

# MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 23

Highlighting the  
graduating classes  
of **2016-2020**

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All previous issues of our alumni publication are now conveniently available at [mhafyos.org/alumni](http://mhafyos.org/alumni).

## COVER PHOTO



The MSG team representing Iceland at the 2017 Yeshiva University National Model United Nations (from left): **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Rena Mashinsky** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Batya Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18) and **Avigail Bosin** (MHA '16, FYOS '20).

This issue is dedicated in loving memory of two beloved alumni whose recent passing we mark with great sorrow:

### **Marty LeVine, z'l**

(MHA '77, YOS '81).

We send our deepest condolences to his mother Faye LeVine, his siblings and the entire extended family.

### **Sam Goldstein, z'l**

(MHA '99).

Our deepest condolences to his wife Nikki, daughter Olivia, mother Bonnie (Matz) Goldstein, father **Sidney Goldstein** (MHA '64) and siblings **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHA '89, YOS '93), **Ben Goldstein** (MHA '91, FYOS '95), **Shifra Smith** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), **Avi Goldstein** (MHA '07, FYOS '11), **Seth Goldstein** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) and **Gabe Goldstein** (MHA '10, FYOS '14).

May their memory forever be a blessing, and may their families be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

**Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), editor  
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## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

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Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



It is very exciting that this year's banquet will honor our alumni! Specifically, the evening will recognize seven alumni — one representing each of our school's seven decades — who have chosen to live in Memphis and work toward helping build

the school and the community. While we are spotlighting seven individuals, we really are honoring all of you: our distinguished alumni.

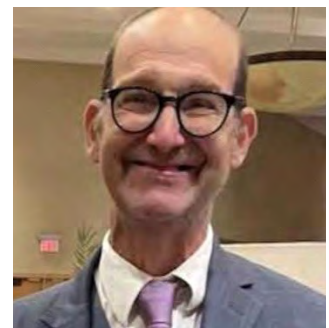
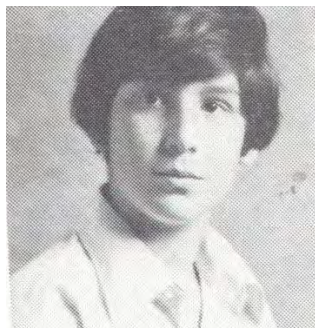
There are many ways you can participate in this year's banquet. The details are outlined on page 28. We look forward to hearing from you and hope all of you will participate in some way to ensure this year's banquet is a big success.

A series of events that occurred since our last issue has reinforced in my mind the unique and extraordinary qualities of the Memphis Jewish community and our MHA/FYOS alumni in particular. In early February, Memphis experienced an ice storm, which knocked out power across much of the city. Many of you still remember the ice storm of 1994, during which our area was without power for 10 days. This one was slightly shorter — lasting about a week — but just as traumatic for those of us left in the dark. The frigid temperatures on those first few days made it difficult and quite dangerous for people without power to remain in their homes. Interestingly, small pockets of houses in our neighborhood, at seemingly random intervals, did not lose power. True to the reputation of Southern hospitality, those with lights and heat looked past the challenging conditions and opened their homes

and hearts to those who didn't. In some cases, four or five families shared a single-family home. Baron Hirsch Congregation, the only synagogue in the neighborhood that had power, kept its doors open each day so community members could come in, warm up, and charge their devices. The shul even [hosted MHA/FYOS classes](#) for a couple of days until power was restored to our school campus. As stressful as that time was, I can't imagine going through it anywhere else but here, where the *chesed* (loving kindness) flows like melting ice.

Those who read our newsletter faithfully can affirm that people frequently comment on the fact that friends made at this school are friends for life. I watched examples of this unfold before me in real time these past few months.

Since the release of our last issue, we unfortunately lost two beloved members of the MHA/FYOS alumni family. (This newsletter is dedicated in their memory; see page 2.) Dec. 5 marked the passing of **Marty LeVine, z'l** (MHA '77, YOS '81). It's hard to imagine that one could live in our community and not know Marty. He was a ray of sunshine who shared a smile with everyone he met. After his passing, a



**Marty LeVine z'l** (MHA '77, YOS '81), in eighth grade and 2021

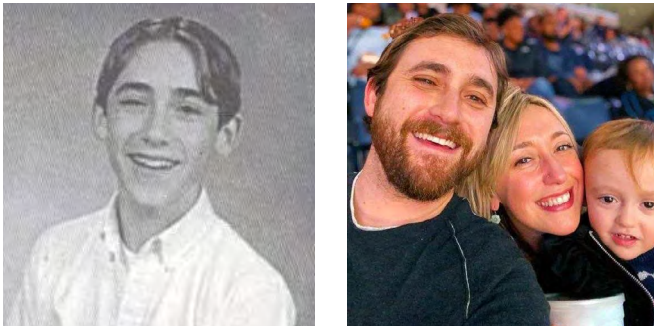
## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

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community email went out, requesting volunteers to serve as *shomrim* (guardians to watch over the body until burial). My eyes filled with tears when I opened the signup list and saw how many of Marty's classmates had volunteered for this sacred duty.

Soon after Sam's passing, the following announcement appeared in the MHA/FYOS weekly newsletter and on the monitors in the school's hallways:



**Sam Goldstein** z'l (MHA '99), in eighth grade and 2020 (with wife Nikki and daughter Olivia)

**This month's learning is sponsored in memory of  
Sam Goldstein, A"H  
שמחה צבי בן יצחק שמואל**

**We will miss Sam and his sweet smile and will hold the memories that we shared at MHA in our hearts forever.**

**Sponsored with love by his classmates**

At the end of January, **Sam Goldstein**, z'l (MHA '99) passed away. He left behind a pregnant wife and a five-year-old daughter. This loss was very personal to me, as Sam was my grandchildren's uncle.

More times than I can count, I have heard our alumni say that the friendships they made at the MHA/FYOS last a lifetime. I contend that they last even longer than that.

Stay safe and well. Wishing you all a *chag Pesach kasher v'sameach*.

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair  
[joannekahane111@gmail.com](mailto:joannekahane111@gmail.com)



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



While it's hard to believe that we're quickly approaching the end of another school year, there is still so much ahead of us, with a variety of plays and, of course, graduations and advancements.

Our school's new Mary Pikelny STEAM Center, located in the elementary wing, is nearing completion, and it looks amazing! This STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) lab will be no ordinary classroom; it has been specifically designed to foster hands-on learning, problem-solving and teamwork. This is thanks to the tremendous efforts of our contractor **Lee Baum** (MHA '74) and the support of **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77), **David Winestone** (MHA '74), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99 and director of recruitment and marketing) and Brandy Flack, executive director.

The Mary Pikelny STEAM Lab is another crown jewel in the building modernization initiatives that our school community has supported in recent years. It joins the Cooper Family Beis Midrash and Moss Gym as testaments to our commitment to providing the very best Jewish and general studies education to our students. Stay tuned for more on the next phase of our building modernization efforts.

A very important communitywide event on our school calendar is the annual scholarship banquet, to be held Monday, May 30, when we will celebrate over seven decades of history at our school. That evening, we will recognize seven distinguished alumni, each representing one of the seven decades.

These guests of honor will be **Lester Lit** (MHA '57), **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72), **Lee Baum** (MHA '74), **Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97 and editor of this publication), **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14).

We would love to have as many alumni as possible help us recognize this momentous milestone through your presence and participation. In the coming weeks, you will receive an invitation to the banquet and information about our ad journal. I hope you will join us in paying tribute to our honorees and your beloved alma mater. You may also refer to [mhafyos.org/journal](http://mhafyos.org/journal) and page 28 of this issue for additional information.

MARGOLIN HEBREW ACADEMY-FEINSTONE YESHIVA OF THE SOUTH

## 72nd Annual SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022  
BARON HIRSCH SYNAGOGUE

*Honoring  
Seven Decades of Alumni Leaders*

 <b>LESTER LIT</b> MHA '57	 <b>MIKE STEIN</b> MHA '68	 <b>LEE BAUM</b> MHA '74	 <b>SANDRA OSDOBA</b> YOS '80
 <b>AMARA LEVINE-REICH</b> FYOS '97	 <b>RICHARD LEWIS</b> FYOS '03	 <b>JAMIE GIBBER</b> FYOS '14	

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt

After two long years of dealing with COVID, it's been wonderful to see the beginnings of a "return to normal" with a number of in-person events. Our first graders received their siddurim after putting on an [adorable show](#), and our second graders performed in a wonderful [chumash play](#). The [Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Basketball Game](#) returned, with the alumni team coming out on top — increasing their winning streak over the CYHSB varsity to three. (For more on the alumni game, see page 30.) The annual [steak dinner](#) presented by the CYHSB returned live and in person, during which our high school boys honored two dedicated educators: Mr. Jeff LaRoux, math instructor, and Mrs. Nina LaRoux, STEM teacher. We also saw the return of the [GMSG gala dinner](#), where our high school girls paid tribute to English teacher Mrs. Ashley Brown. Masking (of a different kind) came back to our hallways, as [Purim](#) was celebrated with heartfelt joy. The auction was extremely successful and culminated with a fun [space odyssey-themed dinner](#), during which the winners of the sweepstakes were announced. Thank you to auction chairs Rashki Kaplan and Sarah Ardestani and sweepstakes chair Emily Lennon, as well as the countless volunteers who helped fundraise and prepare for these events.

With another year of educating in a COVID environment almost complete, it's an appropriate time to step back and appreciate all those who do so much for our school. It would take many pages to appropriately acknowledge each individually but encompasses our educators, administrators, facility management, parent body and those who generously volunteer their time and wisdom, as well as our fundraisers and donors.

Finally, I am thrilled to share the news that Rabbi Yisroel Weiner, who currently serves as interim head of school of the Phoenix Hebrew Academy in Arizona, has been selected as our incoming head of school, effective July 1. As we observed throughout our extensive search process, Rabbi Weiner stands out as a strong educational leader, inspirational role model and charismatic, personable and energetic connector who will bolster the spirituality, *ruach* (spirit) and academics at our school. In addition to his outstanding credentials and experience, he is married to alumna **Suri (Samberg) Weiner** (MHA '99, FYOS '03). Who says you can't go home again? We are eager to welcome Rabbi Weiner, Suri and their wonderful children to the MHA/FYOS family when they relocate to Memphis this summer. (For more on Rabbi Weiner and our search process, see our [March 10 announcement](#).)

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our search committee for all of their hard work, and especially to our tireless co-chairs, **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and Jonathan Kaplan, for their incredible commitment, diligence and professionalism during this process. The search committee, board of trustees and I are excited to have Rabbi Weiner as our head of school next year and look forward to partnering with him in making the MHA/FYOS an even more exceptional school and community.

Wishing you and your family a *chag Pesach kasher v'sameach*.

Yoel Goldblatt  
President, MHA/FYOS Board of Trustees  
[goldblatt.yoel@gmail.com](mailto:goldblatt.yoel@gmail.com)

## The Beauty of Struggle

The exodus from *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) that we commemorate on Pesach is often regarded as the starting point for *Am Yisrael* — the nation of Israel. Our people came to fruition as a result of devastating hardships and oppression by a tyrannical, abusive Pharaoh. His initial expectations of the Jews were, on the whole, somewhat reasonable; over time, he began physically torturing the Jewish slaves and overworking them, giving them labor quotas that were nearly impossible to reach. Finally, Hashem decided enough was enough; the Jews needed to be set free. He struck Egypt with 10 plagues, split the sea, and brought the Jews to the desert. There, they wandered for 40 years, before finally reaching the promised land of Israel.

Why all the hardships? What was Hashem's point in forcing us to be slaves in Egypt for so long? The conditions in Egypt were unbearable, yet our ancestors had to endure them for so many years. Couldn't Hashem have helped us escape sooner? Surely, He had the power to do so at any time.

In "Rocky Balboa," the sixth film in the Rocky series (not the best movie, but it did include this amazing quote), the title character says about life, "It ain't about how hard you hit; it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward." We, as Jews, know why being able to "take a hit" is important. That resilience is what's kept us around for so many years. We've seen many empires rise and fall throughout history, yet we are the ones who are still around.

Slavery in Egypt was just the start of the many hits we've had to take throughout our nation's history. We survived the Spanish Inquisition, the Crusades, the Purim story, the Chanukah story and even the Holocaust. Clearly, Jews have gone through more than our fair share of tough times. What are we supposed to learn from all of this oppression? Why would Hashem, a loving G-d, force us to endure such hardships?

Perhaps the answer is this: Through struggle and adversity, a person can really grow. As former college football coach Lou Holtz famously said, "In this world, you're either growing or you're dying, so get in motion and grow." When you spend a long time trying to understand something and you really work through it, you gain a richer appreciation of the concept than if someone had just given you the answer. If you go to the gym day after day and push yourself until your body can't lift anymore, that is when you grow muscle. Many who survive very tough circumstances and even near-death experiences ultimately become closer to Hashem. So too with the Jews in *Mitzrayim*, whose struggles enabled them to develop into Hashem's chosen nation and to become the wonderful people we are today.

If you're ever going through something very difficult in life, remember that Hashem is making it happen for a reason. Instead of seeing it as a misfortune, consider trying to view it as an opportunity for growth that's meant to show you who you really are and who you can become.

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## D'VAR TORAH

Asher Kirshtein (FYOS '19)

I hope everyone has a wonderful and meaningful Pesach. *Chag sameach!*

**Asher Kirshtein** (FYOS '19) spent a year studying Torah at Yeshivat Orayta in the Old City of Jerusalem before matriculating at Yeshiva University in New York City. There, he is majoring in computer science and plays on the volleyball team.





**We welcome your feedback on the alumni newsletter at [alumni@mhafyos.org](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org). Here are some of the responses we received to [Issue No. 22](#).**

I'm sorry to say that I don't remember any of the pictures of me that were featured in the last issue. But, I am so happy to see the pictures of **Marty LeVine, z'l** (MHA '77, YOS '81). I will treasure those a lot for a very long time. Thank you.

**-Shmuel Cheruff** (MHA '79, YOS '83)

I loved the newsletter! Seeing photos of Mrs. [Suzanne] Friedman and Mrs. [Emily] Dropkin was a blast from the past.

**-Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane**  
(MHA '89, YOS '93)

You cannot fully appreciate how much joy your efforts achieve! With this publication, you really are allowing all the work put in by our forebears to create a community to continue to be sustained. The ramifications and reverberations are truly awesome; may it be a *zechus* [merit] for all involved.

-Shari Schwartz, parent of former MHA students  
and former member of the faculty

Keep up the good work! We all look forward to the next installment.

**-Gerry (Margolin Fink) Platsky** (MHA '59)

Does anyone know what happened to the Kabakoffs? I still remember that, in 1967, when I was in 10th grade, she made a 16th birthday slumber party for me. She was truly giving and helpful to us dorm kids.

**-Rochel (Roberta Burman) Bomzer** (YOS '68)

In the last issue, you referred to the school basketball team as having been called the Lions. I thought they were the Bruins, though I could be wrong.

**-David Winestone** (MHA '74)

*Response from the editor and alumni chair:*

*Thank you for writing, David. We found the name Lions listed in one of the yearbooks from the early '70s but defer to our alumni who know that era far better than we do. Maybe other readers will write in regarding their recollections of the team name.*

*Thanks for keeping us honest.*

I regret to share the news that my mother, Mrs. Judy Levin, passed away on Rosh Chodesh Shvat. In addition to serving as rebbetzin at Beth El Emeth Congregation (later Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth) alongside my father, Rabbi Arthur Levin, z'l, she also taught sixth grade at the MHA for years. She loved her many students and fellow faculty members. My mother was, I have to say, the ultimate teacher — correcting English grammar and history until the very end.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

### Community Responses

She was also the ultimate rebbetzin. She was always available to talk and to assist anyone and everyone. My mother helped with the design of the Anshei building, congregational outreach, sisterhood activities and more. I can say with certainty that she cried tears of pain when our family moved away from Memphis, as we left behind so many wonderful friends.

My mother will be greatly missed. I know she is watching us from above and probably correcting our English, as only she could.

My family and I were very touched by the messages of condolence we received from members of the MHA/FYOS and ASBEE family. I would love to keep in touch with more of the Memphis chevra, wherever you are. I can be reached at [tzvilevin@hotmail.com](mailto:tzvilevin@hotmail.com).

**-Tzvi Levin** (MHA '73)

*Response from the editor and alumni chair:*

*Tzvi, we were saddened to hear of your mother's passing. It is our understanding that her impact on the school, ASBEE and the Memphis Jewish community will be felt for generations. Those who knew her tell us it was a privilege to be counted as her friend. Please know that the MHA/FYOS family shares in your sorrow. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. If any former students of Mrs. Levin wish to share memories of her, we welcome them at [alumni@mhafyos.org](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org) and will publish them in the next issue.*

The Chanukah issue of the newsletter included a picture of the kindergarten class of 1969. You listed the blonde kid in the last row, third from the right, as me, but I am not in that photo. That boy is much more handsome than I. That is my MHA class, but I did not join the class until fifth grade. All the best.

**-Alan Harkavy** (MHA '77)

*Response from the editor and alumni chair:*

*Alan, thank you for letting us know. We always strive for accuracy and appreciate you and other readers helping us achieve that goal. Three of your classmates identified that young man as being you, so we thought we were safe there. We are, however, happy to set the record straight now.*

Thank you for another wonderful issue of the newsletter! In the "Where Are They Now?" feature, **Julie (Goldstein) Brown** (MHA '76, YOS '80) referenced a favorite teacher, whose name she couldn't remember and who was tragically killed in a car accident. That teacher was Mrs. Karen Rankine, of blessed memory. Her husband, Alan, also taught at the school at that time.

**-Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler**  
(MHA '75, YOS '79)

I believe we were in seventh or eighth grade when Mr. Alan and Mrs. Karen Rankine were our teachers. They had two sons and sadly were in a terrible car accident that resulted in Karen's death. People like my parents [Bernice and Irby Cooper,



z'/] helped them through the difficult grieving time. The Rankines were a very nice couple who were dedicated to their jobs as educators.

**-Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz**  
(MHA '76, YOS '80)



Cindy (center) with Mr. Alan and Mrs. Karen Rankine in the 1970s



# TRIVIA ANSWERS

# 1976-1980

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [22nd issue](#).

We received fewer responses than usual to this trivia contest, and most of the responses submitted didn't include any correct answers. Perhaps our trivia questions were too trivial.

The best score came from **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), who supplied two correct answers. Although the years covered here were before Ethan was born, his father **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81) attended the school during this period.

Ethan will receive a tin of cookies from [Ricki's Cookie Corner](#) — owned and operated by **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) — after Pesach.

*Below are the elusive correct answers to the trivia questions from issue 22. How many did you know?*

1. Where did the MHA class of '77 travel on their eighth grade trip?

*ANSWER: They didn't go on a class trip.*

2. How did the girls in middle school begin *mincha* when Mrs. Naomi Starr was principal?

*ANSWER: By reading Psalm 23 in English.*

3. When the female students of **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel**, z'l (MHA '65, YOS '69) needed a break from class (or the class needed a break from them), what did he send them to do?

*ANSWER: Count ceiling tiles in the hallway.*

4. Which member of the kitchen staff famously fainted, prompting an ambulance to come to school?

*ANSWER: Ms. Georgia Thomas.*

5. What did "local" kids do on Shabbos mornings while their parents davened at the Yeshiva?

*ANSWER: Use a coat hanger to break into the kindergarten classroom and steal the sandwich cookies used for snack time.*

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## TRIVIA ANSWERS

Questions from Issue 22

6. Back in the day, who was the “grooviest” administrator?

*ANSWER: Mrs. Ruth Kabakoff.*

7. What certificate did Rabbi Yosaif Silverman, z’l, award to students for memorizing the Oz Yashir prayer?

*ANSWER: The Wizard of Oz.*

8. In the Purim broadcasts by Rabbi Yosaif Silverman, z’l, where did Vashti finish in the “horse race”?

*ANSWER: She lost by a head.*

9. Who was the editor of the school newspaper during this period?

*ANSWER: **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81).*

10. Which musician was **Stuart Rabinowitz**'s (YOS '78) favorite?

*ANSWER: Either James Taylor or John Denver.*

11. Who wrote the answers to Mrs. Harry Krieger's biology mid-term on the chalkboard in transliterated Hebrew?

*ANSWER: **Steven Geller** (YOS '79).*

12. Who coached the 1975-76 flag football team?

*ANSWER: Marvin Rubenstein.*

13. Which Memphis school provided the impressive, double-sided sets for the 1977 production of “Fiddler on the Roof”?

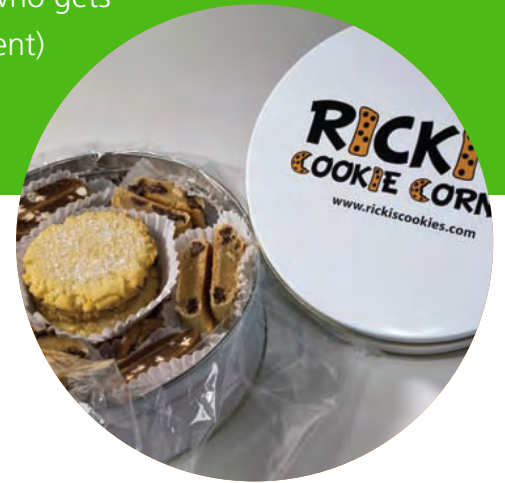
*ANSWER: Christian Brothers High School.*

# TRIVIA QUESTIONS

# 2016-2020

Regardless of when you graduated, have some fun with these trivia questions!

Send your answers to [joannekahane111@gmail.com](mailto:joannekahane111@gmail.com). The person who gets the most answers correct (or in the case of a tie, the earliest respondent) will win a tin of Ricki's Cookies, made by **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70). Good luck!



1. Which teacher from this era was extra careful to never spill her tea?
2. Which student from these years shares an Aug. 28 birthday with Coach James Nokes?
3. Which administrator from this period lived closest to the school?
4. What was taken when the boys' high school played a prank on the girls' high school?
5. What items did Rabbi Uriel Lubetski ban from the school's hallways? (*Hint: Shortly after the ban, the halls became filled with them, in humorous protest.*)
6. During the renovation of the gym, what was installed at half court that had to be removed before ever being used because it was the wrong size?
7. Which community member became such a regular at the daily *mincha minyan* that students joked about him being part of the MHA/FYOS? (*Bonus question: What food item was his special request at the annual steak dinner?*)
8. Which teacher took her class to a strawberry patch at the end of the semester?
9. To which college did Mr. Dana Vaughn accompany students from the CYHSB on a day trip for a STEM competition?
10. Who was the CYHSB dorm student from Canada during this era? (*Bonus: Why was he unable to return to our school to complete his studies?*)

11. What did students pose as when helping Rabbi Yonason Gersten fix the *eruv*?
12. Why was there no hike on the annual Gatlinburg trip in 2017?
13. Which CYHSB student heroically saved the day on a school boating trip to Arkansas by having cellphone reception and calling for help when one of the boats that was far from shore encountered an engine problem?
14. Where did the scavenger hunt that was planned by the Kollel Torah MiTzion guys take place, and how did it conclude?
15. Which dorm student's mother drove to town to do her son's laundry and brought extra homemade food to the boys' high school lounge?
16. Which student dedicated himself to making freshly brewed coffee at school and even went as far as buying a French press?
17. Who started the trend of carrying a milk jug full of water around the boys' school, encouraging everyone to stay hydrated?

# THANK YOU

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We express our deepest appreciation to all those who gave of their time to help us publish this issue. First, thank you to the staff of the MHA/FYOS, most especially Erica Stoltz, **Francie Schneider** (MHA '68, YOS '72), Amanda Davidson, Laura Timmons and **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99). Second, thank you to the alumni and friends who assisted us by supplying photographs, identifying the individuals in these pictures, and providing historical background, trivia questions and more, including **JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, soon-to-be FYOS '22), **Evan Rosenthal** (FYOS '17), **Eliana (Schlesinger) Hornstein** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Yehudit Fleischhacker** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Gary Goldmeier** (FYOS '17), **Batya Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Esti Samberg** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Anthony Palumbo** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Linda (Ostrow) Schlesinger** (MHA '74), **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82) and **Lee Sauer** (MHA '17, FYOS '21).



## ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

### Mazel tov to:

Noga and **Yair Ben-Ishai** (FYOS '05) on their wedding last July in Chevron, Israel.

**Emma Peiser** (FYOS '14) on her March 27 wedding to Moshe Chaim Baral in Chicago, which is also where the couple lives.

**Ahron Braverman** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) on his engagement to Channah Feldman. The couple will marry June 22 in Clifton, New Jersey, and plan to live in Teaneck, New Jersey. Mazel tov also to the groom's parents Kevin and **Rivka (Katz) Braverman** (MHA '89, YOS '93), grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and great-grandfather Izzy Katz, all of Memphis.

**Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), son of Aileen and **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81) of Memphis, on his engagement to Kira Fox. They plan to get married on July 4 in New Rochelle, New York, and will live in New York City.

**Efraim Wiener** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) on his engagement to Ilana Katz. They will wed June 20 in Old Westbury, New York, and plan to make their home in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City.

## BIRTHS:

### Mazel tov to:

**Sidney Goldstein** (MHA '64) and Bonnie (Matz) Goldstein, both of Memphis, on the March 23 arrival of a grandson. Baby boy Isaac Leo is the son of Nikki Goldstein of St. Louis, Missouri, and the late **Sam Goldstein, z'l** (MHA '99).

**Morris** (YOS '72) and **Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant** (MHA '70) of Baltimore, Maryland, on the Feb. 15 arrival of grandson Yitzchak, born to Esti and Jonathan Gavant of Atlanta, Georgia. Mazel tov also to big sisters Hadassa, Aliza, Shayna and Zahava.

David and **Linda (Ostrow) Schlesinger** (MHA '74) of Memphis, who celebrated the recent arrivals of two grandchildren. On Dec. 27, Ale

and **Ariav Schlesinger** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) of Givat Shmuel, Israel, welcomed son Lishai Yonadav, making Maoz a big brother. On Feb. 27, Esther and **Avishai Schlesinger** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), also of Givat Shmuel, welcomed daughter Jordyn. Mazel tov also to big brother Nate.

**Stuart** (MHA '75, YOS '79) and **Pam (Blotner) Thomas** (YOS '79) of Livingston, New Jersey, on the Dec. 3 birth of grandson Coby to Efrayim and Brittany Prero of Chicago. Mazel tov also to siblings Daliah, Rosie and Aharon Zvi.

Tova and **Roy Graber** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis, who recently celebrated the arrival of two grandchildren. On Jan. 1, baby boy Nadav Moshe was born to Hudi and **Sheera (Graber) Moskowitz** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) of Moshav Nov in Israel's Golan Heights; mazel tov also to big sisters Orly, Tal and Roni. On Jan. 3, Ariel and **Eliana (Graber) Abittan** (MHA '05, FYOS '09) of Lawrence, New York, welcomed daughter Ora Rina; mazel tov to big sisters Rebecca, Gabrielle and Yael.



Cyril and **Leigh Ann (Katz) Brenman** (MHA '77, YOS '81) of Toronto, Canada, on the March 6 arrival of granddaughter Romy Lina. Mazel tov to parents Gila and Akyva Spiegel and big brothers Arley and Ayal, also of Toronto.

Nancy and **Mordechai (Marty) Wolff** (MHA '80) of Brooklyn, New York, on the Nov. 12 birth of granddaughter Shoshana to Yaakov and Sorala Wolff of Lakewood, New Jersey. Mazel tov also to big sister Ahuva.

Rabbi Daniel and **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on the March 22 birth of grandson Shalom Arye to parents Matis and Nava Zelman of Jerusalem. Mazel tov to big brother Yehuda Meir.

Rena and **Ephraim Kutner** (MHA '85) of Lawrence, New York, on the Feb. 10 arrival of granddaughter Leah Gittel, born to Rayzee and Yitzchak Brecher of Far Rockaway, New York. Mazel tov also to great-grandparents **Alan** (MHA '62) and **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68) of Woodmere, New York.

Larry Hartstein and **Shoni Mirvis** (MHA '88, YOS '93) of Atlanta, Georgia, on the Dec. 6 birth of their daughter, Maayan Devora Hodaya. Mazel tov to grandparents David and **Lynnie (Katz) Mirvis** (MHA '62) of Memphis and to big brother Ziv Matan Avraham.

Elyse and **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97) of Memphis on the March 8 arrival of daughter Yakira Shoshana. Mazel tov also to siblings Hannah and Ethan, grandparents Michael and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) and great-grandfather Al Thomas, all of Memphis.

Adina Bitton and **Rabbi Michael Emerson** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the Jan. 12 arrival of son Nadav Aharon. Mazel tov also to grandparents Donny Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65) of Memphis and big sisters Maayan, Lital and Keren.

Rachel and **Meir Gersten** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) of Far Rockaway, New York, who became parents with the Feb. 17 arrival of daughter Alliza Leah. Mazel tov to grandparents Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten, longtime

MHA/FYOS faculty members and administrators.

Travis and **Stephanie (Barrack) Davidson** (MHA '04) of Atlanta, Georgia, on the Nov. 19 birth of Kayla Alexis, making Hadley a big sister. Mazel tov also to grandparents Jon and **Cindy (Califf) Barrack** (MHA '75) of Memphis.

Adam and **Maddie (Tavin) Zimilover** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) of Queens, New York, on the Jan. 19 birth of daughter Shoshana Yehudit, making Josh a big brother.

Binie and **Yossi Klein** (MHA '08) of Bay Harbor, Florida, who on Feb. 9 welcomed son Ben, making Sheva a big sister.

Jonathan Etra and **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) of New York City on the Jan. 25 birth of their first child, son Avery Donald. Mazel tov also to grandparents Tova and **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82) of Memphis.

Phoebe and **Eli Osdoba** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) of Miami, Florida, on the Dec. 14 arrival of their first child, son Mason Matty. He was named for Eli's father, beloved

Memphian **Matty Osdoba, z'l.** Mazel tov also to alumna and MHA kitchen manager **Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80) on becoming a grandmother.

Ben and **Shani (Braverman) Winter** (MHA '12, FYOS '16) of Far Rockaway, New York, who became parents with the Nov. 30 birth of their son Chaim Zalman. Mazel tov also to first-time grandparents Kevin and **Rivka (Katz) Braverman** (MHA '89, YOS '93), great-grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and great-great-grandfather Izzy Katz, all of Memphis.

Meira and **Daniel Katz** (FYOS '17) of Orlando, Florida, on the March 14 birth of son Ariel. Mazel tov also to grandparents Michelle (a longtime MHA

faculty member) and **David Katz** (MHA '88), great-grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and great-great-grandfather Izzy Katz, all of Memphis.

### BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:

Mazel tov to:

Shoshana and **Ari Krupp** (MHA '91) of Baltimore, Maryland, on the Jan. 8 bar mitzvah of their son, Akiva. Mazel tov also to grandparents Michael and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) and great-grandfather Al Thomas, all of Memphis.

Michael and **Rene (Steinberg) Blitz** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Potomac, Maryland, on the Jan. 1 bar mitzvah of their son Ethan. Mazel tov also to grandparents

Alvin and **Emily (Evensky) Steinberg** (MHA '63) of Memphis.

Stephanie and **Jeremy Weiser** (MHA '94) of Memphis on the occasion of their daughter Maya becoming a bat mitzvah March 26.

Ari and **Dvora (Stein) Weisfogel** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) of Memphis on the Jan. 22 bar mitzvah celebration for their son Eli, a seventh grader at the MHA. Mazel tov to grandparents Essie and **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72), also of Memphis.

# MAZEL TOV!

SEND US YOUR ALUMNI NEWS FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE AT [ALUMNI@MHAFYOS.ORG](mailto:ALUMNI@MHAFYOS.ORG).



# THE **MHA/FYOS** CLASSES OF 2016-2020

## Where are they now?

**Yehudit Fleischhacker** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) made *aliyah* to Israel after high school. She attended Sha'alvim for Women, did a year of *sherut leumi* (national service) and is now in her last year of study at Reichman University (IDC Herzliya).

'13

'17

'13

'17

**JJ (Ariel) Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, studying computer science and philosophy. He previously completed a gap year in Israel at Yeshivat Orayta. After graduating from college, he plans to move to New York City, where he'll work as a forward deployed engineer at Palantir Technologies.

He has fond memories of visiting the Porter-Leath Early Childhood Center as part of a school community service trip. "It was great hanging out with and brightening the days of students there," Kampf said. "The CYHSB students had such a deep bond, and that made doing *chesed* together all the more enjoyable."

One of his favorite teachers was Mr. Dana Vaughn. "He taught me so much about appreciating math, numbers and learning in general," Kampf said. "He didn't just care about the success of his students; he continually showed us that he cared through his patient teaching style and willingness to meet outside of class to discuss tougher concepts."

**Eliana (Schlesinger) Hornstein** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, with her husband, Eitan. She teaches at a women's seminary and works as a birth doula.

She has fond school memories of hanging out in the office of administrator Mrs. Sara Plotitsa. Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Lisa Luiken.

'13

'17

# 20

## THE MHA/FYOS CLASSES OF 2016-2020

Where are they now?

'17

**Evan Rosenthal** (FYOS '17) graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in management. During his senior year of college, he served as international undergraduate vice president of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. "One of my proudest accomplishments as VP was helping to pass a resolution adopting a working definition of anti-Semitism," he said. Rosenthal was honored with the international Gitelson Medallion for Jewish leadership and service and a global AEPi achievement award.

Regrettably, Rosenthal has been battling a progressive and as-yet undiagnosed illness for several years, putting his post-college plans on hold. "While I may not be able to find much relief for myself, I can still have a positive impact on others' lives by starting some charity projects," he said.

"It costs nothing to be kind, and one kind word might just spark a match when someone is surrounded by darkness. Sometimes the smiles on people's faces are really masking inner turmoil and struggle. We must counter the sadness and hate in the world with acts of kindness, *tzedakah* and *mitzvot*. We all possess the tools to commit to *tikkun olam* – repairing the world."

At the CYHSB steak dinner in 2016, Rosenthal sang an original song he wrote about his time at our school. (The lyrics can be found on page 22 of this issue.) "While the performance was only a few minutes long, it is a memory that will stay with me for a lifetime," he said.

"I am thankful to so many teachers and rabbis who taught me not only so much in academics, but about life as well," he said. "You have my everlasting thanks and gratitude."



**Chani Karasik** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) studied at Darchei Binah in Israel for a year and a half after high school and now attends Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women in New York City.

'16

'20

'16

'20

**Esti Samberg** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) is currently in her second year of study at Bnot Torah Institute (Sharfman's) in Jerusalem. Afterward, she hopes to pursue a career in digital marketing.

"I learned so much during my years at the MHA/FYOS, and I miss high school, my friends and teachers every day," she said. Her favorite school memories include color war and the annual *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) celebrations. Her favorite teacher was math instructor Mr. Scott McCann.

'20

**Benjamin Wexler** (FYOS '20), from Brooklyn, New York, lived in the boys' dorm while attending the CYHSB. After high school, he participated in the Israel Experience gap-year program at Bar Ilan University. Wexler now lives in Israel, where he is in a pre-draft program and will join the Israel Defense Forces in May.

One of his favorite memories from the FYOS is a school canoe trip, chaperoned by Rabbi Benjy Owen.

**Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, soon-to-be FYOS '22) is a senior at the CYHSB. Next year, he will take a gap year of study at Yeshivat Shaarei Mevaseret Zion in Israel before matriculating at the University of Maryland.

"Some of my favorite memories are from the annual back-to-school barbecue," he said. "The event was always filled with excitement, chaos and delicious food. The best part was reconnecting with friends and discussing all of the awesome things we wanted to accomplish together that school year."

'18

'22

Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!



## At the 2016 steak dinner, CYHSB senior and dormer Evan Rosenthal (FYOS '17) performed an original song about his time in Memphis.



"I wanted to present something that had never been done before," Rosenthal said. "The hardest part was deciding what material I would include in the lyrics so that everything would flow properly with the melody. I practiced this parody of 'Hallelujah' for weeks, with Cantor Aryeh Samberg helping me craft and refine the lyrics. Rabbi Moshe Nachbar accompanied me on guitar [as pictured here]. One idea that I sadly couldn't make work was to walk up to the table where **David Winestone** (MHA '74) was sitting and pull a potato out of my coat pocket as I sang the verse about him."

We are pleased to reprint the lyrics of Rosenthal's song below.  
(to be sung to the tune of "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen)

Well I heard there was a secret chord  
That the dormers played, and it pleased the board  
But you don't really care for detention, do ya?  
The boys' school – 1 and the girls' school – zip  
We swapped out the lounge  
Rabbi Owen had a fit  
And we had to put back ... their fancy sofa  
We are Cooper, Yeshiva  
We are Cooper Yesheeva

Rabbi Gersten's faith was strong, but he needed proof  
The grill was broken and on the roof  
Your patience and your calmness overthrew ya  
He tied us to the kitchen chairs  
Yelling out in holy prayers  
Make sure you give David Winestone his baked potato  
We are Cooper, Yeshiva  
We are Cooper Yesheeva

Baby I've been here before  
I've eaten these raw steaks, had to run through the door  
I used to wait the tables before I knew ya  
Now we got this fancy new gym  
It only cost 2 or 3 million  
So don't spill any sauce or Josh\* said to floor ya  
We are Cooper, Yeshiva  
We are Cooper Yesheeeeva

For added security we got a gate  
But all it does is make us late  
'Cause you never really finished it, did ya?  
It's taken five times to get it right  
It still doesn't take the code at night  
And by the time I get inside, they're up to Hallelujah  
We are Cooper, Yeshiva  
We are Cooper Yesheeeeva

The Memphis community really takes the cake  
We appreciate you, so we made you steak  
Each of us wants to thank you for all you do, ya  
Our rabbis and teachers are great ... but that's no shock  
I can stand here and thank them til 10 o'clock  
But you need to get to the Grizzlies game ... don't ya?  
We are Cooper, Yeshiva  
We are Cooper, Yeshiva  
We are Cooper Yesheeeeeeeeva

\*referring to **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97)

# ALUMNI REUNITE

**We continue to be impressed by the submissions to the “Alumni Reunite” section of this publication.**

Any time two or more alumni get together for any reason — whether a *simcha* (celebration) or otherwise — we would love to get a photo. Our thanks to those who provided these pictures, especially those who took time during a simcha to assemble a group of MHA/FYOS alumni and friends. *Yasher koach* (kudos)!



During a visit to Israel, **Sophie (Bacaner) Leach** (MHA '02, FYOS '06, second from right) reunited with schoolmates (from left) **Cheftzi (Ben-Yishai) Tirosch** (FYOS '06), **Rebecca Zeitlin** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Franny (Kaplan) Waisman** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) and **Jessica (Morris) Hoffman** (FYOS '04).

In January, a number of alumni attended the wedding of Jessica Kaminetzky and Yehuda Ordan in New York City. The bride is a daughter of **Anna (Fink) Kaminetzky** (MHA '84, YOS '88) and former MHA/FYOS executive director Shimon Kaminetzky, as well as a granddaughter of **Gerry (Margolin Fink) Platsky** (MHA '59).



(From left) **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68), Pat Chafetz and her daughter **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88).



(Clockwise from bottom-left) **Pesi Katz** (MHA '19), **Shani (Braverman) Winter** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), Michelle Katz (MHA kindergarten teacher and wife of **David Katz**, MHA '88) and **Sarah (Katz) Tarkieltaub** (MHA '91, FYOS '95).





A chance encounter on the street in Jerusalem resulted in a long-awaited reunion! We greatly appreciate that they remembered to take a photo and submit it to us.

(From left) **Beth (Kipper) Pasternak** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80).



In February, friends gathered to celebrate the wedding of Tamar Bar-Nur and **Sam Rapp** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) in Israel.

(From left) **Ariav Schlesinger** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), **Efroni Schlesinger** (MHA '09), **Bryan Itkowitz** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) and **Michael Perl** (MHA '06).



Classmates reunited in Memphis to celebrate with **Sarah (Belz) Hess** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) and Paul Hess on their wedding day last May.

(From left) **Gabe Goldstein** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Shira Osdoba** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Sarah (Brown) Dayan** (FYOS '14), **Rachel (Winestone) Liss** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), bride **Sarah**, **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Racheli Tsuna** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) and **Hannah Leigh Morris** (MHA '10, FYOS '14).



Friends and family got into the MHA school spirit as they celebrated the wedding of **Brittany (Baum) Lindenfeld** (MHA '04) and Eric Lindenfeld in Memphis in January. The bride is a daughter of **Lee Baum** (MHA '74) and **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77).

(Back row, from left) **Avishai Schlesinger** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), **Ezra Kaplan** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), Randi (Schultz) Olmstead, **Shifra Smith** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), **Meira (Freiden) Weiss** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), Sara Baum, **Rena Wogan** (MHA '18), Dalia Baum, **Sophie (Bacaner) Leach** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **David (Graber) Loizias** (MHA '03, FYOS '07); (front row, from left) Sarah Bracha Wogan and **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99).



Bride **Brittany** with her mother, **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77, right) and sister, **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99, back).

We love to see our alumni getting together for a wonderful cause: supporting our school!



(From left) **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13) and **Natanel Brakha** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) attended a recent MHA event for men featuring lots of grilled meat and camaraderie.



(Clockwise from bottom-left) **Kaylee (Kampf) Stahler** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) and Andy Stahler, Yosef and Yocheved Naftel, **Dvora (Stein) Weisfogel** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) and Ari Weisfogel, and Stuey Einhorn and **Bracha (Stein) Einhorn** (MHA '04, FYOS '08).

Many alumni attended the March 15 space odyssey-themed dinner for the annual auction, including:



(Clockwise from bottom-left) **Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Zac Kaplan** (MHA '01) and Rashki (Osina) Kaplan.



(From left) **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13), Michal Wachtel, **Shoshana (Somer) Mehler** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) and Benji Mehler.

# 72nd annual scholarship banquet honors seven decades of alumni

This year's MHA/FYOS banquet, to be held May 30, 2022, will honor seven decades of distinguished alumni from our school. Seven alumni honorees have been chosen to highlight the wonderful roots and strength that have served as the foundation of the MHA/FYOS for more than 70 years: **Lester Lit** (MHA '57), **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72), **Lee Baum** (MHA '74), **Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14).

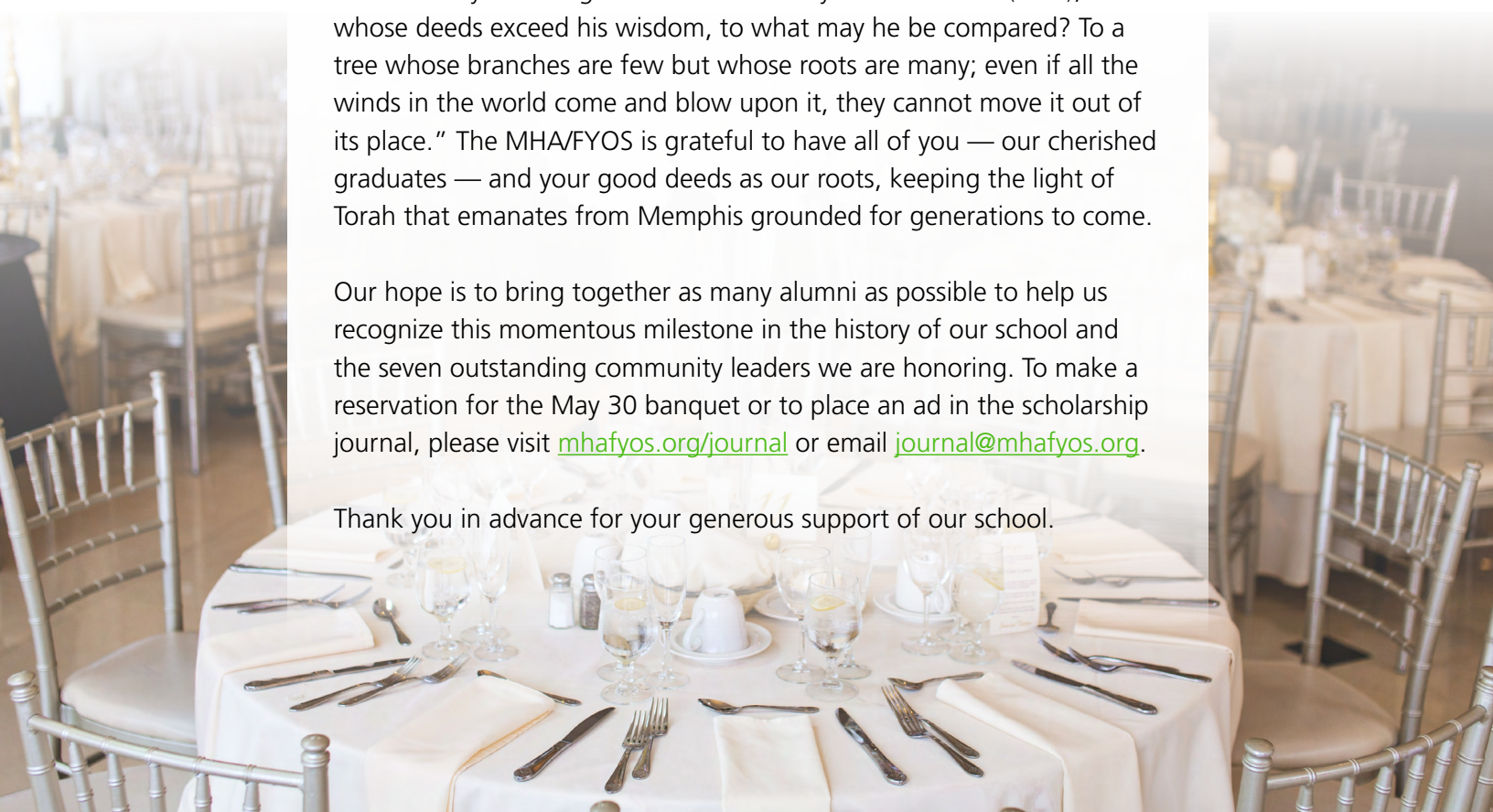
Please join us on this walk down memory lane. Email [jessica.baum@mhafyos.org](mailto:jessica.baum@mhafyos.org) to share:

- Pictures and videos from your years at the MHA/FYOS.
- Your recollections to include in the video that will be shown at the banquet dinner honoring our alumni.

A tree is only as strong as its roots. As it says in *Pirkei Avot* (3:22), "One whose deeds exceed his wisdom, to what may he be compared? To a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are many; even if all the winds in the world come and blow upon it, they cannot move it out of its place." The MHA/FYOS is grateful to have all of you — our cherished graduates — and your good deeds as our roots, keeping the light of Torah that emanates from Memphis grounded for generations to come.

Our hope is to bring together as many alumni as possible to help us recognize this momentous milestone in the history of our school and the seven outstanding community leaders we are honoring. To make a reservation for the May 30 banquet or to place an ad in the scholarship journal, please visit [mhafyos.org/journal](http://mhafyos.org/journal) or email [journal@mhafyos.org](mailto:journal@mhafyos.org).

Thank you in advance for your generous support of our school.



MARGOLIN HEBREW ACADEMY-FEINSTONE YESHIVA OF THE SOUTH

*72nd Annual*  
**SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET**

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022  
BARON HIRSCH SYNAGOGUE

*Honoring  
Seven Decades of Alumni Leaders*



**LESTER LIT**  
MHA '57



**MIKE STEIN**  
MHA '68



**LEE BAUM**  
MHA '74



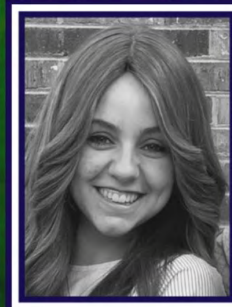
**SANDRA OSDOBA**  
YOS '80



**AMARA LEVINE-REICH**  
FYOS '97



**RICHARD LEWIS**  
FYOS '03



**JAMIE GIBBER**  
FYOS '14

# Alumni team defeats varsity at 2022 Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Basketball Game



The 2022 alumni team featured (back row, from left) **Jeffrey Owen** (FYOS '17), **Justin Wruble** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), **Asher Silbermann** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), coach **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Beryl Thomas** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14); (front row, from left) **Zev Levine** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13), **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97) and **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00).

Saturday night, Feb. 19, marked the return of the Alumni Game after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. For the first time in a long while, the MHA gym was buzzing with excitement and packed with cheering fans of all ages! We were thrilled to welcome back so many of our alumni and their families for this special evening.

At the start of the matchup between the CYHSB alumni and varsity teams, the MHA gym was officially named the Moss Gym, in recognition of a generous gift from loyal supporters Karen and Stephen Moss. The Mosses' donation will ensure, among other things, that we have a beautiful venue for our annual Alumni Game for many years to come.

In addition to some high-quality basketball, the game was highlighted by good-natured teasing between the alumni and the varsity Macs. At one point, alumni player **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) shouted, "I'll guard the ugly kid," and then proceeded to guard his son **Aidan** (MHA '19), a junior on the varsity team. There was never a dull moment on the court, and laughter was ubiquitous. The game ended in a 50-45 victory for the alumni team; most importantly, everyone had a good time.

"It's always a pleasure coming home for the Alumni Game," said **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), who traveled to Memphis from New York City for the weekend. "The atmosphere is awesome, and it's a great opportunity to bond with fellow alumni. Several members of this year's alumni team were in my class or in school at the same time I was, so it was a real pleasure to play ball with them again — and we defeated the varsity!"



The only father/son matchup of this year's Alumni Game pitted **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) against his son, 11th grader **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19).



Rabbi Benjy Owen, head of school, cheered for his son, alumnus **Jeffrey Owen** (FYOS '17).



After the game, alumni spectators joined the alumni team for a group photo: (back row, from left) **Rivka (Katz) Braverman** (MHA '89, YOS '93), **Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson** (MHA '88), **Natanel Brakha** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Asher Silbermann** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13), **Beryl Thomas** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Justin Wruble** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), **Zev Levine** (MHA '01, FYOS '05); (second row, from left) **Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Avigail Bosin** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Slava Bosin** (MHA '80, YOS '84), **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97); (front row, from left) **Zahava (Gersten) Majowka** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), **Jeffrey Owen** (FYOS '17), **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) and **Hugh Freiden** (MHA '72, YOS '76).





## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

# Dr. Whitney Kennon

### Teaching history, inspiring a bright future



Whitney Kennon never set out to be a high school teacher, let alone a principal. A lifelong lover of history, she pursued a Ph.D. in medieval and Renaissance history and presumed she would follow the standard career path for her graduate program and become a college professor.

As she neared completion of her Ph.D. around 2006, her mentor suggested that she take some job interviews with local high schools as preparation for interviews for college-level positions. Taking his advice, she interviewed for a history teacher position at a private school, was offered the job, and turned it down. Her interviewer, however disappointed, passed her name along to Mrs. Anat Kampf, who was then principal of the GMSG and looking to hire a history teacher. Kennon (who, prior to her wedding and degree conferral, was known as Ms. Huey) came to interview for the FYOS job with no intention of taking it.

"Something about the school drew me in, and I decided to give it a chance," Kennon said of accepting Kampf's offer. "I like that it's a religious school with a purpose and a strong sense of the kind of honest, well-rounded student it's looking to produce. The small community here is more like a family, and I love that. I'm still here, many years later, and I believe it's where I'm supposed to be."

Kennon has taught world history (her personal favorite), American history and art history, including at the honors and Advanced Placement (AP) level, in the boys' and girls' high schools. She became such a popular teacher that the school invited her to teach in the junior high school as well. "I had no experience with that age group, but I ended up really loving the opportunity to teach them," she said.

"Dr. Kennon is an excellent history teacher who is the best at keeping the topic at hand interesting," said **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, soon-to-be FYOS '22). "I've always looked forward to her AP U.S. history class. Thank you, Dr. Kennon, for all you have done for me and my classmates."

"Dr. Kennon was one of my favorite teachers," said **Esti Samberg** (MHA '16, FYOS '20). "She added so much positivity to the hallways of our school, always greeting everyone with a smile and her favorite saying: 'Happy daisies!'"

No matter the age of her history students, Kennon always seeks to convey more than what happened years ago. "I want to teach my students how to be good citizens, so they're prepared for the world when they step outside of their bubble," she said. "History gives us an understanding of other peoples and cultures. If our students want to be respected

as Jews, they need to know what's going on in the world and how to respect others. I know that not everyone will love studying history, but I at least want my students to appreciate its importance and relevance to the world today."

**Noga Finkelstein** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), who was born in Israel, became a U.S. citizen while taking Kennon's AP U.S. history class in 2016. Kennon proudly took the class to the immigration office to celebrate the occasion and made it a memorable lesson on the meaning of citizenship.



Dr. Kennon (far left) with AP U.S. history students (from left) **Tamar Serman** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Yehudit Fleischhacker** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Noga Finkelstein** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), **Eliana (Schlesinger) Hornstein** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) and Edya Finkelstein, celebrating Noga becoming a U.S. citizen.

In 2019, Kennon was offered the opportunity to serve as general studies principal of both high schools. "History is my first love, and I didn't want the job if I wasn't going to be able to teach," she said. She's arranged to continue working in the

classroom as a history teacher, while carrying out administrative duties like overseeing the general studies curriculum, ensuring students meet all state and school requirements for graduation, scheduling events, hiring teachers and more.

Through the years, Kennon has developed close relationships with the dozens of students impacted by her hard work at the school. Many of those bonds have been forged outside the classroom — whether during one-on-one chats in her office, on school trips she's chaperoned or at the Jewish community programs she makes a point to attend.

"On our fall trip my senior year, a few of us were on a raft with Dr. Kennon with no current for about six hours," recalled **Yehudit Fleischhacker** (MHA '13, FYOS '17). "While all the other rafts on the trip lost all morale and energy, Dr. Kennon was cracking jokes, snagging some extra snacks for us, and even helped carry the raft. She also made our AP art history class matching bucket hats when they came into trend with the words 'art history is swell' embroidered on them. Not only does the hat remind me of the swell times we had in her class, but it will keep me protected the next time I'm stuck in a current-less river!"

Kennon's tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed; in 2012, the CYHSB recognized her as the honoree at their annual steak dinner, and the MSG honored her at their gala dinner in 2019. To commemorate the latter occasion, every MSG student penned a letter of gratitude for Kennon.



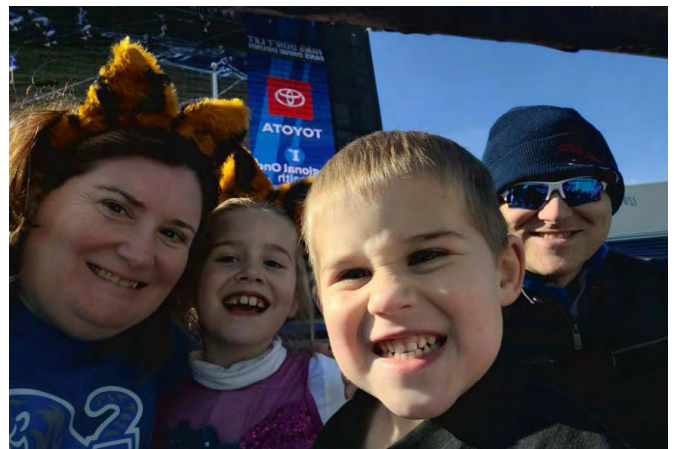
In 2020, when there was no in-person FYOS graduation on account of COVID, Kennon (foreground, left) joined upper school coordinator Mrs. Sara Plotitsa (foreground, right), head of school Rabbi Benjy Owen (background, left) and upper school Judaic studies principal Rabbi Yonason "Elvis" Gersten (background, right) in delivering diplomas to graduates' homes.

"I appreciate all you have done for me and for our school as a whole," wrote **Sophie Wruble** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) of Kennon. "I've been lucky enough to have you as my teacher every year since seventh grade. You truly are one of the greatest teachers I've ever had. You understand your students and are always there for us. Since you have become principal, things have gotten even better! You always ask what you can do to help us, and it really makes a big impact. Thank you for working your hardest for us."

"You are always trying to find more ways to make our school better," wrote **Vanessa Golding** (FYOS '20) of Kennon. "Every day, you come into school with a positive attitude and a smile on your face. Thank you for making me feel so welcomed at the MSG since the day I got here."

"What you do for our school is unbelievable," wrote **Sara Weinstein** (MHA '18, soon-to-be FYOS '22) of Kennon. "Your smiles are infectious, and you brighten everyone's day just by being in the room. You make every single student at the MSG feel special, and we all appreciate you so much. You teach with enthusiasm and create an amazing learning environment. You don't merely teach; you encourage and give us confidence. You truly make the impossible possible, as I can't imagine I would be succeeding like I am without your guidance. You inspire me to be a better person because of the love and passion you bring to each class."

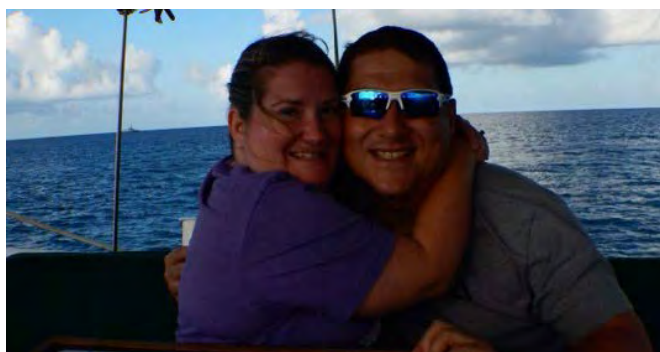
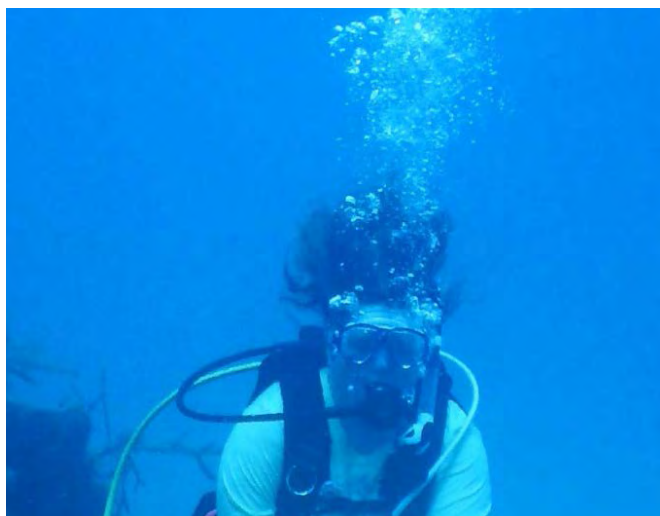
Kennon works hard to balance her commitment to her students with her family obligations, which include raising children Lyla and Silas with her husband, Brian. "I want my kids to see me going to work and to know that I love what I do," she said. "I always have so much fun in my classroom, and it



Dr. Kennon with (from left) daughter Lyla, son Silas and husband Brian at a University of Memphis Tigers football game in 2021.



Dr. Kennon and her family on vacation at Disney World in 2020.



Dr. Kennon scuba diving (top) and sailing with husband Brian (bottom) in the Bahamas in 2021.

keeps me coming back for more. I feel like I'm doing a good job at school and making a difference, so I think it's worth it. My family understands that my work and my students are important to me."

The knowledge that Kennon is, in fact, making a meaningful difference is reinforced when she hears from students past and present about their successes and the lasting impact of things she taught them.

"Whether a student got into an Ivy School university or went to visit a museum, I feel like I'm winning if something I did stuck with them," she said. "Every one of my students has a gift, and I want them to find it and do something worthwhile with it. It makes me so happy when they reach out to tell me how they're doing and how well they've turned out."

# FLASHBACKS

# 2016-2020

## Photographs from the past

Members of the CYHSB 2017 Yeshiva University National Model United Nations team (from left): **JJ Kampf**, **Efraim Wiener** and **Elan Cooper** (all MHA '13, FYOS '17).



*"JJ won the Best Delegate Award for his Model UN committee; Efraim and I are pictured here providing moral support."*

**-Elan Cooper**

The FYOS team at YU Model UN in 2017 (from left): **Avigail Bosin** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Batya Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Rena Mashinsky** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Efraim Wiener** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Yisrael Wiener** (MHA '15, FYOS '19) and Yotam Berendt.



**JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17, center) and **Jeffrey Owen** (FYOS '17, right) being interviewed at the Cooper Invitational basketball tournament in 2016.



(From left) **Ruthie Kaplowitz** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) and **Lee Sauer** (MHA '17, FYOS '21) dressed as traffic lights on Purim in 2020.



*"This picture brings me back to one of my favorite Purims. I thought that Shayna, Ruthie and I had the cleverest costume! I remember hopping in Shayna's car, all dressed up to hand out Mishloach Manot and wish my teachers and friends a happy Purim. The neighborhood was filled with food stands, funny costumes and children experiencing the fun of Purim."*

**-Lee Sauer**

The FYOS "quarantine graduation float," manned by Elvis impersonator Rabbi Yonason Gersten, delivered diplomas to the homes of the 12th grade graduates in 2020.



*"After months of not seeing our classmates and teachers due to COVID, it was definitely a fun and hilarious surprise when Rabbi Gersten and many other administrators and teachers showed up on my front lawn to sing! It was a great graduation gift since our class didn't get a typical graduation, and it brings back very special memories."*

**-Esti Samberg** (MHA '16, FYOS '20)

*"It reminds me of a simpler time, before I joined the United States Marine Corps."*

**-Anthony Palumbo** (MHA '16, FYOS '20)

In 2017, the CYHSB honored athletic director Coach James Nokes at its annual steak dinner. (from left): Rabbi Yonason Gersten, Mrs. Allison Nokes, honoree Coach Nokes, **Gary Goldmeier** (FYOS '17), **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Simcha Osdoba** (MHA '15, FYOS '19) and **Ethan Morris** (FYOS '19).



*"That year, **Efraim Wiener** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) did the intro to the steak dinner live (as opposed to on a recorded video, which is how it's usually done). That may have been the only time that happened. It made for some tense moments, but it worked out great in the end."*

**-Gary Goldmeier**

The "unofficial" class picture of the CYHSB graduates of 2017 (clockwise from left): **Chaim Gersten** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Caleb Milobsky** (FYOS '17), **Gary Goldmeier** (FYOS '17), **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Daniel Katz** (MHA '13, FYOS '17, on the float), **Yosef Goldblatt** (FYOS '17), **Evan Rosenthal** (FYOS '17), **Efraim Wiener** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Ahron Braverman** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) and **Jeffrey Owen** (FYOS '17).



After devastating floods hit Louisiana in 2016, students from both the CYHSB and GMSG traveled there to assist with the cleanup and rebuilding efforts. Among the CYHSB delegation was (back row, from left) **Simcha Osdoba** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), Joni Skapino, **Yishai Berendt** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Sam Lulky** (FYOS '18), William Goldmeier, **Joel Weinstein** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Asher Kirshtein** (FYOS '19), Rabbi Yonason Gersten; (front row, from left) Kollel Torah MiTzion members Yaakov Starck, Noam Appel and Dov Weinberg and students Gabe Itkowitz, Yakov Friedeberg and **Jered Weinstein** (MHA '14, FYOS '18).



*"Wow I'd almost forgotten about that trip. It was one of the best times I had in high school. We got to strip the interiors of houses that had been damaged by the flooding in Louisiana. As a 14- or 15-year-old, being given a hammer and told to go destroy stuff with your friends was pretty much as good as it got. However, even with all the fun we had, we were actually doing a tremendous chesed helping people whose lives had just been destroyed. I don't think there is anything that the CYHSB instilled in us more than taking any opportunity to step up and help the community and to assume responsibility when others are in need. This was a great example of that. Thank you for sharing this."*

**-Yishai Berendt**



# IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 24th issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication around Rosh Hashanah. In it, we will start our third complete cycle and again highlight the earliest graduating classes, from **1957 to 1965**. Members of these classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) sometime in July. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature story in that issue will spotlight **Rabbi David Rebibo**, who taught at our school in the late 1950s until 1965. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Rabbi Rebibo that you would like to share, please send them to Joanne Kahane, alumni chair, at [joannekahane111@gmail.com](mailto:joannekahane111@gmail.com) or to her attention at the school's mailing address below.

Also, be sure to submit your "Mazel Tov" events and photos for the "Alumni Reunite" feature so we can include them in our next issue. Thank you!



Rabbi Benjy Owen, head of school  
Yoel Goldblatt, president, board of trustees  
**Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99),  
marketing and recruitment director