

The Stream

Bringing news to the
Volume 5



online community
issue 1

From Mrs. Kahan:

Dear Parents:

It has been a joy to welcome your daughters back to school, and to hear the music of learning fill our halls once again. The new school year brings with it a sense of wide-open possibilities and, with Rosh Hashana so closely following the first day of school, the feeling of potential and renewal is particularly intense this year.

I would like to update you on some exciting developments at Ma'ayanot. Most importantly, I am pleased to welcome several new teachers to our faculty, as well as a few former Ma'ayanot teachers who are returning after having taken some time to pursue other opportunities. Please see page 5 for introductions to each of our new faculty members.

As you have heard, we have begun the process of preparing for our ten-year Middle States re-accreditation. Re-accreditation involves conducting an intensive self-study of all areas of school life and culture at Ma'ayanot, including education, Student Life, Student Services, health and safety, and facilities. In February 2012, we will be visited by a Middle States team, to whom we will present the results of our self-study. Our first step when we began the Middle States process was to choose a protocol to guide us in our research. We chose the most comprehensive of the three Middle States protocols, in the hope that the detailed information it requires will ensure that the conclusions of our self-study are meaningful and useful. I believe that this self-study offers new opportunities for reflection, improvement, and growth, and I look forward to the process as well as the fruits of this effort.

During the summer, we began to analyze the results of the Middle States Staff, Parent, and Student Surveys. Thank you for the time that you invested in completing the surveys; the information they provided was invaluable and will guide us throughout our re-accreditation process. At this point, we have formed committees that will conduct the research necessary for re-accreditation. Our entire faculty, as well as 38 parents and 24 students, are currently involved in committees. If you would like to join a committee,

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From Mrs. Kahan (continued) please contact Mrs. Pam Ennis, who is coordinating the re-accreditation process, at ennisp@maayanot.org. We hope to involve as many members of our school community as possible in this project.

Over the past two months, our building has been improved in several ways. Our main office has undergone a physical transformation in an effort to create a more inviting, professional space to greet visitors. In addition, my office now has a large window into the hall, which opens it up and will, I hope, make the principal's office feel more accessible and welcoming to our students. Several of the other offices in the building have been improved as well. This year, we welcome Shalom Yeladim Daycare as our tenants. The daycare will be housed in two of the classrooms on the first floor, and we have begun to use two additional classrooms on the second floor to compensate. I hope that you will be able to stop by Ma'ayanot soon to see the changes for yourself.

We begin this school year with updated educational technology. Our computer lab has been refurbished with new computers and we have purchased one new SmartBoard. We received a grant for a comprehensive WiFi system and a laptop cart of 20 new laptops, which have the ability to transform a regular classroom into a multimedia room. Additionally, we plan to unveil more features on our website this year, including online report cards and a homework page. We are also updating our software and are actively reviewing new online programs. Every year, an increasing number of our faculty members integrate technology into their teaching, and we hope that our updated technology system will facilitate even more effective use of technology in the education of our students.

While our faculty begins the new school year with a sense of anticipation and excitement, we are also saddened that this is the first year since the founding of Ma'ayanot that we are not joined by our colleague, Mr. David Lesser. Mr. Lesser's death in August was a blow to all of us, and we miss his warm, dynamic presence and his incredible passion for teaching. We plan to dedicate our Day of Study in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, which will be held on December 19th, to his memory. We hope that this will be a fitting tribute to his love of learning and knowledge and his dedication to our students.

As always, please feel free to be in touch with me to share any questions, concerns, or ideas.

With best wishes for a *ketiva vechatima tova* and a year of joy and *berakha*,

Rivka Kahan

Mrs. Rivka Kahan
Principal



"A Rosh Hashanah Portrait Gallery" a Dvar Torah by Mrs Shifra Schapiro



The High Holidays are associated with prayer and spiritual endeavors. They are also a time to revisit our favorite characters from *Tanakh*, since the *Rosh HaShanah* readings offer many vivid narratives and portraits of exemplary individuals. Each of the following paragraphs will “re-introduce” a person from the *Rosh HaShanah* readings, briefly explain what and when we read about him or her, and explore the connection of the biblical personage to *Rosh HaShanah*.

Sarah: The first day’s *Torah* reading, *Bereishit* chapter 21, opens with the words “*Hashem* had remembered Sarah,” and enabled her to give birth to Yitzchak. But chapter 21 is not a simple story. The rest of the chapter does not describe Sarah’s blissful mothering of Yitzchak, but rather her struggle to make sure that Yitzchak grows up in the proper spiritual atmosphere. She tells Avraham to undertake the morally difficult task of setting Hagar the maidservant free, so that Hagar’s son Yishmael will not adversely influence or harm Yitzchak. In Avraham’s eyes, letting Hagar and Yishmael free is abandonment, and indeed the pair does struggle to survive in the desert. But God, who commanded Avraham to heed Sarah’s decision to free Hagar, heard Yishmael’s prayers and saved him from thirst. We can glean two important *Rosh HaShanah* ideas from the *Torah* reading. Sarah’s struggle to raise Yitzchak without Yishmael shows us that sometimes even making the proper moral choice can be difficult and involve cost to others. God’s mercy on Yishmael “in his present state” (verse 17) means that we are judged only by our past and present, but we have the power to change our future for the better.

Chana: Her prayer for a child became the paradigm of prayer for all generations, because *Hazal* learn many laws of prayer from the *navi*’s description of Chana’s actions. We read *Sefer Shmuel* chapter 1 and chapter 2:1-10 to remind us of the power of prayer, but also of the darkness of the time before prayers are answered. The *navi*’s poignant description of Chana’s returning year after year to the *Mishkan* to partake in the family’s sacrifice, each year crying because she did not have a child, shows that there can be long periods where we do not feel close to God, where we feel like He does not hear us or acknowledge us. But when Chana’s prayer was finally answered, it was answered maximally, because not only did she become a mother, she became a mother to one of the greatest Jewish leaders, Shmuel *ha-Navi*. *Rosh ha-Shanah* is a time when the lines of communication with *Hashem* are open for us to ask Him for what we need, as Chana did.

Avraham: The *Torah* reading for the second day of *Rosh HaShanah* is the story of *Akeidat Yitzchak*, *Bereishit* chapter 22. Avraham’s test was two-fold. On an emotional level: can he obey the command of God to sacrifice the recipient of his love and his hopes for a spiritual destiny? On a moral level: how can he obey a command of God that contradicts his own innate moral sense, and God’s revealed moral laws? Yet, as a true prophet, he knows that he must do so. At the end of the story, Avraham joyfully sacrifices the ram in place of his son as he realizes that God indeed does not seek the emotionally and morally impossible, but only his willingness to follow Him. We blow the horn of the ram – the *shofar* – on *Rosh HaShanah* to recall the merits of the *Akeidah*.

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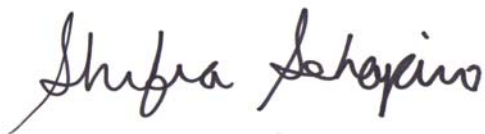
"A Rosh Hashanah Portrait Gallery" (continued) a Dvar Torah by Mrs Shifra Schapiro

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Rachel: The theme of sacrifice is also reflected in the *haftarah* of the second day of *Rosh HaShanah*, the first 19 verses of *Yirmiyahu* chapter 31. It does not tell the story of Rachel's sacrifice, but recalls it with the words that have been sung to many tunes: "Kol be-ramah nishma...Rachel mevakah al baneha – a voice is heard from on high...Rachel crying for her children" (verse 14). The *midrash* (*Eichah Rabbati*, introduction) describes how all the *Avot* (Patriarchs) and *Imahot* (Matriarchs) asked God to show mercy to the Jewish nation. God accepted only Rachel's plea, because her sacrifice – facilitating the marriage of Yaakov and Leah – affected every day of her life thereafter. We may not get called on to perform an outstanding deed like the *Akeidah*, but the strength to make the daily sacrifices over the coming year - to fulfill our obligations to others, to discipline ourselves to learn and to develop in *middot* – is infused in us by Rachel.

Ephraim: The last biblical character does not appear as an individual, but as an archetype. Twice in the second-day *haftarah*, Ephraim is portrayed as a child: in verse 8 he is referred to as *Hashem's* firstborn son, and in verse 19 God describes him as "My darling son." According to most commentators, Ephraim does not represent the individual who was the son of Yosef, but is another name for the nation as a whole (just as we are sometimes called "Yisrael," "Yaakov" or "Yehudah"). The loving father-son relationship between God and the people of Israel described in verses 8 and 19 frames a request from Ephraim to God in verses 17 and 18: "Return me to You, and I shall return." As we strive to do *teshuvah* on *Rosh HaShanah*, we realize that we cannot achieve repentance without help. Our yearning for God is the first step, and then He will reach out and guide us to him, so we can ultimately return. May the inspiration from Sarah, Chana, Avraham, Rachel and Ephraim bring us closer to God – through enthusiastic learning, prayer, and *mitzvot* – over the coming year.

Shana tova,



Mrs. Shifra Schapiro, *Tanakh* Faculty



Our "Freshman Faculty"

Members of the Class of 2014 are not the only new faces at Ma'ayanot. We are pleased to welcome the following new teachers to our faculty.

Mrs. Dena Block (nee Katz) (*Talmud, History, Jewish History, Mehanekhet*) graduated from Ma'ayanot in 2004. She studied at Migdal Oz in Israel before attending Barnard College, from which she received a BA in History in 2009. She completed the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies at Stern College while concurrently pursuing a Masters Degree in Medieval Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School at Yeshiva University. Last year, Mrs. Block was the Resident Scholar at Congregation BIAV in Kansas City, Kansas for one Shabbat each month, which involved teaching members of the community and learning with high school students.



Mrs. Dena Block



Mrs. Merav Brandt

Mrs. Merav Brandt (Hebrew) earned her BA in Hebrew and Comparative Literature in 1998, an MA in the History of the Jewish People in 2009 and a Teaching Diploma, all from Haifa University in Israel. Mrs. Brandt taught in Israel for over ten years, spending most of them at *Yemin Orde* Orthodox High School in Hof-Hakarmel.

Mrs. Pam Ennis (History) taught at Ma'ayanot from 1999 to 2008 before leaving to head an educational program at the UJA Federation. Mrs. Ennis has taught US Government, Economics, Law Survey and Criminal Law. She also served for several years as Ma'ayanot's Senior Grade Advisor and Yearbook Advisor. Mrs. Ennis is returning to Ma'ayanot full-time to teach two US Government classes and one Criminal Law class. She is also coordinating Ma'ayanot's Middle States re-accreditation effort, which is a two-year process that has already begun and will culminate in February 2012. Mrs. Ennis holds a BA from Queens College and a JD from Fordham Law School.



Mrs. Pam Ennis

Mrs. Julie Goldstein (Jewish History) is rejoining our faculty to teach ninth grade Jewish History. Mrs. Goldstein is a doctoral candidate in medieval Jewish history at NYU, working on a dissertation about the representation of children in medieval martyrdom narratives. Mrs. Goldstein, along with her husband Rabbi Uri Goldstein, founded an advanced Jewish learning program at UCLA Hillel. She received a BA in Jewish Studies from Stern College and an MA in Medieval Jewish Philosophy from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. Her husband is the Rav of Ahavat Achim Synagogue in Fair Lawn.

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Mrs. Amy Kanarek (Spanish) has taught Spanish and French since 1998, in both private and public school settings. She also taught English to native French speakers in France, as part of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange. She has a BA in French Language and Literature from the University of Pennsylvania and completed graduate studies in Spanish and French at Middlebury College and Florida Atlantic University. She also studied at Hebrew University and has an MA in Jewish Education from JTS.



Mrs. Amy Kanarek



Mrs. Adeena Mayerfeld (*Tanakh*) taught *Tanakh* at Ramaz High School for several years. She has a BA in Judaic Studies from Stern College and an MA in *Tanakh* from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. She has also studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum. She serves on the RYNJ Education Committee and Executive Board.

Mrs. Adeena Mayerfeld

Mrs. Peshi Neuburger (*Tanakh*)

joins the Ma'ayanot faculty this year to teach one section of the senior *Tanakh* Seminar elective. Mrs. Neuburger will also continue as a teacher of *Tanakh* at Bruria High School, a position she has held for the past twelve years. She taught the "*kallah* classes" at Lincoln Square Synagogue in Manhattan for 25 years, and has taught *tefilla* to eighth graders at RYNJ for the past five years. Mrs. Neuburger received her BA from Stern College. She is married to Rabbi Yaacov Neuburger, the Rav of Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield.



Mrs. Peshi Neuburger



Mrs. Rivki Nyer

Mrs. Rivki Nyer (English) received a BA in Psychology from Thomas Edison State College and a second BA, in English, from Kean University, followed by an MA in English Education from NYU. She has taught English and Writing in private and public school settings. In addition to teaching several Writing and English electives, she will be working as a Writing Fellow to help our Science, Talmud, and History teachers integrate more writing into their teaching.

Mrs. Shira Schiowitz (*Tanakh* Chair, Director of Professional Development) is rejoining our faculty after working as a mentor for the Jewish New Teachers Project for the past four years. Prior to joining Ma'ayanot's faculty in 2002, she taught *Tanakh* at Ramaz for three years. At Ma'ayanot, she taught *Tanakh* and served as Director of Israel Guidance. Mrs. Schiowitz has

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also worked on the *Chinuch* Staff of Morasha for the past six summers. She has a BA from Stern College and has completed coursework toward an MA in *Tanakh* at Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University.

Mrs. Julie Goldstein (at left) and Mrs. Shira Schiowitz



Mrs. Brenda Zak (Science Research) received her BA in Biology from Stern College before going on to receive



Mrs. Brenda Zak

a Masters in Genetic Counseling from Mount Sinai Medical School. She has practiced genetic counseling for the past six years, first at New York Hospital and then in private practice in Bergen County. She has taught Genetics courses in the hospital setting and has mentored genetic counseling graduate students.

Mr. Ariel Feliciano (Head of Maintenance) was a loan officer prior for WSF Services prior to working at Ma'ayanot. His responsibilities will include cleaning, repairs and maintenance of our property.



Mr. Ariel Feliciano



Our new teachers got right down to work on Tuesday, August 31 when they met with members of our Administration and with Director of Special Services Mrs. Elise Vitow

Aliza's Corner

Friends and family of Aliza Esral ע"ה, beloved member of the Class of 2003, gathered in the MPR to begin work on "Aliza's Corner" on Sunday, August 15. Members of the Class of 2003 who came to help included Adina Leidner, Aliza Peyser and Adena Korn. They were assisted by Aliza's Stern College roommate Sara Levit and family friend Naomi Levin, Aliza's parents, Dr. Mitchel and Mrs. Naomi Esral, sisters Tali Esral and Nurit Esral, and grandmother Mrs. Teitelbaum. Mrs. Madeline Schmuckler from the Ma'ayanot staff was there to pitch in as well. Aliza, a gifted artist, was planning a career as a children's book illustrator. Her promise was cut tragically short when she died shortly after her graduation from Stern College in 2008.



During this past Spring and Summer, members of the Class of 2003, led by Amy Adler '03, worked hard to plan and coordinate a space at Ma'ayanot which will be called "Aliza's Corner." This area will feature reproductions of a selection of many of Aliza's remarkable paintings and, hopefully, serve as a place where current Ma'ayanot students can sit, reflect and recharge their creative batteries.



above, Amy Adler '03 bravely climbs the ladder while Adina Leidner '03 "supervises;" at top right, Aliza Peyser '03 wears a smock she crafted out of garbage bags as she watches Adina Korn '03 take a turn with the paint-brush



The dedication of "Aliza's Corner" will be held during our annual *Yom Iyun* on Sunday, September 12,



and members of the Ma'ayanot community are welcome to attend. Anyone who wishes to contribute to Aliza's corner can reply to Ma'ayanot Yeshiva HS for Girls at 1650 Palisade Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666, att: Mrs. M. Schmuckler,

at left, Dr. Esral helps the "construction team," above from left to right are Mrs. Madeline Schmuckler, Adina Lediner and Amy Adler and, below, at left, friends and family work on the "park bench."

and please put "Aliza's Corner" in the memo line.





at left, members of our new Freshman class Liad Arussy (at left) and Hannah Ash meet with the Class of 2014 for tefilla and below, it's hard to tell who's behind that shiny hair as Big Sisters demonstrate locker opening skills



BACK TO SCHOOL...



above, Juniors Lizzie Klein (at left) and Zisse Hanfling display their Big Sister shirts, at bottom left Ally Margulies '14 and Big Sis Danielle Wietschner '13 bond over shirt painting; at right, Mrs. Esther Berezin and Mrs. Abbie Rabin speak with Seniors about college guidance



Upcoming Events

- * The Stella K. Abraham Beit Midrash for Women, in partnership with Ma'ayanot presents **Erev Shira v'Hitorerit** on *Motzei Shabbat*, September 14. at 10:30 PM. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Dena Block of the Ma'ayanot Talmud Faculty. For more information, click [here](#).
- * **Dedication of "Aliza's Corner,"** in memory of Aliza Esral '03 ז"ל on Sunday, September 14 at approximately 10:15AM in our MPR.
- * **Community Yom Iyun**, Sunday, September 14, starting at 9:30 AM. See page 11 for more information.
- * From Mrs. Heller and Mrs. Seltzer: This year, our **Drama Department** will be presenting the musical **"Beauty and the Beast"** on Thursday December 23, 2010. Auditions for "Beauty and the Beast" will be on Tuesday September 7, Monday, September 13 and Tuesday, September 14, during lunch, in the *Beit Knesset*. Please prepare a song to sing, complete the audition form and sign up for the day on which you wish to audition. Sign up sheets will be in the lobby on the first day of school. **To read about how Mrs. Heller combines her love of Musical Theater and Mathematics, point your browser to the Jewish Standard of September 3 by clicking [here](#).**
- * Join the *Chessed* Committee and earn *chessed* credits on Tuesday, September 7: Come to the MPR during lunch and make *Rosh Hashana* card for Gilad Shalit and for the elderly.



Our September Calendar

Since this September is punctuated with so many *yamim tovim*, the school calendar is reprinted here so that everyone knows where to be!

September 8 - 10 (Wednesday-Friday) - *Rosh Hashana* recess
September 12 (Sunday) - *Tzom Gedalia* and *Yom Iyun*
September 15 (Wednesday) - Freshman Parent Orientation and Meet the Faculty; 7:15 PM
September 15 (Wednesday) - Soph, Junior and Senior Parent Orientation and Meet the Faculty, 7:45 PM
September 17 (Friday) - *Erev Yom Kippur*; no sessions
September 22 - October 3 (Wednesday - Sunday) - *Sukkot* recess
October 4 (Monday) - classes resume



The Stream

is pleased to resume publication for the 2010-11 school year.

Issue 2 will be delivered to your inbox on **Tuesday, September 21**, after which publication will resume its regular Friday morning schedule on Friday, October 8.

Look for our new layout, featuring a letter from our Administration and a more condensed format featuring news and activities both inside and outside our walls.

MA'AYANOT
מעיינות

invites you to join us
for a

Community Yom Iyun

Sunday, September 12, 2010 – 4 Tishrei 5771, Tzom Gedaliah
9:30 AM – 12:45 PM Men and Women Welcome

Keynote speaker: Mrs. Rivka Kahan,
Principal of Ma'ayanot

"Free Will and Predestination in the Life of Shaul"

With additional shiurim by our distinguished faculty:

Rabbi Daniel Besser – "Egypt in the Fall: Rosh Hashanah as a Yom Teshuva"

Mrs. Dena Block – "Solemnity or Celebration:

The Dual Nature of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur"

Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft – "Updates Are Ready for You,
Are You Ready for Them?"

Mrs. Shayna Goldberg – "Maftir Yonah: Beyond Yom Kippur"

Mrs. Leah Herzog – "The Dynamic Duos: Us and G-d, Love and Loyalty"

Mrs. Lynn Kraft – "For a Guaranteed Acquittal, All You Have to Do Is...Plead Guilty?
Tanakh's Testimony to the Value of Viduy"

Rabbi Zev Prince – "A Place in the Shade: An Inside Look into the Mitzvah of Sukkah"

Mrs. Shifra Schapiro – "The Quality of Mercy:
Yonah, Eliyahu and the Middat Ha-Rachamim"

Mrs. Shira Schiowitz – "Reflection and Renewal:
A Closer Look at the Haftarat of the Yoraim Noraim"

Mrs. Merav Tal-Timen – "Agnon's Dream: Aliyah and Revival in Eretz Israel"

"Dedication of Aliza's Corner" in memory of Aliza Esral '03 z"l
in the MPR following the keynote address

The Stream

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Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls
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Mrs. Tamar Appel and Ms. Elana Flaumenhaft, Assistant Principals

Rachel Feldman, Administrator

Dr. Howard Friedman, President

Mrs. Madeline Schmuckler, Layout

visit us on the web at www.maayanot.org

to learn more about our school and for back issues of this publication