Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share the following report detailing the activities and accomplishments of Yeshiva University’s Center for the Jewish Future over the past academic year. Our vision for the future of North American Jewish life remains positive and bold—complete with strong, vibrant communities led by inspired and passionate leaders, embracing a Judaism that is tolerant, relevant and meaningful. Our presence is felt equally in the classroom and in the community, as we convene the resources of Yeshiva University, under the inspired leadership of President Richard M. Joel, to nurture students, build community and service Jewish communal professionals.

Your understanding of and support for our vision of a vibrant Jewish community encourages and sustains us in our effort to develop passionate Jewish leaders and communities that embrace a Torah Umadda lifestyle.

We look forward to our continued partnership in developing a bright Jewish future,

Byedidut,

Rabbi Kenneth Brander
The David Mitzner Dean
Yeshiva University’s Center for the Jewish Future
Page 8 Building Community - Rabbinic Services
Jewish Career Placement • Assistant Rabbi Conference • Stone Rabbinic Internships • RIETS Rabbinic Alumni • CHAVRUSA Magazine • Jewish Job Fair • The Legacy Heritage Rabbinic Resource Center Website • Alumni Yarchei Kallah • Executive Rabbinic Seminars • Webinar Series • Pre-Rosh Hashanah & Pre-Pesach Yarchei Kallah • Chomer LDrush Conference Calls • Rebetzins Yarchei Kallah • Orlando Conference

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Jewish Life Coast to Coast Experiential Learning Mission • A Place Called Home Israel Experiential Learning Mission • Project Kharkov Service Learning Mission • Nicaragua Humanitarian Service Learning Mission • Mexico Humanitarian Service Learning Mission • New Orleans Service Mission • Larry and Lenore Zusman Counterpoint Israel Program • Counterpoint Brazil • Certificate Program in Experiential Education • Innovator’s Circle

Page 35 YUConnects
Rabbis were serviced by the Rabbinic Resource web site, Legacy Heritage Distinguished Rabbinic Fellowship, Alumni Yarchei Kallah, Rabbinic Webinars and Chomer L’Drush Conference Calls.
Building Community: Rabbinic Services

Jewish Career Placement
Despite the challenge of a weak economy, as of June 20, 2011, CJF-RIETS Morris and Gertrude Bienefeld Department of Jewish Career Development and Placement has placed twenty eight rabbis in pulpits, four organizational administrators in Jewish organizations, and eleven kollel fellows around the country. A web site managed by this department allows communities and schools to post teaching and organizational positions they are looking to fill, and lets Jewish communal professionals find prospective jobs. Pulpit, educational administration, and other senior positions are not posted online but are managed personally by the placement directors. Pulpit and organizational positions are handled by Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg and assistant director Rabbi Elly Krimsky; for educational administration, a new department was created last year as part of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration’s Institute for University-School Partnership under the directorship of Dina Rabhan, LMSW.

Over the past year, a great deal of work has been done to create a new, up-to-date standardized model contract for pulpit rabbis.

Assistant Rabbi Conference
The CJF recently hosted its annual seminar for assistant rabbis to discuss different topics of interest including, “Relationship to the Senior Rabbi,” “Assistant Rabbi vs. Senior Rabbi,” “Programming and Best Practices” and “It’s Not Too Early: Building your Financial Future.” Assistant rabbis from across the country including Canada participated in the conference.

Stone Rabbinic Internships
Thirty three semikhah students were offered internship opportunities during their final pre-ordination phase of the Rabbi

Jewish Career Placement 2003–2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Positions Filled</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>5764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>5765</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>5770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>5771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Pulpit: 14, 15, 29, 31, 33, 31, 23, 28
- Intern: 5, 5, 9, 29, 30, 48, 54, 33
- Institution: 8, 8, 9, 12, 6, 4, 11, 3
- Kollel: 2, 3, 7, 0, 15, 5, 4, 11
Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) program. These students served as rabbinic interns under qualified mentors. Twenty-three students were placed in congregations, seven had educational internships and three were given internships in communal service or chaplaincy. As part of the Stone Rabbinic Internship program there are also full day seminars on a variety of topics including “Getting Your Next Position,” “Making the Right Impression,” and “Work-Life Balance.”

RIETS Rabbinic Alumni
RIETS Rabbinic Alumni’s primary goal is to link its over 2,000 ordained rabbis to YU and RIETS and to each other. This century-old Torah fraternity features members serving in the pulpit, Jewish education, chaplaincy (both military and health care), outreach, academia, organizational professionals, roshei yeshiva, kollel fellows, many who have retired from those positions, and the laity. Programs are geared toward maintaining a connection to the Yeshiva and its faculty and enabling professional growth. In addition, Rabbinic Alumni creates a social network, offers help during times of financial stress, and assists the professional rabbi in dealing with new challenges. In 2010 a Rabbinic Advisory Committee (RAC) was established, consisting of thirteen rabbis from the pulpit, Jewish education, and the laity, representing different age and geographical cohorts.
CHAVRUSA Magazine
The RIETS Rabbinic Alumni office produced CHAVRUSA magazine, which shared news of RIETS, YU, its alumni and faculty, divrei Torah, features on members and announcements about upcoming events. CHAVRUSA magazine is sent to every Rabbinic Alumni, all current RIETS students and their parents, and many faculty and friends of the University.

Jewish Job Fair
In February 2011, representatives from 37 day schools and 26 Jewish non-profit organizations attended a fair enabling over 300 job seekers to meet with key organizations to help find jobs. Schools attending included elementary and high schools in the tristate area, as well as schools from Texas, Missouri, Florida, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and California. Organizations included the American Friends of Alyn Hospital, the Orthodox Union/NCSY, American Friends of Nishmat, Aish Center New York, Teva Learning Center, K’elu: Torah Theater, Frumster, LLC, and Keren Or. The first hour of the job fair was open exclusively for YU students and alumni. The last two hours were open to the public. This event was coordinated in partnership with the Institute for University-School Partnership of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.

Rabbinic Resource Center Web Site
Currently serving over 680 rabbis in 15 countries, this password protected web site is a comprehensive online resource for rabbis providing access to the intellectual resources at Yeshiva University, program materials relevant to rabbis, and the services of a prominent scholar available to rabbis to research and respond to queries. The site also facilitates sharing of materials and information among geographically-distant rabbis. The site is accessible exclusively to pulpit rabbis at www.yu.edu/cjf/rabbis.

Alumni Yarchei Kallah
The Yarchei Kallahs are designed to stimulate, strengthen, and sharpen the rabbis’ skills related to programming, pedagogy and presentation, and to inspire them in the holy work they do. The program also supports this network of like-minded colleagues who often find themselves isolated in their particular pulpits. Interaction at the program allows rabbis to share and discuss the challenges they face in a safe, intimate setting. The CJF ran this year’s program on Feb. 28 – March 2 in Philadelphia, where CJF Senior Scholar Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter convened the program and filled the role of key presenter. Psychotherapist Mrs. Yocheved Schacter led a session on “The Rabbi’s Personal Life” and Rabbi Kenneth Brander presented on “Exploring the Ideology, Historicity and Modern Role of a Synagogue and School” and “YU and You,” a discussion about how rabbis can work together with our University. The program also featured interaction with Mr. Leon Wieseltier, noted author and literary editor of The New Republic.

Pre-Rosh Hashanah and Pre-Pesach Yarchei Kallah
A Pre-Pesach Yarchei Kallah was convened for a cohort of 30 rabbis in Edison, NJ, on March 28 – 30, 2011. The program developed camaraderie amidst a sharing of sermon material and discussions of how to best deliver and teach from the pulpit. This same group of rabbis also gathered in August for a Pre-Rosh Hashanah Yarchei Kallah. This program is part of the Legacy Heritage Distinguished Rabbinic Fellowship, generously supported by Legacy Heritage Fund Limited.

Executive Rabbinic Seminars
The CJF teamed up with YU’s Sy Syms School of Business to run a three-day seminar that focused on “Synagogue Entrepreneurial Success.” Also participating in these seminars were professionals from Image Dynamics, a management consultation firm that works with industry leaders and emerging businesses, as well as the Alban Institute, an organization that provides resources and support for clergy of all faiths.

Rabbinic Resource Center

680 registered rabbis use the rabbinic resources website
A monthly average of 1,680 visits from 310 unique rabbinic visitors, generating 6,209 page views. The site currently has 685 sample lectures and resources for rabbis.
This program addressed team roles, leadership dynamics and managing institutions, all with an entrepreneurial spirit. Twenty rabbis and twenty key officers from their respective synagogues’ lay leadership participated in these seminars. Participants learned management techniques that will help them enhance their leadership skills, increase avenues of communication, and improve the governance of their congregations.

Webinar Series
The second annual rabbinic webinar series focused on topics such as “You’re Hired! Common Issues in Rabbis’ Employment Agreements” and “Jewish Parenting & Technology: Educating Rabbis on Dangers of New Media & the Tools Available to Manage Them,” and were presented by recognized experts in each of the areas addressed. The series featured 10 presentations throughout this past winter and spring. The goal of these webinars is to provide programming to rabbis around the world on specific topics in a medium that is interactive, easily accessible and cost effective. Recordings of the webinars are available to rabbis at www.yu.edu/cjf/rabbis.

Chomer L’Drush Conference Calls
A conference call for rabbis, in which seasoned rabbis share ideas for Yom Tov sermons with their colleagues, took place in March in preparation for Pesach. It featured presentations by Rabbi Yosef Blau, mashgiach ruchani of Yeshiva University-RIETS, Rabbi Kenneth Hain, rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom, Lawrence, NY, and Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Riskin, Chief Rabbi of Efrat, Israel and founder and dean of Ohr Torah Stone Colleges and Graduate Programs.

Rebbetzins Yarchei Kallah
The Rebbetzin Esther Rosenblatt Yarchei Kallah for rebbetzins took place this past November in Teaneck, NJ under the leadership of Mrs. Meira Davis, a rebbetzin in Hollywood, FL and an exceptional leader and mentor. The purpose of this program is to give rabbis’ wives the opportunity to meet with seasoned professionals to discuss issues of self, family and community in a safe and supportive environment. The participants also had the opportunity to network, develop lasting relationships, nurture a support system and enjoy the intellectual stimulation of Torah study with leading Jewish scholars while being mentored by more experienced rebbeitzins.

Seventy five rebbeitzins gathered together from 18 states, Canada and Hong Kong. Ten mentors were also in attendance. The theme of the conference was “Appreciating the Rabbinic Couple: Formal and Informal Influence of the Rebbetzin.”

The women heard excellent shiurim and presentations from rabbis, mental health professionals and kallah teachers on many topics relating to their personal and communal roles as rebbeitzins.

Speaking About Rabbinic Yarchei Kallahs
“CJF’s continuing education programs for rabbis, particularly the Yarchei Kallahs and seminars that bring rabbinic colleagues together from around the country, are having a transformational impact on our rabbinate and, by extension, our communities. The programs contribute immeasurably to our own intellectual growth, and also provide us with a setting to engage colleagues and YU leadership in thoughtful, reflective and visionary conversations about the contemporary Orthodox rabbinate, as both calling and profession. For many of us, these programs have taken on sacred status and are simply not to be missed.”
Rabbi Ari Perl, Congregation Shaare Tefilla, Dallas, TX
Some of the speakers included Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Dr. David Pelcovitz, Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg, Mrs. Peshi Neuburger, Dr. Sara Barris, and Dr. Naomi Greenblatt. Rabbi Kenneth Brander and his wife, Ruchie Brander, hosted the women in their home for a lovely dinner. President Richard Joel and his wife, Dr. Esther Joel, had an enjoyable interactive session with the rebetzins. Judging by the lively and enthusiastic interaction between the rebetzins, in the sessions and out of the sessions, there was a lot of positive networking. This event acknowledges the great contribution and influence of rebetzins in the growth and success of the rabbinic couple in developing their community.

Orlando Conference
A group of nearly 40 pulpit rabbis from around North America gathered at the Hilton Orlando from Jan. 1 – 4, for a conversation about shared dreams and goals, how YU can better serve them, their families and their communities, and how they can more effectively partner with YU to support its needs in enrollment, fundraising and reputation. Participants also had opportunities to connect on a more human level, be it with a heartfelt kumzitz, or in joyous Rosh Chodesh davening.

The experience embodied and celebrated our commitment to partnering with community leaders. Participating rabbis facilitated the discussions, and the YU personalities who attended, including President Richard M. Joel, Rabbi Yona Reiss, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Dr. Hillel Davis, Rabbi Kenneth Brander, Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Rabbi Levi Mostofsky, Dan Forman, Rabbi Ari Rockoff and Rabbi Aaron Leibowitz were able to listen to and talk with these rabbis as partners. The CJF also engaged Rhoda Weisman as a third party consultant, who played an important role in keeping everyone honest and on point.

Our generous hosts, Ira Mitzner, YU trustee and chair of the CJF advisory council, and his wife Mindy, passionately introduced the conference, outlining its goals and underscoring the need to create a safe space for these rabbis to talk privately together.

Speaking About Rebbetzins’ Yarchei Kallahs
“"I felt supported and inspired by an amazing group of women who completely understand the challenges and blessings I encounter in my role as a rebbetzin."

“I very much enjoyed all of the sessions, the setting, the food and the overall effort and care that was put into the Yarchei Kallah. Yasher Koach!”

“"I am a new Rebbetzin and needed to reflect on my position, spend some time on my own spiritual growth, and meet/hear from other Rabbis and Rebbetzins. The Rebbetzin’s Yarchei Kallah gives you the opportunity to do all these things."

Quotes are taken from evaluations which are anonymous, in order to ensure accurate feedback.

Rebbetzin’s Yarchei Kallah participants
2008 - 40
2008 - 45
2009 - 65
2010 - 75
2011 - 100*

*anticipated
The YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago and the YU Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov of Toronto reach over 2,600 people each week through classes, programs and special events.
Community Initiatives and Partnerships

Year-Round Kollelim

Yeshiva University’s year round kollelim in Chicago and Toronto are transformational initiatives that position YU-RIETS as a “Yeshiva without walls,” primed to spread the values of Torah Umadda to the broader community.

Each in their unique way, these YU satellites look to enrich and engage the greater Jewish community with inspired Torah living and learning, celebrating the core values of the primacy of Torah, embracing the larger world through the prism of Jewish ideals and underscoring the religious significance of the State of Israel. Moreover, these initiatives create a laboratory for cultivating young rabbis as future communal leaders by offering them a multiplicity of communal opportunities.

On a weekly basis, the Chicago and Toronto kollelim are touching over 2,600 people, 30 synagogues, eight yeshiva day schools and high schools, federations, and JCCs with over 40 shiurim and a weekly Torah publication. Additionally, the kollelim have worked to address sensitive issues such as a communal response to the tragedy in Itamar and the recent controversy surrounding brain death and Jewish law.

Due in part to the efforts of the kollel, Chicago now has 24 YU rabbis serving in the community, up from four who had been there before the kollel. In addition, a number of graduating kollel members have chosen to remain within the community as rabbis, educators and lay leaders. The Chicago and Toronto kollelim have also had great success in placing graduates of the programs in pulpit positions throughout North America.

School Kollel Fellowships

The school kollel has proven to be an integral part of a school’s educational environment and will be entering its seventh year in September 2011. Thirty kollel fellows visit several schools in the NY metropolitan area on a weekly basis, including Ramaz, Hebrew Academy of Long Beach-DRS, Yeshivat Noam, Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey and Yeshiva University’s High School for Boys. Kollel fellows play an essential role in those schools, acting as energetic role models, participating in learning programs and creating bonds with high school and elementary school students. They lead study groups, teach classes and sometimes even attend school trips and Shabbatonim.

Speaking About Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago

“The YU Kollel has been like an extended family to us. Debbie very much participates in the women’s learning, Rebecca in the teen programming and learning, and I learn with the Kollel every Sunday morning. Most importantly, the relationships that we have developed with the Kollel families inspire us to lead our lives as Orthodox Jews.”

Marc Pershan, 1st Vice President, Supervisory Principal Leumi Investment Services, Inc.
Equally important are the benefits that the kollel fellows themselves receive from the program. Kollel fellows interact regularly with master Jewish educators who serve as their mentors in their professional development. The program also opens professional doors for the kollel fellows, as many of them have gone on to full time positions at these schools upon graduation from RIETS.

Summer Kollelim

Summer Kollels and Internship Programs took place in the summer of 2010 in Israel, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and Teaneck. Fellows spent time learning in these communities, while running various programs for local residents.

Summer Kollelim for 2011 took place in Los Angeles, Stamford, Teaneck and Atlanta. The Teaneck Kollel, hosted by Congregation Keter Torah and led by RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Eli Baruch Shulman, featured daily youth programming as well as a “Back from Israel” evening learning program geared toward students who have recently completed a year or two of Torah study in Israel. The Los Angeles Beit Midrash, hosted by Congregation Beth Jacob, consisted of 10 students from YU and Stern who will engage in serious Torah study as well as teaching and programming geared toward the broader Los Angeles Jewish community, under the leadership of the Rosh Kollel Rabbi Dr. Alex Mondrow. The Atlanta Beit Midrash for men and women was under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Broyde, Rabbi

Torah Tours 5771 Communities

Bangor, ME • Bayside, NY • Binghamton, NY • Boynton Beach, FL • Brookline, MA • Buffalo, NY • Cincinnati, OH • Columbus, OH • Dallas, TX • Denver, CO • Dewitt, NY • East Brunswick, NJ • East Windsor, NJ • Easton, PA • Edison, NJ • Elizabeth, NJ • Elkins Park, PA • Ellenville, NY • Fair Lawn, NJ • Flushing, NY • Forest Hills, NY • Glasgow, Scotland • Glendale, NY • Great Neck, NY • Holyoke, MA • Houston, TX • Las Vegas, NV • Lido Beach, NY • Linden, NJ • Livingston, NJ • Long Branch, NJ • Lowell, MA • Malden, MA • Mamaroneck, NY • Memphis, TN • Merrick, NY • Milwaukee, WI • Montreal, QB • Morristown, NJ • New Haven, CT • New Rochelle, NY • Newton Centre, MA • Newton, MA • New York, NY • North Miami Beach, FL • Overland Park, KS • Palo Alto, CA • Paramus, NJ • Parsippany, NJ • Philadelphia, PA • Pittsburgh PA • Poughkeepsie, NY • Providence, RI • Richmond, VA • Roslyn Heights, NY • San Francisco, CA • Schenectady, NY • Silver Spring, MD • Skokie, IL • Springfield, NJ • Stamford, CT • Toronto, ON • Washington, DC • West Hartford, CT • West Hempstead, NY • Westmount, QC • Wilkes Barre, PA • Williamsville, NY • Wynnewood PA

Torah Tours Training

Training was provided for all students participating in the Blanche and Aaron Schreiber Torah Tours to maximize the experience for themselves as well as for the host community.
Adam Starr and RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Jeremy Wieder, and the Stamford Community Kollel which was under the leadership of Rosh Kollel Rabbi Daniel Z. Feldman.

Women’s Summer Beit Midrash
This four week program combines dynamic Torah study with community outreach. The Beit Midrash is comprised of 10 full-time learning Fellows who learn in text-intensive sessions and lectures focusing on Halacha, Gemara and Tanach. The entire tristate community is welcome to join the Fellows in their full-time study as well as take advantage of special community programming such as evening lectures, afternoon programs for elementary school students and lunch and learn sessions for women in the community. In 2010 the program was hosted in Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York City, and this year’s Beit Midrash was housed at Congregation Rinat Yisrael in Teaneck, NJ, featuring daily shiurim from Stern College for Women faculty Rabbi Moshe Kahn and Mrs. Nechama Price, as well as Rabbi Donnie Besser.

Summer Lay Leadership Experiences
Last summer, the CJF partnered with Rabbi Dani Rockoff and the Kansas City Jewish community to create a pilot program, the Kansas City Summer Fellowship. The program is continuing this summer with

Speaking About
Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov of Toronto

“The Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov of Toronto has had a profound impact on the Toronto Jewish Community. Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner has transformed our community through his erudition, vision and energy. The YU Kollel is committed to achieving excellence in Jewish education and to reaching out to all segments of our community. This initiative must be supported. Rabbi Torczyner is to be congratulated for his impressive achievements and encouraged to realize his vision for Jewish Toronto.”

Professor Hindy Najman, Director, Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto

“The Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov of Toronto is a great resource for Toronto. The quality of shiurim and the warmth of the avreichim have raised the profile of Torah learning in our community. Rabbi Torczyner and Rabbi Berzon teach Torah with a love and erudition that communicate the core values of Yeshiva University. I am blessed to call them my partners.”

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Rabbi of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
eight YU student participants working at various internships during the week, while engaging the greater Jewish community with Torah learning, informal educational programs and social events on evenings and on Shabbat. Students have been placed at internships at Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Kauffman Foundation and Kansas City Legal Aid.

This innovative program brings the energy and idealism of our students to Kansas City, exposes YU students to Jewish life outside of New York, and reinforces their studies at YU, reminding them that their commitment to Jewish values requires an engagement in the workplace as well as in the arena of community responsibility. This summer, in addition to working with the Kansas City community, the group also travelled to Joplin, MO, to assist with the recovery and rebuilding efforts in that city.

In Chicago, Rabbi Reuven Brand and the Yeshiva University Torah Mitzvah Kollel have partnered with Chicago lay leaders, led by 2011 Kollel honoree Marc Pershan, to once again create a unique summer experience for YU students seeking to gain work experience while still spending the majority of their stay in the city involved in serious Torah study. Students participating in the YU Chicago Lay Leadership Summer Program are learning Torah with Rabbi Brand in the mornings and working at internships in their areas of interest in the afternoons.

Torah Tours
A total of 600 students participated in The Aaron and Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours program over Simchat Torah 2010 and Shavuot 2011, visiting over 100 shuls across North America. Students, both women and men, were given the opportunity to present sermons and teach classes at their host synagogues, and were instrumental in adding a joyful spirit to the communities they visited. Many students traveled back to their host communities throughout the year, on their own initiative, to run additional programming and to continue building the relationships that began on Simchat Torah.

YU West Coast Region Shabbaton
The YU community in Los Angeles hosted visiting YU scholars in 10 shuls and six area high schools throughout the neighborhood as part of a YU Shabbaton in L.A. The weekend, supported by the Jeddson Family Community Grant, included eminent speakers such as President Richard M. Joel; Rabbi Hershel Schachter, RIETS rosh yeshiva; Center for Jewish Future’s David Mitzner Dean Rabbi Kenneth Brander; Rabbi Lawrence Hajof, instructor of Jewish studies faculty at Stern College for Women; Yael Leibowitz, Judaic studies faculty at Stern College for Women; Dr. Rona Novick of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration; Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky, RIETS rosh yeshiva; Rabbi Eli Baruch Shulman, RIETS rosh yeshiva; and Dr. Efrat Sobolofsky, director of YUConnects.

Sarah Emerson Helfand ’03S, director of YU’s West Coast Region, stated, “It was gratifying to see the vibrant YU community here on the West Coast come together to show support for the University, and this weekend was only one of many wonderful events that YU has planned for the region.”

The participating shuls included Adas Torah, Beth Jacob Congregation, Bnai David-Judea, West Coast Torah Center, Yavneh, Young Israel of Century City, Young Israel of Hancock Park, Young Israel of North Beverly Hills and Shaarey Zedek.

“The thriving Jewish community of Los Angeles models many of Yeshiva University’s ideals,” said President Joel. “YU hopes to learn from its vitality and share with it the full gamut of our educational and inspirational resources in an attempt to better weave together the patchwork of Torah Umadda communities around this country.”

The jam-packed weekend also featured special programming with area high schools and performances by YouTube stars, The Maccabeats.

YU Long Island Region Shabbaton
On Oct. 8–9, the Five Towns community hosted President Joel along with prominent YU visiting scholars including Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Yona Reiss, Dr. David Shatz and Rabbi Kenneth Brander. “The goal of the weekend was to bring the diverse Torah knowledge of YU to the thousands of families in the Five Towns,” said Rabbi Brander. Speakers spent Shabbat rotating between various shuls including Aish Kodesh, Beis Haknesses of North Woodmere, Congregation Beth Shalom, Congregation Kneseth Israel (The White Shul), Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst, Young Israel of North Woodmere and Young Israel of Woodmere. The weekend included an inspiring Friday night tisch for high school boys, a lively symposium for high school girls and a shalosh seudot with Rabbi Hershel Schachter.

“The Jewish future is going to be shaped by key communities, by their inhabitants, their values, and their institutions,” said President Joel.

“The Five Towns is one such community.”

The Five Towns community continues to be a strong focus of the Center for the Jewish Future’s Community Partnership Division. With a robust regional council, a newly appointed regional director and a host of dedicated events, the neighborhood deepened their long-established bond with Yeshiva University. In “Bringing YU to YOU,” a specialized three-part Winter Series of Kollel Yom Rishon shiurim, area shuls hosted hundreds of attendees on Sunday mornings. Dr. Hillel Davis spoke to local undergraduate parents in February on “Six Secrets to Success in Campus Life,” imparting insider wisdom to a fascinated crowd. YUConnects, the arm of the CJF that fosters matchmaking and networking opportunities, ran two spectacular initiatives in collaboration with an active Five Towns Committee: a hugely successful Purim Panoply event for 100 singles in March and an outstanding symposium for parents attended by over 150 people.
Numerous other visits by roshei yeshiva and scholars-in-residence programs were instituted by the Speaker’s Bureau with tremendous positive feedback by the local community.

ChampionsGate Leadership Conference

ChampionsGate, hosted by Ira Mitzner, YU trustee and chair of the CJF advisory council, and his wife Mindy, is an annual leadership conference in Orlando Florida, leading to a year-round conversation that strives to engage, unite and connect the very best leadership of the Orthodox community. The ChampionsGate experience extends far beyond the conference itself. During the year the CJF continues to engage leadership in conversation and projects to address the major opportunities and challenges facing our community. ChampionsGate Ambassadors participate in a series of conference calls and follow up conversations together with Yeshiva University administration to guide and implement exciting new initiatives that advance our values and communities. Launched at ChampionsGate V, the Shabbat Table Conversations are now being shared with the broad community, and can be accessed online at www.yutorah.org/shabbatable.

For the first time ever, the ChampionsGate Community is embracing global partners, including groups from Israel, Australia, Brazil, England, Mexico and South Africa. Several of these communities have already been involved with Yeshiva University, sending delegates to YU’s Model UN for high school students.

Invited by President Richard M. Joel, ChampionsGate participants are community leaders who share the goals and values of Yeshiva University, and who can make a significant impact on the Jewish community. Participants are primarily lay leaders, joined by select Jewish community professionals, heads of schools and rabbis, who shape the Jewish community on both the local and global level. For more information about ChampionsGate, Please visit www.yu.edu/cjf/championsgate or email championsgate@yu.edu

“...when we all talk and discuss and become passionate about what is important for the future of our children, our utmost concern for them, which is their education, we have already began to frame the future...To engage with the young people who have the focus and passion to lead, gave us more than just hope for the future, it gave us a real charge. It would be futile to say it was a cutting edge event because it was more than that.”

Quotes are taken from evaluations which are anonymous, in order to ensure accurate feedback.
The Marcos and Adina Katz YUTorah.org web site is the largest Torah resource on the internet. It attracts users from all over the world, exposing the greater Jewish Community to the Torah of Yeshiva University.

70,000 monthly visits
Promoting the Values of Yeshiva University

The Abraham Arbesfeld Kollel Yom Rishon and Millie Arbesfeld Midreshet Yom Rishon

Three hundred women and men from the New York metropolitan area regularly attend the Abraham Arbesfeld Kollel Yom Rishon and Millie Arbesfeld Midreshet Yom Rishon Sunday Torah learning series each week. This continuing adult education program features outstanding speakers/teachers addressing cutting-edge topics in a warm learning environment. For more details, to sign up, and to listen to audio recordings of previous sessions, please see www.yu.edu/kollelyomrishon or www.yu.edu/midreshetyomrishon.

Community Yom Rishon Programs

Special Kollel Yom Rishon/Midreshet Yom Rishon lecture series took place in Philadelphia and the Five Towns.

Jewish Studies Yom Iyun

Over 500 men and women attended the annual Jewish Studies Yom Iyun at Yeshiva University, which showcases the scholarship of Yeshiva University faculty from all its schools of Jewish study. This year’s theme was Purim in Tanach, Talmud and Jewish History, held in March 2011.

Holiday To-Go Series

Before every holiday, a collection of articles relating to that holiday are compiled, written by YU faculty, roshet yeshiva, and various other Torah personalities. This past year, editions were published for Tisha B’av, Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Yom Haatzmaut and Shavuot. The booklets are distributed all over the country and world. In 2011, 22,500 printed copies were distributed to communities in the United States, Canada, England, South Africa and Israel. Communities benefitting from the series included Teaneck, the Five Towns, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, London, Toronto and Ra’anana. In addition, each volume was downloaded over 6,000 times online.

8 volumes per year

Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Yom Haatzmaut, Shavuot and Tisha B’av

![Bar chart showing printed copies of each To-Go volume from 2007 to 2011. The chart shows a significant increase in 2011 with 22,500 copies distributed.]
NEW!!! Shabbat Table Discussions

The Shabbat Table Discussions are designed to provide parents with a way in which to engage their families in discussion of midot and ethics. Using Shabbat meals for family conversations on topics of ethics empowers the entire family to grow and learn. The hope is that these materials help create appropriate conversations around the Shabbat table and encourage families to discuss these important issues.

Since the project launched in November 2010, the web site has received more than three thousands visitors each month to download the latest issue. Through our co-branding program, more than a dozen institutions distribute customized versions of these issues to their constituents. Feedback has been very positive. These packets aren’t only used at the Shabbat table. Some institutions have used them for yemei iyun [days of community learning] as well.

Tisha B’av

Tisha B’av Learning Series with Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter took place at Congregation Keter Torah in Teaneck, NJ throughout the entire day. One thousand people attended the lectures live, while there were 5,500 people watching online through the live webcast.

Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau offers more than 115 faculty from the University’s undergraduate, graduate and professional schools and affiliates to serve as keynote speakers and panelists on over 150 disciplines for lectures, conferences and symposia at schools, community centers, civic organizations and synagogues throughout North America and beyond.

The Speakers Bureau serves to inform the public about the wealth of impressive faculty at YU, and encourage synagogues, organizations, non-profit organizations, and perhaps other colleges and universities, to engage our speakers. The Speakers Bureau Web site (www.yu.edu/speakers) provides detailed information on the speakers and the critical topics they address. Each speaker’s page on the site contains the full resumes and photos of faculty, and their areas of expertise, as well as the types of events in which they have previously participated. Visitors to the site can also access information and tools to promote their events and to establish budgets and procedures for hiring speakers.

The Speakers Bureau has expanded the reach of its activities and projects into communities across North America through the generous support from the Jesselson Family Community Grant.

The Marcos and Adina Katz YUTorah.org

A monthly average of 375,000 page views are recorded regularly at the Marcos and Adina Katz Torah Web site, www.yutorah.org.
There are over 60,000 monthly visits from 25,000 unique visitors. More than 50 percent of the visitors to YUTorah have no prior experience with Yeshiva University.

The site features over 47,000 recorded lectures, classes, and seminars which help foster life-long Jewish learning, and the number is growing all the time. It also features cutting-edge media and social networking technology. In addition to showcasing the Torah being studied at Yeshiva University, YUTorah is a platform to showcase Torah from YU-affiliated schools and organizations. YUTorah also partners with synagogues and organizations to power their own Torah web sites with YUTorah technology.

Plans are in the works to create a mobile version of the site, as well as dynamic apps for smartphones to allow users to access Torah on the go on both the mobile and tablet environment.

YUTorah.org visits over past 12 months

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* Number reflects updated site design that allows for a more efficient user experience
The YU Student Medical Ethics Society conferences and programs drew medical professionals and rabbinic students from across the tristate area to learn about issues of Medical Ethics and the Jewish Community.
Leadership Training

Women's Leadership Fellowship

**Generously sponsored by the Covenant Foundation's Signature Grant and The Ambassador Alfred H. Moses Women's Leadership Initiative**

This year, the Center for the Jewish Future continued to develop the next generation of female leaders for the Jewish community with its Women's Leadership Fellowship.

This fellowship caters to select students at Stern College who exhibit outstanding leadership initiative and leadership qualities. The fellowship curriculum includes a plethora of female and male guest speakers who are distinct from one another both in terms of their backgrounds as well as in their various Jewish communal professional or lay roles. These speakers included Dr. Erica Brown, writer and educator who works as the scholar-in-residence for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington; Bracha Rutner, Yoetzet Halacha at the Riverdale Jewish Center and a Talmud and Halacha teacher in Yeshiva of Flatbush; Mem Bernstein, Trustee of both the Avi-Chai and Keren Keshet Foundation, and CB Neugroschl, head of school at Yeshiva University’s High School for Girls (Central). As a part of the fellowship, the Fellows will also be creating a leadership training program for high school students from Yeshiva University’s High School for Girls at the end of the year.

The Women’s Leadership Fellowship is generously provided for by the Covenant Foundation’s Signature Grant, which has, for the past 15 years, funded an array of programs which create and support innovative Jewish educational experiences, especially for women and girls. The fellowship trains, empowers and prepares these Orthodox women to assume leadership roles in the Jewish community, where we are aware that there is a growing need for female role models. In a safe and respectful environment, these women grapple with many of the major issues facing women in Orthodoxy today, with the hope of shaping their future and the future of Modern Orthodoxy.

The Graduate Program in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation

**Promoting Women’s Leadership**

**Generously sponsored by the Ambassador Alfred H. Moses Women’s Leadership Initiative**

The fully accredited Master of Arts program is an exciting development in advanced Jewish learning for women. Offered through Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University, this program is unique in its beit midrash-centered approach in addition to lecture-style classes. The

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**Speaking About Graduate Program in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation**

“I look back on my two years in the Graduate Program with tremendous fondness. I was able to devote myself to intense, in-depth Torah learning, guided by outstanding faculty, while at the same time growing with and from the special group of young women who chose to attend those first two years. As the first students in a groundbreaking program, we were so grateful for the opportunity to continue high-level Torah education within Yeshiva University. My experiences in the program, in which I first encountered Hilchot Niddah, were instrumental in leading me to pursue my dream of becoming a Yoetzet Halacha. The knowledge, perspective, and values that I bring to my work in this area of halacha are largely based on the foundation that I received from this program”.

Shayna Goldberg (GPATS '02)
environment is both intellectually rigorous and personally supportive. The curriculum provides an unrivaled level of training in Talmudic and Bible Studies for women seeking leadership roles in Jewish educational, communal, and religious organizations.

The Graduate Program in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation also offers unique professional development and placement opportunities for women. Through the CJF, the women in the program are placed as interns and scholars-in-residence in Jewish communities across the country. These placements provide students with leadership experience alongside religious and lay leaders and, at the same time, expose Jewish communities to women schooled in Jewish texts and tradition and in issues of special significance to women.

Through the Ambassador Alfred H. Moses Women’s Leadership Initiative, Yeshiva University has continued its placement of Community Scholar interns in synagogues across the United States. Our interns participate in the community on a bi-monthly basis by delivering lectures and sermons to adult members, and by offering educational programming for the youth membership.

Yeshiva University Student Medical Ethics Society
In addition to the many events held on campus throughout the year, the YU student-run Medical Ethics Society organized the Fuld Family Conference in October 2010 entitled, “A Beautiful Mind: Jewish Approaches to Mental Health,” which included 26 presenters and over 500 participants from the tristate area. Eating disorders, addiction and substance abuse, suicide and depression were among many mental health issues discussed during the full-day symposium. Due to the success of the conference, a second, half-day conference was held in February 2011 entitled, “Genomics & Jewish Identity.” Distinguished panelists presented on issues related to identifying a “Jewish” or “kohen” genome, and the ramifications of that information, to a crowd of over 250 participants.

Avodat HaKodesh Night
On February 17, over 100 students attended an intimate evening with the deans and recent graduates of Azrieli, Revel, RIETS, Wurzweiler and the Master’s Program in Advanced Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation. In small groups, the deans presented ways in which each school can prepare an individual for a career in Jewish communal service, while the recent graduates shared personal perspectives on how their graduate education had a direct, positive impact on their current careers in Jewish communal service. The students were able to direct important questions to all presenters that will help guide them as they make important choices related to their post-graduate education and future careers.

Ner Le’Elef
YU partners with Ner Le’Elef in running a program for semikhah students who are interested in careers in outreach. The program, which
is supported by and operates under the guidelines of Ner Le’Elef, is geared toward professionalizing the students’ practice, exposing them to major personalities in the field, and helping them develop skills and strategies to implement in a successful outreach career. Twelve students, located at both the Wilf Campus and Israel’s Gruss campus, meet via video-conference on a weekly basis. They receive a monthly stipend, and are committed to finding a career in outreach outside of the metropolitan New York area and Israel for two years following completion of the program.

The wives of Ner Le’Elef participants are also active in the program and subsequent commitments. They meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues relevant to them, particularly issues that pertain to life as a rebbetzin.

High School Programs

These programs allow Yeshiva University students to engage with high school students from around the country. Such programs enable our students to recognize their skills in effecting change in the student community and in inspiring high school students to recognize the contribution they can make to the Jewish people and society at large. All Yeshiva University students and advisors go through extensive training programs as part of these initiatives.

TLN (Torah Leadership Network)

Six hundred and fifty male and 450 female high school students participated in Torah Leadership Network (TLN) events including mishmars at the new Jacob and Dreizel Glueck Center for Jewish Study Beit Midrash and at Shabbatons in neighborhoods across the tristate area, which included Long Island and Teaneck. TLN also went on the road this year and ran programming in Toronto and Los Angeles.

450 female high school students from 13 tri-state area high schools attended TLN for Women mishmar events, for an evening of high level Jewish learning with Stern College students and faculty at Stern College on the Beren Campus. The program provided the Stern College students with the experience of both producing the program behind the scenes and acting as the actual teachers and mentors to the high school students.

Students are afforded this wonderful opportunity to create long lasting relationships with high school students. At the same time, the high school students are exposed to college-level Judaic studies, giving them a taste of the exciting options of advanced Torah study available to them after high school graduation.

Speaking About Eimatai

“(Eimatai) was beneficial and worthwhile, not only because of the impact it had on the high school students, but because of its impact on us as well”
Ron Nahshon (YC ’12, Eimatai Advisor ’10–’11)

“Eimatai was amazing! The YU students packed in all the fun and inspiration into a few hours, giving us the opportunity to make a difference by putting our thoughts into action and changing not only our lives, but the lives of the people around us”
Chavivah Bluth (Akiva Hebrew Day School in Detroit, Eimatai Participant ’10–’11)
Eimatai Leadership Development Project

Eimatai in-school workshops provide ongoing professional mentoring of high school students designed to cultivate a community of student leaders who grow together through critical analysis and leadership skill development. Over the course of this year, 19 Yeshiva University students interacted with 480 high school students from a variety of schools across North America through the Eimatai Leadership Development Project. Participating cities included Boca Raton, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Miami, as well as communities in the New York—New Jersey metropolitan area. Yeshiva University student advisors participated in a weekly year-long training program that prepared and enabled them to develop and facilitate high school leadership programming. Eimatai staff and advisors remain in close contact with the high schools throughout the year, and help mentor the students to develop meaningful community projects. This year, Eimatai's seminar workshops explored issues of inclusion and cultural diversity through global, social, educational and Torah perspectives.

Washington Leaders Fellowship Program

The Washington Leaders Fellowship is a group of lay leaders in the early and middle stages of their leadership efforts. The group meets regularly throughout the year primarily in the Washington, DC area to obtain cutting edge leadership training education, the tools to apply that education, and an introduction to community leaders and issues so that graduates can play a leadership role in the Orthodox and greater Washington Jewish community.

Major content areas covered over the course of the year include: teamwork, leadership and management styles, conflict management and resolution, strategic planning and implementation, and working inter-denominationally. In addition, there are explorations of Jewish communal leadership as it relates to religious expression and service. Most of the sessions are facilitated by Marc Spear and Dr. Craig Dreilinger. Speakers include President Richard M. Joel, Rabbi Kenneth Brander, Rabbi Yona Reiss, Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, Dr. David Pelcovitz and many others.

This year the program included a one-day trip to Yeshiva University to broaden participants’ perspectives on leadership initiatives and resources available to them. Personal coaching sessions are an integral part of the program. Additionally, in between seminars, fellows communicate online with each other and with program staff discussing articles and books relevant to their training.

The program is generously funded by local leaders in the greater Washington, DC area.

Speaking About Quest

“The highlight of my experience (with the Quest Leadership Training) has been the ability to work together with a group of talented and motivated individuals and to see how much good we can do when we work together.”

“(From participating in Quest, Leadership Training) I truly feel like I understand more and more the complexities of being a leader and the passion and planning that must go in to making a difference.”

“I would definitely recommend Quest to others because it is a great experience to be part of a special group and learn how to channel your skills to help your community.”

Quotes are taken from student evaluations which are anonymous, in order to ensure accurate feedback.
QUEST

Quest, the undergraduate leadership training program of the CJF, is an intensive two semester training program. To help the students stay focused on the importance of their work and the values driving their leadership, the Quest experience culminated with a mission to Israel, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund, on which the participants worked on volunteer projects and met with a diverse cross section of Jewish communities and their leaders.

The Quest leadership mission in January 2011 focused on the Negev, spending time in Yerucham, Be’er Sheva, S’derot and Halutza. Halutza is the area of the Negev that some of the remaining displaced Gush Katif evacuees plan to settle. Quest participants raised over $60,000 and awareness for the Halutza cause all semester long and then went to Israel to volunteer in Halutza as well. They used their hands to help develop the land and used their minds to engage with students and leaders of the community. In addition, in June 2011 the QUEST cohort raised over $20,000 for the JNF Parsons Water Fund, dedicated to water conservation and reclamation projects across Israel. We have found that after the mission, students from QUEST not only graduate the program with additional leadership skills, but continue their engagements by taking on their own projects in which they continue to display their leadership potential.

LimmudNY

A diverse delegation of students and staff from all levels of the university served as ambassadors to the 2011 LimmudNY Conference in upstate New York. Limmud is a four-day experience for a diverse community of Jews to come together for lectures, workshops, text study sessions and discussions. Our delegation was able to interact with Jews of all denominations and share with them their commitment to an Orthodox lifestyle in a friendly interactive fashion. The delegation benefited from the conversation and opportunity to spend the weekend with Jews on a path of spiritual exploration.
Over 765 students impacted communities across the globe on programs that traveled to different locations across North America, South America, Europe and Asia.
Experiential Education and Service Learning

Through service missions around the world, students engage in the most important journey of self-discovery

Jewish Life Coast to Coast Experiential Learning Mission

Virginia • South Carolina • Florida

With support from the Jim Joseph Foundation

January 6–16, 2011

On this trip, students learned about the broader Jewish community and the ways which they can become active in Jewish life, visiting four uniquely distinct communities along the East Coast.

In Richmond, Charleston, Jacksonville and South Florida students met with local rabbis, educators and communal leaders, including Rabbis Efrem Goldberg, Josh Broide, Yaacov Gibber and Perry Tirschwell in Boca Raton and Rabbi Ari Sytner in Charleston, to understand and appreciate the dynamic of Jewish communities and the challenges that they face. They also facilitated educational programs in schools, synagogues and community centers, all the while realizing their own passion in bringing change to Jewish communities. Students also volunteered and contributed to the Jewish and general community in a hands-on way, making a difference to those in need.

A Place Called Home Israel Experiential Learning Mission

With support from the Jim Joseph Foundation

January 9–16, 2011

To be a Jew in the Diaspora is to struggle with dual loyalties. On the one hand, Jews have established homes for themselves in countries where they feel a sense of purpose and belonging. Yet they also recognize Israel as the Jewish homeland. The students of Yeshiva University face an existential dilemma: should they build a home in Israel, their ideological birthplace, or live and build community in the Diaspora?

Joined by RIETS Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Yaakov Neuburger, the students traveled to Israel to face this dilemma. During the one-week trip the participants traveled across Israel and explored what it means to create a national home for the Jewish people and the cost of settling the land. They engaged the Israeli landscape of micro communities: kibbutzim, development towns, immigrant villages, towns in Judea and Samaria and religious and secular communities. Throughout this mission, the students explored their own relationship to their home in Israel and their home in North America.

In an effort to inspire a commitment to Jewish education and Jewish communal work, “A Place Called Home” took the students on a journey of how the Jewish homeland is created and protected and helped the students to clarify their roles as active contributors to the development of Israel. The students followed the footsteps of the Ethiopian, Bedouin and former Gush Katif communities, as well as a host of other communities, they immersed in educational outreach opportunities, and they learned about the emotional, spiritual, political and cultural struggles that these communities face.

Project Kharkov Service Learning Mission

In partnership with the Joint Distribution Committee

Sponsored by The Eckstein Family and Repair the World

January 7–18, 2011

Students gained a firsthand understanding of the welfare challenges and identity struggles facing the Jewish community of Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and how the JDC (American Joint Distribution Council) is addressing those community needs.

Over the course of ten days, students engaged in meaningful service projects, connected and built friendships with local Jewish peers while exploring what Jewish tradition has to say about service and responsibility to the Jewish people and the world.

In addition, prior to traveling to Ukraine, students led an interactive Shabbaton for immigrants from the Former Soviet Union currently living in Brooklyn.

Nicaragua Humanitarian Service Learning Mission

In conjunction with the American Jewish World Service

January 9–16, 2011

This program allows students that are interested in promoting social change in the developing world the opportunity to volunteer with AJWS grassroots partners, while exploring the relationship between social justice, service and Judaism.

The group volunteered in Boca de la Montana with the NGO Servicios Medicos Comunales (SMC) which promotes community-based sustainable development in the district of San Juan del Sur in
southwestern Nicaragua. SMC has implemented successful health promoter trainings, early-childhood nutrition programs, and education programs. During their time in Boca de la Montana, the students worked on building a library. This library is now the only one available within 250 miles, and local students walk three hours each way in order to use it. The participants slept in a modest building about 10 minutes walking distance from the work site.

This international experience laid the foundation for social justice engagement for the students upon their return, which included opportunities for public speaking, writing, advocacy and volunteer service. The group was accompanied by Yeshiva University mashgiach ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau.

Mexico Humanitarian Service Learning Mission

In conjunction with the American Jewish World Service
January 16–23, 2011

Founded in 1994 to promote the sustainable development of marginalized populations whose socio-economic status does not meet their basic needs, Hombre Sobre La Tierra (HST—Humankind on Earth) works with Mayan peasants in the Yucatán Peninsula in southeast Mexico to promote environmental sustainability and food self-sufficiency, advances the integration of women in the economy and strengthens the capacity of grassroots groups. YU students assisted with a variety of projects, including farming and harvesting in local and home gardens, building pools for aquaculture development, construction work on the community’s ecotourism project, and sustainable agriculture work in a community nursery.

HST works for the sustainable development of rural indigenous communities while supporting the strengthening of socio-cultural identities in that area. The YU students on this mission helped provide each family with whom they worked with a set of tools, seed and seedling packets, and an intensive training in environmentally sustainable agricultural techniques rooted in Mayan traditions. The group stayed in the community of Muchucuxcah and slept in palapas (palm shelters) in the Tourist Center on hammocks.

This international experience laid the foundation for social justice engagement upon return, which included opportunities for public speaking, writing, advocacy and volunteer service.

New Orleans Service Mission

Supported by the Repair the World Foundation
May 26-June 2, 2011

Twenty seven students traveled to New Orleans, LA and Birmingham, AL, for a week in May 2011 to engage in local service projects and tornado relief work. Additionally the students met with representatives and leadership of each of the communities.

The students were exposed to the current challenges facing both cities. They learned the story of New Orleans, a city still being rebuilt six years after Hurricane Katrina, and they saw Birmingham, a city destroyed by dozens of tornadoes, which is now at the very beginning of the rebuilding process. Students learned in a hands-on way the effects of devastation, the importance of service, and communal responsibility. Through interactions with homeowners and community members the students learned that volunteering can be done by anyone and everyone. This was a lesson that empowered both those being helped and those giving the help.

Larry and Lenore Zusman Counterpoint Israel Program

The Sharon and Avram Blumenthal Counterpoint Dimona Program
With Support from Repair the World
July 6-August 9, 2011

In July 2011, 22 undergraduate students participated in the Sharon and Avram Blumenthal Counterpoint Dimona Program for the fourth year. These students served as counselors, running two summer camps for at risk children and teens from low socio-economic backgrounds in the development town of Dimona in Southern Israel. Students ran sports and recreational activities, conducted workshops designed to build self-esteem, and instructed English language lessons, ending the summer with a closing event that brought the whole community together to see the talents of their youth. To view a student-narrated video about Counterpoint, visit www.counterpointsisrael.com.

Yemin Orde

Funded by the Jewish Federation of North America
August 3–18, 2011

Recently, the CJF was presented with a remarkable opportunity to broaden the scope of impact that YU students can have on underprivileged Israeli teens. During the northern Israel fires in December 2010, the Yemin Orde Youth Village was destroyed. The hundreds of youth that consider the village a safe haven and a home had
thus been faced with yet another traumatic experience to overcome.

In response, the CJF worked with the village leadership and the United Jewish Federations of North America to develop another branch of Counterpoint in an effort to provide those teens with a safe, fun, and educational framework for three weeks in August 2011.

The camp took place on the YU Israel campus in Bayit VeGan. Similar to the other Counterpoint Israel programs, the teens of Yemin Orde learned English and participated in empowerment programming while staying in a comfortable and nurturing environment.

Arad: An Accredited Summer Experience With Support from Repair the World, Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel of Newton, MA, and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey and Delaware.

In June 2011, students participated in a college course in New York entitled Social Action/Social Justice: The United States and Israel before they travelled to Israel in July to run a summer day camp for local teenagers in the development town of Arad. The camp experience served as a practical application of the academic theory that was studied in New York. This is the first academically accredited Jewish Service Learning program as well as the first camp of its kind to be founded in Arad.

Counterpoint Brazil

Over Sukkot a team of six experienced YU undergraduates and one RIETS student traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil to run cutting-edge programing at the Colegio Iavne High School there. The programming focused on Jewish identity, tradition and teen issues. The group spent the first days of Sukkot with the high school students in a hotel where they created a lively environment filled with ruach, singing and educational programming. Upon returning to the city of Joanópolis on Chol Hamoed, the YU team facilitated a Hoshanah Rabbah learning program, as well as a class for the adults in the community. The second half of the chag was spent back in the community where the YU students visited a number of different shuls over Simchat Torah, leaving a yet greater impression on the community as well as on the YU students. In addition to these important teaching moments, the YU students had the opportunity to meet with community leaders who are shaping the future of the Sao Paulo community.

In addition, in August 2011, a team travelled to Colegio Iavne to run similar programming focusing on Jewish identity, tradition, and teen issues. In addition to teaching, the students will serve as role models for the teens and meet with local community leaders to paint a broader picture of Brazilian Jewry today. Through this program the students will gain a broader understanding of global Jewry.

Certificate Program in Experiential Education
Funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation

In 2010, the Jim Joseph Foundation awarded Yeshiva University, along with Hebrew Union College and The Jewish Theological Seminary, a grant designed to prepare “more and better” qualified Jewish educators, primarily through degree and certificate programs, to work with Jewish
youth and young adults.

As part of this grant, Yeshiva University launched a new certificate program in Experiential Jewish Education with tracks in Jewish engagement, camping, youth work, social entrepreneurship, service learning and day school-based informal education.

Participants in the Certificate Program attended the first of four seminars in June 2011; the remaining three seminars will take place over the course of one year during academic breaks. These seminars, coupled with mentorship, networking, and career placement opportunities, will prepare the cohort to transform the landscape of experiential Jewish education and Jewish identity in frameworks ranging from camps to campuses and classrooms to communities. The certificate program will not only serve to educate the newly initiated about the field of experiential education, but will also provide additional skills to those already engaged in this field.

Innovator’s Circle

Funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation

Launched in March 2011, the Yeshiva University Innovators Circle is a full time, yearlong incubator project for six post-college individuals who have a vision and a venture that addresses local needs in the realm of education and social activism.

Beginning in June 2011, the Innovators will be given the opportunity to individually and collaboratively create, build and facilitate their own ventures, from the early planning stages to program execution.

By gaining exposure and access to a vast network of leading figures and thinkers in social entrepreneurship, Jewish professional life, philanthropy, social action and education, the Innovators will be closely mentored and coached.

As a track of the YU Certificate Program in Experiential Jewish Education, Innovators will receive full scholarship to attend the program, an annual stipend of $22,000 and seed money for their ventures.
A student’s reflection on Counterpoint Israel

by Eric Israeli

Two years ago, after completing my first stint on Counterpoint Israel, I recall leaving Israel feeling as though I had made a difference in the lives of a number of campers. I recall how empowering that feeling was, the knowledge that I had the ability to alter the course of the life of another human being for the better. Looking back on the experience today, two full years after, I know that that feeling was justified. Seeing my former campers today as the personalities that they have become only served as reinforcement for what I knew was true. The leadership skills that Counterpoint Israel had instilled in me, namely skills for education, group building and confidence boosting had paid off. The impact that I felt I had had on the campers was mutual. They had returned the favor by changing my life as well.

However, the different roles that I was forced to play this summer as a head counselor allowed me to appreciate leadership in a completely different way. As opposed to being responsible for a group of 10 Israeli youth, I was now responsible for a group of 19 American college students as well. Seeing their growth was inspiring, and watching them develop as leaders was powerful. While Counterpoint Israel is not a “leadership training” program, I cannot think of a more rigorous, demanding and challenging, yet fulfilling program. For this reason, counselors begin to take initiative, thinking to themselves how they can best alter camp or even the lives of individual campers. They begin to lead each other, to develop skills for interacting with colleagues and kids alike. At the end of his career, Lou Gehrig exclaimed that he considers himself “one of the luckiest men on the face of the Earth,” continuing that that feeling comes as a result of the people who he has interacted with, the personalities that he has worked with. I can honestly say that I feel the same way about our counselors.

I watched and learned throughout the summer because what was required to lead college students was very different from what had been required of me as a counselor. I think that the administration of Counterpoint helped me to realize very early on that in order to create a great staff, they must feel as though they control their own destiny. They must decide as a group how they want to approach different situations and opportunities. They also must be well-prepared for what they are about to do and confident about both of those things. Seeing from the outside how these two things are accomplished and watching counselors respond to them was also amazing. While I started off the summer running programming and meetings as I saw fit, as we progressed, the group began to decide for themselves how things would run. On the last Thursday, we ran a “Find the Counselor” night during which the campers were tasked with finding their disguised counselors. We had someone playing the role of a waitress in a coffee shop, someone dressed up as an older man sitting on a bench and a pregnant Chareidi woman among others. The counselors had entirely designed the night and the campers had the times of their lives. Clearly, the counselors had grown and risen to the occasion.

Henry Kissinger once commented, “The task of a leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been.” Counterpoint Israel, especially in the role of head counselor, did exactly that for me. The program is about striving for new goals, attempting to reach new heights, and about each counselor discovering more about themselves. As a group they managed to bond, relying on each other for what they know their fellow team members to be good at. Each counselor presents another skill or opportunity and the key as a head counselor is to utilize them all. As counselors begin to see the impact that they are having on their friends, they begin to lead and take charge as well. The dynamic that develops really is one of mutual leadership, “all for one and one for all.” While that was the slogan of our camp, it held true for the staff as well.

In closing and signing out for 2010, I think that the reason that Counterpoint Israel is such an incubator for leadership is because of the fact that counselors are relied on so heavily. They are expected to rise to occasions and they do. They desire to be as impactful and successful as possible, working extremely hard throughout camp to ensure just that. In this way, they are able to become the leaders that they always were.
The YUC Connects program has facilitated over 65 engagements in its short history, through both online matchmaking and fun and comfortable singles programs throughout North America.
YUConnects sponsors events, organizes educational forums on dating-related issues, and continues to serve as a proactive “address” for the larger discussion of communal perspectives about dating and marriage in the Jewish community. Using an interdisciplinary team of professionals and resources at Yeshiva University, YUConnects continues to make a difference by offering multiple venues for students and alumni, as well as non-YU singles, maximizing the networking reach.

YUConnects hosted 28 events this past year. These included Shabbatonim in Teaneck, Riverdale, Staten Island and Stamford, as well as socials for singles wishing to make aliyah, a Saturday night mixer in New Rochelle, a Purim Panoply event in Lawrence, and a young professionals shiur and mixer. Meet the Connector nights were also hosted with close to 50 connectors coming from around the tristate area to meet young men and women.

Additionally, educational forums titled “Developing Healthy Relationships in the Digital Age” were hosted at the Beren and Wilf campuses, partnering with the student leadership organizations, and the YU Counseling Center.

In total, over 1,000 people attended YUConnects events. Over 1500 people worldwide use the interactive matchmaking site facilitated by over 100 trained volunteer connectors. Members and connectors receive on-line newsletters with upcoming events and helpful dating tips. Since January 2008, 65 couples who met through YUConnects have gotten engaged, with many more couples meeting and networking. Please visit YUConnects at www.yu.edu/cjf/yuconnects to learn more.

This coming year, with the partnership of Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration and graduate level scholars, we are going to perform empirical studies focused on healthy relationship building aiming to create more effective, data-driven educational programs.

Speaking About YUConnects

“YUConnects is filling a niche in the Jewish community that no other organization has filled. If more places could do these types of events for more people and those on different points in the religious spectrum, and if YUConnects could be supported to do more, then so much more good could be done for us singles who benefit! I literally spent hours since the event telling all my friends about it, and convincing them to come to the next one”

“As a connector, I give much time and energy, but I receive so much more in return. Sincere appreciation expressed by members and joy in facilitating successful matches are invaluable rewards. Thank you YUConnects for granting me this wonderful opportunity!”

“Thank you so much for providing us with the great opportunity of finding our match through YUConnects.”

“We are forever grateful for your care and devotion in helping singles, including ourselves, find their spouses. Thank you!”

“We are so incredibly fortunate to have found each other. It is because of the hard work and dedication of all the YUConnects volunteers, as well as the many blessings from Hashem, that allow us to live each day as husband and wife, best friends and as each other’s ezer keneged. It is our hope that everyone uses YUConnects; one has nothing to lose and everything in the world to gain.”
Infusing Students with a Sense of Leadership and Responsibility
Building and Supporting Communities and their Leaders
Broaden Your Horizon With CJF’s Community Toolbox: HERE’S WHAT YU CAN DO FOR YOU!

LAY LEADER SERVICES

The Leadership Conference at ChampionsGate
In concert with community leaders from around the world prioritize, present and discuss an agenda of the issues facing the Modern Orthodox community at a yearly conference that convenes rabbinc, educational and lay leaders. The conference continues through regular phone conversations with President Joel and Rabbi Brander as well as task forces developed to implement change in issues affecting our community. Contact Rabbi Ari Rockoff at ChampionsGate@yu.edu

TORAH PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

YUtorah.org
Web site providing access to thousands of shiurim delivered by faculty of Yeshiva University and Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Contact Rabbi Robert Shur at shur@yu.edu

Holiday To-Go
Torah packets featuring contributors from within the YU community published for and relevant to each holiday. To ensure that your community is receiving these packets please contact Rabbi Robert Shur at shur@yu.edu

Orthodox Forum
A conclave of Modern Orthodox intellectuals and communal leaders which meets annually to discuss pressing and current religious and social issues. A volume comprised of the individual papers presented at the conference is published. Contact Rabbi Robert Hirat hir@yu.edu

Torah U-madda Journal
An annual journal devoted to the interaction between Judaism and general culture. Contact Dr. David Shatz at shatz@yu.edu

Beit Yitzchak
A scholarly Torah journal in Hebrew featuring articles on legal Torah concepts by RIETS faculty and students. Contact cjf@yu.edu

Tanakh/Jewish History Yom Iyun
A day of Tanakh learning, featuring a wide array of YU faculty members speaking about Bible, Jewish history and Jewish philosophy. For more information about how to participate in this program online, contact YUYomIyun@yu.edu

Student Medical Ethics Society Conference
This year’s conference, “A Beautiful Mind: Jewish Approaches to Mental Health” explored pressing issues in modern medicine. Guest lecturers include leading rabbis, physicians, researchers, and lawyers in the area of medical ethics. Visit us at www.yu.edu/medicaltheics

Shabbat Table Discussion
The Shabbat Table Discussion project provides families the opportunity to have facilitated conversations around the Shabbat table on important contemporary ethical and moria issues using Torah sources. Download the monthly piece at www.yutorah.org/shabbattable

COMMUNITY SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Kollel and Midrshet Yom Rishon
An opportunity to experience the energy of the Kollel/Midrshet Yom Rishon Program in your community. Create a lecture series on Sunday mornings delivered by dynamic male or female Torah scholars from Yeshiva University. Contact kollelyomrishon@yu.edu

YU Speakers Bureau
Tailor programs of speakers from within the YU community for the needs and desires of your community or institution. Contact speakersbureau@yu.edu

Aaron and Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours
Teams of young men and women dispatched to communities for Simchat Torah and Shavuot to teach classes, instill ruach, and create a fun and spirited Yom Tov experience. Contact Ms. Aliza Abrams at aabrams@yu.edu

Summer/Winter Kollelim
Establish adult and youth learning programs in various communities during winter and summer breaks with a contingency of Yeshiva University students. Contact YUKollel@yu.edu

RABBINIC & EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Morris and Gertrude Bienenfeld Department of Jewish Career Development and Placement
Access to professionals who aid institutions with the search process, management and mentorship of rabbis, educators and Jewish communal professionals throughout North America and beyond. Contact Rabbi Ronald Schwarberg at rswarza@yu.edu

Rabbis Yarchei Kallah
Conduct retreats for Rabbis designed to stimulate, strengthen and sharpen the participants’ preaching, pastoral, programming and teaching skills. The primary mentor in this program is Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter. Conversations on management skills and balance between the homework relationship is also part of the presentations. Contact Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter at jschacte@yu.edu

Rebbetzins Yarchei Kallah and Chat Room
Convene groups of rebbetzins to support and strengthen the skills they need to succeed in their unique role. The program includes in depth textual learning on topics on which the rebbetzins desire additional knowledge, mentoring between veteran and new rebbetzins, mental health conversations on a wide range of issues that the rebbetzins often deal with, and guidance on how to help the rabbinic family develop while being raised in the “eye of the community.” Contact Rebbetzin Meira Davis at meira.davis@yu.edu

Executive Rabbinic Seminars
Leadership management seminars bringing together synagogue rabbis, lay leaders and management consultants from the Sy Syms School of Business. Seminars focus on synagogue leadership and management, strategic planning, volunteer board development and leading transformational change. Contact Rabbi Levi Mostofsky at levi.mostofsky@yu.edu

Rabbinic Resource Website
A password protected website with exclusive resources for rabbis, including webinar recordings, shiur outlines, drasha ideas, a response research service, and a host of links to access our resources and services for rabbis. Available at www.yu.edu/CJF/rabbis.

shaaahaavodah.org
A vocational web site designed to help Jewish organizations find professionals they seek, and aid professionals in finding positions. Contact Ms. Keren Simon at ksimon@yu.edu
Yeshiva University’s Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) holds a bold vision for the future of North American Jewish life: inspired and passionate leadership; strong, vibrant communities; and a Judaism that is relevant, meaningful and ennobling. From the classroom to community centers and schools to synagogues, the CJF convenes the University’s rich intellectual resources and its long tradition of service to the world beyond our campuses. The CJF promotes and nurtures the enduring Jewish value of Tikkun Olam and demonstrates unwavering confidence in a dynamic, inspired, and inspiring Jewish future.

Our Priorities

- Enhance programs designed to build, cultivate, and support Jewish communities, their institutions and leaders with particular emphasis on training and education for rabbis
- Expand leadership development programs and opportunities for students to inspire and nurture a sense of responsibility to Klal Yisrael [the Jewish people] and the world community
- Create global initiatives that promote the value of Torah Umadda, passionate commitment to Jewish practice and study, and dedication to the vibrancy of the State of Israel

CJF Naming Opportunities

$500,000
Name the new Rabbinic Research and Resource Center which is used by over 350 rabbis assisting them with weekly drasha ideas, shiurim, access to cutting edge Jewish scholarship, halakhic perspectives on stories ripped from the headlines, and insights on contemporary matters.

$100,000
Create a series of YU Torah and academic speakers in 15 communities around North America.

$50,000
Dedicate CJF’s Holiday To-Go Torah booklets featuring contributors from YU scholars and Torah personalities. Published for each holiday, over 22,500 currently distributed to synagogues across the globe, with thousands worldwide downloading the series from YU’s virtual Torah learning site YUTorah.org.

$36,000
Champion Jewish education and the opportunity for our students to engage communities around North America by dedicating one of six summer kollelim around the country. These kollelim serve as incubators for both young men and women to increase their confidence and skills as future leaders, and enables the YU message to be shared across the North American communal landscape.

$36,000
Help us conduct three day spiritual retreats for rabbis designed to stimulate, strengthen and sharpen the 40 participants’ preaching, programming and teaching skills.

$25,000
Advance our communities by making possible an executive training seminar for 36 of our community’s rabbis and synagogue lay leaders. These seminars focus on leadership and management, strategic planning, volunteer board development, and leading transformational change.

$25,000
Help underwrite YUConnects and facilitate single undergraduate alumni and students with comfortable opportunities to socialize and connect via a warm and personal approach.

$18,000
Provide a rabbinic intern to a Jewish community and help train the next generation of rabbinic leadership.

$10,000
Dedicate the annual Tanach Yom Iyun, a student-organized day of learning that draws hundreds of participants annually to Wilf campus for a day of Bible study from YU’s roshei yeshiva and biblical scholars.

$5,000
Underwrite the worldwide Tisha B’av webcast that attracts over five thousand online participants to a five-hour program delivered by renowned scholar Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schachter.

$2,500
Become a supporter of YUTorah.org which has over 64,000 monthly visitors. Be recognized on the front page of the site and choose a week during the year to dedicate in honor or in memory of a loved one.

$1,000
Sponsor a day of RIETS Torah scholarship to mark a Yahrtzeit or special family simcha.

$500
Dedicate a Kollel Yom Rishon Sunday morning lecture which is attended by over 300 participants.
The CJF Online

www.yu.edu/cjf
The CJF homepage

www.YUTorah.org
The Marcos and Adina Katz YUTorah

www.eJewishEducation.com
Certificate Program in Jewish Experiential Education

www.YUSpeakers.org
The YU speakers’ bureau

www.KollelYomRishon.org
The Abraham Arbesfeld Kollel Yom Rishon

www.MidreshetYomRishon.org
The Millie Arbesfeld Midreshet Yom Rishon

www.ShaarHaavodah.org
Jewish career placement job listings

www.ChicagoTorah.org
The Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago

www.TorontoTorah.com
The Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov of Toronto

www.myTorahTours.com
Torah Tours registration for synagogues and YU students

www.TLNOline.org
Torah Leadership Network

www.yu.edu/cjf/rabbis
Rabbinic resources

www.yu.edu/cjf/yuconnects
YUConnects home page

www.yu.edu/cjf/championsgate
ChampionsGate Leadership Conference

www.CounterpointIsrael.com
Counterpoint Israel

www.YUTorah.org/ShabbatTable
The Shabbat Table Discussion project

facebook.com/YUTorah
facebook.com/eJewishEducation

@YUTorah
@ChampionsGateYU