

# Migdal Ohr at a Glance

A Quarterly Update

Fall 2017 ~ Cheshvan 5778

[www.migdalohrusa.org](http://www.migdalohrusa.org)



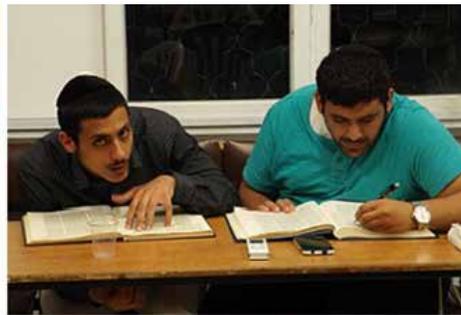
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## New Program: Migdal Ohr Introduces New Summer Volunteer Program for Boys!

In the Summer of 2018, Migdal Ohr will debut Yaldei Ohr, it's first-ever summer volunteer program for High School Junior and Senior boys. Based at Migdal Ohr's Zoharim Youth Village campus, Yaldei-Ohr will be a four week Israel immersion program comprised of intensive Kollel learning, hands-on community service, and fun activities.

Approximately 25 High School boys from North America will be offered the unique opportunity to live on campus alongside formerly at-risk Israeli teenagers who are currently students at Zoharim. Together they will learn Torah with prominent Rabbeim, develop their leadership skills, participate in chessed opportunities, and travel to unique sites throughout Israel.



This program, created in conjunction with the highly successful Kol HaNearim summer volunteer program, will create life-long friendships and inspire our volunteers and the boys at Zoharim to further develop their Torah values, communal responsibilities and leadership skills.

AFMO is currently recruiting participants for this exciting new program. If you have a son, grandson, nephew or friend who is interested in the summer of a lifetime please contact our New York office today. For sponsorship opportunities please call (212) 397-3700.



## Celebrations on Campus: Bar Mitzvah Twinning at Migdal Ohr

Ikey Rozehzadeh (son of AFMO Board Member, Dr. Joe Rozehzadeh) celebrated his Bar Mitzvah last winter in Israel, sharing the day with Nadav, an underprivileged young man from the Metivta Boys Junior High School at Migdal Ohr. In attendance were extended family members and students from the Migdal Ha'Emek campus.

Prior to the celebration, the Rozehzadeh family was joined by Rabbi Grossman for a tour of the campus where they saw the Mishpachtonim dormitory, Metivta cafeteria, Beit Midrash, a day care center, as well as Rebbetzin Grossman in the Bridal Salon. Some of the family even played soccer with a few of the Metivta boys!

The Bar Mitzvah celebration was filled with music and dancing and the Bar Mitzvah boys sat together throughout the afternoon. The festivities featured a performance by two of Migdal Ohr's choir boys. In addition to the set of tefillin given to Nadav, the Rozehzadeh family generously gave additional sets of tefillin to two Migdal Ohr students also of Bar Mitzvah age. The Rozehzadehs were moved by this very meaningful experience and were excited to share this milestone moment with other Migdal Ohr supporters in order to encourage others to participate in this special act of chessed.



Please contact the AFMO office at 212-397-3700 if you'd like to set up a Bar or Bat Mitzvah twinning celebration on campus in Israel.



## Donor Reflections: A Special Visit to Zoharim

Last year approximately 20 men from the Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation in Baltimore went on a "mission" to Israel led by our esteemed Rav, Rabbi Moshe Hauer.

The six-day mission included learning, shiurim and visits with Gedolim and to Amutot, non-profit institutions in Israel. Among the visits was an afternoon tour of Zoharim which in my opinion, was the most impressive.

Most of us had never heard of Zoharim, though we had heard of Rav Grossman and his important work. Our tour began with a video that portrayed Rav Grossman speaking with several teens who appeared to be "hanging out on the streets." The boys, who had fallen out of the mainstream educational and chareidi system and Rav Grossman spoke of the need to create a living and educational environment for the boys that would address their needs as well as educate, train and inspire them to achieve their potential. And this is exactly what Zoharim does, and does it so very well!

While eating a delicious lunch in the Zoharim dining room, we noticed a horse stable and riding area in an adjacent hall. Equestrian therapy is part of the Zoharim program. The boys offered us rides on the horses. I began a conversation with a friendly young teen, perhaps 16 years old from Modiin Illit, who sported a contagious smile and bushy ponytail. He asked us what brought us to Zoharim and I told him we are on a group mission from the U.S. He then inquired, "Are you here to donate money?" I answered with a question: "If we would donate money, what should it be for?" His response: "We need riding boots." I was so taken by this boy and his sincerity and friendly demeanor that I said: "You got it!"



As we drove away in our bus, all of us very inspired by what we experienced at Zoharim, I asked my friends if anyone would like to contribute to the purchase of the boots. Indeed, I received a supportive response.

After much research, I was pointed to a distributor who was located in Migdal HaEmek! I wrote to him and explained why we needed the boots. He had the sizes in stock and offered us a wonderful price. By that time, my wife and I were about to return to Israel. So, we arranged for the delivery when we were in Jerusalem. After many back and forth attempts, the correct style and sizes arrived and we arranged to deliver them personally to Zoharim.

It was a chilly, but beautiful day in January. My wife and I arrived in Zoharim and were greeted by the staff and the boys who ride the horses including my new friend with the ponytail. The table was set with appetizing refreshments. As we ate and drank together, I told the story of how this all came about.



The boys were so expressive, thankful and appreciative. My wife and I, as well as others present, found this to be an extremely emotional experience.

We are thankful to our friends at Zoharim and to Rav Grossman and his staff for giving these well deserving young men the non-judgmental, inspiring and productive environment to help them recognize their own strengths and talents. Moreover, they help these boys reach goals beyond what the boys themselves ever imagined they could achieve.

- Chaim Gottesman

### American Friends of Migdal Ohr