

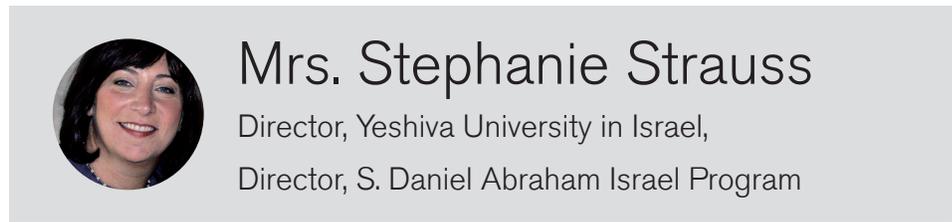
Yom Haatzmaut: An Introduction

Tehillim chapter 126 begins with the verse: “שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת בְּשׁוּב ה' אֶת־שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הֵינּוּ כְּחֹלְמִים” — When God will return us to Zion, we will be like dreamers.

How might we explain the phrase “we will be like dreamers”? Among several answers offered by our commentaries, the Rada”k suggests the following: So great is our joy at the prospect of redemption and of returning to the Land of Israel that the burdens and challenges of our time in exile will be like a fleeting dream (*kachalom ya’uf*).

There is no shortage of challenges facing the Jewish nation in general and our young men and women in particular. Yet Baruch Hashem, our students are returning to Israel in large numbers, whether to study Torah for a year or more, to serve in the IDF or sherut leumi, or to join the thousands of YU alumni who have made aliyah. Their commitment to strengthening Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael is often an outgrowth of the Torat Yisrael and rich experiences they have been introduced to at one of the many yeshivot and seminaries on the S. Daniel Abraham Israel program.

The program is a formal arrangement between Yeshiva University and more



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than 40 learning institutions for men and women in Israel, enabling the hundreds of students enrolled in our program to learn firsthand about Israel’s land, people, history, and culture.

The Israel year is a pivotal and transformative moment in a student’s life. Our Israel staff strives to nurture and enrich that experience by providing students with support and guidance throughout their year(s) in Israel.

At Yeshiva University in New York, a student can continue on his or her path of Torah growth while at the same time studying at one of the premier research universities in the world. Our top-notch roshei yeshiva and excellent college faculty combine to offer students opportunities that are available only at Yeshiva University. Nowhere but here can a young man or woman participate with hundreds of fellow students in

chessed and service learning missions across the United States and around the world. Nowhere but here can he or she receive the training to excel in careers from medicine to business, politics to academia, the rabbinate to finance; and only at YU do they have university-wide support and encouragement to meet the challenges facing the Jewish people while fulfilling their roles in bringing about the redemption.

The faculty at our member yeshivot and seminaries play a vital role in educating our students. It is with great pride that we present a collection of articles from our Israeli community of teachers. These articles provide us with a glimpse into the scholarship that our students are exposed to. Furthermore, they provide us with the unique flavor of Torat Eretz Yisrael, which we hope will deepen and enrich your celebration of Yom Haatzmaut and your connection to Eretz Yisrael.