

# Migdal Ohr at a Glance

A Quarterly Update

Spring 2016 ~ Nissan 5776

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



## Program Focus: Mevashlim L'Atid Students Visit the Knesset

The Mevashlim L'Atid "Cooking for a Future" Program is a unique vocational program offered at Migdal Ohr. The goal of the program is to train students in all aspects of the culinary arts - cooking and baking, presentation and serving, nutrition, food services and more. Graduates from the program receive a matriculation certificate in technology from the Ministry of Education and the certification of "Level One Chef" from the Ministry of the Economy. Mevashlim L'Atid graduates are trained with the tools necessary to pursue a professional career in the culinary arts-a fast growing field in Israel.

Recently, one Mevashlim L'Atid class had the amazing opportunity to see how the skills they are learning are being put to use daily at the Knesset! According to the program's founder Shimon Shoval, "We want the students to see how important their work is in different situations. In addition to seeing restaurants and caterers, we thought this trip [to the Knesset] would help them see that food industry jobs are everywhere." At the Knesset, students toured the kitchens and dining facilities. They were treated to presentations by the Executive Chefs of the Knesset who spoke about their daily routines and how they handle special events. The students had a great time on this visit and left feeling inspired and hopeful about their professional futures.



## Donor Dedication: Scott Cooper and The Cooper Idea Foundation



Last summer, Scott Cooper and his three kids Elliot (age 11), Isaac (age 10) and Serena (age 6) visited Migdal Ohr in Israel for the dedication of the Cooper Kindergarten on the Migdal Ha'Emek Campus.

Originally called the Nofar Kindergarten, this building was in need of major renovations if it was going to continue to be a safe haven for nearly 30 underprivileged children, aged 3 and 4. This preschool building required major structural improvements including cement work, framing, aluminum, plastering and painting. The floors needed to be repaired and there was also significant plumbing and electrical work required to get it up to code. Additionally, minor landscape development was done to the outdoor playground and brand new air conditioning units were installed throughout the building.

Due to the wonderful generosity of Migdal Ohr supporter Scott Cooper who donated \$100,000 for this renovation project, the brand new Cooper Kindergarten opened to happy, smiling children in the fall of 2015.



"Migdal Ohr is an organization that is near and dear to my heart," explained Scott Cooper. "I was first introduced to this Israeli charity by a good friend of mine who is also on the board of directors. I then went to Israel and saw for myself, first-hand, the breadth and scope of what Rabbi Grossman has built at Migdal Ha'Emek. He is literally saving the lives of thousands of Israeli children who would be impoverished or abandoned. These kids now have a bright future! When I was there last, I looked for a project to fund that would resonate with my younger children, and that was the renovation of a kindergarten. I was so proud to be on-hand during the dedication ceremony of this building with my three children. They were amazed at the positive impact that this renovation project will have for these beautiful little children, who now have a solid foundation where they will begin their formal education and lives."

## Chessed: Berman Hebrew Academy Volunteers at Migdal Ohr

*A Special Report by Amir Wertheimer, student at Berman Hebrew Academy*

Every four years, our school, the Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, Maryland, sends the entire Upper School on an 11-day trip to Israel. On this trip, 192 students and 23 staff members embarked on an adventure that involved touring and volunteering.





Some of the highlights of the trip were the times that we got to meet and interact with the people of Israel, and also, the chessed opportunities we had. During our stay in the North of Israel, I, together with a number of my fellow students, had the opportunity to visit Migdal Ohr. We learned that Migdal Ohr is an inspirational institution that seeks to improve the lives and care for hundreds of Israeli youth. When we first arrived at Migdal Ohr, it was not clear what was going to be required of us, but we were eager to help in any way that we could. After being split into groups, advisors from Migdal Ohr assigned us the task of hanging up curtains for many of the older kids' rooms. Shortly after, we painted the railings of the stairs. After the work was done, we played soccer with some of the other teenage boys at Migdal Ohr. Even though they bested us in more than one game, we made new friends and were extremely happy with the experience of interacting with these Israeli teens. Overall, our experiences at Migdal Ohr were eye-opening and we can't wait to visit again!



## AFMO in Los Angeles

(Left to Right): Rabbi Shalom Denbo (AFMO West Coast Development Coordinator), Brad Berger (member of the AFMO Board of Directors), and Norman B. Gildin (Executive Vice President of AFMO) recently met in Los Angeles to discuss how to raise greater awareness about Migdal Ohr in the Los Angeles community. They also discussed plans for a kickoff event this spring, bringing the Bar & Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program to LA, and potential candidates for a Los Angeles Leadership Advisory Board.



**American Friends of Migdal Ohr**

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