

Bat Torah The Alisa M. Flatow Yeshiva High School

* Fall Semester תשס"ו 5766, Newsletter * Miriam Bak Principal

THE FALL SEMESTER AT A GLANCE

The air is crisp, snow is on the ground, and warm memories of Chanukah accompany us as we look forward to mid-winter vacation. All Bat Torah programs are up and running at full speed, fulfilling the promise of their exciting beginnings.

Preparing for ימים נוראים. To assist us in preparing for Yom Kippur, Rabbi Josh Blass, former Bat Torah faculty member and Rav of the Einstein Medical School, addressed our students on Monday, October 10th. Rabbi Blass, who is the now the Rav of Kehillas Bais Yehuda of Wesley Hills, as well as sgan mashgiach ruchani at Yeshiva University, discussed the synthesis of yirah and simcha, fear and joy, when facing the Yemei Hadin.

Succot Activities. After "the pause that refreshes" (to coin a phrase) of a two-week Succot vacation, we returned reinvigorated and renewed. Bat Torah then swung into an exciting pep rally on Friday, November 11 planned to promote achdut and school spirit. We cheered our sports teams as the G.O. distributed sports mementos, and students watched a faculty basketball face-off with great glee.

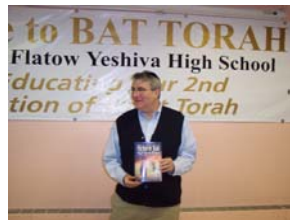
Open House. The word is out! The excellence in education and character development available at Bat Torah attracted a full auditorium at our annual Open House on Sunday November 13th. Prospective parents were addressed by the school's principal, Mrs. Miriam Bak, and by a cross-section of Bat Torah's student body. Parents were then invited to meet teachers and survey the curriculum. An informational audio-visual presentation greatly enhanced the Open House, and we are pleased with the enthusiastic response of the parents who attended.



The November 15th visit of Robert Avrech, a from Hollywood screenwriter and

producer, invited by the Bat Torah Literary club, stretched our students' horizons and imaginations. The son of a New York rabbi, he is the winner of a Best Screenplay Emmy Award, and his work has been honored at the Cannes Film Festival. Sharing his insights on the art of maintaining a religious identity in Hollywood, Mr. Avrech challenged his listeners to follow their dreams, and find ways to make even unusual career choices consistent with a Torah lifestyle.

Parent-Teacher Conference Night. Bat Torah's annual Parent-Teacher Conference Night was held on Wednesday, November 16th. As



always, it was a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to meet to discuss that which is dearest to all our hearts- our students. We appreciate the time taken out of busy schedules to attend this important event.

Seminaries Speakers. Mrs. Mindy Eisenman and Mrs. Shoshana Schechter, who coordinate Israel Guidance, were busy during the month of November setting up meetings between representatives of seminaries and our seniors. The twelfth grade has had the pleasure of being addressed by Rabbi Laibel Scharfman of Bnot Torah-Scharfman's, Rabbi Michael Sussman of Midreshet HaRova, Rabbi Ari Winter of Micklelet Esther, Rabbi Eitan Mayer of Midreshet Moriah, Rabbi Segal of Afikei Torah, and Rabbi Avi Weiss of Orot.

The juniors joined the seniors for a talk by Rabbi Baruch Felberman, Rosh Yeshiva of MMY, whose wife, the former Allyssa Levine, is a Bat Torah graduate. It was a special pleasure and privilege to hear from Dr. Devorah Rosenwasser, who was a distinguished member of our faculty from 1989 until 2004, when she Devorah Rosenwasser, who was a distinguished member of our faculty from 1989 until 2004, when she assumed the position of Dean of Michlala. Representatives returned a second time, and conducted interviews

in our school for the convenience of our seniors. Among them were Mrs. Vicky Berglass and Mrs. Yehudit Spero of Midreshet Moriah, Rabbi Fix of Tomer Devorah, a new seminary slated to open for the coming school year; Ms. Aliza Starashevsky of Stern College, Rabbi Avi Weiss of Orot, Rabbi Milstone of Midreshet HaRova, and Rabbi Laibel Scharfman of Bnot Torah Institute. At this point, every senior has been accepted to the seminary of her choice, as well as to most of the others where they applied.



Rabbi's Lectures. On Thursday, November 17th, the entire school enjoyed a lecture by Rabbi Aryeh Weil, a former Bat Torah faculty member and Rav of



Congregation Bnai Jeshurun in Teaneck, currently of Machon Gold; and on Monday, November 21st, students and faculty were privileged to hear Rabbi Dovid Orlofsky of Darchei Binah, who brought tears of laughter to our eyes even as he challenged us to examine the depth and meaning of our Jewish observance. On Thursday, December 22nd, we were addressed by Rabbi Mordechai Nissel, author of the acclaimed sefer Rigshei Lev, and prominent lecturer at a number of womens' institutions in Yerushalayim. The topic of his lecture was very appropriate for Chanukah: Did the Greeks win? How much of the outside world do we let in?

A triumphant Torah Bowl team continued its stellar performance of last year as our students scored in competition with SAR, Ramaz, Frisch, and Maayanot in this year's first meet, held in SAR on November 22nd, and at the second, on December 21 at Maayanot. We wish them hatzlacha!

As a follow-up to last year's successful Thanksgiving trip to Spain and Gibraltar, Dr. Grant of Grant Design-A-Tour organized an exciting jaunt through Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Those who attended came home invigorated and enriched by the cultural experience, and the insights gained by seeing Jewish history where it actually occurred.

On December 3rd, Shabbat Parshat Toldot, Bat Torah traveled to the beautiful and comfortable Radisson Hotel in Piscataway, New Jersey. Stimulating lectures by the world-renowned Rabbi Pay-

sach Krohn set a thoughtful tone for the entire Shabbat, which was also greatly enhanced by the beautiful Carlebach-style davening and zmirot of the Shapiro brothers. The food was delicious, the atmosphere warm and friendly, as the girls bonded with each other, as well as their teachers and families, in a more relaxed setting.



Club activities and sports are in full swing. In the first basketball home game, Bat Torah beat Ezra, and the first volleyball home game was played against Maayanot on November 21st. Participants in the photography club are learning to point and shoot a 3mm camera, and to develop black and white film in the darkroom, as well as to

create digital photographs on the computer; while the chess club under the tutelage of Mr. Michael Gresko advances towards checkmate. The halls are alive with the sound of choir practice, as the choir looks toward the second annual inter-yeshiva performance in March. Art Portfolio has proven to be a popular choice, and Bat Torah nurse Ms. Marci Berkowitz, head of the Nutrition Club, is teaching us how to eat properly. The Debate Club's first debate took place on Sunday, December 15th, at YU, and the team's forensic skills are being honed by Mr. Karcher in preparation for a second round, to be held in the Yeshiva of Flatbush in February. The Model U.N. team, under the guidance of Mrs. Evelyn Rochlin, is being challenged to penetrate snowdrifts and glaciers in their assignment to represent Iceland when the forum convenes on February 12th.

ליבי במזרח. After waiting with bated breath, we were thrilled to learn that once again, for the sixth year in a row, Bat Torah will be taking our sophomores to Israel, an exciting and enriching trip underwritten by the Jewish Agency. Our school was awarded this honor in tribute to its



high standard of education, particularly in Jewish history and Hebrew language, and our participation in the

yearly Bechina Yerushalmit. The Agency recognizes and appreciates the deep love and connection to Eretz Yisrael fostered within Bat Torah's walls.

To Moscow. Moving around the globe, Bat Torah turns its focus further eastward, to Moscow. Rebbetzin Dara Brodie Goldschmidt, a Bat Torah graduate, and wife of Rabbi Pinchos Gold-

schmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow, runs Eitz Chaim, a Lauder yeshiva high school. In seeking to conduct a kiruv seminar at the school, she naturally turned to her alma mater, as she has done in the past, to recruit

girls who can communicate the fundamentals of Judaism and passion. seven of our sponsored, Reb-Goldschmidt asked to write an essay, on which she would choose five participants. She was so impressed by the dedication expressed in the essays, however, that she has invited all seven to Moscow. They will be joined by Bat Torah graduate Shirley Rothschild, (BT '99) and will attend the seminar on February 2-12. Rebbetzin Goldschmidt recently visited our school to meet with Shirley and the girls, along with her sister, Danielle Brodie Bloom (BT '96), who teaches limudei kodesh in Chicago.



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Celebration of Chanukah. In celebration of Chanukah, the G.O. organized a Chagiga on Monday, December 26th, complete with a talent show,



music, dancing, and the time-honored Chanukah Carbohydrates- latkes and soofgani-

yot. An additional gift to our students, 1:45 dismissal, enabled girls to get home early in time for menorah lighting.

Visiting Professor. On Wednesday, January 11, six faculty members were privileged to attend a Yom Iyun given by Rabbi Dr. Asher Schechter, Supervisor of Israeli Curriculum Center in Jewish Philosophy and Talmud, and staff member of Ulpana Chorev High School for Girls in Yerushalayim. He led

the teachers in a lively discussion on the rise of the Chassidic Movement, and its origins in the tragic persecution and messianic delusions of the previous century. We are all eagerly awaiting a well-deserved vacation from January 19 through January 30. Report cards for the first semester will be sent after vacation.

It's been a fulfilling, challenging, inspiring first quarter, full of activities, ideas, and fun. We watch the continued growth and development of our girls with pride, and look forward to sharing future highlights with you.

Please mark your calendar (watch for details---)

March 21

The Journal Dinner

March 26

The Lion King
(by the Drama Club)

