

# HAVRUTA



## LOOKING BACKWARD

by Levi Lauer

My trip to the States last spring to visit former Pardes students and to seek additional financial support for Keren Pardes was a source of encouragement, exhaustion and some humor. Encouragement was provided by the generosity and hospitality of old and new friends who opened their homes in Tenafly, N.J., Houston and Chicago for meetings at which Professor David Weiss and I, with the help of Ellen Singer, Lewis Warshauer and Phil Shaw, explained Pardes' programs and needs. It was also gratifying to have been able to meet with Bonei Pardes, to learn of their academic and professional progress since leaving Yerushalayim, to observe the growth of commitments to Jewish study and communal involvement nurtured at Pardes.

Exhaustion and humor came hand in hand. Fourteen flights, three train excursions and the New York City subways, all in 17 days left me at times not certain who I was, let

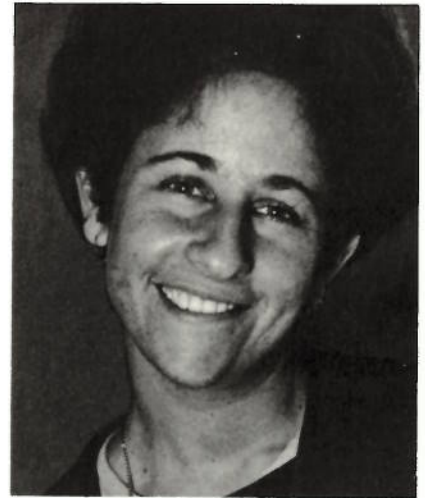
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**ON HAVRUTA** | More than a new name for Pardes' newsletter, *Havruta* is a statement of Pardes' purpose. It is an affirmation that cooperation and diversity are sources of strength — foundations of intensive, creative and balanced Jewish learning. More than a title, *Havruta* is a conceptualization of the need to synthesize disparate worlds of thought, to integrate distinct intuitions and proclivities while still preserving prominent, respected place for individuality.

Of course you noticed. Pardes' *Havruta* also brings together the thinking of man and woman, their shared and different experiences, their learning from each other. At Pardes that learning brings new color to a traditional spectrum which reflects differences of substance in man and woman, differences far more subtle and far less categorical than a style of dress.

**EDITORIAL** | Despite the fact that we refer to *Havruta* as a newsletter, we think it only fair to reveal to you at the outset that *Havruta* also serves another purpose, one considerably more ambitious. For its aim is not only to bring to you news about Pardes, its students, staff and friends, but also to convey to you the essence of Pardes — its thinking, its sensibilities, its special vision. We are endeavoring to do this by including in each issue a feature entitled

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## KATHY KAHN APPOINTED

Kathy Kahn ('82-'83, '83-'84) has been appointed as Pardes Coordinator for Volunteer Projects. Kathy will work at developing long-term programs designed to match student efforts with community needs. She will also supervise students throughout the course of their volunteer projects. "There are many possibilities," says Kathy. "Eventually we may be able to produce a pamphlet indicating where and how volunteers are needed throughout the city. We may even be able to create a model for volunteer work adaptable to other learning institutions in Jerusalem."

Kathy grew up in Baton Rouge, La., and was graduated from Tulane University in 1979 with a B.A. in Psychology. She came to Israel with the WUJS program, worked for half a year in the pediatric dialysis unit of Share Zedek Hospital and entered Pardes in 1982. In addition to her new role at Pardes, Kathy will continue her studies at the Field School in Gush Etzion where she is training to become a guide for Israeli high-

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## PARDES PEOPLE: Cheri Fox

have a personality that tends to become involved," says Cheri Fox ('80-'81), a native of St. Louis, Mo., explaining the considerable amount of time she spent toward the end of her year at Pardes trying to create an alumni network. "Pardes is a one-of-a-kind opportunity that needs to continue to exist. I knew I was going back to the States for a while, and that Pardes could use some help with fundraising. Furthermore, the same thing was happening that occurred at the end of each year — people were going their separate ways, and yet everyone felt that something very special had happened during the year which shouldn't just trickle away. So we had two goals — to strengthen Pardes financially and to keep students in touch with each other. Our end-of-the-year effort to try to reconnect with all former Pardes students was the beginning of Bonei Pardes (the organization of Pardes graduates)."

Cheri was in the States for a while after studying at Pardes. She continued to work to solidify Bonei Pardes while completing her M.A. in public health at Columbia University. In April 1983 she came to Israel on *aliyah* and is now working as health educator and community organizer for The Department of Social Medicine in The School of Public Health at Hadassah Hospital — Hebrew University. Her speciality is developing community health-education programs in conjunction with medical staffs, professional community workers and community volunteers. Projects include smoking prevention, smoking cessation, community nutrition and diet, and health programs for the elderly.

"I had decided about *aliyah* long before I was at Pardes," recalls Cheri. "In fact it was as early as 1974 when I came here as a freshman for six months right after the Yom Kippur War. I almost stayed and went into the army. I knew I would come back at some point and make a decision about *aliyah* because being in Israel made me feel complete. I realized that part of what was missing was a relationship to my Jewishness that I hadn't found anywhere else. At that time I read an article in *The Jerusalem Post* about Pardes. I wasn't observant but remember being intrigued by the idea of women and men learning together, and decided that if I ever studied



Torah, I would like to do so in such a framework.

"Six years later when I came to Pardes I had completed my B.A. I had been living in Boston doing Jewish youth work and substitute teaching and had been observant for a number of years, but I felt a tremendous gap in my knowledge. I didn't know how to look at a Jewish text, and so I decided to spend two years in Israel, the first learning Hebrew and gaining some work experience and living among Israelis, and the second at Pardes.

"At Pardes I found not only methodology, but ideas that I had never taken the opportunity to pursue. I found teachers who weren't hesitant to tackle the most difficult and controversial questions. I found students who were intellectually challenging, good people to be with from whom I had a lot to learn. It was a community which shared my feelings about Israel and Jewish identity — searching for many of the same things as I was. What Pardes has contributed to my life, however, is not always tangible. As a result of my experience at Pardes I feel more comfortable confronting myself religiously. I have a deeper understanding of the role that being Jewish plays in my life — halachically, spiritually, culturally and communally."

## THE COMPANY WE KEEP

This column is designed to let our readers know who some of Pardes' friends are. These individuals are as diverse in their personal accomplishments as in the nature of their contributions to Pardes, some providing the benefit of their expertise and others their financial assistance.

■ **RABBI STEVEN SHAW**, founder and director of the Radius Foundation in New York City, received his rabbinic ordination from The Jewish Theological Seminary. The Radius Foundation is instrumental in bringing together Jews of diverse denominational and political orientation who wish to confront some of the most crucial issues of Jewish life in Israel and the United States. Radius also seeks to enlist the support of Jewish philanthropists for smaller, as yet largely unnoticed and unconventional Jewish endeavors. In 1971, Rabbi Shaw met with Rabbi Michael Swirsky, the founder of Pardes, to offer ideas and encouragement, both of which he has continued to provide throughout the years. His brother, Philip, attended Pardes in 1977-78 and now works for Citicorp's venture capital division.

■ **CLARENCE EFROYMSON**, Professor Emeritus of economics, Butler University, Indianapolis, after retiring from a lifetime of teaching, entered and completed the curriculum of the Hebrew Union College. He has devoted the last decade to translation of Yehezkel Kaufmann's works, previously unavailable to the English reader. From his farm in Carmel, Indiana, Professor Efroymsen has devoted much effort to Jewish scholarly and philanthropic pursuits. Deeply concerned for the well-being of world Jewry and the State of Israel, he has granted much support to institutions of higher Jewish learning in the United States and Israel.

### A REMINDER

Tax-deductible contributions to Keren Pardes may be made through P.E.F.-Israel Endowment Funds, Inc. Checks may be made out to P.E.F.-I.E.F and mailed to either of the following addresses:  
In Israel: Keren Pardes — The Pardes Foundation for Jewish Education, P.O. Box 14002, Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem 91140. (02) 272660, 636110, 633218.  
In U.S.A.: Keren Pardes, Box 312, Youngsville, N.Y. 12791. (914) 482-4100.



## WHO ARE THE STUDENTS OF TASHMAH (5745/1985)?

There are 90 students studying at Pardes this year. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why are they here? Is it possible to define a typical Pardes student? The answer to the latter, as we shall see, is decidedly "no", for Pardes continues to attract students whose diversity and individualism defy categorization. Before looking closely at a few "atypical" students, what overall picture, if any, can we draw?

Three-fourths of this year's full-time students are from the United States, the others coming from Canada, South Africa, Australia, Jamaica, Denmark, Switzerland, England and Israel. All but 10 of the students are university graduates whose degrees were mainly in the humanities and arts. Fourteen students are in their second year at Pardes, and 65% of the students are women. Professional directions also vary, including teacher, architect, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, social worker, Jewish day school administrator, computer programmer and irrigation expert. Two Israeli students recently completed their compulsory military service, one working with Ethiopian Jewry and the other in a development town.

Ten students have been working as Jewish professionals or plan to do so. Three are currently enrolled as rabbinical students. While it is too soon to tell how many of this year's students may decide eventually to remain in Israel, 15 are either citizens of Israel or *olim hadashim* (new immigrants).

The Jewish background of students also varies from those with no previous systematic Jewish learning to those who attended yeshivot or Jewish day schools. Two of this year's students are pursuing studies as a foundation for their conversion.

According to Levi Lauer, Director of Pardes, "These are people willing and able to make a concerted effort to ask themselves what the ultimate Jewish commitment of their lives should be. They feel that professional achievement is not the only standard by which human beings should determine their worth and place in the universe. And, as usual, there is a disproportionate number of vegetarians."

Let us now look at a couple of "atypical" students.

### KAREN KOOSIS

I needed one more history class to graduate from college, and took Bernie Cooperman's 'Jews in Modern Times'. It was a watershed," explained Karen Koosis, recalling how she came to be at Pardes. "Prior to that I had no Jewish education. I knew I was Jewish but didn't know why. I remember staying home from school on Yom Kippur, but I didn't experience my first *Seder* until college.

"After that I took other courses in Jewish subjects and got involved in Hillel. I guess I came to Israel out of curiosity. I felt there was more to learn than was available in Cambridge, and a friend who knew me well said 'Buy a one-way ticket. You'll love Israel.'

"I arrived in Israel two years ago, the day before Sabra and Shatila. I knew about Pardes, but first I wanted to create a base in Israeli society and to develop my musical connections and Hebrew before entering Pardes. Since I was beginning to feel that I was probably going to live here, I didn't want to limit my reality.

"I knew from the start that Jerusalem was the place I wanted to live, so after 4½ months on kibbutz ulpan I came here, found a job and got set up musically. I had actually come with my bow but had to use eight different cellos before mine arrived. I met a guy who's a great violinist and

also an El Al pilot and he brought my cello over. He did as much for the cause of my *aliyah* as the Jewish Agency. I play chamber music and I've played with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra a couple of times. Now I'm also in a band that plays Sephardi music. I've learned how to improvise since coming to Israel.

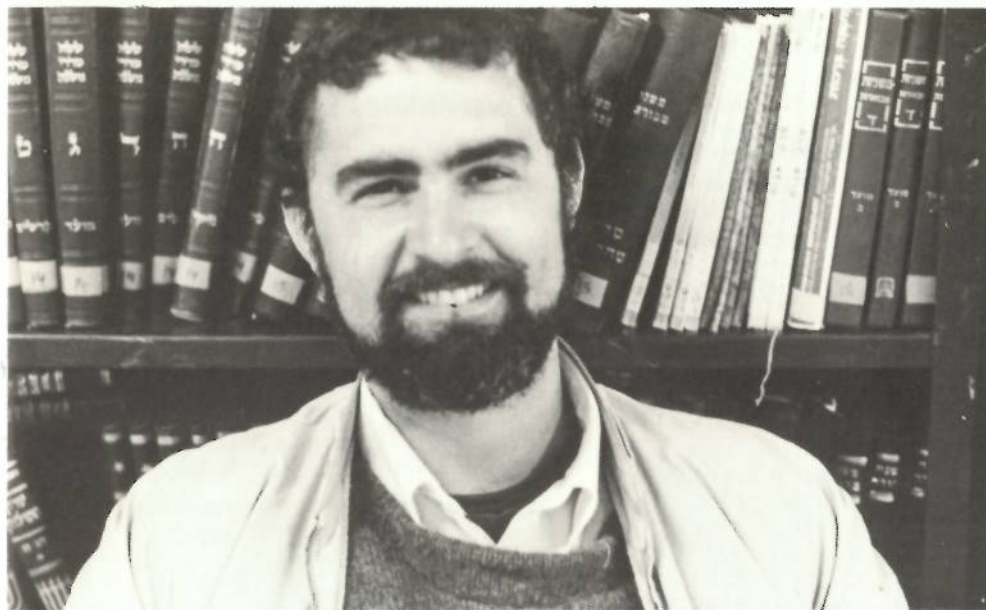
"I found that two years of living in Israel didn't bring me closer to my Jewish identity. It taught me a lot about living in Israel but not about being a Jew. In fact everything I did in terms of being Jewish was vicarious. Here you live according to a Jewish calendar. Shabbat is; the holidays are. Your Judaism is done for you. I saw religious people all round me but didn't have any insight into their lives. I knew I couldn't continue to live here with the perpetual suspicion that non-religious people have toward religious.

"As for Pardes, I think it's a better education than I got at Harvard. You can't be passive in a class with ten people or alone with your *havruta*. Things matter, and there's a tremendous excitement in discovering Torah for the first time, no matter how you take it — whether as literature or whatever. And despite the fact that there are no tests or papers, I find I have tremendous energy for Pardes whereas at college I seemed perpetually tired.

"I feel so comfortable in Israel. One can fall in love with this country despite everything. Pardes simply reinforces this feeling."







## MOSHE GRESSER

ine is not a simple story,” warns Moshe Gresser, “because it is very difficult to separate the various strands of my life. I have always been motivated by two concerns — the personal and the academic, and my religious life overlaps both.”

Ten years ago Moshe was a rock and roll musician traveling around the eastern half of the U.S. “I was not aware of what it means to be Jewish,” he recalls. “Although it is ironic that while I always thought of myself in some way as Jewish — halachically, I was not.

“We were raised as secular humanists. And since humanism is basically agnostic there was no conscious God context. We celebrated Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter, and I never knew that two of these holidays were religious. My father, however, has always had a religious inclination, and we had a sense that life was bigger than we were as individuals. But I grew up in an atmosphere where traditional forms seemed a threat to the sensibility and magic of life.

“My parents’ divorce pulled the rug out from under all of us — we had no family, no framework, no God — and sent me on a pilgrimage, long unconscious, to find a context for living. The divorce indicted the way I was raised, in a family without larger context. A family needs a community context and a God context. The individual is not enough and love is not enough.”

Moshe, 33, grew up outside of Washington, D.C. In 1978 he received a B.A. from the University of Maryland in English language and literature and became interested in literature as a vehicle for the transmission of values. “I wanted to focus on the Bible. What I needed, however, was a way to talk about my own situation and I felt that I could accomplish this by entering the fields of religion and psychology.

“My first formal God-involved religious identity was as a Christian, and in 1978 I entered the University of Chicago Divinity School. I related to Jesus as a ‘redemptive symbol’, but all the time I knew I was in touch with something deeper. I was Jewish and Christian at the same time.

“It didn’t work. It was ‘yeah, but’. It didn’t feel like home. I started attending a Reform Jewish temple in Hyde Park and discovered that I felt pulled by the music, the words, the food, the humor, the human feeling, and that you could be human and God could be present. It felt like family. Shabbat Shuva 1981 I realized that I had returned to Judaism.

“Rabbi Arnold Wolf was the bridge that brought me back. He challenged me intellectually, and I recognized in him a moral force that equalled what I had at the Divinity School. He was my rebbe, bringing it all together. Eventually I began attending Rabbi Danny Leifer’s Conservative egalitarian minyan at the Hillel House of the University of Chicago, and it felt even more authentic, closer to the tradition. There I came to appreciate the need

for active participation, ‘davening’, rather than a more passive service of ‘worship’.

“Under the tutelage of Professor John Levenson, an observant Jew who joined the staff of the Divinity School, I focused my graduate research on the Hebrew Bible. With his encouragement and that of Rabbi Wolf and Leifer I decided to go to Israel. Although I had undergone a halachic conversion in the States, I came to Israel to find out who I am as a Jew.

“At Pardes, and particularly in the person of Levi (Lauer), I found a commitment to both poles of the various dichotomies that underlie being a Jew — tradition and modernity, *halacha* and humanism, religion and politics, *eretz Yisrael* and *medinat Yisrael* — and all in the same *beit midrash*.

“At Pardes I also found the most profound experience of my life. Pardes has shown me a way to give Jewish expression to a commitment to both of these poles. There is a sense of living for something greater, of participating in the destiny of the Jewish people. What is happening at Pardes is what the Jewish people needs to do. You laugh, you cry, you study, you pray. It is a combination of university, yeshiva and summer camp, communicating that Judaism is the way of life of a people. You encounter what Jewish people experience in the modern world — the State of Israel, the army, taking women seriously, the possibility of change and a vision for the future. Pluralism is valued at Pardes. We have people from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist backgrounds all studying together in the same *beit midrash*.

“Originally I had planned to do only a year of Jewish studies at Pardes as part of my Ph.D. program. What was supposed to be peripheral became central and the basis for my personal life. I’m now in my second year. However, at the end of this year I’m going back to the States. I want to finish my dissertation. I’ve invested a lot of time in it and I owe money to the U.S. government for my education. With a degree I will be able to teach in an area that is important to me. As to where all this will lead, I can only say that at Pardes I discovered an encounter with the holy by means of halachic observance. In taking this upon myself, I have begun to experience a sense of belonging which also involves belonging to Israel and the feeling that Israel belongs to me.”



## WIN A MONTH IN JERUSALEM

For the first time Pardes is conducting a fund-raising activity in which the contributor may also become a recipient. With the purchase of one or more \$25.00 tax-deductible "Jerusalem Experience" tickets, one has a chance of winning an expense-paid vacation in Jerusalem for two, including round-trip air fare, one month in a luxurious apartment overlooking the Old City, personalized tour guiding in Jerusalem and environs, and the option of participating with individualized instruction in the unusual learning experience that takes place at Pardes.

In the event that the winner is unable to take advantage of this vacation, he or she may choose instead to receive a \$3,000 cash prize.

Sale of "The Jerusalem Experience" tickets is beginning now. Drawing will take place October 2, 1985 and the prize is valid for one year from the date of the drawing. Packets of tickets are being mailed to anyone wishing to help with their sale. They make excellent gifts as they serve a dual purpose — directly benefitting Pardes, and at the same time offering a chance to win this extraordinary prize. If you wish to receive a ticket or to help with the sales, please contact us right away.

## DOV BERKOVITS TO U.S.

In a tour arranged by Ellen Singer, Pardes' Alumni Coordinator in the United States, Pardes faculty member Dov Berkovits will be visiting six major U.S. cities from February 4-20. Plans include meeting with Bonei Pardes (Pardes alumni) and addressing campuses and congregations in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C. and St. Louis. At the invitation of Rabbi Murray Saltzman, Dov will give the Rabbi Morris Lieberman Memorial Lecture at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation on February 17. This keynote lecture is first in a series entitled "Building Bridges — Orthodox, Conservative, Reform", in which other speakers will be Professor Arthur Hertzberg and Dr. Leon Jick.

Titles of other of Dov's talks will be "Between Denominationalism and Peoplehood", "The Process of *Halachah*" and "The Relationship of the Jew to His Land — A Personal View from Shomron". In New York City, Dov will conduct a Tu B'Shevat Seder for Bonei Pardes and their families.

"The purpose of the trip is three-fold," says Dov, "to renew relationships between Bonei Pardes and Machon Pardes by personal contact; to show the wider public the particular manner and approach of Pardes

to Jewish study, and to renew and intensify the dialogue between Pardes, Israel and the States."

## BONEI PARDES SHABBATON

The first Bonei Pardes Shabbaton of the year took place at Pardes January 17-19. Devoted to the theme "Torah and Democracy", the Shabbaton began on Thursday evening with a lecture by David Dishon on "Authoritarianism and Pluralism in the Halacha — John Stuart Mill vs. Rambam". Other teachers at the Shabbaton were Dov Berkovits ("The Crisis of Democracy in Israel Today") and Professor Aviezer Ravitski ("Democracy and Judaism").

### THE OFFICIAL PARDES T-SHIRT

Buy a shirt and help keep Pardes green. Support the Pardes Scholarship Fund.

Send check to: Keren Pardes  
P.O. Box 14002, Jaffa Gate  
Jerusalem, Israel 91140

White printing on green background.

Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL  
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## THE PARDES CONNECTION

news of classmates and staff . . .

**Jeff Alon** '79-'80, is taking orders for his professionally designed *ketubot*. He lives in Jerusalem where he works as an artist.

**Judy Oppenheim Beizer** '80-'81, received her Ph.D. in pharmacology and is working at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. Her husband is a lawyer.

**Meir Charash** '80-'81, '81-'82, made *aliyah* this year and begins his army service in February. Meir received his M.A. degree from Yeshiva University's Wurzeiler School of Social Work and is working as a counselor for troubled youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Tovah Eisen** '78-'79, made *aliyah* this month after receiving her M.A. in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

**Yedidya Fraiman**, Assistant Director of Pardes, recently completed three weeks army reserve duty. Yedidya has reactivated his string bass, and his new band is performing for weddings and other occasions.

**Chaim Goldman** '79-'80, is serving in the Israel Defense Force. He received his law degree from the Hebrew University

and is employed by Bezek, the Israel telecommunications firm.

**Devora Greniman** '79-'80, is working for the World Zionist Organization in the Department for Torah Education and Culture in the Diaspora, translating the Kehati Mishna into English.

**Levi Lauer**, Director of Pardes, spoke this month to 135 campus UJA representatives in Jerusalem on "The Significance of Jewish Education for Jewish Communal Work."

**Rona Shapiro** '81-'82, '84-'85, had an article published in *Moment* ("Why Justice and Mercy Aren't Enough", November 1984).

**Ophir Yarden** '82-'83, '83-'84, has completed the Israel Ministry of Tourism tour guide course. His wife Mimi, a flutist, is a student at the Rubin Academy.

### . . . and their weddings . . .

**Debra Ann Cohn** '82-'83, to Yakov Levine in Encino, California.

**Kathy Simon** '83-'84, to Aharon Baruch. They are living in Jerusalem.

**Chaim Weizman** '80-'81, to Ilana Levy. Chaim finished 1½ years in Israel army intelligence in Lebanon and works as a free lance journalist in Jerusalem.

### . . . and their babies . . .

**Eudice Beiner** '82-'83, and **Ricky Bloomberg** '82-'83 are the parents of a daughter, Idit Beiner Bloomberg. They are living in Baltimore.

**Shmuel Browns** '81-'82, and **Bonna Haberman** '81-'82 are the parents of a daughter, Tiferet Shlomit. They are living in London.

**Roxana Goldman** '81-'82, and **John Dann** are the parents of a son, Hanan Menasheh. They are living in Jerusalem.

**Hannah Levine** '79-'80, and **Zvi Ariel** are the parents of a son, Tuvia. Currently living in Jerusalem, they are planning to join Kibbutz Maale Gilboa.

**Sybil Sheridan** '80-'81, and **Jonathan Romain** '81-'82 are the parents of a son, James (Yair). Both Sybil and Jonathan are rabbis in England.



alone where I was. A few details might illustrate. First, two weeks after finishing a month's *miluim* (army reserve duty) in Lebanon, I awoke from dreaming that I had lost my rifle. My host was gracious in making no comment as I spent a full minute awake/asleep searching for that weapon under bed and sofa in suburban Boston, far afield from a tent near Nabatiye.

Second, a man in a four-piece business suit, reading the *Wall Street Journal* with an intensity reserved at Pardes for Gemara and Rashi, sits next to me on a 7:00 A.M. flight from Houston to Philadelphia. Very friendly, he says good morning, introduces himself and reveals he's from Laredo. I, probably not quite so friendly, introduce myself, tell him I'm from Jerusalem. "Hmm," he says. "I've lived in Texas all my life and never heard of it. What county's it in?"

But to be serious once again. The dedication and support of Pardes's former students and friends are essential for the sustenance of Pardes' education. It is good to have annual opportunity to visit with you, to learn from your concerns about our work and to share with you our thinking about new programs and efforts.



### PARDES INTRODUCES NEW COURSES

Pardes is introducing two new courses this winter open to Pardes friends and graduates as well as to present students. In response to student interest, a series entitled "Women and Halacha" will take place at 7:00 P.M. Sunday evenings at Pardes. Coordinated by Pardes faculty member, Regina Stein, topics will include: women in the synagogue, the biblical concept of purity, rabbinic understandings of modesty and contemporary women's roles. Lecturers will be both Pardes faculty and invited guests.

Also new this winter are two courses taught by Arie Strikowsky at Pardes. "Hasidic Response to the Holocaust" will examine texts written during the Holocaust, on Mondays at 2:00 P.M. On Tuesdays at 5:00 P.M., Arie is teaching a course devoted to the philosophical foundations of Kabbala and mysticism.

**Pardes Revisited which we hope will serve to acquaint you, or reacquaint you, with the perspectives of our various staff members.**

**In this first issue, faculty chairman Dov Berkovits, who has been teaching at Pardes since its beginnings thirteen years ago, writes about a problem that concerns him deeply. As a Jew committed, on the one hand, to halacha and its values and, on the other, to the primacy of Jewish peoplehood as a fundamental principle of Judaism, in a world in which the two are often at odds with one another, Dov asks a number of profoundly provocative questions. Refusing to concede that these equally important elements can only appeal to mutually exclusive segments of the population, he issues a call for those who share his vision to form a middle ground from which to combat the forces of extremism.**

**That such a perspective is sorely needed goes without saying. That it reflects values to which Pardes is fundamentally committed such as tolerance and pluralism cannot be said enough. At a time when so much of the Jewish world is fragmented as a result of parochialism and mutual suspicion, it is all the more gratifying to bring to you this sincere and vibrant work with its implicit faith in the future.**



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Photography by Debbie Cooper

school groups. She is also on the staff of the Center for Zionist Education where she works with Israelis in high school defining and resolving questions of Jewish identity.

### CORRESPONDENCE COURSE UNDERWAY

Members of the faculty of Pardes, under the direction of Avi Walfish, have begun preliminary work on a correspondence course in Mishna designed for English speakers. According to Avi, the course "combines features of both the Open University programs and of Nehama Leibowitz's 'Gilyonot'. Like the Open University, it will provide an ongoing co-ordinated framework of study. Like Professor Leibowitz, it will focus nearly exclusively on understanding and interpreting primary texts."

While designed for students who already have a reading knowledge of Hebrew, the Mishna will be presented both in its original language as well as in English translation. An expository essay and study questions will direct the student to analyze questions which emerge from the Mishna. Answers to those questions may be sent to Pardes where a faculty member will read them and return them with comments. "It is hoped," says Avi, "that study questions will test students' understanding and enable them to develop their own learning skills through correspondence with a qualified teacher."

Anyone wishing to receive a sample section of the pilot program is advised to write to Avi Walfish at Pardes. The material will be available immediately after Pesah.

### IN THE LAND OF OZ

"Perspectives on Amos Oz' *In the Land of Israel*" was the subject under discussion at the most recent of Pardes' ongoing Rosh Hodesh series on "The Contemporary Condition of the Jewish People". Speakers at the one-day seminar included Rabbi Dr. Daniel Tropper, founder of Gesher and former advisor to the Israel Minister of Education; Pardes faculty member Avi Walfish; Jonathan Rosenblum, graduate of Ohr Sameach Yeshiva and now in the kollel of Rav Kushalevsky, and Dr. Janet Aviad, Van Leer Institute Fellow, member of the Executive Committee of Peace Now and the author of *Return*, a systematic study of *baal teshuva* yeshivot.