

K'tiva
vachatina
tova!

Erev Rosh Hashana 5771



כתיבה
וחתימה
טובה!

Dear Eretz Hemdah Family,

This past summer we bid farewell to two of the great rabbis of the generation, who represented very different hues of the spiritual rainbow and who led significant portions of the National-Religious community.

The first was the Rishon Le'Tzion, **HaRav Mordechai Eliyahu**, zt"l and the second who left us was **HaRav Yehuda Amital**, zt"l.

These losses obligate us to redouble our efforts to help produce a **new generation of Torah scholars** who will dedicate their lives to growth in Torah, a generation who will be ready to give their lives on behalf of the people of Israel and the land of Israel. We strive to produce leaders who will spread Torah, following in the paths of the greatest rabbis of the generation, who are sensitive to the needs and challenges of those who are the most vulnerable and needy.

Our goal is for a generation that will enable society to progress and become unified based on the understanding that there has always been debate between Torah scholars with the premise being:

*"Even though these prohibit and these permit ... Beit Shammai did not refrain from marrying women from the Beit Hillel and Beit Hillel from Beit Shammai."
(Tractate Yevamot 13b)*

Even if there is a debate, it should be decided in the following manner:

For three years there was a dispute between Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel, the former asserting, 'The law is in agreement with our views.' and the latter contending, 'The law is in agreement with our views.' Then a voice from heaven announced, 'these and those are the words of the living God, but the law is in agreement with the rulings of Beit Hillel.' Since, however, 'both are the words of the living God', what was it that entitled Beit Hillel to have the law fixed according to their rulings? Because they were kindly and modest, they studied their own rulings and those of Beit Shammai, and even mentioned the words of Beit Shammai before their own" (Tractate Eruvin 13b)

This young generation will spur additional components of our nation to the appreciation and love of Torah.

Become a partner
in continuing
to build our success!

SUPPORT US

Beit Midrash

With Hashem's help, the institution has moved to our **new and beautiful location** in the Katamon neighborhood of Jerusalem. The new site provides a pleasant and peaceful atmosphere to those learning in the beit midrash. Our new location offers us an enhanced opportunity to include the community in the broadest possible manner.

You are invited to visit and enjoy our new home base!

At the end of the scholastic **year of 5771** we will graduate, with G-d's help, the third class of students in Eretz Hemdah. This year we are learning Tractate Gittin and the laws of divorce. We will also review the entire Seder Nashim and Shulchan Aruch Even Ha-Ezer in preparation for the Rabbinical Judge ordination exam given by the Israeli Chief Rabbinate, which will be administered at the end of the year. After a delay of approximately two and a half years, we have once again begun to receive results from the previous exams that were given by the Chief Rabbinate.

Thank G-d, the young rabbis of Eretz Hemdah once again received grades that put them at the very top of the pyramid (exact statistics will be sent soon).

We are learning about the period of King Solomon in our **Tanach study**, and we are also enjoying the lectures in **Jewish philosophy** of Professor Shalom Rosenberg.

In Eretz Hemdah's **beit midrash of Raanana**, under the leadership of our graduate, Rav Yitzchak Steinberg, we have seen much success. The young rabbis have passed the first rabbinic test successfully, and they are organizing many programs for all ages. This year **three new students**, all of whom speak English as their mother tongue, joined our communal Beit Midrash in Raanana, located in the **Ohel Ari Synagogue**. They will strengthen the communal involvement of the young rabbis in the Ohel Ari congregation specifically and the Raanana community in general. Their topic of study for this year is the laws of family purity.

Batei Din 'Eretz Hemdah - Gazit'

The cases that were adjudicated by the Beit Din network of Eretz Hemdah-Gazit are on the rise both in terms of the quantity as well as the quality and intricacy of the cases. The courts operate effectively, skillfully and professionally in full keeping with the principles of ethics and legal procedure. Technology enables the protocols to be transcribed in real-time and reviewed by all of the Judges and sent to both parties after the conclusion of the sessions. The Head Judges of the Beit Din communicate sensitivity, attentiveness to both parties, and they maintain a pleasant atmosphere among the litigants.

The good reputation of our courts and the burden on the secular courts has caused the judges of the secular courts of the State of Israel to send litigants to the Batei Din of Eretz Hemdah-Gazit.

There has been cooperation between "Halichot Am-Yisrael" under the leadership of Rav Dr. Ratzon Arusi, "Mishpetei Eretz" under the leadership of Rav Avraham Gisser and "Eretz Hemdah-Gazit" within the framework of the Forum of Batei Din for Monetary Matters. We hope that this will yield results that will advance within the general Israeli public the resolution of financial conflicts according to Jewish tradition and Torah law.

Publishing

Responsa BeMareh HaBazak volume 7 is currently at the printing press and will, with G-d's help, be on the shelves during the coming days. For a pre-sale discounted price please contact the Eretz Hemdah office.

The second volume of the English responsa project of Eretz Hemdah, **Living the Halachic Process, Volume II** was published prior to this past Yom Yerushalayim. It can be ordered on the Eretz Hemdah website.

New Batei Midrash

Beit Midrash for High Tech Workers

This past summer, a Beit Midrash for workers in the field of high tech was opened in Har Chotzvim in Jerusalem (where many of the high tech companies are located). Approximately 20 students, all graduates of Hesder Yeshivot have already joined at this stage with the goal of completing their ordination studies. The topic of this year's studies is Chupah VeKiddushin (Laws of Jewish marriage). We are working to expand this program in the near future.

Virtual Beit Midrash for English Speaking Rabbis.

An e-learning group, primarily for North American rabbis, was recently formed. The rabbis receive, via the Eretz Hemdah website, sources for preparation, a weekly shiur and review questions. The topic of this past year's class was Shulchan Aruch Choshen Mispat, Hilchot Dayanim and Edut.

Summer Beit Midrash

A summer seminar for Rabbis was held during the Nine Days in our Beit Midrash in Jerusalem. We invite all rabbis to join these groups and to enjoy from the fruits of Eretz Hemdah. For details, please, visit our website.

Eretz Hemdah is working to strengthen its Batei Midrash in Europe. The connection with the Italian rabbinate will receive further support. A new beit midrash will, G-d willing, open soon in another European country.

Kehillat Eretz Hemdah

Kehillat Eretz Hemdah has begun to operate in the Beit Midrash of Eretz Hemdah in the **Katamon neighborhood of Jerusalem** on Shabbatot and holidays. The residents of the neighborhoods near the Beit Midrash fill the Beit Midrash to capacity. The congregation functions in an environment of friendliness and camaraderie. The heads of Eretz Hemdah as well as other visiting rabbis, such as **Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**, the Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom, are hosted in the congregation and give shiurim to its members. This is just another way that the approach of Eretz Hemdah, as a leader in social involvement, expresses itself.

Graduates

We extend our wishes to our graduates and their wives and family members who have gone out to serve the Jewish people in a variety of spiritual, Torah and rabbinic leadership positions.

We hope that they will succeed in their mission to promote and enhance the Torah of Eretz Hemdah and bring more and more Jews closer to the love of Torah and Hashem.

Rav Meir Abergil
Rav Moshe Chai Behrav
Rav Itamar Blaugrund
Rav Uri Ganz
Yedidya Kahana
Rav Ofer Livnat

Rosh Metivta in the Hesder Yeshiva in Maale Efraim.
Rosh Metivta in the Yeshiva Gevocha of Ramat HaSharon.
Head of Beit Midrash in Arad.
Rosh Metivta in the Yeshiva Gevocha of Kedumim.
Rosh Kollel at the Hesder Yeshiva in Modi'in
Rosh Metivta in the Batei Midrash for Diaspora Rabbis of Eretz Hemdah,
Rosh Metivta in Beit Midrash for High Tech Workers
and Lecturer in Michlala Jerusalem.
Rosh Metivta in Amichai Kollel of the Garin HaTorani in Ramle
Rav of Nov.
Rav of Kibbutz Sa'ad.

Rav Yaron Solberg
Rav Uri Sadan
Rav Ari Sat

Wishing you a Happy Sweet New Year!

Shalom Wasserteil
Chairman of the Board

Rabbi Moshe Ehrenreich

Rabbi Yosef Carmel
Heads of the Institute

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