

Shalom to our dear friends and partners,

The new academic year began with approximately 60 new students from all over Israel; we now have a total of 200 in the hesder and higher yeshiva programs. The program for IDF veterans has become extremely popular, with 50 participants. Last August, close to 30 second-year graduates joined the IDF: some in Hesder units, while others will be serving a full three years. The majority of our students enlisted in combat service in the paratroopers and in the Kfir infantry brigade and other elite units.



Each end is a new beginning...

As you know, earlier this year our beloved Rosh Yeshiva and founder, Rabbi Rontzki זצ"ל departed from this world. His demise is not easy for us – the staff, teachers and the yeshiva management team, and especially for the students and graduates. His death has left a large void in our Beit Midrash and it will take a long time to fully come to terms with it. In the meantime, we have agreed to continue his educational teachings, to increase Torah and to connect with all of Israel through love. You will certainly recall how, during the few weeks before he died, Rabbi Rontzki encouraged us all to think well about others and do immerse ourselves in "good things". His motto was to consider other people in a positive light, and always hold Klal Yisrael – all of his fellow Jews – in the highest regard. Our new Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yehoshua Van Dijk, has now begun his second year with us. Rav Van Dijk is charismatic and extremely popular with the students, and in his own special way has brought a new facet of love of Hashem and His Torah to the Yeshiva. He has exceptional knowledge of Gemara, Halacha and Jewish thought stemming from years of Torah study, and leads a group of extremely dedicated teachers; his teaching style is very clear, with a thorough examination of issues. As well as being Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Van Dijk serves as the community rabbi of Ramat Magshimim in the Golan Heights. With the conclusion of his contract at the end of the next academic year, he and his family will move to Itamar, thus enabling him to better focus on his role as Rosh Yeshiva.



Completion of the Residential Buildings Project – the Final Push:

The Gemara (Brachot 57:2) teaches us that pleasant living quarters broaden one's mind. After raising significant funds we have reached the final stages of the dormitory complex. The two buildings are already occupied and we are preparing for the final stage of paving the sidewalks and access roads. The residential complex, named for the Moskowitz family, will be inaugurated by the end of the academic year with the participation of members of the Moskowitz family and other friends and supporters of the yeshiva. We still need a final financial effort for environmental development and the construction of a fence around the yeshiva compound for security purposes, and we will be most appreciative for your partnership in this final step. Commemorative plaques perpetuating the memory of your loved ones will be placed on a special wall next to the Beit Midrash.



Visits during Sukkot

We will be delighted to host you during Sukkot and to organize tours of the Shomron and Itamar, which include spectacular views the area and activities for the whole family. If you will be in Israel during Sukkot and are interested in such a tour, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can plan and coordinate your visit.

New Yeshiva Website:

We invite you to browse our new website where you will find a wide range of audio and video shiurim. You will find all the relevant information in both Hebrew and English, and details pertaining to donations and partnership in the economic foundation of the yeshiva.

**We wish you all
 Shana Tova U'metuka
 A successful and fruitful year to you and your family**

Aryeh Goldberger Dorel Abramovitz
 CEO Director of External affairs

Itamar Yeshiva

