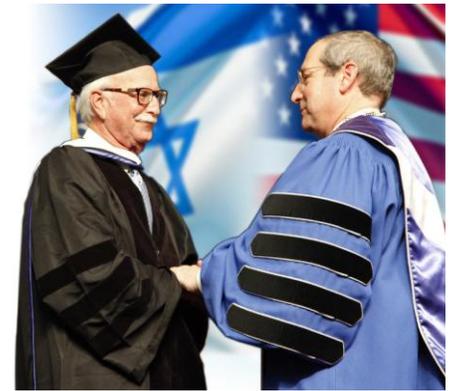




"The bird also has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself" (Psalm 84)

Dear Friends - Shana Tovah!

Rosh HaShanah is about reconnecting with the core of our very being - so we can move on recharged with meaning and purpose. I believe that your partnership in the ongoing work of giving children what they rightfully deserve to be an immense source of meaning. Changing the fate of children is also about having an impact on the big picture of the Zionist endeavor. It was Judge Louis Brandeis who envisioned this endeavor as - *"a new Jewish civilization worthy of the Jewish past and worthy of our aspirations for the future."* Eight decades later, last May at Brandeis University, I could reaffirm this vision, as I strongly feel that on both sides of the ocean we still share the conviction that a Jewish homeland cannot afford to be anything *but* a Light unto the Nations. Our work for the children and its impact on education in Israel, which is all about turning the young left in the margins into broad-minded value laden adults, gets us every year one significant step closer to fulfill this great vision. The following are just a few of the latest examples.



With President Frederick Lawrence at the recent Brandeis University Commencement ceremony.

From Survival to Leadership - the group photo below is of 55 young dreams materializing - it's the Class of 2013 of the Yemin Orde leadership program for at-risk youth. This much acclaimed character building program instills a "chip" of greatness in disempowered youngsters.



The photo, indeed, captures their new spirit and eagerness to serve their country as leaders and as role models for their families and communities. As of this *Rosh HaShanah*, a new sister program for young ladies of similar backgrounds takes off, brandishing the flag of feminine leadership and empowerment - the Yemin Orde way.

Women crossing boundaries: Miri Pikado, MSW (far right, in fuchsia), was raised at Yemin Orde. She now devotes her career and personal life to empowering Israeli Bedouin women in the south desert. For these women, trapped in a cycle of hardship and discrimination, there is a limited horizon for advancement. For them, Miri is a beaming lighthouse of inspiration. Like so many of our graduates, she carries with her wherever she goes the Yemin Orde torch of our shared values: inclusiveness, tolerance and uprightness. She not only brings it to the most unattended margins of society, but does it with grace, style and perpetual optimism.



Education as an art form

Our *Village Way* educational institute continues to creatively touch the minds and hearts of a growing number of educators. In the picture (left), Etay, of our team, exposes school teachers to the secrets of repairing low self-esteem of young immigrants. To give one example: in the African-Jewish culture, children are given several names which reflect the new baby's blessings to the world. Educators are encouraged to plug into the kids' ancestral heritage using the names, which reflect greatness and wholeness, to foster their pride and identity. By and by, their school achievements in science and literacy are dramatically improved and uplifted, ensuring their future as contributing members of



society. It takes fun educational activities, a simple post-it board with names and meanings - which are really a statement about the child's dignity and place in the world... And it all just started with a child's name....

Every Man Has a Name is a well loved Israeli poem (by poetess Zelda). The name, it says, is "Given by father and mother... Given by our way of smiling... Given by the seasons of the years... Given by the holidays." And may I add: "**Given by our care - given by our giving.**"

May knowing this be a source of spiritual blessing for you on the eve of the Jewish New Year.

Shana Tovah to you and your dear ones,

as ever - Chaim Peiri
 chaim@yeminorde.co.il