

Yeled v'Yalda Ink

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2013

BORO PARK (BP) • CANARSIE (C) • CROWN HEIGHTS (CH) • FLATBUSH (F) • STATEN ISLAND (SI) • WILLIAMSBURG (W)

What's New at HR?

December-It is December! How could that be? Our Human Resources team has been working full speed since the beginning of July. Days turned into weeks, weeks turned into months – and believe it or not – it really is December!!

With the change from ACS to Early Learn, YVY's HR Department has been efficiently helping sites restructure staff, ensure they are fully staffed and complete personnel files that comply with all Head Start regulations for new staff members.

With the termination of our Blue Cross-Blue Shield health insurance policy, the HR department has re-enrolled over 400 employees into different insurance plans. We introduced three new insurance options including two Oxford plans and one HIP plan. Every member of our team, under the direction of Karen Kronenberg, worked diligently to ensure that every YVY employee was insured without

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The Scoop on EARLY LEARN



As a result of the city-wide restructuring of Administration for Children's Services (ACS) preschool programs, YVY Head Starts that are funded through ACS are now operating as part of Early Learn, the new ACS program to service children and families.

The Head Start, Fiscal and Human Resources departments at Yeled V'Yalda were faced with a tough challenge all summer long (and into the new school year!) as they scrambled to keep up with new policies, documentation requests and constant changes that were communicated to YvY by Early Learn and UPK. In fact, emails

requesting items and informing us of procedures are still being sent to Yeled V'Yalda on a daily basis from various departments in the Early Learn and UPK administrations.

Some of the challenges that Yeled V'Yalda was dealing with were; starting up new sites from scratch (renovating facilities, setting up classrooms, dealing with licensing issues, hiring staff, enrolling children etc.); inventory tracking - purchasing and reshuffling inventory for old and new sites; settling everyone's insurance changes; rewriting and ensuring compliance of new procedures and policies etc.

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Early Learn (continued from page 1)

That Yeled V'Yalda was able to pull off this colossal project while maintaining professionalism and sanity is due to the phenomenal work done by our devoted staff who, oftentimes worked overtime. The indefatigable, ultra-patient Head Start directors Naomi and Wayne, leading with expert guidance and fortitude, are exemplary role models for the entire agency.

As part of the transition to Early Learn, Yeled V'Yalda no longer collaborates with Bais Yaakov, Mosdos and Gan Day Care

centers. As part of the new Early Learn program, three new YVY Head Start sites were started up, servicing a total of one hundred newly enrolled children.

Yeled V'Yalda welcomes the staff, parents and children of the new sites -- 712 Bedford Avenue, 1200 Ocean Parkway and 1377 42 Street-- to the YVY family. Surely, both children and parents will be thrilled with their carefully-chosen teachers and beautiful, new classrooms. Staff and parents alike, will find that they have a full array of support

services available to them as part of YVY.

Now that the dust of the Early Learn transition is settling and our concentration has turned from start-up to servicing our children and families, we can barely sit back and relax as we have just been informed that our Federal Head Start program will be reviewed in January. The findings will surely show what we have worked so hard to achieve, namely running a top notch program that complies with all state and city regulations.

New Faces at YvY

Estreya Esther Aboud	<i>Teacher</i>	Basya Gurwitz	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Chava Meryl Oberlander	<i>Home Visitor</i>
Zelda Altman	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Trana Hager	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Ciril Raizman	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Zissy Bar-Horin	<i>Family Worker</i>	Devorah Rachel Herbstman	<i>Supervisor</i>	Leah Reisz	<i>Home Visitor</i>
Liba Fraidy Baum	<i>Lifeguard</i>	Malka Herzog	<i>Record Clerk</i>	Ruchy Rosenberg	<i>Family Worker</i>
Esther Berger	<i>Teacher</i>	Moshe Y. Herzog	<i>Lifeguard</i>	Nechama Dina Rosenfeld	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Chaya Reena Berkowitz	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Sarah Esther Hoffman	<i>Teacher</i>	Malka Salzberg	<i>Teacher</i>
Esther Bernstein	<i>Family Worker</i>	Fraida Baily Horowitz	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Adina Schochet	<i>Human Resources Coord.</i>
Penina Boroosan	<i>Trainer</i>	Rachel Horowitz	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Hadasah Schweitzer	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Ellen Cagan	<i>Teacher</i>	Rochell Leah Hus	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Yakot Bracha Simon	<i>Secretary</i>
Bassheva Davis	<i>Teacher</i>	Rochel Jakobovits	<i>Quality Assurance</i>	Tziporah Simonowitz	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Malka Director	<i>Family Worker</i>	Hentcha Jalas	<i>Family Worker</i>	Nosson Spielberg	<i>Trainer</i>
Shaindy Rochel Elewitz	<i>Family Worker</i>	Pearl Kanner	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Brocha Tiefenbrun	<i>Family Worker</i>
Hindy Engel	<i>Teacher</i>	Rochel Karp	<i>Family Worker</i>	Gitel Turim	<i>Family Worker</i>
Esther Brocha Fass	<i>Teacher</i>	Miriam Raizy Kellner	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Chaya Esther Ungen	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Fruma Fasten	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Chava Klein	<i>Teacher</i>	Channah Rochel Unger	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Bayla Feldman	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Henny Klein	<i>Family Worker</i>	Raizy Wachslar	<i>Record Clerk</i>
Sarah Fixler	<i>Teacher</i>	Devora Klughaupt	<i>Family Worker</i>	Henny Wechsler	<i>Secretary</i>
Pearl Fogel	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Simy Kramarsky	<i>Teacher</i>	Chana Weindling	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Fruma Leah Freeman	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Rachel E. Kupfer	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Devorah Miriam Weinman	<i>Record Clerk</i>
Devora Raizy Fried	<i>Teacher</i>	Feige Lebovits	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Rochel Weinstock	<i>Family Worker</i>
Esther Friedman	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Rachel Lenzky	<i>Family Worker</i>	Faigie Weiss	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Sara Friedman	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Ariella Lana Levitin	<i>Family Worker</i>	Mushka Winner	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>
Lucialie Dumaguig Garrett	<i>Record Clerk</i>	Malky Lowy	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Shayna Esther Wolff	<i>Human Resources Coord.</i>
Yelena Gelb	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Rifka Mallach	<i>Family Worker</i>	Helen Chaya Zucker	<i>Teacher</i>
Shaindy Gold	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Syeda Madeeha Maqsood	<i>Aide</i>		
Judy Goldstone	<i>Teacher</i>	Mushka Bracha Marasow	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>		
Chana Grunwald	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>	Yitty Margareten	<i>Assistant Teacher</i>		

Michelle Goldkrantz

At one time or another, everyone comes to a cross roads in their life and they must decide which path to choose. Graduating with my Masters in Social Work from Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work was *the* cross roads of my life, so to speak. Where would I work? What type of Social Work would I practice? Then, one day my father asked if I wanted to work for Yeled V'Yalda. He had worked for YvY in the past and held it in high regard. Truthfully, I had no opinion one way or the other about working for the agency. My only thought was, "An hour's commute each day, every day?" I now firmly believe that scheduling an interview and eventually coming to work at YVY was one of THE BEST decisions I have made in my life.

A decade ago I started out in the Early Intervention Department where I sat among wonderful, giving, knowledgeable women. They remain my close friends and confidantes to this day! My tenure there was a learning experience. I helped others in one way while my fellow colleagues taught me what it is to be part of a 'work family.' It was very rewarding in many ways.

Almost five years ago, I was given the opportunity to take the reins of the newly formed Facilitated Enrollment department of YvY. I was cautious about this as I did not want to let anyone at YvY down, but I knew that if the administration of YvY had faith in me to be the Program Director, I should have that faith in myself. I cherish the fact that Facilitated Enrollment enables my staff and myself to get to know those in the community and assist them in obtaining not only health insurance for themselves and their loved

ones, but peace of mind that their family is taken care of in case health care services are needed. The New York State Department of Health has recognized all the heart and effort that my staff and I put forth in our work that they have approved the request for an additional Enroller to assist clients in the coming year.

Healthy Families is another department which I have had the honor of managing and that too is equally rewarding. The Healthy Families Program is designed specifically to empower families with information about programs available to them and facilitating access to these resources. Its goal is to assist families achieve, develop and maintain a "HEALTHY FAMILY" by facilitating access to community resources. My staff and I follow up with our clients to ensure that all are working on attaining their goals. We celebrate achievement and milestones and work through obstacles with our clients. Some clients have stayed in touch with their Case Managers long after they reach their goals and their cases are closed because of the care they received and the closeness they feel towards those who helped them at YvY.

I often look back at the moment almost a decade ago when I vacillated between calling YvY to schedule an interview or deciding that the commute was not worth my time. I firmly believe that with G-d's help I made the right decision because I am honored to be part of the wonderful YvY family.



Michelle Goldkrantz

Michelle Goldkrantz
Facilitated Enrollment, Program Coordinator
(718) 686-2119

HR (continued from page 1)

lapse. We also completed open enrollment for Dental insurance, FSA and Disability.

And the momentum continues..... Our Human Resources Department is still forging full speed ahead.

With the upcoming Federal Head Start review in January, we are busy reviewing staff files and policies and ensuring that YVY is in compliance with HR related monitoring protocol.

In the midst of it all, our longest tenured HR employee, Tzivie Herber, has assumed a new position in a well respected educational institution. We wish Tzivie good luck in her new job and thank her for her outstanding contribution to YVY. We are fortunate to have Roizy Schweid, a devoted HR employee, who will be assuming new responsibilities and will now serve as our HR Coordinator. Roizy can be contacted at 718-686-2416.

We would like to welcome Miriam Frankl, a new addition to our team. Miriam will be assisting the HR staff and can be reached at 718-686-2412.

As we continue preparing for the review, we respectfully ask everyone's cooperation so that we can maintain YVY's superior standing in Federal Head Start.

Thank you Karen, Tzivie, Roizy, Leah and Miri for a job well done and for all your hard work now and "going forward".



Gitty Lichtenstein

Gitty Lichtenstein, MS
Director of Human Resources
(718) 686-2422



Here are your responses to this issue's survey question:

“What do you do to maintain or improve your health or lifestyle?”

To maintain my health,

I eat right & stay hydrated properly - at least 8 cups of fluid & 60 ozs. of protein daily!

I go to the fitness center

4 times a week plus I try to eat only whole wheat breads and I exercise!

To improve my lifestyle I give a shiur (lecture) to women every Shabbos. Learning and teaching really helps keep me inspired. I am also very serious about crafting for enjoyment. My latest obsession is hand-made soaps!!

I try to get my daily dose of vitamin D (via sunshine). This can be a challenge on cold winter days...

I carry my kids up and down the stairs twice a day- by default that keeps me fit.

I try to workout in the fitness center as often as I can for my physical health, but I enjoy sitting in the steam room and sauna even more - for my mental health

(there's nothing to do there but breathe deeply and relax!)

I usually try to stick to meals

-I keep a 16 oz clear cup of water nearby to drink when I feel hungry

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or thirsty. I eat (one piece of) cake on Shabbos only.

Working at YvY 1312 38th Street makes it easier! Just yesterday I visited Ezra next door for a flu shot and then swam laps in the pool downstairs (All in day's (after) work!)

I brisk-walk to and from

YVY every morning and every afternoon; in rain or shine, snow or sleet... I actually decline offers for hitching a ride with someone from YVY. My home is 21 blocks away from work and the walk is invigorating and energizing; it certainly keeps me healthy and fit.

I signed up to the YVY Gym!!!

To maintain/improve my health, I am quite conscious about what I buy for my family to eat. I avoid foods containing high fructose corn syrup, MSG, food coloring. I teach my husband and children to look at food labels before buying or eating. I dream and think about finding time in my day to exercise because I know how important that is. I'm still figuring out where to put that into my already busy schedule

Eat grass (lettuce, sprouts, peppers, cucumbers) every day. Did you ever see an overweight rabbit?



Zooming In On...



ITTY LEVIN

Job at YvY...Administrative Assistant to Mina Sputz for the last year and a half. I do something different every day, and I like that in the course of my work I've gotten to meet almost everyone in the building.

Prized possessions...various scrapbooks that I made or that were made for me – I love the memories they hold.

Celebrity I'm related to...None really, though I have a brother who won the Oorah 2010 singing competition, and sang on the radio for NCSY and Hidabroot- perhaps he'll be famous someday!

Been Published?...I wrote a humorous article for a magazine contest last year, which won first place! I also love proofreading and editing- I've worked as an editor on my college newspaper, and I've helped a friend edit her book, which is actually getting published this year. That's amazing because she wrote it two years ago- in eleventh grade!

So embarrassing...I'm so oblivious about types of cars that I once started getting into the wrong car and didn't even realize until a dog started barking at me from the backseat. You can bet I realized quickly THEN! My brother didn't let me live it down for days.

A game I'm good at...You're way more likely to find me reading a book than playing any sport! But I do love board games that require creativity and thought, like Pictionary, Balderdash, and Clue.

Food recipe I'm famous for... Everyone loves my cinnamon rugelach- they're always gone within a day or two, no matter how many batches I make.

Favorite food...Chocolate pudding – though definitely none of the instant or ready-made kinds!

Major accomplishment...Earning my BA! And I'm hard at work on my Masters now.

My family consists of...My older sister, then 6 boys, then me, a younger sister, and 2 more boys. A LOT of sisters-in-law, that's the good side about 8 brothers!

I regret...That I still haven't learned how to drive. It's on my to-do list!

What I do in my free time...Read, sleep... I love to do crafts, create things.

Something I'm good at...I make really beautiful professional scrapbooks, digitally. I'm actually thinking of selling wedding albums, when I finish college and have more time to devote to it.

Favorite website...Purple.com made me laugh when I first saw it, though I can't imagine why it was created. I think photoshopessentials.com is great too- I taught myself Photoshop using that site, they make it easier than you'd think. It comes in really handy when I work on my digital scrapbooks.

Habit I wish I could get rid of...Going to bed after 12:30 am! I can't manage to get there before then!!

If I won the lottery, I would...surprise my parents with a huge check! They deserve it most.

Something people don't know about me... My Hebrew name אייטא is actually an anagram for אריכת ימים טובים אמן (A good long life, Amen) - I was surprised myself when I found out.



ANDRE HARRISON

Job at YvY...Family Worker at 20 Parkhill Circle Staten Island since March 2012

Prized possessions...I would have to say my sons

Celebrity I'm related to...I found out that the first president of Trinidad was my great-great uncle

Interesting trip I once took...Learning about family history in Trinidad

Instrument I play...I'm a moderate guitar player

Been Published?...Yes. I authored a book called From a Fatherless Father to His Sons

Public speaking...I speak occasionally at youth rallies

So embarrassing...I fainted while a groomsman at a friend's wedding

A game I'm good at...I love basketball; played in High School (even won the NYC Parks HS Championship Tournament) and now I play for fun.

Food recipe I'm famous for...Baked Mac'n cheese - mmmmm

Someone that had the biggest impact on me...my grandmother

I would like to visit...Israel and South Africa – rich in history

Major accomplishment...finishing a book I've been writing on fatherhood

My family consists of...myself and my three sons

I regret...not playing basketball senior year

What I do in my free time...read and jog

Pet peeve ...when people say "oops"

Favorite website...www.andreharrison.org

Habit I wish I could get rid of...I'm always yawning

If I won the lottery, I would...donate 10%. Launch several educational and music programs

Something I'm good at...dancing

Something people don't know about me... I'm really shy

One thing I've learned... Manhood is a process of growth



Andre was the lucky winner of last issue's drawing for a gift card to a local restaurant! He sent us this note:

"I was so grateful when I was chosen and received the prize to a restaurant. I took a friend to Fushimi here on Staten Island and we had lunch. I don't get a chance to get out much between work, college and my sons. I was truly thankful."

(See the press release for Andre's new book on page 7)

Some excerpts from the letter Bassie read aloud at her going-away party »

To My Wonderful Friends at Yeled V'Yalda,

As I am making a life changing decision, I am looking back at the life I am leaving. Yeled has been very good to me (and I have been good to Yeled). Twenty one years is a long time. Yeled has been for me, the most wonderful place. There was always someone to turn to ... The life experience of so many hundreds of women beats any degree. Mr. Igel, you have somehow put together a team that is dedicated, loyal, smart, professional... We have created an atmosphere where we get the job done but with time to help each other... So here are some thoughts in NO particular order of what I will miss.

- Friday mornings on the fourth floor-it's quiet and I can catch up with Naomi. Naomi, I know that Yeled needs you, but I hope you follow me very very soon
- Going to trainings (PITC, Special Quest with Rivky Sompolinsky, and the Sagamore-Thanks Wayne
- Parenting Workshops at qq Heyward (Hindy-you are terrific)
- Visiting the sites. Mrs. Friedman, Mrs Leifer and all the family workers-I have only wonderful memories.
- Ed Director Meetings
- Mental Health Meetings (Alyssa, you go to Israel every summer-don't stop)
- Early Head Start (Devorah -we will always be friends)

G-d willing, we will all be together in Yerushalayim very soon - young in spirit and with energy.

Fondly,

Bassie

Bassie's
Goodbye Party!



WE'VE COME A LONG WAY....



Shoshy Skolnick, Head Start teacher at Farragut Road site at her student Regina Sharazi's wedding last year. Shoshy was Regina's teacher at Yeled V'Yalda Head Start of Farragut Road 16 years ago!

HEALTH WORKSHOP



Dina Lipkind, RD conducts a much appreciated health workshop for YvY employees

SPEECH WORKSHOP

coming up on

February 10, 2013

Details will be forthcoming.

GOODBYE!



YvY wishes farewell to Tzivie Herber, HR Coordinator

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2012

From A
FATHERLESS FATHER
To His Sons



Coming this Father's Day... A true story of one man's journey of having an absent father in his life, the challenges and struggles faced with then trying to learn how to become a man on his own and how he overcame these obstacles, now as a father himself, how to teach his sons to be the best men they can be to help break the cycle and create an enduring legacy.

In this book Andre addresses the issue of the diminishing presence of men in the home that has plagued the urban community and the impact it has on not just the lives of their children, but on society as a whole. He also lets out to prove that there are a lot of good men who despite the odds and their personal experiences of growing up without a father, still stand firm in their commitment to having a strong, consistent presence in their children's lives. As Andre writes "Every young boy deserves a father in their life to show them how to be a man."

Written through internal and external conversations with contributors to a few biblical scriptures, **"From a Fatherless Father to His Sons"** can really help serve as a guide into manhood for any young man or father, single mother, parent or guardian who has the pleasure and pressure of raising boys to become men.

For additional information and to purchase a copy of the book please visit: www.andreharrison.org

ONLINE PRE-SALE BEGINS ON MAY 30, 2012.

About the Author
Andre possesses a passion for uplifting the youth of our communities, with a primary focus on helping boys to become productive, responsible men. Andre has been in youth ministry since 1999 and has served in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Rochester, NY and currently serving in his hometown of Staten Island, NY. Andre has dedicated his life to working with youth, young adults and their parents, organizing and attending community outreach and service projects, Christmas events and speaking at various forums to educate young people on a variety of topics such as safe sex, dating, bullying, self-esteem, the importance of education, being out loud, jobbing, motivation for young men, etc. Andre is also a father of three amazing boys.

For media inquiries, appearances or other publicity please contact: Lauren or Najah at SassySisters Media (718) 971-6682 or email: lauren@sassysistersmedia.com

Andre D. Harrison



SassySisters MEDIA

Press Release for Andre Harrison's new book. Andre is a YvY FW – see his profile on page 5.

Condolences

Elizabeth Avrohom (WIC) upon the loss of her mother-in-law
 Rochel Abelsky (F) on the loss of her husband
 Devora Barnett (BP) upon the loss of her father
 Bina Cunin (C) upon the loss of her husband
 Yenty Honig (BP) upon the loss of her brother

Dr. Eliezer Kaminetzky (BP) upon the loss of his brother
 Bentzion Kaminetzky (FC) upon the loss of his father
 Mrs. Shoshona Spiegel (BP) upon the loss of her mother
 Sara Knopfler (W) upon the loss of her brother
YuY extends sincere sympathies upon your losses.



Engagement

Bayla Andrusier's (W) daughter
Zeldy Altman (W)
Rochel Eidelman's (C) son
Brocha Tova Franklin (WIC)
Yonah Friedman's (BP) daughter
Simi Jachimowitz (BP)
Mushka Laufer (BP)
Sharon Rudolph's (BP) daughter
Nosson Spielberg (FC)
Raizy Wachslar (WIC)

Wedding

Alyssa Alexander (Schnur) (BP)
Mashie Fingerhut's (BP) daughter
Zissy Fischer (WIC)
Mr. Ganz's (W) son
Yelena Gelb's (BP) son
Esther Hoffman's (BP) daughter
Yenty Honig's (BP) daughter
Surie Kleiman's (W) daughter
Rabbi Juda Lorencz's (W) son & daughter
Bassie Morris's (BP) son
Chayala Schlesinger (Guttman) (BP)
Malky Steinberg (W)

Zev Steinmetz's (W) son
Chavy Teichman (Klien) (BP)
Chaya Wercberger's (WIC) grandson
Nechie (Mashie) Auerbach

Baby Boy

Lillian Choai (C)
Batsheva Chopp (BP)
Raizy Friedman (BP)
Devoiry Globerman (BP)
Rochie Grossman (C)
Ruchy Horowitz (BP)

Baby Girl

Leah Buchinger (BP)
Liora Grinspan (C)
Chaya Hurwitz (BP)
Sara Gitty Kahan (WIC)
Chaya Fraidy Miller (BP)
Hindy Pachtinger (BP)
Rochel Schuster (BP)
Shprintzy Stern (WIC)
Ahuva Traube (WIC)
Leibel Weinstock (BP)

Bar Mitzvah

Chaya Rivka Gutman's (BP) son

Proud Grandparents

Fruma Fasten (BP)
Raizy Freeman (BP)
Mashie Fingerhut (BP)
Hindy Halberstam (W)
Judy Lawrence (C)
Gitty Lichtenstein (BP)
Chana Lieberman (BP)
Zissy Mayer (W)
Malke Nuemann (BP)
Emma Saidov (BP)
Eva Silberman (C)
Shoshana Spiegel (BP)

Congratulations

Gitty Bronstein (BP) received her LCSW degree
Rachel Goldberger (FC) received her ACE certification

We'd love to hear from you!

We would like to thank everyone for their input, encouragement, and suggestions for the newsletter. Please be advised that due to editorial content, time and/or space constraints, it is not always possible to include all submissions. At the same time, however, we would like to encourage you to continue writing us. Please e-mail your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and news to YvYInk@yeled.org or to rherbst@yeled.org or fax to **718.686.2497**



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