



A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Misha Brenner



I am having a great time learning at Orayta this year. It is interesting, however, that a large part of my successful *Torah* learning can be attributed not only to the hours spent in the *Bet Midrash*, but also to the many hours I've spent on the basketball court.

There is a concept in Judaism that the effort spent on leisurely activities isn't a waste of time; rather, when done in moderation, these activities are in fact a **part** of your *Torah* study. Logically, this makes sense. My leisurely activity (basketball) is necessary for my *Torah* study, because the physical exercise through basketball helps keep me energized and focused during my *Torah* study. Basketball is an aid, rather than a distraction, to my *Torah* study.

Studying *Torah* for the year was something that was greatly influenced by my grandfather. A Holocaust survivor, my maternal grandfather greatly valued *Torah* study. He was always the biggest Jewish influence I had growing up. He passed away about four years ago, but his love for *Torah* definitely influenced my values, and on my decision to come to Yeshiva for the year.

Little did I know that my grandfather would have a direct impact on my *Torah* study for the year. I recently found out that he helped build the Old City basketball court that I play on every day. He helped produce one of my biggest aids to *Torah* study this year! I believe the term "*hashgacha pratiss*", the idea that *Hashem* looks out for each and every one of us, holds true with this crazy coincidence.