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Issue no. 19

## June Newsletter

Do you know anyone who can benefit from our services? Please forward this newsletter to them and let them know that we can help.

### Drasha program concludes second successful year at the Knesset



ON June 3, a group of sixth graders from Be'er Sheva, Shoham, Raanana and Eilat and their families joined ITIM for a special session of the Knesset Education committee to celebrate the successful conclusion of the 2007-2008

Drasha program, sponsored by the Legacy Heritage Foundation. Students delivered their drashot and ITIM was commended by the committee for their dedication and work in providing an expanded program that now reaches more than 20% of public school students. ITIM is happy to report that an additional grant through the Jewish Funders Network will be helping to support the program in the coming three years.

To read Haaretz's coverage of the program click [here](#).

To read the Knesset protocol of the day, click [here](#).

### Conversion Chaos



During the past two months, ITIM has been at the forefront of the battle to resolve the chaos that has characterized the conversion authority in Israel. ITIM has helped tens of individuals who successfully completed conversion to open

marriage files, and has assisted hundreds of others in having their conversions certified for purposes of marriage. ITIM has launched a lobbying campaign, directed by Rabbi Seth Farber, founder of ITIM, to support the Prime Minister's office in their reorganization of conversion in Israel, and together with the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption, ITIM will be republishing the lifecycle manual Conversion in Israel in the coming days.

To read Rabbi Farber's opinion piece about conversion, click [here](#).

### ITIM and the Foreign Ministry



On June 11, the ITIM information and Advocacy Staff led a full day seminar with more than thirty Israeli ambassadors and consul generals who are heading into

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## Dear Friends,



The summer is upon us, and for ITIM, this means the wedding season. Tens of couples have taken advantage of ITIM's partnership with the chief rabbinate and [opened their wedding files with us](#). While there are some new staff positions at ITIM and there has been some realigning, we are very proud of the thousands of people we have assisted in the past six months and count on you to help support our work in the coming months. If you plan to be in Jerusalem, please call and set up an appointment to visit our information and advocacy center. And if you seek to support ITIM, please visit the [link on our website](#). We look forward to hearing from you.

Rabbi Seth Farber, Ph.D.  
Director, ITIM

the field during this summer. Focusing on the Jewish role that Israeli representatives play in Jewish communities in the Diaspora, the ITIM staff exposed these foreign ministry workers to a wide variety of ITIM activities and programs, and gave them a taste of the diversity of the Jewish world. "Israeli ambassadors often feel at a loss in their encounter with Jewish life", said one of the participants. "ITIM's added value is that we now have a hotline we can call anytime to receive guidance on Jewish issues".

### Comments...Questions...

For more information, general inquiries , you can reach us by:

E-mail at: [itim@itim.org.il](mailto:itim@itim.org.il)

By phone toll free: 1-700-500-507.

Outside of Israel dial: 972-2-648-2205

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