, historical records, archaeological finds and literary methods. Prominent Tanach teachers from Herzog College – Rav Yoel Bin Nun, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yaakov Medan, Rav Yuval Cherlow ’74H and Dr. Yael Ziegler – spoke to a packed audience.
ALUMNI & ALUMNAE NEWS

Marriages
Larry Hartstein ’85 and Shani Mirvis
Daniel Hofbauer ’98 and Shifra Avraham Chai
Moshe Halpern ’01 and Danielle Litt
Eitan Bendavid ’02 and Etta Abramson
Noam Lockshin ’02 and Aviva Gottlieb
David Eis ’03 and Talia Miller
Avi Cohen ’04 and Aviva Miller
Rena Wiesen ’04MO and Jordy Whisler
Jacob Bayer ’05 and Sybil Britton
Ilan Hayman ’05MTA and Gabi Kagan
Samuel S. Adelsberg ’05 and Daniella Esther Rohr
Tal-Or Kohn ’05 and Alana Goldman
Benny Rabin ’05 and Daniella Shandalov
Mordechai Gedalla ’06 and Danielle Sheer
Peter Kahn ’06 and Tova Gardin
Gavin Beinart-Smollan ’06MTA and Michelle Nadboy
Ester Steigel ’06 and Yehuda Herschman
Sammy Steiner ’06 and Yael Mendelson
Elliot Schrier ’07 and René Goldstein
Frans Tanner ’07MO and Rafi Miller
Jacob Warren ’07 and Dana Schnall
Adam Boxer ’08 and Shifra Radomsky
Don Cantor ’08 and Leora Lewis
Nadav Ellinson ’08MTA and Eliana Penn
Noam Grysman ’08 and Ruth Schach
Rael Olwyn ’08MTA and Yael Katzef
Chesky Kopel ’08 and Talya Laufer ’08MO
Josh Koppell ’08PC and Zahi Glashenber
Asher Lindenbaum ’08 and Miriam Seidman ’09MO
Alan Richter ’08 and Elisha Verschleisser
Peninah Lamm ’09MO and Eitan Kaplan
Elimeir Maltz ’09H, current madrich for overseas students , and Adina Lehrfield
Immanuel Meyer ’07H (madrich for overseas students ’11-’13) and Chani Schreiber

Yedidya Rothner ’09H and Ariel Silber ’09MO
Jacob Bernstein ’10 and Penina Wein ’10MO
Miriam Shapiro ’10MO and Elie Schwartz
Netanel Spero ’10 and Sara Weg
Yisrael Scott Kaplan ’11PC and Batya Cohen
Shimi Marcus ’11PC and Simone Shapiro ’07MO
Mazel tov to Rosh Yeshiva Rav Moshe and Dr. Michal Lichtenstein on the marriage of their daughter Yehudit to Tuv El Undsdorfer. Mazel tov to grandparents Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch and Edna Gigi upon the marriages of their daughter Tal El to Ilan Lieberman, and of their son Yair to Reut Kahaniaan. Mazel tov to Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch and Edna Gigi upon the marriages of their daughter Tali El to Ilan Lieberman, and of their son Yair to Reut Kahaniaan.

Births
David ’82 and Heidi Stokar, Avigayil Liba (Abigail Lou), Edison, NJ
Yaki ’88 and Sara Blau, Yehuda Shabsai, Teaneck, NJ
Mark ’88 and Michelle Smilowitz, Devorah Tehilla, Beit Shemesh
Moshe (Mark) ’88 and Chanie Jacobs, Akiva Yehuda, Beit Shemesh
Doniel ’91 and Leah Ehrenreich, Eliav Avraham, Cleveland, Ohio
Zev Schubin ’92 and Ilana Brownstein, Amalia Raizel (Renee Irene), NYC
Asher ’93 and Anat Altshul, Yakir David, Jerusalem
Eliezer (Josh) ’93 and Aviva Friedman, Esther Liba, Ramat Beit Shemesh
Aaron ’94 and Adena Frazer, Avital Elitcheva, Alon Shуват
Daniel ’94 and Faina Libicki, Hillel, Jerusalem

Chaim ’95 and Avital Strauchler, Freda Esther, Toronto, ON
Reuven ’95 and Nechama Weiser, Amichai Moshe, Efrat
Avi ’95 and Dana Zimmerman, Ari Yisrael, Ariel
Pinny ’96 and Dana Becker, Leora Yehudit, Teaneck, NJ
Simcha ’97 and Rachel Schaum, Miriam Ahuva, Teaneck, NJ
Steven ’98 and Shira Exler ’03MO, Ilan Shmuel, Bronx, NY
Zvi ’98 and Michelle Halpern, David Sela, Toronto, Canada
David ’98 and Romi Rabinowitz, Liya Rose, Johannesburg
Jonathan ’98PC and Atara Snowbell, Lavi Yishi, Alon Shevut
Tzvi ’98 and Tova Warburg ’00MO Sinensky, Naava Sara Itta, Bala Cynwyd, PA
Zach ’99 and Penina Abramowicz, Lyla Emuna, Bronx, NY
Menachem ’99 and Avigail DinaShefsky, Azaria, Modiin
Yonatan ’99 and Shira Weisen, Rayna, Cleveland, OH
Dov ’00 and Rachel Erdfarb, Ayala Chana, Washington, DC
Dovid ’00 and Ellie Erdfarb, Yair Aharon, Neve Daniel
Chaim ’00 and Sarah Garfinkel, Zev Shmuel, Ramot, Jerusalem
Etan ’00 and Sarah Golubtchik, Yakir Ozi & Nadiv Slalom, Houston, TX
Dov ’00 and Elisha Huff, Noa Rachel, Sharon, MA
Daniel ’00 and Dina Jacobson, Yoav Zev, London
Baruch ’01 and Emma Baigel, Amichai Yechiel Yehudah, Netanya
Gideon ’01 and Aliza Black, Yeshaya Yonatan, New York
Avi-Gil ’01 and Tamar Chaitovsky, Mordechai Tzvi, Teaneck, NJ

PC = Post-College  H = Hesder  MO = Migdal Oz  K = Kollel  TM = Tochnit Mitkademet • The year indicates the commencement of study
Yonatan Shai ’01 and Rachel Freedman, Akiva Simcha, Alon Shevut

Ari ’01 and Shira Gontownik, Eliana Leba, New York

Tzvi Chaim (Stephen) ’01 and Tamar Kaye, Moshe Malkiel, Alon Shevut

David ’01 and Aliza Boim Wildman, Hadassah Chaya (Hayley Ida), NYC

Etan ’02 and Sara Bendheim, Baruch Kiva (Donald), NYC

Bernard ’02 and Abigail Freudenthal, Sara Tehilla Ruth, London

Doron ’02 and Miriam Hindin, Itiel Yisrael, Jerusalem

Michael ’02 and Liora Isser, Bronx, NY

Srully ’03 and Yael Cohen, Yaakov Aryeh, Chicago

Benji ’04 and Renana Levy, Shayna Tziyona, Sydney, Australia

Tzvi ’05 and Alex Cohen, Rephoel Peretz and Gavriel Meir, Chicago

Daniel ’05 and Aviva Gillis, Yishai Baruch, Edgware, England

Marc ’05 PC and Debbie Herman, Odelya Hadas, New York

Josh ’05 and Rimone ’05MO Hersch, Erez Matan, Jerusalem

Aliza Kramer ’05MO and Eli Deutsch, Mordechai, Efrat

Isaac ’05 and Caryn Silverstein, Emily Hannah, Bronx, NY

Shlomo ’05 and Chana Zuckier, Meital Tamar Ruth, NYC

Leo ’06 and Judith Arkush, Yosef (Joseph) Kalman, London

Keren Schaum ’06MO and Avi Fuss ’06, Taher Adarya, Jerusalem

David ’06 and Gabrielle Goldberg, Yaakov Shalom, Bronx, NY

David ’06PC and Ariel Pardo, Tiferet Eliana, Waltham, MA

Eli ’06 and Hannah Younger, Tsofia Zehava, London, England

Jonathan ’06 and Ora Ziring, Meir Mordechai, Alon Shevut

Ari ’07 and Leora Soffer, Amichai, Shilo

Alex ’07 and Ahuva Tsykin ’12TM, Yonatan Hillel, Alon Shevut

Ariella Eisenberg ’08MO and Rafi Magid, Reut Chava, Givat Shmuel

Kaitlyn Respler ’08MO and Aaron Schlusselberg Devora Avigal, NYC

Tali Schaum ’09MO and Yechiel Broder, Ayala Ta’ir, Jerusalem

Benjamin ’10 and Yehudit Kandel, Ezra Yonatan, Philadelphia, PA

Mazal tov to former madrich of overseas students Hillel ’01H and Adena Mann ’12TM on the birth of a boy, Yitzchak Yehuda

Mazal tov to Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch and Edna Gigi on the birth of Ori to their children Kobi ’04H (former madrich of the overseas students) and Tamar

Mazal tov to MO Director of Overseas Students Racheli and David Schmell, (former madrich) of the Darkaynu Program, Adi Gittel, Migdal Oz

Aliya

Benjamin ’96 and Yael Resnick, Efrat

Rafi ’98 and Atara Eis, Efrat

Ari ’98 and Ilana Erdfarb, Efrat

Rabbi Yonatan ’99 and Shira Schechter, Ramat Beit Shemesh

Chaim ’00 and Sara Garfinkel, Ramot, Jerusalem

Josh ’01 and Miriam Podolski, Ramat Beit Shemesh

Jeremy ’01 and Aviva Stern, Efrat

Aaron ’03 and Abi Djanogly, Ra’anana

Zak ’05 and Mi' Jeffay, Modiin

Samuel Schmelzer ’06, Jerusalem

Jonathan ’06 and Ora Ziring, Alon Shevut

Alex ’07MTA and Ahuva Tsykin, Alon Shevut

Migdal Oz welcomed twelve new olot this year – please see details on p. 12

Har Etzion welcomes Sam Glauber, Sam Grill, Yoni Nouriell, Shlomo Rand, and Zachy Rosenthal, bnei chul of 2012 who made aliya and returned as Shior Bet Israelis, as well as Jonny Brull, Shana Gimel, and Meir Liberman Post College

Condolences

Rav Menachem Schrader ’72 and Dr. Shlomo Schrader ’75, on the loss of their mother, Lilian Schrader z”l

Alan Wecker ’82 on the loss of his mother, Bernice Wecker z”l

Yitzchak Etshalom ’83 on the loss of his mother, Rebbezin Miriam Wise z”l

Hillel Schuster ’90 on the loss of his father, Joel Schuster z”l

Ethan Rotenberg ’90 on the loss of his father, Aubey Rotenberg z”l

Yoni Kra ’99 on the loss of his mother, Margaret Kra z”l

Hananya Cohen ’97 on the loss of his father, Rabbi Eliezer Cohen z”l

David (Dovi) Friedmann ’95 on the loss of his father, Michael Friedmann z”l

המקום ינחם אתכם داخل אבלי ציון וירושלים

Got news? Update us online at www.haretzion.org or www.skamigdaloz.org
Rabbi Noam Silverman studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion during the summer of 1997 (after nearly two years studying at Birkat Moshe, Maaleh Adumim) and returned in 2000 for a year of study in the Kollel after completing his BA from Yeshiva University. That year, he studied issur ve’heter with Rav Doniel Schreiber and received semicha from Rav Zalman Nechemiah Goldberg. He went on to teach Talmud at Gann Academy in Boston for three years and then moved to Palo Alto, CA to pursue a doctorate in philosophy of education at Stanford. He is currently in his sixth year as Principal of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School in Palo Alto. He is married to Maya Bernstein and they are the parents of three children.

“The Yeshiva helped me develop in my Avodat Hashem in significant ways. More than anything, the plurality of personalities, with their myriad of interests and passions, who I met and got to know in the beit midrash and in shiurim, is a deep spiritual well from which I continue to draw over a decade later,” says Rabbi Noam. “And even more than that: An openness to engage on complicated questions, challenges and uncertainties that are not always seen by others as intrinsically part of the concern of Torah. I would recommend to other alumni that they seriously consider spending a year of study at the Yeshiva post-college.”

Rabbi Eliav Silverman studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion for three years from 1995-1997. Since his aliya in 2006, he has been working as the sho’el u’meshiv at Yeshiva University’s RIETS Israel Kollel (aka Gruss), where he lives with his wife, Adi, and their four children. In addition to being a rabbinic presence on campus, he gives supplemental chaburot to enhance students’ appreciation of the material in the semicha curriculum.

“I feel a tremendous sense of gratitude to the Yeshiva, and am so appreciative to have had the privilege of learning among such inspirational and grounded rabbeim, teachers, and friends for three years,” he says. “My teaching methodology and the content of my chaburot are informed by the derech ha’limmud I was exposed to in Yeshiva. The skills to categorize, organize, and conceptualize the content of the sugyot guide my learning and teaching.

“However, beyond the more ‘technical’ applications of my time in yeshiva, what I’ve gained from Rav Aharon Lichtenstein in terms of attitude to teaching Torah has made a very significant existential impact on me. Here is a story he related that resonates profoundly with me:

“Rav Lichtenstein once told us about a levaya he attended together with Rav Hutner, where one of the eulogizers said of the deceased that his shiurim were so great, that he repeated the same shiurim for years and years. Rav Hutner turned to Rav Lichtenstein and commented that he thought this intended compliment was an insult, as it is imperative to always bring new perspectives and insights to one’s learning. This message has invigorated my learning, and keeps it fresh and alive. As I consistently give chaburot on the same topics from the semicha curriculum, I am appreciative to have the perspective that I should always be striving to introduce new angles and ways of understanding, rather than just repeating the same shiur year after year.”

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England Office
25 Broughton Avenue, London N3 3ES, ENGLAND, Tel. 020-8346-0201, rav@aleitzion.co.uk


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Writing, editing & production: Channah Koppel with Etzion staff
Graphic Design: Stephanie & Ruti Design
Photos: Gershon Elinson and staff photographers
Printed in Jerusalem