



HAVRUTA

A
PARDES
LEARNING
COMPANION

PARDES INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES SPRING 1999 • 5759 תמוז תשנ"ט

PARDES' EVER EXPANDING BEIT MIDRASH

Committed to bringing our approach of learning to as wide an audience as possible, Pardes has been involved in dramatically expanding its overseas teaching initiatives. This year classes by Pardes faculty members have been offered on a regular basis in New York, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco, Milwaukee and Boston.

Our aim in teaching to different communities around North America is to reach groups of Jewish leaders, Jewish communal professionals and potential leaders from the widest ideological spectrum. The response has been outstanding. Participants are drawn to Pardes' mix of dynamic and interactive text study, its inclusive orientation and its message of tolerance and debate, and its American/Israeli flavor.

In San Diego, American Pardes Foundation Board Member Julie Potiker took the initiative by organizing a six-session study series featuring Pardes faculty. Julie was inspired to do so after attending the Pardes Executive Seminar in the summer of 1998. "It was one of the most memorable weeks of my life," says Potiker, who wanted to make that experience of "learning from eminent scholars" available to as many people as possible in her hometown.

Parades faculty members have been asked to teach at conferences and seminars sponsored by such groups as CAJE, the Wexner Heritage

Foundation and Young Leadership of the UJA. These classes, taught by Pardes Director Rabbi Danny Landes, faculty members who travel to the States from Israel, and alumni who are resident in the U.S., have been enthusiastically received. A number of other cities have already expressed an interest in hosting Parades programs.

Our outreach also includes contributing to the quality of Jewish life on American campuses. In cooperation with Hillel, Parades faculty have been scholars at major conferences for university students and staff. Our scholars spent a Shabbat teaching at some fifteen campuses, and have spoken at another twenty.

Teachers have taught at Brandeis Bardin Institute, at the National Conference of Lights in Action in Los Angeles and at the Edah Conference in New York. The response has been terrific. We are now in demand for conclaves, institutes and events.



Parades Director,
Rabbi Danny Landes



On another overseas front, we have been renewing our efforts to develop our alumni network. Presently we have on-going activities in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In San Francisco, Pardes alumnus Noah Alper organized a Shabbaton featuring a weekend of learning. In Boston, Harvard graduate student and Pardes alumnus Mike Rader organized a multi-denominational Shabbaton at the university that was a huge success. Deborah Shapira, Pardes alumna, has acted as the liaison for the LISHMA Learning and Leadership Program in Pittsburgh. This renewal of activity has been very inspirational.

Approximately 10-15 percent of Parades graduates enters some form of Jewish service (e.g. rabbis, educators and communal workers.) The rest are enthusiastic and active lay leaders of study groups, synagogues, day schools and Hillel support groups, to name a few of these leadership endeavors. Our goal in alumni networking is that these graduates be able to impact upon each other and thus be more effective in their home communities.

As you will read in more detail in the following pages, Parades is creating many new short-term study opportunities for diverse groups in Israel as well as in North America. We hosted community leaders and educators from Milwaukee for a week of study. A tailor-made program has been designed for parents and adult children to learn together entitled, "Generation with Generation: On the Same Page." Eighteen students from the Otzma one-year program in Israel spent two weeks at Parades discovering their Jewish identity within text study. Parades teachers are teaching overseas students at both Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University as part of our "Torah Take-Out" program.

For over 25 years, the **Parades Institute of Jewish Studies** has set the standard of creative Jewish learning by offering a mix of intellectual openness, rigorous textual analysis and opportunities for personal spiritual growth. Parades provides adults from a wide variety of backgrounds with the tools to gain access to the classic texts of Jewish tradition and fosters the desire to claim this tradition for themselves.

Pardes Fellows Program

n e w l y c r e a t e d

The newly created Pardes Fellows is designed as a second year program for students who have completed a full year of studies at Pardes and want to continue their studies. Pardes Fellows will serve as role models for our first-year students. The program will include learning in the mornings at more advanced levels alongside the first-year students, as well as learning five afternoons a week, either in a special class or in directed research or individual learning under the guidance of a Pardes teacher.

Each student's work would result in either a written or oral presentation at the end of each semester that would benefit the entire Pardes community. One afternoon a week, the Pardes

Fellows will participate in a two hour seminar that will be part of a series of intensive, focused mini-courses in topics relating to Jewish education, theology and Jewish scholarship.

On a monthly basis, Fellows will meet with important Jerusalem personalities to discuss issues in Jewish learning and /or Jewish community. Full-time Pardes Fellows will be eligible for a full tuition scholarship as well as a monthly stipend for the academic year. Fellows have been chosen for the Academic Year 1999-2000.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MOSHE WERTHAN

These are exciting days at Pardes. On the 1st day of September, when we opened our doors for the beginning of the Year Program, we counted 37 students in the Beit Midrash. As the 1st semester progressed, our numbers increased on a steady basis. Today, we are humming along with 76 students, and based on early applications for next year, we should easily surpass those numbers in 1999/2000. As for the new and improved upcoming summer program, we already have almost as many registrations as participants last summer. We anticipate an increase of at least 30-50%, maybe even higher.

In addition to the normal excitement that always permeates this building, we recently completed a week's learning program for 35 community leaders and educators from Milwaukee, and they rated the experience a big 10. Additionally, we just finished a two-week learning session with students from Project Otzma. A great *yasher koach* and thanks to Aryeh Ben David for organizing and conducting this most successful endeavor. The students were very special, and we hope that some of them will become Pardes students in the years to come.

As you can see, Pardes is experiencing a growth spurt, and is doing so in the midst of a general slowdown for other learning programs in Israel. We feel that the exceptional quality of our faculty, our administrative leadership, and the warm and friendly attitude of our staff clearly make our Institute stand tall year after year.

We have the capacity in our current facility to teach 120 students, and we expect to reach that number over the next two years. If we are to do so, however, we need the help of all our friends out there in the areas of recruiting and funding. You have been good to Pardes in the past; now is the time to increase your efforts one more notch so that we can rise to greater and greater heights.

If you wish to help Pardes, please send your tax-deductible check to the American Pardes Foundation,
136 East 39th Street
New York, New York 10016
USA

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.PARDES.ORG.IL

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS OR ANY COMMENTS

ON HOW TO MAKE THE SITE BETTER, LET US KNOW! CONTACT

DEENA@PARDES.ORG.IL WITH YOUR FEEDBACK.

EXECUTIVE SEMINAR IN JERUSALEM

JUNE 29-JULY 3

This summer, Pardes invites you to explore Jewish spirituality at its five day Executive Seminar in Jerusalem. The Seminar, running from June 29-July 3, offers professionals and community leaders an opportunity to combine the profound experience of visiting Israel with an immersion into the study of classical Jewish sources. For information and registration, contact Trudy@pardes.org.il

New Matching Fund Created by APF Board Member and Alum

We are proud to announce that **Phil Shaw** (Pardes Class of '77-'78) and American Pardes Foundation Board Member has generously donated a \$20,000 matching gift to Pardes for scholarships. He will match any donation of \$100 to \$1,000 made before September 1, 1999.

The total of \$40,000 will be earmarked for the general Pardes Scholarship Fund, which distributes assistance to Pardes students on an individual basis, as needed. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support by making a generous donation towards this exciting initiative.



What's brewing? Milwaukee at Pardes

ATERET COHN LIBRARY COLLECTION DEDICATED AT WINTER STUDY MISSION

Thirty-five members of the Milwaukee Jewish Community spent a week in Torah study at Pardes this past February. Led by **Rabbi Lee Buckman**, Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel and **American Pardes Board member Jerry Dorf**, the group filled their mornings learning about the Book of Exodus, Megillat Esther, and Talmudic issues involving aspects of the functions of speech, with Pardes scholars **Leah Rosenthal**, **Marcie Lenk-Yarden**, **Aryeh Ben David**, **Dr. David Bernstein** and Torah teacher **Rabbi Ben Hollander**.

Rabbi Danny Landes, who also led one of the teaching sessions, presided over the dedication of the Ateret Cohn Liturgical Collection in the Pardes Beit Midrash. **Ateret Cohn**, a beloved teacher in the Milwaukee Hebrew school system for many years, emphasized her conviction that every Milwaukee student should have the opportunity to have the "Pardes Experience." She promised to continue her efforts to mobilize the funds for this purpose.

"I have had an intensely powerful week at Pardes which will have a profound impact on my life.

Many, many thanks for the excellent teaching."

Philip Himmelfarb, Management Consultant

"This trip has deepened my Jewish identity and my interest in and love for Jewish study in ways I could never have anticipated."

Sharon Fedderly, Clinical Psychologist



Pardes teacher Marcie Lenk-Yarden teaching to the group

Social Action at Pardes

This year, as in years past, Pardes students are devoting their time and energy to various community service projects around Jerusalem. From helping bridge the gap between Israeli and Palestinian teens to feeding the hungry, Pardes students agree that community service is an integral component of their year in Israel.

The Hunger Action Coalition, a project started by Pardes students last year, has continued this year to help feed Jerusalem's hungry. The Coalition, which includes several other yeshivot and synagogues in Jerusalem, recently helped to deliver 200 care packages to families in need. Through their efforts, many people enjoyed a sweet Passover!

Other students have chosen to volunteer their time on more individual projects. **Jill Rosenfield**, for example, visits Beit Hayered once a week. Here, children from problem families are taken care of after school; some stay during the night as well. Jill tutors an 11-year-old girl in English, and both look forward to their time together each week. "The chance to immerse myself in Hebrew and help someone who needs me has been invaluable. Putting oneself into a reality of society - children in need - is an eye opening experience," Jill said.

Along the same lines, **Laurie Hahn** weekly visits Shalva, a daily after-school program for children with physical and/or mental disabilities. Together, Laurie and Yiskah - her buddy - might prepare dinner, sing songs, or do arts and crafts. Laurie is intrigued by the energy at Shalva. She says the children are so used to being told "no," they look forward to the afternoons at Shalva as a positive outlet for fun. "This is a year to push myself," Hahn says. "I'm learning so many things, in so many ways. I've never thought I was good at working with special needs kids. This project is different. I see it as a test for myself, and so far, pushing myself has been extremely rewarding."

The Palestinian-Israeli Environmental Sector is a program aimed at bringing Muslim, Christian and Jewish children from the area together. **Gershon Sandler** signed on as a counselor for the program. The 70 youngsters in the program attend a summer camp, as well as events throughout the year. Their goal is to create a cross-cultural understanding through the common bond of nature.



Pardes Student Gershon Sandler

"This project gives me the opportunity to feel connected to the environment while working with young people," Sandler says.

"I love this organization because it integrates things I care deeply about. We study all day to live life in a connected way. But this is a difficult task if we are disconnected from the people we live beside."

Across the board, Pardes students volunteering in different organizations are growing immensely through their experiences. The chance to give of themselves, using their own personal talents and interests, has been rewarding and has complemented their studies at Pardes.



Pardes Student Jill Rosenfield

Pardes students also volunteer at the following organizations throughout Jerusalem: Amit Bet Hayered, a foster care facility in Gilo; Mercaz Harmony, a UJA-NY Federation project funded through Project 2000. This is an integrated kindergarten program for special needs and regular children; the Israel Association for the Deaf, and Shalva-Beit Nachshon. In addition, two medical students who are learning at Pardes this year are volunteering at Haddassah Hospital and another one in the emergency room at Shaare Tzedek Hospital.

"With Dina in Jerusalem"

by David Epstein

We sit in Jerusalem. My daughter Dina, 19, is across from me at a small table. We are studying the traditional Jewish texts. More than that, we are grappling with the text. Some days, it is a portion of the Torah. Other days, it is a few passages of the Mishna or lines from the Talmud. Inevitably, books of commentaries grow on our desk as we rush to the bookshelves in a search for understanding.

Dina has proficiency in Hebrew. I do not. We go through some of the material, word by word. Dina chides me for looking at the English translation before making an effort with my limited Hebrew. The Texas of my youth did not offer the opportunity to learn Hebrew. I have not filled that gap in the intervening years. Dina and I attempt to understand the words and also to reach for an understanding of the text. We argue about the biblical personalities, the views expressed by a particular Rabbi, the embedded principles, and the application of those principles to an ever-expanding collection of hypothetical situations that we create as we study.

I am exhilarated. Dina and I form a havruta, a study partnership. We are in a large room with others who are engaging in study, one on one. Even so, the community of the beit midrash, the study room, creates an intensity of common enterprise. We draw encouragement from their efforts though we are not in the same classes, are not studying the same texts, and have not yet even met.

Our experience is now the seed of the Pardes Institute's new "Generation with Generation: On the Same Page". Like many ideas, this one started simply. Dina suggested that she and I go study together in Jerusalem during her mid-winter semester break from undergraduate studies at Columbia University. She packaged the idea expertly, as a father/daughter study experience. The opportunity to study together with my daughter at an adult level was irresistible. It took some persistence and a little persuasion to get Pardes to the same point of view, as the "mini-semester" was not part of the normal program. Pardes responded magnificently in sculpting a program to our skills and level of knowledge.

The next **Generation with Generation** Program will take place Dec. 26 - Jan. 7, 2000. To register, contact pardesins@netmedia.net |

We arrived in Jerusalem during the first days of 1999. There were four of us; a friend of Dina's, Becky Cole, hearing the idea had extended the same invitation to her father, Alan Cole. For two weeks, we spent three hours each day studying at Pardes on a variety of subjects. Our teachers varied in age, education and life experience. They were all masters at teaching and in generating enthusiasm for the text. One, a young woman, was deeply knowledgeable in the text of the Torah. With her we studied certain female biblical characters, a natural choice for fathers and daughters. Supposedly familiar stories yielded rich layers of complexity and subtlety when studied closely. For example, the well-known story of Ruth became a quest to learn about this extraordinary woman who left her home in Moab to go with Naomi, the mother of her late husband, and make a new life in the Land of Israel.

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new Generation
with Generation:
On the Same Page*

On other days, we studied Mishna and Talmud and examined rabbinical answers to questions of life and death. If two people are together in the desert with sufficient water to let one survive, but not the two, how should the water be apportioned? Rabbi Akiva offers that the one who has possession of the water may save himself, but Ben Patura concludes that both must share the water even if it means that they must soon share death. We also studied issues in the Talmud that are closer to our daily lives. Is it permissible to extend an invitation merely for the

purpose of making a favorable impression? For example, if I do not have an extra ticket to the World Series, is it wrong to invite someone to join me when I know that she will be out of town?

Learning the text and discussing its implications was exciting in itself. Doing it with my daughter, adult to adult was sublime. She amazed me with her insights and admitted that I surprised her by knowing more than she had thought that I knew. Sometimes I was her student; sometimes she was mine. Always, we engaged together in the pursuit of knowledge.

Why go to Jerusalem to study? Because Israel is the great center of learning of the Jewish people. There are Jewish scholars in various great centers throughout the world, but Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular has students and scholars of every taste within easy reach. The crisp air, the blue sky, and the glow from the stones provide an incomparable environment along with the fact that throughout Jerusalem there are additional opportunities for Jewish learning, in the fullest sense of that word.

The learning that we did at Pardes is accessible to all, regardless of Jewish knowledge or background. Consider having a parent/child study experience at Pardes. It's a chance to spend your winter break studying the struggles and dilemmas of parent/child relationships in the Bible and in the Rabbinic literature together with your parent or child, serving both to expand your Jewish knowledge and to develop your relationship with your family member. The airfares are relatively low, the tourist waves are at an ebb, and Jerusalem beckons.



Dina and David Epstein learning together in Havruta at Pardes

Although the majority of Pardes students come from North America, the Pardes Beit Midrash also has students from all over the world. Adina Oskowitz, of Johannesburg, South Africa and Tatiana Krasikov, born in Leningrad USSR share their Jewish journeys that led them to Pardes.

ADINA OSKOWITZ

In Her Own Words

I grew up in a conservative town in Johannesburg, South Africa. While I grew up with a strong sense of tradition as well as a sense of my own 'Jewish destiny,' it was clothed in a narrow conservatism that prescribed a certain way of being Jewish. It is with these tensions that I went through my Chabad and then later, B'nai Akiva day school.



A journey of seeking and questing followed, as it tends to, through the university years. It ultimately led me to Machon Pardes. On paper, Pardes sounded great: an open environment for the sincere engagement with Torah study, Jewish text, with an intellectually honest approach. I decided that were I to take the time off, Pardes would have to be the place. Fortunately, as I neared completion of my undergraduate degree, I received an offer to come to Israel for the year. In September of 1998, I found myself in Jerusalem, at Pardes. I was one South African among 50 American students. I did not realize then, though, that in many ways, coming to Pardes was like coming home.

For the next couple of months, I immersed myself in the long hours of Torah study. The teachers did not lose their fire from the first; and from Talmud to Bible, from exegesis to

reading from the Torah, I felt that I built upon not only a body of knowledge, but a dynamic and penetrating way to look at Jewish text. At Pardes I felt from the birth of a life long-skill: to engage with the primary sources in Hebrew and also to make sure that these sources, no matter how foreign they felt at times, were mine to be engaged. These two gifts rarely come in one package. Pardes, however, is unique in that it places at the forefront not only the books, but also the engagement of the human with those books. To some this might seem basic. To me it was possibly the most refreshing concept to encounter.

Pardes is a creative community, and I have rarely been in a situation where difference is celebrated and a sense of belonging and care can be created without demanding a uniform set of behaviours

There was also something wonderful about a faculty that represented such a wide range of outlooks and ideologies. To have women as teachers who did not necessarily follow the traditional sense of observant women's dress code was a joy and in many ways a relief. The faculty was able to be honest about their own continuous struggles with Judaism. This frankness allowed us to debate and discuss issues and brought us all to a higher level of both critique and understanding.

As wonderful as it was to learn from the faculty, some of the greatest insights and skills were also given to me by my friends and classmates. The multiple angles that the Pardes student body represents allow for multiple levels of interpretation as well as many options for Jewish practice. I was opened up to a universe of Jewish possibilities that in some ways challenged my frameworks and in other ways reinforced my paradigms.

One more thing that I must add about the student body and community of Pardes is that it does not demand conformity. For many people the idea of community tends to be associated with uniformity and pressure to conform that can sometimes be alienating. Pardes is a creative community, and I have rarely been in a situation where difference is celebrated and a sense of belonging and care can be created without demanding a uniform set of behaviors.

Pardes is a place that allows people to dwell in the grey areas, in the complexities of identity and not in the simple black and whiteness of a concept. It is very refreshing, difficult and demanding; it is also, I think, spiritually and intellectually invigorating. My encounter at Pardes has left me determined to work within my community and also to pursue advanced Jewish studies overseas at a later stage.

It has now been two weeks since I returned from my Pardes experience, and I have continued learning with friends here in Johannesburg. I may not be in the Beit Midrash of Pardes but I know that the Jewish engagement that Pardes has afforded me, is with me.

TATIANA KRASIKOV

Tatiana Krasikov, a recent graduate of Harvard medical school, is spending her first year as a medical doctor studying text at Pardes.

Tatiana was born in Leningrad, where her family, like all the other Jews she knew, was totally unobservant. "Jewish education

stopped in Russia at the Revolution, in 1917," she said. Despite the lack of educational opportunities, the Krasikov family felt strongly Jewish. "Our sense of Judaism came from the anti-Semitism in Russia, but also from a sense of family and a sense of history." It was this sense of Jewishness that led the family to move to the United States.

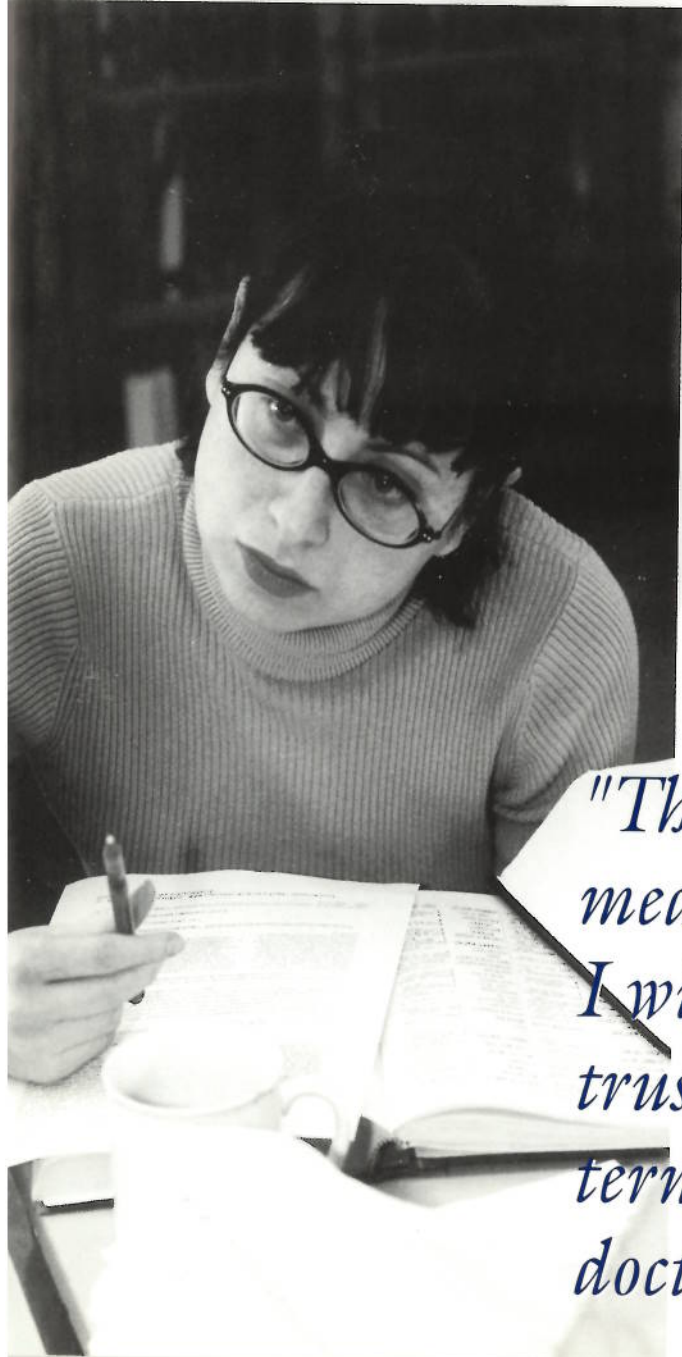
After living and working in Russia, her parents felt that there was no longer a future for them there. "Russia was bad for their careers and their moral and spiritual well-being, because they were Jews in an anti-Semitic country. They moved to America, where being Jewish did not prevent them or their children from having fulfilling careers, or their children from entering good schools."

The transition from Russian society to American was naturally difficult for the Krasikov family, but they were fortunate to be aided by the financial and moral support of the Jewish community of Katonah, a small suburban town in New York.

But 16-year old Tatiana was soon disillusioned with the help of the community. "I'm grateful for their help, but American Jews generally are disappointed when Russian Jews drop their involvement. Judaism is so inaccessible to Russian Jews, I'm surprised they go to synagogue in the first place."

This sense of inaccessibility that she, like so many Russian Jews felt toward Judaism is a large part of Tatiana's motivation to study at Pardes before beginning her career as a doctor. "By the end of medical school it was clear that I wanted to take time off to do something personally meaningful, and one of the meaningful things I could do was to do Jewish learning, to come to Israel, to have access to Jewish thought and texts as I couldn't before."

Looking forward to her life as a physician, Tatiana is certain her experience at Pardes will affect her future.



"This has been a very meaningful experience. I know I will continue to learn, and I trust that it will have real, long-term consequences for me as a doctor."

CHANNELING JEWISH INSPIRATION INTO ART

"Art as Kavannah" is a class that gives students an opportunity to channel their Jewish inspiration into art and to simultaneously use the art they create as a means of exploring Jewish identity. Although it is dissimilar from the usual curriculum of Pardes, which includes rigorous text study in an open and challenging atmosphere, the class has been offered for several years because of the opportunity for Jewish growth it presents to students. "In getting in touch with their spirituality and expressing it non-verbally, they get in touch with a non-ordinary experience," said teacher and Jewish Spiritual Artist Edna Miron-Wapner. It is because of this experience

Pardes teacher Edna Miron Wapner with her students at a Purim mask-making workshop



that students have enjoyed, and benefited from, the class so much. As one of her students, Gershon Sandler puts it; "This class has provided for me a wonderful opportunity to process my learning in a very different way than I do the rest of the day. Normally, Jewish learning is very cerebral. In this class, by contrast, I am engaged in a visual and experiential process. Classes like Art as Kavannah have added an additional depth to my Pardes experience."

Edna Miron Wapner, a Sumi painter and papermaker as well as Hebrew calligrapher, has a current exhibit entitled "Dialogue with Ancient Inscriptions". It is on exhibit at Yeshiva University Museum until July 1999. In October of this year, the exhibit will be returning to Israel and will be on view at the Jerusalem Theatre.

PARDES BOARD RETREAT

On February 17, Rosh Chodesh Adar, Pardes Board members, students, and faculty gathered for a daylong retreat. After breakfasting together, the multi-generational group divided to attend discussions on a variety of subjects relating to Purim. The group re-assembled for a presentation of the world-renowned Moss Hagaddah by artist and Pardes Board Member David Moss. Following a lunch in which students and Board members became better acquainted, all were treated to a musical preview by Pardes alumnus Stephen Hazan Arnoff, who composed a rock opera on the theme of the Book of Jonah.

Pardes Board member Naomi Ban(left)with Pardes student Jill Rosenfield



Pardes Board Member David Pfeffer with Pardes student Debra Shaffer

"A Day Away"

Coming in the Fall 1999

Put yourself, just for a day, into the life of Rav Saadiah Gaon, the 10th century Babylonian Jewish philosopher, poet, commentator and community leader. That's the opportunity afforded by the new Pardes "A Day Away" program. The program, an interdisciplinary learning experience, will include text study, drama, music, art and food, all devoted to the Babylonian Jewish experience and the role that the influential Saadiah Gaon



Pardes Board Member Stuart Schoffman
with Pardes student Paige Kluger

played in it. Highlights may include havruta learning in the style of the Sura Yeshiva, complete with semi-circle rows; Babylonian names and turbans; study of texts written by Saadiah Gaon himself; demonstrations of traditional Iraqi jewelry; a banquet dinner with professional Iraqi entertainment; and a commemorative book containing relevant historical and scholarly materials. If you can imagine what life for the Babylonian Jew was like, or if you can't imagine but want to find out, this is your chance! The program is planned for Fall, 1999. For more information, contact us at pardesinst@netmedia.net.il

PARDES FRIENDS PROGRAM

New at Pardes - the Pardes Friends Program. The program is a chance for people who care about Pardes to help work towards our goals while simultaneously becoming part of a real community of Pardes Friends. Benefits of membership include special events for Friends only, such as films and holiday observances; special "extras" added to public events, such as a chance to meet personally with speakers before public lectures; mailed information about all Pardes activities; and more. For more information, or to become a Pardes Friend, contact Pardes at pardesinst@netmedia.net.il

P A R D E S N O T E S

Pardes Take-Out is a program designed to send Pardes teachers out into the community to teach to outside groups of individuals on a subject of their choice. The second round of "Pardes Take-Out" dealt with the classic sources and contemporary responses to four issues: attitudes toward non-Jews; attitudes toward the non-observant; Army draft; and Extradition. Meeting in the home of one of the participants, the group met for eight sessions. The next round will deal with issues of spirituality.

Pardes Take Out also offers classes to students on the One-Year program abroad at Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. If you are interested in organizing a study group like this, please contact Aryeh Ben David at abd@pardes.org.il

During the week of June 13-19, Pardes and the Yad Yaakov Fund for Jewish Education are organizing a week of learning for San Francisco Bay Area residents. During this seminar, Rabbi Yosef Leibowitz, together with Dr. Ben Hollander, will be teaching sessions on Bible, Passover and Israel as a Nation. For more information, contact pardesinst@netmedianet.il

Pardes faculty visited Brandeis, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, UCLA, McGill, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore, Amherst and Smith over the past several months.



Pardes alumni at the wedding of Sheryl Zohn and Rob Kutner
Bot Row: Mike Mishkin, Nigel Savage, Bracham David, Ariel Winter
Top Row: Yael Citra, Jennifer Berman, Sheryl Zohn, Rob Kutner, Michelle Fisher, Lauren Shoham

Learn at Pardes during the Month of Elul From September 1st -September 21st. Learning is full time from 8:30-6:00 pm., plus a weeknight seder. The cost of the program is \$300. Pardes alumni are invited to attend free of charge. For more information, contact Davidb@pardes.org.il.

Pardes and Eden 2000 are co-sponsoring a lecture series on relationships between men and women, communication in the family, in the workplace and in the community. Contact Pardes alumna D'vora Greisman for more details at greisman@netvision.net.il

PROJECT

OTZMA AT PARDES

For the first year ever, Pardes hosted 18 Otzma participants for a two-week learning session during March. The full-time learning seminar focused on the many aspects of Passover, and included evening activities and trips around Jerusalem. In the words of two participants of the program, *"A great, perhaps once-in-a-lifetime chance to pour over texts that we may not otherwise see, working with the kind of teachers we wouldn't normally meet back in our regular lives."* *"Two weeks of examining the texts as a way of examining ourselves as both individuals and members of a larger community."*

IN & ABOUT

In March Director Rabbi Danny Landes was in Boston where he gave the kickoff lecture for a new Beit Midrash program at Hebrew College, a collaborative initiative of the two institutions. "Scrolls of the Season" was a four-session program in which Danny explored "Shir Hashirim" and its mystical interpretations. Danny also spoke to an ADL Young Leadership Group at the home of Allison Burman, and also spoke at the home of Michael and Joyce Bohnen, whose daughter attended Pardes. As a member of the Board of Overseers for the New Jewish High School in Boston, Danny met with students and faculty of the school. Rabbi Landes also taught at the Wexner Heritage Foundation in Los Angeles, was the featured speaker at the CAJE Conference in San Diego and participated in a Shabbaton at the Sephardic Temple in Los Angeles.

Pardes teacher Baruch Feldstern spoke at McGill University, University of Pennsylvania, and Swarthmore College. In Boston, Dr. Feldstern gave classes on Purim at Tufts, MIT and the Bureau of Jewish Education. Special thanks to alumni Josh Sherman and David and Rachel Waghalter who were helpful in making these engagements such a success.

In Brookline, Massachusetts, alumna Nicole Schuller hosted an alumni reunion featuring Pardes teacher Judy Klitsner and including the following alumni: Melissa Klein, Marc Baker (who chaired the alumni efforts in Boston), Ellen Grossman, Marni Holzman, Jonathan Cohen and Aryeh Leib Taurog. A thanks also goes to alumnus Shai Cherry for his help.

Pardes teacher Judy Klitsner participated in the Edah Conference in New York, which attracted over 1500 modern Orthodox Jews. Participating in many of the sessions, Judy taught a class that was well-attended and included Pardes alumni Yehudit Stamfper and Tamara Charm.

At Harvard University, Pardes alumnus Mike Rader organized a very successful Shabbaton jointly sponsored by the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Movements at Harvard. It was an exciting and stimulating shabbaton, in which Judy Klitsner gave several shiurim. Pardes alumni in attendance included Jonathan Baron, Sara Goldhaber, Tamara Charm, and Aryeh Leib Taurog.

We wish success to Gail Resnick, who after 12 years as the Director of Development and Administration at Pardes, has moved on to new challenges. Her professionalism and dedication throughout her years at Pardes contributed to the success of our institution.

In January, Pardes teacher Aryeh Ben David was invited to teach at the Lights in Action National Conference that was held in Los Angeles at the Brandeis Bardin Institute. Attracting over 75 student activists, Aryeh's class on Mitzvot was enthusiastically received. During the same trip, Aryeh met with over 25 Pardes alumni at a reunion in which he discussed "What to do after spiritual burnout?"

In March, there was a two part alumni series on Purim ("Just Kidding: the Megillah as a Satire") with Dan Roth. A special thanks to Susan Holzman and Julie Smith for hosting the event in their homes. He also taught and led Seders at University of Texas at Austin during the Passover holiday.

Learning and Latte at Drip Coffee Shoppe in NYC

January 11 "Spiritual Fatigue: Is there a cure?" featured Aryeh Ben David with wine and cheese reception afterwards.

February 20th

Dan Roth taught on "Pretty Woman: Hollywood Movie? or Rabbinic Story?" with over 100 people in attendance.

March 15 "Personal Freedom and Being God's Servant: The Paradox of Passover"- Rabbi Leon Morris (Pardes alum 95-96), Director New York Kollel

May 10--Learning under the stars with Dan Roth



PARDES

Institute of Jewish Studies מכון פרדס לחינוך יהודי ר"ע

HAVRUTA

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Contributors: Trudy Greener, Adam Kleinbaum
Design: Stephanie & Ruti Design
Photographs: Debbi Cooper

If you would like to receive additional copies of Havruta or submit articles for publication, please contact Pardes via e-mail or at the above Israel address.

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You'll receive our monthly e-mail updates, find out about your friends from Pardes, be part of our alumni directory and receive a copy of the directory once it is completed. Just drop us a line at pardesinst@netmedia.org.il.

PARDES SUMMER PROGRAM, under the leadership of **Aryeh Ben David**, is proceeding way ahead of the pace of previous years. The new summer program will be based on full (or half) time study, rather than on individual courses, making for a much more intense Pardes learning experience. **Aryeh** and **Meir Schweiger** are the main teachers in the program. The sessions are June 7-30th and/or July 6th-29th. Contact abd@pardes.org.il for more information.

WELCOME to **Mirta Eifer**, who has joined Pardes as the new Financial and Administrative Director.

WELCOME to American Pardes Foundation New Board members **Michael Tolkin** and **Abbie Gottesman**. American Pardes Foundation Board Member **Deborah Slotnick** has made aliyah and has joined the Pardes Board in Israel.