

Migdal Ohr at a Glance

A Quarterly Update

Fall 2016 ~ Elul 5776

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מגדל אור
MIGDAL OHR



Celebrations Off Campus: Beit Tovei Ha'ir Assisted Living Facility's Annual Bar Mitzvah Twinning for Migdal Ohr Students

For over a decade, residents at the Beit Tovei Ha'ir Senior Assisted Living Facility in Jerusalem have taken it upon themselves to sponsor an annual Bar Mitzvah celebration for Migdal Ohr students.



This summer, they sponsored the Bar Mitzvah Twinning of five students from the Metivta Middle School along with five boys who belong to the Beit Shan branch of the Ohr Yisraeli Youth Clubs.



Thanks to the generosity of 87 seniors and facility staff, these ten boys each received a new talis in a personalized bag, tefillin, new clothing and more! This year, it was a real treat to hear students from the Boys Ohr Choir perform for everyone.



The senior residents look forward to this event every year and over 100 residents participated in this year's celebration. They capture the true essence of *L'dor v'dor*, which translates to "from generation to generation," in passing along this long-standing Jewish tradition to Migdal Ohr's students, most of whom do not have stable home environments with grandparents who are able to pass on these traditions directly.

Alumni Story: Yossi Roash

Yossi Roash was born in Nahariya, Israel in 1980. When he was 10 years old, he and his brother were sent to attend Migdal Ohr and they were students there for six years. Three years later, his father passed away and he felt once again drawn to Migdal Ohr for comfort and support. When he returned to visit the campus and meet with the Rav, he was introduced to another former Migdal Ohr female student, whom he eventually married at age 22, after his 3 years in the IDF.

Yossi was formally hired by Migdal Ohr, first working as the personal assistant for the CEO. He worked in that position for 10 years, and then was promoted to Deputy CEO. He currently serves as the Personal Assistant/Gabbai for Migdal Ohr's founder, Rabbi Grossman.

The following is a brief interview with Yossi:

How did you come to this position?

Two years ago, after Rabbi Grossman's previous assistant left, the Rav approached me for the position because he felt he could trust me with the task. It was supposed to be only temporary until he found a permanent replacement and I would return to my position in the administration. After three weeks, the Rabbi decided decisively that I should leave my position as Deputy CEO and remain his Gabbai. As you probably know, the Rav's word is the bottom line, and so it was.

What is it like to work with the Rav? How would you describe your position?

Since I was ten years old I have held the Rav in very high esteem and have tremendous appreciation for him. And as you could imagine, as the years pass my love for him grows. Rav Grossman will always be both my father and my Rav. I had a terrible fear that once I began to work so closely with him that this might change, but I am happy to say that those fears have passed, and as each day passes my respect for the Rav grows.



Yossi and the Rav, 2016



Yossi as a Migdal Ohr student

To see a Rabbi who is so revered and respected throughout the world and is also so dedicated to children and the youth of Israel--both in the Migdal Ohr schools and across the country--is truly awe-inspiring.

As for my job duties, anyone who wants to reach the Rav has to go through me - the wealthy, those in need, sick people, religious leaders, captains of industry, heads of state, Chief Rabbis, and little kids. It is amazing to see and hear how the Rav relates to one and all with such patience, and he also treats everyone the same, no matter who they are, or what their station in life.

How have Rabbi Grossman and Migdal Ohr influenced your life?

Rabbi Grossman was simply sent from Heaven; he's an angel. My life has truly been influenced by Rabbi Grossman - his self-sacrifice, his giving, and his patience for everyone, which I imagine is very difficult for someone who has hundreds of conversations each day, every hour, every holiday, and every Shabbat. I thank G-d who has cared for me and has given me the privilege to be close to this great man for over 25 years.



Program Focus: Summer at the Ohr Yisraeli Youth Clubs

In addition to three education campuses, Migdal Ohr reaches at-risk youth all across Israel through Ohr Yisraeli, a network of 160 youth clubs. These after school clubs offer a safe haven for teenagers who are at risk of drug or alcohol abuse, criminal behavior, or becoming victims of violence. During the school year, many come to the clubs for a hot meal, study sessions, or to play games in a safe environment. There are also educational and fun trips planned by each club throughout the year.

The summertime, however, can be problematic for these teens whose parents work full time and don't have the financial means to send them to camps. Subsequently, the Ohr Yisraeli Youth Clubs kick into high gear with numerous sports and adventure-filled trips planned. Summer 2016 was a very busy summer filled with inter-club soccer matches, rafting and tubing excursions, paintball, hiking, BBQs, go-karting, ice skating, visits to the Kotel in Jerusalem and more! The accompanying photos show activities of several of the Ohr Yisraeli branches including Herzliyah, Ra'anana, Migdal Ha'Emek, Netanya Ramat Chen, Netivot, Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Shmona, Ma'ale Adumim, Ohr Yehuda, and Haifa.



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