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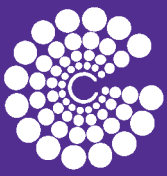
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Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalayim Annual Scholarship Dinner a Huge Success!

Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalayim held its Annual Scholarship Dinner on Thursday night, June 15, 2006. Over 400 people – alumni, parents, family and friends of Reishit attended the dinner, which was held in the grand ballroom of the beautiful New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge

The evening began with a delicious reception with guests of Reishit surrounded by a gallery of photos of Reishit life. Friends and classmates had a chance to reunite and reminisce. Alumni also took this opportunity to greet and talk to all the Reishit Rebbeim who were in attendance, including **R. Jay, R. Ari, R. Elie, R. Doni, R. Chaim, R. Judah, R. Landau, R. Benovitz, R. Blinder and R. Hochbaum.**



Once inside the ballroom, the evening began with welcome remarks from Dinner Chairperson **Martin Vegh.** He warmly greeted the participants who had gathered to celebrate the remarkable milestone of the beginning of the second decade of YRY. He also asked them to renew their financial commitment to the Yeshiva through a special fund which would provide pensions for the Rabbeim.



R. Jay then introduced guests of honor, **Hillel and Elaine Weinberger.** He praised them for their o v e r w h e l m i n g commitment to Torat Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and Am Yisrael. Proof of this,

R. Jay explained, was how they flew to Israel, even with their busy schedules, to attend a siyum prepared by their son **Levi.** Mr. Weinberger accepted this award full of gratitude to the dynamic Rabbis at YRY that guided his son to realize his full potential as a Jew.

R. Elie had the unique experience to then introduce a fellow Mechanech, **Rabbi Eliezer Rubin,** Reishit parent and principal of Ramaz High School. Rav Elie Rubin, in turn, thanked the staff at Reishit for the unique and dedicated work that they do for their talmidim.



Mitchell and Susan Markowitz, Alumni Parents of the Year accepted their award from their son **Andrew,** Reishit alumnus and YU YRY coordinator this past year. In his acceptance, Mitchell remarked that for him, Reishit was more than a Yeshiva; it had become part of his family.



Center stage was then passed to the Neginah Orchestra. The dance floor filled with alumni, Rebbeim, honorees and guests who sang and danced. The Ruach from the alumni singing and dancing could be heard in the lobby.

After dinner, Martin Vegh came back to the podium to continue the dinner program. **R. Ari** recalled the early days of Yeshiva, ten years before, when the second year of the Reishit began. He introduced **Brian Jacobs,** and **R. Jonathan Morgenstern,** to accept an award on behalf of all of the talmidim that attended YRY in 1995-1996. R. Morgenstern, now the Assistant Rabbi of the **Young Israel of Scarsdale,** addressed his remarks to all of the alumni who came to celebrate at the dinner by reminding them that their experiences at Reishit should really be a “reishit” or the beginning of the rest of their lives.

The evening was concluded with more lively music and dancing, dessert, Birkat Hamazon and Maariv. A special Yasher Koach to all those who participated!!



The Reishit Family wishes you a year of peace, prosperity, and personal growth. A year of health and happiness.

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

Rabbi Yaakov & Barbara Marcus
Rav Ari, Rav Elie, Rav Doni,
Rav Chaim, Rav Judah & Families

TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

Summer 5766: Israel at War; YRY Responds

This past summer was a difficult one for Klal Yisrael. Over the course of the month-long war in **Lebanon**, over 4,000 **Katyusha** rockets were fired at Israeli towns and cities, killing dozens of civilians. In Lebanon itself, the brutal fighting claimed the lives of 116 **Tzahal** soldiers. The casualties and damage was catastrophic; hundreds were injured and the entire Northern part of the country came to a standstill.

While the Yeshiva's Talmidim were away during the Bein Hazmanim summer break, members of the **Reishit** family and **Genesis Foundation** did their utmost to "pitch-in" and help the war and relief effort in Israel. A family of five from **Haifa**, driven from their home as a result of the incessant bombings, moved into the YRY dormitory for three weeks. Over 150 children from the Northern city of **Carmiel** spent a week at Reishit, enjoying the dormitory facilities, athletic fields and delicious meals prepared by **Chef Yossie**. Over the course of the week that they were with us, the children enjoyed an array of entertaining activities and fun programs, and reveled in the much needed relief from the terrifying stress of living under fire. In addition, at the height of the attacks on the North, a group of 60 girls from the Galilee community of **Migdal HaEmek** were treated to a week-long retreat on the Reishit Campus.



Reflecting on the experience the girls had at Reishit, **Migdal HaEmek Chief Rabbi, Rav Yitzchak Dovid Grossman** praised **Rav Jay Marcus** and the Genesis staff for their "exceptional hachnasat orchim and generosity... the girls and our whole community are so thankful for the great chesed you have done; you have truly embodied the notion of kol yisrael areivim zeh l'zeh."

Over the course of the month-long war,

while the air-raid sirens were blaring, a Genesis/ Reishit delegation traveled North to distribute sorely needed funds and lend their support to our brethren under-fire. **Rav Jay Marcus** was accompanied by his talmid and former congregant- our long time friend and partner, **Mr. Yudi Zuller** (husband of **Aviva**, our Assistant Director of Development), **Rav Yehoshua Herling**, Executive Director of the Genesis Center, as well as Mr. David Unterberg, Genesis Foundation board member. The delegation made multiple visits to the North, distributing close to \$100,000 in tzedaka on behalf of the **Staten Island** community to various communities that were under attack:

In the border city of **Kiryat Shmonah**, the delegation met with students and Rabbeim at the Hesder Yeshiva, and sponsored the construction of a shelter for IDF soldiers stationed there. In **Nahariyah**, meetings were held with the **Chief Rabbi, Rav Yeshayahu Meitlis**, as well as a number of the local Rabbanim who bravely remained with those citizens who stayed in the near vacant city. The critical financial support went toward purchasing much needed medical supplies for the elderly and infirmed. In **Maalot**, Rav Jay and Yudi were amazed by and contributed to the volunteer work of the **Kupat Tzedakah**, and at **Kibbutz Ein HaNetziv** and **Moshav Ohr HaGanuz**, contributed toward local food distribution and disaster relief. In the nearly deserted, holy city of **Tzfat**, they spent time at the home of **Rav Shmuel Eliyahu**, Tzfat's Chief Rabbi, providing chizuk and financial support to the beleaguered community.



In a moving visit to **Moshav Mitzpeh Hila**, Rav Jay and Yudi met with the parents of **Corporal Gilad Shalit** (Gilad ben Aviva), who, as we go to press, has been held captive by "Palestinian" terrorists since June 25th. We hope and pray for the immediate



release of all our captive soldiers, and pray as well that Klal Yisrael be blessed with peace and security in the future.

העומדים על משמר ארצינו Shaul Lifshitz (YRY '02-'03)

As Katyusha rockets rained down on **Northern Israel**, the brave soldiers of the **IDF** were in Lebanon engaged in grueling battle with Hizbollah. **Shaul Lifshitz** (YRY '02-'03) was among them. Having finished his training less than two months earlier, Shaul's infantry unit (**Nachal Brigade**) crossed the border into **Lebanon** on August 9th.



While on a search and destroy mission in the Lebanese village of Kantara, Shaul was wounded during an attack on a home that housed Hizbollah terrorists. Shaul was thrown by the force of an

explosion and knocked unconscious, miraculously escaping with torn cartilage and a dislocated shoulder. During a lull in the fighting, he was evacuated from the battlefield and spent two days at **Rambam Hospital** in **Haifa**. Boruch Hashem, Shaul is recuperating, and hopes to return to his unit after the chagim.

Before making Aliyah, Shaul spent two years at FIT, earning an Associate Degree in design. After the army, he plans on continuing his education toward a degree in Jerusalem.

We had the privilege of hearing Shaul's story and experiences at a special oneg on the first In-Shabbat of the Zman. We are proud of Shaul's commitment and dedication to Klal Yisrael, and wish him continued Hatzlacha in fulfilling his dream of living and thriving in Eretz Yisrael.

"My experience at Reishit helped shape my dream of living in Israel and helping the Jewish people any way I can..."

End of the Year Banquet & Siyum

After an inspiring and powerful Shavuot in Yeshiva, Rabbeim and Talmidim marked the end of Kayitz Zman with our traditional culminating Banquet and Siyum. The evening began with a gala Seudas Mitzva that provided the hanhala with the opportunity to express appreciation to the Reishit staff and Rabbeim, and single out and recognize the outstanding academic and spiritual accomplishments achieved over the course of the Yeshiva year.

Following the banquet, everyone gathered on the Bais Medrash porch for a sunset program that lasted late into the night. As is the Yeshiva's long-standing minhag, **Rav Ari, Rav Elie, Rav Doni** and **Rav Judah** called up each talmid and presented them with a sefer as a token of appreciation for being part of the Reishit family.

This year was exceptionally moving, as a record number of talmidim were singled out for their superior performance on the **Massechet Brachot Bekiyut** Test. As in



previous years, talmidim scoring over a 90 on the rigorous, challenging and thorough exam received sets of **Shas**; talmidim scoring above an 80 were rewarded with sets of **Rambam** or **Mishna B'rurah**. Students were also tested on **Massechtot Taanit** and **Megillah**. It was an emotional and memorable close to an incredibly fulfilling, productive and unforgettable year of Torah study and growth.

“עולם חסד יבנה”

1) In the span of only a few weeks, Reishit talmidim prepared and delivered over 5,000 sandwiches to local **Beit Shemesh** elementary school children. Responding to

one of Rav Elie's mussar shmuesen that made mention of our neighbors' desperate poverty, Talmidim sprung into action. During their Tuesday break, dozens of students volunteered, making and packaging sandwiches that were delivered for lunch the next day.

Yasher Koach to everyone who pitched in



shopping, shlepping and working to help the neighborhood children.

2) We look forward to entering the fifth consecutive year of our special partnership with one of Israel's premier chessed organizations, **Yad Eliezer**. Throughout the year, talmidim and their Rabbeim-



pack, shlep and deliver food parcels to needy families in **Yerushalayim, Bnei Brak**, and now locally in **Beit Shemesh** as well. The shiurim work along side the professional Yad Eliezer team, and have delivered thousands of much needed food packages. We are extremely proud of our unique relationship with Yad Eliezer, and look forward to continuing our work together this year and in the future.

3) Close to forty talmidim participated in our Big Brother mentoring program for local



children. Through various organizations, including **L'maan Achai (Ramat Beit Shemesh)** and **Merkaz Harmony (Jerusalem)** our students were paired up with and met weekly with “younger brothers” who benefited from the extra

attention, guidance and friendship provided by the Reishit students.

BE"H, we will be continuing these critical Chessed programs throughout 5767. If you are interested in helping us help others, or to sponsor any of the Chessed programs at Yeshiva, please contact Rav Judah directly or through the Reishit office.

Alumni

Upstate N.Y. Summer BBQ & Siyum

On the Sunday following Shabbat Nachamu over 80 Reishit talmidim and alumni made their way to **Camp HASC** in **Parkville, NY** for a special reunion and Seudas Mitzva. **Rav Elie** and **Rav Judah** were joined by **Rav Chaim Marcus**, Director of our American Office of Education, who shared words of Torah and chizuk at the gathering. **Effie Zlotnick** (YRY '02-'04), YU Semicha student and accountant at KPMG made a siyum on Seder Nashim, as the talmidim enjoyed seeing friends and Rabbeim at the festive BBQ.



New Director of Alumni Affairs at Yeshiva University



Dovi Fischer (YRY '01-'03) is a “Classic” in his own time; and we are thrilled to report that he has officially assumed the important position

as our man at YU. Dovi gives a weekly chabura for Reishit Alumni and is helping coordinate Reishit events and activities on campus. As a second year Semicha student and member of the RIETS Kollel, Dovi's guidance and support is helpful to new and returning students at YU. He is Shiur Assistant and has delivered the chazarah shiur for YU Rosh Yeshiva **Rav Tzvi Sobolofsky** for the past two years, and plans on pursuing his MA in Jewish Education. We are sure that Dovi will be a wonderful role-model and guide to our talmidim and wish him Hatzlacha Rabba in all of his endeavors!

קום התהלך בארץ



A Rosh Hashana Message From R' Ari-As recorded on MiReishit Hashana



The Halachot of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are recorded in the Shulchan Aruch, however, the halachot of Teshuvah are omitted and can only be found in full detail in the Rambam. Why such important halachot are missing from the Shulchan Aruch, which follows the lead of the Tur when it comes to leaving out the Halachot of Teshuvah is explained by Rabbi Yaakov Kaminetsky. Rav Kaminetsky answers that the Shulchan Aruch is a guide for all Jews and the halachot listed inside apply to all Jews equally. Hilchot Teshuva are unique to each person; on what they have to do Teshuva for and how they perform Teshuva. Some perform teshuva from love of God, Ahavah; and some from a fear of God, Yirah. Tefilah is similar. Although we all repeat the words codified by the Anshei Knesset Hagedolah, some of us find our inspiration for our Kavanah from the dread and majesty of the High Holy days, while others find their Kavanah from Simcha.

At Reishit, during our Tefilah on the Yamim Noraim we strive to emphasize both.

It is at this point that we recall the blessed memory of Zavel Pearlman z"l and we remember his lev Tov and purity of Neshama. We recall how he davened on the Yamim Noraim at Reishit and celebrated Chanukah and Purim. We hope that in his zechus we will all merit both a lev Tov and like he had, a lev tahor.

גמר חתימה טובה

News at Reishit



- Mazal Tov to **Adam Burnat**, Madrich 2005-2006 upon making Aliyah
- Mazal Tov to **R. Adam Englander** (Reishit 1994-1996) upon his appointment to the position of principal for the **Hillel Academy Upper School, Boca Raton, Florida**
- Special thanks to **Rabbi Shmuel Goldin**, Morah Deasra of **Congregation Ahavath Torah of Englewood, NJ** and father of current Shana Bet student, **Donny**, for addressing the Reishit talmidim during his visit to the Yeshiva this past spring.
- Rav Jay meets with Nobel Laureate Professor Robert Aumann.
- Mazal tov to Rav Simcha Hochbaum upon his receipt of the Rabbinic Leadership Award at the upcoming Chevron Dinner, November 5, 2006 at the Marriott Marquis, NYC.