

Hillel Yeshiva Seminar Focuses on Hesed

One Friday afternoon, 150 Hillel Yeshiva High School students, faculty and alumni gathered together at a beautiful hotel ready to enjoy a fantastic Shabbat seminar weekend together. The event started off with the hysterical antics of comedian Joel Chasnoff.



Leetal Freiner and Joyce Cohen

The seminar is designed to provide a wonderful, spiritual and fun Shabbat experience for all who attend. Camaraderie and unity among the students is strengthened and positive relationships are fostered with faculty attendees. One of the most exciting aspects of the seminar is the return of past graduates who serve as role models and advisors to the students. This year, the yeshiva was proud to have the following alumni join us for what proved to be an inspirational Shabbat: Rachel Chemtob, David I. Cohen, Ralph Kassin, Rafe Serouya, Ilana Snyder and Elliot Tabush.

The goal of the seminar was for students to be able to think and



Madeleine Setton, Mariel Dweck, Barbara Saka, Odette Ades, Jherin Gorcey, Shira Harary, Mindy Rosengarten



Sam Sakkal, Elianna Wasser, Joyce Cohen, Leetal Freiner, Raymond Chalme, Ariel Bivas and Sammy Bald

learn in a more social, less structured environment. The theme of this year's seminar was hesed. Hesed has always been very important to Rabbi Victor Gindi, the Deal community and the high school.

Morris Sutton, a major supporter of SEAD, presented programs that motivated the students to understand and re-evaluate their commitment to hesed by joining several

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hesed committees. With the new name of Hillel's Angels, several groups were formed to serve the local community: After-school Household Helpers, Visiting the Sick, Food Pantry Collection and Stocking, the High School Blood Drive and a Transportation Committee. All these initiatives serve to support the hesed needs of the community.

What would a seminar be without Shabbat *zemirot* (songs), circles and Dvrei Torah (Torah discussions)? Under the auspices of graduates Steven Beyda and Joey Bouganim, who have an amazing amount of ruah, everyone was able to participate in a meaningful, moving and fun Shabbat experience.

And what would a seminar be without a little humor? This year, Albert Tawil, Raymond Chalme and Yvette Halawani outdid themselves with a video presentation and hysterical comedy routines. Rabbi Yitzi Glicksman and his band provided the non-stop music. There is nothing like seeing faculty, advisors and students bonding while dancing to contagious Jewish/Israeli music.

Of course, no one went hungry. The delicious Shabbat meals and motzei Shabbat pizza, baked ziti and ice cream were provided by David Pearlman of Executive Caterers. But the hit this year was the fresh popcorn cart.

With the dawn of Sunday morning, the seminar drew to a close with a pre-fast breakfast and sunrise minyan. Inspired, enthusiastic and perhaps a little tired, students boarded the busses that would bring them home—while already planning next year's seminar and talking about implementing the hesed programs that were created this year. □



Seth Deneroff, Joey Bouganim, Ariel Bivas, Daniel Newman, Sammy Bald, Ralph Kassin and Aaron Bivas



Joey Sultan, Annie Shamah and Jherin Gorcey



Brenda B. Saka, Jherin Gorcey and Barbara Saka