

# MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 30

Highlighting the  
graduating classes  
of **1966-1970**

# IN THIS ISSUE

## MHA Turns 75!

### Message to Alumni

Joanne Kahane

### Head of School's Message

Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown

### President's Message

Mark Kaplowitz

### Letters to the Editor and Chair

Community responses

### 2011-2015 Trivia Answers

Answers to the questions in Issue No. 29

### 1966-1970 Trivia Questions

Win a tin of Ricki's Cookies

### D'var Torah

**Rabbi Larry Katz** (MHA '67)

### Alumni News

Mazel Tovs and more

### 2024 Scholarship Banquet

Honoring alumni in the IDF

### Alumni Dedication Wall

Reserve your tile and leave your mark on campus

### Story Behind the Cover Photo

### 2025 Alumni Basketball Game

Save the date

### Dedication of Dr. Ira Weinstein Wing

### The Classes of 1966-1970

Where are they now?

### Spotlight Feature

Rabbi Yosef and Mrs. Maxine Rottenberg

### Alumni Reunite

### Flashbacks

### In the Next Issue

## COVER PHOTO



Faculty member Rabbi Eliyahu Hartman (second from left) with students (from left) **Jan Starr**, **Marc (Andy) Kauss** and **Herbert (Herby) Schild** (all MHA '66). For more on how these boys came to attend our school, read the feature story on page 26.

This newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of the members of the classes of 1966-1970 who are no longer with us:

**Michael Braunstein** (YOS '69)

**Robert Feldbaum** (MHA '68)

**Sidney Gontownik** (MHA '70, YOS '74)

**David Goodfriend** (MHA '67)

**Rabbi Nechemiah (Harry) Kibel**  
(MHA '65, YOS 69)

**Michael Parker** (MHA '67, YOS '71)

**Lissy Schick** (YOS '68)

**Rabbi Abe Sharp** (MHA '67)

**Mark Wender** (MHA '70, YOS '74)

Additionally, we mourn with great sadness the recent passing of alumnus

**Harold Blockman** (MHA '72)

We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Denise; his children, Laura Blockman, Josh Epperson and Justin Epperson; and his sister, Karen Blockman Carrier. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may the memory of our departed alumni be a blessing to all who knew them.

**MISSED AN  
ISSUE?**

**ARCHIVES**

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

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

**Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), editor

Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenker, copy editor

Noam Davidovics, technology support

Layout by Ruthie Rashkin, [ruthrashkin@gmail.com](mailto:ruthrashkin@gmail.com)

To learn more about MHA/FYOS, please

contact engagement director **Jessica (Baum)**

**Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99) at 901-682-2400 or

[jessica.baum@mhafyos.org](mailto:jessica.baum@mhafyos.org).

© 2024 Margolin Hebrew Academy / Feinstone Yeshiva of the South



## MHA turns 75!

This year, our school celebrates its 75th birthday — a true milestone and tribute to the pioneering men and women who committed themselves to its establishment right after World War II.

The school is planning various ways to commemorate its 75th year, including in-class 75th day celebrations, an expanded Alumni Game weekend prior to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday, Jan. 20, 2025) and more. The year of festivities will be capped off by an incredible Scholarship Banquet, which will feature honored guests and a film highlighting the storied history of the MHA. Watch this space for upcoming details.

Another meaningful facet of the 75th birthday tribute is the new **MHA Memories** video series, which features former students and faculty reflecting on their experiences at the school. A new installment in the series will be released each week.

The first video, featuring **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99 and director of engagement), can be viewed [here](#). Links to all the MHA Memories videos will be shared in our forthcoming issues, as well as on the [MHA/FYOS Facebook page](#). What a wonderful way to reconnect with our alumni and beloved teachers of the past!

We encourage our readers to be part of the nostalgic series by creating your own one-minute video clip about your time at the MHA. Recorded segments and any photos you wish to include (optional) can be submitted to [jessica.baum@mhafyos.org](mailto:jessica.baum@mhafyos.org). We look forward to seeing your entries to MHA Memories, so get those cameras rolling.

Happy birthday, MHA, and congratulations on three quarters of a century of service to the Memphis Jewish community!



## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

4

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



As is my honor and privilege in every Rosh Hashanah issue, I would like to welcome our new alumni: the eighth and 12th grade graduates of 2024. We are so proud and excited to have you join our amazing alumni family.

This moment in your lives reminds me of one of my favorite Shel Silverstein poems, “Where the Sidewalk Ends.” The opening line of the poem is, “There is a place where the sidewalk ends, before the street begins.” As you continue to read the poem, it becomes clear that the exact spot where the sidewalk ends, before the street begins, is where you are all standing right now. Metaphorically, it is the point where you step out of childhood into adulthood.

While it may be slightly more relevant to the high school graduates, it certainly applies to our eighth grade advancees as well. From this moment on, things will be different. You will make your own decisions and shape your own destiny. I encourage you to look to those who have come before you: our amazing body of alumni. MHA/FYOS graduates are making meaningful and significant contributions to their communities, *Klal Yisrael* (the Jewish people) and the world at large. Watch them and learn.

You have large shoes to fill, but I have no doubt you are ready to step off that sidewalk and make your own impact on the world. We wish you *bracha* and *hatzlacha* (blessings and success) and remind you that your MHA/FYOS family is, and always will be, here for you.

It is also my great honor and privilege to welcome our new head of school, Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown, his wife Bec, and their three beautiful children. They arrived in Memphis on July 1 and hit the ground running with exciting and innovative plans for our beloved school. Once you read his message (on page 6), you will immediately see why our entire community is so excited to have him at the helm of the MHA/FYOS ship. We look forward to sharing with you many meaningful plans that Rabbi Dr. Brown will soon be implementing.

So, this is our 30th issue of the alumni newsletter. Knowing that we publish three issues a year, using my extraordinary mathematical skills, I deduce that we have hit another milestone: Our alumni newsletter is now 10 years old! This is an amazing achievement, since it started out a decade ago as just an experimental concept. We had no idea whether the idea would work, whether alumni would be interested in such a publication, and whether we’d have anything meaningful to fill its pages. Looking back with 10 years of perspective, I can see that those were unnecessary concerns. You, our alumni, have made this happen. You have engaged, communicated enthusiastically, and challenged us to continually improve. This 10-year milestone is a celebration for us all. Our editor-in-chief, **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), and I are proud and thankful for the part we have played thus far, and we can only hope that our alumni continue to support this endeavor. Thank you.

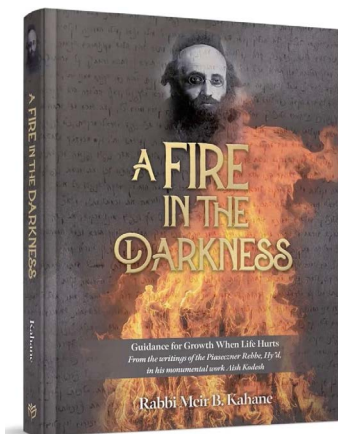
In a totally self-indulgent move, I would like to use my platform here to share some exciting news about my son, alumnus **Rabbi Meir B. (Michael) Kahane** (MHA '91, FYOS '95). His first book, “[A Fire in the](#)

# 5

## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

[Darkness: Guidance for Growth When Life Hurts](#)," was released this summer by Menucha Publishers and has been received with extraordinary reviews, including a recent feature in [Mishpacha magazine](#). The book is available on [Amazon](#) and keeps selling out. I highly recommend it as a must read. Thank you for allowing me this moment of maternal pride.



Amid all of our good news, we cannot ignore the fact that the war with Hamas and Hezbollah continues in Israel. We pray every day for a peaceful solution, the safe release of the hostages, and protection for our brave soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). And we wonder why Hashem has not yet ended this war. I would like to share a fable that holds a special place in my heart:

### *The Weight of Nothing*

*"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a coal mouse once asked a wild dove. "Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.*

*"In that case I must tell you a marvelous story," the coal mouse said. "I sat on a fir branch, close to the trunk, when it began to snow — not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no, just like in a dream. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,471,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch — nothing more than nothing, as you say — the branch broke off."*

*Having said that, the coal mouse flew away.*

*The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself: "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come about in the world."*

Maybe we are lacking just one more voice imploring Hashem to bring peace to our beloved homeland. Let us make sure that every one of us cries out to Hashem to bring peace to our brothers and sisters. May He hear our voices and respond *l'tova* (for good).

Wishing everyone a new year of joy, inspiration and peace.

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



# Planting for the future: a 75-year legacy of growth, community and continuity

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



When I first came to the school to tour the campus and meet students, I was handed a rather heavy logoed tote bag filled with school swag and pamphlets. After seeing the school's beautiful *beit midrash* and sleek basketball court, cutting-edge STEAM

center and the annual third grade Purim play, I had a chance to catch my breath and look more carefully at the recent issues of the alumni newsletter. I was impressed by the pages and pages of stories and memories, pictures and mazel tovs, trivia and flashbacks.

I dove in deeper on the flight home, read the wonderful articles, and saw the "old school cool" vintage pictures of sports teams (I vote to bring back those jerseys!). One image really stood out: It was a picture of 1984 PTA leaders Dotty z'l and Pearl Katz, z'l, planting a tree on what looked like barren soil right at the front edge of campus on White Station. They wanted to "plan for the future by planting" the tree "to be a living testimonial to all the beauty of *Yiddishkeit* unfolding within the school." (The photo is featured on page 40 of [issue 25](#).) I can see that tree now towering over the main entrance to the school — it's over 75 feet tall! The small gesture by the Katz sisters-in-law now provides an enduring, welcoming signal in front of the school.

You can't look at that image and not think of another great planter — our own Johnny Appleseed — reported to us by Choni Hameagel. The *Gemara* in *Taanis* (23a) recounts:

להוא חזייה באורחא אזל הוה חד וּמא  
האי ליה אמר חרובא נטע דהוה גברא  
שבעין עד ליה אמר טעין שנין כמה עד  
שבעין דחיית לך פשיטא ליה אמר שנין  
בחרובא עלמא גברא האי ליה אמר שנין  
שתלי אבהתי לי דשתלי היכי כי אשכחתי  
לבראי נמי

**He would not live to see the fruits of his labor, yet he planted the tree with future generations in mind.**

*One day, as he walked along the road, Choni saw a man planting a carob tree. Choni asked him, "How many years will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man replied, "It will not produce fruit until 70 years have passed." Choni*

*then questioned him, "Are you certain that you will live 70 years to enjoy the fruit of this tree?" The man responded, "I was born into a world full of carob trees because my ancestors planted them for me. Just as they did, I am planting this tree for my descendants."*

The famous story of Choni Hameagel and the man planting the carob tree is a profound illustration of forward-thinking and selflessness. The man knew he would not live to see the fruits of his labor, yet he planted the tree with future generations in mind. This act reflects a deep understanding that we, as part of a *mesorah* (tradition), and as part of the

# 7

## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown

story of this Jewish institution, benefit from the teachers, lay leaders, alumni and patrons before us. Importantly, it's a reminder that we must also contribute to the well-being of those who come after us.

Dotty and Pearl Katz's decision to plant a tree in front of the MHA/FYOS was an act of faith and hope for the future. At the time, the soil looked completely bare, much like the carob tree's soil in Choni's story. Yet, these ladies envisioned a future where their small act would grow and flourish, providing beauty and a welcoming presence at the school's entrance. Their act of planting was not just about the physical tree, but about investing in a future they believed in — a testament to the unfolding beauty of Jewish education within the school.

This sentiment is echoed in the *Midrash Tanchuma* from *Parshat Kedoshim* (Chapter 8), which urges diligence in planting even when our land appears to be flourishing:

טוב כל מליאה אותה שתמצאו פ"אע  
זהירין הוו אלא נטע ולא נשב תאמרו לא  
מאכל עץ כל ונטעתם שנאמר בנטיעות  
שנטעו נטיעות ומצאתם שנכנסתם כשם  
לבניכם נוטעים היו אתם אף אחרים

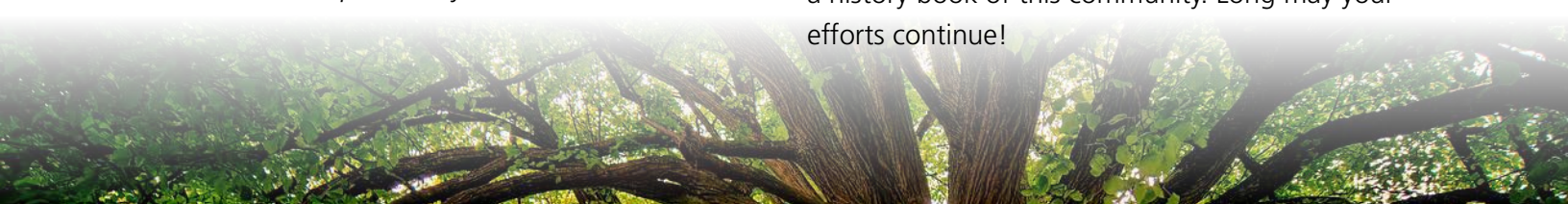
*Even if you find the land abundant with good things, do not say, "We will sit and not plant"; instead, be diligent in planting! As it is written, "You shall plant trees for food" (Vayikra 19:23). Just as you found trees planted by others when you arrived, you must also plant for your children.*

The Midrash teaches us that we should not rest on the laurels of the past but continue to contribute to the future. It emphasizes that just as we benefit from the infrastructure, institutions and investments planted by others, we too must do the hard work for future generations. It is my hope that in this pivotal year, and at a time of great celebration of the 75 years of our school's contributions to the Memphis community and Jewish world at-large, we plant the seeds for future generations. There is so much in this edition of the alumni newsletter (and, of course, on campus) that is *melea kol tov*, full of goodness. But we also know that now is the time to sow seeds, nurture the soil, and cultivate growth at the MHA/FYOS.

*Kol tuv,*

Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown  
Head of School, MHA/FYOS  
[gavriel.brown@mhafyos.org](mailto:gavriel.brown@mhafyos.org)

P.S. – We are indebted to volunteers Joanne Kahane and **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97) for their writing and editing. They remind me of what the famous psychologist Stanley Milgram called "super-connectors" — people who know people who know people. They are part of the reason Memphis has its reputation as both tightly knit and connected to many other Jewish communities around the world. Joanne and Amara, thank you for keeping up with all the school's alumni and for this important publication. I know that at every community simcha and life event, you are thinking about this publication as a way of informing the school's alumni and, more importantly, creating a history book of this community. Long may your efforts continue!



Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends:



As the father of two alumnae — **Ruthie** (MHA '17, FYOS '21) and **Shoshanah** (MHA '20, FYOS '24) — and one current MHA student, Miriam, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of the school's board of trustees.

In *Sefer Bamidbar*, we read about many challenges to leadership. *Bnei Yisrael* (the Jewish people) repeatedly anger Hashem and threaten Moshe and Aharon. The spies rile up the people against the plans for conquest of the land of Israel. Korach, as well as Datan and Aviram, rebel against the leadership. The people are attacked by Edom, Canaan, Amalek and Moab. Hostages are taken. Moabite women and the idolatry of Baal Peor seduce the men of Israel. Many thousands die from plagues. Times are not always easy. Going through the desert can be tough.

But in *Parshat Pinchas*, we turn the page as we read about the leadership transition that occurs when Pinchas receives Hashem's covenant of eternal priesthood and Yehoshua gets the *semicha* of successorship from Moshe. The Sfat Emet finds that the deeper significance of the transition is hidden in a small phrase in the account of the *korban tamid* that follows Yehoshua's *semicha*: עֲלֹת תַמִּיד הָעֹשֶׂיָהּ (״This is the regular burnt offering instituted at Mount Sinai״).

This phrase is puzzling. The narrative is approaching the end of *Bnei Yisrael's* 40 years of wandering in the desert. Almost no one is still alive who was present for the giving of the Torah at *Har Sinai*. Is this the most logical time for them to receive

instructions on offering the daily sacrifice? Why is the daily *korban* characterized as the continuation of a one-off event at Sinai that almost no one hearing these instructions had directly experienced?

For the Sfat Emet, at least, the message is clear. In the generation of Moshe and Aharon, the leadership had a direct connection to the source of the Torah, to the emanation and overflow from Hashem. Moshe and Aharon's very presence provided the people with their spiritual connection to Hashem. A daily *korban* and its detailed policies and procedures weren't needed and would have appeared superfluous in that generation, when leadership came from above.

However, with the generational change, the model of leadership had to change as *Bnei Yisrael's* way of life evolved and changed. One generation removed from the founders of the nation, leadership arose from below. It became necessary to inspire with a *Torah sheba'al peh* (Oral Torah) connected to the origin at Sinai. It had to empower people to take action, as Pinchas had done and Yehoshua would have to do, while also establishing policies and working procedures to create continuity across generations. The transition to the leadership of Pinchas and Yehoshua marks the turning of a page, to the new leadership that would unite *Bnei Yisrael* in their conquest of the holy land.

As we begin the 75th year of MHA/FYOS educating the children of the Memphis Jewish community, we, too, are experiencing a leadership transition in welcoming Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown as our new head of school. While it would be presumptuous to say that our leaders are a Pinchas or a Yehoshua, it is already apparent that Rabbi Brown brings to us the *hitorerrut* and *asiyah* — inspiration and empowered



# 9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Kaplowitz

activity — that the Sfat Emet calls for in new leadership.

Among our goals for this year are to celebrate our 75th anniversary by connecting with memories of our school's founders — in part through the dedication of a *Sefer Torah* to the memory of Rav Nota Greenblatt, z'l, our very own link to Sinai. We hope to continue recognizing the many generations of Memphis families who have sustained and built our school over the decades. We seek to prepare for our school's future through united efforts to create a framework for continued growth and improvement. We also want to hear from you, our graduates from the past 75 years, on how you want to celebrate this milestone year for our beloved school.

In her book on *Sefer Bamidbar*, Dr. Erica Brown — noted author, professor and mother of our own Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown — writes about the turning point that *Parshat Pinchas* represents:

After Mosaic leadership broke down, it was slowly rebuilt with a different two-way understanding. He reestablished trust with the people by questioning their requests, acquiescing when able, and securing commitment through a reassessment of the power of language. ... Flexibility, accountability and perspective all melded into the reestablishment of trust. Trust allowed then and allows now a renewed

commitment to a shared picture of a collective future.

Our shared picture of our collective future is encapsulated by the mission statement of the MHA/FYOS: "We promote excellence in Judaic and general studies for both girls and boys. Our school is committed to Torah learning and Torah living, and love of G-d, the Jewish people and the State of Israel." Our objective is to be an institution of choice — one that our children and grandchildren want to attend, that you are proud to be associated with and whose values attract families to our Memphis community.

One small step toward realizing this objective is through our expressions of gratitude. Thank you to our many alumni from near and far who stay engaged with the school through this publication, as well as by volunteering and providing financial support. We greatly value your ongoing care, concern and love for the MHA/FYOS.

On behalf of the school, I offer you and your families wishes of a *shana tova u'metukah* – a good, sweet new year.

Mark Kaplowitz  
President, MHA/FYOS board of trustees  
[mark@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:mark@alumni.princeton.edu)



**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 29](#).**

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for the heartfelt memorial you crafted for my father, Rabbi Daniel Rosenthal, z'/. Your eloquent article beautifully captured the essence of his life, honoring his memory in a truly fitting manner. May his legacy continue to be a source of blessing for all who were touched by his presence.

-Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal

Thank you for your very kind and warm obituary for my husband, Rabbi Daniel Rosenthal, z'/. We spent just three years in Memphis, but the community made a tremendous impression on us. Having our origins in New York and London, we had no idea that we would discover a community in the South that was so dedicated to Jewish life and learning. What we found in Memphis amazed and delighted us. Thanks once again.

-Mrs. Fruma Rosenthal (former FYOS faculty member)

I saw the beautiful article about Rabbi Rosenthal, z'/. It was especially heartwarming for me to see the photo of his great-granddaughter Rena Devora, who is also our great-granddaughter.

-Mrs. Barbara Radinsky (former FYOS faculty member)

Thank you so much for the beautiful writeup on my career at the MHA. I'm touched by the comments and reflections of my past students and friends. May you continue to inspire people for many years to come.

-Morah Michelle Katz (MHA faculty member)

I took a break from Pesach prep to glance over the newsletter and WOW! From the beautiful opening messages to the articles and pictures, it's all so well done and so nice to look through!

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

Wow, the newsletter brings back such memories. I must try to visit Memphis, though I left 50 years ago. Maybe next year, I will take a road trip.

**-Rabbi Yitzchok Mitnick** (YOS '73)

Well done every time!

**-Yoni Graber** (MHA '97, FYOS '01)

We all greatly enjoy the alumni newsletter and appreciate the work you put into it!

**-Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14)

Great job on the latest MHA alumni newsletter!

-Rabbi Akiva Males (Young Israel of Memphis and FYOS faculty member)

I regret to share that former MHA faculty member Rabbi David Rebibo, z'/, passed away June 15 in Jerusalem.

**-Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74)

*Reply from the editor and alumni chair: Thank you, Ronnie, for making us and our readers aware of this sad news. Rabbi Rebibo's legacy will live on in the memories of many of our alumni and the thousands of people whose lives he touched throughout his career. For more on Rabbi Rebibo, see our spotlight article in [issue 24](#), beginning on page 44. We send our condolences to the Rebibo family; may they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

# 11

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

Community Responses

Wonderful Pesach edition of the alumni newsletter! Thank you and *kol ha'kavod*. I'm pleased to share our own news: Alan and I made *aliyah* in November 2023 and are living in Jerusalem.

**-Brenda (Silverman) Pritzker** (MHA '70, YOS '73)

*Reply from the editor and alumni chair: Thank you, Brenda. We always love to receive such exciting news. We wish you much bracha (blessing) and hatzlacha (success) in your new home in Israel.*

I was thrilled to learn that alumna **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83), Alderman of the 50th Ward of the City of Chicago, was selected as one of two Jewish leaders from across the globe to light the diaspora torch during the official state *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Independence Day) ceremony marking Israel's 76th birthday!

**-Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (MHA '77, YOS '81)

*Reply from the editor and alumni chair: Thank you, Dawn, for letting us know about this incredible recognition and honor for one of our alumnae.*

*Yasher koach, Debra!*

*The video of Debra lighting the diaspora torch at Israel's Yom Ha'Atzmaut ceremony — and paying tribute to her parents, longtime MHA supporters Marvin, z'l, and Eva Loskove — is available on Facebook [here](#).*



# TRIVIA ANSWERS

# 2011-2015

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [29th issue](#).

The winner of our trivia contest from that issue is **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), who answered all 11 questions correctly. *Yasher koach* (kudos) to Dylan, who is now a four-time winner — a record for our alumni trivia contests!

Since **Aaron Rubenstein** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) came in a close second, we've decided to send him a small tin of Ricki's Cookies as well.

Before Rosh Hashanah, Dylan and Aaron will receive their tasty treats from Ricki's Cookie Corner, owned and operated by **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70).

*Below are the answers to the trivia questions from issue 29. How many did you know?*

1. Who is the blue mascot pictured here (at left) with **Jake Pollack** (FYOS '14)?

ANSWER: **Avi Kirshtein** (FYOS '12).

2. What was the name of the comic strip by **Noah Rapp** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) that ran in the Cooper Chronicle?

ANSWER: "Strange Academy."

3. Who played Feste the jester in the CYHSB's 2010 production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"?

ANSWER: **Avi Kirshtein** (FYOS '12).

4. At the FYOS graduation in 2012, one member of the class sang a song. Who was it, and which song did he remake for this performance?

ANSWER: **Ilan Eckhardt** (FYOS '12) sang a remake of "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" by Green Day.

5. What was the name of the trusted handyman who dedicated 30 years of service to the MHA?

ANSWER: Mr. Marvin Tharnish.



6. Which member of the FYOS class of 2013 sang a personalized Sephardic *pizmon* during his graduation speech?  
ANSWER: **Sammy Mamiye** (MHA '08, FYOS '13).
7. When the Cooper Macs won the Tier II championship at Yeshiva University's Sarachek basketball tournament in 2012, which student athlete won the Tier II Most Valuable Player trophy?  
ANSWER: **Eli Osdoba** (MHA '09, FYOS '13).
8. Which dorm student originally from St. Louis was instrumental in creating the CYHSB Weekly and served as the paper's first editor-in-chief?  
ANSWER: **Gidon Feen** (FYOS '13).
9. In 2013, what did a can of soda from the school's vending machine cost?  
ANSWER: \$0.50.
10. During this era, what was the latest time a student could arrive at morning davening without being marked tardy?  
ANSWER: 7:27 a.m.

# TRIVIA QUESTIONS

# 1966-1970

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. (a) Who provided bread and rolls to the MHA/YOS for many years (before the days of Ricki's Cookie Corner)? (b) What was unusual about their sliced breads?
2. Who was the third grade Hebrew teacher for the MHA class of 1970?
3. What name was given to the pinball machine that for several years resided in the attic of the boys' dorm prior to the building being renovated?
4. When Georgia Thomas was the school's main cook, what was the standard dessert served to the dorm students at Shabbat meals?
5. How often were school assemblies held during this era?
6. During these years, what were MHA students required to do after lunch that is no longer a requirement?
7. Name two married couples who taught at the school during these years.
8. In addition to Hebrew, which foreign language did students learn during this era?

# 15

## 1966-1970 TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Win a tin of Ricki's Cookies

9. In which after-school activity (no longer offered at the MHA) were the girls pictured below participating?



(from left) Eileen (Thomas) Exelbierd, **Trudy (Hanover) Klugman** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Judy Rosenberg** (MHA '70), Karen (Clemons) Mintz, z'l, **Leah Malka Cheruff** (MHA '70, YOS '73), Marilyn (Katz) Magnus and **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72).

## THANK YOU

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 at the MHA/FYOS, most especially **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), Amanda Davidson and Erica Stoltz. Additionally, thank you to the alumni and friends who assisted us by supplying photographs, identifying individuals in those pictures, and providing historical background, trivia questions and more, including **Lynnie (Katz) Mirvis** (MHA '62), **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68), **Jan Starr** (MHA '66), **Esther (Schwartzman) Braunstein** (MHA '67, YOS '70), **Leah Ann (Lamensdorf) Kirzner** (YOS '70), **Lee Hanover** (MHA '69), **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72), **Berish Kipper** (MHA '70), **Marc Silberberg** (MHA '70), **Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Steve Graber** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Zevi Kirshtein** (FYOS '22), **Daniel Kahane** (MHA '23), Rabbi Eliyahu Hartman and Rabbi Meir and Adina Rottenberg.

## What Do You Pray For?

If you found an ancient lamp, rubbed it, and a genie appeared, granting you three wishes, what would you ask for? I imagine most of us would first think of asking for material wealth in some form, and then perhaps ask for something more universal and impactful, like world peace.

We have a similar situation this time of year as we approach Rosh Hashanah. The Rambam (*Hilchos Teshuva* 2:6, based on the *Gemara* in *Rosh Hashanah* 18a) tells us that the *posuk* (verse) from *Sefer Yeshayahu* (Isaiah 55:6) — “*Dirshu Hashem b’hemotzo* (Seek Hashem when He is found)” — refers to the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During this time in particular, G-d can grant any wish and is ready and waiting to hear our repentance and prayers.

So, what do we ask for? We look to *Chazal* (our sages) to guide our prayers. The prayers of Rosh Hashanah concentrate on our yearning for the day when Hashem will be recognized as King for all mankind. True, this is our hope as a nation, and we all yearn for the day when *Mashiach* (messiah) will come. But, what about each of our individual prayers?

There is one notable point in our prayers when we do use the first person. The prayer starts, “*Ribono Shel Olam* – Master of the Universe, fulfill my requests for good.” It comes at a very holy time in the service, when the *aron kodesh* (holy ark) is open and we are about to read from the Torah. We introduce the prayer by reciting the 13 attributes of G-d, “Hashem, Hashem ...,” three times. Through

a covenant with Moshe (Moses), G-d promised that whenever the Jewish people recite the 13 attributes, their prayers will be answered.

There are two versions of this prayer. On the *Yomim Noraim* (High Holidays), when our fate for the entire year is at stake, we beseech G-d: “Forgive my sins. ... Remember me for long life ... good livelihood ... bread to eat ... clothing to wear.” These are material requests for the coming year.

The other version of the *Ribono Shel Olam* prayer, which is recited on the *Shalosh Regalim* (the holidays of Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot — times of communion with Hashem), is completely focused on the spiritual. We beseech G-d, “Rescue me and my family from the evil inclination and grant our share in Torah. ... Privilege us that You may rest Your presence on us.”

In a *Yom Tov drasha* (holiday sermon) given many years ago at the Academy, Rav Nota Greenblatt, z’l, pointed out that the words in the prayer for the *Shalosh Regalim* really are unbelievable. This level of closeness to G-d, described as *hashroas haShechina*, has been attained only by *tzadikim* (righteous people) like the great prophets, and yet here every single Jew prays for such closeness? What’s more, the next part of the prayer is even more perplexing: “Let there be fulfilled in **us** the verse, ‘The spirit of Hashem shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom.’” This is the prophecy of Yeshaya (Isaiah) referring to *Mashiach*, who will attain the closest heavenly relationship possible. Yet here, **we** are praying to reach the same level as *Mashiach*?



# 17

## D'VAR TORAH

Rabbi Larry Katz (MHA '67)

As Rav Nota explained, we see from this prayer that the simplest Jew, even a sinner, shouldn't be discouraged by their current spiritual level. Rather, every Jew should realize that they have inside of themselves a piece of G-d called the *neshama* (soul). That enables them to reconnect to their Source and plead to G-d to grant them the highest level possible to attain.

Rav Nota taught us that we must always set high spiritual goals for ourselves. Even if we don't always reach them for whatever reason, we still gain because we are orienting ourselves upward. This is similar to archery. When shooting an arrow at a target, the archer must aim the bow higher than the target to account for the pull of gravity and the friction slowing the arrow down. When our focus is elevated, we are more likely to hit the target.

The reason given for the material requests included in the *Ribono Shel Olam* prayer for the *Yomim Noraim* is "in order to be engaged in Your Torah and *mitzvos* (commandments)." Our material requests are not for self-gratification, but rather so we can be healthy and free to pursue the goals of the soul. The two versions of the prayer are actually related: We should pray for a long life, health and livelihood, and we should keep in mind that the ultimate goal is to come closer to Hashem by learning Torah and observing the *mitzvos*.

May it be the will of Hashem to inspire us to aim ever higher on our spiritual journey, and may all of our individual and communal prayers be answered for good. May we have peace in Israel, and may we merit for the Divine Presence to rest upon us once again with the coming of *Mashiach*.

### **Rabbi Larry Katz**

(MHA '67) works as chief financial officer of a Manhattan-based company and lives in Wesley Hills, New York, with his wife Malkie, who previously taught at the MHA. He is a former member of the Memphis community kollel and magid shiur (Torah teacher) of *Daf Yomi* (daily study of a page of Talmud). Their four children — **Dovy** (MHA '92), **Judah** (MHA '94), **Aliza (Katz) Shapiro** (MHA '96) and **Moe** — appreciate the education they received at the MHAIFYOS during their formative years. A proud grandfather of 12, he can be reached at [LarrySKatz@gmail.com](mailto:LarrySKatz@gmail.com).





## ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

Mazel tov to:

**Alan Kutner** (MHA '62), z'l, and **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68) of Lawrence, New York, on the weddings of two grandchildren during the summer. On Aug. 15, Shifra Kutner, daughter of Rachel and **Yoni Kutner** (MHA '88) of Lawrence, married Yitzi From in Atlantic Beach, New York. The newlyweds are living in Israel. A family photo from the wedding is featured in Alumni Reunite, page 47. Then on Aug. 27, Binyomin Leitman, son of Yosef and **Shifra (Kutner) Leitman** (MHA '86, YOS '90) of Lawrence, wed Atara Lipson in Toronto, Canada. The couple also lives in Lawrence.

Rina and Rabbi **Dov Emerson** (MHA '91) of Bergenfield, New Jersey, on the Aug. 26 marriage of their son Ezra Emerson to Tova Miller in Passaic, New Jersey. The newlyweds live in Jerusalem. Mazel tov also to the groom's grandparents, Donny Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65) of Memphis. A photo of friends celebrating at the wedding can be found in Alumni Reunite, page 46.

**Zvi Shapiro** (FYOS '95) on his April 8 wedding to Miriam Tayar in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The happy couple lives in Pembroke Pines, Florida.

Micha and **Bracha (Lubin) Hyman** (MHA '96) of Nachliel, Israel, on the Aug. 19 marriage of their daughter Zahava to Lev Lerner at Bad B'Vad in Choresh Yaron. The couple lives in Israel.

**Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) on his engagement to Dina Raab. They plan to marry Dec. 31 in New Jersey and to live in New York City. Mazel tov also to the groom's parents, faculty members Cantor Ricky and Mrs. Anat Kampf.

**Asher Stein** (MHA '13), who married Elisheva Gold Sept. 8 in Aggadata, Israel. He and his wife now live in the Baka neighborhood of Jerusalem. Mazel tov also to the groom's parents, former MHA/FYOS faculty Rabbi Noam and Mrs. Amy Stein.

**Yisrael Weiner** (MHA '15, FYOS '19) on his Aug. 22 wedding to Meira Steiner in New York City, which is also where the couple lives. Mazel tov also to the groom's parents, Hillel and MHA faculty member Morah Rivki Weiner.

**Rakhel Finkelstein** (MHA '17, FYOS '21) on her engagement to Matan Friedman. The couple is planning a Dec. 15 wedding in Passaic, New Jersey, and will live in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. Mazel tov to the parents of the bride, Rabbi Joel Finkelstein and former FYOS faculty member Mrs. Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein of Memphis.

**Jason Schubert** (MHA '17, FYOS '21) on his engagement to Sarit Katz. They will get married Nov. 27 in Atlantic Beach, New York, and initially make their home in New York City. Mazel tov to the groom's parents, Eric and former MHA faculty member and administrator Mrs. Charna Schubert.

## BIRTHS:

Mazel tov to:

Shaindy and **Rabbi Yitzchok Mitnick** (YOS '73) of Lakewood, New Jersey, who became great-grandparents July 1, 2023, with the arrival of Gittel Nechama Kaplan. She is the daughter of Arye Leib and Sara Miriam (Mitnick) Kaplan and granddaughter of Tzvi Meir and Yocheved Mitnick, all of Jerusalem. Mazel tov also to Rabbi Mitnick's mother, Rebbetzin

Libby Mitnick of Brooklyn, New York, on becoming a great-great-grandmother!

Dinah and **Gary Makowsky** (MHA '74) of Memphis on the May 7 arrival of grandson Charlie Jerome, born to Ellen Makowsky and Abe Jacobs of Los Angeles. Mazel tov also to big brothers Lev and Sonny.

David and **Judy (Baum) Green** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, who welcomed three new grandchildren in recent months. Grandson Avraham Nota (named for Rav Nota Greenblatt, z'l) was born April 21 to parents Nissim and Shira Delmoor of Boston, Massachusetts. Mazel tov also to siblings Chaim Moshe, Yosef Shalom, Shmuel Asher, Aviva Esther, Avigyle Henna and Mordy. On May 7, the Greens' children, Josh and Tehila Gabay of Ramat Beit Shemesh, celebrated the arrival of twin girls Chana Yael and Leah Yehudis. Mazel tov also to siblings Moishy, Eliyahu, Racheli and Elisheva.

Rena and **Ephraim Kutner** (MHA '85) of Lawrence, New York, who recently welcomed two grandchildren. Baby girl Aliza Tamar, born to Rayzee and Yitzchak Brecher of Far Rockaway,

New York, arrived April 12, making Leah Gittel a big sister. Then on July 5, baby boy Yosef Yeshaya was born to Hannah and Aharon Kutner of Lawrence, making Yehuda Avraham a big brother. Mazel tov to great-grandparents **Alan** (MHA '62, z'l) and **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68).

Elisheva and **Rabbi Simcha Mirvis** (MHA '85) of Moshav Sdeh Ilan, Israel, on the July 27 birth of granddaughter Nahar Ahava. Mazel tov also to parents Hodya and Yedidya Mirvis of Moshav Eliad in Israel's Golan Heights and great-grandparents David and **Lynnie (Katz) Mirvis** (MHA '62) of Memphis.

Rabbi Daniel and **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Lakewood, New Jersey, who recently welcomed two grandsons. On May 25, Ariel Chaim was born to their children Yael and Sender Galbut of Miami Beach, Florida. Mazel tov also to big brother Boruch Tzvi. Then on June 12, Rivki and Yoni Roth of Manchester, New Jersey, celebrated the arrival of Shlomo Dov. Mazel tov also to siblings Atara and Chaim.

Rabbi Eli and **Aliza (Katz) Shapiro** (MHA '96) of Waterbury, Connecticut, on the April 10 birth of identical twin boys, Tzvi Mordechai and Avraham Dov. Mazel tov also to siblings Yitz, Eitan, Devorah and Pinny and grandparents Malkie (former MHA faculty member) and **Rabbi Larry Katz** (MHA '67) of Wesley Hills, New York. Tzvi is named after his great-grandfather, longtime MHA supporter Harold Katz, z'l.

Jenny and **David Spangenthal** (FYOS '04) of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, on the April 10 birth of son Teddy. Mazel tov also to big brothers JJ and Koby, and sister Sophie z'l is smiling down from above.

Travis and **Stephanie (Barrack) Davidson** (MHA '04) of Atlanta, Georgia, who on July 22 welcomed son Liam Joseph. Mazel tov also to siblings Hadley and Kayla and grandparents Jon and **Cindy (Califf) Barrack** (MHA '75) of Memphis.

Avi and **Barbara (Plotitsa) Satt** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) of Far Rockaway, New York, on the April 2 birth of son Shaya. Mazel tov also to big sisters Elana, Talia, Ariella and Leora.

Esther and **Avishai Schlesinger** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) of Givat Shmuel, Israel, on the Aug. 1 birth of son Adam. Mazel tov also to siblings Nate and Jordyn and grandparents David and **Linda (Ostrow) Schlesinger** (MHA '74) of Memphis.

Seth and **Becca (Rosenberg) Near** (FYOS '09) of St. Louis, Missouri, on the Jan. 8 birth of daughter Sari Rose. Mazel tov also to big brothers Gabe and Sammy.

Jonathan Etra and **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) of Los Angeles, California, on the April 29 birth of daughter Lily Blanche, making Avery a big brother. Mazel tov also to grandparents Tova and **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82) and great-grandparents and former FYOS faculty members Barbara and Rabbi David Radinsky, all of Memphis.

Ariel Futter and **Alexa Wender** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) of Riverdale, New York, on the April 11 birth of daughter Ziva, making Meira a big sister. Mazel tov also to grandparents Penina (former MHA principal) and **Elliot Wender** (MHA '79, YOS '83) of Memphis and Dror and **Karen (Sigel) Futter** (MHA '78) of Teaneck, New Jersey.

Matti and **Gabe Address** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) of Jerusalem, Israel, who on Aug. 24 welcomed son Yisrael Chaim, making Rachel a big sister. Mazel tov also to grandparents Tania and former FYOS faculty member Mr. Jeff Address of Boynton Beach, Florida.

Michal and **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13) of Memphis, who on July 17 welcomed son Robby and made Skylar a big sister. Mazel tov also to grandparents Jonathan and **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92) of Beit Shemesh, Israel and great-grandmother **Gerry (Margolin Fink) Platsky** (MHA '59) of Jerusalem. The baby was named for his paternal great-grandfather, longtime MHA supporter Dr. Bob Fink, z'l.

Tamar and **Bryan Itkowitz** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) of Kiryat Gat, Israel, on the June 17 arrival of son Itai Erez, making Nili a big sister. A photo of family and friends celebrating baby Itai's arrival is in Alumni Reunite, page 44.

Moshe Chaim and **Emma (Peiser) Baral** (FYOS '14) of Chicago, Illinois, who became parents with the June 5 arrival of son Meir Gershon.

Ben and **Shani (Braverman) Winter** (MHA '12, FYOS '16) of Ramat Shlomo in Jerusalem on the April 5 birth of daughter Miriam Golda, making Chaim a big brother. Mazel tov also to grandparents Kevin and **Rivka (Katz) Braverman** (MHA '89, YOS '93) and great-grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69), all of Memphis.

## BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:

Mazel tov to:

Rabbi Joey and **Melissa (Freiden) Friedman** (MHA '79, YOS '83) of Denver, Colorado, on their grandson Azi becoming a bar mitzvah Sept. 14. Mazel tov to proud parents Tzvi and former MHA faculty member Mrs. Brittney Friedman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Rachel and **Yoni Kutner** (MHA '88), son of **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68) and **Alan Kutner** (MHA '62), z'l, on the Aug. 31 bar mitzvah of their son, Eli.

Rina and **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91) on their daughter Atara's March 5 bat mitzvah. Mazel tov also to grandparents Donny Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65).

Faigy and **Eli Kutner** (MHA '92) of Lawrence, New York, who on July 13 celebrated the bar mitzvah of their son, Chaim. The bar mitzvah boy is a grandson of **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68) and **Alan Kutner** (MHA '62), z'l.

Danny and **Michal (Sacharin) Hershtal** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Kiryat Shmuel, Israel, on the June 22 celebration of their son Gilad's bar mitzvah.

Elyse and **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97) of Memphis on the June 15 bat mitzvah of daughter Hannah, who is in seventh grade at MHA. Mazel tov also to grandparents Michael and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) of Memphis. Pictures of the festivities can be found in Alumni Reunite, page 45.

Alex and **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99 and director of engagement) of Memphis on the May 25 bat

mitzvah of their daughter Eliana, an MHA seventh grader. Mazel tov also to grandparents **Lee** (MHA '74) and **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77) of Memphis.

Ari and **Shirli (Freiden) Gotlib** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) of Detroit, Michigan, on their daughter Sophie becoming a bat mitzvah May 26. Mazel tov also to grandparents Debbie and **Hugh (Freiden) Gordon** (MHA '72, YOS '76) of Memphis.

## MAZEL TOV!

Send us your alumni news for the next issue at [alumni@mhafyos.org](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org).



## 2024 scholarship banquet highlights love for Israel, honors brave IDF service of alumni

With the ongoing war in Israel weighing heavily on our collective hearts and minds, the 74th Annual MHA/FYOS Scholarship Banquet, held Sunday, June 9 at Baron Hirsch Congregation, emphasized the school's unbreakable bond with the State of Israel. The evening served as a powerful reminder of our community's steadfast commitment to the Jewish State.

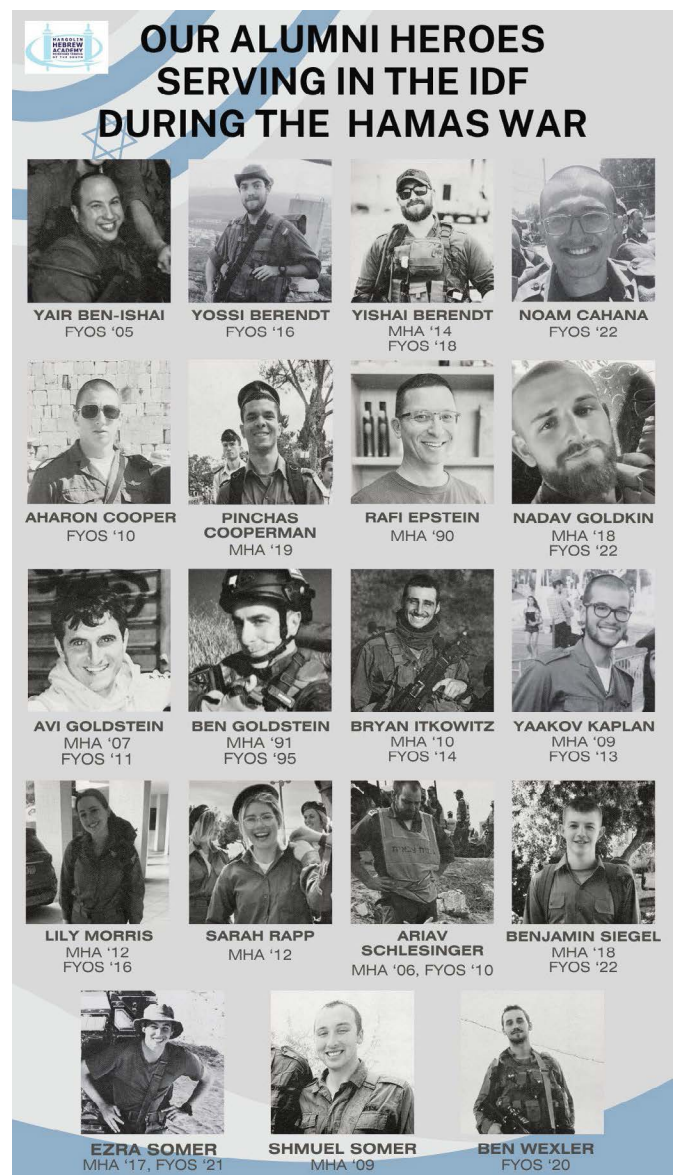


Alumni played pivotal roles in planning and executing the special event. **Shoshana (Somer) Mehler** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) and her husband Benji, along with **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13) and his wife Michal, did a wonderful job as banquet chairs. Chef **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), who attended culinary school in Israel, catered the dinner, bringing the amazing flavors of the Holy Land to Memphis.



Banquet co-chair **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13) and chef **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15).

Honored in absentia were 19 courageous MHA/FYOS alumni serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Many of the honorees were able to send recorded messages from the front lines of the war with Hamas to the Memphis community. Leba Wachtel (Benjamin's sister and daughter of **Sarah**



**(Fink) Wachtel**, MHA '88, YOS '92), compiled the clips and other footage from Israel into a moving video that was shown at the banquet. The video can also be viewed [online](#).

A legacy tribute was presented in memory of Sergeant Rose Lubin, z'l, who was killed in November 2023 at the age of 20 while serving as a member of Israel's border police. Her father, David Lubin, who attended MHA during his early elementary school years, spoke to banquet attendees about his daughter's unbridled passion for Israel. She will forever be remembered as a true hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Jewish homeland.

The Eishet Chesed Award was presented to Rashki (Osina) Kaplan (who is married to **Zac Kaplan**, MHA '01 and former member of the IDF). In addition to being a devoted MHA parent volunteer, she works as director of social services for the Fogelman Jewish Family Service and was recognized for her instrumental role in supporting the Memphis Jewish community during this time of turmoil in Israel.

Also honored at the banquet was **Francie Schneider** (MHA '68, YOS '72) on the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of service to the MHA. She leaves the school as the longest-tenured employee in its history!



*Rabbi Yisroel Weiner (far left), then-head of school, and Deena Davidovics (center), then-president of the board of trustees, recognized **Francie Schneider** (MHA '68, YOS '72) for her five decades of service to the school. They presented her with several gifts, including a stuffed panda bear (her favorite animal) and "MHA Retiree" T-shirt, as she requested, and another MHA T-shirt signed by the entire office staff.*

As **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), director of engagement, noted, "It was truly a special evening and a wonderful celebration of the school." Everyone who attended the 2024 banquet would certainly agree.

# ALUMNI DEDICATION WALL

MHA/FYOS alumni have a special opportunity to leave a permanent mark on our school's campus and a lasting legacy for future generations.

The soon-to-be-renovated school lunchroom, located next to the Moss Gym, will include an Alumni Dedication Wall adorned with the names of graduates and former attendees of the MHA/FYOS. The project serves to inspire current students and to offer alumni a meaningful way to give back to the institution that has given them so much.

Each tile on the Alumni Dedication Wall costs \$500 and will feature the name of one alum. We express our sincere gratitude to those who have already reserved their alumni tiles\*:

**Alyssa (Wruble) Bardash** (MHA '11, FYOS '15)

**Lee Baum** (MHA '74)

**Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77)

**Julius Besser**

**Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74)

**Debbi Cooper** (MHA '68, YOS '72)

**Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

**Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17)

**Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

**Jeremy Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12)

**Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65)

**Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81)

**Serena Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

**Yael Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

**Moshe Davidovics** (MHA '17, FYOS '21)

**Bart Ehrenkranz** (YOS '77)

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

**Denah Emerson** (MHA '01, FYOS '05)

**Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91)

**Rabbi Michael Emerson** (MHA '99, FYOS '03)

**David Friedman**

**Ted Friedman** (MHA '87)

**Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75)

**Sarah (Emerson) Helfand** (MHA '95, FYOS '98)

**Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19)

**Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92)

**Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97)

**David Katz** (MHA '88)

**Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74)

**Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73)

**Aaron Kirshtein** (FYOS '15)

**Asher Kirshtein** (FYOS '19)

**Avi Kirshtein** (FYOS '12)

**Zevi Kirshtein** (FYOS '22)

**Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97)

**Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70)

**Shayna (Kahane) Lesnoy** (MHA '16, FYOS '20)

**Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97)

**Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06)

**Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03)

**Brittany (Baum) Lindenfeld** (MHA '04)

**Chaim Lubin** (MHA '93, FYOS '97)

**Yedida Lubin** (MHA '91, FYOS '95)

**Shmuel Lulky** (FYOS '18)

**Shoshana (Somer) Mehler** (MHA '07, FYOS '11)

**Benjamin Mendelson** (MHA '17, FYOS '21)

**Elise Mendelson** (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

**Jacob Musicante**



# 25

## ALUMNI DEDICATION WALL

**Meryl Musicante** (MHA '11)  
**Robert Musicante** (MHA '05)  
**Robin (Friedman) Musicante** (MHA '82)  
**Joshua Parcover** (FYOS '24)  
**Evan Rosenthal** (FYOS '17)  
**Talia (Kaufman) Sand** (MHA '03, FYOS '07)  
**Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson** (MHA '88)  
**Ari Sauer** (MHA '90, FYOS '94)  
**Rina Soffer** (FYOS '19)  
**Akiva Somer** (MHA '10, FYOS '14)  
**Ezra Somer** (FYOS '21)  
**Rafi Somer** (MHA '20, FYOS '24)  
**Shmuel Somer** (MHA '09)  
**Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99)  
**Suri (Samberg) Weiner** (MHA '99, FYOS '03)

**Jered Weinstein** (MHA '14, FYOS '18)  
**Joel Weinstein** (MHA '16, FYOS '20)  
**Sara Weinstein** (MHA '18, FYOS '22)  
**Benjamin Wexler** (FYOS '20)  
**Nicolas Wieder** (YOS '76)  
**Jonathan Wogan** (MHA '94)  
**Aaron Wruble** (MHA '12, FYOS '16)  
**Dena (Rosenberg) Wruble** (MHA '84, YOS '88)  
**Emma Wruble** (MHA '20, FYOS '24)  
**Gary Wruble** (MHA '77, YOS '81)  
**Justin Wruble** (MHA '09, FYOS '13)  
**Sophie Wruble** (MHA '16, FYOS '20)  
**Daniel Zalowitz** (FYOS '94)  
**Stuart Zalowitz**

*\*as of Sept. 5, 2024*

Please join us in this exciting endeavor so we can add your name to the Alumni Dedication Wall when the tiles are installed in the coming weeks. To reserve your tile or to learn more about the project, visit [mhafyos.org/alumniwall](https://mhafyos.org/alumniwall) or email [jessica.baum@mhafyos.org](mailto:jessica.baum@mhafyos.org).

Thank you in advance for your support and for setting a high bar for leadership and generosity at the MHA/FYOS.



## How three boys from Jacksonville, Florida, found their way to the MHA



Rabbi Eliyahu Hartman (second from left) with students (from left) **Jan Starr**, **Marc (Andy) Kauss** and **Herbert (Herby) Schild** (all MHA '66).

In 1965, Etz Chaim Synagogue, a small Orthodox congregation in Jacksonville, Florida, received word that a Yeshiva high school was opening in Memphis, Tennessee — the first of its kind in the South. The synagogue's spiritual leader at that time was a young Rabbi Eliyahu Hartman (a name very familiar to many of our alumni).

Three young members of the congregation had recently celebrated their *b'nai mitzvah*: **Jan Starr**, **Marc Kauss** and **Herbert Schild** (all MHA '66). They each excelled in their Torah studies, and Rabbi Hartman recognized the importance of these three young men receiving an immersive Jewish education. However, none of the families were in a financial position to cover day school tuition and living expenses for their sons. Undeterred, Rabbi Hartman raised money from his congregation to enable the boys to attend school in Memphis.

It was quite difficult for 13 year olds to venture so far from home, especially at a time when this was not commonplace. They could not afford plane tickets to Memphis, so they traveled overnight

by bus — even switching buses at 2 a.m. Their commitment is a testament to their love of Torah and deep desire to attend yeshiva.

"We lived upstairs in Rabbi Gershon Weinrib's home, a two-story house on Rosebud Lane, one block from Rabbi Chaim Seiger's house," Starr said. "We ate nearly all our meals at the Seiger home."



*This article appeared in Jacksonville's Southern Jewish Weekly newspaper in the summer of 1965.*

Rabbi Hartman was very pleased with how the Jacksonville-Memphis program worked out. However, it only lasted one year; Rabbi Hartman then left Jacksonville to come and teach at our school, ultimately becoming the principal. (For more on Rabbi Hartman, see the Spotlight feature in our [19th issue](#), page 25).

"The MHA and Memphis will always hold a special place in my heart," Starr said. "The people, the community, the Academy — so much has stuck with me, 60 years later."

Starr still has his MHA yearbook from 1966.

"Looking at it," he noted, "always makes me smile."

# Save the date for the 33rd Annual Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Basketball Game!

Calling all alumni, near and far: Please plan to join us for our 33rd Annual Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Basketball Game on Saturday night, Jan. 18, 2025 (during MLK Day Weekend) in the MHA's beautifully refurbished Moss Gym. Whether you're playing or spectating, it promises to be a fun and exciting event for all.

- Male alumni interested in playing in the Alumni Game should contact MHA Athletic Director Kobi Pinto at [kobi.pinto@mhafyos.org](mailto:kobi.pinto@mhafyos.org) or Director of Engagement **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99) at [jessica.baum@mhafyos.org](mailto:jessica.baum@mhafyos.org).
- Alumni traveling from out of town who would like assistance with accommodations should contact Alumni Chair Joanne Kahane at [joannekahane111@gmail.com](mailto:joannekahane111@gmail.com).

Please make your travel plans now. We look forward to welcoming our wonderful alumni back to campus in January as we celebrate the school's 75th birthday!



## MHA/FYOS dedicates Dr. Ira Weinstein Wing

As part of the school's annual patrons meeting on July 27, the wing off the boys' high school that houses the Irby and Bernice Cooper Beit Midrash was dedicated in memory of noted community leader Dr. Ira Weinstein, z'l, by his son and daughter-in-law, Joe and Cindi Weinstein. Debby Weinstein, Ira's wife, was also present for the dedication ceremony.

"When I think of Ira and of Debby, I can't help but think of their smiles, the twinkle in their eyes, their positivity, their words of encouragement and their obvious *nachas* (pride) in the accomplishments of their children and grandchildren," said Mark Kaplowitz, president of the MHA/FYOS board of trustees, in his remarks. Three of the Weinstains' grandchildren — **Jered** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Joel** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) and **Sara Weinstein** (MHA '18, FYOS '22) — are graduates of our school.

Our entire alumni family shares the pride that Jered, Joel and Sara no doubt feel as their beloved grandfather's name now adorns what is arguably the most important wing of the school. It's a fitting tribute to an extraordinarily fine gentleman.



# THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1966-1970

## Where are they now?

'68

**Rochel (Roberta Burman) Bomzer** (YOS '68) left her home in Houston, Texas, as a 10th grader to attend our high school and grow in religious observance. "When I came to Memphis, I realized how little I knew about Judaism and was ready to go back home," she said. "I went to Rabbi Hillel Belsky, z'l, crying that the kids in my class knew so much more than me. I still remember his response: 'They'd better know more than you, since they have been learning all these years!'

"The next year, I moved in next door to the Belskys and became close with the *rebbetzin*. She taught me that Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, who was the *rosh yeshiva*, took on just one *middah* (character trait) to work on each year. Only when he was confident with that one did he move on to the next. Throughout my career as a *rebbetzin* in Albany, New York, I have told that story over and over and encouraged others to be patient in their religious growth."

She has wonderful memories of Mrs. Ruth Kabakoff hosting a slumber party in honor of her 16th birthday.

Bomzer sends much love to her classmates and offers them her blessings. "May we walk our children to the *chupah* (marriage canopy), may they all have children, and may we have health and vitality to dance at our grandchildren's weddings. My other *bracha* (blessing) is that our *tefillot* (prayers) should be strong enough to destroy *sinas chinam* (baseless hatred) and bring the *Shechina* (Hashem's presence) down to us."

**Harry Stein** (MHA '65, YOS '69) lives in Spring Valley, New York. He is part of the Chaya Olam Community Kollel in nearby Wesley Hills and works as a private business consultant. He has five grown children, more than 30 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He sends his best regards to his classmates and would love to know the whereabouts of those with whom he lost contact over the years. He has fond memories of the "friendships that were developed and continue with ourselves, our children and our grandchildren," he said. He also remembers honest, open learning in all areas of Torah and enjoying Georgia Thomas's fried chicken (when he was able to get some, before certain "other students" tried to take most of it).

Stein has a great deal of *hakaras ha'tov* (gratitude) to the Memphis Jewish community for welcoming his parents, who were Holocaust survivors, with warmth and friendship, which helped them rebuild their lives

'65

'69

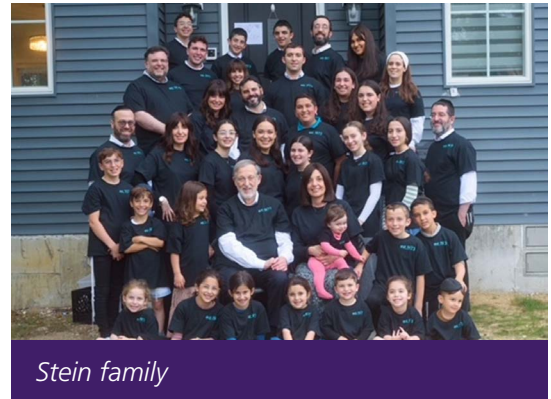
# 30

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1966-1970

Where are they now?

after the war. He is also grateful to the MHA and those who had the wisdom to build it. "The school provided the foundation for the community, which has grown to spread the greatness of Torah and fulfillment of the will of Hashem to all corners of the world," he said.

His favorite teacher was Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, who was instrumental in establishing the Yeshiva of the South.



'66

Thanks to a scholarship provided by his local synagogue, **Jan Starr** (MHA '66) came from Jacksonville, Florida, to attend our school for his eighth grade year. "What an experience at age 13," he recalled. "I loved my year at the MHA. Of course, I still remember the great people of the community of Memphis. Rabbi Chaim Seiger, z'l, of Baron Hirsch, was an outstanding man, and I'll always remember and adore him and his family." For more on Starr's journey to the MHA, see the story on page 26.

Starr is now retired from his career as a principal, having worked at elementary schools in Jacksonville and Palm Beach, Florida.

**Rabbi Joel Yormark** (MHA '66, YOS '69), who now lives in South Bend, Indiana, said his experience at our school inspired him to study in yeshiva in Israel after high school. "It was a time when it was rare to go and do it," he said. "It was before cellphones!"

'66  
'69

'67  
'70

**David Gray** (MHA '67, YOS '70) came to our school from Atlanta, Georgia. "I loved living in the dorm," he said. "I made many good friends. The members of the community were fantastic and very hospitable. We were at a different family's home every Shabbos, and we spent many Sundays enjoying all the activities at the Margolin ranch.

"I came from a non-observant background and because of the school, I became Torah-observant. After graduating, I spent four great years in yeshiva in Israel. That would have been impossible, if not for the education and experience I had at the Yeshiva of the South."

Rabbi Hillel Belsky, z'l, played a special role in Gray's life. "I had many great teachers and *rebbe*s (and some not-so-great teachers, too), but Rabbi Belsky stood out. He was truly a very caring and concerned mentor

and gave me lots of personal attention. He welcomed me into his home and treated me like a family member. If not for him, I probably wouldn't have ended up where and how I am today."

Gray lives in Miami Beach, Florida, and is in the insurance business. He and his wife have four children and enjoy being grandparents.

'67

'71

**Elaine (Riesenberg) Mael** (MHA '67, YOS '71) lives in Baltimore, Maryland, where she is a librarian and Jewish studies subject specialist at Towson University. Her adult children live in Israel and various cities in the eastern United States.

Mael has wonderful memories of enjoying Shabbos meals (prepared by cook Georgia Thomas) at the school with her teachers. Among her favorite teachers was Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz, z'l.

"Although he was the principal of the school, Rabbi Nayowitz taught our class in first grade. I still remember him introducing us to the letters and vowels of the *aleph-bais*. So much positivity and encouragement emanated from Rabbi Nayowitz, and each of us felt that he loved us individually. I can recall many interactions with him throughout his years in Memphis — in school, in shul and even in my home (when he would come to speak with my parents). I feel a special *hakaras ha'tov* (sense of gratitude) to him for the love of Torah that he nurtured in me and in my family."

She sends her classmates "wishes for the blessings of good health, happiness and *shalom* (peace) for you, your families and all of *Klal Yisrael* (the Jewish people)." Mael hopes Memphis continues to be a place where Torah thrives and where the Jewish families who uphold it are able to flourish.

**Lee Hanover** (MHA '69) lives in Jackson, New Jersey, and works as a certified public accountant. He and his wife are blessed with children and grandchildren. Hanover is grateful for the education he received at the MHA and hopes all of his classmates are doing well. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Phyllis Wahl, z'l.

'69

'69  
'72

**Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72) and her husband live in Memphis. They are the parents of four alumni — **Rebecca (Rubenstein) Gutman** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Benjamin** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Rachel (Rubenstein) Amar** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) and **Aaron** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) — and have 11 grandchildren.

Having previously worked as a labor and delivery nurse, she now has an electrolysis practice and runs a thermal imaging business called the Thermography Center of Memphis. She would love to hear from her former classmates at [kjkr55@gmail.com](mailto:kjkr55@gmail.com).

**Sam Finkelstein** (MHA '70) lives with his wife in Baltimore, Maryland, and works as a certified public accountant. They have seven grown children and more than 30 grandchildren. He is proud to be the son of Mrs. Naomi Finkelstein, who was the friendly face at the front desk of the MHA office for 30 years.



"I remember many special times spent with my classmates and friends and our wonderful rabbis and teachers," Finkelstein said. "I can't imagine growing up better than we did. I'm very grateful for all of it."

He is similarly appreciative to all those who helped make the dream of a Jewish day school in Memphis a reality. "Those who attended MHA during my generation and beyond owe untold *hakaras ha'tov* (gratitude) to the vision of our beloved Rav Nota Greenblatt, z'l, Rabbi Sy Kutner, z'l, and Mr. Louis Epstein, z'l," Finkelstein said. "They, along with the Margolin, Belz, Thomas, Epstein and Katz families, and others too numerous to mention, built Orthodox Jewry in Memphis and gave us the chance to live the lives we now enjoy and probably take for granted."

Finkelstein has a special place in his heart for the many wonderful teachers he had at the MHA. "Mrs. Lillian Feldman z'l stands out as someone who whipped our class of 30 into shape," he said. "We learned so much, and the play was a lot of fun."

His favorite *rebbe* was Rabbi Sholom Strajcher. "He was a tremendous person who really connected with us," he said. "My cousin **Berish Kipper** (MHA '70) and I spent many Shabboses with Rabbi Strajcher and his wife, **Elaine (Goldstein) Strajcher** (MHA '61), to attend bar mitzvahs in the old neighborhood. We loved going there, especially for Mrs. Strajcher's tremendously delicious meals.

"When I was in seventh or eighth grade, I asked Rabbi Strajcher how to obtain a set of *Mikros Gedolos chumashim*. He said he would order it for me. The next thing I knew, he presented the set to me as a gift, along with a wonderful inscription. I have that set in my library to this day."



After graduating eighth grade, **Ken Sigel** (MHA '70) went on to attend high school at the Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MTA), college at Washington University in St. Louis and medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Now divorced, he's been back in Memphis since 2001.



## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1966-1970

Where are they now?

# 33

'70

**Marc Silberberg** (MHA '70) is an anesthesiologist living in Memphis with his wife. They have four children, two of whom — **Lee** (MHA '09) and **Ben** (MHA '11, FYOS '15) — are also alumni of our school.

He sends his best wishes to his classmates for “long, satisfying lives” and remembers friends **Sidney Gontownik**, z'l, and **Mark Wender**, z'l (both MHA '70, YOS '74), who are no longer with us.

Silberberg urges current and former members of the Memphis Jewish community to stay connected and involved. “We must rekindle the pioneering spirit of our parents who built our school,” he said. “Too many of us have left to thrive in established communities instead of staying to continue the work of the previous generation.”

Among his favorite teachers were Rabbi Benjamin Wolmark, z'l, and Mrs. Lillian Feldman, z'l. He has fond memories of receiving his own *siddur* (prayer book) for memorizing *shemoneh esreh*, playing pick-up basketball in the gym, enjoying Georgia Thomas's cooking in the lunchroom, the school bazaar and trying (in vain) to sell World's Finest Chocolate bars door-to-door to raise money for the MHA.

A retired hospice social worker, **Brenda (Silverman) Pritzker** (MHA '70, YOS '73) and her husband made *aliyah* from Hollywood, Florida, to Jerusalem, Israel last year. “We feel blessed to have been able to realize our dream of 20-plus years to enjoy living in Israel,” she said. They are the proud parents of two children and five grandchildren.

She is thankful for the wonderful friends she made during her MHA/YOS days. Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Phyllis Wahl, z'l.

'70  
'73

'70  
'74

**Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74) attended our school as a dorm student hailing from Houston, Texas. He is now a lawyer living in Passaic, New Jersey, with his wife, Elaine (Elke). They have four grown children and six grandchildren.

“I have the fondest memories of our experiences together in school and in the dormitory,” Chapman said. “Some of the best years of our



**Louis Chapman** (right) and his brother, **Reuven Chapman** (MHA '69, YOS '72).



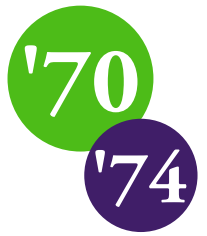
**Louis and Elke Chapman**

# 34

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1966-1970

Where are they now?

lives were spent together.” He is grateful for the warm relationships he built with his classmates and fellow dormers, many of which he maintains to this day. His favorite teacher was Mr. Effie Bluestein.



**Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74) lives in Netanya, Israel, and works in insurance and finance. He is the father of five alumni — **Deena (Katz) Yarmush** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), **Shira (Katz) Nathan** (MHA '95, FYOS '99), **Daniel** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Noam** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and **Aviva (Katz) Fink** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) — and has nine grandchildren.

“It was so nice to grow up in a close-knit community,” he said. “I still enjoy friendships from my childhood. All over the world, people know someone from Memphis! It’s pretty amazing.”

He has fond memories of Sunday community meals, the annual MHA bazaar and the great school lunches prepared by Georgia Thomas. Among his favorite teachers were Mrs. Lillian Feldman, z’l, Mr. David Cotton and Rabbi Yehudah Silver.



Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!** 



## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

# Rabbi Yosef and Mrs. Maxine Rottenberg

Bringing the dream of Torah inspiration to MHA



Anyone who has ever questioned whether a few years in a community can make a meaningful difference need look no further than Rabbi Yosef and Mrs. Maxine Rottenberg. These inspirational leaders, now renowned as Torah scholars with four decades of service to Jewish institutions of Baltimore, spent three early years of their marriage teaching at the MHA. In the process, they left an indelible mark on many students in Memphis and forged relationships that would last a lifetime.

Rabbi Rottenberg was born in Hungary before the outbreak of World War II. He and his parents were able to escape from the Nazis in 1944, thanks to U.S. papers his grandfather secured during a failed attempt to make a living in America in the 1880s. The family settled in New York; there, he attended prominent yeshivas and was introduced to Maxine, a native Baltimorean attending Stern College who would become his wife.



Rabbi Rottenberg, around the time he became a bar mitzvah.

At age 25, he became a student of Torah giant Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, z'l, to become proficient in *halacha* (Jewish law) and how to *pasken shailos* (answer questions on matters of Jewish law). One area of study he delved into with Rabbi Feinstein was *gittin* (writs of Jewish divorce), and that was how he met Memphis's own Rabbi Nota Greenblatt, z'l, in New York.



Rabbi Rottenberg (left) with Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, z'l, at a festive Purim meal in 1964.

"R' Nota Greenblatt was in New York and needed a witness for a *get*," Rabbi Rottenberg told *Where What When*, a Baltimore Jewish publication, in 2014. "I was studying *gittin*, so I went along with him. I started speaking to the man. I never met anyone like that before. He knew everything! ... He was one of the greatest halachic authorities of our generation ... and he was a *mensch*, such a wonderful person."

At the time expecting their first child, the Rottenbergs were exploring income sources beyond his *kollel* studies with Rabbi Feinstein. Rav

Nota enticed Rabbi Rottenberg with a teaching opportunity at the MHA. "I immediately said yes," he told *Where What When*. "Just to be in the same city [as Rav Nota] was enough for me." Since another position he'd been considering was at a shul in Singapore, Mrs. Rottenberg was relieved they would only be traveling as far as Memphis.

The Rottenbergs began their tenure as members of the MHA faculty in 1965 and immediately connected with their students.

"Rabbi Rottenberg was my Gemara *rebbe* in eighth grade," said **Rabbi Joel Yormark** (MHA '66, YOS '69). "I have very fond memories of his warmth and the style in which he taught us how to learn Gemara."

"Rabbi Rottenberg inspired me with his enthusiasm and love for learning Gemara," said **Rabbi Larry Katz** (MHA '67). "When Rav Moshe Feinstein, *z'l*, came to Memphis for the dedication of the Yeshiva of the South, Rabbi Rottenberg took me by the hand and brought me up to Rav Moshe for him to give me a personal *bracha* (blessing). Though Rabbi Rottenberg was my seventh and eighth grade *rebbe* over 55 years ago, I am forever grateful to him and very happy to now have the opportunity to thank him after all these years."

"He was smart and an outstanding teacher," said **Avraham (Barry) Nelkin** (MHA '66) of Rabbi Rottenberg. "I remember him as a 'tough' *rebbe*. I can still picture him in his dark suit and long beard. It was so difficult for me coming from a public school, but Rabbi Rottenberg made learning Hebrew easy, even though I had to work hard. He gave me, and every other student, very personal attention. I think of him often."



*Rabbi Rottenberg preparing to teach.*

"I remember morning davening with Mrs. Rottenberg, and specifically reciting *Hallel* on special occasions," said **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72). "I still use the same tunes she taught us for *Hallel* and think of her each time I say it."

Beyond the walls of MHA's classrooms, Rabbi and Mrs. Rottenberg forged special bonds with many members of the Memphis community, bringing Torah inspiration with them.

"The Rottenbergs lived in the same apartment complex as my family," recalled **Brenda (Silverman) Pritzker** (MHA '70, YOS '74). "My father, *z'l*, and the rabbi were very good friends and spent a good deal of time learning together."



*Rabbi Rottenberg at TA in 1993.*

During their time at MHA, the Rottenbergs grew to be a family of four, with sons Yisroel and Meir born in Memphis. (They later had four other children: Moshe, Hennie, Nissi and Chaim.) As a young mother, Mrs. Rottenberg grew homesick for her native Maryland. After three years of dedicated service in Memphis, the Rottenbergs decided to relocate to Baltimore to be closer to her family.

There, Mrs. Rottenberg taught at a kindergarten for several years and later worked at the famed kosher grocer Seven Mile Market. Rabbi Rottenberg became a 12th grade *rebbe* at Talmudical Academy (TA), a position he held for nearly 40 years! Toward the end of his tenure, he was elevated to the position of *rosh yeshiva*.



Rabbi Rottenberg being honored at a Torah dedication ceremony at TA in 2018. The Torah scroll was commissioned by Shoshana and **Ari Krupp** (MHA '91) of Baltimore and by her parents, Harriet and Barry Ray.

Due to the breadth of his scholarship and extensive training under Rabbi Feinstein, Rav Nota and other Torah luminaries, Rabbi Rottenberg was also widely sought after for his knowledge of *halacha*.

“Though my class at MHA did not have Rabbi Rottenberg as a teacher, I have a unique memory of him,” said **Sam Finkelstein** (MHA '70). “After we graduated high school from Ner Israel in Baltimore, **Berish Kipper** (MHA '70) and I, along with three friends, learned with Rabbi Moshe Heinemann (our 12th grade *rebbe*, who was very close to Rav Nota) at his home every Saturday night. During our learning, he would get phone calls and his wife would answer. If it was really important, such as questions of life and death, Rav Heinemann — who was and is well known for his ability to *pasken shailos* — would answer. He often received calls from Rabbi Rottenberg, who had moved to Baltimore. Very often, his *shailos* involved issues Rav Heinemann had to answer then and there. We heard Rav Heinemann’s side of the call, and he would share many of the *shailos* with us. We couldn’t wait for a Rabbi Rottenberg call! We realized Rabbi Rottenberg was a *gadol b’Yisrael* (great man among the Jewish people) who was involved with high-level issues for the Baltimore community and beyond. Rav Heinemann had the highest respect for Rabbi Rottenberg, who was known far and wide for his ability to help people with their *shailos*.”

Long after leaving the MHA, the Rottenbergs kept in close contact with friends they’d made in Memphis, including the Cohns, Greenblatts and Kutners. They shared in each other’s family simchas for many years.

Now with six grown children (including two who followed in their father’s footsteps and work as 12th grade *rebbeim*) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the Rottenbergs continue to make their home in Baltimore. Regrettably, Rabbi

Rottenberg has suffered from multiple health issues in recent years. He has been in a coma for nearly two years and is lovingly cared for by his family.

“My father dedicated his life to inspiring thousands of people in Torah over the years, and my mother dedicated her life to supporting him,” said Rabbi Meir Rottenberg. “My siblings and I are all involved in learning and teaching, and we got that from them. Inspiring people and continuing the *derech ha’chaim* (way of life) of *Yiddishkeit* (Judaism) was always their dream.”



*Rabbi Rottenberg (far right) celebrating the engagement of his son, Meir (far left), in 1990 with noted Torah scholar Rav Avraham Pam, z'l (center).*



*Rabbi Rottenberg at the bris of one of his grandsons.*

# ALUMNI REUNITE

We continue to be impressed by the submissions to our “Alumni Reunite” feature.

Any time two or more alumni get together — whether for a simcha (celebration) or otherwise — we would love to get a photo. Submissions can be sent to [alumni@mhafyos.org](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org). Our thanks to those who provided these pictures, especially those who took time out during meaningful family occasions to assemble MHA/FYOS alumni and friends. *Yasher koach* (kudos)!

---

In April, a number of alumni turned out to cheer for our Cooper Macs at the Red Sarachek Basketball Tournament at Yeshiva University.



(from left) **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), **Shlomo Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18) and **Zevi Kirshtein** (FYOS '22).



**Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92) and **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97).



During Chol Hamoed Pesach, school chums **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75, right) and **Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74) bumped into each other at the American Dream Mall in New Jersey.



An unexpected encounter at the Kotel in May gave us this picture: (from left) **Peninah (Rebecca Steinberg) Simon** (MHA '91); her mother, **Emily (Evensky) Steinberg** (MHA '63); **Elana (Sadetsky) Avis** (MHA '93, FYOS '97); and her daughter, Shayna, who was in Israel for a bat mitzvah trip with her mom.



While in Israel, **Elana (Sadetsky) Avis** (MHA '93, FYOS '97, right) visited her former teacher, Mrs. **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80).



On May 26, **Raquel Kampf** (MHA '05, FYOS '09) married Noam Yitzchaki in a beautiful ceremony in Petach Tikvah, Israel. Many school friends were there to celebrate with her and her family.



(from left) **Gabe Address** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Efroni Schlesinger** (MHA '09) and Mr. Jeff Address (former FYOS science teacher).



**Sarah Rapp** (MHA '12 and currently serving in the IDF) and **Rachel Tsuna** (MHA '10, FYOS '14).



(back row, from left) **Alan Harkavy** (MHA '77), **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), **Jack Kampf** (MHA '22), **JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Akiva Somer** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Avishai Schlesinger** (MHA '04, FYOS '08); (middle row, from left) **Luky Guigui** (FYOS '10), **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82), Rabbi Uriel Lubetski (former FYOS principal), **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Serena Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Yael Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Elana (Ehrenkranz) Solnik** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), bride **Raquel (Kampf) Yitzchaki** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Annie Harkavy** (MHA '04), **Rachel (Rubenstein) Amar** (MHA '06, FYOS '10); (front row, from left) **Gabby (Harkavy) Berger** (MHA '06) and **Charlotte Harkavy** (MHA '08).



**Elise Mendelson** (MHA '18, FYOS '22, right) met **Jenny (Steinberg) Sved** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) at the Alexander Muss High School Campus in Be'er Sheva. Both wearing Memphis Grizzlies T-shirts, they started talking and realized their MHA connection. Mendelson was on a JNF-USA alternative break trip, and Sved was staffing JLIM, a leadership mission for JNFuture.



On June 6, **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20, third from right) celebrated her bridal shower in Memphis. She was joined by classmates (from left) **Sophie Wruble** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Avigail Bosin** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Esti (Samberg) Klaus** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Ruthie Kaplowitz** (MHA '17, FYOS '21) and **Chani Karasik** (MHA '16, FYOS '20).



Many alumni friends and family were on hand to celebrate the Aug. 21 wedding of **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20, front and center) and Zany Lesnoy in Rockleigh, New Jersey. They included (back row, from left) **Jason Schubert** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97 and father of the bride), **Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson** (MHA '88), **Moshe Davidovics** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Jon Wogan** (MHA '94), **Rena Wogan** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Becky Schubert** (MHA '20, FYOS '24), **Ruthie Kaplowitz** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Tami (Thomas) Radinsky** (MHA '92, FYOS '96), Benzi Radinsky, **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82), **Zev Bosin** (MHA '18, FYOS '22); (middle row, from left) **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70 and grandmother of the bride), **Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92 and mother of the bride), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), **Rena Mashinsky** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Natalie Mashinsky** (FYOS '23), **David Mashinsky** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Rafi Somer** (MHA '20, FYOS '24), **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19 and brother of the bride), **Batya Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Lee Sauer** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Chani Karasik** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Esti (Samberg) Klaus** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Sophie Wruble** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Avigail Bosin** (MHA '16, FYOS '20); (front row, from left) **Deena Thomas** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Slava Bosin** (MHA '80, YOS '84) and **Joel Weinstein** (MHA '18, FYOS '22).



**Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92, third from right) and **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97, second from right) and their children (from left) **Daniel** (MHA '23), **Aidan** (MHA '19), groom Zanvy Lesnoy, bride **Shayna** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) and **Sarah Kahane** (MHA '21).



Michael (fourth from left) and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70, fifth from left), grandparents of the bride, with all of their children, who are also alumni: (from left) **Dovid Krupp** (MHA '88), **Ari Krupp** (MHA '91), **Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92), **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97), **Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) and **Isaac Krupp** (MHA '06, FYOS '10).



School friends and their spouses (from left) **Rabbi Meir (Michael) Kahane** (MHA '91, FYOS '94) and **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHA '89, YOS '95), Rina and **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91), **Ari Krupp** (MHA '91) and wife Shoshana, and **Tami (Thomas) Radinsky** (MHA '92, FYOS '96) and Benzi Radinsky.



Childhood buddies (from left) **Ari Krupp** (MHA '91), **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91) and **Rabbi Meir (Michael) Kahane** (MHA '91, FYOS '95) were overjoyed to reunite for the first time in 30 years.

*Note from the alumni chair (and proud grandmother of the bride): These pictures represent only some of the alumni who came to celebrate with our family, as it was difficult to gather everyone together. We so appreciate all those who made Shayna's wedding a joyous Memphis reunion.*



**Hugh (Freiden) Gordon** reunited with former classmate **Sylvia (Kilstein) Boussi** (both MHA '72, YOS '76) in New Jersey this past June. Gordon was attending his granddaughter's kindergarten graduation and discovered Boussi was one of her teachers! In honor of the occasion, he shared a current picture, along with their MHA kindergarten graduation picture.



Also in June, **Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79, center) celebrated her grandson's bar mitzvah in Israel, along with fellow alumni **Leba (Ehrenkranz) Friedman** (MHA '03, left) and **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80).



Memphis friends and family joined **Bryan Itkowitz** (MHA '10, FYOS '14, second from right) in celebrating the birth of his son, Itai Erez, with wife Tamar in Israel. Attending the bris in June were (from left) **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Akiva Somer** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) and proud uncle Gabe Itkowitz.



In June, four former MHA/FYOS teachers and administrators (including one alumna) met for dinner in Jerusalem: (from left) Dr. Jerry Kutliroff, Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff, Mrs. **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) and Rabbi Uri Silver.

In June, Elyse and **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97) celebrated the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Hannah. School friends and family were there to celebrate with them.



(from left) Alex Plotitsa, **Hershel Krupp** and **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00).



Old friends **Nathan Thomas** (MHA '95) and **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) reunited at the Krupp bat mitzvah in Memphis.

# 46

## ALUMNI REUNITE

On July 10, three of our alumni were sworn into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Kfir brigade at the Kotel. Former classmates were on hand to provide love and support.



(from left) Inductee **Nadav Goldkin** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), **Coby Goldblatt** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Serena Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22) and inductee **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, FYOS '22). Not pictured: Inductee **Noam Cahana** (FYOS '22).



(from left) **Ezra Somer** (FYOS '21), inductee **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Shmuel Somer** (MHA '09) and his wife, Michal.



**Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74, left) recently traveled to Chicago to attend the wedding of the daughter of his school chum, **Michael Schwartzman** (MHA '69).



Furthering his presence on the wedding circuit, **Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74, center) reunited with **Bart Ehrenkrantz** (YOS '77, left) and **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75) at the Aug. 26 wedding of Tova Miller and Ezra Emerson, son of Rina and **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91) and grandson of Donny Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65), in Passaic, New Jersey.



On Aug. 15, Shifra Kutner, daughter of Rachel and **Yoni Kutner** (MHA '88), married Yitzi From in Atlantic Beach, New York. Celebrating together are (from left) **Shifra (Kutner) Leitman** (MHA '86, YOS '90, aunt of the bride), **Eli Kutner** (MHA '92, uncle of the bride), **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68, proud grandmother of the bride), **Yoni Kutner** and **Ephraim Kutner** (MHA '85, uncle of the bride).



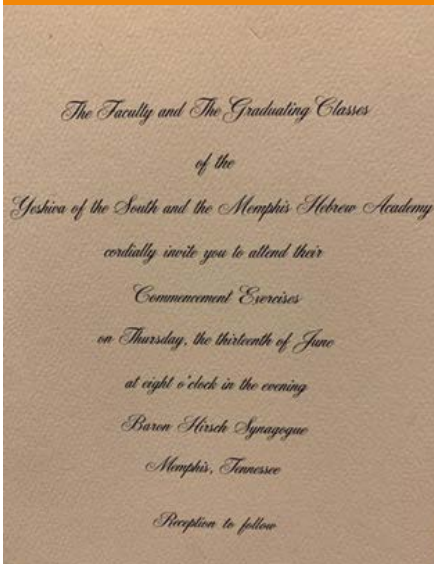
Leading one of her many women's trips to Poland, **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80, left) found that among the tour participants this past July was her former student, **Renata Sadetsky** (MHA '85, YOS '89). They are pictured here in Warsaw.

# FLASHBACKS

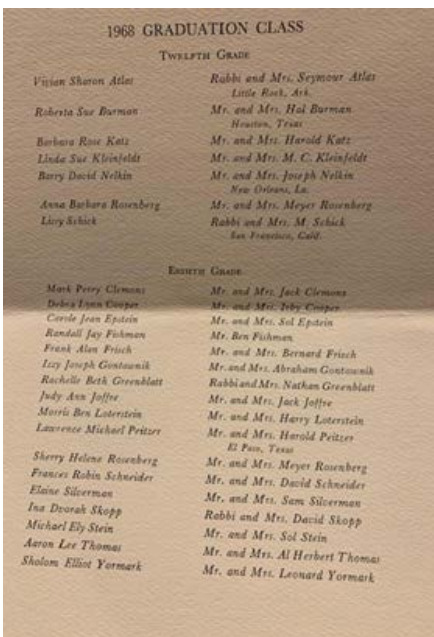
# 1966-1970

## Photographs from the past

A copy of the invitation to the MHA and YOS graduation ceremony in 1968



"If I remember correctly, **Vivian (Atlas) Zelcer** (YOS '68) and I were the only out-of-town seniors who lived at the Weinribs' home. Our other roommates were **Nina (Atlas) Mermelstein** (YOS '69), Debbie (Katz) Fox and **Harvis (Ellman) Gerber** (YOS '70). **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '65, YOS '68), **Linda (Kleinfeldt) Grossman** (MHA '64, YOS '68) and **Anna Barbara (Rosenberg) Gold** (MHA '64, YOS '68) were locals. The only thing I remember about **Barry Nelkin** (YOS '68) is that I once beat him at chess! At some point, Vivian and I moved to the home of Bubba and Bettie Thomas, z'l. My father-in-law, Rabbi Herbert Bomzer, z'l, was at Nassau Community Hospital when Bettie Thomas was a patient there, so I was able to thank her and say goodbye before she passed away. Although she's younger than I am, **Anna (Thomas) Kotkes** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and I became close friends." -**Rochel (Roberta Burman) Bomzer** (YOS '68)



"After all this time, my memories of the graduation itself are limited. It was at the old Baron Hirsch building on Vollintine and was attended by hundreds of people. The valedictorian was **Anna Barbara (Rosenberg) Gold** (MHA '64, YOS '68), now of Lawrence, New York and married to Noson Gold. She had unquestionably earned the honor, through years of exceptional academic distinction and tzidkus (righteousness). She was, and is, a real credit to the Yeshiva of the South. Of course, any reminder of high school elicits strong feelings of gratitude to Hashem, to the rosh yeshiva, z'l and faculty, and to the wonderful community, for the nissim (miracles) involved in pointing me toward becoming a ben Torah (leading a life of Torah). Perhaps my most significant memory comes from reading the list of graduates and their families. I was so fortunate to have these and many other warm friends throughout high school. Strikingly, I note numerous friends among the eighth grade graduates as well — demonstrating the close-knit nature of the entire school. While I have not seen most of them in many years, I enjoy reading about them in the alumni newsletter." -**Avraham (Barry) Nelkin** (YOS '68)



Students **Marc Silberberg** (MHA '70, left) and **Berish Kipper** (MHA '70) leading the *bentching* (grace after the meal) at the school's scholarship banquet (circa 1970). The adults in the foreground are Shifra z'l and Rabbi Sy Kutner z'l, two co-founders of the MHA.



*"I was in Memphis in July to visit the cemetery for my parents, z'l, and while I was in town I had a chance to visit the Hebrew Academy. It was an amazing experience! What incredible memories I have of this place that was the foundation of my life. I feel so much gratitude to the rabbeim, teachers, faculty and everyone who built and supported it. In particular, I am grateful to my lifelong rebbe, Rav Nota Greenblatt, z'l, and to Rabbi Sy Kutner, z'l, who had the wisdom, courage and help from Hashem to recruit the students and community members to start the Academy. And I'm so thankful to my dear parents for sending my siblings and me there, as well as for rolling up their sleeves to be actively involved in this special, holy school."*

**-Berish Kipper**

Members of the MHA student council in 1969: (back row, from left) **Sidney Gontownik z'l** (MHA '70, YOS '74); **Alan Olswing** (MHA '67), secretary; **David Kutner** (MHA '67), vice president; **Larry Katz** (MHA '67), president; **Randy Fishman** (MHA '68); **Judy (Lebovits) Lillien** (MHA '72); and **Sheryl (Kipper) Levy** (MHA '71); (front row from left) **Michael Schneider** (MHA '72), **Berish Kipper** (MHA '70), and **Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt** (MHA '69).



*"Sure, I'll agree to serve on the student council. Anything to get out of class!"* **-Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt**

# 50

## FLASHBACKS

Photographs from the past

The 12th grade graduating class of 1970: (back row, from left) **Ranelle (Evensky) Kibel** (MHA '66, YOS '70), **Esther (Schwartzman) Braunstein** (MHA '67, YOS '70), **David Gray** (MHA '67, YOS '70), **Leah Ann (Lamensdorf) Kirzner** (YOS '70); (front row, from left) **Harvis (Ellman) Gerber** (YOS '70), **Marilyn (Silverman) Schwartz** (MHA '66, YOS '70), **Tina Kabakoff** (MHA '67, YOS '70) and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70).



*"Even though David Gray was in our graduation photo, we were totally separated from the boys. While the boys were on campus, the girls' classes were held at the JCC that year, as I recall." -**Ranelle (Evensky) Kibel***

MHA color war in 1967: (standing, from left) Yehuda (Stuart) Frager, **Steve Graber** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Lee Hanover** (MHA '69); (kneeling, from left) **Gary Kabakoff** (YOS '72), **Gordon Olswing** (MHA '69, YOS '72) and **Herby Rosenberg** (MHA '70).



*"Being out of class and playing baseball — what could be better for a 12-year-old?" -**Lee Hanover***

*"Someone needed to cut the grass. That's for sure." -**Steve Graber***

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 31st issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication just before Chanukah. In it, we will once again highlight the eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years 1986-1990. Members of these classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) sometime in October. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature story in that issue will spotlight Morah **Carol (Smith) Samuels** (MHA '60), who taught at our school from 1972 to 1994. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Morah Carol 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.

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



Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown, head of school  
Mark Kaplowitz, president, board of trustees  
**Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99),  
engagement director