Mayanot Celebrates Its Inaugural "Points of Light" Banquet Gala

Wednesday night, the 14th of Kislev (November 28th, 2012) at the Hilton Hotel, was a night to remember. The inaugural Mayanot Points of Light Banquet Gala hosted over 600 guests, donors, supporters and alumni in celebration of sixteen years of Mayanot's achievements.
Honorees at Mayanot’s Banquet Gala

Honored guests accept their awards and share what Mayanot means to them.

Mr. Steven C. Wickoff: Guest of Honor

“The mission of Mayanot resonated deeply with me for several reasons. First of all, I believe that... to be human is to lose your way and then hopefully to be able to find it again and I think that’s what underlies the Mayanot mission. The ethos of Mayanot is to reach out to young Jewish adults who are at a crossroads in their lives and excite them about Israel and being Jewish...that made a lot of sense to me because I myself have been at a crossroads...who in this room hasn’t been at a crossroads?.. To me, the Mayanot mission meant so much.”

(Mr. Wickoff, founder of The Wickoff Group in New York City, has been involved in numerous charities and has championed many humanitarian causes.)

Yitzchak and Tamar Tessler: Pillars of Jewish Continuity

“Mayanot does not simply talk about the problem of young Jews assimilating and drifting from our heritage. With leaders like Rabbi Shlomo Gestetner, Rabbi Ksriel Shem Tov and Rabbi Baruch Kaplan they are addressing this burning issue head on. From the very center of Jerusalem, Israel, they are engaging young hearts and minds bringing them back to their roots......Bringing them back home.”

(Mr. Tessler, CEO and President of Tessler Developments and founder of WBB Construction, is a staunch, active and outspoken supporter of the Mayanot Institute of Jewish Studies.)
Adam Weinstein: Alumnus of the Year

“Mayanot was a low pressure environment, filled with learning, spirituality and comradeship. It has helped me continue the journey I started, by striving to learn and do more each and every day. While it was only a 6 week long program, it has impacted my life immensely. I keep in touch with so many people from that summer, many who have gone on to be shlichim in different parts of the country and world and others who returned to civilian life. The world needs more of what Mayanot has to offer, a wonderful, warm and religiously nurturing environment.”

(Rabbi Boruch Kaplan: Educator of the Year

Rabbi Kaplan was born in Vancouver, Canada in 1956 into a loving and proudly Jewish family. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in Medieval History at UBC he came to Israel in 1976 to study in Yeshiva with Rabbi Chaim Brovender. Rabbi Kaplan began teaching in Mayanot at its inception and has cultivated and directed the growth of Mayanot’s renowned Talmud Studies Department.)
Mayanot's Women's Program Building Campaign

The Mayanot Banquet Gala celebrated the launch of the capital campaign for a new Mayanot Women's Program campus. Yitzchak and Tamar Tessler pledged $250,000 for the new campus, as well as Kevin Bermeister who pledged $100,000, Eliezer and Sheinidel Bender who pledged $75,000, David and Eda Schottenstein who pledged $50,000 and Martin and Melanie Glatt who pledged $25,000. Their generous outpouring of support has invigorated Mayanot’s campaign to raise $4.5 million to expand their campus.

Located in Baka, a picturesque and vibrant neighborhood of Jerusalem, the new women’s campus is surrounded by popular cafes and restaurants and is within walking distance of the Old City. Baka is a modern and diverse community where our students can feel comfortable and at home in the ancient city of Jerusalem.
The new women’s building will contain a luminous Beit Midrash and classrooms, as well as exquisite living quarters, a gym, and dining facilities.
Mayanot Welcomes Its Partners
Mazeltovs

Births

Zaiman and Tall Ainsworth, boy
Barak and Noga Hullman, boy
Chaya and Henry Valier, girl
Talia and Tal bloom, boy
Adam and Jodi Weinstein, boy
Rabbi Elchonon and Nechamah Cohen, boy
Sari and Yair Givati, girl
Nicole and Jordan Kavana, boy
Alanna and Sariel Garbman, girl
Nuta Yisrael and Ettie Shurak, boy
Chaya and Michael Shapiro, boy
Liana and Asher Barkan, boy
Brenan and Frieda Rothschild, boy
Philippe and Dana Gerschel, boy
Rabbi Mendel and Rachey Simons, girl
(Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Goodman)

Benz and Pnina Kluwgant, boy
Michael and Urvi Shaya Stern, girl
Arik and Mucky Neparstek, girl
Michael and Aliza Abel, girl
Nathan and Dassi Zhivayuk, boy
Fayye and Simcha Weinberg, boy
Bethzad Daniel and Leah Mellinger, girl
Zaiman Moshe and Yehudis Silverman, boy
Esther and Gabriel Kushner, girl
Marlia and David Gross, girl
Yehudia and Aye Levi, girl
Sarah and Michael Rapaport, girl
Rabbi Michael and Chaya Schapiro, boy
Efrain and Adina Rivais-Gotbieter, boy
Mazeltovs

Engagements and Weddings

Evan Adams and Tova Stark
Eliyahu Otis and Liorah De Koker
Chana Rosa Petrikovsky and Shlomo Bogart
Ariel Bitron and Jacob Rich
Chaim Shalom Gross and Nehama Wagshul
Aharon Bulko and Rochel Leah Peri
Reuben Klein and Devora Robinson
Chava Ginzburg and Ben Schechter
Bracha Kravitsky and Eli Filler
Talia Davis and Daniel Haykin
Chana Miltstein and Joel Janovksy
Avi Tatarak and Michla Althaus
Eliezer David New and Mushky Pinson
Joe Craven and Ariella Huang
Hadasah Snyder and Yehuda Glick
Wayne and Batsheva Schmidt
Eliezer Bushman and Rochel Goldstein
Aron Chanoch Golub and Chana Miriam Lester
Rivkah Manasher and Zalman Kogan
Menucha Howell and Adam Saitowitz
Aaron (AJ) Langer and Roney Haase
Victor (Avigdor) Schejman and Sar Leb
Devra Nussbaum and Shimon Radovsky
Sara Klasner and Zev Iyek
Anna Levy and Adam Prager
Bassie Fine and Tom Yahel
Esther Yukilevitch and Kovi Kessler
Daniela Feldman and Dan Berkowitz
Arielle Malka Dahl and Moshe Kranitz
Chava Cohen and Yehuda Botolin
Levi Kotlarsky and Mushky Pewzner
Zalman Wendiger and Musheke Kirschenbaum
(Parents: Shilaine and Shyrla Wendiger)
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