

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 24, 2014 | Section 2

News, Events, and More

NEWS

Jon Leener (YCT '16) Reports from Israel

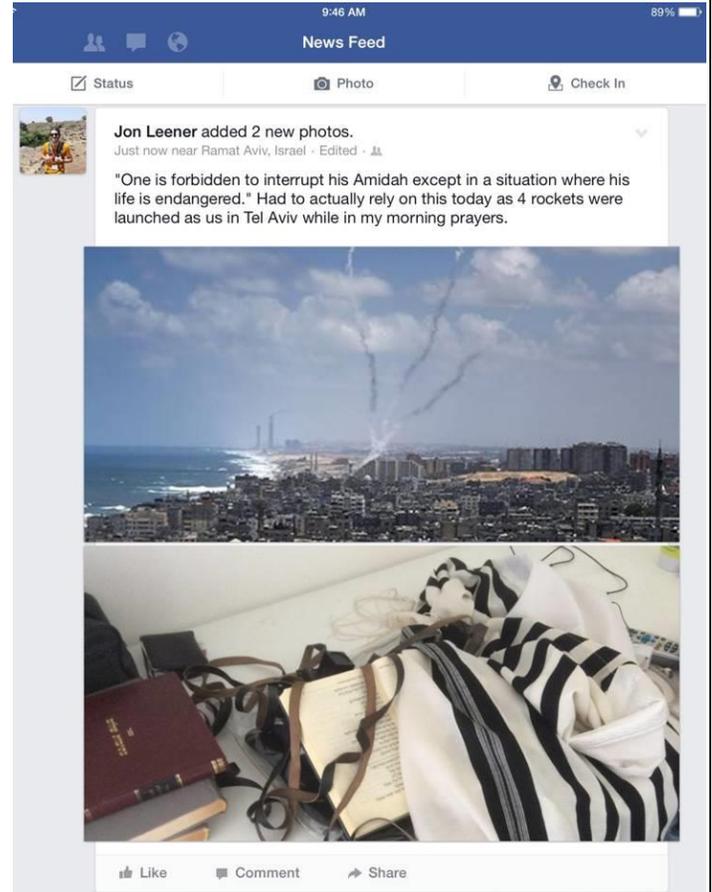
A few days ago, we received an email from Jon Leener (YCT '16), who is currently studying in Israel. In it, Jon relates his daily experiences during a volatile, frightening time. His actions and words precisely demonstrate the kind of [“Unkelus chalutz”](#) attitude that Rabbi Asher Lopatin called for in his article last week, and as such, are still very relevant today.

Being in Israel during this time has been really intense but extremely impactful. I feel like I can connect to Israelis and the situation on such a deeper level. It's amazing seeing how the country comes together in such terror. It has been stressful with sirens and running into the bomb shelter. Usually we get two a day. One in the morning and one in evening. We know when to come out by hearing the loud “boom” which is Iron Dome shooting it down. At night you always set up clothes, glasses, shoes in case so you can jump out of bed a get to the shelter in time. Very difficult falling asleep with that type of anxiety.

We still have had a great time. :) I ride my bike to Ulpan in the morning and always swim at the beach before! We have really fallen in love with Tel Aviv.

B'shalom
Jon

Below is what I posted on my Facebook:



The heading reads: “One is forbidden to interrupt his Amidah except in a situation where his life is endangered.’ Had to actually rely on this today as 4 rockets were launched [at] us in Tel Aviv while in my morning prayers.”

2014 Meorot Fellowship now Accepting Applications

The Meorot Fellowship is now accepting [applications for 2014](#). The Fellowship is open to college juniors, seniors, and recent graduates interested in exploring and grappling with the opportunities and challenges of Orthodox identity and Jewish communal leadership.

The Fellowship consists of eight sessions, each built around a topical presentation by a leading academic, community leader, or rabbi. Presentations are followed by the core of the program – open and honest discussion. Past speakers have included Rabbi Saul Berman, Blu Greenberg, Rabbi Dov Linzer, and Dr. Bat Sheva Marcus; and past topics have included Science and *Halakha*, Biblical Criticism, and Homosexuality.

The sessions will be held on selected Thursdays between October 23 and December 18, from 6:30–9:30 PM, on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. A stipend is provided for participation in the Meorot Fellowship.

COMING EVENTS

Rabbi Dov Linzer, Scholar-in-Residence at Young Israel of Sharon

When: July 28, 8:30 PM

Where: Young Israel of Sharon

100 Ames Street; Sharon, Massachusetts

Rabbi Dov Linzer will be a Scholar-in-Residence at the 2014 Summer Beit Midrash of Young Israel of Sharon’s Center for Modern Torah Leadership.

The Topic of this year’s Summer Beit Midrash: Is Access to Religious Experience and Right: Halakhah and Disability. Rabbi Linzer will be giving his address on July 28, and the title of his presentation is “Obligation, Inclusion, Equality: What We Can Learn from the Ger.”

[See the flier](#) for more information about the event.

To read more on the subject, see [“‘Invisible Disability’ Kids are Being Left Out,”](#) by Rabbi Linzer and Devorah Zlochower, and [“What Happens When Jewish Law Hampers the Disabled?”](#) by Anne Cohen.

IN THE PRESS

July 13, 2014 – In his self-titled blog, Rabbi Noah Leavitt (YCT ’13) posted [“A Letter from Israel”](#) about his recent travels there. In the post, he discusses his reaction to visiting the family of Naftali Fraenkel, z”l, and his feelings on living in Israel at this time.

July 16, 2014 – Maine Public Broadcasting Network published an article about the impact that Rabbi Akiva Herzfeld (YCT ’07) has had on the community of Portland, where he serves as a pulpit rabbi, and about his family’s upcoming move to Israel. The article details Rabbi Herzfeld’s hopes for his work in Israel and the achievements he views as most significant in the United States. The article is titled, [“Portland Rabbi Pursues Dream of Moving Young Family to Israel, Despite Violence.”](#)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Tzachi Posner

Home Town:
Brooklyn, NY

Graduating Class:
2017



Position: Judaic Studies

Tzachi is entering his second year at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. He graduated with honors from Brooklyn College with a degree in Judaic Studies. While pursuing his degree, Tzachi taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Tanakh at East Midwood Hebrew Day School. He derived much of his success in the classroom from encouraging his students to think for themselves in order to arrive at a greater depth of understanding. Tzachi participates in weekend retreats with the Yeshivah of Flatbush High School, where he leads uplifting Shabbat services and is well known for his soulful and inspirational musical *Havdalah*. As a Judaic Studies teacher and counselor at Camp Stone, Tzachi learned to incorporate experiential education into his everyday teaching. Tzachi is deeply committed to becoming a Judaic Studies teacher, and he looks forward to a long and meaningful career in the classroom. He currently resides in Riverdale, New York, where he works as a Judaic Studies tutor.

MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Aaron (YCT '13) and Rachel Lerner

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Aaron (YCT '13) and Rachel Lerner on the birth of their baby girl, Ziva Maor.

Rabbi Lerner is the Senior Jewish Educator at UCLA Hillel in Los Angeles, California. Rachel is Director of Judaic Studies at Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School. Ziva joins her sisters Lily and Gavriella as the newest addition to the Lerner family.

YESHIVAT | ישיבת
CHOVEVEI | חובבי
TORAH | תורה

*Setting the standard
in rabbinic education*

www.yctorah.org