

# Let's Talk Torah Sheb'al Peh

## Message From Rabbi Pinchas Hayman

As the end of school year 5768 is already on the horizon, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of the schools in the Bonayich family, both those who are part of the V'Shinantam network, and those part of the V'Dibarta Bam network. This year has been a year of tremendous growth and progress for our programs. Nearly fifty schools throughout the United States and Canada, in addition to the over eighty schools in Israel, have seen terrific results with their students, and we are humbled by the opportunity to serve such a holy community of learning. We commit ourselves to do more and more to improve our products and service for the coming year 5769, and in the future.

This is the first issue of "Let's Talk Torah Sheb'al Peh" – the quarterly newsletter of Bonayich Educational Services. Our newsletter will include important notices and reminders for Bonayich schools, updates on our materials and products, human interest stories from member schools, links and "heads-up" on important events and publications on Torah Sheb'al Peh, and much more! We invite you, our colleagues and clients, to join in and submit interesting pictures, columns, letters and stories for "Let's Talk Torah Sheb'al Peh."

Looking forward to hearing from you all, and with very best personal regards to each and every one of you!

Rabbi Pinchas Hayman

## Growth in the Bonayich Family

School year 5768 brought us much "nachas" – growth from 35 to 47 schools, and the introduction to selected schools of the V'Dibarta Bam Skills Program for Talmud. The coming year, 5769 *haba'ah aleinu l'tovah*, promises even more professional satisfaction, as the Bonayich school family grows from 47 to over 65 schools. In addition, the V'Dibarta Bam program will expand to many more schools, and demonstrate the great advantages of a skills-based program for junior and senior high school students. We invite all member schools to take a look at V'Dibarta Bam as the natural extension of V'Shinantam!

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Iyar 5768

### Important Dates

- **May 15**—Deadline for orders shipped by sea
- **June/July/August** Teacher training for new schools
- **September 30, 2008** Full payment due for workbook discount
- **September**—Send in Excel sheets for Mishnahkids passwords

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## **New Edition of V'Shinantam Takes Shape**

After four years in operation in North America, and after many discussions with administrators and teachers who have experienced the various years of the **V'Shinantam Mishnah Program**, we here at Bonayich collected and tabulated all the feedback received from our colleagues and designed the new edition of **V'Shinantam**. In response to the recommendations of many educators that **V'Shinantam** operate in Grades 5-6, the new **V'Shinantam Program** is being written as a two year program, instead of the three year program presently in use. For the vast majority of schools – presently using **V'Shinantam** in Grades 5-6, the new program will be an obvious improvement. For schools presently using **V'Shinantam** in Grades 4-6, options will be built in for proper application of the program from Grade 4. The new two-year program will contain all the skills of the present program, with the addition of others, but will focus on the integration of the skills' instruction with the content of the two years of the program. In addition, the new **V'Shinantam Program** will offer:

- \*all new layout and graphics
- \*built in options for differentiation in the classroom
- \*options in activities for selected *mishnayot*
- \*complete integration of the student activity book, teacher guide, internet site
- \*more child centered activity learning
- \*fully integrated system for recording of vocabulary, concepts, terms and biographical materials
- \*open teacher guide with option of inclusion of individual materials

The new **V'Shinantam Program** will be available in four editions, instead of the two presently available. The present English and Easy Hebrew editions will continue, although we have thoroughly rewritten the Easy Hebrew edition to be even easier Hebrew, fully vocalized. We will be adding in the new program two further editions: English and Easy Hebrew in a Yeshivish graphic format, suitable for Litvish and Chasidish institutions. This will include special graphics adapted to the cultural milieu of these institutions, and audio disks with the *mishnayot* recited in the nusach appropriate for these educational environments.

## **V'Shinantam Evaluation Package Ready for Initial Trial in June**

As promised, we are proud to roll out our **V'Shinantam Mishnah Program Evaluation Package** for this coming June. The package contains full evaluation instruments for over a dozen skills taught in the first year of **V'Shinantam**, each instrument in two different versions to allow for testing, learning and retesting. Each instrument consists of graded questions so that the pupil may be evaluated with a high degree of exactitude.

Various modalities of evaluation have been employed in these instruments, including closed and open questions, text searches and thought questions. The evaluation instruments will be available in printed or PDF digital format.

As is well known, academic research into evaluation calls virtually every type of evaluation into question, but at Bonayich we feel that it is necessary to begin composition of these instruments in order to move the field along as much as possible.

Please be in touch to order your Evaluation Package today!

*“At Bonayich we have begun composition of the third year of V’Dibarta Bam, which will be a thorough introduction to the Gaonim, the Rishonim, the Acharonim and their writings.”*

## **Year Two of V’Dibarta Bam Skills Program Almost Completed**

A number of trial schools have already experienced the powerful didactic value of V’Dibarta Bam, Year One, which focuses on the *Amoraim*, their *Batei Midrash*, and their literature of *memrot* and *sugyot*.

Year Two of the program is now approaching completion and graphics stage, and it is a direct continuation of Year One, focusing on Aramaic and the *Shakla VTarya*. Specifically, the Year Two program will be divided into three parts:

- \* Basics of Talmudic Aramaic, including vocabulary, simple grammatical structures, syntax, terms and idioms
- \* Functions of *Shakla VTarya*, including its differentiation from the *memrot* of the *Amoraim*
- \* Structures in *Shakla VTarya*, such as *tzrichuta*, *yalfuta*, and many, many more.

The second year of V’Dibarta Bam will be ready for use for school year 5770, b’eprat HaShem.

For more information, drop us a line and let's talk Torah Sheb'al Peh!

## **Year Three of V’Dibarta Bam Underway**

After completion of the first two years of V’Dibarta Bam, the student will be prepared for independent learning of the *Gemara*. The next phase, study of *Rishonim* and *Acharonim* on the *sugyot*, has always provided special challenges for educators: who are the *Gaonim*, *Rishonim* and *Acharonim*? What did they write and what are the different approaches of the various academies? What are their methods and unique contributions?

At Bonayich, we have begun composition of the third year of V’Dibarta Bam, which will be a thorough introduction to the *Gaonim*, the *Rishonim*, the *Acharonim* and their writings. In addition, the third year of the program will train students in use of *Eyn Mishpat*, *Ner Mitzvah* and *Torah Or*, *Hagahot HaBach* and others, and will introduce the relevance of *Girsat*, *Nushchaot*, and *Kitve Yad*.

The didactic writing is by R' Shalom Hayman, an advanced student at the kollel of *Yeshivat B'nei David* in Eli, Shomron. The third year is planned for completion in time for school year 5770.

For more information, drop us a line and let's talk Torah Sheb'al Peh!

## Perek Arve Pesachim Almost Completed

Bonayich has already published two *pirke Gemara*, *Berachot Perek Revi'i Tefillat HaShachar* and *Baba Metzi'a Perek Shlishi HaMaftid*. These publications, true breakthroughs in Talmud instruction, present each perek as an organic whole, including relevant passages of *Mikra* and *Targumim*, all relevant *Midreshe Halachah*, the entire perek of Mishnah with parallel passages from *Tosefta*, *Beraitot* and other relevant sources, the entire *perek* of *Gemara* divided into *Tannaim*, *Amoraim* and *Shakla V'Tarya* according to the *Revadim* method, and extremely useful indices and aids for learning.

Now, it's the turn of *Pesachim Perek Asiri Arve Pesachim*, prepared for integrated instruction of *Mishnah*, *Gemara* and *Haggadah*! This beautiful new publication will be ready b'ezerat HaShem by mid-year 5769.

On the drawing board are close to twenty more *perakim* selected from the most oft-learned chapters and portions of *Zera'im*, *Moed* and *Nezikin*. If you have special requests, please let us know...

For more information, drop us a line and let's talk Torah Sheb'al Peh!



## Regional In-service Meetings Planned

Now that the Bonayich schools family is expanding to more than sixty schools, there have been many calls for more in-service possibilities on a regional level. This would enable teachers of various schools to meet, speak with each other and exchange ideas on the V'Shinantam and V'Dibarta Bam programs.

In response to these requests, Bonayich is now planning a schedule for regional in-service meetings for school year 5769, in November, February and June. A full schedule and details will be published in the next issue of "Let's Talk Torah Sheb'al Peh" and will be sent to your school before the opening of the 5769 school year.

If you have suggestions, requests or other comments about these regional meetings, drop us a line and let's talk Torah Sheb'al Peh!

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