



# HAVRUTA

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies | Winter 2004 | מכון פרדס 5765

## OUR EXPANSION OF SPACE AND SPIRIT

By Rabbi Daniel Landes, Director

A new academic year has brought several welcome changes: an expansion in student enrollment, an opportunity to enlarge our learning space, and the prospect for broadening our learning community. This year's increased enrollment confirmed that we needed additional classrooms, and with intensive effort by our board members and staff, we were able to rent and renovate an area on the first floor, creating a 25% increase of classroom space.

This physical expansion is due to our growth in student numbers; on a deeper level it reflects an expansion of our spirit and intention. As our prophets and rabbis have taught us, the holiness of the Beit HaMikdash was proportional to the degree of its largeness of spirit. This is also true of our Mikdash Me'at – our small Temple – that is Pardes.

Our spirit has been tested during recent years given the difficult times for Israel and our own personal losses in the Pardes community. It is with humble thanks for future courage that we seek to understand our sources of strength:

From our beloved Israel we have learned resilience. Israelis are not an easy people, but this nation has maintained an affirmation of life and love in the face of suffering and loss.

From our faculty and staff, we have gained confidence in the overwhelming moral value of Torah study.

From our boards, alumni and supporters, we have discovered determination – that Pardes will not only survive but will reach its highest levels.

From our students, we have reaped a wealth of passion for study and service.

In terms of space, numbers and depth and range of study, Pardes continues to expand and succeed. An open and sincere spirit of imagination is necessary to manifest our potential. May the spirit of discovery and excitement that fills our Beit Midrash continue to grow, spread and carry us all forward.

**“Expanses, expanses,  
Expanses divine my soul craves.  
Confine me not in cages,  
Of substance or of spirit.  
My soul soars the expanses of the heavens...”**

Rav Kook



Top: Pardes Advanced Scholar Aaron Katchen and new Board Member Larry Roth placing a mezuzah on one of the newly constructed classrooms. Bottom: The expanded Beit Midrash with new long tables. Pardes held a Chanukat Habayit attended by Ruth Cummings Sorensen, Israel Board Chair; Moshe Werthan, Israel Board Finance Chair; Board members Jerry Goodman, Toni Wiseburgh, and Marsha and Larry Roth; and APF Board representative David Winick.

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

By David I. Bernstein, Ph.D, Dean

With enrollment at a record high, one might be tempted to overlook what makes Pardes such a special place: the high quality of our faculty and students, and their learning and activities that take place within – and outside – our walls.

Our faculty consists of men and women who are not only learned, but are also excellent classroom teachers, passionate about their subject matter, and caring of their students. They are deeply committed Jews who are also open to different views. We are fortunate to have a vibrant veteran faculty, as well as some new

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# S T U D E N T S S P E A K

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## CONFESSIONS OF A PARDES STUDENT

By Jennifer Luftig Singer



I first came to Pardes in the summer of 2000 after graduating college. During that month of intense learning, I began to delve into studying the Laws of Shabbat, Women and Mitzvot, Chumash and Mishnah. That session uncovered a yearning inside of me to learn more about my Jewish heritage and traditional practice. I left Jerusalem that summer not knowing when

I would return to Pardes or to my newfound skills of learning traditional texts, but I always held my experiences deep within my heart. My one summer at Pardes introduced me to life-long friends, one who would, within a few months of returning to Boston, introduce me to my future husband over a Shabbat meal. But more importantly, my one summer at Pardes awakened in me the desire to learn more.

Four years have passed and I find myself back here in Jerusalem, once again at Pardes; asking the same questions, delving into those same sources. Only now I view the world as a different person, through different eyes. Now as I look at the sources, I see through the eyes of someone with a graduate degree, a husband and a

stronger commitment to Judaism.

I remember my first day of Pardes this year, sitting in the Beit Midrash awaiting introductions by faculty and staff, making new friends and beginning to reconnect to my Jewish self. The most striking part of my day was the moment when Dean David Bernstein told a room overflowing with new faces to look around the room at all of the books in the Beit Midrash. He said that these books were our heritage, our traditions and regardless of our denomination, our level of observance or our upbringing – these books, these *sifrei kodesh*, belong to each and every Jew.

It is that moment that I carry with me every day when I enter the door at Pardes, my little non-coercive environment in the holiest city in the world. Whenever I am overwhelmed with Hebrew grammar or frustrated when I do not understand the complex commentaries of Rashi, I reach inside my pocket and pull out my “Get Out of Jail Free Card” and remember to give myself the time and patience to begin anew. I am simply a Jew, walking humbly inside the walls of this sacred school, retracing the footsteps of my people and once again I have come home.

*Jennifer Luftig Singer (Summer 00, Year Program 04-05) is from Boston; she received a BA in Politics from Brandeis University and an MA in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University.*

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

faces who have joined us in the last few years. While we miss Avivah Zornberg and Judy Klitsner, both on well-deserved leaves of absence, and Aryeh Ben David, who is working for Hillel and Pardes on college campuses in America, there is no ‘slack’ in the Beit Midrash. We are happy to have some familiar faces in their place: Daniel Roth, David Levin-Kruss, and Rahel Berkovits. These young teachers who have been teaching part-time at Pardes are now teaching full-time. We also are happy to have veteran Talmud teacher Dr. Beverly Gribetz return to Pardes. Beverly may very well have been the first woman to teach Talmud in Jerusalem, as part of the Pardes faculty back in the 1970s – when Pardes was the only Beit Midrash to open its doors to women students.

Our students are not only numerous but diverse. They form a broad spectrum, from novice learners to our Advanced Scholars with years of yeshiva learning behind them. They come from the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia, Germany, the Former Soviet Union, and Poland. They vary widely in terms of their religious beliefs, denominational affiliation and patterns of observance. Those students who plan to attend rabbinical school represent all the major American Jewish denominations, while their time at Pardes offers them the opportunity of intense Torah study with Jews of all the other denominations. We know that those who finish a



year of study at Pardes have an all-embracing, Klal Yisrael approach to their work, whether as rabbis, teachers, Jewish communal professionals, or lay leaders.

As I write, I am about to join a tiyul to the Negev with hiking and a Shabbat experience that promise to raise students' consciousness about the environment using the rich backdrop of the Land of Israel. It is emblematic of what we strive for at Pardes – opportunities to learn, opportunities for students and faculty to create the Pardes community, as well as friendships that last a lifetime.

We have much to be grateful for.



# A L U M N I S U R V E Y

## ALUMNI SURVEY DEMONSTRATES EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH JEWISH COMMITMENT OF PARDES GRADUATES

Pardes alumni recently participated in a survey conducted by Hebrew University of Jerusalem sociologist Prof. Steven M. Cohen and Judith Schor, CUNY doctoral student in social personality.

The analysis compared alumni of Pardes with specially designed sub-samples of the National Jewish Population Study 2000-01.

In reflecting on the findings, Professor Cohen remarked, "The Pardes experience is clearly a critical way-station on the route to extraordinary Jewish growth by scores of highly talented and motivated young Jewish adults, year after year. They emerge unusually committed to raising Jewish families, studying Jewish texts, involvement with Israel, serving the Jewish community, and maintaining a life-long commitment to Jewish learning and growth."

Schor commented, "As a former Pardes student myself, I was particularly gratified to see the strong evidence of people my age developing as strong, committed Jews, before, during, and after the Pardes experience."

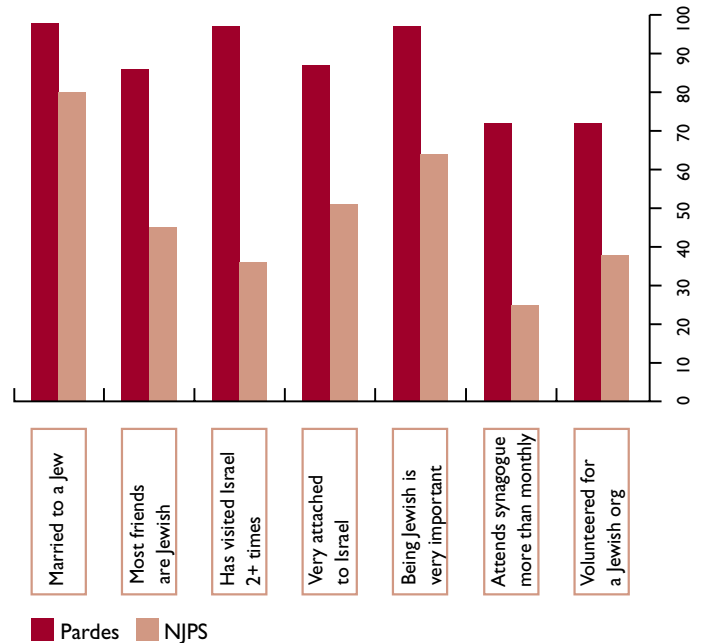
"Over the years we 'knew' that those who have had the experience of learning Torah in Pardes' Beit Midrash gain a deepened connection to studying, knowledge and Israel and bring their Jewish understanding to their work, their relationships, families and communities. Now we have the statistical data to back this up," stated Ruth Cummings Sorensen, Pardes Israel Board Chair and Pardes alumna. "We are proud of this demonstration of our proven success at taking young people with little background and transforming them into committed and passionate Jews," she concluded.

The full analysis and methodology can be viewed at [www.alliancedata.org.il](http://www.alliancedata.org.il).

Pardes notified alumni by email about the survey. If you are not receiving Pardes emails, please send your updated contact details to [admin@pardesusa.org](mailto:admin@pardesusa.org).



Pardes graduates have a high rate of marriage to Jews. Pictured: Wedding of Pardes Fellows Shalom Kantor (Year Program 00-01) and Shana Teig (Year Program 01-02), who met at the wedding of other Pardes alumni.



## SURVEY COMMENTS

*"Pardes ... 25 years later, still one of the most important experiences in my life!!"*

*"The most important part for me was studying the texts and getting the feeling that I am building my own personal understanding of Judaism."*

*"Pardes has an exceptional program, staff, student body, and mission. My year at Pardes changed the course of my life, and I am forever grateful for my time there."*

*"Looking back several years later, I see that Pardes was really the only place for me to get the tools I desired and be taken seriously, despite not choosing to walk in the path of my teachers."*

*"Pardes is an incredible program, run by caring, intelligent people who treat each individual as if they were the most important person there. They have created an incredible open environment for people to learn and make friends and become more connected to Judaism."*

*"Pardes: Thank you for helping me fall in love with Judaism and being Jewish!"*

## S U P P O R T

## CELEBRATING PROGRAM EXCELLENCE

Pardes celebrates its rich programming and the funders who provide for our great success. Among our programs, we recognize:

### The Blaustein Scholars Program

Pardes Blaustein Scholar Professor Yair Zakovitch, Professor of Bible at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, taught a class at Pardes on The Creation of Interpretation and wrote a scholarly article, *Jerusalem in the Days to Come - the Second Giving of the Torah, or, the Two Mountains*, which is available in the Online Learning section of the Pardes website.

The Blaustein Scholars Program was established by a generous grant from the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland, 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), Cincinnati, Ohio; Professor Arthur Green, former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Professor Daniel Matt, Professor of Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union at the University of California, Berkeley and a renowned explicator of the Zohar; and Professor Jonathan Sarna, Professor of Jewish History, Brandeis University.

### The Suissa Foundation: The Pardes Olam Fellows

Fellows learn full-time in advanced studies; upon completion of the program, Olam Fellows work in lay and professional capacities within the North American Jewish community.



Suissa Foundation Pardes Olam Fellows



Professor Yair Zakovitch Teaching at Pardes

## SALUTING VISIONARY LEADERS

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)

The AVI CHAI Foundation; The Ephraim Roseman Foundation; Libby and Moshe Werthan

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

Jill and Tom Barad; The Nathan Cummings Foundation; The Dorot Foundation; The Everett Family Foundation; The Jewish Agency for Israel; The Nash Family Foundation; Julie and Lowell Potiker; Ilana and Charles Ratner; Karen and David Shapira; The Yoreinu Foundation

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

Etzioni Partners; Shira Gordon and Phil Shaw; The Harold Grinspoon Foundation; Stacy and Jonathan Halberg; Jerry-Ann and Gary Jacobs;

Laurayne and Sanford Ratner; Karen and Gary Rose; Rolinda and Joe Schonwald (The Rochlin Family Foundation); David Suissa/ Olam Magazine; Anonymous; Toni and Peter Wiseburgh

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

The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation; Geri and Edwin Ellman; Marci and Eric Gardiner; Paula and Jerry Gottesman; Abbie Gottesman Greenberg and Moshe Greenberg; Fran and Robert Immerman; Jesselson Family; Larry Kluger; Richard and Leora Linhart; Janet and David J. Lonner; Lara Prince and Avi Lewittes; Angela and Selig Sacks; Alan B. Slifka Foundation; Samuel and Helene Soref Foundation; Rachel and Michael Stein; Frances Rodriguez-Stern and Jeffrey Stern; Janice and Matthew Tannin; Elaine and Alexander Waldman; David Winick; Fred Zimmerman and Sharon Bell

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

Hope and Noah Alper; Giti and Jack Bendheim; The Robert M. Beren



# P A R D E S

## Soda Club: Continuing Education

The Pardes Continuing Education program, which serves the Jerusalem community with weekly courses in English and Hebrew, has expanded due to generous support from Israeli company Soda Club. We are offering nine courses this year, including a new Tour and Learn course.

## The Nathan Cummings Foundation Pardes Spiritual Education Initiative

Pardes is implementing Spiritual Education Workshops for Jewish college students in North America.

## The Rochlin Family Foundation: Chizuk Pardes

The goal of Chizuk Pardes is to use the Pardes Beit Midrash to

nurture Jewish leadership within the communities of the Former Soviet Union and Central Europe.

## The Harold Grinspoon Foundation: Pardes Hebrew University Spiritual Education Workshops

Pardes is partnering with Hillel at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem to offer Spiritual Education workshops to students.

## The Nash Family Foundation: Pardes Leadership Fellows Program

The Fellows Program offers students a deeper, richer relationship to Jewish texts and tradition, along with the tools and knowledge to communicate and lead, in a compelling, open manner the Jewish communities they join after their time at Pardes.



Soda Club Continuing Education Tour of Heavenly Jerusalem



Nash Family Foundation Pardes Leadership Fellows

Foundation, Inc.; Gary Brennglass; Joseph Hara; Ruth and Daniel Krasner; Gloria and Mark Levenfus; The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation; The Low Wood Fund, Inc.; Zvi Nixon; Robert Russell Memorial Foundation; Deborah Shapira and Barry Stern; Ruth Cummings Sorensen; Yael and Micah Taubman (The Sophia and Herman P. Taubman Foundation); Michael Tolkin; Shelly and Bruce Whizin

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

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# B O A R D N E W S

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## WE WELCOME NEW PARDES BOARD MEMBERS:

### Rabbi David Gedzelman



Rabbi David Gedzelman is the Executive Director of Jewish Life Network/Steinhardt Foundation; David has been actively involved in JLN programs since 1995, when he was recruited to conceive and develop Makor in New York City. Before serving at Makor, David was Director of Hillel and Rabbi in Residence at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. He also served as Director of Hillel at Pierce and Valley Colleges in Woodland Hills, California. At the same time, he was a Lecturer in Rabbinics at the University of Judaism's Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

### David Lonner



David Lonner, originally from Long Island, New York, is co-head of the Motion Picture Department at the William Morris Agency (WMA). Lonner represents a wide range of highly successful writers, producers and directors including: J.J. Abrams (creator of "Alias" and "Felicity" and writer of "Armageddon" and the upcoming "Mission Impossible 3"); Audrey Wells (writer of "Truth About Cats & Dogs," "George of the Jungle," "The Kid," and "Under the Tuscan Sun"); Brad Silberling (director of "City of Angels," "Moonlight Mile," and the upcoming "Lemony Snicket"); Jon Turteltaub (director of "National Treasure," "While You Were Sleeping," "Phenomenon" and "Cool Runnings"); Alexander Payne (director of "About Schmidt" and "Election"); and Michael Tolkin (writer of "The Player" and "Changing Lanes").

### Esther Abramowitz

Esther Abramowitz has been involved with Hillel in Israel since making aliyah in 1990, working with North American students and staff who visit and study in Israel as well as with the growing number of Israeli students and staff. As Hillel professional, Esther works closely with Pardes.

### Lanie Waldman



Lanie Waldman made aliyah in 1988 from Fair Lawn, New Jersey with her husband Alex, who also serves on the Pardes board. A deep commitment to quality Jewish education for Jews of all denominations drew Lanie to Pardes, where she has co-chaired the Day Away event.

### David Winick



David Winick serves as President of Creative Capital, and is also a Board Member of Tlalim, a graduate of the Wexner Heritage Foundation, a member of the AIPAC New Leadership Network, a former Young Leadership Cabinet member of UJA, a former board member of Agency for Jewish Education in San Diego, and active in terror victim relief. David lives part of the year in Israel, with a goal to be living there full time within the next five years.

### Larry Roth



Larry Roth made aliyah in 1990 from Syracuse, New York and now resides in Jerusalem with his wife Marsha, who has been a member of the Pardes Board for many years. Larry is a businessman, serves in several non-profit institutions and is Chairman of Torah Mitzion, which establishes centers all over the world for the study of Torah and promulgates the connection between Torah and Israel.

Pardes thanks the following people who have completed their terms on the Pardes and APF Boards: Naomi Ban, Steve and Terri Barnett, Jerry Dorf, Ida Hoffmann, Gary Philips and Marsha Roth. Their efforts on behalf of Pardes both in Israel and the US were enormous, and we look forward to their continued involvement and support.

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## PARDES WELCOMES ROBERT GROSSMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, ISRAEL



Robby, from Richmond, Virginia, received a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia, an MA in Higher Education Administration from George Washington University, and attended the Pardes Rimmon Program 02-03 and the Pardes Fellows Program 03-04. Previous positions include

Director, Soref Initiative for Emerging Campuses, Hillel's International Center 1999-2002 and Director, Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach, 1997-1999. "Pardes continues to grow in many directions, and with this growth we have seen that there is a need for focused fundraising. As we look forward, I am confident that having Robby on our professional staff will sharpen our efforts and increase our opportunities for success," stated Rabbi Landes.



# PARDES EDUCATORS PROGRAM

## In the Field

Last May, The AVI CHAI Foundation hired Myrna Rubel, principal of the Epstein School in Atlanta, to conduct an initial evaluation of the twenty Pardes Educators Program graduates completing their first and second years as teachers in Jewish day schools across North America. The data was drawn from written questionnaires and phone conversations. According to Rubel, "the teachers were described as 'exemplary' in personal qualities and suggests that Pardes screens and chooses their applicants well. Schools were thrilled to have Pardes graduates on their staff...the strength of the Pardes graduates is their content knowledge. They are well equipped to teach text study in day schools."

Not only have our graduates excelled in teaching in the classroom, but three graduates have already become directors/coordinators of Judaic Studies departments in their respective schools after two years in the classroom.

At Pardes, we are delighted to have played a role in their training. We truly believe our educators are changing the world of Jewish education, one classroom at a time.

## Ongoing Support

A critical component of the Pardes Educators Program is to provide ongoing support to our graduates once they are in the field. This involves three years in which we offer phone and email support from Pardes teachers, a three-day fall retreat in North America, and a two-week annual summer curriculum workshop in Jerusalem.

**The Pardes Educators Program was developed with and is funded by a grant from The AVI CHAI Foundation.**

This past July, ten of our graduates gathered in Jerusalem for the third curriculum workshop. This unique, annual opportunity supports our teachers as they work on curriculum development and classroom preparation. Their time together included Torah learning, classroom planning time under the supervision of Pardes faculty, site visits in Israel, sharing sessions, evening speakers and pedagogic workshops. The pedagogic workshops were conducted by Dr. Orah Zohar, director of the Center for Teacher Training at The Hebrew University, who taught three sessions on Reflective Practice; and Karen Gazith, director of educational services at the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre in Montreal, who offered three sessions on Differentiated Instruction. The teachers returned to their schools, energized and wiser.

## Schools

Pardes Educators Program graduates have taught at Akiba Hebrew Academy, Philadelphia; Bet Rambam, Baltimore; Beth Tfiloh, Baltimore; Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Washington D.C.; Chicagoland Jewish High School; Cohen Hillel Academy, Marblehead, Massachusetts; Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Boca Raton, Florida; The Gann School, Worcester, Massachusetts; Hannah Senesh Community Day School, Brooklyn; Jewish Community Day School, Newton, Massachusetts; Jewish Community High School of the Bay, San Francisco; Maimonides School, Brookline, Massachusetts; Moriah School, Engelwood, New Jersey; New Community Jewish High School, Los Angeles; Talmud Torah of St. Paul; San Diego Jewish Academy; Shoshana Cardin Jewish Community High School, Baltimore; Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, New Jersey; Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston; Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan; Toronto Heschel Middle School; The Weber School, Atlanta.



Pardes Educator Program graduate Seth Goldsweig with his 6th grade students at the Cohen Hillel Academy in Marblehead, Massachusetts.



Pardes Educators Program graduate Amanda Pogany teaching her 7th grade class at Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, New Jersey.

## LEARN AT PARDES THIS SUMMER

Challenge yourself with Torah study at Pardes this summer, along with dynamic students from around the world. Help spread the news that we've added an August session.

**Session I** June 27-July 21

**Session II** August 1-25 (New this year)

**Spiritual Retreat** July 25-28

**Executive Learning Seminar** July 3-7



The Pardes Summer Program is generously supported by the Roseman family of Louisville, Kentucky.



## PARDES EXECUTIVE LEARNING SEMINAR

Join us for a program of participatory text study, visits to historical sites in Jerusalem, and social activities, all geared to executives, professionals and Jewish community leaders. July 3-7, with an optional Shabbaton July 1-2.

## ALUMNI SHABBATON IN ISRAEL

Reconnect with Pardes friends and faculty – April 15/16 (6 Nisan, Parshat Metzorah), at Kibbutz Tzuba near Jerusalem, contact [meirs@pardes.org.il](mailto:meirs@pardes.org.il).

### TO CONTINUE RECEIVING PARDES MAILINGS

Pardes is pleased to mail Havruta to interested friends and alumni around the world. However, in an effort to reduce administrative overhead, we are reviewing our mailing list. If you would like to continue receiving Havruta, please respond using the enclosed envelope or email [admin@pardesusa.org](mailto:admin@pardesusa.org).

Photography: Debbi Cooper

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