



In This Issue

Spotlight on Yeshiva:
Yartzeit of Noam
Elimelech Zt"l

Spotlight on Yeshiva:
Shabbat at the homes of
Alumni in Israel

From a Parent

Spotlight on Yeshiva:
Purim Weekend

New Rav of the Old City

**Best of Vayakhel, Pekudei, Vayikra, Tzav, Shmini
5768**

**Spotlight on Yeshiva: Yartzeit of Noam Elimelech
Zt"l**

One of the hallmarks of our program has always been Rav Bina's inclusion of a diverse range of Torah hashkafa. On Tuesday night, the Yeshiva marked the yartzeit of one of the greatest Chasidic Rebbes, the famed Noam Elimelech Zt"l. The Rosh HaYeshiva often refers to his teaching to always look for positive traits in other people.

The theme of the night was "Vayakhel Moshe", and Moshe gathered -the greatness of a true tzadik is his ability to love all Jews and bring them together.

Here is a video clip of a story Rav Bina told about how the zchut of the Noam Elimelech Z"tl helped Israel win the Six-Day War.

Spotlight on Yeshiva: Shabbat at the homes of Alumni in Israel

Dear graduates living in Israel,

On behalf of Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh and myself, I want to thank all the families who hosted our students last Shabbat Parshat Vayakhel. Getting a sample of the homes of our alumni serves as an inspiration to our students. Although the Yeshiva puts a lot of effort in instilling the love of Torah, love of Eretz Yisrael and love of Am Yisrael in each of our students, the visit in the home of our graduates can make a greater impact on their future as It presents them with a sample of the religious family life, the role of the Jewish wife, as well as a positive impression of life in Israel.

Thank you.

*Love,
HaRav Aharon Bina*

From one of the students:

This past Shabbat, Parshat Vayakhel, was alumni shabbat for all the bochurim. Well placed in the middle of a long zman, the shabbaton allowed us to rejuvenate in the relaxed setting of the homes of Yeshiva alumni, placing us in all parts of the country. I went to the home of Yehoshua (Shuki) Goodman, who lives with his wife

and three children in the small town of Yavniel in the lower Galil. Friday morning, I got up earlier with one of the guys I was going with, and after Shacharit, took a bus up to the Galil to be picked up by Shuki. I had asked Shuki the day before if he could recommend a good hike in the area. Friday afternoon, Shuki drove us to the beginning of one of the most beautiful hikes I have ever taken. A hike that winded through blossoming almond orchards, green wheat fields, cow herds and wildflowers, trailed down into the valley and ended by the Kineret, where we went for a quick swim before Shabbat. Shabbat was quiet and relaxed for everyone, staying in welcoming homes from Zichron Yaakov to Ramat Beit Shemesh.

After spending a wonderful time with the people whose ranks we look forward to joining, we can only say thank you so much to the Yeshiva for arranging this great time, and of course, to the alumni for making it a reality. May the talmidim of this year merit to host the talmidim of tomorrow.

Nate Jaret
Shana Alef

From a Parent

When one sends a son to a yeshiva in Israel, one trusts that the person responsible for the boy's soul will guard it as if it is his own son. Matthew called and told me a story last night...

HaRav Bina is the Rosh Yeshiva of Netiv Aryeh, Matthew's current yeshiva and the yeshiva where our other son Bobby spent two years. On Wednesday night HaRav Bina told his entire yeshiva, all of the talmidim and Rebbes, to take their sefarim, their chevrusas, even if from outside the yeshiva and to go on to the buses. He said this was not a tour so no cameras. Once on the buses he said, "we are going to learn tonight's seder at...Mercaz Harav yeshiva in the Kiryat Moshe!!!"

Mercaz Harav was founded in 1924 by influential Rabbi Avraham HaCohen Kook. There are 500 students enrolled in Talmudic study. These students are mainly high school age and young adults. The graduates serve as rabbis and rabbinical judges in Israel and Jewish settlements. This yeshiva has played a major role in ideology and theology of Israeli religious settlement movement. On March 6, 2008 an Arab gunman, who had previously worked at this yeshiva, entered the library at Mercaz Harav where about 80 students were gathered, and fired an AK-47 rifle for several minutes, killing eight young souls.

Matthew said that they got off the buses and walked en mass into the yeshiva, sat down and started learning. Matthew happened to be at HaRav Bina's table and many of the young men from Mercaz came up to HaRav Bina and remarked: "you came to be with us? Thank you, your being here is great chizuk for us."

Matthew said there was some blood on the sefarim in the corner and other signs of the tragedy. Netiv Aryeh had taken their own security as they always have to do when they travel. But Matthew said, "Dad, this yeshiva, right now is probably the safest place in all of Israel" Yes, it was very troubling for all the boys...but they all stayed...over 200 Netiv guys learning and wanting to be with the Mercaz boys.

Matthew will remember many things from his two amazing Israel years; the learning in the Beis HaMedrash with his view of the Wall; his trip with the yeshiva to Poland last year where the emotions at the concentration camps made their mark on his soul. He will remember the luxury of being able to just "learn" 12-15-18 hours a day with top Rebbeyim, and many other milestones. Near the top of his list will be this short trip for night seder, learning.

Matthew saw the effect of the action that night of his Rosh Yeshiva. HaRav Bina knew that the most important thing was not just his own talmidim learning, but to insure that other young souls, hurting, would continue to learn and not abandon the Derech Hashem.

We have been very fortunate in the Rosh Yeshivas for our sons at both Derech Etz Chaim and Netiv Aryeh. These are men that understand their holy responsibility for young men's lives and souls.

Yes, when I read, streaming across the internet, that this tragedy had occurred, I was very anxious until Matthew called to tell me he was ok. That night, I did not sleep very well, as I wondered about the fathers who were not able to talk with their sons that fateful day. Fathers who would be arranging funerals for their fallen sons. There are too many emotions to type here, but I will conclude as I usually do. Hug those kids, every kid in your world. Hug them dearly; you have a luxury some do not. Hug those kids; they need it and so do you.

good shabbos

barry

Spotlight on Yeshiva: Purim Weekend

Purim in Yeshiva was unbelievable. Every moment brought something new. At Friday night's oneg the students were addressed by none other than Rav Bina's wife, Rabanit Malke Bina. (Rabanit Bina, right, is the Educational Director of the Sadie Rennert Women's Institute for Torah Studies.)

The dancing at the "Purim Bash" Motzei Shabbat went late into the night (everyone in full costume). The night ended with HaRav Bina reminding us "that it is only through the zchut of the eight Merkaz HaRav students that we are able to learn Torah freely." We followed his lead in being mekabel ol malchut shamayim (similar to the end of Yom Kippur). After a few emotional songs sung by everyone together, hand in hand, the band changed back into a lively "leshana haba beYerushalayim" and the Yeshiva proceeded to watch a hilarious Purim shpiel.

The joyous atmosphere of Purim in Yeshiva was enhanced by the presence of many our alumni, including Ariel Edelstein who read Megillat Esther.

New Rav of the Old City

We would like to wish a Mazel Tov to Rav Chizkiyahu Nebenzahl upon being appointed the new Rav of the Old City of Jerusalem, a position he will be sharing with his father, HaRav Avigdor Nebenzahl, shlita (Senior Rosh HaYeshiva of YNA).

Rav Chizkiyahu, a member of the Yeshiva staff, in addition to being an outstanding Talmid Chacham, is known for his warmth, wisdom, and devotion to his talmidim.

He will be spending this Shabbat with our alumni in Woodmere, NY.

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Sincerely,

HaRav Aharon Bina, Netiv Aryeh
Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh

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