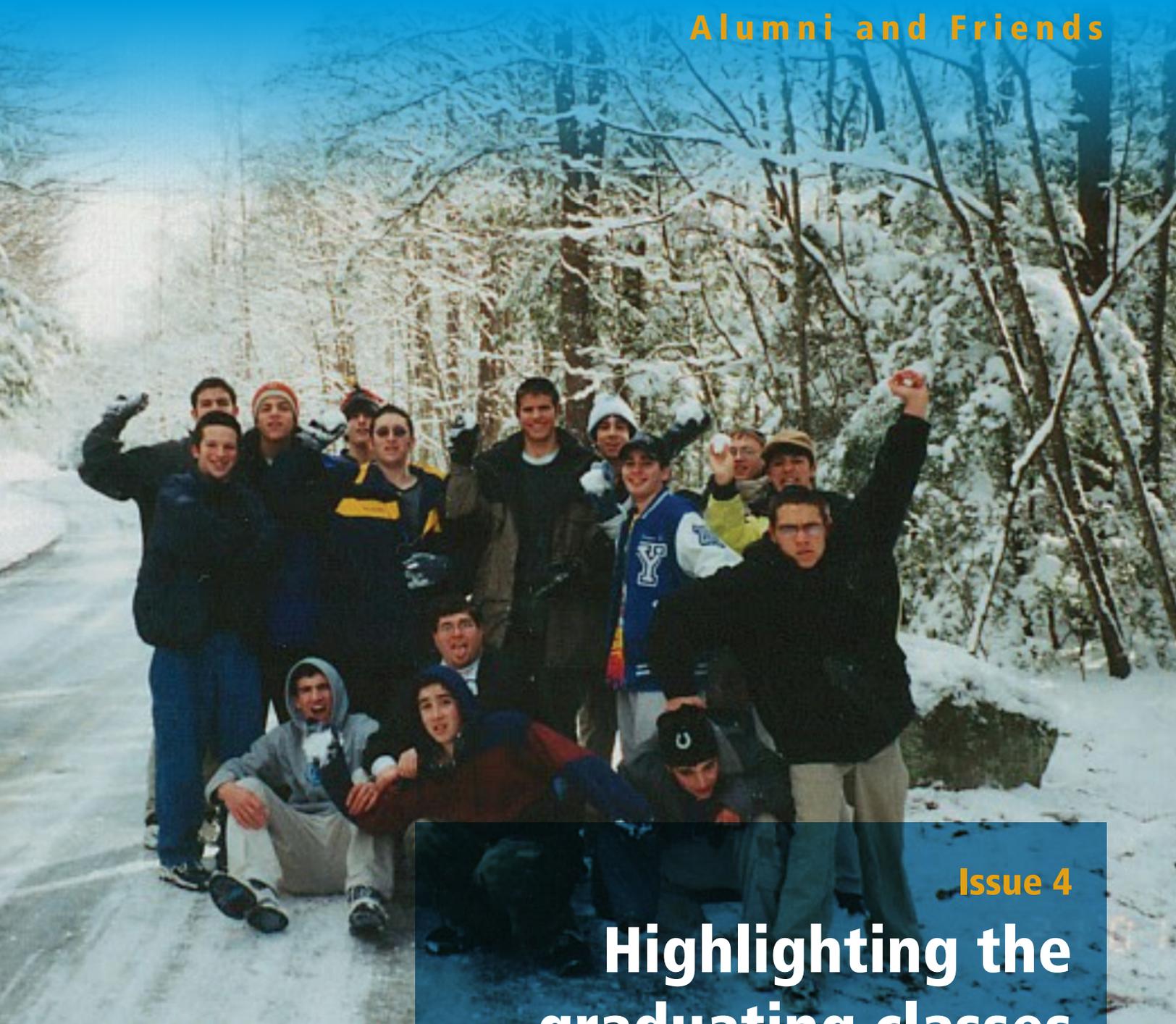


MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 4

**Highlighting the
graduating classes
of 2001-2005**

IN THIS ISSUE

Message to Alumni

Joanne Kahane

President's Message

Joel Siegel

D'var Torah

Binyamin Ehrenkranz
(MHA '00, FYOS '04)

Letters to the Editor and Chair

Community responses

1965-1970 Trivia Answers

Answers to the
questions in Issue No. 3

Marvin Thanish

Retirement

Sandy Gersten

30 years of devotion
to our school

Alumni Game

Grand homecoming weekend

Renovations

Photo essay

Alumni News

Mazel Tovs and more

2001-2005 Trivia

Win a tin of Ricki's Cookies

The Classes of 2001-2005

Where are they now?

Flashbacks

Photographs from the past



THE CYHSB SKI TRIP IN 2003

(standing from left) **Mordechai Gersten** (MHA '00), **Yaakov Ehrenkranz** (MHA '98), **Anshel Kaplan** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Josh Graber** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Aaron Franz** (FYOS '03), **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Daniel Katz** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Mathew Cherny** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Akiva Friend**, **Dovid Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Yitzchok Primack** (FYOS '03). (sitting from left) **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Nachman Sasoon**, **Brent Carter** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **David Holzer** (FYOS '03).

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

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

Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenker, contributing writer and copy editor

Layout by S. Schmell • s.schmell581@gmail.com

© 2015 Margolin Hebrew Academy /

Feinstone Yeshiva of the South

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni,

Chanukah! Can you even say the word



without smiling? It is a happy and fun time of year when we celebrate the many miracles Hashem has bestowed upon us all.

In the atmosphere of this time of miracles, I can't help but reflect on the miracle of this alumni newsletter. A year ago, it was a vague, amorphous idea floating around in the heads of a few people here in Memphis. And here we are, completing our first full year of publication with our fourth issue! (Use these links to view our [first](#), [second](#) and [third](#) issues, or contact me by [email](#) or

through the school and I will send you digital or printed copies). We accomplished all of this through the work of volunteers, some of whom — myself included — are not even alumni!

When we started this endeavor last year, we had contact information for only about 20 percent of the school's graduates. We've been on a mission to find everyone! It is truly another miracle that, as we go to press with this issue, we have located more than 70 percent of our alumni! Please continue to help us. If you are in contact with any alumni not receiving the newsletter, please [send me](#) their contact information and I will reach out to them. As always, email addresses are preferable, but I am happy to mail out printed copies (in black and white).

Amazingly, we've witnessed yet another miracle; we have heard from dozens of non-alumni who wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive the alumni newsletter. I have been contacted by parents of alumni, former teachers and administrators, and students who attended the school but did not graduate. I am amazed that our non-alumni mailing list grows every day.

Without a doubt, for me the highlight of the past few months was receiving a phone call from our beloved Mrs. Naomi Finkelstein. For those who don't recognize her name, Mrs. Finkelstein worked at the school for 27 years as administrative assistant to the dean — actually, make that many deans. But she was so much more than that; students of all ages would flock to her office every day for a piece of the candy she kept in her drawer and for a kind word of encouragement when they were feeling down.

Mrs. Finkelstein is now retired and living in Baltimore. Someone gave her a copy of Issue

No. 3 of our newsletter, and she called to request copies of the two prior issues and to be added to the mailing list for future issues. She is still as sweet as I remembered, and I got off the phone after our 20-minute conversation with my self-esteem elevated a few notches.

Anyone who knows Mrs. Finkelstein will understand just what I mean.

In the atmosphere of this time of miracles, I can't help but reflect on the miracle of this alumni newsletter

I have never been nonchalant about accepting the many miracles around me. I am deeply grateful for the miracles I have witnessed in the production of this news-

letter. May we all take the time, during the Chanukah season and throughout the year, to stop and appreciate the bounty of miracles with which we are blessed.

I look forward to hearing from more of you.

Joanne Kahane

joannekahane111@gmail.com



4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joel Siegel

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni,

I hope you are all excited for the holiday of Chanukah! The students at our school have been busy preparing for the *chag* by learn-



ing its history, laws and customs. They have anxiously awaited the first night of Chanukah to finally put all of their knowledge into action!

There is a very clear connection between Chanukah and Jewish education. The Hebrew word Chanukah, which means dedication, comes from the same *shoresh* (root word) as *chinuch*, or education. Thus, parents who send their children to day schools to receive a Jewish education are “dedicating” them each day to both a life of Torah and the ability to contribute in all aspects of society.

However, I believe there is a deeper connection more specific to the MHA/FYOS that incorporates both miracles of the Chanukah story, the military victory and the cruse of oil. The message of both the miracles of Chanukah emphasizes the importance of quality over quantity. Regarding the victory of the small Maccabean militia over the mighty Syrian-Greek army, the *Al Hanisim* prayer states that Hashem delivered “the many into the hands of the few.” The second miracle of Chanukah is that a small amount of pure oil, normally enough to last for one day, kept the menorah burning bright for eight days. Thus, in choosing which oil to use in the rededicated *Beit HaMikdash* (Holy Temple), the quality of the oil was the exclusive consideration, rather than its quantity.

Similarly, at the MHA/FYOS, we have always been a small school relative to many other yeshiva day schools in larger cities, but our size belies the high quality of learning that takes place inside our classrooms. In fact, it may actually enhance it, given that our students receive more individualized attention and enjoy the best student/teacher ratio (4:1) in all of Memphis.

Our relatively small numbers have not prevented our students from being honored for their academic achievements. Each year, students from our high school are recognized as AP Scholars, and they are granted acceptance to the finest Israeli *yeshivot* and seminaries, as well as superb American universities. This year, one senior at the FYOS received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; out of 1.5 million applicants, only 34,000 such letters are awarded nationwide each year. Additionally, one of our high school juniors was recently chosen to speak at the annual banquet for Facing History and Ourselves. He addressed an audience of 750 people about the impact that Facing History — an international organization dedicated to eliminating racism and anti-Semitism — had on his life as a Jewish student at the MHA/FYOS.

Considering these lessons from the story of Chanukah, it should come as no surprise that the nickname for the MHA/FYOS is the Maccabees!

Chag Sameach,

Joel Siegel

President, MHA Board of Trustees

JoelSiegel2@gmail.com

The most famous line in all of *Tanakh* relating to education is found in Sefer *Mishlei*, the Book of Proverbs (22:6): **חנך לנער על פי דרכו גם כי יזקין לא יסור ממנה** — “Educate a child according to his way; even when he grows old, he will not turn away from it.”

Rabbi Yisrael Taub (d. 1920) of Modzitz notes in his work *Divrei Yisrael* that, taken very literally, this instruction seems inappropriate. Children are generally concerned with trivial, puerile pursuits. Were we to school them based on their own terms and interests, we would achieve very little in providing them a valuable education. If anything, educators must work to counter a child’s behavioral tendencies, to refocus his/her attention and activities on substantive matters.

The foremost student of the Ba’al Shem Tov, Rabbi Dov Ber ben Avraham of Mezerich (d. 1772), commented that one can derive three very important lessons from the typical behaviors of a small child: (1) Children don’t like to sit still but are always active; (2) children usually go about themselves in a happy manner, not vexed or

anxious about the world or its problems; (3) when children desire something, their primary way of asking is through crying.

The *Divrei Yisrael* suggests that this same set of characteristics should be employed in educating children: encouraging them to harness these very basic mannerisms in serving G-d throughout life. Stay active and engaged in meaningful pursuits. Maintain a joyous disposition and a sunny outlook on the world. And, when beseeching Hashem

for one’s needs, do so through heartfelt prayers. If such practices become their routine approaches, as children grow older they will continue to be successful in living meaningful Jewish lives filled with faith, joy and engagement.

Those involved in teaching and overseeing education often confront the challenge that measuring success is quite complicated. There are no obvious benchmarks, and so

much subjectivity depends on the given community, class or student. One approach is to observe the attitudes with which students leave the school. Are they indifferent to

**We must adopt
the mindset of
our younger
selves and look
for ways to
open our eyes
with childlike
enthusiasm**

6

D'VAR TORAH

Binyamin Ehrenkranz (MHA '00, FYOS '04)

the material and values taught, or are they passionate about them, excited about learning and the opportunities of the lifestyle in which they have been schooled?

Developing and sustaining such an attitude is not easy. Being a successful day school by this measure, one that fosters students committed to and passionate about observance, is an increasingly difficult feat in the modern age. I suppose the best schools seek to keep an eye on a few key touchstones, perhaps those mentioned above: looking to encourage active environments of learning and doing, marked by positive thinking and people, and well anchored in sincere prayer and belief in Hashem.

However, even an education of this nature is but a gateway, a strong foundation. No matter one's age, a Jew must always be on the ascent, perpetually looking to grow in devotion to Hashem and His Torah. To do so requires that we adopt the mindset of our younger selves. To be successful, G-d-fearing Jewish adults, we must constantly redouble our energy and passion in *mitzvah* observance. We should look for ways to open our eyes with childlike enthusiasm, excitement about being Jewish and our responsibility to do good.

This alumni newsletter is an important and worthwhile enterprise. Besides celebrating an institution that for the better part of a century

has accomplished so much, the publication has the power to achieve something else. The memories it elicits should serve to transport its readers back to their childhoods, to revisit not only the content of their MHA/ FYOS education, but also the way they were educated. The lively atmosphere, the warm camaraderie among peers, the caring faculty and staff – all of those previously tucked-away sights and sounds should pleasantly reverberate through these pages. These memories help us recall the happiness in our own education, grow our commitment to Jewish learning and observance, and propel us forward in living lives of meaning.

Binyamin received semicha from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University and currently works for a nonprofit organization in New York.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

Community Responses

7

We welcome your feedback on the alumni newsletter at alumni@mhafyos.org. Here are some of the responses we received to Issue No. 3.

I am so happy to be receiving these alumni mailings; they are terrific. The format, writing and graphics are well done and attractive, and the last newsletter was wonderful to peruse. Earlier today, I was just sending *yom tov* and happy birthday wishes to a friend since kindergarten who graduated with me from the MHA in '77 and from the YOS in '81.

Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel, z'l (MHA '65, YOS '69), was definitely my favorite high school *rebbe*, and Jack Baxter, z'l, was another favorite teacher. Madame Louise Palazollo was up there too. Please keep me on your list for more alumni mailings, and warm regards to everyone in Memphis.

-Dawn (Posner) Goldstein

MHA '77, YOS '81

My nephew Yaakov Kibel sent me the issue with the articles about my brother **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel, z'l**, (MHA '65, YOS '69) and sister-in-law **Ranelle** (MHA '66, YOS '70) both of which I enjoyed. Please add me to your mailing list.

-Michael Kibel

MHA '62

Thanks for the memories!

-Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield

MHA '77, YOS '81

Yasher koach on a job well done. I was even able to show my kids a picture of my *morah* from nursery school, as you had a picture of **Mrs. Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68) in the last issue. Thank you.

-Yaakov Dovid Kibel

*son of **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel, z'l***

Beautiful newsletter! I really enjoyed reading this issue. Keep up the good job.

-Emily (Evensky) Steinberg

MHA '63

Thank you very much for the newsletter. It's beautifully put together, and we very much enjoyed the last issue.

-Pamela and **Shalom (Sheldon) Lazar**

MHA '66

A wonderful job on the newsletter yet again. Thank you for all the hard work.

-Ariel Cooper

MHA '06, FYOS '10

Wow! What a great newsletter! A true labor of love and so informative. Thank you.

-Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz

MHA '76, YOS '80

Thank you for sending me the alumni newsletter. It's so nice to catch up with friends from Memphis.

-Kathy (Alyesh) Dardashty

YOS '85



8

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

Community Responses

My daughter **Aliza (Katz) Shapiro** (MHA '96) forwarded me the last two newsletters. I'm not an alumna, but I taught at the school for 10 years, and my husband **Larry Katz** (MHA '67) graduated from the elementary school. Please add us both to the email list so we can receive these fantastic, marvelous, informative and beautifully put-together newsletters.

-Malkie Katz

Thank you for adding me to the list for your wonderful newsletter.

-Leah Ann (Lamensdorf) Kleinfeldt Kirzner

YOS '70

The newsletter is beautiful and very engaging! Thank you!

-Eli Fink

YOS '81

Love love love! These alumni newsletters are so much fun to read! The school has always been such an integral part of my family, between my maternal grandfather Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz serving as one of the first principals; my paternal grandfather Izzy Katz serving on the board; my grandmother Pearl, z'l, doing all that she did for the school in a million ways over the years; my father (**Ronnie Katz**, MHA '70, YOS '74) serving on the board and helping with accounting in the late '80s and early '90s; my mother Chavi (Nayowitz) Katz teaching in the school for so many years; my teaching there in recent years; and my older children attending the school during our years

in Memphis. The list goes on and on! Please continue reaching out to everyone. Wishing the school continued success in all areas, and thank you for all your hard work on this newsletter.

-Deena (Katz) Yarmush

MHA '94, FYOS '97

The last newsletter was quite impressive! *Yasher koach.*

-Mike Stein

MHA '65, YOS '69

I always love reading this newsletter! Thanks so much for all your research and effort putting this together.

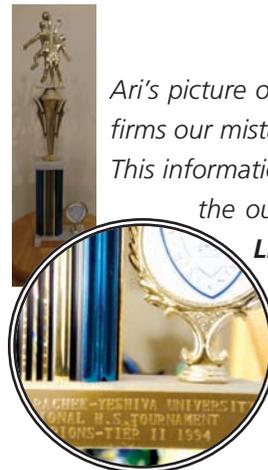
-Emma (Kaplan) Rapps

MHA '01, FYOS '05

Great newsletter!! However, the answer to the first trivia question from the previous newsletter is incorrect. The first year the Yeshiva won Tier II of the YU Basketball Tournament was 1994, not 1995.

-Ari Sauer

MHA '90, FYOS '94



Ari's picture of his trophy from 1994 confirms our mistake, and we regret the error. This information does not, however, affect the outcome of the trivia contest;

Lishi Kutliroff (MHA '93) is still the winner.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

FROM
ISSUE 3

1965-1970

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our third newsletter. We got many more correct responses to this quiz than we did for the one prior.

The winner of our third trivia quiz is **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69). Allan will receive his tin of Ricki's Cookies in time for Chanukah.

Allan got

19½ out of 25
correct answers.

Francie Schneider (MHA '68, YOS '72) came in a very close second with 17½ correct answers, so we are awarding a small tin of Ricki's Cookies to Francie, too.

Here are the answers so you can see how you did.

1. In 1970, math teacher Rabbi David Abrahamson gave the boys in his class the opportunity to do a *mitzvah* by helping a member of the community move his pharmacy to a new location. Which pharmacy owner was the beneficiary of that *chesed*?

ANSWER: Avraham Cheruff, z'.

2. What was the name of the 1969 high school yearbook?

ANSWER: "Ohr Negev," or "The Light of the South."

3. What 1957 MHA graduate taught Latin in the early years of the Yeshiva of the South?

ANSWER: Lester Lit (MHA '57).

4. When did the Yeshiva of the South first open its doors?

ANSWER: September 1965.

10

TRIVIA ANSWERS

Classes of 1965-1970

5. How did math teacher Mr. William Sullivan routinely respond to student complaints?

ANSWER: By smiling and shaking his head "yes."

6. With what memorable phrase did Mr. Robert Smith open many of his science classes?

ANSWER: "Pencil and paper."

7. When was the Yeshiva building dedicated? Who was the guest speaker at the dedication?

ANSWER: The dedication was held March 19, 1966, and Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, z'l, was the guest speaker.

8. When was the first school newspaper published, and what was it called?

ANSWER: It was first published in 1967-68 and was called "Kol HaTalmidim" (Voice of the Students).

9. When did the Yeshiva boys first play basketball in the JCC league?

ANSWER: 1968-69.

10. What was the organization known as GOYS?

ANSWER: Girls Of the Yeshiva of the South.

11. Which student defined dorm life as "an endurance test"?

ANSWER: Nina Atlas (YOS '69).

12. Which teacher was known for saying, "Don't worry about the 'whys,' but know the 'whats'"?

ANSWER: Rabbi Meir Belsky.

13. What game did a certain class of second graders play when their teachers were out of the room?

ANSWER: Spin the Bottle.

14. Where were the playground and swings at the school originally located?

ANSWER: The playground was previously located where the MHA gym is today, and the swings were where the Yeshiva wing is now.

15. In the "Last Will and Testament" of the 1969 yearbook, the graduating class left one student "a good night's sleep." To our knowledge, she is yet to get one. Can you name this hyper-energetic alumna?

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

16. Can you identify the year in which this class graduated (see photo)? How many members of the class can you name?

ANSWER: The YOS class of 1969 included (front row, from left) **Anna (Thomas) Kotkes** (MHA '65, YOS '69), **Rochelle (Olswing) Weissman** (YOS '69), **Lynne (Kutner) Levine** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and **Nina Atlas** (YOS '69); (back row, from left) **Irvin Skopp** (MHA '65, YOS '69), **Irwin Friedman** (YOS '69), **Harry (Nechemiah) Kibel, z'l** (MHA '65, YOS '69), **Harry Stein** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69).





“There was never a job, big or small, that Mr. Tharnish couldn’t do”

Marvin Tharnish

MHA/FYOS pays tribute to retiree’s 33 years of service

It’s the end of an era; after 33 years of serving as building maintenance director for the MHA/FYOS, Marvin Tharnish is pursuing retirement. In September, the school paid tribute to one of its longest-serving employees with a heartfelt retirement ceremony.

Members of the faculty and administration spoke fondly of Tharnish at the celebration of his career. “There was never a job, big or small, that Mr. Tharnish couldn’t do,” said Sandra Osdoba, kitchen staff manager at the school. Upper School Principal Rabbi Uriel Lubetski described Tharnish as “soft-spoken and polite.” Coach James Nokes, athletic director, remarked that “we have always appreciated his hard work and dedication to our school. He was always available to help the athletic department when we needed him.”

Dr. Jerome Kutliroff, former dean of the school, also shared memories of Tharnish at the ceremony. “Marvin was already a fixture at the MHA when we came to Memphis in 1985,” he said. “When I became dean, I

discovered what a rare person he was. He could fix, modify, or rebuild anything. For instance, he and Haim Nahary, of blessed memory, built a very ambitious two-story stage set for our production of “The Diary of Anne Frank” in the 1990s. Outside of school, he was a family man, a father and an award-winning marksman with a rifle. He also played baseball in an amateur league.”

Noting that few people at the school are as tenured as Tharnish, Rabbi Yonason Gersten, *mashgiach ruchani* (spiritual adviser) of the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys, acknowledged the indebtedness of the MHA/FYOS community for the retiree’s countless



Mr. Tharnish displaying the card made for him by the elementary school students.

contributions. Adding words of Torah, Rabbi Gersten compared Tharnish to Yehoshua, the Biblical Joshua, whose efforts enabled Moshe (Moses) to lead the Children of Israel and teach them Torah.

“Mr. Tharnish has incredible value in the eyes of Hashem because he has faithfully and loyally worked at keeping the building safe for the study of Torah,” Rabbi Gersten said. “In Judaism, you don’t have to be a Jew to be considered righteous.”

Addressing Tharnish directly, Rabbi Gersten said, “You can be sure that your years of service to the school have not just earned our thanks, but also elevated you in the eyes of Hashem, just like Yehoshua. Your service is of the highest meaning in our Jewish nation.”

Following the delivery of kind words from his colleagues, Tharnish accepted special farewell cards drawn and signed by the students of the Early Childhood Department and

Lower School. Rabbi Benjy Owen, head of school, presented a gift to Tharnish on behalf of the extended MHA/FYOS community to thank him for his years of dedicated service to the school.

“I will miss seeing Mr. Tharnish every morn-

ing – a friendly face that I have seen every day since my arrival in Memphis,” Lower School Principal Sandy Gersten said. “I appreciate his loyalty and dedication to the MHA/FYOS community and wish him well.”



The Early Childhood Department presents a card to Mr. Tharnish.

Just Another Day In The Life Of Marvin Tharnish



Maintenance Man EXTRAORDINAIRE

***If it's broken — He
can fix it —***

***If it needs painting,
he can do that too!***

***Where, oh where
would the Hebrew
Academy be without
you?!!!!***

“My favorite part of any day is one in which I am with my students”



Mrs. Sandy Gersten

Three decades of devotion to our school

When Sandy Gersten moved from New York to Memphis as a newlywed in 1985, she never imagined she and her husband, Rabbi Yonason Gersten, would still call Memphis their home 30 years later. When MHA/FYOS alumni and friends reflect on all that the Gerstens have contributed to our school and our community over the past three decades, it's difficult to imagine Memphis without them.

“Although I knew there were Jews in Memphis and had been roommates with **Julie (Brown) Roll** [MHA '75, YOS '79] at Touro, when my husband first broached the idea of moving here, my first reaction was, ‘Memphis?!’” she said. “I thought we would be here for a year or two.

“We were very homesick that first year and went home to visit five times. But, we soon made friends that became like our family. We liked the Memphis lifestyle and the warm friendliness of the community that was there for us through both joyous and difficult times. We enjoyed the work we were doing at the school and felt good about the contributions we were making to the community. So, although we miss our families in New York, we are still here,” she said.

During her early years as a member of the MHA/YOS faculty, Mrs. Gersten demonstrated tremendous flexibility and skill as an educa-

tor. She was asked to teach a variety of Judaic studies subjects – including *Chumash*, *Navi*, *Mishnah*, *halakha*, basic Jewish knowledge and Hebrew language – to students ranging in age from third to twelfth grades. The unpredictability of vastly different teaching assignments each year might have flustered or discouraged another early-career educator also balancing the demands of a young family at home, but not Sandy Gersten.

Having proven herself as a master educator, Mrs. Gersten became a member of the MHA administration in 1992, serving as assistant Judaic studies principal for the lower school. She returned to the classroom in 1995 and taught Judaic studies in the lower school for the next three years.

“My favorite part of any day is one in which I am with my students,” she said. “I love learning and interacting with all my students. I love watching them grow and learn, remember and apply, and share their enthusiasm and passion. Happy students that are learning make me do my ‘happy dance.’”

In 1998, the Gerstens' sixth child, **Chaim** (MHA '13), was born with a neuromuscular disorder that proved difficult to diagnose. Drawing on her background in special education, experience working with individuals with disabilities and natural proclivity as a caregiver,

Mrs. Gersten took a sabbatical to focus on Chaim's needs. After two years away from work, she came back to the MHA to teach in the junior high school. Her students from those years are especially grateful that she did.

"I still remember our seventh and eighth grade shabbaton," said **Neima (Schreiber) Hochstadter** (MHA '02). "She worked so hard to make it a beautiful experience for us." As **Miriam (Samberg) Levson** (MHA '04) recalled, "Mrs. Gersten taught us *Navi*, and I always appreciated how she talked to us like we were mature adults. She also shared personal stories to bring the lessons of the *Tanakh* into practical, daily-life situations."

In 2003, Mrs. Gersten accepted the role of general studies principal for the lower school, all the while continuing to teach life skills classes to the students in grades one through six. She currently serves as lower school principal. Given her longevity at the school, she is now teaching the children of some of her earliest students.

Life in the Gersten home on Conwell Road is somewhat quieter now that their five oldest children have moved away. **Mordechai** (MHA '00) resides in Baltimore with his wife Yael (daughter of former MHA/FYOS dean Rabbi Nosson Schreiber) and works in computer engineering. **Shlomo** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and his wife Shira live in Dallas, where he practices as an attorney. Three of the Gersten children are in the greater New York area; **Meir** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) is a clinical social worker in Woodmere, **Yosef** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) is an engineering student at City College,

and **Zahava** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) attends her mother's alma mater, Touro College.

Despite having fewer residents, the Gerstens' house is still hectic and bursting at the seams on Shabbat and *Yom Tov* – just as their former students remember it. Mrs. Gersten is widely known for opening her home to MHA/FYOS students and members of the community to enjoy spirited and delectable meals, to sleep over on Shabbat or *Yom Tov* in order to be close to the school and local shuls, or to drop in to chat and learn Torah.

"Most of my interactions with Mrs. Gersten happened outside the school," said **Charlie LaVene** (MHA '05, FYOS '09). "I stayed and ate at their house on Shabbos many times. There was never a time when I couldn't just call her up and ask to come over, even if it was last minute, and I know that the same open invitation applied to everyone who

asked." Recalled **Yitzchok Primack** (FYOS '03), "Mrs. Gersten was a really great hostess."

In 2013, the Gerstens were honored with the Community Service Award at the MHA/FYOS Banquet. "Since they arrived in Memphis, the Gerstens have been role models of Torah scholarship, dedication and selflessness in our community," said **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02) in his speech at the event. "Mrs. Gersten is known for her educational leadership, professionalism and *chesed* – acts of kindness. Her enthusiasm is legendary, and her ability to challenge her students to challenge themselves is what makes her such an outstanding educator, deserving of our recognition and praise."



This photo of Mrs. Gersten appeared in the 1987-88 yearbook. She taught third grade that year.



Births: Mazel Tov to...

David and **Judy (Baum) Green** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, on the Oct. 26 arrival of a granddaughter, Rachel Temima, born to Josh and Tehila (Green) Gabay, also of Ramat Beit Shemesh.

Rabbi Menachem and **Debbi (Brown) Nissel** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Jerusalem, who welcomed a grandson, Nosson Tzvi, on Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur). His proud parents are Chava and Yehuda Leib Telesnick of Carmiel, Israel. Mazel tov also to siblings Ahron Dovid, Avraham, Yosef Shalom and Leah.

Rabbi Joey and **Melissa (Freiden) Friedman** (MHA '79, YOS '83) of Denver on the Oct. 7 arrival of a grandson, Yitzchak Meir, born to Tzvi and Brittney Friedman of Memphis. Mazel tov also to big brothers Noam, Azi and Mac.

Rachel and **Yoni Kutner** (MHA '88) of Lawrence, New York, on the Sept. 19 birth of a daughter, Devora Gisa. Mazel tov also to siblings Shifra, Shmuel, Baila and Eliyahu and grandparents **J. Alan** (MHA '62) and **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68) of Memphis.

Becca and **Rabbi Meir Wexler** (FYOS '98) of Boca Raton, Florida, on the July 12, 2014, birth of a daughter, Sophie Aliza, affectionately known as Princess Wex. "After 11 years of marriage, having our first child makes us feel blessed by and truly grateful to Hashem," the proud father said.

Chaim and **Emma (Kaplan) Rapps** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) of Teaneck, New Jersey, on the Sept. 24 birth of a son named Bryan, making Brielle a big sister. Emma is the daughter of Michael and **Diane (Bisno) Kaplan** (MHA '72).

Shira Rivka and **Yitzchok Primack** (FYOS '03) of Jerusalem on the Sept. 23 (Yom Kippur) birth of a daughter, Chanah Tovah. Mazel tov also to big brothers Isaac, Benjamin and Moshe Chaim.

Adam and **Meirah (Freiden) Weiss** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) of Miami, Florida, on the birth of a baby boy, Zev Michael on Nov. 6. Mazel tov also to grandparents Debbie and **Hugh Freiden** (MHA '72) of Memphis.

Engagements/ Weddings: Mazel Tov to...

Ephraim and **Anna (Thomas) Kotkes** (MHA '65, YOS '69) of Far Rockaway, New York, who recently celebrated two *smachot*: (1) The marriage of their grandson Yoni Gugenheim, son of Ephraim and Aliza (Kotkes) Gugenheim of Brooklyn, to Hindy Goldstein of Baltimore. The wedding was held Nov. 4 in Lakewood, New Jersey, and the couple resides in the bride's hometown.



(2) The engagement and forthcoming marriage of their granddaughter Deena Levine, daughter of Charles and Rivka (Kotkes) Levine of Far Rockaway, to Eric Gorlechen of Merion, Pennsylvania. The couple will marry Jan. 20, 2016, in New York and will reside in the Kew Gardens Hills section of Queens.

Dvora and **Sam Finkelstein** (MHA '70) of Baltimore on the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their son Dovid Yitzchok to Tova Gittel Parnes. The wedding will take place Jan. 6, 2016, in Baltimore, and the couple will reside in Lakewood. Mazel tov also to the groom's grandmother, Naomi Finkelstein, who worked in the MHA office for 27 years.

Teri and **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75) of Memphis and Linda Graber of Riverdale, New York, on the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter Ahuva to Peter Winik. They will wed May 29, 2016, at

Baron Hirsch in Memphis and will reside in New York City. Ahuva is the great-granddaughter of Joe Margolin, z'l, one of the three brothers for whom our school is named.

Rabbi Nissim and **Deena (Fink) Tagger** (MHA '83, YOS '87) of Jerusalem on the engagement of their daughter Simcha to Yoni Valensi of Netanya. The wedding will be held Dec. 29 in Jerusalem, and the couple plans to reside there in the Bayit Vegan neighborhood. Mazel tov also to grandmother **Gerry (Margolin) Fink** (MHA '59). Simcha is the great-granddaughter of Sam Margolin, z'l, one of the three brothers for whom our school is named.

Yehoshua and **Basya (Goldfein) Israel** (MHA '87, YOS '91) of Chicago on the marriage of their daughter Chaya Sarah to Eitan Miretzky, also of Chicago. The couple wed Nov. 4 in their hometown, where they also reside.

Laura Graber (MHA '98), daughter of Esther and **Steve Graber** (MHA '70, YOS '74) of New York City, on her engagement and forthcoming marriage to Alberto Masliah. The wedding will take place July 3, 2016, in New York, and the couple will reside in Brooklyn. Laura is also the great-granddaughter of Joe Margolin, z'l.

Becca Rosenberg (FYOS '09) on her Dec. 21, 2014, wedding to Seth Near. The couple married in St. Louis, where they currently live.

Aaron Rubenstein (MHA '08, FYOS '12), son of Marvin and **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72), on his engagement to Marnie Katz of Voorhees, New Jersey. The wedding will take place on Jan. 10, 2016, near her hometown in Cherry Hill, and the couple will reside in New York City.



Bnei/Bnot Mitzvah: Mazel Tov to...

Tania and **Jonathan Blotner** (YOS '82) of Deal, New Jersey, on their son Rafi's bar mitzvah. The family traveled to Israel to celebrate the occasion on Nov. 12.

Rabbi Jay and **Peninah (Fink) Salid** (MHA '82, YOS '85) of Boca Raton, Florida, on their son Raphael Yosef becoming a bar mitzvah on Oct. 24. Mazel tov also to grandmother **Gerry (Margolin) Fink** (MHA '59). Raphael is the great-grandson of Sam Margolin, z'l.

Yosefa and **Daniel Loskove** (MHA '84) of Woodmere, New York, on the Oct. 25 bat mitzvah of their daughter, Talia Ann.

Dovid Krupp (MHA '88) and Daphna Krupp, both of Baltimore, on the Nov. 28 bar mitzvah of their son Elchanan. Mazel tov also to grandparents Michael and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) of Memphis.

Rina and **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91) of Los Angeles on their son Yitzchak becoming a bar mitzvah on Nov. 28. Mazel tov also to grandparents Donald Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65) of Memphis.

Benzi and **Tami (Thomas) Radinsky** (MHA '92, FYOS '96) of Woodmere on their son Harry Jonathan becoming a bar mitzvah on Oct. 17.

Mazel tov also to grandparents Wendy and **Ira Thomas** (MHA '70, YOS '74).

Sarah Bracha and **Jonathan Wogan** (MHA '94) of Memphis on their daughter Rena becoming a bat mitzvah on Dec. 19.

*In our last issue, we congratulated **Bart and Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** on the marriage of their son **Yitzi** (MHA '06). While we indicated the year of Cindy's graduation from the MHA ('76) and YOS ('80), we neglected to mention that Bart is also a proud graduate of the YOS ('77).*

*Also in the last issue, when we congratulated **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) on her recent marriage, we incorrectly listed the graduation dates of her parents, **Michael** (MHA '68, YOS '71) and **Amy (Thomas) Epstein** (MHA '71, YOS '75).*

Our sincerest apologies for the errors, and once again our heartiest mazel tov wishes to the Cooper/ Ehrenkranz and Thomas/Epstein families.

Mazel tov!

Send us your alumni news for the next issue at alumni@mhafyos.org.

CELEBRATORY HOMECOMING WEEKEND FEATURES ALUMNI GAME, STEAK DINNER AND MORE

19

When the 25th Annual Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Game is played on Jan. 16, 2016, it won't matter what the scoreboard reads after the final seconds. Rather, it will be the bonds established by MHA/FYOS students past and present that will leave the lasting impression.

The alumni basketball game will cap off an exciting weekend of homecoming activities. Alumni, spouses, faculty and friends from across the U.S. and abroad, along with local members of the extended MHA/FYOS family, are all invited to the homecoming weekend Jan. 15-17, 2016. The Memphis community will provide Shabbat meals and home hospitality to those visiting from out of town. After a meaningful Shabbat experience and an exciting matchup at Saturday night's Alumni Game, homecoming attendees will be treated to Sunday brunch. Finally, everyone is invited to the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys' annual Steak Dinner on Sunday evening to send our homecoming attendees off in style.

"If you find your way back to Memphis for homecoming weekend, we will welcome you back to all the charms of the community

that you got to know during your time at the MHA/FYOS," said Coach James Nokes, the school's athletic director, who is coordinating the homecoming efforts. "This celebratory event will be an excellent opportunity to reminisce with old friends, share a laugh with classmates, and network with professionals from around the country."

Being a part of the homecoming celebration is also a great way to support the continued expansion of the school's extracurricular activities program. "Your commitment will

help defray the costs associated with current MHA/FYOS students participating in and traveling to tournaments," Nokes said. "This is an opportunity to pay it forward and witness the development of our student athletes."



Coach James Nokes

Participation in the Alumni Game is open to all CYHSB varsity basketball alumni. The fee to play is \$60, and sponsorships begin at just \$100; college-aged graduates can participate by making any donation they can afford. All players will receive a limited-edition 2016 Alumni Game Dri-Fit T-shirt.

If you are interested in participating in the Alumni Game as either a player or a coach, participating in any homecoming activities, or assisting with the logistics of the weekend, please contact Coach Nokes at james.nokes@mhafyos.org or 901-682-2400.

We look forward to welcoming you home in January!



20 | MHA/FYOS INTERIOR GETS A POLISHED NEW LOOK

As we reported in our last issue, a number of improvements were made to the interior of the school building this past summer. So many alumni requested a glimpse at the renovations that we are featuring some lovely photos of the enhancements here.

Visitors and students are welcomed by a Plexiglas reproduction of the school logo at the right of the main entrance.

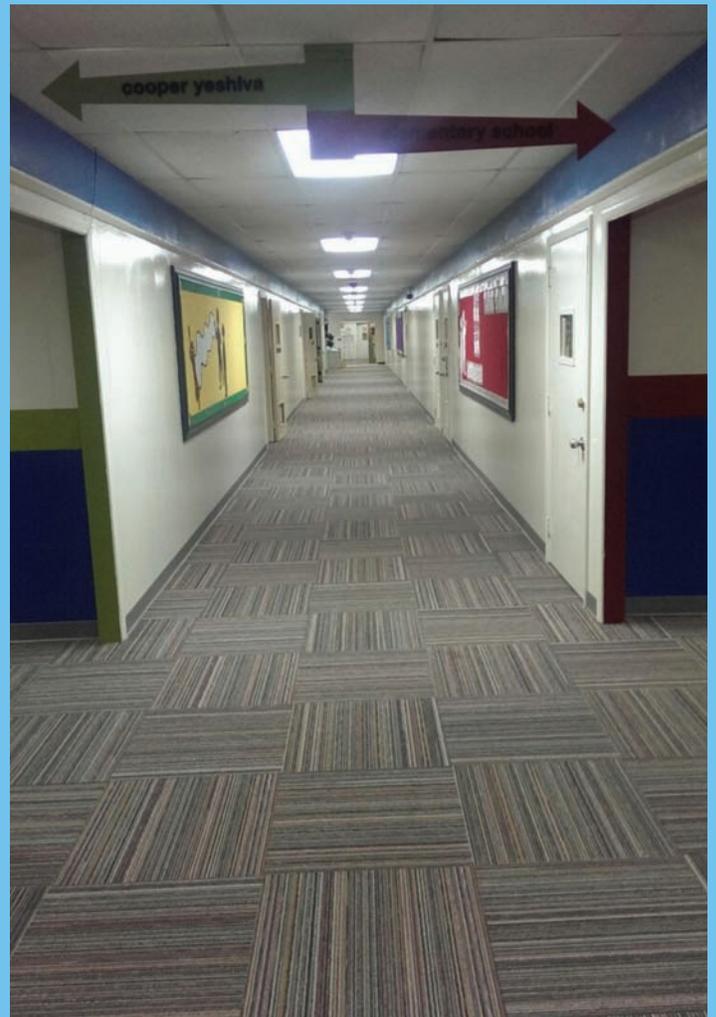


A beautiful new reception area provides a welcoming and comfortable space for visitors. The redesign of the front office also affords additional privacy to the school's administration team.



The new conference room is reserved for meetings between administrators, faculty, parents and visitors.

A major element of the renovation was the installation of carpeting throughout the school's halls. The freshly painted walls are lined with oversized bulletin boards to display the creative work of the students.



22

RENOVATIONS

photo essay

Large monitors have been placed throughout the building to display important messages to students and faculty and showcase images of MHA/FYOS students at work and at play.



Of course, pictures do not justice to how wonderful the building looks. Please stop by and visit the school for a first-hand look at the new décor!

2001-2005

TRIVIA



Regardless of when you graduated, have some fun with these trivia questions. Send your answers to 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. What life-altering event happened to Rabbi Yahoo Skaist on *Rosh Chodesh Adar*?
2. Which teacher broke out color war by pretending to go into labor?
3. What was extra special about Fridays with Rabbi David Kaplan?
4. What was Mrs. Karin Schmitt's soda of choice?
5. What did Rabbi Yonason Gersten always eat on road trips?
6. Which poem did Mrs. Ann Tims require her third-grade students to memorize?
7. What's the name of the man in nearly every story told by Robert Jacobson ("Coach Jake") in his Classics class?
8. After much begging, what did **Rina (Stavsky) Weinberg** (FYOS '04), **Tali (Bacaner) Levy** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) and **Shandel (Kaplan) Kahn** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) finally succeed in convincing Coach Jake to allow them to do?
9. Where was the girls' high school science lab?
10. Why was there a fire truck at the girls' dorm during Chanukah?

11. What did **Jessica (Morris) Hoffman** (FYOS '04) offer the fire fighters?
12. What five product choices were generally offered in the annual World's Finest Chocolate candy sale? Which item always sold out first?
13. What movie theme song did the MHA choir sing at the school's 50th annual banquet?
14. One Purim, **Anshel Kaplan** (MHA '98, FYOS '02) and **Mathew Cherny** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) sported a special "look" that must have taken 10 hours to prepare. What was it?
15. What did **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02) do at his 12th grade graduation to emphasize the point that "with great power comes great responsibility"?
16. Did Reuven Stein graduate in the top ten of his class?
17. What was the standard dinner for the dorm?
18. When there was a "dog pile," who was always at the bottom?

The MHA/YOS Classes of 2001-2005 *Where Are They Now?*

Yoni Graber (MHA '97, FYOS '01) and his wife Davida live in her hometown of Atlanta and have two children, Ami and Gracie. He is the vice president of recruiting for a boutique search/headhunting firm specializing in digital media and marketing technology.

'97

'01

With regard to Graber's favorite teacher at the MHA/YOS, "it's a tie," he said, between Mr. Thomas Johnson and the late Mrs. Karin Schmitt. He can be contacted at graber.jonathan@gmail.com.



Heather (Braverman) Schneiderman (MHA '98, FYOS '02) runs a day care in her home in Richmond, Virginia, and has two sons; Nachman is 3.5 years old and Ezra is 1.5.



"I miss the amazing Memphis community," she said. Her favorite MHA/FYOS teachers were Mr. Thomas Johnson and the late Mrs. Karin Schmitt. Her email address is hrb7384@yahoo.com.

'98

'02

Anshel Kaplan (MHA '98, FYOS '02) and his wife Miriam live in New York City, where he practices commercial litigation and labor and employment law in midtown Manhattan. "We like certain aspects of the hustle and bustle of NYC living, but we eagerly look forward to the time when we'll be able to live somewhere a bit slower placed – and less expensive!" he said. "I hear there's a nice small town in the South..."

'98

'02

"I had such a good time in high school that I often wish I could go back," Kaplan said. His email address is anshelk@gmail.com.



26

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduates of 2001-2005

Reuven Stein (MHA '98, FYOS '02) and his wife Raanana live in Memphis and have three daughters: Allie, 8; Dana, 6; and Rayli, 2. He works as the national asset manager for a commercial real estate firm, and she teaches Pre-K 4 at the MHA. He will also graduate from law school in December.

Reflecting on his years at the MHA/FYOS, Stein pointed out that “having a small school is not a bad thing. Because of the number of students in the boys’ school, it created one group. We did not look at age or which class someone was in. We were all just having a good time and tried to include everyone.” He fondly recalls a school trip when the entire CYHSB student body fit into a 15-seater van and a minivan.

Among his favorite memories are the annual Purim *chagigahs*. “The entire community would come, sing, dance, and be part of a costume contest, and the high school students would put on a skit,” he said.



“Some of my peers (ahem, you know who you are) went to great lengths to have great costumes.”

Stein also remembers spending a lot of time at the Rosenbergs’ house. “We were frequently invited as a group to Uncle Meyer and Aunt Eva’s, *z’l*, for ‘hot cakes,’ a.k.a. pancakes,” he said. “We were always laughing together, and he was even the lead actor in one of the famous Purim video produced by **Richard Lewis** [MHA '99, FYOS '03].”

His favorite teachers were Rabbi Yonason Gersten and Rabbi Jay Salid. “Rabbi Gersten’s dedication to the school is unparalleled,” Stein said. “He sat at every basketball game. He remains in contact with his students years after they’ve graduated and goes to almost all of their weddings. Rabbi Salid was the same way, giving so much time and energy for each student. He had a way of teaching us so we wouldn’t forget what we learned. He had a true *rebbe/talmid* relationship with every student.”

Additionally, he credits his father **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72) with taking time off from work to come to the school and learn Torah with him and his friends. “He didn’t always tell me when

he was coming, which was probably to keep me from doing things I should not have been doing in the first place!”

He would love to catch up with his classmates and see where everyone is, though “I’m nervous about what they might say about me,” he said. “High school was a great time; my only regret is not taking more advantage of what was offered to me.” His email address is rmstein100@aol.com.

Rabbi Michael Emerson (MHA ‘99, FYOS ‘03) and his wife Adina Bitton live in Forest Hills, New York, and have two daughters: Maayan, 3, and Lital, 9 months. He teaches *Tanakh* at SAR High School in Riverdale and is pursuing a doctorate in Jewish education at New York University. During his summers off from SAR, he teaches Talmud in the Dr.

Beth Samuels Summer High School Program for Girls at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in Manhattan. Emerson is an alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and works as an educator for the Wexner Service Corps program for teens.



‘99

‘03

“I really enjoyed my time at the MHA/FYOS, and a lot of that was due to my friends,” he said. “One of my favorite things was being in school with so many of my cousins and longtime family friends. School always felt like a large family to me due to the many familiar faces among the students and faculty.” Emerson’s favorite teachers, including Rabbi Jay Salid, the late Mrs. Karin Schmitt, Mr. Thomas Johnson and Mrs. Anat Kampf, “helped instill in me an eternal love of learning and a desire to succeed at every level,” he said. Given that Emerson is now a successful educator himself, their influence has certainly served him well.

“Some of my classmates are still active on social media or I have been able to see them in person during holiday visits to Memphis. Others I haven’t heard from in years. It would be great to plan some type of get-together or way to reconnect,” Emerson said. His email address is memerson@gmail.com.

28

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduates of 2001-2005

Shirli (Freiden) Gotlib (MHA '99, FYOS '03) is a registered nurse living in Southfield, Michigan, with her husband Ari and their four children, Max (6), twins Sophia and Alexander (3) and Jacob (3 months). Her favorite memory from her days at the MHA/FYOS is "playing basketball for the Lady Macs!" Her email address is shirli.gotlib@gmail.com.



Suri (Samberg) Weiner (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and her husband Rabbi Yisroel Weiner live in Phoenix, Arizona, where she works as an occupational therapist for the local public school district. They have a son and four daughters, who range in age from 18



months to eight years old. "Three of the girls are redheads, which attracts a lot of attention," she said.

Memories from the MHA/FYOS that are still with her include the girls' high school kidnap, the Gatlinburg ski shabbaton, and Rabbi Yonason Gersten's prank. Rabbi Gersten was also her favorite teacher.



"My kids attend a school in Phoenix that's similar in many ways to the MHA," Weiner said. "At meetings for the PTA, yearbook committee and more, I am constantly citing examples of how things are done in Memphis. There is a lot to learn from the MHA and the great ideas that have emanated from there."

She hopes her classmates are doing well and invites them to look her up "if they ever want to vacation in sunny Phoenix, especially in the winter!" Weiner's email address is suriweiner@gmail.com.

Jenny (Steinberg) Sved (MHA '99, FYOS '03) lives in her husband Mati's hometown of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. They have three children: Annabelle, 4.5, and twin boys Gabe and Nate, who are 1.5 years old. She works for Open Arms, the adoption program at Jewish Family and Children's Services of Greater Philadelphia.

“There is no community like Memphis,” Sved said. “Visiting is one of my favorite things that I look forward to several times a year. My daughter loved attending Camp Shemesh this summer, and I know my boys will, too.”



99
03

Her favorite MHA/FYOS memories include playing kickball throughout elementary school, color war, her eighth-grade class trip to Atlanta, the Lady Macs’ basketball tournaments in Florida and GMSG shabbatons. Among her most beloved teachers were Mrs. Anat Kampf (“I had her in second grade and high school,” she said), Mrs. Barbara Mansberg and the late Mrs. Karin Schmitt.



“I hope our kids go easier on their teachers than our class did,” she said. “Not many can say that they made a teacher cry!” She’d love to see a 15-year class reunion happen in 2018. Her email address is sved.jenny@gmail.com.

Yitzchok Primack (FYOS ‘03) came to Memphis from Far Rockaway, New York, and lived in the boys’ dorm during his days at the CYHSB. He now lives with his wife Shira Rivka in Jerusalem, where he works as a store manager. Together they are raising their children Moshe Chaim, 5, and Chanah Tovah, 3 months, along with her twin sons Isaac and Benjamin, 7.



03

He is grateful to all those who helped him during his high school years in Memphis, including Joel and Joanne Kahane, Michael and **Diane (Bisno) Kaplan** (MHA ‘72), Irv and Eileen Cherny, and Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten. His favorite teacher was Mr. Thomas Johnson. “Thank you all; may G-d bless the Memphis community,” Primack said.

“It’s been a while since I’ve seen most of my classmates,” he said. “If you are ever in Jerusalem, feel free to contact me.” His email address is yprimack84@gmail.com.

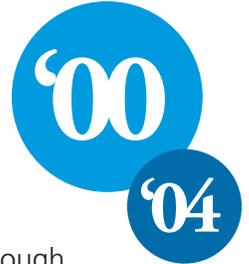
30

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduates of 2001-2005

Benjamin Rubenstein (MHA '00, FYOS '04) got married in May 2015 and now lives in his wife Rivka's hometown of Baltimore, where he works as an information technology systems administrator for a local hospital.

"Looking back on my childhood in Memphis," Rubenstein said, "I realize what a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I had to learn the *Alef-Bais* from Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt, z'l, and to learn Torah with Rabbi Efraim Greenblatt, z'l. Memphis has always been lucky to have amazing Torah minds pass through its midst. My hope is that the MHA/FYOS and the Memphis community will seize the opportunities they're given and look to their Torah leaders for guidance, soak up their wisdom, and realize how fortunate they are to have such people."



One of his more "obscure" memories from his time at the MHA/FYOS is "Rabbi Adam Litt jumping up and down and chewing on his beard while we sang '*Hisoreri*' during choir practices. And the ridiculous sailor hats we had to wear with 'MHA/FYOS' written on them with a blue Sharpie."

Rubenstein also has fond memories of his favorite teacher, the late Mrs. Karin Schmitt. He can be reached at benjrubenstein@gmail.com.

Yaakov Samberg (MHA '00, FYOS '04) lives in suburban Chicago and works as a pharmacist. He and his wife Mindy have two sons: Akiva, age 5, and Chaim, age 4.

His favorite memory from elementary school is of playing Diplomacy for two weeks in Mr. Charles Milson's class in eighth grade. Ski trips were among the highlights of his high school years. His favorite teachers were Dr. Jerry Kutliroff and Rabbi Yonason Gersten.

Ever the health care professional, Samberg's message to his classmates is, "Have you gotten your flu shot yet?" His email address is yaakov.samberg@gmail.com.



Esther (Crystal) Stark (FYOS '04), who came to the Goldie Margolin School for Girls from Denver, now lives in Israel, where she and her husband are “blessed with a wonderful family and are raising our children in the most beautiful place in the world,” she said. She runs a business called Fruit With Flair, creating fresh fruit arrangements that can be delivered throughout Israel. An example of her magnificent work is pictured at right.



Of her time at the GMSG, Stark said, “I am thankful for the warmth I experienced in the Memphis community. From an open home to an open heart, I had the great privilege to feel it all.



The Torah lessons I learned in Memphis are still with me in Israel and I treasure them. I am forever thankful to my teachers at the GMSG who gave me the self-confidence, courage and tools needed to succeed professionally and in my life as a wife and mother. Thank you, all!”

Her favorite memories include her twelfth-grade graduation. “What a tremendous feeling of pride and accomplishment,” she said. “I am so proud to be a graduate of our school.” Stark can be reached at fruitflair@gmail.com.

Jessica (Morris) Hoffman (FYOS '04) attended the GMSG as a boarder from Boca Raton, Florida. She now lives in Teaneck, New Jersey, with her husband Eitan and their two children (Nadav, 3, and Liana, 7 months) and works as a nursing home administrator.

“I am still in touch with most of my schoolmates, which is one perk of a small school with a close community,” Hoffman said. “For the first time in years, I recently got together with **Josh Graber** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and **Michael**



Emerson (MHA '99, FYOS '03). It was nice to see them and to have all of our children play together.” (For more on this get-together, see L'Dor V'Dor on page 34.)

To the Memphis community, she says, “Thanks for everything, and I hope to be back to visit soon!” Hoffman’s email address is jl Morr594@gmail.com.



David Spangenthal (FYOS '04) came to the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys from Charlotte, North Carolina.

Now working as a strategic account manager for Google, he lives in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, with his wife Jenny and their two-year-old daughter Sophie.



"Belated 10-year reunion in New York City?" he proposes to his classmates. Spangenthal can be reached at dspang@gmail.com.

Emma (Kaplan) Rapps (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and her husband Chaim live in his hometown of Teaneck, New Jersey. They have two children: Brielle, 2.5, and Bryan, who was born in September. She teaches Sunday school at the Jewish Youth Encounter Program (JYEP) in Teaneck.

She has great memories of the GMSG canoe trips and of her favorite teachers, Mrs. Linda George, Mrs. J-Jaye Hurley and Mrs. Joanie Reese. "Thank you to the Memphis community for such a warm upbringing," she said. Her email address is emmamichelekaplan@gmail.com.

Aviva (Krupp) Lewis (MHA '02, FYOS '06) is married to **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03). They live in Memphis and have two children: Abby, who is in Pre-K 4 at the MHA, and Jacob, 2. She works with her mother **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) at the famous Ricki's Cookie Corner bakery.

She loved having Mrs. Anat Kampf as her *menaheret* (principal) during her days at the GMSG, and her favorite teachers included Mrs. Linda George and Mr. Dana Vaughn.

Lewis would love to have a class reunion and hopes to hear from her classmates at avivalewis15@gmail.com.

Neima (Schreiber) Hochstadter (MHA '02) attends nursing school in Baltimore, where she lives with her husband Shua and their two children, Ariel (6) and Chaya (4).

'04

'01

'05

'99

'02

'03

'06

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduates of 2001-2005

33

“Over the years, I have seen many teenagers express the feeling that there is no one really there to help them through their high school years; because of my experience in Memphis, I was honestly shocked when I first heard this sentiment,” she said.

“At the GMSG, I always felt that the administration was there to help me navigate any issues and challenges I encountered. A special thank you to Mrs. Anat Kampf; her door and her heart were always open to us.

“Since I left Memphis right after high school and have not been back, I’ve lost touch with many of my classmates. I am excited to hear what everyone is up to! I have great memories from all our *shabbatonim*,” she said. Hochstadter’s email address is neima2@juno.com.

Yonadav Tsuna (MHA ‘04, FYOS ‘08) currently lives in San Francisco, where he works in sales and business operations for Twitter.

“Since it was such a small school, I have great memories of strong bonds with my teachers,” he said. His favorite teachers include Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff, Rabbi Yonasan Gersten and Mr. Dana Vaughn. He can be reached at yonadav.tsuna@gmail.com.

Miriam (Samberg) Levson (MHA ‘04) lives in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, with her husband Scott and their six-month-old daughter, Shoshana. She works as a speech pathologist for a skilled nursing facility.

“I often think about my wonderful teachers from the MHA/FYOS, including Mr. Dana Vaughn, Rabbi Sheftel Skaist, Mrs. Mimi David, Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt, z’l, Morah Avigail Wolmark, z’l, and Mrs. Anat Kampf,” she said. “Thank you to all of my beloved teachers!” She can be reached at miriamlevson@gmail.com.

Yaakov Schreiber (MHA ‘04) and his wife live in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York. He is studying in Kollel Pachad Yitzchok. His favorite general studies teachers at the MHA were Mrs. Linda George and Mrs. J-Jaye Hurley.

“My family left Memphis after my ninth-grade year, but I still use the keychain I received as an eighth-grade graduation gift from the Kahanes,” he said.

Schreiber’s email address is yaknocks@gmail.com.

Charles LaVene (MHA '05, FYOS '09) got married in June 2015 and lives in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan with his wife Gabriella. He works as a sales professional for B&H Photo, Video and Pro Audio in midtown Manhattan, where he specializes in professional surveillance and home automation equipment.

"My best memories of school are from the CYHSB Steak Dinners," LaVene said. "I was head chef my senior year; amid a lot of craziness in the kitchen, I quickly pulled a tray of steaks out of the oven, and boiling steak juice spilled down my arm. It blistered and bubbled, but Nurse Tanya Address came right in and bandaged me up. I kept on yelling orders and leading the kitchen. That was my proudest moment and a memory that gave me self-confidence for years afterwards.

"Several years ago, I worked as the sous chef of a restaurant on the Upper West Side. My great-grandmother Shirley Bluestein, z'l, owned The Fiddler restaurant and a kosher catering business in Memphis, so I take after her when it comes to food."

Although many memorable rabbis continue to have an impact on his life, his favorite teacher was the late Mrs. Karin Schmitt. "I learned so much from her and always gained from her classes," he said. LaVene's email address is charles.lavene@gmail.com.



L'DOR V'DOR



Emerson, daughter of Adina Bitton and **Rabbi Michael Emerson** (MHA '99, FYOS '03). Standing behind the swing is Liana's brother, Nadav. (Not pictured is Lital's older sister, Maayan Emerson.)

During this past Sukkot, several children of our alumni—and their parents—got together for a play date and reunion at the home of Pammy and **Glenn Graber** (MHA '74, YOS '78) in Woodmere, New York. Pictured on the swing (from left) are Adella and Aviva Graber, daughters of Leah and **Josh Graber** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and granddaughters of the hosts; Liana Hoffman, daughter of Eitan and **Jessica (Morris) Hoffman** (FYOS '04); and Lital

Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

JOIN US ON **FACEBOOK!** 



The kindergarten graduates of 1991. Front row (from left): **Suri (Samberg) Weiner** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Jenny (Steinberg) Sved** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Lara Gordon** (FYOS '03), Hannah Johnson, Sara Gordon. Back row (from left): Michal Rachlin, **Josh Graber** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Michael Emerson** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), Steven Binkowitz, **Gila (Graber) Livi** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Marc Greenberg** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Josh Zeitlin** (MHA '99, FYOS '03).



The MHA class of '99 celebrated their eighth-grade graduation with a bowling party. Front row (from left): **Betty (Freiden) Gulko** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Gila (Graber) Livi** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Rebecca (Wender) Chubak** (MHA '99), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), **Suri (Samberg) Weiner** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Shirli (Freiden) Gotlib** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Jenny (Steinberg) Sved** (MHA '99, FYOS '03). Back row (from left): **Sam Goldstein** (MHA '99), **Mathew Cherny** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Josh Graber** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Josh Zeitlin** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Marc Greenberg** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Michael Emerson** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Simcha Yagod** (MHA '99).

flashbacks



The 2003-2004 Cooper Macs, the boys' high school varsity basketball team. Back row (from left): **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Shaka Berry** (FYOS '06), **Chaim Eli Safier** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **David Spangenthal** (FYOS '04), **Dov-
id Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Alex Insel** (FYOS '03). Front row (from left): **Benjamin Rubenstein** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Max Kats** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Shlomo Gersten** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Josh Baum** (MHA '02, FYOS '06).



Dressed as the Justice League of America on Purim 2003 are (from left) **Betty Freiden Gulko** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Rivka Cherney** (FYOS '04) and **Rina (Stavsky) Weinberg** (FYOS '04).



Dovid Safier (MHA '00, FYOS '04), pictured at left, and **Yair Ben-Ishai** (FYOS '05) enjoy spirited music and dancing at the school's *Rosh Chodesh Adar* celebration in 2003.



Tali (Bacaner) Levy (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Rebecca (Zeitlin) Shain** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and **Sheera (Graber) Moskowitz** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) celebrate Purim Asian-style in 2003.

flashba



The Goldie Margolin School for Girls seniors celebrate at the 2003 MHA/ FYOS Banquet. From left: **Jennifer (Krueger) Stein** (FYOS '03), **Shirli (Freiden) Gotlib** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Gila (Graber) Livi** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Britney (Eshelman) Worch** (FYOS '03), **Jenny (Steinberg) Sved** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Betty (Freiden) Gulko** (MHA '99, FYOS '03).



Benjamin Rubenstein (MHA '00, FYOS '04, left) and **Yair Ben-Ishai** (FYOS '05) at the 2004 CYHSB steak dinner.



Dovi Holtz, member of the Kollel Torah MiTzion in 2003, implores members of the community to feed the hungry residents of the high school boys' dormitory.



The staff of the 2002 CYHSB steak dinner included (from left) **Brent Carter** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Mathew Cherny** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Michael Emerson** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Josh Graber** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Beryl Joffre** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Anshel Kaplan** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), Rabbi Yonason Gersten, **Zachary Kaplan** (MHA '01), **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), **Dovid Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Marc Greenberg** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), Nachman Sasoon, **Shlomo Gersten** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Zev Levine** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Mordechai Gersten** (MHA '00), **Yaakov Samberg** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Benjamin Rubenstein** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and **Yitzchok Primack** (FYOS '03).

acks



Eli Friedman (FYOS '05, left) and **Shlomo Gersten** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) present at an evening of *divrei Torah* in the FYOS *beit midrash* during the 2004-2005 school year.



Benjamin Rubenstein (MHA '00, FYOS '04) shares a *d'var Torah* in the FYOS *beit midrash*.

Hershel Moskowitz (MHA '03, FYOS '07) *davening* in the FYOS *beit midrash*.



Cousins **Noam Katz** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and **Benjamin Rubenstein** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) read from the Torah at daily *minyan* in the FYOS *beit midrash*.



Partaking in *shacharit* in the FYOS *beit midrash* are (from left) Rabbi Yonason Gersten, **Zev Levine** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), two members of the Kollel Torah MiTzion and **Dovid Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04).

flashback



Enjoying the GMSG canoe trip in 2004 are (from left) **Shaindel (Kaplan) Kahn** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Menahetet** (Principal) Anat Kampf and **Jessica (Morris) Hoffman** (FYOS '04).



Ayelet Ben-Ishai (left) and **Ariella (Freiden) Schwartz** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), minus one canoe, on the GMSG canoe trip in 2004.



Performing in the foreground of the stage at the CYHSB production of "A Few Good Men" are (from left) Yoni Zierler, **Daniel Address** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Shlomo Gersten** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and Nathan Goldman. We could not identify the student actor in the background (between Gersten and Lewis), but please [let us know](#) if you can!



The CYHSB production of "A Few Good Men" included performances by (from left) **Daniel Address** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Moe Winters** (FYOS '05), **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), Avi Friedman and Yoni Zierler.

backs



Kobe Sabghir (FYOS '03) performs in the Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys' production of "Twelve Angry Men" in 2003.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

We are planning to send out our fifth newsletter sometime around Pesach. There we will highlight the 8th and 12th grade graduates from the years 1986-1990. If you were in those classes, you should be receiving a questionnaire by email in February. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

In that issue, we will feature a story about Dr. Jerry Kutliroff, who served as a teacher, general studies principal and dean of the school. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Dr. K that you'd like to share, please email them to Joanne Kahane, alumni chair, at joannekahane111@gmail.com or send them to her by mail at the school address listed below. Also, remember to submit your "Mazel Tov" events so we can include them in the Alumni News section of our next publication. Thank you!

