**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 Ramim, has expanded, with the Rosh Yeshiva Rav Nahum Rabinovitch, to thousands of alumni and tens of thousands who audit its shiurim. In its 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’s special voice is distinctive. Its alumni excel in their education, their personality, their thinking, and their commitment. It quickly has assumed its place among the prominent *yeshivot*. From then until now, the Yeshiva has consistently maintained its approach, an approach that synthesizes in-depth intensive study, common sense, good character, love of the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, and dedicated service in the IDF. Exemplary books have been published by its publishing house, books that have impressed the worlds of Torah and scholarship and achieved great renown. Dozens of books by Rav Rabinovitch, Rav Sheilat, Rav Sabbato, Rav Aviner, Rav Lifshitz, the outstanding edition of the Ralbag, and many others that have enriched all aspects of the Torah library. **The Yeshiva is transitioning from stability to momentum.** The Yeshiva established two advanced *kollels* in addition to the main *kollel* for rabbinic studies; one whose members study to become rabbinic court judges and another whose members study the Torah laws governing a Jewish state. The Yeshiva has many plans for impressive, prestigious publications, and programs for intensifying the education of and connection with students and alumni in Israel and abroad by significantly increasing the number of *ramim* and the educational staff.

We call upon you to partner with us in creating this momentum.

“Be strong and let us be strengthened for the sake of our people and for the sake of the Torah of the Lord our God.”

With the blessing of Torah,

Rav Chaim Sabbato Rav Yitzchak Sheilat

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

Greetings from the Rosh Yeshiva

Rav Yitzchak Sheilat

**To our dear alumni and friends wherever they may be, 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 days of judgment and mercy are days that are, on the one hand, part of a fixed routine, as they recur each and every year on a regular basis, “for it is a statute for Israel.” On the other hand they remove us from the routine of the days of the year. “Son of man, why are you sleeping”? Awaken, open your eye, there are matters that you are neglecting; there are troubles that affect the collective and you as well. “Arise and call to your God.”

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

Elul in the Yeshiva is a time of renewal. Numerous seats occupied by new students have been added to the Beit Midrash, and older alumni, too, come for reinvigoration and renewal. May God bless both groups so that they may draw much 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,

Yitzchak Sheilat

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Greetings from the Rosh Yeshiva

Rav Chaim Sabbato

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

The Jewish people don their holiday finery, eat festive meals, and rejoice 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, its fate is decreed, as we recite in the liturgical prayer *U’Netaneh Tokef*. Tears well in one’s eyes as one 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 we find in Nehemiah: “Don’t be sad as joy in the Lord is your strength.”

However, this response is correct vis-à-vis the Jewish people as an entity, but not regarding 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.

If it were not for the *Tur*, it would be possible to suggest a different response.

True, the encounter with sin and judgment is difficult; however, it 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 from 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 Mishna: “Like sheep,” and the Gemara explains that each one passes alone, is terrifying, as who can stand before the King in sackcloth? However, it also causes joy because there is one day that we are privileged to encounter our King. How this perspective enrich our souls; and it is that perspective that transfers the focus from the throne of judgment to the throne of mercy.

If we translate 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 sense 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 in awe, but also with love, in trepidation, but also with joy.

Wishes of a good 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 in our consciousness. May you be privileged to view yourselves throughout your lives as still standing before the King of kings.

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

Yours truly,

Chaim Sabbato

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 objectives that will add light and growth to our Yeshiva and to the Jewish people.

**The Rabbinic Court Judgeship *Kollel***

Last year, for the first time since the Yeshiva was established 40 years ago, a *Kollel* for rabbinic court judgeship opened in the Yeshiva, at the initiative of the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Sabbato. Rav Aryeh Katz heads the *kollel*. He is a prominent halakhic decisor 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 *kollel*. It is an eight-year program and this is its second year. The curriculum is organized and systematic and includes extensive knowledge, internal exams, intensive lectures and practical development of the participants by means of their delivering *shiurim*, writing articles, and presenting monetary cases that have been adjudicated in the rabbinic courts. All these ensure study 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 Torah Laws Governing a Jewish State *Kollel***

One of the foremost missions of the Yeshiva is the production of Torah scholars who will be integrated into all aspects of life in the country, providing guidance in accordance with the Torah way. 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 completed *hesder*, which will focus on the Torah laws governing a Jewish state. Last year, the program addressed a variety of topics: Communal ordinances, the Land of Israel, conversion, and interest. This year, during 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 idolators, the attitude toward 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. The program is headed by Rav Sheilat and Rav Oz Bluman.

**Rav Samet’s Lectures**

We have been privileged to have once again heard over this past year 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 first lecture will address the Tishrei holidays and during the winter term, will be devoted to an analysis of the chapters in the Bible that deal with King David, while the second lecture will be devoted to the weekly Torah portion. Everyone is invited.

**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 individuals who will assume significant positions in all avenues of societal and economic life, and will contribute their wisdom, their good will, and their 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 in the Yeshiva the third ceremony in which rabbinic ordination was conferred upon students and alumni who passed the exams of the Chief Rabbinate. Rav Nachum Eliezer Rabinovitch, may he live and be well, ordained 13 graduates of the *kollel*  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 Yitzchak Sheilat and Rav Chaim Sabbato 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 12th graduating class), the rabbi of Be’erot Yitzchak, 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 *kollel*, Rav Elisha Aviner, who spoke about the four partners in the Torah accomplishments of the ordained: 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, “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 great sacrifice on their part; 4. Last but not least, the newly ordained rabbis, 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 introduce 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 the Avivi family, Avner and Orit, in memory of their son Evyatar Avivi, of blessed memory.

**Seminars for Alumni**

**To visit His Sanctuary –** The inertia of life, at times, demands that one stop for contemplation about the times provided by the yearly cycle, and about the Beit Midrash that is the source of spirit and knowledge for us, everywhere and at all times. That is why we hold events for alumni, to enable periodic encounters with the Beit Midrash, for those who no longer study there on a regular basis.

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

**You shall tell your son 2 –** During the month ofNisan, we held for the second year, a special evening of study and music: “You shall tell your son 2 – the rabbis of the Yeshiva tell about the exodus from Egypt.” The primary objectives of the evening were preparation for the seder and the Passover holiday (in the midst of the course of life) and providing tools for leading seders for close relatives and in communities throughout Israel. In the course of the evening, the Roshei Yeshiva delivered Torah ideas relating to the haggada: Rav Sheilat spoke of the obligation to focus on the cup half-full through an analysis of *Dayenu*; Rav Elisha Aviner, about the meaning of *Vehi SheAmda*; Rav Eliyahu Lifshitz, about *Shulhan Orekh* - one of the components of the seder, Rav Eliav Felheimer, about the significance of enslavement that precedes salvation; Rav Avraham Wolfson, about the essence of the Paschal lamb that distinguishes between Israel and the nations, and more. Yitzchak Meir accompanied the proceedings with song and music, and even taught new tunes to those attending. We will be very happy to see everyone this year too, at “You shall tell your son 3.”

**My light and my salvation 3 –** With the approach of the upcoming Tishrei holidays, a day devoted completely to Torah will be held at the Yeshiva – “My light and my salvation 3.” The study day will focus on the topic of **faith and repentance,** marking the publication of the new books by the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Chaim Sabbato, may he live and be well – “Toward Me I Have Found You,” and “*Sefer HaMitzvot*  of Rav Saadya Gaon.” The study day consists of three sessions: The morning session – *Sefer HaMitzvot*; the afternoon session – Faith and Repentance, and the evening session – speeches by the Roshei Yeshiva. The study day will incorporate in its program a significant number of Yeshiva alumni. Everyone is invited.

**With an Eye to the Community**

During the month of Tevet, the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Sabbato, was hosted by the *Yahdav* congregation in Petah Tikva for an evening of study that addressed the issue of educating children. Rav Sabbato began the evening addressing the topic: “How to Educate Children to Love the Torah.” A large crowd from the entire region attended.

In the month of Iyar, at the *Nava Tehilla* synagogue in Givat Shmuel, a study evening was held that was devoted to matters relating to interpersonal relationships. The Roshei Yeshiva participated in the evening; Rav Sabbato spoke about the love of kindness, and Rav Sheilat spoke about the tension between acceptance and rebuke.

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

**Study Programs for Youth**

This is the eighteenth year during which the Yeshiva holds an afternoon **Talmud Torah for the Children of Maaleh Adumim.** Children from throughout Maaleh Adumim attend, after a long day in school. They come to classrooms on the Yeshiva campus, study Mishna and Torah with Rashi with the teachers (married Yeshiva students). During recess – of course – there are soccer games…

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

This year we held, for the fifth consecutive year, the special initiative of study days for youth during the first week of the month of Av. Approximately seventy youths from throughout the country participated in the study days, and they experienced 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 practice of the king, the law of the kingdom is the law, 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 Yitzchak Sheilat**

A new volume of the edition of the Rambam’s *Mishne Tora* has been published. The precise Rambam is the first scientific edition of *Mishne Tora*. This edition contains a precise version of the text of the Rambam based on the most reliable manuscripts in the world, with textual comments, the culmination of years of research, by Rav Yitzchak Sheilat – among the most prominent scholars of the works 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*, have already been sent for printing.

**Toward Me I Have Found You – Rosh Hayeshiva Rav Chaim Sabbato**

Chapters of faith. The book contains lectures and articles by Rav Sabbato on matters of faith and ethics. Some are well known to the Yeshiva’s students and alumni, and some are new. All sensitively lead one down the path of simple faith that stems from the depth of the heart.

Between the chapters of the book, pearls of faith and pearls of ethics culled from the Rambam’s *Mishne Tora* are incorporated. 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. The *siyum* took place with the participation of the Rosh Yeshiva Rav Sabbato.

These join dozens of other alumni who have completed the study of the Talmud. Rav Sabbato makes it a point to attend each *siyum*  that takes place anywhere in Israel.

**Alumni appointments**

The Yeshiva family congratulates our dear alumni:

* Mordekhai Kaduri (6th graduating class) for his appointment to serve as an acting judge in the Jerusalem District Court.



* Mordekhai Benita (6th 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

