



Yahadut Zmaneinu, Moreshet Ha'am

YOZMA

AN ISRAELI JEWISH INITIATIVE IN MODI'IN



Beit Midrash

Kehillat YOZMA's adult **Beit Midrash** – now in its 12th consecutive year – attracts students from a wide range of religious backgrounds. Each week, some twenty students from the YOZMA community and the greater Modi'in area come together to explore the semester's theme.

In exploring this year's topic – the "Jewish Place" - YOZMA is joined by the Hebrew University's **Gandel Institute for Adult Jewish Learning**. This year's *Beit Midrash* examines the two-thousand year old concept of a "Jewish place" from historical, sociological and literary perspectives. Fueled by the study of classic and modern texts as well as the classic commentaries – both in smaller *hevruta* study groups and with the entire class – the participants go on to raise and explore these issues as relevant to their own lives.

Lately, this exploration has shifted to a discussion of the "boundaries of the Jewish place" – as it relates to the home as a symbol of "culture" and the outside world as a symbol of "chaos". The boundary of the Jewish home is established in one way by the *mezuzah* on its doorpost which marks and protects the Jewish home. In addition, the *Chanukah* menorah is yet another way of marking the Jewish home – both by its publicizing of the miracle of *Chanukah* as well as its statement to the outside world "we are here".

The studying of this topic at the time of *Chanukah* and in the city of Modi'in where these events occurred so many years ago – adds a special spiritual element to YOZMA's *Beit Midrash*

YOZMA - Judaism of Our Time, Heritage of Our People

Hativat Givaati st. #31 P.O. Box 128 Modiin 71721 Israel

Tel: +972-8-975-3461, Fax: +972-8-970-3551,

Web: <http://www.yozma.org.il>

Email: yozma@yozma.org.il