

Shapell's/Darché Noam

דַּרְכֵי הַדַּרְכֵי נֵעָם

DAVID SHAPPELL College of Jewish Studies/Yeshiva Darché Noam • MIDRESHET RACHEL V'CHAYA College of Jewish Studies for Women • JACK E. GINDI Pathways Israel/Pathways Plus

RABBI DOVID SCHOONMAKER



SHAPPELL'S/DARCHÉ NOAM WELCOMES A NEW ROSH YESHIVA!

Shapell's/Darché Noam is excited to share that, as of this Elul, Rabbi Dovid Schoonmaker is the new Rosh Yeshiva of Shapell's/Yeshiva Darché Noam. Rabbi Yitzchak Hirshfeld (co-founder) has assumed the position of Rosh Yeshiva Emeritus and is regularly teaching in the Yeshiva.

Rabbi Schoonmaker comes to Shapell's after 15 successful years at Yeshiva Aish HaTorah. For the past six years, he has served as Rosh Beit Midrash and given a daily, methodology based Gemara class to their advanced level students. During his years at Aish, he developed curricula and programs for the Yeshiva, created their current semicha program, mentored faculty and has guided the academic and spiritual growth of hundreds of students. He has also served as Mashgiach of the Yeshiva, was Director of Aish's outreach division and led a team that revamped their famous Discovery seminar.

Continued on Page 2

Mark Your Calendars!! You're Invited To...

GALA DINNERS

in honor of Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzchak Hirshfeld and alumni representing
40 years of Shapell's/Darché Noam and Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya

In Jerusalem:

Monday night, February 19, 2018 / Erev 5 Adar, 5778
at the Jerusalem Gardens Hotel

In New Jersey:

Sunday night, March 11, 2018 / Erev 25 Adar, 5778
at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe

Watch your email and darchenoam.org/dinner40
for more details!

Dvar Torah by
Rabbi Yitzchak Shurin

Page 2

Tributes to
Rabbi Hirshfeld

Pages 3

Program
Updates

Page 8

New Director of Executive
Learning Program

Page 13

Visions of the Future, from our
new Rosh Yeshiva

Page 16

NEW ROSH YESHIVA (CONTINUED)

Rabbi Schoonmaker is the author of **טעמי ספר החינוך** which is a “user friendly” version of the classic Sefer haChinuch, **קונטרס פתחי שמחת יום טוב** which is a work about joy on Yom Tov and in Mitzvot, and Avodah Thoughts – monthly essays on mussar ideas. An alumnus of NCSY (and later a faculty member of their acclaimed Summer Kollel), he learned at Kerem B'Yavneh, Heichal HaTorah, Yeshivas Mir and Birchas Mordechai, and has smicha from HaRav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg, **שליט"א**.

Rabbi Hirshfeld shared, “Even though I have known him only for a few months, I sense in Rabbi Schoonmaker a kindred spirit who is in tune with our culture and our educational goals. I foresee a new era of innovation and expansion as Shapell's carries on with its traditions of excellence in Torah education.”

Upon accepting the position of Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Schoonmaker commented, “I am honored and humbled to accept the position of Rosh Yeshiva at Shapell's. The chance to work together with such dedicated and accomplished rebbeim to help the Yeshiva thrive is one that I so look forward to. I hope to further develop the program to meet the needs of the new generation of students, to help each and every student to learn and to grow and – of course – to build on the incredibly rich Shapell's tradition. My wife and I look forward to hosting students and alumni in our home, and to becoming part of the Shapell's family.”

Rabbi Schoonmaker invites students, alumni and friends to introduce themselves to him and to begin the discussion about the next generation of Shapell's/Yeshiva Darché Noam. Feel free to email him at rds@darchenoam.org. ♦

IMPROVEMENT AND CREATING ANEW

BY RABBI
YITZCHAK SHURIN



your deeds.”).

I once heard a shmuz from Rav Pam zt”l, in which he explained the difference between **שפרו** and **חדשו**. The word **חדשו** means to become a new person, to recreate oneself to the extent that one cannot recognize the old me. I have totally changed. On the other hand, **שפרו** means you just improve on what you have already. Some people are ready and able to become completely new, as if to say I am no longer that person that you knew; but most people are not yet ready for such a profound change. So for them Chazal say, “At least **שפרו מעשיכם** – improve on the good you have already. Improve on the qualities you were given and the good deeds you have done.” A good parallel to this is someone doing home improvements versus rebuilding their entire home. Obviously self-improvement is easier (though not necessarily easy) than a total make-over. These are two modes of teshuva which Chazal want us to think about before the Yemei HaDin.

Elul is a time of introspection as we prepare for the Yamim Noraim. Every year at the blast of the shofar on the first day of Elul, one begins to ponder his year and his life. Chazal give us insight into what our focus should be. On the pasuk **שופר תקעו בחודש שופר** (“In this month blow the shofar...”), Chazal say **בחודש חדשו מעשיכם שופר** (“In this month you should renew your deeds, and with the shofar you should improve

As we approach Shapell's/ Darché Noam's 40th year, the members of the Hanhala are also taking stock of our past accomplishments and our future challenges and goals. Our illustrious Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yitzchak Hirshfeld, has decided to become Rosh Yeshiva Emeritus and make room for the new generation. I still remember the three founders of Darché Noam Institutions who could not be more different and yet had the same profound vision. After they brought to fruition their vision, Rabbi Hirshfeld, as the head of Shapell's, tirelessly continued to improve and remodel the program to meet the needs and challenges of the students. However, in the last 40 years our world has undergone significant changes in many spheres.

I must admit that when I enter the Beit Midrash of Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya, there are times that I feel like Choni HaMaagel. The Talmud says the Choni slept for 70 years, and when he awoke and entered the Beit Midrash of his town, the Rabbis recognized Choni's great Torah contribution but didn't recognize the great Choni himself. They refused to believe him when he told them he was Choni. The message of Chazal is clear. Even if the new generation can appreciate the Torah of the older generation, they do not always relate to the Torah personalities of that older generation. The Dubna Maggid says that when the Gemara says **יפתח בדורו כשמואל בדורו** it doesn't only mean that Yiftach in Shmuel's generation would not have been considered a leader. It also means that Shmuel in Yiftach's generation would also not have been the proper leader. Every generation needs its unique leadership. Rabbi Hirshfeld has decided it is now time for **חדשו מעשיכם**, and for this we need a new generation of Rabbis and teachers who can continue to produce Shapell's unique product. We are fortunate that he will stay on and continue to pass on his wellsprings of Torah while at the same time guide the new Rosh Yeshiva in making this vital transition. ♦

BY RABBI SHAYA KARLINSKY



In 1978, when the ba'al tshuva movement was in its early stages, three young men identified educational challenges that we felt uniquely qualified to confront. Based on the principles we had received from our Rebbeim and mentors, we opened a Yeshiva that provided talmidim with the ability to study Torah independently from original texts, nurtured Jewish growth slowly and developmentally, and presented

the Torah as **דרכיה דרכי נעם**, helping each student find an appropriate Torah path, that was pleasant and harmoniously aligned with his unique personality.

Forty years and more than four thousand students later, our alumni testify to our success. Pirkei Avot identifies forty as the age at which one acquires **בינה**, which is defined as the ability to generate new understandings from existing ones. In the teachings of the Maharal, the number also represents a dimension of completeness.

After leading the Jewish people for forty years in the desert in preparation for their entry into a new environment, Moshe Rabbeinu knows he must turn over the leadership to the next generation. Through his request of the Almighty in finding an appropriate successor, we are given a deep insight into the source of Moshe's success, the quality that needed to be replicated, even as the environment in which that leader would operate was about to change radically.



When addressing the Almighty, Moshe refers to Him as **אלוקי הרוחות**, G-d of the spirit. Rashi (Bamidbar 27:16) explains Moshe's use of this unique adjective as follows. "You, Hashem, know the perspective and personality of each individual, and each one is unique. Appoint a leader who can carry and cope with each individual according to his personality and perspective." And when Hashem informs Moshe that Yehoshua is the appropriate



successor, he is described as **איש אשר רוח בו**, a man who is imbued with this quality called **רוח**, the ability to lead each individual according to his unique personality.

The nature of our students, the environment from which they come and to which they will return, all have undergone radical changes in the past forty years. So it is appropriate that leadership be turned over to a new generation. Yet the qualities needed for that leadership have not changed. Rabbi Hirshfeld has demonstrated himself to be an outstanding Talmid Chacham and an outstanding teacher of Torah. The world of yeshivot has been blessed with many outstanding Rashei Yeshiva. But in his forty years of dedication to our talmidim, Rabbi Hirshfeld was a unique leader **איש אשר רוח בו**, educating and advising each student according to the uniqueness he identified, building an atmosphere of respect for the individual which pulsed throughout the walls of our Beit Midrash.

We are fortunate to have identified an appropriate successor, Rabbi Dovid Schoonmaker, who shares that quality of **איש אשר רוח בו**, is a proven educator, and is aligned with the principles on which the Yeshiva has been built. With Rabbi Hirshfeld's continued influence, and with the help of our experienced and devoted staff, we are looking forward to the next forty years of continuing to teach the coming generation, impacting the Jewish world with Torah that embodies **דרכיה דרכי נעם**. ♦



TRIBUTES TO RABBI HIRSHFELD

This spring, alumni were invited to submit their memories of learning with Rabbi Hirshfeld and his impact on their lives. Though he will be presented with all of them, we have selected a few memories to share with our alumni and friends.



Rabbi Elie Silverberg

My relationship with the Rosh Yeshiva is one that extends over thirty years. What started off as a relationship between a talmid and a teacher and Rosh Yeshiva, has blossomed to include also that of a mentor and confidante. I have sought his sage advice both professionally as a teacher, and personally, during some of my most difficult times. I regard him as a role model, both as a teacher of Torah, and as a Jew living according to the values of Torah. My feelings towards him include admiration, friendship and love. May Hashem bless him with many more years of good health, so he may continue to serve Am Yisrael, ad meah v'esrim.

Rabbi David Sedley

Words cannot express my gratitude to Rabbi Hirshfeld. I walked into the Darché Noam Beit Midrash with long hair, wearing torn jeans and an Iron Maiden t-shirt, hoping he would tell me to get lost. Instead, he welcomed me with a smile, said nothing about my appearance, and told me he would be happy to have me in the yeshiva.

At the end of that year I went back to New Zealand to see my family, and spent several months there. I couldn't decide whether to stay there or to come back to Israel and to yeshiva. Out of the blue, Rabbi Hirshfeld phoned me (this was back in the days when an international phone call was a big deal) and asked how I was doing. That single phone call made the decision for me.

I learned so much from the Rosh Yeshiva in Torah, middot and caring for others, but those two incidents shaped the future course of my life completely. I want to thank Rabbi Hirshfeld personally, as well as all the Shapell's staff, for all I have received from them over the past 26 years, especially during the three years that I spent in the Shapell's Beit Midrash.

Joshua Klugman

One time in shiur a bochur named Yitzchak asked Rabbi Hirshfeld "how the Rebbe felt being addressed in the 3rd person."

Rabbi Hirshfeld's response was classic: "It makes the Rebbe feel uncomfortable."

Isaac Ansell Forsyth

I read your email announcing your change of role in the yeshiva with mixed emotions. On the one hand, I understand that you feel the time has come for a change for you and the yeshiva, and I am excited for the future of both of those ventures. On the other hand, I feel saddened at the possibility that future students may be slightly less exposed to your teachings, advice, manner, and the atmosphere you create which blew me away in my time in the yeshiva.

I often relate to friends and students, some of these from which I benefitted, including your "sheivet model" for the Jewish people, your respectful and dignified response following a guest lecture calling on us to respect the opinions of others with whom we disagree, and the serious and deep thought which went into the personal questions I asked you. Not to mention the more direct Torah and skills I use (thank G-d) every single day. I am extremely grateful for the time you made for me (and all of your students). I try to honor this by giving my own time to others, when it can be helpful to them.



I wish strength to you and the yeshiva in this challenging next chapter - a continuation of the incredible strength I saw in my time at the yeshiva.

Daniel Selig

The first memory which comes to mind is your Shachris during the Yamim Noraim.

Even today, close to 30 years after I stopped davening with the yeshiva, every time the Sha'tz in my shul gets up to "HaMelech...Yoshev"... and many other parts of Shachris, I hear your soft and breaking, yet firm voice

and all that emotion in your niggunim in my "ear"... and I wish I could be there again having you as my Shaliach Tzibur. It was a real "zchut" to have been part of your Shachris for the four years I was at Darché Noam and for another few years as a young married man when I was able to join the davening at Darché Noam, and I think it will last me for a lifetime.

The other things which come to mind are your unique combination of being the "Yeshivish" Gemara Rebbe with your amazing patience and capability to explain a Tosofos, your "black hat" hashkafah which shone through everything you taught me and yet came with a tremendous openness and ability to deal with secular and very practical issues, both in Gemara and as my halacha teacher before and after getting married. You showed me a derech which remained with me and which I tried (and hopefully succeeded) to pass on to my family. Your "silence of understanding" when you had no "solution" to my sometimes difficult questions seeking advice on how to deal w/very hard personal questions left me at first baffled but eventually taught me that sometimes there really are no good or easy solutions and this taught me to accept things as they were.

Spending Shabbos and Leil HaSeder with your family, seeing how you and your wife were living examples of how to raise a frum family, left me and later on also my wife a lasting positive imprint. Meeting your dear parents o.b.m when they came to visit you was a very special "zchut" and gave me an extra connection to the chain of our tradition.

And how could I not mention your wife's amazing lemon squares and the fun of cleaning your oven/stove before Pesach!

May you be blessed with many more years in good health together with your dear wife, enjoying Nachas from your family and your continued work as teacher and role model at Darché Noam.

Pinchas Koven

Sometime around 1984, Rav Hirshfeld began holding a weekly shiur on the Ramban's Perush of the Weekly Portion in his house in Sanhedria, on what I believe were Monday nights.



The shiur was set up for guys like me, alumni who had left the yeshiva [I was in law school at the time] but who wanted to maintain some type of learning at a yeshiva-level and a connection with the Rabbis.

At that point in time, the idea of a sophisticated alumni connection was still far off; we were simply the first unheralded generation of "alumni". This was just pure learning for learning's sake. All of us had to make time during our schedules to come to this shiur; for Rav Hirshfeld, it meant another shiur to prepare for and give at night, when he was already tired; for him and the Rebbetzin, it also meant another demand on their family time.

Nevertheless, we were all warmly welcomed into their home once a week, and once I gravely intoned the now famous line "Gentlemen, it's time for Torah," [which for some reason made the little Hirshfeld children giggle and then they got shooed off to bed] we all promptly sat down and got down to the business of learning Torah. Each week, we tackled what was usually the most important, difficult, lengthy, or famous Ramban of that week's portion [seasoned with cake from the Rebbetzin]. It was very serious learning, as if we were in the yeshiva; all of us were keenly aware of everyone's time limitations and therefore of the immense value of this personal time spent learning from Rav Hirshfeld.

The penciled notes I took down on those shiurim straight into my Chavel edition Ramban are still there, and when I occasionally come across them, I smile and fondly recall those unique and wonderful evenings spent outside the Yeshiva, learning with my old yeshiva mates and the Rosh Yeshiva. It was a fulfillment of what the Rabbis had taught us in the yeshiva: that what we were doing inside the yeshiva was to prepare ourselves for continued learning outside the yeshiva, once we left.

I would like to bless the Rosh Yeshiva with many more years of being mashpia on all of us, both inside and outside the Yeshiva. ♦

ONE-ON-ONE WITH RABBI HIRSHFELD

On the occasion of Rabbi Hirshfeld transitioning to the role of Rosh Yeshiva Emeritus, we took the opportunity to ask him some questions we felt many of our alumni and friends always wanted to ask.



How did you meet Rabbi Karlinsky and together decide to found Shapell's/Darché Noam?

Actually, my friendship with Rabbi Karlinsky predates our founding of Shapell's/Darché Noam by about eight years. It was winter zman of 5731 (October, 1970) when we began learning together as chavrusas at the Mir Yeshiva (for the curious, it was Bava Metzia). We maintained our friendship over the years, and in the years 1976-78 Rabbi Karlinsky and I were both Rabbeim at Aish Hatorah, together with our close friend Rabbi Yitzchak Feigenbaum. In the summer of 1978 it became clear to us that there were serious differences between our approach to chinuch and the approach of the Aish administration. With the guidance and encouragement of our then Rebbe, Rabbi Ze'ev Chaim Lifshitz zt"l, the

three of us decided (somewhat foolheartedly) to found our own Yeshiva. But Hashem was good to us and with great siyata d'Shemaya we are where we are today.

How did you develop the teaching methods that have made you so successful?

Even as a kid and later as a teenager I very much enjoyed learning Gemara. My skills were developed under the guidance of my beloved Rabbeim at the Skokie Yeshiva where I spent eight rewarding years. At the suggestion of my Rebbe, Rabbi Yaakov Perlow shlit"l, the current Novominsker Rebbe, I decided to attend the Mir Yeshiva in Yerushalayim. As accomplished as I was in Gemara, at the Mir I discovered new dimensions of learning and understanding Torah. The Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz zt"l, and especially Rav Nachum Perzovitz zt"l, opened my mind and my heart to the hidden treasures which lay in Hashem's holy Torah.

But knowing how to learn is a necessary but not sufficient condition for becoming an effective teacher. Rav Z.C. Lifshitz held training seminars for budding mechanchim in which he presented us with tools for teaching. From him we learned to understand the crucial role of "key phrases", "structure" and the necessity to lay out the logical structure of the sugya with precision. We learned that talmidim learn best when they are actively involved in the learning process and not being merely "spoon-fed." And that is why, at Shapell's, Gemara is never taught without prior preparation by the talmidim, and why in shiur it is always a talmid who reads and presents the Gemara to the class.

What are some of the ways the Yeshiva has changed?

The Yeshiva has changed as the world has changed, and has remained constant as the Torah remains constant. Our guiding principle has always been that the way to reach and influence Jewish neshamos is by teaching authentic Torah. But over the years the modes of transmission have changed somewhat.

Shapell's has always been a rather cerebral place, sometimes to a fault. Over the years, the role of the mashgiach has been strengthened and with it comes a new emphasis on warmth and personal relationships between the Rabbeim and talmidim. In the old, old days when a talmid started dating I used to wish him good luck and ask him to let me know when he gets engaged. Today we provide him with hadracha (guidance) every step of the way (if he wants it). With the advent and maturation of Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya we give special attention to helping our married students to build beautiful Jewish homes.

The changing world of rampant assimilation, increasing preoccupation with career worries and shortened attention spans has caused our pool of potential students to shrink somewhat. But Shapell's is somewhat self-selective and a good Shapell's talmid is still a good Shapell's talmid. One key difference, though, is that people tend to stay for shorter periods of time, which of course can be a challenge to our chinuch program.

What is your favorite Mesechta to teach and why?

A tough question. Maybe there isn't one favorite, but I enjoy very much returning to the Mesechtot of my youth. Chazal teach us that, with Torah, the more times you go over it the more flavors you taste. And that has certainly been my experience.

Why do you think that Shapell's/Darché Noam has thrived for so long?

The key word is respect. We respect our students. When a talmid feels respected and validated he enjoys his experience and becomes motivated to work hard and excel. And of course, our "satisfied customers" serve as our most effective ambassadors in spreading the good name and fame of Shapell's.

Furthermore, as a faculty and administrative staff we respect each other. This allows us to function in unison as we mutually complement one another. We have labored mightily to make sure that the contrasting personalities and hashkafos found at our Yeshiva create a beautiful harmony instead of the cacophony that might have been.

What was your favorite Yeshiva tiyul and why?

They are all great. But the recent tiyul we took this past Yom Yerushalayim was a real highlight. Following in the footsteps of our own Benny Hager who served as our guide, we retraced his steps in the Six Day War and the liberation of Yerushalayim. The experience brought home the miracle of it all. We felt ever more powerfully the mesirus nefesh of those who were willing to sacrifice their lives, enabling us to learn Torah in Yerushalayim, Ir Hakodesh. I was moved and inspired in a way that doesn't happen in the Beis Midrash.

What is your tefilla for your many alumni?

I suppose that the question focuses on me in my role as Rosh Yeshiva. Everyone needs to pray for "banim, chayim and mezonot" (children, health and parnassah). And I certainly daven for that for myself and for my talmidim as well. But what about our talmidim's ruchniyus? We need to daven that they will be true "ovdei Hashem", that they will use the foundation that Shapell's provides as a platform from which to continue to grow in their Torah learning and performance of mitzvos. And most importantly, I daven that each and every one of them has true yiddishe nachas from their children.

Why are you excited to have Rabbi Schoonmaker as your successor?

Rabbi Schoonmaker has the critical requirements we were looking for in the person who is to take on the mantle of the leadership of our Yeshiva. He is innovative and creative, and he understands and identifies with the Shapell's/Darché Noam ethos. To paraphrase what I said in response to an earlier question: the principles will remain the same, and at the same time I am sure that Rabbi Schoonmaker's energy and creativity will help take the Yeshiva a great leap forward as we confront the challenges of the coming decades.

What are you most looking forward to as you become Rosh Yeshiva Emeritus?

I look forward to being able to do more of what I really love to do and less of the things that, for me, aren't so fun. I plan, IY"Y, to dedicate more time to teaching and learning, while having more opportunities to stay connected with alumni. As you know, the position of Rosh Yeshiva carries with it lots of tasks beyond teaching and learning Torah, and I am very happy that we have found a successor who will, with Hashem's help, be performing those tasks in a most professional way. Knowing that the future of the Yeshiva's educational program is in very good hands will help make my role as Rosh Yeshiva Emeritus very rewarding, as I continue to make whatever contribution I can to the continued success of our talmidim and alumni.



Thank you Rabbi Hirshfeld. To paraphrase the many warm wishes you received from your alumni, may Hashem bless you with health, happiness and many years as our Rosh Yeshiva Emeritus. ♦

ANOTHER YEAR OF EXCITEMENT AT SHAPELL'S/YESHIVA DARCHÉ NOAM



Shapell's Talmidim enjoyed a year filled with learning and growth. As always, our core curriculum focused on textual skills, providing the personal attention that enables students to truly progress. Once again, this year, most students took full advantage of their time in the Beit Midrash to learn well beyond the regular, intensive schedule. Many siyumim were held during the year. Students participated in "extra" shiurim- in areas such as Rambam, Halacha, Mussar, Chasidut and Nefesh Hachayim. Rabbi Hirshfeld's shiurim, "Preparing for Dating and Marriage" for singles, and "Shalom Bayit" for married and engaged talmidim, continued to be both popular and impactful. Rabbi Gidon Shoshan returned weekly for a post-Maariv shiur focused on the holidays. Of course, a steady stream of students benefited from learning Ramchal, Maharal, and Pachad Yitzchak one-on-one with Rabbi Farber. Our talmidim topped off each week of learning with Thursday's "Mishmar with Rabbi J," led by Rabbi Avraham Jacobovitz.

In addition to weekly "shmoozim", our students also benefited from visiting scholars. Notable guest speakers included Roshei Yeshiva from Yeshiva University, Rabbi Mordechai Willig and Rabbi Herschel Reichman, as well as Rabbi Dr. Yitzchak Breitowitz, a world renowned lecturer who presented a fascinating shiur on "Stem Cell Research in Halacha" in memory of Dr. Moshe Eliezer ben Binyamin Goldstein. Rabbi Binyomin Feldman of The Jerusalem Kollel and Yeshiva Zeev Hatorah, Rabbi Zev Geisler of Nefesh Yehudi and Rabbi Ilan Segal- the Menahel of Afikei Torah and Levavi seminaries also presented inspiring shiurim to our students.

There was also a series of speakers who addressed the topic of how to have both a successful career and a life balanced between work, family and continual spiritual and Torah growth (outside the walls of the Yeshiva). Businessman/philanthropist (and longtime supporter of Shapell's/Darché Noam) Mr. Alan Gindi and Rabbi Tzvi Broker, an experienced career counselor, provided our Talmidim with unique insights into this challenge.

Talmidim also had the opportunity to travel with their Rabbeim across Eretz Yisrael. Our famous "Overnight Tiyl" was one of the year's highlights, as Talmidim had a unique chance to bond with many of our Rabbeim on a two day adventure in the North including a camp-out on the Kinar Beach. Another special moment was on Yom Yerushalayim when we were led by Benny Hager, a veteran of both our Beit Midrash as well as the Israel Defense Forces, as he guided us through different sites in our capital where he personally participated in battles during the Six Day War.

Of course, our monthly "in-Shabbatot" were among the favorite times for our Talmidim to form deep friendships as well as bond with each other and the "in-Shabbat" Rabbi. Talmidim took the time on these Shabbatot to visit patients and sing Zemirot at Sharei Tzedek Hospital. They also got to spend Shabbat with alumni outside of Jerusalem on a variety of Mini-Shabbatonim in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Yad Binyamin, Bnei Brak, Mitzpe Yericho as well as many other beautiful communities through Israel.



In addition, our Holocaust Education and Chesed Programs were deeply meaningful to our Talmidim. The Holocaust Education series featured Rabbi Berel Wein and other guest lecturers, including Holocaust survivor and author Leah Kaufman. Our Chesed program introduced our Talmidim to several of the country's premier social welfare institutions, including Seeach Sod where our students served as mentors to young adults with special needs.

As always, our entire rich program impacted and inspired our students in ways that have truly changed the course of their lives as Jewish men. ♦

LEARNING AND GROWING AT MIDRESHET RACHEL V'CHAYA

2016/17 has been a busy and uplifting year at Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya. Aside from the array of text-based and inspiring classes that filled the regular schedule, Midreshet Rachel also made sure to celebrate the holidays and other special days of the Jewish calendar with meaningful trips, lectures and presentations.



Elul was filled with spiritual preparation for the upcoming Yamim Noraim. Classes focused on the machzor, the halachot of Teshuva, Sefer Yonah and Tomer Devorah. Students benefited from a workshop on goal-setting with Aviva Serenge, hiking and Tashlich at Lifta, and a trip to the lulav and etrog shuk with Rabbi Shurin, just to name a few of the special activities arranged for the students.

In honor of Rachel Imeinu's yahrzeit, Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya students went on a tiyul with the incomparable Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum to Kever Rachel and Chevron. For Chanukah, students organized our annual and very successful toy drive, collecting and gift-wrapping toys, which were then donated to various organizations to be distributed to children in need. The school held two Yimei Iyun on Chanukah including songs and a shiur with Mrs. Yehudis Golshevsky, and a shiur from Rabbi Doniel Katz, among others.

The year continued with a Tu B'shvat Seder led by Rabbanit Golda Warhaftig, packing mishlochei manot and bringing simchat Purim to Seeach Sod (a local school for children and young adults with special needs), and a hysterical Purim shpiel performed by a group of very talented and funny MRC students, teachers and alumni. The Winter Zman ended with a packed, two day, pre-Pesach Yom Iyun including a trip to the local Rami Levi supermarket with Menucha Chwat to learn, hands on, how to shop for Pesach in Israel.

Spring Zman was packed with events dedicated to the many special days that fall out during the months of Iyar and Sivan.

Yom HaShoah was marked with a talk by Holocaust Survivor, Adele Judas, followed by a presentation from Rabbanit Warhaftig about her heroic father-in-law, who helped save Jews during the Holocaust. On Yom HaZikaron students were privileged to hear a talk from Michal Belzberg, whose family founded One Family (an organization that aids victims of terror and their families) and had a tour of Har Herzl. Students then experienced the transition into Yom HaAtzmaut with a trip to Modi'in, where they heard a talk about Israel advocacy by the very active AIPAC member, Uri Pilichowsky, followed by a delicious BBQ at the home of Midreshet Rachel staff member, Jaye Filler. Students took a tiyul to the north where they hiked and visited Meron and the grave of Rabbi Akiva, among others, to prepare for Lag Ba'omer. On Lag Ba'omer itself, students were treated to a beautiful kumzitz run by Yona Rus. In honor of Yom Yerushalayim, Rabbi Hochbaum led students on a tour of little-known sites in the Old City of Jerusalem. Shavuot was then spent together as a group, with an all-star lineup of shiurim late into the night followed by a walk to the Kotel for Shacharit. Spring Zman ended off with a bang with the annual, super-successful Women's Health Yom Iyun, dedicated in memory of Ann Adler.

Though the summer is generally a less-busy time, the staff at MRC works tirelessly to make sure that summer students enjoy and maximize their time here. Aside from the varied and packed learning schedule, students also enjoyed a trip to a kosher beach, the Palmach museum, the Michal Negrin factory, a full day tiyul to Gush Etzion and a shabbaton in the beautiful community of Nof Ayalon. The Zman ended with the comforting words offered at MRC's annual Tisha B'Av morning event, open to students and the community at large.



All in all, Midreshet Rachel continues to work hard to ensure that students experience a well-rounded, growth-oriented and inspiring stay in Eretz Yisrael while soaking up words of Torah. ♦

JACK E. GINDI PATHWAYS PLUS FOR MEN, SUMMER 2017

Jack E. Gindi Pathways Plus for Men, in partnership with JInternship, combines serious Torah study with serious professional experience. Students spend 8 intensive weeks studying at Shapell's/Darché Noam and interning in their field.

This Summer, students from across the US, Canada, and England, benefited from engaging classes on Israel and contemporary issues with Rabbi Shmuel Jablon and Rabbi Shimshon Nadel, Co-Directors of Pathways Plus, as well as classes in Gemara and Halacha with our senior lecturer, Rabbi Yitzchak Lerner. They explored topics in Chumash and Navi with Rabbi Yonatan Kohn, and studied b'chavruta with Shapell's students.

This rich experience also included trips to the Old City, Gush Etzion, hikes in the North, and Shabbatonim in Jerusalem, Beit Meir, and Beitar.

If you know students interested in exploring yeshiva during

their Winter or Summer Break, please contact our Director of Recruitment, Rabbi Shimshon Nadel – rsn@darchenoam.org. ♦



JACK E. GINDI PATHWAYS PLUS FOR WOMEN

The Jack E. Gindi Pathways Plus for Women program, led by Merissa Gross, hosted two programs in 5777. The first was a fabulous four month program, sponsored partially through the MASA Israel program. There were eight post-college women who enjoyed a weekly schedule consisting of two days of Pathways Plus Jewish learning and three days of professional internships through Jinternships. One student was in the finance department of the Knesset, and another worked in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel! The second program was two months long, in partnership with Jinternships and Onward Israel where 21 college students from



North America and England were hosted during their summer break.

Both programs were enhanced by inspiring guest speakers, social activities, Israel education and amazing Shabbatonim in Tzfat and Ramat Beit Shemesh. There were women on both programs who stayed following their scheduled programs for additional learning at Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya.

Another four month program began this Elul with a great, new group of women, all coming to enhance their commitment to Judaism in our enjoyable, empowering and educational setting. ♦

Thanks to our generous donors and excellent students, the prestigious David Shapell z"l Memorial Couples Fellowship has become an important part of the Shapell's/Darché Noam program.

Eliyahu and Lindsay Feldman concluded their year with us at the end of the summer. They have moved to Baltimore, where they plan on being very active in their community. Lindsay described their experience as "transformative". She said, "The process felt natural and gradual, but by the end of our time at Shapell's and MRC, we really began to notice how important living a life truly steeped in Torah had become to us. To wake up every day with the sole purpose of growing spiritually was a miraculous gift for which we are so truly grateful. We can't wait to instill the values and priorities that we have cultivated at Shapell's and Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya within our own growing family, and to serve as active and contributing members of the Baltimore Jewish community." Eliyahu agreed, sharing, "Lindsay and I are so beyond grateful to have had the priceless opportunity of learning at Shapell's and MRC this year. Due to a combination of hard work and support from the incredible rabbeim, we feel like we really were able to grow to a level in which we feel comfort, confidence, and at home in the Beit Midrash in a way that we did not feel when we arrived. Although we are sad to leave, we are eager to apply what we have learned towards building a strong Torah foundation for our family, and to positively integrate into and impact the Baltimore community."

Our new Fellows, Drs. Sean and Seri Ference, arrived from Stony Brook, New York in time for Elul Zman. They are an impressive couple, with shining academic records and tremendous leadership potential.

Sean grew up in Albany, New York, in a Conservative congregation. In high school he was the President of Young Judea's Northeast region, and spent a year before college in their "Year Course" program. After the Year Course, he attended Binghamton University, where he again used his leadership abilities as his campus' co-President of Meor. The summer before his senior year in college, he decided to participate after college in year-long Israel study program. He realized that, "if I ever wanted to feel like I wasn't a stranger in my own religion, I would have to devote time to learning about it in the same way I pursue secular studies." Towards the end of 2013, Sean began as a student at the

Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine. In his second year, he was selected to become a host for Moishe House Without Walls, hosting meals for 10-15 guests (cooking, hosting, and preparing a Dvar Torah) each Shabbat. Everywhere Sean has gone, he has distinguished himself both as a leader and as someone constantly striving for Jewish growth.

Seri also grew up in Albany. She attended a Jewish Day School and NCSY, but her family drifted away from religious Judaism. While attending Northeastern University, where she eventually earned a doctorate as a physical therapist, she became active in Meor, and participated in their Israel trips. After earning her doctorate, she had an excellent job as a doctor of physical therapy in California, but she began feeling the need to more fully dedicate herself to growing Jewishly. She left her position and spent six months at Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya, which she describes as "tremendously transformational." She then moved to Passaic and worked as a physical therapist in New York.



Sean and Seri dream of building a home together that is rich in Torah and that radiates a shining example of Jewish ethical behavior. Both want to play leadership roles in their community, but they were keenly aware that in order to actualize their tremendous potential, they need more Torah study. This will be accomplished by spending the coming year in the Shapell's/Darché Noam Married Couples Program. Though it means putting their careers on hold, they are excited to make the investment in their Jewish future. Seri shared, "We're so excited for the chance to learn with all of the amazing faculty members at Shapell's and Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya, as they help us to build the foundation for the rest of our lives."

Sean commented, "Receiving the Shapell's Married couple Fellowship is a great honor. Knowing that the Jewish community stands behind us to afford us the opportunity to learn for a year in Israel is an incredibly empowering feeling. For this opportunity we are incredibly grateful to Shapell's/Darché Noam and all of the donors responsible for our fellowship."

We invite all of our alumni and friends to support the David Shapell z"l Memorial Married Couples Fellowship! ♦

STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Though most of our students come from English speaking countries, we are proud to host many students from other parts of the globe. Our Director of Recruitment, Rabbi Shimshon Nadel, has traveled to such places as Germany, the Netherlands and Chile in search of students who can benefit from learning with us. The students who have joined us have been truly tremendous. Here are a few...



TOMAS KLUGE was born and raised in the city of Pressburg (Bratislava), well known in the Jewish world for being the home of the Chatam Sofer. Despite living under Communist rule, his family maintained its connection to the local Jewish community. This enabled him to develop a strong, emotional relationship to Jewish culture. After the fall of the Berlin

Wall, this translated into his taking part in activities at the local Union of Jewish Students and learning Hebrew at an Ulpan in Israel. Tomas always had an interest in religious practices, so after finishing his undergraduate degree in economics, he started to study cultural anthropology with a focus on comparative religions. While it answered a lot of technical questions from outside of the

various religions, it did not answer the most important one: "Why believe?" The turning point came in 2006 when he moved to London for work. A series of small events led him to a particularly moving Yom Kippur service at JLE in Golders Green. From that time on, he started to learn about Judaism from the inside and grow in his observance of mitzvot.

After 5 years, life steered him to Vienna, Austria, where he worked at one of the country's largest banks. There he was blessed with good chavrutot (study partners), with whom he started to taste learning Gemara and Halacha. However, his lack of a formal Jewish education was hindering his progress. Therefore, when an option for a Sabbatical year came along he did not hesitate. He decided, at age 38, to come to Yerushalayim to learn Torah at Shapell's! Tomas shared, "The choice was easy, as all of the alumni I met readily recommended the place as an open, healthy yet intensive and challenging place to learn."



DR. CHANA EBERT grew up in a completely secular family in a small, conservative town in southern Germany. Her parents provided a wonderful, loving home and put a lot of emphasis on raising her and her sister with both a strong moral compass and a sense of tremendous responsibility for helping others. However, they were also firm in their rejection of

any religious beliefs. She shared, "From a young age, I realized this was not going to be my way. I believe in Hashem as the Creator of the world and longed to form a relationship with Him and to live according to His commandments. However it took me many, many years to follow through with this."

Dr. Ebert knew that deciding to live an Orthodox Jewish life would involve many changes in her life. Without having close relationships with any Orthodox Jews, she did not know where to start; so she focused on her secular education, volunteering in non-profit organizations, and becoming a doctor so that she could assist people in need. But the longing to explore an Observant Jewish life continued to grow. After finishing medical school and starting her residency in a new town, she finally decided to reach out to the local Jewish community and to start applying halacha in her life. To her surprise, she instantly felt like she was finally coming home. She said, "Becoming fully observant was slow, and very often extremely challenging. But once I started I never doubted the direction I was taking. I went to every shabbaton and shiur I could find, did a lot

of reading and eventually moved to Frankfurt to join a bigger and more active community. Today I am shomeret Shabbat and keep kashrut fully."

But the more observant Dr. Ebert became, the more aware she became that she needed to learn far more. Without ever having any formal Jewish education, and due to the limited resources in Germany, she did not know where to start. Browsing through various online shiurim, she came across Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya and the Executive Learning Program. She recalled, "I had always thought that seminary learning was only an option for 18 year-olds, with a solid foundation in structured Jewish education. I realized that I could actually go to this midrasha and grow in Torah learning, even though I had only a very limited amount of time and rather basic skills in Hebrew reading. So, almost instantly, I decided I just had to go and seize this opportunity." To her surprise, she was able to join and keep up with the regular basics/beginners classes. Originally she had planned to only study part-time and just relax in the afternoons. "But," she said, "after trying out classes on the first day, I immediately got hooked. The vast knowledge of each teacher, their passion for both teaching and Judaism, the intellectual level and enthusiasm of my fellow students was so inspiring that I did not want to miss any learning opportunity. I absolutely loved the focus on textual, source based learning. I still cannot believe that I actually read, translated and discussed Rashi (albeit with A LOT of help with the Hebrew from our amazing teachers). In addition to the regular classes I also took some private tutoring lessons. This enabled me to ask a lot of questions I had on specific aspects of halacha, increase the knowledge I already had and get a jump-start on my future self-study."

As she ended her stay at MRC, Dr. Ebert reported that, "I am absolutely overwhelmed by how much I actually got to learn and experience here. I got to meet great role models for my spiritual growth both in my teachers and my wonderful fellow students. I am going home

with a much broader basis for future learning, an even bigger love for Judaism, the commitment to do my best to serve Hashem and His creation... And maybe, most importantly, many more new questions I will keep working on."



ROMAN-SHIMON MOTSA was born in February 1995 in Stuttgart, Germany. His parents are originally from Estonia (former Soviet Union) and moved to Germany in 1994. He grew up secular but, nevertheless, ended up going to the Jewish kindergarten in the community in Baden-Württemberg. During middle and high school, Roman-

Shimon had once a week a "religion" class, as is part of the German public school curriculum. One day, his teacher and a friend of his in his religion class told him about a camp called Am Echad (now called JCommunity). The camp ran a seminar that took place in Leipzig during Pesach in 2011. That summer, he participated with Am Echad in a combined experience with the American NCSY JOLT high-school program. There he saw, for the first time in his life, Observant Jews who were his age. Roman-Shimon then understood that it is possible to be an Observant Jew and at the same time have a "normal" life.

After that Am Echad summer camp experience in Denmark, he returned home and walked an hour and a half on Shabbat to his community's nearest and only shul, just to see what was happening there. The Mashgich of the community recognized him and invited him to a Beit Midrash in Stuttgart for another seminar - this time on Rosh Hashana. During these seminars he came closer to Judaism. On Rosh Hashana after all the services, they invited him for Shabbat and offered a place to sleep. After that experience, Roman-Shimon went to the Beit Midrash every week for Shabbat and Holidays. Over the next three years he learned a great deal. With different chavrutot, he started learning Chumash, Mishna and even a little Gemara. After Roman-Shimon graduated high school, he started an apprenticeship as an audio-visual media designer. He wanted the opportunity to learn more and decided that Shapell's was the place to deepen his Torah knowledge. Taking a break from his business professional life to go to yeshiva was a hard step. But Roman-Shimon feels it has been well worth it. He shared, "Shapell's is the best place I could have imagined for me, because there is so much diversity here. You can meet and learn with and from people from all over the world with all their different minhagim and different opinions."

If you know of students (from anywhere in the world) who could benefit from all that we offer, please contact Rabbi Nadel (rsn@darchenoam.org)! ♦

EXECUTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM: NEW DIRECTOR AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

RABBI BINYAMIN WOLFF



Rabbi Binyamin Wolff has joined the faculty of Shapell's/Darché Noam as the new director of the Executive Learning Program. The Executive Learning Program provides busy professionals a tailor-made, short-term learning program during their time in Yerushalayim. Rabbi Wolff has a great deal of experience teaching Torah to well-educated professionals. He teaches a very popular Daf Yomi class in the Rechavia neighborhood,

where he has also spearheaded and directed community learning organizations for well over a decade. Rabbi Wolff has taught extensively at the Orthodox Union's Israel Center, and continues to serve on the faculty of Yeshiva Aish HaTorah. He holds rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University and is an alumnus of both Yeshivat Mir and Yeshivat Kerem b'Yavneh.

Rabbi Wolff works to tailor-make programs for professionals both at Shapell's/Darché Noam and Midreshet Rachel vChaya. Participants come from a variety of backgrounds and (literally) from all over the world. Some have prior intensive Torah study, while for others this is their first Yeshiva/Seminary experience. They learn privately with faculty members over a period ranging from a few hours to a few weeks.

Since his arrival, Rabbi Wolff has created modules that will provide participants with a pre-selected "menu" of meaningful topics. Alternatively, participants may also choose their own "off-menu" topics and texts in their areas of interest. Subjects include Gemara, Chumash, Jewish philosophy, medical ethics, business ethics and specific areas of Jewish law (such as Kashrut and Shabbat observance).

Tuition is based on the amount of hours spent in the program. For more information, please contact Rabbi Wolff at rabbiwolff@darchenoam.org. ♦

MARRIAGES

Rabbi Yitzchak and Chavi Hirshfeld on the marriage of their granddaughter, Chagit, daughter of Yoel and Batsheva Hirshfeld, to Eliyahu Shimmelman. | Rabbi Shaya and Ruthie Karlinsky on the marriage of their grandson, Nati, son of Rabbi Menachem and Chana Elisheva Schimmel, to Ayala Shapira. | Rabbi Anthony and Sarah Manning on the marriage of their daughter, Yael, to Zvi Lampert. | Devora and Moshe Rubin on the marriage of their daughter, Chevi, to Gedaliah Bookman.

Dovid and Shoshi Lerner on the marriage of their son, Elchonon, to Rivka Milavsky. | Atara (Louk) and Oren Rabinowitz on their marriage.

Shella (Sadovnik) and Jacques Alcabes on their marriage. | Lev and Leah Aronov on their marriage. | Simcha and Gabriella (Maimon) Asnes on their marriage. | Efraim and Batsheva Backer on the marriage of their daughter, Nomi, to Zach Schnitzer. | Shawna (Silverberg) and Daniel Balofsky on their marriage. | Benjamin and Tova Bond on their marriage. | Pesach and Avigail Charney on their marriage. | David and Chana Cohen on their marriage. | Michael and Michelle Danto on their marriage. | Michelle (Faidengold) and Gabriel Duec on their marriage. | Brooklynne (Garbaty Smith) and Shmuel Dukes on their marriage. | Alon and Nilli (Grutman) Eshet on their marriage. | Laura (Gilman) and Zev Feiger on their marriage. | Sean and Seri (Gordon) Ference on their marriage. | Alexandre and Sarah Paola Gehler on their marriage. | Reuven and Nava (Winkler) Goldberg on their marriage. | Dr. Daniel and Yael Goldstein on the marriage of their son. | Alyssa (Redsun) and Micah Gordon on their marriage. | Sean and Micha Haber on their marriage. | Taryn (Getz) and Avigdor Hack on their marriage. | Kimberly (Perskin) and Dotan Halevy on their marriage. | Brian and Deena Horwitz on their marriage. | Yaakov and Elisheva Hudson on their marriage. | Jaymie and Talya (Lewis) Isaacs on their marriage. | Shmuel and Karen Johnson on their marriage. | Elisheva (Saldinger) and Osher Joseph on their marriage. | Eliora Jovanovic on her marriage. | Aviva (Ellis) and Leo Karasik on their marriage. | Rabbi Leib and Chana Kelemen on the marriage of their daughter, Racheli, to Shua Myers. | Riva (Black) and Elliot Kent on their marriage. | Elisheva (Deluca)

and Gilad Kopelman on their marriage. | Orly (Voyevoda) and David Krief on their marriage. | Baruch and Tammy (Esser) Labinsky on the marriage of their daughter, Sara, to Ariel Gold. | Rabbi Gershon and Livia Leebhoff on the marriage of their son, Yaakov, to Shira. | Rabbi Gershon and Livia Leebhoff on the marriage of their son, Shmuel, to Ayala. | Alex and Ally Levin on their marriage. | Ben and Charlotte Menahem on their marriage. | Adam and Miriam Nudelman on their marriage. | Rachel (Broidy) and Andre Oziol on their marriage. | Ashley (Ziskinder) and Ariel Rapps on their marriage. | Dan and Alexandra Rickman on their marriage. | Joel and Glenna Rosansky on the marriage of their son, Yoseph, to Miri. | Benjamin and Danielle Rosenbaum on their marriage. | Adam and Atara Roth on their marriage. | Aliza (Gawin) and David Schwartz on their marriage. | Menachem and Chana Selmar on their marriage. | Rabbi David and Bruria Shamula on the marriage of their son. | Mariana (Ribeiro) and Victor Shikhman on their marriage. | Michelle (Feldman) and Moshe Siegel on their marriage. | Aharon and Beverly Simkin on the marriage of their son, Eli, to Michal Bruker. | Reuben and Shayna Bluma Stein on the marriage of their daughter, Shoshana, to Yisachar Newerstein. | Marcela (Gottlieb) and Matias Sustak on their marriage. | Zvulun and Leah Tecotzky on the marriage of their daughter, Noa Sima, to Yisroel Ze'ev. | Eli and Philly Tessler on their marriage. | Ariella and Rabbi Yerachmiel Ukelson on the marriage of their son, Binyomin, to Tova Sklar. | Gavriel and Chana Witkin on their marriage. | Beryl and Danielle Wood on their marriage. | Maurice and Sarah Woolfson on their marriage. | Alina (Migirov) and Binyamin Yakubov on their marriage. | Yaakov and Leah Ahuva (Rudoy) Zaytsev on their marriage.

BIRTHS

Granddaughter, Ayala, to Rabbi Yitzchak and Chavi Hirshfeld, born to Brachi and Menachem Katz. | Grandson, Elchanan, to Rabbi Yitzchak and Chavi Hirshfeld, born to Michal and Yosef Zaks. | Granddaughter, Libi Devora, to Rabbi Yitzchak and Esther Shurin, born to Chani and Aryeh Bar-Eitan. | Grandson, Yisroel, to Rabbi Yitzchak and Esther Shurin, born to Yaakov and Rachel Leah Shurin. | Grandson, Aviel, to Rabbi Yitzchak and Esther Shurin, born to Zev and Zahava Zlotnick.

Grandson, Betzalel, to Rabbi Avraham and Cheryl Fischer, born to Gershon and Elana Fischer. | Grandson, Eitan Binyamin to Rabbi Avraham and Cheryl Fischer, born to David and Adiya Fischer. | Grandson, Aviad David, to Osnat and Aharon Goldman, born to Efraim and Elisheva Goldman. | Granddaughter, Naama Golda, to Osnat and Aharon Goldman, born to Binyamin and Tami Goldman. | Daughter, Kayla Leeba, to Rabbi Aryeh and Yaffa Goldschmiedt. | Daughter, Ayala Channah, to Merissa (Wolfe) and Rabbi Chaim Gross. | Grandson, Eliyahu, to Rabbi Reuven and Rivka Kamenetsky, born to Chani and Yosef Chaim Borovsky. | Grandson, Mordechai, to Rabbi Reuven and Rivka Kamenetsky, born to Yaakov and Chaya Kamenetsky. | Daughter, Batsheva Malka, to Rabbi Yaakov and Penina Lynn. | Grandson, Dovid, to Rabbi Fyvel and Leya Shuster, born to Avi and Sari Shuster.

Granddaughter, Tamar, to Michael and Adina Cohen, born to Debbie and Ariel Nadler. | Son, Asher Pinchas, to Rachel (Moss) and Yisroel Jungreis. | Grandson, Yechiel Yehoshua, to Dovid and Shoshi Lerner, born to Reuvain and Leah Lerner. | Grandson, Eliyahu, to Malka and Rabbi Yishai Vainik,

born to Shira and Eliezer Aharonowitz. | Grandson, Gavriel Aharon, to Ronnie and Bonnie Yonah, born to Tal and Sarah. | Granddaughter, Dvora Yocheved, to Ronnie and Bonnie Yonah, born to Matthew and Shelli LeVee.

Son, Shmuel, to Mattias and Esther Amster. | Daughter to Ari and Yehudis Shifra Aragon. | Daughter, Tova Rachel, to Michael and Devorah (Wampler) Avrukin. | Son to Daniel and Dr. Ilana (Lyon) Baltuch. | Granddaughter, Libi Devora, to Rabbi Zeev and Judy Bar-Eitan, born to Aryeh and Chani Bar-Eitan. | Son to Yardena (Arnoni) and Hugh Bauer. | Daughter, Devorah Leah, to Rabbi Ori and Nora Bergman. | Grandson to Gedaliah and Malka Breitman, born to Nechemia and Basya. | Son to Ilya and Yasmin Budik. | Daughter to Alexandra (Vaccaro) and Mickey Cahane. | Grandson, Yechiel Yehoshua, to Daniel and Judie Carasso, born to Leah and Reuvain Lerner. | Daughter, Emunah Batya, to Ezra and Chavah (Swearingen) Chernobelskiy. | Son to Elan and Ashley (Seener) Cohen. | Son to Candice and Hillel Damelin. | Son, Itay Gavriel, to David and Emma Datny. | Daughter, Adina Zahava, to Sari (Sara Mariam Goldstein) and Rafi Diamant. | Son to Sarah (Pernick) and Rabbi Joel Dinin. | Son to Ilan and Sandra Deborah Doron. | Grandson to Nachum and

BIRTHS (CONTINUED)

Chaya Duchin, born to Hillel and Miri. I Son to Aviva (Morris) and Aharon Dudling. I Son, Avraham Chaim, to Ari and Jaclyn Engelman. I Daughter, Sarah Leah, to Joaquin and Rachel (Luria) Espinoza. I Son, Immanuel Matityahu, to Miryam (Amieli) and Uriyah Eviathar. I Daughter, Nessia Chana, to Daniel and Lauren (Katchen) Feinberg. I Daughter, Tikva Ra'chael, to Joshua and Sophie (Malka) Felberg. I Twins, Ariella Rachel and Yonah Elisha, to Rabbi Moshe and Chanah Freedman. I Son, Nahum Yehuda, to Joshua and Juliet Freedman. I Daughter, Orianna Shalhevet, to Ilana (Dvorin) and Jeremy Friedman. I Twins, Azarya Betzalel and Shalev Yisrael, to Rabbi Michael and Nicole (Kane) Friedman. I Daughter to Rachel (Davis) and Joel Gedalius. I Daughter, Meira, to Ariella (Kislyanova) and Heshy Gluck. I Daughter to Joshua and Rachel (Victor) Goldsmith. I Daughter, Dalia Hallel, to Amanda (Dudley) and Evan Goldstein. I Daughter, Haddasah Tova, to Yisroel Matisyahu and Aviva Hannah Gonzalez. I Son to Toby and Claire (Kaprow) Goodman. I Son, Simcha Elimelech, to Andy and Shira Gryll. I Daughter, Tehila Devorah, to Alexander and Judith Hecht. I Daughter to Miriam (Lithwick) and Ari Heitner. I Granddaughter, Chana, to Reuven and Shira Horwitz, born to Rivka Leah and Azriel Zuckerman. I Son to Daniel and Azriela Jankovic. I Granddaughter, Lilach Michal, to Allen and Marlene Josephs, born to Melanie and Howard Levenstein. I Daughter, Chana, to Julie (Korn) and Jay Kamin. I Daughter to Danielle (Newman) and Lawrence Katzeff. I Son, Liad, to Farley and Irit Kaye. I Son to Jason and Elah (Nadel) Keyfitz. I Daughter, Esther Rochel, to Tziporah (Soldinger) and Mordechai Kralik. I Daughter, Ashira, to Doron and Nadine Kur. I Son, Eshel Lavi, to Kara (Weisman) and Yaniv Lavy. I Son, Aryeh Yeshaya, to Lara (Savage) and Scott Leavitt. I Son to Yaakov and Rachelli Lehman. I Son to Joshua and Evelyn (Joseph) Leibow. I Granddaughter to Melech and Judy Lensky, born to Tamar and Shmuel Bitran. I Daughter, Dvora Yocheved, to Matthew and Shelli LeVee. I Twins, a boy and a girl, to Edith Rivkah (Scheenaard) and Avraham Levitt. I Son to Yosef and Sara Lopez. I Daughter, Chaya Mushka, to Ilana (Azran) and Shachar Luz. I Son, Moshe Leib, to Rabbi Avraham and Liat Mahler. I Son to Michael and Michal (Taviv) Margolese. I Grandson, Uriel Tzvi, to Rabbi Ron-Ami and Miriam Meyers, born to Hodaya and Naftali Savin. I Grandson, Yechiel Simcha, to Rabbi Ron-Ami and Miriam Meyers, born to Hillel and Shira Bracha Meir. I Grandson to Rabbi Ron-Ami and Miriam Meyers, born to Eliana and Yosef Segal. I Daughter, Esther Rus, to Zecharia and Rachel (Channon) Miller. I Son, Ezra Mordechai, to Aviva (Katz) and Tzvi Miller. I Daughter, Ariella Leah, to Robin and Tanya Minsky. I Son, Yehuda, to Talia (Rubinow) and Rabbi Yitzchak Mizrahi. I Son, David, to Amy (Segall) and Saul Motola. I Son to Yaakov and Yael Murphy. I Daughter, Malka Tzofia, to Marc and Jacqueline Nelkin. I Daughter to Honey (Wiener) and Erez Nounou. I Son to Elisheva (Roelin) and Shmuel Obrasky. I Daughter, Aura Neely, to Samuel and Debbie Oziel. I Daughter, Shalva Shoshana, to Adam and Esti Palmer. I Son to Erika (Shaid) and Alex Perilstein. I Daughter to Steven and Elana (Shilling) Perlin. I Son to Dr. Alan and Chani Perlman. I Daughter, Michal Hadassah, to Michael and Channy Platt. I Son to Wendy (Erdheim) and Rafi Poch. I Son, Noam Tzvi, to Nicole (Jelenkiewicz) and Daniel Roizblatt. I Daughter to Rabbi Ben and Vicky (Stoll) Rosen. I Daughter to Mitio and Jessie (Katz) Rothstein. I Son, Chaim, to Yoram and Chaya Sara (Vasquez Pereira) Rovner. I Daughter, Ashira Chana, to Sarah (Lebor) and Michael Rowe. I Son, Yaakov, to Yisrael and Zehava Sabijan. I Son, Natan Shalom, to Noah and Fallon Saposnik. I Daughter, Naomi Aliza, to Sarah Fonteno-Brown and Rick Brown. I Son, Harrison, to David and Joanna Schames. I Daughter to Leah (Angerman) and Yehoshua Scheininger. I Son to Eytan and Shaked (Gerowitz) Sebag. I Daughter to Rachel (Groskopf) and Avromy Segal. I Granddaughter, Shayna Chaya, to Daniel and Lisa Selig, born to Menachem Yair and Ilana Selig. I Daughter to Yishai and Lena Sheckartzte. I Son to Adam and Tamar Singer. I Daughter, Shira Bina, to Rabbi Amitai and Julianne (Rosenbloom) Steindler. I Son to Dan and Sari (Leventhal) Stone. I Daughter to Sam and Rebecca (Wilhelm) Strasser. I Daughter, Noa Leah, to Peretz and Tamar Tabor. I Daughter, Tiferet Nechama, to Yoshiahu and Aviva Tal-Or. I Grandson to Helene and Rabbi Yechiel Triebwasser, born to Yisrael and Shira Triebwasser. I Daughter to Yonatan and Dena (Stein) Udren. I Daughter, Yaelle Tziporah, to Yossel and Chana Vaneff. I Daughter, Naomi Alma, to Stephanie (Freedman) and Leon Waltz. I Grandson to Joel and Marjorie Wein, born to Penina and Jacob Bernstein. I Daughter, Shoshana Bracha, to Roxanne (Fogelman) and Michael Weinberger. I Daughter, Miriam Sophia, to Chelsea (Wigle) and Sam Zak. I Daughter to Dovid and Meira Zernik. I Daughter to Yisroel Dovid and Hagit Zimmerman. I Son, Shimon, to Avrohom Dovid and Rutie Zoldan.

CONDOLENCES

Rebbetzin Ruthie Karlinsky on the loss of her mother.

Rabbi Yakov and Sara Leah Haber on the loss of Sara Leah's grandmother. I Devora Rubin on the loss of her mother. I Rabbi Gidon Shoshan on the loss of his father. I Rabbi Nosson Kamenetsky on the loss of his brother.

Pinchas Ackerman on the loss of his mother. I Eliezer Adam on the loss of his mother. I Mitch Aeder on the loss of his father. I Yael (McCoy) Aldrich on the loss of her sister. I Moshe Applebaum on the loss of his father. I Simcha Asnes on the loss of his mother. I Rabbi Zeev and Judy Bar-Eitan on the loss of Judy's mother. I Rachel Beckman on the loss of her grandfather. I Yitzchak Benarrous on the loss of his father. I Daniel Carasso on the loss of his father. I Yonah David on the loss of his mother. I Adam Dubin on the loss of his mother. I Sima Fish on the loss of her father. I Shimshon Meir Frankel on the loss of his father. I Dovid Gall on the loss of his grandmother. I Julie (Ramelson) Goldberg and Brian Ramelson on the loss of their father. I Daniel and Doug Goldstein on the loss of their father. I Rivkah Naomi Green on the loss of her mother. I Miryam (Mishan) Hermelin on the loss of her father. I Daniel Hill on the loss of his mother. Aaron Inlender on the loss of his father. I Miriam (Rubinow) Katz and Talia (Rubinow)

Mizrahi on the loss of their grandmother. I Jennifer (Temchine) Kawebblum on the loss of her grandmother. I Susie (Benson) Kaye on the loss of her father. I Rabbi Alan and Via Kimche on the loss of Via's mother. I Rabbi Charles and Chana Lebow on the loss of Charles' mother. I Rabbi Yehoshua Looks on the loss of his father. I Rabbi Avraham Mahler on the loss of his mother. I Michal (Taviv) Margolese on the loss of his father. I Deena Nataf on the loss of her father. I Dovid Neiburg on the loss of his father. I Rachel (Broidy) Oziol on the loss of her grandmother. I Rabbi Maurice Pinder on the loss of his father and of his mother. I Dr. Daniel Polisar on the loss of his father. I Efrem and Shuli Popel on the loss of Shuli's father. I Pinhas Renbaum on the loss of his mother. I Laurence and Sara Richards on the loss of Sara's mother. I Leib Rigler on the loss of his mother. I David Salis on the loss of his mother. I Brian Singer on the loss of his mother. I David and Erin Stiebel on the loss of Erin's father. I Matisyahu Wexler on the loss of his father. I Sarah (Schanfield) Wilbur on the loss of her mother. I Yisroel Dovid and Hagit Zimmerman on the loss of Hagit's father.

Shapell's/Darché Noam mourns the loss of our beloved alumni:
Andrew Glauberg | Rachael Masri | Naomi Rosenfeld | Bracha Schwarz | Nathan Wohl

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

FROM OUR NEW ROSH YESHIVA: FOCUS POINTS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE

I was asked to share my three to five year vision for Shapell's/ Yeshiva Darché Noam. I felt that it would be a bit presumptuous for me to write such an article, considering that just a few months ago I had no idea that Darché Noam was even looking for a Rosh Yeshiva, not to mention that I didn't dream it would be me.

I would, however, like to share with our wonderful alumni and friends what I plan on focusing on over my first few months. There are three basic focus points:

One – First and foremost, I hope to establish myself as a friendly, welcoming and meaningful presence in the talmidim's lives and learning. I will (b'ezras Hashem) be teaching a daily Gemara shiur, meeting with the other Gemara shiurim weekly, and offering other classes. This focus also applies to my involvement with our staff.

A yeshiva exists for the students but its staff is its backbone. I always appreciated, as Rosh Beis Medrash in Aish HaTorah, what a zechus and opportunity it was to work with and lead dedicated mechanchim. Every rebbe is a great world affecting other worlds. I have already had many enlightening conversations with the staff and greatly appreciate what a talented and diverse group they are.

Two – Shapell's, with its amazing forty-year tradition, deserves to be studied. I look forward to sitting in on all the classes, and listening to the staff and students to understand who they are, what they love about Darché Noam and what they feel can be improved upon

and updated. In that same vein, I hope to be doing a lot of thinking and reflecting on the yeshiva – its participants, mission and future. It would be a great mistake to jump into the "day to day" in a way which would preclude this study.

**BY RABBI
DOVID SCHOONMAKER**

Three – I plan to be intensely involved in recruiting. One of the things that continues to impress me about the yeshiva is its developed infrastructure, which includes the area of student recruiting. Having a very able full-time recruiter in Rabbi Shimshon Nadel is a tremendous plus for us. I have joined the team in further developing our recruitment strategy and hope to engage the staff and students in this most needed process.

In closing, this is a very exciting time for me. I thank Rav Karlinsky and Rav Hirshfeld for this wonderful, unique opportunity. I consider them men of great vision and purpose to so widely open the doors of their beloved yeshiva to someone they didn't even know a few months ago. I invite alumni to reach out to me (especially by email to rds@darchenoam.org) and share their ideas about the past and future of our yeshiva.

As the Days of Judgment are fast approaching, I will end with a heartfelt blessing to all of you for a **חתיבה וחתימה טובה, הצלחה** בכל אשר תיפנו ורוב נחת ממשפחותיכם הברוכות ♦

MAZAL TOV!

EMUNAH BATYA CHERNOBELSKIY
DAUGHTER OF EZRAH (5774-5) AND CHAVAH (SWEARINGEN, 5774)



CHAYA NECHAMA ROTHSTEIN
DAUGHTER OF MITIO (5773-4) AND JESSIE (KATZ, 5773-4)



TOVA ARAGON
DAUGHTER OF ARI (5771-73) AND YEHUDIS SHIFRA



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