

# HAVRUTA

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies | 2010-2011 | מכון פרדס 5771

## THE MAGNETISM OF MEANING BY RABBI DANIEL LANDES

According to the Midrash, God needed to “look into the Torah” to create the world. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Hasidic master, the Rebbe of Alexander, interprets this to mean that everyone has the ability to create their own world of meaning through Torah study.

Pardes is a powerful magnet for young Jews, attracting activists and artists, lawyers and educators, performers and programmers. Many of them come to Jerusalem in search of meaning. At Pardes, they have a deep, open and challenging engagement with Torah within a vibrant and diverse community, which results in a transformative experience in a variety of ways.



The magnetism of Pardes is increasing, attracting new and diverse participants to our growing array of programs. The five-part lecture series by Professor Uriel Simon required a live telecast for the overflowing

audience at Pardes. Marathon study sessions on Shavuot and Tisha B'Av filled the Pardes building to capacity, captivating over 500 people. A number of leading figures such as Daniel Gordis, Sari Revkin, Levi Weiman-Kelman, Micah Goodman, Dyonna Ginsburg, Marc Gopin and more,

grappled with our students on a wide range of critical issues affecting Israel and the Jewish world.

*“The magnetism of Pardes is increasing, attracting new and diverse participants to our growing array of programs.”*

Our Year Program students, who spend the majority of their time interfacing with classic Jewish texts, turn study into action through special learning tracks and weekly volunteering at Jerusalem non-profits. Hundreds of young people add another level of meaning to their Taglit-Birthright Israel, Hillel and Otzma trips with study at Pardes. Hundreds more join us for Summer, Executive and Community Education programs.

Our students leverage their experience at Pardes by creating new worlds of meaning, each in their own way, thereby transforming their communities on all levels, throughout the world.

I invite you to read more about Pardes's magnetism in this edition of Havruta. Learn how Pardes is both changing and continuing what we do best. Please stop by to learn with us when you are in Jerusalem, and be in touch to share your feedback or just to say hello.

## PARDES HOSTS TRIBUTE CELEBRATION

This past November Pardes hosted a celebration in honor of Libby and Moshe Werthan at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel in Jerusalem. The celebration, entitled “Enter the Orchard of Pardes,” welcomed hundreds of Pardes friends, alumni and community members from around the globe. The event gave participants the opportunity to enjoy the Pardes study experience and pay tribute to the Werthans’ long-time support of Pardes.

Participants delved into a series of traditional texts in groups facilitated by Pardes's stellar faculty members. Each study group included a current Pardes student. After participants learned the texts together, they encountered actors who portrayed the Talmudic characters in a dramatic rendition of the journey into the “Orchard of True Knowledge.” Including a dinner and musical accompaniment, the celebration gave the participants a taste of the vibrancy of the Pardes community, while honoring a couple who have been instrumental in making Pardes what it is today.



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# BRIDGING PAST & PRESENT

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## CHANGING OURSELVES & THE WORLD: SPECIALTY TRACKS

The specialty learning tracks continue to enliven Pardes, drawing a mix of budding activists, students with related professional interests and those seeking practical applications to their Jewish learning. Open to all students, the tracks combine havruta study, guest speakers and field visits.

The Social Justice track, directed by Dr. Meesh Hammer-Kossoy, uses traditional Jewish sources to explore a variety of social issues and introduces students to current challenges in Israel, including the environment, poverty and the rights of women and workers. Students in this track interact with leaders in the field who stand at the front lines of promoting social justice in Israel.

Rabbi Daniel Roth teaches the Peace & Conflict track, in which students study peace and conflict issues using Jewish texts and academic literature on conflict resolution. Engaging with these issues in the Pardes beit midrash in Jerusalem gives the class a unique perspective. "Jerusalem is our lab, as there are lots of conflicts here... there's no shortage of topics here for us to deal with," explained Daniel (*Haaretz*, Anglo File, September 17, 2010).

The Self, Soul & Text track, led by Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels,



challenges students to utilize their intellect, heart, soul and body while learning about spiritual transformations through studying Jewish texts and engaging in spiritual practices.

Rabbi David Levin-Kruss teaches the Foundations of Judaism track, which combines the study of Jewish philosophy, ritual and text in order to build knowledge, skills and comfort within Jewish tradition. David says, "Students wanted a better grounding in basic Jewish ideas and beliefs, so we created a program that uses close study of text to achieve this. So far, we have received very positive feedback."

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## EXPERIENCE PARDES'S HERITAGE TRIP TO POLAND

Pardes's Heritage Seminar to Poland enables participants to experience and connect to some of the most influential Jewish communities in Jewish history. Guided by faculty member Rabbi Levi Cooper, this five-day program takes participants through a variety of historic and modern sites in Poland. "The program allows students to connect to the Jewish people both vertically and horizontally," says Pardes Dean Dr. David Bernstein. "Vertically, they gain a sense of the vitality that characterized the communities for centuries, and horizontally, they become part of the mini-revival of Jewish culture taking place today by interacting with members of the Polish Jewish community."

Tom Barad, current President of the American Pardes Foundation, explained the impact of his participation in the program: "The Pardes Heritage trip to Poland was a seminal event for me. The trip was planned and conducted with tremendous understanding and knowledge of the subject. David Bernstein, Levi Cooper and the other instructors rendered Poland and its Jewish history into a penetrating, powerfully intimate experience. To share the journey with the brilliant young Pardes students helped focus and infuse

the broad expanse of emotions with meaning and supreme relevance. I never stop recommending this trip."

Pardes invites its alumni and friends to join future Poland Heritage trips. For more information contact Karen Feuer at [karen@pardes.org.il](mailto:karen@pardes.org.il) or call +972 (0)2-673-5210.



Pardes visit to Tykocin, Poland

# Reflections on Pardes

## Rabbi Daniel Gordis

Senior Vice President, Shalem Center

"No teaching leaves me more energized than the opportunities I have to engage with Pardes students. There's something unique that happens in the Pardes beit midrash that is electric, committed, passionate, engaged, questioning and open – it is, quite frankly, just what the Jewish world should be."

## Dyonna Ginsburg

Executive Director, Bema'aglei Tzedek

"Despite my crazy schedule, I have always found time to make presentations at Pardes. Pardes students, with their passion for Judaism and social justice, are ideal partners for Bema'aglei Tzedek's vision of a just Israeli society inspired by Jewish values."

## Rachel Levmore

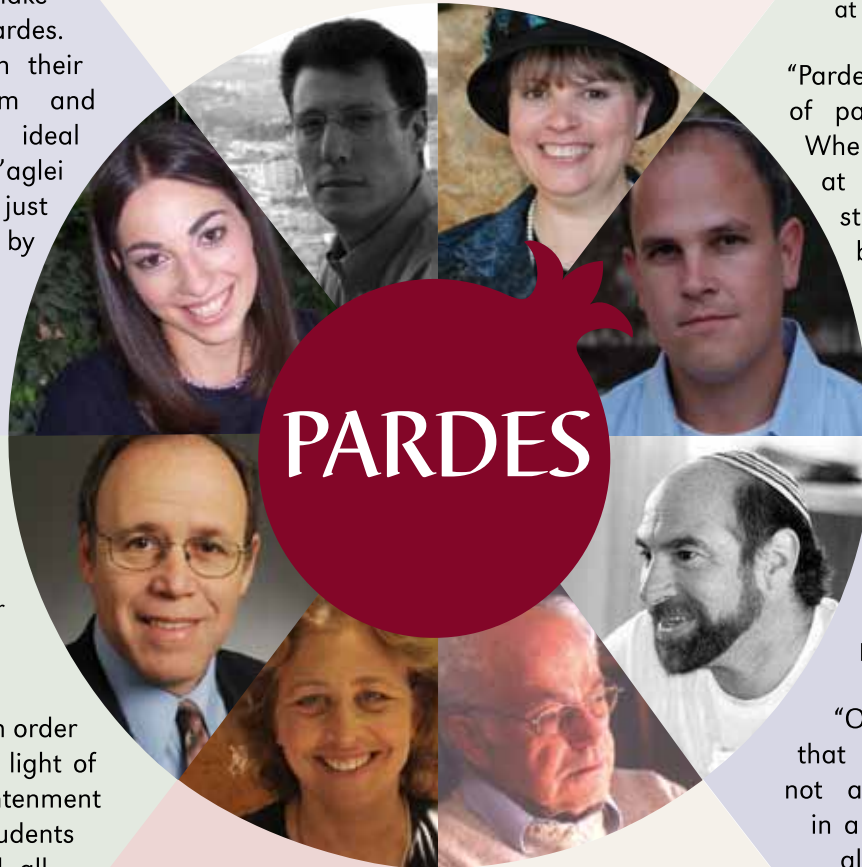
Rabbinical Court Advocate, Agunah Prevention Project, Council of Young Israel Rabbis & Jewish Agency

"The student body of Pardes is ideal for carrying forth the idea of marrying couples signing a Prenuptial Agreement for the Prevention of Get-Refusal. Together we can eliminate the Agunah problem."

## Dr. Micah Goodman

Director, Israeli Academy for Leadership at Ein Prat

"Pardes is a rare combination of passion and openness. When the student bodies at Pardes and Ein Prat study together in the beit midrash, there is an unparalleled energy that cannot be duplicated elsewhere."



## Rabbi Dr. Marc Gopin

Director, George Mason University Center on Religion, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution

"I lectured at Pardes in order to embrace a shining light of religious Jewish enlightenment in Jerusalem. The students and faculty exceeded all our expectations."

## Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman

Rabbi, Congregation Kol HaNeshama

"On Tisha B'Av, on a day that commemorates Jews not always getting along, in a city where Jews don't always get along, it was wonderful to be at Pardes, which encourages open and respectful dialogue."

## Sari Revkin

Executive Director, YEDID

"When Sari Revkin speaks with our students, it is an hour of simultaneous despondency and inspiration. The pain of learning about poverty in Israel is matched only by the elation of witnessing the impact that a driven, articulate woman with vision and dedication has in improving the situation."

- Dr. Meesh Hammer-Kossov, Director of Social Justice Track & Director of Admissions, Pardes

## Professor Uriel Simon

Professor of Bible, Bar Ilan University

"Professor Uriel Simon is not only one of the most important academic Biblical scholars in the world today, he is also a master teacher. Just to hear him read a Biblical verse in Hebrew is a treat. The lecture series last year brought hundreds of people to Pardes, and exposed our students to a world-class scholar of Tanach."

- Dr. David Bernstein, Dean, Pardes

# MEET THE STUDENTS

## Jessica Fain, Miami, FL Fellows Program



Jessica Fain has a BA in Learning and Organizational Change from Northwestern University. Jessica is in her second year at Pardes, in the Fellows Program, and is also a Dorot Fellow. Growing up in an active Reform community, Jessica had a strong love of Judaism, but never felt that Jewish texts belonged to her. "I thought text study was only for rabbis," she laughs. "My first year of Pardes was the hardest I ever worked, but it was also incredibly fun. Pardes is a meeting place for spectacular souls."

As part of the Dorot Fellowship, Jessica is studying issues of rabbinic authority in Israel and how they affect Diaspora Jews, including the role of women in the rabbinic power structure. Her research includes studying *hilchot giur* (conversion laws) in a tutorial with Pardes faculty member Zvi Hirschfield. "This study is integral to understanding issues of inclusion and exclusion, how we form peoplehood and the history behind our current situation. Pardes is my home base for exploring these issues and many more that compel me," she explains.

## Saul Miller, Turner, ME Year Program



Saul Miller, who has a BS in Marketing and International Business from NYU, left a corporate job one month after being promoted, to attend Pardes. He was active in the Jewish community at NYU, revitalizing its Jewish fraternity and taking on leadership roles at Hillel and Chabad as well. He later realized that his education was inconsistent with Judaism's central role in his life: "In my life I seek to understand before taking action. With Judaism my actions came before knowledge. While at Pardes, I want to lay a strong foundation for my Jewish education."

After growing up in Maine, Saul started traveling and proudly filled his passport by age 21. He has spent time living and volunteering in Ecuador, Chile, and El Salvador, and recently climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. Saul has set his sights on another lofty goal: "I want to speak intelligently about Jewish history, law and ideals. It is increasingly important for me to have this working knowledge as I mature and think about educating the next generation. I suspect that exploring Torah just might be my greatest journey yet."

## Three Generations at Pardes Heena Reiter, Toby Reiter & Nechama Malkiel and Yonah Meira Reiter

Proud grandmother Heena Reiter, father Toby Reiter, mother Nechama Malkiel, and baby Yonah Meira Reiter, represent three generations learning at Pardes.

"It's incredible," declares Toby, a web developer with a BA in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. "Last year, Nechama and I spent our first year of marriage learning at Pardes, and now I enter the beit midrash and greet my mother, wife and daughter!"

Nechama, who has a BA in Biology from the University of Maryland, first arrived at Pardes in 2005 and continued through 2007 as a Fellow. "It's remarkable how far I've come in five years," she reflected. "Holding my baby, I now learn in advanced classes I once thought were beyond my grasp."

When Nechama joined the Pardes



Educators Program in 2009, it was not easy for Toby to leave his job at the Smithsonian, but he is happy at Pardes: "Today I can read a book of *halacha* (Jewish law) in Hebrew without a dictionary. Incredible changes like these inspired me to be a Pardes Fellow to both learn more and give back to the community."

Heena, Toby's mother, has an MA in Psychiatric Nursing from the University

of Illinois and now works in Jewish education. Seeking a deeper connection to Judaism as an adult, she found a spiritual home in the Renewal movement. She co-leads the Renewal community in her hometown of Charlottesville, VA and directs a non-profit center for Jewish growth called Geshet. Although it meant leaving husband Stephen behind at home, as a rabbinical student in the ALEPH Jewish Renewal program, Heena was committed to studying in Israel. Her time at Pardes coincided with Toby and Nechama's studies and the birth of her first grandchild. "This year has become an incredible, unexpected gift. I am learning Jewish texts and how to be a grandmother, both for the first time... At Pardes I am filling up a treasure chest that I will access long into the future. I am learning how to be part of a diverse Jewish community in a rich way and am developing my mind in ways I did not anticipate."

# ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

## Creating Alternative Energy Sources



**Michael Granoff** (Year '91-'92) is the President of Maniv Energy and Head of Oil Independence Policies at Better Place, the global provider of electric vehicles and networks. Michael has the privilege of sharing its plans for oil-free transport with partners, policymakers, the media and the public. A graduate of Tufts University and Northwestern University, Michael is also a member of the Bars of New York and New Jersey. Given a Jewish education from birth, Michael says, "Pardes helped me navigate transitioning to a life based on Torah-values without compromising my passion to be a fully-integrated citizen of the modern world." Married to Tovit, the Granoffs have four children and live in Tenafly, New Jersey.

## Creating Pluralistic Jewish Curricula



**Elaine Robinson** (Year '00-'01, Fellows '01-'02) currently serves as the Director of Jewish Education/Assistant Head of School of JCoSS, Jewish Cross Communal Secondary School in London, the first pluralist Jewish Day School in the UK. She is responsible for creating a curriculum of Jewish education for students aged 11-18, and devising the pluralist ethos for the school. With a degree from Birmingham University in Cultural Studies and Theology, and an EdD from London University, Elaine commented, "Pardes gave me the opportunity to engage with the true meaning of pluralism and to explore what that means. It also gave me a community of Jewish professionals, whom I still turn to for advice, support and sharing of ideas." Elaine, her husband and son live in London.

## Coaching Top Executives



**Rae Ringel** (Year '98-'99, Summer '03, '04) is the President of The Ringel Group, LLC, an executive coaching and leadership training firm in Washington, DC. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Rae has a BA in Psychology from the University of Rochester; an MA in Organizational Behavior from Columbia University and Certification in Executive Coaching from Georgetown University. Rae explains, "My original impetus for coming to Pardes was to learn how to learn, both as a professional and as a lay leader. Pardes gave me the tools to infuse Jewish learning into everything I do." Married to Amos Hochstein, Rae is mother to Dalia, Meital and Leor. She is a current Board Member of the American Pardes Foundation.

## Starring in an Off-Broadway Show



**Yisrael Campbell** (Year '00-'01, Fellow '01-'02) is a professional comedian who stars in the off-Broadway show, "Circumcise Me: The Play." He is currently touring with the show and writing a memoir. He first came to Pardes for a summer ulpan, then stayed for two years. "At Pardes I found enough depth and breadth to be an observant Jew in a meaningful way. The summer that I came here, I couldn't read any Jewish texts. As I learned at Pardes, more and more of these books have been opened to me," Yisrael says. At Pardes he met his substitute Gemara teacher, Pardes faculty member Avital Campbell Hochstein, whom he later married. Yisrael and Avital live in Jerusalem with their four children.

## Animating Jewish Texts Online



**Sarah Lefton** (Summer '09) is Executive Director of G-dcast, an animation company that makes Jewish texts accessible to a wide audience through diverse and humorous Torah portion clips and other projects ([www.g-dcast.com](http://www.g-dcast.com)). With a BA from Cornell and an MPS in Interactive Telecommunications from NYU, Sarah works with other social entrepreneurs as a Joshua Venture Fellow. She was also invited to be a guest at the White House reception for Jewish Heritage Month. Sarah reflected, "My summer at Pardes was a real treat. I lavished in the study time, learning so much about Talmud, Torah, myself and how to keep learning back at home. It was the gift that keeps on giving!" She and husband Bill Selig (Summer '96) live in San Francisco, California with their son, Levi.

## Putting Israel's Wine on the Map



**Dan Rabinovitch** (Year '07-'08) is the President and Founder of Azureau Wine Agency in Canada. As the head of Azureau, Dan represents over thirty wineries from around the world to private, restaurant and retail buyers. He is proud that the first region Azureau focused on was Israel. A graduate of the University of Michigan with a BA in Communications and French, Dan studied Chumash, Talmud and Tefilla at Pardes. He says, "Pardes opened up a world of Jewish study to me through its open, welcome style of learning." Dan and his wife, Liann Granovsky (Year '07), have four children and live in Toronto.

## REAL JEWS EAT QUICHE! BY RABBI DAVID LEVIN-KRUSS



Years ago, when I stopped eating meat, many people thought that being a vegetarian was incompatible with being an observant Jew.

Some argued that vegetarianism is prohibited by Jewish law, given the obligation to eat meat on *chagim* (holidays). Others said Jews must eat meat to demonstrate their willingness to sacrifice animals if the Temple were to be rebuilt today. In addition, the Bible explicitly allows us to eat meat (Genesis 9:3 and Deuteronomy 12:20). Choosing to ignore this *heter* (permission) to eat meat, I was told, is *yehura* (spiritual overreaching). Others argued that our limited religious energy should not be expended on excessive concern over animals.

There were also some bizarre arguments directed against vegetarianism. I was told that one should eat meat in order to maintain the distinction between people and other animals. I have also heard that meat-eating creatures are at a higher level,

and so people maintain the divine order by eating other animals. Some proponents of vegetarianism also frame their arguments within *halacha* (Jewish law), noting the Talmudic passage (Bava Metzia 85a) in which R. Yehuda Hanasi is censured for not taking pity on a calf that asked to be saved from slaughter. Because he was heartless, he was punished with a toothache for thirteen years, and his pain was alleviated only when he showed compassion to a weasel.

Yet this story does not prohibit meat-eating on the grounds of cruelty. R. Yehuda Hanasi was not censured for failing to prevent the calf's death. He was censured for not showing compassion. The Rama (R. Moshe Isserles) clearly states (*Even Ha'ezer* 5:14) that the prohibition of *tza'ar balei chaim* (cruelty to animals) is not violated when needed for health or *sha'ar devarim* (anything else). This would indicate that eating meat, even if the animals are killed in an inhumane way, is permitted by *halacha*.

As often happens, a question of *hashkafa* (ideology) can be approached through a close examination of the *halacha*. It is not clear whether the obligation to eat meat on the *chagim* is descriptive or prescriptive, and if it applies only in Temple times or today as well. In *Hukat Hager*, R. Moshe Halevi Steinberg discusses a vegetarian gentile who wants to convert to Judaism, noting that there are other ways to show joy on festivals if one genuinely does not want to eat meat (*Kuntres Hateshuvot* 1).

What, then, is going on? If there is no clear *halachic* prohibition against vegetarianism, why are so many against it on religious grounds? Perhaps it is the fear of alien norms being imported into Judaism. Taking on a prohibition from the outside culture hints that something permitted by the Torah may not be quite right, casting aspersions on the Torah and its correctness. Yet in the *halachic* world, people take on stringencies all



the time. Countless articles have been written about “the move to the right” in some Orthodox circles. But higher *mechitzot*, longer skirts, not attending university, and eating only glatt kosher are different. These are ways to keep the outside world out, while vegetarianism would be a *chumra* (stringency) to bring the outside world in. And it’s about time!

Expanding on his comment that cruelty to animals is permitted for human need, the Rama notes that while it is permitted to pluck feathers from live geese, people should refrain from doing so because it constitutes cruelty (*Even Ha’ezer* 5:14). Commentators remarked that since one can pluck feathers for quills after the goose is dead, there is no need to do this while the goose is alive (*Ma’archei Lev* 110). They also question what constitutes a genuine need, and whether all needs are equally legitimate (*Pri Megadim, Orach Chaim, Mishbetzot Zahav* 468:2).

Some vegetarians argue that in a world filled with tofu, legumes and countless other foods, there is no real need to eat meat. Add to this the cruelty that is often involved in rearing animals, and there are ample grounds for a *chumra*.

When painting a house white, one needs to add a little color to the paint to keep it from looking drab and yellowing quickly. In general people need to absorb the experiences and changes around them in order to maintain a healthy culture. *Halacha* is the same. Unless we can absorb what is good from outside, we risk irrelevance, decay and moral blindness. So bring on the quiche!

*Most of the sources cited above were collected from Contemporary Halachic Problems, Volume 3, by J. David Bleich, Ktav: 1989, but the conclusions are all my own.*

*Rabbi David Levin-Kruss is a Faculty Member and Director of Special Programs at Pardes. For more information about Pardes’s Special Programs, including Summer Programs, see [www.pardes.org.il](http://www.pardes.org.il)*



## A Birthday Present Fit for a King

For each of the past thirteen years, a diverse group of individuals has participated in Pardes’s unique Executive Learning Seminar. Participants come from a variety of backgrounds for this five day program that takes place every July, and share the opportunity to delve into serious text study on a particular theme, guided by Pardes’s distinguished faculty members.

Neil Schechter, an eight-year veteran of Pardes’s Executive Learning Seminar and Treasurer of the American Pardes Foundation, shares his enthusiasm about returning each year: “Coming to Pardes’s Executive Learning Seminar is a great way to connect to my Jewish identity in a warm environment. It’s an experience that cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world. It’s the birthday present I give to myself each year.”

This coming summer, the seminar will once again connect the text to the local surroundings in Jerusalem by focusing on the life and persona of King Solomon. Entitled “Wealth, Wisdom, and 1,000 Wives: The Rise and Fall of King Solomon,” the program will feature top scholars in Bible and archeology, serious text study in the Pardes beit midrash, unique tours in and around Jerusalem, and entertaining evening programs.

***“It’s an experience that cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world. It’s the birthday present I give to myself each year.”***

“Each seminar has a warm, enriching dynamic amongst the learners and the faculty. We look forward to focusing on a Biblical character that made such an impact on the way we view Jewish peoplehood both historically and in a contemporary sense,” says Rabbi Daniel Landes.

This year’s Executive Learning Seminar will take place on July 3-7, 2011. See [www.pardes.org.il/executive](http://www.pardes.org.il/executive) for more details.

# FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

The impressive scholarship and creative insights of our faculty extend far beyond the Pardes beit midrash. Pardes congratulates the faculty on their recent achievements and contributions to the world at large:

**Rabbi Elisha Ancselovits** on his paper, "Embarrassment as a Means of Embracing Authorial Intent," published in *Vixens Disturbing Vineyards: The Embarrassment and Re-embrace of Scripture, Festschrift in Honor of Harry Fox leVeit Yoreh*, eds. Tzemah Yoreh et al. (Brighton, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2010), 325-358. His article, "Prozbul: Not a Legal Fiction" will be published in *Jewish Law Annual*, vol. 20.

**Nechama Barash** on completing her Master's Degree with a thesis in Talmud at Bar Ilan University. Her thesis is entitled, *A Beautiful Captive Woman in the Eyes of Chazal*.

**Dr. David I. Bernstein** on his article, "Teaching the Role of Poles in the Shoah," published in *Jewish Educational Leadership* 8:1 (Fall 2009).

**Rabbi Dr. Baruch Feldstern** who wrote a foreword to a volume of recently published short stories, William D. Kaufman, *The Day My Mother Cried and Other Stories* (Syracuse University Press, 2010). Mr. Kaufman is Baruch's former student and recently turned 95.

**Rabbi Reuven Grodner** on his new book *Al HaTfillah*, which contains translations into Hebrew of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's shiurim on prayer, originally delivered in English and Yiddish.

**Dr. Meesh Hammer-Kossoy** on her articles, "A Quest for Dominion," published online in *Shma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility* 41 (September 2010), and "Chag V'Chesed: A Holiday Dvar Tzedek," *Shavuot 5770*, published online by the American Jewish World Service (AJWS). Meesh also served as scholar-in-residence for the AJWS Rabbinical Students' Delegation to Mexico in January 2010.

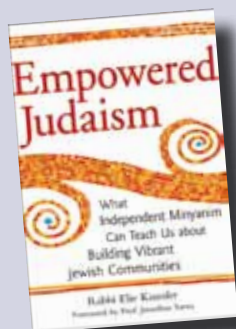
**Rabbi Daniel Landes** on his review of *Radical Judaism: Rethinking God and Tradition* by Arthur Green, published in the *Jewish Review of Books* (Fall 2010), 20-22.

**Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels** on receiving the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Doctoral Scholarship for 2010, and on his paper, "Non-Dual Judaism," published in *Jewish Theology in Our Time: A New Generation Explores the Foundations and Future of Jewish Belief*, ed. Elliot J. Cosgrove (Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Publishing 2010), 31-42.

**Judy Klitsner** on promoting her book, *Subversive Sequels in the Bible: How Biblical Stories Mine and Undermine Each Other* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2009). Her book received the 2009 Jewish Book Award in the category of scholarship and was reviewed in *Haaretz*, the *Jerusalem Post*, *Lilith*, *Hadassah Magazine* and several other publications.

## Who says your life can't change in three weeks?

BY RABBI ELIE KAUNFER



In the summer of 2000, I spent three weeks at Pardes. I was a returning alumnus and had just left a job in finance. I had some time to explore and reconnect, so I went to Israel, and wandered back into Pardes. There, I paired up with Marc Baker (now head of the Gann Academy in Boston) and we had the most intense havruta. I remember clearly the exhilaration of not wanting to waste one minute of learning time, and waiting impatiently for the next day's beit midrash time.

Those three weeks awoke in me a passion for building Jewish community. I came back to America, and a few months later started a traditional, egalitarian minyan called Hadar. I started it with the people in the Pardes beit midrash in mind. During the year I was at Pardes in 1995-6, I learned how to read the Talmud and understand Jewish texts. But during those three weeks, I learned what my true religious energy could be. Pardes gave me both the content and the passion to set me on a lifelong path of Jewish study, teaching and community-building.

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer is Executive Director of Mechon Hadar ([www.mechonhadar.org](http://www.mechonhadar.org)). His book *Empowered Judaism: What Independent Minyanim Can Teach Us about Building Vibrant Jewish Communities* (Jewish Lights, 2010) is available at <http://empoweredjudaism.com>. To order in Israel, email [bernstein@mechonhadar.org](mailto:bernstein@mechonhadar.org)



# BOARD & STAFF NEWS

## ISRAEL BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Pardes Israel Board is delighted to welcome three new members: Toby Ticktin Back, Rachel Goldberg and Professor Leslie Wagner.



**Toby Ticktin Back** founded and directed The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, New York. This center, committed to Holocaust education, research and archives, is active and vibrant to this day. In addition, Toby and her late husband Nathan, along with two

other couples, founded the Kadimah Jewish Day School which remains an integral part of the Buffalo Jewish community. Toby says, "Pardes is a mission possible where Jewish texts come alive." She is particularly excited about the Specialty Tracks.



**Rachel Goldberg** (Summer '93) hails from Chicago, Illinois and made aliyah with her husband Jon Polin and their three children. Rachel has taught at a number of institutions, including the Oakland Hebrew Day School, Congregation Beth Israel in

Berkeley, California, and Hebrew University's Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in Richmond, Virginia. Currently Rachel teaches for the Young Judea Year Course in Israel.



**Professor Leslie Wagner** has served in many prestigious posts within the world of education, including as Vice-Chancellor of the University of North London and Leeds Metropolitan University (1987-2003), Honorary Chancellor of the University of Derby (2003-

2008), and Founding Chairman of The Higher Education Academy. He also served as a senior advisor to the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, and chaired the Commission on the Future of Jewish Schools. Leslie was awarded the CBE by the Queen in recognition of his services to higher education and to the Jewish Community. Professor Wagner serves as vice-chairman of the Institute for Global Jewish Affairs at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, and as a Board member of NGO Monitor.

## APF WELCOMES NEW STAFF

American Pardes Foundation is pleased to welcome four new staff members.



Left to right: Talia, Naomi, and Amanda.

**Naomi Adland** (Year '09-'10), Director of Recruitment, North America, has a BA in American Studies from Brandeis University. She previously served as an AVODAH Fellow in Chicago. Naomi looks forward to helping others study at Pardes which has become such an important part of her life.

**Talia Braun**, Bookkeeper and Office Manager, is a graduate of Stern College for Women and the Syms School of Business. Talia lives in Washington Heights, New York, and had the pleasure of visiting Pardes in Jerusalem for the first time this past May.

**Amanda Pogany** (Pardes Educators '01-'03), Associate Director of the Pardes Educators Alumni Support Project, graduated with an MA in Jewish Education from Hebrew University while in PEP. She previously mentored for the Pardes Educators program and the Davidson School at JTS. Amanda lives in Brooklyn with her husband Aaron Bisman (Year '00-'01) and their son.



**Jamie Bornstein** (Year '05-'06), Assistant Director, previously worked at Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston. As a Wexner Graduate Fellow, he received his MBA from Boston University. Jamie, his wife Carrie (Year '05-'06), and their children live in Sharon, Massachusetts.

## EXPANDING VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



**Ilana HaCohen** (Year '05-'06), joined Pardes as Associate Director of Recruitment and the Director of the Community Service program. Ilana received a BS from Cornell University in Human Development and an EdM. in Arts in Education from Harvard University. She made aliyah in 2007 and lives in Jerusalem.



# 2011 AT PARDES...

**January 2 - 7**  
**January 9 - 14**  
**January 16 - 21**

## January Learning Seminar

Spend one, two or three weeks experiencing Pardes's unique combination of intense text learning.

**i** [www.pardes.org.il/winter](http://www.pardes.org.il/winter)  
[winter@pardes.org.il](mailto:winter@pardes.org.il)

**January 15 - 21**

## Heritage Seminar to Poland

Join this fascinating, educational trip led by Pardes faculty member Rabbi Levi Cooper.

**i** [levi@pardes.org.il](mailto:levi@pardes.org.il)

**Spring: January 10 - March 31**  
**Omer: May 2 - June 2**

## Community Education Spring & Omer Sessions

Get inspired in a morning class. These programs cater to a wide range of community members.

**i** [alex@pardes.org.il](mailto:alex@pardes.org.il)  
[www.pardes.org.il/ce](http://www.pardes.org.il/ce)

## Learn at Pardes Anywhere, Anytime!

**Weekly Parasha Podcast:**  
[www.pardes.org.il/podcast](http://www.pardes.org.il/podcast)

**Monthly e-newsletter:**  
Email [info@pardesusa.org](mailto:info@pardesusa.org)

**Video blog:**  
[www.shtenderthoughts.pardes.org](http://www.shtenderthoughts.pardes.org)

**Online learning program:**  
[www.pardes.org.il/onlinelearning](http://www.pardes.org.il/onlinelearning)

**Student blog "These and Those":**  
<http://theseandthose.pardes.org/>

Follow us on **Twitter:** @pardesinstitute  
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**June 7**

## Tikun Leil Shavuot

Join the Pardes community for a meaningful and inspiring night of learning. Details to follow.

**July 5 - 26**  
**July 31 - August 18**

## Summer Program

Spend three weeks learning Jewish texts in the landscape of Jerusalem

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

**July 3 - 7**

## Executive Learning Seminar

Geared to professionals and community leaders, this five-day seminar combines visiting Israel with intense Jewish text study. This year's theme is Wisdom, Wealth & 1,000 Wives: The Rise and Fall of King Solomon.

**i** [talia@pardesusa.org](mailto:talia@pardesusa.org)  
[www.pardes.org.il/executive](http://www.pardes.org.il/executive)

**July 19 - August 3**

## Summer Curriculum Workshop

Aimed at novice Judaic Studies teachers of grades 4-12 in North American day schools, the program combines professional development with Judaic learning and touring in Jerusalem. This program includes pedagogy workshops, sessions on technology in the classroom, and more.

**i** [debra@pardes.org.il](mailto:debra@pardes.org.il)

**August 9**

## Tisha B'Av Program

Last year, over 500 people attended classes with some of the best teachers on the Jerusalem scene. Details to follow.

**Pardes Institute  
for Jewish Studies**  
HARRY H. BEREN CENTER  
FOR JEWISH ETHICS

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Pardes Educators Program (PEP)  
Fellows Program  
Summer Learning Programs  
Executive Learning Seminar  
Community Education Program

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