**Greetings from the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Haim Sabato**

Heartfelt greetings to the fellows and supporters of the Robinson Foundation,

Three years ago, the roshei yeshiva and the Robinson family inaugurated a special program for the training of Torah leaders with an awareness of contemporary social issues.

The goal was to create a combination of Torah stature and involvement with life in the State of Israel and the Jewish world.

The program sought to not only expose its fellows to the great early and late poskim, but also to foster an understanding of the contemporary social and technological issues that regularly emerge.

Thank God, we have fulfilled the objectives of the program even beyond our expectations.

Diligent senior scholars were chosen for the program. Over the course of the year, we held regular concentrated study days with the finest lecturers – important dayanim and experts in the fields of medicine, law and technology.

The patriarch of the family, our dear friend, Mr. Sheldon Robinson, established this beit midrash; and his imprint is felt in the study of hundreds of our senior and junior scholars as they are taught Torah, yirat Shamayim and proper character traits.

The family has established this foundation to ensure the preparation of talmidei chachamim who will be aware of the questions of the day and equipped with the appropriate tools to deal with them.

We would like to thank our dear friends who have maintained this foundation now for the third year. Our hope is that the foundation will be reinforced and even grow, so as to aggrandize Torah and glorify it – *lehagdil Torah u'leha'adirah*.

With Torah blessings,

Haim Sabato

**Greetings from the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yitzchak Sheilat**

With help from Above, we founded Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Ma’aleh Adumim in an area of desolate hills between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea over forty years ago. Since then, the area has changed into a growing region of Jewish settlement, with Ma’aleh Adumim and its over fifty thousand residents, as the jewel in the crown.

Since its inception – and, God willing, for many more good years to come – the main goal of the yeshiva has been to develop a large cadre of talmidei chachamim and bnei Torah who will change the face of Israeli society for the better, by infusing it with the light of Torah in thought and deed, through understanding and insight, in the spiritual realm and in the physical realm. And all of this is the result of the learning and values that they absorb from the yeshiva.

“The needs of Your people are many.” We aspire to form spiritual leaders on the highest of levels, Jewish educators who will spread Torah knowledge while being attentive to the specific problems of today’s generation in Israel and in the Diaspora; this, as well as men who will play important roles in all aspects of life – the social, the economic, and so on – and contribute from their wisdom, good will and Torah education to the Jewish people.

With God’s help, we look ahead to the future. We have plans for the growth of the students of the yeshiva and their preparation for the aforementioned functions, with great aplomb and great skill. In order to implement them we require the assistance of our nation’s benefactors; those who see fit to have a role in meriting the realization of these goals. With God’s help, we opened Elul 5778 with two new programs in the yeshiva: a program for the study of dayanut under the leadership of Rabbi Aryeh Katz; and a program for the study of matters connected to the state under the leadership of Rabbi Oz Bluman. Each of these programs began with a cadre of approximately ten accomplished students.

May you be blessed from the Heavens for a good, happy and successful year,

Yitzchak Sheilat

**The Yeshiva and the Program**

The Hesder yeshiva, Yeshivat Birkat Moshe was founded in 1977 by Rabbi Haim Sabato together with Rabbi Yitzchak Sheilat in the new settlement of Ma’aleh Adumim in the Judean Desert. Alongside the growth of Ma’leh Adumim, the yeshiva has also grown, to the point that it now hosts about three hundred students among its ranks.

Over the course of time, the yeshiva expanded the scope of its activity beyond the traditional five-year Hesder program. Among the additional tracks that have been added are a four year B.Ed. program for teachers (in partnership with Herzog College), rabbinic ordination programs and programs for advanced Torah study.

**At this very moment, the yeshiva opened a new Kollel for dayanim with the aim of strengthening, advancing and expanding the scope of Torah study in the yeshiva, as well as its spiritual impact upon the Jewish people. The Kollel is designed for an eight-year course of study.**

The yeshiva has been able to draw talented students – yeshiva-high school graduates and students of traditional yeshivot – from all sectors, due to the fact that its reputation has grown as a center for the development of outstanding talmidei chachamim. There are currently students from forty-three locations in Israel at the yeshiva. The students serve as soldiers and officers in various IDF units, both in active duty as well as in the reserves. There is likewise a group of outstanding foreign students that study in the yeshiva as well. Part of this group stay on in Israel to make aliyah and settle, while the remainder go back to their communities, where they become an important asset for local Jewish and Zionist education. Among our alumni are rabbis and roshei yeshiva equipped to serve as dayanim, as well as accomplished scientists and experts in medicine, physics, law and other fields. Others from our alumni serve as career army officers and as leaders in the settlement movement. The yeshiva also initiated the founding of a yeshiva-high school in Ma’aleh Adumim and continues to share educational programs with it on a frequent basis. Many other alumni have taken on administrative and educational roles in all parts of the educational system in the town.

Among the educational staff are rabbis whose accomplishments have had a major impact on Torah culture and research, accompanied in some cases by senior academic work that has drawn wide recognition for their contribution to the fields of Jewish thought and Jewish studies. Alongside the yeshiva, the Ma’aliot Institute was established to publish basic texts in line with the approach of the yeshiva’s rabbis – texts that have given the yeshiva its standing as a research center for Torah and Jewish studies.

**Program Participants**

**Yishai Engelman**

Personal Status: Married, with two children

Army Service: Active duty and reserve combat soldier in the Paratrooper Corps

Education:

* B.Ed. in Education and Pedagogy
* Approved for rabbinic ordination by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
* Completed the Tzohar Program Rabbinic Course for community rabbis

Educational Programming in the Yeshiva:

* Appointed as the instructor (Ram) for fourth year students in 5778 (2017)
* In charge of coordination with students currently serving in the army

Educational Programming in the Community:

* Previously taught contemporary issues to religious and secular university students (topics included Zionism, cooperation between the religious and the secular and the Jewish holidays)
* Marriage education for prospective grooms
* Cantor for the high holidays at the Pnei Shmuel community synagogue in Mitzpe Nevo
* One of the organizers of the yeshiva group sent to pray on the high holidays at Kibbutz Gilgal (a secular kibbutz) near the Dead Sea
* Presents classes to various groups in Ma’aleh Adumim

**Eren Karman**

Personal Status: Married, with three children

Army Service: Active duty and reserve combat soldier in the Givati Brigade

Education:

* Ordained as a rabbi by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
* Approved for ordination as a city rabbi
* Member of the yeshiva’s Kollel for dayanut

Educational Programming in the Yeshiva:

* Presents a regular daf yomi class
* Presents seminars and classes to students in the yeshiva

Educational Programming in the Community:

* Presents a regular daf yomi class in the Mitpe Nevo neighborhood
* Teaches Mishna and Gemara classes to neighborhood youth

**Yoav Feldman**

Personal Status: Married, with two children

Army Service: Active duty and reserve combat soldier in the Tank Corps

* Education: B.Ed. in Education and Pedagogy

Educational Programming in the Yeshiva:

* Presents classes to yeshiva students of varying ages
* Involvement in yeshiva seminars on various topics

Educational Programming in the Community:

* Lives in a secular neighborhood of Ma’aleh Adumim (Nofei Sela), where he gives classes in the neighborhood synagogues and other communal venues
* Serves in a variety of capacities at the yeshiva-high school in Ma’aleh Adumim: served for several years as a mentor (on a volunteer basis) to various high school students, and as a counselor and dormitory rabbi; now serves as the Gemara teacher to elite students of the middle school
* Presents a weekly parsha shiur on Ma’aleh Adumim’s public television channel

**Gadi Machta**

Personal Status: Married, with three children

Army Service: Active duty and reserve combat soldier in the Givati Brigade

Education:

* Ordained as a rabbi by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
* Approved for ordination as a city rabbi
* Member of the yeshiva’s Kollel for dayanut
* B.Ed. in Education and Pedagogy
* Completed the Tzohar Program Rabbinic Course for community rabbis

Educational Programming in the Yeshiva:

* Assistant for first-year students in the yeshiva: presents classes, offers general guidance and private consultations, and answers questions about methodology, halacha, study topics and private matters
* Presents weekly classes on halacha and contemporary issues

Educational Programming in the Community:

* Presents classes in various contexts: synagogues, yeshiva-high schools, ulpanot for girls, youth classes and one-on-one classes with adults
* Counselor and advisor for the Ma’agalim organization (an organization that provides guidance to high school students in choosing a direction and framework for after graduation)
* Publication of a new children’s edition of the Mishna’s Seder Moed: this edition includes an age-appropriate commentary and format for basic study; its crowning glory is its illustration – beautiful drawings that give full life to the mishna being studied

**Efi Walz**

Personal Status: Married, with five children

Army Service: Active duty and reserve combat soldier in the Tank Corps

Education:

* Ordained as a rabbi by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
* B.Ed. in Education and Pedagogy
* Completed a year course for community rabbis given by the Likrat Shelichut organization

Educational Programming in the Yeshiva:

* Presents classes to yeshiva students of varying ages
* Involvement in yeshiva seminars on various topics

Educational Programming in the Community:

* Teaches topics of halacha and aggada in the Friday Kollel (adult education program) of Ma’aleh Adumim
* Teaches aggada and contemporary issues in a high school girls’ beit midrash
* Teaches Torah and Jewish studies to the children of immigrant families
* Supervises distribution of food to the needy in Ma’aleh Adumim

**Amichai Sachar**

Personal Status: Married, with two children

Army Service: Active duty and reserve combat soldier and officer

Education:

* B.Ed. in Education and Pedagogy with a specialization in Bible and History

Educational Programming in the Yeshiva:

* Rabbi for the foreign students: presents classes, introductory workshops and seminars and provides personal mentoring to the students

Educational Programming in the Community:

* Teaches at the secular high school and at the yeshiva-high school in Ma’aleh Adumim
* Teaches Jewish studies to town youth

**The Robinson Program 5778 (2017-2018)**

In the merit of the generous contribution of the Foundation established in memory of the philanthropist and friend of the yeshiva, Mr. Sheldon Robinson, *z”l* – a man whose image is fixed in our hearts – the yeshiva was able to conduct many projects within the overarching framework of the Robinson Program. The projects involved various facets that required significant participation by Robinson Program fellows.

1. **General study days (*yemei iyun*)**

**Yemei Iyun for Topics in Halcaha and Modernity**: Within the framework of the general study and research days for Topics in Halcaha and Modernity in memory of the yeshiva’s friend and donor, Mr. Sheldon Robinson, *z”l* – held a number of times each year at the yeshiva – we had the opportunity to meet some special talmidei chachamim. The topic of the **Chanuaka Yom Iyun** was **Forcing a Get from a Recalcitrant Husband**, while the topic at the end of the summer semester was **Murder and Manslaughter in Halacha and Modern Jurisprudence.**

The study days at **Chanukah** timedealt with the topic of Forcing a Get from a Recalcitrant Husband and Pre-nuptial Agreements. On 18-22 Kislev (Dec. 6-10, 2017), we rigorously studied the subject of forcing a get, whereas special lectures on this topic were given by yeshiva rabbis and other experts in the field on the days of 23-26 Kislev (Dec. 11-14): Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Yitzchak Sheilat spoke about forcing a get in our times and the possibility of establishing a decree to this effect; Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Elisha Aviner delivered a talk on pre-nuptial agreements; Rabbi Professor Dov Frimer (a student of Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, a lawyer specializing in family law and a lecturer at the Hebrew University) presented a lecture on the marriage and divorce procedures in both Torah and secular law; Rabbi Meir Kahana (Av Beit Din of the rabbinic court of Tel Aviv and rabbi at Yeshivat Yerucham) spoke about the case of disagreement between spouses concerning the divorce process; and Rabbi Levanon (Dayan in the Jerusalem Beit Din) dealt with the question of when and how a court may force a get. During the course of these special study days, Mrs Gail Levitt – daughter of the philanthropist, Mr. Sheldon Robinson, *z”l* – honored us with her presence.

1. **Learning Programs for Youth**

Within the framework of the Robinson Program, the yeshiva offers learning activities designed for youth not yet studying in Hesder or traditional yeshivot. These activities take place primarily during the summer, at which time youngsters are not studying in any educational institution. The goal of this programming is to prevent a significant and meaningful alternative to what is available to youth in Israel when there is no school. There is great importance in the presentation of a way to engage with Torah and values during the long vacation. Moreover, it opens a world of spiritual ambitions for these young people as they continue their lives.

The activities include:

* Study days designated specifically for the youth of Ma’aleh Adumim. These studies take place in the yeshiva during the first half of the summer vacation.
* Study days with participants from all over Israel. These days consist of intensive study, enriched by a broad array of topics and educational experiences.

The youth study day project is an initiative that began in our yeshiva several years ago and has since been “adopted” by other yeshivot, such that they also organize youth study days during the summer months. This year, we added a further initiative – nightly summer study. Within this framework, scores of young people from Ma’aleh Adumim came to study at night in the yeshiva. For those who were diligent in this activity, came a fine prize – a drone that ‘brings together heaven and earth…’

In addition, the younger students of the yeshiva-high school come once a week to our beit midrash to study with the students of the yeshiva. This is followed by an in-depth class about what they just studied.

1. **New Alumni Positions**

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on new positions received by alumni of the yeshiva. The yeshiva sees a direct correlation between the formation process undergone by our dear students in the various programs of the yeshiva – the Robinson program among them – and the integration and contribution of our alumni to all facets of Israeli society and to its social, cultural and Zionist character. It is with a heart full of joy that we see that the multi-year investment has ‘yielded such special fruit.’