**From Stability to Momentum**

Through the will of God we have been successful. The yeshiva that was established in Mishor Adumim in four tents, with forty pioneering students and two young rabbis, has expanded, under the leadership of Rosh Yeshiva Rav Nahum Rabinovitch, to thousands of alumni and tens of thousands who audit our *shiurim*. In our Beit Midrash, young men diligently engage in Torah study and in training themselves in the service of God with effort, commitment, industriousness, depth, and great skill. The Yeshiva has gained recognition for its special character. Our alumni excel in their education, their personality, their thinking, and their commitment, and the Yeshiva has rapidly gained its rightful place among the prominent *yeshivot*. From the very beginnings until today, the Yeshiva has remained committed to its approach, combining in-depth, intensive study, common sense, good character, love of the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, and dedicated service in the IDF. Our publishing wing has produced exemplary books that have impressed traditional Torah scholars and academics alike, and achieved great renown. Dozens of books by Rav Rabinovich, Rav Sheilat, Rav Sabato, Rav Aviner, Rav Lifshitz, the outstanding edition of the Ralbag, and many others that have enriched the Jewish library of Torah study as a whole. **Now, the Yeshiva is transitioning from stability to new momentum.** The Yeshiva has established two advanced *kolels* in addition to the main *kolel* for rabbinic studies; in one, students study to become *dayanim* and in the other, students study the Torah laws governing a Jewish state. The Yeshiva has laid plans for significant future publications and for programs to deepen the education of and connection with students and alumni in Israel and abroad by significantly increasing the number of rabbis and educational staff.

We invite you to partner with us in realizing this new momentum. Let us go from strength to strength for the sake of our people and for the sake of the Torah of the Lord our God.

With the blessing of Torah

Rav Haim Sabato Rav Yitzhak Sheilat

The Yeshiva family, the Roshei Yeshiva, the rabbis, the students, and the alumni send New Year’s blessings to the Rosh Yeshiva Rav Nahum Eliezer Rabinovich, may he live and be well. May they add for you extended days and years of life.

Greetings from the Rosh Yeshiva

Rav Yitzhak Sheilat

**To our dear alumni and friends the world over, the Lord is upon them, may they live,**

With God’s help,

“God is my light and my salvation” — a person always needs light. He seeks salvation when he is in distress. The High Holy Days are, on the one hand, part of our fixed schedule, recurring regularly year after year, “for it is a statute for Israel.” On the other hand, they release us from the daily routine of the rest of the year. “Son of man, why are you sleeping?” Awaken, open your eyes, there are matters you are neglecting; there are troubles that affect everyone and you as well. “Arise and call to your God.”

There is an interpretation traditionally attributed to the Baal Shem Tov: “Sound the shofar at the New Moon [*hodesh*]” — meaning, sound the shofar with a sense of renewal [*hithadshut*]. “For it is a statue for Israel”; because it is a fixed statute, it can easily become a commandment merely performed by rote. The essence of the sounding of the shofar is emotion, renewal, and loud cry.

Elul in the Yeshiva is a time of renewal. Many seats for new students have been added to the Beit Midrash, and older alumni, too, come for reinvigoration and renewal. May God bless both so that they can imbibe light and salvation, and emerge strengthened into a new, good, and fruitful year, a year in which the glory of Israel and the Torah will be elevated.

Yours truly,

Yitzhak Sheilat

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Greetings from the Rosh Yeshiva

Rav Haim Sabato

How does one transform the Day of Judgment into a festival? How does a day of trepidation at a harsh sentence become a holiday?

The Jewish people don their holiday finery, eats festive meals, and their heart rejoices with the joy of a festival celebrating the day that crowns God as King of the entire world, the festival of coronation. However, on this day, the world’s fate is decreed, as we recite in the liturgical prayer *Unetaneh Tokef*. Tears well in one’s eyes as he pleads for his future and the future of his children, pleads for their lives and their spiritual wellbeing. How can it be a festival if the books of life and the books of death are open?

The response cited by the *Tur* in the name of the *geonim* is well known: “It is because they know that the Holy One, blessed be He, will perform miracles for them and arrive at a favorable judgment. The Jewish people is confident in God’s mercy upon them and that He will grant them a pardon in His judgment, as Nehemiah says: ‘Do not be sad as joy in the Lord is your strength.’”

This response is correct for the Jewish people as a whole, but not for each individual. Perhaps the intent of the *geonim* was that it is advisable for a person to include himself as part of the community, as those who interpret the Bible metaphorically expounded upon the response of the Shunamite woman: “I dwell among my people.” He is thereby judged together with the entire community. This inclusion is not merely declarative. It is a way of life that prioritizes responsibility for the entire Jewish people, and true partnership with the whole nation.

Aside from the *Tur*, we can suggest a different response.

True, the encounter with sin and judgment is difficult, but it also provides hope for improvement. Repentance facilitates taking a new path. How encouraging it must be for a person who knows that all his sins will be atoned, and it is as though he was reborn. Therefore, although the penitent experiences trepidation in the face of judgment, the great joy of renewal that provides hope overcomes that trepidation.

It is possible to suggest another idea whose basis I found articulated in brief in the *Sefat Emet*.

The knowledge that the Day of Judgment brings us to pass before the King, as stated in the *Mishnah*: “Like sheep,” and the Gemara explains that each one passes alone, terrified; who can stand before the King in sackcloth? However, this is also a cause for joy because on that one day that we are privileged to encounter our King. How much this perspective enriches our souls and shifts the focus from the throne of judgment to the throne of mercy.

Translating this into familiar terminology: The knowledge that repentance brings a person closer to his Creator, the knowledge that repentance opens for Him a window to his pure soul, after removing the partitions that separate and the fences that divide, and the profound feeling of standing before the King of the entire world, render the day a festival.

It is a festive day for us to encounter our King and to stand before Him with awe, but also with love; with trepidation, but also with joy.

We wish a good new year to all our friends and friends of the Yeshiva; our memory of you sitting in the seats in the Beit Midrash, diligently studying Torah is foremost in our minds. May you be privileged to view yourselves throughout your lives as still standing before the King of Kings.

May God bless all your deeds, and may you see satisfaction from children and grandchildren engaged in Torah study and the awe of God.

Yours truly,

Haim Sabato

Greetings to our Canadian friends

**The Beit Midrash**

With the conclusion of this past year, we are once again renewing ourselves with the approach of the New Year, may it be fortuitous. Thank God we are beginning the year with almost seventy first-year students, new courses of study, alumni events, writing, creativity, and achievement. This year, too, we have set our sights on additional goals that will add light and growth to our Yeshiva and to the Jewish people.

**The *Dayanut* *Kolel***

Last year, for the first time since the Yeshiva was established forty years ago, a *Kolel* for rabbinic court judgeship opened in the Yeshiva, at the initiative of the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Sabato. Rav Aryeh Katz heads the *kolel*. He is a prominent halakhic authority in the Puah Institute and one of the contributors to the Talmudic Encyclopedia. Ten of the most outstanding Torah scholars in our Yeshiva are students in this *kolel*. This eight-year program is now in its second year. The curriculum is organized and systematic and includes extensive knowledge, internal exams, intensive lectures, and the practical development of the participants by means of delivering *shiurim*, writing articles, and presenting case studies monetary cases that have been adjudicated in the rabbinic courts. All these ensure that the studies are conducted on an extremely high level that, with God’s help, will produce Torah luminaries and bona fide Torah scholars who will influence all aspects of life in Israel and throughout the world.

**The *Torat Hamedinah* *Kolel***

One of the foremost missions of the Yeshiva is the production of Torah scholars who will be integrated into all aspects of life in Israel, providing guidance in accordance with the Torah. In order to reinforce this objective, at the initiative of the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Sheilat, a three-year program of advanced studies was established for students who have completed *hesder*, which will focus of the Torah laws governing a Jewish state. Last year, the program addressed a variety of topics: communal ordinances, the Land of Israel, conversion, and monetary interest. This year, during the Elul term, the program will address the topic of charity; during the winter term, relations between Israel and the nations of the world: Noahides, prohibitions relating to idolaters and idol worship, the ways of the Emorites, etc.; and during the summer term, the Oral Torah and the principles governing the issuing of halakhic rulings. Rav Sheilat and Rav Oz Bluman head the program.

**Rav Samet’s Lectures**

Over the past year, we have been privileged to have once again benefited from the special lectures delivered by Rav Samet, one of the greatest Bible teachers in Israel. The lectures were posted on the Yeshiva website and disseminated by means of the Yeshiva’s WhatsApp group. Due to the demand of the general public, the Yeshiva is expending great efforts to continue these lectures. We will gladly accept the public’s help in financing them. Two lectures are delivered in the Yeshiva every Thursday between 5:00–7:30 PM. During the month of Elul, the course will address the Tishrei holidays, and during the winter term, it will be devoted to an analysis of the chapters in the Bible that deal with King David. The second course will be devoted to the weekly Torah portion. The lectures are open to the general public.

**Program for Training Torah Leadership**

Several years ago, the Roshei Yeshiva initiated a special program to train young Torah scholars involved in the problems of modernity and society. The objective was to synthesize Torah greatness with involvement in life in the State of Israel and with world Jewry. We aspire to establish high level spiritual leaders who disseminate Torah in Israel and who are sensitive to the problems facing this generation in Israel and in the Diaspora, as well as those who will assume significant positions in all avenues of social and economic life, and will contribute their wisdom, good will, and Torah education to the Jewish people. Thank God, we have been meeting the goals of the program and even surpassing them. Devoted and diligent young Torah scholars have been chosen. Over the course of the year we schedule regular seminars with the participation of the most outstanding lecturers, prominent judges, and experts in the fields of medicine, law, and technology.

**A Year Has Passed – Events at the Yeshiva**

We are happy to share with you, dear alumni and friends, events that took place in the Yeshiva over the course of the past year.

**The Celebration of Rabbinic Ordination**

This year we celebrated the Yeshiva’s third ceremony for conferring rabbinic ordination on students and alumni who passed the examinations set by the Chief Rabbinate. Rav Nahum Eliezer Rabinovich, may he live and be well, ordained thirteen graduates of the *kolel* for rabbinic studies, and gave them an ordination certificate with his signature. The presence of the Rosh Yeshiva at the event inspired the students present to sing and dance.

The Roshei Yeshiva Rav Yitzhak Sheilat and Rav Haim Sabato awarded a book with an inscription to the newly ordained rabbis, and spoke about the role of the rabbis and of the virtues of the students of our Yeshiva. A member of the Supreme Rabbinic Court, Rav Zion Luz, delivered a lecture to the entire student body of the Yeshiva. A Yeshiva alumnus, Rav Yaron ben-David (from the twelfth graduating class), the rabbi of Be’erot Yitzhak, participated in the festive *mitzva* feast and spoke with the newly ordained rabbis and their families about the challenges of the rabbinate.

The evening was moderated by the head of the *kolel*, Rav Elisha Aviner, who spoke about the four elements contributing to the Torah accomplishments of the newly-ordained rabbis: 1. The Yeshiva, which invested its best efforts to enable the students to progress in their Torah studies; 2. The parents who nurtured their children, who “sowed in tears” are now their children are “reaping in joy”; 3. The wives of the married students, who have stood beside their husbands during their years of study in the Yeshiva, even when it demanded sacrifices on their part; 4. Last but not least, the newly-ordained rabbis themselves, who toiled in their Torah studies with great diligence.

**Dedication of a New Torah Scroll**

“When Adar begins joy increases” — the joy of Torah. In the month of Adar we were privileged to welcome a new Torah scroll to the Yeshiva’s Beit Midrash. The event began with the writing of the letters to complete the Torah scroll, followed by a procession and dancing honoring the Torah, the ceremony of placing the Torah scroll in the Beit Midrash, and lectures in the Beit Midrash.

The Torah scroll was donated by Avner and Orit Avivi in memory of their son Evyatar Avivi, of blessed memory.

**Seminars for Alumni**

**To visit His Sanctuary –** At times, the unrelenting flow of life demands that we stop for contemplation about the times that the yearly cycle provides us, and about the Beit Midrash that serves us as a source of spiritual growth and knowledge, everywhere and at all times. That is why we hold events for alumni, to enable regular encounters with the Beit Midrash for those who do no longer study there on a regular basis.

Four alumni seminars were held during the year; two took place at the Yeshiva and two were held in different communities where our alumni reside.

**You shall tell your son 2 –** For the second year in a row, we held, a special evening of study and music during the month of Nisan, entitled “You shall tell your son 2 – the rabbis of the Yeshiva tell about the exodus from Egypt.” The primary objectives of the evening were preparing for the Seder and the Passover holiday (in the midst of the flow of life) and providing tools for leading seders for close relatives and in communities throughout Israel. Over the course of the evening, the Roshei Yeshiva delivered lectures relating to the haggada: through an analysis of *Dayenu*, Rav Sheilat spoke of the obligation to always see on the cup as half-full; Rav Elisha Aviner spoke about the meaning of *Vehi She’amda*; Rav Eliyahu Lifshitz spoke about *Shulhan Orekh*, one of the components of the seder; Rav Eliav Felheimer spoke about the significance of enslavement preceding salvation; Rav Avraham Wolfson spoke about the essence of the Passover sacrifice that distinguishes between Israel and the nations, and more. Yitzhak Meir accompanied the proceedings with song and music, and even taught the audience new tunes. We look forward to seeing everyone at this year’s “You shall tell your son” event.

**My light and my salvation 3 –** With the approach of the upcoming Tishrei holidays, the Yeshiva will hold a day completely devoted to the Torah, called “My light and my salvation 3.” This study day will focus on the topic of **faith and repentance,** marking the publication of the new books by the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Haim Sabato, may he live and be well, “Toward Me I Have Found You,” and “*Sefer HaMitzvot* of Rav Saadya Gaon.” The study day will be made up of three sessions: a morning session on *Sefer HaMitzvot*, an afternoon session on faith and repentance, and an evening session including speeches by the Roshei Yeshiva. Many Yeshiva alumni are expected to take part in the event, which is open to the general public.

**With an Eye to the Community**

During the month of Tevet, the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Sabato, was hosted by the *Yahdav* congregation in Petah Tikva for an evening of study that focused on education. Rav Sabato began the evening with an address on the subject: “How to Educate Children to Love the Torah.” A large crowd from the entire region attended.

During the month of Iyar, a study evening was held at the *Nava Tehilla* synagogue in Givat Shmuel devoted to relationships *bein adam le’chavero*. Both Roshei Yeshiva participated in the evening. Rav Sabato spoke about the love of kindness, and Rav Sheilat spoke about the tension between acceptance and rebuke.

We enjoyed the opportunity to meet our alumni and the community at large in the framework of these events.

**Study Programs for Youth**

This is eighteenth year that the Yeshiva has held an afternoon **Talmud Torah for the Children of Maaleh Adumim.** After a long day in school, children from throughout Maaleh Adumim attend the sessions, coming to the Yeshiva campus to study Mishna and Torah with Rashi with their teachers (married Yeshiva students) … and during recess they play soccer (of course).

Last year, Rav Eliyahu Lifshitz issued a challenge for the youth of Maaleh Adumim: to study Gemara for two hours a day for a significant portion of the summer vacation. In the wake of the success of that initiative, we repeated the program this summer as well. The youth enjoyed studying the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters of tractate *Yevamot* and the number of participants doubled.

For the fifth consecutive year, this summer we launched a special initiative of study days for youth during the first week of the month of Av. Approximately seventy young people from throughout the country participated in the event, experiencing a week of intensive study that included *havruta* study with Yeshiva students, lessons and study groups in which the participants studied Gemara, Bible, and matters of faith. This year we dealt with the topic “A kingdom of priests and a holy nation,” and we clarified matters relating to the State of Israel and *halakha* – the law of the king, secular authority, exile and redemption, and more.

The study days were dedicated in the memory of our dear alumnus Dani Gonen, may God avenge his blood.

**New Books from the Yeshiva Family**

**The Precise Rambam *Sefer Nezakim* – Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Yitzhak Sheilat**

A new volume of the edition of the Rambam’s *Mishne Tora* has been published. The precise Rambam is the first critical edition of the *Mishne Tora*. This edition contains an accurate, annotated version of the Rambam’s text based on the most reliable manuscripts in the world, the culmination of years of research by Rav Yitzhak Sheilat, one of the most prominent scholars of the Rambam.

To date, eleven volumes of the precise Rambam have been published: *Sefer HaMada*, *Sefer Zera’im*, *Sefer Ahava*, *Sefer Avoda*, *Sefer Korbanot*, *Sefer Shofetim*, *Sefer Hafalaa*, *Sefer Mishpatim*, *Sefer Kinyan*, *Sefer Tahara*, and *Sefer Nezakim*.

Two additional volumes, *Sefer Nashim* and *Sefer Kedusha*, are forthcoming.

**Toward Me I Have Found You – Rosh Yeshiva Rav Haim Sabato**

Chapters of faith. This work is a collection of lectures and articles by Rav Sabato on matters of faith and ethics. Some are well known to the Yeshiva’s students and alumni, and some are new. All gently lead one down the path of simple faith that stems from the depth of the heart.

The book’s chapters are enriched by pearls of faith and morals culled from the Rambam’s *Mishne Tora*. The compilation of these important contemplative sayings from that halakhic work renders them accessible and enhances their effect.

**Alumni News**

**Completion of the study of the Talmud**

Congratulations to Yeshiva alumni Yisrael Tzadok and Matan Levi (21st graduating class), and Lior Ofir (15th graduating class – he completed it for the second time) for having completed the study of the entire Talmud this summer. Rosh Yeshiva Rav Sabatotook part in their *siyum*.

They join the dozens of other alumni who have completed the study of the Talmud. Rav Sabato makes a special point of attending every *siyum* that takes place in Israel.

**Alumni appointments**

The Yeshiva family congratulates our dear alumni:

* Mordekhai Kaduri (sixth graduating class) for his appointment to serve as an acting judge in the Jerusalem District Court.



* Mordekhai Benita (sixth graduating class), who served as the director-General of Yeshivat Ateret Kohanim in the Old City in Jerusalem, for his appointment as the Director-General of the Office of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage

