The Jewish Learning Exchange Winter Program in Israel not only gave an opportunity for a few dozen wonderful young men from North America to gain a great experience in learning about their Torah and their land. It also gave us an opportunity to meet with the alumnus who organized the program and accompanied its participants to Jerusalem.

Zalman (Scott) Corlin, who grew up in Scarsdale, New York, is a graduate of Wesleyan College, where he majored in religion and English literature. He followed up his year (’80-’81) at Ohr Somayach with eight years of learning in Chaim Berlin in Brooklyn. During this period he did graduate work at NYU and received his MA in psychology. His work in the field included counseling of Jewish families whose children were victims of cults and missionaries under the auspices of the JCRC Task Force on Missions and Cults. In 1984 he married Laurie Bork from Philadelphia and they now live in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn with their two sons and three daughters. Since 1989 he has directed the Alumni Beis Medrash in Brooklyn and last year he also began to head the J.L.E.

All the elements of Zalman’s background — his considerable achievements in Torah, his academic training and his counseling experience — combine to make him such an effective director of programs dedicated to introducing young Jews to their tradition and providing a follow-up for those who return to the States after learning in Jerusalem.

Ohr Somayach is in the process of making an Electronic Alumni Directory. To be a part of it, send us your name, year(s) of study, and E-Mail address. Results will eventually be placed on the Jerusalem1 gopher.
Kosher Cuisine at Ohr Somayach

Im ain kemach, ain Torah — This famous talmudic statement that if there is “no bread” there can be “no Torah” has never been a description of Ohr Somayach. There has, thank G-d, always been food which is of course the one thing that people come to complain about, and have done so since the Manna in the desert.

But students at OS aren’t complaining these days. Things have significantly improved over the last seven months, ever since the Yeshiva hired Reb Mayer Deutch — the new chef of O S. Reb Mayer is a 5th generation Yerusalmi; his grandfather’s great-grandfather, Reb Shimon Deutch, was the talmid muvhash of the Chasam Sofer.

After cooking in several yeshivot, Reb Mayer worked for two years as a head chef at The Jerusalem Hilton, but left that position and came to Ohr Somayach because he “wanted more Ruchnıyus” (spirituality). On Shabbat, students are actually electing to stay in rather than go to families, in order to enjoy Reb Mayer’s soups, cholent, kishke, kugels, and other Shabbat treats. He is often seen working alone late Thursday nights in order to prepare his various Shabbat dishes. During the week Reb Mayer and his crew work hard to make satisfying and tasty meals for the hundreds of students at Ohr Somayach.

So when you’re next in town, make sure to stop by for a heimish Yerusalmi meal at Ohr Somayach.

New Publications

Rabbi Mordechai Becher and Rabbi Moshe Newman came out with a new book “After The Return” -- a practical guide to the newly observant in meeting the many challenges to their newly adopted set of beliefs. Contemporary and classic halachic rulings, relating specifically to the numerous potentially explosive situations ba’alei teshuva are likely to encounter, are presented along with thoughtful advice on finding the right shiduch, attending university, and other dilemmas with which newcomers to Orthodox Judaism must grapple. It is published and distributed by Feldheim Publishers.

How to Contribute to Yachad

The only way we can have up-to-date information is if you provide it. Please send us your comments, suggestions, announcements, and ideas via one of the following methods:

- E-Mail: address your message to: ohr@jer1.co.il set the subject to “Yachad”
- Fax: 972-2-812-890, Att: YACHAD
- Post: Yeshiva Ohr Somayach, 
  ATT: YACHAD
  22 Shimon Hatzadik Street, POB 18103, Jerusalem 91180 ISRAEL

Simchas & Announcements

- Lev Seltzer (Jerusalem ‘93-’95), our InterNet Advisor and Production Designer, became engaged to Ella Sheldon (Neve Yerushalayim ‘94-’95). Ella is the sister of Dovid Sheldon (Jerusalem ‘93), who is to be married, IY''H, on January 12th in London.
- Ze’ev (Warren) Kahn, Madrich for the Shoresh and J.L.E. Programs, became engaged to Hillary Alpert from Los Angeles.
- Jonathan Mintz became engaged to Chana Passy.
- Joey Felsen married Sara Wolfson December 28th.
- Dovid Alexander, Pesach Feldman and Tuvia Katzman are proud new fathers of baby boys B”E·H.
- Rabbi Aryeh Burnham’s son celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.
- Rabbi Dovid Goldieb’s son became engaged.
- Rabbi Shlomo Zweig’s daughter became engaged.

Mazel Tov to all!

Topic of the Month

‘Prayer’ The Service of the Heart. (Ta’anit 2a)

- What is the purpose of Prayer?
- Who established formal prayers?
- Do we need to express our prayers in a prescribed manner or can we just speak to Hashem in our own language?

Select quotations on this topic:

- The prayers of someone who prays just by habit are not considered supplications. (Berachot 26a)
- If your heart was set to the proper kavana you will be assured that your prayers were heard. (Yerushalmi Berachot 5:4)
- After the Anshei Knesset Hagdolah (The Great Assembly) established for us a fixed formula for prayer and it became a mitzvah of deed, nonetheless it is still necessarily a mitzvah of thought. If one does not perform this mitzvah with his heart, nothing is accomplished by his deed. (Chazon Ish)
- Through prayer, every person, even the simplest can establish direct communication with Hashem. The heart, through proper devotion, can reach realms which are unattainable through intellect alone. Prayer is the essence of Man’s free will, while all else is determined by Hashem. (Michtav M’Eliyahu vol. 3, p. 68.)

We’d appreciate your sharing with us other sources or your own thoughts on this topic.

Mazel Tov to all!