Revava Yemei Iyun

Yeshiva students, dozens of alumni and local Gush Etzion residents convened for the Revava Chanukah Yemei Iyun in memory of Riva Koschitzky z”l on December 13-14, 2017.

The event began with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan thanking the Koschitzky family for sponsoring this annual event. This year’s topic was “Torah and Media,” and in addition to shiurim from the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim it featured lectures from leading Israeli journalists, including senior Israeli journalist Dan Margalit on “Free Press in a Democratic Society,” Dr. Tehilla Shwartz Altschuler of the Israeli Institute of Democracy on “Who is the Queen of Human Rights in the Digital World and Why That’s Important,” and Udi Leon of the Gesher Film Fund on “The Challenge of Identity in the Age of Digital Media.” There was also a shiur from Rav Yuval Cherlow ’75H, Rosh Yeshiva of Orot Shaul, on “Halachic Journalistic Ethics.”

As in previous years, many students consider the highlights of the Yemei Iyun to be the panel discussions that take place at the end of each day. On the first day, Rav Amichai Gordin moderated a panel on “Journalism and Halacha” with Rav Medan, Rav Ezra Bick, and Yehuda Shlezinger of the Yisrael Hayom newspaper. The second day’s panel, titled “Reporting from the Field,” featured Emanuel Shilo, Editor of the Besheva newspaper, and journalist Yifat Ehrlich of Yediot Aharonot.

The event was live-tweeted on Twitter, and can be viewed on YouTube by searching Revava Yemei Iyun Chanukah 2017.
ISRAEL NEWS

News from the Beit Midrash

The new zman is well under way, with a vibrant Beit Midrash at its center. There are now over 500 talmidim in Yeshiva, including:

- 122 students in the Dr. William Major Overseas Program, including 29 in the MTA Program for Southern Hemisphere students
- Over 300 in the Hesder Program, including 58 currently in active service in the IDF and 70 in Shiur Aleph, the 50th class (machzor) to attend the Yeshiva
- 30 post-Hesder
- 55 in the Kollel

The Yeshiva is learning Masechet Bava Kamma this year, the Kollel is learning Hilchot Nidda, and a significant group of Kollel fellows are also learning Hilchot Berachot.

Visitors at Yeshiva

New “Talmid”

This past summer Rabbi Shaul Robinson, Rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York, received a gift from his family and community: a month in Yeshivat Har Etzion. He attended the daily shiur of Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, had a chavrutah session with many different students, and even spoke at the July 4th BBQ for the overseas talmidim. Rabbi Robinson said the goal of his trip was just to experience being a Yeshiva student again. His Yeshivat Har Etzion experience included two Shiur Bet talmidim making a siyum on all of Talmud Bavli right before their IDF draft date, singing Ka Echosof with the talmidim on Thursday night, hearing Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakyov Medan give a sicha on 17th of Tamuz, and more. Rabbi Robinson wrote in a facebook post detailing his visit, “Listening to Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein’s shiur (and then a Daf HaYomi shiur from a magid shiur who also blew me away with his erudition), I remembered why I came. Seeing a Rosh Yeshiva do ‘battle’ with his students/questioners in shiur, fluent in all of Shas, able to summon and analyze Gemaras at will, to organize and reorganize this way and that, was for me a deeply spiritual experience. Torah lives.” In a second post he wrote, “There is something so uplifting about being in the company of, and learning together with, these special young men. I was discussing with the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, the caliber of the students here, and he enthused about how special they are. ‘Ashrecha’ (How fortunate you are) I said to him.”
Zev Krengel ’91MTA speaking to current MTA talmidim during a recent family visit to Yeshiva

Chairman of the Board Howie Balter ’79, top left, learning with the Kollel Gavoha

Dr. Allen and Miriam Schick, parents of Eli Schick ’89 and grandparents of Moriyah Schick ’16MO, visited the Yeshiva Library. Pictured: Dr. Allen Schick in the Amsterdam Room in the Yeshiva Library

IDF Ombudsman Major-General (res) Yitzchak Brick spoke to second-year Israeli talmidim as part of the pre-army preparatory classes arranged by the Yeshiva. Maj.-Gen. Brick was the commanding officer of Moshe Tal ’71H Hy”d, one of the Yeshiva’s talmidim killed in the Yom Kippur War. Moshe’s bereaved parents, Supreme Court Justice Tzvi and Chana Tal were in attendance, as were Moshe’s widow Yaffa Tal and son, Moshe-Chai Tal, born after his father’s death.

To celebrate his 50th birthday, Rav Sephi Sherman ’86H, right, came to learn for a day in the Beit Midrash with his chavruta, Dr. Ari Geiger ’86H.

Jerusalem Post columnist Caroline Glick spoke to talmidim on December 2 as part of Bein Kodesh LeChol, a series of lectures taking place on Saturday nights in the Yeshiva. Her topic was “Israel, the Palestinians, and the Dynamic Middle East.”

Rav Shmuly Kagan ’01MTA, Mashgiach Ruchani of the University Kollel and Ram at Yeshiva College High School in Johannesburg, visiting Yeshiva and taking advantage of the opportunity to catch up with some of his former students who are now on the MTA program, Eitan Kabatznik ’17MTA, Ethan Kahlberg ’17MTA, and David Kahn ’17MTA


If you are coming to Israel with your community, school, or family and would like to visit the Yeshiva, please contact office@etzion.org.il
In what is always a valuable bonding experience, each year Shana Bet talmidim help Rav Mordechai Friedman harvest his grapes and turn them into homemade “Pachad Mordechai” wine.

Shana Bet talmidim with the four turkeys they prepared for the student-run Thanksgiving feast, held at midnight so that no one should have to miss night seder.

Over the past year, the Yeshiva added two new Ramim to its staff, both of whom are Yeshiva alumni: Rav Tzvi Chaim Kaye ’01 and Rav Yishai Jeselsohn ’09H.

An annual rite of passage recognizable to all recent alumni: Rav Menachem Leibtag has a unique method of pointing out the geographical structures of Israel, having talmidim follow points of interests using two fingers. This takes place on the first tiyul for overseas students each year.

Shana Aleph talmidim on a tiyul with Rav Menachem Leibtag “In the Footsteps of Yehoshua”

This year some talmidim organized an English Daf Yomi shiur that is given by Tani Bednarsh ’16H. When they finished Masechet Makkot they decided to make the siyun after the vatikin minyan at the Kotel.

The setting was extremely fitting, as it was very moving to read the final passage, which discusses Jerusalem being rebuilt, in the Old City of Jerusalem.
Tanach Dedication

The Yeshiva library, home to over 90,000 volumes, is more than just books. It’s also a place where the Yeshiva acknowledges its past and the sacrifices that made the present possible. The Yeshiva has had a number of talmidim who fell in battle during their IDF service, each of whom is commemorated in the library by a book stack that contains his sefarim and bears his picture.

On a recent visit to the Yeshiva, Murray and Basheva Goldberg were deeply moved by this display and decided to dedicate the Tanach section of the library in recognition of the Yeshiva’s fallen soldiers, as well as for victims of terror. What a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives for the Land of Israel, for people to be able to learn in their memory from sefarim that discuss Am Yisrael’s special connection to the Land.

49th Anniversary of Yeshiva

Yeshiva students organized a festive dinner in the Yeshiva on the eve of 3 Kislev, the day that 49 years earlier talmidim first walked into the Beit Midrash in Kfar Etzion. The evening was replete with videos and speakers, including Yeshiva founder Rav Yedaya Hacohen, Gush Etzion mayor Shlomo Ne’eman ’90H, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan, and first-year alumnus Yeshayahu Yechieli ’68H. The next morning, alumni from 1968 and 1969 came to Yeshiva for a day of classes and took a trip to the original campus in Kfar Etzion to reminisce and record testimonials.

Past & Present

Forty years ago, Hillel Grossman ’77 and Lyle Zuckier ’77 were friends in Yeshiva. Now their sons, Aminadav Grossman ’09 and Ben Tzion Zuckier ’17 are together in Yeshiva.

Murray and Basheva Goldberg learning in the Migdal Oz Beit Midrash with their son, Rav Dr. Judah Goldberg ’96, Ram of Shana Gimmel at Migdal Oz, and his wife Shayna Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit at Migdal Oz, and 2 granddaughters, Ruthie Hellerstein ’16MO and Leah Hellerstein ’17MO, who are current Migdal Oz students

Shlomo Ne’eman ’90H, Mayor of Gush Etzion, addressing the festive dinner in honor of the Yeshiva’s 49th anniversary

Alumni of 1968 and 1969 together with current first year talmidim
Aseret Yemei Teshuva

For the second year, the Yeshiva dedicated the alumni Yom Iyun that takes place between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to the memory of Marcos (Mordechai) Katz z”l, whose love of Israel and Torah led him to be one of the Yeshiva’s most dedicated supporters. The timing is especially appropriate, as for nearly four decades the Katz family has been attending the Yamim Nora’im davening at Yeshiva.

Over 130 alumni were in attendance, and most of the shiurim were on the topic of the Yamim Nora’im and Sukkot, including a shiur by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan on “The Four Times the High Priest Entered the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur,” a shiur by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi on “Baruch Shem Kevod Malchuto LeOlam Va’ed,” the special phrase recited out loud only on Yom Kippur, and a shiur by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein on “The Kedusha of Sukkot” based on the newly published Kedushat Aviv (see p. 16).

This year’s panel, moderated by Rav Benny Lehman, was about “Tzedaka in Modern Times.” The panel participants were Rav Daniel Wolf, Rav Mayer Lichtenstein ’81H, Prof. David Hahn, the former Official Receiver of Israel (in charge of all insolvency cases), and Chaim Falk, the head of the tzedaka organization Pa’ammon, which provides financial training to help people balance their budgets and live within their means. Many on the panel commented that the topic of tzedaka was very fitting for a Yom Iyun dedicated in memory of Marcos Katz z”l.

Seventh Yahrzeit of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l

In honor of the seventh yahrzeit of founding Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Amital zt”l on 27 Tamuz, 5777, Rav Yair Kahn gave a shiur to the Yeshiva on the topic of “Sheyihiyu Piv VeLibo Shavim,” the importance of dealing honestly with others, a relevant shiur to the Yeshiva’s summer study of Masechet Shemot. Rav Kahn noted that HaRav Amital zt”l hated posers and false piety, constantly emphasizing the concept of “le’ovdecha be’emet,” to worship God with truth, an attribute he exemplified. Rav Yehuda Gilad ’75H, son-in-law of HaRav Amital zt”l and Rav of Kibbutz Lavi, gave a shiur on the value of human life. Shmuel Shachor, a great grandson of HaRav Amital zt”l, taught some mishnayot in his memory. Rav Shlomo Brin, Deputy Chairman of the YHE Board and son-in-law of HaRav Amital zt”l, commented, “It is a great merit that on the yahrzeit of the founder of the Beit Midrash his Torah is studied.”

Rav Yehuda Gilad ’75H giving a shiur at the 7th yahrzeit of HaRav Amital zt”l
Camp Ilan

Camp Ilan (Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children) is a national project in which youth host groups of people with physical and cognitive disabilities for a week of fun. The Alon Shevut chapter of this camp, in memory of Amitai Ron z”l, a youth from Alon Shevut who was killed in a car accident, has been taking place for the last 6 years on the Yeshiva campus, allowing the students to benefit from the big, green lawn and open spaces, to sleep in the Yeshiva’s guest rooms, and to eat in the Yeshiva’s dining room. During the camp, the children have non-stop days of fun, including drumming sessions, soap bubble fun, chocolate workshops, swimming, trips to the zoo, the water park, and more. The children from Alon Shevut raise the funds for the program, plan the activities, and serve as the counselors and escorts for all the campers. For the campers and staff alike this is the highlight of the summer.

Rav Amichai Gordin and Rav Amnon Bazak visiting talmidim who completed the commander’s course in the army

Rav Amichai Gordin and Rav Amnon Bazak with Ari Bar-Shain ’14, the Chayal Mitzrayen (outstanding soldier) of the commander’s course

Eli Weber, Director of the Overseas Program, with overseas students joining the IDF in August 2017

Yeshiva Ramim and Staff with third-year talmidim on the day of their draft to the IDF Combat Engineering Corps

Campers of Camp Ilan having some fun with bubbles on the Yeshiva lawn
OVERSEAS EVENTS

United States

- **Rav Shlomo Brin** led a discussion on “The Tefilla of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt” during the High Holidays at the home of Shlomo ’95 and Ronni Troodler in Bala Cynwyd, PA on September 10.

- On November 3-4, **Rav Moshe Taragin** was the scholar-in-residence at the Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY.

- On November 3-4, **Rav Menachem Leibtag** was the scholar-in-residence at the University of Maryland Hillel. Rav Leibtag gave *shiurim* the following week at Woodside Synagogue and Kemp Mill Synagogue in Silver Spring, MD, and to the Jewish communities of Queens College, Penn, Harvard, Brandeis, and Columbia universities. He gave a *shiur* at the Denver, CO home of Dr. Terry Samuel and Mr. Mark Brooks, parents of Aaron Brooks ’17. He was then the scholar-in-residence at Ahawas Achim B’nai Jacob & David in West Orange, NJ. He finished his trip with a *shiur* at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ.

- On Shabbat Parashat Toldot, November 17-18, Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Moshe Lichtenstein**, Rav Mordechai Friedman, and Eli Weber, Director of the Dr. William Major Overseas Program, were in Teaneck, NJ at Congregation Rinat Yisrael for the annual Gush alumni Shabbaton. Over 80 alumni participated in the complete program, and dozens more joined at various points to enjoy the *shiurim*, Yeshiva ruach, and camaraderie of old friends.

- On Monday following the Shabbaton, **Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein** gave a *shiur* to alumni at Yeshiva University.

Rav Shlomo Brin in NY speaking at a lunch-and-learn at the office of Hillel Silvera ’91 at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP on “The Relation of Mitzvot Shofar to Mitzvot Teshuvah” on September 12
United Kingdom

- On June 8, Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein** participated in a panel debate with **Rabbi Eliezer Zobin**, Associate Rabbi at Ner Yisrael in Hendon, London. On Shabbat, June 10, Rav Mosheh gave parasha shiurim at three different Shacharit minyanim in Ner Yisrael. An alumni lunch was hosted at the home of **Howard and Jackie Gaventa**, parents of Adam ’09, Eli ’11, and Josh ’13. Rav Mosheh gave a shiur before Mincha and a shiur during Seuda Shlishit at Kinloss, Finchley United Synagogue.

- During his visit, Rav Mosheh also met with students on the campus of Cambridge University, and he and his wife **Michal** got a tour of the Cairo Geniza finds housed there.

- On November 21, **Rav Tzvi Chaim Kaye** gave a Gemara shiur at the Stenecourt Synagogue and at the “Beits” at the Shrubberies Shul (Prestwich Hebrew Congregation) in Manchester. He also gave a shiur at the local Yavneh School. Later that night he gave a shiur on “The Halachic Understanding of Parenting” at the home of Paul ’90 and **Rebecca Abeles**. On November 22, he gave a shiur at the Bnei Akiva Bayit in London at the kickoff event for their Beit Midrash program on “Yishuv Eretz Yisrael,” at the invitation of **Rav Aharon Herskovitz** ’02, Bnei Akiva Shaliach, and **Eli Gaventa** ’11, who is part of Bnei Akiva UK’s Mazkirut and directs the movement’s Torah education activities. From November 23-25, Rav Kaye gave a series of four shiurim at Ner Yisrael, including one at a Friday night tish. One alumnus commented that, “It was such a delight to see Rav Kaye undertake his first visit to England, and his tish brought back fond memories of his Thursday night shiurim in Yeshiva.”
ISRAEL EVENTS

- **Rav Moshe Taragin** was the scholar-in-residence at Beit Knesset Ohel Ari in Ra’anana on June 16-17.

- Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Yakov Medan** gave a series of shiurim at the Shtibalach in Katamon, Jerusalem including “Two Torahs for the King – Why?” on June 18, “The King Shall Not Have an Abundance of Horses, Wives, and Money,” on September 2, and a shiur on Rambam’s Hilchot Melachim on September 16.

- On June 21, **Rav Amnon Bazak** gave a shiur in Shoham on “Between David and Michal.”

- On July 13, Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Yakov Medan** gave a shiur in Chashmonaim on “Kamtza and Bar Kamtza – Between Josephus and Flavius and Chazal.”

- On August 30, **Rav Eitan Ben-David ’02** was inaugurated as the Rabbi of the Shivtei Yisrael congregation in Ra’anana, formerly headed by our beloved alumnus **Rav Daniel Beller ’82 z”l**, who served the community with dedication for nearly 20 years. Many important rabbis and community leaders addressed the crowd including **Rav Moshe Taragin** and Chief Rabbi of Israel **Rav David Lau**.

- On September 8-9, the Reishit Beit Midrash in Ra’anana organized Shabbat scholars-in-residence in 40 communities around Israel. They hosted Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein** in Ra’anana, and he gave shiurim in four batei kneset in the community. **Rav Moshe Taragin** also participated, serving as the scholar-in-residence in Chashmonaim, giving shiurim at three different shuls.

- On September 19, **Dr. Yonatan Grossman ’88H** gave a shiur in Shoham on Akedat Yitzchak.

Leil Hoshana Rabba

Over 1800 people came to learn at the Yeshiva’s Hoshana Rabba learning event in Jerusalem. Organized by Overseas Alumni Coordinator **Rav Yonatan Shai Freedman ’01**, the event was open to the public and included simultaneous classes in English and Hebrew. Due to the large numbers of attendees, the Yeshiva’s English shiurim were held in Hechal Shlomo, while the Hebrew shiurim were given next door in Jerusalem’s Great Synagogue.

The English-language program featured talks by Yeshiva University President **Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman ’87**, Herzog College Tanach Lecturer **Dr. Yael Ziegler**, Yeshiva Ram Moshe Taragin, and a musical tish led by the musician **Shlomo Katz**, with the participation of **Rav Moshe Taragin** and **Rav Doron Perez**, Director of Mizrachi. The Hebrew shiurim were given by Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Yakov Medan**, Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein**, Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Baruch Gigi**, Migdal Oz Rosh Beit Midrash **Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg**, **Rav Re’em Hacohen ’75H**, Rosh Yeshiva of Otniel Hesder Yeshiva, **Rav Yoel Bin-Nun**, Yeshiva Ram **Rav Amnon Bazak**, and **Rabbanit Malka Puterkovsky**, who teaches at Migdal Oz. Before the event, overseas students met for dinner in the sukkah on the roof of Hechal Shlomo, which offers a panoramic view of Jerusalem.
Bar Mitzvah Day

Part of being a religious Jewish parent is passing on the tradition and values that we hold dear to the next generation. Bar Mitzvah Day is a biannual event in which Yeshiva alumni bring their bar mitzvah aged sons and grandsons to see the Yeshiva, meet the Roshei Yeshiva, and experience a special day that is a mixture of learning and fun. The most recent event, in November, saw over 40 alumni in attendance. The bar mitzvah boys learned in the Beit Midrash in the morning with their fathers, often sitting in the same seats their fathers sat in many years earlier. They were then treated to a shiur from Rav Uriya Dor ’09H, a treasure hunt in the Yeshiva library, and a tiyul to Givat haChish with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan. The participants had a great time and it was impressive to see how many alumni made the effort to take off a day from work in order to enjoy a day of learning together with their children.
Wednesday Morning Learning

There’s an exciting program in the Beit Midrash this year. Each Wednesday morning, the Beit Midrash opens its door to women from the wider community to come learn in the Beit Midrash. The group is learning Masechet Bava Batra, focusing on the very practical issues involved in neighborhood disputes. After chavruta time, the participants are treated to a shiur by Rabbanit Toni Mittelman, an alumna of Migdal Oz who has studied and taught Gemara in many places.

On May 28, friends and alumnai of Migdal Oz gathered at the Shalva building in Jerusalem to recognize the Torah produced by the Migdal Oz Beit Midrash, and launch celebrations of the 20th year since its founding. Close to 1000 people came to honor the event with their presences. Participants were treated to shiurim by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Migdal Oz teachers Naomi Adler and Or Mahluf, and Migdal Oz founder Dr. Shmuel Wygoda.

During the ceremony, there were speeches from Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, and from representatives of the alumnai.

The evening concluded with a heartfelt musical performance by Odelia Berlin and a panel on Ruth with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan and Dr. Yonatan Grossman ’88H.

The campus itself has seen numerous improvements of late. To keep up with the growing student body, a new floor of dormitories was recently completed, which added 5 modern apartments, each of which includes 5 beds, a kitchenette, a private bathroom and shower, air conditioning, and an anteroom.

We wish the Beit Midrash many more fruitful years of learning Torah and spreading Yirat Shamayim!
One participant said, “Rabbanit Toni Mittelman not only deconstructs the daf and helps us to understand its structure, but she follows the thread of each inyan through the development of Halacha and through philosophical discussions about the principles involved.” She added, “Our group includes women of different ages, backgrounds and careers, who have much to contribute to the discussions. Every Wednesday they travel from as far afield as Ashdod, Beit Shemesh and Jerusalem. Some are beginners and some have been learning Gemara for many years, but the depth and breadth of the material that we study together gives food for thought to every talmida.”

Overseas

- Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg gave a shiur at the Toronto home of Karen & Yisrael Dov Meyer, parents of Sarena Meyer ’14MO and Yael Meyer ’16MO, on May 14 on “From the Exodus to Har Sinai – A Story of Revelation.”

- The Annual Migdal Oz Erev Shira V’Hitomerut, on Selichot night this past September 16, took place at Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls with Racheli Schmell, Overseas Director, and Rav Netanel Buchs, Ram at Migdal Oz, in attendance. Rav Buchs gave a shiur on “Why is Repentance Needed for Unintentional Sins?” Later that week, Racheli and Rav Buchs visited alumnae on college campuses.
On Shabbat Parashat Vayishlach, Dec 1-2, our bogrot had the opportunity to reconnect with their wonderful Migdal Oz experience. They gathered in Teaneck with Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, Overseas Director Racheli Schmell, and Mashgicha Ruchanit Shayna Goldberg. Shabbat began with the alumnae davening their own inspiring tefilla, Shir Hashirim and Kabbalat Shabbat “Migdal Oz style” followed by seudat Shabbat at Congregation Rinat Yisrael. Everyone from each of the different years had the opportunity to introduce herself and say what she missed the most about Migdal Oz. Afterwards the alumnae had an inspiring, uplifting tish at the home of Naomi Kadish ’13MO. Shabbat morning after tefilla, Rabbanit Esti gave a parasha shiur and the bogrot spent the afternoon shmoozing about memories from the past and challenges of the present. Seuda Shlishit was at the home of Miriam ’09MO and Zehava ’17MO Seidman and Shabbat ended with a beautiful havdala. One alumna commented, “The Migdal Oz community grows each year and the special feeling of family and being together continues to flourish along with it. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.”

On November 30, Shayna Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit at Migdal Oz, spoke to the GPATS Advanced Talmud program at Stern College and met with alumnae.

On December 2, over 100 Migdal Oz supporters gathered at the Jewish Museum in New York for an exclusive viewing of the exhibits and a fascinating discussion about “Our Homes, Our Schools, Our Communities: A Conversation about Past, Present and Future” with Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg and Abby Lerner, Rebbetzin of Young Israel of Great Neck and the RCA National Director of Conversion Services. The panel was moderated by Shayna (Lerner) Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit at Migdal Oz. The evening was emceed by Julia Straus Baruch ’09MO, who opened with remarks on the significance of Migdal Oz to her own Jewish development and presented the panel members as “three extraordinary women who have shaped how the Jewish community has evolved.” The women on the panel discussed how their own upbringings affected their involvement in the Jewish community, how to build on Jewish tradition, and the need for every Jew to take responsibility for his or her religious life. The proceeds of the evening went to the Educational Programs and Scholarship Fund of the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women. We thank everyone who participated in this special evening.

On December 3, Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, and Racheli Schmell, Director of the Overseas Program at Migdal Oz, met with parents of current talmidot at the Teaneck home of Josh ’84 and Robin Rochlin, parents of Michael ’11 and current Shana Aleph talmida Abigail ’17MO.
The 26th annual Herzog College Yemei Iyun b’Tanach took place in July 2017. Thousands of people ascended to the Yeshiva campus for 5 days of over 200 lectures. The event is the largest conference of Tanach study in the world.

To coincide with the event, and to mark the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and in memory of Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Aaron Lichtenstein zt”l, Koren Publishers released a special edition of their Tanach that included an appendix replete with color charts, maps, and timelines. The Tanachs were distributed to the participants at a nominal fee.

One of the speakers this year was Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom ’83, who has been coming from the U.S. to attend the Yemei Iyun for over a decade. Below, he shares some of the experiences that keep him coming back year after year.

“When I was in Yeshiva they were just starting what was referred to as ‘the Machon’ and later became Herzog College. It met on Sundays. I used to drive to Ofra to pick up Rav Yoel Bin-nun to bring him to Alon Shevut and I would stay for his class, before returning to my spot in the Beit Midrash. That weekly hour in the car was a real treat for me. After I left Yeshiva, I came back to visit from LA each year and always timed my visits to Alon Shevut to avail myself of those Sunday classes at Herzog, so I could get to hear the likes of Rav Bin-Nun and Rav Elchanan Samet.

“Everyone kept mentioning the Yemei Iyun during the summer, so one year, in 2003, I brought my family to spend the summer in Alon Shevut. In those days, there were 3 days of classes and a tiyul on the 4th day – I was hooked instantly! I have been coming every year since, only missing twice.

“About 9 years ago, the Yemei Iyun started offering some classes in English and Rami Yanai ’70H asked me to give one of the lectures, which I have been doing ever since. I still attend Rav Bin-Nun and Rav Samet’s shiurim every time I come, but there are others I also try to hear every year such as Rav Amnon Bazak, Dr. Jonathan Jacobs ’83H, Dr. Haggai Misgav, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan and Dr. Yoshi Farjoun... and I always try to hear one or two new people each year as well.

“Even though I’ve been teaching Tanach for many years, there is always something new to learn from the brilliant scholars who teach at the Yemei Iyun. No less important, the Yemei Iyun are attended by thousands of people who took off days from work and their busy schedules to learn Torah. Being part of that is spiritually recharging. So I come for intellectual growth as well as to be spiritually inspired.”

Live Shiur in Six Hesder Yeshivot

Rav Yoel Bin-Nun is a beloved Tanach teacher and the demand for his shiurim extends across the country. Taking advantage of modern technology, Rav Bin-Nun gives a shiur on Friday mornings to the Yeshiva talmidim in the Herzog College building and it is live-streamed to Yeshivat Otniel, Yeshivat Orot Shaul, Yeshivat Yerucham, Yeshivat Maalot, and Yeshivat Ma’aleh Gilboa. That is six Hesder Yeshivot learning Torah together!
**Kedushat Aviv** (Hebrew)
HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l
Edited and adapted by Rav Shai Lichtenstein ’88H
Asst. Editor Rav Chaim Navon ’91H
Maggid/YHE Press

What is kedusha (holiness)? What is the difference between the kedusha of Shabbat, Yom Tov, and Yom Kippur? Between Eretz Yisrael, Jerusalem, the Temple, and the Holy of Holies? How is kedusha created and how is it removed? Is all kedusha just different levels of the same thing or are there fundamental differences? Kedushat Aviv is a groundbreaking work of Torah in the realm of kedusha and was the pinnacle of the Torah creativity of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l. With sharp analysis covering breadth and depth, this sefer thoroughly covers the areas of kedusha in Halacha and clarifies all the issues. This volume is part of Mishnat HaRAL, the Rav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l Legacy Project.

**Ani Kohelet** (Hebrew)
Rav Yoel Bin-Nun and Rav Yakov Medan
Maggid/YHE Press

This sefer offers a new reading of Kohelet, relating to it as a vision, a dramatic monologue, of one person with many voices. Four characters argue and come to light, representing the life of man and the many meaningless pursuits in his life. While most of Tanach presents the story of the Jewish people, Kohelet presents the story of Man. Each person’s actions and pursuits are judged in light of his inevitable death. The two authors divide up the book differently, creating a dialogue not only between the various voices of Kohelet but also between their differing interpretations of the text.

**Abarbanel on Daniel** (Hebrew)
Edited by Rav Yehuda Shaviv
Mosad HaRav Kook

The entire series of Abarbanel’s commentary on Tanach was edited and annotated by Rav Shaviv. The final volume on Sefer Daniel was released this year. Mazal tov!

**Avo Beitecha** (Hebrew)
Rav David Stav and Rav Avraham Stav ’03H
Maggid Press

This first volume of responsum on marital issues deals with the tension between Halacha and the modern familial unit, and the many complex questions that arise, including balancing career and family and raising a family in the onslaught of modern values that challenge the traditional family. Each chapter deals with a central question in a methodical and thorough manner, with sources from Halacha, Tanach, and Poskim. The halachic decisions in this volume show a clear grasp of the sociological and cultural norms and standards of the 21st century, noting that those standards have weight when determining the Halacha.

**Meishiv Nefesh Vol. II** (Hebrew)
Rav Eliav Silverman ’95
Yeshiva University Press

This is the second volume of shiurim given by Rav Eliav Silverman at the RIETS Israel Kollel. These shiurim provide the conceptual background and “lomdus” of the halachot of forbidden foods and are geared toward enhancing the learning experience of those learning these topics l’halacha. The sefer is dedicated in memory of HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l.

**Commentary on Torah from a Modern Orthodox Perspective** (Polish)
Rabbi Avi Baumol ’88
Austeria Publishing

In the wake of the Holocaust, Jewish life and culture in Poland were virtually non-existent. Poland’s few remaining Jews went underground during the Communist era and Jewish scholarship ceased. But in the last twenty five years, since the Communist regime fell, a Jewish revival has taken place. Alumnus Rabbi Avi Baumol serves the growing Jewish community of Krakow, teaching Torah to old and young Jews in English and Polish. Now he has written a work of Jewish scholarship, a parsha commentary in Polish, that is a welcome addition to the new/old Polish Jewish library.
Reason to Believe – Rational Explanations of Orthodox Jewish Faith
(English)
Rabbi Chaim Jachter '81
Menorah Publications

This book seeks to address a dearth of books on faith written from a Modern Orthodox perspective. It deals with issues such as the divine origin of the Torah, archaeology, science, seeing Hashem's hand in the world today, the reason for restrictions and more. Roshei Yeshiva HaRav Yehuda Amital zt"l and HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l are quoted extensively.

Bereishit: A Story of Beginnings
(Hebrew)
Dr. Yonatan Grossman '88H
Yediot Aharonot Press and Herzog College - Tevunot Press

The stories that open the Torah are filled with meaningful tales of man and God, the first disappointment, the first murder, the establishment of nations, cultures, and more, and each new beginning is connected to the others, revealing a complex global system. Sometimes the hidden message is more significant than the revealed message. This sefer offers a literary analysis of these passages and unpacks their hidden meanings.

Pachim Ketanim (English)
Daniel Lifshitz '96PC
CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

Pachim Ketanim is a collection of brief thoughts on the weekly Torah portion and holidays, designed to appeal to layman and scholar alike. It is an anthology from a wide range of past and present commentaries, and also includes many original pieces by the author.

Judaism's Encounter with Other Cultures – Rejection or Integration?
(English)
Edited by Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schachter
Maggid Press

The issue of Judaism’s relationship to wisdom derived from non-Jewish sources has been one of the most basic concerns of Jewish intellectual history from antiquity to modern times. As the encounters between traditional Jews and world culture become ever more extensive in the digital age, this tension is perhaps more relevant now than ever. In this volume, four eminent scholars provide fresh insight into this continuing discussion. The final essay, a breathtaking philosophical, halachic, and educational opus by HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt"l, has become a primary source in a discussion that continues to resonate deeply among committed Jews.

The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash is constantly adding new content to the thousands of shiurim it already has available. This year's new weekly shiurim in English include “Megillat Eicha” by Dr. Yael Ziegler, “Amos and Hosea” by Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom '83, ‘The Path of the Piaseczna Rebbe” by Dr. Ron Wacks, “The Mitzva of Torah Study” by Rabbi Tzvi Sinensky '98, “Talmudic Aggadot” by Rav Dr. Yonatan Feintuch ’88H, “Laws of Marriage” by Rav David Brofsky ’90, and courses by Rav Ezra Bick, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, Rav Moshe Taragin, and more. New weekly shiurim in Hebrew include “Torat HaKorbanot” by Dr. Yonatan Grossman ’88H, “Yechezkel” by Rav Amnon Bazak, “The Thought of Rav Yehuda Leon Ashkenazi (Manitou)” by Rav Uriel Eitam ’85H, and courses by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Elchanan Samet, Rav Dr. Judah Goldberg, and more.

Go to haretzion.org/register-for-the-vbm to register for these classes, or explore the VBM at www.vbm-torah.org
Marriages

Michael Reznik ‘99 and Gabriella Schoor
Dovi Miller ‘02 and Dafna Fine
Jonah Shulman ‘02 and Deena Berkowitz
Akiva Rappaport ‘03 and Dr. Ilana Engel
Joseph Lavi ‘05 and Hannah Smith
Shmaryahu Green ‘06 and Avital Pesser
Raphy Rosen ‘06 and Emily Belfer
Dr. Eitan Mirvis ‘07 and Ariella Carr
Former madrich bnei chul Yair Colton ‘10H and Steph Israelsohn
Benny Horowitz ‘10 and Deborah Watman ‘11MO
Chaim Metzger ‘10 and Shira Lichtman
Tuvy Miller ‘10 and Hannah Spellman
Zev Newman ‘10 and Rebecca Meiner
Hillel Davis ‘11 and Shoshi Weinstein
Benjamin Goldman ‘11 and Ariella Levine
Jordy Sank ‘11MTA and Sara Tauby
Yecheil Schwab ‘11 and Arielle Wasserman
Elie Weiss ‘11 and Elior Garfinkel
Josh Blau ‘12 and Hodaya Card
Ezra Ives ‘12 and Michal Dobner
Elliot Salinger ‘12 and Sarah Ricklan
Josh Brull ‘13 and Teeli Jacobson
Elan Turitz ‘13 and Ora Wiener
Yishai Chamudot ‘14 and Tova Goldstein ‘14MO
Yakov Ellenbogen ‘14 and Miriam Pearl Klahr
Josh Grinberg ‘14PC and Goldie Shaw
Micah (Sukol) Sapir ‘15PC and Hannah Dimbert ‘12MO
Mazal tov to Rav Doniel and Aviva Schreiber on the marriage of their daughter Rivky to Akiva Barron.

Births

Eliezer ‘85 and Beth Goldsmith, Moriah Temimah
David ‘86 and Karin Kaufman, Lielle Bracha
Rav Yaakov ‘88 and Sara Blau, Aharon Azriel
Simon ‘93 and Gabrielle Persoff, David Asher Nathan
Shmuel ‘95 and Talya Bloom, Hallel Moriya
Rabbi Avi ‘96 and Chana Billet, Shlomo
Yoram ‘96 and Ayelet Schwell, Reuven Meir
Arhyth ‘97 and Sharona Kaplan, Tzahala
Yair ‘97 and Shira Moskowitz, Gavriel
Menachem ‘98 and Abby Lazar, Gavriel Yaakov
Jarred ‘98 and Joanne Myers, Sarah Chana
Yoni ‘98 and Rena Ray, Atara Rivka
Zack ‘99 and Penina Abramowitz, Kerem Or
Dr. Arhyth ‘99 and Dr. Penina Dienstag, Yehoshua Yisrael
Elie ‘99 and Tali Rosenberg, Noam Gavriel
Yonatan ‘99 and Shira Schechter, Zecharya Shalom
Gabe ‘00 and Ellen Wintner, Elizabeth Keren
David ‘01 and Denise Adelsberg, Tehilla Rachel
Ari ‘01 and Shira Gontownik, Doniel David
Richard ‘01 and Tamar Hyman, Gadi
Shaltiel ‘01 and Ra’aya Katsch, Yedida Yitzchak Macluf
Gideon ‘01MTA and Adina Norton, Ava Sima Chana
Danny ‘02 and Dr. Rachel Baigel, Betzalel Avraham
Rabbi Daniel ‘02 and Chaya Fridman, Yosef Reuven
Rabbi Noah ‘02 and Aliza Gardenswartz, Aharon Yair
Irwin ‘02MTA and Esther Shuman, Nadav Zeev
Michael ‘02 and Liora Stein, Daniella Nediva Geula
Rav Yosef ‘03 and Dr. Batya Bronstein, Yonatan Eliyahu
Josh ‘03 and Sheryl Dubin, Keren Gila
Benjy ‘03MTA and Levy Yahuda Aryeh Tzvi
Yossi ‘04MTA and Tzipora Dinnen, Oriya Chaya and Libby Binyamina
Mordekhay ‘04 and Leorah Ferster, Caleb Yehudah
Noam ‘04 and Yael Horowitz, Amiel Tzvi
Dr. Arhyth ‘04 and Sara Shapiro, Riva Odeliah
Robbie ‘04MTA and Devorah Tockar, Rachel Levi ‘05 and Rivkah Frolich, Rina Hadas
Joel ‘05MTA and Beth Steiner, Ashira Leah
Dr. Daniel ‘06 and Dr. Yael Bierstone, Tehilla Paule
Avishai ‘06 and Keren Fuss, Elyon Machsi
Ari ‘06 and Hannah Goldberg, Ora Leah
Yaakov ‘06 and Gila Miller, Moriah Leah
Josh ‘06MTA and Talya Wiseman, Shulamit
Netanel ‘07 and Yael Block, Raphael Avraham
Raanan ‘07 and Nava Loew, Oren Yitzchak and Erez Michael
Rabbi Mordecai ‘07 and Sarabeth Weisel, Aviad Chnamel
Gilad ‘08 and Chev Barach, Rivka Naomi
Chaim ‘11 and Ronit Goldberg, Aharon
Ryan ‘11K and Yael Levin, Gilad Yedidyah
Charles ‘12PC and Beth Lesch, Reena Chana
Daniel ‘12PC and Mikhayla Reidler, Sarah Shulamit
James ‘13 and Judith Mindell, Netanel David
Elad ‘14MTA and Ilana (Stephenson) Eshel, Yehuda Tzuriel
Evan ‘15K and Tova Levine, Meir Peretz
Ben ‘16PC and Ellie Menora, Moshe
Mazal tov to Chairman of the Board Howie ‘79 and Chaya Balter on the birth of a grandson, Michoel, born to Aryeh and Chana Balter.

H = Hesder MO = Migdal Oz PC=post-college MTA = Midreshet Torah v’Avoda K = Kollel • The year indicates the commencement of study
Mazal tov to Rav Menachem and Thea Leibtag on the birth of a grandson, Shaked, born to Aviva and Adiel Waitz, and a grandson, Be'eri, born to Yoni and Yeheli Leibtag.

Mazal tov to Rav Moshe and Atara Taragin on the birth of a grandson, Neriya Yehoshua, born to Gali '14MO and Amichai Goldstein.

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Rav Yitzchak ‘83 and Stefanie Etshalom, Kovy David ‘83 and Susan Suna, Yitzchak Rav Chanoch ‘84 and Michelle Waxman, Ilan Rav Alex ‘85 and Aliza Israel, Yehuda Rabbi Lawrence ‘85 and Nehama Teitelman, Yedida Darren ‘87 and Yael Rockman, Yoni Michael ‘89 and Yaffa Eisenberg, Moshe Shmuel Evan ‘91 and Rivka Abrahams, Yakov Tzvi Dr. Avi ‘92 and Shira Shmidman, Chen Shmuel JJ ‘92 and Aliza Sussman, Yair Yakir ‘93 and Rachel Franklin, Yehuda Elan ‘93 and Jenny Zivotovsky, Natan Rabbi Menachem ‘95 and Devora Linzer, Hersh Shai ‘96 and Tova Gerson, Tammy Devorah Rav Binyamin ‘96 and Aliza Zimmerman, Yisrael Dov Rav Jonathan ‘98 and Atara Snowbell, Daniel Eliyahu Rav Elli ‘99 and Pesha Fischer, Refael Amichai Boris ‘99 and Esti Melamed, Yedida Ben-Tzion

Aliya

Con condolences
To Jeff Wandel ‘71 on the loss of his father, Arnold Wandel z’l
To Dr. Raphi Pollack ‘74 on the loss of his father, Baruch Pollack z’l, longtime Executive Director of the Canadian Friends of Yeshivat Har Etzion
To Dr. Barry Reiner ‘75 on the loss of his father, Rabbi Dr. Jacob Reiner z’l
To Jonathan Kirsch ‘82 on the loss of his mother, Janet Kirsch z’l
To Shimon Rapport ‘82 and David Rapport ‘86 on the loss of their father, Gerald Rapport z’l
To Rav Michael Hattin ‘85 on the loss of his father, Bernard Hattin z’l
To Doron Kline ‘86 on the loss of his father, Geoff Kline z’l
To Avraham ‘93 and Adina Suslovich on the loss of their son, Berachya Yitzchak Suslovich z’l
To Rabbi Dr. Naftali Cohn ‘96PC on the loss of his father, Rabbi Reuven Cohn z’l
To Matthew Tucker ‘07MTA on the loss of his mother, Charlene Tucker z’l
To Ezra Splaver ‘15 and Yona Splaver ‘16 on the loss of their mother, Shani Splaver z’l
To Meiron Jacobson ‘16MTA on the loss of his father, Neil Jacobson z’l
It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the death of our alumnus Dovi Frenkel ‘06MTA

Got news?
Update us online at www.haretzion.org

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS
Rav Yitzchak Blau ‘86 recently guest edited a special issue of Tradition dedicated to the problem of sexual abuse in the Orthodox community. http://www.traditiononline.org/
Rabbi Benjamin J. Samuels ‘86 earned his PhD in Religion and Science from Boston University in September 2017.
Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman ‘87 was invested as the fifth president of Yeshiva University.
Rabbi Benjy Rickman ‘96 has been appointed Assistant Rabbi at Holy Law South Broughton Congregation in Manchester, UK.
Rav Elli ‘99 and Pesha Fischer, marked the occasion of their son Refael Amichai’s bar mitzvah with a siyum Shas Mishnayot and the publication of an edition of Mishna Kinnim: http://adderabbi.blogspot.co.il/2017/06/new-publication-in-honor-of-my-son.html
Rav Aharon Herskovitz ‘02 and his wife Shira have undertaken the positions of Rav and Rabbanit of Bnei Akiva UK.
Rabbi Benjamin Levy ‘04MTA became the CEO of Mosaic United, a public-private partnership between non-profits and Israel’s Diaspora Affairs Ministry. Its first program, launched last year, has engaged over 22,000 students across 24 countries and on 300 campuses.
Rav Josh Botwinick ‘09 and his wife Margot (Reinstein) Botwinick have opened the first branch of OU–JLIC in Israel, on the campus of IDC Herzliya, providing on-campus shiurim, Shabbat programming, and community.