



CHEVRA תכרה

AKIBA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE

Building on Our Past

60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion
& Class Milestone Celebration
at Akiba Hebrew Academy

Sunday, May 20, 2007

11:30 am - 4:00 pm
Fun, Food, Families, Friends,
Faculty - Past and Present

4:00 pm - Alumni Media Panel
The News Behind the News: Print, Radio, Television
Featuring Jake Tapper '87,
Ami Eden '91 and Hadas Kuznits '93

Alum Gives \$5 Million Dollar Gift to AKIBA

A \$5 million gift, the largest in AKIBA's history, from The Barrack Foundation, headed by Leonard '60 and Lynne Barrack, was approved on February 21, 2007 by AKIBA's Board of Directors. Len Barrack, communal leader, noted attorney, and distinguished philanthropist, has earmarked the majority of the funds for need-based and merit-based scholarships.

"We are delighted and honored by The Barrack Foundation gift and very proud that **Len Barrack '60** is AKIBA alum."

States Rabbi Phil Field, Head of School, "This very generous gift will open the doors of our stellar school to a wider array of Jewish youth who want a pluralistic Jewish education and assures a bright future for our school and our Jewish community." The gift is named in memory of Len Barrack's brother, Jack M. Barrack.



Leonard Barrack '60

AKIBA 60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion Is Happening Soon — We're Building on Our Past

Alumni and their families will gather to celebrate AKIBA's 60th anniversary on Sunday, May 20 at an All Alumni Reunion on the AKIBA grounds, with a full day of festivities beginning at 11:30 am. According to **Joy Pincus Cooper '90**, Event Chair, "We are so excited about the opportunity to have alumni from across the country and around the world return to AKIBA and see each other and our former teachers." We expect a fun-filled day with food and activities for all."



Joy Pincus Cooper '90, Event Chair, AKIBA 60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion.

Prior to the opening festivities, eleven Milestone classes (1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002) will convene for a special opportunity to see classmates. A short program will recognize former and current faculty, especially those who have taught graduates of AKIBA for over 25 years. There will be an opportunity to say L'hitraot to Rabbi Phillip Field, Head of School since 1990 who will make Aliyah this summer and to pay tribute to the memory of Louis Newman, principal (1951-63). A barbecue, activities for children and adults, and a chance to revisit your old favorite classrooms are all part of the day. This day will culminate in a final Alumni Spotlight Series Media Panel program at 4:00 PM, the third in a series described on page 2.

"AKIBA holds a special place in many of our hearts," says **Ariele Zandman Klausner '76**, Chair of the Alumni Affairs Committee. "So come back and visit, meet old friends and faculty, and celebrate this wonderful milestone event in Akiba's history."

Your reunion invitation is coming by mail—RSVPs due by April 30, 2007. If you prefer to register online, go to www.akibaweb.org and click on the 60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion. Questions? Contact Susan Gordon, Director of Alumni Affairs at susangordon@akibaweb.org or call her at 610.667.4070, ext. 154

Alumni Spotlight Series Has Launched AKIBA's 60th Anniversary Celebration

The AKIBA Alumni Series has held two grand events this year and is planning one more. The first featured **Uri Caine '74**, jazz composer and musician (see article below by Adena Potok.). The second presented **Geoffrey Richman '93** who is the award-winning film editor of "Murderball" and "God Grew Tired of Us: The Lost Boys of Sudan" at the Bryn Mawr Film Institute.

The third event, scheduled to coincide with the 60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion on May 20, is offering a panel at 4 PM: "The News Behind the News: Print, Radio and Television." Featured speakers are **Ami Eden '91**, Executive Editor of *The Forward*, **Hadas Kuznits '93**, KYW NewsRadio 1060 Reporter and **Jake Tapper '87**, ABC TV Senior National Correspondent. Special thanks for this event to Alumni Spotlight Chairs Mindy Chriqui and Blima Ludmir.



Three of **Geoffrey Richman's** 1993 classmates attended the Alumni Spotlight Series event at which he was featured. Pictured from left are **Maani Waldor**, **Geoffrey**, **Melissa Hecht**, and **Jennifer Wankoff**.

A Musical Midrashist by Adena Potok

On a Wednesday night in December 2006, **Uri Caine '74** played to a full house of alumni and supporters of AKIBA Hebrew Academy at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square. This incredibly gifted jazz composer and musician came onto the stage dressed casually in black, greeted the audience telling them how proud and happy he was to be playing for AKIBA, and took his seat at the piano. From that moment, the evening was his.

Soon he and the audience were experiencing a musical universe that was both recognizable and at the same time radically new. His range stretched from Fats Waller to Mahler, Caine to Sousa to Mozart with an encore of Joe Hill, all reshaped in a jazz syntax that kept the audience enraptured. The piano sang and roared from pianissimo to fortissimo with a lyricism not always familiar, but thoroughly engaging. He

owned and used the entire keyboard, as well as the piano frame. No voice was out of range.

In the auditorium of the Ethical Society on Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square in front of an audience of mixed generations Uri Caine presented musical "midrashim" on themes familiar to the listener from

various musical ouvres: classical, jazz, folk, ragtime. He took these themes and recast them in the musical language of contemporary jazz, presenting a concert that engaged everyone in the room. In an era when many—even those of not insignificant learning and education—look for certainties and familiar forms, it is invigorating to experience the mind and art of a pulsating creative intelligence. It was very much AKIBA.



Adena Potok and **Uri Caine** sharing a proud moment.



AKIBA Alumni participating in the Uri Caine concert standing from left are **Jude Cohen '74**, **Stephen Gershberg '74**, **Steven Klausner '76**, **Ariele Zandman Klausner '76**, **David Schachter '74**, **Debra Adelman Schachter '74**, **Jack Marine '74**, **Hershel Richman '59**, **Peter Kelsen '74**. Seated from left are **Phyllis Ehrman Fink '55**, **Rebecca Landes Kolman '77**, **Uri Caine '74**, **Elizabeth Katz '04**, and **Marnee Klein '04**.

AKIBA Alumni Directory Project

AKIBA proudly announces that Harris Connect, among the leading world professional collators of alumni directories, has taken on the AKIBA Alumni Directory project. Please respond ASAP when you receive a letter, email, or phone call. Help everyone stay in the loop!

AKIBA Current Students, Parents and Alumni Celebrate Thanksgiving Israeli-Style

A festive Thanksgiving dinner at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem was enjoyed by almost 200 Akiba-related folks on Thursday, November 23, 2006. Feasting on hand-carved turkey and all the fixings were 48 current AKIBA juniors spending their fall 2006 semester on the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, joined by visiting parents and families. With them were close to 100 Alumni and past faculty, many of whom had made aliyah, representing classes from the 1950s through our recent 2006 graduates. The celebratory evening honored Akiba's 60th Anniversary, and served as yet another recognition of the strong relationship between AKIBA and Israel. **Joan Westenholz '60**, Museum Curator, graciously arranged the lovely venue, excellent catering, and fascinating museum tours.



At the Thanksgiving Reunion in Israel of AKIBA Alumni and friends are from left, alum **Jill Golub Daube '76**, former students Naomi Prusky, an AKIBA parent, Mimi Rettig Fuchs, Shifra Mogilner Ben- Gur, and alum **Miriam Hartman Beazley '76**.



More alumni and friends at the Thanksgiving Reunion in Israel are from left former faculty member **Dr. Menachem Gundesheimer** and his son, **Joel '78**, **Gary and Penina Rosenberg Weiner '68**, and **Joan Goodnick Westenholz '60**, curator at the Bible Lands Museum, who helped coordinate the event.

Building Bridges: Israeli AKIBA Alumni Host 11th Grade Students

For the first time, AKIBA 11th graders who spent the fall 2006 semester studying at the Alexander Muss High School in Israel celebrated Shabbat with AKIBA alumni now living in Israel. Twenty nine Israeli alumni families hosted our 48 students for the December 8 Shabbat. One student, **Jeremy Kolman '08** who stayed with **Shalom Miller '98** and his family over Shabbat, said, "It was cool to be with someone young who has made aliyah and was once an AKIBA student like me." One of the hosts, **Yossi Gevir '73**, commented, "Contact between American Jews and Israelis is critical, all the more so regarding American olim. The dialogue is natural and influential, but only if it is given the proper context and status which I believe AKIBA has done in this case."



AKIBA students and their Israeli hosts. Pictured from left are **Gabriel Singer '05**, **Zachary Pomerantz '08**, **Benjamin Miller '00**, **Sam Margolius '08**, and **Jacob Freedman '08**.



Akiba's Director of College Guidance, Carol Jacobs, meets with recent Akiba graduates at the University of Pittsburgh. Pictured from left are Carol Jacobs, **Naomi Wischnia '05**, **Aliya Furman '05**, **Sam Kolman '05**, and Sahar Oz (Assistant Director of University of Pittsburgh Hillel).

Young Alumni Joyfully Gather

High energy filled the foyer at AKIBA on November 22, 2006, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, when alumni from classes 2001-2006 returned to reunite with classmates and teachers over sushi and to share their accomplishments since leaving AKIBA. Some are still in college while others have joined the workforce, but all talked about how prepared they were because of their AKIBA experience.



Pictured from left are members of the class of 2006: **Amanda Dworkin**, **Robin Wassermann**, and **Alexis Kushner**.



Pictured from left, members of the class of 2002: **Shai Dardashti**, **Benjamin Kamm**, **Joshua Eidelson**, and **Daniel Kline**.

Reminiscent of their former AKIBA days, Young Alumni sat in the foyer with songbooks in hand at a coffee house led by former faculty member, **Harold Messinger '87**.

In addition to studying cantorial music, Harold has recently released a CD of Jewish Music entitled "Shine On."



Focus Groups For Future Planning Held From Coast to Coast

The key message from over 100 alumni who participated in five different Focus Groups For Future Planning, held between May 2006 and January 2007 was: While much has changed over AKIBA's 60 year history, many things have remained the same.

From Greater Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles, alumni from the 1950s through the 2000s met to tell the Alumni Affairs Committee about their AKIBA experiences and to suggest alumni activities that would keep them connected with their alma mater. Consistently, alumni talked about the warm physical and social environment along with the caring faculty that made students feel nurtured. Academics emphasized independent and critical thinking. Alumni greatly valued the atmosphere of open discourse while making connections to Israel, Jewish pluralism, and the building of Jewish knowledge and skills. AKIBA alumni described themselves as passionate about their ideals, their professions, and their Jewish ties. **Deborah Diamond '81** created the framework for these sessions and conducted several of them.

Alumni asked for opportunities to connect with each other, with specific needs varying by both geography and age. For example, alumni living outside of Greater Philadelphia would be much more likely to participate within their local areas. The younger alumni generally wanted social programs, while the older alumni preferred content-based programs. In every session, participants discussed Internet based strategies that

would enable them to check in with classmates, learn about what was happening at AKIBA, and update their contact information. Alumni want to network both for professional opportunities as well as for help with relocation when alumni move to a new city. Most participants recognized the importance of giving financial support to AKIBA in response to their positive feelings about the school and the ongoing information they receive about the continued high quality education and programs.

The outcomes from these successful Focus Groups will help shape alumni activities in future years.



At the New York City Focus Group hosted by **Joshua Landes '80** are from left Rabbi Philip Field, Head of School, **Deborah Diamond '81**, **Josh Landes**, **Tamar Landes '81**, **Arielle Zandman Klausner '76**, Chair, Alumni Affairs Committee and **Lynn Quitman Troyka '55**, CHEVRA Editor.



We are pleased to introduce this section of class notes to our Chevra newsletter and thank everyone for keeping us up-to-date. Please continue to send us information by registering online at www.akibaweb.org. Click on "Alumni Scene."

FROM THE 1950s

Condolences to **Sandra Schachter Crain '51** on the recent loss of her mother.

Mordechai Rosenstein '51 was recognized, at a recent conference of RAVSAK, the Jewish Community Day School Network, for creating and donating framed prints to all member schools, including AKIBA. The prints depict the organization's eight core beliefs.

Lynn Quitman Troyka PhD '55 has written twelve college English handbooks and textbooks, some for the US market and some for the Canadian market, all published by Prentice Hall. Her 900-page Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers is in its eighth edition, and her 500-page computer-oriented *Quick Access Reference for Writers* is in its fifth edition. Her books are in the Alumni Display Case among other publications by alumni authors. Past president of the four national professional organizations for college professors of English, she is now an Adjunct Professor at City College of the City University of New York (CCNY) in the MA Program in Language and Literacy.

We mourn the loss of **Cecil Maidman Esq. '56** who passed away in January 2007.

FROM THE 1960s

Congratulations to **Charlotte Ozer Denenberg '60** and her husband Harold on the birth of their grandson Gabriel Asher.

Ellen Glatzer Schechter '60, her husband, and two teenage children made aliyah in 1979. She tutored English while her husband worked for the Israel Ministry of Education. Ellen and her husband are both retired and involved in community activities.

Our appreciation to **Joan Goodnick Westenholz '60**, curator of the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem, for opening up the Museum to over 70 AKIBA alumni living and studying in Israel for the 60th Anniversary Alumni reunion celebration on November 23, 2006. They were joined by 11th grade AKIBA students studying at the Alexander Muss High School in Israel and their parents.

Our appreciation to **Maynard Maidman '62** for sending us copies of his publications: *Studies on the Civilization and Culture of the Nuzi and the Hurrians: Two Hundred Nuzi Texts from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (volume 6)* and the *Nuzi Texts of the Oriental Institute: A Catalogue Raisonne, (volume 16)* published in 2005. The books can be found in our Alumni Display Case among other publications by alumni authors.

Eileen Cohen Bachrad '64 has spent the last 21 years in South Florida with her husband. Her sons are working in New York and California. After owning several businesses, Eileen has embarked upon a second career as a Judaic Studies teacher. She is also very active in the Jewish community, in senior living communities, and in arts and film groups.

Sharone Maital '65 directs psychological services and teaches graduate courses in early childhood development and counseling at Haifa University.

David Markson '65 sold his business, 21st Century Health Benefits, and is now happily retired. He divides his time between his homes in Villanova, PA, and Palm Desert, CA.

Michael Soloway '66 joined fellow alumni at the 60th Anniversary Israeli Alumni reunion at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem on November 23. Michael made aliyah in 1971 with his wife Elaine and is a founder of Kibbutz Ketura. Michael is involved with various aspects of Kibbutz management and with tourism. The Soloways have 6 children.

We mourn the loss of **Mark Zatz '66** who died in an automobile accident on Sunday, August 13, 2006.

David Bedein '68 has written about the Middle East conflict in numerous publications and has recently been named Foreign Correspondent to the Bulletin in Philadelphia. David is the Founder and Director of the Israel Resource News Agency. He spoke recently at Lower Merion Synagogue in Merion.

Ethelea Reisner Katzenell '68 lives in Beersheva and is a senior academic librarian at the Ben Gurion University Library. She shares an active life with her four grown children, four step-children, and her parents Nate and Connie Reisner who also live in Beersheva. Ethelea invites everyone to visit and "come see the ancient/modern wonder amidst the Negev Desert."

Condolences to **Ellen Zatz Litt '69** on the loss of her brother **Mark Zatz '66**.

FROM THE 1970s

Bonnie Diamond Baker '70 is a professional counselor with a special certificate in the field of addictions. She was recently promoted to Director of Utilization Management at Mirmont, a drug diagnosis in-patient treatment center in Delaware County, PA.

Harriet Stein Coddington '70 lives in Israel on Kibbutz Mevo Hama with her husband David who is Head of Design at Mapal Plastics. They have three children: Oodie, who is a student at Hebrew University; Ariel, who is living in New York; and Tali, who is doing a year of community service before going into the army. Harriet works as a writer for Eric Cohen Books. Three of her textbooks are being used in Israeli schools. She has also authored two grammar books.

Donna Yudenfriend Lawrence '70 and her husband Jeffrey just returned from their 20th visit to Israel where they spent time visiting their children who live in Jerusalem.

Ivy Elinoff Marwil '70 ran her 19th marathon in Buenos Aires, Argentina where her son Noah is living and teaching English. She is a psychotherapist in private practice in Providence, Rhode Island. Also, congratulations to Ivy on the engagement of her son Zachary, to Lauren Schwartz.

Helen Bedein Miller '70 reports that her daughter, Rachel, age 25, directs the Jewish Studies Center in Washington, DC and her other daughter Esther, age 23, works as a customer rep and marketing assistant at I.B. Goodman Jewelers in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Congratulations to **Joel Frankel '70** on his recent promotion to Senior Vice President of Investments at the Ardmore office of Ferris Baker Watts, a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

Phillip Kirchner '70 is President of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and Chairman of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

Congratulations to **Leora Krygier '70** on the publication of her novel, *When She Sleeps*. Leora shared a copy of her book with Akiba, complete with an inscription addressed to current students: "AKIBA students, I was once you." In addition to her writing career, she pursues her legal career as a judicial referee for the Juvenile Division of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Leora lives with her husband and two children in Los Angeles.

Our thanks and appreciation to **Rob Charry '71** who recently reconnected with AKIBA when he addressed Akiba's Sports Debate Club. Rob is a sports writer for the local newspaper, *Metro* and a radio sportscaster on 610 WIP.

Mazel Tov to **Allen Glicksman '71** on receiving the Eastern Geriatric Society's President's Award. He is the Director of Research at the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging.

Richard Pollak '71 was named MVP at the AKIBA Class of '71 basketball team reunion. He was also a featured extra in the movie *Invincible*. He played the part of the halftime coordinator.

Congratulations to **Susan Kabler Schofield '71** on her recent marriage to Ross Herring on September 10, 2006.

Beth Cohen '73 reports that her daughter Paula graduated from Gann Academy, a Jewish day school in Waltham, MA, and is currently a sophomore at Mt. Holyoke. Her son William is now a freshman at the Gann Academy. Beth is busy teaching, writing and consulting for high tech companies.

Joel Greenberg '73 moved to Israel with his family before graduating from AKIBA. He is currently a journalist with the Jerusalem Bureau of the Chicago Tribune. Prior to this, he spent 10 years with the New York Times Bureau. Joel is eager to be in touch with other classmates who are in Israel.

A. Jill Leibman '73 was appointed Associate Professor of Clinical Radiology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. She lives in New Jersey with her husband Bernard Kornmehl, Esq. and three sons.

Sharon Glasshoffer Snyder '73 reports that her daughter Marni, graduated from Villanova Law School in May 2006 and is clerking in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for AKIBA graduate, **Judge Carolyn Engel Temin '51**. Sharon's son Rob graduated from Ithaca College in May 2006 and is working for NFL Films.

Fred Weinstein '73 is an attorney in private practice in Philadelphia. He has 5 children between the ages of 15 and 22. His oldest, a daughter, works in New York while the other children are in high school and college.

Congratulations to **Jack Marine '74** on his new job as a science teacher at the West Philadelphia Achievement Charter Elementary School.

David Schachter '74 is an attorney and sole practitioner in Center City, Philadelphia. His practice focuses on estate planning and estate administration.

Debra Adelman Schachter '74 is a licensed Investment Advisor Representative, a certified Senior Advisor and an insurance representative. She is married to classmate, **David Schachter '74**.

Congratulations to **Paul Root Wolpe '74** on his election as a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a prestigious medical association whose mission is to advance the cause of health and uphold the ideals and heritage of medicine.

Kudos to **Charles Korman '75** on completing his medical training, last spring, at the age of 49.

Sara Caine Kornfeld '76 lives in Denver with her husband of 19 years and her four children, ranging from 3rd grade through high school. She teaches Hebrew, Judaics and Social Action at Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy in Denver, CO.

Robert Kutzik '77 graduated with a Bachelors degree from Temple University and a Masters in Education from Arcadia University. He is involved in teacher training through an innovative non-profit organization called Micro Society.

Mariellen Shapiro Rich '77 lives in New York with her husband Charles, son Matthew, age 20, and daughter Eve, age six who attends a Jewish day school there. Mariellen is an editor of reference books and monographs.

Michael Alter '79 and **Leslie Vermin Alter '79** have spent the last 15 years in Portland, Oregon working as psychotherapists in private practice.

FROM THE 1980s

Class of **1980** reunion: **Joshua Landes** hosted the reunion over Thanksgiving weekend for his class at his parent's home in Elkins Park. The turnout was excellent and Ethel Blum, former AKIBA vice-principal, was among several current and former faculty who attended.

Alan Zucker '80 is a manager with the finance organization at Fannie Mae and lives in Arlington, VA with his wife, nine-year-old daughter Samantha and 13-year-old son Jacob. The family recently celebrated Jacob's Bar Mitzvah.

Ken Liss '81 is a physician with Hypertension and Nephrology Associates. He and his wife Jane and their three children ages, seven, four, and six months live in Morganville, NJ.

Fay Twersky '81 just moved from the Bay area of California to Seattle to accept the position of Chief Impact Assessment and Improvement Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Micah Zimring '81 is a graphic designer living in MA. We are grateful for time he has devoted to redesigning the *CHEVRA*.

Dodi Rubenstein Conway '82 recently moved to the suburbs of Los Angeles with her husband Chuck, her six-year-old daughter Jessica, and her three-year-old son Daniel. She writes: "My film career is on hold right now so that I can stay home with my kids. It's the hardest job I've ever had, but definitely the most rewarding."

Our condolences to **Kathy Wilf '82** and her family on the death of her mother Norma Wilf.

Carolyn Zalesne '82 is a graphic designer in Savannah, Georgia and engaged to be married to Jonathan Holskin, DDS in October 2007.

Our thanks to **David Diamond '83** and **Audrey Kraus '85** for opening their home for a wonderful get together of our Southern California alumni. Thanks, as well, to the alumni who participated and enthusiastically shared their AKIBA memories, their interest in future involvement in AKIBA programs, and their excitement about current AKIBA developments.

Alan Goldman '83 is on the teaching faculty of Young Judea Year Course in Israel. He is also a Mashgiach Ruhani (guidance counselor) for Tochnot Shalem (the Orthodox track) and Educational Director of Kuma Year Course Journey to Poland. He often teaches AKIBA alumni. He is married to Missy Stein-Goldman and has two children, Meir Yisroel age 11 and Hila Tiferet age three-and-a-half.

Danielle Koren '83 is Founder and President of DKI Direct, a health care marketing company in NJ, and is also a competitive ballroom dancer.

Suzanne Shuman Nahamo '83 received the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. She currently teaches at Temple Adath Israel in Merion.

Michael Rosoff '84 and **Janet Samuels Rosoff '87** live in Bryn Mawr, PA with their four daughters and four dogs. Michael owns his own importing business and Janet is a school psychologist.

Haim Branspiegel '85 is a cardiologist in Plainview, NY. He is keeping busy raising his four children. Haim and his wife are expecting a fifth child.

Gal Woidislawsky Jurick '85 is busy growing her photography business. She can be contacted through her website www.jurick.net.

Class of **1986** reunion: Thanks to **Debbie Breslow, Ari Brooks, Adam Greenberg, Shari Keesal, Jodi Schechtman,** and **Marisa Silberstein Shuter,** who organized a very successful class reunion at AKIBA over Thanksgiving weekend. Over 20 class members attended.

Ed Goldman '86 lives in Raanana with his wife and three children. He works in the high tech field in the area of global marketing. He spent three years representing Israeli high tech companies.

Our condolences to **Marsha Pincus Katz '86** on the loss of her father Leonard Pincus.

Mazel Tov to **David Loewenberg '87** and his wife Pamela Feldstein on the birth of their daughter Atara Faith.

Todah Rabah to **Harold Messinger '87** for entertaining Young Alumni at a recent coffee house held at AKIBA. He recently released his first CD of Jewish music titled: "Shine On".

Michelle Jasper Brody '88 lives in New York with her husband and three-year-old twins. She holds a doctorate in psychology and works at the Solomon Schechter Day School in Westchester, NY.

Abigail Weinberg '88 moved to Ann Arbor, MI with her husband Rabbi Nathan Martin and their daughter Hadassah Tikva Weinmartin.

Alex Beitler '89 lives in New York and is the Founder of Yellow Sky Agency which provides advertising opportunities for American artists of handmade goods.

Nicole Parelman Farber '89 and her husband Jason celebrated their second anniversary on Oct. 23, 2006. Nicole is a CAD (computer-aided design) designer at the menswear company Roytex, Inc. and lives in Forest Hills, NY.

Greg Halperin '89 and his wife Elena Rival are the proud parents of a son and daughter. Greg received a PhD in Clinical Psychology and is a research executive and account manager for TNS in Horsham, PA.

After working at Aetna US Healthcare in Manhattan for 11 years as a broker manager, **Marjorie Perilstein Wargon '89** received her Master's degree in Education from Hunter College. She recently moved back to the Greater Philadelphia area with her husband Brian and two-year-old daughter. They were joined by a new baby in January.

FROM THE 1990s

Our condolences to **Joy Pincus Cooper '90** on the loss of her father, Leonard Pincus. Joy recently received her MBA with a concentration in Business Management from Eastern University. She is a manager with Proctor and Gamble. She is also chairing the AKIBA 60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion scheduled for May 20, 2007.

Congratulations to **Netanya Levin '91**, and her husband Jason on the birth of their second daughter Hannah.

Mazel tov to **Benjamin Loewenberg '90** and his wife Luba on the birth of their daughter Maya Batya.

Mazel Tov to **Josh Shapiro '91** and **Lori Ferrara Shapiro '91** on Josh's appointment as Deputy Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Robyn Friedman Cohen '92 is married, with two sons, and is working on a PhD in School and Counseling Psychology while interning at an elementary school.

Mazel Tov to **Anna Werrin '92** and her husband on the birth of a baby boy born in Jerusalem. Congratulations also to older brother Noach Elijah.

Congratulations to **Rivka Bernstein '93** on her engagement to Paris Lovett.

Mazel Tov to **Igor Vidrevich '93** on the birth of his son, Aaron Benjamin. Igor works for Morgan Stanley in New York.

Jessica Vigoda '93 was elected to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, honoring the most respected teachers in the United States. She was nominated by her students. Jessica is an Educational Support Specialist.

Congratulations to **Gregg Gardner '94** on his recent marriage to Rabbi Carey Brown. Gregg is a PhD candidate in Religion at Princeton University.

Dahlia Levine '94 is working on a Masters in Library Science at the Pratt Institute in the School of Information and Library Science in New York.

Svetlana (Lana) Gombar Milich '94 received a BS in Math and a Masters in Education. She has been teaching high school math in various schools in the Greater Philadelphia area. She and her husband, Richard have a two-year-old son Timmy, two cats and a dog.

Congratulations to **Avi Alpert '95** and his wife Karen on the birth of their daughter Avital Riana. Avi is a project manager with the Corporate Executive Board in Washington, DC.

David Freidenreich '95 earned his PhD in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Law from Columbia University and an ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He is currently a Post Doctoral Fellow and is completing a book. He writes: "Akiba, and especially Rabbi Field, gave me the skills I needed to get where I am today."

Jared Levin '95, his wife Allison and son live in PA. He is an Account Executive with Crane Marketing Communications and has designed the Save The Date and invitation for the 60th Anniversary All Alumni Reunion. Todah rabah.

Ely Levine '95 and his wife Sara Beth are the proud parents of a lively baby girl. Mazel Tov.

Amy Malissa '95 works for "Once Upon a Nation" and most recently for the re-opening of historic Franklin Square in Center City Philadelphia.

Megan Pugach '95 will receive her PhD in oral and craniofacial sciences from the University of California, San Francisco in May 2007. She has written numerous professional articles and has presented at international dental research conferences. In May 2006, she was awarded the Dean's Science Scholarship for her research.

Mazel Tov to **Stefanie Friedman Ravitz '95** on the recent birth of her daughter Julia.

Congratulations to **Ali Young '95** on her marriage to Seth Freed.

Dianna Belman '97 recently returned from Spain and is planning to enter a PhD program in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Mazel tov to **Amy Goldberg Buchbayew '97** and husband Josh on the birth of a son who joins his two sisters Zoe and Ella.

Deena Barselah '98 lives in New York and is currently working at Google in Training and Development. She is also pursuing a Masters in Industrial and Organization Psychology at NYU. In the past, she worked with youth trips to Israel through Young Judea.

Shalom Miller '98 is finishing his last year in the Meretz Kollel/ Mevasseret Zion and completing an MA. He and his wife Batya have two daughters Tiferet and Emunah.

Jesse Pugach '98 graduated from the University of Vermont in 2002. He is the bar manager for the upscale Japanese restaurant, Ozumo, in San Francisco and received a five-star review from the San Francisco Chronicle for his specialty drinks. He and former AKIBA classmate **Ari Feingold '98** also run a small business together.

After graduating from Muhlenberg College, **Joshua M. Katz '99** joined Leon Levy & Associates, a financial planning firm in Philadelphia. In addition, he is an accomplished volunteer auctioneer for charities in the New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia areas. He recently was the emcee for Steven Spielberg's charity, Children of Chernobyl, in New York City. Josh currently lives in the Queen Village section of Philadelphia.

Lauren Katz '99 continues her education as a member of the inaugural class of Drexel University's School of Law.

Our condolences to **Judah Lebow '99** on the death of his father Max Lebow.

Sam Malissa '99 recently returned from living in Japan for two years, where he was an English teacher.

FROM THE 2000s

Benjamin Miller '00 is finishing his Engineering degree and working as a madrich (counselor) at Yeshivat Torat Shraga in Israel.

Alexander Pantelyat '00 organized a charity concert to benefit Israeli victims of terror which was held at Penn Hillel in Steinhardt Hall in March 2007.

Congratulations to **Ariel Siskind '00** on receiving his Master of Science degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology in late December from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He will pursue a PhD in the same field. Also Mazel Tov on his recent engagement to Melissa Raikin.

Congratulations to **Gabriella Tykochinski '00** on her marriage to Saul Safdieh.

Mazel tov to **Phillip Wellerstein '00** and his wife Faigy on the birth of a son.

Congratulations to **Arielle Feitelson '01** on her recent marriage to Avi Avishai.

Congratulations to **Jeremy Kriger '01** and **Yoella Epstein '01** on their recent engagement.

Congratulations to **Lesley Berkowitz '01**, director of Teatron's production of An Evening of David Ives' One Acts and to the stars of the show, **Matt Rosen '03** and **Marnee Klein '04**.

Jane Stein '01 has qualified for the Israeli National Softball Team, with the intent on qualifying for the Olympics in 2008. The Israeli government has committed to fully funding the team once it qualifies for the Olympics.

Congratulations to **Alanna Strong '01** on her recent engagement to Brad Rosen. Brad is a PhD candidate in Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania.

Hannah Arem '02 was selected as one of three national winners of the Forum on Education Abroad's Undergraduate Research Award. Hannah wrote her senior anthropology thesis on "The Faces of Globalization," based on research she carried out while studying abroad in Argentina. She was invited to present her research at the Annual Forum Conference in Austin, TX, in March, 2007. Hannah is a graduate of Cornell University.

Josh Eidelson '02 came back to AKIBA to be the guest speaker at Akiba's Human Rights Club. His topic was: "Workers' Rights in America."

Congratulations to **Elana Jaffe '02** on her recent marriage to Chanan Weissman.

After graduating from Indiana University with a dual degree in International Studies and Jewish Studies, **Jaime Lauren Katz '02** now teaches in the Perelman Jewish Day School's OROT program at the Stern Center. Jaime lives in the Queen Village section of Philadelphia.

Our condolences to **Johanna Lebow '02** on the death of her father Max Lebow.

Congratulations to **Joshua Shaneson '02** on his recent marriage to Daphna Margolies. The newlyweds live in Israel, where Daphna is a student at the Hebrew University. Josh is studying for Rabbinical ordination at an Israeli yeshiva.

Congratulations to **Dana Mindy Trachtenberg '02** on her recent engagement to Adam Scott Zeiger.

Emily Wilf '02 graduated with a degree in Film and Media from Temple University.

Congratulations to **Matthew (Motti) Flihkstein '03** and **Rachel Sugarman '05** on their engagement.

Congratulations to **Jack Lyons '03** on his engagement to Michaella (Shoshana) Goldberg.

Jonathan (Yoni) Miller '03 is working as a madrich (counselor) at Lev Hatorah and is beginning his studies towards a BA.

Mazel tov to **Etan Pomerantz '03** on his recent engagement to Ilana Sapadin. Etan is a senior at Yeshiva University, majoring in psychology.

Ashira August '04 is a Painting major at the University of Delaware. She had several pieces in a juried art exhibition at the University Museum Curatorial Apprenticeship Program. Ashira also works as a Hebrew School teacher at Temple Beth Emeth in Delaware.

Sheira Feuerstein '04 played the role of Maria in *West Side Story* at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and a leading roll in *NINE*, a musical at The University of Pennsylvania.

Mazel Tov to **Amishai Gottlieb '04** for being among the 220 olim on the Nefesh B'Nefesh/Jewish Agency flight that arrived in Israel this past December.

As a sophomore at Brandeis University, **David Bass '05** continues to act in a number of shows, including *Seussical*. David had the lead role in AKIBA's Upper School Musical production of *Seussical* in 2005.

Abby Stern '05 is spending a second year studying in Israel, after which she will attend the University of Maryland.

Alana Tilman '06 volunteered at the Temple Judea Museum at Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, PA and helped curate the synagogue's current museum. There was an article about Alana and the exhibit in *The Times Chronicle* Weekend section.

AKIBA Alumnus Inspires Students

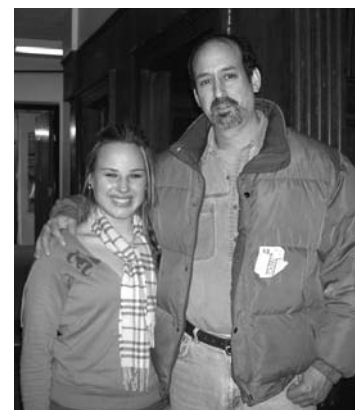
Robert Charry '71 has been a sports talk show host and sports update anchor at 610 WIP since 1989, and he writes a weekly sports column for the *Metro*. Robert returns frequently to AKIBA to speak with students, most recently to the AKIBA Sports Debate Club organized by faculty member Kim Gillio. He reflected on Akiba's impact on his life and career.

"I attended AKIBA at a very exciting time, from 1965-71. As someone interested in politics and sports, I found AKIBA very encouraging and open as far as politics went, with touch football at lunch, and the basketball team helping to serve my other needs. Students today should consider themselves lucky to have a gym on campus, while those of my era consider ourselves lucky to have seen our pro sports team win championships.

At AKIBA, I learned it was not only okay but also our responsibility as students to 'Question Authority,' because authority is not always right. Among my fondest memories of AKIBA is the stimulating diversity of speakers at assemblies, from a radio talk show

host/AKIBA parent, to a John Birch Society member, to alumni Barney Rubin and Sue Blum who told riveting tales about the bloody and historic 1968 Democratic Convention.

The respect teachers at AKIBA had for students proved quite empowering. Sitting in freshman history class listening to and discussing the Beatles with Dr. Gorvine, we discovered that words and songs are more than open to interpretation. Perhaps that's why today, I often find that hearing a variety of different opinions can be a thought-provoking, learning experience."



Robert Charry '71 meets with **Samantha Cramer '07**, AKIBA star athlete and President of the Student Association.

Highlights of Our Special Events & Academic Programs

Fifth Annual Purim Ball: AKIBA's Fifth Annual Purim Ball, held this year at the Loews Hotel in Center City, honored Rabbi Philip Field for his 17 years of leadership and dedication to AKIBA and our community. AKIBA's 60th Anniversary was further cause for celebration. A huge success in every way, the event and Tribute Book raised an indispensable \$250,000 for the school's Annual Fund.

Scientifically Speaking: AKIBA ninth graders are presenting at the prestigious third annual Annenberg High School Science Symposium. Alternative energies with the topic: *Fueling America's Future: Is Ethanol for Us?* is our students' focus. Since the Symposium's inception three years ago, our 9th graders have been invited to participate in this highly respected, influential event.

Our New Virtual Museum: A richly detailed, new virtual museum is the creation of AKIBA's Middle School's Core classes. The galleries display large collections of 6th-grader work on the study of archaeology and ancient civilizations and 8th-grader work centering on American history, complete with art, poetry, and illustrated informative reports. For your tour, go to AKIBA's website www.akibaweb.org, scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click on Gallery, then click on Virtual Museum to find links to the many sections of the exhibit.

Applause! Applause! AKIBA's drama department is in full swing. Kudos to the recent performances of the Middle School production of *High School Musical*. Rehearsals for the Upper School production on May 13-16 of *Mame* are in full swing. Save the dates to join us for this professionally staged musical.

Budding Engineers: An Introduction to Engineering, AKIBA's senior elective, is attracting a number of female students who go on to explore science and engineering as career options.

Addressing Learning Differences: To address diverse student learning differences, AKIBA has expanded its curriculum and resource center to meet the needs of the community.

Human Rights in Action: AKIBA's Human Rights Club, which is continuing to support an end to genocide in Darfur, has been bringing in speakers to raise awareness. The Club members are selling tee-shirts to help raise funds to combat human rights violations.

On the Fast Track: A coed varsity track team is this year's addition to AKIBA's expanding athletic opportunities for our students.

60th Annual Meeting: This year's 60th Annual Meeting, set for Sunday, June 3 at AKIBA will honor Rabbi Philip D. Field, Head of School as well as Mitchell R. Cohen, AKIBA's Board President for the past two years. Jay Dorsch, the incoming AKIBA Board President, along with new Board Members, will be installed. Everyone is welcome to join us for this climax of our 60th Anniversary celebration.

2007 Graduation: Sixty-three seniors will graduate on Thursday, June 7, at Temple Adath Israel. This joyous occasion also allows us to honor members of the class of 1957 on the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Thanks to 1957 class representatives Judith Lazarus Kinman and Ed Steinhouse for working to make this celebration festive. We cordially invite all alumni to come together, renew friendships, and have a grand time.

AKIBA REUNION NEWS



Members of the class of '86 celebrate their 20th reunion in the AKIBA Atrium with their families. Thanks to '86 Reunion Committee: Shari Keesal, Debbie Breslow, Adam Greenberg, Jodi Ginsburg Schechtman, Marisa Silberstein Shuter, and Ari Brooks.



Kudos to Sharon Zellis '80 who organized the class of '80 reunion and to Josh Landes '80 and his parents Rabbi Aaron and Sora Landes for hosting it at their home. Current and former faculty as well as most of the class attended. Two '80 alumni are now AKIBA parents. Pictured from left are Bryna Landes, Sharon Zellis, Joel Smiler, Josh Landes, Amanda Levick Steier, and Keren Hulkower.

Visit AKIBA On-Line at www.akibaweb.org and log onto our Alumni page. Send us your updated information or register online. You can also contact Susan Gordon, Director of Alumni Affairs, at susangordon@akibaweb.org or (610)667-4070 ext. 154.

ALUMNI QUESTIONNAIRE: PLEASE RESPOND!

Current Name: _____	Date: _____	WORK INFORMATION:
Name as Student: _____	Class of: _____	Your Position: _____
Spouse Name: _____		Name of Company: _____
Children Names and Ages: _____		Street Address : _____
Current Street Address: _____		City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____		Country: _____
Country: _____		Phone: _____ Email: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____		What's new and exciting: _____
SCHOOL INFORMATION:		
College: _____	Degree(s) Earned: _____	I am available to help: <input type="checkbox"/> as a class representative
		<input type="checkbox"/> with the 60th Anniversary reunion
Graduate School: _____	Degree(s) Earned: _____	Please add me to the Benainu e-mail list (weekly newsletter) <input type="checkbox"/>



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 Beverly C. Rosen, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
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