

HAVRUTA

חברותא

No. 17 Fall 5754/1993

A PARDES
LEARNING
COMPANION

COMMENT: Two big news items. The first is the subject to which this issue of HAVRUTA is devoted—namely, Pardes's new home. The photos and articles speak for themselves. Yes, it's back to Ba'aka, only two blocks from Pardes' original home, but *viva la difference!* For those of

you who remember Rehov Gad where we used to learn, philosophize while hovering around the hot water heater, and freeze, the new building will seem like a tropical paradise. But enough. Come and see for yourselves. And keep an eye out for news of our grand opening events, scheduled for

January. The second bit of news, literally hot off the press, is the birth of our new publication—QUARK (Quite Unusual Acts of Remarkable Kindness). With it, we hope to bring new direction and emphasis to your thinking and concern.

Jane Kimchi



In Levi's words...

It may take time to become thoroughly accustomed to this new home; to enjoy the pleasures of its simple, efficient beauty; to savor the vistas from the *beit midrash* of the hills, mountains and valleys that shape and surround Yerushalayim; to relish the comfort and collegiality afforded by dining facilities for students and visiting groups. There will be nostalgia-laden first encounters best appreciated by those who studied and visited in our former quarters. These heaters actually do that for which they're named; there are lavatories for men and women; access is available by elevator and through doors designed for the physically less able; classrooms are sufficiently large to be spacious, small enough to be intimate; the aesthetics are light-filled, muted and soft, the acoustics accommodating; there

are quiet, private corners for serious, personal discussion—and more than 200 can enjoy a public lecture in the *beit midrash*. I'm glad we've made it to this day.

Dov Berkovits, Pardes's teacher and former director, gave the first public lecture in the new *beit midrash*. The pleasure and joy he shared with us were tempered by his words of *bracha*: "As you come up to this beautiful surrounding and view, may your learning of Tora always reconnect you to the streets of Yerushalayim, to the real life of *Eretz Yisrael*, to the real needs of *Am Yisrael*." A significant challenge, one that would make us worthy of this home.

To use this space well means to continue to make Pardes a place where learning makes a real difference for personal growth, leads to heightened sensitivity for moral concerns, brings sharper textual focus to issues *bein adam lehavero* (involving relations with others). These distant vistas and new horizons can frame a *beit midrash* filled with the harmonics and cacophony of *havruta*, of young Jewish adults struggling in rich diversity to understand more, that we might act better.

It is a great privilege and weighty responsibility to teach in this environment. The Tur, Yakov ben-Asher, begins his fifteenth century description of the qualifications of a teacher by insisting one be בעל יראה, possessed by

a sense of awe in seeking to interpret God's world (Tur, *Hilchot Talmud Torah, Yoreh Deah:245*). The educational challenge of Pardes, and every serious adult Jewish school, is to convey that sense of wonder to its students, see it move students beyond self to the building of community, and, simultaneously, leave room for personal inspiration and prerogative informed by a deep understanding of Jewish texts.

Can these new surroundings assist in that effort? Can this become a place of sanctity, where we can truly experience the teaching of the Tur that "...everyone who teaches their child [and one's students are called one's 'children'] Torah is as one who has received it from Sinai?" Can we make this a physical setting for the marriage of passion and reason, of devotion to *Clal Yisrael* and insistent assertion of individual proclivity, of Torah and secular wisdom, of a reverence for the transcendent and a wrestling with immanent human need? Can we build this beautiful house into בית נאמן בישראל, a home worthy of the *אמונה*/trust of our students and the dedication of our teachers?

That would be the realization of its greatest potential. That would be the attainment of its highest purpose. That would be real cause when putting up the *mezuzah* to say *Shehechayenu*, to celebrate our move to higher ground.



JERRY GOODMAN, Chairman, Pardes Board of Directors; founder, managing director of Alutherm, Ltd.:

“About a year ago, Levi said, ‘If only someone would find us a building, a home for Pardes’. I realized that we didn’t have the money to build our own building, and if we did, we should sooner put it into education. I felt a long-term rental would be the best solution, and tried to convince the Board we should do it. When we were presented with the prospect of this building, I felt that, given the scarcity of long-term rental properties in residential areas, moving into an area designed for commercial enterprises and offices had certain advantages. First of all, it was less expensive. Second, since it was a new building, we could design the premises entirely to our own specifications and hopefully expect fewer hidden problems. Third, a number of other educational institutions had already begun to move into this area.

“Pamela immediately drew up a design of what the space could look like, and in mid-May the Board approved the decision. By this time, of course, we were under tremendous pressure. We had to finish designing and building everything in time to open the new facility on September 1 in order to avoid paying two full year’s rent for both the old and the new premises.

“I volunteered to see it through from beginning to end only if I went with a team I knew and trusted, designer Pam Blum and the Gabai Brothers contractors. We worked as a team, with Pam doing all the design and on-site inspection and my putting pressure on everyone. I personally like the challenge of doing what everyone says is impossible, and so do the people I work with. Actual construction began July 4 and the contract stipulated it would be finished by August 17. If not for a strike in the ports, we

could have finished even a week earlier. Pardes moved in on September 1.

“I regard the building as a leap of faith by the Board. It believes that with a proper home and facilities, Pardes will be able to raise money not only to pay for the renovations, but also to establish much-needed endowments. In our previous quarters we had something to offer but an no setting to offer it in. The new building is a permanent structure in a place that I believe is going to turn into a cultural center, and we did it without investing a lot of money. You can have beauty in simplicity. An institution needs a building, but doesn’t have to own it. Individual credit goes to fellow Board member Fran Alpert, to Gail Resnick and to Pamela Blum, the three women in my life for the duration of the project.

“Pardes is a jewel of the Jewish world, but is as yet still largely unseen. I want to open it to the world. I work in the middle of the West Bank. I go back and forth between all kinds of people—secular and religious, Hasidic and Arab. I cross all types of boundaries and believe in tolerance and equal opportunity, both of which I practice in my work with Palestinians. I’m no scholar, but have always felt, though I haven’t the patience, that others should be able to study. My specialty is in getting things done. Pardes’s values are those I believe in—to learn without being told what to think, observe or wear. I would like to see Pardes as the centerpiece of a constellation of tolerant and halachic educational institutions designed to serve both diaspora Jews and Israelis. I would also like to see Pardes centers set up abroad so that when people think of religion, they will no longer think of coercion.”

GAIL RESNICK, Assistant Director, Administration and Development:

“Pardes’s new building is the fulfillment of a dream—in appearance, location, and spaciousness, in the amenities it offers, and in the many functions it serves.

“Finding a sufficiently large, centrally located, long-term rental, that was more or less affordable, wasn’t easy. After years of looking, and many ups and downs, it finally happened, largely because of the efforts of our Israel Board Chairman, Jerry Goodman.

“Jerry believed it was essential for Pardes’ future program development and financial growth that we have a

home of our own, and that it was now or never. Despite initial skepticism as to whether we could raise the necessary money for the renovation, let alone complete the job by September 1 (in only six weeks time!), Jerry came through. He has in hand pledges amounting to \$300,000, and the building was completed a week early! Now he is working together with other Board members and with Levi and the Pardes staff to raise \$1 million to enable Pardes to purchase the premises outright.



“Notwithstanding all the positive aspects of having our own home, the move puts considerable financial pressure on Pardes. This past year saw the end of five years assured funding from the Jewish Agency/Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education, which averaged \$350,000 annually. Furthermore, the rent and maintenance costs for our new building are significantly higher than we paid last year. Pardes needs to establish a building endowment fund to ensure that there is sufficient money to pay the rent and maintain the building properly. Our projected budget for 1993-94 is \$1,479,380, which includes \$420,000 of one-time expenses (such as renovation of the new building, new equipment, furniture and moving expenses).

Our task is considerable: (1) to secure funds for operating needs; (2) to start a building maintenance endowment fund; (3) to raise a million dollars in order to purchase our new facility.

In 1989, when Pardes was suddenly notified that it would no longer be funded by the WZO, and shortly afterwards was told it would need to find a new building, we truly faced a crisis of survival. We contacted all

our alumni and friends and they helped, through personal contributions, letters to the Jewish Agency, and letters seeking help from friends and relatives. Together with the untiring effort, leadership and dedication of Levi Lauer, it worked, enabling Pardes to make it through to firm ground. It is important that those who were part of the initial dream come forward and help Pardes again, because we are again at a crossroads. Those who care must make Pardes a funding priority so we can finally spend more energy creating new programs.

As financial administrator of Pardes, I am naturally concerned about our financial future. Yet, at the same time, I am a dreamer and a believer. I believe that the Jewish world understands the special role Pardes plays in ensuring Jewish continuity. I believe there are enough people who understand the uniqueness of Pardes in providing an open environment free of denominational ideology, in promoting respect for religious diversity while permitting students to develop their own synthesis of tradition and modernity, and in allowing men and women to intensively study traditional Jewish texts together. I believe that if we all do our share, Pardes will obtain the financial security it so much deserves."



"It's terrific! I feel we now have a very enjoyable place to study. Pam Blum, our interior designer, anticipated ways to make us comfortable that

none of us thought about until we moved here. Enough romantic nostalgia about the days when we underwent hardships together! I don't think there is any virtue in discomfort. A comfortable place to study relieves us of distractions and enables us to put more time into our work."

BARUCH FELDSTERN, Assistant Director, Academic Affairs



"After sixteen years at Pardes, I truly appreciate what it means to be in a building that is both very comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. The

fact that our new home is so inviting should encourage students to spend time here beyond formal class hours.



The dining room

The new facilities and additional space provide a framework for more contact between student and teacher, such as places to sit down, eat and meet informally. They also provide us with the challenge to expand in a variety of directions. I would like to see an advanced program for students wishing to stay beyond the first year and find additional ways to enhance our impact on the larger society. Now we have the physical facility. It's the staff's job to give it content."

MEIR SCHWEIGER, faculty chairman



"It makes sense for us to be back in this neighborhood because a large number of the people we have always served live here. My original connection with Pardes was as a student on

Rehov Gad, so I feel a sense of homecoming. Pardes is fundamentally the learning and the people. The building contributes something extra and offers us new opportunities. Rambam says you must first take care of the body's needs for the soul to reach the highest levels of holiness. Having a building that provides for our needs frees us for greater achievements in the educational and spiritual realms."

GARY SHAPIRO, Pardes faculty and former Pardes student 1986-87

The kitchen



"For better or worse, image counts, and now Pardes has an image that matches its stature. Our new facility looks professional and feels

comfortable, and this affects both visitors who see us for the first time and those of us studying and working here. It makes us feel better about ourselves. The character of an institution is not shaped by its physical environment, but it certainly is an additional asset."

STEVE MAZER, Pardes student 1990-93, presently full-time office manager and coordinator of community service, shabbatonim, tiyulim, events and student services



"I liked the challenge of taking an empty space and turning it into a place of learning. I'm pleased because it works and because people feel

good in it. To maximize use, we've created a number of dual functioning areas. The dining area can be used for *shabbatonim*. The *beit midrash* serves as a library and for public lectures. Pardes now has both a faculty and a student lounge. And while its top floor location affords magnificent views of the Jerusalem hills, an elevator makes everything wheelchair accessible. Thanks to Jerry Goodman who rode shotgun on the project and to the industriousness of the workers, we made our deadline. One thing I've learned from this project: If you want something badly enough, you can do it."

PAMELA BLUM, Interior Designer and On-Site Construction Supervisor of the new facility



"Despite the fact that I was excited to be learning last year, I didn't look forward to being on the premises. The physical discomfort was distracting—

freezing in winter and hot in summer, and I dreaded using the bathrooms. The new building is a pleasure to walk into each day."

HEATHER MARGOLIS, Pardes student 1992-94



"As far as comfort is concerned, there's no comparison. I can't wait for winter so I can be warm and not have to surround myself with pots to catch

the water. I only regret that a whole new generation of Pardes students won't know where we've come from, or what we went through to achieve this. Now that we've made such sweeping changes in our physical plant, I believe it's time to examine our inner development. I hope the fact that we have more room and can reach more people doesn't mean less personal ties with students. I think one of our challenges will be to find ways to preserve this unique aspect of Pardes."

CHANA NEUMANN, Pardes student 1980-82, Pardes secretary since 1989



Aron Kodesh designed and built by Jeremy Kimchi



"The building is phenomenal. It is the result of Jerry's vision. I have never seen a volunteer put as much time into a project as he has. Suddenly we have

access to Shabbat weekends, enlarged evening programs, and opportunities to host UJA missions, elderly visitors, and people for whom the lack of an elevator would have been an obstacle. The building is a catalyst for further involvement both on a financial level and in terms of activities. The excitement of the new building has reinvigorated everyone involved with Pardes. I was moved and thrilled to have been able to be there this summer and witness the transformation from empty shell to the opening of this new chapter in Pardes's history. One can only be inspired seeing the views of Jerusalem from the *beit midrash*. Now, at last there is a correlation between the high quality of Pardes's educational program and its outward appearance."

SHARON LEVINSON, Director of North American Activities



"It's so much nicer to come and learn in the new *beit midrash*. I have a feeling that we'll soon get so used to it that we'll take for granted all the

amenities we didn't have before. The fact that Pardes went to so much trouble to provide a wonderful place for us makes me feel I should commit myself to studying harder."

ELI LOWENSCHUSS, Pardes student 1992-94

FROM OUR READERS...

Dear Pardes,

Michael Swirsky's article, "The Planting of Pardes: Some Thoughts Twenty Years Later," summarized so succinctly how Pardes has infused many aspects of my life over the past ten years. Pardes gave me a launching point to learn, to experiment with observance, and an entrance into various Jewish communities. What Pardes did not give me was an easy answer to the big questions, or a hook, line, and sinker approach to post-Pardes living. Thank God for that! Kathy Kahn '82-'83 once described to me what Pardes does to you in an apt metaphor:

"Pardes suggests you bring the baggage of your past and open it on the table next to their bags, which are also open; you spend the next nine months deciding how to re-pack." I have discovered in the odyssey of the past decade that despite my best efforts to determine how my bags will be packed, I keep re-opening them and, in the process, deepening my Jewish commitment.

Over the past five years, I have had the joy of creating and re-creating this Jewish life with my wife Rena.

Through teaching others and learning, sharing together, taking things on and letting certain things go, we have learned that our level of observance is secondary to our making these rituals ours within the context of our family and the egalitarian Conservative community to which we belong. Chaim Maierdorf, our Mishna teacher in 1982-83, instructed us to do just that, "Create community wherever you go," be both brick and mortar in a community which grows Jewishly.

As we sat on the Amagansett beach during the Havurah's first Shabbaton in September 1992, learning about *teshuvah* and soaking up the awesome beauty of God's creation, I was reminded of how many thanks I owe to Michael Swirsky and the founders of Pardes, and to those special teachers and administrators who have made our lives so full Jewishly and so meaningful, and have indeed connected us with each other and to Jewish community.

With many and profound thanks,

Alan E. Caro '82-'83

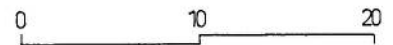
Checks for tax-deductible contributions should be made out to: American Pardes Foundation, c/o Susan Gottlieb, P.O. Box 926, Avon, Connecticut 06001, or Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, POB 8575, Jerusalem, Israel.



The Beit Midrash



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|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1-7 CLASSROOMS | 13 ADMINISTRATION |
| 8 STUDENT LOUNGE | 14 DIRECTOR |
| 9 KITCHEN | 15 FACULTY |
| 10 DINING ROOM | 16 BEIT MIDRASH |
| 11 RECEPTION-OFFICE | 17 ENTRANCE |
| 12 ADMINISTRATION | |



THE PARDES CONNECTION

news of classmates and staff. . .

Eitan Cooper '81-'82, '83-'84 and **Anita Besdin-Cooper** '83-'84, are temporarily residing in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, where Eitan is the WZO community *shaliach* and Anita is a social worker at the Visiting Hospice of Passaic County.

We join with their families and friends in mourning the deaths of:

Rabbi Michael Harel משה, '75-'77, whose untimely death as the victim of a drunk driver, brought to a tragic end a very creative, warm and loving devotion to Torah and to Am Yisrael.

Pinchas Hellman פנחס, '87-'90, '91-'92, whose unending and ageless love of learning was an inspiration for all of us who merited to share his enthusiasm, his wit, and his dedication.

May their memories be a blessing for all of Am Yisrael.

and their weddings...

Kathi Barnhard '90-'91, to Gary Hiller. They are living in Washington, D.C.

Sami Barth '81-'82, to Karen Omer. They are living in New York.

Stephen Bickel '91-'92 and **Eliyana Adler** '91-'92. They are living in Cambridge, Ma., where Steve is working on his Ph.D. at MIT and Eliyana is doing graduate work in Jewish history at Brandeis.

Michael Cytrin '89-'90, to Tzila Ovadia. They are living in Jerusalem.

Tamara Davis '90-'91, to Yehuda (Steven) Nyssen. They are living in Australia and planning to make aliya in June 1994.

Mara Fox '87-'88 and **Yaakov Smart** '92-'93. They are living in Jerusalem.

Russell Fox '90-'91, to Faith Cash. They are living in Philadelphia.

Chanan Kessler '85-'86, to Eve Ja-

cobson. They are living in Palo Alto.

Michelle (Meesh) Kossoy '91-'92, to Jonathan (Yoni) Hammer. They are living in Jerusalem.

Stephen Kurer '92-'93, to Aliza Odenheimer. They are living in Jerusalem where Stephen has a dental practice.

Helen Lewis '88-'89, to Bill Kunin. They are living in London.

Linda Pardes '88-'89, to Ze'ev Friedburg. They are living in Jerusalem. Linda is working in Jewish education in the Russian department of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Sheryl Roosth '87-'88, to Jeff Sayah. They are living in Jerusalem.

Shai Rothberg '89-'90, to Gittit Nachliel. They are living in Jerusalem.

Jaime Traiger '91-'92, to Evan Murney. They are living in the Washington, D.C. area.

and their babies...

Marjorie Abend-Wein '87-'88, and husband, Joel, are the parents of a daughter, Penina Rachel. They are living in Forest Hills, N.Y.

Ann Bolts Bromberg '79-'80, and husband, Arthur, are the parents of a son, Binyamin Yehuda. They are living in Philadelphia.

D'vora Finkelstein '86-'88, and husband, Adam Greisman, are the parents of a daughter, Gila Tal. They are living in Jerusalem.

Hana Hyman Friedman '77-'78, and husband, Sam, are the parents of a daughter, Hava Meira. They are living in Montreal.

Ncoom '80-'81 and **Chaya** '80-'82 **Gilbar** are the parents of a son, Shalev Maor. They are living in Shilo.

Alison Grishman '90-'91 and **Glen Rosenbaum** '90-'91 are the parents of a

daughter, Eliyana Nechama. They are living in Bala Cynwed, Pa.

Judy Klitsner (Pardes faculty), and husband, Steven, are the parents of a son, Amitai Shalom.

Anna Mendelsohn '89-'90, and husband, Akiva Dickstein, are the parents of a son, Daniel Solomon. They are living in Highland Park, New Jersey.

Batya Miller '84-'86, and husband, Herzl Hafter, are the parents of a daughter, Aviya Esther. They are living in Jerusalem.

Linda Pardes '88-'89, and husband, Ze'ev Friedburg, are the parents of a daughter, Dina Gittel. They are living in Jerusalem.

Shari Rosenfeld '82-'83 and **Yonatan Barnhard** '78-'79, are the parents of a son, Nadav Ze'ev. They are living in Riverdale, New York.

Deena Rosenfeld '87-'88, and husband, Jeffrey Friedman, are the parents of a son, Yaniv Shalom. They are living in Jerusalem.

Gail Cohen Schorsch '90-'91, and husband, Jonathan, are the parents of a son, Emanuel. They are living in Berkeley, California.

Reuven Spero '82-'83, '84-'85 and **Tami Waysman** '81-'82, '84-'85, are the parents of a son, Shmaryahu Lev. They are living in Shilo.

Jeffrey (Tzvi) Stern '83-'84, '85-'86 and **Frances (Avital) Rodriguez** '85-'86, are the parents of a son, Elias Avraham. They are living in New York City where Jeffrey is an attorney.

Ora Wiskind '84-'85, and husband, Eliezer Elper, are the parents of a daughter, Talia Esther. They are living in Jerusalem.

Beth Zuriel '76-'77, and husband, Yitzchak, are the parents of a son, Amitai Natan. They are living in Maale Adumim.

Note Card Success

Pardes collected \$4,100 at Purim with the sale of its "*rimmonim*" note cards. Half the proceeds were distributed to those in need, and half used to support Pardes programs. These handsome cards (and envelopes) are now available in packets of five for a tax-deductible contribution of \$7.00 (18 NIS). If ordering from outside Israel, please add an additional amount for postage and handling.

Women's Study Group

For the past two years, a group of twelve Jerusalem women has met in each other's homes to learn about women in Jewish texts. Meeting twice monthly in the late afternoons, the sessions are taught by Pardes teachers Baruch Feldstern and Meir Schweiger. For information on this group, or on how to start your own, contact Gail Resnick at Pardes, 735-210.

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Executive Director: Levi Lauer
Assistant Directors: Gail Resnick
Baruch Feldstern
Harvuta Editor: Jane Kimchi

design: Harvey Klineman
photographs: Debby Cooper