



# HAVRUTA

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies | Fall 2002 | תכון פרדס 5763



## PARDES VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT ISRAELI SOLDIERS

Last Spring, as soldiers were stationed at various points all over Israel, Pardes students traveled daily to deliver food packages and other goodies, including support letters Laurie Goldberg had her elementary school students write during her Pardes Educators Program internship at the San Diego Jewish Academy.

"The soldiers were enormously appreciative of our students' commitment to being in Israel and for taking the time to visit with them," stated Debra Weiner, Pardes Coordinator of Volunteer Programming. Pardes students above, left to right, Jamie Harris-Gershon (00-01, Educators 01-03), Adam Stein (01-02), Laurie Goldberg (Educators 01-03) and Judith Sone (Educators 00-02).

## PASSIONATE DIVERSITY – THE PARDES FORMULA

By Rabbi Daniel Landes, Director

*"Klal Yisrael needs a place where very different people can sit around the table to learn, to discover, to create and to disagree."*

Pardes has three passions – for in-depth Torah text study, for (well-founded) independent opinions, and for the unity of Klal Yisrael, the Jewish community. But

as the great English Jewish philosopher, Isaiah Berlin famously pointed out, ideals, no matter how noble, are bound to come into conflict, especially when they are played out to their logical ends. And so, too, with Pardes Passions. The very vigor of Torah study leads to the formation of independent opinions, but from independence and diversity can Jewish unity be fostered? This becomes all the more perplexing when the Halakhic foundation of the principle of Jewish unity emerges from an interpretation of a verse that seems to dampen independence and diversity!

So, in Pardes fashion, let us turn to the verse: "You are children to the Lord your God, lo titgod'du, and do not place a baldness between

Continued on page 4

## THE HEART OF THE JEWISH WORLD

By Dr. David I. Bernstein, Dean

For countless generations, Jews dreamed of Jerusalem, and of the Land of Israel. At the end of the Passover Seder, and at the end of Yom Kippur (arguably the two high points of the Jewish year), Jews declared: L'shana Haba'ah B'yerushalayim! Next Year in Jerusalem!

For centuries, this was indeed a dream.

Today, it is no longer a dream.

It is not a dream for the Jews of dozens of lands who have come home to Israel from the four corners of the earth, from every continent on the globe. When I was growing up in the 1960's, the Jews of Eretz Yisrael numbered two million, making Israel the third largest Jewish community in the world. Very soon Israel will be the largest Jewish community in the world. Demographers estimate that within a couple of decades, the majority of Jews in the world will be living here.

But Israel is not only the demographic center of the Jewish people. "Ki Mitzion Tetze Torah" ("from Jerusalem Will Come Forth the Torah"), Israel is the spiritual center of the Jewish world. Each year – even this year – thousands of young Jewish students flock to Israel to study Judaism intensely. This includes rabbinic students from all

the streams of Judaism, because the leaders of the various denominations know the value of having the future spiritual leaders of the Jewish community educated here in Israel.

Pardes is one of these institutions. Our students come from many lands: from all parts of the United States, from Canada, from the U.K., from the former Soviet Union, from the Czech Republic and Poland, from Australia and New Zealand. And while most of our students are coming for a year of intensive Jewish learning and personal growth, some are rabbinic students, some are young rabbis, and they represent the spectrum of the Jewish community. Some are preparing to be teachers in Jewish day schools in North America, where they will work in a variety of denominational – and community – schools.

What brings them together is the common search for greater Jewish knowledge, and the greater self-knowledge and personal development that result from an intensive encounter with Torah. And even this year, despite the "situation" (as we call it in Hebrew, the "matzav"), they come to Jerusalem (in larger numbers than we expected!), the center of the Jewish world, and are with the Jewish people in an hour of crisis.

Ayn Torah k'Torat Eretz Yisrael!

There is no Torah like the Torah of Eretz Yisrael!

# LOCAL ACTIVITIES

## REFLECTIONS ON THE DESERT AT NIGHT

By Amanda Katz

When I think of Pardes, many things come to mind. Intense textual learning, community and building a strong relationship to the land of Israel. Through tiyulim, Pardes combines all three. Just before Sukkoth break this year, we went on our first tiyul of the year, a night hike in the Judean Desert.

After a stop at the Dead Sea for dinner and davening, we headed to the trail to begin our adventure. Our guide and tiyul planners designed the program to incorporate fun, the spirituality of the desert, the history of the area we were hiking in, and a chance to get to know fellow students.

About an hour into the trip, we broke into small discussion groups. The topic was "Our Names," something I had never stopped to think about before. Where does my name come from and what does my name mean to me today? Through this device I was able to get to know some of my peers and teachers better, and find out a bit of their family history.

Our final stop was in a very mountainous area of the desert, where we each found a private spot to be alone with our thoughts. This gave people a chance to reflect on their lives, on the tiyul or on nothing at all.

After this time of meditation we headed back to the bus and back to our lives. It is wonderful how being in the desert, near though it is to Jerusalem, still gave the feeling that you are miles away from your daily, hectic life.

Pardes tiyulim allow me the opportunity to leave my everyday life behind and just enjoy my classmates and the beautiful land of Israel.

*Amanda Katz, from Louisville, Kentucky, graduated from Bradley University, attended the Rimmon program last year and is currently a Pardes Fellow.*



## "A TASTE OF PARDES" EVENING

Jerusalem residents learned about Pardes offerings as they participated in workshops on Guided Imagery, Art, Movement and Music, followed by a light supper, book and craft sale, and shiurim on spiritual, philosophical, Talmudic and Halachic approaches to Yom Kippur.



## THE JEWELS OF YEMEN

This year's "A Day Away" program focused on "The Jewels of Yemen," with special attention given to the great Torah scholar, the late Rabbi Yosef Kafah, and his wife, Rabbanit Bracha Kafah, renowned for her many years of charity work in Jerusalem. Participants were treated to study sessions on the Yemenite heritage and the teachings of Maimonides (a major focus of R' Kafah's work) presented by Pardes faculty and Pardes Fellows, as well as experiencing the food, dance, music and crafts of this vibrant community. Many thanks to Elyssa Rabinowitz and Board Member David Moss for another fascinating production, and to Co-Chairs Lanie Waldman and Connie Beinhaker (Summer 00).



# PARDES EDUCATORS PROGRAM

## PARDES LAUDS NEW GRADUATES

The Pardes Educators Program celebrated as its first graduates completed the innovative two-year program which culminates in both a Certificate in Advanced Jewish Studies from Pardes and an MA in Jewish Education from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The Pardes Educators Program was developed with and is funded by a grant from The AVI CHAI Foundation.

Ruth Cummings Sorensen, Chair of Pardes, and Arthur W. Fried, Chair of AVI CHAI, addressed students, friends, parents, faculty and staff. Yossi Prager and Rachel Abrahams, North American representatives of The AVI CHAI Foundation, and representatives of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem also attended the ceremony. Graduating Educator Tamar Rabinowitz delivered her address in Hebrew, while classmate Evan Wolkenstein connected getting the "hang of Jewish learning" to overcoming his fear of swimming.

We wish our graduates good luck as they join the staff of these community schools: New Jewish High School of Boston, Jewish Community Day School in Newton, Charles E. Smith Community High School in Washington D.C., Chicagoland Jewish High School, New Atlanta Jewish Community High School, Jewish Community High School of the Bay in San Francisco, San Diego Jewish Academy, St. Paul Talmud Torah, the Toronto Heschel School, and Baltimore's Beit Tefilah.



Pardes Educator Evan Wolkenstein addresses his classmates and guests.

## DR. SUSAN WALL SELECTED AS NEW DIRECTOR



Dr. Susan Wall, who has a Doctorate in Jewish Education from JTS and was selected as a Jerusalem Fellow, has worked in supplementary schools, day schools, camps and youth movements. She did teacher training at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Center for Educational Staff Development, taught at the Rothberg International School, and served

as Principal of Ezra Academy, a Solomon Schechter day school serving the greater New Haven area. Most recently, Susan directed Ramah Israel Institute – Ramah's short-term trip division for day schools, supplementary schools and synagogue family groups – and became a licensed tour guide.

## MAZAL TOV

To the first group of Pardes Educators upon completion of 2-4 years of full-time study at Pardes

**Abigail Adest**  
New York, New York  
BA, Stern College  
Midreshet Lindenbaum  
Teachers College  
Bank Street School of Education

**Jill Rosenfield Baker**  
New York, New York  
BA, Bowdoin College  
MA, Columbia Teachers College

**Marc Baker**  
Lynnfield, Massachusetts  
BA, Yale University

**Mordechai Cohen**  
Huntington Beach, California  
BA, USC  
Bat Ayin Yeshiva

**Allison Feldman**  
Toronto, Canada  
BEd, McGill University  
Neve Yerushalayim  
Nishmat

**Sean Herstein**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
BA, Indiana University

**Ronit Ziv Kreger**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
BSc, Tel Aviv University  
PhD, MIT

**Tamar Rabinowitz**  
Cape Town,  
South Africa  
BA, Hebrew University  
of Jerusalem

**Judith Sone**  
Toronto, Canada  
BA, BEd, University of Toronto

**Shoshana Raizel Stillman**  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
BA, University of Wisconsin  
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**Naomi Sultan**  
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BA, Swarthmore College

**Matthew Evan Wolkenstein**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
BA, University of Wisconsin

**Yonatan Yussman**  
Louisville, Kentucky  
BA, Boston University

**Eric Zaff**  
Newton, Massachusetts  
BA, University of Chicago

**Daniel J. Zeldin**  
Kansas City, Missouri  
BA, Indiana University



Pardes Educators Tamar Rabinowitz and Marc Baker congratulating each other.



# PASSIONATE DIVERSITY

## THE PARDES FORMULA

Continued from page 1

your eyes because of the dead.” [Deuteronomy 14:1]

The difficult phrase is *lo titgod’du* – a prohibition, but of what? The Babylonian Talmud (Yebamot 136 – 14a) brings two seemingly divergent opinions. One translates the prohibition as “Don’t lacerate yourself,” just as the term is used in Kings 18:28 when the priests of Ba’al “vayitgod’du” – “lacerate themselves after their manner with knives and lances till blood gushed out upon them.” Thus, the entire verse cautions us against extreme behavior in time of grief. The Rabbis point out that this was the practice of the pagans of the time to inflict such wounds upon themselves in their sorrow; but we, being children of the Lord your God, are prohibited from acting in such a fashion.

The second interpretation renders “*lo titgod’du*” as a play on the word *agudah*, meaning group, rendering the verse as prohibiting “the making of many (divergent) groups.” The scholar Abayai applies this “as two courts in one city, one group deciding as the House of Shammai and the other deciding as the House of Hillel [the Houses of Hillel and Shammai being “famously” in opposition to each other].

Let’s pause and assess the questions that we may have.

First of all, which of the interpretations – the prohibition of pagan mourning practices, or the disruption of the community – is the right one? The Talmud accepts both as authoritative. Even Maimonides, who in his *Sefer HaMitzvot* (Book of Commandments) sees “Don’t lacerate yourself” as the real translation, while “Don’t make (divergent) groups” is only a supportive (*asmachta*) play on the verse, nonetheless understands both as absolute Law.

But a deeper question is posed by the Rava in the Talmud – “Are not the House of Shammai and the House of Hillel already the equivalent of two courts in one city [and certainly they were allowed to diverge]?” Therefore, Rava’s explanation is that two courts in one city can rule as they wish, according to Beit Hillel or as Beit Shammai. But one court can not have in its midst those who adhere to the House of Hillel while others adhere to the House of Shammai.

Consider the opinions of Abayai and Rava. Abayai has a narrow focus – it is prohibited to have two courts in the same city that diverge as greatly as the Houses of Shammai and Hillel. Rava’s interpretation gives wider latitude to differences but nonetheless, it is clear to him that a court within itself cannot be so divided.

Maimonides, the great champion of seeking the truth, nonetheless codified the Law according to the narrow focus of Abayai: “Included in this prohibition is that there should not be two courts in one city, one observing one custom and the other observing another custom.” He explains why: “For this causes great dissensions as it says *lo titgod’du* – don’t make [divergent] groups.” (Laws of Idolatry 12:14).

For Maimonides, dissensions – *machlokot* – are a great evil that

must be controlled, even at the risk of conventionality.

But seemingly, as Maimonides chose Abayai, the Jewish people in practice has chosen Rava. In Jerusalem, our students can participate in the “courts” (a rabbinic definition of community) of a seemingly endless array of observance, not to mention the very many other forms of Jewish identity. But whether it is like Abayai or Rava, each court/community is consistent to itself – each following its own patterns, customs and ways of being.

Now we can return to the “passions in conflict” that I see in Pardes. Our love for Torah and for Klal Yisrael lead us to prize independence

– existential, intellectual and religious. But in so doing, have we rejected not only Abayai but even Rava?

I think not. The medieval Talmudic commentary by the Ritva [1250-1330] explains what even Abayai must have thought regarding the Houses of Shammai and Hillel – after all, were they not two courts in one city? The Ritva explains that there is no prohibition for the generators of different opinions – the Torah permits them to go according to their own respective way. It is up to others to choose which direction they wish to follow. In other words, the job of the Houses of Shammai and Hillel is to generate strong opinions and therefore disagreement.

I believe that indeed this, too, is the job of our learning community which is Pardes. Our task is to generate new thought and disagreement. Klal Yisrael needs a place where very different people can sit around the table to learn, to discover, to create and to disagree. Other groups can retreat to their own specific communities, but we are entrusted with building a community out of shared values and differing applications. Maimonides’ fear of dissension, which he correctly likens to idolatry, is overcome at Pardes – if not always in abstract formulas then in reality, in true and enduring relationships.

Perhaps now we may return to the relationship between the two seemingly very different interpretations of *lo titgod’du*. There is laceration of the body and there is laceration of the body politic. Both in the end are pathetic and pagan. And we know that both can result from grief. In the sorrow of loss of loved ones we can hurt and destroy ourselves as well as severely fractionalize and lacerate the greater community. Pardes, however, continues to be a place where we value both the individual and the community. It is a place of healing and of health, of love and of loving kindness.

And we do it through learning our Torah, through our agreements and also through our disagreements. In this way we remember that, *od lo avda tikvateinu*, that our hope is not lost, that indeed *Banim Atem* – that we have been charged to be together children of our God.





# STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE

## BRUCE WHIZIN OF THE NETZACH LEGACY SOCIETY

Bruce Whizin, of the Whizin Foundation located in Sherman Oaks, California, is a founding member of Pardes' Netzach Legacy Society. Bruce hails from a family that has had a strong commitment and tradition of giving.



Bruce Whizin

Bruce's father was a "corporate Jew" with little formal Jewish education but was highly involved in the Federation, UJA and other Jewish organizations. His parents were one of the founding families of the first Conservative synagogue in the San Fernando Valley, Adat Ariel, and were founders of the University of Judaism. Being raised with the idea of tzedakah – taking care of institutions that "provide the spirit and education that takes care of our faith,"

Bruce and his wife Shelley have continued their family tradition of furthering causes that they believe will "mine the brain oil." Bruce made his first trip to Israel in 1992 at the age of 61 as part of a mission to visit the Technion's Center for Biotechnology, which the family dedicated in 1988.

Bruce was introduced to Pardes through its Director Rabbi Daniel Landes, and visited Pardes in 1997. "I was taken with the central mission of Pardes and what's being accomplished there – taking college age students and furthering their Jewish education." Bruce was particularly impressed with the "ambience" at Pardes. The Whizin Foundation has made an annual gift in perpetuity to the Pardes Institute.

The Pardes Netzach Legacy Society honors donors who have expressed their intention to recognize Pardes in their estate plans through a planned gift, which includes bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and property interests. For information on how you can join our growing list of Netzach Legacy Society members, please contact Jayne Rosengarten, Executive Director, at 212-447-4333.

**Pardes would like to thank all of our major contributors whose generous support during the past year has enabled us to continue to grow and create new and exciting programs that help to shape the Jewish future.**

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

Avi Chai Foundation, The Jewish Agency, Ephraim Roseman Foundation, Moshe\* & Libby\* Werthan

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\* Board member

# RECRUITMENT



## PARDES WELCOMES NEW U.S. RECRUITMENT TEAM

At the Hillel Leaders Assembly, Tehilah Eisenstadt, (00-01) our new Coordinator of Pardes Educators Program Recruitment, and Dana Epstein (00-01), our new Coordinator of Recruitment and Alumni Affairs, kick off our innovative Pardes recruitment booth featuring a pomegranate question tree linked to answers on the Pardes website, which also lists upcoming conferences and events.

Pardes sends faculty and staff to conferences all over the country – recently Rabbi Daniel Landes and Meesh Hammer-Kossoy gave seminars at CAJE in San Antonio, and we were well-represented at the UJC General Assembly in Philadelphia.

## MEESH HAMMER-KOSSOY HEADS UP RECRUITMENT

Michelle (Meesh) Hammer-Kossoy is the new Director of Recruitment for Pardes. A graduate of Brandeis University and Pardes, Meesh is finishing her dissertation at New York University, focusing on why Rabbis created their own criminal punishment system. Fellowships include the Lady Davis, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Memorial Foundation, ATID, and the Dean's Dissertation Fellowship. Meesh is adding Recruitment to her regular duties as a Pardes faculty member.



# P A R D E S



## MARK LEVENFUS STARTS TERM AS NEW APF BOARD PRESIDENT

Mark Levenfus, CPA with Marks, Paneth and Shron, LLC (Exec. Sem. 98, 00), has served on the APF Board since 1998, and as Treasurer since 2000. His other community involvements include the Westchester Day School, the Wexner Heritage Foundation and The Acting Company. "I look forward to building an even stronger infrastructure of support for the Pardes Institute."



## JULIE POTIKER ENDS SUCCESSFUL TERM AS BOARD PRESIDENT

APF Executive Director Jayne Rosengarten presents outgoing President Julie Potiker with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the staff in appreciation for her dedication and achievements, at the APF end-of-year Board meeting. We wish Julie continued success in her new position as Pardes Fundraising Chair.



# I N A M E R I C A



## DINNER WITH PARDES EDUCATORS IN SAN DIEGO

APF outgoing President Julie (Exec. Seminar 98) and Lowell Potiker (Exec. Seminar 98) hosted an elegant dinner party at their lovely home in San Diego attended by Larry and Cindy Bloch, Richard and Ann Jaffe, Alan and Caryn Viterbi, David and Marcia Sudolsky and Susanna and Michael Flaster. L to R: Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield, Seth Goldsweig, Danny Zeldin, Julie Potiker, Lowell Potiker, Marla Bennett z'l, Lisa Kaplan and Rabbi Daniel Landes.

## AVI LEWITTES SELECTED APF B O A R D T R E A S U R E R

Our new Treasurer is Managing Director of UBS Warburg and an active member of B'nai Jeshurun in NY. Avi served as Chairman of the Simon Wiesenthal Center Leadership Board and spent two years at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "I am especially grateful for Pardes' compelling spiritual and intellectual experience enabling Jews to further strengthen our bond with Israel in such a challenging period in our history."



## PARDES ALUM SELECTED AS WEXNER FELLOWS

Pardes is proud that one third of the new prestigious Wexner Fellows class are Pardes graduates. Mazal Tov to Shana Tieg (01-02), Aaron Tapper (95-96), Audrey Marcus (99-00), Elie Kaunfer (95-96, 97-98) and Jethro Berkman (96-97).



## PURIM DESSERT AND LEARNING IN LA

Guests gathered for luscious deserts and were introduced to Pardes style learning with Rabbi Daniel Landes, members of the graduating class of the Pardes Educators Program and the Coordinator of the program, Rabbi Zvi Hirschfield. APF Board Member Tom Barad (Pardes Wexner 00), and Karen Hermelin chaired this Los Angeles Evening, held at the magnificent home of Herb and Beverly Gelfand. The program's committee included: Alan and Heather Broidy, Gary Brennglass, Bruce Ellman (Summer 94), Dr. Mark Goldenberg (Pardes Wexner 00), Mark Karlin, Luis and Lee Lainer, Professor Jules and Amelie Levin, Alan and Lisa Stern (Pardes Wexner 00) and Jim and Helen Zukin (Pardes Wexner 00).



## ALUMNI SHIUR

Participants study in Havruta as part of Judy Klitsner's session on "Rebecca the Matriarch" at the home of Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz (99-00).

## DECEMBER ALUMNI TRIP TO JERUSALEM

Pardes is offering a special opportunity for Pardes Alumni and friends to join Machon Pardes in Jerusalem from December 22nd through 28th. Contact APF or email [info@pardesusa.org](mailto:info@pardesusa.org) for details.

## SUMMER WITH PARDES

### ROSEMAN SUMMER PROGRAM

Join students from all over the world for interactive study of Jewish sources. Add the new Spiritual Retreat week in the desert for a fulfilling Pardes summer.

Summer Session I June 3 - 26

Spiritual Retreat June 30 - July 4

Summer Session II July 8 - 31

### EXECUTIVE SEMINAR JULY 4-9

One-week learning program geared to executives, professionals and community leaders which combines the study of classic Jewish sources with a new two-day experiential component outside Jerusalem.

### FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Pardes helps arrange participation in outdoor programs for teens and kids, while adults study in a Pardes program.

## JOIN US FOR EXECUTIVE SEMINAR 2003 – JULY 4-9



Pardes Executive Seminar 2002 participants l. to r. standing back row: Rabbi Daniel Landes, Larry Kluger (98-99, Exec. Sem. 98-01), Noah Alper (97-98), David Lissy, Moshe Werthan (97-98, Exec. Sem. 98-01). Standing second row: Sheldon Weinstein, Ruth Weinstein, Jessica Lissy (97-98, Educators 02-04), Maggie Lissy, Libby Werthan (Exec. Sem. 98-01), Karen Lovinger (Summer 96,99), David Richman (99-00, Summer 00, Fellow 01-02 Exec. Sem. 98, 00), Hirsh Chinn. Seated: Trudy Greener, Jayne Rosengarten, Sydney Joseph, Jonathan Klein (Summer 00), and Zvi Hirschfeld. Not pictured: Nancy Messinger (Summer 96, 98), Julie Wise-Oreck and Carol Smokler (00, 01).

The Pardes community commemorates the lives of Ben Blutstein and Marla Bennett in a special memorial album published Fall 2002. Further information is available on the Pardes alumni website at [www.pardesusa.org](http://www.pardesusa.org).



[www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il)

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