

Meorot

A Forum of Modern Orthodox Discourse

(formerly *Edah Journal*)

Tishrei 5770

Special Edition on Modern Orthodox Education

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A Forum of Modern Orthodox Discourse

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Meorot: A Forum of Modern Orthodox Discourse **(formerly *The Edah Journal*)**

Statement of Purpose

Meorot is a forum for discussion of Orthodox Judaism's engagement with modernity, published by Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. It is the conviction of *Meorot* that this discourse is vital to nurturing the spiritual and religious experiences of Modern Orthodox Jews. Committed to the norms of *halakhab* and Torah, *Meorot* is dedicated to free inquiry and will be ever mindful that "Truth is the seal of the Holy One, Blessed be He."

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Directions for Submissions

Meorot invites submissions of original scholarly and popular essays, as well as new English translations of Hebrew works. Popular essays should be between 800-2000 words. The journal particularly welcomes halakhic, philosophic, and literary studies relating to *qedushah* in modern experience, the religious significance of the State of Israel, Jewish ethics, emerging Torah conceptions of and opportunities for women, *Talmud Torah* as an intellectual and spiritual discipline, pluralism, and Judaism's relation to gentiles and contemporary culture.

Submissions to *Meorot* should be sent online to meorotjournal@yct Torah.org, or mailed in duplicate to Editor, *Meorot*, c/o YCT Rabbinical School, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 244, New York, N.Y. 10015. Submissions should include a one paragraph abstract and one line biography of the author. Paper submissions should be accompanied by a diskette with essay in RTF, TXT or MSWORD format. Notes should appear as footnotes. Communications should be directed to the above email address.

Reader responses should be sent to the editor at meorotjournal@yct Torah.org for possible electronic publication at the journal's website.

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Editor's Introduction to the Special *Tishrei* 5770 Edition

Nathaniel Helfgot

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik ז"ל often noted in his *shi'urim* and *derashot* that the *mitsvah* of *talmud torah* (Torah study) is presented in our liturgy and in Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* as, first and foremost, an obligation to engage in transmitting Torah to others and initiating them into the covenantal community. Indeed, as the Rav famously noted, the first blessing of *birkhot ha-Torah* speaks of the Almighty Himself as a teacher (*hamelammed torah le-ammo yisra'el*) who partakes in the noble act of transmitting Torah to his beloved people, Israel.

In that vein, it is my great pleasure to have served as guest editor of this special issue of *MEOROT* dedicated to Modern Orthodox education. Many of the issues discussed in these pages are ones which we as a Modern Orthodox community have grappled with in the past, while others have risen to the surface more forcefully in recent years. It is always healthy to continue to reflect on perennial dilemmas as we confront the new challenges that await us in the future.

The issue is divided into three sections. The first is a symposium on a broad range of issues that affect the Modern Orthodox high school and post-high school (i.e., year-or-more in Israel) educational system. We sent a series of ten questions to prominent men and women educators both Israel and the United States for their responses and comments, understanding that not all these questions could be analyzed directly in the space allotted to each participant. The eleven responses we received are included in this symposium. I am pleased that the respondents include a mix of veteran educators whose names are well-known to the readers of academic and Torah journals, combined with new and

fresh voices that are now making their mark on the scene.

The second section contains a study by Dr. Moshe Sokolow describing the knowledge, attitudes and skills that an ideal graduate of a yeshiva high school should have upon completion of his/her studies. This essay was also sent to a number of thoughtful educators for their comments, and their responses follow Dr. Sokolow's essay. The section also contains two articles on the economics of Jewish education that dominates much of the day school discussion today, plus probing essays by Jack Nahmod on striving for cognitive excellence and by Tamar Biala on teaching modesty (*tsini'ut*) in Modern Orthodox schools.

The last section contains a review essay on a recent curriculum, *Intimacy and Life Values*, which has been published and is already being used in some of our day schools.

It is my hope that these essays stimulate us to reflect further so we can better understand where we are and where we should go as a community to realize our goals of producing living models of Modern Orthodox Torah. As culture and knowledge progress, so must our educational methods in order to realize our constant ideals of educating our daughters and sons toward Torah, *avodah*, *gemilut hasadim* and all human knowledge to nurture the next generation committed to the profound worldview and values of Modern Orthodoxy.

I am certain you will enjoy the articles in this edition and invite you to share your thoughts with us by writing to us at meorotjournal@yctorah.org

Best wishes for a *ketivah va-hatimah tovah*,

Nathaniel Helfgot

Guest Editor, Special Edition on Modern Orthodox Education



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