**Yehoshua Margolin**

**1877–1947**

Here is the burial plot of Yehoshua Margolin (“Uncle Yehoshua”), the patriarch of nature education, a pioneer and path breaker in scientific and environmental teaching in Eretz-Israel.

*In his will, Margolin requested:* ***“Please bury me among the tombs at Tel Alexander, atop which the Kibbutz Seminary College, my dearest desire all my life, is about to be built.”***

In October 1947, on the thirtieth day after his passing, his colleagues, students, and admirers gathered and vowed to carry out his dream: to establish the teachers’ seminary of the kibbutz movement next to his grave. Construction of the Beit Margolin House of Science, which stands to this day, was completed four years later, in 1951. The seminary developed over time and became Oranim Academic College of Education.

Yehoshua Margolin was born on Tammuz 28, 5637 (July 9, 1877) in Hororiec [הורורייץ], a shtetl in Belarus. In 1924, he immigrated to Eretz-Israel and engaged in teaching students and teachers. He thrilled his listeners with his love of nature and attracted the country’s finest educational forces. By his merit, his students learned how to teach with the help of animals and city children gained an intimate acquaintance with the country’s wildlife.

In 1929, he relocated to the Jezreel Valley and became an itinerant teacher—circulating from settlement to settlement, armed with a microscope and a small laboratory, instructing and explaining wherever he went. The residents of the Valley were delighted with his approach and called him “Uncle Yehoshua.” Throughout his years of work, he retained special memories of his years of itinerancy in the Jezreel Valley and considered them the loveliest years of his life. Relating to that period, he wrote: “I bonded with the souls of the children of the Valley, their parents, and their teachers; I reflected on the cooperative education, the kindergarten, and the school that were taking shape there....”

Yehoshua Margolin died in Tel Aviv on Elul 26, 5707 (September 10, 1947) and was interred in a tomb carved into the stone among the pine trees on the slopes of the Alexander Forest.

In the course of his life, Yehoshua Margolin paved the way, laid the foundations, and bestowed his knowledge and inspiration on many generations of teachers and students who followed in his footsteps.

Oranim College is proud to perpetuate the legacy of “Uncle Yehoshua” and continue training educators in his spirit: education in nature, love of nature, and teaching of science by imparting hands-on familiarity with the world around us.

 