

Kol Bogrei Rambam is the Alumni Committee's monthly e-newsletter for and about Maimonides School graduates. Each month we share information on individual graduates' ventures and accomplishments, as well as general news notes, all reflecting the school's mission of preparing educated, observant Jews to be contributing members of society. Your ideas and accomplishments will help sustain and strengthen this key communications tool; please forward to alumni@maimonides.org.



MAIMONIDES celebrates ISRAEL at 70

The State of Israel

was established on 5 Iyar 5708 (May 15, 1948), about 16 months before Maimonides School began its high school program. So beginning with the Class of 1953, Israel grew, matured and flourished virtually step by step with Grades 9-12 at Maimonides.

This month, in celebration of Israel's 70th birthday, **kol b'gavri Rambam** profiles seven Maimonides School graduates living in Israel -- one for each decade.

They represent more than 300 alumni who have made *aliyah*. Every one of the 65 graduating classes

is represented in Israel. When you add the multi-generational family members, retired teachers, current donors, former students, parents and directors, Maimonides School's Israel family literally numbers in the thousands.

Rabbi Soloveitchik, ל"צ, called the establishment of the State of Israel "the most important event in modern Jewish history." As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we take pride in Maimonides School's continuing commitment to instilling a visceral connection with Israel in all of its students.



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1950-59: Looking at Israel through Different Lenses, Literally and Figuratively

Michael Goldberg '54, one of Maimonides School's earliest alumni *olim*, has seen Israel through different lenses, literally and figuratively. A photojournalist, he also had a career in social work that included videotaping testimonies by survivors of the *Shoah*.



Michael Goldberg '54

"My mother had a strong soprano voice. She sang at Maimonides functions," Michael recalled, reaching back some 70 years. "We lived a few blocks from the school (housed in a mansion at the corner of Washington Street and Columbia Road) and Maimonides provided us with community."

He added, "Rabbi (Isaiah) Wohlgemuth prepared me for my *bar mitzvah*, which was at Camp Yavneh in 1949." Later Michael worked at Yavneh as a camp driver and in maintenance.

Michael is a member of the second Maimonides high school class – with

Bobby Berren בּוּבּי בֶּרֶן, **Melvin Fisher**, **Bobby Marcus**, **Maier Sadwin** and **Haym Soloveitchik**. "There's a black-and-white photo somewhere of the six of us," he said.

Michael earned a master's degree in audio-visual education from Boston University, "but I couldn't really go

anywhere with it, because I didn't want to teach." He ultimately received a master of social work degree from the University of Maryland.

"As a teenager I was in B'nei Akiva, and that is probably where the focus on Israel started," Michael said. His first visit to Israel was in 1961. He made *aliyah* in 1970, part of a group that established a community in the Judean hills. He lived there for eight years before returning to the U.S., then relocated to Jerusalem in 1983.

Michael and his wife

Nitza were married in 1988.

Michael's photography got more serious in the 1970s, after meeting the acclaimed photojournalist David Rubinger. "He was an amazing man, a photographer for Time-Life and was also picture editor at *The Jerusalem Post*. I published a few photos in the *Post* – that's how I got started." Michael's photographs were featured in Jewish publications in Israel and the U.S., and he also did some work for the Weizmann Institute.

In the mid-1990s, "as the technology changed, I came to the conclusion that press photography was a young person's

game. Now I do mostly nature pictures" with a five-year-old Nikon. Cellphones make everyone a photographer, he continued. "But if you use a good single-lens-reflex or mirrorless camera and put the two images side by side, there is a difference."

For 14 years Michael served as a social worker for AMCHA, which today is the largest provider of mental health and social support services for Holocaust survivors in Israel. "I would go into the homes of elderly survivors and gain their trust, and do some light home repairs," he said. He was part of a network of 18-20 part-time therapists, many of whom had their own clinics. "After a fall from a ladder, I had to quit home repairs."

Michael's social work and technical background led to his video recording of testimony, inspired by producer Steven Spielberg's 1994 *Survivors of Shoah Visual History* project. "The director of AMCHA at the time had a video camera, and I taped testimony from more than several dozen survivors. I would just let them talk and not interrupt the stream of memory," he said. The tapes are housed in the organization's archive.

"One of the most harrowing stories I heard was from a woman who at age 12 was part of a forced march from Transylvania to the east. She was the only survivor in her family. Today she is the matriarch of an extended family of more than 70 souls."

Michael lives in Jerusalem, and his two sons and grandchildren are in Israel as well. His older son B.Z. Goldberg, a documentary filmmaker, produced and narrated the award-winning 2002 documentary *Promises*. His younger son Dani has a recreation and healing retreat near Jerusalem.

1960-1969: "Nowhere Else Can You Have Such an Experience Except in Israel"

The resume of **Rabbi Asher Reichert '67** is a smorgasbord of rich and rewarding experiences. But probably the most inspiring was affixing a *mezuzah* to one of the gates in the Old City of Jerusalem. "Who is lucky enough to put up a *mezuzah* on the doorpost of a Jerusalem city gate? This opportunity might happen once in hundreds of years," Asher exclaimed.

Asher received an undergraduate major in Jewish studies, a master's in Jewish education, and *semicha*, all from Yeshiva University schools. Next came a Vietnam-era assignment as an Army chaplain and battalion race relations officer at Fort Hood, TX, with training in counseling, clinical pastoral education and organizational psychology. "And I got a dirt bike so I could visit troops in the field."

He then taught for a year in Dallas, worked as a dorm director at Stern College for another year, served as a shul rabbi in Portland, Maine, then moved back to Boston, where he worked as a life insurance agent, financial advisor, *mashgiach*, and nursing home chaplain.

Asher, his wife Rashie, and their five children made *aliyah* in 1993. "I always wanted to move to Israel, and the atmosphere in Maimonides School had long been supportive," he said. "When my in-laws passed away, we felt there was no reason to stay in America. My parents independently had decided to move to Israel around the same time."

In Israel "I took stock of my abilities and, relying on my English skills, took a short course and became a technical writer," Asher continued. "My wife developed her computer skills and eventually became the office manager and executive secretary at Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalayim. There were several years that I got little sleep in order to make life in Israel successful for my family. But I thank God for the opportunities He presented."

When he lived in Jerusalem's Har Nof section, Asher bused to the *Kotel* before work every day. "Around that time, the city was reopening a gate that had been blocked during the Muslim period. It's called *Sha'ar Haburskaim* – Tanners' Gate." According to the Jerusalem Foundation, the gate is on the southern wall, "the second oldest entrance into the Old City, a pedestrian gate probably built in the 12th century."

"I noticed after it had been open for two years that there was no *mezuzah* there," Asher related. He contacted the Ministry of Religious

Affairs and "I asked if I could put it up." While waiting for the official answer, "I started learning the *halachot* of *mezuzah* with my family so we could properly appreciate this *mitzvah* if we got to do it."

"I learned that *minhag Yerushalayim* is to put them up vertically. I learned the *halachah* is that a *mezuzah* must be put up on the top third of the doorway. But there is an exception for a city gate. There it is put up at shoulder height. Also the *mezuzah* must be in the first handbreadth of the entrance. I was also told that I had to put it in the cracks of the stones to not damage the walls."

Waiting for the bureaucratic process to clear, Asher purchased a *klaf*. "I wore a suit to work every day because maybe that would be the day when I would get to put up the *mezuzah*, and I wanted it to be a significant event. Nobody wears a suit to work in high tech in Israel."

When the clearance finally came, Asher left his office with "the *klaf*, a glass tube with a stopper, a hammer and chisel, a piece of plexiglass, some silicon, a small amount of cement mix and a trowel." He

met Rashie, three of their children, and his mother at the gate. They brought a stepladder.

"We put silicon around the edge of the plexiglass, put the *klaf* in the tube, put the tube in the slot, and said the *brachah*,"

Asher recounted. "Then we all pressed the plexiglass against the wall to fix the *mezuzah* in place. To make sure it would be solid, we mixed the cement and put a little on the edges of the plexiglass to make it strong. We were all very moved. Nowhere else can you have such an experience except in Israel." (They actually got to do it again

a few weeks later, as the first *mezuzah* was damaged, apparently by vandals.)

The Reicherts live in Beit Shemesh, alongside his mother. There are five generations of their family in Israel, as Asher's daughter **Nechama Vazana '93** and her husband David have two grandchildren.

"I learned from the Rav that the *mitzvah* of *limud Torah* requires you to do the best you can each day," Asher reflected. "I enjoyed being able to learn as much as I did and be involved in *mitzvot* all day when I was the rabbi of a shul, but my choices leading us to Israel didn't enable me to devote myself to learning as much as I would have liked. Now I have reached a time in my life where I can pick up what I wanted to do all along and try to learn Torah the way the Rav taught us."

He also is picking up a project he launched more than 20 years ago – editing the book that he started with his teacher Rabbi Isaiah Wohlgemuth, *A Guide to Jewish Prayer*. "I hope, God willing, I will be able to do what I can to, in the words of the Rambam, pursuing wisdom and the development of the world."



Rashie and Rabbi Asher Reichert '67

1970-1979: A Teacher Shares Her Musical Talents throughout Greater Tel Aviv

Judith (Herschfus) Spitzberg '73

launched the first full-time music program at Maimonides in 1984. When she was a student, "we had no music, no art, and no gym, so I was determined to bring to the students the music education I wished we had had as young children."

Today, living and teaching in Tel Aviv, "music here is on a very high level, with a variety of venues in which to teach. I am very connected to the Music Academy at Tel Aviv University and attend a number of operas, concerts, and dance performances."



Judy (Herschfus) Spitzberg '73

Judy attended Maimonides beginning in first grade. "I always loved Judaic studies, particularly *Chumash*." Throughout her student years, "I just knew I was going to be here in Israel," reinforced by the friendships she made with Israeli students visiting and attending the school.

She earned an undergraduate degree in music from Boston University's School for the Arts, followed by a master's in creative arts in education from Lesley College. Since 1982 Judy has taught music in both private and public schools, as well as for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and in the Metrowest Jewish Day School in Framingham. She noted that the school sent her to Israel for a variety of collaborative projects.

Judy and Richard Spitzberg's first extended stay in Israel began in 2008. Richard, a physicist with MIT's Lincoln

Laboratory, was assigned to help with the development of what became the Iron Dome missile defense program. The Spitzbergs resided in the U.S. Embassy compound. "I had been teaching music and art, and I panicked - 'What am I going to do here?' In fact, there was too much to do!" Judy recalled.

She studied at Tel Aviv University -- art and architecture, philosophy and music -- and performed

with ensembles, as well as at social events with the university's music academy. "I started to teach music and art at Bar Ilan and then as an educator for the Israel Philharmonic," Judy said. "I would teach teachers how to explain music through an integration of arts activities." The assignment ended in 2012, and "during the next year I came back six times because I

missed it so much." They made *aliyah* in 2013.

"When you come to Israel, you have to reinvent yourself," Judy observed. "I continued taking courses, attended Technion and received a diploma for museum curator of modern Israeli art. I have done workshops in museums, but basically it was just to learn museology – there is no end to the learning opportunities here."

She also works with parents looking for supplementary English lessons for their children, and at other *chugim* (extracurricular activities). "Next year I will be teaching a course at Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv, 'English Through the Arts,' teaching educators how to integrate music, art, dance and drama as tools to enhance their lessons in fluency, grammar and diction."

Judy is fully invested in the metro Tel Aviv lifestyle. "It's very *chevriti* here, a very social country, very group-oriented. There's no hierarchy socially nor is it ever lonely," Judy observed. "People are hospitable and inclusive. If there's a *Shabbat* dinner for five people, what's one more? Going to the movies? 'Yalla, let's go.'"

She is also spending a lot of productive time outside. "I do a lot of off-road biking, participate in long-distance group hikes (finished the Golan Trail over Pesach) and travel extensively."

"On one hand, Israel is very industrial and high-tech. On the other hand, it's a very agricultural country," Judy related. "Yesterday morning I took a bike ride and stopped to pick lemons, grapefruits and string beans. So I am an official *lekatim*, an orchard picker of mangoes, olives and passionfruit -- whatever the season is, my friends and I pick it to make oil, juices and other cocktails."

1980-1989: The Profound Privilege and Pleasure of Living in the Old City

"I never get tired of living here; I love it anew every day," says **Eve (Teplow) Solomon '81**, a resident of Jerusalem's Old City for more than 30 years. "Living in the Old City, and playing in 'G-d's backyard,' is like any intimate relationship. When a person is in love, spending time with your beloved is never taken for granted."

"The walking and activity needed to live in the Old City keeps me healthy," she continued. "I don't have a car, nor do I want one. I *schlep* more than the average person -- pretty sure I was a donkey in a previous life. No, supermarkets don't always deliver here. Yes, people constantly ask for *Shabbat* invites (no, we have no extra sleeping room). Everything takes a bit more thought to work out. But it's worth it!"

"Living here is like a *kibbutz*, you know everyone by face, if not by name - we are a family and we watch out for each other. It is much like a microcosm of Israeli society in general."

Eve spent the year after high school learning at the Machon Gold seminary. "Halfway through the year I came to realize that underneath that rough and gruff exterior beats the heart of an incredibly passionate and loving people," she recalled. "I knew that if I ever needed help here in Israel, even someone with whom I may have just had a full-blown argument would run to help me."

In the summer of 1984 she met Dovid Solomon, who had just moved to Israel. "His dream was to live in Israel and, in particular, he was attracted to the Old City of Jerusalem. Shortly before we married, he discovered that his grandfather was born in the Old City in the courtyard of

the Old Yishuv Court Museum. He made himself part of the community here as a renter before we met and there was no question about us living here after marriage."

After she graduated from Simmons College, they were married in August 1985 and moved to Israel. "The Israelis I met in Maimonides and via NCSY helped influence my decision, simply because they were friendly and pleasant people. The fact that my brother **Michael '79**

was committed to *aliyah* also helped me know I would not be alone here, and added confidence to my move. It was a dream come true that my mother ended up making *aliyah* only about 10 years after I did."

At Simmons, Eve carried a double major in computer science and

philosophy. "I quickly got my first job here in computers, but by the time my childbearing and nursing years ended, the industry had changed so drastically that I was no longer fit for it. So in the end, computer science was just a fun activity. However, philosophy has served me my entire life."

So in Israel, "I have become a sort of jack-of-all-trades. I work at a *gemach*. I'm a jeweler and an artist, trying to establish myself. I volunteer at the Emunah women's organization. I've been a volunteer police officer, *yacham*, for the last 15 years, and recently got my first *felafel*

(promotion). I volunteered on the board of directors for the only women's martial arts center in Israel, El Halev. I've worked as a seamstress, an apartment manager, a substitute *ganenet* (early childhood teacher), a secretary, a mover, and a translator."

"Most of all, I'm a full-time mother. It was always very important to me to be available for my children; therefore any work that I took on was staggered and not formatted in a traditional workday," Eve asserted. The Solomons have five daughters and two sons. "The entire world comes to the Old City, so our children were exposed to all peoples. They grew to understand that although the world is not like us, there are many types of people and styles of living, but we actively chose a specific path."

"All our children were named in the place where their great-grandfather lived, and they play on the same stones that supported *Bnei Yisrael* during the First and Second Temples. They know they are blessed to have grown up in the best country in the world and they are grateful for Dovid's and my past that brought them to this luxury, because living in Israel is ultimately a luxury available to all those who choose it."

"The entire country is extroverted and caring in a way I have never experienced in my life," Eve declared. "I have found there to be no falsehood amongst the people in Israel. They will absolutely tell you what they think, while at the same time fully respecting your opinion and your right to have it."

"My children have amazing relationships with *Hashem*, irrespective of religion; they feel His presence as a reality and call on Him freely when they need, and He answers, usually positively, but always lovingly."



Eve (Teplow) Solomon '81

1990-1999: New Market Research Manager Represents Israeli Ingenuity

Judah Levine '95 is a scholar. He majored in psychology and Jewish studies at Brandeis, graduating in 2000. He lived in Jerusalem for the next two years, earning an MA in Jewish studies through Hebrew University's international school. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

In 2013, "I decided to shift gears. I completed an executive MBA program at IDC Herzliya in 2015 and have been working in market research since then, while still teaching occasionally."

Today he is manager of research and analytics for OG Consulting, Ltd. "Our firm provides market research consulting services for mostly U.S.-based clients, such as Comcast, GM, Subway, and American Express," Judah explained.

"We are a small group of both native-born Israelis and *olim* (from Brazil and the former Soviet Union as well as the United States). And we definitely represent Israeli ingenuity, in that we're able to reach beyond the borders of our country to deliver services on par with much larger U.S. based firms, and we also leverage the talents of *olim* to be able to do so."

"I definitely did not envision this line of work when we first planned our *aliyah*, but I'm glad to be applying my background and interest in research to a field I had not considered earlier," Judah commented. "It is definitely an asset to your *aliyah* to be able to be flexible in terms of expectations for applying your skills and finding what interests you in the opportunities available in Israel's economy."

"As so many of Israel's companies target a global clientele, being an *oleh* and native English speaker often has its advantages as well."

Although Israel was always important to him, "I hadn't really considered *aliyah* until being back in Israel in 2001," Judah said. "While there, things quickly deteriorated into the Second Intifada, but I remember thinking that despite it being a very violent and difficult time, it felt right being there. It was at that point that I first thought about coming back permanently."

Meeting Karen solidified those plans, he said, since for her, *aliyah* had been a "life-long dream." They lived in New York for a year, then three years in Chicago, where Judah started a Ph.D. in Jewish Thought and Karen pursued an MSW. They were active members of Congregation Anshe Sholom, which was led at the time by **Rabbi Asher Lopatin '82**.

"Moving to Israel had been our plan since we got married," Judah said. After six months in Jerusalem, the Levines moved to Modi'in "because of its central location -- about halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv -- and because of the welcoming English-speaking community here, which was small at the time and has continued to grow," Judah said.

"We've been very happy here, finding a great and supportive community. Modi'in is a terrific place for kids, and as ours grow it's great to see their integration into Israeli society -- which is sometimes easier for kids than for their parents -- and to see the independence Israeli kids have. My parents also have an apartment nearby, and my father fulfilled his dream of making *aliyah* a few years ago."

Judah and Karen have four children, ages 4-12. "Our boys all go to school or *gan* right near our house, and Ayelet started high school in Pelech near Rehovot this year," Judah said.

"We are definitely glad we made *aliyah*, despite its challenges, and we don't take the opportunity to live and raise our kids in Israel for granted," Judah testified. "The rhythms of the Jewish and Israeli year are particularly different, ingrained and impactful here."

"Despite the distance, we're still able to raise Celtics fans, and my sisters all have come to visit regularly since we've been here. There's also a great core of class of '95 and other Maimo alumni spread across Israel, whom it is great to connect with whenever possible."



Dr. Judah Levine '95 and family

Judah and his wife Karen made *aliyah* in December 2006, and he finished work on his doctorate in Israel, focusing on modern Jewish thought and writing on Martin Buber and other thinkers' approaches to teaching Jewish text in the modern age. Then he taught for several years in various settings -- gap year programs, adult education, and universities.

2000-2009: Serving on the Frontier of Biological Systems Breakthroughs

Avital Bailen '09 exemplifies the Israeli ethos of tackling big challenges with innovation and imagination.

Avital is an undergraduate at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheva, with a concentration in synthetic biology. She describes the relatively new field as "the implementation of engineering methods in biological systems. These systems, such as a single cell, are the most complicated, effective, self-sufficient machines in the world. We attempt to manipulate these systems in order to produce an effect or product we desire."

The ultimate goal is a lofty one. "I think sustainable solutions to many world problems, such as pollution, proper food supplies, and the bacteria arms-race, can only be achieved by better understanding of and adherence to the natural, biological systems," Avital declared. "The only way to fix these problems in a long-term way that is not harmful to the planet is to incorporate the solutions in already existing biological systems."

After high school graduation, Avital served for three years with Karakal, the co-ed infantry unit of the Israel Defense Forces. Then she spent another two years traveling and attending the *mechinah* for *olim* at Hebrew University before beginning her studies in biology at BGU.

"The army taught me to choose a course of study which I feel passionate about," Avital said. "In the army you learn that every stage will have its difficult, challenging, and boring moments, but if you feel strongly about what you are doing, then those moments are easier to get through."

"The army absolutely promotes the *Start-Up Nation* mentality," she continued, referencing the 2009 bestseller by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. "Each day in the army, we needed to deal with huge tasks with little or no instructions and supplies. For

example, a group of us would be dropped off in the middle of the desert and asked to create an army encampment. We had to be creative, organized, and driven in order to create the camp."

"While I was a commander, I felt the start-up mentality most strongly. My fellow commanders and I had to care for and train groups of teenagers -- only a few years younger than ourselves -- with no instruction other than what our commanders had exemplified for us."

Avital added, "I learned how to look confident in front of a crowd, even when I am improvising what I am going to say. How to work with and facilitate between my soldiers and my officers. In general, the army taught me that I can learn how to do anything, with

little or no oversight. This, I think, is the core confidence which allows Israelis to take the leap into the world of start-up business."

Avital is part of a team from BGU working on an idea for an innovative ALS therapy. "We are targeting the cells which surround the neurons. In healthy individuals, these cells protect the neurons and facilitate proper brain function. However, in ALS patients, these cells become harmful to the neurons. So far, most studies target the neurons themselves, and not these supporting cells. We hope this new targeting will slow the progression of the disease and create longer life expectancy for patients. In this project we are using,

and hoping to improve, state-of-the-art gene editing and delivery systems."

Her group is also promoting ALS awareness by hosting a scientific conference, participating in an ALS fundraising race, and organizing activities for ALS patients. Avital and her team will be presenting their ALS project at the international iGEM

competition, hosted by MIT next October. (To learn more about this project visit the Facebook page @ iGEMBGU).

"I hope to work in a field that combines synthetic biology and bioinformatics, such as

personalized medicine, protein engineering, or machine learning," Avital said.

Avital recalled that her favorite high school class was biology, taught by Dr. Jerold Halpern. "I didn't know it at the time but this interest was strong enough for me to want to pursue an entire degree in the subject." Also, former *limudei kodesh* teacher Tomer Ben-Shoham "taught me to take initiative fearlessly. This was the first lesson in confidence which allows me today to accept the challenges and opportunities that come my way."



Avital Bailen '09

2010-2018: *Torat Chaim, "Incredible Places," IDF's Mission All Inspire Aliyah*

Doron Cheses '14 never made it to Yeshiva University. You can find him in Israel.

"I was originally planning to attend YU after finishing a year of *yeshivah* at Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Ma'aleh Adumim," said Doron, who acknowledged that *aliyah* always was on his personal horizon. "While spending time in *yeshivah*,

vitch, Rav Yitchak Sheilat, and Rav Haim Sabato, I learned *Torat Chaim* -- a living Torah. Our learning could really be applied to set personal goals and give meaning for a better society and future for the Jewish people in Israel."

Military service was another motivating factor. Birkat Moshe is a *hesder yeshivah*, which includes a 16-month military commitment. The *yeshivah*'s website explains the philosophy and institutional pride: "Not content to focus only on their studies while leaving the *mitzvah* of defending the country to others, *hesder* students have carved a storied niche for themselves in the IDF. Birkat Moshe students have earned a reputation as hardworking, idealistic soldiers, with a number of our graduates progressing to officer rank."

Doron noted that "my year in Israel started one day after the cease-fire that ended Operation Protective Edge in 2014. I was amazed by the fact that many of the older guys in *yeshivah* had just been in a war for almost two months, yet started off the year as usual. I immediately felt a sense of belonging with my fellow students who were planning on drafting, so after about five months, I decided that I would make *aliyah*."

He drafted into the Duchifat Battalion of the Kfir Infantry Brigade in March 2016. "After finishing my eight months of basic and advanced training, I completed infantry squad commander training," Doron said. "I was then assigned as a squad commander of 12 soldiers through their eight months of training." Doron actually was active with the army for a

total of 20 months because of his leadership status.

The experience taught him leadership skills, perseverance "through hard physical challenges, and learning to stick to the mission and work towards success. Still, by far the greatest thing I gained from the army was a greater understanding of the diversity and complexity of Israeli society."

He expects to receive an assignment to a reserve unit, and to continue as an infantry squad commander there. "I will have to serve for a few weeks per year and participate in training, guard duty, and various other small tasks to retain operational fitness."

Now Doron is back in Ma'aleh Adumim, in the fourth year of the five-year *hesder* program. "I am committed to the final year, and then I hope to attend university in Israel," he said.

"My parents were always emphasizing Israel's role in the Jewish future," Doron said. "I was also a camper and counselor at Camp Stone, run by B'nei Akiva, for six years, in addition to running B'nei Akiva programming in Newton during my senior year."

Doron noted that "many teachers at Maimonides always taught us of the centrality of Israel in Judaism," mentioning particularly Rabbi Avinoam Durani and former Judaic studies teacher Rabbi Dr. Asher Schechter, who now lives about 10 miles east of Ma'aleh Adumim.

"I hope to continue to contribute to Israeli society and help this country grow and develop into its eighth decade," Doron concluded.



Doron Cheses '14

I made some great friends, travelled to incredible places all over the country, and really fell in love with the country of Israel."

He also was inspired by his teachers. "The Torah I was learning was not only about *halachic* topics, but through the teachings of the *Roshei Yeshiva* Rav Nahum Rabino-

CLASS NOTES

1974

Mazal tov to **Rebecca Jacobs** on the birth of her granddaughter, Flavie Karen. Parents are Malachi Handler and Sarah Simoneau.

1978

Mazal tov to **Sarah Jacobs** and David Kronfeld on the marriage of their daughter Dena to Tristan Shelton.

1986

Mazal tov to **Shani Abelson** on the engagement of her son Zakai Jacobson to Shelly Kaplan.

1992

Mazal tov to Dina Epstein and **Eitan Levisohn** on the birth of their son, Leor Jacob. Grandparents are Sybil and Dr. Steven Levisohn.

2000

Mazal tov to Elisha and **Rabbi Dov Huff** on the birth of their daughter, Nava Bracha. Grandparents are Nendi and Dr. Melvyn Huff.

2003

Mazal tov to:

Chana Penini and **Kenny Gerber** on the birth of their son, Kobe. Grandparents are Cynthia and Leonard Gerber.

Sarah (Lampert) and Ronnie **Lee** on the birth of their daughter, Eliana Ruth. Grandparents are Cheryl and Jay Lampert.

2004

Mazal tov to **Elisheva (Klausner)** and **Ezra Pinsky** on the birth of their daughter, Margalit Elana. Grandparents are Miriam and Mitchell Klausner.

2006

Mazal tov to **Toby Kuperwaser** on his engagement to Talia Warmflash. Toby is the son of Judith and Dr. Mark Kuperwaser.

Condolences to

Rachel Levine '87 and Sarah Levine '88 on the loss of their beloved father, Prof. Julius Levine, **ב"ר**.

Yoni Kirby '05 on the loss of his beloved mother, Lori Kirby, **ב"ר**.

Maimonides Alumni Here and There...

Members of the Class of 1969, led by **Debbie (Katz) Cohen**, are already hard at work planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation -- in Jerusalem. The tentative date is July 7, 2019 (4 Tammuz). Debbie said the organizers are targeting not only graduates but also "classmates who 'got away' before graduation." She added that the class hopes the annual gathering of alumni and friends in Israel will overlap with the reunion. There's also a unique reunion component -- orga-

nizers already have requested submissions for a Class of 1969 cookbook, which will be available for sale after the reunion.

Harvard Law School hosted a screening of "Radical Jew," a film produced by **Noam Osband '98** about the worldview of Baruch Marzel. The screening was followed by a conversation between Noam and Yehudah Mirsky, associate professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University.

One of the patriarchs of the extended Maimonides School family, Dr. J. Aaron Herschfus, celebrated his 100th birthday this month. Dr. Herschfus is the father of three Maimonides graduates, **Dr. Marvin Herschfus '72**, **Judy (Herschfus) Spitzberg '73** and **Lynne (Herschfus) Blander '78**; the grandfather of two, **Danny Spitzberg '02** and **Elan Spitzberg '06**; and the great-uncle of two, **Moses Sternstein '01** and **Lily (Wilf) Mintz '11**.



Dina (Pittel) Adelsky '02, right, poses with **Meirit Cohen '18**, Project Shalom volunteer at Jewish Women's Archive in Brookline, MA, where Dina is director of development.

"We wanted Meirit to come away from this experience with a sense of the diversity of work that happens at a nonprofit organization, as well as an understanding of how even the smallest project can make a difference," Dina said. "I was so excited to have a Maimo student this year and am glad that it was a mutually beneficial experience."