



HAVRUTA

A
PARDES
LEARNING
COMPANION

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies • Spring 2002 • מכון פרדס 5762

LAST YEAR WAS PARDES' BEST – THIS YEAR'S EVEN BETTER!

Bursting at the Seams

In the academic year 5761 (2000/2001), Pardes' numbers were at their highest ever – 118 students. The Beit Midrash was packed to overflowing at virtually all hours of the day and night. Despite a worrisome security "matzav," June's Summer Program brought 55 participants, including a dozen Hillel professionals. This year, for lack of space, classes have been meeting in Rabbi Landes' office, the Teachers' Lounge and the cafeteria, too.

This Year:

- 70 first-year students keep the Beit Midrash hopping. (See the Insert for an introduction to the ALS.)
- In its second year, the Pardes Educators Program has grown to 28 students.
- 20 students returned or joined the Pardes Fellows Program.
- 8 of our young scholars also attend an Advanced Learning Seminar, in response to many student requests for advanced study in Talmud and Tanach.
- These great numbers don't even include 30 Learning Leaders over the age of 50 who come to the Beit Midrash twice a week for classes and *havruta* study. These students are all committed to Pardes' unique combination of commitment to Torah learning, Jewish passion and openness to the world.



From Rabbi Daniel Landes

Director of Pardes:



The tragic events of September 11 and the constant terror attacks on Israeli society have challenged Israeli educational institutions that serve a North American population.

Many institutions now have only a fraction of the numbers they had two years ago. Others are close to closing. For those that remain, an even greater challenge is not to succumb to dismay or, worse, to a despairing cynicism.

It is thus with humility and thankfulness that I report that Pardes has not only grown but thrived.

Our Beit Midrash is packed, and we have run out of room for classes. More important, the students, faculty and staff have worked together to create an oasis of reason, light, inspiration and joy of study. And here at Pardes there is no siege mentality, as we feel close and grateful to the supporters and alumni who stuck with us through this difficult period.

The situation on both continents has inspired us to redouble our efforts to reach out to all students who would benefit from the Pardes Beit Midrash experience, to expand new and longstanding programs and to create new ones.

As I walk in Jerusalem's streets, passing children on their way to school and adults on their way to work, turning in at Pierre Koenig and Rivka Streets to reach the Pardes Beit Midrash, I am often reminded of the famous riddle that Samson proposed after seeing the carcass of a lion he had slain swarming with honeybees hard at work: **מַעַז יִצָּא מִתּוֹק?** — "Shall sweetness emerge from strength?"

This is the riddle of Jewish existence today, in North America as well as Israel – to remain strong and at the same time to be creative, productive and sweet in the soul. This riddle is our challenge and our prayer. At Pardes, we strive to make it our reality.

BLAUSTEIN SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR 2001/02

We are proud to announce that **Prof. Jonathan D. Sarna**, on sabbatical from his position as Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, is this year's Blaustein Scholar at Pardes.

Prof. Sarna's course at Pardes, "Judaism Confronts America: Historical Perspectives," focuses on issues and tensions between Jewish law and American life. In addition, Prof. Sarna is offering special lectures and seminars throughout the academic year. As part of the Blaustein program, **Dr. Ruth Langer**, ordained at Hebrew Union College and currently Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at Boston College, will lecture on liturgy.

The Blaustein Scholars Program was established by a generous grant from the **Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation** of Baltimore, to support scholars and courses that reflect a liberal approach to Jewish sources. Distinguished past scholars include Dr. David Ellenson, President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati; Prof. Arthur Green, former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; and Prof. Daniel Matt, Professor of Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union at the University of California-Berkeley and a renowned expicator of the Zohar.

KUDOS TO:

Rabbi Aryeh Ben David on the publication of his book, *Around the Shabbat Table: A Guide to Fulfilling and Meaningful Shabbat Table Conversations* (Jason Aronson), and for his article, "Shabbat Miracle," published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

Rabbi Reuven Grodner on the publication of his article, "Science and Technology in the Thought of Rav Yosef B. Soloveitchik," in *Chidushei Torah @NDS*.

Meesh Hammer-Kossoy for winning a Lady Davis Doctoral Fellowship to study at Hebrew University.

Board member and Pardes student **Ida Hoffmann** for receiving the prestigious **Yakirat Yerushalayim** (Honored Citizen of Jerusalem).

Rabbi Daniel Landes for his "Halacha of Prayer" essays and commentaries published in Volume 5, *Birkhot Hashachar* (Morning Blessings), in the series *My People's Prayer Book: Traditional Prayers, Modern Commentaries* (Jewish Lights).

Esther Lopian for an article in Hebrew on bat mitzvah celebration in the Orthodox community (subtitle: "Deafening Silence") in *Ha'Isha VeYahadut* (Women and Judaism), published by KOLOT, 2001; and for a forthcoming article in Hebrew on literary skills in the teaching of Tanach, in *Proceedings of the Conference on Teaching Bible*, published by Michlalot Lifschitz and Efrata.

Rabbi Arie Strikovsky for contributing three essays on women as learners and teachers of Torah to a bat mitzvah anthology, edited by Sarah Friedland and published by MaTaN; and for his book on conversion, translated into Russian and published in the CIS this year.

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg on the publication of *The Particulars of Rapture* (Doubleday), her commentary on the Book of Exodus.

Community Service Program at Pardes

Though difficult, the past months in Israel have encouraged our Community Service Program to move into high gear, offering direct help to the families of terror victims by helping with shopping and errands, tutoring children, babysitting, etc.

Pardes students have also made their study of Torah text responsive to human need by: tutoring young Ethiopians toward their English matriculation exams, serving as Big Brothers/Sisters to Down's Syndrome children in the Mercaz Harmony kindergarten program, spending time with the lonely and elderly, helping to operate a local soup kitchen, and even volunteering at an animal shelter. Pardes Fellows have taken the lead in delivering food to and spending time with needy families in the center-city Nachlaot neighborhood.

In a special project, a Pardes student initiated and then inspired fellow students to help conduct Friday night services at a nursing home. Another student insisted, despite the security situation, on persevering to provide support and encouragement to a young boy living at Amit Beit haYeled, a foster care facility for abused and disadvantaged children in the beleaguered neighborhood of Gilo.

Director of Community Programming Debra Weiner-Solomont coordinates the Community Service Program. Pardes remains indebted to the **Henry and Edith Everett Foundation** and to the **Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation** for their support of the Pardes Community Service Program and to **Rabbi Joe and Rolinda Schonwald** for their continuing leadership role in its development.

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Pardes Trip to Poland

In December, during the week of Parshat Vayeshev – “like Joseph looking for our brothers,” said one of the group – 17 Pardes students, Fellows and Educators journeyed to Poland with Pardes dean **Dr. David Bernstein** and veteran teacher **Rabbi Meir Schweiger**, both children of survivors, and a Holocaust survivor. It was the week of Chanukah and, as Dr. Bernstein said, particularly meaningful to light the holiday candles in a place which had seen so much darkness. The group visited Jewish sites, studied the country’s Jewish heritage and experienced the small Jewish revival now taking place.

“It was very cold, sometimes 20 below,” Dr. Bernstein recalled, “and it snowed all the time. Wearing layers of warm clothing, high-tech thermal fabrics and waterproof hiking boots, we were still uncomfortably cold outdoors. The Jews of the Shoah

had been dressed in rags and lived in unheated buildings! The trip was very moving.”

Olivia Hawkinson, a 1st year student with a BA and MA in Journalism from Northwestern University, was among those who made the trip to Poland:



“At the end of our afternoon at Majdanek, we gathered outside for a memorial ceremony in the snow. We each lit a candle and were invited to say one word we associate with Judaism. I said, ‘Survival’. Then one of the students unfurled an Israeli flag. I think I’ll never be the same after this trip.”



The “Day Away” Is Coming Back

September 12 – the day after. There was talk at Pardes of canceling the long-planned “Day Away” program, “Ezra and the Return to Zion.” And yet the day of learning, dedicated to the victims of terrorism in America, provided special comfort to the 125 Pardes supporters plus faculty and staff who participated, and it ended as a great success in itself and a movingly appropriate response to the tragedy.

Pardes’ unique annual fundraising “happening” is now entering its fourth year. It explores the struggles, ideas and impact on history of a significant figure in Jewish history, using lectures, *havruta* study, tours and performances, as well as the food, art, music and drama of the time. September’s “Day Away” with Ezra the Scribe, who stewarded the Jews’ return from exile in Babylonia 25 centuries ago, concentrated on understanding Ezra’s qualities and difficulties as a leader, along with the larger issue of what Jewish leadership requires.

Produced by **Elyssa Moss Rabinowitz**, the “Day Away” concept was originated by Board member **David Moss**. **Lanie Waldman** will be joining **Ruth Cummings Sorensen** and **Connie Beinhaker**, co-chairs of the “Ezra Day Away,” in planning for next year’s event. Keep your calendar open after Sukkot 2002 - exact date to follow.

Pardes Program

Pardes offers programs suited to people from all Jewish backgrounds, levels of learning and walks of life.

Rimmon/Garin Year Program

(college graduates and up)

Full- or part-time study for a semester or a year. Contact: Ronit Schwarz, Registrar <registrar@pardes.org.il>.

Roseman Summer Program

(age 19 and up)

One- or two-month sessions including intensive text study, seminars, social programs and hikes.

Dates for 2002: Session I, June 3-10; Session II, July 2-25. Contact: Aryeh David <abd@pardes.org.il>.

Pardes Educators Program

A two-year, intensive learning program offering an MA in Jewish Education through the Hebrew University Certificate of Advanced Jewish Studies from Pardes, yearly internships in North American Jewish day schools and generous stipends. Participants come to teaching in a North American Jewish day school for three years. The Pardes Educators Program was developed in 1995 and is funded by a grant from the **CHAI Foundation**. Contact: Hirschfield, Program Director <dhj3@hotmail.com>.

Pardes Fellows Program

(college graduates and up)

One-year program for students who have completed a full year at Pardes or an equivalent elsewhere. Students receive free tuition and a living stipend, engage in intensive Beit Midrash study, assume leadership roles within the Pardes community and participate in a year-long leadership seminar, which includes undertaking a community leadership project. Contact: Rabbi Levi Cooch, Program Director, <itaic@012.net.il>.

Pardes Learning Leaders

A program for learners over 50 that meets twice weekly. Classes are taught by regular Pardes faculty. Contact: Debra Solomont, <debra@pardes.org.il>.

For information on other learning opportunities, contact Alisa Kober Berkowitz at <alisa@pardesusa.org>.

Ruth Cummings Sorensen, New Pardes Board Chair

Incoming Board chair Ruth Cummings Sorensen describes herself as especially committed to devising new strategies to develop Jewish culture and education. Here's Ruth in her own words:

"I was fortunate to have been 'schooled' in philanthropy and leadership through serving as a trustee of a family foundation, the **Nathan Cummings Foundation**,



leadership? How do we make certain that the next generation has a foundation to

because a critical challenge for any leader is to look to the next generation. What is it that we want to leave as a legacy? How do we engage young

build upon? I am continually inspired by activists – people who effect change in their chosen field. The words of *Pirke Avot* remain a comfort to me: 'It is not for you to complete the task, but neither may you desist from it.' I look forward this year to increasing recruitment to Pardes and to giving the gift of an open door to the Pardes Beit Midrash to students, alumni and all who want to learn and to be a part of the Pardes community and spirit."

PEPped Up

It's the largest teacher-training program for North American day schools outside the *haredi* world. **The Pardes Educators Program (PEP)**, now in its second year, has grown to 28, including the new cohort of 13. "It's a remarkable achievement to have reached these numbers," says Pardes dean Dr. David Bernstein.

PEP's emphasis on learning Torah texts is unique, and so is its comprehensiveness. Over two years, the program immerses future educators in Jewish texts and imbues them with the famous Pardes mix of Jewish passion and openness to the world. Students earn a Master's Degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew University and a Certificate of Advanced Jewish Studies from Pardes, in addition to getting a month of hands-on experience each year as student teaching interns in North American Jewish schools. Directed by Zvi Hirschfield and taught by senior faculty, including Pardes director Rabbi Daniel Landes, the program is generously funded by the **AVI CHAI Foundation**, which has now approved an additional grant to PEP for the next three years. The program includes scholarships and living stipends to allow participants to concentrate on becoming great teachers.

How did the intern experience go?

Tamar Rabinowitz came to Pardes from South Africa:

"What most affected me was how the kids interacted with the texts. It was great to see them have their own ideas and excitedly draw each other and the teacher into dialogue and debate. The internship made me feel solid and successful as a teacher."

Yonatan Yussman, who taught English in an Israeli school before enrolling at Pardes, interned in Atlanta:

"Before Pardes, I didn't know Talmud existed. Now, after the studying I've done, I think better. The education classes at Hebrew University make us consider what to do and how to do it – they've made me a much better educator. So do the mentors who help and encourage me during the internship."

Seeking Out the Land

Off and running with a generous grant from the **Dorot Foundation** of Rhode Island, Pardes' Environmental Classroom Project takes Pardes students to all corners of Israel on tours, hikes and Shabbat weekends. Students have learned first-hand about water resources, security concerns, the political aspects of environmental issues, archeological discoveries, relationships among local communities and agricultural methods now and in the past. The project makes their Bible studies come to life and deepens their commitment to Israel's unique environmental and historical heritage. "We're getting to know Israel through our feet," as one student put it. Pardes is grateful to the legacy of **Joy Ungerleider**, through the Dorot Foundation and its director, **Prof. Ernie Frerichs**.



The Past and the Present Come Together to Create a Jewish Future

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, which help to shape the Jewish future.

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(\$100,000 and above)

AVI CHAI Foundation, The Dorot Foundation, The Jewish Agency, Mrs. Ephraim Roseman, Moshe* and Libby* Werthan

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* Board Member

Pardes in America

Alumni Affairs

My, How We've Grown!

Just before press time, the first-ever Pardes Alumni Shabbaton Reunion-Retreat brought more than 250 Pardes alums and Board members with their families to the Rye Town Hilton in Westchester, NY. We celebrated the Shabbat weekend, Feb. 8-10, with Pardes director Rabbi Daniel Landes, Rabbis Meir Schweiger and Aryeh Ben David, Judy Klitsner, Marcie Lenk and special guests Rabbi Yitz and Blu Greenberg. The excitement and enthusiasm at the Shabbaton will inspire us as we plan the next great alumni gathering. Thanks and congratulations to the event Chairs, **Abbie Gottesman Greenberg '94-95** and **Deborah Shapira**, and their committee, along with Shabbaton Coordinator **Dana Epstein '00-01**, and of course APF executive director **Jayne Rosengarten**.

Alumni Web Site

Stay in touch with Pardes at www.pardesusa.org. Made by and for Pardes alumni, our new Web site includes a calendar of events for Pardes teachers, activities and get-togethers in your area; contact information for friends and other alumni; sign-up for Pardes mailings; and a Pardes message board. You can even make donations to Pardes, update your contact information, or use it to send feedback and suggestions to **Deb Gaffin**, Summer 2000, Chair of the Pardes Alumni Web Site Committee.

Alumni Database

American Pardes Foundation is updating its alumni database. Please e-mail your updated contact information to **Alisa Kotler-Berkowitz** alisa@pardesusa.org. Kotler-Berkowitz, who has joined the American Pardes Foundation staff as Director of Recruitment and Alumni Affairs and is a Pardes alumna ('99-00), holds an MA from the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University and has served as Associate Director of Hillel at Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design Hillel Foundation and as Director of the Hillel Council of Greater Boston.

Continuing Education

Despite the public and personal trauma of September 11 in America, Pardes adult education courses began as scheduled in October. This year's teaching theme, "The Cycle of Celebration," explores the historical framework and contemporary challenges of Jewish holidays and rituals.

The **San Diego** Jewish community is, for the fourth year, hosting a Pardes series at the local JCC in conjunction with the Agency for Jewish Education. Much credit for this venture goes to APF President **Julie Potiker**. In **Pittsburgh**, Pardes is back with two tracks of its Lishma leadership courses, "The Cycle of Celebration" and "Values and Models of Jewish Leadership."

The **Columbus** community, which ran a successful five-day "Learning Caravan" last year, is continuing this year with monthly day and evening sessions, organized by the indefatigable **Ed Ellman**. **Milwaukee** Friends of Pardes, under the leadership of APF Board member **Jerry Dorf**, is planning its annual Spring Community Shabbaton. In **Los Angeles**, a February reception with members of the graduating class of the Pardes Educators Program was chaired by APF Board member **Tom Barad** and **Karen Hermelin**. And in **New York**, Pardes teachers lead learning sessions for alumni groups, campus groups and parlor meetings, bringing the unique "Pardes method" of Jewish learning to an expanding circle.

Young Leadership Cabinet Mission

An intrepid group of **United Jewish Community** "Young Leaders" spent a day of learning at Pardes in October, as part of their Solidarity Mission. Organized by **Larry Kluger**, a Pardes alum and a member of the UJC's **Young Leadership "Cabinet,"** the group studied with **Rabbi Aryeh Ben David** and **Zvi Hirschfield** and later, on their Shabbat in Jerusalem, with Pardes director Rabbi Daniel Landes. As one participant put it, "To study Torah in Jerusalem was a truly amazing experience."

Launching "Planned Giving"

The newly launched "Planned Giving" program will ensure perpetual funding to enable students to attend Pardes. "We've created a win-win

situation," says Julie Potiker, president of American Pardes Foundation. "Planned giving allows donors to achieve both their philanthropic and financial goals." Advantages of Planned Giving include the ability to perpetuate giving and to honor your own family name or another, as well as financial benefits in the areas of life income, income and capital-gains tax savings, estate-tax savings, and many others. APF will work with you, in collaboration with Jewish Community Foundation professional advisors, to create a plan that reflects your financial needs while expressing your vision for Pardes' future.

For further information, contact Jayne Rosengarten, (212) 447-4333 or Jayner@pardesusa.org.

Recruit more students and expand contact with alumni – with those two goals in mind, Pardes has joined "The Alliance for Educational Programs in Israel," a joint venture by six Israel programs. With applicant numbers reduced by security concerns and the erosion of American-Jewish

Joining the 'Alliance'

involvement with Israel, all the organizations – even Pardes, despite its current crowding – want to attract more students. In fact, Pardes, as a post-college program, may ultimately benefit from the recruitment efforts of the other programs – the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, Livnot U'Lehibanot, Nesiya, Shorashim and WUJS – for whom Pardes is the next logical step. The Alliance will also coordinate expansion of contact with alumni, who comprise a major resource for recruitment, fund-raising and promotion for all six programs. Pardes Board member **Moshe Werthan** took a lead role in this project, along with **Mark Levenfus** of the American Pardes Foundation and new Pardes Board chair **Ruth Cummings Sorensen**.

On the Same Page: A Father-Daughter Havruta

Dina Epstein, a 1st year student, earned her BA at Barnard College.

I have to admit that my original intentions were not completely honorable. When I first proposed to my father the idea of learning Torah together during winter break of my sophomore year in college, I was angling for a trip to Israel. Sure enough, my father leaped at the chance for two weeks of intense one-on-one Torah study with his daughter. A good friend of mine and her father also liked the idea. Pardes created special classes for our father-daughter *havrutot*, with charismatic educators and close attention to our specific interests.

In the Pardes Beit Midrash, my father and

I dove into the texts, benefiting from each other's insights. We soon discovered, for example, that the story of Joseph and his brothers looks very different from the vantage point of a father than from that of a middle child in a large family. But my joy at learning on an equal basis with my father was, I think, surpassed by his pride and satisfaction in seeing that my 13 years of Jewish day school had paid off.

This intense Jewish learning with my dad whetted my appetite for more, and I returned to Pardes two years later, fresh out of college, wanting more textual

challenges, more intensity. Although my father is not my *havruta* this year, I look forward to my visits home and the opportunity to incorporate my new skills in continuing our tradition of learning together.

Each day in the Sh'ma, we recite the line, "You shall teach these words of Torah to your children." My father has done that and continues to do so. I look forward to carrying on that tradition in the future by returning to the Beit Midrash at Pardes to learn texts with children of my own. Hopefully, my father will join us, and we'll create Pardes' first tri-generational *havruta*.

Visiting lectures at Pardes

"Yitz" Greenberg

Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, one of modern Jewry's most influential theologians, scholars and teachers and a long-time friend of Pardes, ushered out calendar year 2001 in the Pardes Beit Midrash on December 31 with a *tour de force* presentation of the theology of *Tzelem Elo-him*, the human created in the Divine Image.



Natan Sharansky

Israeli Housing Minister and former Prisoner of Zion **Natan Sharansky**

– born in 1948, making him the same age as the State of Israel – spoke to a packed Pardes Beit Midrash on December 6, during a pre-Chanukah seminar.

Sharansky made aliyah upon his release in 1986 from nine years in Soviet prison camps for "spying." In 1997, as Minister of Trade, he visited the prison where he had been incarcerated. "Now there is no KGB," he recounted. "There is no Soviet Union. There is no Communism. But we Jews continue with strength. Our future belongs to us." Mr. Sharansky's visit to Pardes was arranged by Pardes teacher Meir Schweiger, with whom he studied when he first arrived in Israel.

Pardes-Hillel June Partnership

The Pardes Summer Program brought 11 Hillel campus directors and professionals to Jerusalem last June. Conceived and initiated by **Hillel International President Richard Joel**, the special program, designed to provide Jewish background for Hillel professionals, included programming specific to the needs of North American Hillels.

Did the participants like what they found at Pardes? Just listen.

Kate Palley, Oberlin:

"I had a fabulous time. The teachers were amazing. The classes spoke to everyone, no matter what their level or previous experience." (Kate decided to stay on for the July session.)

Nicole Uritz, UC at San Diego:

"A life-changing experience. I discovered that

studying Torah is something anyone can do."

Margo Sack, University of Texas at Austin: "Awesome!"

Other institutions represented included Brandeis, Brown, McMasters (Canada), Sonoma State, Tulane, University of North Carolina, University of Toronto and the Hillel International office. Fully funded by Hillel International with the support of the **Henry and Edith Everett Foundation**, the program was designed by Hillel International's Rabbi Avi Weinstein and Hebrew University Hillel's Esther Abramowitz in coordination with Rabbi Aryeh Ben David of Pardes. Funding has now been secured to sponsor 20 Hillel professional for Summer 2002.

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For information and registration forms, contact Jayne Rosengarten in the American Pardes office (212-447-4333 or <jayner@pardesusa.org>) or Trudy Greener in the Jerusalem office (+972-2-673-5210 or <trudy@pardes.org.il>).



PARDES

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February in New York has never been so *WARM*

Learning, fun and inspiration –
Scenes from the Alumni
Shabbaton/ Retreat in Rye, NY



Julie Potiker, President of APF, with
Deborah Shapira and Abbie Gottesman
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