



5779 - 5780  
2019

# OU ISRAEL ANNUAL REPORT



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FOLLOW US ON:





**DEAR FRIENDS,**

40 years is a landmark moment for any organization and we want to take this opportunity not only to celebrate but also to reflect and look back upon what we've accomplished.

It is our shared belief in our greater purpose – our belief in Israel, the Jewish people and each other - which is the driving force behind our outstanding accomplishments. This became readily apparent with the thousands of supporters and friends of OU Israel that repeatedly turned out to celebrate the multitude of events we held for our 40th anniversary.

Yet, to think back to our humble beginnings when we first opened the Orthodox Union's branch in Israel in 1979 in Yerushalayim on Strauss Street, we were proud to host our first adult informal learning series with only 13 people.

Since then, thanks to you our stakeholders, friends, partners, board members and professionals worldwide, we have exponentially grown beyond any means originally fathomable. 40 years ago we could not imagine the tremendous scope and magnitude of our activities which today are:

- ▶ Helping thousands of youth each month in 23 locations throughout Israel through our **OU Israel Youth Centers** comprised of **The Jack E. Gindi Oraita Program, Makom Balev** and **The Pearl and Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center** in Yerushalayim.
- ▶ Enabling more than 7,500 English-Speaking young adults from abroad to make a spiritual connection to Israel through our **JCHAT, Semichat Chaver Program (SCP)**, and **Taglit – OU Israel Free Spirit** programs.
- ▶ Engaging 1,120 English-Speaking University students weekly to stay connected with their Judaism through our **OU – Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC)** project, now currently in two locations in Israel.

- ▶ Connecting youth with their roots, to their tradition and Land of Israel through **NCSY Israel and Camp Dror** - which are growing each year.
- ▶ Empowering several hundred individuals with special needs through **Yachad Israel** to make a more inclusive society and feel a sense of community while obtaining gainful employment through vocational training and job readiness initiatives.
- ▶ Holding more than 80 weekly Torah shiurim, trips and community programming for Israel's English-Speaking Anglo community.
- ▶ Embracing more than 110,000 visitors annually from around the world, attending our events and activities at our walk-in center in **Yerushalayim, The Seymour J. Abrams Jerusalem World Center**.
- ▶ Inspiring thousands of English & Hebrew speaking Jews with three mega prayer and Torah education events including: a **Leil Yom Ha'atzmaut Tefilla** with over 2,500 participants at the Tachana Rishona, a **Yom Yerushalayim Tefila** overlooking Har HaBayit with 1,000 participants, and a **Mega Torah Yerushalayim** day of learning during the period of the Yamim Ha'Noraim with over 2,200 individuals.

In reflection, I am convinced that it is our growing unity which has always enabled us to overcome challenges and achieve any endeavor. This is the message which we strive to implement in every Torah lesson, trip, and one-on-one conversation which we have carried out since our establishment.

May Hashem continue to help us draw the strength necessary to work together for the next 40 years, to propel and launch our wonderful enterprise to greater heights and greater achievements strengthening our people and our great nation.

Rabbi Avi Berman  
Executive Director, OU Israel

# OU ISRAEL CENTER

## THE SEYMOUR J. ABRAMS JERUSALEM WORLD CENTER

Each year, more than 110,000 people visit the Seymour J. Abrams Orthodox Union Jerusalem World Center (also known as the OU Israel Center).

Since 1979, The OU Israel Center has provided a warm and welcoming environment, spiritual inspiration, and social connection for English-speaking Olim (new immigrants) and tourists - from young professionals to families to active retirees. Our 5 story, 840sqm building in central Yerushalayim, complete with lecture halls, an English language library, classrooms, and event halls, is home to more than 80 weekly programs.

As a home-away-from home for English speakers of all ages, there is truly something exciting for everyone.

### OU ISRAEL CENTER 2019 ONGOING PROGRAMS:

- ▶ **The Avrom Silver Jerusalem College for Adults** – Inspirational Torah classes for English-speaking olim.
- ▶ **A Dynamic Semichat Chaver Program (SCP)** – An innovative halachic study program for young professionals.
- ▶ **L’Ayla Women’s Learning Initiative** - Empowering women of all ages through inspirational Torah and activities.
- ▶ **JCHAT** - The Jerusalem Community Hub for Anglos and Torah, “home base” for young English-speaking professionals.
- ▶ **Linking Our Lives Together** - Providing community for active senior singles.
- ▶ **OU Israel Travel** - Exploring the history and natural beauty of the Land of Israel.
- ▶ **Torah Tidbits** – Each year, half-a-million copies of our weekly Torah bulletin are distributed in English-speaking communities throughout Israel.
- ▶ **Chesed4U** - Connecting Elderly Olim in need of companionship or assistance with volunteer Olim.

**4,300** annual events  
including shiurim, workshops,  
trips with more than **10,000**  
annual participants.

“I’m very happy to be a part of the OU Israel Center and the Linking Our Lives Together program. I’ve made new friends and enjoyed new activities in the areas of Torah studies, Shabbat/Holidays and recreation to name a few. If you’re looking to meet nice people and expand your horizons, give us a try.”  
- Gershon Katz, Yerushalayim



## THE AVROM SILVER JERUSALEM COLLEGE FOR ADULTS

### **The Avrom Silver Jerusalem College for Adults**

is the OU Israel Center's flagship adult educational core program, which provides dozens of inspirational Torah classes for the English-speaking population each week. Shiurim range from Parshat Hashavua, Halacha, Jewish History, Contemporary Issues, Talmud, and Jewish Thought. **Rabbi Dr. Sholom Gold** serves as Dean of the College, and there are **more than 50 weekly classes** offered day and night by a diverse and esteemed faculty which is headlined by many world renowned lecturers.

### **WORLD RENOWNED FACULTY INCLUDE:**

- ▶ Rabbi Zev Leff
- ▶ Rabbi Mordechai Machlis
- ▶ Rabbi Anthony Manning
- ▶ Rabbi Tzvi Mauner
- ▶ Rabbi Shimshon Nadel
- ▶ Rabbi Ian Pear
- ▶ Rabbi Zelig Pliskin
- ▶ Dr. Deborah Polster
- ▶ Rabbi Hillel Ruvel
- ▶ Rabbi Sam Shor
- ▶ Rabbi Ephraim Sprecher
- ▶ Rabbi Baruch Taub
- ▶ Rabbi David Walk
- ▶ Rabbi Nachman Winkler
- ▶ Rabbi Aharon Ziegler
- ▶ Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zorenberg
- ▶ Rabbi Aharon Adler
- ▶ Rabbi Azarya Berzon
- ▶ Rabbi Jeffrey Bienenfeld
- ▶ Mrs. Pearl Borow
- ▶ Rabbi Yitzchok Breitowitz
- ▶ Phil Chernofsky
- ▶ Rabbi Chaim Eisen
- ▶ Rabbi Shai Finkelstein
- ▶ Rabbi Ezra Friedman
- ▶ Rabbi Dr. Sholom Gold
- ▶ Rabbi Shmuel Goldin
- ▶ Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider
- ▶ Rabbi Elyada Goldvicht
- ▶ Rabbi Shmuel Herschler
- ▶ Rabbi Ari Kahn
- ▶ Rabbi Alan Kimche
- ▶ Rabbi Yonatan Kolatch
- ▶ Rabbi Avrum Kowalsky

More than **1,000** SCP  
participants in **12** Israeli  
and **35** North American  
Communities



## OU ISRAEL TRAVEL

OU Israel Travel enables English-Speaking Olim and visitors to get to know Israel firsthand and to develop a deep love for our beautiful country. Each year, the program offers dozens of day trips and hotel retreats that connect participants to the Land of Israel and its rich heritage and history. In 2019, in honor of the State of Israel's 70th Year, OU Israel Travel organized special trips commemorating the Jewish State's successful and fruitful existence.

### 2019 TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ A 5-day Winter Retreat in Eilat
- ▶ A 3-day Fall Retreat in Ramat HaGolan

### 2019 TRIP HIGHLIGHTS WITH VISITS TO:

- ▶ **Under the Sea** – Shiur and tour of the Jerusalem Aquarium
- ▶ **Erev Chag in Kfar Chabad** – Matza baking with the Chabad House in Kfar Chabad
- ▶ **Eternal Challenges & Modern Applications**– two separate trips with Machon Torah v'HaAretz to delve into halachot of agriculture in Eretz Yisrael
- ▶ **Wanders of Har HaZeitim** – two trips with Josh Wander to see the new Jewish neighborhoods on Har HaZeitim
- ▶ **The Living Jordan Valley** – meet a farmer growing the balsam tree for biblical & medicinal purposes
- ▶ **Neighbors in Shomron** – Meet modern day pioneers in Har Bracha, Mitzpe Yosef, Elon Moreh & the Zimmermans of Itamar
- ▶ **In the Footsteps of Rav Aryeh Levin** with his grandson, Rabbi Benji Levene – two separate tours through the Nachlaot neighborhood to learn about the famed Reb Aryeh
- ▶ **4 Unique Paths through the Old City** – explored all sides of the Old City from Gei Ben Hinnom, to Har Tzion, all the quarters and around the walls and gates
- ▶ **Hevron** – Celebrating the Life & Death of Sarah Imeinu in honor of Parshat Chayei Sarah



**2,500**  
participants in  
OU Israel Travel trips  
this year

## JCHAT

The OU Israel Center launched JCHAT - The Jerusalem Community Hub for Anglos and Torah in 2016 to provide inspiration and connection for young professionals, through Shiurim, social events, and Rabbinic mentorship and guidance.

**Events include large communal gatherings:** concerts, holiday celebrations, Tiyulim, Inspirational Shiurim from a variety of Torah personalities, volunteer opportunities, a weekly Dvar Torah video, and relationship and self-growth workshops. As part of our ongoing efforts to facilitate young adults to meet potential spouses we also provide periodic gatherings for young

single Olim to meet one another and receive relationship advice from professional matchmakers.

### 2019 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- ▶ Series on Relationship Workshops with World Renowned Author, **Mrs. Chana Levitan**
- ▶ TuB'Av Rooftop Social Featuring Live Music with the **Solomon Brothers**
- ▶ 4 Tapas and Torah Special Events with **Rabbi Sam Shor**
- ▶ Pre-Rosh Hashanah Chizuk Evening with **Rabbi Menachem Nissel**



## CHESED4U

**The Chesed4U** network connects Elderly Olim in need of companionship or assistance with volunteer Olim to foster acts of Chesed for hundreds of elderly English speaking olim in Anglo communities in Israel. Specific volunteer activities include hospital and/or homebound visits, Chevruta Torah study, Chatline Companion visits, performing simple errands, helping with doctor's visits, social and cultural activities.

### 2019 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Chanukah Event** - with 100 people in attendance at the OU Israel Center. Included

special guest, Director of Volunteers from the Yerushalayim Municipality.

- ▶ **Bubee Zadee Program** - 'Bubbe' is the Yiddish word for Grandmother and Zaidy for "Grandfather." Both come together with groups of young volunteers in Israel on seminary and yeshiva programs to create meaningful intergenerational encounters with Yerushalayim's English Speaking elderly.

**87** Volunteers Provided Assistance to Hundreds of Needy Residents of Yerushalayim



## L'AYLA WOMEN'S LEARNING INITIATIVE

The L'Ayla Women's Learning Initiative is dedicated to inspiring Jewish women of all ages and backgrounds and grow in their Avodat Hashem. L'Ayla programming consists of a wide variety of classes, inspirational trips, Torah and Tarbut workshops, learning opportunities, and mother-daughter programs.

In 2019, L'Ayla continued with its monthly Rosh Chodesh seminars in memory of **Mrs. Linda Pruwer-Brachfeld a"h** which consist of a full morning of learning, focusing on the Halachic, Hashkafic, Tanach, and personal perspectives of the upcoming month.

### L'AYLA'S ONGOING ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- ▶ **Time Out for Torah** - weekly video Dvar Torah for women
- ▶ **Expansion of the pre-holiday** - Mother/ Daughter events to various communities
- ▶ **Launch of the mother-daughter** Bat Mitzvah program
- ▶ **Inspirational women's tiyulim**
- ▶ **Various "Mini-Midrasha" series** with a morning/evening full of Halacha, Tanach, and Hashkafa classes.
- ▶ **ALIT summer learning program for post-college** young women (in conjunction with OU Women's Initiative)
- ▶ **Launch of the monthly community** women's Bet Midrash in Maaleh Adumim
- ▶ **Torah and Tarbut workshops including** - Challa and Chassidut, Shavuot learning and cheesecake baking, writing seminar, and the on-going activities of both the Dorot Inter-Generational Choir, and the Women's Performance Community of Jerusalem.

### L'AYLA'S DYNAMIC FACULTY INCLUDES:

- ▶ Rebbetzin Pearl Borow
- ▶ Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz
- ▶ Mrs. Zemira Ozarowski
- ▶ Rabbi Chanoch Ozarowski
- ▶ Mrs. Shprintzee Rappaport
- ▶ Rebbetzin Sylvie Shatz
- ▶ Rebbetzin Shira Smiles

More than **1,500**  
women participated in  
Rosh Chodesh Seminars  
this year



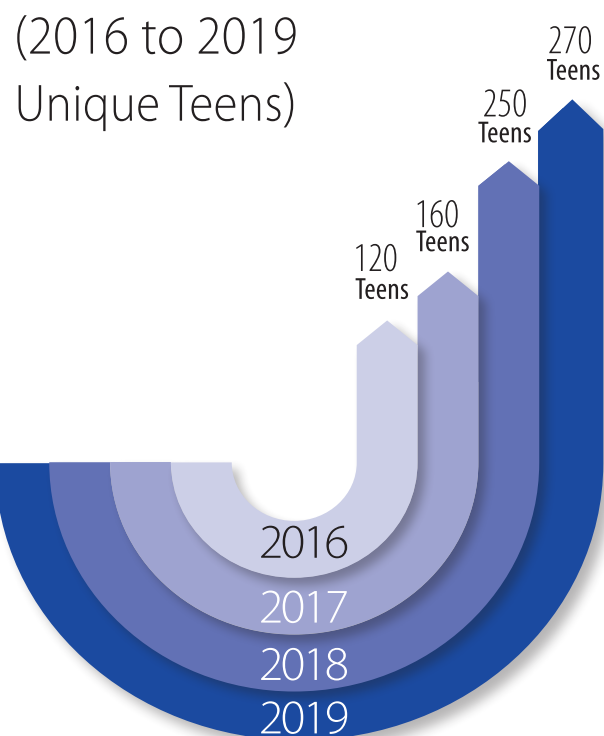
# NCSY ISRAEL

The teenage years are challenging even under optimal conditions; add the additional trials and tribulations of Aliyah to the mix, and the challenge is even greater. Anglo teens in Israel confront tough questions of identity and acculturation: They have left behind communities and familiar surroundings, and are not yet comfortable in their new environment. They struggle with cultural differences, social limitations, the language barrier, and the desire to contribute to society without a framework in which they can do so.

NCSY Israel helps English-Speaking teenage immigrants integrate into Israeli society by providing a framework that allows them to take pride in who they are and where they come from, as they become fully acculturated members of Israeli society. For a growing number of immigrants from English-speaking communities, NCSY Israel is a crucial stepping stone in the process of absorption, producing socially well adjusted, emotionally healthy, proud Jewish Israeli teens.

This year NCSY Israel transitioned to a chapter model with five chapters throughout Israel: Yerushalayim, Bet Shemesh, Modin, Gush Ezion and Ra'anana (a new chapter). Chapters, equipped with a chapter director couple and specific advisor staff, are able to provide deeper relationships with teens, as they coordinate three events each month. In addition to chapter programming, NCSY has still maintained one regional event each month enabling teens to reconnect with friends from across Israel.

## NCSY GROWTH OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS



## EVENTS IN 2019

- ▶ **Rock Climbing:**  
An event for 70 participants from all over Israel
- ▶ **NCSY 5th Annual Kickoff:**  
165 NCSYers and staff attended the event at Hebrew University in Yerushalayim including inflatable games, sport tables, unlimited Pizza Hut, popcorn, cotton candy and the start of meaningful relationships.
- ▶ **Ein Gedaway Shabbaton:**  
150 teens and staff attended Ein Gedi overlooking the Dead Sea packed with activities, Ruach and Inspiration.
- ▶ **Mug Mania** - a night of fun-filled mug painting and mug cakes
- ▶ Football Friday in Beit Shemesh
- ▶ Latte & Learning
- ▶ Girls Challah Bake
- ▶ Ra'anana Chapter Kickoff event - Torah & Toppings
- ▶ Kumsitz and Fondue
- ▶ Chashmonaim Shabbaton
- ▶ Marathon Events (Pasta Party and BBQ)
- ▶ Camp Dror Leadership Paint Night
- ▶ Tikkun Leil Shavuot

A Total of  
**800** Unique  
Teens have been  
empowered

"Before our challah bake, we made the bracha for the hafrashah, discussing the reasoning and importance behind the Mitzvah. We then prayed for ourselves and Klal Yisroel and wished a refuah shleima to those that need"  
- Talia Rapps, NSCYer from Efrat.

### NCSY IMPACT IN 2019

**95%** of NCSY Israel participants are planning to attend Post-High School frameworks (Army, National Service).

**90%** see themselves living in Israel in 5 years

**82%** improved attitude towards living in Israel

**72%** indicated that they feel more supported as an Oleh.



# YACHAD ISRAEL

Yachad Israel is dedicated to enhancing the opportunities of individuals with disabilities, ensuring their participation in the full spectrum of life activities. Yachad members participate in social, vocational, and recreational activities which enable them to achieve this goal. Yachad Israel chapters are located in Yerushalayim and Beit Shemesh with participants coming from all over Israel. Yachad Israel is a member of the National Jewish Council for Disabilities.

Our diverse services include, but are not limited to: social programming for all age groups, counseling services for individuals and families, weekend retreats, parental support services, vocational training and job placement, professional advocates and community outreach, summer camp experiences, trips for individuals with mobility and/or special learning needs, and social skills development.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### Yachad Vocational Training Program

Yachad Israel's Vocational Training program serves special needs individuals who have completed school and are ready, or almost ready, to work in a mainstream environment, but are in need of assistance to enhance their job skills or job techniques. The Yachad Vocational Training program helps individuals prepare for a professional environment by guiding them through the 'work readiness

process', helping individuals with resume writing and interviewing techniques. Participants can learn to practice skills related to professionalism, food preparation, site maintenance, interpersonal skills and personal responsibility in activities and classes including music, cooking, animal therapy, and art therapy. It is our goal that participants will gain the confidence necessary to remove any barriers towards achieving their personal and economic independence.

## TOTAL OF 12 SHABBATONS

During 2019 Yachad Israel hosted 12 community Shabbatons with 1,250 attendees in Modiin, Ramat Beit Shemesh, Beit Shemesh, Yeshivat Reishit, Chashmonaim, Efrat, Alon Shvut, Raanana, Baka, Jerusalem Gardens Hotel, Shaarey Ha'ir Hotel, Ramat Rachel Hotel.

- ▶ Slice of Torah – Weekly Learning Program with Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh
- ▶ Color Run (850 Yachad Runners)
- ▶ Buddy Program
- ▶ Paint Night
- ▶ Movie Night
- ▶ Art Night
- ▶ Bowling
- ▶ Pre Purim Party
- ▶ Hapoel Yerushalayim Basketball Game
- ▶ Glow in the Dark Party
- ▶ Pizza 4 Soldiers

- ▶ 4 day trip to Eilat
- ▶ Lag Baomer BBQ
- ▶ Sushi Making
- ▶ Weekly Sports Chug
- ▶ Weekly Art Chug
- ▶ Weekly hub (afternoon program)
- ▶ End of the Year Banquet

## New Activities in 2019

- ▶ Yachad runs a **social hub** (full afternoon program) twice a week which is free and open to anyone. Structured activities and dinner is provided.
- ▶ **Yachad's Monthly Pop-up Cafe!** The Inclusion Center becomes a Pop-up Cafe run by the Vocational center members, for a night once a month. Over 130 people visit the cafe each time and enjoy a lavish dinner.
- ▶ **Basketball and Zumba** - New weekly afternoon Chugim have opened up. Basketball for boys and Zumba for girls.





- 130** members with disabilities
- 12** Shabbatonim
- 32** summer programs
- 850** Yachad runners in Color Run

# CAMP DROR

Since its establishment in 1995, Camp Dror, a two-and-a-half-week Orthodox Jewish sleepaway camp for youth entering grades 5-10, has provided thousands of boys and girls from Israel and around the world with a unique combination of summer fun, Zionism and Torah learning. Located in Israel's majestic north, Camp Dror offers a wide array of activities, including hiking, kayaking, learning, Chesed projects, swimming, sports, arts and crafts, and more. The boys' camp is located in Chispin, and the girls' camp in Moshav Keshet, both in the beautiful Golan Heights. Our mature and experienced staff create a warm atmosphere in which deep and lasting relationships with the campers and between the campers flourish. The easy-going and open atmosphere allows campers to grow, each in their own unique way, while meeting new friends from diverse backgrounds including Hebrew-Speaking Israelis, English-Speaking Israelis, and youth from all over the world. While they enjoy all the fun of a summer sleepaway camp, our campers also learn about themselves, their heritage and homeland, and about other Jewish communities and traditions.

**Since its establishment Camp Dror has provided a meaningful summer experience in Israel for more than 5,250 Jewish youth.**

## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED THROUGH CAMP DROR PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Belgium
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ Finland
- ▶ France
- ▶ Gibraltar
- ▶ Israel
- ▶ Switzerland
- ▶ Turkey
- ▶ UK
- ▶ United States





## CAMP DROR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

**70%** - of Camp Dror parents feel their children returned empowered to realize their inner strengths and received tools for their adult life.

**92%** - of staff members are former campers.

"I love how Camp Dror feels like a family. No matter what group you are in, everyone feels together. It's one of the many reasons why I can't wait to return to Camp Dror 2020."

- Akiva S.

**300** Jewish boys and girls had a meaningful summer experience

# TORAH TIDBITS

Torah Tidbits is the largest weekly English-language Torah publication in Israel, reaching over 40,000 readers country-wide. In addition, the Torah Tidbits website and weekly email enhance the Shabbat of countless individuals and world-wide communities. Torah Tidbits is filled with Divrei Torah on the Parsha, Halachic questions and answers, and a comprehensive listing of the OU Israel Center's activities and other community services.

Torah Tidbits offers something for readers at every level of learning: The Parsha Recap helps people who are not as comfortable in Hebrew keep up with the weekly Torah reading, while highlight columns by leading Torah thinkers, including **Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb** and **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks**, provide food for thought even for seasoned scholars. Special holiday editions and pull-outs keep readers

updated and inspired throughout the cycle of the Jewish year.

Torah Tidbits is published in a variety of formats, including large-print for the visually impaired and an email newsletter for readers outside Israel and those who cannot receive a hard copy. Since its establishment, Torah Tidbits has grown exponentially to meet the demand on behalf of Israel's English-speaking Torah observant Jewish community.

In 2019, the publishing and advertising of Torah Tidbits was outsourced to an independent Media consulting company - Anglo Media - in order to increase its circulation internationally and nationally.

## PERSONAL STORY

"Shabbat and Tel Aviv is a long standing love story.

The giants that founded Tel Aviv, people like Rav Kook, Mayor Dizengoff, Chaim Bialik, and Ahad HaAm championed the beauty and importance of Shabbat from Tel Aviv's earliest days. Shabbat is God's gift to each and every Jew, but we know that Shabbat in Tel Aviv is just something extra special. Shabbat and Tel Aviv are just a perfect match made in heaven.

Having the honor to import Torah Tidbits into Tel Aviv makes the day even more meaningful especially as a native English speaker. I get tremendous nachas watching the piles of TTs get gobbled up early in Shul Shabbos morning."

- Jay Shultz, President of the Am Yisrael Foundation

## TORAH TIDBITS COPIES ANNUALLY

**425** Communities Served



**500,000** Copies

**450** Communities Served



**550,000** Copies

**475** Communities Served



**560,000** Copies

**480** Communities Served



**570,000** Copies



# Torah Tidbits

מאי 2019 | 15 תמוז 5779

פרשת האזינו  
PARSHAT HA'AZINU

**SEVEN SPECIAL BURSTS**  
By Rebbetzin Shirra Smiles  
page 42

**LEIL HOSHANA RABBA**  
Learning program  
October 24th  
See schedule page

**YERUSHALAYM**  
Candles 4:15pm

# Torah Tidbits

מאי 2019 | 15 תמוז 5779

פרשת כי תצט  
PARSHAT KI TITZET

**ELUL: GETTING THE MESSAGE**  
By Rabbi David Aschke  
page 50

**TORAH YERUSHALAYM**  
Learning and Musical Selection  
October 24th  
page 42 for details

**YERUSHALAYM**  
Candles 6:13pm

# Torah Tidbits

מאי 2019 | 15 תמוז 5779

פרשת ויגש  
PARSHAT VAYGASH

**SEVEN SPECIAL BURSTS**  
By Rabbi David Aschke  
page 50

**TORAH YERUSHALAYM**  
Learning and Musical Selection  
October 24th  
page 42 for details

**YERUSHALAYM**  
Candles 4:02pm

# Torah Tidbits

מאי 2019 | 15 תמוז 5779

פרשת מו  
PARSHAT MOACH

**SEVEN SPECIAL BURSTS**  
By Rabbi David Aschke  
page 50

**DVAR TORAH**  
ON THE PARSHA  
By Rabbi David Aschke  
page 50

**YERUSHALAYM**  
Candles 4:15pm

# OU-JLIC AT IDC HERZLIYA & BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY

The Orthodox Union's **Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OU-JLIC)** was created to help Jewish students observe key aspects of Jewish life on college campuses. Currently, young couples serve as teachers and Torah role models on 23 university campuses in North America, learning with students one-on-one, coordinating weekly classes, event and community building. In September 2017, OU-JLIC expanded to include its first Israeli campus at IDC Herzliya with **Rav Josh and Margot Botwinick** and in 2019 a second campus at Bar Ilan University with **Rav Yehuda and Chagit Peles**.

OU-JLIC in Israel has made in-roads in making English-Speaking young adults feel welcome at Israeli universities, providing them with a sense of community. For example, at IDC Herzliya, in the three years since the OU-JLIC couple, Rabbi Josh and Margot Botwinick, began the entire dynamic for Jewish life on campus changed. For the first time, they have minyanim 3 times a day, an unbelievably vibrant Shabbat community with personal and Halachic guidance, Chavrutot, Shiurim and Chesed events. There's 1-3 shiurim every day, with guest

speakers, high level shiurim and fundamentals of Judaism. Thanks to OU-JLIC, Jewish life for Olim and Anglos in Herzliya is flourishing and dozens of students are moving into the community. OU-JLIC Herzliya has provided Jewish educational and life services for more than 600 students from over 40 different countries.

## ANNUAL ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

**Ongoing Activities:** Daily Lunch 'N Learns, Week-night Shiurim, monthly guest speakers, weekly Gemara Shiur and Tanach Shiur, weekly Chessed - Workshops, experiential education, Shabbatonim, hikes, Challah bakes

**Mentorship:** Chavrutot, one-on-one mentoring, Halachic guidance, Chattan and Kallah teachers, and matchmaking, student leadership mentorship opportunities

**Holiday Programs:** All night Shavuot learning, Megillah reading & Seuda with 250 students, Eicha Over the Ocean, Sufganiyot on a Boat, Herzliya Sefarim Sale, Chanukah's 8 Crazy Nights event.

comfortable, grow in their Torah learning and commitment to Judaism. - Arielle Stephenson, Australia

I didn't grow up in a religious home but I've always loved Israel. IDC seemed like a natural fit. I was surprised to find myself slowly falling in love with the OU JLIC community. When everyone is going to Kabbalat Shabbat, you want to be

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- ▶ 5 community engagements/marriages. One proposal at the Botwinick house!
- ▶ Monthly Student-Led Friday night dinners on campus with over 200 students
- ▶ Lag Baomer Bonfire with 350 Students
- ▶ First Ever Purim on Campus with 350 Students
- ▶ All night learning with 250 Students
- ▶ First ever NLP - Nightly learning program 8-10pm Monday-Thursday learning
- ▶ Engagement with over 600 students from over 40 different countries

there too. And when the "cool" thing to do during lunch is go to the lunch 'n learn with Rav Josh, then you go too. I'm slowly becoming more religious and learning more about my heritage. My faith and depth of understanding Judaism is growing each day.

-Aliya Nussbaum, USA

## PERSONAL STORY

This community is magical. Anyone who comes for Shabbat wants to move here! It's a community filled with passionate students who recognize they are part of something larger. Everyone I speak to has another idea about the community, how we can encourage more people to move in, feel com-





OU ISRAEL FREE SPIRIT

# ISRAEL BIRTHRIGHT

Israel Free Spirit, an official trip provider for Birthright Israel, helps keep the global Jewish community vibrant, relevant, and growing. Every year, Israel Free Spirit provides life-changing trips to Israel for thousands of college students and young professionals from diverse backgrounds, including customized trips, catering to NCSY Alumni, Yachad special-needs adults, Modern Orthodox applicants and more.

Israel Free Spirit continues with Jewish follow-up learning opportunities that connect Birthright trip participants with their Jewish Heritage. Some of our post-trip extension options include classes on basic Judaism, unique tours, and housing in Yerushalayim's Old City, with facilities that cater specifically to Israel Free Spirit. One of our most successful and sought-after post trip "Plus" extensions is called 'Eilat Heart and Soul.'

This 5-day extension trip, an add-on to the 10-day Birthright Israel Trip, offers a mix of sun, fun, and spiritual exploration. After completing the Birthright trip, participants spend 5 additional days hiking, snorkeling, and touring the South of Israel while taking an opportunity to meditate, practice yoga, study Jewish texts, and explore Jewish values and Jewish identity.

## IN 2019, 2,640 JEWISH YOUNG ADULTS STRENGTHENED THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY FROM:

- ▶ Argentina
- ▶ Colombia
- ▶ Israel
- ▶ United States
- ▶ Brazil
- ▶ France
- ▶ Russia
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ England
- ▶ Spain





**308**

Israeli soldiers  
& students  
participated

“This trip gave me a chance to celebrate my family’s past and continued growth through struggles. I left Israel with more questions but with pride knowing that I have found a connection to this family and to a strong and resilient culture.”

- Morgan Lavendar from Colorado

“Yachad Birthright gave my daughter, Ronit, the chance to experience Israel with peers at her pace and with her special needs in mind. The trip was well organized and the advisors were warm and caring. Months later, Ronit still talks about the highlights of her ten days in Israel. Thanks to Yachad Birthright, she had a great adventure!”

- Sharon Peerless, Mother of Birthright Participant

More than  
**760** post-trip  
extensions

# MAKOM BALEV

## YOUTH MOVEMENT

**OU Israel Makom Balev Youth Centers** offer leisure-time activities and leadership programs for kids aged 10-18 from the National Religious school system in Israel's peripheral and low socio-economic areas. Since Makom Balev opened its doors, tens of thousands of teens and pre-teens have participated in activities throughout the country, enjoying programming that deepens their connection to Jewish Values and the Land of Israel.

Makom Balev offers values-based programming and constructive, empowering experiences that connect teens to the community. A major element of Makom Balev's message is the importance of community service: The counselors organize and oversee volunteer projects in which Makom Balev teens assist the elderly, help needy families, volunteer in hospitals and senior citizen homes, and distribute holiday gift packages to members of Israel's security forces to express support and appreciation for their service. Makom Balev's impact has been gratifying and significant. Many Makom Balev members have gone on to leadership roles at the vanguard of Israeli Society.

### MAKOM BALEV BRANCHES:

Beit Shemesh, Hazor Hagelilit, Holon, Katzrin, Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Malachi, Maale Adumim, Nahariya, Netanya, Rehovot, and Sderot.

### PERSONAL STORY:

Eliel is a 13 year old boy in the Makom Balev program in Sderot who also participated this past year in Makom Balev's Gesharim Bar Mitzvah program. Eliel lost his father at a young age and recently lost his mother as well. Sharing his pain, the entire Makom Balev chapter showered Eliel with love and compassion, visiting him while he was sitting Shiva, each making sure that there was a minyan at his home so he could pray and honor his mother.

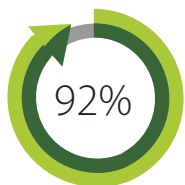
When it came time for Eliel to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah, Eliel's Makom Balev family all attended to help him celebrate his coming of age and transition into adulthood. Even the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Sderot both came to attend, to praise Eliel and honor his mother. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. Four months after his traumatic event, Eliel has been strengthened by his friends and mentor from the Makom Balev program, coming to each meeting with a smile on his face. He truly gives his all to the whole group. His continued dedication and resilience to push forward, despite his personal tragedy, is a monument to the impact Makom Balev has had on his life.

### ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS:

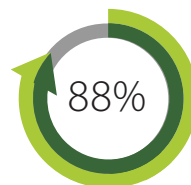
- ▶ The Gesharim Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program
- ▶ Leadership Program
- ▶ Tefillin Workshop
- ▶ Photo-Therapy Course

**142**  
Monthly hours  
of one-on-one  
conversations

### PROGRAM IMPACT 2019 ON MAKOM BALEV YOUTH:



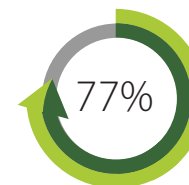
of youth desire to serve their country either through the IDF or National Service



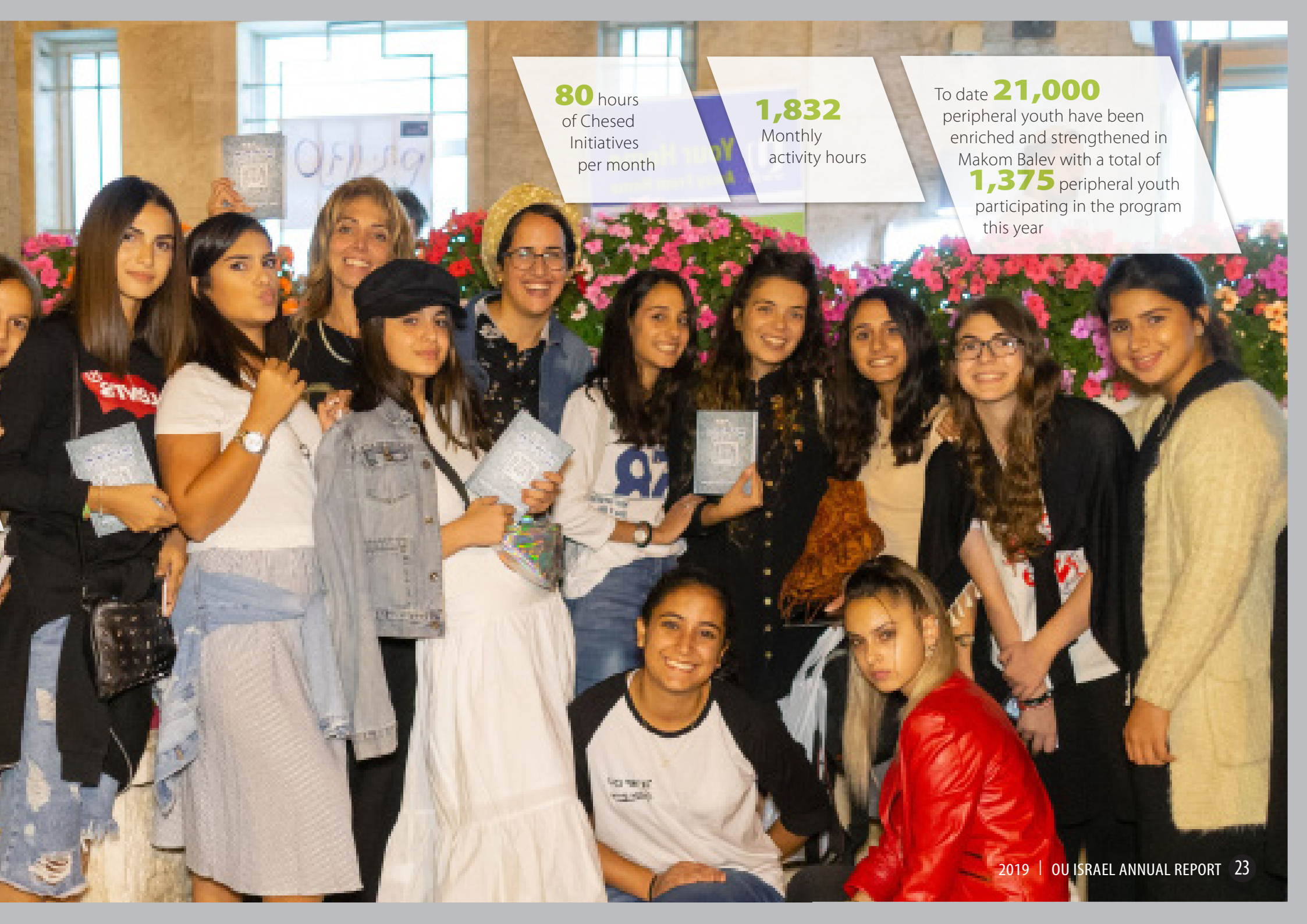
improved their interpersonal skills



developed a positive attitude towards Israel



give back to society



**80** hours  
of Chesed  
Initiatives  
per month

**1,832**  
Monthly  
activity hours

To date **21,000**  
peripheral youth have been  
enriched and strengthened in  
Makom Balev with a total of  
**1,375** peripheral youth  
participating in the program  
this year

THE JACK E. GINDI

# ORAITA PROGRAM

**The Jack E. Gindi Oraita Program** serves as a supportive environment for at-risk teens primarily in low socio-economic communities. At-risk young adults are often forced to deal with a variety of personal, familial, and social problems. The majority of at-risk adolescents lack a significant role model and require assistance in a myriad of fields. The Oraita program reaches youth who are exposed to street culture and provides them with a safe place and stepping stone towards independent living. We strive to help them construct a positive self-identity, and help them create and improve various life skills.

The Oraita Club offers a balance of fun and values, games and growth. Whether in a discussion group or around the billiards table, teens form close relationships with counselors who are mentors and role models, and friendships that will last a lifetime. We are proud that 92% of our OU Israel Youth Centers graduating seniors enrolled in Pre-Army Preparation Programs, Yeshivot, National Service or the IDF.

## LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

Akko, Ariel, Dimona, Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Shmona, Nahariya, Nazareth Illit, Ofakim, Rechovot, Sderot, Tiberias, Yaffo.

## ONGOING ORAITA PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Volunteering in the community
- ▶ Community Building
- ▶ Pre-Military Preparation Program
- ▶ Selichot Tours
- ▶ Leadership Program
- ▶ A Dog Caretaker Training Course
- ▶ The Amit Le'Derech Mentor Program - A New Mentoring Program for Oraita Alumni

## PERSONAL STORY

Yigal's father abandoned him and his mother when he was young. His mother re-married a man who was physically abusive, and his home was full of yelling, hitting, and fighting. It wasn't unusual to see broken ceramic on the floor of their kitchen after plates were thrown during a fight. Understandably, Yigal did not want to spend time at home. He started spending a lot of his time on the streets and was slowly plummeting downhill. When he was in 11th grade, Oraita decided to take him under its wings. The counselors made sure he always felt comfortable in the Oraita Club, and he spent many afternoons and evenings in the safe haven of the Youth Center. Thanks to the help of his counselors, over time Yigal left the street culture and became exposed to healthy families. He decided that he wanted to turn his life around and make a difference. When he told his mother that he wanted to join a combat unit in the IDF, she was adamantly opposed, but he realized that he had the drive to prove himself as a combat soldier. He did not want a menial job in the army that would lead to a menial job post army. With the help of Oraita, he fulfilled his dream of being drafted into the prestigious Givati Brigade. At his induction ceremony, Yigal's mother came over to his counselors. She was very emotional, hugged us and thanked us for everything – "Thank you for taking my son to such a great place so he can move forward in life."

We are proud that **92%** of our OU Israel Youth Centers graduating seniors enrolled in Pre-Army Preparation Programs, Yeshivot, National Service or the IDF.

**854** Youth in 12 Centers



## **CHAVERIM MAKSHIVIM - Friends that Listen**

This year OU Israel partnered with Chaverim Makshivim “Friends that Listen” in order to address the inability of teenagers to obtain answers to religious and social dilemmas. Chaverim Makshivim is the only address for traditional youth from every stream to ask common coming of age questions such as relations between the sexes, family members and their parents, personal fulfillment, etc. Chaverim Makshivim answers inquiring youth’s questions through a call-in center and online portal.

Since its establishment in 2010, Chaverim Makshivim volunteers have answered 40,000 inquiries including 12,600 monthly views of its website with 60 monthly calls.

### **PERSONAL STORY**

“Naomi (pseudonym), 17-year-old girl who became religious when she was 12 and whose mother became Charedi but whose father remained secular, asked how can I act with my boyfriend who is, and wants to remain, secular?” Naomi said she loves her boyfriend and wants to get married to him. She was torn between her religious observance, her family and her feelings. The Chaverim Makshivim volunteer who responded to her, advised Naomi she should not feel pressure and rush into anything and that she should take the time to sort through her feelings and think about her future – that time would help her find the answer. Thanks to Chaverim Makshivim Naomi has a much clearer idea of what her expectations for dating and love are at her young and impressionable age.”

THE PEARL & HAROLD JACOBS

# ZULA OUTREACH CENTER

**The Pearl and Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center** is a safe haven for at-risk teens, primarily from Religious Zionist backgrounds. Typically, these teens and young adults have become estranged from their families, teachers, and normative frameworks, and are often experiencing a crisis in faith. Many are involved in substance abuse or other anti-social behaviors.

Located in the heart of Yerushalayim, the Zula's team of counselors and educational professionals guide troubled teens, and helps them return to normative social, religious, and scholastic frameworks. The Zula is a place of warmth and acceptance, where teens are welcome to drop in and "hang out," as an alternative to the night life out on the streets of the city. The Zula's come-as-you-are policy creates a non-judgmental atmosphere of mutual trust and acceptance that allows troubled kids to hear and be heard, to learn, to connect with positive role models, and to find their way back to their families, schools and communities.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN 2019:

- ▶ Nourishing Body and Soul - A Physical and Mental Health Seminar
- ▶ Art Therapy
- ▶ Midreshet Zusha – a new program for high risk young women
- ▶ Self Awareness Voyage
- ▶ Zula Band & Zula Music Initiative Including Recordings

## 2019 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS:

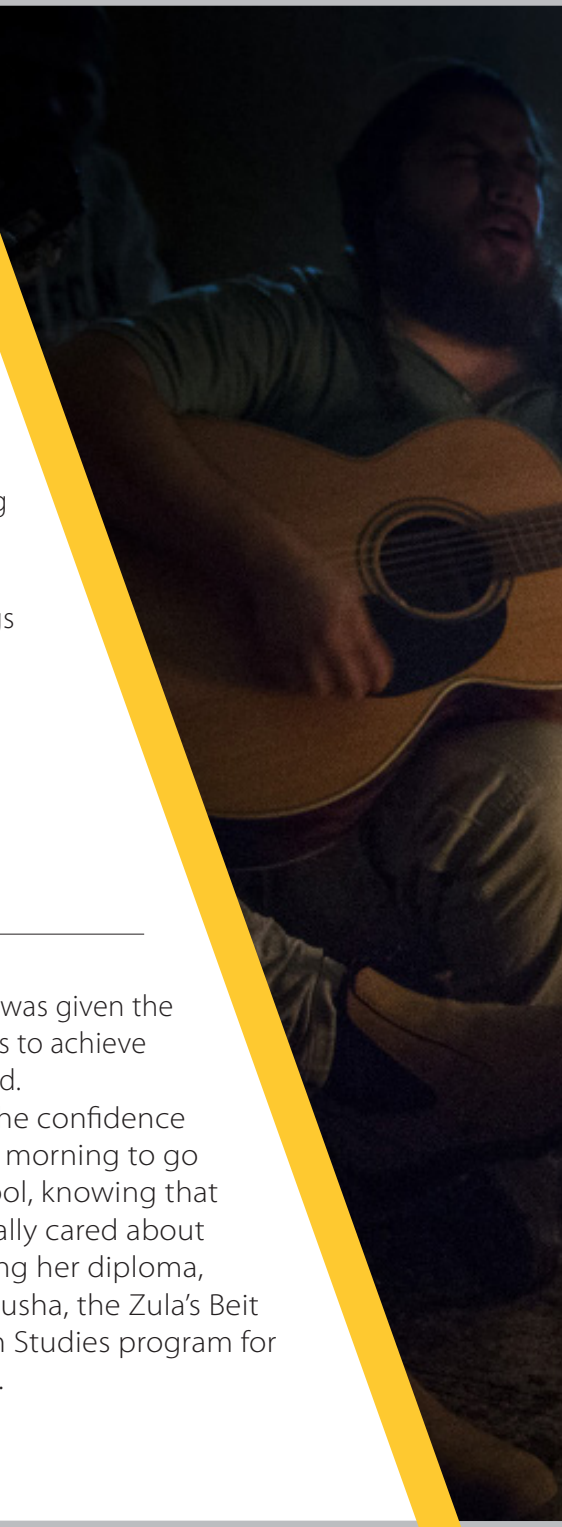
- ▶ Purim Seudah
- ▶ Freedom Fighters – A Summer Program
- ▶ Yom Yerushalayim Activities
- ▶ Uman Expedition
- ▶ Musical Summer Celebration

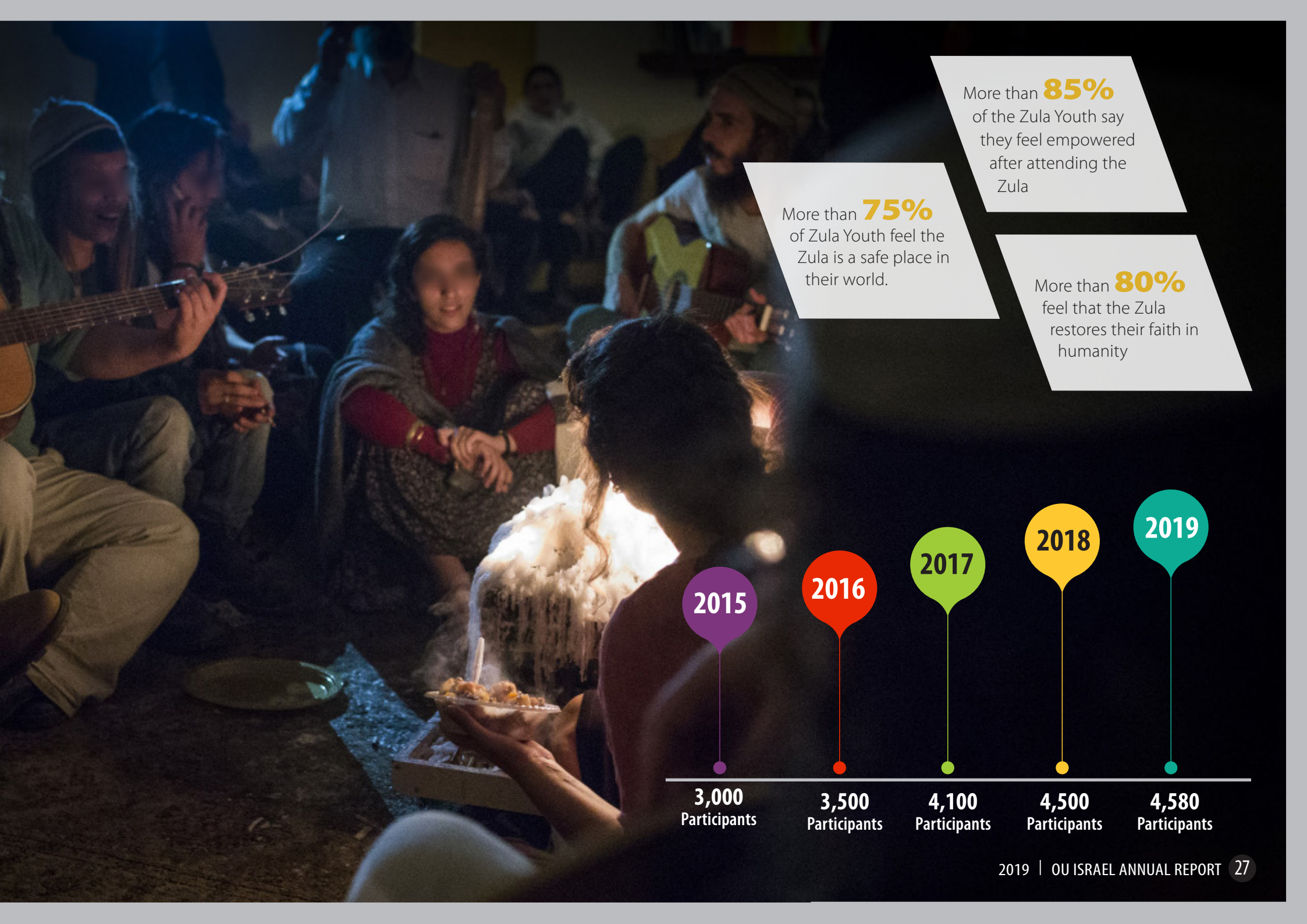
## PERSONAL STORY:

Tali (19) grew up knowing from a young age that she would return to Israel from America. At age 14, she moved in with her grandparents attending a secular boarding school. Growing up in a religious family, Tali still had some unresolved issues about life, her identity, the world and her place in it. Tali turned to alcohol and the streets of Yerushalayim for answers, only to end up at the Zula where she found

what she was looking for. At the Zula, Tali found the home she never knew and the people who accepted her for who she was. There, Tali would spend the next two years travelling to Yerushalayim to spend her Tuesdays, Thursdays and Shabbats being spiritually and emotionally nurtured and find her way in life. Naama, (a Zula counselor) worked with Tali to help her become sober and realize who she wanted to be.

At the Zula, Tali was given the tools and means to achieve what she desired. For Tali it was the confidence to get up each morning to go and finish school, knowing that someone actually cared about her. After getting her diploma, Tali attended Zusha, the Zula's Beit Midrash Jewish Studies program for young women.

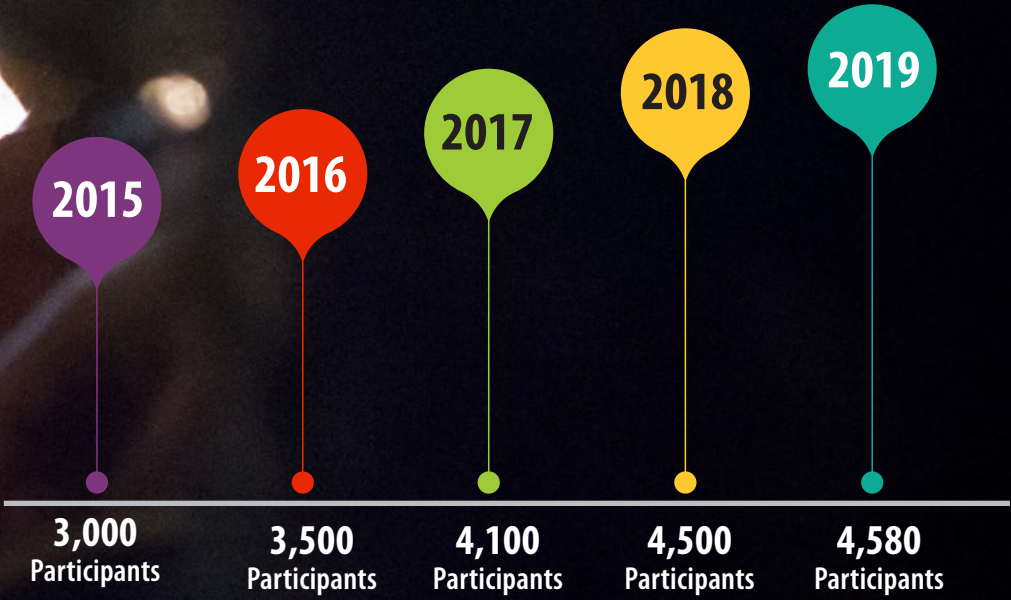




More than **75%** of Zula Youth feel the Zula is a safe place in their world.

More than **85%** of the Zula Youth say they feel empowered after attending the Zula

More than **80%** feel that the Zula restores their faith in humanity



# OU ISRAEL'S 40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



## YOM HAATZMAUT

OU Israel kicked off its 40th Year celebration with its newly established tradition of a special evening Tefilla at the Tachana Ha'Rishona (First Station) with 2,500 people in attendance, publicly showing their praise and gratitude for the State of Israel and the eternal home of the Jewish People.



## YOM YERUSHALAYIM

On Yom Yerushalayim, over 1,000 OU Israel family members and supporters gathered at the Armon Ha'Natziv Promenade overlooking the Old City of Yerushalayim including many new Olim and Jews of all stripes and backgrounds to celebrate the miracle that is Yerushalayim, Ir Hakodesh and OU Israel's role over the past 40 years in carrying out activities for the residents and visitors of Yerushalayim.



## YAAKOV SHWEKEY CONCERT

This past summer OU Israel highlighted its endeavors making a difference in the lives of Israel's peripheral youth and youth at risk by sponsoring a mega event concert featuring Yaakov Shwekey, attended by several hundred youth from OU Israel's Zula Outreach Center including a video showcasing the work of the Center.



## TORAH YERUSHALAYIM

This past October, in commemoration of OU Israel's 40th Anniversary, OU Israel hosted the inaugural Torah Yerushalayim event, in our eternal capital, Yerushalayim, in memory of **David & Norma Fund z"l** by their children, and with the support of the Yerushalayim Municipality. More than 2,200 people joined us for the numerous shiurim led by some of the greatest Rabbanim & Rabbaniot in the Rabbinic World, divided into categories including Tanach, Halacha, Hashkafa. Sessions were appropriate for individuals of all backgrounds, from beginner to scholar and every level in between.

Torah Yerushalayim serves as the premier international venue of Torah learning from the Jewish Holy City. The event primarily serves English-Speaking Jews living in Israel and other Jewish communities around the world including North America, England, Australia, Hong Kong and South Africa. The day includes 16 hours of live Torah learning at the Ramada Hotel in Yerushalayim with live streaming by Arutz 7 and with shiurim archived on the OU Israel website.

ORTHOODOX UNION PRESENTS  
TORAH  
YERUSHALAYIM



"To recognize that we came from Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Yom Hazikaron, and to realize the miracle of being here is just unbelievable."

- Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, Yerushalayim

"Where we were standing today we didn't have and now today we're all here, we're Am Yisrael, all united. There's so much that has happened here, and there is so much that will unfold here thanks to OU Israel."

- Shawna, Yerushalayim

"There is no better way than to celebrate the 40 years of OU Israel's incredible work other than a day dedicated to learning Torah on the eve of Yom Kippur. We were surprised to see the hundreds who came knocking on the doors of the hotel in the early morning in great anticipation for this great day. This shows the great thirst of the Jewish community for Torah to prepare themselves spiritually for these days. I pray that in the merit of this day that the Nation of Israel will be written and sealed for a good life and unity."

- Rabbi Avi Berman, Executive Director OU Israel

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# OU ISRAEL IN THE PUBLIC EYE



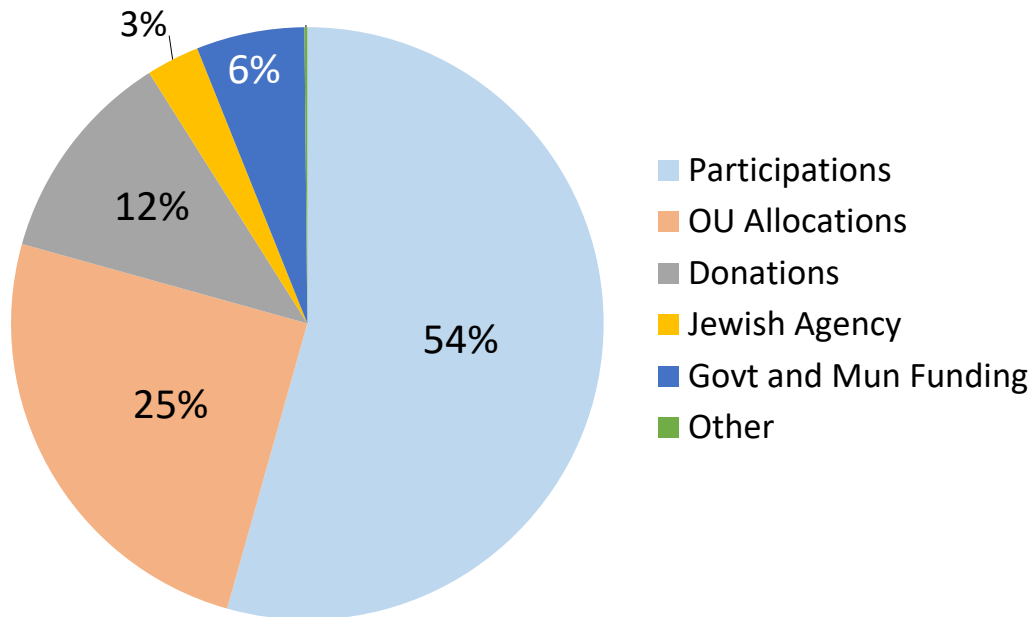


## FUNDING SOURCES

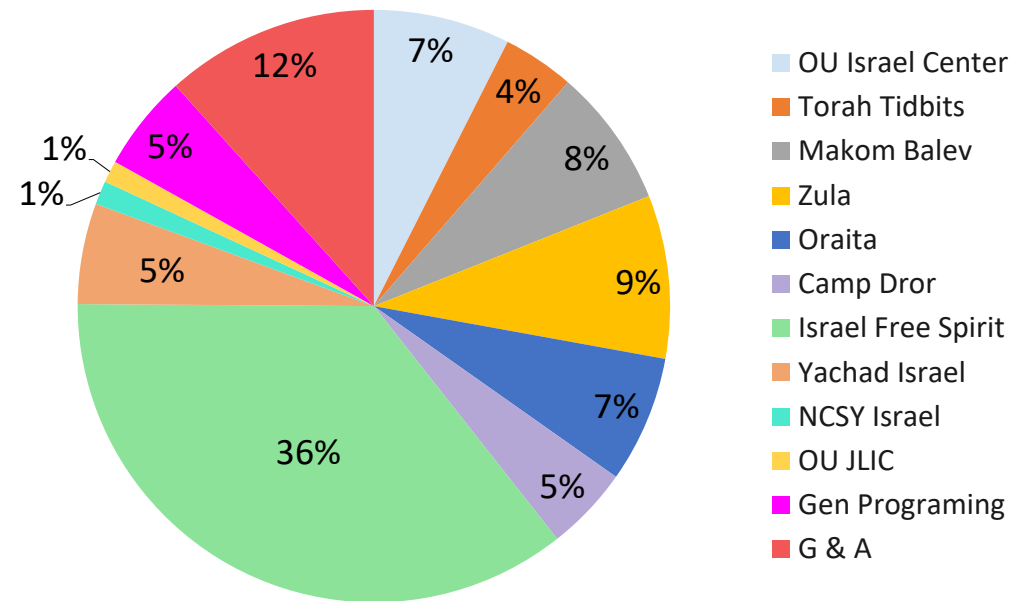
## EXPENDITURES

TOTAL FUNDS  
31,214,125 NIS (\$8,670,590)

### Funding Sources



### Expenditures



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*Thank you*

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