Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Yitzhak Shilat

B”H

To all of our dear friends and alumni,

The closing days of the *Shemittah* year teach us an important lesson as we approach the upcoming Days of Awe. The Torah presents the timing of the mitzvah of *Hakhel* with the following words:

מקץ שבע שנים במועד שנת השמיטה בחג הסוכות

The words *miketz sheva shanim* are to be understood to mean that *Hakhel* takes place at the end of the Sabbatical year, rather than at the beginning of the year. Indeed, the Gemara in Massechet Sotah teaches that the mitzvah of *Hakhel* is performed on Sukkot of the eighth year. Why, then, does the Torah appear to suggest that the Sukkot discussed here is connected with the *Shemittah* year? The answer is that the agricultural year extends through Sukkot, as we find in the Torah: וחג האסיף תקופת השנה “the Harvest Feast at the turn of the year.” The harvest of a given year ends on Sukkot when we prepare for the upcoming agricultural year with the prayer for rain: “On the festival of *Sukkot* they are judged concerning water” (Rosh HaShanah 1:2).

Still, on our calendars, Rosh HaShanah precedes Sukkot. This is because man does not live by bread alone. Were we simply biological creatures, then Rosh HaShanah should coincide with the new agricultural year. Since we are created in God’s image, the Torah places *Yom Teru’ah* and Yom Kippur before that Harvest Feast so that they should serve as the centerpiece of the new year – days when we stand before God, set aside time for self-reflection and seek a new spiritual beginning.

The beginning of the year at the yeshiva on Rosh Hodesh Elul fills us with a powerful spirit. The *bet midrash* is full to overflowing, and the sound of the Torah emanating from it inspires us with hope for a new, fruitful, and meaningful year.

Please accept our blessings for a *Shana Tova* to everyone connected with the Yeshiva wherever they may be.

Yitzhak Shilat

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There is yet hope // Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Chaim Sabato

On the threshold of a new year, it is my pleasure to offer you my blessing for a good, sweet year, in which you will fulfill your hearts’ desires for good, and to share some thoughts on the new year.

הלוא אם תטיב שאת, ואם לא תטיב, לפתח חטאת רובץ, ואליך תשוקתו, ואתה תמשול בו.

These are the words of the Creator speaking to Kayin, who was disappointed when his offering was not accepted. The message was: Why are you disappointed by your failures? Why do you walk gloomily as if oppressed by a heavy load? Why do you stand depressed, as if in a bottomless pit, sinking from abyss to abyss until you come to spill your brother's blood? Everything depends only on you! מה יתאונן אדם חי – “Of what shall a living man complain?” (Eicha 3:39) is understood by the sages to mean: “It is enough that he is alive!” For if he lives, there is hope that he will change, become renewed, uplifted. Rashi adds just a few short words ואתה תמשול בו...אם תרצה – you will control it…if you desire to do so.

Rosh HaShanah is a day of celebratory renewal, but it is also the first of the Ten Days of Repentance. In contrast with other nations, we do not begin the new calendar year with only feasting and celebration. Our new year includes introspection and commitment to correct past mistakes, for that is true renewal. The Psalmist writes:

הַסּולֵ֥חַ לְכָל־עֲוֹנֵ֑כִי... הַֽמְעַטְּרֵ֗כִי חֶ֣סֶד וְרַחֲמִֽים, הַמַּשְׂבִּ֣יעַ בַּטּ֣וֹב עֶדְיֵ֑ךְ, תִּתְחַדֵּ֖שׁ כַּנֶּ֣שֶׁר נְעוּרָֽיְכִי:

He forgives all your sins… surrounds you with steadfast love and mercy. He satisfies you with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s (Tehillim 103:3-5).

How can a human being, weighed down with worries, be renewed like an eagle that sheds its feathers and grows new plumage? How can he renew himself if his soul has been tarnished by his failures? For every person knows the bitterness of his own soul and recognizes his errors and shortcomings – both those that are known to others and those known only to him. As Rabbi Yehudah HaLevi has written: חטאיי לו יריחון בם שכניי, אזי ברחו ורחקו מגבולי

Judaism proclaims a revolutionary idea: There is hope! A person can correct his past and renew himself, like the eagle. He can erase his mistakes, wash away the stains and no one will ever remind him of them. Furthermore, when repentance is inspired by love, even sins can be turned into merits. There is hope, even if the wrongdoings are very serious. After the Rambam lists 24 things that hinder repentance, he writes: All these things and similar ones may delay repentance, but they cannot prevent a person from repenting. The Talmud relates that Aher – Elisha ben Abuya – was once riding his horse on Yom Kippur that fell on Shabbat. Passing the Holy of Holies, he heard a Heavenly voice emanating from there, declaring that all wayward children could repent, except for Elisha ben Abuya. For Elisha knew God’s strength yet he rebelled against Him. The sages of the Gemara taught, however, that had Elisha ignored this voice and recognized that the choice was his, alone, he could have repented and his repentance would have been accepted. If we consider this story, why did Aher ride his horse on the Day of Atonement near the Holy of Holies? Was it not because a pure inner voice awakened in him, calling on him to repent? But because it seemed to him that he heard a contradictory Heavenly voice, he did not realize that he was in full control of his own repentance, if only he desired it.

Indeed, the sages teach that neither the Torah nor the Prophets understood the concept of repentance, for the world we live in does not allow us to undo what has been done. They explain that repentance predates Creation, meaning that it is not bound by the natural laws of our world. One’s current desire can uproot a previous desire, leaving the act that was done to wither and disappear. This is a unique gift that humankind received from the Creator, a gift that is entirely benevolence, but one that contains a deep truth, as well. For how could Man survive without hope?

The kabbalists suggest that sin corrupts the body, mind, and spirit, yet the soul remains uncorrupted – it simply departs. The idea is that within every person – even one who has fallen to the lowest depths – is a pure, inner element that cannot be damaged, leaving the opportunity for repair. The individual must strive to reconnect with this pure element and make use of it to grow and renew themselves as before.

It is this power of regeneration that permits a person to know that there is hope. This is the call to us on Rosh HaShanah: There is hope! Arise! Lift yourself up!

We send you our best Torah wishes for a year of joy and regeneration.

With warm wishes,

Chaim Sabato

Three Types of Repentance // Rav Aviner

From the Desk of the Yeshiva Director

Dear Alumni, Supporters, and Friends,

With God’s help, the new academic year began in Elul with a sense of joy and excitement. The large group of students that joined our bet midrash is already fully immersed in study. There is heartfelt satisfaction in seeing a full, vibrant Beit Midrash and hearing the sound of Torah study emanating from it.

The year 5782 that is drawing to a close was a year of great activity for the yeshiva that included significant accomplishments in the areas of Torah and education, as well as in other areas of endeavor:

• We continued strengthening the *bet midrash* and the programs of higher education.

• We began the construction of another level of Torah learning and teaching by establishing our digital *bet midrash*.

• We strengthened our relationship with our alumni and friends of the yeshiva, together with the larger Jewish community.

• We have expanded the work of the Maaliot Institute.

• We have been active in construction, infrastructure, and student welfare, which has included the replacement of the air conditioning system of the *bet midrash* and the installation of an advanced hot water system in *Penimiya Dalet.*

• After three years of significant investments in the core of the educational goals of the yeshiva while grappling with current challenges (the COVID epidemic), we are actively moving forward with new construction.

Everything that we have accomplished, together with our dreams for the future, would not have been possible without the significant support and partnership that you have offered over the years. We are proud to present this newsletter to you, outlining a rich year of activity and growth.

With God's help, we will continue to dream, innovate and build, as we continue to contribute to the entire nation of Israel in the coming new year.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our extraordinary educational team that works night and day with incredible dedication for the growth of Torah in Israel. Speaking on behalf of the yeshiva heads, its rabbinic faculty, and the entire yeshiva, I would like to reiterate my thanks to you for your ongoing support and for being our loyal partners. With God's help, together we will be able to be a source of Torah inspiration to the entire Jewish people.

May you be blessed by Heaven,

Tal

1. Developments in the *Bet Midrash*

We are reinvigorating and renewing our learning activities in the new year. With God’s help, the new academic year began in Elul with a sense of joy and excitement. The large group of students that joined our *bet midrash* are already fully immersed in study. As in the past, we look forward to developing programs beyond the walls of the yeshiva that will impact our community and the Jewish people as a whole.

Strengthening the Bet Midrash

With God’s help, many new students have joined the Yeshiva this year. To meet the needs of a growing student body, we have responded with a number of new initiatives:

• Expansion of the educational staff – to offer individual attention and direction to all students.

• We have continued having small groups of students learning together – to allow personal contact and attention for all students.

• We strengthened the connection between the young students and more senior students so that the new students will have an educational/social role model.

Higher Education Programs

The *Kollel Dayanut* and the *Kollel Torat HeMedina*, have both begun their fourth year of programming. The new year brings with it a new program *Tochnit Iyun Gavoha: Torat HaMishpat* – a high-level program focusing on Jewish jurisprudence – headed by Rav Eliyahu Lifshitz. The ongoing support of our alumni and friends allows us to continue the important work of these programs.

**Kollel Dayanut**

* The members of the *kollel* successfully passed the first test (Hoshen Mishpat I) and took their second exam last year (Hoshen Mishpat II).
* The members of the *kollel* have begun studying the third part of the program and are now dealing with the laws of @@@ (Hoshen Mishpat III).

**Kollel Torat HeMedina**

One of the goals of the yeshiva is to produce scholars who will integrate into all areas of life in Israel. To further this vision, *Kollel Torat HeMedina* was established three years ago.

* The first cohort of the *kollel* graduated last year.
* Program graduates published their first article, which appears in the most recent volume of *Tehumim* (Vol. 22).
* The second cohort of the program has just begun their studies.

**Torat HaMishpat**

The new year brings with it a new program *Tochnit Iyun Gavoha: Torat HaMishpat* – a high-level program focusing on Jewish jurisprudence.

* Study revolves around a unique curriculum for sixth-year students and above
* The focus is on a systematic study of topics and principles in tort law
* The goal of the program is to produce scholars whose knowledge of Jewish jurisprudence covers the entire Talmud.

Torah Leadership Training Program

Out of a sense of responsibility to the Jewish people, the yeshiva has – from its inception – supported a *Kollel Rabbanut* that has produced dozens of rabbinic and community leaders.

• In light of the challenges of the generation we are working on developing a new program for Torah leadership training.

• The *Manhigut Toranit* program will require participants to commit to four years of study, in one of the advanced higher education programs. The program will include direct mentoring by one of our rabbinic faculty members combined with a diverse and meaningful enrichment program.

• We hope and pray that this program will produce a generation of spiritual leaders who are prepared to face contemporary challenges and offer halachic rulings in various areas of life.

Soldiers

*They go from rampart to rampart, appearing before God in Zion* (Tehillim 84:8).

Every year we work on strengthening our connection with the yeshiva students serving in the Israeli army. We will continue this year, as well:

• Visits from Rabbanim of the yeshiva

• Rabbanim spending Shabbatot with students on army bases.

• Having soldiers spend Shabbat in the yeshiva.

• Study days for soldiers in the yeshiva while on leave from the army.

1. Annual Events in the Bet Midrash

Alumni Shabbatot

…and the children returned to their borders… (Yirmiyahu 31:17)

As part of the yeshiva’s interest in remaining in contact with all of our alumni, we were happy to host the members of the students from years 17-25 cohorts and their families at the yeshiva over the summer, with the participation of the *Rashei HaYeshiva, rabbanim* and current students. The alumni enjoyed a Shabbat with *shiurim* and discussions throughout the day, and, of course, surprises for the children... We were fortunate to have some of the yeshiva alumni offer fascinating talks to the students now learning in the yeshiva.

If you couldn’t make it this past year, please know that we missed you very much. We look forward to having you join us in the near future. We plan to continue hosting more *Shabbatot* like these in the upcoming year. We would love to see you all.

Events in the Bet Midrash

* With thanks to God and the lifting of the COVID-related restrictions, we were able to renew our study days and learning events that are open to the public. These include:
* *Uri VeYish’i*– Preparation for the Tishrei holidays
* *VeHigadeta LeBinkha* – Preparation for Seder night and the Festival of Freedom
* The annual memorial day for the Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Rabinovitch of blessed memory
* The book launch honoring the Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Sabato on the occasion of his 70th birthday
* A yeshiva meeting celebrating Jerusalem where the members of the Mitzpe Nevo communities and their rabbis were hosted
* A conference celebrating Rav David Cohen – HaRav HaNazir – his life and his teachings, on the fiftieth anniversary of his passing.

This year, in conjunction with these events, we offered unique enrichment lectures on the topics that were discussed. These lectures were sent (digitally) to graduates and friends of yeshiva. We look forward to continuing this in the coming year, as well.

Something new is planned for the new year: A bar mitzvah program for the children of alumni. Look for further details that will be sent to you at a later time.

Seven Pages

The “Seven Pages of Talmud” group, led by the Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Chaim Sabato, comes together every Friday morning to study seven pages of Talmud in one sitting. They recently completed *Shas* a second time.

The third cohort began about six months ago, and it takes place on Friday mornings on a digital platform. Interested? You are invited to join either virtually or in person at the yeshiva.

Community Responsibility

As part of the yeshiva's involvement in community needs, with a particular emphasis on our neighbors in Ma'ale Adumim, we operate a variety of programs for strengthening the community and offer activities to engage the young people and public at large with Torah and *mitzvot*.

Talmud Torah for the children of Maale Adumim -

• For the 21st year, a Talmud Torah program for the children of Maale Adumim is taking place at the yeshiva

• After a long day of school, children from all over Maale Adumim come to the yeshiva daily.

• Senior students from the yeshiva serve as the teachers in the Talmud Torah

• The children learn Mishnayot, as well as Humash with Rashi

• Every year we get to make *siyumim*, (during the break, of course, the kids play soccer and hide-and-seek...)

Study days for teenagers -

• Over the summer, we were privileged to host study days for teenagers at the Yeshiva.

• Dozens of high school students from all over the country came to the yeshiva to experience yeshiva study. The students participated in group study, attended lectures, learned in pairs with their peers, and had a taste of the *bet midrash* experience.

We hope that we were able to convey the enthusiasm and excitement of the learning experience and that the students left with a desire to come back for more.

Vacation-time learning for teenagers from Ma’aleh Adumim –

• Dozens of teenagers from Ma'ale Adumim participated in daily Gemara study.

• The learning took place about two hours a day for about a month, during summer vacation.

• The focus of learning was on the eighth chapter of Massechet Sanhedrin.

• For the first time this year, the program took place in conjunction with the Municipal Youth Division and the Religious Council.

Volunteering at an assisted living facility in Ma'ale Adumim – For several years now, Yeshiva students organize and participate in a *Kabbalat Shabbat/Yom Tov* service at an assisted living facility in Ma'ale Adumim. Every week, a group of volunteers from the yeshiva goes to liven up the service at the nursing home.

Collecting food supplies for needy families in the city – Every week, volunteers from among the yeshiva students go to houses in the city and collect food supplies, which are distributed to needy families. This activity takes place in collaboration with various municipal entities.

Strengthening Communities

Following the difficult events that took place in Lod last year, yeshiva students went out to offer support to the Jewish residents of the city and celebrated Simchat Torah together with them.

We have begun this year with an eye toward strengthening communities. Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Sabato participated in the inauguration of a new *bet midrash* in the Ramot Eshkol community in Lod. Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Shilat and Rosh Kollel Rav Aviner participated in an evening event in preparation for Yom Kippur.

1. A Digital Bet Midrash – An Advance in Spreading Torah

One of the yeshiva’s goals is to play a role in Israeli society, both in religious society and in general society. To accomplish this, we are developing a digital bet midrash rich in dedicated programming for yeshiva alumni and the general public. In addition, we are committing significant resources to upgrade our existing website and adapt it to the advances of modern technology, so that it can serve as a base to spread the expertise of our *rabbanim* – each in their own area of interest – throughout the world.

• We conducted a survey of our alumni to understand how they used the website and what their expectations might be.

• We have completed a long process of professional characterization of the site.

• We have begun creating unique content recorded for distribution to the general public.

• We have begun the design of a new website. Website development is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks.

3a. Digital Series

• This past year we have added lectures that were filmed and recorded especially for the digital *bet midrash*, in addition to the other lectures that appear there.

• The goal of these lectures is to respond to the needs of people who do not have time or are not able to sit in the *bet midrash*.

• These lectures are planned so that they are accessible, and can be listened to from anywhere, at any time, without prior preparation.

• Significant effort is devoted to include elements that will improve the learning experience as much as possible so that they will be meaningful and accessible. These lectures can be found on a dedicated web portal established for this purpose.

• The lectures are simultaneously distributed on YouTube and various podcast apps.

• We are in the advanced stages of setting up a studio, to improve the quality of the recording and filming of these lectures.

• New, advanced, dedicated equipment has been purchased, including cameras, microphones, a mixer, and more.

• Attached is a brief review of some of the lecture series offered during the past year.

The *Tikre’u Otam* Series:

1. *Hanukkah: Ner Ish U’veito*: Focus on the days of the Hasmoneans – Rav Zvi Haber
2. *Tu biShevat*: “Why did you come to plant?” – Rav Shilat, Rav Lifshitz, and Rav Wolfson
3. *Purim: Orah VeSimha*: A *niggun* for Purim – Rav Yishai Engelman, Rav Effi Waltz, and students from the yeshiva

Ten Minutes of Study Series:

Ten Minutes of Study – Rav Yishai Engelman

• The lectures are structured as a halachic analysis of various topics, noting philosophical issues that are raised in the course of the halachic discussion.

Ten Minutes of Study for Children – Rav Yishai Engelman

• Before Shavuot, we re-established the parallel series designed for children.

• This is the first time that the *bet midrash* website developed content aimed specifically at children. The series deals with a variety of Torah topics, with some being halachic matters presented in a simple way suitable for children, and others around the Jewish calendar.

A series focusing on the teachings of our Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Rabinovitch of blessed memory

With the second anniversary of the passing of our Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Nahum Eliezer Rabinovitch of blessed memory, we have uploaded three series of lectures, each of which focuses on areas of his specific interests: Jewish law, Jewish thought, and the Rambam.

*Peninei Yad Peshuta* – Rabbinic faculty from the yeshiva

*Mesillot Bilvavam* – Rav Zvi Haber

*Si’ah Nahum* – Rav Eli Reif

English-language lectures – Rav Tanhum Gold and Rav Amihai Saher

* Two English-language lecture series were launched by the *bet midrash* this year.
* One series, which focuses on Jewish Thought, is entitled “Questions and conversations - Fundamental discussions in Judaism.” It is given by Rav Tanhum Gold.
* The second series, “Oneg Shabbos” features Rav Amihai Saher offering thoughts on the weekly Torah portion.

All the series and lectures can be found on our dedicated website: <https://www.tora.ybm.org.il/> - where you can also find links to viewing and listening apps where the lectures can be accessed.

1. Construction

In recent years we have invested significant sums of money to upgrade the yeshiva infrastructure. The main yeshiva buildings were built about 35 years ago; the yeshiva has had to renew the aging infrastructure.

• Electrical infrastructure - We invested in improving the electrical infrastructure in the yeshiva buildings.

• Plumbing infrastructure – After a series of repeated burst pipes, we had no choice but to replace the original plumbing. A significant percentage of the plumbing in the yeshiva today is new and upgraded.

• Air conditioning in the *bet midrash* - The yeshiva's central air conditioning system was replaced at a cost of hundreds of thousands of shekels. We express our thanks to the yeshiva alumnus whose generous contribution made it possible for us to embark on the project.

• Water heating system, *Penimiya Dalet* - To ensure the well-being of yeshiva students, we invested a considerable sum of money to replace the water heating systems in *Penimiya Dalet*. Thanks to a generous donation from friends of the yeshiva, *Penimiya Dalet* students enjoy hot water all year round.

• Water heating system, *Penimiyot Alef-Bet* - We would like to replace the water heating systems in *Penimiyot Alef-Bet* as well, where there is never enough hot water in the winter. We are looking for a donation that would be dedicated to this important project.

1. Master Plan for Construction

In accordance with the goals of the yeshiva, the priority of long-range planning in recent years has focused on Torah growth and the field of education. This has been true despite the need for construction planning on the physical plant that has become more pressing over the years.

After three years of significant investments in the core priorities of the Yeshiva, we are turning our focus to include the development of the physical plant, as well. Building on the successful fundraising campaign aimed at renovating and expanding the yeshiva buildings, we have begun thorough, professional planning for future construction needs.

Phase 1 – In the course of the past year we have begun working on updating the yeshiva’s master plan for construction since the yeshiva’s existing construction plans are now almost 40 years old. This process is long and complex, and we estimate that it will take several years. The planning and construction processes include:

o Steering committee work – Establishing current and future needs

o Developing a program

o Expanding the professional team, including architectural planning and engineering plans

o Obtaining building permits

o Raising funding to complete the construction

o Execution of the plan according to timing and funding.

1. New Books from the Yeshiva Community

* נר לנתיבתי // Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Nahum Eliezer Rabinovitch

This book collects lectures and writings of Rabbi Nahum Eliezer Rabinovitch of blessed memory delivered over the course of 60 years on three continents. His students and those fortunate to hear him were exposed to the central points of his religious and educational teachings, and now – after his passing – they are being made available to the general public, for the benefit of those interested in modern religious thought.

* במסילה העולה – Pesachim // Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Yitzhak Shilat

The topic of halachic hermeneutics – how the sages derive Jewish law from the biblical text – is a topic that is usually neglected in the study of the Gemara, despite its fundamental importance. In this book, an initial attempt is made to deal with this subject in a systematic manner, page by page in the various tractates of the Talmud. The book was inspired by the approach of the Rav Gedaliah Nadel, of blessed memory.

* טוב עין // Rosh HaYeshiva, Rav Sabato

In honor of Rav Sabato’s reaching his 70th year, we have published his recent teachings in a volume entitled *Tov Ayin* (the numerical value of the letter *ayin* being 70). The book includes several lectures on Talmud that Rav Sabato presented in the yeshiva that were transcribed by his son, R. Israel Meir.

* אמונת החינוך // Rav Aviner (4 volumes)

Contemporary challenges in raising children create a real need for guidance and advice for parents. For the past 30 years, Rabbi Elisha Aviner has been responding to parents who turn to him for advice, sharing knowledge, research, and Torah sources, to help them establish a clear educational path.

Much of this advice has been collected in the *Emunat HaHinukh* series, which contains 4 volumes of suggestions and direction for parents raising their children.

-שו"ת שאגת כהן חלק ב

* Rav Aryeh Katz, who heads the yeshiva’s *Kollel Dayanut*, has served as a *posek* at Machon Pu’ah for almost 15 years and as director of their department of halakhic and literary research. In this volume – *Sha’agat Kohen* (Yoreh De’ah and Hoshen Mishpat) – which contains his *responsa* on two parts of the Shulhan Arukh, Rav Katz deals in depth with the laws of *niddah* and *tevilah*, *pidyon haben*, burial, mourning laws and more.
* פירוש המשנה עם יד נחום // Rav Michael Ben-Gershon

Rav Michael Ben-Gershon has spent many years focusing on the study of Mishna. Following the passing of Rav Nahum Eliezer Rabinovitch of blessed memory, he has published a commentary on *mishnayot* following the approach of Rav Rabinovitch in his *Yad Peshuta*. This series, which aims to commemorate Rav Rabinovitch, now covers the *Sedarim Zera’im, Mo’ed* and *Nashim*.

1. Meet our Alumni –

* In the Rabbinate:

**Rav Ofer Livnat**

Year 20

City Ma’ale Adumim

Profession Rabbinic judge

Current employment Rabbi, Eretz Hemda

Rav Ofer is a graduate of the Eretz Hemda program. He received rabbinic ordination *Yadin Yadin* from the office of the Chief Rabbinate and he serves as a rabbinic judge in the “Eretz Hemda – Gazit” rabbinic court.

In addition to the Torah leadership program, he teaches in a number of prestigious Eretz Hemda programs training rabbis and rabbinic judges around the world, including rabbinic ordination and *dayyanut* programs at Montefiore College in London and a *dayyanut* program for rabbis of communities in Eastern Europe and North America.

Rabbi Ofer is heavily involved in the *responsa* projects of Eretz Hemda.

**Rav Avraham Setton**

Year 27

City Deal, New Jersey

Profession Rabbi

Current employment Rabbi in Cong. Magen David in southern Deal and a teacher in Hillel and the Magen David School

Rabbi Albert Sutton studied with his teacher Hakham Shimon Aluf. He received rabbinic ordination in the Sefardic Rabbinical College and has a BA from Brooklyn College.

* In Jewish Education

**Gadi Bakieh**

Year 24

City Be’er Sheva

Profession Educator

Current employment Principal, Orot Eliyahu School, Sderot

Gadi served as the principal of the AMIT elementary school, Hazon Ovadia in Be’er Sheva

**Neriah Cohen**

Year 24

City Tel Aviv

Profession Educator

Current employment Principal at the AMIT Bar-Ilan High School in Petah Tikva

A resident of Tel Aviv and a member of the Garin Torani in the city, Neriah graduated from honors programs in humanities and law at the Hebrew University and Bar-Ilan University. He also interned at the Supreme Court.

* In Medicine

Dr. Motti Haratz

Year 21

City Givat Shmuel

Profession Doctor

Current employment Director of the intensive care unit for burns at the Sheba Medical Center

Dr. Haratz specializes in plastic surgery

**Dr. Mero Getta**

Year 25

City Alon Shvut

Profession Doctor

Current employment Specializes in head and neck cancer surgeries

Mero was an officer in Golani and served in the Second Lebanon War.

He completed a subspecialty at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada.

He is one of a small number of medical professionals in the world who specialize in operations to remove cancerous tumors in the head and neck area and at the base of the skull.

* In Public Service

**Adv. Avichai Kahana**

Year 27

City Modi’in

Profession Law and Governance

Current employment Chief of Staff, Ministry of Justice

He previously served as an advisor to the deputy state attorney and director of the regulatory policy department at the Ministry of Justice.