

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It's that time of year again - the days are getting cooler, the nights are getting longer, the school supply stores have sold out of basic equipment and teachers are excited about the new school year.

Well, at least, I hope that last one is true. We should be excited about our work as teachers, about influencing our students' lives and about changing how they react to the world around them. The ability to use English in all possible forms is a powerful way to make our students, of all ages, citizens of the world.

But sometimes we need a little help in the enthusiasm for teaching department. And that is where the idea of professional development comes in, and as we all, hopefully, know, that is what ETAI is so good at. This year we have an impressive list of conferences and mini conferences planned at different venues throughout the country. All of these conferences will feature outstanding plenary speakers, parallel sessions given by wonderful ETAI members and focus groups led by teachers from the field. However, the programs are not yet completed, which means there are plenty of opportunities for you all to present, participate and help at the conferences. We are also offering a Gmul option this year, after the resounding success of last year when close to 100 teachers were able to get a gmul for attending three worthwhile conferences.

Naftali Bennet, the Education Minister, and Dr. Tziona Levi, the Chief Inspector for English, have both stressed the importance of teaching the skill of speaking. ETAI fully supports this idea. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that "Speaking of Speaking" will be the theme of this year's conferences, and I hope you will be inspired in many ways to implement the teaching of speaking skills in all your classes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Tziona Levi for the unwavering support she has shown to ETAI, both in our day to day interactions and in the way she manages to constantly mention ETAI in her work in the Ministry.

Conferences are an important feature of ETAI's ongoing involvement with English teachers, but so is the Forum. The editing committee has been working extremely hard to get back on track of having three issues of the Forum each year. I am sure everyone will find something of relevance to them in this issue of our excellent professional magazine. Wishing everyone a fruitful and successful year of teaching English here in Israel.

*Susan Bedein*  
*ETAI Chair*

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

There is nothing like a teachers' gathering to re-energize ourselves! Coming off the ETAI National Summer Conference this past July, we were able to combine some of the presentations as well as other teacher research and classroom techniques.

We are proud to continue our *Teacher Training and Development* section in this issue, in which we also include a **student teacher's input**. This new addition, as well as the contributions from experienced teachers, provides a wide array of articles which makes the ETAI Forum a reflection of English teaching in Israel and beyond.

We also learned that putting together the Forum effectively and efficiently requires a village. In fact, the ETAI Board established a working group for the Forum to ensure the publication of a new issue as quickly as possible. Thank you to those who helped with the editing and layout: Maizie Aviyahil, Jennifer Meyer, and Lindsey Shapiro. And of course, thank you to Eric Cohen Books for their layout work and making the ETAI Forum a reality.

*Julia Mor and Sara Gabai*  
*Co-Editors, ETAI Forum*

Share your experience, present at an ETAI conference.  
The speaker proposal form is up on the ETAI site.  
[www.etai.org.il/conferences/](http://www.etai.org.il/conferences/)

