



בארִי עֵרֵי

מכון שלום הרטמן
SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE

Be'eri Newsletter

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Be'eri – Now in More Than 90 Schools Across Israel and with Seven Regional Partners

The Be'eri program kicked off the 2011-12 school year with more than 90 schools participating in the program (38 schools in the Yuval track and 55 in the Ma'ayan track) and a new regional partnership! The Golan Regional Council joins the six existing municipalities that have partnered with Be'eri, and the program is opening in two out of three of the region's junior high and high schools. Be'eri is now implemented in all schools in Haifa, Modi'in, Nazereth Illit, and Karmiel and in most schools in Be'er Sheva and Ashdod.



Karmiel municipal leader examines the new Be'eri textbook on Jewish-Israeli identity

Municipal partnerships and the attention of the regional facilitators, coupled with the supportive working relationships that they enjoy with the municipalities and the schools, have served to deepen and widen the breadth of the program within and outside of

participating schools. In order to strengthen municipal partnerships and to generate momentum and excitement, Be'eri is working with the municipalities of Haifa, Modi'in, Be'er Sheva, and Tel Aviv to provide year-long local training to Tarbut Yisrael (Jewish heritage) teachers in these municipalities, and to organize events celebrating the upcoming high holidays and the start of the school year. Municipal events that included city department heads and principals from all of the schools in the municipalities were hosted by the mayors of Modi'in and Be'er Sheva in each of these cities. Karmiel leadership, led by the city's mayor, was hosted at the Hartman Institute in September.

Keren Daniel Becomes New Strategic Partner

The Be'eri Program is pleased to announce a new strategic partnership with Keren Daniel, which will support Be'eri municipal partnerships in Be'er Sheva and Nazereth Illit. Be'eri is now running in all schools in both of these municipalities, with many schools participating in the Yuval track. Keren Daniel support will also enable the development of new ninth grade curricula and the updating and creation of new editions of existing textbooks.

New Tarbut Yisrael Resource Center to Launch in 2012

The Be'eri program is pleased to announce that it has partnered with the Posen Foundation and the Israel Center for Educational Technology to launch a Jewish culture website that will serve as a resource center for educational materials that focus on strengthening pluralistic Jewish-Israeli culture studies in the Israeli public realm. Initially, the site will be aimed at providing educational tools and content, including Be'eri textbooks, to Jewish culture educators. Once the site has been fully developed, it will be a platform for

teachers, students, and the general public to obtain materials that can advance their discussions on and study of Jewish-Israeli identity.

The content of the site will be built around a cluster of subjects related to identity focusing on the individual's relationship to society, to time, and to space. These subjects will be addressed through a variety of resources, including interactive documents on Jewish thought, Oral Law, and Jewish culture, which link to related texts and primary sources; an anthology of primary sources accompanied by enhancement tools that contextualize the texts in time, space, and ideology; and a searchable database of audiovisual information.

The Tarbut Yisrael website will also feature interactive components, allowing teachers and students to network, sharing ideas, questions, and insights. A special forum for educators will allow teachers to upload and share materials that they have created for use in their classrooms and schools. A virtual Beit Midrash will serve as a platform for joint learning and discussion. Experts will be invited to write blogs on selected topics and the public will be invited to address questions to them via an Ask the Expert section.

Be'eri Releases New Textbooks Based on New Ministry of Education Syllabus

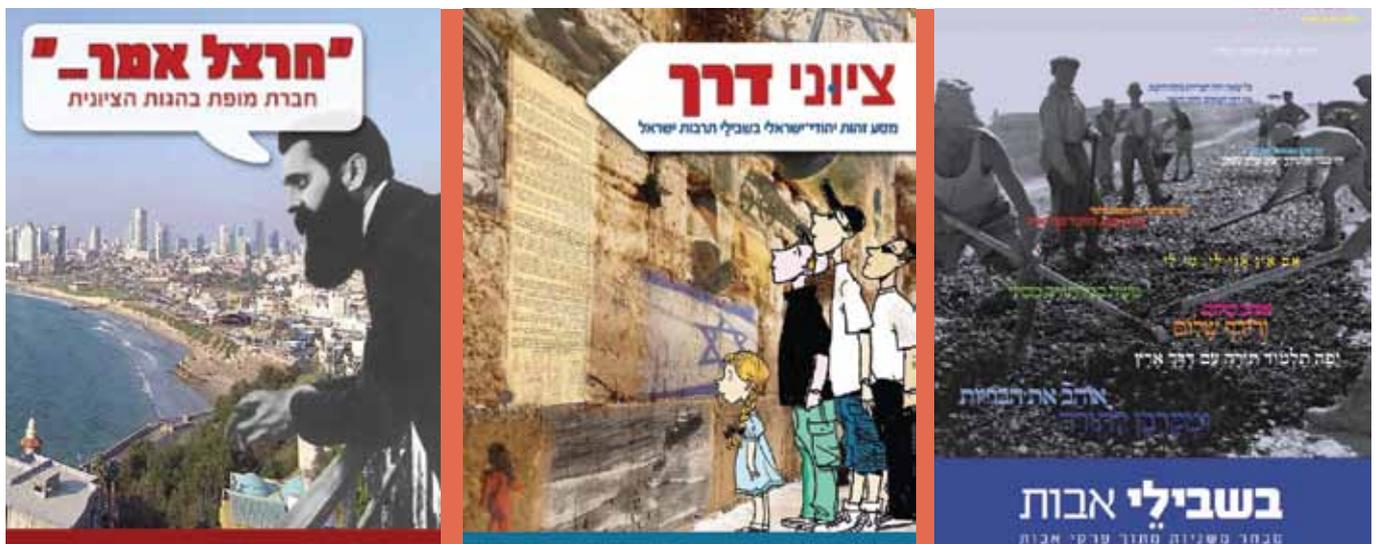
In August 2011, the Be'eri program released three new textbooks, based on the new Ministry of Education syllabus for Tarbut Yisrael studies. These textbooks, on

the topics of identity, Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers), and Zionism, incorporate the program's signature blend of Jewish-Israeli identity and contemporary values that students and teachers are familiar with from the existing books on the topics of the siddur (Jewish prayer book) and the Jewish calendar. The textbooks use traditional and contemporary Jewish texts to guide students in understanding the relevance of the topic to their daily lives.

The new textbook on Jewish identity invites seventh grade students to participate in a journey to discover the many different elements that make up Jewish-Israeli identity. The book addresses personal identity, identification with family, community, and the Land and State of Israel. All of the subjects addressed in the book are studied through Jewish texts. from the Bible through to modern Israeli song.

Two new textbooks are now available for eighth grade students. The Pirkei Avot textbook assists students in understanding the tractate and encourages them to engage in active discussion on the important questions and values that Pirkei Avot raises. The book on Zionism introduces central texts written by Herzl, Jabotinsky, and Ahad Ha'Am as the basis for discussion on essential questions of Zionism, such as why a Jewish state is important, the values of democracy and how they relate to Jewish tradition, and the role the Jewish state plays in the world.

More than 40,000 volumes of the Be'eri textbooks have already been sold for use in the 2011-2012 academic year.



New Be'eri textbooks on Zionism, identity, and Pirkei Avot

Be'eri School for Teacher Education Kicks Off New Year



School for Teacher Education participants attend festive day of learning

Nearly 100 educators started the 2011-2012 academic year at the Be'eri School for Teacher Education, which was launched in October 2010 in partnership with Keren Karev. Fifty of these teachers are returning for their second year of study in basic and advanced teachers training tracks. This, in addition to a new cohort of 30 teachers who will begin training as Tarbut Yisrael instructors in the two-year basic teacher training track, and 18 principals and department supervisors beginning study in the principals' track. The 18 principals who participated in the 2010-11 cohort will return to the School approximately once every six weeks for enrichment seminars. Graduates of the two teacher tracks will

receive Ministry of Education certification as Tarbut Yisrael instructors.

The 2011-12 academic year, which will maintain the excellent quality of study attained in the School's first year of operation while intensifying the level of study of second-year students, was launched with a festive day of learning. After spending the morning engaged in Beit Midrash study, educators split into three groups, led by School director Rani Jaeger and faculty members Dr. Inbar Galili-Schachter and Ariel

Aviv, to discuss themes related to the High Holiday season. The groups then convened for a lecture by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman on obligation and renewal and how to instill these values in students, followed by a concert of *piyutim* [liturgical songs] and a discussion of these songs in their historical and cultural context. The day concluded with a festive toast in honor of the new year of study and the upcoming holidays.

In October, the School will host the first open seminar day of the year. More than 100 Be'eri and non-Be'eri teachers will attend this day of workshops and lectures on the theme of introspection on the state of the Jewish home at the Hartman campus in Jerusalem.



Teachers enjoy a concert of *piyutim*

Be'eri thanks the many dedicated partners who help make our ongoing efforts possible:

Philanthropic Partners

The Russell Berrie Foundation
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Municipality of Be'er Sheva
Municipality of Nazereth Illit
Golan Regional Council

About the Be'eri Program

Creating a critical shift in the personal and national identity of tens of thousands of Israeli youth, Be'eri advances the transformation of young Israelis into proud Jews, and reveals - often for the first time - that there are many different and inspiring ways to be Jewish. Through the program, Israeli students learn how deeply intertwined Israel and the Jewish people are and recognize that the foundation for a proud national identity lies in reclaiming their Jewish identity.

For more information about Be'eri in Hebrew, visit our website at <http://beeri.hartman.org.il>

About the Shalom Hartman Institute

The Shalom Hartman Institute is a center of transformative thinking and teaching that addresses the major challenges facing the Jewish people and elevates the quality of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. A leader in sophisticated, ideas-based Jewish education for community leaders and change agents, SHI is committed to the significance of Jewish ideas, the power of applied scholarship, and the conviction that great teaching contributes to the growth and continual revitalization of the Jewish people.

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