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Lander College for Men

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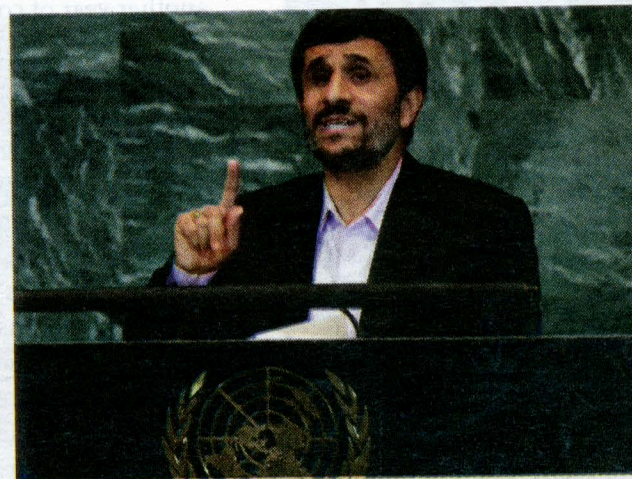
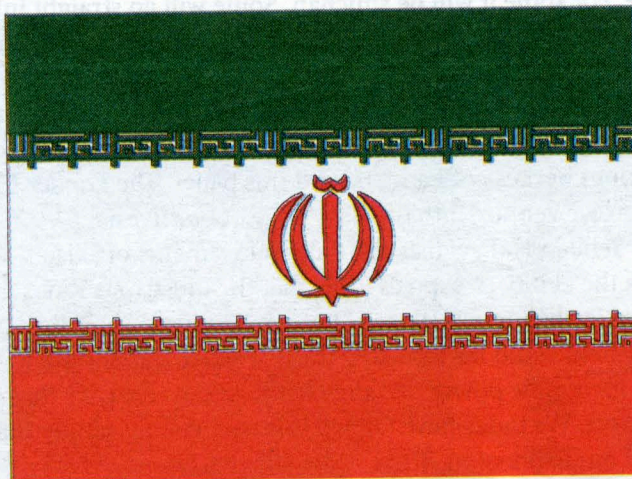
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A Glimpse into Iran



I recently had the opportunity to sit down with a current Touro student who moved to New York from Iran four years ago. He wishes to remain anonymous. I asked him about his experiences in Iran, and how life has changed since moving to New York. It is always special to get a glimpse of what life is like for people living in a totally different culture.

What has been the hardest part of your move?

The language barrier is a difficult hurdle to overcome; when studying my textbooks I need to look up words in the dictionary pretty often, which makes studying and understanding a lot harder.

I started to learn english in Iran. In Iran there was a rabbi who would give a shiur in english, and they would have a translator translate the shiur to farsi. This helped many Iranians learn English, and also learn torah as the speech was about the chumash.

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The Future is Here: Electric Cars

By: Meir Liberman

It's April 2009. Shai Agassi, founder and CEO of Better Place, walks onstage at a TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) conference with a confident smile. He begins his speech with a short question that has been plaguing technologically advanced countries since the creation of the internal combustion engine and its entrance into mainstream use in transportation. "How would you run a whole country without oil?" The question neatly summarizes his company, Better Place, which is dedicated to making the Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) a viable replacement to the common gasoline-run car.

Electric vehicles are nothing new to the car market. In the mid-19th century to the early 20th century, electric cars were preferred over their gas guzzling counterpart for their ease of use and comfort. However, the internal combustion engine soon overtook the electric car because of the longer distance that an oil-based car could travel on a full tank, and for its speed in refilling fuel when it was empty.

Both of these concerns remain today, and other concerns, such as the increased price of an electric car due to the large lithium-ion battery required, and the enormous strain placed on the electric grid when so many cars will be charging their batteries, have since arisen; even as car companies try to push electricity-based vehicles into the transportation market due to the rising price of oil.

Better Place, even though its creation was obviously due to environmental concerns, touts that it will benefit the consumer economically while also removing the above mentioned concerns. First, because the higher price-tag of the electric car is due to its large battery, they sell the car to the consumer sans-battery, thereby reducing the consumer the up-front cost of the car. They then lease the battery and all the electricity the consumer can use based on the distance the consumer believes he will drive (in a fashion very similar to cell phone data plans) over a 3 year period.

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Letter from the Editors

The “next step”. A concept in life that is ubiquitously applicable to all people, especially those residing in college. It is simultaneously one of the most vivaciously exciting, and iniquitously frightening ideas that we have. It is a most intriguing dichotomy, whose beauty extends from the very conflict itself. Because it is the struggle between those two polar emotions that makes the result so wonderful. For some of us, the “next step” is graduate school. For some it’s just another year of college. For some it will be smichah. Some will go straight into the workforce. Some might even take a year off to learn. All so very different paths, and yet they all start here, in Lander College for Men. So as we stare into the great abyss that is the unknown, and try to shake the ever foreboding question mark that masks our precious future, let us remember to thank Hakadosh Baruch Hu for Lander College. A place that has provided us with the practical, academic and most importantly, spiritual tools that we need to tackle the modern world as an effective Torah Jew. We have all grown as human beings because of Landers, and this paper, *The Lander Chronicle*, is a tool to express our growth, feelings, and thoughts as we venture into the next stage of our lives.

In the Kuzari, Rav Yehuda HaLevi lists the different elements of existence. In this list, man is described as the “The being who speaks”. It is the ability to express ideas that the illustrious Rav Yehuda HaLevi describes as the essential power that is idiosyncratically human. We say “Baruch Sh’amar, V’haya ha’olam” in Pesukei D’zimrah every single day. Of all the ways that Hashem could have created the world, He did not use thought or physical action. Hashem used words, to illustrate the incredible power that they have. And so He gave that power to the pinnacle of His creations—man, to utilize and respect. We today have tapped this tremendous ability that we have been given and made this simple newspaper, a beacon of our expression, *The Lander Chronicle*.

All of this would not be possible if not for those people who gave of their valuable time. We would like to give a special thank you to Josh Lewis who designed our beautiful layout, our talented writing staff without whom there would be no *Lander Chronicle*, and all of those people behind the scenes, who without much fanfare make publishing *The Lander Chronicle* a reality and not just a dream.

Your Editors,
Moshe Benner & Chaim Moskowitz

Would You Like Your Voice To Be Heard?

Speak Out Your Ideas For The Lander Chronicle!

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all Lander College For Men students to write for *The Lander Chronicle*. This is Lander’s student newspaper, and its purpose is to be the outspoken voice of the student body. As such, the opinions and articles in it should be as diverse as the wide variety of hashkafic, ideological, and social backgrounds represented on our campus. However this cannot be your newspaper unless you are willing to contribute to it. however, you do not have to be an outstanding English Comp student either--everyone is welcome.

*If we have sparked your interest, here is what you should do next: **Write Something!**
Then, send your article to The Lander Chronicle staff at: thelanderchronicle@gmail.com*

If we have sparked your interest, here is what you should do next: Write Something!
Then send in your article to The Lander Chronicle staff at: TheLanderChronicle@gmail.com
The Lander Chronicle is also looking for good pictures taken at Lander College, if you have any please email them to the editors.
Lander College for Men is pleased to announce that there is now a blog updating everyone on the latest happenings in Lander College for Men! The web address is Touro.edu/LCM
To receive a weekly Dvar Torah from Lander Talmidim email: LanderDvarTorah@gmail.com
You can find out about upcoming events and programs in Lander College by adding the Student Government calendar to your Google account.
If you have any questions you can email the student government at LCMStudentGov@gmail.com

THE LOSS OF A GADOL

By: Zev Kilstein

March 20th, 2012 marked the petirah of HaRav HaGaon Rav Chaim Pinchas Scheinberg. Around 70,000 people attended his levaya at Har HaZeisim. Rav Yisrael Eichler (member of Agudas Yisrael) noted that Rav Scheinberg had transformed the Yerushalayim community of Mattersdorf for the better ever since his arrival to the area back in 1965. Rav Elchanan Peretz (an av beis dihn and talmid of Rav Scheinberg) said of his rebbe, "His love for Torah was incomparable... nothing stood in his way regarding his undiluted love for Torah."

Rav Scheinberg was born in Ostrov, Poland in 1910. When he was 9-years-old, his family moved to the Lower East Side in New York. A young Rav Scheinberg was temporarily enrolled in public school before he went on to study at Rabbi Jacob Joseph School (RJJ). Rav Yaakov Yosef Herman was very involved in furthering the education of talmidim that demonstrated great potential. When Rav Herman took notice of young Rav Scheinberg, he enabled him to transfer to Rav Yehuda Levenberg's Beis Medrash LeRabbonim (in New Haven, Connecticut) where there were no secular subjects. When young Rav Scheinberg was 16, he left the Beis Medrash LeRabbonim having made a siyum on shas and already acquiring a name for himself as a masmid. He then transferred to Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchok Elchanan (YU) where he studied under Rav Shlomo Polachek, Rav Moshe Soloveichik, and Rav Shimon Shkop. A few years later, he was married to Rav Yaakov Yosef Herman's daughter, Bessie, and received his first semicha at his chasuna.

Soon after his marriage, young Rav Scheinberg headed to the Mir Yeshiva (in eastern Poland). Mir was a poor town with no running water and where the only heat in the house was the oven which was in the center of their home. It was under those conditions where he learned for around five years. In Mir, Rav Scheinberg was known for being makpid to get the amount of sleep that he needed to function. That sleep would fuel him so that he would be able to devote every waking second possible to his learning. He also learned for a period of time at Yeshivas Kaminetz where he obtained semicha from Rav Boruch Ber Leibowitz.

Afterwards, in 1935, he was afforded the position of mashgiach ruchani at Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in New York where he stayed for 25 years. Rav Shlomo Warman (who sometimes davens in our beis medrash) told me that he remembers seeing Rav Scheinberg at Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim. He continued that Rav Scheinberg was "always there" and had a "very warm" personality. At the same time that Rav Scheinberg was mashgiach ruchani, he was also the rav of Congregation Bakash Shalom Anshei Ostrov (on the Lower East Side, in New York). Throughout his years, Rav Scheinberg had numerous chavrusas with many future gedolei Yisroel. Among them were: Rav Avigdor Miller, Rav Moshe Bick, Rav Mordechai Gifter, and Rav Nosson Meir Wachtfogel.

In 1960, Rav Scheinberg founded Yeshivas Torah Ore (in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn) where he assumed the position of rosh yeshiva. The yeshiva was opened with the help of Rav Scheinberg's brother, Rav Shmuel Scheinberg, and his son-in-law, Rav Chaim Dov Altusky. Yeshivas Torah Ore displayed incredible warmth for their students by raising money for a variety of their needs (from medical bills to wedding



expenses). Five years after its founding, Rav Scheinberg moved the yeshiva to Kiryat Mattersdorf in Yerushalayim. There, Rav Scheinberg maintained his position as rosh yeshiva, and additionally assumed the position as the rav of the Mattersdorf community. Over the years, Yeshivas Torah Ore has provided (and continues to provide) learning opportunities for thousands of talmidim.

Rav Scheinberg's dedication to the yeshiva was without end. Although Rav Scheinberg became older and more fragile with time, he would still travel far distances to collect the much needed funds for Yeshivas Torah Ore. This was true even in the year prior to his petirah, at age 100.

Once when Rav Scheinberg was much older, he was visiting America. During his visit, he became aware that the New York Yankees (baseball team) lost in the World Series (championship). Rav Scheinberg realized that he did not feel any sense of sadness or disappointment despite the fact that they were a personal favorite team of his from when he was a child. This spurred on feelings of elation as he understood that due to his immersion in avodas Hashem he had been able to purge certain strong feelings that he had in relation to utter nonsense. In response, he organized a seudas hoda'ah (thanksgiving feast) to acknowledge this particular milestone in his life.

Once, Rav Chaim Albert brought a bachur who was going through a very difficult part of his life in regard to his ruchnius to see Rav Scheinberg. Rav Scheinberg took hold of the bachur's arm and asked him, "If I give you one of my tzitzis, will you wear it?" (Rav Scheinberg wore many pairs of tzitzis to the extent that he appeared much larger than he actually was. I've seen quoted that he wore around 80 pairs. I've also seen quoted that he wore around 150 pairs. It is unclear which is true.) The bachur acknowledged that he would wear it. As Rav Chaim Albert and the bachur were being escorted out, Rav Scheinberg's gabbai told them that he had not seen the rav do anything like this in the last 30 years that he was with him.

Klal Yisroel has indeed lost one of their greatest guides. May his merit bring us closer to the ultimate redemption.

My Summer Internship

By: Anonymous

Everyone is familiar with the challenges of obtaining a paid internship or entry level position, especially in the current economy. When I set off on my own job search, I anticipated a stressful, uphill battle with months of seeking and networking. Thankfully, though, due to the efforts of Touro's Computer Science Department and Graduate Career Services, my fears proved unfounded.

My contacts at Touro submitted my resume to a prestigious firm, and upon their recommendation I was granted a phone interview. After a successful conversation, I was invited to participate in an intensive, full-day interview process, known in the investment banking world as a "superday".

As my Touro advisors repeatedly informed me, you can't overprepare for an interview in today's competitive job market. I spent hours researching the industry and the firm itself, as well as watching hours of investor relations meetings to understand their unique challenges and strengths. I also reviewed course materials from my recent programming classes to make sure that I would be able to answer any technical questions. In short, I followed the excellent advice I received from my Touro advisors and attempted to differentiate myself from the other candidates by knowing as much about technology and the firm as possible.

By the time I walked into the building for "superday," I knew all about the projections that company had just made that caused their stock to drop 6%. I was completely familiar with the reported details regarding a special bond offering that they had just sold, and I was well-versed in their business model, fully prepared to intelligently discuss their mission and vision. I also tried other tactics to distinguish myself, particularly bringing my iPad along pre-loaded with a video I created showcasing some of my web development work.

The iPad trick was one I had tested at a career fair a few months earlier, and which I owe in a large part to my work at Touro. The tactic impressed an interviewer at the fair enough to blog about me, saying: "Which applicant do I remember best? An applicant showed a 30-second screencast of the latest site he developed on his iPad... this showed he can actually code and took time to work on its 'presentation' layer." The work I showed him was simply the coursework from an online class at Touro, but it seems that the presentation and the unique initiative was enough to make an impression.

"Superday" participants included over fifty candidates, many of whom were flown in from various locations across the country for the event. Each candidate began the day with fifteen minute interviews with different people from various parts of the business, each trying to assess the candidate's technical skills, communication skills and overall suitability for a position with the firm. Once the interviews were complete, we all regrouped for a challenging project specifically designed to evaluate our ability to work as a team.

After a nerve-racking weekend, I received an offer for a paid summer internship, with the potential for a full-time position after graduation.

Six months and a lot of paperwork later, I began working, or to be precise, training. The internship program was highly structured to expose each intern to

various aspects of the firm and continually assess his/her performance. We were invited to numerous lectures presented by representatives of the various departments such as Legal and Human Resources. There was also a day of "Financial Training," which was, in essence, a basic finance course crammed into a single day. I found that my Touro education had done an excellent job preparing me, and I was familiar with most of the material and concepts from my finance classes. I was also exposed to some new, very interesting and enjoyable material, such as financial trading simulations.

Throughout the summer, the interns were expected to attend numerous events, again designed to assess our ability to work well and interact with our peers. These events were conducted in different venues, including restaurants and formal conference room sessions hosted by senior executives (including the CEO). I found these extremely informative and appreciated the opportunity to network with other interns. I was also impressed by the respect and courtesy demonstrated by the Human Resources representatives responsible for the internship program. They provided kosher food at every event – whether on-site or in a private dining room at a restaurant. They were also very accommodating when I informed them in advance that I

would be taking off two days for Shavuot, which was only a few days into the internship program.

Finally, the training portion was over and the real work began. I was assigned to a team of interns and tasked with a project that we were expected to complete with minimal involvement from any full-time employees. At the same time, I was also assigned a project to work on by myself for another team.

One of the key ideas my Touro professors constantly reinforced to me was that one of the most important characteristics a firm looks for in an intern or an employee is initiative. For my stand-alone project, I was charged with a simple, time-consuming technical task. I recognized that the method I was instructed to use was impractical. I respectfully voiced my opinion and

proposed a new software application to automate the entire process; after which I received approval to proceed and created an application still in use today. My lesson learned from this positive experience is that you need to view each assignment as an opportunity to demonstrate your value. You need to thoroughly understand the objective and confirm that the approach makes sense, evaluating all available options. Just because something has always been done one way in the past, doesn't mean that it's the best way. That's a lesson I learned in Touro, and it served me well in the working world.

I would like to extend my thanks to Touro for the excellent education I received and for preparing me for the workforce. The projects that I completed over the summer leveraged the skills I learned in my computer science classes at Touro and were directly applicable to real-world software development. As a result of their efforts, I successfully completed the internship program and received a formal offer to assume a full-time position after my graduation.



Shalit's Release

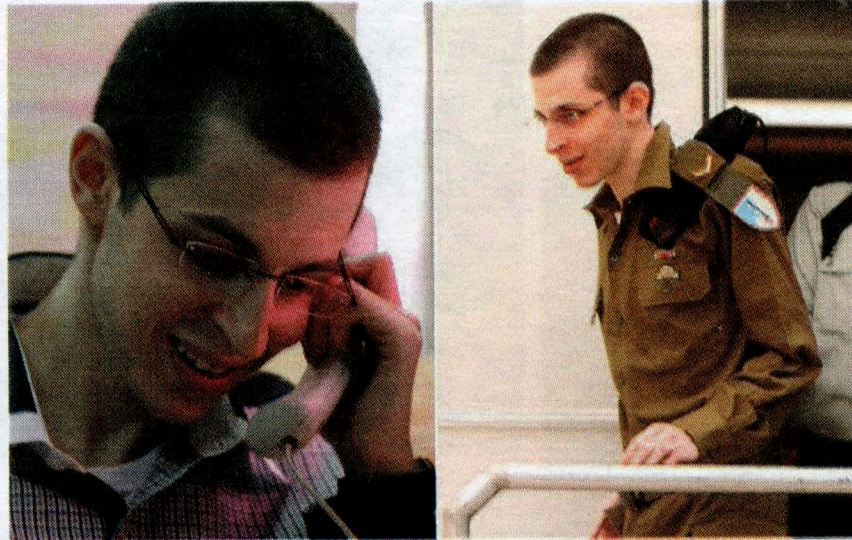
By: Adam Aziz

With praise and gratitude to G-d, the Jewish people celebrated a great day in history on October 18th, 2011, with the release of kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit. There was not one Jew in the world on that day that didn't feel as if he had just had his brother returned to him. After five years, a deal was made with Hamas to release the kidnapped Shalit, but at a costly price. 1027 convicted Palestinian prisoners were exchanged for Shalit, clearly an unprecedented deal in history. And although that day marked a day of elation and celebration, as a Jewish soldier who had been tortured for five years had finally been returned home, that joy was countered by a feeling of fear and uncertainty. An editorial in The New York Times documents that Hamas vowed to take even more hostages after the Shalit deal. And in addition to the fear that each Jew- especially those in the IDF- must be feeling now, the families of the victims killed by those terrorists want the terrorists to be locked up for life.

An article written by Matzav.com on December 15th describes just how dangerous these released terrorists are. Israel agreed to release 1027 Palestinian

prisoners in exchange for Gilad Shalit. 477 were released in the first stage of the deal, with the remaining 550 to be released in the second stage. 377 of these 550 prisoners are serving time for shooting, planting bombs, and attempting murder. In a similar article, Matzav.com writes that one of these terrorists is Salah Hamouri, who was arrested in 2005 on suspicion of trying to assassinate Rabbi Ovadia Yosef Shlit"a. Ironically enough, Rabbi Ovadia himself agreed to the release in early December.

It would clearly not be an easy decision to make if we were the ones deciding if this deal should be made or not. On the one hand, there was a young man imprisoned and tortured for over five years by a group of terrorists. But the obvious question, as difficult as it is to ask, is how much potential danger can one cause to save an individual's life? The decision to free Gilad Shalit obviously made the entire Jewish people, as well as the whole world, absolutely euphoric. One can only pray and hope that no such decision should ever have to be made again; not by the Israeli Government, nor by any other regime in the world.



Career Spotlight - Actuary

By: Nathaniel Yankelev

Actuary. Not actuarian, not actuarial, and definitely not accountant! In this issue's inaugural career spotlight, (which will hopefully be offering useful and enlightening information about a different career each issue of the Lander Chronicle), we shall be looking at actuaries. According to Wikipedia, "An actuary is a business professional who deals with the financial impact of risk and uncertainty." Not a bad definition. The practical application of this impact is that actuaries usually work for insurance companies and help those companies determine what should be charged to their customers in return for insurance coverage.

For example, let's take life insurance. The idea behind life insurance is you pay money to an insurance company. This money is called a premium. In return, the insurance company agrees to pay your family a benefit upon your death (G-D forbid). One such agreement might be, "Pay me \$10,000 a year, and I'll pay you \$400,000 when you die." Sometimes the customer will "win" by dying young and getting much more from the company than he paid, and sometimes the customer will "lose" by living long, and paying more than the worth of the benefit. One task that actuaries are responsible for is figuring out what a policy is worth to a company on average, and calculating a proper premium for it. These calculations are aided by analyzing mortality rates and other such statistics,

along with a healthy dose of actuarial mathematics to figure out the average amount a policy is worth. Some people win, and some people lose, but overall the idea is to make the insurance company win.

Actuaries do a lot of maintenance as well. There are vast sums of money that need to be invested and held in reserve. Actuaries must figure out how to invest things and how much needs to be held. Actuaries might be involved in developing new exciting products, such as designing new "riders" or special features on these products (and of course putting a price tag on them), and working with sophisticated modeling software to get as realistic a view of various scenarios as possible. It is an intellectually stimulating job, and is a good fit for someone mathematically inclined who enjoys creative problem solving, and working on technical projects.

A big advantage to going down this career path is actuaries do not need to go to graduate school. Instead, after attaining an undergraduate degree, actuaries in the USA must become certified through one of two actuarial societies: either the Society of Actuaries (SOA) or the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS). The former tends to deal more with life and health insurance, whereas the latter deals more heavily with accident insurance. Each society confers two titles: Associate and Fellow. Associate is sort of a halfway

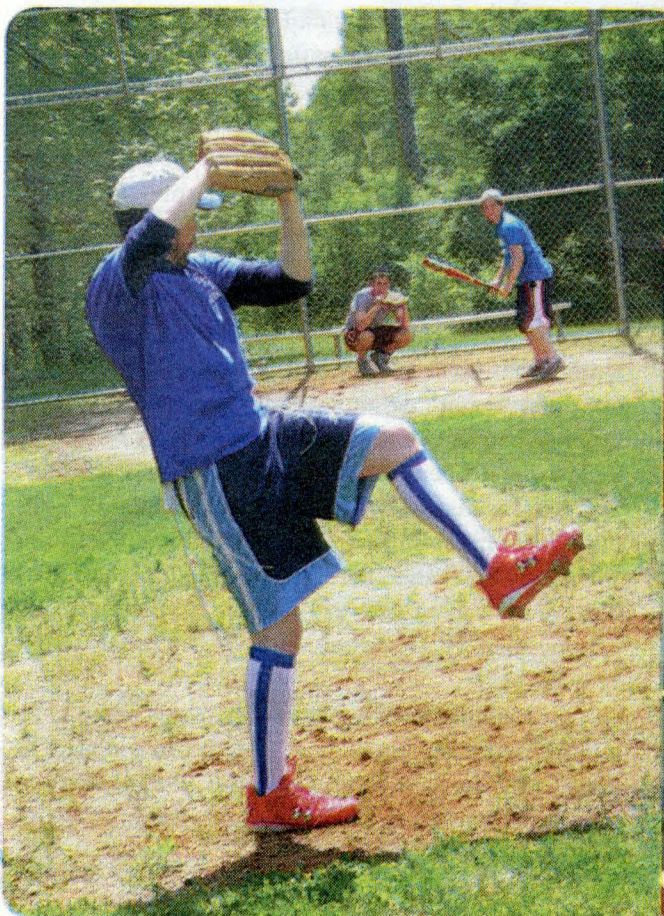
point, and Fellow means you're fully credentialed by the society. Altogether there are anywhere from 8-10 tests depending on society and specific track. It is difficult to become fully credentialed (or even just an Associate) with both societies, as the process of obtaining credentials involves passing difficult exams, but it's well worth the effort to go all the way through.

Nowadays, people generally get entry level jobs right after undergrad, and firms offer employees study days to help them pass through the exam process. In New York City, actuaries tend to make around sixty-five to seventy-five thousand dollars a year at entry level. Generally, raises are awarded after every passed exam. Attaining Fellowship usually takes around 5-7 years, and the beginning salary for a new Fellow should be at least \$130,000 in New York City. Yes, that means after you graduate you could be pulling in that much in just 5 years, theoretically. If you work hard you can make significantly more than that, but even if you're not very ambitious you should be making somewhere around the \$200,000 range within 10 more years.

At Lander College, it probably makes sense to be a math major, finance minor in order to pursue this career. We have several successful alumni already working for wonderful firms as actuaries, and it's certainly a pursuable option.

Lander College

We at Lander College for Men just enjoyed our annual Shabbaton at Camp Dora Golding. The highlights included: boating, football, ultimate frisbee, baseball, basketball, tennis, fishing, "The Lander Marathon," and beautiful weather! Shabbos itself was uplifting, as we were zoche to hear from many of the Lander College Rabbonim; as well as our Dean, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Sokol; and Touro Vice President Rabbi Moshe Krupka. A wonderful Shabbos was concluded with an inspiring and fiery drasha from our Mashgiach, Rabbi Moshe Bamberger. On Motzai Shabbos there was a competitive 2 on 2 chavrusa basketball tournament won by Lior Goldstein & Moshe Seidenfeld. We anxiously await next year's Shabbaton.



Shabbaton



Political Science Major

By: Noach Panish

I am now in my second semester at Lander College and have just declared myself a Political Science major. I would like to share with you a regular event that has been happening to me since the idea of going for political science first entered my mind.

Many times when people ask me what major I am going for I respond "Political Science," and they sigh and respond "you couldn't have picked a better, more interesting major? You should become a doctor or a psychologist or an engineer or something, what could political science possibly get you in life? Doesn't it require a ton of reading and writing all of these boring reports?" The majority of the time, I don't even bother responding because who are they to tell me what to do with my life - college is about making your own decisions on what you want to do with your life. I like political science and that's what I want to pursue.

So, what made me choose Political Science as my major? After all there are many other majors to choose from, and political science is possibly the least popular major here at Lander College (as well as most other colleges).

I took a class last semester in American Politics and learned a lot about the American Political system including the Judicial, Legislative, and Executive branches of the government. In doing so, I obtained a much deeper understanding and grasp of how the United States government works, and how each branch interacts and utilizes its power in serving the people. It was a very interactive class with many debates about political theories, and it had a moderately heavy reading requirement and two papers, but I really enjoyed the class. This semester, I am taking five political science classes. I enjoy the fact that political science courses are very interactive and that there are constant debates amongst the students and the professors on an array of topics in political science such as: government structures, etc. I find the required readings and textbooks to be quite informative and interesting. I feel that these courses are giving me a new perspective when it comes to judging what makes a person a good politician and candidate for office and I feel that these classes will have an effect on me when it comes time to vote.

Political Science is what I enjoy learning about and I feel that before a person questions what you choose to study, he should learn about the subject himself.

The Political Science courses help me keep up to date with current events in both international and national politics as well as being up to date in business, since all of these are key factors on and influences to American Politics. I don't say this about everyone but I felt that I have to say that all of the professors are outstanding; they are phenomenal speakers and are great at explaining the material; one of them has even published books of his own on political theories. All the professors have years of experience in positions such as: lawyers, assistants to a president, professors in other schools, heads of organizations, as well as many other previous jobs that gave them much experience. They are all dedicated to the students and have office hours and are easily accessible when needed to be reached. (Some of them even gave the class their personal cellphone numbers)

This semester there is a class called Introduction to Legal Principles. One of the goals of the course is to teach us how to debate and how to use logical reasoning in a debate to prove our points as well as to disprove the opponents. This course, I feel, is not only particularly good for political science but for any career since it teaches how to properly articulate your ideas when you speak and how to prove that you are correct and should be listened to.

This semester the Political Science club has just elected its new president and hopes to meet weekly. The club will have discussions of current events in politics including views on the presidential primaries and election for the 2012 presidential elections, and will also try to further discussions of the political theorems that were studied in Political Science classes.

Another advantage is that Political Science is good for students considering a career in law. A Political Science major isn't required by a law school but certainly gives a person a strong background if one is considering a career in law.

These are the reasons why I chose a Political Science major, it's what I enjoy learning about.

Landers: Where did the "S" Come From?

By: Scott Sears

"Where do you go to college?"

"I go to Landers."

"Did you know that it's actually called Lander?"

"Really? Then why does everyone call it Landers?"

According to Wikipedia.com, "Lander College for Men (LCM) [is] often referred to as 'Landers.'" Lander College for Men opened its doors in time for the 2000 academic year. Like many colleges and universities with more than one name, Lander College for Men needed a consolidation to be counted amongst the country's elite institutions. Dean Sokol commonly refers to the building he works in as "Lander College," but that title is still a bit long. The next logical choice would be either LCM or Lander. LCM was already known on the streets as the Lander Children's Museum, which opened in March of 2000, so that option was out of the question. Without any competition, Lander became the colloquial term referring to Lander College for Men. So where did the "s" come from? Why does almost everyone call it Landers? One may think that this "s" is possessive ('s) and refers to Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander, Z"L, as does Wikipedia. But as any good student knows, never trust Wikipedia. Lander's actually refers to Yeshivas Ohr HaChaim, led by Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Doniel Lander. While doing a bit of snooping around at Lander College for Men, I came across the real reason for the mysterious "s." By the back elevator near Marco's office were stacks of boxes with air filters produced by "Flanders." In the fall of 2000, the first time that these boxes were sent to Lander College for Men, the filter producers misprinted their boxes without the "F." Students got a hold of these boxes and plastered them all around the school, and the name stuck. While Flanders Filters may not be around forever, its name will always live on in the great institution commonly known as Landers.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

Master's programs in areas with expected job growth:

- Information Systems
- Database Systems
- Data Communications
- Technology Leadership
- Web & Multimedia Design
- Instructional Technology
- Web & Application Development

OPEN HOUSE

May 23, 6:30 pm
43 W. 23 St, 2nd fl. NYC

LIGHT DINNER SERVED. RSVP:
212.463.0400 x 5250
touro.edu/gst
info.gst@touro.edu

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Mahmoud Abbas: Master of the Double-talk

By: Yossi Raskas

For those of you graduating in the spring and actively pursuing professional careers, you are probably familiar with the requisite task of giving yourself a public image makeover. In the new era of Web 2.0, popular social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter enable content to be spread, and accessed, with unprecedented speed and ease, and in virtually any form (images, photos, videos, opinions, etc.). Almost anything that is uploaded onto the Internet can become permanently embedded in the annals of history, and can be viewed by prospective employers, or even your current boss. In order to avoid such embarrassing encounters, one should embrace a bit of conventional wisdom that suggests: never post anything online that you would not want your own mother to see.

This seems to be a lesson that the Palestinian Authority has learned well. As he attempted to circumvent the road-map and appeal for a Palestinian state at the sixty-sixth United Nations General Assembly, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas re-branded the P.A.'s public image. During his September 2011 address, Abbas said that Israel was a "colonial settlement occupation" that has maintained a systematic slaughter of West Bank Arabs. Furthermore, Abbas claimed that the Palestinians have maintained a long, peaceful, and uninterrupted presence in the Middle East, while Israel's claims to the region, he said, were lies.

Although Abbas' attempts to circumvent the road-map were stymied by the Security Council, his efforts were alarming for several reasons. First, whereas Israel has achieved statehood lawfully, through the Balfour Declaration, the League of Nations Mandate, the Peel Commission Report, the United Nations Partition Resolution, its own Declaration of Independence, and its subsequent acceptance into the U.N., Abbas and the P.A. have invented a fictitious account of history and tradition. Furthermore, whereas Israel has achieved political legitimacy and economic prosperity through dedication, sacrifice, and ingenuity, Abbas and the P.A. have tried to

avoid the painstaking process of state-building by shirking responsibility and have, instead, tried to take the elevator to the top.

The second problem with Abbas' speech was that, in conjuring up a false notion of history, he essentially tried to detach the P.A. from its history of violence and terror against the State of Israel. Abbas cast an image of a peaceful Palestinian people, eagerly awaiting a long overdue justice. By avoiding the violent, fiery rhetoric of past Arab iconoclasts, Abbas was able to strike a sympathetic chord among many in the theater. In fact, Abbas received standing ovations on more than one occasion during his speech. Abbas' U.N. address is proof that, like his predecessor, Yasser Arafat, he has become a master of the double-talk.

But let us, at least, not be fooled by Abbas' Ghandi-like performance in the U.N.; rather, we should accept what he says to his own people in private as factual, and consider what he says to the public as fiction. To put it another way, we should listen to what every Arab leader says in Arabic, and ignore what they say in English. Because, all too often, they are two, very different, messages.

With the help of organizations such as Memri TV, Palestinian Media Watch, and

Stand With Us, we are now capable of accurately portraying the P.A.'s true agenda. On September 4, 2011, a little more than two weeks before Abbas delivered his speech at the U.N., Memri TV translated an interview which Abbas gave to an Egyptian journalist that was aired on Al-Hekma TV.

In the interview Abbas said: "If the Egyptian army were capable of wiping Israel out, I wish it would. . . I wish we had the ability to take revenge. If we do, we should destroy them completely, and not leave a single one of them alive."

Alas, incitement to violence is typical of Palestinian leaders. Of course, conventional wisdom will tell you: If it walks like a duck, talks like a duck, and sounds like a duck, it is a duck. But the U.N. should know by now that the Arabs are an exception to the rule.



Poems

Haiku

By: David Deucher

Light fluttering in,
The sun rises in the sky,
From its nightly rest

The dew on the grass,
Is a sign that the morning,
Has finally come.

The evergreen trees,
Are forever envious,

Of those that can change.

Fresh snow on the ground,
Smooth like a velvet blanket,
Of pure white sugar.

Water by the brook,
Riddled by bullets of rain,
A clash of liquid.

Utter Joy

By: Shlomo Morgulis

I feel
Like a child, playing in the sand
Like a robin, chirping happily
Like a flower, soaking in the sun
Like a climber, 10,000 feet
straight up
Man, that was a good sandwich

Steroids, 'Spanded Replay and the 'Stros: Baseball's new CBA

By: Shlomo Morgulis

Amidst the bargaining turmoil of the NFL and the NBA last fall, the baseball negotiations snuck under the radar of many casual sports fans. Despite this, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association were engaged in collective bargaining, and ultimately emerged from their meetings with a new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Baseball's collective bargaining process working so smoothly is unquestionably good news. In 1994, differences of opinion in negotiations halted the meetings - in mid-season, no less. With the two sides unable to come to a common ground, the season ended in mid-August. 1994 saw no World Series for the first time in 90 years. [1] Months later, agreement between the parties were reached, but even then it was too late to play a full slate of games in 1995. (144 games were played in 1995 instead of the usual 162.) With the new collective bargaining agreement, baseball has essentially assured itself of a five-year period free of such PR debacles as the 1994 incident. Considering the labor unrest which has taken place recently in professional hockey, basketball and football, this good news is not to be taken lightly.

Aside from the assurance of five years of labor restfulness, various other aspects of the collective bargaining agreement are of real significance to fans of the game. At various points over the next five years, a few new elements to the game will be introduced; including: mandatory blood-testing for human growth hormone (HGH), which should greatly limit the intake of banned substances by professional baseball

players; an expansion of instant replay to questions of fair and foul balls (replays can currently only be checked by the umpires if the play is a questionable home run); and some changes to the playoff and divisional formats.

These last changes will first see the Houston Astros (a 1962 expansion team, charter member of the NL West, and current member of the NL Central) switch leagues to the American League and join their inter-state rivals, the Texas Rangers, in the American League West. This will give each division in baseball an equal amount of teams for the first time since 1993. (As Major League Baseball is currently constituted, the AL West has 4 teams and the NL Central has 6; all other divisions have 5. With the Astros' move, each division will have 5.)

The playoff format currently has each league's three division winners enter the playoffs. The fourth playoff slot in each league is given to the best team that didn't win its division. Under the new CBA, the two best non-division winning teams will have a one game playoff to determine who will get the fourth slot in the playoffs.

Between the new playoff structure, expanded replay, and expanded testing for performance-enhancing drugs, a lot has been changed in baseball's new collective bargaining agreement. While the individual merits of these changes can be argued as good or bad, there's one thing all baseball fans can agree on: The CBA's agreement - and the essential assuredness that baseball will be played - is certainly good news.



Dating Corner

You thought dates had to be expensive to be good?

Here are five affordable ideas that girl will love (maybe)

1. Go on a picnic
2. Go for a walk on the boardwalk
3. Ride the Staten Island Ferry
4. Walk around the mall
5. Buy an 'art project' from an art supply store and complete the project on the date
6. Take her to the pantry where you can find the very affordable 'steal plan.'

Top Seven things Girls wish you knew before going out...

1. Come with a plan. Girls don't like it when you show up at the door and say-"So... is there anything fun to do in Brooklyn tonight?"
2. Pay for the date. It's generally accepted at least for the first few dates for the guy to pay. After that it's a machlokes Achronim.
3. Let the girl know if you're going out to eat first so she can eat/come hungry.
4. If you plan on doing an

outdoor activity, or an activity that requires special attire such as ice skating-let her know so that she can dress appropriately.

5. It would also be nice to tell her if you plan on doing a lot of walking, so that she can plan accordingly-and maybe not need to wear heels through central park...

6. Be punctual. It gives a bad impression if you show up late to your date. If there is traffic or you are delayed for some reason, be courteous and let her know you will be late.

7. Be conscious of the time-it's not nice to keep her out too late..

The Power Of The Tongue

By: Ezra Cowen

Consider the following study:

A bunch of college students were asked to look at nonsense syllables such as VYH, BLN, and JKF as they were flashed at them on a screen. At the same time they were asked to repeat words spoken to them by the experimenters. For some students the nonsense syllables were paired with positive words such as Win, Beautiful and Love and for others with negative words such as Hate, Sad and Murderer. After this the students were asked to look over all the random nonsense syllables that were flashed at them at rated each of them on a 7-point scale ranging from pleasant to unpleasant.

After analyzing the data, the results strongly suggested that the nonsense syllables came to elicit similar emotional response associated with the words. In other words, if two of the college kids were flashed the nonsense syllable JKF but one repeated the word love and the other Bad then, later, they would very likely rate their emotional response the letter JKF in a positive and negative fashion, respectively.

This means that when the random meaningless letters JKF are flashed at me, at the same time as I am also saying the word sad then I will probably feel unpleasant the next time I look at the letters JKF.

This study has tremendous implications.

If a Moishele says the name "Yankel" in the same sentence as, say, Bad, Stupid, Annoying, Loser, Weird, Slow, Pushy, Nosy, Selfish, Lost, Confused, Robber etc., then essentially Moishele has created an unpleasant association of Yankel in the mind of all those who heard him. For life.

The Chofetz Chaim was no scientist, and he didn't need science to back him up. However, for us weak minded people who insist on "empirical data" I hope we are now convinced.

May we stay far, far away from the evils of the tongue!!

Iran Interview *Continued From Page 1*

How come you decided to move to the United States?

For a better life for my family. Here in America you can do anything you want, in Iran there are limits to what you can do. For example a Jewish doctor in Iran will have a hard time specializing. They make it hard for Jewish people to get professional jobs and move up in the world. Here you can do anything you want.

Was it hard to adapt to life in New York?

No, because the Jewish community is very good. They help everyone, if you need help they show you the right way. There was also an organization that was around when I moved here called HIAS. HIAS helps Iranian immigrants learn English, and find a job etc.

What is the immigration process like?

First you must wait for an Austrian visa, then you go to Vienna, Austria and while there you wait for an American visa. Once in America you get a green card after one year, and citizenship after five years.

Right now it is much easier to get a passport than it used to be; this is possibly due to pressure from other countries.

What is Jewish life like over there?

There are three cities where Jews live: Shiraz, Tehran, and Isfahan. There are about 20,000 Jews total. A big difference between the Jewish life here and there is the food, here you can go to any supermarket and get ready made chicken or meat. In Iran they had a shochet, but after he shechted the animal you would need to remove the fats, wash it, and salt it yourself.

Did you ever experience any anti semitism while you lived in Iran?

Not personally, but there were times when people would spray derogatory things in graffiti on the outside of the shul, and sometimes on yom tov they would close the shul because they were worried that something could happen, or they were worried that if someone saw that the shul was a place that Jews gathered at, they would try to close it down.

Is there a difference in personality between Iranian Jews and American Jews, and what are some of the differences between the Iranian and American cultures?

The difference between the Jewish communities is that here there is more chesed. In New York they have wonderful organizations such as Hatzalah, Shomrim, and Chaverim who selflessly give of their own time to help others. As far as the culture differences, in America people respect each other more. For example here if you buy something and you don't like it you can return it, they usually don't give you a hard time about it. In Iran if you buy something and you want to return it, no matter how much you argue they give you a very hard time, and many times you can't return it.

What are some other cultural differences?

In Iran you must vote, and when you do they stamp your like social security card. If you do not vote then they won't stamp it, and then they won't do anything for you when you need it. Like giving you a passport for your son etc.

Do you or your family miss Iran?

For older people, they miss both the country and the people, since it is harder for them to get used to this country. For the younger people they just miss the people, but are much happier here. My parents live here, but my wife's

parents still live in Iran.

Do you think all the remaining Jews should move out of Iran?

Everyone should get out of Iran.

Why did your in-laws stay in Iran?

They wanted to move but it is not easy. Every male over eighteen must join the military, and if you refuse to join, they will not grant you a passport, and you won't be able to leave the country. They used to have an option that you could pay them a certain amount of money and get out of the army, but now they don't have that anymore.

Do you ever plan on going back to visit?

I don't plan on it, but you are able to go back and visit. They don't restrict that as much.

These days when one hears the words Iran or Ahmadienejad they usually think nuclear weapons, what is your take on the possibility of Iran building nuclear weapons?

I do not follow it enough to have an opinion. When living in Iran you don't hear about anything. They censor what you can talk about on the phone, what news you get etc.

Are you happier in the U.S.?

Yes, much happier than G-D.

Do you have any advice for Americans?

People here have so much opportunity and let it squander. They can do anything they want, but many people do not take advantage. And with learning also, people have much more freedom over here than in Iran.

Are Electric Cars the Near Future? *Continued From Page 1*

The contract includes GPS for the onboard system called Oscar, which monitors the battery and tells the driver how far he can go based on its current charge, and 24 hour roadside assistance. Add on the reduced need for check-ups and improvements in technology which reduce costs and the electric car can save the consumer up to 40 percent over an oil-based car.

As for the large strain being placed on the electric grid, Shai Agassi has a solution for that as well. Special charging stations, made exclusively by Better Place, are installed at the home and workplace of the buyer. The stations allow Better Place to centrally control the charging of the individual cars, thereby giving priority to lesser charged cars. Meanwhile, the energy department sends up to the second information on how much electricity is being used so the system doesn't use the electricity during 'peak' when the strain on the grid is very great. In fact, the system allows for the drawing of electricity from the car batteries to lessen strain on the grid. When one realizes that cars will be hooked up far longer than they are used, the benefit of this system becomes apparent.

Finally, Shai Agassi promises to reduce the concern about the distance one can drive in the electric car through his innovative 'battery swap stations.' These stations, which look very much like your average car-wash, reduce the time needed for charging the car battery by switching depleted batteries for fully charged ones (a uniform battery is not required). The whole process takes five minutes; approximately the time it takes to fill up a gas tank. Oscar then directs the car in the most efficient route while, at the same time, taking the battery charge into account. The GPS is also informed when battery swap stations are backed-up and redirects the driver to a different station during such events.

Various concerns still arise about this system. In an article published in 2009 on Hybridcars.com, Thomas Weber, Mercedes' research and development head, said that in 1970 the company tried a similar plan and found that "battery swapping on the road could cause electrocution or fire." However, since Better Place has released its first 100 cars to its employees this past January, no safety problems have been reported. The main

concerns that seem to bother Americans, however, are the need to lock into a 3 year plan, the lack of control over the charging of the vehicle, and the mere 100 mile distance the cars can drive when fully charged.

Better Place is releasing its first cars in Israel this summer and has agreements with Denmark, Australia, Japan, China, and other countries in Europe and North America, to start implementing its program in the future. It is going to start with the island states first, though, so it will be some time before we see Better Place in the U.S.A.



Mazel Tov Section

Engagements

Danny Dworkin on his engagement
Jared Dubin on his engagement
Eitan Spector on his engagement
Avraham Panish on his engagement
Jordan Kaplan on his engagement
Clarence Wilcox on his engagement

Marriages

Gabe Aronson on his marriage
Chanoch Shrier on his marriage
Daniel Parness on his marriage
Danny Yaeger on his marriage
Adam Aziz on his marriage
Zev Kilstein on his marriage

Births

Daniel Lichter on the birth of a son
Amichai Gez on the birth of a son

2012 Graduating Class

Yedidya Alper	Samuel Haft	Scott Sears
Max Baruch	David Hirsch	Ezra Sebbag
Dov Bechhofer	Ariel Hochster	Eli Siegel
Matthew Beezy	Jonathan Hoffman	Aaron Sieratzki
Eric Drang	Daniel Konigsberg	Etan Spector
Benjamin Drory	Hillel Lefkowitz	Ben Steinberger
Jared Dubin	Jeremy Levy	Marc Umansky
Tzvi Eleff	Jeffrey Mally	Jeremy Warn
Nachum Frederick	Moshe Marcus	Aaron Weiss
Joshua Gersten	David Milgraum	Daniel Yaeger
Jeremy Gerstle	Chaim Orelowitz	Nathaniel Yankelev
Ari Ginsberg	Joseph Raskas	Marc Zeffren
Tzvi Goder	Joseph Rosenfeld	Josh Zelman
Joshua Goldstein	Abraham Salamon	Justin Zians
Eric Gottlieb	Ian Schultz	
Jonathan Gray	David Schwartz	

SUMMER 2012 SCHEDULE

July 18, Wednesday- Last day of summer session
August 23, Thursday-Orientation
August 27, Monday- Seder, Shiur classes begin

2011-2012 SGO Members

President - Josh Gersten
Vice President - Micha Milgraum
Treasurer - Tzvi Norowitz
Secretary - Ariel Hochster
Upper Class Rep - D.Y. Fink

Upper Class Rep - Michael Vodianoi
Lower Class Rep -Binyamin Berkson
Lower Class Rep - Scott Sears
Beis Medrash Rep -Avraham Panish

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Vice President - Michael Vodianoi
Treasurer - Bradley Cohen
Secretary - Yehuda Levi
Upper Class Rep -Smcha Lustig

Upper Class Rep - Yossi Zanjirian
Lower Class Rep -Simcha Himmel
Lower Class Rep - Shlomo Frager
Beis Medrash Rep -Josh Goldstein



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