

## Unprecedented seasons for ICJA Aces!

### Varsity Boys' Basketball

Congratulations Aces boys varsity basketball team on becoming the number-one yeshiva basketball team in the nation! The team defeated top-seeded HANC in the championship game with a score of 69 to 52, securing



Yeshiva University's 2008 Sarachek High School Tournament Championship, the first in its history. The Aces had been seeded third.

Coached by Head Coach Howard Braun and Assistant Coach Dov Pinchot, the Aces beat Hillel-Pittsburgh, YULA and Ramaz to make it to the championship game. Clutch three-pointers by junior Sam Stelzer in a double-overtime win over Ramaz sent the team to the National Championship Game. The Aces won the quarterfinals against the buzzer.

The Academy was led by senior Shlomo Weissberg in a dominating performance, scoring 20 points and pulling down 7 rebounds. Weissberg scored 65 points and had 36 rebounds in the weekend tournament, the most of any player there. Junior Daniel Lapson hit a lay-up at the buzzer to beat YULA and hit the two free throws that sealed the victory over Ramaz at the end of the second overtime. Lapson and Sam Stelzer were named All Stars at the tournament. Junior Ari Bloomburg, who scored 50 points in the tournament, was named tournament MVP.

At the final buzzer of the championship game, the Aces were mobbed by a sea of fans that came from Chicago to support their team.

Throughout the tournament, the team was recognized not only for their athletic prowess, but also for their exemplary *middot*.

### JV Boys' Basketball

Congratulations to the Aces junior varsity boys' basketball team on their first-place finish at the Metro Prep Championship on Sunday, Feb. 17.



### Wrestling

Congratulations to the Aces wrestling team! Following close on the heels of their second place showing in the Illinois State Regional Tournament, the team won the 2008 YU Henry Wittenberg Wrestling Invitational XIII, edging out Frisch by one point, and breaking Frisch's five-year streak. The



competition was tight, with the lead changing hands a number of times, and going into the final round with the Academy down by only a few points.

Many Academy students and families traveled to New York to cheer the team to victory. The fans were exhilarated when the team clinched their first-place finish in the very last match of the last round of the tournament. Emotions ran high throughout the entire tournament, with wrestlers literally crying with joy over their victories. Coach Doug Klein—who was honored as Educator of the Year at ICJA's annual Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 24,—was absolutely ecstatic with the final outcome.

The Aces placed in the top three in 11 (out of 14) weight classes with five first place, three-second place and two third place winners.

It all came down to the final three matches of the day with the Academy down by seven points. The Academy had wrestlers in two of the last three bouts, and Frisch had one in the other. It took our two wrestlers, Ilan Cohn and Avi Bromberg to pin their opponents and for the Frisch wrestler to either beat but not pin his opponent or lose for the Aces to win. Cohn and Bromberg went into their matches with poise and confidence, and each pinned their opponents with relative ease.

The team not only won the tournament over Frisch, but they also demonstrated incredible *midot*, *ruach* and *menchlichkeit* by being on time for davening and the buses, single handedly leading the singing and ruach over Shabbat and participating far more than any of the other teams even in things as simple as rolling up the mats.

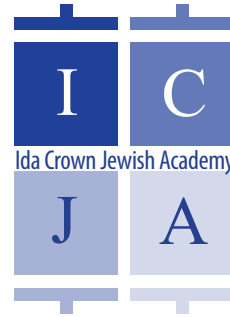
### Girls' Basketball



The varsity girls basketball team (pictured) had a strong season with a record of 14-4 and a third place finish at the Weiner Tournament in Baltimore. The JV team was a young team of mostly freshmen and a spirited group of 15 girls. They finished with a record of 5-7 and are proud of the growth they did as a team throughout the season.

### New Baseball and Soccer Teams

The Academy was thrilled to expand the athletic program to incorporate two new competitive spring teams. Approximately 50 students competed on either the boys' baseball team or the girls' soccer team. Dave Koder, a well-known AYSO soccer coach, coached the girls' soccer team, and Jeremy Newman, a former semi-pro baseball player and ICJA gym teacher, coached the boys' baseball team. The seasons included 5-7 games, and the program will continue to expand in the future years.



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### Online donations

ICJA now accepts donations online. It's an easy, quick way to make a gift in honor of a simcha, to commemorate a loss or just contribute to the ICJA Scholarship Fund.

See [www.icja.org](http://www.icja.org) for more details.

### Admissions

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### Educational Opportunities

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### Endowments and Giving Opportunities

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### Communications

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### Do you know who?

The first to correctly identify the alumni in the photo below will win an ICJA prize!  
Send your answer to [icjanews@icja.org](mailto:icjanews@icja.org).

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### Record number of attendees, funds raised at Scholarship Dinner



Zenia and Jeffrey Cohen and family.



Josh Glickman, Avi Bromberg, Coach Doug Klein and Elie Saltzman.



Amy and John Lowenstein, recipients of The Board of Governors Award.



Co-presidents Yosie Goldberger (front left) and Michelle Friedman (front center) are pictured with dinner chairs: Edward and Jane Best, Mitchell Dayan, Daniela and Jacques Glicksberg and Cindy and Alon Redlich.

Over 520 community members, communal leaders, parents, and staff of Ida Crown Jewish Academy packed the Hyatt Regency-Chicago on February 24 to pay tribute to the accomplishments of ICJA and the distinguished honorees. Zenia and Jeffrey Cohen were honored with The Inaugural Crown Award, Doug Klein was honored with The Educator of the Year Award and Amy and John Lowenstein were honored with The Board of Governors Award.

Dinner and auction proceeds raised a record \$730,000 for much-needed scholarship funds.

Dr. Steven B. Nasatir, president of JUF/JF, opened the evening by offering congratulatory remarks to all of the honorees and by recognizing the Academy for several accomplishments. "This dinner comes on the heels of having been named one of the top 10 private schools in Chicago and the champion wrestlers in the nation."

Honoring Doug Klein as The Educator of the Year exemplified that the ICJA education in Torah and *derech eretz* extends beyond the classroom—even to the wrestling mats. A video presentation of the Aces wrestlers winning at YU demonstrated for everyone the raw emotion and sheer excitement of the wrestlers, their fans and coach upon their victory. Academy alumnus Isaac Dayan then introduced Coach Doug Klein saying, "Coach Klein holds us to the highest standards of sportsmanship and Yiddishkeit."

Coach Klein, who compared Aces wrestling to that of Yaakov Avinu, said that seeing the team win, for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in 10 years, was "an achievement of *Klil tiferet*—complete glory."

The children of Zenia and Jeffrey Cohen, all of whom are Academy alumni, presented their parents with The Crown Award, an inaugural award celebrating the Crown and Goodman families, who were in attendance. Jeffrey Cohen said that as he and Zenia raised their children, the Academy has been "partners with our family in teaching a love of religious Zionism."

Amy and John Lowenstein, who received The Board of Governors Award in part for their commitment to the ideal that every child deserves the opportunity to receive a Jewish education, said, "Tonight is not about recognition but about responsibility."

Many thanks to all of the dinner, auction and ad book chairs.

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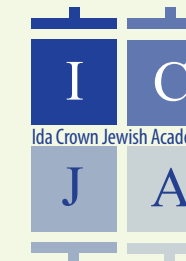
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## Fund establishes living legacy commemorating Bonnie Dayan a”h

The untimely loss of Bonnie Saltzman Dayan a”h last Sept. left many of those who knew her with a need to do something tangible in her memory. Dayan—parent of three current and former ICJA students and wife of board member, Mitchell—was a dedicated friend and a talented businesswoman who devoted her career to bringing creativity and professionalism to all her colleagues.

Because all three of the Dayan children (Isaac ’03, Max ’06 and Stanley ’08) have been integral parts of the Academy in recent years, and Mitchell continues to play such a critical role in the wrestling program, ICJA, along with Dayan’s family and friends established a special fund.

The Bonnie Dayan a”h Fund for the Arts honors Dayan’s memory by blending two of her most important values: Jewish education and commitment to the arts. The fund will support and enhance art programming at the Academy.

The name and life work of Dayan, who did marketing at Triangle Printers, will be commemorated by a fund at the institution that helped shape each of her children as young adults.

Nearly 100 donors raised almost \$13,000 for the fund. The money was used for a printing press and

supplies for the art department and to underwrite a graphic design program. The printing press was generously donated by Blick art materials.

The remaining money is funding a student art competition for 2007-2008 juniors and seniors. Artwork will be juried by a group of professional artists, educators, students, community members and members of the administration. Monetary awards (between \$100 and \$1000) are based on the number of pieces chosen by the jury panel, and winning work will be displayed at the school with a plaque.

Together, all of these enhancements to the Academy’s art program will be a living legacy to Bonnie Dayan.

Regine Meisel, a current parent and friend of Dayan, says, “Bonnie was truly remarkable: a light that shone in the lives of everyone she knew. She was the epitome of courage and optimism. Never one to feel sorry for herself, she always found the humor and positive in even the most terrible events in her life. Her compassion for others was endless and her love for her parents, brothers, husband and sons was inspiring. We will miss her cheery personality, her always helpful advice and most of all, her love.”



Bonnie Dayan a”h, pictured second from right with her father, Harvey Saltzman (right) and Triangle Printers staff.

## Two new exciting Judaic studies opportunities

Cutting-Edge technology offers 10th grade boys in a new honors Navi (Prophets) course a top-notch learning opportunity. The new distance-learning course, using the Academy’s videoconferencing equipment, is taught by Rabbi Dr. David Mescheloff (class of ’62) of Israel, in partnership with Mr. Barry Robinson (class of ’61).

The Academy was selected for the videoconferencing course by Bar Ilan’s Lookstein Center in a pilot program funded by the AVI CHAI Foundation. For nearly two years, the videoconferencing equipment, which was given to the Academy by Yeshiva University, has allowed faculty and students to participate first-hand in lectures that take place anywhere in the world. That the Academy was chosen to participate in the Lookstein Center’s pilot program exemplifies that Ida Crown Jewish Academy is known as one of the premier day schools in the country.

Rabbi Mescheloff, who has a Ph.D. in math and Talmud and smicha from Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik, is a retired professor from Bar Ilan and the former Chief Rabbi of a Kibbutz in Israel.



Rabbi Gross teaching 9th graders Gemara Berura.



Mr. Robinson and Rabbi Mescheloff teaching Navi.

This year freshmen boys in Rabbi Reuven Gross’s honors gemara class began using Gemara Berura, a computer-based tool for learning and teaching Gemara. The program, developed in Israel, helps learners acquire the necessary skills for understanding the text and its structure. A clear understanding of the structure of the text forms a solid basis, which enables students to progress toward the deeper meaning and significance of the *sugya*. Rabbi Gross was sent by ICJA to Florida last year to learn how to use the program.

## Creative admissions programs attract middle school students

Recent admissions programs were filled to capacity, providing extremely positive and exciting programming opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Arie Crown, Hillel Torah, Solomon Schechter, Akiba Schechter and public school.

Two action-packed Sundays brought 40-50 middle school students together for chesed, learning and fun opportunities giving students a positive first impression of the Academy.

An “Adarable Day with ICJA” in Feb., attracted 48 students to purchase, wrap, and deliver toys for Chai Lifeline families, package and deliver  *mishloach manot*  to residents of Park Plaza, and watch the Jesse White Tumbling Team. “Have a ‘Ball’ Preparing for Pesach” brought together 40 students to visit Zelda’s to see how a candy store becomes Kosher for Pesach, make a seder plate, and bowl to raise money for Maot Chitim. Both programs included pizza lunches as well.

The Academy received a special grant from the

AVI CHAI Foundation in New York to fund the special programs. The grant program is aimed to increase the number of students in Jewish middle schools who continue on to Jewish high schools.

Rivkah Rabin, director of admissions, who initiated and developed the programs, says, “We’re trying to attract students by having them associate Ida Crown with experiences that are both Jewishly purposeful and a whole lot of fun.”

In addition to these programs, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students met with ICJA Aces athletic team members and coaches for sports clinics. Some 50 boys and girls came to the Academy to get a glimpse of the school’s athletic program.

This past year has been extremely exciting for the admissions department, and we look forward to welcoming students from each of the Chicago-area Jewish day schools, from Israel, and from public school into our freshman class for the 2008-2009 school year.



Middle school students join the Jesse White Tumblers at an ICJA recruitment event.

## Nationally renowned expert addresses ICJA women; Teacher, students honored

Citing common examples of bullying through text messaging and Instant Messaging, Rosalind Wiseman, best-selling author of *Queen Bees & Wannabes* and keynote speaker at ICJA’s Inaugural Women’s Luncheon, explained to the 150 attendees, “No bullying exists anymore without technology. And with technology, teasing is now relentless.”

The luncheon, held March 26 at the Double Tree in Skokie, celebrated the achievements of women and girls in the Jewish community. Mrs. Susan Sennett, ICJA social studies department chair, was honored as Truly Innovative Educator and four outstanding student leaders were recognized: Carly Cooper, Rachel Daniels, Michelle Kaplan and Esti Nussbaum.

Mrs. Sennett has taught at the Academy for more than a decade, instilling in her students a love for learning. “Walk into her classroom and you’ll experience exceptional teaching and her insight and passion to transmit her knowledge to her students. She truly loves what she does,” said Rabbi Matanky.

Accepting her award, Mrs. Sennett said, “Teaching at the Academy is a privilege and an honor. My students teach me something everyday and delight me with their ideas everyday.”

The four young women honored as student leaders were chosen because they are all role models of what an Academy student should be: dedicated to Torah, to Academic excellence and to serving the community.

In addition, the luncheon was the launch of *Girl Speak Up*, a program for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Chicago-area day schools with the mission of building resilience in girls by establishing and reinforcing positive attitudes and beliefs.

The program is funded in part through the generosity of the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Laura Kaufman, director of Jewish Women’s Foundation, spoke about *Girl Speak Up*, saying, “ICJA took the positive step of developing an innovative program to build strong girls and to train the next generation of Jewish leaders. We are so very proud to partner with you in this extraordinary effort.”

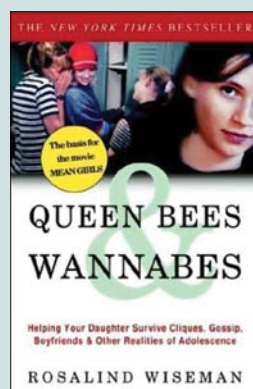
Addressing the attendees candidly and with humor, Wiseman said that her central theme as a teacher and mother is that “Dignity is not negotiable. Dignity means ‘worthy,’ and everyone is worthy.”

She said that as mothers and teachers, women need to teach girls to be socially competent—to speak up when they are intimidated, even when they don’t want to, and even when they have a bad feeling in their stomachs.

Traveling the nation doing workshops with groups of girls, students, parents and teachers, Wiseman reaches more than 10,000 youth and educators each year. She tries to impart to young girls that they must take the “bad feelings in their stomachs” that come from confrontations with peers and put them into words.

“This,” she says, “is social competency. This is hard.”

And as a Jewish woman, speaking to a mostly Orthodox audience, Wiseman said that young Jewish girls need to see their parents’ values put into practice. “You have to say that ethical behavior is what we stand for.”



Four outstanding student leaders: Carly Cooper, Rachel Daniels, Michelle Kaplan and Esti Nussbaum.



Keynote speaker, Rosalind Wiseman, and Truly Innovative Educator, Mrs. Susan Sennett.

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## Community, school, family and friends mourn Cpl. Albert Bitton a”h

Hundreds of community members, family and friends packed Congregation Adas Yeshurun of West Rogers Park to honor the memory of Corporal Albert Bitton on Feb. 26. They gathered in the same synagogue where congregants had previously joined each week to recite Psalms in the merit of Albert’s safety in Iraq.

Albert, a medic serving his seventh month in Iraq and an ICJA alum (class of 2005), was killed—along with two other soldiers—in Bagdad when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was part of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Cpl. Bitton was buried with full military honors in a ceremony presided over by an honor guard under Major General Robert Radin, including: a 21-gun salute and a flag, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart presentation to Bitton’s wife and parents.

Albert joined the U.S. Army in 2005 after graduating from the Academy with hopes of receiving the training and financial help to someday become a surgeon.

When news of Albert’s death spread to his friends, many of them ICJA alumni, an impromptu prayer service was held at Yeshiva University in New York. And by the time his funeral was held, one week after his death, dozens of friends across the nation and in Israel had volunteered to learn Mishnayot in his memory.

It seemed everyone who had encountered Albert was affected by his charm. And all those who heard of the 20-year-old’s death were left in shock because of his life and all his potential that was lost.

“On Wed., when I received the call that an Iraqi terrorist had murdered Albert, it was as if someone had punched me in the gut,” said Rabbi Matanky,

who had known Albert since he officiated at his bar mitzvah.

“*Eich naflu giborim*, how the mighty have fallen,” said Rabbi Matanky, “He had strength not only for fighting for our country, but also spiritual strength.”

Albert placed a card with *tefillat haderech* on his rifle and prayed with *tefillin* daily.

But what most of those who knew Albert will remember was his smile. As Rabbi Matanky said, he fulfilled the verse in Ethics of our Fathers to greet every person with a pleasant face. “Albert’s smile was infectious. His interactions with others drew them in. In recent months when he began to understand the reality of the dangers in Iraq, it was his smile that convinced his parents he was okay.”

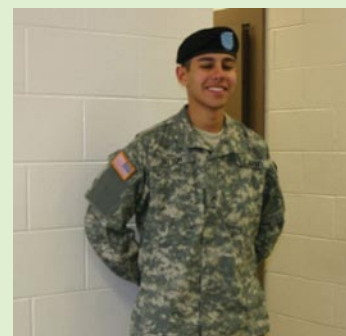
Max Saltzman, a former ICJA classmate and close friend of Albert, said, “Albert had a great smile, it’s true. But it was not his smile alone that made him so great. It was the kindness behind that smile.”

Benji Kandelman, another classmate, said, “You had exceptional people skills. You could have gone on and excelled in any position you wanted.”

In Iraq, Albert asked his father to send \$1 bills for Iraqi children because he loved making them happy.

In a letter to friends before being deployed to Iraq, Albert tried to quell their concerns about maintaining his Jewish commitment. He promised to pray with his tefillin everyday and wrote, “I will always remain a Jew, every step of the way.”

Albert is survived by his wife, Melissa Handelman, his parents, Elie and Silvia, and his sisters, Jackie and Elizabeth. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and may his memory be for a blessing.



Albert Bitton on a visit to ICJA.



## ICJA girls present ‘Oliver’

Nearly 40 girls joined the cast and crew of ICJA’s annual girls’ production on March 11-12. Together they produced two nights of spectacular singing, dancing and acting in their performance of “Oliver.” Nearly 300 women and girls watched the production at Mayer Kaplan JCC in Skokie. Producer Amanda Vilder (class of 2007) said, “Every year the play gets better and better. No matter what grade everyone is in, the girls all become one. It is so beautiful to see.”

Many thanks to Mrs. Michelle Bulgatz, director; Amanda Vilder, producer; and to Shoshie Sandler, assistant director. The girls’ play was generously endowed by the Joseph and Susan Ament Endowment Fund.

## Congratulations Class of 2008!

Best wishes to the senior class of 2008 as they head to renowned seminaries and yeshivot and to the finest universities. Mazal tov on all of your accomplishments.

Senior girls will be attending the following programs: Emunah V’Omanut, Machon Maayan, Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim, Midreshet AMIT, Midreshet HaRova, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Midreshet Moriah, Shaalavim for Women, Tafnit.

Senior boys will be attending the following programs: Bar Ilan, Eretz HaTzvi, HaKotel, Har Etzion, Lev HaTorah, Orayta, Reishit Yerushalayim, Shaalavim, Shalem, Shvilei HaTorah and Tafnit.

Seniors were admitted to the following universities: Barnard, Boston University, Bradley University, Brandeis, Columbia College, Cornell University, George Washington, Loyola, NYU, Michigan State, Northwestern, Stern, Binghamton, UCLA, U of I, Maryland, UMass, Michigan, Penn, Wash U. and YU.



## 26 students inducted into NHS

Congratulations National Honor Society 2008 inductees:

Pesach Baral, Moshe Bitterman, Naomi Bloch, Daniel Camras, Ilan Cohn, Rachel Daniels, Kenneth Dvorin, Eliana Geller, Yael Gluck, Elana Goldberg, Jered Greenspan, Erica Hasten, Michelle Kaplan, Rachel Kirshenbaum, Charles Lederer, Becky Lis, Joshua Lowenstein, Leora Perlow, Yaelle Plotkin, Ashley Polin, Cindy Pollack, Dena Shandalov, Gabriel Shapiro, Donny Silberman, Michal Yabloug, Sarah Zivic.

Many thanks to the parents and staff who attended the induction ceremony on Tues. night, March 18, and to Dr. Phil Zbaraz on organizing the program.