



THE CARDOZIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVID CARDOZO ACADEMY

Machon Ohr Aaron & Betsy Spijer

ROSH HASHANA / FALL EDITION ■ 2011 ■ 5772

From the Dean's Desk

Dear Friends,

In moments of great turmoil great things can happen. The destruction of stability may be painful, but allows for new patterns to emerge. Stereotypes may fall apart and disappear, but they pave the road for novelty. Expectations which we had dreamed of slip beyond our reach and make place for new opportunities. Former structures crumble and leave behind dust and sweat, and cause us to be devastated. But they are the very foundations on which we can build new worlds. What was once outrageously improbable is suddenly the best that can ever happen to us.

Rosh Hashana is about broad visions and not just window dressing. It demands real radical change. And it will hurt. It is liberating and explosive. Without it there is no future. And so it is with Judaism. Either we rethink Judaism, or there is no need for it. This is the task of the David Cardozo Academy and its programs. We are proud to be at the forefront of a new experience of Judaism which has so much more to offer than we have ever imagined.

Shana Tova,


Nathan Lopes Cardozo

MAZAL TOV to David Cardozo Academy Friends Hila and Michael Kagan on Their Marriage!

DCA's Global Influence: Graduate Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz

One of the greatest challenges in education is to teach while acknowledging that it can take years to see the fruits of one's labor. And sometimes, nothing even sprouts, after all the effort. In today's results-focused world of instant gratification, teaching is quite an enigma.

The pleasure of a successful "harvest" – a student who continues along the path of his education – may explain some of the riddle. Rabbi **Shmuly Yanklowitz**, who spent 2005 and 2006 at the DCA, is one shining example of the impact the DCA is making across the globe.

"When I was studying Talmud and Halakhah at a Yeshiva in Israel I didn't always have an outlet for my larger questions and philosophical concerns," noted Shmuly. "I also didn't feel that I had a community where certain complex and sensitive inquiries could be made. So my parallel study at the DCA provided this for me in a very serious way."

Shmuly recalled the fresh approach at the DCA challenging him to wonder more grandly and become a thought leader, which helped shape his future path. "I was struggling with a Judaism that felt to me to be dry and unchallenged. I left the DCA feeling more empowered to learn and lead. I felt empowered to cultivate my own philosophical and pedagogical vision to lead for the Jewish community."

And Shmuly has certainly thought big, becoming a leader of the Orthodox social justice movement by founding Uri L'Tzedek (www.utzedek.org), and making an impact as campus rabbi at UCLA in Los Angeles, strengthening the Jewish identity of thousands of Jewish young adults. The DCA is honored to continue planting new seeds, along with Shmuly as a colleague, in our shared concerns for a more meaningful Jewish life.



DCA Alum Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, 2005-6

Getting Personal at the Think Tank

Recent sessions of the DCA Think Tank, under the guidance of Rabbi Cardozo, included members' presentations on topics of personal interest. These included: the phenomenon of stringency (*chumrot*) in Halacha; the concept of the decline over generations (*Yeridat Hadorot*); and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's approach, positing that Aggada (the non-legal elements) and Halacha (the legal elements) of Judaism exist in an interdependent relationship. A session of general interest also explored the topic of homosexuality.

Particularly exciting to the group was an idea that sprang from this year's discussion: a blueprint for an exploratory workshop allowing a new relationship with the Halacha, the "Halachic Counseling Workshop," in which a rabbi and a professional such as a coach take an individual or group through a Halachic

issue, offering guidance while also creating psychological and emotional space, in order to determine the possible Halachic options available and appropriate to their specific situation.

A highlight of the year was the realization of this vision, with an exploratory "Halacha Lab" conducted with one member on the personally relevant subject of a convert's mourning for a non-Jewish parent. The issue was explored from the Halachic, social and psychological perspectives, and the Think Tank member reported that this was a significant and meaningful experience and that her relationship with Halacha was positively affected.

Many thanks to Think Tank Coordinators **Yael Unterman** and **Yael Valier** for directing the Think Tank into exciting and challenging directions.

Students Speak

Sivan Dotan,
4th Year Student

...I cannot say I have any knowledge about Judaism... my religious background ends somewhere between lighting Hanukah candles and attending the Passover Seder...other than some story telling during Bible class, I received no Jewish education...in the Cardozo-Kagan Jewish Leadership Program I was able to learn so much more about my heritage and gain a new perspective on Judaism...

Nir Kaplan,
3rd Year Student

Like most secular Israelis, I was disconnected from our heritage...I even thought the siddur was a part of the Bible...before my army draft I began to wonder what Judaism is all about and why I was willing to risk my life for it...The Cardozo-Kagan Jewish Leadership Program helped me to think through and discover my Jewish identity...the program contributes greatly to the future of Israeli society.

Mai Hermann,
3rd Year Student

The Cardozo-Kagan Jewish Leadership Program granted me a deeper understanding of my Jewish background; it taught me how to use what I learned in order to further excel. The program helped me see that however many different opinions about Judaism there are, the better.

Come Learn with the DCA at Limmud UK!

This winter Rabbi Cardozo will return to Limmud UK, to be held at the University of Warwick, from December 23 – 29, with over 3,000 participants in attendance. One of the most important international venues for Jewish education and learning, Limmud has again invited Rabbi Cardozo as a featured presenter at the conference.

Graduation Report from the Cardozo-Kagan Jewish Leadership Program at IDC, Herzliya

Can there be a future where there is no past? This was the topic of conversation at the recent commencement of the 2010/2011 Cardozo-Kagan Jewish Leadership Program at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel's leading school of government and law and home of the annual Herzliya Conference. In honor of the second class of CKJLP Fellows, panelists Dr. **Micha Goodman**, Dr. **Einat Ramon** and Journalist **Ben Dror Yemini** dialogued on how Jewish studies should best be integrated into Israel's educational system.

Much was said about the importance of instilling pride in one's Jewishness by engaging in text study, which unfortunately is not commonplace in Israel. Dr. Goodman addressed the widespread ignorance of Jewish knowledge - a major culprit of today's Jewish identity crisis in Israel and a result of Israel's failed educational system. "Instead of omitting from curriculum Jewish books such as the Bible and the Talmud," he emphasized, "these works should be welcome as the masterpieces they are whether or not one believes in their divine nature." DCA Founder and Dean, Rabbi Dr. Nathan Lopes Cardozo, concurred in his remarks to the graduates. "Judaism has so much to teach all Jews, whether observant or not."

CKJLP Director **Chanan Atlas** and DCA friend **Michael Kagan** closed the ceremony awarding certificates to the graduates, and wishing them best of luck on their continued Jewish journey. Michael Kagan offered moving personal remarks about his Jewish identity in his youth, reflecting on how he never had the opportunity to fully explore his Jewishness as did the graduates of the Cardozo-Kagan Jewish Leadership Program.



CKJLP Graduates Yinon Persiko, Tal Gat and Karin Peer-Friedman



DCA Founder and Dean Rabbi Dr. Nathan Lopes Cardozo



CKJLP Director Chanan Atlas and DCA friend Michael Kagan

Koppel Appeals for a Softer Judaism, Kolbrener a More Passionate One, at Recent Jerusalem Lecture Series Talks

Under the leadership of Rabbi Cardozo, the 5771/2011 *A Daring Judaism* Jerusalem Lecture Series, which explores subjects rarely discussed publicly in observant Jewish circles, concluded with three final lectures leaving much to think about for the New Year. Professor **Moshe Koppel's** *A Return to 'Heimish' Judaism* explored how ideologies suffocate religion, and he suggested that rigidity in religious Judaism is causing great harm. Professor **William Kolbrener's** presentation, *Caught in the Act: Torah and Desire*, considered the importance of just being one's spontaneous self can have in religious practice.

In his talk, *Moving Beyond Denominational Judaism?*, Rabbi Dr. **Eliezer Shore** surveyed the post-denominationalism movement's growth, activity and self-definition, and also explored how the movement might relate to the concepts of supremacy and absolute truth, both central to religion.

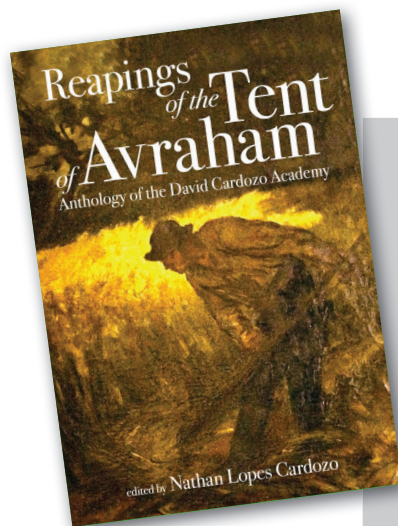
Special thanks to JLS Coordinator **Avital Macales** for organizing a most stimulating year of presentations. Stay tuned for information about the upcoming 5772/2012 lecture series.



Professor Kolbrener presents at the DCA Jerusalem Lecture Series

From the Pressroom

As you read these words, our latest book, *Reapings of the Tent of Avraham: Anthology of the David Cardozo Academy*, is on its way to Judaica book stores. And a recent **Thoughts to Ponder** essay by Rabbi Cardozo, touching on the demonstrations in Israel and calling for a religious protest, was published in the acclaimed Israeli weekly *Makor Rishon*. The David Cardozo Academy has also taken steady strides into the digital age with our newly evolving website at www.cardozoacademy.org. We hope you will also enjoy the easier reading formats of our weekly **Thoughts to Ponder** and the **Cardozian** E-Newsletter.



DCA Dean Delivers Lectures in Holland, USA and South Africa

DCA Founder and Dean Rabbi Dr. Nathan Lopes Cardozo delivered a keynote address and other talks at the Holland Mizrahi Conference Shabbaton, held at the Synagogue of Enschede, congregation of Rabbi **Eliyahu Philipson**. Rabbi Cardozo also presented the **Aron and Betsy Spijer Memorial Lecture** at the Hague Jewish Community Center, and served as Scholar-in-Residence at the Amsterdam Modern Orthodox Shul (AMOS), congregation of Rabbi **Menachem Sebbag** and DCA Friend **Doron Sanders**, a central figure in the newly established community's success. Rabbi Cardozo also delivered a series of lectures at the Dutch Rabbinical Seminary, where colleague Rabbi Dr. **Rafael Evers**, Esq. serves as Rector. On his final stop in Holland, Rabbi Cardozo served as guest speaker for Shabbat at Rabbi **Shmuel Spiero's** congregation, the Jewish Community Center of Haarlem, the town where Rabbi Cardozo and his wife grew up.

Rabbi Cardozo traveled to the USA with DCA Executive Director **Daniel Sheer** where Rabbi Cardozo served as Shavuot Scholar-in-Residence at Bnai David-Judea in Los Angeles, California, congregation of Rabbi **Yosef Kanefsky**. Rabbi Cardozo also spent Shabbat with the Young Israel of North Beverly Hills, congregation of Rabbi **Alan Kalinsky**. In Michigan, Rabbi Cardozo delivered a talk at the home of Mrs. **Ann Newman**, a pillar of the Detroit Jewish community. Rabbi Cardozo also served as guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Young Israel of Oak Park, congregation of Rabbi **Michael Cohen**, Rabbi Cardozo's son-in-law, and presented to the Jewish Forum of West Bloomfield thanks to the invitation of **Irving D. Goldfein**.

Rabbi Cardozo recently returned from South Africa where he was invited as keynote speaker to the Limmud Conference in Johannesburg, attended by 700 participants, and he met with Rabbi **Avraham Tanzer**, Dean of Yeshiva College of South Africa, and with Rabbi **Doron Perez**, Managing Director of Yeshiva College of South Africa. Judge Adv. **Jules Browde**, an important member of South Africa's legal community, attended several of Rabbi Cardozo's Limmud talks, which he and Rabbi Cardozo discussed after the sessions.

Excerpt from Rabbi Cardozo's recent essay, *I have a Dream: The Next Mass Demonstration*, published in the acclaimed Israel weekly, *Makor Rishon*

Things are going well in Israel. Mass demonstrations for social justice, housing, proper hospitalization, and adequate wages for physicians, teachers and the underprivileged are finally underway. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have gone to the streets to convince the government that things need to change drastically. This could be a turning point in Israel's future with dramatic consequences for the better.

I have a dream! I see a huge demonstration for the soul of Judaism. An uprising in which hundreds of thousands of secular Israelis demand an honest and genuine Judaism with no political parties, no embarrassing financial deals, and no religious coercion. A Judaism that will inspire them, lift their spirits, and make them burst with pride to be Jewish.

Please visit our website to read the full article.

The DCA Greatly Depends on Your Support!

Your contribution makes possible the empowering of future rabbis, educators and community leaders to communicate and develop the Jewish tradition in the language of the new millennium! Please consider marking a special anniversary or continuing the memory of a loved one by sending a gift to the Cardozo Academy. We welcome your secure gift online at www.cardozoacademy.org/contribute/. To send a check, for more information, or to process via phone, please contact us at our Friends network across the globe:

In Israel:

Ohr Aaron/ David Cardozo Academy
7 Cassuto Street, Jerusalem 96433

Tel: +972.2.642.7272

Email: office@cardozoacademy.org

Ohr Aaron, #58-035-581, is a registered Amuta in Israel according to section 46 of the Israel income tax code.

In the United States:

American Friends of the Cardozo Academy

c/o Ogulnick & Leventhal
9301 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 507
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Tel: 310.271.9444

Email: david@olclp.com

American Friends of the Cardozo Academy is a registered, tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) in the USA, FEIN #88-0361288.

In Canada:

Canadian Friends of the David Cardozo Academy

c/o Nathan Spitzer
146 Bannockburn Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, M5M 2P5

Tel: 416.801.1836

Email: hanspitzer@yahoo.ca

Donations to the Canadian Friends are tax deductible.

In England:

Friends of Ohr Aaron, David Cardozo Academy

c/o David Yamin Joseph
PO Box 27079, London, N2 0RW

Email: dayajo@hotmail.com

Friends of Ohr Aaron, David Cardozo Academy is a company limited by guarantee, Company No. 7337002. Registered charity No. 1139439.

In Holland:

Cardozo Academie
Aron & Betsy Spijer Stichting

c/o Dijkman en Delfgaauw
Postbus 872
2900 AW Capelle aan den IJssel

Tel: 31.10.458.1422

Email: leodelfgaauw@dijkmanlaw.nl

Donations to Aron & Betsy Spijer Stichting are tax deductible.