

summer 2011

# Kolenu קולנו

The voice of  
Ilan High School



## Inside:

### Ilan High School's Project ASPIRE:

#### Setting Goals and Accomplishing Dreams

- What do I really want to do when I grow up?
- How can I combine work and motherhood?
- How can I find a career that is rewarding and taps into my particular talents and strengths?
- How can I hold onto my values as a Jewish woman in the workforce?
- What courses do I need to take in high school to prepare for my future studies?
- With all of the advances in technology, what new educational and professional opportunities should I be aware of?
- What colleges and universities can best prepare me to reach my goals?
- How does what I am studying now in High School apply to my life?

The thinking young woman of today has many questions: Ilan high school recently introduced an exciting and innovative program to provide her with answers—Project ASPIRE.

Project Aspire is a unique and integrated speakers program in which a group of talented women professionals from our community visit Ilan classes

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## STUDY IN ISRAEL

With the flurry of SAT and ACT exams, college applications, and preparation for the senior trip, a group of Ilan seniors has an added consideration to factor in—the choice of spending a year in Israel after high school.

Why Israel? The seniors reflected on their choices. First, and most obviously, being in Eretz Yisrael can bring you close to your spiritual self like nothing else can. Secondly, while studying in Israel, a student can receive college credit that is readily transferable. In addition, a year in Israel fosters maturity and independence that may otherwise be very difficult to achieve. Girls invariably grow spiritually, personally, and academically during the year of post-high school study in Israel.



Our recent graduates were accepted to some of the finest seminary programs, including Meohr, Michlala, Bnos Sarah, Bnot Torah Institute and Bet Yaakov Mezuraz. This year, seven Ilan alumnae attended seminaries in Jerusalem, imbibing the holiness of the land and exploring personal vistas before returning to college in the U.S.




*I'm in class sometimes until 9:15 at night, but they are constantly giving us something to think about and ways to better our lives. It's hard to believe my year is coming to an end, but I would encourage everyone who has the option to come to Israel for the year. I know I will take these lessons with me forever, so this is not the end...it's really the beginning.*

**-Mia Levy, Meohr**

*I can honestly say I have never experienced anything like learning in Israel. The time I spent there was invaluable and I learned so much. It helped me grow spiritually and gave me confidence and independence. I'll always look back and remember my experience in Israel as one of the greatest times of my life.*

**-Joyce Kishk, Bet Yaakov Mezuraz**

## SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS AT ILAN



Always innovative, the Ilan HS clubs are a way for Ilan students to stay well-rounded while pursuing some of their favorite hobbies and building creative muscle during the school day. Ilan students always look forward to the wide array of clubs available to them. This year, clubs are even more exciting and diverse than ever. Artistically minded students can choose from **Mosaics** and **Fine Art**, the Thespians among us may opt for **Theatre Club**, while those more physically inclined choose to sweat it out in **Zumba**. Clubs are a once-a-week “mental-health break”—a way to recharge, re-energize and refocus, while learning a new skill or improving a favorite one. Here’s what some of our students had to say about the Ilan specialty clubs experience.

“The Mosaic Club is so great...especially because I get to do something that I love and that’s creative. People can’t believe that I actually made this work of art!”

“We’re having a great time in Theatre Club... It’s something I’ve always been interested in and I’m so glad that I’m getting a chance to learn more about it during the school day.”

“Wow! I’ve done Zumba before, but the energy in this class is amazing! This is a great fitness opportunity and so much fun...”

“We’re having a great time in theatre club...It’s something I’ve always been interested in and I’m so glad that I’m getting a chance to learn more about it during the school day.”

“I love how Ilan offers so many opportunities for the artistically inclined—we have a fine arts class, computer graphics, painting, silk art—and the portfolio that I am putting together is essential as I apply to art colleges.” ●

## CONGRATS TO AP SCHOLARS!

There are scholars among us!! And we're pleased to announce that this year, College Board has acknowledged four Ilan Students as AP Scholars with Honor and AP Scholars with Distinction. Formed in 1900 as the College Entrance Examination Board, the College Board is composed of more than 5,700 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. It administers standardized tests such as the SAT and AP exams to academically oriented post secondary education institutions to measure a student's ability. The AP program offers AP Scholar awards to recognize those high school students who have demonstrated exemplary college level achievement and are among the top 17% of students taking the AP exam nationally.



Devorah Shlian



Betty Cohen



Francie Dweck



Keke Cohen

Ilan HS is proud to call itself home this year to four AP Scholars, Scholars with Honor, and Scholars with Distinction: Devorah Shlian, Keke Cohen, Betty Cohen and Francie Dweck. Congratulations on a remarkable academic accomplishment! ●

*The AP Scholar Awards are prestigious national academic distinctions that students may cite among their credentials on applications and resumes.*

## Hesed club welcomes Mrs. Michal Schick, Founder of Bobbie's Place

So what does a Jewish NY woman spend her days doing when she's young, talented, capable and married to a prominent attorney? Shop at Saks? Go to a day-spa for a facial? Play cards or plan fabulous dinner parties? Well if she's Michal Schick, she's up to her elbows in hesed all day, every day. And loving every minute of it.



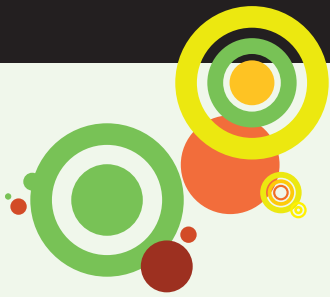
Known as the "Angel of Midwood" by some, Michal Schick has devoted her life to a unique and magnanimous gesture of hesed that has come to be called Bobbie's Place. Started in rubbermaid bins as a gemach in her basement, it has now become a full scale boutique, replete with dressing rooms, mirrors, "sales" help and racks and racks of new and stylish children's clothes. This "boutique," however, has a twist: all of its items are free. You read that correctly. Free. That's because Michal Schick spends her days collecting, stocking, organizing, hanging, and distributing clothing



**Ilan students volunteer at the Bobbie's Place clothing gemach**

for needy children in an atmosphere that feels exactly like shopping. Bobbie's Place has expanded to locations in both Monsey and Passaic, enabling it to service over 8,500 needy individuals.

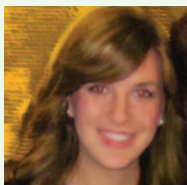




## Ilan High School's Project ASPIRE

(cont. from cover)

throughout the year, sharing information on what their jobs entail, the training and education required for their fields, and how they balance work and family. Each of the women visits a class that is studying material directly related to her profession, exposing students to a world of opportunities before them and highlighting the relevance and application of their high school learning.



**Ms. Rivka Schachner**, a licensed architect, recently visited one of the Ilan geometry classes. Viewing her models and

diagrams, students were fascinated at the real-world application of geometry. Sophomore **Gaby Kraiem** echoed the sentiments of many of her peers when she commented, "I always wondered how things like sine and cosine in geometry could possibly apply to our lives." Sophomore **Rachel Mizrahi** added, "I loved how math and art were combined in one job."



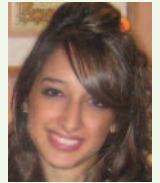
**Ms. Anna Cellar**, a translator, enjoyed her talk with a senior English class. **Elizabeth Biton** was pleased to learn about this little known profession, noting what a great opportunity it is to broaden one's language and people skills. **Frieda**

**Rahmey** was impressed with how Ms. Cellar was able to set her own hours, and how she balanced her personal and professional responsibilities in this fun and lucrative profession.

When **Ms. Lauren Hakim**, a registered dietician, visited the sophomore chemistry class, students were likewise impressed with the range of professional options and flexible hours germane to this profession. "Being a dietician is not just a job...you can help your own family with that knowledge as well," wrote junior **Rachel Bibi** following Ms. Hakim's visit. Her discussion of balanced eating and the various eating disorders was a fascinating dimension of the class, as was her explanation of the various BA and MS training programs.

Project ASPIRE is a unique and integrated speakers program in which a group of talented women professionals from our community visit Ilan classes throughout the year, sharing information on what their jobs entail, the training and education required for their fields, and how they balance work and family

FBI Intern and Ilan alumna **Daniella Ahdout** was a welcome visitor to the senior Political Science class. A Political Science and Psychology major, Daniella's plans include completing her PhD in psychology and working in forensic psychology. **Cari Snider** summed up a key impression of Daniella's visit: "She showed us how if you set your mind to it, anything is possible!"

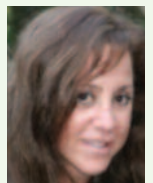


**Dr. Florette Abady**, Psychology Professor, addressed the Social Psychology and AP Psychology electives and presided over a lively and pertinent question and answer session in its aftermath. Attorney (and Ilan instructor!)

**Dr. Heni Weisfogel** wowed the law class with her mastery of case law and the variety of legal careers today, inspiring several juniors to sign up for that popular elective. A community interior designer was a much requested and enjoyed visitor to the fine art classes, while retailer **Elaine Parker** impressed the algebra classes with her career trajectory, and radio talk show host **Judy Franco**

**Chalme** held the public speaking courses spellbound with her discussion of the joys and challenges of media careers.

Guests and students alike felt the vibrant energy of this ongoing program.



Head of School **Mrs. Raizi Chechik** shared her perspective on the idea behind these classroom visitations. "In addition to exposing students to all sorts of professional opportunities that are open to them as they work to navigate the delicate balance of their roles as Jewish women in their families and in the workforce, Project ASPIRE is a wonderful motivational program. At times, high school students have a hard time seeing the relevance of what they are learning beyond the upcoming exam. Concepts in chemistry or advanced mathematics may not seem to have any practical application to them. By having these professionals visit the classrooms during subjects that are prerequisites for their fields, it helps learning come alive for all students. Whether a student is bound for the Ivy League or a community college, there is a program of study out there to suit her talents and needs, and Project ASPIRE helps her discover those horizons."

Ilan High School thanks **Mrs. Jodi Shweky** and **Mrs. Rochelle Matalon** for their efforts in spearheading this program. ●

## Health week

Adolescence is a time of growth and change, and making wise choices for the present and future. In March, Ilan was honored to host "Health Week"; featuring speakers and discussions on internet safety, healthy eating, sun and skin safety, and texting while driving. Ilan students particularly enjoyed hearing a dynamic talk from nutritionist **Sari Dana**, and participating in a powerful workshop with **Mr. Arthur Brounstein** from Project SAFE. Many students and teachers signed the "No texting while driving pledge"



after his incredible presentation. Special thanks to **Dr. Heni Weisfogel** for coordinating this important program.



Sari Dana, Nutritionist

**"Health Week" featured speakers and discussions on internet safety, healthy eating, sun and skin safety, and texting while driving.**



## Simchat Kallot

There's no celebration at Ilan as exciting as the celebration honoring our recent and soon to be brides!

A time-honored tradition at Ilan, Simchat Kallot is a party to end all parties and the entire school looks forward to taking part in it. In January 2011, eight Ilan women were treated to an elegant luncheon with dancing, singing, celebration and inspiration, surrounded by all of their friends and teachers. As a highlight of the day, Rabbi Diamond addressed the girls with a thought provoking and heartwarming speech. Though a bride gets her share of festive occasions, the Ilan Simchat Kallot is surely one that will forever be ingrained in her memory. These are the women that were honored that day:

KeKe (Cohen) Abadi  
Rikki (Shammah) Bailey  
Marlene (Bibi) Cohen  
Michelle (Braha) Yedid

Jeanette (Seruya) Devries  
Frieda Rae (Mahana) Franco  
Ilana (Rahmey) Haber  
Francie (Dweck) Yedid

A heartfelt Mazal Tov and Mabrouk to our kallot...may Hashem bless you with many more happy occasions that your Ilan Family can celebrate with you!





## Ilan Hesed Program Highlights

- Hesed Club visits the “Hesed Factory” in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, stopping at the Satmar Bikur Cholim Soup Kitchen and the Bridal Gemach
- Freshmen decorate the Sukkah of Monmouth Hospital
- Ilan juniors host the Purim Carnival for the special children of SEAD
- Rabbi Yitzzy Haber visits Ilan and entralls the students with his talk on surviving childhood cancer with joy, focusing on the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim
- Mrs. Michal Shick visits Ilan to inspire us with the story of how she founded the “Bobbie’s Place” clothing gemach
- Ilan sophomores visit “Orah” to make Pesach packages
- Ilan freshmen volunteer at “Friends in Deed” gemach
- Ilan seniors host “Café 11” luncheon to raise funds for the people of Kiryat Sefer
- Ilan volunteers host Chinese Auction at the Maleh residence for our needy brethren in Israel
- Ilan students write letters of condolence to the Fogel children of Itamar, Israel
- Hesed Club visits “Bobbie’s Place” in Brooklyn, helping set up the donations for the Pesach holiday
- Hesed Club volunteers meet weekly to package food for the Jewish patients in local hospitals
- Brooklyn students join on Shabbat to bring happiness to elderly nursing home residents

Special thanks to J Café, Slices, and Igloo for their generous donations to our “Café 11” Tzedaka Project!

From our mailbox

Dear Ilan Students,  
 I want to thank you very much for the amazing Chessed that you have done for me and my family. Baruch Hashem, I have not been feeling so well throughout the past several months, and the Shabbat meals you made for us really pulled us through. The challot were excellent, as were the meatballs, chicken, rice, hamud and other delicacies that you prepared. Let me not forget the yummy cookies and desserts! Your kindness and generosity are remarkable and have added a special beracha to our Shabbat table.  
 May Hashem bless you all!  
 Sincerely,  
 A very grateful mother

## OUR ALUMNAE: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

From Our E-Mail Box



**Stephanie Cohen:** (Class of 2009) I am now pursuing an intensive bachelors program in English and Education at Monmouth University, and as a future educator, I would love to give back to Ilan and the community all that I received from my four wonderful years at Ilan.



**Cari Snider:** (Class of 2010) I am currently a second semester freshman at Binghamton University. Had it not been for Ilan, I do not think that I would have been able to handle the workload that is required for a school of this caliber! Ilan gave me the confidence to set high goals for myself, and the tools to achieve them.



**Jillian Abadi:** (Class of 2007) I recently completed an internship for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. It was clear to me that the strong writing skills and exceptional interpersonal skills I gained at Ilan really prepared me well for that experience. I was also so proud to be the Jewish liaison in the office, confidently answering questions and upholding our traditions with pride.



**Heather Kornmehl:** (Class of 2007) My first day at Ilan, Rabbi Diamond said to me, “Heather, we expect great things from you!” I love how my teachers encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams, and today I am applying to medical school, and pursuing my dream of becoming a physician...●

“I love how my teachers encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams...”

Special congratulations to Heather on being named Valedictorian of Health Sciences at Monmouth University this year!

## Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar Visits Ilan High School

On Thursday, March 10th, the Ilan community was graced with a visit from Rishon LeZion Rabbi Shlomo Amar, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel. Despite the gray day outside, the Medrash was illuminated by the glow of our honored visitor, who addressed the girls about the unique role of the Jewish woman, and offered blessings to each student. It was certainly a day to remember!



## Hesed club welcomes Mrs. Michal Schick

(cont. from page 7)

The idea is to give while respecting the dignity of the recipient—for children to proudly try on their new Shabbat and holiday clothes without feeling “needy.” It’s charity that doesn’t at all feel like charity...and that’s the whole point.

How does a busy mother of five do it? Well, as a part of Ilan HS’s Hesed program, Bobbie’s Place founder Michal Schick came to speak to our students about her experience starting and running this extraordinary operation. Elaine Seruya commented, “Mrs. Schick really showed me how something that seems little can make all the difference in someone’s life and could grow to help many more people. Hearing about Bobbie’s Place made me realize how material things aren’t what’s important in life.”

We know that Mrs. Schick’s significant contributions will help inspire our students to reach even higher in their quest to become selfless and valiant givers. ●

The idea is to give while respecting the dignity of the recipient...It’s charity that doesn’t at all feel like charity...and that’s the whole point.

## college Bound

We are so proud that 100% of the 2011 Graduates are continuing on to higher education! Congratulations on your acceptance to the following fine schools!

Baruch College	LIM
Binghamton University	New York University
Brandeis University	Ramapo College
Brooklyn College	Rutgers University
Brookdale College	Stern College
FIT	Stony Brook University
Hunter College	Touro College
Kingsboro College	



## Ilan makes the championships!

Congratulations to the Ilan Invaders, who won all the teams in the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League Girls Varsity Basketball and made it to the championships! We salute **Renee Sasson, Laura Dweck, Edith Musry, Gaby Hanan, Rachel Benatar, Rachel Tebele, Marcia Harary, Gayle Sasson, Margaux Betesh, Gaby Cohen, Renee Tawil, Natalie Bibi, Evelyn Missry, Toni Massry, and Audrey Harary** for their focused effort and terrific teamwork! Their athletic prowess is matched by their terrific midot on and off the court and their support for each other. Ilan salutes **Coach Sarah Abadi** for her wonderful work with our team!



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## mother daughter culture club evening

Our brand new Mother Daughter program allows students and their mothers to share common interests in unique and satisfying ways. Among the many ideas our parents have suggested to us, the Ilan Culture Club art evening was one of our favorites!

In February, **Mrs. Shevy Shurkin**, our renowned art teacher, treated a select group of mothers and daughters to an exciting drawing lesson during which all were challenged to really stretch their creative muscles. Attendees enjoyed a stimulating evening learning a new skill (or for some, brushing up on an old one!) with laughter and learning, and of course, the opportunity to share their interest in the fine arts. In our harried day-to-day lives, we rarely get the time to just relax and spend some quality time

together. Our Culture Club art evening was an opportunity

for some lucky students and their mothers to do just that!



## Yom Hashoah

Ilan Mothers and Daughters Join for a Day of Reflection



As the years march on since the Holocaust, fewer survivors remain to tell their important stories, and share firsthand accounts of the tragedies and miracles that befell them between 1939 and 1945. To remember, commemorate, and reflect, the Museum of Jewish Heritage brings ten survivors of the Holocaust to their



museum each Yom HaShoah, and stations them throughout the museum galleries to talk to visitors about their experiences.

### Natalie Gonen shares her story

It was an honor and a privilege for a large group of Ilan mothers and daughters to join this incredibly powerful program. Survivors spoke to the Ilan group about Kristallnacht, life in the ghetto, the horrors of the concentration camps, the death marches, and what it was like being a "Hidden Child."

"I am awed by the courage of these survivors, and so inspired by those who maintained their faith under the most adverse of circumstances," shared one of the Ilan mothers. "Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have this experience with our daughters, to learn, grow, and remember together." ●

**"I am awed by the courage of these survivors, and so inspired by those who maintained their faith under the most adverse of circumstances"**

