

# INTRODUCTION

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Since 1978 David Shapell College of Jewish Studies /Yeshivat Darché Noam has been dedicated to providing a sophisticated and balanced approach to Torah Judaism for college graduates and professionals, emphasizing both the development of textual skills as well as personal growth and commitment. Darché Noam has become famous for its structured approach to teaching beginners how to access Torah texts, its integration of different approaches in Torah Judaism, its diverse staff, and its high-quality student body.

The warm, open, and vibrant atmosphere provides an environment conducive to exploring the depths of Judaism. Our alumni are involved in diverse professions as well as a broad range of Torah communities. Emphasizing a love of Israel, Darché Noam instills students with an appreciation of their uniqueness as individuals and responsibility as Jews. We provide an educational community emphasizing “*deracheha darche noam*”, “the ways of the Torah are ways of harmony,” and we are committed to that message.

# FACULTY

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**The foundation of our educational success rests with talented and idealistic faculty members who transmit Torah in an authentic and personal way. They also serve as role models and sources of inspiration, and the variety in their styles, philosophies, and personalities truly represents the unique nature of David Shapell College of Jewish Studies /Yeshivat Darché Noam.**

**Our staff spans the halachic and ideological streams in the Torah-observant world, and they have university backgrounds and professional experience in a variety of fields. Their training stems from the world's leading yeshivot, including Ateret Cohanim, Chaim Berlin, Kerem B'Yavneh, the Mir, Torah Ohr, Yeshivat Har Etzion, and Yeshiva University, among others.**

**Presented here are brief biographical sketches of the people to whom our students credit so much of their intellectual and spiritual growth.**

## ■ Rabbi Yitzchak Hirshfeld

Rabbi Hirshfeld, co-founder of the Darche Noam Institutions, is Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivat Darche Noam/David Shapell College. Originally from Chicago, he is a graduate of the Hebrew Theological

College in Skokie, Illinois. In 1969, after completing a BA in Mathematics at Roosevelt University, he came to Israel and was privileged to learn under the Roshei Yeshiva at the Mir Yeshiva, Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz zt"l and Rabbi Nachum Pertzovich zt"l. Before the establishment of the Darche Noam Institutions, he taught at the original Shapell College and at Aish HaTorah. Regarded as father figure of the yeshiva, Rabbi Hirshfeld makes each student feel cherished, working and learning with him rather than simply teaching him.

## ■ Rabbi Shaya Karlinsky

Rabbi Karlinsky is co-founder and Dean of the Darche Noam Institutions, Yeshivat Darche Noam/David Shapell College and the Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya College of Jewish Studies for Women. His reputation as an expert educator is a reflection of both his academic training and his motivational personality. Through his direct approach of questioning students and forcing them to question themselves, he has succeeded in awakening inquiring minds for Torah study throughout the years. A Los Angeles native, Rabbi Karlinsky studied at UCLA before going to Israel in 1968, to study at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh and the Mir Yeshiva. After receiving smicha from ITRI, he completed a Master's degree in educational psychology at Philadelphia's Temple University and returned to Israel in 1975. His "eye" for connecting with students on their individual levels and his ability to see straight to the

core of issues can be partially attributed to skills gained from his work as a widely published photojournalist.

#### ■ **Rabbi Yitzchak Shurin**

Rabbi Shurin is the Rosh Midrasha of Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya College of Jewish Studies for Women and a senior faculty member at Yeshivat Darche Noam/David Shapell College. Rabbi Shurin grew up in New York, and learned at Yeshivat Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin under Rav Yitzchak Hutner, zt"l. After receiving an advanced degree in Guidance and Counseling from Nova University, he moved to Israel in 1977, joining the Kollel and staff of the original Shapell College. A grandson of Reb Yaakov Kamenetsky, zt"l, who was one of the spiritual giants of the previous generation, Rabbi Shurin shares memories of his grandfather, providing his students with unique insights and an outstanding role model. He recognizes the unfamiliarity that many have with Torah Judaism and with his sensitivity to their fears and concerns, he provides them with the connection and bond that many feel they are lacking.

#### ■ **Rabbi Yehuda Aaronson**

Rabbi Aaronson wears a number of hats at Darche Noam Institutions. His teaching, the opening Halakha class, integrates with his job as the liaison with alumni and Director of Development. He understands Darche Noam inside-out, first studying at Shapell's from 1986 to 1989, then as an alumnus working in

venture capital, and now teaching, fundraising and developing alumni programming and connections. Rabbi Aaronson is a unique role model, so students can see what they can do and where they can go, both in learning and integrating Torah with practical life. Rabbi Aaronson and his wife Annette, a Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya alumna, live with their children in Beit Shemesh.

#### ■ **Rabbi Binyomin Adilman**

Rabbi Binyomin Adilman, a Chicago native, has been living in Israel since 1986. He received a BA in Education and Near Eastern Studies from the University of California in Berkeley, and received his smicha from HaRav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg, shlit"a, Av Beis Din of the Jerusalem Rabbinate. He is a former member of Kollel Kiryat Nachliel in Migdal HaEmek, and Kollel Boston in Jerusalem. He is the founder and director of the Jerusalem based Nishmas Chayim Institutions. Rabbi Adilman specializes in Chassidic thought and philosophy, nourishing his students' souls through the inner dimension of Judaism. Students seeking advice and guidance quickly discover Rabbi Adilman's warmth, wisdom, and attentive ear.

#### ■ **Rabbi Yaakov Beasley**

Rabbi Yaakov Beasley teaches our highest level Chumash shiur and our overview of Jewish History. He brings wide knowledge and experience to this task - having graduated from Yeshiva University with a Master's in Jewish Education, minoring in Tanach and Jewish

History, before continuing with his smicha studies at Meretz Kollel in Mevasseret Zion. Rav Yaakov taught for several years at Shaarei Mevasseret Zion and Machon Gold, before going overseas to Minneapolis and Toronto, where he quickly developed a reputation as an educational and entertaining lecturer, discussing a variety of subjects including Tanach, Jewish History, and Jewish Philosophy. He returned to Israel after serving as the head of the Tanach department at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, North America's largest day school. He lives in Alon Shevut, with his wife Devorah and five boys, and is writing two books on literary structures and intertextuality in Tanach.

#### ■ **Rabbi Joel Cohen**

Rabbi Cohen leads the Smicha preparation program at the Yeshiva, assisting advanced students to prepare for tests. With a father who worked for the Mossad, he traveled the world as a child living in France, Switzerland, Ethiopia, Turkey and Italy. Finally settling in Brooklyn, New York, he spent 18 years in business, spending his spare time as an avid golfer and golf instructor. He has been learning at Yeshivat Darche Noam/David Shapell College since 1995 and received smicha from the Israeli Rabbinat. Rabbi Cohen lives in Jerusalem with his wife Orna and four children.

#### ■ **Rabbi Menachem Farber**

Before making aliya in 1970, Rabbi Farber lived in New York, and

learned at Yeshivat Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin, and studied Political Science at Brooklyn College. Rabbi Farber was a close Talmid of Rav Yitzchak Hutner, zt"l, and is today a leading expert on Rav Hutner's monumental work Pachad Yitzchak. Since joining Darche Noam in 1990, he has gained a reputation as one of the pillars of the institution. The first to arrive and the last to leave each day, continually radiating words of Torah, he serves as a worthy role model for his students. His love for his talmidim can be seen through his well-known and enthusiastic participation in the joyous events of the Darche Noam community.

#### ■ **Rabbi Aryeh Feldman**

The most advanced Talmud students at Darche Noam/David Shapell College benefit from Rabbi Feldman's vast experience in "lomdus", a conceptual approach to Gemara study. After years of learning in the modern Lithuanian Yeshiva world - Brisk, Lakewood, Mir, and Beis Hatalmud, Rabbi Feldman began passing on his approach to learning through classes in Israel and America. His aim in his shiur is to show the students the analytical underpinnings of the line-by-line discussions of the Gemara and Rishonim. Students learn to independently compare and analyze Rishonim and Acharonim.

#### ■ **Rabbi Avraham Fischer**

Rabbi Fischer introduces beginning students at Darche Noam/Shapell's to the fundamentals of Hebrew language and understanding the

Biblical text. He has a BA in English Literature from Yeshiva University, Smicha from RIETS, and an MA in English Literature from NYU. After serving as Rabbi and educator at a small congregation in New Jersey, Rabbi Fischer made aliya in 1986. He was Director of Jewish Studies at the WUJS Institute in Arad, and continues to teach there, as well as at a number of other educational and outreach programs, including Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya College for Women.

#### ■ **Rabbi Yakov Haber**

Rabbi Yakov Haber is known for the clarity of presentation and dynamic teaching style that he brings to his in-depth gemara shiurim. An enthusiastic educator, he comes to Shapell's with a decade of expertise in high-level Torah education at Yeshiva University: as a rebbe in YU's Stone Beit Midrash Program; as coordinator of the practical halacha learning program at RIETS; and as a teacher of Halacha, Jewish thought, and prayer at Stern College for Women. After learning at Israel's Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh and pursuing a master's degree in Computer Science, he was a fellow at YU's prestigious and challenging Gruss Kollel Elyon. Rabbi Haber, his wife and children made aliya in 2007 and live in Ramat Beit Shemesh.

#### ■ **Rabbi Meshulam Isaac**

Rabbi Meshulam Isaac is a veteran staff member of Yeshivat Darche Noam/David Shapell College. Raised in Detroit, he studied with

Rav Pinchas Scheinberg, shlit'a, first in New York and then from 1966 in Torah Or in Jerusalem. "Reb Meshulam", as he is fondly called, has been teaching the introductory level Gemara shiur from the Yeshiva's earliest years. A master at communicating the foundations of Talmud study, he has guided hundreds of talmidim in taking their first steps through the Gemara. Through a wealth of Jewish stories, poignant anecdotes, and a remarkable sense of humor, he is renowned for taking even the most complicated sections of the Gemara or Talmudic structures and making them understandable. His class has been compared to a kindergarten - the place where everyone starts, quickly moves on from, yet hates to leave.

#### ■ **Rabbi Dovid Kamenetsky**

Rabbi Kamenetsky has been with the Yeshivat Darche Noam/ David Shapell College since 1990. The son of Hagaon Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky, Rosh Yeshiva of the Philadelphia Yeshiva, Reb Dovid moved to Israel in 1982, where he learned at the Mir, Brisk, and Mishkan HaTorah. A contributing editor to the ArtScroll English-language elucidation and commentary on the Talmud, he currently teaches the mid-level Gemara shiur, emphasizing the necessity to understand the text clearly. With the same clarity of expression that he exhibits in his writing for ArtScroll, he provides his students with a conceptual understanding of the questions,

positions, and arguments embedded in the text of Gemara.

### ■ **Rabbi Reuven Kamenetsky**

Rabbi Kamenetsky teaches advanced students both Gemara and Hashkafa. Rabbi Kamenetsky grew up in Israel and studied at the Mir Yeshiva and ITRI. He is a professional sofer and has been teaching daily Gemara classes for working married men for the past nine years. The breadth of his knowledge acquired during years of teaching the complete Talmud through "Amud Yomi" serves as an inspiration for the students in his advanced Talmud class.

### ■ **Rabbi Eliezer Kwass**

After receiving smicha from Yeshiva University as well as an MS in Jewish Philosophy, Rabbi Kwass made aliya and learned at Yeshivat Har Etzion. Upon arriving in Israel, he dedicated time to teaching basic Judaism to Russian olim. Now, he teaches Gemara and Chumash, guiding students on their path to feeling at home with Torah sources. Integrating the material with practical life experiences, he provides his students with an understanding of the technical and practical sides of the subject matter. In the process they achieve a deeper knowledge of the themes and values being taught. Rabbi Kwass is also responsible for the development and coordination of the Darche Noam Website.

### ■ **Rabbi Yitzchak Lerner**

Rabbi Lerner, a Darche Noam/Shapell's student who

returned to teach here, shares his learning, good humor and outgoing personality with the new generation of students. After completing his BA in International Relations from Concordia University, he left his native Canada to begin his studies at Darche Noam/David Shapell College in 1992. After three years of studying here, he went on to learn at Medrash Shmuel and received smicha from Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg shlit"a. Rabbi Lerner continues to pursue high level Talmud study, and devotes the rest of his time and energy to education, outreach and his family. In addition to his popular classes on the fundamentals of Judaism, Halacha, and Mishna, he is Darche Noam/Shapell's night Seder Rebbe. He also teaches at Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya College and other seminaries in Jerusalem. He lives with his wife, Michelle, and family in Beitur Illit.

### ■ **Rabbi Amos Luban**

Rabbi Amos Luban studied in the Hesder Program at Yeshivat Hakotel and continued in its Kolllel from 1983 until 1990. After teaching in Yeshivat Hakotel's overseas program for thirteen years, he became and continues to be a popular instructor at Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh since it began in 2003. Recently, he has begun focusing on Machshava classes and personal counseling, using his degree in psychology from Bar Ilan University. He studied and maintains a close connection with many of Jerusalem's leading Torah scholars.

Rabbi Luban lives with his wife and children in Yerushalayim.

### ■ **Rabbi Avraham Nissim**

Rabbi Avraham Nissim, who teaches in our advanced Halacha program, was born and raised in London, England. Before beginning to study law at university, he decided to attend yeshiva in Israel. After years of study at Ohr Somayach and Mercaz Hatorah he joined the Halacha Kollel of then Chief Rabbi of Israel, HaRav Mordechai Eliyahu, Shlit" a, where he received smicha. He has taught an outreach program for Israeli soldiers and policemen about basic Jewish Law. Rabbi Nissim is also a qualified Sofer writing Mezuzot and Sifrei Torah. Himself of Sefardic origin, he directs interested students in exploring the tradition of the great Sefardic poskim. Rabbi Nissim lives in Neve Yaacov, Jerusalem with his wife and children.

### ■ **Rabbi Moshe Pinder**

Rabbi Pinder, born and raised in Scotland, studied at the original Shapell College and has smicha from Machon Harry Fishel. He was the Director of Jewish Education in Glasgow for two years and currently studies in Kollel Bayit Vegan. Rabbi Pinder's detailed knowledge of the laws of kashrut and his informative shiurim give the students a good foundation for building their own Jewish homes.

### ■ **Rabbi David Sedley**

Originally from Wellington, New Zealand, Rabbi Sedley currently

teaches at both Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya and Yeshivat Darche Noam. He served for four years as a Rabbi in Scotland, followed by four years as Rabbi of Beth Hamidrash Hagadol Synagogue in Leeds, England. He spent several years studying in the David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darche Noam and Yeshivat Hechal Torah in Jerusalem. He has a Masters Degree in education from the Open University of Great Britain and a Post Graduate Diploma in adult education from Nottingham University. He plays guitar and has an undergraduate degree in English literature, and the history and theory of music. He is writing and researching a new series of 'bread and butter' educational materials for Torahlab which will provide sources for teachers and self-learners. Rabbi Sedley lives in Jerusalem with his wife and children.

### ■ **Rabbi Yehoshua Seidenfeld**

Rabbi Yehoshua Seidenfeld, as director of Shapell's, is often the first person students meet. Although dedicating most of his time to the smooth and efficient running of the yeshiva, his first love is giving classes in Halacha and the teachings of Rav J.B. Soloveitchik zt"l. Rav Yehoshua practiced as a corporate lawyer in Canada for a few years before establishing a number of successful entrepreneurial ventures including an independent newspaper, a headhunting firm and a private college. After making aliyah in 1994, Rabbi Seidenfeld spent 6 years studying Halacha and teaching

Gemara before receiving smicha from Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg shlit"a. Rav Yehoshua lives the Deracheha Darche Noam philosophy, moving comfortably between the Dati Leumi, Charedi Leumi and Charedi communities. He lives in Efrat with his wife, Rachel and six children.

### ■ **Rabbi Gidon Shoshan**

In addition to teaching daily classes in Gemara and Jewish Philosophy, Rabbi Gidon Shoshan serves as mashgiach ruchani. In this capacity, he meets regularly with students, ensuring that their experiences in yeshiva are comfortable and productive. A product of both Yeshivat Hakotel and Mir Yeshiva, Rabbi Shoshan later received semicha and completed a Master's in Secondary Education from Yeshiva University. He also holds a BS in Business Management from Touro College. Before joining the Darche Noam staff, Rabbi Shoshan served as the founding Outreach Director of the LINK Kollel in Los Angeles and lectured extensively in a wide variety of venues. Rabbi Shoshan continues to lecture widely and travels to meet students and alumni on university campuses and in Jewish communities around the United States.

### ■ **Rabbi Fyvel Shuster**

Rabbi Fyvel Shuster, serves as Menahel Ruchani – a combination of rebbe, guidance counselor, friend, and mentor – of Yeshivat Darche Noam / Shapell's. His varied

educational and vocational background – learning at Yeshivat Hakotel, Yeshivas Haim Berlin, and with the Talner Rebbe, shlita, working in high-tech, teaching at the Skokie Yeshiva and, for the last 11 years, in Machon Lev's program for adult beginners – makes him uniquely suited to help guide Shapell's students in their spiritual growth. His Monday afternoon shmuzes – a masterful weave of divrei Torah, good advice, mussar, anecdotes, and humor - has already become a special treat in our Beit Midrash. Through one-on-one discussions, his mussar talks and hashkafa shiurim, he is helping our students connect to Torah and the world of Torah. Rav Shuster, his wife Leah, and their 5 children live in Har Nof, Jerusalem.

### ■ **Rabbi Elie Silverberg**

Rabbi Silverberg came to learn at Yeshivat Darche Noam/David Shapell College at the age of 27, and, after six years of intensive yeshiva study, is the first alumnus to join the full-time faculty. He is an inspiration to the students, as well as a reminder that it is never too late to start learning. Born and raised in Toronto in a religious-Zionist household, he has a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto. He worked for an electric corporation in Canada before coming to learn in Israel in 1984. His teaching combines knowledge of the Gemara with philosophies gleaned from engineering and mathematics. His unique approach to

teaching encourages his students' independence and self-sufficiency, promoting productivity through lively discussion and debate.

### ■ **Rabbi Shlomo Skinner**

Rabbi Shlomo Skinner has recently made the transition from talmid to staff member at Shapell's, trying to share with others what he himself received. He and his wife Lisa first came Shapell's and Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya in 1989 for one year. They moved permanently to Israel and Rav Shlomo's been learning at the Yeshiva since 1996. A pillar of our Beit Midrash, he advanced in learning at Shapell's, eventually receiving smicha from the Israeli Rabbinat and Hagaon Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg. He now teaches Bekiut Gemara, Chumash and directs the afternoon program. Rav Shlomo's rich background includes four years in the U.S. Marines, a B.S. degree in math from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, a M.S. degree in statistics and a MBA from UC Davis which he applied in his work as a financial analyst for the State of Maryland Treasury. He and his wife live in the Nachlaot neighborhood of Yerushalayim, and students enjoy frequenting their Shabbat table.

# COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

TALMUD

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CHUMASH

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HASHKAFKA & MUSSAR

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HALACHA

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LANGUAGE

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BASIC JEWISH CONCEPTS IN SEMINARS

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WORKSHOPS

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## TALMUD

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**B'iyun.** The Talmud program combines "seder", where students grapple with the Talmud in independent "chavruta" learning, with "shiurim", interactive, seminar type lecture-discussions that guide them in skills development and conceptual clarity. The program aims to meet a student at his learning level and help him advance step by step until he can independently study the Talmud and its commentators.

**Bekiut.** In addition to in-depth Talmud study, intermediate and advanced students are also exposed to a broad survey of Talmudic literature, examining multiple legal and philosophical issues and gaining fluency in analytical and memory skills.

*Chavruta: 2½ hours daily*

*Seminar: 1½ hours daily*

### ■ 1100

#### **Mishna**

As an overview and introduction to Mishna, which forms the basis of all Talmud, beginning students are taken through parts of all six sedarim (orders) of Mishnayot. This taste of a variety of tractates gives students a feeling for the vast breadth of the Talmud.

### ■ 1101

#### **Introduction to Talmud**

These introductory classes expose students to the components of Talmud study through:

- basic Aramaic;

- key terms that introduce specific types of arguments, statements, and questions;
- Halachic concepts and how the Gemara works with them;
- Talmudic logic and structure.

### ■ 1102

#### **Intermediate Talmud**

The next level helps further develop the student's textual skills through:

- introducing study of Rashi's commentary to the Talmud;
- introducing study of the Tosafot commentaries;
- emphasizing fluency in reading the texts;
- developing a full repertoire of Talmudic key words and logical structures.

### ■ 1103

#### **Advanced Talmud**

The higher levels of limud b'iyun emphasize:

- textual and conceptual analysis of Gemara, Rashi, and Tosafot, geared towards understanding the disputes between Rashi and Tosafot and selected commentators;
- precision and subtlety of language, structure and logic, and how this is relevant conceptually;
- seeing ideas develop through the Talmudic text and the discussions of the commentators.

### ■ 1104

#### **Special Advanced**

This special advanced shiur offers more experienced students:

- application of textual and analytic skills to the range of commentators on a given Talmudic sugya;
- appreciation of the complexity of the Talmudic conceptual world.

### ■ 1105

#### **Gemara Foundations**

"Gemara Foundations" is a 3 month crash course covering: the development and content of the Oral Torah; the meaning and usage of key Gemara terms; and Gemara learning skills - how to map out a sugya, how to find the meaning of a word or concept, and basic Aramaic for Gemara learners. The goal of this course is to consolidate, remember, and solidify the information and skills students learn in the opening Gemara shiurim before they moving on to higher level learning that works primarily on reading rishonim and conceptual analysis. The course combines lecture, class discussion, seder time, and periodic quizzes.

### ■ 1106

#### **Bekiut: Levels 1, 2**

Students ready to devote part of their afternoon program to Gemara study enter the Bekiut program. A different Perek, usually from a different Masechta than that studied in the morning program is covered, progressing at a much quicker pace. Bekiut emphasizes developing fluency, building vocabulary skills, gaining familiarity with a range of Talmudic concepts, and gaining a

sense of the breadth of Talmudic learning.

Chavruta: 1 hour, four times weekly

Shiur: 1 hour, five times weekly

### ■ 1107

#### **Advanced Afternoon Program:**

##### **Bekiut**

The most advanced students learn bekiut every day, covering additional ground in the same Masechta being learned in the morning Gemara shiurim. Preparation is augmented by a shiur that encapsulates some of the conceptual discussions that appear in the commentators and guides students through the complexities of the sugyot.

Chavruta: 1½ -2 hours, daily

Shiur: 1 hour, daily

## **CHUMASH**

The Darché Noam approach to the regular study of Chumash is at once analytical and philosophical. Students develop skills to independently translate and analyze the Torah text and commentaries while exploring the major themes brought to light by the commentaries and in aggadic material from the Talmud and Midrash. The Chumash program is designed to take the student, in a developmental fashion, from basic work on the text of the Chumash itself, through skills in studying Rashi and Ramban, to exploring a complete topic through the eyes of a range of commentators.

Chavruta: 1 hour

Seminar: 1 hour

Twice weekly

## ■ 2101

### **Foundations in Chumash**

The introductory Chumash class is a direct encounter with the text of the Torah, with hands-on work on Biblical grammar and vocabulary and a focus on reading and translating. Students learn how to read a verse, carefully noting problematic issues themselves, a stepping-stone to appreciating the classic commentators in subsequent levels.

## ■ 2102

### **Introduction to Rashi**

The shiur combines a thematic overview of Parshat HaShavua with intensive work on specific selections of Rashi. Students learn how Rashi works by gaining sensitivity to problems in the Chumash, and how Rashi solves them. Special emphasis is put on pshat and drash in Rashi, as well as his use of Rabbinic sources.

## ■ 2103

### **Advanced Rashi**

Throughout the year, this class works intensively on one Torah portion, digging deep into Rashi, exposing students to his super-commentaries like Mizrachi, Gur Aryeh, and Sifte Chachamim, as well as exploring Rashi's use of Rabbinic sources.

## ■ 2104

### **Ramban**

This class works on carefully picked selections from the Ramban's commentary on Parshat HaShavua. Students are guided in developing

their textual skills to be able to read the Ramban independently. The class aims to develop an understanding of the Ramban's approach to Biblical commentary, as well as his philosophy of Judaism.

## ■ 2105

### **Parshanut**

This level builds and expands on the skills acquired in previous levels. Using large selections from the weekly Parsha as a basis for discussion, students strengthen their ability to read classical commentators like Rashi, Ramban, Ibn Ezra and Sforno, and develop the thinking skills needed to analyze how and why commentators differ in their interpretations. In addition, this course exposes students to developments in Tanach study in Israel, and helps them develop an eye for the cues and clues inside the Torah's texts.

## ■ 2106

### **Advanced Afternoon Program**

#### **Parshat HaShavua**

This advanced daily shiur, drawing on the classical commentators, develops themes in Parshat HaShavua.

Class: 1 hour weekly

## ■ 2107

### **Travels Through Nach**

This course provides the students with an intelligent overview of the historical books of the Bible, as well as the prophets and their messages. Each class in an in-depth discussion of a selected chapter from each of the books, combining traditional and contemporary commentaries.

## ■ 2108

### **Advanced Chumash**

This class attempts to search for deeper and broader patterns in Chumash through examining sources in Chazal.

Class: 1 hour weekly

## **HASHKAFKA & MUSSAR**

The Hashkafa curriculum presents students with a range of core issues in Jewish thought, ethics, and contemporary life. Different faculty members teach various units at different stages of the year. Students are thus exposed to a range of sources and teaching styles.

Darché Noam seminars in philosophy include, at various times, in-depth analysis of Jewish liturgy, Ethics of the Fathers, Maimonides' Thirteen Principles of Faith, the Tanya by Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, Rabbi Moshe Chayim Luzatto's The Way of G-d, works of the Maharal and the writings of such latter-day scholars as Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler, Rabbi Yitzchak Hutner and Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak HaCohen Kook.

Seminar: 1 hour

Twice weekly

## ■ 3101

### **Teshuva – Repentance**

(Elul Zman)

Both the experiential and conceptual sides of teshuva are developed during Elul zman. Sources used include the Rambam's Hilchot Teshuva, Rabbeinu Yona's Shaarei Teshuva, the Maharal's Netiv

Hateshuvah, Rav Dessler's Michtav M'Eliahu, Rav Kook's Orot Hateshuvah, and the Netivot Shalom.

## ■ 3102

### **Bitachon – Trust in G-d**

(8-week course in Winter or Spring)

How do we balance human activity with G-d's involvement in our lives?

Topics in this course include:

- Divine providence and human input;
- dependency and reliance on G-d;
- balancing Torah study with making a living;
- fate and determinism.

## ■ 3103

### **Man and the Purpose of Existence**

(8-week course in Winter or Spring)

Judaism's underlying assumptions about man and the world. What do Jewish sources say about the following issues?

- Why G-d created the world;
- This world and the world to come;
- Man's purpose in this world.

This unit also explores the nature of man and the world:

- The body/soul duality;
- Free will.

## ■ 3104

### **A Jew's Relationship with G-d**

(8-week course in Winter or Spring)

Develops the themes of:

- Love of G-d – Ahavat Hashem;
- Fear and Awe of G-d – Yirat Hashem;
- Attachment to G-d – Deveikut.

■ 3105

**Torah, Prophecy and the Sages**

(12-week course; 6 weeks in Winter, 6 weeks in Spring)

G-d's revelation to the Jewish

People as it relates to:

- Torah: the Written and the Oral Torah; tradition and the eternity of the Torah; understanding what happened at Mount Sinai with the Giving of the Torah – Torah min Hashamayim;
- Prophecy: the nature of prophecy, and the special nature of Moshe Rabbeinu's prophecy;
- The Sages: Who are Chazal, why are they special, and can they be wrong?; multiple levels of understanding and explanations; disputes between the sages; adapting the Torah to new situations; trusting sages, ancient and contemporary – emunat chachamim.

■ 3106

**The Nation of Israel and Redemption**

(5-week course in Summer)

Understanding the uniqueness of the people and the land of Israel and the Jewish historical process. Includes:

- Jew & non-Jew and the concept of the Chosen Nation;
- relations between observant and non-observant Jews;
- the obligation to live in the Land of Israel;
- exile and redemption;
- the end of days, Mashiach, and resurrection of the dead.

■ 3201

**Chassidus**

This shiur introduces the student to the world of Chassidus – sources, ideas, history, and contemporary Chassidic life. Selections from earlier and later Chassidic leaders form the basis of every shiur, which spreads into lively discussions on a range of issues, including prayer, Jewish mysticism, social life, moral struggles, Torah learning, and marriage.

Class: 1 hour weekly

■ 3202

**Bein Adam Lachaveiro – Interpersonal Relations**

Drawing heavily on the works of the Mussar Movement, this class discusses interpersonal mitzvot, self-improvement and character development, and building healthy relationships. It integrates textual skills, focusing on sources from early and contemporary Mussar literature, with life skills, brought out through class discussion.

Class: 1 hour weekly

■ 3203

**Issues and Answers**

This is a forum for grappling with critical issues in Jewish life – some controversial, some contemporary, some timeless. The class has addressed topics such as:

- gender roles in Judaism;
- standards in Kashrut supervision;
- perspectives on Zionism and the Modern State of Israel;
- relating to parents;

- Chassidim and Misnagdim;
- science and religion;
- outreach;
- stringency and leniency in Halacha.

### ■ 3204

#### **Weekly Mussar Talk**

This thirty-minute talk, in the tradition of the Mussar Yeshivot, aims to inspire, enlighten, and challenge. It often draws moral and spiritual lessons from the weekly Torah portion.

### ■ 3205

#### **Mussar**

This class introduces students to classical and contemporary works on Jewish Ethics and character development. Emphasis is placed on students moving from theoretical understanding to gradual changes affecting character and interpersonal relationships.

Class: 1 hour weekly

### ■ 3206

#### **Advanced Afternoon Program:**

#### **Messilat Yesharim**

#### **Ramchal's Derech Hashem**

A twice weekly class will study one of these classic works of Jewish thought by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, zt"l.

- learning how to access the Halachic sources.

The text-based seminars study the laws of Shabbat, Kashrut, and holidays (during Elul zman), combining chavruta preparation with classroom time.

### ■ 4100

#### **Daily Laws and Holidays**

Each day begins with a fifteen-minute, post-Shacharit class based on Mishnah Berura. It is oriented toward practical Halacha, either focusing on daily Halachot - the laws of prayer, Tefillin, Tzitzit, arising in the morning, etc. - or the laws of an upcoming holiday.

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## **HALACHA**

The Halacha program's goals are threefold:

- knowing what to do – practical Halacha;
- understanding the underlying principles behind the Halacha;

■ **4101**

**Laws of Shabbat**

This six month long course, aimed at giving the students enough practical knowledge to properly observe the laws of Shabbat, covers the thirty-nine categories of forbidden work, focusing on areas that are most relevant.

1. The first two levels focus on basic concepts and practical laws, introducing students to contemporary Halachic sources.
2. The third level teaches how to learn the Shulchan Aruch and Mishnah Berura, and relates the sources to contemporary applications.
3. In the fourth level, students explore particular practical issues in depth, seeing how a Halacha develops based on the Mishnah Berura, Biur Halacha and contemporary Halachic sources. Special attention is paid to understanding the underlying principles behind practical Halacha.

Chavruta: 1 hour

Seminar: 1 hour

Twice weekly

■ **4102**

**Kashrut**

For students with more advanced textual skills, this class teaches the principles and practical details of the laws of Kashrut, using the Chachmat Adam as the central text. Every issue is traced back to its roots in the Gemara and the Responsa Literature, and followed through to contemporary Poskim.

Chavruta: 1 hour

Seminar: 1 hour

Twice weekly

■ **4103**

**Elul**

During Elul zman, all levels learn, in alternate years, the laws of Rosh Chodesh and Chol HaMoed. Special shiurim cover the topics of Sukka and the Four Species.

■ **4104**

**Halacha in the Teachings of Rav J.B. Soleveitchik zt"l**

A weekly class in the Brisk/Maimonidean approach to Jewish Law as seen in the writings of Rav J.B. Soloveitchik zt"l. Students are shown how using a comparative approach can create a structural framework for understanding the depth of Halacha.

■ **4105**

**Brachot – Meals**

Saying proper Berachot on food is an integral part of a Jew's daily life. This course teaches the fundamentals of meals including washing hands, the bracha on bread, brachot during a meal, zimun and birkat hamazon.

■ **4106**

**Brachot-Snacks**

This course teaches when a bracha is required, which bracha to say and the appropriate bracha after a snack.

■ **4107**

**Semicha Preparation Program**

For three hours each afternoon, students study numerous topics in

the Laws of Shabbat from Gemara and Rishonim, through the Tur, Shulchan Aruch and commentaries, and up to modern Halachic works and responsa. Emphasis is put on practical applications in the home. Twice weekly summary sessions help organize the various components and opinions. The goal of the program is to help prepare students for Semicha tests.

Chavruta: 12 hours weekly  
Seminars: 3 hours weekly

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## LANGUAGE

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### Hebrew Language

Developing Hebrew language skills is a key element of Shapell's textual learning curriculum. The ability to read, translate, and understand a Hebrew text enables a student to grapple with Jewish sources independently in the original Hebrew. The first level of the program introduces the student to the basic elements of Hebrew language; the second internalizes that knowledge and adds a number of key skills; the third turns to applying the above to the text of the Chumash. Each level of the program builds on the skills gained in the previous level. Out-of-class exercises are a necessary supplement to classroom learning.

#### ■ 5101

##### **Level I: Introduction to Hebrew**

This basic level class aims to give the student enough Hebrew language skills to deal with reading and

translating Hebrew sources encountered in the other classes, especially Chumash. This level covers:

- major verb patterns;
- vocabulary lists;
- nouns, gender, and adjective agreements;
- connecting words;
- the characteristics of Biblical Hebrew.

4 class hours weekly plus self-study periods

#### ■ 5102

##### **Level II: Internalization**

This level aims to consolidate and internalize the skills learned in Level I, while introducing the following areas:

- sentence building;
- English to Hebrew translation;
- textual analysis of the Chumash;
- highly irregular verbs.

3 class hours weekly plus self-study periods

#### ■ 5103

##### **Level III: The Language of the Chumash**

This class directs the skills developed in the previous two levels toward understanding the straightforward meaning of the Chumash while working on Parshat HaShavua. The following additional skills are introduced:

- compound nouns;
- compound verbs;
- reading an unvocalized text.

3 class hours weekly

## SEMINARS IN BASIC JEWISH CONCEPTS

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### ■ 6101

#### **Basic Jewish Practice and Concepts**

For beginning students looking to fill in gaps in basic Jewish knowledge, this class aims to develop familiarity with a range of aspects of Jewish life and a large number of Jewish concepts. This class covers the following areas:

- The Life Cycle – birth, brit milah, bar mitzvah, dating and weddings, education, mourning customs;
- The Jewish Library – including hands-on guidance in maneuvering through Jewish sources;
- Commonly used terms and expressions in Jewish Life – including abbreviations, some common Yiddish terms, and halachic concepts.

Class: 1 hour weekly

### ■ 6102

#### **Prayer**

This beginning level course familiarizes students with the text of the prayer book and the practical side of prayer (including proper pronunciation, rules, and how to function in a synagogue). It aims to make the prayer experience more meaningful and accessible by exploring the concepts found in the text of the prayers and understanding the structure of the prayer book.

Class: 1 hour weekly

### ■ 6103

#### **Leading the Prayers**

This practical workshop teaches students how to lead the prayers during the weekdays and on Shabbat, and how to read from the Torah during the public Torah reading.

Class: 1 hour weekly

## WORKSHOPS

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### Workshops

A number of optional workshops, “chugim,” are offered in a range of areas. These include:

### ■ 7100

#### **Married Men Shiur - Rav Wolbe's Kuntras**

This group discusses married life, applying Jewish moral teachings to practical situations in family life. The class studies a pamphlet of guidance to young husbands, based on the talks of the great Mussar teacher, Hagoan Rav Shlomo Wolbe, zt”l.

Class: ¾ hour weekly

### ■ 7101

#### **Derech Hachaim**

This inspirational and philosophical class deals with some of the foundations of Jewish ethics and thought through the elevated insights of Rabbi Yehuda Loewe of Prague, zt”l, the Maharal.

Class: ½ hour

Three times weekly

■ 7102

**Preparing for Shabbat - Netivot Shalom**

This Friday morning class which helps students spiritually prepare for Shabbat is based on selections from the modern Chassidic work, Netivot Shalom.

Class: 1 hour weekly

■ 7103

**Parshat HaShavua**

This evening class develops innovative ideas in Parshat HaShavua in an exciting and inspirational way.

Class: ½ hour weekly

■ 7104

**Halachic Topics**

One evening per week students are taken through an in depth analysis of a single practical and topical subject in Jewish Law. Students are given the opportunity to suggest topics of particular interest.

■ 7105

**Sfas Emes**

Each week students will study a section of this classic work of chasidut relating to the Parsha or one of the upcoming moadim.

Class: ½ hour weekly

■ 7106

**Shiurei Daas**

Students study the classic Machshava Shiurim of Rav Yosef Yehuda Leib Bloch zt"l delivered in the Telshe Yeshiva in Lithuania.

Class: ½ hour weekly

■ 7107

**Daas Chochma U'Mussar**

"Reb Yerucham" Levovitz, Mashgiach of the pre WWII Mirrer Yeshiva was one of the most influential Baalei Mussar of his time. Each week students learn and discuss a chapter of this classic sefer.

Class: ½ hour weekly

■ 7108

**A Daily Dose of Chafetz Chaim**

Twenty minutes studying this classic work explaining the seriousness and laws of Lashon Hara (derogatory speech and slander).

# ADMINISTRATION

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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## ADMISSIONS

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## TUITION

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## FACILITIES

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## LIVING IN ISRAEL

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## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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### ■ The Academic Program

The goals of the program at David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam are the development of independent learning skills, a deep understanding of Jewish thought and observance, and personal and spiritual growth. These goals are best achieved by a period of study of at least one year on a full-time basis. Periods of study of a more limited duration, or students who wish to begin their studies mid-term might be accommodated if appropriate.

### ■ Annual Calendar

The 2007-8 academic year is divided into the following terms:

#### ■ Dates for 2007-8 are:

##### **Elul Zman**

August 15 – September 22, 2007

##### **Winter Zman**

October 14– April 3, 2008

##### **Midwinter**

December 12 – April 3, 2008

##### **Spring Zman**

May 5 – June 25, 2008

##### **Summer Zman**

June 30 – August 10, 2008

#### ■ Tentative dates for 2008-9 are:

##### **Elul Zman**

September 1 – October 9, 2008

##### **Winter Zman**

October 29– March 26, 2009

##### **Midwinter**

December 29– March 26, 2009

##### **Spring Zman**

April 26 – June 17, 2009

##### **Summer Zman**

June 21 – July 30, 2009

### ■ Special Programs and Touring

In addition to the comprehensive course of study, the program at David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam includes in-depth tours of the Land of Israel. Additionally, every three weeks, one of the faculty and his family join the students for meals, davening and learning over Shabbat. Also, one weekday a month, students join the faculty in their homes for dinner. Throughout the year, there are Shabbatonim, holiday celebrations, guest lectures and special events for the entire Shapell's community. The annual faculty-student-family Shabbaton is held in a different small community outside of Jerusalem every year and includes shiurim, a faculty panel discussion, Oneg Shabbat, Melave Malka and a Sunday full-day tiyul.

The academic year closes with a three-day Yarchei Kallah, an intensive seminar built around a single topic, featuring prominent guest lecturers, workshops, shiurim, and a closing panel discussion. Past Yarchei Kallah titles included:

- The Challenge of Character Development
- Torah Im Derech Eretz
- Jewish Business Ethics
- The Power of Prayer
- Individuality, Relationships and Marriage
- A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation: Visions of a Torah State and Contemporary Realities

- Educating Ourselves,  
Educating Our Communities,  
Educating Our Children
- Jewish Unity: Challenges,  
Visions, and Reality
- Jewish Spirituality: Learning It  
and Living It
- Jewish Leadership

## **ADMISSIONS**

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### **■ Eligibility**

Single and married men of all ages study at David Shapell College/ Yeshivat Darché Noam. The median age each year is generally mid-to-late twenties. Candidates should have an academic or professional degree, or equivalent life experience. Basic commitment to traditional Jewish observance and the ability to read, although not necessarily understand, Hebrew are general prerequisites.

### **■ Application**

**In order to process your application we need the following:**

1. Your completed application form, including a personal essay. Either:
  - submit the Online Application Form, which can be downloaded at [www.darchenoam.org](http://www.darchenoam.org);
  - mail in a printed application form (they can be obtained through the Darché Noam office or the website).
  - fax it to us at 972-2-652-0801.
2. Two letters of recommendation, one of which should be from a rabbi who knows you for at least one year (only one required for the summer program).
3. Digital photograph.

4. Interview with a staff member (arranged through the Darché Noam office) is generally required.

### **■ Once you have applied**

The turn-around time for getting a reply is usually 7-10 days. A majority of applicants are accepted. However, we sometimes get a sense that an applicant is better suited for an alternative program. We also have space limitations which prevent us from accepting all qualified applicants. Consequently, while there is no deadline for applications, there is a definite advantage to applying early.

An accepted student is given one week to pay a \$400 non-refundable registration fee by check or credit card, which payment reserves their place in the program. The next tuition payment is due three days after the Zman begins, to give the new student a chance to confirm that he chose the right program.

Please stay in contact with the Darché Noam office to check on the status of your application. We will be happy to help in any way possible.

## **TUITION**

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### **■ Tuition**

Fees for the academic year 2008-2009 are: \$14,950 for tuition, room and board, \$13,350 for tuition without room and board. Included is a \$400 non-refundable registration fee and a \$450 student activities fee. These fees are subject to periodic

adjustments. Inquiries concerning fees for a monthly or part-time program are welcome.

Payment of half of the annual tuition plus the full activities fee are due three days after arrival, with final balances due three months later. Preferred methods of payment of tuition are cash, check or bank transfer. Payments by Visa or Mastercard are welcome, but are subject to a 2.5% surcharge due to additional bank charges incurred by Darche Noam.

All of these fees cover the first eight months of academic enrollment. The following four consecutive months are included in the fees for the academic year at no additional cost.

Payment may be made directly to Darché Noam, or through any one of our overseas offices (see page 27).

### ■ **Financial Assistance**

When the need exists, students may apply to David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam for financial aid. Note that assistance may also be available from local sources such as a student's synagogue, Federation, JCC or Hillel. Please check availability from these sources first. Darché Noam is registered with the Jewish Agency's Masa Long Term Study Scholarship Program. Please contact Darche Noam for more details about MASA and instructions about how to apply. The Yeshiva also gives financial assistance through its scholarship and work study program. Please

contact the office for more information and application forms.

### ■ **Refund Policy**

Prorated refunds will be given (minus the non-refundable registration fee) for students who withdraw from the program within eight months of academic enrollment. One month's advance notice is required.

### ■ **Preferred Payment Policy**

Preferred methods of payment of tuition are cash, check or bank transfer. Payments by Visa or Mastercard are welcome, but are subject to a 2.5% surcharge due to additional bank charges incurred by Darche Noam.

## **CAMPUS AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

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### ■ **The David and Fela Shapell Campus**

The David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam campus is located in the lovely Beit Hakerem neighborhood of Jerusalem. The Beit Midrash, classrooms, library, offices, dormitory, kitchen, and dining room are all housed in the beautiful David and Fela Shapell building, a former hotel, completely renovated in 1994. The library contains over 5,000 volumes. English-language books may be borrowed; Hebrew volumes are all on reserve for reference purposes. Students have access to a fax machine, e-mail accounts, and the dormitory and classrooms are Wi-Fi. Take a photo tour online at:

[http://www.darchenoam.org/ydn/ydn\\_campus.htm](http://www.darchenoam.org/ydn/ydn_campus.htm)

### ■ Accommodations

A mature, responsible and highly motivated student body means there is little resemblance between life in the David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam residential wing and that in a university dormitory.

Rooms are modern and each has a private bathroom with a shower. Rooms are shared by up to three students, with individual closets and shelf-space. There are also two self-contained apartments, each with its own kitchen, available for married couples who are both studying at Shapell's/Darché Noam and Midreshet Rachel v'Chaya.

## LIVING IN ISRAEL

■ All foreign students are required to hold a valid foreign passport and a **student visa (not a tourist visa)**; and all students who are Israeli citizens are required to hold a valid Israeli identification card (teudat zehut or teudat oleh).

On arrival in Israel, you will automatically receive a three month tourist visa. Once you are here, we will help you get a student visa through the Ministry of the Interior (Misrad Hapnim) in Jerusalem.

### ■ Exercise

There are attractive grounds around the Yeshiva, but no dedicated exercise facility (some space and limited equipment are available). Many students take advantage of

outdoor basketball courts in the area, while others join local health clubs or swimming pools.

### ■ Health Insurance

All students are required to have medical insurance coverage while studying at David Shapell College/Darché Noam. Comprehensive medical insurance from abroad satisfies this requirement, but under such policies students must pay directly for all services before being reimbursed. Darché Noam is enrolled

in a private health insurance plan, Harel, especially devised for students, at a current cost of \$0.85 per day. The comprehensive plan covers visits to doctors, both general and specialists registered with Harel, hospitalization, x-rays, laboratory tests, medication (up to \$200 a year), emergency dental treatment (up to \$200 a year) and emergency-room treatment (except for road accidents). All the above services are included in the plan. The plan does not cover pre-existing health conditions. For the wives of married students, it does not cover pregnancy or childbirth.

### ■ Shabbat Hospitality

Every "out Shabbat", the Yeshiva places students, who have not made their own arrangements, with faculty, alumni, neighbors and friends for Shabbat meals. In this way, students share a wide variety of experiences with families of many different backgrounds throughout the country.

## ■ Counseling

Several members of the David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam faculty are trained counselors and are available to our students.

## ■ Handbook

David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam distributes a student handbook with practical information about life in Israel.

## ■ For More Information

Contact David Shapell College/Yeshivat Darché Noam or one of our overseas offices.

Israel Office  
P.O. Box 3151  
Jerusalem, Israel 96343  
Tel: 02-651-1178 Fax: 02-652-0801  
US Fax: 516-908-6020  
shapells@darchenoam.org

Canadian Friends of Darché Noam  
3-3865 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3H 3N4  
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