

Jerusalem JECHONES

NEWS FROM OHR SOMAYACH

Mayor Visits Ohr Somayach

The Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Nir Barkat, visited Ohr Somayach for the first time last Thursday (25th June / 8th Tammuz). Accompanying the Mayor were members of his coalition Deputy Mayor R' Yossi Deitsch and R' Yitzchak Pindrus, and the Rabbi of the Kotel Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz.

After a short round-table meeting, where the

Mayor met a number of the yeshiva's current students and held an informal question-and-answer session, both the Mayor and the Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Nota Schiller, addressed the summer JLE students, the jInternship students and a visiting group of young professionals from Chicago.

The Rosh Yeshiva presented Mayor Barkat with a memento of the visit, a placard quoting a Torah thought from Rabbi Meir Simcha of Dvinsk who

continued on page two





wrote a commentary on the Rambam’s Mishne Torah called “Ohr Somayach”.

The Midrash says that Shem, son of Noach, called this place “Shalem”, and Avraham called it “Yira Lo”. Not wanting to insult either Shem or Avraham, G-d called the city with a combination of the names – *Yerushalem*. Rabbi Meir Simcha analyzes the name and explains that it is a fusion of *concept* and *conduct*. Some people claim that they behave morally and that they don’t need a system of belief, a philosophy to back it up. All they need to do is behave in a decent fashion. Avraham came along and said that is not enough. You need an over-arching conceptual base to support your

actions. Otherwise they are going to disintegrate. We relate to Jerusalem as the spiritual and intellectual hub of our universe.

Quick as a flash the Mayor retorted — “That’s what I’m going to talk about!” — before sharing his philosophy of leading the city of Jerusalem, and by picking up on the word “hub” adding other ways in which Jerusalem is a hub for world Jewry. The visit finished with a group photo and a number of selfies with the Mayor in the yeshiva courtyard.

A short video of the visit can be seen on the yeshiva website – www.ohr.edu





