**Ma’or Yeshiva High School for Boys**

**250 Park Avenue Long Branch, NJ 07740**

**Rabbi R. Semah**

**Rabbi Katzenstein**

**Rabbi Beyda**

**Mrs. R. Rosenberg**

Post High School Yeshivot in Israel

Information Package

We are available at the Yeshiva to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

                                                   Table of Contents

1. Steps to follow (p. 3-4)
2. List of prospective Yeshivot (p. 4-9)
3. Things to consider (p. 9)
4. Personal suggestions (p. 9-10)
5. Overview (p. 10)
6. Israel Yeshiva selection process (p. 11-13)
7. Commonly asked questions and answers (p. 13)
8. A GAP year – What are the benefits? (p. 14)
9. College application process (p. 14-15)
10. How important is spending a year in Israel? (p. 16-17)
11. General list of Yeshivot in Israel and college/Yeshiva options in America (p. 18-19)
12. Preparing for a successful year (p. 19-20)

**What steps you (the student) must follow:**

1. Check out the pros and cons about spending a year in Israel. (This is obviously a big decision, so don’t take it lightly or dismiss it without a great deal of thought.)
2. Decide based upon the many reasons for going, what your main goal or goals will be.
3. When the Rosh HaYeshivot come to make their presentations, listen carefully and ask the questions about the things that are important to you.
4. Apply to 2 or 3 schools (**the application deadline is no later than February 8th**). You can have your number one, but always have a legitimate backup waiting. (Letters of acceptance are to be sent from the Yeshivot no later than March 22nd.)
5. If you need applications, advice, helps with writing entrance essays or the like, or if you will need financial assistance, don’t hesitate to speak with me. (**The deadline for applicants notifying the Israeli schools has traditionally been set at April 15th.**)
6. College credits are available toward most school and that might play a part in choosing your college. Make sure to check.
7. There has not been a student who has not been able to go to Eretz Yisrael because of money. Don’t start off assuming there is an insurmountable problem, until it is investigated.

**In conclusion:**

 You will be having private guidance sessions in full detail on all of the above. Anyone who has any concerns (credits, too much learning…) or problems (financial…) will have the opportunity to bring them up and discuss them privately at that time.

**Next year in Jerusalem! (or thereabouts) can be one of the greatest in your life, choose wisely!**

 **On the next page you will find a small list of Yeshivot, many that we have been dealing with over the past many years some more recently. These Yeshivot do NOT cover the spectrum of Hesder to American and sizes ranging from small, to very large. We have intentionally restricted the list to the present 5 (even though there are so many others) to limit the confusion. If you want information about a specific Yeshiva that you have heard about and that is not listed, please let us know and we will be happy to supply it.**

 **As Roshei Yeshiva or other representatives come to make their presentations, make sure to ask questions and then fill in the information that is important to you. This will then allow you to produce your very own personal information packet, which will go a long way in helping you decide the best Yeshiva for your very own personal needs.**

 *I strongly urge everyone to take go online, to look up the information posted about any yeshiva that you are considering. The schools philosophy, application procedure and pictures are very often available.*

*1. Lev Aharon*

*2. Mikdash Melech*

*3. Medrash Shmuel (Ashkenaz)*

*4. Mevaseret (Ashkenaz)*

*5. Yesod HaTorah*

1. **Lev Aharon** - American Office: 1127 E. 5th Street Brooklyn, NY 11230, 917-674-9240.  Website: [levaharon.com](http://www.levaharon.com)  Israel- Contact Rabbi Laniado directly at- (972) 52-861-1568.

Year founded: 1996, Rosh HaYeshiva: Rabbi David Laniado, Number of students:?\_\_\_\_\_, Number of second year:?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Tuition:$?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Living conditions:\*\*\*\*, Student/Rebbi ratio:?\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Lev** is a traditional SY Yeshiva and has been working and succeeding with many of the boys from Brooklyn and Deal for many years. Located in the beautiful Har Nof and offering a unique Sephardic experience in the exploration of Torah and Israel. Lev looks to build well rounded young men who take The Torah perspective they learn in Yeshiva with them into their future lives. Lev is a great place to mature as a Torah Jew while enjoying and exciting Israel experience.

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sukkot/Pesach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tiyulim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance requirements:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College credits:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Mikdash Melech** -  American office: 1326 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11230 Contact Rabbi Josh Sananes- 718-339-1090. Website- [www.mikdashmelech.com](http://www.mikdashmelech.com)

 In 1988, **Mikdash Melech** seized this “window of opportunity” by purchasing and renovating four-story building in picturesque Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem, establishing a comprehensive Torah curriculum and offering these boys a learning experience to last a lifetime.
In this vibrant Torah community, Mikdash Melech Jerusalem engages 90 students from around the world in a challenging program of Torah studies, which include: successful completion of a Masechta (tractate) of Talmud by the close of the year, Halacha, with emphasis on Sephardic traditions and customs, Humash with in-depth commentaries and commanding lectures on Navi, Tehillim, Mussar and Rambam.

Replete with exhilarating tours of the Holy Land, and recreation facilities, the Mikdash Melech Jerusalem learning experience enriches the students’ bodies, minds and souls

Year founded: 1996, Rosh HaYeshiva: ?\_\_\_\_\_\_ , Number of students:?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Number of second year:?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Tuition:$?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Living conditions:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Student/Rebbi ratio:?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sukkot/Pesach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tiyulim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance requirements:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College credits:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Medrash Shmuel** 13 Shaarei Chesed St. Shaarei Chesed, Jerusalem - Year founded: 1993,  Contact Info: Yeshiva Phone # 02-566-5302 – Rabbi Ben Goodman 054-952-1126 /646-558-5170 Email: RabbiBenGoodman@gmail.comRosh HaYeshiva: Rabbi Binyomin Moskovitz, Number of students:220 Number of second year:175, Tuition:$?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Living conditions: Apts., Student/Rebbi ratio:?\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **Medrash** is a Chareidi Yeshiva that takes in an eclectic mixture of English speaking students from various countries around the world. They are ‘very’ flexible and do not require the standard black hat garb and have a warm and extremely engaging staff. Even though they work with individuals in regard potential college credits which they give through Touro and Skokie they are generally NOT pro college and generally discourage this and look to encourage their students to learn as long as possible.

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sukkot/Pesach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tiyulim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance requirements:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College credits:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Mevaseret:** 50 Oren St. Mevaseret Zion 9079053, Israel  Website:  ysmz.org   Israel- Contact: office@ysmz.org.il. – Phone # 972-52-534-7382 – Fax # 972-2-533-9101 Year founded: 1996, Rosh HaYeshiva: Rabbi Shimon Isaacson, Number of students:\_\_\_\_\_, Number of second year:?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Tuition:$?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Living conditions:\_\_\_\_\_, Student/Rebbi ratio:?\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **YSMZ** is a traditional MO Yeshiva for high school graduates, emphasizing Talmud and an innovative variety of other Judaic studies. Our close proximity to Yerushalayim affords us all of the advantages of the holy city while living on a campus in the beautiful suburb of Mevaseret Zion. Our program is tailored to the specific needs of each Talmid so that each Talmid comes to us with unique interests, skills and talents, and gleans from Mevaseret personal growth, increased knowledge and the ability to learn independently – all at his own level and pace. Shiurim are offered in Hebrew and in English. All classes are small and offer great personal attention.

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sukkot/Pesach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tiyulim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance requirements:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College credits:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Yesod HaTorah** - Rabbi Yitschak Fayazi- 3 Kehilot Yaakov, Jerusalem 97436 Israel. 972-52-619-9440. Website: [www.Yesod-HaTorah.org](http://www.Yesod-HaTorah.org) Email: info@Yesod-HaTorah.org

 **Yeshivat Yesod HaTorah** traditional SY yeshiva and has worked with many boys from the community for many years. It considers itself is a unique and exciting Yeshiva for young men who wish to spend at least one year in Yerushalayim to learn and grow in a warm and supportive atmosphere. The yeshiva is dedicated to building the “yesod” or foundation on which every talmid can not only begin to grow, but continue to do so for the rest of his life.

Year founded:?\_\_\_\_\_, Rosh HaYeshiva: Rabbi Yitschak Fayazi, Mashgiach: ?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Number of students:?\_\_\_\_\_\_, Number of second year:?\_\_\_\_\_, Tuition:$?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Living conditions:?\_\_\_\_, Student/Rebbi ratio:?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sukkot/Pesach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tiyulim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance requirements:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College credits:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Things to consider when choosing a Yeshiva:**

1. Cost & Financial Aid
2. Location
3. Living Conditions
4. Philosophy
5. College Credits
6. Extra Curricular Activities
7. Past & Present Student Body
8. Curriculum
9. Size of the student body and student/Rebbi ratio
10. Where the student are 5-10 years down the road

**Some personal suggestions based upon my observations over these past years**:

1. **Is a small or large Yeshiva better, which has advantages which outweigh the possible drawbacks?** (A) Small Yeshivot have greater personalized attention in spiritual, learning and social concerns, and (B) can keep track of where the student is going both physically and spiritually. (C) If for some reason there is a problem there is someone to speak to who will probably really know the young man. Ultimately however it is the faculty/student ratio that really counts.
2. **Is a Yeshiva or program specifically geared for the American student a big plus?** Yes, absolutely.(A) The Rabbeim usually really understand where the boys are coming from. (B) The follow up after the school year has been completed is usually better. (C) The friends that are made come home with the student which translates into potentially and vitally important long term friendships.
3. **Is it better to be in a Yeshiva in or out of Yerushalayim?** (A) There is a-[p  very strong argument to be made for a Yeshiva that is outside of Yerushalayim.(B) It becomes a deterrent to not leave the Yeshiva as often which translates into more time in the Bais Medrash and with that personal growth.
4. **That regardless of which Yeshiva is finally chosen, the overwhelming majority of students end up feeling that they had picked the best one (for them).** (A) Each boy will be advised in regard at least 3 or 4 Yeshivos to choose from that will fit for them. After that, we can safely say that all the schools we have been dealing with have an excellent track record at inspiring and educating our students.
5. **Is it good or OK to come home for Pesach?** Do not come home for Pesach!Interestingly even though I am saying this so empathically there are two sides. The boys are growing and feel that they will be able to maintain the enthusiasm when they come home for good. Coming home for Pesach is really a good test. However after watching it (and speaking to many of the Rosh Hayeshivot) over the years **the conclusion is that it has by far hurt more than it has helped.** Many can’t get back into the learning upon returning and it really deflates the success of the year. After all this is but one year (actually 9 months) so make the most of it. This is also a beautiful time of year to see the country and for many the one opportunity to be in Israel for Pesach.

Overview

**Israel Yeshivot**

 Talmidim have already begun the Israel guidance program and talking with their respective rebbeim regarding post high school Yeshivot. Please be advised that this is a lengthy process as we feel the yeshiva a boy chooses to learn in after high school is a crucial decision that can impact his life for all the years to come. As a result, we expend every effort to understand your son - his strengths, weaknesses and needs - to advise, recommend and, ultimately help him and you choose the appropriate yeshiva for post high school study. Please be patient with us as we go through this process.

**College**

 All of the seniors have already had their individual college advisement meeting(s) with Mrs. R. Most have already completed their second (or third) SAT’s, reviewed their transcripts and GPA’s and are beginning to apply to college. Others are registered to take their second SAT in December and will be applying to colleges immediately following the receipt of their new scores. If your son is not signed up to take the SAT’s in December (at the latest) please urge him to speak with Mrs. Rosenberg.

 On the pages of this packet, please find the requirements of Lander College, Yeshiva College and their respective Honors Programs.  The GPA and SAT requirements are necessary to be considered for admission (they by no means guarantee admission).

**Parents’ Guide to the Selection Process of Post High School Yeshivos in Eretz Yisrael**

**1. What is it about?**

*Advancing in Learning*

* Provides an invaluable opportunity to significantly improve ability and proficiency in learning skills (both textually and conceptually)
* Instills a greater willingness, appreciation and even love for learning
* This will then hopefully inspire a lifetime commitment and discipline to both group and individual Torah study.

*Spiritual Growth*

* Expands horizons and deepens connection to Yiddishkeit, with a clearer grasp and commitment to following Halacha and the understanding of one’s Hashkafa
* Stresses self-awareness and self-identity as a Ben Torah and a “card carrying member” of  Klal Yisrael
* Often inspires a love and connection to Eretz Yisrael and the Jewish people as a people.

*Side Benefits*

* Tiyulim - Seeing, feeling and living in many parts of the Holy Land
* Shabbatons - Often in various locations around Eretz Yisrael
* Forges lifetime healthy relationships with newfound Chevra/friends from different milieus and backgrounds
* Helps allow for a heightened level of maturation due to the independence

**2. Why now?  Why does it work?**

Capitalizes on this unique stage of life…

* Draws on awakening maturity of post-high school years
* Draws on this rare window of uninhibited time to be able to focus on the aforementioned growth and progress
* Draws on emotional pull of Eretz Yisrael; its people, places and inherent קדושה
* Draws on unique setting and environment ideal for introspection and for raising the bar for self-confidence and self-expectation
* Draws on significant personalized individual instruction (in many cases)

**3. For Whom?**

* We feel that almost all our Talmidim stand to benefit invaluably from this experience
* Downside to not going - not being sufficiently ‘equipped’ or ‘connected’ at this pivotal stage of life to meet the myriad challenges ahead; not to mention losing out on a tremendous, invaluable lifelong gain.

**4. Where to?**

* We currently have alumni in quite a few different Yeshivot in Eretz Yisrael!
* Throughout the past number of years we similarly have had boys in quite a few different Yeshivot! Our goal is to work with each young man and their family to find the best Yeshiva for each person.
* A host of crucial factors play a significant role. These include but are not limited to:
* Individual strengths & weaknesses - level of skill, maturity, motivation.
* Long-term & short-term goals - proficiency, independence and fulfillment in learning and all areas of Avodat Hashem.
* Family orientation & considerations
* Size and style of Yeshiva & of individual shiurim - curriculum, extra curriculum, general Hashkafa, educational philosophy, rebbe/talmid ratio, warmth of rebbeim, madrichim, language of instruction, etc.
* Location & facilities
* College credits

**5. How the Process Works.**

* We personally meet with each individual Talmid, numerous times over the course of several months to explore, gauge, evaluate and recommend the various options available and suitable to each boy. We strongly encourage all parents to be in touch with us so that we can work together as a team to choose the most fitting option for your son.

**Preliminary Interview:** Many of the Yeshivos conduct 2 visitations with potential candidates. Throughout the months of December, January and February, they will send a representative - a Rebbi, Mashgiach, Menahel or Rosh Yeshiva - to make a brief presentation and then conduct brief interviews to exchange information and distribute applications. Numerous Yeshivos have already reserved dates to come. Interested candidates should send applications directly to the Yeshivos in a timely fashion.

**Serious Interviews/Bechinah:** These are only available to boys who have already submitted their applications. These usually take place in February/March. It is at this time that parents generally meet with the representatives upon request. We will be in touch with the relevant parents to schedule up these meetings.

**Serious Interview/Bechinah:** Some Yeshivos do not make presentations, nor do they conduct preliminary interviews. They conduct serious interviews and give bechinos right away. The first of this category is scheduled for December 21st.  All of these Yeshivos are competing institutions and as such, they expect most of the perspective candidates to be applying to multiple other choices as well. As a result, they also usually make at least one more trip to solidify their gains and determine who is serious about coming and who is not. It is usually at that time that interested parents meet with the representatives.

**Registration:** Once you have applied, your decision has been made, and - of course - your son has in fact been accepted, it is necessary to then register your son. This will ensure that he has a place in the coming year.

**Finances:**  Tuition, scholarships, YU/Touro, MJI Israel Options as well as medical insurance information and arrangements are generally facilitated and dealt with by the offices of the respective Yeshivot themselves. Read further for more information on financial aid.

**College Credits information for spending a year in Israel: Commonly asked questions!**

1. **How and why does learning in Israel give you credits?**

*To gr*ad*uate with a B.A a person needs 120 college credits. The courses one takes in Israel if done properly will be given credits toward that total.*

1. **How to get credits?**

*The best way is to go to Israel on a set program that has pre-approved the Yeshiva and the course offerings.*

1. **How many credits?**

*It depends on the school. Many give a full year of credits so a student comes back as a college sophomore however make sure to check out what your college gives.*

1. **How to I defer?**

*Apply to college, receive the acceptance and then either look on-line for a deferral form or call the college and ask what they require.*

1. **What type of credits will I receive for my year in Israel?**

*Most majors by far still allow for quite a number of elective credits. This means you can take classes that are not directly related to your major but you are required to fill in the total with ‘electives’. The credits from Israel will be elective credits so now your courses in college will be mainly focused on your major.*

1. **How can I get a student loan for Israel?**

*Read ahead for more information about this very important question.*

**Below is a short list of some local colleges that have traditionally given Israel credits, besides the Yeshiva Colleges, if done the right way?**

1. College of Staten Island (718)-982-2012
2. Kean University
3. Brooklyn (718)-951-5000
4. Queens (718)-997-5607
5. Farleigh Dickinson University- Yeshiva Program (201) 692-2748
6. Many of the Ivy League Schools

**GAP Year**

**What is a GAP year and what are the benefits?**

 *A Gap year has become a common concept about taking a year off to gain some valuable life experiences between the rigors of high school and the start of college. Many of the leading Universities (Harvard, Yale…) in the country strongly advocate this approach as you will be able to see by looking at some of the articles links posted below. Or you may simply Google ‘Gap year’ for yourself. What could be better than to spend this year in Israel travelling the country, learning Torah and growing in one’s connection to Hashem.*

*today.msnbc.msn.com/.../should-your-child-have-****gap****-****year****-college/   www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-06-18-****gap****-****year****\_N.htm*

**Israel or College – College or Israel? Our simple answer is, YES!**

1. We encourage all students to spend minimally 1 year studying strictly limudei kodesh studies, preferably in Eretz Yisrael, before beginning college.

2. Students should still be applying to college before they head off to Yeshiva and requesting a deferment. This assures the student a spot in his college of choice, as well as affords him the guidance the Yeshiva offers in the process. Additionally, the student has the freedom and time to make a change in his choice if he so chooses, or if necessary.

**College Requirements**

**Lander College for Men**

Yeshiva/College Queens Division - Mon/Weds Nights Brooklyn Division

General Admission Requirements & Details - Admissions Office: 718-252-7800 x 299 or 300

GPA: 85 (Note: Judaic Studies grades are taken into account) | SAT: 1100 (neither section under 400)     -      Israel Yeshiva Credits: 36

Additional: Scholarships available based on GPA, Regents average of 90, SAT score of 1200.

Scholarships range from $3,000 to full free tuition. Israel Option Program.

Application Deadline: April 15th (suggested); however admission rolls until classes are full.

**Yeshiva University**

General Admission Requirements & Details - Admissions Office: 212-960-5277

GPA: 85 | SAT: 1100     -       Israel Yeshiva Credits: 36

Additional: 1 essay; 2 teacher recommendations. Israel Option Program.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2011

Yeshiva University Schottenstein Honors Program- Director: Mr. Murray Sragow - 212-960-5277

GPA: 90 | SAT: 1400

Additional: 2 essays; 2 teacher recommendations; special academic and extracurricular achievements will be considered.

What are the perks: Candidates are considered for $5,000, $10,000 or $15,000 or full tuition

Academic scholarships - Application Deadline: February 1st

Yeshiva University Masmidim Honors Program - Director: Rabbi Chaim Bronstein-212-568-7300

SAT Exam Dates and Registration Deadlines for are approximately

Test Date Registration Deadline Late Registration Deadline\*

Check the College Board for this year’s dates.

ACT Exam Dates and Registration Deadlines – Collegeboard.com

 It is not recommended for 12th grade students to take the SAT/ACT later than December (or November if applying to an honors program) to ensure that results are received with ample time before the College Application Deadlines.

**Financial Aid:**

* **FAFSA:** Instructions on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid **(FAFSA)** has been provided by CUNY (see 7 steps below). Although these directions were provided by CUNY, they are the same for all colleges. FAFSA- (Federal Student Aid) 1-800-433-3243

* **MASA:** You to apply for a MASA grant (of $1,000-$4,500) for your son’s upcoming Israel study. Once you have decided on the appropriate post high school yeshiva for him, please visit the MASA web site at **www.masaisrael.org** to begin the application process for MASA funding.   MASA- (Israel Scholarship Funding) 1-866-864-3279

* **Yeshiva Scholarships:** Yeshivot are aware of the economic climate we are currently in and, therefore, try to be as flexible as possible regarding tuition. Many will give significant discounts for families that require them, or will ask that first all avenues of financial aid are pursued before determining a “final number.” They are sensitive to our financial situations. Private Financial Aid may be available and we strongly advise to look at all options before assuming it cannot work out. We suggest you visit the Yeshiva University (www.yu.edu) and Lander College (www.touro.edu/landercollege) web sites to familiarize yourself with each institution’s private financial aid programs and scholarships. Many scholarships are available both for academic excellence and/or needs based.
* **Your Rabbi:** Many local rabbonim have discretionary funds that they control. A post high school student going to learn in Eretz Yisrael is an extremely worthwhile cause to contribute some of those funds to. Additionally, be sure to ask your Rabbi if he knows someone who can help you pay for your trip.

* **Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship:** This fund offers a scholarship of $3,500 to select applicants.

 To qualify, you need to: 1) be a high school graduate, 2) not currently be in Israel, and 3) intend to study Torah at a yeshiva or seminary in Israel, and 4) show “academic promise in religious studies.” To apply, visit www.alisafund.org.

* **Work Study:** Contact your prospective yeshiva to see if they offer a tuition break which you either work off while you are a student there or agree to pay back once you begin working.
* **College Board Scholarship Search Engine:** The College Board provides a search engine on their web site from a base of 2,300 sources of college funding. We invite you to visit the College Board web site Search Engine link at apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch\_ss/welcome.jsp to begin searching and applying for scholarships for which your son may be eligible.

**Seven Steps for Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The following steps will provide you with the necessary information on how to apply for federal and New York financial aid.

Step 1: Collect the Documents Needed to Apply

 Collect your income tax returns, Social Security number, W-2 form(s) and any other record of income and assets. If you are under 24 years old, you will likely need your parents’ information as well. You can estimate your tax information if you have not yet completed your tax return and correct the information later. A FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov that allows you to complete the questions before entering your information online.

Step 2: Get a Federal Student Aid PIN at www.pin.ed.gov

 Your PIN allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. You can also make corrections to your FAFSA application once it’s filed and access your application online. If you’re under 24 years old, it is likely you and one of your parents will each need a PIN.

Step 3: Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov

 The FAFSA is the application for federal student assistance. You can apply starting January 1st, prior to the academic year you plan attending. Apply online by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov, a paper FAFSA is available by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 4-FED-AID.

Step 4: Link to TAP on the Web from Your FAFSA Application

 The TAP application is used to apply for New York State student financial aid (New  York State Residents Only). Once you complete the FAFSA online, you will be transferred to the “FAFSA on the Web” confirmation page. Click on the link for New York State residents and you will be directed to the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) web site in order to fill out your TAP application.

Step 5: Receive a Student Aid Report (SAR)

 After your FAFSA is processed, you will be e-mailed a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U.S. Department of Education within 3-5 days. The SAR contains the information you provided on your FAFSA and a calculation of your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). You can access your SAR and make corrections at www.fafsa.ed.gov with your Federal Student Aid PIN.

Step 6: Verify Your Data

 The U.S. Department of Education selects a certain number of applicants for a verification process. If you have been selected (which will be indicated on your SAR), you will need to submit tax returns and other documents to your school’s financial aid office to verify the data you supplied on your FAFSA.

Step 7: Receive Your Financial Aid Award Letter

 Once your FAFSA is complete and you demonstrate financial need, your selected college will send you an award letter indicating the financial aid programs for which you qualify.

**Israel Yeshiva Visiting Calendar**

 The calendar is constantly being updated as more Yeshivot request audiences with our talmidim. We will keep you updated.  For all Yeshivot giving presentations, talmidim will also have the opportunity to meet privately with the yeshiva representative if he so desires or as advised by his rebbeim. Official interviews will be conducted later in the year unless otherwise indicat

**Spending the last year in Israel: How important is it? And, is it enough?**

Let’s consider the words of Rabbi Yehuda Halevi in his classic work on Jewish thought, the Kuzari. Likewise, it will be informative to consider the context in which these words were written and the man who wrote them. **R’ Yehuda Halevi lived in Spain at a time when Israel was being ravaged by the crusades, and when living conditions for the tiny remnant of Jews in Israel were as dangerous and desperate as they had ever been. Nonetheless, in the year 1145, Halevi left the comforts of Spanish life behind to set out on what would become a legendary five year journey to settle in Israel.**

**Now for the words of Rabbi Yehida Halevi:**

“Despite all that we know about the precious spiritual status of the Land of Israel, still, we have failed to make this place the focus of our life’s goals. And, it is this very shortcoming that prevented us from grasping the historic opportunity that existed during the era of the second Bais Hamikdash, and the initial return of thousands of Jews to Israel, G-d was making it clear that He was prepared to restore all of the spiritual grandeur that had existed prior to the destruction- if only the entire people had been profoundly desirous to return home. However, only a minority returned, while the majority, including the leadership, remained in Bavel, where they preferred to live in exile in the comfort of their homes and worldly possessions. This is what is meant by the verse in Shir Hashirim, “I am asleep but my heart is awake.’ Exile is a deep sleep and while in our hearts there is longing to return to Eretz YIsroel, it is difficult to stir ourselves from the from the depths of our slumber.”

 **I would also ask that you take into strong consideration the words that were spoken by Rabbis Yitzchak Meir Levin and Moshe Porush, the Agudath Israel representatives to the United Nations in 1947, and to consider its meaning and implications in light of this decision you must make and Judaism’s bigger picture.**

 “We must first declare that which the entire Jewish people agree upon: Israel and the Jewish people to one another forever… this historic event must bring home to every Jew the realization that the Almighty has brought this about in an act of Divine providence which presents us with a great task and grave test. We must face up to this test and establish our life as a people upon the basis of Torah. We are sorely grieved that the land has been divided and sections of the Holy Land have been torn asunder, especially Jerusalem, the Holy City. While we still yearn for the aid of our righteous Moshiach, who will bring us total redemption, we nevertheless see the Hand of Providence offering us the opportunity to prepare for the complete redemption, if we will walk into the future as G-d’s people”. (Copied from ***Israel- Judaism in a Nutshell***

**Below you will find the basic list of reasons that have been given over the years for deciding upon spending a year studying in a Yeshiva in Israel.**

1. **To build emunah. (Time to sit and think)**
2. **To grow in Torah knowledge. (Four years in one)**
3. **Internalization and growth in Mitzva observance. (Planting the seed)**
4. **To mature and plan for the future. (In a kosher environment)**
5. **To develop a love of Israel and our people.**
6. **Protection from the future college environment.**
7. **Experience of a lifetime. (If your grandparents could have done this)**
8. **Develop a relationship with Hashem. (Yetzer Hara or Yetzer Tov)**
9. **To fall in love with one’s Judaism and learning. (A happier person)**
10. **Why ask why? (There has to be a strong reason not to go)**

 **Here is a partial list of some other well known yeshivot, some of which have been attended by many of my former talmidim over the years:**

**Derech Etz Chaim** – Rabbi Aharon Katz – Rosh Hayeshiva [www.ondec.net](http://www.ondec.net) – Jerusalem

**Derech** (A division of Ohr Sameach) 02-651-8043 – Jerusalem

**Kerem B’Yavneh** - Israel office- Mr. Eli Klien: (08) 856-2007. American- Rabbi Marc Volk- 212-687-0805  Website- www.kby.org

**Mercaz Hatorah** – 02-671-2477 Talpiot, Jerusalem

**Midrash Shmel** – 02-643-3597 – Jerusalem

**Netiv Aryeh -** American office: 718-601-5826 Website: www.Netivaryeh.org

**Ohr Dovid -** American office: 718-520-5483. Website [www.ohrdavid.comm](http://www.ohrdavid.comm)

**Sha’alvim -**  American office: 718-677-7200 Website- [www.shaalvim.org](http://www.shaalvim.org)

**Shaarei Mevaseret Tzion -** American office- 914-352-2255 Email- office@ysmz.org.il

**Toras Moshe** – Rabbi Moshe Meiselman – Rosh HaYeshiva 582-6541 Jerusalem

**Some of the post Israel joint yeshiva/college options that are available**:

Yeshiva University- (212) 960-5277 (Rabbi Moshe Kranzler)- [www.yu.edu](http://www.yu.edu)

Lander College- (718) 820-4800 (R’ Barry Nathan) [www.touro.edu/lander/admissions.asp](http://www.touro.edu/lander/admissions.asp)

Touro College- Flatbush (718) 252 7800/ Manh. (212)463-0400- [www.touro.edu](http://www.touro.edu)

Ner Israel Rabbinical College- (410) 484-7200- John Hopkins, U. of Maryland

Or Hachaim- Queens (718) 544-9462- Touro, Queens College

Torah M’tzion- Queens (718) 327- 6135- Touro, Queens College, Baruck

Shar Yashuv- (Far Rockaway) Touro Queens College…

Silver Spring- Rabbi Merkin (301) 649-7077 George Washington University

Ohr Sameach (Monsey) Rabbi Berger (845) 425- 1370- Rockland C.C., Thomas Edison

Miami – Yeshiva Gedolah of Miami - Rabbi Zweig (305) 538- 5543- University of Miami

B’Nai Torah (Far Rockaway) (718) 868- 0366

Queens (Rabbi Schienerman) (718) 692-3309

Waterbury (Rabbi Kallush) (203)756-1800- University of Connecticut

**PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF STUDY IN ISRAEL**

1. Choosing the best school for yourself.
	1. Don’t follow friends.
	2. Identify personal goals and match them with results.
	3. Speak to graduates and parents of graduates

1. Preparing for the actual year of study.
	1. Speaking to friends who have gone through the experience recently.
	2. Make a list of all the questions you ever had and would like answered and put them in a notebook.
	3. Perhaps get a jumpstart on material if you wish to.

1. Making the most of your year abroad.
	1. Choose friends and roommates wisely. Don’t settle for mediocrity.
	2. Choose a Rebbe or two that is appealing to you and start asking the questions you wrote down in the notebook.
	3. If safe, travel and experience as much of Jewish life as you can. Open up your eyes to the rich beauty and diversity of Torah Judaism.
	4. Recognize the preciousness of your time there- it is limited and there are too many thousands of Jewish teens that are not afforded this opportunity.
	5. Take lots of pictures, write a diary of what you see and hear and especially of how you feel about your connection to your Judaism and your learning and of course call home often.

1. Parental Approach
	1. Develop a relationship with your child’s Rebbe. Stay in contact with him often enough so that you are kept aware of successes, failures and developments.
	2. Realize that your child will come home advanced in study and developed in attitude. Enjoy it- Share in it- don’t be frightened of it. It is a sign that your tuition money was well spent.

1. The most important thing you can do now to help make the year in Israel be a long lasting and life altering experience.
	1. Start working on some aspect of your personal growth here and now.
	2. The growth process will have a much better chance of maintaining itself if you establish a bridge of growth between America and Israel and then between Israel and America. By starting your efforts (even a minor aspect of growth) here, you will have established that America is also a place of growth so that when you return after the year in Israel you will be comfortable and be able to hold on to your gains and to continue the process.