

2012

# KOL HAMERCAZ



קול המרכז 14

Tishrei 5773

September 2012

Newsletter of the Melton Centre for Jewish Education  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Shana Tova!*

## Seminar for the Development of Senior Leadership from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

During the month of May the third seminar of the Senior Leadership Development program - "A Look to the Future" was held. This program, for senior leadership in the Former Soviet Union, aims to provide in-depth knowledge about Israel to people in leading and influential positions in the CIS and to strengthen the ties between these leaders and the State of Israel. The program is the initiative of Nativ, a liaison organization in the Prime Minister's office, whose objective is to build closer relationships between Jews of the former Soviet Union and Israel.

"The idea behind this initiative", says Arieh Haskin, Director of the Program at the Melton Centre, "is to connect people of influence in the fields of education, culture, communications, economics and academia in the former Soviet Union, who, because of their Jewish roots wish to obtain a deeper understanding of Israel. This knowledge will provide the basis for each of them to operate within their own particular fields in order to develop professional ties with Israel and to enhance the standing of Israel in the professional and social circles in which they have influence. Examples of such are an academic who is interested in establishing joint cooperation with academic institutions in Israel, or a journalist who undertakes to write articles about Israel with deeper insight than before, or a central figure in the municipality of a large city who has an interest in strengthening the local Jewish community."

This meaningful introduction to Israel is attained first and foremost with the assistance of high-level experts from the Hebrew University and other universities who give lectures to participants. During this last seminar in May, participants were privileged to meet leading academics such as Prof Shlomo Avineri from the Department of Political Science, Prof Dalia Ofer from the Melton Centre and the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Prof Zali Gurevitch from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Prof. Alexander Yakobson from the Department of History, and Prof Asher Cohen from Bar Ilan University. The seminar also included field trips and encounters with people in the field who presented technological achievements, works of art and social issues.

Participants reported on the extent to which the seminar influenced their identity, affecting their world view and their perspective on Israel in a deeper way than they had encountered in previous visits. In the course of the lectures analyses of Israeli society and the affairs of the State of Israel were presented from a critical point of view discussing in an open manner the various conflicts in Israeli society. This nuanced approach enabled them to feel even closer and more connected to the country.

The Melton Centre for Jewish Education

## Graduates of the Jewish Education Track 2012

In June 2012 the Department of Education held its graduation ceremony to confer degrees on its Master of Arts graduates. Twenty-two of these students were from the Jewish Education track of the Melton Centre. Among them was Ms Tova Sachar who completed the research track cum laude. Her thesis, under the supervision of Dr. Jonathan Mirvis, was on the subject of "They Who Study Torah for its Own Sake?" which researched the motivations of non-religious adults to engage in extended and regular Jewish Studies.

Also amongst those receiving their degrees were students who had completed the joint program with Matan – the Women's Institute for Torah Studies – which specializes in Bible education, the program in pluralistic Jewish education in conjunction with Hebrew Union College and the joint program with the Rothberg School for Overseas Students.

### Ph.D. Recipients

During the month of June 2012 the convocation was held for the opening session of the 75th annual meeting of the Board of Governors which included the ceremony for conferring Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Law degrees at the Hebrew University in addition to honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees. During this ceremony the following students of the Melton Centre for Jewish Education were awarded their PhD degrees:

- **Dr Marcelo Dorfsman**

**The evolution of teachers' pedagogical thinking in the process of preparing on-line courses for Jewish education in the Diaspora**

Under the supervision of Prof Gabriel Horenczyk and Dr. Alex Pomson

- **Dr. Shulamit Mansura**

**Ritual and text in the context of holiness: Ways of establishing gender identity of boys and girls ages two to five in ultra-Orthodox pre-schools**

Under the supervision of Prof. Philip Wexler and Dr. Howard Deitcher

- **Dr. Aliza Segal**

**Doing Talmud: An ethnographic study in a religious high school in Israel**

Under the supervision of Prof. Menachem Hirshman and Dr Zvi Bekerman

- **Dr. Tracy Kopelovitz**

**School-community partnerships of a Jewish day school: A comparative case study**

Under the supervision of Prof. Philip Wexler

- **Dr. Daniel Rose**

**Uncovering new paradigms of role modeling: The case of aliyah – an exploration of significant others as agents of socialization in the ideological decision to migrate to Israel**

Under the supervision of Prof. Gabriel Horenczyk and Dr. Alex Pomson

