



תמוז-אלול תש"ע • Summer 2010

AT GRADUATION, STUDENT SPEAKERS REFLECT SCHOOL'S VISION

The Class of 2010 graduated from Maimonides School on Sunday, June 13, amidst student speakers' declarations that they have heard, understood and incorporated the vision of the school.

Sixty seniors comprised the school's 58th graduating class, which departed before more than 400 family members, friends, teachers and school supporters during ceremonies in Judge J. John Fox Gymnasium.

"Graduating" with the seniors were Rabbi Yair Altshuler, Maimonides Middle and Upper School principal, and Ken Weinstein, principal of general studies. Both are leaving their positions for other professional opportunities. Jeffrey Swartz, Maimonides Board chair, saluted the departing leaders during his remarks.

Gabriel Rosen, valedictorian of the class of 2011, delivered his address in Hebrew, urging his classmates to help build a just world, continue to learn and improve, and structure their lives through Judaism and the observance of *mitzvot*.

"One important lesson that our class has mastered is unity," Gavvy said in the translation of his valedictory. "When classmates have faced sorrow, we have come together to comfort them. When classmates got into trouble, we stood up for them." He added that the school also "educated us in the importance of chesed, a lesson this class took to heart."

The other keynote student speaker was **Benjamin Niewood**, whose essay was chosen from among several submitted to a faculty review committee. Ben spoke of his participation as part of a seven-member team in the May 2009 National High School Mock Trial competition in Atlanta.

During that four-day period, "We embraced our Judaism," Ben related. "Thanks to what we learned every day, we were the educated Jews that our teachers meant us to be." The preparation applies to the entire class, he said. "Every one of us has the tools we need to make the transition from high school to life."



Gavvy Rosen delivers the Hebrew valedictory for the Class of 2010. Turn the page for more Commencement photos.

In recognition of academic achievement, three other seniors—**Zachary Avigan**, **Samuel Ming-Sum Fisher** and **Chani Matz**—read excerpts from the works of the Rambam in Hebrew and English.

Rabbi Altshuler chose the topic of *tefilla* for his final charge to Maimonides graduates. He spoke of the school's effort to improve the experience of communal davening and the constant challenge of prayer with *kavanah*.

Mr. Weinstein lauded the Class of 2010 for making "the entire school a happier place for all of us. You set a tone in the school this year for maturity, cooperation and substance." He also stressed that "kindness is what this class does best..."

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NEW PRINCIPALS OFFER OUTLOOK, IDEAS

July 1, 2010 marked a significant transition for Maimonides Middle and Upper School, as new principals for Judaic and general studies assumed command.

Rabbi Yaakov Jaffe, a member of the *limudei kodesh* faculty and *mara d'atra* of the Maimonides *Kehillah*, joins the administration alongside **Ms. Judith Boroschek**, who brings experience as a teacher, academic department chair and director of curriculum and instruction for

one of the region's elite school districts. They succeed Rabbi Yair Altshuler and Mr. Ken Weinstein, who accepted positions at other institutions.

The school also restored the position of assistant principal and appointed **Rabbi Dov Huff '00**, a Middle School teacher and grade dean.

The new principals share their educational priorities and philosophical directions in interviews found on pages 4 and 5. 🐾

PROSPECTIVE DONOR AWED BY HIS CHANCE FOR A GIFT OF LIFE

Benzi Miller '09 had something special to share. "I was so proud of this," he told the Maimonides School alumni office. "I was literally in tears."

The University of Connecticut nursing student did not get engaged, or graduate magna cum laude, or receive a Pillar of Maimonides Award. Those are all future aspirations. But last month Benzi was notified that he is the fourth person found eligible to donate bone marrow or stem cells following a Gift of Life screening held at the school.

Benzi was screened in May 2009, as part of the annual program for graduating seniors and their families underwritten in memory of Dr. Michael Osband, z"l. The potential recipient is a 42-year-old woman suffering from non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Maimonides has held five Gift of Life screenings. The first, in August of 2003, was inspired by Miss Sharon Steiff, z"l, a beloved English teacher suffering from leukemia. Although Miss Steiff did not survive, Gift of Life volunteers and participants honor her memory by working to save other lives. There have been 38 possible matches out of 907 persons screened at Maimonides, according to records kept by Gift of Life.

Benzi got the word at Camp Ramah, near Springfield, MA, where he and his mother Ellen are on the staff. "Gift of Life called, and I sprinted over to my mom," Benzi recounted. "We were both thinking about my brother," who was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma in October but is now in remission. "He just got married about a month ago."

Suzi Fuld, parent of four Maimonides alumni and a long-time volunteer for Gift of Life, ran into the Millers while setting up a bone marrow screening at the camp. "Both he and his mom are jumping out of their skin," she laughed. "One of our Gift of Life staff members is herself a stem cell donor. She and Benzi spoke about the process."

"I've got a bunch of forms to fill out—medical history, a consent form. Within the next week or two they'll need a blood sample," he said. "After that, if there's still a match, comes the actual donation... I'm really proud of this and am happy to continue with it." 🐾

CLASS OF 2010 BIDS MAIMO FAREWELL



Seniors (top) toss their mortar boards in celebration of their graduation. Sarah Robinson (left) accepts her diploma from Rabbi Yair Altshuler, principal; Rabbi Avi Bossewitch, Middle School director, shares the moment. Seniors expressing their sentiments include Joseph Naggar (right), who followed his three brothers to the ranks of Maimonides alumni.

COMMENCEMENT 2010

Continued from page 1

Your great gift to the school is you have taught us about its power."

Other members of the Class of 2010 are Donald Adler, Meron Amar, Shira Anis, Bradley Baskir, Reva Bergel, Rachel Berkovitz, Max Bessler, Adina Blazkowsky, Sarah Diamond, Leah Ellenbogen, Steven Fine, Benjamin Fisher, Samuel Fisher, Mirit Gendelman, David Gleizer, David Goldstein, Aharon Golshirazian, Elie Golshirazian, Stephanie Guedalia, Alicia Hanau, Tatiana Hasson, Elana Henry, Miriam Hutton, Yossi Kashnow, Avi-

gayil Kelman, Talia Kesselman, Yael Koevary and Shira Krinsky.

Also, Jonathan Lanzkron, Brian Lasman, Daniel Lasman, Yiriel Liss, Ari Massefski, Chani Matz, Ely Mendelelev, Sam Michaelson, Joseph Naggar, Leora Nouriel, Rina Ofman, Esther Petrack, Jerome Pomeranz, Elie Portman, Rachel Renz, Bracha Robinson, Sarah Robinson, Bella Rumshiskaya, Leora Sanieoff, Shaina Sanieoff, Aaron Schechter, Rebecca Schlesinger, Aliza Shapiro, Hannah Spellman, Dillon Stanger, Yehuda Stuchins, Daniel Yahalom and Devorah Yarmush. 🐾

GRADUATE JOINS SPOUSE IN ADVOCATING FOR “LONE SOLDIERS”



Meira Weinstein Flaster '99 with husband Joshua

Meira Weinstein Flaster '99 of Jerusalem made *aliyah* in 2006. Four years later, she is deeply involved with a cause central to the protection of the State: support for Israel's "lone soldiers."

That is the designation used to describe men and women who come from countries all over the world to serve in the Israel Defense Forces. Their commitment is steadfast and exemplary, but they serve without the domestic support systems that Israelis take for granted.

Meira is a graduate of Hebrew University's School of Public Health and works for the Joint Distribution Committee. In

January she married Joshua Flaster, an *oleh* from Phoenix, who works for the Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs and serves as volunteer director of the Michael Levin Center for Lone Soldiers in Jerusalem.

"I met Josh and his younger brother Jacob while they were both serving in the IDF, as lone soldiers," Meira related. "Seeing them give so much of themselves emotionally, physically and mentally to the State without any family in the country except for each other was extremely moving for me. Once Josh finished his army service, he and a group of other former lone soldiers founded the center to help lone soldiers deal with the problems they encounter."

Meira said the center is run primarily by a volunteer staff of former lone soldiers. They arrange Shabbat meals, provide counseling and guidance and provide furniture for hundreds of lone soldiers in need. "Josh, of course, has gotten me involved helping at the center," she said. "There are nights we can't get to sleep until one in the morning because he is receiving calls from lone soldiers. All of the staff from the center is so amazing, they are so dedicated to the cause and I'm so very happy to be able to help however I can."

The center is a memorial to Michael Levin, *z"l*, who made *aliyah* from Philadelphia, enlisted in the IDF and was killed in battle on Aug. 1, 2006. The center recently organized and hosted the first national conference on lone soldiers. Governmental, immigration and social service organizations attended, as did more than 200 lone soldiers, who were invited for a barbecue and college fair. Also, almost 500 soldiers have participated in the center's "First Steps" army education program. The full-day sessions and one-on-one meetings with mentors prepare and advise draftees about their options, rights, and the reality of service in different units of the IDF.

"The center has been based on Agripas Street in Jerusalem, adjacent to the shuk, but will be losing its home this August," Meira said. Added Josh, "The organization that provides us with office space and a lounge for the soldiers is closing. We have reached out to the Jewish Agency and other non-profits here for help finding a place for the center. If communities or

families overseas have apartments or other physical space in Jerusalem that could serve as a temporary home for the lone soldier center and its activities, thousands of lone soldiers around Israel would be grateful."

"We would love to hear from Maimonides alumni interested in being involved, and we look forward to seeing you in Israel," Meira said. To contact Josh or Meira, write to meirasweinstein@gmail.com or joshua.flaster@gmail.com. For more information on the center, see www.lonesoldiercenter.com. 🐾

Mazal tov to . . .

- Eleanor (Stern) Weiner '58** on the birth of her granddaughter, Avigail Malka Weiner.
- Jonathan '81 and Kira (Feczko) '93 Goldberg** on the birth of their son, Alexander Mayer.
- Dr. Joshua '86 and Michal Garren** on the birth of their son.
- Joel '90 and Alison Tauber** on the birth of their son, Zeke.
- Penina (Stein) '92 and Yossi Meistel** on the birth of their daughter, Nechama.
- Matt Brenner '93** on his marriage to Dori Braude.
- Judah '95 and Karen Levine** on the birth of their son.
- Shira (Katz) '96 and Udi Shaulov** on the birth of their son, Yedidya Shalom.
- Leah (Lampert) '96 and Matthew Garland** on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Rose.
- Nathaniel '96 and Margalit Segal** on the birth of their son, Asher Gabriel.
- Miriam (Vishniavsky) '98 and Rabbi Yechiel Cohen** on the birth of their daughter, Devorah Chaya.
- Rabbi Yaakov '98 and Elisheva Green** on the birth of their daughter, Adira Kayla.
- Rabbi Allan '98 and Lisa Houben** on the birth of their daughter, Talya Shira.
- Atara (Sendor) '99 and Rabbi Rafi Eis** on receiving Distinguished Educator Awards from Stern Hebrew High School in Philadelphia, where Atara teaches Talmud and Tanakh.
- Ari '99 and Shari Katz** on the birth of their daughter, Keira Charlotte. Grandparents are **Naty '73 and Amy Katz**.
- Joe Pick '99** on his marriage to Meredith Weiss.
- Jonathan Milner '00** on his marriage to Daniella Chazen.
- Avi Perry '00** on his marriage to Julia Herst.
- Avi '00 and Sara Pultman** on the birth of their daughter, Allison Mackenzie.
- Joshua Bellin '01** on his marriage to Kayla Liebman.
- Aviva Cheses '01** on her engagement to Scott Wasserman.
- Danielle Leeds '01** on her marriage to Paul Kim.
- Jonty Rich-Shea '01** on his engagement to Rachel Etkorn.
- Miriam Weiler '01** on her engagement to Harvey Rosenberg.
- Jonathan Hefter '02** on his marriage to Sefi Lerner.
- Yael Kletter '02** on her engagement to Will Keller.
- Raphi Toubian '02** on his marriage to Sasha Stern.
- Noah '03 and Sarah Cheses** on the birth of their daughter, Adina Malka.
- Rachel Levine '03** on her engagement to Jeremy Baruch.
- Gideon Miller '03** on his engagement to Laura Japko.
- Eitan Rosenberg '03** on his marriage to Jodi Ellenbogen.
- Elan Noorparvar '05** on his engagement to Lauren Roditi.
- Elana Roth '05** on her engagement to Yahai Kaczor.

Condolences to . . .

- David '79 and Jeremy '83 Kahan** on the loss of their beloved father, Dov Kahan, *z"l*.
- Boris Furman '69** on the passing of his beloved father, Elliot Furman, *z"l*.

STUDENTS IMPRESS THEIR NEW GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL

Judith Boroschek said she was sold on working at Maimonides School “when I saw the kids. They seemed more thoughtful, more calm, more centered as people. I attended some classes and was very impressed with student participation.”

“Also, I was very attracted to the religious aspect of the school,” she said. “I think we need to focus on values and living

for a higher purpose than just everyday well-being.”

As Middle and Upper School principal for general studies, Ms. Boroschek brings decades of experience not only as a teacher, department chair and school district director of curriculum and instruction, but also as a consultant on staff development and supervision.

Trained as a history teacher, Ms. Boroschek “definitely wants to be in classrooms frequently. I think that’s my major charge—to work with teachers around instruction and support them in their teaching. I love to meet with individual teachers, talk to them about what their kids are learning, what they see as barriers and ways that I can help.”

If she can find the time to prepare, “It would be ideal to teach a class,” she said, in almost any discipline. “I thought at one time or another that I would major in each one of the subjects.”

“I worked in central administration for 19 years in the Wellesley Public Schools,” she told parents in a letter earlier this summer. “Finding model programs, looking for curricula, allocating funds, training leaders—I have found that the closer I am to learning, whether it is my own learning, that of students, or that of other adults, the more energized and satisfied I feel... Working at Maimonides is a special privilege for me.”

“In my job as principal, working together with Rabbi Jaffe, Rabbi Huff, and Rabbi Bossewitch, I look forward to exploring and wrestling with an additional question: How can we best refine the school culture and manage relationships—between students, between teachers, between teachers and students, and between parents and teachers?” she wrote.

Ms. Boroschek also is an enthusiastic supporter of extracurricular activities. “Much of what they learn in school is a foundation for intellectual life after they graduate. Extracurriculars connect kids to what they’re likely to be interested in as adults, as avocations and even as professions.”

She added, “I think athletics are very important. They provide a chance where students can learn to be both coopera-



Principals Boroschek (left) and Jaffe collaborate on preparations for the 2010–11 school year.

tive and competitive, and feel a strong group identity toward a very immediate common goal. It’s also fun and physical activity, which they need.”

“Every day, students should be learning important ideas, skills, and content. In classrooms and outside, they should feel invested in exploring answers to these questions,” she wrote..

Ms. Boroschek grew up in Midland, TX, but says she always had her eye on the Northeast. She began her undergraduate studies at the University of Texas, transferred to Washington University in St. Louis, then undertook a master’s program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, earning a degree in social science education. She has been in the region ever since, except for a three-year stint (including one year as principal) at an independent school in Santiago, Chile.

As director of curriculum and instruction for the Wellesley schools, Mrs. Boroschek was responsible for curriculum development and review across all academic disciplines. She also supervised program leaders and built the district’s professional development system and programs. 🐾

GRADUATES HELP PLAN MEDICAL ETHICS SEMINAR

Stern College students **Jillian Login ‘08** and **Shoshana Blechner ‘07** are helping plan the annual conference sponsored by the Medical Ethics Society of Yeshiva University. The event is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the YU Wilf Campus in Manhattan.

The theme of the symposium is “A Beautiful Mind: Jewish Approaches to Mental Health.” Speakers and breakout sessions will cover areas ranging from eating disorders and depression to substance abuse, bullying and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The program is open to the public; details can be found at www.yumedicaethics.com.

“I joined the Medical Ethics Society because we invite speakers who address complex issues from both a medical and halachic standpoint,” said Jillian, who is considering a major in nursing. She is involved with publicity for the conference and Shoshana is recruiting volunteers.

“Dealing with medical ethics from a strictly secular or halachic mindset leaves the modern Jewish thinker confused and uncertain, with unanswered questions. The Medical Ethics Society attempts to bridge the gap between these different perspectives and present the material in a way that is easily understood by individuals from all backgrounds,” she said. “Also, it is a great chance to get involved and be a part of an amazing board.” 🐾

RABBI JAFFE: TORAH U-MADDAH APPROACH “A PASSION OF MINE”



The new Judaic Studies principal of Maimonides Middle and Upper School has demonstrated that he is a scholar, a teacher and a leader. He also enters the arena of educational administration with respect, affection and empathy for students. “Young people are growing, transforming themselves,” observed **Rabbi Yaakov Jaffe** during a recent interview. “When you realize that, after a year, they’re totally different than what they were when they came into the classroom, it’s an amazing feeling. With children, every little bit makes such a big difference. Every growth opportunity brings them further—and that’s incredible.”

Rabbi Jaffe, a popular and effective *limudei kodesh* teacher for the past two years, succeeded Rabbi Yair Altshuler as principal on July 1. Rabbi Altshuler, as expected, returned to his home in Israel after four years at the helm. Rabbi Jaffe also will continue serving as *mara d’atra* of the Maimonides *Kehillah*.

In a July 1 letter to parents, Rabbi Jaffe wrote, “If we are truly devoted to both passionate Jewish commitment and consideration of worldly matters, then we must continue to widen and deepen the dia-

logue that arises in our classrooms around the values that our sons and daughters hold dear. Though we believe passionately that greater truth and meaning can be accessed through our own, divinely inspired tradition, we also believe that we have much to gain from the consideration of those issues in the general realm of human endeavor, and from the dialogue in between.

“This approach has been a passion of mine throughout my own education, at Yeshivat Har Etzion with Harav Aharon Lichtenstein, while studying Renaissance English Literature at Columbia College, and during my years at Yeshiva University’s *smicha* and master’s program,” he continued. “And it is a personal goal of mine to continue to move forward in this direction in the coming months and years at Maimonides.”

During the interview, Rabbi Jaffe, citing his graduate work in curriculum and teaching, said he always considered himself a “curricularist.” When he began his doctoral program (he is working toward a Ph.D.), he recalled, his academic coordinator enrolled him in educational administration, special education and philosophy of Jewish education courses. “He told me, ‘If you are a good curricularist, it is not unlikely someone will tap you to work as an administrator. Take the courses so that in case it happens, you’ll know what to do.’”

He learned approaches and techniques that he is now starting to appreciate. An example: “Walk around the building a few times, even if you’re busy with meetings and messages. Walking around the building, getting to know the students, the culture, the vitality of the classroom—that’s an important part of school administration.”

A few years ago, Rabbi Jaffe worked for the Jewish Agency as coordinator for the *Chidon HaTanakh* in the U.S. (which he won as a high school student). This turned out to be “a great way to learn about educational administration,” he said.

Like any institution, the Chidon interacted with three stakeholders—students, parents and teachers. Like a school, the program had to succeed with limited resources. “It was a practice run for me,”

Rabbi Jaffe said. “One thing I learned is the importance of thinking to yourself what you’re doing and why you’re doing it, and then try to put into words clearly that you can communicate to other people.” He said he hopes to continue to achieve a balance between leadership and listening.

Rabbi Jaffe acknowledged that “my biggest regret is being in the classroom less [he will be teaching one class, rather than four]. The smiles you see on the faces of students when they have that ‘eureka’ moment—there’s nothing that can match that. I’ll be facilitating those moments.”

“As my students know, I’ve never been one to give a free pass on reaching content goals. Setting high, attainable standards and benchmarks for content coverage is a basic part of our job as teachers,” he said in his letter to parents. “Still, the bedrock of education is not content, but the acquisition of skills and techniques with which to access new learning. Our goal is to enable every one of our students to become life-long learners of their faith and of the world around them.

Rabbi Jaffe said there is an ongoing challenge for Maimonides administrators: to ensure that the “immutable principles” that serve as the school’s foundation continue to apply even as times and context change.

“Our love for Israel took a different form before 1948,” he presented as an example. “The ability for our students to study for a year is a newer application of an older message.” Recent graduates have been enlisting in the Israel Defense Forces, he pointed out, and “I imagine Rabbi Altshuler, with his love for Israel, his love of Hebrew, was part of the inspiration. This is an example of a mission that gets updated and reclarified in a new generation.”

“Fortuitously,” Rabbi Jaffe wrote to parents, “our children are able to learn the same skills twice each day and year, in the dual curriculum that defines our school. If our goal is to be the flagship school for the study of *Torah U-Maddah* in mutually fulfilling ways, then we must continue to highlight the overlap and the common spaces of skill development between these domains.” 🐾

GROWTH A SUMMER THEME FOR LOWER SCHOOL TEACHERS

About 25 years ago, back when Maimonides School staff members parked their cars all day along Philbrick Road, a station wagon delivered a pertinent message from a bumper sticker: “Three great things about teaching: June, July and August.”

Well, as they say, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Maimonides teachers this summer have been immersed in a smorgasbord of professional development courses, workshops and programs. Administrators “are trying to embed in our teachers the understanding that if you’re here, you’re going to grow,” explained Rabbi David Saltzman, Lower School principal.

Summer is “not just putting up new things in the classroom. It’s an oppor-

tunity for deep thinking and innovation,” said Reena Slovin, assistant Lower School principal. “There is constant professional development going on. We’re talking about pedagogy, about the right ways to teach, what you need in order to reach kids. We’re analyzing what we do.”

Here are some examples of summer activities involving teachers in Kindergarten through Grade 5:

- **Rosalie Koblick**, veteran first-grade *limudei kodesh* teacher, spent a week at a workshop sponsored by Responsive Classroom, an approach that emphasizes “social, emotional and academic growth in a strong and safe school community.” Eventually the entire Lower School staff will be

receiving an overview from Responsive Classroom, Mrs. Slovin said.

- Grade 3 *limudei kodesh* teacher **Michal Bessler** not only took part in a workshop on the Tal Am Hebrew language system, but also attended a teacher mentoring workshop at Yeshiva University and will be guiding a new teacher in the fall. Mrs. Bessler also is a graduate of the mentoring program sponsored by the former Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute.
- **Chaya Durani**, second-grade Judaic studies teacher, not only continued her Tal Am experience at a week-long workshop but also qualified to train other teachers in the curriculum.
- All teachers in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 are enrolled in Landmark Outreach Program summer courses. Participants focus on improving instruction of children with language-based learning disabilities. Maimonides participants are pursuing topics that include phonemic awareness, reading development, administering educational evaluations and study skills.
- **Maxine Zizmor**, Lower School director of support services, completed a three-day workshop on an intervention program for teaching students who have difficulty reading. The program was presented by Wilson Language Training, a venerable provider of professional development.
- **Zipora Portman**, third-grade general studies teacher, trained to serve as a mentor through the Avi Chai Foundation’s Jewish New Teacher Project. She will be working with a new seventh-grade teacher.

Also, Maimonides administrators at all levels have enrolled in a 42-hour course entitled, “Observing and Analyzing Teaching.” Among the skills they will explore are providing standards-based feedback about teaching practice, and explaining and documenting what teachers do in a range of performance areas. The program is presented by Research for Better Teaching, Inc. 🐾

CHILDREN THRIVE ON SUMMER SCIENCE

Katie Muratore, Maimonides School science teacher, thought she would need at least five students in her initial summer science camp in 2009. She ended up with 31—and this summer her program, hosted by the school, boasts 39 children.

And some of them are already talking about continuing through high school.

The six-hour daily schedule is replete with activities and experiments—two in the morning, one or two after lunch. “Since it’s camp, I don’t want it to resemble classroom learning, but rather experiments where they’re exploring, and discussions where they reflect and give me their ideas. Sometimes during snack or lunch, even though we’ve left the topic, some kids still will be questioning what we did in the morning.”

The idea originated at a parent-teacher conference more than two years ago, Ms. Muratore said. “A mother told me how her son absolutely loves science, and how he would love extending that into the summer. I thought it was a great idea. I have so many things that I don’t teach during the school year, and so much material to use during the summer.”

The program has expanded from two to three weeks and from Grades 3-5 to entering Grades 2-8. “The first week focuses on chemistry, the second week is physical science—amusement park physics—and the third is environment and animals,” she said.

There were 12-15 students in each weekly session in the science room on the Middle School wing, and Ms. Muratore easily managed the group. “The older kids are like mentor to the younger kids,” she said. Older students also serve as role models for the scientific method. “They dig deeper, they try to figure out why. It was cool to see how children at different grade levels approach a topic.”

The summer format seems to encourage several students who are normally quiet in the classroom, the teacher noted.

She enlisted a couple of helpers on field trips, including one to Boston’s Museum of Science. The group also walked over to the reservoir on the south side of Boylston Street and made observations, collecting water and plant samples.

“I never imagined this would grow so fast in such a short time,” Ms. Muratore declared. 🐾

YOUNG ALUMNI'S SPORTS CAMP HITS NEW HEIGHTS



M-Cat Sports Camp counselor Josh Alge '08 is flanked by Yoni Trachtenberg '22, left, and Avishai Jeselsohn '21.

The World Cup soccer tournament finals were re-enacted on the synthetic turf of Maimonides School's Saval Campus courtyard one morning in July—a few minutes after the conclusion of *shacharit*.

Both were highlights of the fourth annual M-Cat Sports Camp, a weekday program organized and supervised by veterans of Maimonides School interscholastic athletics. The school provides the space, but the camp is run entirely by the young alumni.

This year more than 50 Maimonides School boys and girls, entering Grades 1-8, took part in three weeks of skills training, competition, sportsmanship and special events, all in the halachic environment that serves as an extension of the school experience. Most of the campers signed up for all three weeks. There are several groupings by age; when everyone is together on the field or the court, older campers keep an eye out for the smaller kids.

A 2007 graduate, **Rachel Epstein**, established M-Cat Sports Camp with her classmate **Shlomo Golshirazian** when they were seniors. Four years later, the program has grown from two to three weeks, with a roster replete with repeaters as well as new campers. "We kind of oiled the machine for the first two years, navigated some bumps in the road," Rachel said. "Now it keeps getting smoother and easier."

"I think it really adds something to the school when kids have an opportunity to be together during the summer, to have relationships with their peers not just during recess and in the

classroom but on trips and in sports and color war," Rachel observed. "When I was younger, I 'camp-hopped' every year, so I really got a chance to see different kinds of relationships. But I would have liked a summer just to spend with my Maimo friends."

There are 13 staff members, including several veterans. Only Rachel and Shlomo have been involved all four years, but **Avi Klausner '08**, **Micah Golshirazian '08**, **Ellie Epstein '09** and **Eitan Katz '09** are each in their third year. They lead the campers in everything from conventional basketball, soccer and capture-the-flag to more arcane contests like matball, speedball and Maimonides School's own pillo-polo.

This summer saw "a huge enrollment for the younger ages," Rachel said, with about 50 youngsters in each weekly session. The staff does everything to accommodate applicants. "These are kids in the school; they aren't strangers. We want everyone to feel involved." The itinerary includes trips to places like Canobie Lake Park and Fenway Park. "Really," Rachel asserted, "we just want the kids to have the best time."

This is the first time the program has had to make adjustments for the Three Weeks. There was a pizza party instead of a barbecue during the last week of camp, and the giant inflatable waterslide on the courtyard was replaced by a ground level sprinkler so the smaller children could cool off.

Some staff members can see college graduation on the horizon, and they are starting to discuss succession. "As you get older, you get better at some things," Rachel acknowledged, "but I had so much energy my senior year. The whole new generation of kids is amazing, and it's around the time to switch over." She emphasized that "you need someone not only great during the camp weeks but who also is great during the six months of registration and talking to parents."

Rachel said her years as a sports camp founder and director "make me think so much about my childhood and what I perceived back then. It also helps me understand what the faculty and administration have to deal with throughout the year."

Rachel and her staff maintain a camp website year-round. Photos of the 2010 camp and past experiences can be viewed at www.mcatsportscamp.com/MCat/Photos/Photos.html. 🐾



Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, זצ"ל
Founder

Rabbi M.J. Cohn, ז"ל
Principal Emeritus

Rabbi David Shapiro
Rosh Yeshiva

Jeffrey B. Swartz
Chair, Board of Directors

Abraham Levovitz, ז"ל
President Emeritus

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MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL

Rabbi Yaakov S. Jaffe
Principal, Judaic Studies

Judith Boroschek
Principal, General Studies

Rabbi Dov Huff '00
Assistant Principal

Rabbi Avi Bossewitch
Middle School Director

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Principal

Reena Slovin
Assistant Principal

Kol Rambam is published quarterly by the Maimonides School Office of Alumni and Community Relations.

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NEWS & NOTES

Rabbi Yair Altshuler told Maimonides parents that, of all his accomplishments as Middle and Upper School principal, "what makes me most gratified is our students' *middot*." Rabbi Altshuler, who returned to Israel at the end of June after four years as principal, expressed his thoughts in an electronic mail letter. "There was not even one day when your children did not impress me with their *derech erez*, and their respect for what they received here," he wrote. "I am confident that our school and the entire community will go *me'chayil el chayil*." He invited parents to visit him and his family in Israel and urged them to consider *aliyah*.

Ms. **Ariella Brunwasser** has been appointed Maimonides School director of admissions. Ms. Brunwasser has served as a dormitory counselor at Midreshet Lindenbaum and a Jewish Service Corps volunteer in Romania for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. She also has worked as a development consultant and foundation programs officer in Jerusalem. For the past two years, she has been teaching third and sixth graders in the Hebrew school at Temple Sinai in Brookline. Ms. Brunwasser, a graduate of Ida Crown Academy in Chicago, recently received a master of theological studies degree at Harvard Divinity School. She succeeds Tamara Kesselman, admissions director for the past seven years.

A pair of original *siyumim* formally closed the school year at two Maimonides School transition points on June 22. Forty-four students formally ended their Elementary School careers at the school's second **Grade 5** *siyum*. Highlights were presentations by eight teams of fifth graders on leaders in Jewish history and the period of the American Revolution. The students identified values and qualities from the biographies that will be beneficial in Middle School. The **eighth grade** culminated its Middle School experience with a memorable production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The play was divided into 12 scenes, and each eighth grader performed in at least one. "Most of them memorized not only the lines of Shakespeare but the spirit of the lines," said Jack Fidler, the English teacher who directed the project with his colleague Nancy Wassner.

Signaling their fundraising success in the recent Pan-Mass Challenge for Kids bicycle ride are, from left, Nathaniel Lesser, J.J. Berlove and Natan Hillis-Jaffe, all entering third grade.



Rabbi Dov Huff '00, newly appointed Middle and Upper School assistant principal, has organized an ambitious new venture for students in Grades 9-12. "I invite and encourage all upper schoolers to join me on Sept. 1 for the first daily 20-minute session of the 'Learn *Shas Mishnayot* in Two Years with Rabbi Huff' challenge," he declared. "It is a big undertaking, but if any school community can do it, it is the Maimonides Upper School."

The 22nd edition of **Current**, the literary magazine of Maimonides School, has been published, featuring stories, poems, photographs and drawings by 22 students and two teachers. Editors of the 2010 volume were Stephanie Guedalia '10 and Lily Wilf '11. Ariella Kasmer-Jacobs '11 served as copy editor. Faculty advisor is Jonathan Hartt. Copies are available for purchase at \$5 each through the Office of Development at info@maimonides.org or (617) 232-4452, ext. 405.