



בארִי ורי BE'ERI

מכון שאלום הרטמן  
SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE

# Be'eri Newsletter

## Rosh HaShana 5773

Volume 3, No. 1, September 2012

### Be'eri Schools Ranked Among Nation's Finest in Jewish Heritage Studies

Five Be'eri schools were ranked among the top seven in *Tarbut Yisrael* (Jewish heritage) studies in a recent Ministry of Education competition. Nesher High School in Nesher, a district in northern Israel that sends many teachers to the Be'eri School for Teacher Education, won first place, and WIZO Nachalat Yehuda High School came in third. The other Be'eri schools to rank highly include the Motah Gur School in Modi'in, ORT Hatzor HaGlilit, and Mekif Aleph Ashkelon.

These schools were honored at a ceremony held in June, which was led by Executive Director of the Ministry of Education, Dalit Stauber, a graduate of the Be'eri School for Teacher Education. Following the competition, the school that tied for third place, Yitzhak Rabin High School in Tel Mond, expressed interest in partnering with Be'eri and has this year joined the 118 Be'eri schools throughout Israel.

### Be'eri School for Teacher Education - Expanding to Be'er Sheva

The Be'eri School for Teacher Education continues to grow, reaching an ever-increasing number of *Tarbut Yisrael* educators throughout Israel. This fall, Be'eri, in partnership with Keren Daniel and the Be'er Sheva municipality, will, for the first time, open a regional branch of the School. This Be'er Sheva branch will serve as an educational base for teachers in the southern region of Israel. Based on the successful Be'eri Be'er Sheva partnership that began last year, this new branch will enable Be'eri to increase the number of teachers participating in its innovative training program by offering programs more conveniently located to them. This year, 30 teachers from the south will begin the training course.

The Be'eri School for Teacher Education, established in 2010 in partnership with Keren Karev and certified by the Ministry of Education, provides training for more than 100 teachers and principals and seminars for hundreds more. The Jerusalem campus of the School for Teacher Education will begin training a new cohort of teachers in addition to running the second year of the basic track and the principals' training course in 2012-2013.

Some 45 teachers will participate in a new Bible studies pedagogy track, run in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Beit Yatziv. The track will provide teachers with methodologies for transforming the way Bible is taught in secular Israeli high schools.

At the request of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the School will train 70 MoE *Tarbut Yisrael* facilitators who work in schools throughout Israel.

### First Cohorts Graduate Be'eri School for Teacher Education

In June 2012, forty-seven teachers graduated from the Be'eri School for Teacher Education, receiving Ministry of Education certification as *Tarbut Yisrael* instructors.

The School provides a solid background in Jewish studies and pedagogy, enabling educators to develop their own Jewish-Israeli identity while obtaining content and teaching methodology skills. This helps participants to articulate a personal, pluralistic Jewish educational, outlook that strengthens their ability to transmit Jewish



The Be'eri team presents diplomas to the graduates of the School for Teacher Education

culture in the classroom.

Several teachers who graduated from the Be'eri School for Teacher Education this year reflected on their experiences and commented on how the two-year Be'eri program had an impact on them.

"I still remember the telephone conversation I had with Rani Jaeger [Director of the School for Teacher Education] two years ago that convinced me to come to the School. I can't believe how much has changed since then, personally and professionally," said Hagit Tzofer, a teacher from Nesher. "I myself better understand questions of identity and have become a guide for other teachers in my school."

Yael Peled, a teacher from Modi'in said: "This program

created a revolution in my life. I taught and still teach Arabic, which I really believe in, but today I wave another big flag – *Tarbut Yisrael!* I'm more than a student here – Be'eri envelopes me and as a Be'eri coordinator in my school, I initiate projects which advance *Tarbut Yisrael* throughout the school together with the Be'eri facilitator."

Twenty six teachers have completed their first year of *Tarbut Yisrael* training track and will continue with the second year of the basic teacher training track in 2012-2013. Fifteen principals and department supervisors studied in the principals' track in 2011-2012. The 18 principals who graduated from the School's previous cohorts returned to the School approximately once every six weeks for enrichment seminars.



## Spotlight on Haifa

The Haifa-Be'eri partnership, pioneered in Haifa in 2009, was created to lead a city-wide initiative for integrating Jewish-Israeli identity studies into all facets of formal and informal education in Haifa. The success of this strong partnership with the municipality is due to the importance that the city has placed in strengthening Jewish-Israeli identity among its residents and making the required resources available to enable these projects. The municipality's dedication to Be'eri and Jewish-Israeli identity education is manifest in the funding that the Haifa-Be'eri initiative has made available to strengthen the program in local schools by adding approximately 80 classroom hours.

**Be'eri Regional Manager for Haifa and the North, Itay Yavin, acts as a true advisor to municipal leadership and the local Department of Education** in designing the Jewish-Israeli identity educational objectives of the city. He works in close partnership with the Haifa municipality to integrate Jewish-Israeli identity content into all facets of formal and informal education. Of the 11 Haifa high schools participating in the Be'eri program this year, five are part of the full Yuval program. Sixty students hailing from various Haifa schools take part in an informal leadership program run in partnership with the Midrasha at Oranim.

**Be'eri is dedicated to providing serious training for educators in the city.** Teacher training empowers educators to serve as change agents in the city's

schools, working with their classroom students to create meaningful ritual, such as reimagined Kabbalat Shabbat ceremonies, Tikkun Leil Shavuot programs, Tu B'Shvat seders, and workshops on contemporary Israeli song. This process, constituting the "Hativa Loveshet Lavan" program, was successfully implemented in one of the Haifa schools.

More than 30 *Tarbut Yisrael* teachers from Haifa have received some form of Be'eri training. A large number of these teachers have studied at the School for Teacher Education and some 60 participate in a local enrichment seminar. Be'eri runs Batei Midrash for teachers in many Haifa schools. These study programs are open to all teachers and focus on different themes, such as women's place in Jewish life or Jewish Peoplehood.

**All Haifa principals have participated in a year-long municipal training course and some of them have continued on to the Be'eri School for Teacher Education principals' training track.** Be'eri in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies Boston-Haifa Connection is leading an intensive enrichment seminar to teach Haifa principals to integrate *Tarbut Yisrael* studies into the schools by bringing about change in the formal education system and integrating informal Jewish-Israeli identity activities, such as Batei Midrash in formal and informal educational settings. This seminar meets 10 times a year in Haifa and includes a study trip to Boston.

## Be'eri Partners with Roim Rahok to Empower Students from Israel's Periphery

In 2011-2012, Be'eri launched a partnership with Roim Rahok (Looking to the Future), an initiative that seeks to strengthen the periphery through youth leadership training programs, to implement a pilot program in the northern city of Hatzor HaGlilit--also on the country's socioeconomic periphery. The program is targeted at students that have been identified as having leadership capabilities, offering them opportunities to which they would not otherwise have had access in the goal of training them to give back to their community.

The Roim Rahok-Be'eri program brings students from the country's elite pre-army preparatory courses to schools in these development cities. The program exposes high school students to the concept of pre-army preparatory courses, which generally attract participants from wealthier areas, and instills in them leadership skills and confidence. Students in Be'eri high schools in Hatzor HaGlilit and Zefat, which will join the program in the 2012-13 academic year, participate in leadership training programs and are mentored by students at elite pre-military academies. The program seeks to help local students mold a worldview that strengthens their sense of belonging and social awareness as well as their self-management and social action capabilities in the goal of developing social and community leadership amongst residents of the periphery, strengthening these communities from within.

Groups of 15 students in the local Be'eri schools meet weekly to explore their leadership skills. Eight of these meetings are content-oriented, focusing on the implementation of a social project. The seminars are led by volunteers from the pre-military course, who serve as role models and sources of inspiration for participants.

The program includes a field trip to Jerusalem during which students participate in Jewish study workshops at the Shalom Hartman Institute in which they engage with contemporary Israeli texts about leadership and leadership models.

At the end of the first year of the program, students from Hatzor HaGlilit participated in a five-day seminar to help them transition to the next year by spending the time at a pre-military academy learning how to initiate and implement social projects that will be the focus of their second year of activity.

This program has attracted a great deal of attention in the local press in the area, emphasizing the importance of the program in establishing these students as future leaders.

## Resource Center Pilot Site Launched in Partnership with Center for Educational Technology, AVI CHAI Foundation, Posen Foundation

Be'eri, in partnership with the Center for Educational Technology, and the AVI CHAI and Posen Foundations, launched a pilot of the national *Tarbut Yisrael* website ([www.tarbut.cet.ac.il](http://www.tarbut.cet.ac.il)) in June 2012. The website will serve as a resource center for educational materials that focus on strengthening pluralistic Jewish-Israeli heritage studies in the public realm. Initially, the site will be aimed at providing educational tools and content, including Be'eri textbooks, to *Tarbut Yisrael* educators. Once it is fully developed, the site will be a platform from which teachers, students, and the general public can obtain materials to advance discussions on Jewish-Israeli identity. The first stage of the full site will be launched by January 2013.

### Be'eri at a Glance

Participating schools throughout the country	118
Students in the Be'eri program	90,000
Municipal partnerships	8 - Haifa, Modi'in, Be'er Sheva, Karmiel, Nazareth Illit, Or Akiva, Golan Regional Council, Hof HaKarmel Regional Council
Teachers in the MoE-certified School for Teacher Education	100
Full curricular program	Grades 7-8, 10
MoE joint venture support	\$600,000

## Be'eri Welcomes New Municipal Partners Or Akiva and Hof HaKarmel

The Be'eri program is excited to announce that the municipality of Or Akiva and the Hof HaKarmel Regional Council will join existing Be'eri municipal partners Be'er Sheva, Haifa, Karmiel, Modi'in, Nazareth Illit, and the Golan Regional Council this fall.

Strategic municipal partnerships serve as one of the vehicles via which Be'eri continues to expand its reach

and influence and obtain long-term sustainability. These partnerships widen the platform for implementing municipal change beyond what individual schools can offer; reinforce the commitment of individual schools by ensuring support from local public infrastructure; increase the opportunity for obtaining new funding sources and create a natural environment for partnering with local informal educational institutions, such as community and cultural centers.

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

### Philanthropic Partners

The Russell Berrie Foundation  
Keren Karev  
Keren Daniel  
Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles  
Crown Family Philanthropies  
Lewis Family Foundation  
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh  
Montreal Federation CJA  
The Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation  
The June Baumgartner Gelbart Foundation  
Dr. Sol Center  
The Alan B. Slifka Foundation

### Israeli Philanthropic Partners

Mr. Alan Feld and Dr. LeeOna Fisher  
Ms. Raya Strauss Ben Dror  
Tmura: The Israeli Public Service Venture Fund

### Public Partners

Israel Ministry of Education  
Municipality of Haifa  
Municipality of Modi'in  
Municipality of Be'er Sheva  
Municipality of Nazereth Illit  
Golan Regional Council

*Be'eri extends its deep gratitude to the **Lewis Family Foundation**, the program's newest partner and supporter.*

## 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-Israeli identity.

For more information about Be'eri, 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.

[www.hartman.org.il](http://www.hartman.org.il)

### Shalom Hartman Institute

11 Gedalyahu Alon Street  
Jerusalem 93113 Israel  
Tel: +972 2 567 5320  
Fax: +972 2 561 1913  
[shi@shi.org.il](mailto:shi@shi.org.il)

### Shalom Hartman Institute of North America

One Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 1606  
New York, NY 10119  
Tel: +1 212 268 0300  
Fax: +1 212 239 4550  
[info@shalomhartman.org](mailto:info@shalomhartman.org)

### Canadian Friends of Shalom Hartman Institute

8888 Blvd Pie IX  
Montreal, QC H1Z4J5  
[info@cfshi.org](mailto:info@cfshi.org)