



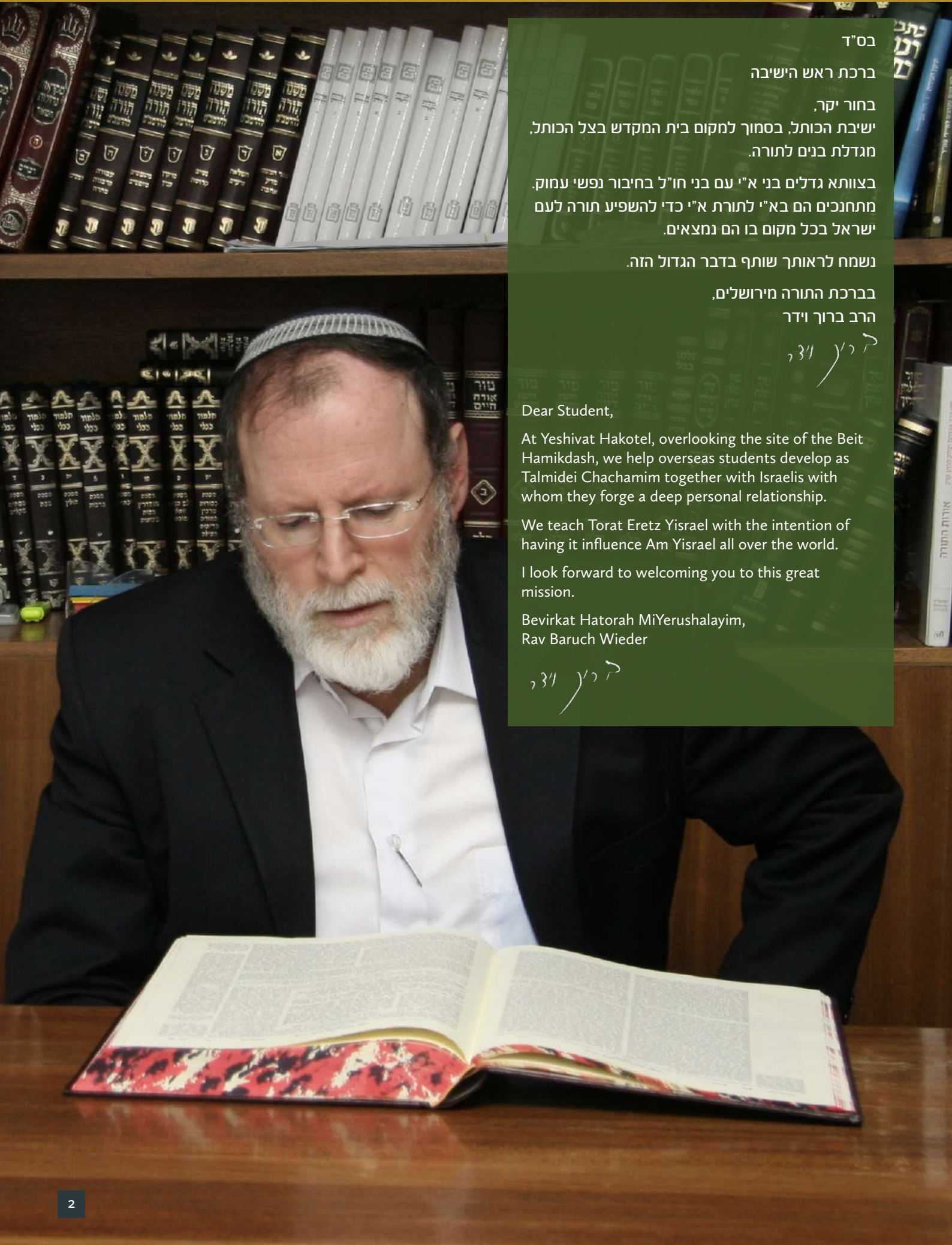
# YESHIVAT HAKOTEL

## A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### INFORMATION GUIDE



# OFFERING THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS



בס"ד

ברכת ראש הישיבה

בחור יקר,

ישיבת הכותל, בסמוך למקום בית המקדש בצל הכותל, מגדלת בנים לתורה.

בצוותא גדלים בני א"י עם בני חו"ל בחיבור נפשי עמוק. מתחנכים הם בא"י לתורת א"י כדי להשפיע תורה לעם ישראל בכל מקום בו הם נמצאים.

נשמח לראותך שותף בדבר הגדול הזה.

בברכת התורה מירושלים,

הרב ברוך וידר

ברוך וידר

Dear Student,

At Yeshivat Hakotel, overlooking the site of the Beit Hamikdash, we help overseas students develop as Talmidei Chachamim together with Israelis with whom they forge a deep personal relationship.

We teach Torat Eretz Yisrael with the intention of having it influence Am Yisrael all over the world.

I look forward to welcoming you to this great mission.

Bevirkat Hatorah MiYerushalayim,  
Rav Baruch Wieder

ברוך וידר

# TO LIVE AND LEARN IN ERETZ YISRAEL



## ISRAELI INTEGRATION & OVERSEAS CARE

Some Yeshivot offer an Israel experience while others cater to the needs of overseas talmidim. Yeshivat Hakotel offers the best of both worlds, by enabling and encouraging a **fully integrated Israel experience** while also offering a staff of overseas Rabbanim and **English shiurim** uniquely suited to overseas talmidim.

Yeshivat Hakotel offers a genuine Israel experience by fully integrating talmidim into the Israeli program. Overseas students and Israelis sit together in the Beit Midrash, live together in the dormitory and eat together in the dining room. Special Shabbatot, an accelerated Ulpan, and chavrutot with Israeli students and shiurim with Israeli faculty facilitate integration. Inspirational educational tiyulim connect each talmid to Eretz Yisrael.

## A UNIQUE HESDER YESHIVA

There are three models of Hesder yeshivot that accept overseas talmidim.

- One model is the yeshiva which consists of two separate programs — one for Israelis and one for overseas talmidim.
- A second model is a yeshiva that consists of just an Israeli program into which overseas talmidim are fully incorporated.
- Hakotel is unique in that it balances between these two models by integrating overseas talmidim with Israelis while offering them the additional shiurim and guidance generally offered to overseas talmidim in separate programs.

Hakotel also proudly offers a broad curriculum (over fifty weekly shiurim in Tanach, Machshava, Halacha, Mussar), a unique location, and meaningful personal relationships with rebbeim and other staff members.

# OFFERING THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS



## INTENSIVE GEMARA LEARNING & BROAD CURRICULUM

### GEMARA

Integration into the Israeli framework of seven years of talmidim means that talmidim have access to shiurim on multiple levels. Boys are encouraged to attend Israeli shiurim and have the opportunity to learn with Israeli chavrutot.

In addition, three levels of English shiurim are offered for those not yet Hebrew proficient. Our ulpan and other programs prepare Talmidim for entry into Hebrew shiurim.

### IYUN

Shiurim aim to develop learning skills. Rebbeim and shiur assistants are present and actively involved in guiding talmidim throughout each seder.

The Yeshiva also offers different styles of shiurim to allow each talmid to find the approach best suited to him.

Together with supplementary night seder chaburot, most talmidim develop the ability to prepare and deliver a Gemara sugya within the first few months in Yeshiva. As part of our 'Chaburah Initiative' Program, staff guide talmidim one-on-one in their independent preparation of six chaburot in the course of the year.

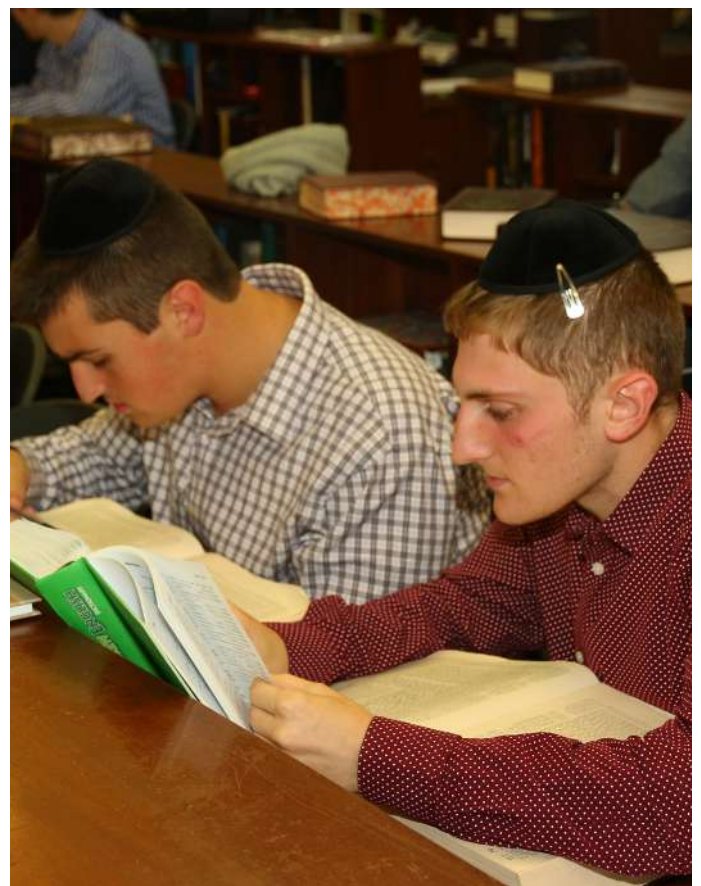
### BEKIUT

Rebbeim and other Staff learn with small groups of talmidim in the afternoons to help them solidify their reading skills. A number of other opportunities are available to cover the mesechta being learned, daf yomi, and other mesechtot.

### BROAD CURRICULUM

Yeshivat Hakotel teaches not only the knowledge, but also the skills necessary to learn Tanach, Jewish Philosophy, Hashkafa, Mussar and Halacha. Shiurim in these areas are offered three times over the course of the day with multiple choices in each slot.

In addition to the Yeshiva's Hebrew shiurim, we offer a comprehensive curriculum of over fifty weekly English shiurim, many of which are accompanied by guided independent study. The array of shiurim helps talmidim meaningfully pursue other areas of Torah learning. (See schedule of shiurim on page 9.)



## GLOBAL VISION & PERSONAL ATTENTION

Both the roster of students in the Yeshiva and its philosophy reflect the central concept of *kibbutz galuyot* (ingathering of exiles). Yeshivat Hakotel's student body consists of Talmidim from more than 12 countries on six continents. All learn with and from one another as a unified Klal Yisrael in the Old City of Yerushalayim.



### OLD CITY / HAR HABAYIT

Being only yards away from the site of the Beit Hamikdash certainly enhances one's year in Israel. The unparalleled experience of learning in the Ir Ha'atika (Old City) connects each student to three thousand years of Judaism's past, present and future in Yerushalayim.

### AREIVUT (MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY)

Yeshivat Hakotel not only encourages a sense of areivut, but also teaches the skills necessary to successfully reach out and affect others. We educate to give, not only to receive. Hakotel believes that Hashem intends for us to engage the world and its people in the hope that we can affect and learn from them. We believe that such a lifestyle can only be lived properly if it is rooted in scrupulous observance and a genuine commitment to Talmud Torah and the pursuit of Hashem's Will.

### TRADITION

Yeshivat Hakotel's fifty-year tradition makes it a special place to spend a year. The renowned Rebbeim, close Rebbe-Student relationships, and dancing to the Kotel Friday night are all part of our unique Yeshiva. Our thousands of alumni attest to the extraordinary experience that continues today.

Yeshivat Hakotel offers the kind of individual attention and personal relationships generally found in small yeshivot.

### PERSONAL KESHER

Hakotel's Rebbe/Talmid ratio facilitates close relationships between talmidim and rebbeim who devote themselves to personal time with each talmid. Most of the Staff lives in the Old City with homes regularly open to talmidim. Each Talmid has at least at least three older chavrutot in the course of each day.

### INDIVIDUALITY

Hakotel believes in diverse paths of Avodat Hashem. We seek to help each talmid develop his own unique relationship with Hashem. In recognition of Chazal's dictum that "Just like their faces are different, so too are their *dei'ot* (knowledge/opinions)" Hakotel offers a variety of shiurim. Different talmidim are interested in diverse areas of Torah or in alternate methods of studying the same area. Our broad array of shiurim in each area of Torah study ensures that each talmid finds a sufficient selection in whatever area(s) he chooses to focus on. Thus, the program consists of a basic core curriculum in each of the five areas of Torah study (Gemara, Tanach, Machshava/Hashkafa, Mussar and Halacha) buttressed by additional elective options.



# IS HAKOTEL RIGHT FOR ME?

## FOR WHOM IS YESHIVAT HAKOTEL DESIGNED?

Yeshivat Hakotel's program is designed for dedicated Yeshiva High School graduates who wish to focus on serious, advanced Torah study coupled with religious and personal growth, in an Israeli environment.



## HAKOTEL NOURISHES THE INTELLECT AND THE SOUL

Unique uplifting tisches, shabbatonim in special locations (including Tzfat, Chevron, B'nei Brak and others), kumzitzes in special Old City locations (the Kotel, the Kotel HaKatan, overlooking the Har Habayit, ancient shuls) weekly nights with each rebbe, niggun of the week, and other programs supplement the daily learning schedule.

## HAKOTEL DEVELOPS INDIVIDUALITY WHILE PROMOTING UNITY

We firmly believe that each talmid should develop his unique derech in avodat Hashem. We work with individual talmidim on helping them accomplish this. Hakotel fosters the skills and desire necessary for continued Torah learning after Yeshiva and encourages each talmid to examine and enhance his personal identity as a Yiray Shamayim and Eved Hashem.



## PHILOSOPHY OF THE YESHIVA

Yeshivat Hakotel was founded as a Hesder Yeshiva more than 50 years ago. The Yeshiva's underlying goal is to cultivate talmidim who are intimately connected to:

### TORAH, AM YISRAEL & ERETZ YISRAEL

There is no better place to accomplish this three-fold goal than at Yeshivat Hakotel in the Old City of Yerushalayim.

#### TORAT YISRAEL

**Love of Learning** – Developing love for and ability to learn is the Yeshiva's primary objective. Although concentrated in gemara, Yeshivat Hakotel's multi-faceted learning program includes significant opportunities to study Tanach, Halacha, Emunah, Machshava, and Mussar in a meaningful way.

#### AM YISRAEL

**Achdut (Unity)** – Yeshivat Hakotel fosters Achdut amongst its students by breaking down cultural barriers that often divide Jews of different countries of origin. This feeling of brotherhood permeates all aspects of Yeshiva life including classes, dormitory residence, and leisure time.

**Respect By Learning From All** – Yeshivat Hakotel very much identifies with the dictum of the Mishnah in Avot (4:1) that the wise man is the one who learns from all people. We broaden talmidim's horizons and help them respect different types of Jews by teaching **different types** of Jewish philosophies and hashkafot (litvish, chassidish, rationalist, kabbalistic...). The picture below, of four 20th Century Gedolim who represent four key elements of Jewish life, hangs in Rav Taragin's office for talmidim to reflect upon and learn from.



**Communal Responsibility** – We educate towards being part of the larger Jewish community, which includes the Jews of Yerushalayim, the State of Israel, and around the globe. Although the Yeshiva focuses on Torah learning and personal growth, it also imbues students with a sense of communal responsibility. Yeshivat Hakotel teaches the importance of reaching out to uninformed and assimilated Jews, and imparts the tools necessary to do so.

**Chesed** – Yeshivat Hakotel inspires communal responsibility by providing time for, arranging and encouraging various chesed opportunities. The opportunities include visiting and helping the elderly and the sick, volunteering in a local soup kitchen, and packaging food for the needy. In addition, chesed Shabbatonim are held throughout the country.

#### ERETZ YISRAEL

Hakotel sees learning in Israel as a means of connecting to Am Yisrael's return to Eretz Yisrael. Being at Hakotel is not just learning about our history, but experiencing and becoming part of it. talmidim connect to the history of Eretz Yisrael as well as the modern miracle of the State of Israel.

Yeshiva tiyulim (tours) are more than just sightseeing events. The tiyulim connect what talmidim are seeing to what they are learning in the Beit Midrash. Preparatory study in Tanach prior to each tiyul helps talmidim associate sites with their religious and historical significance.

# DAILY SCHEDULE

## DAILY SCHEDULE

A unique aspect of Yeshivat Hakotel is its emphasis on Tanach, Jewish Philosophy, Mussar, and Halacha. This emphasis is reflected in our extensive Hebrew and English programs which consist of classes complemented by scheduled time for guided independent study.

Our program offers talmidim both a carefully balanced core curriculum as well as shiurim in more specified topics of interest to individual talmidim.



7:00 Shacharit  
Halacha Seder  
Breakfast

9:00 **Morning Seder**/Shiur

12:50 Shmirat HaLashon/  
Limud Yomi

1:20 Mincha  
Lunch Break

3:30 **Afternoon Seder**  
Tanach/Machshava  
Halacha/Mussar Shiurim

4:15 Gemara Bekiut

6:15 Mussar Seder

6:45 Ulpan/Israeli Chavrutot/  
Hebrew Tanach  
Machshava/Halacha  
Shiurim

7:30 Dinner

8:15 Arvit

8:30 **Night Seder**  
Chavruta with  
an older talmid

10:30 Tanach/Machshava/Halacha  
Shiurim (Optional)

Thursday nights - Special  
Mishmar Program





The following charts are samples of the Hebrew/English Supplementary Shiurim schedules:

## SAMPLE AFTERNOON SHIURIM 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM

TOPIC	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>TANACH</b>	<b>PARSHA</b> RAV JESSE HORN	<b>NEVI'IM RISHONIM</b> RAV ARI HELLER	<b>NEVI'IM ACHARONIM</b> RAV URI GOLDSTEIN	<b>KETUVIM</b> RAV REUVEN TARAGIN	<b>LEADERSHIP LESSONS ON PARSHA</b> RAV ARI CUTLER
<b>MACHSHAVA</b>	<b>BASICS OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHY</b> RAV BEN BARUCH	<b>MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY</b> RAV JASON KNAPEL	<b>RAMBAM'S 13 IKARIM</b> RAV YESHAYAHU SHTEINBERGER	<b>RAV KOOK</b> RAV ARI HELLER	<b>PHILOSOPHY OF RAV SOLOVEITCHIK</b> DR. CARL HOCHHAUSER
<b>HALACHA</b>	<b>CONTEMPORARY HALACHA</b> RAV SHMUEL HERSCHLER	<b>HILCHOT SHABBAT</b> RAV JESSE HORN	<b>HILCHOT KASHRUT</b> RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER	<b>PRACTICAL HALACHA</b> RAV JESSE HORN	<b>5000 YEARS OF TORAH HISTORY</b> RAV DOVI FISCHER
<b>MUSSAR</b>	<b>MESILAT YESHARIM</b> RAV DAVID MILSTON	<b>RAV HIRSCH</b> RAV TZVI GOLDSTEIN	<b>CHASIDUT</b> RAV ARI HELLER	<b>EMUNA AND MUSSAR</b> RAV SHLOMO KIMCHE	<b>PRACTICAL HASHKafa</b> RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER

## LATE AFTERNOON SHIURIM (HEBREW) 6:45 PM

נושא	ראשון	שני	שלישי	רביעי	חמישי
<b>תנ"ך</b>	שיחות פרשת שבוע רב אביגדור נבנצאל	נביאים ראשונים רב טוביה ליפשיץ	נביאים אחרונים רב ארי הלר	עיוני פרשה רב אברהם ריבלין	תהילים רב טוביה ליפשיץ
<b>מחשבה</b>	סוגיות במחשבה ישראל לדורותיה רב גדי שלזין	כוזרי רב גדי שלזין	רמב"ם-יסודי התורה רב ציקי ברלין	חסידות רב חננאל אלרן	כתבי מהר"ל רב יונתן גלינסקי
<b>הלכה</b>	הלכות שבת רב אביגדור נבנצאל	מדרשי הלכה ואגדה רב חוני קלופשטוק	סוגיות אקטואליות בהלכה רב ישעיהו שטיינברגר	אורח חיים רב אהרון מורה	רמב"ם-הל' בית הבחירה רב נבנצאל
<b>מוסר/השקפה</b>	בנין אמונה רב גדי שלזין	דרך ה' רב שלמה טובול	שמונה פרקים לרמב"ם רב אבנר ששר	מאמר הדור-הרב קוק רב ברוך וידר	אורות התחיה רב אבנר ששר

## SAMPLE NIGHT SHIURIM 10:30 PM

TOPIC	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>TANACH</b>	<b>5 MEGILLOT AND IYOV</b> RAV REUVEN TARAGIN	<b>TREI ASAR</b> RAV BEN BARUCH	<b>VAAD AT THE HOME OF THE ROSH YESHIVA</b>	<b>SEFER YESHAYAHU</b> RAV SHMUEL HERSCHLER	<b>SPECIAL THURSDAY NIGHT MISHMAR PROGRAM</b>
<b>MACHSHAVA</b>	<b>THE WORLD OF MACHSHAVA</b> RAV SHAMMAI SISKIND	<b>EMPOWERING YOUR TEFILLAH</b> RAV BINNY DAVIS	<b>CHASSIDIC GEMS</b> RAV KEITH FLACKS	<b>PSYCHOLOGY AND TORAH</b> DR. CARL HOCHHAUSER	NIGGUN OF THE WEEK NIGHT CHABURAH SHIURIM SHANA BET CHABUROT CHULENT AND DVAR TORAH
<b>HALACHA</b>	<b>SEPHARDIC HALACHA</b> RAV AHARON MOREH	<b>BUSINESS ETHICS</b> RAV SHMUEL HERSCHLER	<b>40 COMPREHENSIVE HALACHIC TOPICS</b> RAV DOVI FISCHER	<b>HALACHIC AND HASHKAFIC TOPICS</b> RAV ARI CUTLER	MUSSAR (ROTATING SCHEDULE OF REBBEIM) KUMZITZ
<b>MUSSAR</b>	<b>AVODAT HAMIDOT</b> RAV ARI CUTLER	<b>LEARNING FROM OUR GEDOLIM</b> RAV CHANOCH TELLER	<b>13 PRINCIPLES OF FAITH</b> RAV YESHAYAHU STEINBERGER	<b>HASHKafa 101</b> RAV REUVEN TARAGIN	

# OUR CORE FACULTY

## ADMINISTRATION



**Rav Baruch Wieder**, ROSH HAYESHIVA – Semicha from the Israeli Rabbinate. He studied at Yeshivat Mercav HaRav under Rav Zvi Yehuda HaKohen Kook Zt”l and in the kollel halacha of Yeshivat Hakotel over which he later served as Rosh Kollel. During his army service he fought in a number of crucial tank battles in the Lebanon War. In addition to yeshiva-wide sichot, Rav Wieder gives a weekly sicha for overseas talmidim and often hosts talmidim at his home in the Old City.



**Rav Reuven Taragin**, DEAN OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS – is a Wexner Fellow and has Semicha from the Israeli Rabbinate completed a BA in Science and Philosophy at Yeshiva University and an MA in Jewish History and Education at Touro College (Israel).

While in America, Rav Taragin ran shabbatonim for NCSY and created the YUSSR summer program. Rav Taragin is responsible for the quality and message of the overall program and the welfare of each of its students with whom he develops deep personal kesharim. He is well-known for his shiurim in Gemara, Tanach and Machshava, his inspiring talks, signature tisches, and the personal advice he offers to talmidim.



**Rav Tuvya Lifshitz**, MASHGIACH RUCHANI – studied at Yeshivat Hakotel, has Semicha from the Israeli Rabbinate and a Teacher’s Degree from Michlelet Lifshitz. He is well known for his Tanach and Machshava shiurim and for maintaining the yeshiva’s unique atmosphere.

He gives a weekly sicha for overseas talmidim and hosts talmidim at his home in the Old City which includes a breathtaking view of the Har HaBayit.



**Moti Jerbi**, DIRECTOR – has a BA in Education and Communications and Media and is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Israeli Army Reserves, responsible for protecting Israel’s southern borders. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Mr. Jerbi builds

personal relationships with many talmidim.



**Rav Uri Goldstein**, DIRECTOR OF OVERSEAS PROGRAM – received Semicha from Yeshiva University. Before making Aliyah in 2016, Rav Uri was rabbi of a community in Fair Lawn NJ and taught in Frisch and Maayanot high schools. Along with his wife, Rav Uri

founded the JLIC at UCLA. In addition to his administrative

responsibilities, Rav Uri gives shiurim in Tanach and Jewish Thought at the Yeshiva, and teaches in schools and communities in Yerushalayim and Beit Shemesh.

## MORNING SEDER RAMIM FOR SHANA ALEPH OVERSEAS TALMIDIM



**Rav Ari Cutler** - completed Semicha and an MA in Social Work from Yeshiva University. Rav Cutler gives an interactive in depth gemara shiur rooted in the daf with a special focus on the careful reading and analysis of the Rishonim. He is also known for the close relationships that he develops with talmidim and his passionate sichot. Rav Cutler also teaches Machshava, Tanach, Iyun Tefilla, and gives special shiurim at the Kotel. He is the founder and director of the Hakotel Bergman Family Leadership Program.



**Rav Ari Heller** - has Semicha from the Israeli Rabbinate, a BA in Education from Herzog Teacher’s College, and a Master’s Degree in Judaic Studies from Israel’s Ministry of Education. Rav Heller’s gemara shiur is unique in that it provides talmidim with solid foundations in both the textual and conceptual aspects of learning. In addition to his gemara shiur, he gives Shiurim including Neviim Rishonim and “Chassidut & Dessert”. He is also known for learning b’chavruta with each of his talmidim.



**Rav Jesse Horn** - completed a BA in Judaic Studies and MA in Jewish Education and Semicha at Yeshiva University. Rav Horn is known for teaching a methodological Brisker approach to learning. He helps boys develop their own skills by preparing

shiur with them during morning seder. In addition to his gemara shiur, he gives shiurim including Tanach Personalities. His warm personality and deep understanding of talmidim help him forge particularly close relationships. Rav Horn is also a long-time Rebbe at NCSY Kollel.

## HASHGACHA STAFF



**Rav Dovi Fischer**, HEAD OF AFTERNOON/NIGHT SEDER – is a Graduate and Musmach of YU/RIETS, is a close student and former Shiur Assistant of Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky and completed an MA in Jewish Education. In addition to his Night Chaburah and having chavrutot with many talmidim, Rav Dovi gives shiurim including 40 Comprehensive Halachic Topics, teaches a “Niggun Of The Week” and runs the Gemara

Megillah Bekiut Incentive Program. He also coordinates and joins the annual Yeshiva Poland Trip where he plays an important role in the emotional and educational experience for all talmidim. He is known for being very relatable and for making talmidim feel comfortable in Yeshiva. Rav Dovi is also a long-time Divisional Chinuch Head at Camp Morasha.



**Rav Efroni Schlesinger**, SHANA BET COORDINATOR – received Semicha from Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ZT”L and an M.A. in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University. He is Rav Taragin’s Morning Seder Shoel UMeishiv and the coordinator of the Overseas Shana Bet

Program. Over the summer, Rav Efroni runs the High School Beit Midrash Program in Camp Moshava IO for 11th and 12th graders. Rav Efroni made Aliyah from Memphis, TN, and served in the IDF as part of Hakotel’s Hesder program. He holds the rank of First Lt. in the IDF reserves. In addition to various weekly Shiurim including Building Your Hashkafa, Rav Efroni gives a Daf Yomi Shiur both in Yeshiva and on YUTorah, and a weekly podcast dedicated to topics in Jewish Philosophy.



**Rav Tzvi Goldstein** – attended Yeshivat Hakotel as a Talmid before studying at Yeshiva University. Graduating with a degree in Psychology, he came back to Israel to learn in YU’s Gruss Kollel, where he earned his Semicha. Rav Tzvi gives weekly

Shiurim including Meaningful Mitzvot and Alei Shur and is passionate about uncovering the relevance of Torah to life. He dedicates his time to assisting talmidim in finding their unique place among the Jewish people.



**Dr. Carl Hochhauser**, STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST – received his doctorate in Psychology from Yeshiva University and worked for several years in the United States as a clinical and health/pediatric psychologist. Dr. Hochhauser meets with each talmid individually and is available to speak

with them regarding matters large and small. In addition, he gives shiurim including Philosophy Of Rav Soloveitchik and organizes a special series that helps talmidim deal with the psychological pressures of the year in Israel and a special shana bet seminar on “Dating and Marriage”.



## REBBEIM



**Rav Jason Knapel** - ordained at RIETS and also received his BA from Yeshiva College and a MS from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. He worked in Hillel Yeshiva High School in Deal, New Jersey for many years as a teacher, Director of Informal Education, Director of Judaic Studies and as Assistant Principal. He teaches a popular weekly shiur in Modern Jewish Philosophy at Hakotel.



**Rav Dovid Milston** – earned a BA in Judaic Studies from Jews College and Semicha from the Israeli Rabbinat. In addition to serving as Director of the Overseas Program at Midreshet HaRova, Rav Milston gives popular shiurim at Hakotel in Mesilat Yescharim and Parshat HaShavua.



**Rav Chanoch Teller** – award-winning internationally renowned author, producer, lecturer, and globe-trotting Maggid. His scholarship on Holocaust related material has made him the premier docent in Yad Vashem for religious, English-speaking groups. Rav Teller delivers a popular weekly sicha about Gedolei Yisrael. In addition he is the perennial guide for the yeshiva’s visits to Bnei Brak and Meah Shearim.

## RAMIM - HEBREW LANGUAGE SHIURIM



**Rav Tzvi Berlin**



**Rav Yehoshua Charnofsky**



**Rav Yonatan Galinsky**



**Rav Roni Klopstock**



**Rav Yoel Rosenberg**



**Rav Avner Sheshar**



**Rav Gadi Shlevin**



**Rav Shlomo Tubul**



**Rav Binyamin Yager**

# EVENTS AT HOMES OF REBBEIM & STAFF





# EXPERIENCE ISRAEL

## LIFE IN THE OLD CITY

Learning and Living in the Old City of Yerushalayim is an unparalleled experience.

The beit midrash windows give talmidim a view of the Har Habayit, Har Hazeitim, and the Yerushalayim landscape as they learn and daven. Talmidim develop a true sense of being l'fnei Hashem (in the presence of G-d).



## THE OLD CITY EXPERIENCE

Visits to Old City excavations (including under the yeshiva building) that reveal Jewish life thousands of years old connect talmidim to Yerushalayim's history. Looking at, living in, and taking part in contemporary events (like the Yom Hazikaron, Yom Haatzmaut, and soldier swearing in ceremonies) connect talmidim to the process of the renewal of Judaism's future in Israel. Davening and spending time in the Old City shuls, dancing down to the Kotel on Friday nights, and spending chagim opposite the Kotel and Har Habayit are just a few examples of the special moments Yeshivat Hakotel talmidim experience.

## THE CAMPUS

Yeshivat Hakotel enjoys a spacious campus (24,000 square yards) which includes the Beit Midrash, 6 dormitories, 2 extensive libraries (Hebrew and English) as well as a computerized shiur library that includes thousands of recorded shiurim, a large dining room and a workout room – all under one roof. In addition, the roof of our Yeshiva provides a breathtaking view of both the new and Old City and the Har HaBayit. The large seven floor complex comprises 10% of the Jewish Quarter.

## NEIGHBORHOOD HOSPITALITY

The Yeshiva connects talmidim with Old City families who are tremendous assets for overseas talmidim. These families are carefully chosen for their understanding of talmidim raised abroad and their ability to make talmidim feel at home.

Additionally most of our staff lives on campus or in the Old City. Their homes are constantly open to students.



# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION



## SPORTS/FITNESS

Talmidim have a daily two-hour afternoon break. In addition to opportunities for relaxation outside the Yeshiva, we offer daily use of our fully equipped exercise/weight room. A certified personal trainer is available on the premises to ensure students a safe and healthy work-out.

Sports facilities are available within close walking distance of the Yeshiva. Talmidim participate in intra- and inter- Yeshiva leagues in a variety of sports.



## TIYULIM

Hakotel sees Yedi'at Ha 'aretz , familiarity with the Land of Israel, as a basic part of the Israel Yeshiva experience. Our tiyulim include several multiple-day trips (ex: Midbar Yehuda before Sukkot, four days in Negev and Eilat over Chanukah break), over ten Shabbaton weekends (which generally include a trip on Friday) in communities around Israel, and approximately twenty other sightseeing days/ afternoons.

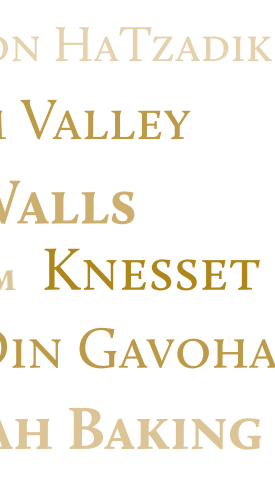
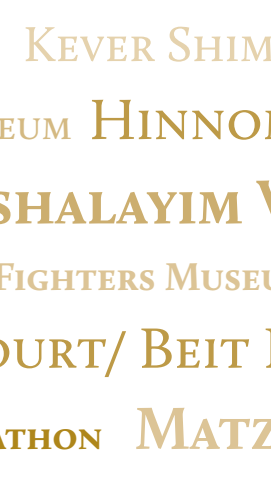
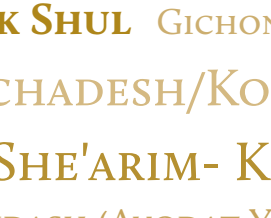
Hakotel's trips are unique in that they teach talmidim about the history of our connection to Eretz Yisrael — from Tanach, many with Tanach in hand, through the establishment of Medinat Yisrael until the present.

In addition to the tiyulim within Israel, Hakotel runs a unique Poland Trip after Sukkot. Members of our staff accompany talmidim on this unique trip and help them internalize the implications of the Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel. The trip's timing helps enhance the continued year long experience.

## CHESED

Hakotel sees chesed as a basic part of being a Ben Torah. Although time in yeshiva should naturally focus on Talmud Torah, it is essential that some time be devoted to doing chesed. We encourage each talmid to be involved in at least one of the number of chesed opportunities we offer during the week and on Shabbatot. These opportunities generally include, amongst other things, visiting hospitals, packaging for the poor, volunteering in soup kitchens, helping elderly and/or boys from weaker socio-economic backgrounds.

# EXPERIENCE ISRAEL



**ROVA HERODIAN QUARTER**  
HAR HAZEITIM/BET HACHOSHEN BEIT HARAV KOOK  
HISTORY OF THE OLD CITY SOUTHERN WALL EXCAVATIONS  
IR DAVID **KOTEL TUNNELS (SELICHOT)**  
**OHEL YITZCHAK SHUL** GICHON SPRING-TASHLICH  
ROVA HAMITCHADESH/KOTEL HAKATAN  
**MEAH SHE'ARIM- KAPAROT**  
MACHON HAMIKDASH (AVODAT YOM HAKIPPURIM)  
ARBA MINIM TOUR KEVER SHIMON HATZADIK  
ISRAEL MUSEUM HINNOM VALLEY  
**YERUSHALAYIM WALLS**  
UNDERGROUND FIGHTERS MUSEUM **KNESSET**  
SUPREME COURT/ BEIT DIN GAVOHA  
**JERUSALEM MARATHON MATZAH BAKING**  
**BATTLES FOR YERUSHALAYIM**  
LEIL YOM HAZIKARON TEKES AT KOTEL  
YOM HAZIKARON AT HAR HERTZL  
CHAYALIM SWEARING IN CEREMONY AT KOTEL  
GIVAT HATACHMOSHET (AMMUNITION HILL)  
LAG B'OMER- MEIRON OR HAR HAZEITIM  
YOM YERUSHALAYIM FLAG PARADE





KEVER RACHEL, GUSH ETZION, AND CHEVRON  
(TZOM GEDALIA)

ALUMA (LEADERSHIP) SHABBATON

MIDBAR YEHUDA TIYUL **POLAND TRIP**

TZEFAT TIYUL AND SHABBATON

EFRAT (LEADERSHIP) SHABBATON

ALON SHVUT SHABBATON

BET GUVRIN- BAR KOCHVA CAVES (PRE CHANUKAH)

NEGEV AND EILAT TIYUL AND SHABBATON- 4 DAYS

BET SHEMESH SHABBATON

BNEI BRAK TIYUL AND SHABBATON

TEL AVIV KIRUV SHABBAT

CHEVRON/YESHA YISHUVIM SHABBATON

MEIRON- LAG BA'OMER

KEVER YOSEF MIYAM L'YAM

YOM HA'ATZMAUT TIYUL

HARIM TIYUL AND SHABBATON

SHEDMOT MECHOLA (LEADERSHIP) SHABBATON

KATAMON SHABBATON



# YESHIVAT HAKOTEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The **Yeshivat Hakotel Bergman Family Leadership Program**, is a natural extension of Hakotel's emphasis on Am Yisrael and the sense of responsibility that it creates in the talmidim. The program further develops these values through seminars, mentoring, Shabbatonim and guest lectures. The Leadership Program aims to strengthen leadership skills and empower talmidim to translate their learning into action.

Speakers from America and Israel expose the talmidim to various issues and realities that face contemporary leadership. Students benefit from the mentorship of Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon, the program's rabbinic mentor, as well as well known personalities including Rav Shlomo Katz and Rav Yishai Fleischer, each of whom shares his knowledge with us and provides a model of Torah leadership. Rabbis from the US and Israel share their experiences developing Jewish communities. Each mentor and speaker provides a model of committed Torah Jews engaging in the world around them and impacting it for the better.

The leadership program consists of two tracks: The General Leadership Program (GLP) and the Main Core Training Program (MTC).. GLP teaches written and verbal communication skills through programs and projects such as Public Speaking Network, Students of Jerusalem, and published articles and sefarim. In addition to these skills, talmidim are exposed to and interact with prominent Jewish leaders through shabbatons, panel-discussions, and Gedolim trips.

The (MTC)Core Fellowship Program builds upon skills gained in the General Program through specialized seminars with distinguished figures in the Jewish world and intensive sessions with senior mentors. These skills are reinforced and concretized through theme-based Shabbatons and weekly Core lunches. Rabbi Ari Cutler guides the program with his staff to build our future Jewish leaders.

Directing the PSN in Shana Bet, having spoken numerous times at PSN, and having been the editor of a Sefer about Halacha and Hashkafa regarding the special needs community, I really feel that I have achieved the "growth" I was looking for and credit it to the Leadership Program. Not only did I polish my speaking skills and techniques but I also learnt the ins and outs of running a program: Making flyers, organizing weekly programming, making food orders, and arranging for guest speakers. These are skills that I will have on my "tool belt" for the rest of my life. The highlight of my Hakotel experience and the biggest accomplishment so far was the publishing of Hachlala V'Halacha 2. Creating and developing this sefer involved sending hundreds of emails to prominent doctors, rabbis, directors of organizations, and community members asking them to contribute articles. Through this process I developed relationships, gained organizational skills, and sharpened my writing and communication skills. The biggest takeaway, however, was not any practical skills, but rather a mindset: impactful projects take hard work, patience, and diligence. There was no greater feeling of accomplishment than standing in front of 500 printed copies of Hachlala V'Halacha 2.

- Joshua Trauring



## A SAMPLING OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### CHABURAH FAMILY LEARNING (CFL)

Each Week CFL, a student and his family have the opportunity to connect over the Yeshiva experience through a student made chabura on a halachic or philosophical topic connected to the parsha. Additionally, the student preparing the chabura is mentored in how to prepare the source sheet, gaining important skills along the way such as public speaking. The source sheet (now with both Hebrew and English translation) as well as on paper to talmidim and electronically to parents. Our goal is for talmidim to learn how to prepare a shiur and discuss the sources. (And don't worry, you will get to see both the incredible speaker and your wonderful son). In addition to the great shiur, we provide a delicious dinner for the talmidim.

### STUDENTS OF JERUSALEM

SOJ (Students of Jerusalem) sends pairs of talmidim to the Kotel to converse with people visiting the Western Wall, showing them a friendly Jewish face and the opportunity to speak to a Jew living in Israel about the Western Wall, Israel, Judaism, spirituality, the Jewish people, etc. The program is one of kiruv and creating a Kiddush HaShem.

### PSN (PUBLIC SPEAKING NETWORK)

Teaching Torah is a critical component to limud haTorah and thus it is important for Bnei Torah to develop the skills necessary to **express, present, and communicate their ideas to others.**

PSN gathers together 40-50 talmidim each week, where over a pizza dinner, two talmidim are encouraged to present a short speech on a given theme. The other talmidim listen and learn to give and receive constructive criticism. Another speaker joins us to finish off the session with his own feedback and tips of his own. This is followed by a spontaneous speaker who speaks for one minute- off the cuff- on a random topic.

זכיתי כמה וכמה פעמים לשבת בצורה ישירה עם לומדי תכנית מנהיגות של ישיבת הכותל. התרשמתי מאוד מהאיכות, מהבחורים, מהרצון העז שלהם להיות שליחים של עם ישראל, "לתקן עולם במלכות ש-די". בתכנית זו מקבלים התלמידים כלים חשובים בהנהגה בכלל ובהנהגה תורנית בפרט. דברים אלו היו משמעותיים בכל היסטוריה של העם היהודי, אולם מקבלים משנה תוקף במציאות המתחדשת שבה אנו נמצאים. בע"ה נאחז ללומדי התכנית ולרבניה שיצליחו להוביל ולקדם את עם ישראל למקום גבוה יותר ונעלה יותר.

- Rav Yosef Tzvi Rimon, Senior Rabbinical Advisor

9TH ANNUAL INFORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION PANEL

NOV. 3RD - 6:30 PM

Hear three experts in informal education discuss:

- Is it Kosher, ideal, or forbidden to work in co-ed environments?
- What qualities do they look for when choosing their staff?
- How should Yeshiva students spend their summers?

RAV MOSHE RENOVITZ  
NEST INTERNATIONAL  
HEADQUARTERS  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

RAV YITZHAK FELD  
DIRECTOR PROGRAMS/SHULAM  
SENIOR RAV TORAH BERAGA

RAV DAN KATZ  
MACH HACH BAARETZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Levontim 25

# KESHARIM FOR LIFE!



**Yeshivat Hakotel sees the kesharim (relationships) formed in yeshiva as a central part of yeshiva life - both while there and after.**

## AMONGST TALMIDIM

Yeshivat Hakotel sees ‘dibuk chaverim’ (relationship with fellow talmidim) as a critical facilitator of personal growth while in and after a talmid’s time at yeshiva. Kesharim with talmidim from different cities, countries, and backgrounds add even more to each talmid’s perspective.

Hakotel makes building meaningful kesharim easier by carefully spreading acceptance across school, cities, and countries and avoiding situations of clicks. We also help talmidim develop relationships through a network of social programming throughout the year, but focused especially on the first months.

Hakotel alumni maintain the kesharim they forge in yeshiva for life!





## STAFF - TALMIDIM

Three factors account for the unique nature of the personal, deep, long term kesharim formed between talmidim and Yeshivat Hakotel staff:

- The staff sees forming personal kesharim (and not just teaching) as its goal.
- The exceptionally high staff- student ratio of one staff member per each two talmidim.
- Staff members are assigned to particular talmidim throughout the day. Each shiur group (of about 15 boys) has seven staff members who work specifically and personally with the boys in that shiur.

Yeshivat Hakotel identifies with the dictum that one's students are meant to be viewed and cared for as one's children. The wedding pictures of each talmid that adorn the wall in our office are pictures that say a thousand words.



## STAFF - PARENTS

Yeshivat Hakotel sees a talmid's parents as his central mechanchim (educators). Our goal is to reinforce the hashkafa (outlook) talmidim received from their homes. Our goal is not to change talmidim, but help them better identify with and embody the values they already have.

Because we see our role this way, we communicate intensively with parents to ensure that we are helping each talmid grow in a way that appropriately continues their growth and path up to arrival at yeshiva.

This communication begins with the application process. Parallel to meeting potential talmidim at their high schools, we arrange tens of parent meetings so parents can play an informed role in the process. We return to many cities after registration to meet with parents whose sons have registered.

Throughout the months leading up to yeshiva, our office and staff continue communicating with parents. This communication intensifies upon arrival at yeshiva and through the year. Our office sends out a lengthy detailed update each week including pictures.

Each rebbe and our Dean are in touch with each parent throughout the year. Parents receive tens of pictures of their son and comments throughout the year. The keshar continues after the talmid has left yeshiva as well throughout the process of his college life, dating, marriage, and career and family building.

# LIFE AFTER YESHIVA

**Yeshivat Hakotel staff prepare talmidim for continued growth after yeshiva and help foster such growth by continuing their keshar with talmidim forever.**

## PREPARATION IN YESHIVA

Yeshivat Hakotel offers ten Y'mei Iyun (afternoons of focused in depth study) and shiurim series that address different aspects of Jewish life talmidim face after yeshiva.

## Y'MEI IYUN

**Dating and Marriage:** Understanding Jewish Marriage, Who is the Right Girl?, Modern Dating 101, When Am I Ready, Shidduchim: Reflections and Recriminations, Bat Gilo or Bechirat Libo: Who Chooses and How?, Know When to Say When, Married Life, The Halachot of Being a Married Couple, The Wedding Planner, Attack of the Clones?, Family Planning: Genetic Testing and Fertility Issues, Getting Ready for Father's Day

**Emunah:** What We Believe, Why Believe, How The Chachmay HaMesorah Prove Hashem's Existence, Emunah in the Holocaust, How Faith can Make or Break Us, The Miracle of Jewish History, "Forget about G-D, Who Am I?"

**How to Continue Growing:** Retaining Jewish Identity in a Non-Jewish World, How to Continue Growing in The 'Real' World, How To Choose a Profession, "Earner and Learner"-Working and Talmud Torah, Confronting the 5 major problems that come up after Yeshiva, Balancing time- setting time daily for learning, Growing in Emunah Through Tefillah, How to Maintain a Keshar with Eretz Yisrael After Yeshiva

**How to Contribute to Community:** The Responsibility To Give Back, How To Balance Community Work With Continued Personal Growth, When/How to Rebuke, How to be a Role Model Without Being Condescending

**Practical Halacha:** Kashrut in Food Production, Mila, Orla, Sha'atnez, Shechita and Kashering Meat, Practical Shabbat, Shemittah, Sta'm (Sefer Torah, Tefillin, Mezuzah), Terumot/Ma'asrot, Tzitzit (Creation and T'cheilet)

*Please see the Educational Catalogue for more information on Y'mei Iyun.*

## ALUMNI FOLLOW UP

Yeshivat Hakotel sees the keshar with rebbeim/staff as the most important thing talmidim take with them from yeshiva. These relationship serve as anchors for talmidim as they face the challenges of life in a secular world.

The yeshiva staff invests very intensively in continuing the keshar with each alumnus. We keep track of the last time we were in touch with each boy and ensure that we continue to communicate/'be there' for each boy.

These continued kesharim are reinforced by multiple yearly events with alumni around the world.

## STAYING IN ISRAEL

Thought most of our talmidim return to the countries and cities they came to yeshiva from, a significant number choose Yeshivat Hakotel because its integration make it possible to transition to life in Israel.

The fact that a significant number stay in Israel make doing the army and/or university in Israel after yeshiva much easier as talmidim who can do so as part of a chevra. The significant number of alumni who stay in Israel also facilitates meaningful staff follow up and events with alumni in Israel.







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[OFFICE@HAKOTEL.ORG.IL](mailto:OFFICE@HAKOTEL.ORG.IL)

