

CHEVRA



AKIBA-BARRACK ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

An Evening with Rabbi David Wolpe '76: You Can Go Home Again

"At first it might seem strange as an alumnus to return to your high school alma mater that has a new name and a new location, but our children deserve excellence and the new Barrack Hebrew Academy facilities provide that excellence," said **Rabbi David Wolpe '76** when he addressed fellow alumni, parents and community members on November 18 at an evening hosted by the Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association.

During a wonderfully memorable event, Rabbi Wolpe shared a message with depth and humor from his new book *Why Faith Matters*, and he stimulated conversation long after he returned home. David was introduced by event Chair **Donna Goldblum Haas '76** who shared comments from a mutual classmate and David's long-time friend, **Mitch Albom '76**. The program was preceded by a sponsor's reception and book signing and benefitted the 2008-2009 Annual Fund.

Kudos to Donna Haas and her committee: **Jeff Blum '70**, **Sylvia Binder Blume '61**, **Susan Goldstein Frost '59**, **Abigail Watman Katz '59**, **Judith Lazarus Kinman '57**, **Rebecca Landes Kolman '77**, **Joshua Landsburg '02**, **Michele Katz Perloff '82**, **Deena Roemer '98**, **Gail Rudnitsky '70**, **Tamar Silberberg '01**, **Michael Stein '69** and **Paula Yudenfriend '79**.

Rabbi David Wolpe '76, named number one Rabbi in America by *Newsweek* magazine, is Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Los Angeles and a teacher of Modern Religious Thought at UCLA. He is an author and radio and television commentator. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Eliana and daughter Samara. His brothers **Stephen '72**, **Paul '74** and **David '83** are also alumni.



From the left: **Donna Goldblum Haas '76**, event Chair, **Rabbi David Wolpe '76** and **Joy Pincus Cooper '90**, Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association Chair

New Barrack Upper School Principal: A Member of the Family



Leslie Pugach

Principal, Upper School

In March 2009 Dr. Steven M. Brown Head of School announced the appointment of Leslie Pugach as Principal of the Upper School beginning September 2009. A member of the faculty of Akiba/Barrack for twenty-eight years, Leslie brings a wealth of experience to the position. A graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in history, she received her masters from Villanova University and was

a doctoral fellow at Temple University in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She and her husband Rick are parents of alumni **Jesse '98** and **Megan '95**.

In Leslie's own words to the Barrack Community:

I am extremely excited and enthusiastic about being appointed Upper School Principal. Most of all, I am grateful to Dr. Steven Brown and the Barrack Board of Directors for displaying such confidence in my abilities. I am sure you will agree that Helena

Lehrer has set a wonderful example of Upper School leadership. Now it is my turn to define this role in a new way.

One of the reasons that I am so thrilled about being Upper School Principal is quite selfish. For the past twenty-seven years, I have watched, with maternal feelings, "my" Middle Schoolers receive their diplomas at graduation. Now I will have the honor of being a part of their high school education, as well as presenting those diplomas!

My primary goal is to be a catalyst for our Upper School faculty to move our curricula, assessments, teaching methods and course offerings into a model for 21st Century high schools. The coming 2009-2010 school year will be a time of positive changes and great promise. I know that our new journey will keep all of us dedicated to the Mission and Philosophy of Akiba Hebrew Academy and now Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy. We hope our students will translate their Barrack Hebrew Academy experience into understanding, their understanding into commitment, and their commitment into creative and constructive action within the Jewish community, the United States, Israel and the world at large.

HIGHLIGHTING OUR ALUMNI

Immigrants and Natives

By Rabbi David Wolpe '76

My great grandparents were strangers to America. They did not speak the language very well. They did not know the customs. But they were natives to Judaism.

My grandfather was not an observant man. But when they needed a tenth for a minyan, they called him, because he knew how to daven, to pray. He was native to Judaism.

In our day, Jews are natives to America. We understand the ways of this country, and we have had a colossal share in shaping its culture. But we are immigrants to Judaism. Walking into the shul, we do not speak the language, we are uncertain of the culture. We do not know when to stand, when to speak, what to say. We are as uncomfortable as our grandparents were watching football.

Education turned a generation of immigrants into natives. Our school for years has been bringing the culture of our past to us, teaching us to speak the ancient language. It has also been doing it in a way that makes the language a powerful, rich way of living in the modern world.

Along with a culture comes a community. Throughout our lives, the people who were shaped by Akiba and Barrack will

share with us something special; in these halls we found our voice as individuals, and learned the collective voice of our people.

The continuation of that tradition will enable those who follow us to do the same – to feel as though Judaism in its many sparkling facets belongs to them. As a result they can help develop new interpretations, ideas, possibilities; they can master the old and help to make it new.

There is a beautiful story of the Hasidic master whose child used to wander off into the woods. One day his father pulled him aside and asked why he went into the woods. "I go there" said the boy, "to find God." "That is beautiful," responded his father, "but have you not learned that God is the same everywhere?" "God is" the boy answered, "but I'm not."

In Akiba (now Barrack) we were different, and we carry that difference into our lives. It is part of the blessing of being taught to see Judaism from inside. In my own family, all four of us passed through Akiba, and it proved a blessing in our lives -- as it has, and will, in the lives of so many others.



Phillies vs. Rays: From One Alum's Point of View

By Chaim Bloom '00

We asked **Chaim Bloom '00**, Assistant Director for Baseball Operations with the Tampa Rays and Yale University graduate, to share his views.

Working in a major league baseball front office means long hours and lots of work, but also unique, unparalleled excitement with no two days ever exactly the same. My duties run the gamut from managing a budget to laying out development plans for minor league players, from studying scouting reports to trips to the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. Primarily, I help to run our player development system and oversee our minor leagues, and I assist in other areas as well, including research and analysis for our major league team. Because the job spans a variety of tasks in a fast-paced environment, my broad-based liberal arts education, the base of which was established at Akiba, has served me extremely well.

There's no set path to finding work in baseball—it's a very competitive field, and even though finance or statistics have their niches in our game, the skills and attributes that help people find success are often more general: passion, energy, persistence, creativity and critical thinking, to name a few. My own Jewish upbringing also has been particularly helpful. History and tradition are integral to both baseball and Judaism; in my line of work, you enter knowing comparatively little and the more you try to listen and learn the better off you will be. The recent success of the Rays is no accident, and has been built on a foundation of shared respect and selfless

collaboration among people with many different personalities and backgrounds. The values of community and solidarity, knowing what you stand for and who you are, have been indispensable to Jews in the larger world, and they are important in Tampa Bay as well, as we compete annually with behemoths such as the Red Sox and Yankees, who outspend us dramatically every year.

After enduring years of losing while the foundation was laid, reaching the World Series in 2008 was surreal. Facing the Phillies, my boyhood obsession, only made it more so. It was great to be at the World Series with so many family and friends, but I can't lie—seeing Philly fans from the other side certainly changed my view of them! I was crushed when we lost but it has only fueled my fire for 2009 and beyond. We face a tremendous challenge as a low-revenue club in the toughest division in baseball, and we relish the challenge—our success is sweeter for it. Working in baseball involves so much travel, time, and stress, the dedication and passion of everyone with the Rays is unmatched. I know that not everyone can say that they are doing something that they truly love; I can, and for that I consider myself immensely fortunate. The Phillies may have their sights set on a repeat, but in '09 we hope to host the parade in Tampa Bay.



Remembering an Evening with Rabbi David Wolpe '76



Seated at the cocktail reception are Rabbi Wolpe's parents Rabbi Gerald and Elaine Wolpe. Standing from the right are David Wolpe '76, his sister-in-law Valerie and niece Kendra standing in for David's brother, Paul Root Wolpe '74.



Class of 1976 Reunion: From the left are Naomi Prusky, Ariele Zandman Klausner, Rabbi David Wolpe, Dodi Klimoff, Donna Goldblum Haas, Event Chair and Steven Klausner.



The auditorium was filled with alumni, parents and community members.

"Why Faith Matters"
The book signing was a sell out.



The One Constant: *CHANGE* By Dr. Steven M. Brown



Dr. Steven M. Brown
Head of School

Change is constant and usually leads to growth. This is certainly true at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, and we know that growth requires an assessment of where we have been, where we are now, where we have to go and what we need to get there.

To this end, we invited Dr. William Weary, a nationally known consultant to independent schools and universities and head of Fieldstone Consulting in Washington, D.C. to undertake an Institutional Assessment of our school.

In November 2008, Dr. Weary spent nearly a full week at our school and interviewed over 100 constituents: students, faculty, administration, parents, staff, Board members, and alumni. He also immersed himself in hundreds of pages of school documents, brochures, curricular outlines, marketing and recruitment materials and visited and analyzed our website. In February 2009, he presented oral reports to both the faculty and Board and submitted a comprehensive written report that included his findings and recommendations.

Dr. Weary shared many positive comments, including the strong faculty-student bonds, a warm and caring community,

a rigorous dual curriculum, the pluralistic celebration of Jewish life and values, an excellent college acceptance record, the emphasis on community service and repairing the world, and the leadership roles played by our alumni in all aspects of society. These attributes I know resonate with you, our Akiba-Barrack alumni.

His recommendations to strengthen our school included: increase enrollment; provide more elective opportunities for students; further integrate technology throughout the curriculum; expand and advance levels of athletic programs; increase faculty enrichment opportunities; expand counseling services; create a more coordinated and consistent approach to promoting our school, including updating the website; strengthen alternative sources of revenue and giving, and institute best practices in administration. He advocated for higher faculty salaries, a more strategic role for our Board of Directors, and a reevaluation of a number of our programs. In short, he challenged all of us to rethink the status quo, for a great school can always be a better one.

We are in the process of adapting Dr. Weary's recommendations and would value on-going input and feedback from you, our alumni, as we move forward to create a bright future for our students and our community.

In Dr. Weary's words to the faculty and Board: "The work is manageable and required; the moment is not only right, it also will pass. You are ready!"

A Retrospective with Perspective: the New Campus Through the Faculty Lens



Rhonda August (Science Department Chair): It has been an exciting move to the new facility. After the arduous task of packing up the Science Labs, we moved more than 400 boxes to the new campus. I did pause a few times as I stumbled across a project from long ago like the model of the organs or a model ecosystem.

There is nothing like a good science project to bring back the memories. We are now unpacked and have moved into our beautiful new labs in Bryn Mawr. The Science Department is located on the 2nd floor of the Barrack building along with the computer lab and a large seminar room. It is quite a change. I hope that you will take an opportunity to stop in when you are in the area. We are especially enjoying our new outdoor space. We have a duck pond and a stream to do ecological investigations. Fortunately, no one has fallen in! Many of the Science teachers have made extensive use of the grounds. The Engineering class and club have enjoyed having the fields to shoot off the rockets, and spring will bring many new possibilities.



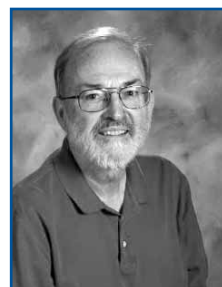
Rony Cohen (Hebrew/Jewish Studies): Life at our new campus is much different from life in our old and cozy Akiba. We now live in a beautiful new building, brightly colored, and air-conditioned! The grounds (35 acres) are just beautiful and it is a pleasure to walk the grounds and pond. There are tennis courts and soccer fields, a new gym, an auditorium with 220 leather seats and a dining commons that can seat the whole school for meals or assemblies and project images onto a whole wall! There is a hotel wing with 50 rooms, not yet in use. All classrooms have computers and AV systems that can project on our white boards. Technology is definitely here! I cannot even miss my old room 9 with the leaky ceiling and noisy window air conditioner unit.

Most of the students really like the new building and the grounds, especially the younger ones who were not so attached to 'old traditions'. The seniors miss their 'senior lounge'. The students really like lunchtime in the cafeteria, and do not want to miss this social time even for clubs or basketball, as many used to do in the old building. On the other hand, some of us do not have our "own" rooms. We as well as the students have to move between our two buildings each day! This is a good exercise and gives us a chance to breathe fresh air.

This new facility has tremendous potential for growth. It can serve more students, facilitate more programs,

sports, arts and drama, and even house retreats and Shabbatonim in our hotel wing. It will enable the school to develop in ways we could not even imagine in past years.

I would hope that all of you (including my own kids who are Akiba graduates) will come for a visit and let us, your "old" (not really...) teachers show you around and let you experience our new home. Lehitraot!



Joseph Dougherty (Science): The first six months in Bryn Mawr have been both challenging and exciting. It has been a lot like what Barack Obama must be experiencing right now. You mean we actually have a dining room with catered food? Where are the bathrooms on this floor? Are we really going to have visitors every day? Do those

security guards really stay here 24/7? Is it true there are no bells to tell us when a class begins? Well, the Barrack Building is not exactly like the White House but there are some similarities. The old Akiba had a warmth, a coziness and a grandeur that can never be replaced. For me, every picture on the wall was a teaching tool and every new topic brought another new toy out of the closet. Today some pictures have changed and the toys are sometimes different, but the same enthusiastic student body walks in the door every day. That is the essence of what Akiba/Barrack has been all about, and it will never change.



Wendie Gabay (Librarian): The transition to the new library has been wonderful. Jane and I love our beautiful new space and expanded lounge/periodical reading room. Students from the Class of '11 have integrated the new student identification cards into the library's computerized check-out system.

The new library is a beautiful sanctuary, complete with rich cherry wood furnishings. We are very excited about our theater-like venue for film viewing and library instruction, which has surround sound in addition to a huge screen. Research is alive and well in the library! We have 9 computers just for student use and, of course, books on all subjects. In addition, we have a wide selection of on-line databases which contain digitized books, streaming video, journal and magazine articles that specialize in various topics such as history, literature, art, Judaica, current events, health issues, newspaper photos and many more. Alumni are invited to register for the online databases at <http://www.jbha.org/alumni/register.htm>.

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Dewey Oriente (Head of Drama): My experiences in the new building are a grab bag of emotions. As a teacher, the building and the grounds are a blessing. The first few weeks were a bit hectic, but now that we are settled in it feels like home.

As Head of Drama I am having a totally different experience. I am grateful to finally have a space that is not the foyer and where we do not have to dodge basketballs as we rehearse. As nice as the new auditorium is, it has presented the drama department with new challenges; none are insurmountable, but challenges nonetheless. The room itself could use an acoustical overhaul. Having been built as a lecture hall, the room devours any and all unamplified sound. The stage space is small, but with a stage extension we gain some extra room. Having the auditorium will allow us to choose from a larger variety of plays and not limit choices to what will fit in the foyer. Although we still have to share the space with outside rentals, it is still OURS, a real live theater.



Sigal Strauss (World Languages Department): When people ask me how I feel about the move to the new building, I respond that one cannot and should not even begin to compare. During the past 20 years as a faculty member, Akiba/Barrack has become my home and my family. The old mansion where we resided was old and falling apart, but

it never bothered us, for it had a neshama (soul) and very unique charm. I will never forget the many creative things we were able to do despite our often minimal conditions...A Spanish fiesta in the non-air-conditioned 100 degree weather... a romantic scene from "Cyrano de Bergerac" on the beautiful wooden steps of the mansion...turning Room 4 into Paris by painting a blue ceiling with clouds, the Arc de Triomphe on the arch entrance, La Tour Eiffel and a café scene on the walls... Cooking and serving very sophisticated and elegant French meals in the so-called kitchen and being the first discipline to own a classroom television/VCR purchased with earnings from selling croissants.

Like many of my colleagues, moving to a new facility was not easy for me. I loved the old mansion and couldn't see how Akiba could ever exist anywhere else. The move at the beginning of the year was not simple. But the faculty and staff were determined to make this work.

Now, six months later, here we are, in a new and modern facility, our new home. For the first time ever, I am able to use state of the art A/V equipment in my classroom and use the resources available for our French program. If I have a free moment, I can take a walk on the beautiful trails all the way to the duck pond, or I can join my colleagues for lunch at our dining commons. We are still adjusting and innovating, but we are certainly appreciating the incredible potential of our new home.

Our amazing memories from the old mansion in Merion will always be with us, especially through the constant connection with all our graduates. So keep visiting us, keep in touch, and stay with us as we continue to move forward.

It was a New Ballgame in the New Gym

The second annual "Young Alumni vs Alumni of All Ages" event chaired by Barbara Medoff-Cooper drew players and spectators across the generations and across state lines.



Cougars One and All: Back row from the left: **Mike Rosen '77**, **Dan Vogel '99**, **Nati Passow '97**, **Aaron Hahn Tapper '91**, **Joshua Flug '87**, **Jeremy Kriger '01**, **Leah Lande Singer '88** and **Jennifer Etkin '93**. Front Row from the left; **Fred Weinstein '73**, **Jeff Blum '70** and **Josh Katz '99**.



Let the Games Begin: Athletic Director **Mitchell Kurtz** organized the players and spectators who joined the fun. The gym is new; the banners in the background listing Akiba championships celebrate tradition.



Classmates **Rachel Miller '87**, **Janet Samuels Rosoff '87** with **Maggie** and **Talia Rosoff**

Nostalgia: From the left: **Deborah Miller Sakallarios '88** holding son **Daniel**, **David Pelton**, former Akiba coach, **Marjory Perilstein Wargon '88**, **Rachel Miller '89**, and **Rebecca Axelrod-Cooper '87**.



Our future depends on them... Their future depends on us...

The next generation of scientists, artists, teachers, politicians, entrepreneurs, volunteers, Jewish leaders and parents are sitting in our classrooms today. We need to help them prepare for a more complex world as others helped us.

We are blessed with a fabulous new campus and over \$1,000,000 in tuition assistance. That gets our students here. **What we offer them matters a lot.**

Did you know that it costs:

\$3600	For a coach for a single sport per season	\$350	For an issue of the student paper, <i>Cougar Chronicle</i>
\$2500	For the sound system for the Upper School musical	\$250	Per student for a shabbaton
\$1000	For a microscope	\$150	For a baseball bat
\$800	To conduct a school-wide Jewish holiday celebration	\$100	For a 2 year online subscription to <i>Encyclopedia Judaica</i>
\$500	For a laptop	\$50	Per costume for a drama production
\$360	For an afternoon art workshop with a visiting artist	\$36	For clay sculpting tools

These are just some of the expenses subsidized by the 2008-2009 Annual Fund. Your support ... \$1800, \$180, \$118 or \$18... helps us continue to deliver excellence.

Please return the attached envelope or for Online Giving, go to www.jbha.org/alumni/onlinegiving

Thank you for your support.

Joy Pincus Cooper
Joy Pincus Cooper '90
Alumni Association Chair



WHAT'S NEW AT BARRACK

These are some of the exciting new developments in which we can take pride.

• College Early Admissions:

Class of 2009 early admissions include Brown, Emory, Franklin Marshall, University of Pennsylvania, Sarah Lawrence, Syracuse, Tufts and Yale.

• Sports Championships:

Penn-Jersey League Boys' Soccer Title, Tri-County League Girls Basketball Title, Boys Tennis Team ranked Number One in Tri-County Tournament, All Star Soccer, baseball, basketball, softball, tennis, and golf champions.

• Awards:

The Junior Varsity Jets team (Junior Engineering and Technology Society) captured first place at the Widener University competition.

Cappies for Drama: The "Critics and Awards Program," trains high school students as critics, and recognizes winning performers throughout the area.

• A Trimester Schedule:

Barrack will adopt a trimester schedule in the fall of 2009. This change will enable the school to offer more teaching days in the school year, a concentration in the arts and emerging technologies, more student electives in all grades, the introduction of a modern language in 8th grade, increased continuity of instruction in all academic areas, the possibility for more students to participate in the school's semester of study in Israel and dedicated time for a pluralistic, spiritual observance during the school day.

• Capital Campaign:

Phase I of the Lighting the Way for Generations Future Capital Campaign successfully raised \$13.5 million dollars. The funds provided the resources for the school to move to the exciting 35-acre campus in Bryn Mawr and for renovations that transformed two buildings into state-of-the-art facilities. Phase II is currently underway. Our total goal is \$31.5 million, which includes funding for additional classrooms, fields and a Beit Midrash as well as an endowment for common area maintenance.

FROM THE 1950s

Best wishes to **Susan Goldstein Frost '59** on the birth of a grandson, Kefir Yisrael, to daughter **Amian Frost Kelemer '96** and her husband Yossi.

All in the Family Baby News: Grandfather, Board member and alum, **Hershel Richman '59** and his wife Betsy proudly announce that their family has expanded. Laura and **Barak Richman '88** and their daughters Ariella and Eden welcomed their son/brother, Izak Lev, on his grandfather's birthday! Heather and **Josh Richman '93** report the birth of their daughter, Samantha Lauren.

Warm wishes to Alan and **Avi Watman Katz '59** and Jay and **Michele Katz Perloff '82**, and on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson/son Joshua.

FROM THE 1960s

Leonard Barrack '60 has been named Chair of Temple Law School's Board of Visitors. During a visit to Israel, he presented Phillies Championship caps to our juniors spending a semester in Israel on the MUSS campus.

Congrats to grandmother **Shelley Targan Schorr '63** and grandaunt **Judith Targan Abrahamson '63** on the birth of Talie Rose to Phillip and **Miriam Berkowitz Blue '96**.

Book News: *The Philadelphia Bulletin* interviewed **Alex Grobman '64** recently about his book "Nations United: How the United Nations Undermines Israel and the West." Alex has a PhD in Contemporary History from Hebrew University and is President of a think tank dealing with contemporary and historical issues affecting the Jewish community.

Warm wishes are extended to Judy and **Hank Shrager '67**, Barrack faculty and board member respectively, on the arrival of a new grandson and to Kathie and **Aaron Shrager '97**, the baby's parents.

Federation's Mitzvah Mania: Peggy and **Joseph Carver '64** were event Chairs for a successful community-wide event that rallied over 5,000 volunteers. Joe was featured in *Philadelphia Magazine* in a photo taken at Saks Fifth Avenue's "Key to the Cure" that benefitted cancer research.

WHYY Promotion: Congratulations to **Arthur Ellis '68**, a veteran at WHYY, who has been promoted to the position of Executive Director of Communications and Brand Management.

Mazel tov to Bernard and **Vivian Korngold Falk '68** on the marriage of their daughter Talia to Elie Hassenfeld.

FROM THE 1970s

Best wishes to Jeffrey and **Donna Yudenfriend Lawrence '70** on the birth of a new granddaughter, Amalia Penina, in Israel. She is their fourth grandchild in six months. Donna and Jeff are completing work on an apartment in Jerusalem.

Warm wishes to Mindy and **Jay Levin '73** on the engagement of their son, Jack, to Dina Pur.

Kudos to **Uri Caine '74**, whose recent release, the "Othello Syndrome", received acclaim as a "concise work that just may rank among the composer's best ever." Uri is a world-renowned jazz pianist and composer.

Best wishes to **Randi Sulman Finkle '75** and **Tom Finkle '73** on the engagement of their daughter Arielle to Avi Meir Goldberg. The wedding will take place in Israel where the couple resides.

Mitch Albom '76, *Detroit Press* columnist and noted author, wrote his first article for *Sports Illustrated* (January 7, 2009) about life in Detroit and how the city rallies despite hard times.

Many thanks to **Jill Golub Daube '76** for coordinating our Alum in Israel who hosted our juniors spending a semester at MUSS.

Kudos to **Donna Goldblum Haas '76** on chairing a wonderful Evening with **David Wolpe '76** on "Why Faith Matters." hosted by the Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association to benefit the annual fund.

Beth Margules Rupp '76, Director of the Service Learning and Leadership Institute of the Jewish Community High School of Gratz College, addressed the Tri-State Jewish Communal Professional Association on Service Learning vs. Community Service: The Kavannah Approach.

Rabbi David Wolpe '76, author of "Why Faith Matters," was a guest on *The Today Show* in December. He spoke at Barrack in November. (See pages 1-3).

Congrats to Lori Lowenthal and **Jerome Marcus '77** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Celeste '14**.

Mazel tov to Susan and **Mark Snyder '77** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Nicole.

Best wishes to **Debra Geller Yondorf '77** and Barrack faculty member Rabbi Michael Yondorf on the marriage of their son, Menachem to Chani Schonbrun.

FROM THE 1980s

Gerald Alexander '81 has been granted a Wasserstein Public Interest fellowship at Harvard Law School. He is serving as Assistant General Counsel in the Office of Litigation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Warm wishes to Jay and **Michele Katz Perloff '82** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joshua and to grandparents Alan and **Avi Watman Katz '59**.

Alumni Celebrity: Congrats to **David Agus '83** who was a panelist on *The Charlie Rose Show* discussing Personal Genetics. He is a co-founder of Navigenics, which analyzes DNA for various health implications. David, an oncologist, was quoted in the *New Scientist* about the impact of vitamin C on cancer. A leader in the use of genomic and proteomic technology for the study of biomarkers for disease outcomes and personalized medicine, David is an associate professor at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Mazel tov to Sharon and **Shai Franklin '83** and big brother Noah on the birth of Eden Rachael.

Married alum **Isaac Ohayon '83** and **Nancy Alter-Ohayon '83** made the front page of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. In the process of converting a 160-year-old South Philadelphia church into a house, they came across the grave of a leader of the nation's 19th century Abolitionist Movement. They own Masada Builders and live in Society Hill.

Making News: **Jake Tapper '87** was named Chief White House Correspondent by *ABC News*. He covered the presidential candidates and national election news throughout the two-year campaign as ABC's Senior National Correspondent.

Laura and **Barak Richman '88** and their daughters Ariella and Eden welcomed their son/brother, Izak Lev on his grandfather **Hershel Richman's '59** birthday!

FROM THE 1990s

Stork News: Mazel tov to Yael and **Jonathan Barnett '90** on the birth of their third daughter, Lia, sister to Daniella and Shira.

Congratulations to **Guy Serbin '90** on his marriage to Hannah Stern. Guy has a PhD in geosciences.

Aaron Hahn Tapper '91, Co-Executive Director of Abraham's Vision, received The San Francisco 49ers "Perry/Yonamine Unity Award." The 49ers selected Abraham's Vision as 2008's exceptional non-profit organization. Abraham's Vision is a conflict transformation organization that examines relations within and between the Jewish, Muslim, Israeli and Palestinian communities.

Best wishes to Daniel and **Lynne Garber Bruskin '91** on the birth of Nicole Hannah, sister to Benjamin.

Class Notes 'n News....Class News 'n Notes....Class Notes 'n News

Congratulations to State Representative **Joshua Shapiro '91** and **Lori Ferrara Shapiro '91** on the birth of Maxwell, brother of Sophie and Jonah. Josh appeared on "The Barbershop," during Michel Martin's "Tell Me More" radio show on *National Public Radio*. as well as on the *Fox Business Channel*.

Robyn Freedman Cohen '92 was instrumental in bringing the San Diego Repertory Theater Production of "Blessings of a Broken Heart," a play based on the book by Sherri Mandell to Philadelphia on behalf of the Koby Mandell Foundation. Audiences included students at Barrack Hebrew Academy upper school.

Warm wishes to Jenny and **Mathew Barnett '92** on the birth of their twins, Layla and Noah, sister and brother to Jordana, Maka and Alexander.

Baby News from Canada: Ted and **Renee Feldman Baltuch '93** of Montreal announce the birth of Maximilian Leopold, big brother to Philip.

Tali Field Berman '93 was featured in an article in *Jewish Woman* magazine in an article called "Working the 'it' Factor," which is defined as an "inner spark that ... draws others to her." An autism specialist, she founded Meir Autism in Israel to work with children with autism and developmental delays.

Hadas Kuznits '93 was interviewed in the February 2009 issue of *Main Line Today* magazine about her trip to Israel during the nation's 60th anniversary celebration. She makes reference to the impact of her semester in Israel during her junior year at Akiba. She has traveled the world for six years covering events for KYW Radio 1060.

Heather and **Josh Richman '93** report the birth of their daughter, Samantha Lauren. Proud grandparents are Betsy and **Hershel Richman '59**.

Mazel tov to Jennifer Geetter and **Josh Segal '93** on the birth of a son in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Kate and **Jonathan Vogel '93** on the birth of their daughter, Anya Rebecca. The family lives in Washington, D.C.

Warm wishes to **Harris Romanoff '94** on his engagement to Jennifer Choi. Harris is Chief Engineering Officer with the Neat Receipts Company and is responsible for new technology, including software and hardware development. Jennifer works at the same company.

Congrats to **Israel Roling '94** of Roling Bakery in Elkins Park. The bakery was recognized in *Philadelphia Magazine* as "The Best of Philly" for its hand rolled bagels.

New Baby and a Well Deserved Promotion: Best wishes to Alison and **Jared Levin '95** on the birth of Kate, sister to big brother A.J. Jared was promoted to Vice President of Account Services at Crane Marketing. We wish Jared continued success, and thank him for contributing his time and creativity to alumni events. (See page 11).

Mazel tov to **David Lipsitt '95** on his position as Post-Doctoral Fellow of Psychology at Harvard Medical School. Prior to his fellowship, he earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. He lives in Cambridge, MA.

Warm wishes to **Megan Pugach '95** on her engagement to Michael Gordon. Megan is a Postdoctoral research fellow in bio-medical materials at the University of Pennsylvania. Michael works in commercial real estate development for Cushman Wakefield. Megan wrote an article which appeared on the cover of the January issue of *The Journal of Dental Research*.

All in the Family: Mazel tov to Phillip and **Miriam Berkowitz Blue '96** on the birth of their daughter, Talie Ruth. Congrats also to grandmother **Shelley Targan Schorr '63** and grandaunt **Judith Targan Abrahamson '63**.

Best wishes to Yossi and **Amian Frost Kelemer '96** on the birth of a son, Kefir Yisrael, in Baltimore. Congrats also to grandmother **Susan Goldstein Frost '59**.

Congratulations to **Jason Katzman '96** on his marriage to Rachel Packer. They live and work in Vail, Colorado.

Congrats to Daniel Gilgoff and **Rebecca Kutler '97** on the birth of Isaac Saul.

Baby News from Israel: Mazel tov to Tzirel and **Ariel Maik '97** on the birth of a son. The family lives in Jerusalem.

Mazel tov to Rena and **Adam Shapiro '97** on the birth of a daughter. Adam is Dean of Students at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union.

Warm wishes to Kathie and **Aaron Shrager '97** and son Isaac on the arrival of their son/brother. Congrats also go out to grandparents, Judy Shrager and **Hank Shrager '67**.

Julia Weiss-Schwalb '97 is living in Jerusalem and learning Torah full-time. She holds a Master's degree in non-profit management from the New School.

Engaging News: Mazel tov to **Rebecca Weiss Schwalb '98** on her engagement to Brian Hartstein. Rebecca is an attorney in Chicago. She met Brian while attending Georgetown Law School.

Best wishes to Neil and **Andrea Simonson Weingarten '98** on the birth of a baby boy, and to grandparents Lainey and Beryl Simonson. Beryl was the honoree at this year's Barrack Tribute Event.

Congratulations to **Simma Asher '99** on her engagement to Charles Kupchan of Washington, D.C.

Lauren Katz '99 is graduating with the first class of Drexel Law School this summer. She is the editor of the Law Review and working with the American Civil Liberties Union this year. She will be clerking for a Camden County judge next year.

Mazel tov to **Samuel Malissa '99** on his engagement to Chen Reichert. Sam, a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, spent two years teaching English on the JET program in Japan. He is currently the assistant director of the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia.

Warm wishes to **Dan Vogel '99** on his engagement to Katie Dunphy.

Oscar! Oscar! **Jeremiah Zagar '99** received the exciting news that his intimate family film and memoir, *In a Dream*, had been shortlisted for an Oscar in this year's Best Documentary award category. The film, that tells the story of his father, a prominent Philadelphia mosaic artist, has won a number of awards and was released in theaters this spring. Working with Jeremiah is producer **Jeremy Yaches '99**. They are partners in their film company, Herzeliya Films.

FROM THE 2000s

A Winner Either Way: **Chaim Bloom '00** was a sportswriter and is now Assistant Director, Minor League Operations, of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team. With his Philly roots, Chaim can consider himself a winner no matter who won the 2008 World Series! (See page 2).

Mazel tov to **Arielle Jordana Cohen '00** on her marriage to Gregory Friedman. Arielle is a physician at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City.

Congratulations to **Michelle Pomerantz '00** on her marriage to Yonah Singer. Michelle is an assistant principal at Yaldeynu pre-school in New York. Yonah is a special education teacher in the Bronx.

Best wishes to Faigy and **Philip Wellerstein '00** on the birth of Menachem Mendel, brother to Elie.

Best wishes to **Sara Aronchik '01** on her marriage to Scott Solow. Sarah is a second year of law student at Yale University and was an economic policy intern in Chicago for Barrack Obama during his presidential campaign. Scott is a dental student at Columbia University.

Mazel tov to **Aaron Friedman '01** on his engagement to Dahlia Bernstein. They are both graduates of the Joint Program at Jewish Theological Seminary/Columbia University.

Congrats to **Elon Shore '01** on his engagement to Jamie Beran of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. They met at Camp Galil. Elon is a New York City Teaching Fellow working with fifth graders while earning a Master's degree. Jamie works for Jewish Fund for Justice as an Education Associate.

Tamar Silberberg '01 and her husband Yoav Shiffman were Project Chairs for Federation's Mitzvah Mania. The successful community-wide event rallied over 5,000 volunteers.

Class Notes 'n News....Class News 'n Notes....Class Notes 'n News

A Sukkah in Beijing: **Alison Klayman '02** and friends built a rooftop sukkah in Beijing, as reported in an article carried in *The Jewish Forward*. Alison's apartment in Beijing has been designated a Moishe House by the California-based Moishe Foundation that helps fund "25 Hotspots for the Young Jewish Community Around the Globe." This Moishe House is the first in Asia. Alison worked for the official Chinese website company that covered the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She wrote the English copy for the website and posted results for all of the events. She also writes articles for *China News*, the English language newspaper in Beijing.

Blending Professional Expertise with Jewish Commitment: **Josh Landsburg '02** is continuing his career in sports broadcasting and recently joined the staff at WBCB (1490) in Bucks County. He is also teaching at Kellman Hebrew Academy in Cherry Hill and Barrack.

Warm wishes to **Shira Abrams '03** on her engagement to Eric Salem. The couple is currently living in Frankfurt, Germany, and will be married when they return.

Ron Feingold '03 is a Big Brother for the nationally recognized Big Brother/Big Sister organization and in September took his second trip to Africa, volunteering in South Africa with the Thanda after school program.

Mazel tov to **Ariella Getz '03** on her marriage to Yisrael Tsirlin. They live in Ariel, Israel.

Google in Israel: **Joseph Schorr '03** works as a software engineer for Google in New York and Israel. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Wharton School of Business with a BS in Engineering and a BS in Economics. He also earned a Master's of Science in Engineering (Computer and Information Science).

Elizabeth Katz '04 graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and received a Hillman Scholarship for a two-month internship to work in the Labor and Delivery Unit at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

Congratulations to **Marnee Klein '04** who finished her stint as an Information Technology guru at Barrack and began her job with Drexel University, serving Cabrini College's IT needs.

Continuing a Family Tradition: **Chad Rebhun '04** is continuing the family tradition as a first-year student at Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

Chesed in Action: **Tamara Rosen '04** is a planning committee member of the One Night, One Voice Program, an advocacy program to end violence against women in Darfur.

A Rising Star: **Michael Bihovsky '05** shares news about the opening performance of "Forbidden NYU", a collection of Broadway song parodies about daily NYU life. Michael has written a number of the songs and will perform them in the show. In addition, Michael reports that he won a rap contest at NYU that featured his lyrics and music. **Dana Gitlin '07** joined Michael. He also created an orchestral arrangement, originally written for the piano, which was performed by a 21-piece Juilliard Orchestra.

Aliyah Furman '05 was a 2008 AIPAC Diamond Summer Intern, a program that offered political leadership training and gives students the tools they need to be effective Israel advocates. She co-hosted a Middle East Forum for high school and college age students.

Rachel Sugarman Flikshtein '05 is a senior at Stern College, where she is on the Dean's list and majoring in Psychology. Her husband **Matthew (Motti) Flikshtein '03** will be continuing school for his Rabbinical degree in Jerusalem where Rachel is planning on joining a dance company and studying for a degree in Jewish law. Mazel tov to them on the birth of their daughter Shoshie.

Best wishes to **Karen Pendrak '07** on her marriage to Yitzchok Kraftmann.

IN MEMORIAM We extend our heartfelt condolences to the following:

Barbara Ginsberg and her children, Marc, Marci, Michael and Stacey, on the death of their husband/father, **Ronald Ginsberg '52**.

Nancy Neff Berkowitz '59 and her son **Ross Berkowitz '90** on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Lillian Neff.

Rabbi Leonard Romm '63 on the loss of his mother, Laura Romm.

Barnett Rubin '67, Phyllis Rubin '72 and Rachel Rubin Wolf '69 on the loss of their father and father-in-law, Arthur Rubin.

Hillel Goelman '69 on the death of his mother.

Lisa Levin Kimmelman '74 and Jonathan Levin, husband of faculty member Sharon Levin, on the loss of their stepfather, Henry Abrams.

Lisa Archinow Katz '77 and Steven Archinow '81 on the loss of their father, Dr. Irving Archinow, D.D.S.

Adina Serot Mendlovic '77 on the loss of her mother, Arlyne Serot.

Amanda Levick Steier '80 on the loss of her father Harold Levick.

Marc Melincoff '82 and his wife Ruth on the passing of Marc's mother, Sylvia Melincoff.

Marsha Pincus Katz '86 and Joy Pincus Cooper '90 on the passing of their mother, Judy Pincus. Joy is a Barrack Board member and Chair of the Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association.

The family of **Dorit Opher Shapiro '87** who passed away last October.

Ami Eden '90 and Jacob Eden '95 on the loss of their mother, Judith Eden.

Marshall Lesack '97 on the loss of his father Burton Lesack.

Daniel '97, David '01 and Shayna Stern '03 on the loss of their father, Mark Stern.

Adrienne Waxman '00 and her mother, Denise Goren, on the death of their father and husband, Steven Waxman.

Find What's Old...See What's New: Young Alumni Thanksgiving Reunion November 2008

Faculty tour guides showed members of classes 2003-2008 around the new campus. Thanks to Kim Gillio (Athletics), Dewey Oriente (Drama), Ray Leven (World Languages /Jewish Studies), Laura Stern (Art), Sharon Levin (Department Head, Humanities), Ivy Kaplan (Humanities) and Barnett Kamen (Tanach/Rabbinics) for greeting alumni who came to see each other, their teachers and the new campus.

While some indicated that it, "did not feel like home" yet, they could not help but be impressed with lunch in the dining commons, the soccer field, tennis courts and the general feeling of space. They recognized many of the trappings of Merion placed in positions of importance on the new campus, including many of their class gifts.



In front of a ceramic mural created by Art teacher Laura Stern are members of the Class of 2008. Rear from the left: Jessica Katz, Hannah Foster, Miriam Eisenstadt, Ariel Hirsch, Rena Asher Front from the left: Jenny Orel, Elyse Siskind and Ariel Warmflash.



Neat lockers line the hallways: From the left Ariana Katz '08 and Laura Michel '08.



With Kim Gillio are Matthew Dorsch '05, Josh Mellits '07, Eric Schorr '07 and Andrew Markowitz '06.



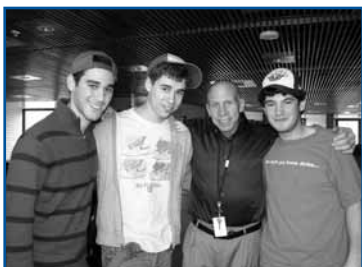
Natalie Epelman '08 in the dining commons cafeteria line.



Joy Pincus Cooper '90 Chair of the Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association with Natalie Lazaroff '07 welcomed alumni.



With Ivy Kaplan and Barnett Kamen are Jon Rubin '05 and Lee Vandivier '07.



From the left are Raphael Menko '08, Sean Savett '08, Ray Leven and Jeffrey Klein '08.



From the left: Nathan Miller '04, Lauren Miller '07, Dana Gitlin '07 and Sara Goldstein '08.



Dr. Steven M. Brown, Head of School with Eric Schorr, '07 and Elad Golan '07 his former students.

ISRAELI ALUMNI NEWS:

Israeli alumni were scheduled to meet in Israel in January 2009. Sue Gordon, Director of Alumni Relations came to Israel with a DVD of the student program in support of Israel and greetings from Dr. Steven Brown, Head of School prepared by the Film club students. While alumni from around the country were planning to attend, Operation Cast Lead in Gaza forced many to change plans.

So, with great anticipation, we will reschedule the event for next year.

Many thanks to Alumni in Israel who hosted our juniors for Shabbat.



Standing are from the left: Zach Pomerantz '08 and Rabbi Phil Field, former Head of School. Seated from the left are current Juniors: Adam Wachs, Ben Freedman, Jonathan Foster, and Sean Savett.

Shalom and L'Hitraot: Tributes to retiring Faculty

Helena Lehrer Retires as Upper School Principal: Did you know that...

1. Helena left Medical School to become a wife and mother.
2. When she re-entered the workforce she applied for a job with Rhonda August who was wearing a Krebs Cycle T-shirt and pigtails. Helena knew she just had to teach here.
3. She has worked with four Principals/Heads of School. She was hired and named Science Department Chair (1983) by Dr. Steven Lorch, promoted to Assistant Principal of both the Middle and Upper Schools (1985) by Rabbi Marc Rosenstein, named principal of the Upper School (1990) by Rabbi Philip Field and continued as Barrack Upper School Principal under Dr. Steven Brown.
4. What she has loved most about being at Akiba/Barrack was that she was able to combine teaching and family, especially while her son **Josh '92** was a student.
5. Among her treasured possessions are the letters she received from former students thanking her for her help, not just academically, but personally through her encouragement, discipline and setting standards.
6. As she wonders who she will "be" when she is no longer principal, she is sure of a few things. She will continue as devoted grandmother to Benjamin and Talia and she will be a student again. Barnett Kamen's class at Beth Hillel is high on her list of "must takes." After a sabbatical, she would like to continue to play a role at Barrack because her "heart and soul are in this place."

A Tribute to Helena Lehrer by Jared Levin '95

Helena Lehrer is an amazing woman. While she wasn't my teacher, she was my favorite person (other than my mother) at Akiba. At times, she was like a second mom. This is odd to say about your principal. Mrs. Lehrer had a special way of dealing with students on a friendly, family level, rather than an administrative one. Over the years, I ended up in her office a number of times, which should come as no shock to anyone who knows me. Every time I would walk in there, she'd ask me what happened, I'd explain, and she'd shoot me a look that said more than any words could say. It was a look of "Oh, COME ON, Jared!" To have Mrs. Lehrer disappointed in me was worse than any detention, Akibagram or suspension.



Graduation 1995.

One of my favorite memories of Mrs. Lehrer is from junior year. A bunch of buddies and I set up the top floor of the mansion building as our "Junior Lounge." It had everything from plush seating to twinkly lights to cans on a string as our phone lines. We had reveled in our creation for almost 3 weeks when, one day at lunchtime, Mrs. Lehrer walked upstairs, looked at the group of us and said, "Guys, this isn't your living room!" We

started to crack up and she joined us in the laugh, as we begrudgingly, but also happily, took it down.

Any time I saw her at Akiba, and every time I see her now, Mrs. Lehrer – now "Helena" to me – always has a big tight hug and one of the sweetest, most genuine smiles ready for me. Knowing that she is leaving her post at Barrack makes me sad for all the students that will not have the opportunity to learn from her. I know that she had a huge part in molding me into the man I am today, and I thank her for it.

Jane Schofer Akiba/Barrack Librarian Since 1981

A graduate of Berkley University, Jane came to Akiba from the Philadelphia Public Library System. She is multi-talented ...music, crafts and Russian. She will continue to contribute to those around her by teaching crafts ...perhaps even at Barrack!

Tribute to Jane Schofer by Katie Garson '05

Writing about someone you care about is both a privilege and a challenge. Jane's tremendous intellectual ability shines through in every conversation. You will have a very hard time finding someone who is not only as well-read but who has thought about all that she reads. Mrs. Schofer's academic strengths have always made her an excellent resource. However, when



I think about Jane, I think about my friend who has, through the wisdom of experience, become incredibly open; she sees the world sans presuppositions--which is such a rare quality in a world that still swims with premature judgments. I continue to enjoy many literary exchanges with Jane, but what has always drawn me to her is her sincere empathy and appreciation of every individual, simply because of who he or she is. She does not ask for explanations or require her friends to fit the mold; in fact she challenges us all to look deeper into ourselves to find the best of ourselves and bring it out into the world so as to be a "light unto it". Her smile stretches all the way up her cheeks, and somehow you are quite sure that part of that smile is just for you.

Having just graduated college, I am proud to say that I feel as close to Jane as ever. She is a kindred spirit, not just for me, but for so many others. Jane Schofer is my mentor and my teacher, but most importantly my friend. I hope Jane knows that I, among countless others, value her as a significant force in my life, a force that is felt long after the last bell on our Akiba days has rung. I will not write that her presence in the library will be missed, although it will; rather I assert that her presence will forever linger in the library for those who first got to know her there.

Akiba-Barrack Alumni Reunion

Akiba-Barrack
Alumni Association



Recognizing Milestone
Classes ending in '4s, '8s & '9s

June 7, 2009

Details to follow



Akiba-Barrack Alumni Association: 272 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue • Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Details for individual classes and special events to follow. RSVP alumni@jbha.org or call 610-922-2326



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