

**Joseph Litvin** ('53)  
Recently retired as County Engineer for Montgomery County, Ohio and concluded a 54-year career as an engineer, lawyer and public official

**Phyllis (Heftman) Landman** ('56), Jerusalem  
Secretary to an eye doctor  
*Cherished memory:* The Chicago Jewish Academy has left me with so many wonderful memories and lifelong friends.

**Rena (Weiner) Lewis** ('58), Jerusalem  
Consultant for Hi-Tech Placements  
*Cherished memory:* I cherish the friends who graduated with me and made their homes in Eretz Yisrael.

**Daniel B. Litvin** ('59), Wyomissing, Pennsylvania  
Physics professor at Penn State University; was married to Tikva a "h

**Joe Bilett** ('60), Las Vegas  
*Cherished memory:* The friendships that have remained to this day—and there are many.

**Lillian (Singer) Sadok** ('67), Evanston  
Retired Chicago Public School teacher of 37 years and currently a librarian at Oakton Elementary School in Evanston. Son, Ariel ('08), is a senior at Columbia College

*Cherished memory:* The many friendships that I had and still have today—our close relationships became the families we share today. My funniest memory is of our senior evening event where slides were shown of our baby pictures, and we had to figure out who the students were.

**Regine (Schlesinger) Meisel** ('69), Lincolnwood  
Mother of three, grandmother of three; Anchor/Reporter for WBBM-AM Newsradio 780

**Barry E. Wolf** ('69), Mount Pleasant, South Carolina  
Provides insurance support to medical providers  
*Cherished memory:* Loved being in the ICJA band!

**Beth (Bartenes) Jawary** ('72), Valley Village, California  
Consultant for Jewish day schools in the Los Angeles area in the area of special needs and curriculum; Seven children and one granddaughter  
*Cherished memory:* School plays, Winter Revue, basketball games, Rosh chodesh davening, Rabbi Marchal Kaplan, Mrs. Butts for Spanish & French

**David Maslin** ('75), Dennisport, Massachusetts  
Sons: Jonathan, 28 and Benjamin, 25



David Maslin

**Debie Gronner-Greenberg** ('75), Rego Park, New York  
Registered health information technician; Making a bar mitzvah this September for son, Benjamin  
*Cherished memory:* I got the most ardent fan award for Donny Osmond at senior dinner from Norm Finkel and Alison Pure.

**Eric Sutz** ('76), Wheeling  
Teaching piano and guitar at the Music Institute of Chicago and my home

**Susan (Rubinow) Goldrich** ('76), Skokie  
Currently working for Religious Zionists of Chicago; Four sons: Judd ('04), Jeff ('08), Jake (a current senior) and Josh.  
*Cherished memory:* I loved the ruach and

ahavat Yisrael at the Academy. My favorite day was Yom Ha'Atzmaut, where we sang and danced inside and out. My family was already very connected to Israel, but that connection was made even stronger at the Academy through the learning of Torah and history, and making wonderful friends that are still my best friends today.

**Renee (Atlas) Cohen** ('76), Jerusalem  
Mother of three; attorney and writer  
*Cherished memory:* Rabbi Pachino asking if my mother gives me permission to regularly sign her name.



Renee Cohen

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Daniel A Gutstein** ('87), Lincolnwood  
Practicing exclusively home visits, primarily for the Medicare home-bound.

**Larry Leonard** ('91), Evanston  
Children: Sarah, Max and Jacob; Director and Assistant General Counsel at The Options Clearing Corporation; Board Member of YU Torah Miztion Kollel of Chicago and Hillels Around Chicago  
*Cherished memory:* Great times with friends and faculty alike. I particularly recall my rebbe Rabbi Meyer Juzint zt"l as we observe his 10th yahrtzeit. The lessons learned continue to guide me this very day.

**Elisheva Poupko Schreiber** ('91), Modlin, Israel  
Married to Kevin; Three sons and working as a pediatrician in Israel  
*Cherished memory:* My favorite memories were Purim 1991, when we switched the new beautiful office waiting room furniture with the restriction room furniture, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut 1991, when we built a life-size topographical map of the state of Israel in front of school.

**Shelley Weiss** ('91), Dallas, Texas  
Children: Yosef Eliezer 9, Ephraim Tzvi, 7 and Mordechai Simcha, 5; General pediatrician in his own practice along with his wife, a family physician

**Suzanne (Horwitz) Fine** ('92), Plano, Texas  
Marketing Research; Children: Ethan, 9 and Yael, 6.5

**Sarah (Weiss) Ma'udi** ('93), Rehovot, Israel  
Senior Aide to the Legal Adviser in the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry's expert on maritime law, water rights, borders, legal matters related to Iran and recognition of States; Children: Lielle, 4.5 and Aviad, 2.5

*Funnist memory:* We posed in front of the mikva with knee-length t-shirts for the "swimsuit edition" of the ICJA Sports Illustrated and then slipped the pictures into the graduation slide show.

**Josh Lennon** ('98), Chicago  
Married to Tova, beginning medical residency at Rush Medical Center; Son: Ezra Hillel, 1

**Sarah (Lichtenstein) Bajtner** ('99), Chicago  
Married to Ari; Twins, Tali and Sammy, 15 months; Teaching fourth grade at Hillel Torah

**Noah Mishkin** ('99), Evanston  
Married to Suzanne; Working for Tribe9 Interactive in web development and also practicing architecture  
*Cherished memory:* Boys' Shabbaton

**Alyssa (Block) Gordon** ('00)  
Married to Ross Gordon; Children: Caley, 3.5 and Coby, 1  
*Cherished memory:* Loved sitting on the huge menorah outside with friends, walking the halls during free periods

**Rachael (Arons) Gelman** ('00), Skokie  
Married to Asher Gelman; Pharmaceutical copywriter; Emmett, 18 months

**Richard Goldberg** ('01), Washington, D.C.  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Illinois Senator Mark Kirk  
*Cherished memory:* (Excerpted from his speech to the graduating ICJA class of '11) It was nearing the end of our junior year when one of the Academy's finest English teachers—Mrs. Rosenwald a "h—walked up to me and asked, "Richard, what are you planning to do for college?" I told her that I was very excited about the computer science program at the University of Illinois... "Richard," she responded, "if you don't go into politics, you will have wasted your life. Why don't you try volunteering for a campaign?" A powerful statement—and as it turned out, a transformational moment.

**Elana Lichtenstein** ('01), New York  
AIPAC director for Southern Connecticut

**Shira Wakschlag** ('01), Berkeley California  
Married to Eli Rosenblatt; Graduated Berkeley Law; Skadden Fellow/ Attorney at Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

**Leah (Panitch) Finkel** ('02), Chicago



Leah Finkel

Naaleh.com; Son: Yehuda, 3  
*Cherished memory:* All the lasting friendships I made in high school

**Judy (Alkoby) Gershater** ('03), New York  
Married to Evan Gershater

**Chammie (Polsky) Freedman** ('03), Chicago  
Married to Dovid; Currently a Pre-Doctoral Intern at Grand Prairie Services (A community mental health center in Flossmoor, Illinois), Obtaining a Psy.D. in clinical psychology

**Rachel (Lichtenstein) Lefkowitz** ('04), Southfield, Michigan  
Married to Steven; Going for an MSW at Wayne State  
*Cherished memory:* Being a part of the basketball team

**Judd Goldrich** ('04)  
BA from Rutgers University; Currently at John Marshall Law School

**Franci Elkins** ('04), Northbrook  
Interior design

**Naomi (Sharon) Cohn** ('05), New York  
Registered nurse at Lenox Hill Hospital

**Adam Roth** ('05)  
Recently married Harley Fixler and moving to Israel; just graduated with major in finance from YU.

*Cherished memory:* An old couple who converted wanted a Jewish wedding, and our gemara shiur was called down to Rabbi Matanky's office to be the eidim and make the minyan. We then danced them to their car and went around the school singing and dancing.

**Devorah (Unterman) Reiss** ('06), Ramat Gan, Israel  
Made aliyah after high school; Married Netanel Reiss of Nof Ayalon; Daughter: Liat Hadassah, 9 months; Bar-Ilan University  
*Cherished memory:* I remember Rabbi Matanky and Jessica Caplin having a water fight in the hallway, unicycles flashing past the classroom windows, having class over speaker phone because Rabbi Matanky was away, and everything connected to Sefer Yonah (thanks to Mrs. Wainkrantz, everything still connects to Sefer Yonah).



Devorah Reiss

**Rachel Reichblum** ('07), Skokie  
Entering senior year of Barnard College

**Leora Perlow** ('08), Northbrook  
Pre-med at Stern College

**Jeff Goldrich** ('08)  
Studied at Eretz HaZvi Yeshiva in Jerusalem; Currently a junior in the Business School at the U of I in Champaign

**Nechamit Rosen** ('09), Evanston  
Graduating from Jerusalem Culinary Institute and starting an internship with Wolfgang Puck Catering at Spertus Museum Chicago



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# CROWN ESSENTIALS

Summer 2011  
A Publication of Ida Crown Jewish Academy

## MORE MATH STUDENTS ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE READINESS

After three years of aligning the ICJA math curriculum with the ACT Quality Core standards, faculty members of the math department are condensing course levels to assure that more Academy students are on track for college math. The curriculum and course developments are part of "On the Mark! ICJA's Strategic Plan for 21st Century Learning," which is guiding ICJA's community to further the mission of academic excellence for all students. Each year, Academy staff and administration are committed to evaluating and enriching curriculum in two subject areas—one Judaic and one general studies. The first areas of curriculum improvement were tefillah and math.

Last summer Stephanie Pederson, math department chair, and Marlene Wasserstrom, a math teacher, spent time at a secondary math seminar learning how to further implement the Quality Core curriculum, which teaches students to internalize the material as opposed to just memorizing formulas for a test. Using this approach, lessons build on each other so that students



realize that certain concepts are fundamental to mathematics and can appear on future exams. "This year I've really seen a shift from just teaching the kids algorithms to saying, 'Here's the math, let's think about it, discuss and understand it.' We're fostering thinking as opposed to just memorizing," says Mrs. Pederson.

With the curriculum in place, a team of staff, administration and Professor Mike Stein of Northwestern University formed a committee to revamp the math track. Incoming freshmen will now have three math levels (instead of four): conceptual, core—made up of the formerly regular and honors tracks—and accelerated.

In addition, there will be changes in the accelerated level sequence, and teaching styles and lesson plans will focus on finding patterns and building understanding rather than just memorization of facts and algorithms.

Research shows that by integrating students on different levels, rather than separating them, more students are successful. There will continue to be challenge opportunities for those who understand the information faster, and there will be a math clinic—staffed by teachers—during lunch for those students who need extra help.

"We are raising the expectations for those who are in the middle so that they are all college-ready," says Mrs. Pederson.

At the end of each year, the final exam for the core courses is a test written by the ACT, which lets staff know if students are on track in college preparedness. Over the past three years, more students have met the college-preparedness benchmark, and this year almost 100 percent of the students in the honors level passed the rigorous final exam. The goal is that next year a significant majority of students in the core level will demonstrate college readiness by passing this exam.

In accordance with the Strategic Plan, ICJA faculty plan to focus on science for next year's curriculum, in addition to continuing with the tefillah and math programs.

From finances to curriculum, "On the Mark! ICJA's Strategic Plan for 21st Century Learning" is guiding ICJA's community to further the mission of academic excellence for all students. Consulting funding for the plan is provided by a joint grant from the Institute for University School Partnership of the Center for the Jewish Future of Yeshiva University and PEJE (Partner for Excellence in Jewish Education). ICJA is one of only a handful of day schools nationwide working on school improvement as part of this joint initiative. To find out more about "On the Mark!" go to icja.org.



## Do You Know Who?

Correctly identify the alumni in the photo below to win an ICJA Alumni Decal!  
Send your answer to icjanews@icja.org.



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## ART PROGRAMS FLOURISH AT ICJA

Whether through theater, band, choir, poetry, prose or painting, young artists at Ida Crown Jewish Academy have myriad opportunities to grow and explore. Each spring, the girls' play attracts a devoted cadre of young women who work tirelessly to perform a production for family, friends and community members during two sold-out nights. Shortly after, the girls' choir performance—which was entirely student-led by Ronit Miller—harmonizes in Hebrew and in English for more than 100 audience members. The girls involved in both performances come from a range of backgrounds and performance experience, yet everyone works together to create outstanding productions. The ICJA band attracts more than a dozen students each year, who practice with instructor Mr. Steve Pederson during lunch. The group performs live at the annual Open House for hundreds of students, staff members and prospective students and families.

And throughout the year, students in all levels of art courses at the Academy strive to hone their skills, using a variety of art mediums. Much of their work, along with students' poetry and prose, is displayed in *Charlotte's Web*, *The*

*Literary Magazine of Ida Crown Jewish Academy*, edited by Meytal Chernoff and Hannah Dimbert.

In the spring, ICJA students presented a live reading of the literary magazine. Students read from their work published in the award-winning publication, which is named and produced annually in memory of Mrs. Charlotte Rosenwald a "h. The publication is generously endowed by the Susan and Joseph Ament Endowment Fund.

The evening also included displays of artwork from the advanced art students and the announcement of the winners of the Bonnie Dayan a "h Fund for the Arts Competition. Mr. Harvey Saltzman, father of Bonnie Dayan, offered inspiring words of encouragement to the students at the program. View all the artwork and the *Charlotte's Web* publication at icja.org.

Thirty-eight submissions, the most of any year, were judged by ICJA staff and representatives of Triangle Printing. The First place winner received \$250, 2nd place received \$150 and 3rd place received \$100. The Bonnie Dayan a "h Fund for the Arts was established by the family and friends of past parent Bonnie Dayan and honors her memory by supporting Jewish education and a commitment to the arts at ICJA.



Eliana Kahan



Ronit Miller



Ariella Berger



Yonina Sakols



Marni Rosen



Orli Friedman



Jacob Weinger

## ACES' PRIDE



In a rain-soaked season marred by poor playing conditions, the Aces, for the second year in a row, more than doubled their win total from the previous season, finishing 12-5. The team took third place in the Chicago Prep Conference, and two players were named to the Conference's 1st Team: Jason Silberman and Ezra Allswang, while David Berger was named to the 2nd Team. The Aces also captured the Columbus (Ohio) Baseball Invitational (CBI) Championship.



In their first season in a new conference, the girls' soccer team placed third in the Chicago Prep Conference. They also received the Chicago Prep Conference's Team Sportsmanship Award for Respect, Appreciation, Positivity, Teamwork, Integrity and Modesty. Individual awards went to Shlomit Braun (1st Team All Conference Member) and Michale Goldberger (2nd Team All Conference Member).

## ALUMNI REUNION

On June 5, close to 30 ICJA Alumni from the Class of 2001 gathered at Sluggers in Chicago for their 10-year reunion. Following that day's Academy graduation, at which Class of 2001's Richard Goldberg addressed the graduates, Academy alumni enjoyed spending time together and catching up with classmates and old friends. Reunion chairs Shira Kroll, Eitan Finkel, Richard Goldberg and Elana Lichtenstein are looking forward to gathering the group together in another 10 years, for the 20-year ICJA reunion!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CLASS OF 1986 25-YEAR REUNION ON AUGUST 21!

For information or to plan a class reunion, contact the Deva Zwelling or Melissa Lipschultz at 773.973.1450.



## STUDENTS ACHIEVE TOP SCORES IN AP'S

We are thrilled to announce that 62% of the students who took AP exams achieved the top score of 5, and 98% of the students scored a 3 or above!

- 71 students spent a week in May writing 113 challenging AP exams in chemistry, biology, English language, English literature, European history, U.S. history, psychology, calculus AB & calculus BC
- A remarkable 62% achieved scores of 5, 25% achieved scores of 4 and 11% achieved scores of 3's
- All of the students who took exams in European history, U.S. history, psychology, calculus BC and biology scored a 3 or above, with the majority of the students achieving a 4 or 5.

These fantastic AP scores are a result of extraordinarily focused studying and strong instruction. Congratulations to all of the students who took the exams and the teachers who taught the courses! The staff who teach the AP courses bring the same high standards to all of the classes they teach.



## ISRAEL PROGRAMMING CONNECTS STUDENTS TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Beginning with Yom HaShoah and concluding with Yom HaAtzmaut, the spring semester at the Academy ushers in a season of both commemoration and celebration that connects students to Israel, Jewish history and the Jewish people. For some of these programs, ICJA parents joined the students so that they too could witness and even experience the love that their children are developing for Israel through the school education and programming. One parent who joined the Yom HaAtzmaut dancing commented, "It's so nice to be here because if you aren't in the schools, it's hard to feel connected to this day."

We look forward to welcoming more parents at the programs next year.



### IDF COL. INSPIRES STUDENTS

In April, Academy students and staff were honored to hear Col. Bentzi Gruber of the IDF Reserves share his personal experiences and educate the students on the reality of what is happening in Israel and in the media. His lecture, entitled, "Ethics in the Field," encompassed so much more than that. Gruber showed real footage

of Palestinian suicide bombers and discussed how the IDF responds to these horrors, highlighting how the Israeli Army does everything possible to avoid civilian casualties.

Captivating the students with both humor and knowledge, Gruber also emphasized the importance of "Chesed in the Field." This is a program created by Gruber, where the soldiers do chesed in Israel, such as celebrating Purim in hospitals.

Gruber also addressed the need for students to be educated about Israel when entering college in order to be Israel advocates.

The students left inspired, following the program with conversations about Gruber's amazing accomplishments and strength.

The program was partially funded through a grant from StandWithUs.com.



### YOM HAZIKARON

Finding someone with a personal connection to Yom HaZikaron at the Academy is sadly not a challenge. Students either have a friend or family member in the army or at least learn about the IDF throughout their education at ICJA. What many students did not realize, however, is that our own teacher was a victim of a brutal assault from a terrorist. Mrs. Mara Goldblatt, often seen with a smile on her face while teaching her students or walking around the hallways, lost her first husband, Danny Frei a"h, and unborn child in an attack in her own home in 1995, while living in Ma'ale Michmas.

Through a video documentary, the students learned about the extraordinary hero who was once her husband. The video, along with Mrs. Goldblatt's words, taught the students and the extraordinary hero who was once her husband. The video, along with Mrs. Goldblatt's words, taught the students and staff that from tragedy can come opportunity. While terrorist attacks are designed to instill fear, just one look at Mrs. Goldblatt shows the opposite. Mrs. Goldblatt's fortitude and her former husband's character shed light on Yom HaZikaron. The students were so intrigued that many spent the next period of classes discussing the film.

The Yom HaZikaron program also included a siyum from the YU Torah Mitzion Kollel.

Yom HaZikaron was especially poignant for Academy alumni studying in Israel this year, as the students dealt with the loss of their classmate, David Kandelman a"h ('09), who died in his Givati base. ICJA alumna Chaia Wiznitzer ('10), who was studying in Michlalah, wrote about her experience at the Har Herzl cemetery. "Nearly everyone in Israel knows a soldier,

whether related to him/her or not, who's not here anymore. There were flowers on every kever. I briefly visited the kever of David. He was a year older than me, we went to school together...It was meaningful that a representative from school could stand by him on this day."



## STUDENTS ATTEND AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

More than a dozen Academy students joined the 10,000 Israel activists who gathered in Washington, D.C. for AIPAC's annual policy conference, the largest in AIPAC's history.

Over the course of three days, a variety of speakers with important positions around the globe discussed their support of Israel. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the crowd. In between, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, the House Majority Leader, and many other prominent politicians talked about America's unwavering partnership with Israel. At the Gala Dinner, about two-thirds of both the United States House and Senate were present.

The last day of the conference was largely spent lobbying on Capitol Hill. Attendees of the AIPAC conference met with their senators and congressmen, explaining the issues facing Israel today and what our lawmakers must do to help. ICJA students met with members of Congress from Illinois, such as Senator Mark Kirk, and spoke with them about the relationship that America and Israel share. All who attended this year's AIPAC policy conference had an experience filled with the understanding that, like AIPAC's motto says, the United States and Israel are "better together."

Many thanks to the Ben-David family and the Jewish Student Union for helping our students attend this most important conference. By David Quintas



### YOM HA'ATZMAUT

On Yom Ha'Atzmaut students were sent back in time to 1991 during the Gulf War, complete with a sealed room and gas masks.

After the "war" students enjoyed an Israeli-style lunch, followed by lively Israeli dancing. Students and staff showed so much spirit and love for Israel as they were shouting and dancing along with the words of the songs. The dancing moved outside and attracted a few onlookers who were gleaming with pride to see the students so Zionist and happy.

Many thanks to Mrs. Mara Goldblatt and the student committees for organizing all the Israel programming. Junior Sophia Weisberg contributed to this article.

## Student Achievements Abound

### YU SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the Academy graduates who received merit scholarships to Yeshiva University: Hanah Brasch, Adir Feifel, Aliza Katzin, Sarah Lis, Mish Miller, Ronit Miller, Amy Nathan, Benjamin Richter, Yair Sakols & Flora Weiss.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Zachary Bloomberg, Eliana Borochov, Meytal Chernoff, Daniel Cohen, Josh Cooper, Mireille Elkaim, Adir Feifel, Michale Goldberger, Rita Gordon, Aliza Jaffe, Jenna Katz, Karen Layani, Sara Lis, Jacob Lowenstein, Ilana Lupovitch, Ronit Miller, Miriam Mosbacher, Eitan Parnass, Yarden Pressner, Danya Sakols ~ Vice President, Yair Sakols, Jason Silberman ~ President, Ariel Silverstein, Alanna Stalman, Merav Stein ~ Secretary/Treasurer, Jaclyn Stelzer & Flora Weiss

### GIRLS' TALMUD COMPETITION

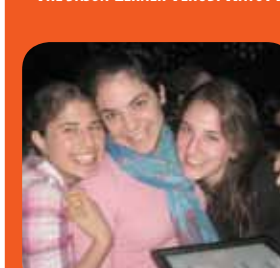
The girls in the Honors Girls' Gemara class, taught by Rabbi Matanky, all had impressive scores in the Yeshiva University's High School Girls Bekiut Program, with four of the students placing in the top six nationally. The dedicated bunch completed Masechet Megillah for the course and the competition. Four of the girls placed in the top 10 and swept the top three spots, the strongest representation of any school nationally. Michale Goldberger placed 1st, Meytal Chernoff placed 2nd, Hannah Otis placed 3rd and Shira Lebowitz placed 6th. The competition, in its fourth year, includes over 150 girls participating from high schools around the country. Competitors complete one daf

Gemara per week to cover a masechet per year. There are five tests over the course of the year, each covering a number of pages.



In addition, the girls visited the Chicago Rabbinical Council for an oral bechuna with Rabbi Gedalia Dov Schwartz *shlita*. After the hour-long oral test, Rav Schwartz complimented the girls on their knowledge and their incredible accomplishment.

### THE JASON LERNER YEHUDI HATOV AWARD



Congratulations to the students who were recognized at this year's Torah Awards, receiving awards in Torah Excellence, Torah Diligence, Middot Tovot and Chesed. A new award, the Yehudi HaTov, was awarded to senior Ronit Miller. Ronit was chosen by her peers as someone who embodies the best of Jewish life and practice. Pictured on the left is Ronit (center) with Michale Goldberger (left) and Marni Rosen. The award was established by the family of Jason Lerner a"h ('95) in consultation with world-

renowned Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. His family wrote, "Jason Lerner personified the yehudi hatov. He acted only after paying attention to the feelings and needs of a fellow person."

### SCIENCE TRIP TO ISRAEL

Two ICJA students, Daniel Jacoby and Hannah Dimbert (pictured second and third from left), were finalists in the Jerusalem Science Contest. The program, run by Integrated DNA Technologies, was held from November 2010 to March 2011 for high school students across the country. The students studied and were tested on marine biology every week and also studied techelet and kosher fish, two topics linking marine biology and Judaism. After approximately 15 tests, the students took a final and an oral exam. Both Daniel and Hannah traveled to Israel as finalists in the program. Following the Israel trip, Hannah said, "On our trip to Israel as part of the Jerusalem Science Contest, we toured across Israel, focusing especially on experiences related to marine biology, the topic we had studied. The trip was meaningful and interesting, and we all had a great time."



### STUDENT COMPETED IN MACCABI GAMES

This summer, senior Spencer Brasch competed in the 13th European Maccabi Games in Vienna, Austria, as a member of the USA Open Fencing Team, finishing in third place in the open men's individual foil event. The team took the gold in the open men's foil team event. The games in Vienna were the largest gathering of Jews there since World War II, with representatives of 45 countries competing.

Spencer began fencing at age 6, practicing Monday-Thursdays and Sundays for more than three hours at a time. He has competed in many local competitions and twice in the National Tournament. His fencing practice comes after a rigorous day at ICJA, preceded by two full hours of piano practice in the mornings, from 5:45-7:45AM.

Fencing, says Spencer, requires both physical and mental discipline. "It's like a puzzle. When you're fencing you have to read your opponent and figure out how to win."

On the Maccabi team, Spencer was among the youngest athletes there and the only Shomer Shabbat member of the USA team. He says people have pushed him to fence on Shabbat for as long as he can remember, but he has become a top fencer without ever compromising his beliefs. "All my life I've had to struggle—fencing or Judaism? This year I've been figuring out my values, who I am and where I want to go to yeshiva, and why am I putting so much time into fencing. I guess it's because you're supposed to serve God with happiness."



## HATS OFF TO IDA CROWN JEWISH ACADEMY'S 2011 GRADUATES

### WE WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS

AS YOU HEAD TO THE FINEST PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL, INCLUDING:

Afikei Torah, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Derech Etz HaChaim, Emunah V'Omanut, Eretz Hatzvi, Gush Etzion, Lev Hatorah, MMY, Machon Maayan, Mevaseret, Michlalah, Michlelet Esther, Midreshet Ein Hanatziv, Midreshet Harova, Midreshet Moriah, Migdal Oz, Netiv Aryeh, Orayta, Shaalavim for Women, Bnot Torah, Tiferet & Torat Shraga

### AND TO THE FINEST UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING:

Barnard College, Binghamton University, Boston University, Brandeis University, Drexel University, Indiana University, Loyola University, Michigan State University, New York University, Northwestern University, Queens College, Stern College, University of Illinois, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, Washington University & Yeshiva University



## ALUMNI PRESENT AT GUIDANCE PROGRAM

ICJA, with the assistance of Hadassah Hospital, hosted a forum for careers in the health field this spring. Five presenters, including three alumni, presented on nursing and the allied health sciences. Laura (Stein) Goltz ('91) pictured below, an occupational therapist; Carrie (Donahue) Shacter ('00), a speech pathologist; and Neeli (Axler) Engelhart ('94), a physician assistant; along with two registered nurses, presented and answered questions related to their fields. Hadassah Task Force for Nursing, a partnership between Hadassah and Johnson & Johnson, is a recruitment program at the secondary school level designed to address the nursing shortage in the United States by attracting young women and men to this vital profession.



"We're continuing to try to meet the needs and challenges of our students who will be entering the job market of the 21st century in a few years," says Rabbi Louis Fliegelman, director of guidance. "We're encouraging our students to head to college with a plan for their futures."

A fall career forum will feature alumni in the business field. For more information about participating, email Rabbi Fliegelman at fliegelman@icja.org.



Three students competed in "An Artistic Discovery," a national art competition showcasing the artistic ability of high school students. The reception with Rep. Jan Schakowsky was held in May at the Skokie Public Library. Pictured from left are: Marni Rosen; Ms. Kathy Kelly, ICJA art teacher; Shayna Jacoby; and Ronit Miller.