

Kol Bogrei Rambam is the Alumni Council's monthly e-newsletter for and about Maimonides School graduates. Each month we'll 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. We invite your information, ideas and feedback, as we strive to present a panorama of the school's 54-year alumni community. Please contact us at alumni@maimonides.org.

Graduate Concludes Distinguished Fundraising Career at YU

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Mann '55 remembers a line from a 1950s song or a poem or perhaps a greeting card, a phrase that went "faraway places with strange sounding names...."

Such places are high on Rabbi Mann's agenda, now that he has retired from the Office of Institutional Advancement at Yeshiva University (YU), where he has served as a fundraiser and administrator since 1986. For the past 10 years he has been the director of institutional advancement for the university's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He also has been special assistant to the Vice President of University Affairs.

Rabbi Mann was honored at a Sept. 20 farewell party on the YU campus. "The reception was beautiful, with everyone from President Richard Joel to University Chancellor Rabbi Norman Lamm singing the praises of a much beloved friend and respected colleague," said

Rabbi Levi Mostofsky '95.

Rabbi Mann said he plans to travel "to places I've only read about." He already has some unusual stopovers in his resume, beginning with growing up in Quincy. (His father, Rabbi Jacob Mann, z"l, was honored by Maimonides School in 1992.) Seven years after receiving his Maimonides diploma, he became one of the school's first graduates to receive *semichah*. From 1963 to 1965, he

served as a chaplain at Fort Lewis, a U.S. Army post in Washington State.

He was pulpit rabbi at the Orthodox synagogue in Wichita, KS for the next five years. "Everybody thought 'going out of town' meant going to Hartford or Teaneck," he laughed, adding, "It was a great experience." Beginning in the early 1970s he was a congregational rabbi in Long Beach, NY, until joining the fundraising team at YU in 1986. His career at YU included a three-year hiatus, when he served as executive vice president of the American Friends of Machon Lev (Jerusalem College of Technology).

Rabbi Mann, who earned his Ph.D. in eastern languages and literature from New York University, said he is also looking forward to "more time to sit and learn." ■



Rabbi Abraham Mann is flanked by dignitaries from Yeshiva University during his recent retirement party: (from left) Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, dean of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary; Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Chancellor; Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs; and President Richard M. Joel.

School Seeks Early Alumni

Maimonides will kick off events for its 70th anniversary with a weekend celebrating the school's earliest students Nov. 9-11. Graduates of all classes between 1953 and 1964 have been invited to participate in classroom visits, a program of reflections and reminiscences, and a Sunday reunion. The school does not have contact information for 22 alumni in

that group, including Paul Berger '61, Henry Birnbaum '62, Louis Birnbaum '64, Rita Finkelstein '64, Melvin Fisher '54, Elaine Feldman Fishman '61, Arthur Hollander '58, Earl Hollander '53, Elliot Hurwitz, Esther Houseman Kugelman '57, Joshua Leeder '63, Ann Miller '60, Rabbi Morton Miller '60, Alan Pickholtz '61, Paul Pickholtz '62, Shulamith Strassfeld Saltzman '63, Ruth Sonn

Stefanaky '57, Martel Berenson Urivitsky '55, Shaini Kaufman Uvitsky '61, Rabbi Leonard Weiner '63, Rabbi Myron Weiner '59 and Cynthia Kenigsberg Zalinsky '64. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of any of these graduates, please contact Mike Rosenberg, Director of Alumni Relations, at mike@maimonides.org or 617-232-4452 x105. ■

Classmates in Israel Launch Website for Visiting Learners

Daniella (Peyser) Teutsch '74 and her classmate **Debra Weiner '74** have launched a new website designed to help students learning in Israel--and their parents--navigate smoothly through the year. The goal of "Here 4 The Year" (www.here4theyear.com) "is to establish a virtual community for both students and their families back home, to share information, ideas and professional advice about all aspects of the year in Israel experience," the new home page declares.

"We spent a year working on this project--thinking about what exactly the needs of the one-year student community and their parents are," Daniella explained in an e-mail. "We both have hosted and helped many students and their parents who are friends, or friends of friends... We are advertising by word of mouth, through educational listings and some paid advertising. We have listed on some online Jewish magazines, and we are planning some talks at the one-year programs after the *chagim*."

The Maimonides connection is featured in their online biographies: "Debra Weiner and Daniella Teutsch have been friends since they met in elementary school at Maimonides



Daniella Teutsch, left, and Debra Weiner.

School in Brookline, Massachusetts... Since making *aliyah* with their families, Debra and Daniella have been helping family, friends and their children who are here for the year to navigate Israel and find the essentials that they need and more. That's how Here 4 the Year was born."

Site features range from sources of essentials like linens, apartments and toiletries, to accounts by parents and students, to information on upcoming events. There are other contributors with Maimonides connections. Daniella's sister, **Dr. Caroline Peyser '83**, a psychologist and teacher, has a regular column. Rabbi Zalman Eisenstock, who is writing the site's *divrei Torah*, once

taught at Maimonides. And the web creator is Lisi Geffen, daughter-in-law of **Rabbi Mendy Gopin '66**.

"Anyone can come to our site and read our pages which we update monthly starting after the *chagim*. We do have a monthly email that we will send out only to paid members (\$36 beginning Nov. 1) with lots of information that they will find helpful on a month-to-month basis," Daniella wrote, adding, "We are also setting up banner advertising which will help us offset our costs." ■

Graduate Wins Fellowship

Mazal tov to **Raviv Murciano-Goroff '05**, who has won a prestigious and competitive fellowship at Harvard University to pursue independent scholarly research and writing. Raviv received the Carol K. Pforzheimer Fellowship of the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study. His thesis focuses on Dr. Martha May Eliot, a historical leader in national and international health as well as juvenile justice. ■

Scholar-In-Residence

Rachel (Levitt) Klein '90 served as Elul scholar-in-residence for four days at Young Israel of Sharon, MA. Rachel, former teacher and director of student life and professional development at Maimonides, now holds a similar position at Fuchs Mizrahi School in Cleveland, OH, where she also teaches Tanach and Halachah. She is also a member of the Torat Zion Kollel, teaching adults in the Cleveland area. Rachel holds an MA in Jewish Education and Administration from the Azrieli School of Jewish Education of Yeshiva University. She has studied at Matan, Nishmat, and the Drisha Institute and was a Jerusalem Fellow in Israel from 2000-2002. ■

A Pre-Wedding Party to Remember: Riding the Colorado Rapids

It has been a busy year for **Dr. Ben Galper '97**. The former Maimonides Student Council president received his doctor of medicine degree in June and married **Merav Well '02** later in the summer. Then he began a medical internship at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York.

Of course, many alumni earn advanced degrees and even more get married. What really stands out this year for Ben was three days of rafting 120 miles of the Colorado River last May with four of his closest friends from Maimonides School. "It was very exciting and very meaningful," he testified. "It was really an amazing experience." Ben said the rafting adventure was "something I always wanted to do--but I didn't think it would really happen."

Ben said he framed the trip as a present to himself for graduating from medical school--as well as a bachelor party of sorts. For six months, he made plans along with classmates **David Brickman, Rami Cohen, Jimmy Davis and Ethan Lebowitz** for the three-day experience. Thanks to the efforts of their tour company, the trip was completely kosher. The alumni rode pontoon boats through Canyonlands National Park in Utah, camping at night along the shore.

Ben described the "beautiful colorful formations as we looked up from canyons over a mile deep." Then there were the rapids--"your hands are holding onto the handles, and the rest of your body is entirely in the air. So it's pretty exhilarating." So was the experience of sharing the adventure with classmates. "It's really amazing to have such a close group of friends from the earliest parts of our lives," he said. "Someday we'll be at our kids' M-Cat baseball games--who knows?" ■



Frolicking in the waters of the Colorado River are five members of the Maimonides Class of 1997: from left, Benjamin Galper, Ethan Lebowitz, David Brickman, Rami Cohen and James Davis.

Here and There...

Dina (Pittel) Adelsky '02 is teaching Bible and working in the Admissions/Recruitment department at Frankel Jewish Academy of Metropolitan Detroit, while she completes work on her master's thesis on Jewish education in Latvia.

Yasher koach to **Joey Sherman '05**, who recorded his first win on the mound for the Tel Aviv Lightning over Ra'anana during last summer's the inaugural season of the Israel Baseball League. The former M-Cat pitched the final three innings, allowing two hits and a walk and striking out one.

YEARS