



Pesach 5770

MIDRESHET MORIAH

Dear Parents, Students, Alumnae and Friends of Midreshet Moriah,

אמר רבי אלעזר בן עזריה: הרי אני כבן שבעים שנה, לא זכיתי שתאמר יציאת מצרים בלילות, עד שדרשה בן-זומא.



Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah said: "I am like a man seventy years old, yet I did not succeed in proving that the exodus from Egypt must be mentioned at night, until Ben Zoma explained it."

Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah was exceptionally learned and wise. He was appointed to be Nasi at the age of 18. There are a number of different expressions he could have used to explain his inability to identify the source in the Torah for the obligation to mention the Exodus from Egypt every day and every night of our lives. Why did he choose the seemingly unlikely expression, "לא זכיתי", "I did not merit"?

We are all familiar with the expression "זכות אבות" (ancestral or parental merit), "זכותו יגן עלינו" ("May his virtue stand us in good stead," "May his merit protect us"), and we say every day in our Tefillot: "זוחר חסדי אבות ומביא" "גואל לבני בניהם" ("Hashem recalls the kindnesses of the Patriarchs and brings a redeemer to their children's children...").

Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah said "לא זכיתי" to convey the message that all of his great accomplishments were due to זכות אבות, to the merits of his ancestors. When Shimon ben Zoma enlightened him and showed him the source he was seeking, Rabbi Elazar doesn't refer to him by his name, "Shimon"; he refers to him by his father's name, "Ben Zoma," "the son of Zoma." Rabbi Elazar wanted to accentuate that if Rabbi Shimon, who was indeed a singular and awesome scholar, had such success in his study of Torah, this must be attributed not only to his own tremendous devotion and dedication, but also to the merit of his parents.

At the Seder, when we study the words of Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah, "לא זכיתי", it should be a humbling experience for us. It should help us realize that all of our hard-earned wonderful accomplishments are not ours alone. The virtues of our parents and grandparents constantly pervade all of our outstanding achievements. May their זכויות help tip the scales so that all of ישראל will be זוכה to witness the fulfillment of the ברכה in the הגדה:

כן, ה' אלוקינו ואלקי אבותינו יגיענו יג יענו למועדים ולרגלים אחרים, הבאים לקראתנו לשלום, שמחים בבנין עירך וששים בעבודתך.

"So too, Lord, our God and God of our ancestors, enable us to reach other holidays and festivals that will come to us in peace, with happiness in the rebuilding of Your city, and with rejoicing in Your service in the Beit Hamikdash."

לשנה הבאה בירושלים

Rabbi Meyer Berglas
Rabbi Meyer Berglas, Dean

The virtues of our parents and grandparents constantly pervade all of our outstanding achievements.

Dear Parents and Alumnae:

The Haggadah instructs us that every individual in every generation must see himself on Pesach night as if he himself left Egypt as a freed slave. What does this really mean for us? Perhaps the Haggadah is telling us that in every generation, we must anticipate and ready ourselves for ge'ulah in our time, for our own Yetziat Mitzrayim. Rather than looking at Yetziat Mitzrayim as an ancient historical event, it is a model for what we believe can and will happen to us in our own day. We must be ready to open the door for Eliyahu Ha-Navi during the Seder and find him waiting there with the news that Mashiach is on the way and that it's time for us all to come together in Eretz Yisrael. May we merit redemption in our day, and until then, let us prepare for the big news!



Chag Kasher ve-Same'ach,
Rabbi Eitan Mayer
Menahel Chinuchi





SHALOM TO OUR DEAR ALUMNAE!

This newsletter is being launched as part of our ongoing effort to be in touch and stay in touch with our many years of Midreshet alumnae. I

was recently appointed Director of Alumnae, and I hope that through this, we here at Midreshet can keep up the connection that began in Eretz Yisrael through Torah learning and watch it continue

to grow. I look forward to being in touch with so many of you. Please feel free to write me at Midmoalumnae@gmail.com for any reason, to stay in touch, and especially if you have an idea of alumnae

programming that you are interested in seeing! Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy Pesach, and I look forward to hearing from you!

MICHAL

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

Cindy Bernstein (2002-03, Shana Bet 2003-04)

After graduating from Yeshiva University High School, Cindy spent Shana Aleph and Shana Bet learning at Midreshet, time which had the most profound impact on her life. Choosing Midreshet for its wide selection of classes and exposure to different forms of learning, teachers and student body, it was there that Cindy was first exposed to the world of Eastern Europe. The Holocaust classes and Heritage trip to Eastern Europe were the impetus for her desire to travel and work with the Jewish communities there. Running seminars in Belarus and Germany for *chagim* and summers built off of her learning experiences at Midreshet.



Shana Bet was a most critical time in her personal growth, as it enabled her to gain the ability and self-confidence to teach Torah and engage in conversations about identity and roles within *Am Yisrael*, topics she continues to dialogue on in every

capacity she serves. Her best memories of her time at Midreshet are dancing at *kivrei tzadikim* in Ukraine with Vicky and Michal and late-night Beit Midrash *kiddushes* hosted with her best friend, Aliza Nat Shull, a" h.

Cindy graduated in 2006 from Yeshiva University *magna cum laude* with a BA in History. Since graduation, she has worked in various professional and volunteer capacities, including The Cardozo School of Law clinic in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies researching genocide, as a Legacy Heritage Fellow for the Jewish Community Relations Council of NY, in the Department of Program Planning and Budget at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and as Program Director at the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (an NGO dedicated to using human rights education to prevent future conflict).

In her free time, Cindy is the North American Programs Coordinator of Lauder Yeshurun in Germany and has run identity seminars in Germany and the FSU. She has also partnered with the American Jewish World Service, traveling to Ghana and Honduras. Last spring, Cindy lived in Israel, volunteering at Yad Vashem by designing educational curricula. Recently awarded a Wexner Graduate Fellowship, Cindy is currently earning a Masters of International Affairs at The Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.



REFLECTIONS ON MIDRESHET

Aviva Fleischmann

(2008-09, Shana Bet 2009-10)

New York

I thank Hashem for the opportunity I was given to take in everything that Midreshet



had to offer me in the past, during Shana Aleph and Shana Bet, and for all they continue to give me in the present and IY" H in the future. The learning in Midreshet was amazing.

The different hashkafot and personalities of the teachers allowed for many different viewpoints. The girls were all such special people with such a love for Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael. I love that in addition to the learning, Midreshet also puts a special focus on a love for chesed. I am filled with so much hallel ve-hoda' ah to Hashem that I was privileged to be in Midreshet for the last year and a half!

In memory of:

*Phyllis Fleischmann- Frayda Miriam bat Binyamin Manala
Esther Wagshal- Henya Esther bat Yaakov*

Alumna Spotlight

Michelle Merrill

(2000-01, Shana Bet 2001-02)

After spending Shana Aleph and Shana Bet at Midreshet Moriah, Michelle earned her BA at Queens College. She then returned to serve as a *madrichah* at her favorite home in Israel, Midreshet! During that year, Michelle realized how much she loved being in Israel, so she decided to stay one more year. It was during that next year that she made Aliyah. Michelle participated in the Lindenbaum Educators Fellowship in conjunction with Hebrew University while also working as a *madrichah* with various groups of teenagers and college students through the "Chavayah Yisraelit," "Israel Experience."

Michelle loved teaching others a love for the Land, so she enrolled in a tour-guiding course through Lander College and another at Yad Vashem. In her "free time," she volunteered with Ethiopian immigrants through "Shvut Am" and taught in the Beit Midrash at Midreshet.

Michelle currently serves as a tour guide at Yad Vashem and all over Israel, enabling people with all different backgrounds to connect to the Land of Israel. "I grew up in a Zionist community and went to school surrounded by people who had a strong connection to the Land of Israel. But it wasn't until I came to Midreshet that I saw people truly living the experience, and that's what helped me decide that I wanted to build my home here. It was the people I met while at Midreshet who really showed me what it means to have a strong passion for being in Israel, and they are the ones who inspired me to want to pass that love on to others as well."

During her tour-guiding course, Michelle met Itzhak, who had made Aliyah from Argentina. Mazal tov and *hatzlachah* to them on their upcoming wedding!



Remembering Aliza (Nat) Shull ז"ל

Rina Zinkin – *Rakezet* (Faculty Mentor)

Each year, Midreshet students take on a *chesed* project with the help of their *Rakazot* (faculty mentors) – a



carnival day for the kids of Sderot, a bridal shower for a bride in need, and other great projects. This past year, after the tragic passing of our alumna, Aliza (Nat) Shull א"ח, the girls decided to raise the money to build an outdoor play area in Chevron in her memory. Aliza, a very special young woman who attended Midreshet for a year and a half, loved Chevron; everyone at Midreshet remembers



Reflections on Midreshet

Ariela Geller, Student

(2009-10) • Chicago



As we approach *Pesach*, we're no longer the same girls we were before. We've become close to the amazing staff at Midreshet – the teachers always open their special homes for *Shabbos* when

we miss home and are always there to open their hearts and listen or offer advice. The dorm, all on one floor, is so special... just by walking down the hall, you can meet all of your friends. The huge variety of *shiurim* also adds a lot to our growth!



how she spoke about her Shabbat experiences there. Each *Rakezet* group worked creatively to raise the funds – one ran a "tzedakah auction" at our *Purim Chagigah*; another group ran a concert; a third sold candy platters, in addition to bake sales and sports competitions. Once the money had been raised, Rav Simcha Hochbaum of Chevron came to accept the donation on behalf of the city – doubly appropriate since Rav Simcha had actually taught Aliza at Midreshet and hosted her several times at his home.

This year, when 5770's girls toured Chevron, they saw the outdoor facility donated by the class before them. What an inspiration for the leadership and *chesed* to continue!



Shana Bet paints for Livnot Ulehibanot



Ve-nahafoch hu – Teachers serve the students



MIDRESHET MORIAH



Tree surgery with JNF



Scaling Har Shlomo!



Midreshet Family! Our nine current students that also had sisters attend Midreshet!



Seder Tu Bi-Shvat



Purim @ Midreshet!

Reflections on Midreshet

**Betsy Magilnick, Student
(2009-10) • Los Angeles**

Pesach is almost here!

I've been at Midreshet for six months, and I still remember my early days at Midreshet. The teachers were so warm and welcoming and the girls were very open and friendly. Midreshet made it an easy transition to get into the learning. I have a passion for Torah which I never felt until this year!



With great appreciation

to those who generously contributed to our Midreshet Moriah Scholarship Fund 2009-10

Dr. Dov and Dr. Ada Berkowitz
Dr. Leonard and Mrs. Marilyn Bielory
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Ronnie Eisman
Mr. Barry and Mrs. Sharon Fleischmann
Mr. Joel and Mrs. Rachel Getzler
Mrs. Ruth Giland
Dr. Bernard and Mrs. Dena Goldblatt
Dr. Paul and Mrs. Esther Lerer
Mr. Neil and Mrs. Rozi Minsky
Mr. Martin and Mrs. Evelyn Pollack
Mr. Alan and Mrs. Brenda Rubin
Mr. Kenneth and Dr. Rochelle Sherman

Please take part in our scholarship effort and make it possible for a young woman to spend her year at Midreshet Moriah by contributing to the Midreshet Moriah Scholarship Fund 2010-11.

Opportunities are also available to dedicate a shiur in honor or in memory of someone special to you.

Remember – your contribution will enable us to provide another Midreshet Moriah student with the chance to experience a year of learning and growth in Eretz Yisrael.

To contribute or for more information, please contact Polly Kramer at: Pollykramer@gmail.com

Chuppah and Ma'asim Tovim

Rina Zinkin, Rakezet (Faculty Mentor)

This year's *Chesed* Project was inspired by a "Chesed Tour," a day devoted to meeting people who are involved in various causes and projects, from *hachnasat orchim* to raising money for families from Gush Katif, helping victims of terror, and more. At the end of that day, the girls learned Torah sources about *chesed* and the *Rakazot* (faculty mentors) introduced this year's *Chesed* Project: *Hachnasat Kallah*, raising money so a bride in need could start her married life with the necessities.

Once the girls had raised the money, our *Kallah* came to Midreshet to meet the girls and tell them about her life. The girls decorated the Beit Midrash, decorated a fancy chair to serve as

her throne, and set up a table with an elegant cake and candles in honor of the *Kallah*. The girls listened as the *Kallah* told her life story and were so excited when she invited them to her wedding!

After a beautiful *kumzitz*, led by the *Rakazot*, the girls sang and danced the *kallah* to her car.

On the way to the wedding, there was so much excitement in the air. The girls were so happy that they could be a part of this special *mitzvah*. We were there for the *badeken* and *chuppah* and stayed to dance with the *Kallah*. It was a night to remember! We are so proud of the girls and hope that they will always be involved in trying to help other members of *Klal Yisrael*!

Reflections on Midreshet



TOVA MEDETSKY

Student (2009-10) • New York

Midreshet is all about showing us that even when we leave, our learning doesn't

Finding God in the Physical World

ואמר לך בדמיך חיי, ואמר לך בדמיך חיי (יחזקאל טו)

What is the meaning of the repeated blood imagery in this *pasuk*, which is quoted in the *Haggadah*? The *Midrash Tanchuma* explains that God gave Bnei Yisrael two *mitzvot* through which they could merit the redemption: *Brit Milah* and *Korban Pesach*. At first glance, it would seem that the common denominator of these *mitzvot* is that they both involve blood. In his commentary on the *Haggadah*, however, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein highlights an additional unique aspect: The *Korban Pesach* is unique among the *korbanot* in the fact that the entire animal is eaten by the owners, the people offering the *korban*; no part of the *korban* is burned on the altar or given to a *Kohen*.

Rav Moshe explains that *Korban Pesach* teaches us a fundamental lesson in Jewish life: We are meant to be involved in and take pleasure from the physical world as long as it is in the context of *Avodat Hashem*. After going to the *Mikdash* on *Erev Pesach* and sprinkling the blood of the *Korban Pesach*, we are then in the right frame of mind to enjoy

the physical pleasure of eating the roasted meat at our *Seder*. The same message is communicated by the *Brit Milah*: That all physical pleasures must be structured within the context of our *Avodat Hashem*.

It is interesting to note that exactly forty years later, the Jews crossed the Jordan River and entered *Eretz Yisrael* just days before *Pesach*. Once again, they were commanded these two *mitzvot*. Since the Jews did not perform *Brit Milah* during their sojourn in the desert, Yehoshua was commanded upon entering *Eretz Yisrael* to perform *Brit Milah* for all Jews. Once the nation was circumcised, they could then celebrate *Pesach* by bringing the *Korban* on the 14th of *Nisan* (as the Torah forbids uncircumcised men from eating the *Korban Pesach*).

It is no coincidence that Hashem brought us into *Eretz Yisrael* just before *Pesach*. The message of the *Korban Pesach* and *Brit Milah* is key to our national survival in *Eretz Yisrael*. For the first time, the Jews must build their own country, govern themselves, protect their families from surrounding enemies, and sustain a flourishing economy.



Malka Hubscher
Tanakh Faculty

After forty spiritual years surrounded by the Clouds of Glory, eating the miraculous bread sent directly to them by Hashem, they now have to learn to survive in their new physical reality of *Eretz Yisrael*, where they will be involved in planting, building, warfare, and business.

They begin their life in *Eretz Yisrael* reminded of the message of *Korban Pesach* and *Brit Milah*, the challenge of remaining true to *Avodat Hashem* while being involved in the endeavors, pressures and pleasures of the physical world. This message can elevate us as we celebrate the redemption from Egypt with the objective of arriving at the Promised Land, where we can develop in our relationship with God while simultaneously partaking of the physical world.



VOLUNTEERING AT SHAARE ZEDEK

Rav Ezra Starr, Mashgiach Ruchani



While Midreshet is all about Torah, we also take a great deal of pride in how our girls take an active role in improving the world around them through our Chesed Program. I'd like to highlight one particular Chesed program: our hospital volunteer program with Shaare Zedek Medical Center. Our immediate proximity to the hospital has given our students the unique opportunity this year to work in the maternity and newborn

unit. Our volunteers often come back with stories about the babies they cared for that day. Stephanie Weprin described her work in the hospital in the following way: "After the nurses and Bnot Sherut

Our proximity to the hospital has given our students the unique opportunity to work in the newborn unit.

bathe the babies, we get them dressed, swaddle them, and bring them to their mothers." Tamar Steinmetz explained, "My favorite part of the job is being able to see the parents' faces when you bring them their baby."

Some of our Shaare Zedek volunteers plan to enter the medical field, and this is a great opportunity to see from the inside how a hospital works. In addition to watching the medical staff in action, many have become friends with Israeli Bnot Sherut, and all have had a chance to see the colorful spectrum of Israeli society. Many girls remark that one of the most interesting things about the

hospital is that they meet people from all sorts of backgrounds, new mothers that are Dati Leumi, Charedi, Chasidic, Chiloni, Ethiopian, and Arab. At Shaare Zedek Hospital, everyone is treated with respect and care.

end. The teachers are there to support and help us through our journey, and the classes are designed to change our lives...

ENGAGEMENTS

Leah Chatzky ('04-'05) and Josh Graber
Shayna Cohen ('06-'07) and Chaim Pinsky
Sarah Deneroff ('06-'07) and Dani Kolat
Hannanel Gershinsky (son of **Ruthie** and Ahituv) and Bat Chen Duchan
Jackie Green ('05-'06) and Stephen Moster
Rochelle Lewin ('08-'09) and Asher Landaw
Chavie Lieber ('06-'07, '07-'08) and Yoni Stokar
Enna Kadoch ('08-'09) and Zev Herskovits
Caryn Keller ('05-'06) and Isaac Silverstein
Jamie Miller ('01-'02) and Marc Srolovits
Nicole Nathan ('06-'07) and Chaim Grossman
Aimee Pelikow ('04-'05) and Yoely Zipkin
Elise Polaner ('03-'04) and Jonny Hay
Jessica Roffel ('05, '06, '06-'07) and Reuven Lebovitz
Rivky Schwartz ('04-'05) and David Stern
Jackie Shapiro ('05-'06) and Yaron Cohen
Aliza Sher ('07-'08) and Eli Scher
Stephanie Spinner ('05-'06, '06-'07) and Avi Levie
Erin Stein ('06-'07) and Ari Schwartz
Ariella Wruble ('03-'04) and Daniel Chernikoff
Aviva Wilner ('06-'07) and Daniel Gordon
Elizabeth Wintner ('07-'08) and Menachem Fishkin
Naomi Yunger ('03-'04) and Zvi Glustein

WEDDINGS

Lauren Abramowitz ('05-'06, '06-'07) and Yonah Bardos
Rachel Abrams ('06-'07) and Yoni Mandelbaum
Miriam Ambinder ('05-'06) and Daniel Tennenbaum
Tali Bacaner ('04-'05, '05-'06) and Josh Levy
Chana Bachrach ('98-'99) and Yechial Tzanani
Ester Blaut ('04-'05) and Ayal Kellman
Tzippy Blaut ('05-'06, '06-'07) and Mordy Rapp
Michal Braun ('98-'99) and Ezzie Schwartz
Shoshi Cohen ('06-'07) and Zach Ford
Tali Cohen ('05-'06) and Dovid Becker
Nisa Davidovics ('02-'03) and Mordechai Harris
Erica Davis ('03-'04) and Josh Elsent
Rachel Farber ('03-'04) and Jordan Amrani
Sara Friedman ('05-'06) and Dani Hirsch
Rebecca Gelber ('04-'05) and Effie Silberman
Lisa Golombeck ('06-'07) and Ben Lowy
Nurit Gottlieb ('06-'07) and Daniel Rosenblatt
Emily Gross ('03-'04) and Andrew 'Yossi' Fuchs
Sara Halperin ('04-'05) and Adam Frieberg
Tova Held ('04-'05) and Yossie Brown
Naomi Jetter ('05-'06) and Gary Stein
Jamie Klein ('06-'07) and Shmully Ash
Li-or Kohn ('07-'08) and Ari Holtzman
Naomi Lichtenstein ('05-'06, '06-'07) and Ely Shicker
Rachie Lichtenstein ('05-'06) and Steven Lefkowitz
Adina Links ('04-'05) and Yissachar Braham
Michelle Merrill ('00-'01, '01-'02, madricha '04-'05, '05-'06 and faculty) and Itzak Naftali
Sarah Nevies ('07-'08) and Yuda Spitzer
Orlee Philips ('06-'07) and Dovi Zwebner
Rina Rome ('06-'07) and Jeffrey Barak
Joy Rothman ('07-'08) and Ranan Zimmerman
Hillary Simon ('06-'07) and Daniel Rosenthal
Yaffa Soffer ('04-'05) and Arthur Finkelstein
Rina Stavsky ('04-'05) and Dovid Weinberg
Sarita Szerer ('08-'09) and Isaac Bassan
Rivka Van Dijk ('04-'05) and Gadi Meir
Samantha Varnai ('02-'03) and Aaron Begner
Chani Weinstein ('03-'04) and Eli Rudner
Dana Weiss ('03-'04) and Daniel Miska
Karen Wisotsky ('00-'01) and Josh Goldman
Michal Zanger ('06-'07) and Sid Schechet
Dorit Ziv ('04-'05) and Avi Tannenbaum

BIRTHS

Ailie (Cooper) ('03-'04, '04-'05, faculty) and Seth Schmulowitz on the birth of a son
Arie (Schindelheim) ('02-'03, '03-'04) and Dani Schwartz on the birth of a son
Dana (Lifshitz) ('05-'06) and Adam Sasouness on the birth of a baby girl
Danielle (Rosenberg) ('01-'02) and Natan Schwartz on the birth of a son
Esti (Sondervan) ('03-'04) and Gavriel Zoladz on the birth of a son.
Jill (Gotel) ('98-'99) and Chaim Rubin on the birth of a daughter
Laura (Tessler) ('97-'98) and Natan Applebaum on the birth of a daughter
Deena (Forman) ('94-'95) and Uri Schechterman on the birth of a son
Julie (Yanofsky) ('96-'97, '97-'98) and Uri Goldstein on the birth of a daughter
Lynne (Kalker) ('98-'99) and Arie Sztulwark on the birth of their daughter
Marin (Schussheim) ('04-'05) and Eli Herman, on the birth of a son
Mazal tov to **Ruthie and Ahi Gershinsky** on the birth of a grandson to Ronit (Sulemanoff) (former *madricha*) and Yoni Gershinsky
Michal Porat-Zibman (faculty) and Sam Zibman on the birth of a daughter
Natanya (Horowitz) ('05-'06, '06-'07) and Simcha Tropp on the birth of their daughter
Nitzana (Greenblum) (former *madricha*) and Betzalel Friedman on the birth of a son
Penina (Lieber) ('99-'00) and Aron Schoenfeld on the birth of a baby boy
Prina (Edelstein) ('03-'04, '04-'05) and Benjy Gabler on the birth of a son
Rachelle (Merlis) ('98-'99) and Yacov Freedman on the birth of twins
Rav Aharon (faculty) and Anat Wexler on the birth of a son
Rav Eitan (faculty) and Sally Mayer on the birth of a daughter
Sarah (Taylor) ('06-'07, faculty) and James Proops, on the birth of a son
Shani (Libin) ('00-'01) and Gavri Butler, on the birth of a son
Shira (Lankin) ('05-'06) and Scott Sheps, on the birth of a daughter
Stefanie (Friedman) ('01-'02) and Josh Sturm, on the birth of a son

ALIYAH

Nechama Averick ('08-'09)
Estee Colman ('04-'05)
Miri Colman ('07-'08)
Malkah Geller ('07-'08)
Netanya (Horowitz) ('05-'06, '06-'07) and Simcha Tropp
Simi (Irwin) ('05-'06) and Yonason Horowitz

BAR MITZVAH

Aviva (Witkin) ('87-'88) and David Akerib on the Bar Mitzvah of their son



Mazal tov to Alumnae Miri ('07-'08) and Estee ('04-'05) Colman on their Aliyah this year! Thanks for letting us ALL welcome you...

Please share your smachot and news with us: midmoriah@gmail.com



Midreshet Moriah

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