BUILDING THE FUTURE

The Bold Horizons Capital Campaign was created to celebrate Yeshivat Har Etzion’s 50th anniversary and Migdal Oz’s 20th, and to help the two institutions continue to grow in the coming decades. Yoel Weiss, Executive Vice President of the Etzion Foundation, commented, “Thanks to our devoted and generous friends, both institutions will now be able to develop and expand so that we can continue to offer an outstanding Torah education and programming to future generations of Jewish leadership. We are grateful to the alumni, alumnae, and their families and friends who have enabled significant improvements to the two campuses. There’s always more to do and we invite anyone who hasn’t yet participated in the campaign to do so now, and help build our joint future.”

Some of the improvements to date include:

Yeshivat Har Etzion
- The Moadon has been fully renovated so that this large space in the Beit Midrash building can better serve multiple functions – as a classroom, and as a venue for small events, educational programming, and the occasional minyan. The main dining room has been retiled, new hand-washing stations have been installed and the kitchen is being renovated and expanded. The guest dining room, off the main dining room, has been completely redone.
- We have broken ground for the new Amital Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership, which will be adjacent to the Beit Midrash building.
- Construction has begun on a new wing of dormitories on the Yeshiva campus.

Migdal Oz
- Architectural planning for the new wing of dorms on the Migdal Oz campus has been completed and we are in the process of securing construction permits. The new dorms will provide housing for students of the midrasha and advanced programs.
- The Mitkadmot program has been established to provide an unparalleled level of learning to women who have already completed six years of advanced Talmud study, so that the program’s graduates can fill senior leadership positions in Jewish communities around the world.

If you are interested in partnering with this campaign and dedicating a project, please contact Yoel Weiss at yoel@haretzion.org

Join us at
THE ETZION FOUNDATION DINNER
Sunday, March 22, 2020
Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City
Honoring
Rav Ezra Bick
and celebrating the 25th Anniversary of
The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash
Elissa and Michael Katz
Parents of the Year
Penina (Wein) ’10MO and
Rabbi Jacob ’10 Bernstein
Young Leadership Award
For more information please call
+212-732-4874
or email usoffice@haretzion.org
Ninth Yahrtzeit of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l

27 Tammuz: In honor of the ninth yahrtzeit of founding Rosh Yeshiva HaRav Amital zt”l, his son Rav Yoel Amital ’69H delivered shiur klali to the Yeshiva on the topic of mezuza. Following the shiur, Dr. Shlomo Yishai ’79H, son-in-law of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l, shared some memories and Yeshiva Mashgiach Rav Uzi Friedlich taught mishnayot whose first letters spell out the name Yehuda. Videos of the event are available on the Yeshiva’s YouTube channel.

Rabbinic Alumni Conference

On July 29 - August 1, the Yeshiva hosted a Rabbinic Alumni Conference. Conference participants included synagogue rabbis from four different countries, campus rabbis, school principals, and rabbis in yeshivot and seminaries. There were sessions with all three Roshei Yeshiva, a session on "Women's Learning and Ritual Participation" with Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, Rosh Beit Midrash at Migdal Oz, sessions led by Ramim of the Yeshiva, and sessions given by conference participants.

Rabbi Dr. Seth Grauer ’96, Rosh Yeshiva and Head of School of Bnei Akiva Schools in Toronto, said, "It was truly wonderful to be back in Yeshiva, but what made this visit special was the personal time spent with our Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim discussing many issues and topics that impact our daily lives, and some of the challenges that our communities are faced with." He added, "We hope to continue this in the future – our plan is to make the international rabbinic alumni conference a regular every-other-year initiative." May all the conference participants continue their important work spreading the Torah of the Yeshiva around the world!

Rav Binyamin Tabory z”l

The Yeshiva mourns the passing of beloved Ram Rav Binyamin Tabory on 2 Elul (Sept. 2, 2019). Rav Tabory began teaching at Yeshivat Har Etzion in 1979, and was known for his engaging shiurim, erudition, sense of humor, and menschlichkeit. He also taught for many years at Midreshet Moriah and Sha’alvim for Women in Jerusalem, and spent numerous years abroad on shlichut as Principal of Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot in Toronto, Canada, Rosh Kollel of the Torah Mitzion Kollel in Cleveland, OH, Rabbi of Alei Tzion in London, England, and as a guest lecturer at Stern College, NY.

Rav Tabory's Torah reached thousands through his shiur "The Weekly Mitzvah" on the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash, which later became an audio shiur on KMTT and Keshet, the Yeshiva’s English and Hebrew podcasts. These popular shiurim were also published in book form, in both Hebrew and English versions, by Maggid Press.

The funeral was held in the Beit Midrash of the Yeshiva. The overflowing crowd
heard eulogies from Rav Tabory’s brother, Prof. Yosef Tabory, his son, Rav Aviad Tabory ’90H, and his close friend, Rabbi David Ebner. On November 11, an azkara was held for Rav Tabory z”l in the Beit Midrash. Talmidim and alumni heard from Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Rav Ezra Bick, Rav Amnon Bazak, Alon Shevut resident and family friend Ezra Rosenfeld, and from Rav Tabory’s sister, Mrs. Judy Himelstein. Videos of the funeral and azkara can be seen on the Yeshiva’s YouTube channel.

Aseret Yemei Teshuva

For the fourth year, the Yeshiva dedicated the alumni Yom Iyun that takes place between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to the memory of 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 shiurim by all 3 Roshei Yeshiva and many of the Yeshiva Ramim. There were also two shiurim in English, given by Rav Moshe Taragin and Rav Dovid Gottlieb. This year’s panel, moderated by Rav Benny Lehman, was about "Teshuva of the Individual and the Community" and featured Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan, Menahel Chinuchi Rav Assi Blank, and Rav Natan Greenberg ’73H, Rosh Yeshiva of Bat Ayin. Videos of the shiurim and panel are available on the Yeshiva’s YouTube channel.

Welcome Rav Assi Blank

Rav Assi Blank ’90H joined the Yeshiva staff this year as the Menahel Chinuchi, replacing the Yeshiva’s Mashgiach Ruchani Rav Uzi Friedlich. Rav Assi previously taught at Midreshet Ein HaNetziv, served as the Rav of Ein HaNetziv from 2009-2015, and in 2015 he founded the Neta Women’s Seminary in Beit She’an.

The final session of the Yom Iyun took place in the Beit Midrash and was dedicated to Rav Uzi Friedlich, who was retiring as the Yeshiva’s Mashgiach Ruchani. Rav Uzi spoke about his 50 years in Yeshiva since his time as a student in the first class in the Yeshiva in 1968, the founding Roshei Yeshiva zt”l, and his role as a staff member at the Yeshiva. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein made some concluding remarks, thanking Rav Uzi for his years of dedication to the Yeshiva, after which the talmidim broke into spontaneous dancing with Rav Uzi.
Dr. David Landes ’73 z”l

The Yeshiva mourns the loss of Dr. David Landes z”l, former Chairman of The Etzion Foundation, whose funeral took place in Israel on September 15. David was a dedicated alumnus of the Yeshiva who enjoyed a close relationship with the founding Roshei Yeshiva zt”l, and was a lover of Torah and of the Land of Israel. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spoke at the funeral and said, “David was devoted to Yeshivat Har Etzion from the day he entered as an 18-year-old student until his last day. He kept us on course. David was simply a leader of the Yeshiva. As such the Yeshiva wants to both say thank you to David, and also to recognize a tremendous loss. The Yeshiva has lost one of its stellar members.”

Rav Amnon Bazak, a second cousin of David, said, "Formally, you learned in Yeshivat Har Etzion for two years but in essence you remained an inseparable part of the Yeshiva, which you used to refer to as ‘our Yeshiva.’ You were dedicated to everything that took place in Yeshiva, every detail. I recall a visit a few years ago when you asked me to help arrange for you to attend the shiur of a new Ram in the Yeshiva who you wanted to hear, and you sat in the shiur with the first-year students.”

David’s son Yitz ’10 said, "My father appreciated fine work and expertise wherever he saw it. This was also the case in scholarship and in learning." We send our deepest condolences to David’s wife Faye, their children, Chana ’01MO, Yitz ’10, Matt ’13, and Adir, and the entire Landes family.

Mini Seminars

Following the success of this initiative last year, the overseas program is continuing with its mini Yemei Iyun, afternoon seminars at which a topic that's being informally discussed in the Beit Midrash is analyzed in greater depth by the Yeshiva staff and guest speakers. The first Yom Iyun in November discussed "Transforming Talmud Torah into Avodat Hashem" and consisted of 3 sessions. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein spoke on "Chovat Halevavot and the Benefits of Talmud Torah." Rav Dr. Alan Kimche spoke on "The Maharal of Prague – Torah and Secular Studies."

The third session was a panel of working professionals who shared their tips for prioritizing and incorporating Talmud Torah into their busy schedules. Thank you to Dr. Daniel Kaszovitz, Doron Luder ’03, and David Glatt ’85 for participating in the panel. Videos of the shiurim and panel are available on the Yeshiva’s YouTube channel.

The second mini seminar, which took place in December, focused on the life and thought of HaRav Yehuda Amital zt”l, with the goal of giving the first year talmidim a greater appreciation of this great educator and his influence on Yeshiva, Israel, and the Jewish world. Rav Shlomo Brin, Yeshiva Ram and son-in-law of HaRav Amital, shared some memories and key ideas that HaRav Amital emphasized throughout his life. Avrumi Yishai ’82H, who worked as HaRav Amital’s personal assistant when HaRav Amital was a government minister from 1995-96, shared some anecdotes and details of important legislation that HaRav Amital was a part of. The audio of these talks are available on KMTT. More mini seminars are planned to take place throughout the year.
Supreme Court Visit

The Yeshiva is learning tractate Bava Batra this year. When the shiur of Rav Moshe Taragin reached the section discussing the destruction of a synagogue, he mentioned that during Israel's 2005 disengagement from Gaza the fate of the 30 shuls there needed to be decided. When the Israeli Government decided to demolish them to prevent their desecration by Palestinians, Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein wrote a dissenting opinion, citing HaRav Aharon Lichtenstein zt”l, who recommended that the shuls be put under the protection of an international force, since it was forbidden for Jews to destroy them but leaving them in Palestinian hands was undesirable. In the end the shuls were left standing and were later desecrated and demolished by the Palestinians.

When he heard that his legal opinion was being discussed in the Yeshiva, Justice Rubinstein wished to speak with the talmidim and invited them to visit him in the Supreme Court and hear a shiur from him on the topic. We thank Justice Rubinstein for inviting our talmidim and taking the time to meet with them.

Revava Yemei Iyun

Chanukah at Yeshiva is celebrated with two annual events – a lively Chanukah party complete with donuts and dancing, and the Revava Yemei Iyun. The Yemei Iyun are a two-day seminar dedicated in memory of Riva Koschitzky z"l, which, in the spirit of Chanukah, sheds the light of Torah on a current topic every year. The theme chosen for this year was "Tzedaka and Social Commitment." Yeshiva talmidim were joined at the conference by dozens of alumni and Gush Etzion residents, who assembled to learn about this important topic from leading rabbis, economic thinkers, and leaders of non-profit organizations.

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi introduced the topic and thanked the Koschitzky family for sponsoring this annual event, as well as the Revava Torah Enrichment Program, which offers afternoon classes in Yeshiva on a wide variety of Torah topics that complement the morning Gemara learning. Rav Gigi added that this year’s focus on tzedaka was especially appropriate for Riva's legacy as a ba’alat tzedaka.

The first day included shiurim by Dr. Benny Porat, Director of Mishpat Ivri Research at Hebrew University, on "The Tzedaka Revolution of Chazal," Rav Yoel Amital ’69H, on "Tzedaka in Practical Halacha," and Rav Refael Stern, Rav of Harachon Hagavoa LeTorah in Bar-Ilan University, on "Why the Poor of Your City Take Precedence." The last session of the day was a panel moderated by Dror Marmor ’91H, a journalist at Makor Rishon, on "Tzedaka – Individual or Government?" Panel members were Shmuel Slavin, former Director General of the Finance Ministry and Social Affairs Ministry, Razi Ben-Yaakov, an advocate for kibbutz life, and Hillel Gershuni, a member of the Kohelet Forum.

The second day consisted of shiurim with Rav Ezra Bick and Rav Benny Lehman, presenting philosophical and psychological perspectives on altruism, David Kochmeister, CEO of the Paamonim organization, on "A Different Approach to Chesed," and Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan on "Accepting Charity from a Non-Jew." The day concluded with a panel moderated by Rav Shlomo Brin on "Why is the Community Obligated?" featuring Rav Dr. Danny Tropper, Head of the Kehillot Fund and founder of Gesher, Tzilit Jacobson, Chairman of Bat Melech, her husband, Meir Jacobson ’86H, CEO of Madison Pharma and editor of the Talmud Yisraeli, and Eli Palay, Publisher of Mishpacha Group and Chairman of the Charedi Center for Policy Research. Videos of the event are available on the Yeshiva’s YouTube channel.
Yeshiva Album

Shana Aleph *talmidim* at the Kotel during their first week of Yeshiva

Shana bet *talmidim* enjoying a pancake *melave malka* at the Nof Ayalon home of their *madrich*, Matanya Weiss ’15H

*Talmidim* before Shabbat *Chaye Sarah* after playing a game of “*Chaye Sarah,*” an Israeli version of dodgeball

The *talmidim* of Rav Mordechai Friedman visiting the Belz community for Shabbat

Dr. William Major Overseas *talmidim* with HaRav Asher Weiss before Rosh Hashanah
Summer learning and leadership

Rav Menachem Leibtag leading first year talmidim on a Tanach tiyul of Emek HaEla

Talmidim visiting patients at Shaare Zedek Hospital

Talmidim learning during the summer at Morasha Kollel

Gush Legacy

The Gush Legacy Program is a monthly feature of the Yeshiva in which Gush alumni come to talk about what they’re doing in life, their various projects and endeavors, and how their time in Yeshiva influenced them.

Speakers this year included medical ethicist, venture capitalist and pulmonary doctor Dr. Jonathan Wiesen ’99 and school principal and Rebbe Rav Daniel Myers ’86PC. We thank our alumni for coming to share their experiences with our talmidim.

Mishmar for Overseas Alumni in Israel

On November 28, more than 70 alumni of the Yeshiva’s overseas program came to Yeshiva for an evening of learning and reconnecting with the Roshei Yeshiva and Ramim. Organized by Overseas Alumni Coordinator Rav Yonatan Shai Freedman, the program included a parasha class from Rav Menachem Leibtag, shiurim by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan and Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi, and a Q&A with Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein.

The program ended with a tish with Rav Mordechai Friedman, Rav Moshe Taragin, Rav Daniel Rhein, and Rav Doniel Schreiber. To round out the nostalgia, the Yeshiva’s traditional Yerushalmi kugel was served.

One of the program participants, Robbie Sassoon ’94, sent a note afterwards that said, “Thank you for a fantastic evening. It was truly meaningful to connect and reconnect with the Roshei Yeshiva and teachers, and recharge!”

Overseas talmidim on motzei Shabbat after an inspiring Old City Shabbaton

Talmidim with the 4 turkeys they prepared themselves for a Thanksgiving celebration that took place after night seder

Rav Pini Cohen and Rav Daniel Rhein with alumni of the MTA program
Books in Yeshiva Classrooms

The Yeshiva thanks Syma and Henry Weinberg who, in memory of their son Marc Weinberg ’93 z”l, kindly donated reference seforim to each of the Yeshiva classrooms for the Ramim to use during shiurim.

Yehi zichro baruch!

Yemei Iyun B’Tanach

The 28th annual Yemei Iyun b’Tanach of Herzog College and Yeshivat Har Etzion took place in August 2019. Thousands of Tanach lovers ascended to the Yeshiva campus for five days of over 200 lectures, the largest conference of Tanach study in the world. This year the Yemei Iyun were dedicated in memory of the late Rav Yehuda Shaviv z”l, a Ram in the Yeshiva who served as the first head of the Machon lEhachsharat Morim lEYad Yeshivat Har Etzion, which later became Herzog College.

Many of the teachers also dedicated their individual classes in memory of Rabbanit Dr. Avigail Malka (Poupko) Rock z”l. She and her husband, Rav Yehuda Rock ’90H, were past lecturers at the Yemei Iyun and regular contributors to the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash.

Many alumni and friends from overseas joined this year including Etzion Foundation President Hillel Silvera ’91 and his wife Saritte, board members Howard Weiser, Ezra Dyckman ’84, and Rabbi Dr. Seth Grauer ’96, as well as Rabbi Shaul Robinson, and many others.

If you’d like to partake this coming summer, the dates will be July 19-23, 2020 and registration will open on the Herzog College website shortly after Shavuot.

Bar Mitzvah Day

On the morning of November 28, over 40 alumni came to Yeshiva with their sons and grandsons who are turning 13 for the twice-yearly Bar Mitzvah Day, an event of learning and fun with Yeshiva staff.

Rav Yehoshua Grunstein ’95H and his son, Amichai

Rav Yehuda Peles ’91H and his son, Gilad, at Bar Mitzvah Day

Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi with sons and grandsons of alumni turning 13

Yair Herman at Bar Mitzvah Day learning with a trio of supporters, his father Ariel Herman ’95H, and his grandfathers, Dov Herman ’72H and Menachem Domb ’71H

Yoel Weiss, Hillel Silvera ’91, Ezra Dyckman ’84, and Jono Koschitzky ’87 at the Yemei Iyun
Shana bet talmidim and staff escorting overseas talmidim on their IDF draft day

Shana bet talmidim and overseas staff at a celebratory BBQ at the home of Elka and Eli Weber, Director of the Dr. William Major z”l Overseas Program, on the week when a dozen of them drafted to the IDF.

Rav Moshe Taragin with 4th year talmidim in the IDF, currently stationed in Hebron.

Roshei Yeshiva and staff with shiur bet talmidim at a celebratory event at Oz VeGaon before the talmidim drafted to the IDF.

Third year talmidim of the Yeshiva on their draft day at the IDF Induction Center.

Some happy lone soldiers after receiving their berets on the completion of their masa kumta.

Rav Amnon Bazak visiting Ari Biller ’15H, right, as he completed his IDF officer’s course (right) and his officer in the course, Ari Bar-Shain ’14 (left).
**OVERSEAS EVENTS**

**US**

- **On July 1**, Prof. Yoni Grossman ’88H spoke at a lunch-and-learn at the office of Hillel Silvera ’91 in NYC on "The Angels Eat and Sarah Laughs: The Telling of the Birth of Yitzchak."

- **On Simchat Torah**, Rav Menachem Leibtag was the scholar-in-residence at Beth Jacob in Beverly Hills, CA. During the week he gave shiurim at UCLA, Ohr Torah Congregation in Skokie, IL, U. of Chicago, Young Israel of Oak Park in Detroit, MI, Kemp Mill Synagogue and Woodside Synagogue in Silver Spring, MD, and at U. of Maryland. On October 25-26, he was the scholar-in-residence at the Young Israel of Southfield, MI.

- **On November 15-16**, Rav Menachem Leibtag was the scholar-in-residence at Congregation Israel of Springfield, NJ. During the week he gave shiurim at Beth Aaron in Teaneck, NJ, Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY, Young Israel of Hillcrest, NY, Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ, and Young Israel of Stamford, CT as well as to alumni and alumnae at NYU, YU, Penn, Columbia, Einstein, Queens, and Stern. On November 22-23, he was the scholar-in-residence at Congregation Etz Chaim in Kew Gardens Hills, NY.

- **On Shabbat Parashat Chayei Sarah, November 22-23**, over 70 alumni joined Rosh Yeshiva Rav Mosheh Lichtenstein, Eli Weber, Director of the Dr. William Major z”l Overseas Program, and Yoel Weiss, EVP of the Etzion Foundation, at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ for the annual Gush alumni Shabbaton. The alumni enjoyed a tish and shiurim, great Yeshiva ruach, and seeing old friends. Many alumni who live in the nearby community also joined for some of the programming, adding to the special atmosphere of the Shabbaton.

- **On November 15-16**, Rav Menachem Leibtag was the scholar-in-residence at Congregation Israel of Springfield, NJ. During the week he gave shiurim at Beth Aaron in Teaneck, NJ, Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY, Young Israel of Hillcrest, NY, Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ, and Young Israel of Stamford, CT as well as to alumni and alumnae at NYU, YU, Penn, Columbia, Einstein, Queens, and Stern. On November 22-23, he was the scholar-in-residence at Congregation Etz Chaim in Kew Gardens Hills, NY.
UK

On October 30, Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Rav Aviad Tabory '90H spoke at an azkara for Rav Binyamin Tabory z”l at Alei Zion in London.

Australia

Rav Moshe Taragin went to Australia in August, accompanied by Hillel Mann, Director of Institutional Advancement. He spoke at shuls, schools, and at lunch-and-learns, and on Tisha B’Av he spoke about kinnot at Mizrachi Melbourne.

On December 13-14, Rav Dovid Gottlieb was the scholar-in-residence at the Young Israel of the Main Line in Bala Cynwyd, PA. Rav Moshe Taragin was the scholar-in-residence at the Young Israel of Teaneck, NJ.

On December 20-21, Rav Moshe Taragin was the scholar-in-residence at Congregation Brothers of Israel in Long Branch, NJ.
US Events

- The Annual Migdal Oz Erev Shira V’Hitoreut took place on September 21 at Ma’ayanot High School in Teaneck, NJ with Mashgicha Ruchanit Shayna Goldberg and Yoetzet Halacha Laurie Novick, Director of Derachma, who spoke on "Forgiving Others: The Other Side of Teshuva." Later that week Shayna visited alumnae on college campuses.

- On Shabbat Parashat Vayera, November 15-16, Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, Overseas Director Racheli Schmell, and Mashgicha Ruchanit Shayna Goldberg were in Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ and were joined by Migdal Oz alumnae for their annual Shabbaton. The inspiring davening and tish at the home of Aleeza Berkowitz ’17MO, and seuda shelishit at the home of Abigail Rochlin ’17MO, gave the participants a chance to reminisce about their experiences at Migdal Oz and made for a wonderful Shabbat.

- On Motzei Shabbat, November 16, Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg and Overseas Director Racheli Schmell got together with post-college bogrot at the apartment of Renana Nerwen ’11MO in NYC.

- On December 13-14, Rosh Beit Midrash Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg was
Over 100 Migdal Oz supporters gathered at the Jewish Museum in NYC on December 14 for a discussion on "Tracing Trends in Torah Education: A Discussion on the Path and Progress on Women's Torah Education in the US and Israel" moderated by Dr. Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg ’06MO, a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows, with Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, Rosh Beit Midrash at Migdal Oz, and Dean Rachel Friedman, Founder of Lamdeinu Institute for Adult Learning, wife of Allen Friedman ’79, and mother of Elie Friedman ’05 and Yosie Friedman ’11. Those in attendance also got an exclusive viewing of the museum’s exhibits. 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.

Rabbanit Esti Rosenberg, Dean Rachel Friedman, Dr. Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg ’06MO and Devora (Stechler) Dawidowicz ’05MO in a panel discussion at the Jewish Museum

Rabbi Menachem Rosenberg with post-college bogrot at the home of Renana Nerwen ’11MO

in Englewood, NJ for Shabbat. On Friday night she gave a chabura at the home of Julia Straus Baruch ’09MO and on Shabbat day she spoke at Cong. Ahavath Torah.

Mrs. Laurie Novick speaking at the Ma’ayan Annual Yohrtzeit Shiur at Cong. Shaarei Tefillah in Newton, MA on the topic of “The Other Side of Teshuva: Forgiving Others”

Congratulations to...
Atara ’03MO and Jeremy Bressman on their aliya
Yael Turitz ’14MO and Eitan Kaplan on their marriage

Deracheha

Women and Mitzvot is the new online initiative of Yeshivat Har Etzion in partnership with the Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash and the Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women at Migdal Oz, and with the support of the Arev Fund. The site presents halachot pertaining to women in an accessible manner that reflects the values and educational approach of the Yeshiva. Yoatzot Halacha Laurie Novick, Shayna Goldberg, Mashgicha Ruchanit of Migdal Oz, and Rachel Weber Leshaw ’09MO have given shiurim in London, all over the East Coast of the US, Chicago, and in communities across Israel to spread awareness of the site. Check out the site at womenandmitzvot.org, follow it on Facebook and Instagram @deracheha, and seek out the Kol Deracheha podcast on all major platforms.
Hoshana Rabba

The Torah of the Yeshiva could be heard in many locations around Israel this past Hoshana Rabba. For the 4th year, the Yeshiva arranged an English language program at Hechal Shlomo in Jerusalem. Rav Moshe Taragin gave a shiur on “The Role of Simcha in Torah Study.” Rav Dr. Alan Kimche, former Rabbi of Ner Yisrael in London, gave a shiur on “Ten Stages of Spiritual Growth.” Rav Assaf Bednarsh ’88, Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University, gave a shiur on “The Last Mitzvah in the Torah.” Rav David Fohrman of Aleph Beta gave a shiur on “The Hidden Structure of the Ten Commandments.”

There was a separate Hebrew program at Hechal Shlomo as well, and it included shiurim by Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan, Rav Amnon Bazak, and Rav Benny Lehman. That night Rav Medan also gave shiurim in Modiin and at Bar-Ilan University. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Baruch Gigi gave shiurim at Reishit Deganecha in Efrat and in Nechusha. Rav Shlomo Brin gave a shiur in Mazkeret Batya. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Moshe Lichtenstein gave a shiur on “Emunat Chachamim and Mesoret Hadorot” as part of a program dedicated to Rav Binyamin Tabory z”l in Alon Shevut Darom.
Givat Shmuel Shabbaton

On December 6–7, Rav Doniel Schreiber spent Shabbat at Shirat Aharon in Givat Shmuel, together with young overseas alumni who have made aliyah. Seuda shelishit was hosted by Rav Yehuda ’91H and Chagit Peles, who recently became the Mizrahi-JLIC couple at Bar-Ilan University.

On December 4, Rosh Yeshiva Rav Yakov Medan gave a shiur on “Shilo and Yerushalayim in Bereishit” in Chashmonaim.

On December 18, Eli Weber gave a shiur on “The Miracle, the Mitzvah, and the Meaning of Chanukah” at Kehillat Darchei Tzion in Modiin.

Young alumni olim with Rav Doniel Schreiber in Givat Shmuel

VBM

The Israel Koschitzky Virtual Beit Midrash is constantly adding new content as well as improving the search options and interface. More than a dozen new classes in English and Hebrew are in progress, including shiurim in Tanach by Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom ’83 and Rabbi Tzvi Sinensky ’98, shiurim in Halacha by Rav David Brofsky ’90 and Rav Aviad Tabori ’90H, shiurim in Gemara, Jewish Philosophy, and more. Thousands of past shiurim are also available on the website.

Neva Goldstein Hellman, a VBM subscriber, recently sent in the following note: “I cannot tell you how much I relish the weekly parasha emails from the VBM as well as the articles I find when researching further...My husband and I thank the VBM for the spiritual succor we receive from it.”

Yeshiva Social Media

The Yeshiva has a strong online presence, serving as a “Window into the Beit Midrash” for people around the world. One can follow what is happening "inTheGush" on the Yeshiva Facebook page, which just turned 10 years old, on Twitter, and on Instagram. The Yeshiva also uploads audio shiurim onto Spotify. Links can be found on the Yeshiva website.

The Yeshiva’s YouTube channel continues to be very active. Videos of Hebrew shiurim from Yeshiva are uploaded weekly, as well as 2 short divrei Torah on the parasha, one in Hebrew and one in English. Every week since early January 2019, the English dvar Torah has been given by a different rabbinic alumnus from around the world. To date, more than 80 rabbinic alumni have shared their Torah on the channel. Tune in to the Yeshiva’s YouTube channel each week to join the learning.

Alumni Achievements

Alan Wecker ’82 received a doctorate from University of Haifa and University of Trento, Italy.

Rav Chanan Atlas ’95H became the Rav of Beit Knesset Ohel Ari in Raanana, Israel.

Rav Itiel Oron ’95H became the Rav of Beit Knesset Ramban in Jerusalem.

Yoni Ray ’98 placed 2nd in the US and 6th overall in the Chidon HaTanach for adults, held in Israel over Chanukah.

Rabbi Ari Weiss ’99 was awarded the Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award by Hillel International for his work as Executive Director of Cornell Hillel.

Avi Anouchi ’02 became a partner at Yigal Arnon & Co. law firm in Israel.

Rav Netanel Buchs ’02H, Ram at Migdal Oz, was appointed the Rav of Kehillat Darchei Tzion in Modiin.

Rabbi Ben Greenfield ’05 became the Rabbi of the Greenpoint Shul in Brooklyn, NY.

Rabbi Greg Bank ’06MTA became the Rabbi of Yeshurun Hebrew Congregation in Manchester, UK.

Rabbi Avron Swartz ’08MTA became the Youth Rabbi for the Beth Zion Synagogue in Montreal, in addition to teaching at Herzliah High School in Montreal. His wife, Rivka, became the Director of NCSY in Montreal.

Arie Schwartz ’13 received his first degree in mechanical engineering from the Technion and will be drafting to the IDF.
**Chezkat Habatim** (Hebrew)  
Rav Ofir Sa'adon '92H  
Lishkat Orchei Hadin BeYisrael

A collection of articles on the various topics of *Perek Chezkat Habatim* in tractate *Bava Batra*, allowing the reader to successfully delve into this challenging chapter.

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**From David to Destruction: Mining Essential Lessons from Sefer Melachim** (English)  
Rabbi Chaim Jachter '81  
edited by Nachum Krasnopolsky '19

This volume offers new solutions to both classic and previously unaddressed issues in *Sefer Melachim*, and in Tanach as a whole. It provides insights into the spiritual challenges faced by the Jewish people during the First Temple period, and applies these lessons to contemporary issues.

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**Etz Hachaim Vehakesef** (Hebrew)  
Michael Eisenberg '89  
Sela Meir

The principles of wealth creation and preservation were discussed in Jewish sources long before the rise of the modern market economy. This work reveals eternal Torah principles of successful conduct in business, economics and negotiations, and demonstrates their relevance to today’s technologically advanced world.

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**Explorations Expanded** (English)  
Rav Ari D. Kahn '80  
Kodesh Press

These strikingly original interpretive essays on the weekly *parasha* bring together myriad traditional sources, from the mystical to the intellectual.

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**Praying Legally** (English)  
Dr. Shalom E Holtz '94  
SBL Press

In biblical and other ancient Near Eastern cultures, prayer was seen as an opportunity to make one’s case before divine judges so prayers were formulated using legal concepts. By reading ancient prayers together with contemporaneous legal texts, the author shows how the ancients used prayer to plea in the divine court and even sue against divine injustice.

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**The Emperors and the Jews** (English)  
Ari Lieberman '77  
Mosaica Press

Jewish sources highlight several rare but pivotal interactions between great Jewish sages and Roman emperors. This book examines these incredible encounters in the light of traditional and historical sources to create a fascinating page-turner.

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**Daf Yomi in just 15 minutes - it’s Brilliant!**

Uri Brilliant '97H is the creator of a hugely popular Daf Yomi podcast with over 20,000 subscribers. The podcast clearly and succinctly summarizes the contents of each page of the *Gemara* in Hebrew in under 15 minutes, enabling anyone to follow along with the Daf Yomi.

Uri lives in Pardes Chana with his wife and seven children. He learns in kollel there and has a side business in affiliate
Each daf, each daf takes 2 days. I do it all myself, sending each taught it. I'm not yet finished because of how I teach and present because I found that I really only understand material after I've that just ended but during the previous cycle. I decided to do it marketing and teaching people how to build websites. We asked "All my Torah is from the Yeshiva, anything I know. My people sponsor a shiur for yahrtzeits." Any costs incurred are my own, though occasionally some recording out via email and to 41 different WhatsApp groups. This landmark work is one of the first full-length treatments of these charged issues by an Orthodox thinker, and it offers an approach of spiritual and intellectual integrity.

marketing and teaching people how to build websites. We asked him to tell us more about how this project began and developed. "I started doing this in 2010, during Bava Metzia, not in the cycle that just ended but during the previous cycle. I decided to do it because I found that I really only understand material after I've taught it. I'm not yet finished because of how I teach and present each daf, each daf takes 2 days. I do it all myself, sending each recording out via email and to 41 different WhatsApp groups. Any costs incurred are my own, though occasionally some people sponsor a shiur for yahrtzeits."

"All my Torah is from the Yeshiva, anything I know. My methodology that I use in the shiurim I learned there. I don't teach according to the exact order of the information on the page, but by explaining the concepts, and every machloket is broken up into 2 sides, with its assumptions and challenges presented clearly. Even in terms of technical ability to do this project, Rav Ezra Bick encouraged and taught me what to do, showing me how to make a podcast."

To tune in to this amazing podcast, go to www.sinai.org.il where you can also see written summaries and interactive videos for each shiur, and sign up to get notifications via WhatsApp or email, or subscribe to hear it on Spotify or other podcast apps.
Marriages

Daniel Isenberg '06 and Rachel Epstein
Rav Dovid Roth '07 and Yiska Dreyfmann
Doron Lavan '07MTA and Louise Esther Solomon
Liron Hayman '09MTA and Tamar Rapport '15MO
Elan Kiderman '09 and Naomi Gorfinkle
Yinon Levy '09H and Penina Warburg '13MO
Ariel Futter '10 and Alexa Wender
Yosif Friedman '11 and Elana Feldan
Yosef Dow Roth '11 and Devora Chait
Leead Staller '11 and Shoshana Bachrach
Bezalel Cohn '12H and Elisheva Roselaar '15MO
Hillel Hochsztein '13 and Ilana Goldstein
Elon Schmidt-Swartz '13 and Naomi Kadish '13MO
Yosef Sklar '13 and Rachel Klar '14MO
Ari Chipkin '14MTA and Lori Rabinovitch
Ruby Marriot '14 and Orya Ben David
Seth Weiss '14 and Penina Meltz
Ariel Altaras '15 and Kayla Ostrov
Asher Finkelstein '15 and Avigail Rosensweig
Nathan Gordon '15MTA and Anita Zeltsman
Ezra Cinamon '16 and Sara Raizel Jedwab '16MO
Melech Britz '17MTA and Ariella Rosen

Births

Rafe '97 and Sharon Sasson, Ronnie Ezra
Yonah '98 and Rachel Berman, Noam Avni Chai
Ari '98 and Ilana Erdafarb, Binyamin Yakir
Dr. Mordechay '99 and Jennifer Raskas, Yaakov Yitzchak
Yoanatan '99 and Shira Schildcr, Betzalel Simcha
Rav Eitan '00 and Etta Ben-David, Talya Frayda
Elie '01 and Sara Kravitz, Chaya Liba
Dr. Avi '01 and Dorit Levine, Shalev
Elyasaf '01 and Miri Schwartz, Bnaya
Dr. Avi '01 and Debra Shaulowit, Yitzchak
Rav Jeremy '01 and Aviva Stern, Tehilla Tziyon
Dovid '01 and Aliza Wildman, Natan Simcha
Aaron '02 and Miriam Frolich, Matan Mordechay
Doron '02 and Miriam Hindin, Naor Nechemia
Michi '02 and Serena Jenekelovitz, Golda Zahava
Jonathan '02 and Shari Lauer, Rachel Malka
Dovi '02 and Dafna Miller, Yocheved Chana
Avi '03 and Lauren Kelin, Eyal Noam
Benji '03MTA and Leah Levy, Matan Avraham
Rabbi Danny '03 and Althea Mirvis, Talia
Ariel '03 and Elana Schwartz, Doron Gil
David '03 and Yael '05MO Wermuth, Yoav Shlomo Yosef
Adam '04 and Nurit Lerner, Dahlia Noa
Rav Benji '04MTA and Renana Levy, Amalia
Ari '05 and Rachel Allon, Shalev Asher
Daniel '05 and Tamar Kahn, Navah Bayla
Seraphya '06MTA and Arielle Berrin, Hadar Elishama
Yonatan '06 and Marlena Cantor, Talia Chaviva
Rabbi Alon '06MTA and Daniella Friedman, Liat Sophia
Mordechay '06 and Danielle Gedalia, Nava Tehilla
Daniel '06 and Jennifer Poliak, Aaron Pesach
Dr. Raphy '06 and Emily Rosen, Ariel Joshua
El'06 and Hannah Younger, Libby Rina
David '07MTA and Liora Gordon, Giffen Yisraela
Michi '07MTA and Chana Hayman, Ezri Yehuda
Yoni '07 and Kreindy Schimmel, Alma
Rabbi Shua '07MTA and Michal Solomon, Yosef Pinchas
Rabbi Daniel '08 and Leora Cantor, Ayelet Bina
Tani '08 and Molly Isaac, Sara Yocheved
Kenny '09 and Yael Anhalt, Yehoshua and Dvorah
Binyamin '09 and Huvie Weinreich, Yehuda Mordechay
Shai '10 and Adi Berman, Yonah Chaim
Shmuel '10 and Caroline Goldman, Ethan Seth
Chaim '10 and Shira Metzger, Talia Elsheva
Rabbi Marcus '10MTA and Lidi Rosenberg, Yedidya Yosef
Hillel '11 and Shoshi Davis, Arbel
Michael '11 and Nicole Rochlin, Adir Nechemya
Charles '12K and Beth Lesch, Yisrael Meir
James '13 and Judith Mindell, Eliezer Aharon
Nathan '14MTA and Talia Seidman, Hodaya Libi
Evan '15K and Tova Levine, Shaya Chanoch and Shira Shoshana
Yossi '18K and Channah Hambling, Temimah Raizel

H = Hesder MO = Migdal Oz PC=post-college  MTA = Midreshet Torah v’Avoda K = Kollel • The year indicates the commencement of study
Bar/Bat Mitzva

Rabbi Dr. Michael ’80 and Elisheva Berger, Aron Dov Simcha ’84 and Michelle Berkowitz, Joy Jerome ’88 and Michal Pulznik, Merav Lea Yossi ’88MTA and Nikki Tchelet, Aharon Tani ’89 and Miriam Wallach, Ayelet Hashachar Rav David ’90 and Mali Brofsky, Hadar Reuven ’90 and Rachelle Lavi, Amichai and Eitan Rabbi Daniel ’91 and Ilana Epstein, Yechiel Yaakov Simon ’91 and Elana Jackson, Chedva Rav Dr. Uriel ’91 and Shani Lubetski, Yaakov Rav Moti ’92 and Rabbanit Laurie Novick, Tsfoiya Rav Asher ’93 and Anat Altshul, Talya Adi Jonathan ’93 and Heidi Nathan, Meir Rafi ’94 and Jordana Epstein, Yakir Yoni ’94 and Tamar Ross, Yair Rav Yehoshua ’95H and Tali Grunstein, Amichai Rav Hillel ’95MTA and Dr. Yael Maizels, Elisheva Talya Reuven ’95 and Nechama Weiser, Orly Chanah Shmuel ’96 and Liat Jackman, Yosef Meir Jarred ’98MTA and Joanne Myers, Hadar Joshua ’98 and Sorah Wander, Shoshana Nesiya Jamie ’00 and Naomi Feinmesser, Yael Nechama Meir ’01MTA and Maya Perez, Netanel

Aliya

Rav Dr. Uriel ’91 and Shani Lubetski Dr. Josh ’98 and Dr. Tova Lennon Dr. David ’98 and Aliza Stern Warren ’01MTA and Andy Kopelowitz Rav Leron ’02MTA and Sarah Bernstein Robert ’04MTA and Devorah Tockar Josh ’06MTA and Gila Weinberger Matthew ’12 and Yael ’13MO Nitzanim (Kritz) Jeremy Elliott ’14MTA Doron Snoyman ’14MTA Cobi Nadel ’15 Daniel Edery ’16 Elly Marcus ’16 Michael Brenis ’17 Yonah Bar-Shain ’17 Jonah Bash ’17 Sammy Schoen ’17 Jacob Wiesenfeld ’17

Avi Braun ’18 Tzadok Cohen ’18 Doniel Fodiman ’18 Eitan Oberlander ’18 Naphtali Shapiro ’18 Eli Spector ’18MTA

Condolences

To Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis ’76 on the loss of his father, Rabbi Dr. Lionel (Yehudah Leib) Mirvis z"l
To Ephrayim Naiman ’78 and Aharon Naiman ’80 on the loss of their sister, Geela Naiman z"l
To Simmy Weber ’80 and Overseas Director Eli Weber ’81 on the passing of their father, Rabbi Mordechai (Marcel) Weber z"l
To Barry Herzog ’82 on the loss of his father, Rabbi Yom Tov Herzog z"l
To Gili Houpt ’91 on the loss of his father, Dr. Milton Houpt z"l
To Rabbi Etan Tokayer ’91 on the loss of his father, Rabbi Dr. Shmuel Tokayer z"l
To Rabbi Barry Kornblau ’96 on the loss of his father, Marvin Kornblau z"l
To Rabbi Benjy ’96 and Emily Rickman on the loss of their son, Naftoli Meir Rickman z"l
To Rav Steven Goldsmith ’98 on the loss of his mother, Judy Goldsmith z"l
To Justin ’99 and Michelle Goldberg on the loss of their daughter, Isabel Rae Goldberg z"l
To Joey Israel ’07 on the loss of his father, Arnold Israel z"l
To Joshua Sevitz ’08MTA on the loss of his sister, Haley Sevitz Varenberg z"l
To Avron Swartz ’08MTA on the loss of his mother, Linda Swartz z"l
We mourn the passing of Dr. David Landes ’73, former Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation. The Yeshiva sends its deepest condolences to his wife Faye and children Chana ’01MO, Yitz ’10, Matt ’13, and Adir.

We mourn the passing of the late Baruch Binyamin Tabory. The Yeshiva sends its deepest condolences to his family, including Adina Porat.

We mourn the passing of Dr. Yehuda Landes, former Chairman of the Board of the Etzion Foundation. The Yeshiva sends its deepest condolences to his family, including Adina Porat.

The Yeshiva is saddened by the tragic accident of Ephraim Rimel ’02H. We mourn the loss of his wife Tzipi and daughter Noam Rachel, and we pray for the complete recovery of Ephraim Tzvi Moshe ben Shulamit Tzvia and his son Itai Yaakov ben Tzipora.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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