

highlights

June 2011/Sivan 5771



YHSA Completes First Year

Torah Studies

Gemara Meseches Megilla – Rabbi Semel's shiur recently completed the final perek (chapter) in this tractate. The last perek discusses laws about the sanctity of a shul and the holy items contained within it. Mazel tov!

Gemara Meseches Gittin – Rabbi Semel's students comprehensively studied Tosefos (commentators), delving to even deeper levels in their comprehension of the Gemara.

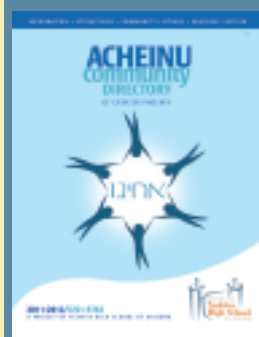
Chumash – Rabbi Semel's students became familiar with Rashi's explanations of the Torah's pesukim (passages).

Navi – In Rabbi Bronsteyn's class, the students completed Sefer Shmuel Aleph. As the students learned Navi, they discussed different lessons and insights contained within. Recently, they discussed the comparison between Dovid Hamelech and Esav and what these two very different individuals had in common.

Hebrew Language – The students have grown tremendously in their understanding of the Hebrew language in this class taught by Rabbi Goetz. They also completed their workshop on being a chazzan for the congregation during weekday tefilos (prayers).

Jewish History – Rabbi Blotner reports that the students analyzed living conditions in the Middle Ages, and discussed the differences under Moslem and Christian rule. They also learned about the lives of some of the most influential people in our heritage such as Rashi, the Rambam, and many other early Rishonim. Our students also examined the contributions of poets (paytanim) to the liturgy and its impact on our current prayers.

acheinu community directory



YHSA published Acheinu Community Directory, a community resource book with personal and professional listings, as well as information for the Greater Phoenix area. 500 copies were distributed on Purim, March 20, 2011.

If you would like to be included in our next edition, please e-mail us at yhsadirectory@gmail.com

General Studies

World History – In Mr. Robinson's class, the students finished their sections on India and China. The students spent a week doing a detailed PowerPoint presen-

in the community



Arizona State Capitol

On March 14th, YHSA went to visit the Capitol, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Our tour was led by our math teacher, Mr. Rubenstein, who is also a volunteer guide at the Capitol, and we were joined, as well, by our social studies teacher, Mr. Robinson. Besides learning a great deal about the history of both Phoenix and Arizona, we also had the pleasure of meeting Steve Montenegro, the youngest member of the House of Representatives, as well as Pinal County Sheriff, Paul Babeu, who provided us with exciting first-hand information about the controversial Arizona border issues.

Community Shabbatons

Ahavas Torah

Our November Shabbaton in Scottsdale started with Friday night dinner at community members' homes followed by an Oneg at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Sebag. An uplifting lunch Seuda at Ahavas Torah synagogue had Divrei Torah and Zemiros. Rabbi Ariel Shoshan spoke about the importance of having lofty goals. After Shabbos, the students enjoyed a special Melava Malka with a volleyball game and a barbeque at the home of the Ziers.

Young Israel

We had an inspiring and uplifting Shabbaton at the Young Israel of Phoenix on Shabbos Parshas Vayechi. On Friday night, the students enjoyed a wonderful Sephardic Oneg at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oren Efraim. During the day, we hosted 60 members of the shul for a memorable Shabbos luncheon. Rabbi Reuven Mann inspired us with his Divrei Torah. Each student shared words of Torah with the entire crowd! The Shabbaton ended with an enjoyable bowling and pizza outing.

Ohr HaTorah

At the Ohr Hatorah Shabbaton the students led the congregation in davening. At the Shabbos lunch seuda, the students expressed their appreciation to the community for all that they have done. Rabbi Shimon Green captivated the students with his Divrei Torah.



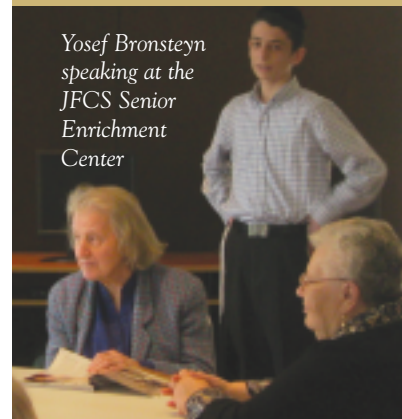
Karate at YHSA

The students of YHSA and boys in grades 6 to 8 from different schools in the community have been diligently practicing karate with their sensei (instructor), Dr. Paul Block. Dr. Block took the students to his sensei, Mr. Robert Hunt, to get them ready for their next belt. The test was on April 10, and all of our students passed.

The Jewish News

The students visited the headquarters of the *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix*. They were able to meet and speak with Florence Eckstein, publisher of the newspaper. Students learned firsthand how one individual can make a difference in history through leadership and community involvement.

Yosef Bronsteyn speaking at the JFCS Senior Enrichment Center



JFCS Senior Center

On February 18th, the students of Yeshiva High School of Arizona went to visit the seniors at JFCS's Senior Enrichment Center. The students went to bring joy on the special day of Purim Katan, a traditionally happy time for the Jews. The idea is mentioned in the Talmud: that one should be particularly happy and make others happy around Purim time — by spreading joy far and wide. The seniors and the students learned about each other's lives and experiences. The seniors learned about the Yeshiva and Purim and the students heard firsthand accounts about the Holocaust and the birth of Israel.

tation on China that included geography, politics, sports, and current events. Our students worked beautifully as a team to create their class presentation.

Mr. Robinson said that the highlight of his year was seeing how each student's writing skills have improved.

Algebra – Mr. Rubenstein's class covered a great deal of material, including solving combined inequalities, the absolute value of products in open sentences, graphing linear equations, the systems of linear inequalities and the Pythagorean Theorem. Mr. Rubenstein ensured that the students internalized their learning by having them work on the board and actually teach a class to the other students.

English Literature – Rabbi Liebman's class completed studying Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Our students acted out several scenes, and each student memorized 25 lines of the play. The students also studied four of Shakespeare's sonnets, as well as additional poems by Pound, Auden, and Frost. Rabbi Liebman expressed that "the students have a tremendous excitement for the projects they created, and their writing has developed above and beyond."

Biology – In Mr. Nicholls' course, the students covered many topics. The class recently learned about Gregor Mendel's studies of genetics with sweet pea plants. They used Punnett squares to demonstrate the products of crossing plants with different genes for height and/or varia-



Meeting Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu at the House of Representatives

tions of seed color and texture. Recently the students have also been contrasting the differences between meiosis and mitosis. Mr. Nicholls said that his class has focused "not on memorizing by rote, but on understanding the how and why of science because then I am giving the students these skills for life."

Middos

Rabbi Goetz worked with each student individually on a variety of vital character traits needed for success in life, such as appreciating what others do, being friendly and welcoming to every everyone, and taking on responsibility. In the weekly schmooze (discourse) that Rabbi Goetz delivers each Friday, he recently focused on the importance of having joy in life, respect for others, and appreciating oneself. The principal reflected on the tremendous nachas he receives from "the great growth in maturity that he has seen in each and every YHSA student during the course of this year."

Leadership Forum

The Yeshiva has been blessed to have a variety of exemplary community leaders

share their experiences and advice with our students.

The first month was highlighted with classes from talented rabbis in the Valley of the Sun who gave meaning to our special holidays. Students were privileged to hear from **Rabbi Isaac Entin, Rabbi Zvi Holland, Rabbi Reuven Mann, Rabbi Shimon Green** and **Rabbi Ariel Shoshan**.

Rabbi Dovid Bernstein of Torah Umesorah spoke with the students about the amazing potential that they have while davening to Hashem. It is something that is done so often, that we need to remind ourselves of the wellsprings that are contained within.

Rabbi Tzvi Block, Av Beis Din of North Hollywood, CA, told the students that in order to succeed in any role in life, we need to be cognizant of our ultimate purpose of serving Hashem.



Rabbi Dr. David Fox from Los Angeles, inspired the students by teaching them about

staff continuing education

In keeping with YHSA's goal of providing top quality education in the classroom, Rabbi Dovid Bernstein of Torah Umesorah met with the staff of YHSA and discussed various ideas how to maximize the potential of each student.

A second teachers' workshop was given on April 28th by our curriculum coordinator, Mr. Arthur Lebowitz. He focused on increasing collaboration between our teachers in order to facilitate even more multi-disciplinary lesson plans for the students' enhanced enrichment.

Rabbi Goetz was granted the opportunity to join a two-year National Fellowship for principals. This is a project of Torah Umesorah that provides several advanced training sessions for a select group of principals across the nation.



special activities

Shabbaton for Prospective Students

YHSA hosted eight prospective students, hailing from Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Atlanta. Shabbos lunch was enjoyed at the Yeshiva, and on Motzei Shabbos we shared pizza and an indoor rock-climbing adventure.

Host of AMC Testing

YHSA was the host of AMC 10, the American Mathematics Competition. The students took the competitive test which is administered to over 100,000 students worldwide. Thank you to Dr. Lola Rosengard for organizing this helpful testing.

YHSA and MBY Shabbaton

YHSA hosted the tenth grade class of Mesivta Birkas Yitzchok (MBY) from Los Angeles, along with the Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Tendler, and their rebbe, Rabbi Royzman. Rabbi Tendler addressed everyone Friday morning and spoke about the tremendous influence that our surroundings have upon us. In the afternoon, the students of both yeshivos climbed Camelback Mountain. One of the students from Los Angeles exclaimed, "This was the trip of my life!" All of YHSA's students made it to the summit!



Mr. Ken Kitchen graciously hosted YHSA students on a boating trip on Lake Pleasant.

Following MBY's visit to YHSA, the YHSA students were hosted by MBY in Los Angeles. Our students had a great time walking down Pico Blvd. and shopping in all the Jewish stores. On Sunday night, we visited the Griffith Observatory, and were able to see Hashem's vast galaxy close up! On Monday, we viewed one of the largest private collections of Disneyland collectibles in the world and went kayaking at Marina Del Ray.

Sedona Retreat

YHSA students camped out at the home of Dr. Michael and Carol Dean in Sedona. After a delicious barbeque by the pool, the boys enjoyed a Kumzitz (bonfire with songs). While hiking up mountains, the boys were amazed at the breathtaking scenery. The retreat deepened and strengthened relationships between the students and with the rabbis.



his life's goals. He taught the students to set goals with their mentors and to realize not to feel haughty about Torah accomplishments because this is why we were created.

Rabbi Nota Greenblatt of Memphis, Tennessee gave an inspiring talk about the consistency of the Torah throughout the ages. He underscored the point that no matter where we are or where we go, we need to remain true to the ideals of the Torah, and keep learning and growing.

Dr. Mark Gotfried shared his experiences traveling in Europe, his family history, and insights about the Holocaust. He presented a slideshow depicting what life was like for the Jews in Europe.



Mr. Chris Jones, Principal of Central High School, challenged the students to have a game plan for their education and eventually for their life. He stated that not having a plan is called "The Nobody Plan."

Rabbi Mendel Kanner, a member of the Phoenix Community Kollel, spoke with the students about the importance of having clarity when learning and offered very helpful suggestions for increasing clarity.

Professor Jay Schecter, who is a long-time educator, spoke of the importance of education from the vantage point of both the student and the teacher. Examining both perspectives was very enlightening to our students.

Rabbi Nate Segal of Torah Umesorah spoke about the courage of the Maccabees. He emphasized that each student of the first class of Yeshiva High School of Arizona is a modern-day Maccabee for all future students of this wonderful Yeshiva.

Mr. Michael Seltzer, a correspondent at the Eichmann trial, spoke to the students about the significance of the Eichmann trial and how it changed the view of Holocaust survivors.

Dr. Phil Rubin beautifully communicated the preciousness of life by relating personal stories of survival despite his life threatening illnesses.

Thank G-d, we have been blessed with a marvelous year of growth in learning through so many varied avenues.

יהי רצון שנלך מחיל אל חיל