

TORAH LEADERS VISIT ICJA

It is our honor and privilege to welcome many Torah personalities to ICJA throughout the year. In addition to the dozens of heads of seminaries and yeshivot in Israel that come to recruit Academy seniors, many Torah leaders address our students as well.



Rav Yuval Cherlow, Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivat Hesder Petach Tikva and author of numerous sefarim, spoke to juniors and seniors in January. He described in great detail the issues regarding a controversy between the Hesder yeshivot and the Israeli army.

Mrs. Shani Taragin from Midreshet Lindenbaum spoke at the Academy in November as a guest speaker for several girls' Judaics classes. Mrs. Taragin, who originally is from Chicago, also taught a girls' gemara class and met with students about Midreshet Lindenbaum. It was an honor and a zechut for our students and their teachers to be able to learn Torah from one of today's most brilliant female Torah scholars.



It was a tremendous zechut to have the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Shlomo Amar visit the Academy in October. Rav Amar spoke to staff and students in Hebrew about the sweetness of Torah learning. Several students and teachers became very emotional just by being in the presence of a gadol b'Yisrael.



SOCIETY OF PATRONS 2010

Thank you to the many families and businesses who have joined Ida Crown Jewish Academy's 2010 Society of Patrons. In 2009 with the support of the Society of Patrons and Corporate Sponsors, Ida Crown Jewish Academy granted over \$1,200,000 in scholarship assistance so that no student was denied a Jewish education for financial reasons. Society of Patrons memberships and corporate sponsorship gifts entitle donors to attend a private reception, place a complimentary ad(s) in the Scholarship Dinner Ad Journal and attend the dinner in February as our guests.

For more information, contact Melissa Lipschultz at (773) 973-1450 x133 or mlipschultz@icja.org.

ACES MEN AND WOMEN COMPETE IN FIRST-EVER CROSS-COUNTRY CLUB

Ida Crown Jewish Academy's first season of cross-country for boys and girls of all grades was a great success. Under the leadership of parents, Ezra Jaffe and Elissa Weissberg, along with ICJA Communications Director Wendy Margolin, the club attracted 30 students who competed in two high school meets and two local public 5K races.

The team was the vision and goal of four students who came to the administration last summer to lobby for a cross-country club. Seniors Avi Gluck, Shayna Weisberg, Sammy Magid and junior Aliza Jaffe together developed a plan for the club. Once the administration approved the club, those four students were the captains.

With every practice and meet, runners



Photo credit: Mitch Jacoby

were able to personalize their training and goals. Veteran athletes joined the club to build their strength for other sports, and new runners joined the group to get in shape.

One new runner, sophomore Dovid Bulgatz, said, "I like how the school started a program that lets me exercise and teaches endurance, without it being a competition."

Early in the season, the cross country club competed against more than a dozen teams from throughout Chicagoland at a Niles West meet. In jerseys hot off the press, all students set personal records by successfully finishing a 2-mile race for the first time. Over *chol hamoed* Sukkot, nearly 25 students competed against nine Chicago high schools at the Latin Prep Classic. Several students in that meet received medals.

In addition to the two meets, the club competed at the RAM Racing Hot Chocolate Race at Montrose Harbor, and at the Lincolnwood Turkey Trot, running 5K races against runners of all ages from across Chicago.

ADMISSIONS NEWS

Nearly 100 eighth grade students from Chicago-area Jewish day schools spent a day at Ida Crown Jewish Academy on trips organized by the admissions department. Students came with their teachers to join ICJA students in classes and at lunch. They also toured the building, met administrators and reconnected with alumni from their respective middle schools. Following the visits, the eighth grade students received ICJA sweatshirts as a souvenir.

The visits were in addition to the successful annual open house in the fall, attended by close to 200 people. Many of these students will also join Aces Sports Clinics in the Spring. We look forward to welcoming many of these students and their families to the ICJA class of 2014!



Arie Crown students visiting the Beit Midrash at ICJA.



Hillel Torah students visiting ICJA.



2828 West Pratt Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60645

Return Service Requested



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Become a fan of ICJA and join a virtual reunion on Facebook. Reconnect with classmates, read ICJA news, view old photos and new ones, post your own, tag your friends and write captions. You can even win prizes by being the first to answer our Tuesday Trivia.

Educational Opportunities

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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.



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ICJA STRIVES FOR NEXT LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE WITH MENTORING PROGRAM, STRATEGIC PLAN

At the back of the classroom of new faculty member, Mrs. Molly Katz, sits seasoned ICJA teacher, Mrs. Caryn Engle. Mrs. Engle observes Mrs. Katz's history lesson in order to provide feedback and ideas for the first-time teacher. As a mentor, Mrs. Engle also serves as Mrs. Katz's role model and sounding board for ideas.

"Caryn has been so helpful. She helps me come up with creative ideas of presenting material and helps me work through my questions," says Mrs. Katz.

The mentoring program, an initiative of ICJA's Strategic Plan, benefits everyone involved. Mrs. Katz gets the extra support a new teacher needs in order to succeed. And for Mrs. Engle, the program allows her to stay involved in teaching as she takes time off as a mother.

Similarly, Rabbi Zev Shandalov, a former ICJA teacher who made aliyah last summer, mentors new teacher Rabbi Danny Kroll. While Rabbi Kroll teaches Judaic studies classes, Rabbi Shandalov observes him using Skype.

"Research shows," says Dr. Jeffrey Glanz, a renowned lecturer and educator from Yeshiva University, "that with the induction of mentoring in schools, teachers are more likely to be successful, to stay in that school, and the quality of what they do is tremendously higher."

The mentoring program is just one aspect of Ida Crown Jewish Academy's Strategic Plan, which has become a driving force in the school's academic climate and in the institution's future. From finances to curriculum, this plan is guiding ICJA to further the mission of academic excellence. The initiative is funded by a joint grant from the Institute for University School Partnership of the Center for the Jewish Future of Yeshiva University and PEJE.

In late October, ICJA staff welcomed Dr. Glanz for three days of working

with faculty, administration and lay leaders with the goal to "collaborate with Ida Crown, to acknowledge the wonderful work being done here and to strive for even higher levels of success." Dr. Glanz also visited ICJA last spring to observe classes and conduct interviews for a report on academic achievement.

Dr. Glanz introduced classroom observation tools to teachers who are supervisors and helped them practice using these tools. He also worked with faculty members on mentoring other teachers.

According to Dr. Kevin Kirshenbaum, chair of the Strategic Planning committee, the greatest strength of the plan has been that "We've been able to set an overall strategy for continually raising the bar at ICJA. We've taken a step back to evaluate where we are in comparison to schools across the nation, and then set goals and priorities to ensure a strong future."

Following are goals that have been set for the Strategic Plan in the 2009-2010 school year. Each goal includes an action plan to ensure that it is met.

1. In the first phase of the staff professional development plan, teachers are divided into three categories: new teachers, tenured teachers and teachers in need of assistance, with professional development plans tailored toward each group.
2. To ensure that the Academy continues to attract and retain outstanding teaching professionals, faculty members this spring will all participate in a survey to assess the strengths of ICJA's working environment and to identify potential areas of improvement.
3. Two curricular subjects are the focus of improvement per year, and this year Academy staff are working on improving the davening and math programs. The goal of the math improvement plan is to better align the subject matter with the ACT test by implementing longitudinal testing of underclassmen and tracking the students' scores.
4. In the area of fiscal viability, a finance committee is improving the scholarship process and looking for ways to raise additional funds through the development department.

For more information, contact 773.973.1450 or email icja@icja.org.

ICJA'S DR. EDWARD A. CROWN SCHOLARSHIP DINNER TO CELEBRATE LEADERSHIP

On Sunday, February 21, 2010, the Ida Crown Jewish Academy community will gather to honor devoted communal leaders, Connie & Alan Kadish, Bethia Straus & Paul Quintas and Sheri Goldstein, at ICJA's 68th annual Dr. Edward A. Crown Scholarship Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Connie & Alan Kadish ~ Board of Governors Award

Connie and Alan Kadish lived in Chicago for 19 years prior to their recent move to New Jersey. Three of their four children are graduates of ICJA. Alan is the Senior Provost and COO of Touro College. Connie started her ICJA career as a member of the Academy Associates and, at the time of their departure, was the Executive Vice President of the Board of Directors. She participated in Arie Crown Hebrew Day School's PTA, volunteered for Bikur Cholim, the Be'er Miriam chapter of Amit, and was active in the many synagogues of which they were members. We look forward to presenting them with this year's Board of Governors Award.

Bethia Straus & Paul Quintas ~ Parents of the Year Award

Bethia Straus and Paul Quintas are New Yorkers who came to Chicago for two years, 18 years ago. Their children, Joseph and David, are current ICJA students, while Sarah and Rebecca attend Hillel Torah. Paul works at Alcatel-Lucent Technologies, is on the ICJA board and has served on the Long Range



Planning and Education committees and was a Society of Patrons chair. Bethia is a board member of Congregation Or Torah, the YU Torah Mitzion Kollel and Amit Women. Both are on the board of the Drisha Institute in New York and Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi in Israel and have devoted themselves to the cause of modern Orthodox Jewish education and in particular to the idea of advanced Judaic studies for women. For their efforts on behalf of our community, we are pleased to present them with the Parents of the Year Award.

Sheri Goldstein ~ Educator of the Year Award

Sheri Goldstein started teaching at ICJA in 1986, becoming chair of the English department in 2001. During these 22 years, she has taught 1500 students in all grade levels, in addition to teaching public speaking, journalism and English seminars. She has also been a member of the National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE) since 1986. Sheri married her high school sweetheart, Howard, and focuses her pride and devotion on her children and grandson. For her efforts on behalf of our students, we are delighted to honor Sheri with the Educator of the Year Award.

Many thanks to the dinner chairs for all the hard work in putting together the dinner: Sally & Art Dordek, Dr. Sharon Sholiton & Dr. Yosie Goldberger, Aviva & Dr. Phil Greenland, Laurie & Bernard Hasten, Rachel & Michael Stein, Daniela & Jacques Glikberg and Lynn & Irv Shapiro.



Ida Crown Jewish Academy

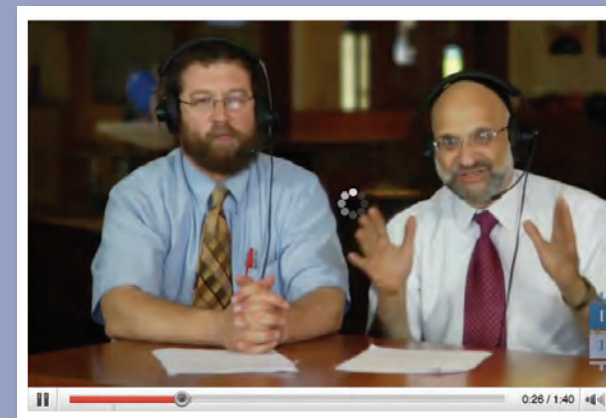
PINSTRIPIES

BOWLING BOCCE BUFFET

ICJA's Pinstripes event on Saturday night, October 31 was a tremendous success. More than 300 students and their families, faculty members and Academy supporters gathered for a refreshingly different evening of bocce, bowling and a buffet at Pinstripes in Northbrook.

The Pinstripes fall fundraiser replaced the fall concert, which was one of the development team's flagship events for more than seven years. The welcomed change in programming this year brought greater numbers of Academy supporters together for an evening of fun and socializing. "Our goal was to create an exciting program that would bring together our parents and community of supporters for the good of the school, and we're thrilled with the results," says Rana Cooper, one of the event co-chairs.

More than \$40,000 was raised from the event, which goes toward the ICJA Scholarship Fund.



One of the better-known aspects of the Pinstripes event was a YouTube promotional video of five ICJA staff members that attracted thousands of viewers.



MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

PERFECT 300 POINT GAME: Neihaus Construction and Leslie & Tom Silverstein.
KING PIN: Jane & Eddie Best, Amy & John Lowenstein, Bethia Straus & Paul Quintas, Lynn & Irv Shapiro, and Susan & David Strulowitz.

TEN PIN: Anonymous, Ora & Maury Aaron, Drs. Sherril & Jeff Bressman, Laurie & Bernard Hasten, Drs. Tammy & Ed Kaplan, Phyllis & Stuart Muller.

7-10 SPLIT: Anonymous, Robin & Yossi Azaraf, Vivian & Nathan Bloch, Elizabeth & Mitchell Dayan, Michelle & Robert Friedman, Barbara & Dr. Steven Geller, Darryle & Dr. Michael Gillman, Dr. Sharon Sholiton & Dr. Yosie Goldberger, Drs. Amy & Guy Kaissar, Deni Rosen & Kevin Kirshenbaum, Amy & Mike Kramer, Carol Levenberg, Aviva & Nathan Lichtenstein, Marleen & Jerry Lipschultz, Anita & Michael London, Monica & Rich Magid, Susan & Ronnie Masliansky, Margaret & Rabbi Leonard Matanaky, Deborah & Dr. David Michael, Miki & Shmuel Schreiber, and The Sandwich Club.

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 Women's Luncheon
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Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Location and time TBA

Call 773.973.1450 for more information
 or for sponsorship opportunities

ACADEMY STUDENTS, STAFF RECEIVE TOP HONORS

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS
 Congratulations to two ICJA seniors who are National Merit Semifinalists this year: Raanan Barach and Joseph Quintas, and to three more ICJA seniors who are Commended Students: Avi Gluck, Sarah Eisenstein and Zach Millunchick. From left are Joseph, Sarah, Zach, Avi and Raanan.



BECHINA YERUSHALMIT

Eleven ICJA immediate past graduates passed the Bechina Yerushalmit. Special congratulations to the students who earned the top ranking: Talia Alter, Sarah Goldberger, Sarina Miller and Eric Silberman. Kudos to all the students and to their teacher, Hebrew Department Chair Mrs. Marmel. The Bechina Yerushalmit is a rigorous 7.5-hour exam that concludes a college-level Hebrew curriculum in conjunction with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

LIBRARIAN APPOINTED TO PRESTIGIOUS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Debbie Feder, ICJA librarian, was appointed to a four-year term on the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. The award is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. Presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) since 1968, the award encourages the publication and widespread use of quality Judaic literature. Mrs. Feder is an active member of the Chicago AJL Chapter.

TEACHER COMPLETES PRESTIGIOUS CERTIFICATION

Social studies teacher Mr. Josh Cooper recently became certified with the National Board of Education in a process that he pursued together with his wife in 2008. National Board Certification is part of the growing education reform movement that is advancing student learning, improving teaching and making schools better. Teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met high standards through study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review.

The process takes up to three years to complete. The State of Illinois and many public school districts offer incentives to teachers to pursue National Board Certification. While the government has decided that these incentives do not apply to private schools, ICJA supported Mr. Cooper's efforts by helping to cover the program costs and providing a mentor. "I am grateful for the support, and I feel that the mentoring program provided by ICJA significantly improved my NBPTS experience. I enjoy teaching and want to continuously improve my practice. Now I can participate as a member of the National Board professional community and collaborate with more colleagues."

Academy teacher Mrs. Ruth Gleicher is also National Board Certified. As part of a similar process, Mrs. Marsha Arons completed Take One! from the National Board and is pursuing National Board Certification. Take One! is a process which provides a standards-based approach for improving teaching practice and links student learning to affective instruction. Mrs. Arons had to prepare and submit one pre-selected video portfolio, which she can later transfer the score toward National Board candidacy. "It is a wonderful experience and encourages me to be constantly thinking about my teaching practice and incorporating new ideas that help my students learn in a variety of ways. I really love doing this even though it is very challenging and a lot of work!"

"I ENJOY TEACHING AND WANT TO CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE MY PRACTICE."



Members of the class of 1979, pictured at their reunion last July.

REUNIONS PROVIDE CHANCE TO RECONNECT

In Chicago, Israel and Canada—and on Facebook too—Academy Alumni are reuniting and renewing their connections to their alma mater. Memories of Aces basketball games, school retreats, friendships and life lessons learned all come flooding back in real life and virtual reunions.

We ask that you also renew your connection to ICJA by making a gift to the ICJA Alumni Association today. Tuition and fees cover less than 75% of our total budget, and another 10% comes from grants and subsidies. We need your help to bridge the gap. If you have been a member of the Alumni Association, it's time to renew. If you have not yet joined, please join now! It's now easy to sign up and pay online at icja.org.

Class of 1976

Members of the ICJA class of 1976 gathered for a 33-year reunion to share memories and catch up on friendships November 14-15. Sixty people attended the reunion in Chicago at the Crowne Plaza O'hare, and another 40 people in Israel and two in Canada joined the affair via live videoconference. The Chicago group enjoyed a dinner and program at the hotel, followed by a midnight showing of The Sting, one of their favorites from back in the day. On Sunday morning, the program continued with brunch and the videoconference.

In a speech to the group, George Lennon said, "Those high school years were not always perfect in our lives, as many of us had more difficulties than others, but the fact that so many of us came together for this short interlude in our lives really says something special about Ida Crown. Yes, we have all gone in many different directions, and we are now trying to create our own mark on life, but we can all look back and know through thick and thin that we, as family, are there for each other."

Class of 1979

Members of the ICJA graduating class of 1979 held its 30-year reunion last July, marking its third reunion for the group. Thirty-three classmates out of 70 gathered together, coming from as far as California, Florida, New York, Oklahoma, Georgia, Massachusetts and Israel. The weekend included a brunch at alumnus David Ferri's home in Deerfield, followed by a semi-formal dinner at the Marriott Suites Hotel in Deerfield.

Presentations at the dinner included a recap of 1979's top events and a sing along of songs from the late 70s.

In the morning, the group attended an exclusive minyan at Young Israel of Northbrook, followed by breakfast at the hotel.

For information on organizing a class reunion, contact the ICJA office at 773.973.1450. To join the 2010 Alumni Association, go to icja.org



Members of the class of 1976, pictured at their reunion in November.

YOUNG ALUMNI JOIN ICJA FACULTY

Four recent alumni returned to the Academy as staff, walking the same halls that they had walked as students and working with their former teachers as colleagues. That these young alumni, who were all friendly in high school, returned to ICJA is a testament to the positive experience they enjoyed in high school.

Mrs. Molly (Elkins) Katz, class of 2004

Ask Mrs. Katz why she chose to work at her alma mater, and she bubbles over effusively with praises for the school. "When I decided I wanted to be a teacher, I definitely knew I wanted to teach in the Academy."

Mrs. Katz cites her friends, relationships to her teachers and extracurricular experiences as reasons high school was so positive for her. She also says, "I learned so much and got the skills I needed to succeed in seminary and in college."

Following graduation, Mrs. Katz spent a year in Israel at Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim (MMY) and then headed to Barnard College. There she got a BA in psychology and a New York State Teaching Certificate. She met her husband, Aaron, while still in school in New York and then spent their first year of marriage in Israel.

This past fall Mrs. Katz joined the Academy faculty, teaching chumash in the morning and Jewish history in the afternoon. Teaching, she says, has been very rewarding, albeit a lot of work. "I think about what would have been interesting to me and try to make lessons applicable to my students' lives."

In history, for example, Mrs. Katz relates the assimilation in Babylonia to assimilation today, and when the class learned about the Pharisees and Sadducees, they spoke about different denominations today. In chumash, Mrs. Katz teaches Vayikra and Bamidbar to junior honors girls. It's a class that Mrs. Katz took from Mrs. Orit Marmel only a few years ago.

Though teaching at her former high school can be a bit strange, and Mrs. Katz admits to still calling many of her former teachers "Mrs.," there is nowhere else she would rather be. "I knew I could relate to the Academy kids better than kids anywhere else."

Mrs. Marisa (Bass) Loebmann, class of 2004

It wasn't until Mrs. Loebmann joined the first faculty meeting of the year that she was struck by the magnitude of teaching at ICJA. "I sat around with all of my old teachers and couldn't believe that they were now my colleagues."

Once the first day of school arrived, though, Mrs. Loebmann says she was ready. "It was exciting, even while it was a bit intimidating to be a teacher in the school I grew up in."



Following high school, Mrs. Loebmann developed a love for Tanach at Midreshet Moriah in Israel and then got a BA in Judaic Studies at Stern College. She received her masters in Bible at Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School and went on to do a fellowship at SAR Academy in Riverdale.

She married her husband, Alan (class of 2003), and moved back to Chicago to be close to their families. Alan works as an actuary and attributes his love for math to his high school class with Mrs. Strimling.

Like Mrs. Katz, who was a friend in high school, Mrs. Loebmann considers her age an advantage in the classroom. "I'm old enough to be an authority figure, but was here recently enough to relate well to my students."

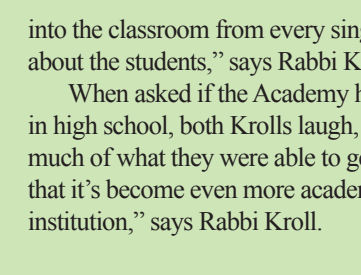
In her chumash class for 10th grade girls, Mrs. Loebmann says her goal is to help them develop a love and deep understanding of the book of Shmot. She hopes to make the sefer come alive for the girls, so that they feel a strong connection to the characters. She also hopes to help her students more comfortable reading through the text of Tanach.

Mrs. Shira (Biber) and Rabbi Danny Kroll, class of 2001

Mrs. and Rabbi Kroll returned together last year to their alma mater where they once had been high school sweethearts. Mrs. Kroll, who began last year as the government programming support and technology specialist for the ATT, this year became the girls' gym teacher. Rabbi Kroll joined the ICJA faculty last year as a Judaics studies teacher, teaching 11th grade boys' and girls' gemara and boys' Navi. Rabbi Kroll is also the assistant rabbi at Congregation K.I.N.S.

While the teacher who influenced Rabbi Kroll the most as a student, Rabbi Benny Pflanzler, no longer teaches at ICJA, it is his colleagues on staff that teach him the most now. "I've learned a lot from [the other staff members]—especially the positive attitudes from so many of the teachers. I'm seeing what goes on from the other side of the curtain, how much goes into the classroom from every single teacher and how much everyone really cares about the students," says Rabbi Kroll.

When asked if the Academy has changed in the near-decade since they were in high school, both Krolls laugh, saying that they would not likely get away with much of what they were able to get away with back in the day. "It seems to me that it's become even more academically driven and become an even stronger institution," says Rabbi Kroll.



ART STUDENTS JOIN OLYMPIC ENTHUSIASM



Art students pictured with Olympic race walker.

Nearly 100 students in grades 10-12 joined Chicago's Olympic enthusiasm by researching and recreating Olympic designs in art class. Students researched the colors, shapes and symbolism in the Olympic logo, the 2016 logo and the Chicago flag. They then took the basic shapes and colors and overlapped them to create distinct patterns. The 10th grade students used markers only and the advanced art students used paints.

"In the end, the students took all the same information and came up with designs that were all their own," says Mrs. Kathleen Kelly, ICJA art instructor.

As part of Chicago's 2016 Olympic educational school programming, ICJA art teacher Ms. Kathleen Kelly created a lesson plan for high school

level art programs. In relation to that program, Gary Morgan, a 1988 Olympian in the 20K race walk, visited ICJA to speak about his experience as an Olympian. Morgan brought the torch he carried in Salt Lake City and the summer games in Atlanta. He also led the students in race walking.

