



# HAVRUTA

A  
PARDES  
LEARNING  
COMPANION

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## In the Pardes Tradition - New Program for Educators

After two years of incubation, the **Pardes Educators Program** starts full to capacity this fall, with a first class of 15 exceptional students, catapulting Pardes as one of the leading educational institutions training the Jewish educators of tomorrow.

The program offers two years of intensive Torah study at Pardes combined with an **MA in Jewish Education** from the **Rothberg International School**, in conjunction with the **Melton Centre for Jewish Education in the Diaspora** of the Hebrew University. The goal is to train highly qualified teachers, with a wealth of both educational and textual skills, for North American Jewish day and high schools.

Developed in collaboration with, and funded by, the **AVI CHAI Foundation**, the program represents an innovative approach to the critical and growing need for knowledgeable teachers in pluralistic, community-oriented North American Jewish schools. The number of such schools has tripled in the last eight years to over 20, and in 1998-99, total enrollment stood at 2,200 students. With increased parent interest and natural expansion, these figures are expected to rise significantly within the next few years. Already, nearly a dozen more such schools are slated to open by 2003.

"This double program, as intensive as the best law or medical school, is essentially four years of study in two," says Pardes director **Rabbi Daniel Landes**.

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## Dream and Vision: A Progress Report **Rabbi Daniel Landes**



The Torah's primary term for "dream" is *chalom*. As employed in the dream sequence of Joseph, it refers to flights of fancy and prophecy, as well as to personal

obsession mixed with benevolent possibility. *Chalom* offers both potential benefit and havoc. Thus, although Joseph's dream in the end saved the children of Israel, it nonetheless almost destroyed them in the process: the scars of jealousy, fears of abandonment, and general strife still seem fresh. *Chalom* being at once a projection of one's desires and a compelling vision of reality, *halakhic* authorities question whether a vow made in a dream has legal force. Indeed, it strikes me that Jacob's dismissal of Joseph's dream—"Shall I and thy mother and thy brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to thee?" [Genesis 37:10]—should be seen as a form of parental legal revocation of Joseph's implicit vow to rule.

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## Pardes Congratulates Senator Joseph Lieberman

Pardes extends its bi-partisan congratulations to **Senator Joseph Lieberman** on his nomination for the office of Vice-President of the United States. Senator Lieberman has served for many years as an honorary member of the Board of the American Pardes Foundation and has followed the course of our institution's development and growth.

**Senator Lieberman** is a true role model for Pardes students: a proudly observant Jew who combines public service with commitment to his heritage; a man whose record combines morality with political astuteness; who respects all religions and is respected by them; and who upholds the American Constitution while cherishing Israeli and Jewish values.

*For over 25 years, the Pardes 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. Pardes 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 Educators Program

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The program provides tuition scholarships and a generous living stipend to enable students to concentrate fully on their studies. At the same time, it makes significant demands. After finishing the program, with a master's degree from the Hebrew University and a Certificate of Advanced Jewish Studies from Pardes, graduates must commit themselves to working for at least three years in Jewish education in North America.

The Pardes Educators Program also includes intensive Hebrew language study, as well as a month-long supervised teaching internship (one in each year) at a Jewish day school or high school in North America.

## A Merging of Mutual Interests

For the three institutions joining forces to create the Pardes Educators Program, a merging of interests is a definite win/win/win situation.

**Yossi Prager**, Executive Director for the North American office of the AVI CHAI Foundation, credits Pardes with being "unique at providing yeshiva-style traditional text study to a very diverse group of students. We see Pardes as the best place to provide the textual training needed by teachers."

Pardes Dean **Dr. David Bernstein** notes that the Institute's screening of candidates will take into account not only their academic record but also their potential to be outstanding teachers who will get the most out of the University's education courses. He expects the Pardes Educators Program to raise the level of the teaching profession in Jewish education.

As they take their places in North American schools, graduates of the program will be able to recreate the "safe environment for the challenging study of classical Jewish texts" that is the Pardes trademark.

"Pardes students say that Pardes teachers are the best they've ever had," declares Rabbi Landes. "Our aim is to create 'original' teachers, who are co-learners with their students

in trying to discover the meaning of a text in a classroom environment that emulates the Pardes Beit Midrash."

The students inaugurating the Pardes Educators Program are an exceptional group - passionate about learning and teaching Jewish texts, smart, articulate, and varied in their backgrounds.

One of the students is **Ali Feldman**, 23, who admits she is passionate about teaching Jewish education and values. The Toronto-born Feldman, a graduate in Jewish Education from McGill University, dreams of creating



a pluralistic "Jewish identity institute" that will increase teenagers' Jewish pride and understanding of their role as Jews.

Text study is one key to nourishing such a transformation. "The Bible is fascinating," she explains, "and can be made relevant to teens."

Feldman has long been involved in Jewish learning, and was a part time student at Pardes.

The Pardes Educators Program excites her by offering a "tremendous opportunity" to make a difference to Jewish students in North America.

## Pardes Fellows- Creating a Multidimensional Institute

**The Fellows Program** offers advanced studies for students who already have completed a full year at Pardes. "A second year of studies has become an expected part of Pardes," states **Hal Hirschfield**, Coordinator of the Fellows Program. "It is no longer one year and out. The Fellows Program is not just an investment in our students but also in Pardes, making it a better place to study by providing more depth and greater knowledge."

Dean **Dr. David Bernstein** feels that "the growth in the number of experienced and

**The Pardes Educators Program, a new and innovative approach to the growing need for high-level teachers in pluralistic, North American Jewish day and high schools, is made possible through the generous funding of, and collaboration with, the AVI CHAI Foundation.**

## Night Seder

One example of a Pardes program which is benefiting from Pardes' new multidimensional character is the Night Seder, the term classically used for a "set order" of study time. The Night Seder provides a unique opportunity for students to use the resources of the Beit Midrash one night a week. Students take advantage of the relaxed atmosphere to study, in *havruta* learning, particular areas of interest or review material presented in class, all under the guidance of a Pardes staff member.

"The Night Seder has really been enhanced and strengthened by the Fellows' presence," notes attorney, rabbi and teacher **Levi Cooper**, head of the Night Seder. "The first-year students found it very beneficial to learn with the advanced students."

advanced students is beneficial to all. The Fellows serve as role models to our first-year students and their enhanced knowledge, deeper analysis and involvement with the texts and ideas enrich other Pardes programs and activities."

Director **Rabbi Daniel Landes** is buoyed by the fact that almost all the applicants for the new crop of Fellows were Pardes students from the academic year that just finished. "Combined with the Educators Program, this academic year we will have close to 30 second- and third-year students in our Beit Midrash."



# Roseman

## Pardes Summer Program

### Roseman Support Enables Summer Program Growth



A significant donation by **Wilma Roseman** of Louisville, KY, in memory of her late husband **Dr. Ephraim Roseman**, to the Pardes Summer Program is providing solid

backing for the long-range growth and development of this exciting program.

The **Roseman Pardes Summer Program** brings college and post-college age students to Pardes to study and encounter their Jewish roots, and is a fitting memorial to a man who spent his life helping young people.

Dr. Roseman, who passed away in 1989, was a distinguished professor of medicine at the University of Louisville and founder of its Neurology Department. He grew up in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Roseman's greatest joy was mentoring students, especially guiding them in the kind of independent research in which the personal struggle of acquiring knowledge makes an impact and impression that lasts a lifetime. In a fitting tribute to Dr. Roseman's memory, the Roseman Pardes Summer Program likewise challenges its participants to grapple and struggle with the learning process in acquiring knowledge for a lifetime.

"Last year's program was so fantastic that it was hard to imagine that we could ever top it, yet we did," says **Rabbi Aryeh Ben David**, Director of Short-Term Programs at Pardes, about the caliber of students and quality of programming which characterized this year's **Roseman Pardes Summer Program**.

A diverse group of 171 students, the largest ever for the Summer Program, up from 140 last year, participated in one or both of the intellectually stimulating, three-and-a-half-week sessions. Participants spanned the spectrum with respect to age, religious identification and learning levels, hailing



from the US, Israel, England, Belgium, Canada and Switzerland. For the first time, the group included Jewish educators from San Diego.

In addition to havruta learning and classroom lectures, Summer Program participants also

explored Jerusalem intensely and experienced what it means to be part of the Pardes family.

**Alan Kaiser**, 22, a Stanford University student, earlier in the year came to Israel on **Birthright Israel**. "I decided to check Pardes out," he relates, "and I found it really fit my needs. Pardes has put Judaism on the map for me. The teachers let you engage the texts on your own terms and are open to what you have to offer."

**Irene Neimarke** and **Alma Hadash**, two of the San Diego Jewish educators, were a little wary at first. Both had taken part in

Pardes activities in San Diego, which gave them a feel for Pardes, but one look at the age of their fellow summer students gave them second thoughts. "Most of the other participants were our children's ages," Hadash admits.

Nevertheless, the two quickly found a common language with the

younger adults through textual study. "We found that we can learn from one another. I am amazingly proud of the young adults in their quest for Jewish knowledge. They bring a lot to the table and offer great hope for the future."

## Pardes Executive Seminar: Biblical Perspectives on Relationships

"This was by far the best Executive Seminar ever. The standards were the highest. The sessions were great and there was a lot of variety in the activities," states **Ida Hoffmann**, one of the participants in this year's highly-successful Executive Seminar, and Pardes Israeli Board Member.

For one week, highly-motivated, high-powered professionals and businesspeople from both Israel and abroad, immersed themselves in intensive study of the classical texts of Jewish tradition. Led by some of Pardes' top faculty members, the participants delved into exploring the topic - *Reading Between the Lives: Biblical Perspectives on Relationships*.

Beginning with the primary relationship - individual/self - participants examined the ancient rabbis' notion of good and evil inclinations. From there, they moved on to look at other core relationships: brother/sister, woman/man, parent/child, individual/community, Jew/non-Jew and ultimately man/God.

In addition to learning sessions that incorporated *havruta* study, the seminar also included a tour and period meal at the Neot Kedumim Biblical Nature Reserve, folktales with music and, for the first time, Midrash Drama with **Joyce Klein** - a workshop in theatrical role-playing. As always, the

participants shared in the Pardes kinship, taking part in a group Shabbat Dinner, home hospitality and a concluding festive *Tisch/Havdalah*.

For **Vicki Phillips**, a private investor from Louisville, KY, the seminar was "stimulating and engaging". **Irv Kass**, managing editor of an internet news service, has been studying with Pardes in San Diego for the past two years. "As I pursued my Jewish learning with Pardes, I got the bug to study in Jerusalem. It was great to be able to study with master teachers on a deeper level."

Next year's seminar will be held in Jerusalem from **July 9-14, 2001**.



Pardes continues to soar with learning activities in the US initiated by alumni and others who have studied with Pardes teachers and are eager to continue in the Pardes tradition. The word is spreading and requests are pouring in from those with no previous contact as well. The following are some of the programs that took place this past year:

## LISHMA -

### Learning and Leadership in Pittsburgh

For the second year, Pardes ran LISHMA, the Pittsburgh Learning and Leadership Development Course. Operated in cooperation with the **United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh**, the program is a stimulating course in Jewish texts for leaders selected by the Pittsburgh community. Some 30 new and experienced leaders immersed themselves in intense *havruta* learning and seminar study once a month, under the tutelage of Pardes master teachers.

The program has been judged so successful that Pardes was asked to extend the initial course for a third year and to start a new two-year cycle for a new group.

Board member **David Shapira** and his wife **Karen**, who attended the Pardes Executive Seminar last year (and are the parents of Pardes alumna **Deborah Shapira**), were instrumental in bringing this program to realization, with the warm cooperation and participation of **Howard Rieger**, President of the Federation.

### San Diego Caps Off Year with Gala Dinner

Pardes' San Diego monthly learning program capped off its third year with a gala dinner.



This year's program brought together community leaders, professionals, business executives and academics to focus on the study of Jewish ethics. The program grew out of the desire of a number of local residents, who had taken part in other Pardes programs, to continue their encounter with Jewish learning under the guidance of Pardes' teachers. A number of San Diego participants attended this year's Executive Seminar and our Summer Program in order to add even more depth and breadth to their Jewish learning experience. The program has been guided by **Julie Potiker**, President of the APF Board, and Board Member **Sandford Ratner**.

## Hollywood -

### Torah in Tinseltown

For the entertainment industry - Pardes is the place for Jewish learning. Working with a wide range of professionals in the



entertainment industry, including leading producers, directors, agents and writers, Pardes put together a successful inaugural event - a pre-Passover model seder and study session in the spring. Entertainment industry figures involved in Hollywood Pardes include **David Lonner**, head of the LA talent agency Endeavor, who was a driving force behind the event; APF Board Member and co-chair of the event, director/writer **Michael Tolkin**, whose works include *The Player* and *Deep Impact*; **Linda Obst**, producer of *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Contact*; and independent filmmaker **Rick Hess**. Pictured at the pre-Passover event (from left to right): **Dr. Wendy Mogul**, psychologist and wife of Michael Tolkin; **Lynda Obst**; **Michael Tolkin**; Hollywood producer **Howard Roseman**, whose films include *Father of the Bride* and *The Stranger Among Us*; Hollywood attorney **Shep Roseman** and Pardes Director **Rabbi Daniel Landes**.

## High-Level Studies

### a la Pardes in Los Angeles

This is a new, high-level learning program with alumni of the prestigious **Wexner Heritage Foundation Program**, who have opted to continue their Jewish education with Pardes. Two groups, consisting of more than 60 participants, meet once a month for serious learning with top-flight Pardes teachers. Helping Pardes to get this program off the ground are Hollywood producer, Jewish activist and new APF Board Member **Tom Barad**, **Mark Schwartz**, **Ben Tysch** and **Gary Wexler**.

## Milwaukee - Making History

This year's Pardes shabbaton in Milwaukee made history when, for the first time, congregants of Orthodox and Reform synagogues were invited to each other's congregations for Jewish learning. This groundbreaking event was reported in the local newspaper. Pardes senior faculty member **Zvi Wolff** and director **Rabbi Daniel Landes** were the scholars in what Rabbi Landes described as "a fantastic manifestation of Jewish unity." Much thanks to **Jerry** and **Harriet Dorf**, **Dr. Herzl Spiro** and **Barbara Kohl-Spiro** and **Eric** and **Jayne Butlein**. The community is planning a study mission to Pardes in February 2001.

## Cleveland -

### Teaching Torah to Teens

In cooperation with the local Pardes School, a non-denominational Jewish day school in Cleveland, OH, Pardes conducted a monthly open Beit Midrash for both parents and students. "It was great for Pardes Jerusalem to get in the classroom with the students," says **Gary Shapiro**, a Pardes graduate and former faculty member. "To teach Torah to such a highly-motivated group of teens was wonderful."

Pardes thanks school principal **Dr. Howard Fine** and lay leader Attorney **Ilana Horowitz Ratner** for their inspiration in helping us to make this study program a resounding success.



# Shaping the Jewish Future Supporting Pardes

**Pardes is instituting a regular feature to thank all the donors whose generous support during the past academic year has enabled us grow and develop. Our new and exciting long-range programs are helping us to shape the Jewish future.**

## Jerusalem Society (\$100,000 and above)

AVI CHAI Foundation; The Jewish Agency; Mrs. Ephraim Roseman; Moshe\* & Libby\* Werthan.

## Founder (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

The Dorot Foundation; The Forchheimer Foundation; David & Jo Morrison (The Fig Tree Foundation); Marsha\* & Larry Roth (The Yoreinu Foundation); David\* & Karen Shapira; UJA-Federation of NY.

## Guardian (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Henry & Edith Everett (The Everett Family Foundation); Richard Linhart; Lowell & Julie\* Potiker; Joe\* and Rolinda Schonwald (The Rochlin Foundation).

## Pillar (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

The Helen Bader Foundation; Steve\* & Teri Barnett; Jack\* & Giti\* Bendheim; Paula & Jerome Gottesman; Abbie\* & Moshe Greenberg; Diane Troderman & Harold Grinspoon (Harold Grinspoon Supporting Foundation); Michael & Linda Jesselson (The Jesselson Foundation); Avi\* Lewittes & Lara Prince; Mark\* & Gloria Levenfus; Sandford\* & Laurayne Ratner; Rene Rofe; Russell Memorial Foundation; Selig\*

& Angela Sacks; Phil\* & Shira Shaw; Ruth\* Cummings Sorensen; Mark\* Tsesarsky; Lewis\* Warshauer (The Yad Shlomo Foundation); Peter & Toni\* Wiseburgh; Stanley Wolfe Foundation; Sam Yellin.

## Pomegranate (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Noah & Hope Alper; Jayne & Eric Butlein; Jerry\* & Harriet Dorf; Fran\* & Robert Immerman; Hyman Jebb Levy Foundation; David Lonner; Lori\* Perlow; Jay & Huti Pomrenze; Gary & Karen Rose; Schwarz Family Foundation; The Soref Foundation; Ida Swirsky; Nancy Werthan & Anita Mascoli.

## Patron (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Alan & Valerie Adler; Amcha for Tsedakah; Jill & Tom\* Barad; Barbara & Yehuda Baskin; Virginia\* Bayer; Lillian Berkovitz; Louis Berlin; Gaya\* Aranoff & Lewis Bernstein; Joan Blum; Moshe\* Corson; Judith Deich; Debbie Denenberg; Daniel & Emily Einhorn; Julie Eisen; Julius & Susan Eisen; Ed Ellman; The Fox Family Foundation; Herbert & Mariann Friedman; David Gedzelman; Sheila & Nachum Gelber; Barbara\* Gochberg; David & Diane Gould; Michael\* Granoff; Sol & Julia Green; Mike Grossman - The Grossman Foundation; The Leopold G. Hershson Foundation; Kenneth & Janet Hoffman; Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; Raymond & Betty Kaplan; Joshua Katzan; Marvin & Jane Klitsner; Steve & Lynette Koppel; Luis & Lee Lanier; Daniel & Lisa Lehmann; Carrie & Scott Lenga; Michael & Joy Levin; Charles & Penny Libicki; Anna Mendelsohn; Sharon Norry; Gary\* & Vicki Phillips; Judith Rafael; David & Linda Richman; Frances & Jeffrey Rodriguez-Stern; Sharon & Stephen Schach; Audrey\* & Harvey Scher; Mark Schwartz; Deborah Shapira; Seth Siegel-Beanstalk Group; Alan Slifka; Alan & Lisa Stern; Naomi Landes Stern; Abigail & Shai Tambor; Matthew Tannin; Yael & Micha Taubman; Jan Tuttleman; Aleeza Wadler; Albert Werthan; Leah Rose Werthan; Melissa Werthan.

\*Board Members

# American Pardes Foundation

Changing of the Guard

Pardes would like to thank the following outgoing Board Members for all they have done during their terms of office: Gaya Aranoff Bernstein, Annie Wiesenthal Elias, Barbara Gochberg, Sandford Ratner, Richard Rubenstein and outgoing treasurer Phillip Shaw.

We would like to welcome new Board Members: Tom Barad, Abbie Gottesman Greenberg, Fran Immerman, Dan Krasner, Avi Lewittes, Gary Phillips, Evan Schlessinger, Susan Holzman Wachsstock and our new treasurer Mark Levenfus.

## New Treasurer Mark Levenfus



APF's new treasurer Mark Levenfus is a man of many talents. He is a member of the New York State Society of CPAs, the American Institute of CPAs, the Association of Independent Commercial Producers and the National Association of Broadcasters. In the community, he is involved with the Westchester Day School, where he has served as chairman of the board and president; the Westchester Religious Institute, the Wexner Heritage Foundation and The Acting Company, as well as APF. We look forward to working closely with him.



# Birthright Israel

What a difference 10 days can make! At the start of the **Pardes Birthright Israel** experience this past winter, the students didn't even know what questions to ask. But by the close, it was clear that they had developed a connection to Israel through



their encounter with the land, the people and in-depth learning of Jewish texts.

Pardes was selected as one of 13 program providers for the inaugural Birthright Israel, launched by **Michael Steinhardt** and **Charles Bronfman**. Birthright promises every Jewish Diaspora young adult a first

encounter with Israel, without charge.

Pardes Birthright Israel kicked off with 40 students (20 from Yale University). Unlike other Birthright experiences, the students on Pardes Birthright Israel had the unique challenge of internalizing Israel through a

program focused on Jewish learning and an intellectual approach to touring. They came away with a yearning for more.

Coordinated by Pardes teacher **Daniel Roth**, the program featured two overnight excursions: one, to the Negev, where students experienced Beduin life, rode on

camels and climbed Masada; and the other to the Golan, where students met with residents and discussed Israeli politics.

In Jerusalem, participants engaged in classroom discussion at Pardes and interfaced with Pardes students. They attended Friday night services and had Shabbat dinner together with Israeli

counterparts. For many, the highlight of the trip was the Shabbat lunch, where they were hosted by Pardes students.

"I had thought a lot about how Shabbat would be," recalled Yale University student **Megan Heuer**. "Our classes at Pardes suggested new ways to approach it. By actively resting on this Shabbat, I found myself able to rejoice in the sights and sounds of Jerusalem. It was a revelation that I will not soon forget."

"The **Pardes Birthright Israel** was exhilarating," states director **Rabbi Daniel Landes**, who also sits on the Educational Advisory Committee of **Birthright International**. "In the future, Pardes will offer itself to provide the textual/educational components for participating groups in Birthright Israel and we are looking forward to doing so in partnership with other outstanding organizations."

Birthright Israel was a great opportunity to build relationships with students, some of whom are already planning to return to Pardes and Israel.

## Dream and Vision **Rabbi Daniel Landes**

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Dreams for the development and expansion of great institutions have the potential to be a *chalom*, wonderful possibilities, but may be plagued with terrible manifestations of personal desires, envy, and disruption. Is the vow made within a dream for the future of an institution a mistake of hubris that needs correction?

Thankfully, the Bible offers us another term for dream: *chazon*. This is the dream best understood as vision. The connotation is of a clear seeing which goes beyond the petty and the personal to offer a wide view of how things can be. A vision is clear, uplifting, and, therefore, also inclusive. A *chalom* always belongs to the individual who dreamed it; a *chazon* is the possession of the people to whom it is addressed and of the community that embraces it.

I am happy to report that the new dream and vow of Pardes' growth is truly not a *chalom*, but is becoming a true *chazon*—a vision. Faculty, the two Pardes Boards, alumni and students, administration, and new supporters are banding together to execute this vision. The results have been—at this point—gratifying, exciting, and very promising.

**Our *chazon* is to expand Pardes' method of creating safe environments for the authentic and challenging study of classical Jewish texts and ideas. Our vision is to do this with cutting-edge approaches, placing**

**ourselves at the very center of Jewish life and learning, offering Pardes as the Beit Midrash for the Jewish people.**

Audacious, but we have begun. **The Pardes Year Program** remains the core of our institution, and we are thrilled at its growth, development, and success in bringing the finest young men and women to study in Israel. Our new **Pardes Educators Program** has been recognized as "the single most exciting development in years, for the deepening of Jewish learning in North America." In two years, our Educators will begin to bring Pardes-style learning to the Jewish schools of North America. They will lead a revolution in learning—involving their students in the shared Talmudic debate and the classic Jewish search for truth and justice. At the same time, the **Pardes Fellows Program** has renewed strength in its mission of creating highly learned lay leaders, steeped in Biblical and rabbinic civilization. Our Beit Midrash, next year, will also include the **Pardes Learning Leaders Program**, a two-morning-a-week program for learners over 50 who wish to study with their peers. Added to this is our enlarged and energy-producing **Roseman Pardes Summer Program**, the popular **Executive Seminar**, and the many short-term groups: Pardes is a rapidly expanding Torah center in terms of scope, depth, and commitment. And numbers! We have run out of room. We must immediately begin planning our

physical expansion, even if only to accommodate our current projected enrollment over the next two years. We have begun this exciting and vital project, for which formal plans will soon be announced.

Our vision reaches beyond Israel. This year, Pardes classes will be held in New York, Los Angeles, San Diego, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Columbus, and Chicago, as well as a new presence in England. We cannot fulfill the requests addressed to us. We have achieved a breakthrough in Pardes learning—the synergy of alumni classes, campus and Hillel visits, community learning, and special seminars wonderfully impacting upon each other.

There indeed is a question in Jewish law whether a vow made in a dream is binding. Most authorities feel that it is not—after all, a vow needs one's "lips and heart to be equally engaged." That is lacking in a dream. Even so, the *Bayit Chadash* [Rabbi Joel Sirkes, 1561-1640] urges us to fulfill it, for Heaven "urges us on." If this is the case for a dream, how much more so for a vow made with full consciousness. The vow Pardes has made as its *chazon* is a clear articulation of its goal—to teach Torah vigorously, openly, lovingly and in a non-partisan manner. This vow and vision have begun to be fulfilled, but it will take all of us to bring them to full and joyous completion.



# An Earthly Dreamer-

## Rabbi Moshe Chayim Luzzatto To be Focus of 'A Day Away'

Following on the heels of Pardes' first highly successful program last October, this year's 'A Day Away', on September 19th, is devoted to the teachings, writings and thoughts of the controversial 18th century Italian Jewish scholar, dreamer, mystic and poet - **Rabbi Moshe Chayim Luzzatto** (1707-1746), the Ramchal.

A native of Padua, the Ramchal changed the course of Jewish learning and thought with his incredible contributions to ethical writings, Kabbalah and Hebrew literature. His messianically-charged works stirred deep emotions, leading him to be hailed by some as a great leader and mentor, while others branded him a dangerous threat to the Jewish community.

This year's 'A Day Away' will consist of learning, drama, music, art and a fabulous feast devoted to the Ramchal and the vibrant Italian Jewish experience. It will be a multi-sensory experience: synthesizing textual study, *havruta* learning with Pardes Fellows, a visit to Jerusalem's Italian Synagogue and its museum, a performance based on the Ramchal's literary works, a traditional Italian Jewish wedding, an Italian Jewish dinner/carnival and celebratory music. As a special treat, participants will hear the moving poem the Ramchal wrote at the dedication of the Padua ark, sung and performed before the original ark, now in Heichal Shlomo Synagogue.

## Faculty and Staff Notes

**Rabbi Levi Cooper** - After two years of leading our innovative Night Seder and teaching part-time, Rabbi Cooper is joining Pardes full time. A native of Melbourne, Australia, Rabbi Cooper studied with Habad and in the Shalavim *hesder* yeshiva. He served in the Israel Defense Forces in the Golani Brigade. Rabbi Cooper received his rabbinical ordination in Israel and holds a law degree from Bar Ilan University. Rabbi Cooper will be teaching Talmud, Maimonides and Bible, as well as continuing to lead the Night Seder.

**Rabbi Reuven Grodner** - A graduate of Yeshiva University with an M.A. in Jewish history and rabbinical ordination from Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Rabbi Grodner served as an American pulpit rabbi for 18 years, before making aliyah to Israel in 1984. He is currently in his 15th year as director of the Beit Midrash Program at the Hebrew University. The author of two books, one on Shabbat and the other on Mishnaic Law, Rabbi Grodner has taught individual courses at Pardes for the last three years. This year, he will be teaching Mishna, the Weekly Torah Portion and Jewish Law. Rabbi Grodner lives in Kfar Adumim, a mixed settlement of religious and non-religious residents.

**Dr. Don Seeman** - Dr. Seeman, a Wexner graduate fellow in Jewish studies (where he studied with Rabbi Landes), holds

a Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard and teaches at the Hebrew University. This year, he will be teaching two courses on Jewish thought to both our Educators and first-year students. Dr. Seeman is also the co-author of a forthcoming translation of the hassidic text *Mei HaShiloah*.

**Dr. Dodi Tobin** - Dr. Tobin has joined Pardes as Director of Student Affairs. She is a clinical psychologist who had been working with Nishmat as director of recruitment and admissions, since making aliyah two years ago. Dr. Tobin will be focusing on the Pardes Educators Program, general student recruitment, community programs and interfacing with individual students.

### On Leave/ Sabbatical

**Marcie Lenk** - On leave of absence to do graduate work at Harvard Divinity School, Lenk also will be teaching selected APF groups in the US.

**Kalman Neuman** - On a one-year leave of absence, Rabbi Neuman will be completing his doctoral dissertation in history at the Hebrew University.

**Meir Schweiger** - In recognition of his more than 20 years of devotion to Pardes and its students, Schweiger has been granted a six-month sabbatical leave, during which time he will be both completing studies for rabbinical ordination and working on a writing project.

## Otzma

For the second year, Pardes ran a dynamic three-week study program this winter for participants in the **Otzma** program. Otzma is a year-long "Israel Experience" program in which college graduates, ages 21-25, experience various aspects of Israeli life.

The 22 participants undertook a full-time learning program which focused on dimensions of Purim and Passover.

"Most of the participants had no formal learning before setting foot in Pardes," noted **Rabbi Aryeh Ben David**, Director of Short-Term Programs at Pardes, "yet they dove into the sources with enthusiasm. They had the time of their lives."

"Pardes is truly magical," enthused **Michael Klein** of South Euclid, OH. "The program well exceeded any and all expectations. I had never studied texts and I was uncertain about my ability to do so. Pardes made me feel comfortable, excited and inspired."

## Tisha B'Av at Pardes

Focusing on *Sinat Chinam* (unfounded hatred), the Pardes **Tisha B'Av** learning day, strove to serve as an antidote by bringing together three rabbis - Conservative, Reform and Orthodox - in a panel discussion. Speaking before an audience which packed the Pardes Beit Midrash, the rabbis concentrated on "Confronting *Sinat Chinam* Today." The topic took on added immediacy since the panel included Conservative **Rabbi David Bateman** whose synagogue, Ya'ar Ramot in Jerusalem, was recently torched by zealots. Also participating in the discussion was Pardes Director **Rabbi Daniel Landes** and Kol Haneishama **Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman**.





# PARDES

Institute of Jewish Studies מכון פרדס לחינוך יהודי

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## Pardes Learning Leaders Program

Looking to learn Jewish texts  
in a Beit Midrash  
with adults your own age?

Pardes now has the answer.

The new Learning Leaders Program, beginning October 2000, is an opportunity for adults aged 50-plus to engage the Jewish sources in a two-mornings-a-week program. The courses offered are Mishna, Jewish Law, the Weekly Torah Portion and Rabbinic Stories. They will be taught by three of Pardes' outstanding faculty members: Rabbi Zvi Wolff, Rabbi Reuven Grodner and Meesh Hammer-Kossoy. Sources will be provided in Hebrew and English. There is still time to register, but space is limited.

Contact Dr. Dodi Tobin, Director of Student Affairs,  
at 02-673-5210  
or email: [dodi@pardes.org.il](mailto:dodi@pardes.org.il)

Pardes would like to extend special thanks all its alumni in the US who have helped out with recruitment and attended events and Israel fairs for us. These include: Sharone Bashkin,

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