



בארי ורי BE'ERI

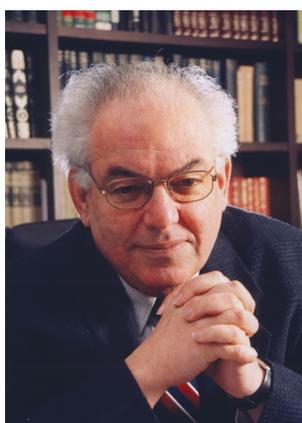
מכון שאלום הרטמן
SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE

Be'eri Newsletter

Pesach 5773

Volume 3, No. 2, March 2013

Day of Study Dedicated to David Hartman



Be'eri joins the rest of the Hartman Institute community in mourning the loss of Institute founder Rabbi Prof. David Hartman, who passed away in February 2013. Be'eri held two special events in memory of Rabbi Hartman in the week following his death, during which participants in the Be'eri

School for Teacher Education's principal and teacher training tracks dedicated their studies to David Hartman.

During each session time was set aside for participants and faculty to share their personal recollections of their studies, conversations, and interactions with Rabbi Hartman. Participants watched a recording of a lecture that Rabbi Hartman gave several years ago on prayer. They then studied an article written by Rabbi Hartman, "In Search of a Guiding Vision for Jewish Education," in which Hartman outlined his vision for an interpretive educational community.

"The first principle of Jewish education is that when you learn Torah you become part of an interpretive community. The interpretive community is not an independent notion added on to the idea of Jewish religiosity but is constructive of what we mean by Torah," Hartman wrote. This idea is at the core of the Be'eri philosophy of empowering all Jews to give their interpretation of traditional Jewish sources and to reclaim it for themselves.

The study ended with a discussion among participants about implementing Rabbi Hartman's vision of interpretive communities within their schools.

New Tarbut Yisrael Website Launches

Be'eri is excited to announce the launch of the new *Tarbut Yisrael* website (www.tarbut.cet.ac.il), which Be'eri took part in developing in partnership with the Israel Center for Educational Technology (CET), the Avi Chai Foundation, and the Posen Foundation. The website, which serves as a resource center for educational materials that strengthen pluralistic Jewish-Israeli heritage studies in the Israeli public realm, was recognized as "an enterprise for new digital environment dedicated to Jewish culture" by the British Ambassador to Israel at a special event at his residence on March 18. This event is part of a campaign for the site led by CET to increase awareness of this new resource.

One of the key features of the site is a Be'eri initiative to engage teachers in Jewish studies topics. Every week, a Be'eri facilitator posts a short lesson on the site. These weekly posts outline concrete pedagogy and content for how to address relevant current events from a Jewish perspective. The lessons, which include references to traditional and contemporary Jewish sources, a video component, and questions for discussion, have generated hundreds of page views and have inspired a great deal of online and offline discussion.

Recent popular topics include lesson plans about the Jewish Ethiopian holiday of Sigd at the time of the holiday in the fall, an examination of Judaism's approach to human rights in honor of International Human Rights Day, a lesson on the role of rain in Jewish culture, and guidelines to building a lesson about leadership in light of the recent Knesset elections.

The leadership post, for example, suggests beginning the lesson with a video clip that will inspire students to think about what it means to be a leader. The post includes two videos – Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's speech outlining his reasons for calling

early elections and a collection of clips from the 2009 elections featuring different political leaders, illustrating different leadership styles. The post then recommends that teachers divide their class into groups and have each group fill in the blank: "Israel needs a leader who is _____." The majority of the lesson is devoted to studying sources that address characteristics of an ideal

leader. The post brings selections from Midrash Rabbah, Plato, and Hobbes, emphasizing discussion points for each source. Finally, the blog post provides teachers with questions for summarizing the discussion: What are the benefits and disadvantages of each leadership type? Is it possible to integrate different types of leadership? What characteristics will you look for in Knesset candidates?

A Model for Municipal Partnership - Spotlight on Be'eri Be'er Sheva



Be'er Sheva, the capital of the Negev, is fast becoming a model for Be'eri municipal partnership with the support of its municipal leadership, the city's Education Department, Keren Daniel, and the Jewish Federation of Montreal. One of the most notable successes since becoming a municipal partner in 2010 is the opening of the first regional branch of the Be'eri School for Teacher Education in October 2012.

A significant program milestone that testifies to the strong partnership, presence, and impact Be'eri has in the city, the Be'er Sheva branch serves as an educational base for teachers in the southern region of Israel. The opening of the Be'er Sheva branch has enabled Be'eri to increase the number of southern-based teachers participating in its teacher training programs. Be'er Sheva participants join their peers studying at the Jerusalem-based School several times throughout the year to study with additional Hartman faculty members and increase their familiarity with the Hartman Institute and its all-encompassing attitude to pluralistic Jewish-Israeli identity education.



Be'er Sheva Deputy Mayor and Head of Education Heftzi Zohar at the opening of the branch of the School for Teacher Education

The involvement of Itzik Rabi, the Be'eri municipal facilitator for Be'er Sheva and the south, is another great indicator of Be'eri penetration in the city. At the request of the municipality, Itzik leads the Forum for Pluralistic Judaism in the Negev and was involved in organizing and leading a key session at Limmud Be'er Sheva, which was held in January 2013. He will lead the Forum in organizing a municipal Tikun Leil Shavuot.

The other exciting new initiative launched this year in Be'er Sheva is Makorock, a groundbreaking program in which student rock bands were assembled to study Jewish texts with a Be'eri facilitator and then write songs based on their learning. Earlier this year, students auditioned for the program. The 20 that were chosen represent five Be'er Sheva high schools. Students have been meeting with a Be'eri program facilitator to study Genesis and Midrash and with Dana Berger, a seasoned musician who is mentoring them in composing music and writing lyrics. A large city-wide concert, the culminating feature of Makorock, took place this month.



Overall, eight Be'er Sheva schools participate in the Be'eri program—three in the Yuval track and the remainder in the Ma'ayan track. These include a school that serves students who have dropped out of other schools, which was added to the program at the municipality's request. Two of the Yuval schools offer a major in Tarbut Yisrael (Jewish identity studies) in grades 11 and 12.

In addition to formal classroom hours dedicated to Tarbut Yisrael, Be'eri facilitators work in close partnership with the Be'er Sheva municipality to integrate Jewish-Israeli identity content into all facets of formal and informal education. In one of the schools, a communal Beit Midrash has been established for parents, teachers, and students. In another, a Beit Midrash for teachers has been established. Students study in the Beit Midrash framework by grade several times per year. Students from five schools participate in an informal student leadership program run in partnership with the Yaacov Herzog Center.

Popular Israeli Singer and Songwriter Ehud Banai Teaches at School for Teacher Education



Ehud Banai performs for School for Teacher Education

Be'eri is excited to announce that highly popular Israeli singer and songwriter Ehud Banai is leading four sessions at the Be'eri School for Teacher Education on using Jewish text to inspire understanding contemporary issues—a method that he uses in his music.

Banai led the first workshop in mid-March. Before singing a few of his

songs, Banai taught a Jewish text and explained how it influenced him to write lyrics. For example, he played his famous song “City of Refuge” and studied with the group biblical references to cities of refuge – towns in ancient Israel in which perpetrators of manslaughter could claim the right of asylum.

“The workshop was really very inspiring and insightful,” says Binny Shalev, Israel Director of the Russell Berrie Foundation, who attended the session. “This type of experience is such a powerful tool to highlight—especially with a secular audience—the authenticity of our heritage and its relevance to contemporary civilization.”

A full report on all four sessions will follow in the Fall 2013 newsletter.

Municipal Teacher Leadership Initiative Launched in Tel Aviv, Modi'in, and Jerusalem

This year, Be'eri launched the Municipal Teacher Leadership Initiative for advanced *Tarbut Yisrael* (Jewish identity studies) teachers in Tel Aviv, Modi'in, and Jerusalem. Born out of the successful Modi'in pilot program of the 2011-12 school year, this deep, intense

learning experience led by Be'eri municipal facilitators covers subjects within the *Tarbut Yisrael* curriculum, including Jewish philosophy and culture and teacher leadership. Participants are empowered to develop an educational project that can be implemented at the school and municipal levels.

In each participating city, a cohort of 15 outstanding teachers from the city's high schools meet monthly for three-hour sessions based on a range of topics, such as the culture of controversies, teaching methodology, and holidays. The sessions offer teachers from different schools a chance to get to know and interact with their colleagues and to discuss issues that arise in their schools, explore pedagogic methodologies, engage in text study, and develop projects for implementation in schools.

The program aims to create a framework in which leading *Tarbut Yisrael* teachers from a specific municipality can meet and learn while creating a solid infrastructure of top educators that have the power to define the Jewish spirit of their cities. Joint learning and group dialogue empower each teacher to expand his/her educational viewpoint—personally and professionally.

Each of the groups from Tel Aviv and Modi'in has met several times, including one meeting together in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem group, launched in February 2013, will continue to meet throughout the semester, including a joint seminar with the other groups at the Hartman Institute. In the 2013-2014 school year, groups from these three municipalities will continue to meet, and an additional training group will be created in one of the partner municipalities in the north.

Be'eri Concludes Bible Studies Pilot Course for Leading Bible Teachers

During the Fall 2012 semester, 45 leading Bible teachers joined the Be'eri School for Teacher Education to participate in the Bible studies pedagogy track, which piloted in September 2012 in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Beit Yatziv.

The goal of the program is to transform the way Bible studies—mandatory in all Israeli high schools—is taught, shifting the focus from technical instruction to a pedagogy that focuses on making the text meaningful and relevant for contemporary students. This course inspires change from within the existing secular Israeli high school educational framework.

Participating teachers were presented with transformative Bible studies teaching methodologies based on a combination of classical Jewish sources and modern Biblical teachings that emphasize ethical and existential questions arising from scriptures. Focus is placed on the meaning and relevance of learning and open dialogue between students, sources, and teachers.

Initially designed for 35 participants, the size of the cohort was increased to accommodate strong demand. The program was comprised of five full-day meetings at the School for Teacher Education and a three-day seminar led by SHI scholars, including Be'eri Educational Director Dr. Ariel Picard, Be'eri School for Teacher Education Director Rani Jaeger, SHI Fellow Dr. Micah Goodman, SHI Senior Fellow Prof. Israel Knohl, and Dr. Roni

Magidov, Ministry of Education Director of Bible Studies.

"The idea behind the program was inspired, the course stimulated motivation and imparted both a positive spirit and practical knowledge," said one participant. "The benefits of investing in high school faculty are clear."

After finishing their studies, program participants will serve as consultants who will disseminate the new methods they have learned to their peers. The Be'eri School for Teacher Education will enhance and fine-tune these new approaches based on feedback from the field.

The success of the pilot semester has encouraged the Ministry of Education to ask Be'eri to launch a new cohort next fall and to begin exploring methods for expanding the program next year.

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
Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco

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

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

Shalom Hartman Institute
11 Gedalyahu Alon Street
Jerusalem 93113 Israel
Tel: +972 2 567 5320
Fax: +972 2 561 1913
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

Canadian Friends of Shalom Hartman Institute
8888 Blvd Pie IX
Montreal, QC H1Z4J5
info@cfshi.org