



Yahadut Zmaneinu, Moreshet Ha'am

**YOZMA**

AN ISRAELI JEWISH INITIATIVE IN MODI'IN



## Looking back on the 5769 School year

With the school year nearly over, we at YOZMA are gearing up for an exciting summer program to serve the growing number of children in YOZMA's preschool and elementary school frameworks. We finish the school year on a high; with positive feedback all around – from the parents, staff and children in our preschool and elementary school frameworks. We have successfully implemented a year-round progressive Jewish program rich in spiritual, emotional, physical and cognitive elements. The program is uniquely suited to the goals and high standards that we as a community have set. YOZMA's progressive Jewish spirit permeates each activity in the daily schedule of every preschool and elementary school class.

The secret to YOZMA's success is that each educational framework has its own dedicated rabbi who plays an active role throughout the year. **Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon** serves as the rabbi of the preschools while **Rabbi Nir Barkin** is the rabbi of the elementary school. They are in the classrooms every day and play an integral role in all educational aspects. The fact that children of self-defined "secular" families spend much of their school day in the presence of a rabbi – who represents a loving, caring and admirable figure – is the basis for YOZMA's worldview.

It is no surprise that YOZMA's educational frameworks are in growing demand. We are opening a seventh preschool class as well as two additional elementary school classes for the 5770 (2009-2019) school year. Next year, 200 children will be in YOZMA's elementary school and 220 children will attend YOZMA's preschools. Within five years, we expect to see 1,000 children attending YOZMA educational frameworks!

This is the social and cultural change that we are effecting – in Modi'in and in Israel. Thousands of families are not only educating their children in a Jewish way of life – but they are also – in their own personal way – leading a Progressive Jewish life.

Since we have yet to receive a permanent home from the Ministry of Education, we are forced once again to relocate the entire elementary school to yet another temporary home for the next year or two. We will have to once again work out the transportation logistics of getting the children to and from this new location – a costly and time-consuming effort.