Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights, the holiday in which every evening we light an additional candle.

According to Beit Hillel (House of Hillel), we start out with one candle, and on each night of the holiday, we add another candle. Whereas, according to Beit Shammai (House of Shammai), we begin with eight candles and deduct one each night. It seems that Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai represent two opposing views. One that says that each day will be better than the previous one and the other, a more pessimistic worldview, which holds that the world is fading.

At Yemin Orde we try to live according to both worldviews: we believe that the world can become a better place, that if we work hard, we can change the lives of our children. Or, we witness the difficulties that exist in the world, the cynicism and the scarcity, and we know that the world itself is neither good nor bad, but rather what we make of it.

We, therefore, embrace both concepts - we are not passively optimistic because that would mean that we leave the world to become a better place on its own, and we are not pessimistic as this would lead us to despair. We say that the light in our world can increase, but it is up to us to ensure that it does. If we fail to act - the light will decline.

Thank you for helping us add more candles and bring so much light into our children’s lives. Happy Hanukkah!

SHMULI BING

Yemin Orde Ranked as Outstanding High School

Israel’s Ministry of Education recently ranked Yemin Orde High School in the top 4.3% of high schools in Israel. Out of Israel’s 1,664 high schools evaluated, 292 achieved the highest rank from the education ministry. Of these 292 top-ranked high schools, only 72 received the highest exemplary ranking, which included Yemin Orde High School. The schools were cited for their excellence in academic, social and ethical achievements. All educators at Yemin Orde received bonuses as a reward for the school’s outstanding achievement.

114 Scholarships Awarded During Graduates Day

During the day, graduates meet with the teens to talk about their lives following high school and provide needed hope and encouragement to their younger counterparts.

In the evening, during a special ceremony, 114 scholarships were granted to Yemin Orde alumni for higher learning opportunities.

Annual Sea to Sea Hike

Yemin Orde Youth Village’s annual four day, 100 kilometer, Challenge (Etgar) Hike puts 12th graders new leadership and outdoor survival skills to the test. Younger students and those new to the Village, enjoy seeing their older peers return from the Etgar experience. The spirit, strength and confidence of the seniors provides younger teens with the hope that they, too, will one day be confident and strong. The Etgar hike is one of the most popular and anticipated experiences at the Village.

2018-2019 VILLAGE POPULATION

33% ETHIOPIA
24% FORMER SOVIET UNION
17% FRANCE
16% NATIVE ISRAELI
8% BRAZIL

Average age is 15 years old.

Friends of Yemin Orde
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HANUKKAH UPDATE:
VILLAGE WAY EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

My favorite Hanukkah tale is that of the small jug of oil, whose contents miraculously fueled the Temple’s menorah for eight days.

Over the years, our work to empower educators and transform at-risk youth has expanded from a small-scale jug and individual lights, into a shining network which brings light to our entire nation. And the oil fueling this light is our mutual sense of belonging, of having a shared destiny, of being a global Jewish community in the most all-encompassing sense. As we mourn the deadliest attack on Jewish life in the United States at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue, it is important to remember that with all our diverse definitions of Jewishness, we are one people and must stand together. As educators, it is our duty to instill this sense of belonging in the next generation.

On a brighter note, inspired by our exemplary young leadership programs (Mechinot) for at-risk youth, Israel’s National Social Security and Ministry of Welfare launched a new initiative, opening five new Mechinot for young adults with complex backgrounds, including criminal records, who wish to turn their lives around. The new Mechinot, called Nitzotz (Hebrew for spark), also include a vocational training component. One of these “Sparks” runs under the auspices of our Hatzor Mechina, with a most impressive Ethiopian-born Yemin Orde graduate at its helm.

Guiding ever-more young men and women out of the margins to become responsible adults and capable leaders, requires dedication and boundless commitment, but also brings satisfaction and a sense of purpose beyond our daily existence. This is something we can all relish, as partners in actualizing the mission of the Village Way.

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HAIM RUBOVITCH
Chief Executive Officer, VWEI

Village Way Educational Institute is offering courses on the Village Way to students of higher education. Among these is a comprehensive Village Way course at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, taught by Yemin Orde graduate, Dr. Wovit Worko. In addition, there are two courses offered at Oranim College of Education and Achva College. There is also a program for graduate students in leadership and education at Tel Aviv University.

A new book, “It Takes A Village” by Dotan Levi, Director, Village Way Educational Institute, has sold 6,000 copies in Israel to educators and a variety of audiences. The Israeli Scouts movement has organized leadership seminars based solely on the Village Way methodology. Scout leaders adapted material from the book to their training sessions which will impact 6,500 Israeli teen scouts. An English language version will be available in 2019.

“"I think that what I see as most important is that we will work together to succeed. We need a whole village to raise a child and, if we are a whole village, then we are responsible for the values that we pass on to students.”

—Village Way Educator

“"You can say that the philosophy increased my knowledge, gave me strategies on how to approach and treat teachers as a group, how to behave with parents and students, and how knowledge is power! The Village Way gives you a lot of strength when you work with children in a school like ours.”

—Village Way Educator

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