

# JEWISH NEWS

of Greater Phoenix



March 21, 2008/Adar II 14 5768, Volume 60, No. 30

EDUCATION

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## Study in Israel can be life-changing

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As Israel's 60th birthday approaches, there is an almost continuous buzz around educational programs that send young people to Israel, whether it's the thousands who have gone via birthright Israel, individuals on high school student exchanges or whole classes going to Israel as the juniors at Jess Schwartz Jewish Community High School do each year.

Adult-oriented study hasn't received the same notice, but just as birthright helps cement young adults' sense of Jewish identity and attachment to Israel, Jewish study in Israel can have a profound impact on adults of all ages.

The Lay Leadership Summer Retreat of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem is one such study opportunity that has drawn many participants from the Valley.

"A number of members of The New Shul ... have had their lives changed by the experience," said Rabbi Michael Wasserman of the traditional-egalitarian congregation in Scottsdale.

He also praised the diversity and quality of the scholars from all streams of Judaism that the Hartmans - founder David and his son Donniel - have assembled. "It's a community of scholars that's unlike anything else."

The retreat is planned for June 25-July 2 this year.

"The theme this summer is 'Sacred Narratives and Collective Memory,'" said Rabbi William C. Berk, director of the institute's Center for Rabbinic Enrichment and rabbi emeritus of Temple Chai in Phoenix. "We will study this fascinating question of the stories we Jews remember."

Visit [hartman.org.il](http://hartman.org.il).

In addition, The New Shul participates in the institute's Global Beit Midrash, a distance-learning program that allows local rabbis to teach with scholars based at the institute. There is a Global Beit Midrash Summer Seminar in Jerusalem each year that is open only to participants in the yearlong distance program. This year's focus is "Core Narratives of Jewish Life," and it will also take place June 25-July 2. Contact The New Shul about next year's program, 480-515-2272.

### Other avenues

"Our main focus is adult education, and we strongly encourage Israel studies," said Rabbi Zvi Holland of the Phoenix Community Kollel.

The rabbi offered a list of schools in Israel to which the kollel has referred Valley adults:

**Bircas HaTorah.** This school is in Jerusalem, minutes from the Kotel, or Western Wall. For male visitors from abroad, it offers intensive short-term study on a daily basis, and for women, it hosts seminars throughout the year. Visit [bircas.org](http://bircas.org).

**Aish Hatorah Executive Learning Center.** Right around the corner from the Kotel, the center offers the chance to study, in English, "thought-provoking topics from spirituality to the Middle East" and "delve into classic Jewish texts." The center tailors its program to visitors' time constraints. Visit [aish.com/elc](http://aish.com/elc).

**Darche Noam Executive Learning Center.** This school is about an hour's walk from the Kotel in the Beit Hakerem neighborhood. For men, there's the David Shapell College of Jewish Studies, and for women, Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya College of Jewish Studies. Both offer a short summer program of study, June 30-Aug. 10 this year, and a program that encompasses Elul and the High Holidays, Aug. 27-Oct. 9. Visit [darchenoam.org](http://darchenoam.org).

**Neve Yerushalyim College for Women.** The school was founded in 1970 to offer "an in-depth study of Judaism to college-age women who had little or no knowledge of their Jewish heritage, but who thirsted to discover their spiritual roots in the Holy Land," according to its Web site. Various summer programs are

being offered there from July through September. Visit [nevey.org](http://nevey.org).

She'arim College of Jewish Studies for Women. This school, founded in 1994 by Rebbetzin Holly Pavlov, offers a summer session "specifically designed for women who wish to maximize their limited time frame for learning and return to the work place or university rejuvenated with Torah," according to its Web site, [shearim.com](http://shearim.com).

Ohr Somayach - Tannenbaum College. Among its offerings is The Glassman Jewish Learning Exchange, aimed at college-age men with little or no background in Judaic studies. It offers a combination of study and touring for three or six weeks in the summer and for three weeks in the winter. Visit [ohr.edu](http://ohr.edu).