



# HAVRUTA

חברותא

PARDES INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES WINTER 1998 • 5757 פדס

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### PARDES STUDENTS CREATE JERUSALEM- BASED HUNGER ACTION COALITION

Leading its hand to combat poverty and hunger, Pardes played an instrumental role in creating the Jerusalem-based Hunger Action Coalition. Comprised of nearly a dozen learning institutions and places of worship, the Coalition was formed to provide hands-on opportunities to help those in need, while creating a forum for public awareness concerning the issues of poverty and hunger.

This February, the Coalition conducted its first project - a canned food drive. Working with the Jerusalem municipality social service agency in the city center, dozens of volunteers, including Pardes students and faculty, delivered food to 300 needy families.

The idea originated through *K'vod Hab'riyot* - Pardes' Community Service Project, run by social worker Vivien Auerbach, which encourages students to perform acts of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) in the local community. The Hunger Action Coalition was conceptualized by Pardes student Stephen Schneider who noted that, "the recent National Report on Poverty stated that nearly 700,000 Israelis were living at or below the poverty line. This includes nearly

Another barrier to the goal of achieving true diversity at Pardes has fallen! While Pardes' core program's constituency is and will remain overwhelmingly recent university graduates, our community has expanded joyfully to include students at their middle age and older. These students contribute experience, dedication, and exhilaration at having an opportunity to do something they never thought possible - to spend a year in Jerusalem inside those intriguing texts which they were only able to hear about or to delve into fleetingly in synagogue or adult education groups. When they sit in havruta with our younger students, one marvels at the way that Torah study can bring people together. A certain magic takes place: our younger students grow older, as wisdom is traditionally equated with *zikna* (age); and our older students become

younger, as they are able to see their Judaism with fresh eyes. "Hour after hour, words of Torah are loved as much by those who study them as when they first made their acquaintance with them." (Eruvin 54b) Pardes is committed to ensuring that this group has full access to the Pardes experience, as they pursue their opportunity to learn. Our office helps them to get settled in Israel, to find schools for their children and activities for spouses who wish to pursue other avenues of interest. We also offer those who are unable to commit for a full year or semester the opportunity to attend a shorter session at Pardes during our stimulating summer institute, our new executive seminar, or to join a group visit to Pardes as part of a mission. Come and join us!

Rabbi Danny Landes, Director

300,000 children. These figures are shocking and should motivate us to reach out and help those that are in need."

Schneider worked with many other Pardes students who served as coordinators for the other coalition members. In conjunction with the food drive, Pardes also hosted a community-wide learning program on poverty and hunger that included a Torah study component focusing on Jewish textual sources on these issues. The Coalition is planning its next event for this spring and hopes to continue offering programs throughout the year.



Pardes student, Danya Handelsman, delivering food to the needy



Students learning in the Pardes beit midrash

For 25 years, the **Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies** has set the standard of creative Jewish learning by offering a mix of intellectual openness, rigorous textual analysis and opportunities for personal spiritual growth. It provides adults from a wide variety of backgrounds with the tools to gain access to the classic texts of Jewish tradition and fosters the desire to claim this tradition for themselves.

## With Gratitude

It is with great admiration and thankfulness that we note the successful completion of Libby Werthan's two-year service as Chair of Pardes' Board of Directors. Libby's contributions during this period were extraordinary. She pioneered the development of the American Pardes Foundation office in New York, and the revival of the APF Board. She persuaded a number of extremely accomplished people to join Pardes' Israel Board, and set into action a number of dynamic and highly-functioning committees, including a strategic planning process. Libby made sure that we celebrated Pardes' 25th anniversary last July in Jerusalem in great style and with great warmth, crowning the event with the publication of **The Pardes Reader**. No less gracious is the welcome she and her husband Moshe have given to the many Pardes students who grace their Shabbat table. There are many more qualities I could mention, but the chief among them is her unfaltering belief in Pardes' purpose and an abiding concern for the finest possible education for our students. We are pleased that Libby will remain an active member of the Board. 🌟 *Rabbi Danny Landes, Director*

## NOTE FROM MOSHE WERTHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Libby and I are extremely pleased to have underwritten the publication of **The Pardes Reader**. It has given us the opportunity to promote Pardes in a scholarly way during its 25th anniversary and at the same time, honor our incredible faculty and administration by bringing their most outstanding essays to Pardes alumni and friends. This book is truly beautiful, both physically and spiritually; you will be proud to display it prominently in your home.

As a current student and new Chair of the Israeli Board, I am able to see up close what a fabulous institution has been developed over the years for the personal benefit of so

many graduates and the Jewish community worldwide. In order to continue our work, we need the support of all of our alumni and friends. As a token of our appreciation for sharing in our effort, for your contribution of \$125 or more, you will receive **The Pardes Reader**, a gift you will treasure for years to come. 🌟



*Libby and Moshe Werthan*

"Where can we find a Jewish haven of harmony in our sadly fragmented community? Where can we find a brilliant faculty open to deep questions from a student body who comes from diverse Jewish backgrounds? Where can we find a director and scholar such as Rabbi Danny Landes whose humane erudition is a model for searching young spirits? It is with pride that I endorse and support the sacred work of Pardes."

*Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis, spiritual leader of Valley Beth Shalom, Encino, CA*

"**The Pardes Reader** is a perfect way to imbibe the open, profound and fascinating learning experience of Pardes itself."

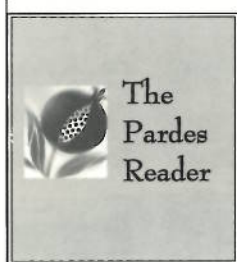
*Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, Jewish Life Network, NY, NY*

"**The Pardes Reader** contains a wealth of Jewish spiritual and intellectual scholarship. Eminently readable and provocative, it places the reader in the Pardes study hall - a wonderful place to be."

*Rabbi Marvin Heir, Dean and Founder, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles*

"**The Pardes Reader** is a delicious taste of Pardes' innovative and effective non-denominational approach to Torah. The wide range of high-quality articles from respected teachers promote serious inquiry, intellectual rigor and spiritual passion."

*Richard Joel, President and International Director, B'nai B'rith Hillel*



## PARDES FACULTY BRINGS TOGETHER REFORM, CONSERVATIVE AND ORTHODOX IN MILWAUKEE

This past September, three Pardes faculty members -- Director Danny Landes, Yosef Leibowitz and Zvi Wolff were invited by the Milwaukee Friends of Pardes to teach and learn with members of the community from all religious and educational institutions in the city.

The Pardes connection to Milwaukee began in 1990 when the Helen Bader Foundation, Inc. became a contributor to the institution. Five years later, this same foundation created the Wisconsin Jewish Continuity Fund to sponsor an individual from Wisconsin to study at Pardes. Through the years, Rabbi Leibowitz, a frequent guest scholar, solidified the relationship between the two communities.

The extremely successful community weekend learning sessions, held just a few

weeks before Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, appropriately focused on the liturgy of repentance. Through the excellent planning of the organizers, the three faculty members were able to engage in Torah study at seven synagogues (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Chabad) during Shabbat, and then bring synagogue members and educators together on Sunday to learn at a community-wide event. They succeeded in reaching over 1,300 people, from the entire spectrum of Jewish life in the city.

The high point of the weekend was the honoring of beloved educator Ateret Cohn, a longtime member of Milwaukee's Jewish community and friend of Pardes. Rabbi Danny Landes notes, "Ateret Cohn represents the best of the Pardes model in her approach and commitment to *Clal Israel*, in her unique

ability to talk to all segments of the Jewish world and in her fundamental belief in the need to teach text". It was in her honor that the money to help Pardes was raised.

Community leaders Jerry Dorf and Jayne Butlein were instrumental in making it all happen. In 1996, Dorf spent over six weeks learning at Pardes in Jerusalem, acquiring first-hand experience with the institution, and he wanted to "bring it home." The goals that were set of introducing Jews in the Milwaukee area to Pardes' unique style of learning, of promoting recognition of Pardes as a learning option, and of raising money - over \$50,000 - were all reached, with great success.

The event has been seen by many in the Pardes community as a prototype for future events all over the United States. 🌟

# PROFILES IN THE BEIT MIDRASH

## THE "30-SOMETHING" STUDENT

### Moshe Werthan

New Chair of the Pardes Board, Moshe Werthan, is a person who likes to get things done - and does just that. A little over two years ago, his wife Libby (the outgoing Chair of the Pardes Board) recruited Moshe to head the Pardes Finance Committee, knowing that he enjoyed the challenge of creating a budget and then helping an organization stick to it. Ever since, Moshe has been an enormous asset to Pardes and through his work has been involved with the many aspects of operating Pardes. He became so immersed and excited by the institution, that he decided to take an even deeper plunge - and enrolled as a student, studying over 20 hours a week.

The desire to devote himself seriously to learning was in progress long before he encountered Pardes. During their first year in Israel in 1990, when Moshe and Libby lived in the Old City of Jerusalem, Moshe sampled different classes and promised himself to someday "find the right place to learn" and really devote time to it, knowing that once he committed himself to the task, he wouldn't quit.

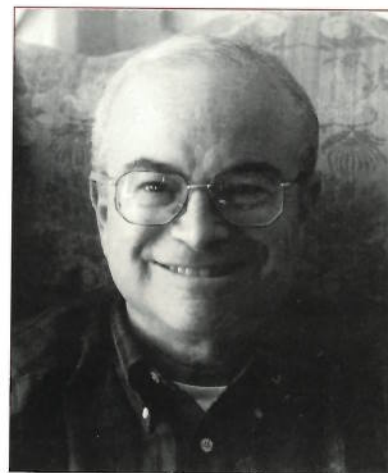
But, as happens with Moshe, he soon began to donate his time and energy to different volunteer causes, such as serving as acting co-chairman of the annual campaign

for the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI), and member of the Board of the Jerusalem College of Technology, as well as the treasurer of his synagogue in Yemin Moshe. Busy with all these activities as well as running a fledgling business, four years passed and he still hadn't found the time or place to learn, until his involvement with Pardes.

Over the years, Moshe and Libby had often hosted Pardes students at their Shabbat table. Moshe recalls "sensing an excitement from the students as they discovered that they could find a meaningful way to connect with Judaism while at the same time developing a living, personal relationship with God." He knew Pardes required discipline and commitment from its students and that's just what he was looking for. After selling his business, he decided the time was right - he enrolled in the Pardes program.

Although the grandfather of seven (with two more on the way), Moshe finds it refreshing to learn with Pardes students, many of them in their early 20's. "The younger students bring a vitality that is stimulating, and I'm able to bring my life experience as a businessman, community activist, and father of four to the table - we each have something to offer one another."

As the new Chair of the Pardes Board, one of Moshe's goals is to encourage "the over 40 set" who are either retired, taking a sabbatical year, or changing professions, to take advantage of studying at Pardes - just as he did. He's also eager to continue developing fellowships at universities in areas of the country where Pardes doesn't currently have a strong presence, in addition to ones that have been created in Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Western Massachusetts, and Wisconsin. Another goal is to ensure that every qualified student, regardless of financial need, will be able to learn at Pardes.



### Noah Alper

Noah Alper, the founder of the phenomenally successful and well known Noah's Bagels of Los Angeles, is now a student in the Pardes *beit midrash*. Upon selling his business, he, his wife Chaya and two of his children, David (10) and Reuven (8), headed to Israel for a year of study in Jerusalem.

It all began in 1984, when Noah sold a business and decided to take a trip to Israel. With no strong religious connection at the time, he was motivated by curiosity and some latent Zionist sentiments. In planning his entrance into the country, he decided it would be "romantic" to enter Israel "as Moses had" -- through Egypt. The result was powerful. As he describes it, "we crossed the border and I got excited. I felt like I'd been

there before, like it was a homecoming."

A little later on the same trip, Noah found himself surprised by his reaction to a chance encounter. Visiting the Western Wall accompanied by his sister, he was invited by a representative of Aish Ha Torah to attend a class. Initially reluctant, his sister finally convinced him - "When in Mexico, go to a bullfight, when in Israel, go to a yeshiva." He was taken directly into a class given by the head of the school who was teaching *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) and whom Noah found to be an engaging personality. Although disturbed by some of the discussion, his questions and concerns were "fielded" by a young rabbi in a compassionate and sensitive way. He left intrigued -- but didn't take any

more classes during the trip. He did, however, leave with a set of cassette tapes on the "48 ways to wisdom" based on the *Pirkei Avot*.

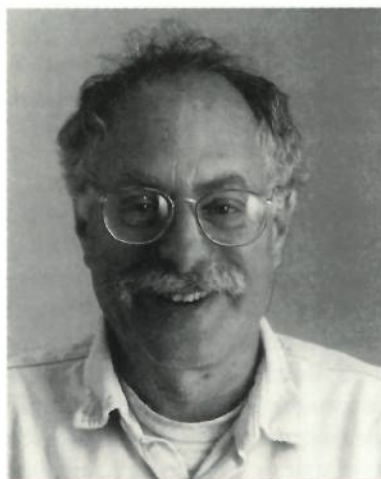
Taken together, Noah's deep and immediate connection to Israel, as well as the chance introduction to Torah study, sparked his initial interest in Judaism. Intending to continue what he had begun in Israel, he returned to America and developed a relationship with a Chabad Rabbi with whom he began to study on a regular basis. His excitement over Judaism and his Zionist feelings about Israel grew while, as he puts it, "the religious piece was interesting."

His feelings of connection to Israel were so strong by this time, that Noah looked for a way to tie together a new business idea with

this interest. Using his experience in the houseware and gift industry, he decided to try his hand at something which would both cater to the Christian religious revival that was going on at the time and enable him to deepen his ties to Israel. He decided to sell things made in Israel to Born-Again Christians. The business entailed numerous trips and visits to Israel which served to strengthen his enthusiasm and continued relationship with the country.

Although that business proved not to be what he was looking for, Noah was about to embark on another venture which would prove to be much more successful and satisfying. In 1989, at the suggestion of his older brother (who later came to work with him), Noah began Noah's Bagels in Berkeley California. The suggestion spoke to him because, "although it wasn't connected to Israel, it was something "Jewish."

The store was wildly successful and branched out until it employed about 1500 people. At the urgings of Chabad, the stores were kosher, so that Noah's Bagels became



the largest kosher retailer in the US. Although busy running the business, his connection to Judaism continued. His children were learning in Jewish schools and by a chance advertisement in the newspaper, his wife began working for the local Jewish Community Center. By 1992, he knew he wanted to devote himself to more serious learning but hadn't yet found the right venue. It wasn't until 1996, when he sold his bagel

empire, that he decided to come to Pardes for the year to learn.

When asked why he chose Pardes he says, "I wanted an intellectual approach, not dogmatic or overly philosophical. I didn't want the black hat slant. At the end of the day one should have the openness available to sort through issues for themselves, to do what you think is right." He was drawn to Pardes because he had heard about the high caliber of the students and teachers at Pardes as well as the school's stress on rigorous intellectualism.

When asked how his position as an older student has affected his learning Noah noted, "I'm used to it. Sometimes I feel separate, but in class through learning, there is an equalization. I have a bit of a different perspective because of age, but basically we all have the common focus of Torah study. Ultimately I find my time here enlightening and challenging...I'm learning a whole lot about how little I know. It's like a window that lets me see how much further there is to go."

## Linda Gradstein

Almost anyone within earshot of American radio knows the name Linda Gradstein, for Linda has been National Public Radio's (NPR) Middle East correspondent for the past eight years, reaching over 13 million homes regularly with her reports. Although for most people Linda resides only in those radio waves, she actually lives right in the Pardes neighborhood. Linda is a Pardes alumna who lives in Talpiot with her husband Cliff and their two children, Rafaella (age 3) and Uriel (age 1). Her path has repeatedly brought her back to learn at Pardes, with each of her three terms of study yielding strikingly different experiences.

Twelve years ago Linda came to Pardes to sharpen her learning skills- as she puts it, "to learn to learn." Having become observant on her own at the age of 18, she felt that her religious questions had already been sorted through. But upon her arrival at Pardes at age 25 she realized that she still had some grappling to do. She threw herself into her studies, describing this first year as "an overwhelming, all-consuming sea - you bob up to the surface for air and dive back in again. At the end you hope you've learned to dog paddle."

But for Linda her learning did not end at that one year, for she returned to Pardes for a second and later a third year. Her second year at Pardes was "harsher learning" than the first year, not to mention that she had also started working part-time. Having received her Masters Degree in Arab Studies from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, Linda began working as a Hebrew and Arabic translator for foreign journalists and writing political features for newspapers. And although she had had no previous radio experience, she began what would turn into a successful radio career.

Ten years later, after the establishment of her family and career, Linda once again returned to study at Pardes. She was on maternity leave, toting her new born child who, she proudly adds, "never made a sound."

This time she found herself in quite a different position in her personal life as well as in the classroom. She felt that as a more settled and experienced individual her perspective was a valuable addition to the class. Likewise, she felt that the learning was extremely valuable for her as a mother, for she was free from the pressure of her career and was getting the intellectual stimulation which is not usually

afforded to many new mothers.

So how have Linda's extended studies at Pardes affected her life? As a reporter, she said that Torah gave her a new appreciation for the power of words. The Talmud's rigorous analysis of words resensitized her to the significance of each statement, for, she adds, "in Israeli politics each word is laden with meaning." But ultimately, learning for Linda is a spiritual pursuit. She adds that, "The times when I've felt closest to God have been, first, in giving birth, and then, in learning Torah. The process of our coming to understand what God tells us is a spiritual act."



## Stephen Schneider

Stephen Schneider is a lawyer taking time off as an Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice for the State of Oregon to study Torah at Pardes. From 1991 to 1994, Stephen was the Director of Political Information for the American Israel Political Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and in 1995 was chosen as a Wexner Heritage Foundation Fellow.

*Havruta: How was your experience working for AIPAC as a Jewish professional?*

Stephen: It was an exciting time to be involved in the Israel lobby. I arrived at the outset of the Gulf War and left after the initial Oslo accords. I found AIPAC to be a dynamic place full of effective professionals who really care for Israel.

The Jewish community in Washington, DC provided a very rich experience for me. On a social level, it was my first exposure to a large and vibrant Jewish community. I often found myself invited to Shabbat dinners and various other Jewish social events. Likewise, the professional experience of working in a Jewish environment further helped in fostering my emerging interest in Judaism. I began to take introductory classes on Judaism at a local synagogue.

*Havruta: Was that your first exposure to adult Jewish education?*

Stephen: Yes, and it served as a springboard to further Jewish study. When I moved back to Oregon, I was selected to be one of twenty Wexner Heritage Foundation Fellows in Oregon. The Wexner program was my first exposure to Jewish textual learning. I began in 1995 and our Wexner class just graduated this past July. Wexner was a well-run program that not only introduced me to Jewish texts but also to some of the great modern scholars in Judaism.

The ideas that I learned in the Wexner program were a major part of my forming a Jewish-centered non-profit organization, "Three Pillars Society." The name is based on the idea from *Pirkei Avot* that the world is based upon three things: God, Torah and Acts of Loving-kindness. The "Three Pillars Society" combines the ideas of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) with the text that lie behind the ideas. What the organization does is community service projects combined with textual learning. I think that it leaves the participant feeling that not only has he done

a good deed but that the good deed was also a very Jewish thing to do.

We've done projects on homelessness, environment and international development. The one that I am most proud of was a professional clothing drive to help the homeless be able to get appropriate clothes to wear to interviews and to wear at different jobs. I credit the base of the idea behind "Three Pillars" to my strong ethical upbringing combined with my recent Jewish education, especially with the Wexner Heritage Foundation.

*Havruta: What was the scope of your Jewish identity as you were growing up?*

Stephen: I was raised in a typical Reform home where I went to Sunday School and had a Bar Mitzvah. My parents raised me with strong Jewish values of *chesed* (kindness), *tzedaka* (charity) and the positive values of *Ben Adam L'havero* (interpersonal relations), although none of the Hebrew names were pinned onto the acts. The bases for a moral Jewish life was given to me by my parents, and I have since associated the names for these qualities which were given to me by Judaism.

*Havruta: Could you tell me about your recent trip to Bosnia?*

Stephen: Back in 1992, when the Bosnia war was raging, I followed the news reports very closely and began to hear hints of the ethnic cleansing camps. Obsessed by what I saw as history repeating itself while the world stood by silently, I decided that I had to do something. In January 1993, I boarded a flight to Zagreb, Croatia where I intended to do personal research on the Jewish community there. I met a journalist who told me that it was impossible to understand the full story without going to Sarajevo and speaking with members of the Jewish community there. I went and had a profound experience meeting with the Jews in Sarajevo. Upon returning to the States, I joined with a friend of mine who is a film producer and produced a nine minute video for a fundraiser, co-sponsored by Hillel International, called BosniaAID. On the same night in 1994, the video was shown at over a hundred college campuses and it raised over \$90,000, which we then donated to the American Joint Distribution Committee and Doctors without Borders. During the recent Pardes winter

break, I flew back to Bosnia to take part in an election monitoring campaign and to offer education seminars as part of the NDI, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, where I have been volunteering on numerous occasions for over a year.



*Havruta: What impelled you to take a year out of your professional life to study Torah?*

Stephen: A good friend of mine in Oregon, Marshall Spector, is a Pardes alumnus and, after my Wexner Heritage Foundation experience, I was looking for an opportunity to delve deeper into text. I wanted to take that next step forward and Pardes seemed like the ideal place to do it. Encouraged by Pardes' non-denominational environment, I really see Pardes as a place where I can grow religiously in the way that is right for me. While I have taken "time off" before this, it was always either traveling or "doing something" to help repair the world. Pardes represents the first time in my life that I have taken time off to do something for me, just for me, and the way I've chosen to do that is through religion. It is a major, potentially life-changing, decision to understand ritual observance, to observe tradition and try to bring traditional Judaism into my life. Yet I feel very comfortable here at Pardes in exploring traditional Judaism the way I want to and at the pace with which I feel comfortable.

I recently decided to extend my time here at Pardes from one semester to the whole

year. To answer your question about how I am processing my learning, I have a great, illustrative story. Perhaps the proudest moment I've had all year is upon my return to Bosnia where I celebrated Yom Kippur. The Kol Nidre service was a mixture of local Jews and international Jews helping to rebuild

the shattered country. On Yom Kippur day, I found myself called upon to lead a study session on the Haftorah, the Book of Jonah. Having recently studied Jonah in my Chumash class, I felt well-prepared for the task at hand and, indeed, the study session was a huge success. At that moment, I knew

that I had begun the process of combining my Jewish identity with the texts that form the basis of Judaism. Each day I am discovering more and more about the seamless web that is Judaism.

## NEWSBRIEFS

Pardes wishes to welcome the following people to its Israel Board: Noga Fisher, Pardes alumna; Yedidya Fraiman, former Pardes assistant director and alumnus; community activist Susan Fried; businessman Jonathan Medved; alumna Shira Rosenschein and fundraiser Audrey Scher.



"The Strong Brew Lecture Series: Speakers. Conversation. Coffee. All the caffeine plus ideas with a kick" is a evening event open to the public, dedicated to exploring controversial issues facing the Jewish people. The series was initiated by current Pardes student and former Hillel Director of Eugene, Oregon, Will Berkovitz. Speakers to date have included:

\* Dr. Avivah Zornberg, famed Jerusalem scholar and author of *Genesis: The Beginning of Desire*, who spoke on the topic of Love and Hate in the book of Deuteronomy,

\* Professor Steven M. Cohen, well-known author and sociologist of the American Jewish Community and Rabbi Daniel Gordis, Dean of the Rabbinical School at the University of Judaism. The evening, focusing on the issue of conversion and its consequences, was moderated by Rabbi Danny Landes.

\* Rav Lord Jakobovits, former chief Rabbi of Britain and Dr. Moshe Dickman addressed the topic, "When Life Hangs in the Balance: a discussion of Jewish medical ethics." Pardes faculty member Zvi Wolff, who serves on the Meimad Committee on Organ Transplants, moderated the discussion.



Rabbi and noted Theologian David Ellenson, a professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is the Pardes Blaustein Scholar this year. This was made possible by a grant from the Blaustein Foundation to Pardes. Highly recognized for his work on Jewish religious movements in modern times, Ellenson's enthusiastic and engaging style has met with great response from the Pardes student body as he addresses the questions of how one can maintain one's "Jewishness" in light of social pressure and how Judaism can maintain itself in an authentic way in the modern world.



Visiting Pardes in recent weeks have been Karen Levenson and Jan Tuttelman from the San Diego Federation; George and Betsy Hess of the Meyerhoff Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland; Nancy Beren accompanied by her husband, Dr. Larry Jefferson and their children; Dr. Devorah Steinmetz, Director of Drisha Institute in NY; Rabbi William Lebeau from the Jewish Theological Seminary; and Dr. Hannan Alexander of the University of Judaism, Los Angeles.



The Keren Beracha Foundation recently commissioned several artists from around the world to create an art piece in response to the Hiriya garbage dump outside of Tel Aviv. Two of these artists visited with Pardes faculty to discuss Jewish concepts that they could use to inspire their works. Rabbi Danny Landes met with well known artist Mierle Laderman-Ukeles to discuss the symbolism of earth in Jewish texts, while teacher Arie Strikovsky met with a Chinese artist, Cai Quo Qiang, to discuss concepts in Kabbalah. By coincidence, Arie learned that one of his students, Robert Schonberger, had spent a year in China and spoke Chinese. Robert was brought in to help with the translation, and in the process learned a bit about Kabbalah.



Pardes faculty member Dov Lapin represented Pardes at both the Limmud Conference in Manchester, England and the Lishma Conference in London during the month of December.



◆ In December, Pardes welcomed back Mike Granoff, Pardes '91-92 while he was visiting Jerusalem. Mike has maintained his connection to both the institution and many of his former teachers. As he puts it, "I've made an effort to stay connected to Pardes because the place was and is important to me." In New York, he and Pardes alumnus Eli Greenbaum are the co-presidents of Kehillat Orach Eliezer (KOE) on the Upper West Side, with Pardes alumna Rachel Landsberg serving as the Kehilla's secretary. Based closely on the Pardes model, the minyan is "vigilantly unaffiliated" and has a traditional service with a great deal of sensitivity to women's issues. When Pardes teachers visit the States, they are often hosted and speak to the minyan of over 250 or so people, over half of them Pardes alumni. To find out more about KOE, you can e-mail them directly at [callkoe@aol.com](mailto:callkoe@aol.com).

◆ In September, Pardes faculty member Marcie Lenk was invited to deliver a paper at a women's seminar in Rome, Italy entitled, "The Other as Mystery: a Challenge and a Partner." The conference was sponsored by the International Council of Christians and Jews.

◆ On September 9, American Pardes Foundation Board Members Steve and Teri Barnett hosted a Chicago regional alumni event featuring Pardes teacher Rabbi Yosef Leibowitz.

◆ In New York, the Pardes/West Side JCC Beit Midrash hosted:

- \* In October, Dr. Steven Fine, Pardes alumnus and Professor at the Baltimore Hebrew University.
- \* In November, Pardes teacher Aryeh Ben David who spoke on "Rabbinical Views of Sexuality and Intimacy."
- \* In January, Rabbi Danny Landes who spoke on "The Essence of Prayer: Legal and Mystical Definitions."

◆ On November 11th, The American Pardes Foundation hosted a Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Danny Landes focusing on the topic "Mystical Interpretations of Abrahams Struggle." On December 2nd, they hosted Pardes teacher Zvi Wolff who spoke on the topic, "Mourner's Kaddish: A Guide to the Living."

◆ In November, Pardes commemorated the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death by hosting an evening open to the public on "How Israel Mourns Through Music." The evening, led by musicologist Aviva Stanislavsky, focused on the poetic and musical analysis of songs associated with Yitzhak Rabin and with occasions of Israel's national grief.

◆ During December 16-22, Pardes hosted a Hannuka Seminar for its students on "The Borders of Community." Alongside Pardes instructors and other guest lecturers, representatives from the Conservative, Reform and Orthodox movements spoke to Pardes students. Guest lecturers included Professor Lee Levine, former Dean of the Conservative Seminary of Judaic Studies in Jerusalem; Rabbi Avi Walfish, a faculty member of the Herzog Teachers Training Institute of Alon Shvut; and Rabbi David Ellenson of the Hebrew Union College.

◆ The Harold Grinspoon Supporting Foundation Scholarship is available to those who permanently reside in Western Massachusetts (Hampton, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties) and/or recent graduates of either undergraduate or graduate level study in Western Massachusetts. Western Massachusetts schools include Amherst College, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Hampshire College, Smith College and Mount Holyoke. This scholarship covers a portion of Pardes tuition.

**NEW!**

**Senior Executive Seminar in Israel**  
Judaism and the Ethics of Life  
August 9th-15th  
Contact Rae Janvey at [pardesusa@aol.com](mailto:pardesusa@aol.com)  
for more information

**NEW JOINT PROGRAM BETWEEN  
PARDES AND NESIYA**

Enrich your mind, heart and soul this summer in Israel at the Bikkurim Program--designed for incoming freshman and university students. Torah study, creative arts and travel.  
For more information contact Paula Steisel at [pardesusa@aol.com](mailto:pardesusa@aol.com)

# The Pardes Connection

## ...AND THEIR WEDDINGS

**Kathy Kahn** '82-83 and **Mark Hurwitz** were married in Jerusalem.

**Elka Klein** '88-89 to **Yossi Francus**. They are living in Cambridge, MA.

**Asher Zeiger** '88-90 to **Sharon Ungerman**. They are living in Jerusalem.

**Ellen Myra Braitman** and **David Shapiro** '92-93 were married in March 1997 and are living in New York where Ellen is an assistant editor at Consumer Reports magazine and David is a litigation associate at a New York law firm.

**Yvette Nahmia** '95-96 to **Elias Messina**. They are living in Jerusalem.

Pardes mourns the loss of **Neil Norry** ז"ל of Rochester, NY and extends its condolences to his wife, Sharon, and their family. Neil was a good friend of Pardes for many years.

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## ...AND THEIR BABIES

**Jackie Espinoza Elbaz** '88-89 and **Yossi Elbaz** are the parents of a girl, **Yael**.

**Rabbi Rachel Montagu** and her husband are the parents of a boy, **Eliezer Michael**.

**Debbi (Taylor) Zimelman** '85-86 and **Eliot Zimelman** '82-83 are the parents of a boy, **Liav Mieka**. They are living in Jerusalem where Debbi is a professional photographer.

**Yarden Fedder** and his wife **Ruti** are the parents of a girl, **Shachar**. They are living in Jerusalem.

**Sara Winkelman** '96-97 and **Hyim Shafner** are the parents of a boy, **Benjamin Isaac**. They live in St. Louis, MO.

**Elon Sunshine** '91-92 and **Shira Rosenblatt** ('91-92 are the parents of a girl, **Arielle Yonah Sunshine**

**Meesh** '91-92 and **Yoni Hammer-Kossov** are the parents of a girl, **Leora Rina**. They are living in New York.

**Susan Eiseman Levitan** '91 and **Sam Levitan** are the parents of a boy, **Daniel Nathan**. Susan is currently the Program Director at the Center for Holocaust Studies at Clark University.

**Jeff Green** '87-88 and his wife **Miriam** are the parents of a girl, **Liora Rachel**. They are living in Beer Sheva.

## NEW OF CLASSMATES AND STAFF...

**Gershon Gorenberg** '77-79, edited the book *Seventy Faces: A Commentary on the Torah from the pages of The Jerusalem Report* (Jason Aronson, 1996.) The book includes articles by Daniel Landes, Baruch Feldstern and Dov Berkovits.

**Ami Petter** '96-97 made aliyah and is living in Jerusalem.

## HAVRUTA

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Session II: June 30-July 30th

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