

MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 32

Highlighting the
graduating classes
of **2006-2010**

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In the Next Issue

We mourn with profound sadness the passing of alumnus **Lester Lit** (MHA '57).

Lester was one of the three members of MHA's very first graduating class. We were proud to honor him in 2022 at the annual Scholarship Banquet (the video tribute is featured [here](#), under Honorees) in recognition of his support of the school and the Jewish community of Memphis.

We send our deepest condolences to his wife, Roslyn, and their children and grandchildren. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may his memory always be a blessing.

**MISSED AN
ISSUE?**

ARCHIVES

All previous issues of our alumni publication are now conveniently available at mhafyos.org/alumni.

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

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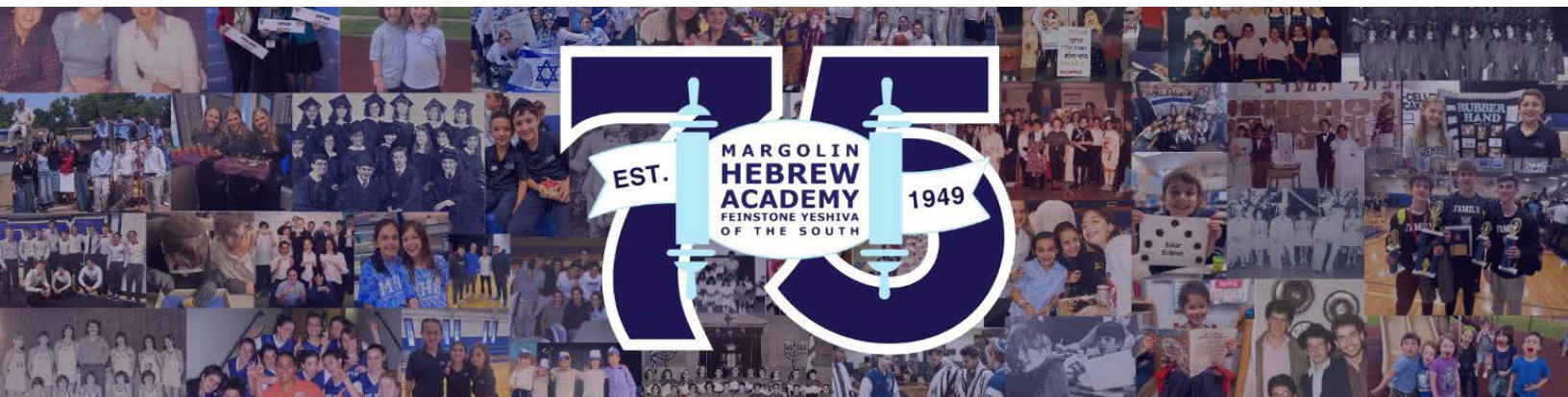
To learn more about MHA/FYOS, please contact director of engagement **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99) at 901-682-2400 or jessica.baum@mhafyos.org.

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COVER PHOTO



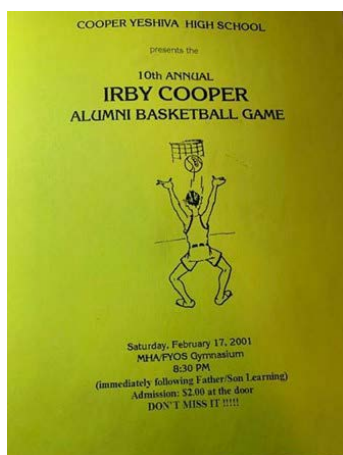
Members of the MHA class of '08 on their eighth-grade trip to St. Louis (from left): **Alexa (Wender) Futter** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Charlotte Harkavy** (MHA '08), **Ariana Kaufman** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Leah Fleischhacker** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) and **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12).



MHA turns 75!

As our 75th birthday year progresses, our worldwide community continues to enjoy our periods of nostalgia and reminiscing.

For our Alumni Game on Jan. 18, some memorabilia brought smiles to many faces. Do these items look familiar to you?



On March 23, our annual Auction featured a “flashbacks” theme, celebrating the varying decades of our school’s thriving existence.



Our gym was replete with a “love” van, Rubik’s Cubes, classic video games from previous eras, disco balls, and more.



Former teachers and administrators Dr. Jerry and Shelley Kutliroff were nostalgic for the year 2010 (when the GMSG performed Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”) and for our high school’s theatrical era.

We all look forward to our final and formal birthday celebration at this year’s Banquet. For more Banquet information, see page 31.

MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni:



At the time of this writing, the war in our beloved homeland rages on, as our hearts break with each news broadcast. I wish that we could add our combined strength and faith to that already demonstrated by our dear brothers and sisters fighting for

their — and our — survival. In the meantime, we daven and hope that Hashem will hear and respond.

Our MHA/FYOS family suffered two losses during the winter months.

The first was Mrs. Suzanne Friedman, who taught at the MHA (primarily first grade) from 1973 to 1987. **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92) recalls, "Our first grade teacher, Mrs. Friedman, was a character. She had the ability to invoke fear, but at the same time we all loved her kooky personality. I remember watching President Ronald Reagan's



inauguration while eating jellybeans in her class. Many of our loose baby teeth were pulled out by Mrs. Friedman, and her love of Dr. Seuss permeated the classroom." Our feature story on Mrs. Friedman can be found in [Issue 22](#).

We were also saddened by the loss of Dr. Stephen Benin, who taught Jewish History at the FYOS in the mid-1990s. He is remembered as a kind man with a quirky sense of humor. He taught Jewish history at the University of Memphis. **Josh Kahane** (MHA 93, FYOS '97) recalls, "He taught us as he would teach a college class. Instead of a textbook, he put source materials in a spiral binder. This was a new way of learning for most of us, and we worked hard to meet his expectations."

We express our deepest condolences to the families of these two fine educators. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may their memories always be a blessing.

As our regular readers already know, I like to take pride in our alumni and frequently make statements about how amazing they are. I have decided, in this message, to give evidence to back up some of my statements, to show that I am not just "whistling Dixie."

1. Our alumni maintain their connections to the school.

In January, **Haley Kaplan** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) visited our school and brought Honey, her wonderful, trained Goldendoodle. Haley introduced Honey to our students, read a story, and made a dog craft with younger students. She also worked with older students to make leashes that were donated

MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

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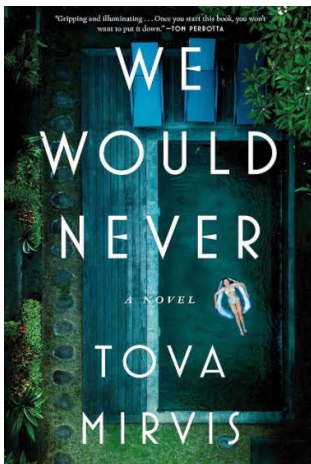
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to our local police and fire departments. Having alumni come back to share with our students is so appreciated, and our alumni do it so graciously.



2. Our alumni rise to the top of their fields.

Tova Mirvis (MHA '86, YOS '90), prolific writer and author, has written and published yet another book. In a departure from some of her previous novels, "We Would Never" is a murder mystery that maps the extremes to which a family will go in order to protect their own. Tova is currently on a nationwide book tour promoting her newest work. As with all our alumni, we are so proud of her professional accomplishments. The book is available on Amazon.



3. Our alumni change the world.

In several of our issues, we have mentioned the Israel Select Charity Fund's Tefillin campaign for Israeli soldiers, which was founded and headed by **Rabbi Josh Friedman** (MHA '87). We are pleased to share that renowned CEO and philanthropist Bill Ackman has joined the effort's incredible group of donors. As of a few weeks ago, they were only 185 pairs away from reaching their goal of providing 8,500 pairs of tefillin for members of the Israel Defense Forces who have committed to keeping this mitzvah. Josh greatly appreciates all the support his fellow MHA alumni have offered in helping him accomplish this mission. The more pairs they can sponsor, the more soldiers' lives they can touch. We are incredibly proud of the work of this amazing organization, spearheaded by one of our alumni. Yes, our alumni are changing the world.



One of the reasons I love doing this job is that I can experience such pride in all of the wonderful men and women whom I watched grow up in the sacred halls of our building. I know our whole MHA/FYOS family shares in this pride, but how lucky am I that I get to be the one to spread the news?

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MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

I would like to take a moment to wish a *refuah sheleima* (complete recovery) to Mrs. Phylis Levine, who is currently recovering from a fall. Many of you will remember Mrs. Levine, who worked in the administrative offices of our school for many years. Her daughter, **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97) serves as editor of this publication. While Amara has been busy caring for her mom, we have been able to complete this issue with the help of some volunteer editors. We express tremendous gratitude to Shoshana Cenker, Rachel Schwartzberg, Shira Izenberg Harary, Aviva Hauser Tennenbaum, and **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA

'00, FYOS '04). These skilled editors jumped in at the last minute, with very little notice, to help us get this issue out on time. Todah Rabah!!

Wishing everyone a Chag Kasher v'Sameach. Please let us hear from you.

Joanne Kahane
alumni chair

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MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown

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Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



Each part of the school year has its own feel, its own terroir. Summer to Rosh Hashanah: the honeymoon feeling of welcoming students back to new routines. Then from Rosh Hashanah through Chanukah, we settle into our classrooms. Even though the

days are packed, the year feels capacious — *don't worry! We've got plenty of time ahead.* Chanukah to Purim has its own feel in Memphis, with the CYHSB Steak Dinner and Shabbatons, World's Fair and *Siddur* and *Chumash Chagigot*. Our seniors learn where they will be going to yeshiva and seminary. Purim to Pesach is its own beast: college acceptances and the GMSG gala, ACTs and Hebrew plays.

Then Pesach hits.

Suddenly, the days accelerate. The year that once stretched out before us now feels like it's disappearing. *Yom HaZikaron* and *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day) arrive almost immediately, bringing their whirlwind of music, traditions and weight. April? Gone. Our eighth graders will head to Washington, DC. Capstone projects, final exams, Advanced Placement (AP) tests and presentations pile up. May? Done. Graduation and advancement ceremonies take over the calendar. What once felt like a steady pace becomes a sprint to the June finish.

It's disorienting. One moment, we're cleaning for Pesach. The next, we're packing up the classroom for the summer, wondering where the time went and sweating in the Memphis heat again!

Amid this rush, the Omer stands as a counterbalance. It demands that we pause, insisting that we don't just count down, but count up. That we don't just move through the days but mark each one with awareness and intention. But do we?

There are two ways to count toward an event: You can count down to it or count up toward it. Both methods are used in different parts of our lives. A countdown creates a sense of urgency, often tied to anticipation or anxiety. When a school year is ending, a trip is approaching, or a deadline is looming, we mark the time with an ever-diminishing number. "Only three weeks left of school!" "Only 10 days until the U.S. Government AP!" The countdown builds excitement — or, in some cases, stress. It can also make us rush, thinking more about reaching the finish line than about how we get there.

The Omer, however, forces us to count in the opposite direction. It would be easy to start at 49 and count down, anticipating the arrival of Shavuot. Instead, the Torah commands:

וספרתם לכם ממחרת השבת מיום הביאכם את-עמר התנופה שבע שבתות תמימת תהייה

"And from the day on which you bring the bundle of the Omer offering — the day after the Shabbat — you shall count to seven complete weeks."
(Vayikra 23:15)

Instead of saying "49 days until *Matan Torah* (giving of the Torah)," we begin at 1, then move to 2, then 3. We build, rather than diminish.

Counting up emphasizes growth and what happens to us while we count. The pictures that pop up on

my phone of my children's growth and of school events gone by remind me that life has a way of accelerating at exactly the moments when we need to slow down.

As the school year nears its end, we tend to focus on the big flashy milestones — and forget to appreciate the smaller, quieter moments that make up these final weeks. Some of my favorite moments are hard to pick up on unless you are really watching: the way our courtyard looks when everyone is outside enjoying the warmer weather; the feeling in classrooms when kids realize the relationships they built with their rabbis and teachers may soon come to an end. The Omer, too, interrupts our natural tendency to rush. It reminds us that time isn't something to be raced through, but something to be savored.

Chazal (our Sages) compare the Omer period to a process of purification and refinement. The *Zohar* teaches that when *Bnei Yisrael* (the Jewish people) were in *Mitzrayim* (Egypt), they had sunk to the 49th level of *tum'ah*, just one step away from spiritual oblivion. The Berdichever Rebbe explains (*Shemos, Parshas Bo* 14):

When the Jewish people left Egypt in great haste, וְיָצְאוּ, as stated by the Torah (Devarim 16:3), they were not in the frame of mind to appreciate such lofty concepts. According to our sources, they had descended to the 49th level of spiritual impurity, and if they had descended one more rung, they would have been beyond redemption.

Each day of the Omer was a step away from slavery and a step toward freedom. It was a process of

spiritual reconstruction, when *Bnei Yisrael* had to shed the remnants of Egyptian influence and ready themselves to stand at *Har Sinai*.

It's a coincidence that the Omer falls out in the final stretches of our academic year. Memphis starts and ends the school year earlier than our East Coast brethren. My wife (a native of Australia) reminds me that in the Southern Hemisphere, the Omer is not in spring, but in fall. Nevertheless, this happy juxtaposition is instrumental as a teaching tool. We have our school countdown. We have the Omer. And the Omer is there to remind us that growth is incremental.

In school, the final stretch of the year is both exhilarating and exhausting. The finish line is in sight, but so much still needs to be done. Students and teachers are pulled in different directions — papers to write, tests to take, grades to finalize. It's easy to slip into the mindset of "*ya'alla*, let's get this over with" instead of "I only have 15 days left." The Omer reminds us we need to see time differently.

Years from now, students won't remember the exact grade they got on their last *Chumash* test or how many pages their final English essay had to be. But they *will* remember the feeling of presenting their capstone project after months of work. They'll remember the friendships built during late-night study sessions. They'll remember the small conversations with teachers that gave them confidence before their final exam.

If we let these final weeks slip by in a blur, we miss these moments. If we rush too quickly toward the end, we lose sight of the value in the process. The Omer forces us to slow down. To take each day seriously. To remember that while milestones are

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown



important, the steps between them are what shape us.

Ramban (Vayikra 23:36) explains that the Omer connects Pesach to Shavuot in the same way *Chol HaMoed* connects the beginning and end of a *chag*. The period between *Yetziat Mitzrayim* (the exodus from Egypt) and *Matan Torah* is not a gap — it's an elongated experience of *kedusha* (holiness), where each day is an integral step in the spiritual ascent. The same can be said for the final weeks of school: They're not merely a waiting period before summer but an opportunity to solidify the learning, relationships and growth from the entire year. It should be a time of *sippur*, a form of storytelling, as Pesach reminds us. What did we learn? What will we carry forward?

The Omer's structure teaches us that time is to be sanctified. The *Sefer HaChinuch* (*mitzvah* 306) explains that the reason we count *up* from 1 to 49, rather than *down*, is because each day is a new step in our spiritual and intellectual refinement:

נצטוינו למנות ממחרת יום טוב של פסח עד יום נתינת
התורה להראות בנפשנו החפץ הגדול אל היום הנכבד
הנכסף ללבנו כעבד ישאף צל, וימנה תמיד מתי יבוא העת
הנכסף אליו שיצא לחרות

"We were commanded to count from the day after the festival of Pesach until the day of the giving of the Torah to show in our souls the great desire for that honored day, which our hearts yearn for — like a slave longing for shade, always counting when the long-awaited moment of his freedom will arrive."

The Omer is not simply a reminder of time passing — it's a measure of our longing. The **Sefer HaChinuch** continues:

כי המנין מראה לאדם כי כל ישעו וכל חפצו להגיע אל הזמן
ההוא

"For the counting demonstrates that all of one's salvation and all of one's desire is to reach that time."

This perspective shifts our understanding of time: Counting is not just a passive act but our expression of anticipation, commitment and devotion. We don't merely wait for the moment of *Matan Torah* — we *travel* toward *Har Sinai*. We gather around the mountain. We ready ourselves.

The *Gemara* in *Menachot* (66a) notes the arguments and resolution that *Sefirat HaOmer* is about making each day within each week count. The language of the *pasuk* (verse) emphasizes personal engagement: *"U'sefartem lachem"* — *"And you shall count for yourselves."* This is not a passive *mitzvah*; it requires *kavanah* (focused intent).

In just a few weeks, school will be over. The halls will empty, classrooms will be packed up, and summer will begin. But right now, there's still time. Time to learn. Time to reflect. Time to make these days count.

The Omer teaches us that we're meant to shape time, day by day. If we embrace that lesson, then when the finish line finally arrives, we won't just have counted the days. We will have made each one matter.

Wishing you and your family a *Chag Kasher v'Sameach* — a Happy and Kosher Pesach!

Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown
Head of School, MHAIFYOS
gavriel.brown@mhafyos.org

We welcome your feedback on the alumni newsletter at alumni@mhafyos.org. Here are some of the responses we received to [Issue No. 31](#).

I read this issue cover to cover, and it brought back a bunch of wonderful memories. Great job, as usual! I'm going to wait seven years until I turn 70, and then I'll play in the alumni basketball game so that I'll have a legitimate excuse.

-Rabbi David Finkelstein (MHA '75)

*Response from the editor and alumni chair:
We'll definitely plan to be at that game. It's on our calendars!*

Thank you for your beautiful tribute to Mrs. Libby Nayowitz, z'l. She was a wonderful woman who always had a genuine smile for everyone she met! We davened together for many years. May her family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Yerushalayim.

Also, I was in **Morah Carol (Smith) Samuels'** (MHA '60) first home economics class! We had just moved into the new wing of the school, and the home economics room was beautiful. I still remember the applesauce muffins we made. May she continue to touch lives for many years to come.

The trivia in the last issue was hysterical. I remember the bread slicer that was missing a blade! The toothbrushing requirement must have ended before I came in 1966, because I don't remember that, but first graders do forget.

Who was Rabbi Guri? My friend **Chaya (Terry Wollner) Fuchs** (MHA '74, YOS '78) and I agree

that Rabbi Efraim Greenblatt, z'l was the only third grade *rebbe* for as long as we were there.

-Naomi (Belsky) Homnick (MHA '74, YOS '78)

*Response from the editor and alumni chair:
We consulted with **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74), who submitted the trivia question about Rabbi Guri being the third grade *rebbe*. He confirmed his grade was so large that it was split into two classes, so we suspect that Rabbi Greenblatt taught one third grade class and Rabbi Guri taught the other. Let us know at alumni@mhafyos.org if you have other recollections.*

The newsletter looks very fine! One thing to note: The Suzuki program taught by Jan Horn was not actually extracurricular. All the kindergarten students were in it. The second year was supposed to be optional for first graders, but they all wanted to participate, if my memory serves me.

-Dr. Jerry Kutliroff (former MHA administrator)

*Response from the editor and alumni chair:
Dr. K, thank you for keeping us honest.*

Based on your suggestion in [issue 30](#), I read "[A Fire in the Darkness: Guidance for Growth When Life Hurts](#)" by **Rabbi Meir (Michael) Kahane** (MHA '91, FYOS '95) and loved it! I gained so much and got such *chizuk* (encouragement) from this book. It was really well written and easy to understand. It's the kind of book everyone should have and that you can read over and over again. Thanks for the recommendation and for these newsletters, which I really enjoy.

-Devorah (Sharon Wolff) Herbst (YOS '80)

Many thanks, as always, for your dedicated efforts to produce the alumni newsletter.

-Parker Mantell (MHA '06)

I just had a crazy idea: Your wonderful emails reach tons of people ... all over the world! Maybe ask if anyone would like to assume the role of a *shadchan* (matchmaker) and anyone with an eligible child/grandchild/etc. could send that person the resume. That Memphis connection is so strong, you just never know! From one of your many biggest admirers.

-Shari Schwartz (former faculty member)

Response from editor and alumni chair:

It is not a crazy idea, Shari. We kind of do that already. We have dozens of people on our mailing list who are only tangentially related to Memphis but have requested to be on the list. We remind our alumni that we are happy to include anyone who would like to receive our newsletter, as always, free of charge. Simply send us their email address and we will add them to our list.

We really enjoy the Alumni Newsletter. By the way, I don't know if other people do this, but I print out the whole issue to read over Shabbos. The only problem is that some of the backgrounds are very dark and use a lot of ink. Would it be possible to make a printer-friendly version? It's not a big deal if it is too much trouble. I know a lot of effort already goes into this, and I appreciate it. Thank you.

-Rabbi Larry Katz (MHA '67)

Response from editor and alumni chair:

Thank you for the feedback Larry. We have discussed the problem with our graphic designer. She plans to make a print-friendly version available starting with our next issue, Rosh Hashanah. In the meantime, we invite any alumnus who would like to receive the print-friendly version in addition to the full color one, to please notify us, and we will be sure you receive both versions. And thank you, Larry, for bringing this to our attention.



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1986-1990

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [31st issue](#).

The winner of our trivia contest from that issue is **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHA '89, YOS '93), who answered five of the nine questions correctly.

After Pesach, Miriam will receive a tin of 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 31. How many did you know?

1. Which extracurricular program was run by Ms. Jan Horn?
ANSWER: Suzuki violin (please see letter from Dr. Jerry Kutliroff on pg. 31).
2. Where did the seniors take the freshmen on "kidnap day" in 1988?
ANSWER: TCBY
3. During the MSG trip to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate on behalf of Soviet Jewry, kosher food was difficult to get. What did the students eat for three days?
ANSWER: Pizza
4. What was the name of the MHA basketball team in 1988?
ANSWER: The Bruins
5. Which fourth grade general studies teacher initiated the World's Fair program during this period?
ANSWER: Mrs. Harriet Stein.
6. In 1985, what special pre-Pesach activity did Rabbi Mordechai Kruger undertake with his fourth-grade students?
ANSWER: Baking matzah

7. Which country was honored during the Memphis in May festival in 1984?

ANSWER: Mexico

8. At the science fair awards night in 1987, the sixth grade presented an original play written by which faculty member?

ANSWER: Rabbi Mordechai Kruger

9. Which student portrayed Lady Macbeth in the middle school's Shakespearean production in 1987?

ANSWER: **Aliza (Levine) Segal** (MHA '87).

TRIVIA QUESTIONS 2006-2010

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. During his Friday parsha class, Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl often invoked lessons from his favorite Biblical commentator. What's the name of this commentator?
2. What beverage did longtime fourth grade teacher Mrs. Colleen Doss drink every day?
3. What was the name of the worksheets Mrs. Colleen Doss gave her students to help them practice their math skills?
4. Who is Rabbi David Kaplan's favorite cartoon character?
5. In addition to giving students extra time for recess, what was another reliable incentive used by Rabbi David Kaplan?
6. What was Rabbi Sheftel Skaist's iconic Friday Parsha competition called?
7. What was Coach Robert "Jake" Jacobson's athletic requirement for students who wanted to play on the varsity basketball team?
8. What were the components of the Presidential Physical Fitness Test?
9. How many times did **Noah Hazan** (MHA '10) finish the one-mile run in the Presidential Physical Fitness Test?
10. What Disney movie did the Head of School reference during his school-wide Yom Kippur speech?

11. Which family won nearly every raffle during Mishmar on Thursday nights?
12. Where did Mr. Dana Vaughn say he lived whenever he was asked?
13. What art tool did Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff have in her office that she let kids use for projects? (Or just play with when in her office for...reasons)
14. What soda did Rabbi Yonason Gersten keep in his office fridge?
15. What did our NY-born Rabbi David Kaplan teach us was a key NY-er phrase? (Hint: now it actually exists on a sign as you leave Brooklyn on the Belt Parkway!)

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), Director of Engagement, 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 **David Cooper** (MHA '78, FYOS '82), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Rabbi Dovid Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), **Charlie LaVene** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Elaina (Kaufman) Mittleman** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Becca (Rosenberg) Near** (FYOS '09), **Leah Fleischhacker** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Noah Hazan** (MHA '10), **David Gleiberman** (FYOS '10), **Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Gabe Goldstein** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Batya Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Shayna (Kahane) Lesnoy** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Moshe Davidovics** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), Dr. Jerome Kutliroff, Shelley Kutliroff and Anat Kampf.

Our *minhag* (custom) regarding the recitation of Hallel on Pesach is quite perplexing. The Gemara in Erchin (10a) points out that when we have an occasion that carries a rabbinic obligation to say Hallel, it applies to every day of that occasion — both *yom tov* and *chol ha'moed* of Sukkot, for example, or the eight days of Chanukah. But on Pesach, there's a split: We're only obligated to say Hallel on the first *yom tov* of Pesach, but on the rest of the holiday, there's no obligation. (The Hallel we say on *chol ha'moed* and the second *yom tov* of Pesach is only a *minhag*, as expressed by the fact that we say an abridged version, like on Rosh Chodesh). The Gemara asks why Pesach is different. It answers that on Pesach, we would bring the same *korban musaf* offering in the *Beit HaMikdash* (Holy Temple) every day and the format did not change. This is in contrast to Sukkot, when the format of the *korban musaf* changed every day, so every day was a new occasion to say Hillel.

This is not an entirely satisfactory answer. One could argue that if there isn't a unique *korban musaf* brought on each day of *chol ha'moed*, then there shouldn't be a reason to say Hallel. But what about the last *yom tov* of Pesach? Even if it doesn't carry with it a unique *korban musaf*, it's not just another *yom tov*. It commemorates the *kriyas Yam Suf* (the splitting of the sea), the ultimate chapter in our salvation from Egypt and one of the greatest miracles ever performed! The Tanaim in the Haggadah explain how the miracles seen at the splitting of the sea were 50, 200 or even 250 times the miracles witnessed during the 10 plagues. It was also one of the greatest revelations of Hashem's presence in this world in recorded history. **ראתה** — “Even the lowly handmaiden saw a vision at *kriyas Yam Suf* that the prophet Yechezkel never saw” (**מכילתא**,

פרשת בשלח). Is celebrating *kriyas Yam Suf* not enough of a reason to be saying Hallel in its entirety on the last day of Pesach?

The Bais Yosef addresses this question by citing a *midrash* that gives a surprising answer. The *midrash* says that, in theory, the final *yom tov* of Pesach should be an occasion for us to say Hallel, as it marks a milestone in our redemption from Egypt and included unparalleled miracles. Yet, this milestone was accompanied by the ultimate downfall of the Egyptians. One might think of this as even more of a reason to rejoice: Our oppressors were smitten! Even the holy angels thought so, as they stood to rejoice and sing to Hashem about the defeat of the Egyptians. But, the *midrash* tells us, Hashem stopped them, chastising: **מעשי ידי טובעים בים ואתם אומרים שירה בנפול אויביך אל** — “My handiwork is drowning in the sea, and you attempt to sing songs?!” Proverbs 24:17 says, **תשמח** — “Do not rejoice over the downfall of your enemies.” While we're happy the source of our oppression has been removed, with it comes the heavy realization that people squandered their potential for good deeds and service of Hashem for wickedness and cruelty. Because of this, the Bais Yosef explains, *Chazal* (our Sages) did not obligate us to say Hallel in its entirety on the last day of Pesach.

If you think about it, though, this answer doesn't make much sense. While Hashem was chastising the angels for trying to sing His praises for the downfall of the Egyptians, what were the Jews doing? They were singing their heads off and celebrating like they never had before! As the Torah says, **אז ישיר, משה ובני ישראל** — “Moshe and the Jews began to sing.” If only we could have been there to see it for ourselves, as we're told it was one of the greatest

expressions of joy in the history of mankind. They didn't just sing praises over the miracles they had witnessed; they also sang praises over the downfall of the Egyptians. As we recite in *Az Yashir* every morning, מרכבות פרעה וחילו ירה בים ומבחר שלישיו, טבעו בים סוף — "The chariots of Pharaoh and his soldiers were cast in the sea, and the best of his officers were drowned in the sea." The Jews were just as happy about seeing the Egyptians punished as they were over their own salvation. How can it be? Didn't we just say it's inappropriate to sing about the downfall of your enemies and that the angels were rebuked for trying to do so?

I once heard a wonderful idea from my *rebbe*, Rabbi Moshe Meiselman. The Gemara (Shabbat 118b) says, הקורא הלל בכל יום הרי זה מחרף ומגדף — "Somebody who says Hallel every day is reviled and a blasphemer." Why should this be? Isn't it a good thing to sing praise to Hashem every day for the miracles He performs? The answer is that *Chazal* designated specific days for saying Hallel since they are the anniversaries of times Hashem saved us from our troubles through open miracles. If we were to say Hallel every day, we would be downplaying those miracles, as if to say those occasions aren't unique or are just as special as any day of the year. On top of that, Hallel is specifically praise to Hashem for open miracles, but we relate to Hashem through the natural world on a daily basis. If you were to say Hallel every day, it's as if you're saying you don't have a relationship with Hashem through the natural world — only on the occasions when He openly reveals Himself through miracles.

We must come to terms with the fact that there are, at times, limitations on how much we can praise Hashem, even if we want to do more. If we were to experience an open miracle ourselves, then we

could certainly praise Hashem for every aspect of it — even if it involves the downfall of others who are our enemies. But if you're an outsider to a miracle (you heard about somebody else's miracle or read about a miracle that occurred in history), there are limitations to how you can praise Hashem if you choose to do so. We cannot lose sight of the stature of our relationship with Hashem or of the special quality of the miracles he performs.

When the Jewish people experienced *kriyas Yam Suf*, they could praise Hashem fully, even about the downfall of their enemies. But we, many generations later, cannot, as much as we may want to, because we did not experience it ourselves. We are in the same position as the angels, and so our powers of praise are limited.

With this understanding of our limitations, we can fully appreciate what we're capable of. The Mishnah (Pesachim 10:5) says, בכל דור ודור חייב אדם לראות את עצמו כאילו הוא יצא ממצרים — "In every generation, a person must view themselves as if they left Egypt." The statement is familiar to us because we say it each year during the Pesach *seder*, before we begin Hallel. Rambam (ומצה חמץ, 7:6) understands the Mishnah to mean that you are obligated להראות את עצמו — not to view yourself as if you left Egypt, but to express yourself as if you left Egypt.

At the *seder*, when we tell the story of the exodus and perform the *mitzvos*, we're meditating on the miracles of Hashem and putting ourselves in our forefathers' shoes so we can praise Him the same way they did all those years ago. And what do we say at the end of the *seder*? The הלל הגדול, the grand Hallel — one that is even longer than the standard Hallel for *yom tov*. Why? Because the same way our forefathers were able to say Hallel to

Hashem without limitations, on *seder* night we too are not bound by the limitations of being outside observers to the wonders of Hashem. We can tap into a higher state of mind, really understand, and thereby recreate the experience of witnessing those miracles ourselves. When we do, we too can say Hallel to Hashem, an all-encompassing praise for His miracles — even the ones the holy angels couldn't sing!

This year, may we all merit to experience a *seder* that brings us to that ultimate state of mind, so we can say Hallel to Hashem like our ancestors did. In

this *זכות* (merit), we should be worthy of seeing the ultimate redemption and coming of Moshiach in our days. Have a wonderful Pesach!

Gabe Address (MHA '10, FYOS '14) lives in Jerusalem, Israel, with his wife Matti and their two children: Rachel (5) and Yisrael Chaim (6 months). He is studying in kollel at Yeshivas Toras Moshe.





ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

Mazel tov to:

Stuart (MHA '75, YOS '79) and **Pam (Blotner) Thomas** (YOS '79) of Livingston, New Jersey, whose daughter Courtney is engaged to Joseph Spector. The couple will marry Nov. 9 in Los Angeles, which is where the couple will live.

Shoshana and **Ari Krupp** (MHA '91) of Baltimore, Maryland, on the engagement of their son Mordechai to Minka Nussbaum. The couple will wed April 28 in Monsey, New York, and plan to live in Israel. Mazel tov also to the groom's grandparents, Michael and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) of Memphis.

Fraidy and **Elisha Kutliroff** (MHA '93) of Beit Shemesh, Israel, on their daughter Naama's Jan. 14 wedding to Moishy Stern in Beit Shemesh. The newlyweds live in Petach Tikva. Mazel tov also to the bride's grandparents, former MHA/FYOS administrators Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff.

Simone Fertel (FYOS '09) on her Jan. 5 wedding to Dan O'Shea in New Orleans. The happy couple lives in Tampa, Florida.

Mendel Osdoba (MHA '07, FYOS '11) on his engagement to Lena Steinberg. The couple will wed June 29 in Jersey City, New Jersey, and plan to live in Manhattan. Mazel tov also to mother of the groom **Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80 and school kitchen manager of MHA).

Tamar Serman (MHA '13, FYOS '17) on her engagement to Betsalel Adout. They will get married June 18 in Tarrytown, New York, and plan to live in Brooklyn.

Avigail Bosin (MHA '16, FYOS '20) on her Feb. 3 wedding to Jordy Chowaiki in Suffern, New York. The couple lives in Baltimore. Mazel tov also to the bride's parents, Silha and **Slava Bosin** (MHA '80, YOS '84) of Memphis.

BIRTHS:

Mazel tov to:

Robert and **Joanne (Wener) Cohen** (MHA '64) of Memphis on the Nov. 30 birth of granddaughter Millie Belle to parents Adam and Sally Hendin of St. Louis, Missouri. Mazel tov also to big brothers Ellis and Asher.

Moshe and **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81) of North Miami Beach, Florida, on the Jan. 14 birth of grandson Michal. Mazel tov also to parents Avi and Shira Tennenberg and siblings of Rochel, Chava, Tamar, Sholom Pinchas and Dina of Lakewood, New Jersey. (see photo from the Bris on page 50)

Bob and **Tami (Vogel) Eiseman** (MHA '79) of Memphis on the March 2 birth of granddaughter Dahlia Allison to parents Monte and Baylee Less Eiseman, also of Memphis.

Rachel and **Meir Gersten** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) of Far Rockaway, New York, on the Jan. 11 birth of daughter Aviva Leora. Mazel tov to big sisters Aliza and Ayelet and grandparents Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten, longtime MHA/FYOS faculty members and administrators.

Chaim and **Tova (Safier) Frenkel** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) of Atlanta, Georgia, who welcomed son Yogev Beau Jan. 12. Mazel tov also to big sisters Adira and Sadie.

Evie and **Jonathan Tavin** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) of Migdal HaEmek, Israel, on the Dec. 10 arrival of their first child, son Tuvia Yehudah.

Avigail and **Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger** (MHA '09) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the March 8 birth of daughter Tahara Liba, making Amichai a big brother. Mazel tov also to grandparents David and **Linda (Ostrow) Schlesinger** (MHA '74) of Memphis.

Sarah and **Natanel Brakha** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) of Memphis on the March 9 arrival of son Daniel Noah. Mazel tov also to big brothers Eli and Samuel, as well as to grandparents Menashe and **Ronit (Sauer) Brakha** (MHA '83, YOS '87 and current faculty of MHA).

Yair and **Sarah (Greenblatt) Klein** (MHA '10) of Baltimore, Maryland, on the Feb. 12 birth of son Yeshaya. He is a grandson of former MHA administrator Rabbi Akevy Greenblatt and alumna and former faculty member **Chavi**

(Adler) Greenblatt, z'l (MHA '83). Mazel tov also to siblings Ephraim and Adira.

Ive and **Carmit (Soleman) Leontaev** (FYOS '12) of Kfar Saba, Israel, on the Dec. 20 birth of their first child, daughter May. Mazel tov also to the grandparents, former faculty member Morah Yehudit Soleman and current faculty member Moreh Shimshon Soleman.

Gefen and **Mirel Nechama (Samuels) Ben Tovim** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the Dec. 30 birth of daughter Nisa Haeli, making Yakira a big sister.

BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:
Mazel tov to:

Debra and **Cary Califf** (MHA '73) of Memphis on the March 1 bar mitzvah of their grandson Zach,

son of Lindsay and Brian Califf, also of Memphis.

Kitiya and **Ira Morris** (MHA '84) of Memphis on the Feb. 13 bar mitzvah of their son, Jacob.

Tanya and **Chaim Lubin** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Skokie, Illinois, on their son Noam becoming a bar mitzvah March 15.

Avi and **Sarah (Emerson) Helfand** (MHA '95, FYOS '98) of Los Angeles on the March 1 bar mitzvah of their son Noam. The family traveled to Israel and celebrated in California in honor of the occasion. Mazel tov also to grandparents Donnie Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65) of Memphis.

Heather Braverman (MHA '98, FYOS '02) of Richmond, Virginia, on her son Nachman becoming a bar mitzvah March 8.

MAZEL TOV!

SEND US YOUR ALUMNI NEWS FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE AT ALUMNI@MHAFYOS.ORG.



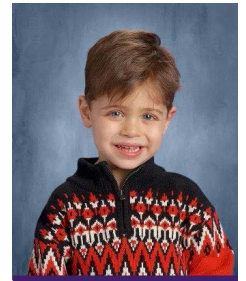
THE MHA/FYOS CLASSES OF 2006-2010

Where are they now?

'10

Noah Hazan (MHA '10) is a software engineer for Disney. He and his wife, 4-year-old Meir Yitzchak, and 1-year-old Hadassa Miriam live in Edison, New Jersey.

Noah's favorite MHA/FYOS memory is when the high school took over the elementary school for Purim. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Becky Walker.



Chaim Schreiber (FYOS '09), originally from New Orleans, now lives with his wife and two fun-loving kids in Baltimore. The construction estimator "hopes everyone is doing well and living their dreams!" Chaim remembers "two of the most outstanding teachers anyone could ask for" in math teacher Mr. Dana Vaughn and Rabbi Yonason Gersten. His favorite memory is all the "nutty jokes we did all over the school." Chaim deeply loves and misses the Memphis community and hopes and prays everyone is "staying safe in this crazy world."

'09

'09

'13

Dylan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13) is an ENT resident at SUNY Downstate, living in New York City. "On our annual CYHSB Winter Shabbaton in 2013, our school's Torah, seforim, and benchers were defiled by a hotel security guard in Jackson, Tennessee," is a memory Dylan will never forget. "In the wake of suffering a horrible hate crime, our rabbinic leadership converted a moment of despair into an opportunity to discuss anti-Semitism in America. They really stressed the importance of Jewish pride. Sadly, anti-Semitism has only become more rampant since then — domestically and internationally."

22

THE MHA/FYOS CLASSES OF 2006-2010

Where are they now?



Molly Brakha Hagler (MHA '07, FYOS '11) is married to Ari Hagler. They live in West Hartford, Connecticut, with their kids, 6-year-old Allie and 2-year-old Zak. Molly is a pediatric hospital medicine fellow at Connecticut Children's. Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Karen Schmitt.



Gabe Address (MHA '10, FYOS '14) is living in Yerushalayim and learning full time in the Yeshivas Toras Moshe Kollel. Married to Matti (Fuld) from Teaneck, they have two children: 5-year-old Rachel and 6-month-old Yisrael Chaim. "Now that my parents have moved to Florida, I don't really have the opportunity to visit," he said. "But I hope one day to come

back and see how much the community has changed (and how much, I hope, has remained the same)!"

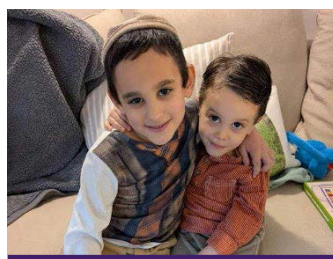


Rachel (Rubenstein) Amar (MHA '06, FYOS '10) is a nurse manager and PA in Terem Petach Tikva, Israel, and a lactation consultant. She and her family — husband Noam Amar from Tzfat and two young sons, Kedem Yishai and Roi Simcha — live in Karnei Shomron.



While there are many special memories, "if I had to choose one, it would be Color War breakouts every year; always surprising and creative." Rachel still remembers sayings from her favorite teacher, Mrs. Karen Schmitt, as well as her "toughness, Pi(e) Day," and getting finals study help over the phone.

"I appreciate growing up in the Memphis community, having been able to experience a tight-knit community, where people are always there for one another, and to have been brought up in such a friendly and loving environment," she shared. "Waiting for everyone to come and bring that same energy and the commitment to Am Yisrael with them to Israel!"



'10
'14

Gabriel Goldstein (MHA '10, FYOS '14) lives in Brooklyn, New York and works as a go-to-market professional at Yotpo, an Israeli tech company headquartered in Tel Aviv. His favorite memories come from “the time spent during the ‘in-between’ moments at school. Joking around between periods. Basketball games during recess that inevitably spilled into class time. Pulling pranks on each other in the lounge. It was such a fun and safe environment to develop in,” he said. “Life has taken us each down disparate paths, but we’ll always be bonded by the unique experiences we shared at the MHA. I look back at my middle and high school years so fondly. and I hope all of my classmates are happy and feel fulfilled in their lives.”

Gabriel’s favorite teacher was the “brilliant” Mrs. Abbe Johnson, who “challenged him as a person and an intellectual.” His message to the community and school is “to keep giving children and teens the space to challenge and question their way to a deeper connection to Israel and Judaism. I believe the most enduring values are formed through years of tension, scrutiny, and tinkering. Doubts and questions should be welcomed, not muzzled.”



Bracha (Stein) Einhorn (MHA '04, FYOS '08) is married to Stuey, and they have daughter Kayla, a second-grader at MHA, and a mini labradoodle named Ella. They’re thrilled to be living down the street from her parents and around the corner from her sister, **Dvora (Stein) Weisfogel** (MHA '06, FYOS '00), in Memphis.

“One of my favorite memories is going to the Science Fair off school grounds and being with many other schools from across Memphis,” Bracha remembered. “We had to prepare for it and be judged on our performance and project! It was a fantastic learning experience.”

One of Bracha’s favorite teachers was Mrs. Betty Griffith. “She was an excellent person to be around and make everyone feel special. I had the pleasure of being tutored by her and getting to spend time with her. She was always extremely encouraging and kind. I strive to be like her.”

Bracha is thankful to the many people who reached out to her after her heart transplant surgery. “I received so many messages from people I have not spoken to in many years,” she said, “and that just proves how the MHA is really a family and always cares for each other!”

Bracha hopes her former classmates are doing well and feels “very lucky to be part of the MHA family,” with her daughter now attending. “I love that we get to have shared experiences!”

'04
'08

THE MHA/FYOS CLASSES OF 2006-2010

Where are they now?



Parker Mantell (MHA '08) is the chief speechwriter to the president of Yale. Married to Ariana Feder of Los Angeles, they live on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Serving alongside Rabbi Nosson Schreiber as "Dean for the Day" is his favorite school memory. "The experience has proven invaluable as I navigate the terrain of higher education."

'08



Rebbetzin Miriam Greenblatt z"l was Parker's first grade teacher and his favorite. "She exemplified the gentle grace of an *Edel Neshama*," he said.

"It gives me great pride to share with others in the big city that I am a Memphis native — a revelation that often elicits a sense of curiosity, soon followed by comments on our generosity of spirit," he shared. "Memphis' Jewish community maintains a sterling *Shem Tov*, of which my classmates and I are beneficiaries — wherever it is in the world we may be."

'09

'13

Ethan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13) lives in New York City, working in private equity at Neuberger Berman. His top three favorite memories are "the Steak Dinner, Gatlinburg trip, and the various basketball tournaments — Cooper Invitational, Sarachek, Baltimore, etc."

His favorite teachers were Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff for Jewish History and AP Government, because she inspired Ethan to study political science in college, and Dr. Whitney Kennon for history and AP art history. "Both are remarkable educators who invested so much in their students!"



David Gleiberman (FYOS '10) is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, where he currently lives, co-running Gleiberman's Gourmet, a kosher grocery store. David's favorite teachers were Dr. Dana Vaughn, Dr. Whitney Kennon, and Rabbi Gersten.

'10

'05
'09

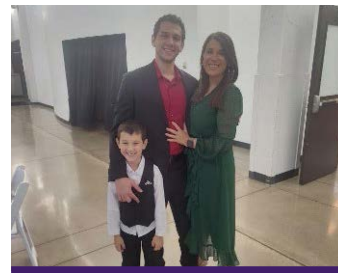
Charles LaVene (MHA '05, FYOS '09) is a project management and compliance/development supervisor for a consumer electronics design and manufacturing company in Linden, New Jersey. He and his wife, Gaby, have second-grader Shaina. "I still miss the Memphis community," he said. "And even though my experience is colored through childhood, and I have no clue what it's like as an adult in the community — from what I've heard, it's still the wonderful place I remember it is."

His favorite school memories are the Steak Dinner and Rosh Chodesh Adar "every year for 12 years." His favorite teacher was HaRav HaGaon Yonason Gersten. To his classmates: "If you ever find yourself in Central Jersey and need a pitstop, hit me up."

Becca (Rosenberg) Near (FYOS '09) is the central states regional development director for United Hatzalah of Israel. She and her husband, Seth, have three kids: 7-year-old Sammy, 4-year-old Gabe, and 1-year-old Sari. Their St. Louis home is "always full of energy, laughter, and a bit of chaos, especially with our two cats and a snake. We love going on walks, having dance parties, and exploring fun new places together as a family."

'09

Her favorite teacher was Mr. Dana Vaughn. She is grateful for her classmates for "being so warm and welcoming" when her family visits. "Memphis and the Academy hold a special place in my heart," she said.



Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK! 

Alumni Game



2025 Alumni Team (from left): **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97), **Benjamin Wachtel** (MHA '13), **Justin Wruble** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Hugh (Freiden) Gordon** (MHA '72, YOS '76), **Morris Goldstein** (MHA '73), **David Silberman** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), Coach **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Jon Wogan** (MHA '94), **Ethan Morris** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), **Zev Levine** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, FYOS '22).

Despite frigid temperatures outside, on Sunday evening, January 18, the MHA Moss Gym was once again packed (with standing room only) for the Annual Alumni Basketball Game. This event is always a highlight of the school year, with much excitement, great food, and an extra helping of fun all around.

This year's game was one of the most exciting in memory. The lead switched back and forth throughout the game. At the end, a group of exhausted alumni were victorious with a final score of 78-72.

We had three exciting intra-family challenges this year.





Benjamin Siegel noted, "I had an amazing first Alumni Game. Playing against Jonah was my favorite part. I'm looking forward to two more years of the 'Siegel Smackdown.'" We are extremely proud of Benjamin, who participated while on leave from serving in the IDF.

Our two most "senior" alumni this year were **Morris Goldstein** and **Hugh (Freiden) Gordon**.

Morris expressed his feelings about playing in the Game: "I am so glad I was able to be in town for the Alumni Game. It was wonderful to see the school spirit and to share in it as one of the 'old guys.'"

Hugh shared his feelings as well: "There are moments when time seems to stand still, allowing us to fully appreciate the serendipity of shared experiences and the deep bonds that connect generations. One such moment occurred at the Alumni Game when I was in the same gym where I played as a child, playing with (against!) my grandson. Benny Freiden, who will graduate precisely 50 years after I did from the Yeshiva, stood before me, full of potential and promise. The same ground that supported my ambitions and dreams now provided a foundation for his."



Morris Goldstein



Hugh (Freiden) Gordon (right), with his son Yoni (left) and grandson Benny (center).

We are especially proud of these two alumni who are teaching us an important life lesson: Getting older doesn't mean you stop having fun. It is when you stop having fun that you get older.

Our school's athletic director, Coach Kobi Pinto, added to the excitement of the evening by having competitions between the quarters. Between the first and second quarter there was a Dribble and Shoot competition for middle schoolers. The winner of the girls' competition was Lyla Center, granddaughter of **Sherwin (Butch) Yaffe** (MHA '62). Interestingly, Lyla's brother Aiden Cenker won this same competition last year. The winner of the boys' competition was Ezra VanderWalde.

*Lyla Censer**Ezra VanderWalde*

During halftime, Coach Pinto held a "Shooting Stars" competition, which was won for the second year in a row by the Kahane family.

*Daniel, Aidan and Josh Kahane*

Between the third and fourth quarters, no one was surprised when **Richard Lewis** walked away with the trophy for the 3-point shootout, for the second year in a row.



Richard Lewis and his son Joseph.

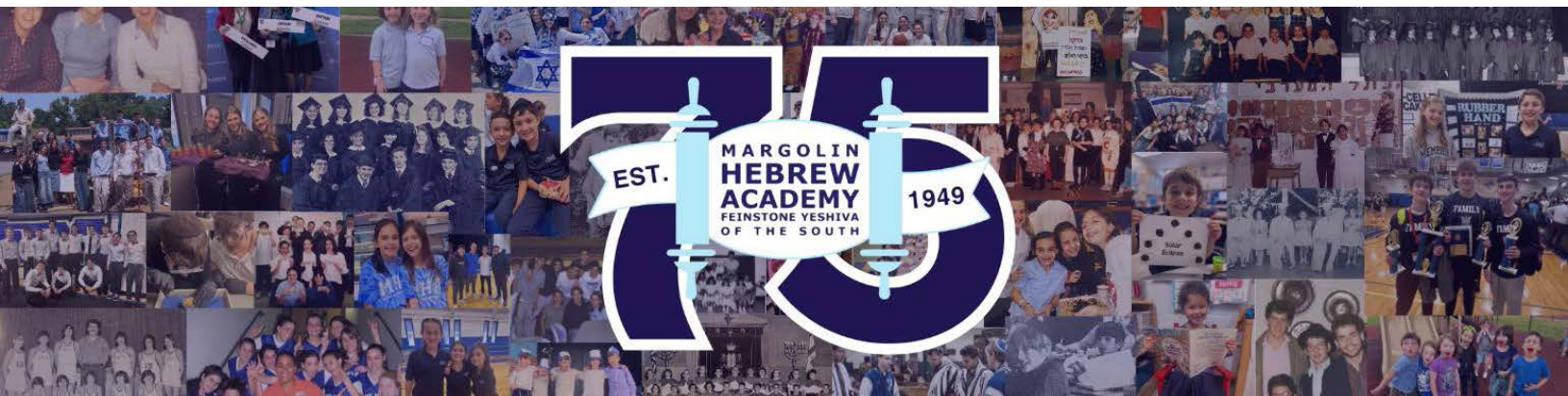
While **Ira Morris** (MHA '84) did not play on the team, he came to support our boys and to cheer for his son, Ethan.



Ethan and Ira Morris

All in all, the evening was a huge success, primarily thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of our wonderful alumni. The ongoing support of our alumni has been the backbone of this event's success. We hope everyone will make it a point to participate in our Alumni Game in 2026!!





Message from the Banquet Chairpersons

Dear MHA/FYOS Alumni,

Remember the Academy booth at the Cotton Carnival? The banquets in lavish hotels featuring Sam Levinson, Henny Youngman and other Jewish comedians?

Remember the bus drivers who shuttled us from Crosstown to the school building on White Station?

Remember the historic day they opened the doors of the new gym — or the unforgettable day Rabbi Moshe Feinstein inaugurated the Yeshiva of the South?

Remember the basketball games, journals, Gatlinburg shabbatons and so much more?

Seventy-five years ago, Memphis Hebrew Academy was just a dream. Today it's the heart of our Jewish community — shaping generations, building leaders, and creating memories we'll never forget.

This year we celebrate 75 years of history, commitment, and community at the MHA/FYOS Banquet on June 15th. Our honorees are the amazing women who have served as PTA/LA Presidents.

As this year's banquet chairpersons, we want to personally invite you to attend this milestone event – reconnect with old friends, relive cherished memories and share your favorite stories.

If you can't join us in person, please consider becoming a sponsor or placing a congratulatory message in this year's journal. You may pay tribute to all of our past PTA/LA Presidents or to specific women you especially wish to honor. We've created a web page for dinner reservations and journal ads at mhafyos.org/banquet. (The link will be up and running on May 1).

Though as alumni we are spread across the globe, we have one common thread, the Academy and Yeshiva. Let's come together to celebrate and support the school that has kept our community strong for generations.

We can't wait to see you there.

Sincerely,
Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69)

PTA/LA Past Presidents

*Each of these remarkable women has led our PTA/LA as President with dedication and passion.
We're sure you'll find many among them worthy of your tribute.*

Chani Belsky

Judy Belsky

Tania Blotner

Sarah Clemons*

Doris Cohn*

Bernice Cooper*

Aileen Cooper

Barbara Epstein

Frances Epstein

Roberta Epstein

Rozzie Epstein*

Lillian Feldman*

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

Naomi Finkelstein

Aviva Freiden

Noreen Freiden*

Chaya (Terry Wollner) Fuchs (MHA '74, YOS '78)

Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant (MHA '70)

Claire Goldman*

Evelyn Graber*

Tova Graber

Elana (Krupp) Kahane (MHA '92)

Joanne Kahane

Anna (Fink)Kaminetzky (MHA '84, YOS '88)

Abbe (Seiger) Kaplan (MHA '71)

Chavi Katz

Dotty Katz*

Elaine Katz*

Esther Katz

Lena Katz*

Michelle Katz

Nina Katz*

Pearl Katz*

Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman (MHA '73)

Ranelle (Evensky) Kibel (MHA '66, YOS '70)

Dorothy Kleinfeldt*

Shifra Kutner*

Vera Lansky*

Ellen Lebovits*

Eva Loskove

Toby Loskove

Doris Lucas

Karen Moss

Frances Rosenberg

Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson (MHA '88)

Ida Sauer*

Fran Seiger*

Paula Sharp*

Ann Slutsky*

Shayna Somer

Essie Stein

Shara Stock*

Bettie Thomas*

Esther Tresan*

Sarah (Fink) Wachtel (MHA '88, YOS '92)

Adrian Weissman

Sarah Bracha Wogan

Dena (Rosenberg) Wruble (MHA '84, YOS '88)

Bede Yaffe*

Deena (Katz) Yarmush (MHA '94, YOS '97)

Carol Zalowitz

Honorary:

Rose Margolin*

Mrs. Theo Pinstein*

*Deceased



SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Rabbi Avi Goldberg z'l



"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others stay and leave footprints in our hearts, and we are never the same."

In the summer of 2008, a young family arrived in Memphis to teach at the school and lead the local Torah MiTzion Kollel. At that moment, no one in our community realized that we, all of us, were about to be positively and profoundly changed... forever.

This "dynamic duo" was Rabbi Avi and his wife, Rachel Goldberg. They came to Memphis with one primary goal: to foster friendships and relationships that they could carry with them when they returned to their beloved home in Jerusalem, thus establishing permanent connections between our community and the Holy Land. To say they were successful would be an understatement. Today, 14 years after they left Memphis in 2011, they still maintain ties and friendships with literally hundreds of members of our community.

For that reason, our community was so badly shaken when this year, the day after Simchas Torah, Rabbi Goldberg was killed in the line of duty, fighting in Lebanon for the country and people he loved so much. Rabbi Goldberg had already completed his military service years ago (he was 43). Yet, after October 7, two years ago, he re-enlisted to serve as a chaplain and provide spiritual guidance to his soldiers. He has now become the only chaplain to be killed in the line of duty in Israel's history.

When asked what their favorite memory of Memphis was, Rachel answered, "The Melava

Malkas that we hosted. It was a very warm and joyful experience. Avi would teach Torah in between the musical selections. It always brought people together. Doing that in Memphis was very beautiful for us. It was a precious experience for us, and I believe for many other people as well. And also, just being part of the neighborhood and living day-to-day life with the people we came to truly love."

Every person has a legacy. Rabbi Goldberg's legacy consisted of teaching us, by example, that everything we do should be done with love. In addition, he taught us to live the words of Albert Einstein, "There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is."



The Goldbergs when they left Memphis in 2011.

We send our deepest condolences to Rachel and their eight beautiful children. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. And may his memory always be a blessing to those of us who were so privileged to have had him in our lives. And yes, he did leave footprints on our hearts.

Reflections on Rabbi Avi Goldberg

Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl, former head of school and the person responsible for bringing the Goldbergs to Memphis.

I first met Avi and Rachel Goldberg in their cramped Kollel apartment in the Old City of Jerusalem in March of 2008. Rachel was a nursing student in university, Avi was an aspiring educator at Yeshivat HaKotel. I was in Israel looking for a Rosh Kollel for our Torah MiTzion Kollel in Memphis. We needed someone who could relate both to high school students and adults. Someone who could both teach and inspire. Someone authentically Israeli, yet fluent in English. Someone with the knowledge base to give a high-level Gemara shiur, the gravitas to win the respect of the city's rabbinic leadership, the patience to introduce Judaism to the uninitiated, and the warmth to make everyone feel at home.

Torah MiTzion had provided me with a list of CVs and set up a series of interviews. But I felt like we needed to cast a net wider — to make sure we were turning over every stone. So, I reached out to people I knew in Israel, shared with them what we were looking for and asked for recommendations. Rabbi Reuven Taragin of Yeshivat HaKotel responded by saying that he knew just the guy: Avi Goldberg.

I forwarded his suggestion to Torah MiTzion. They were unsure. They didn't know him. He hadn't undergone their training. His experience was somewhat lacking. I told them that I wanted to meet him anyway, and that I had set up a time to watch him teach. Once I did, there was no doubt in my mind that Rav Avi was who our community needed.

Avi had a smile that lit up the room. He had eyes that cared and a heart that never judged. He was deeply learned yet remarkably humble. He and Rachel were both talented musicians. They wanted to expand minds while elevating souls. They were looking for a community in which they could teach and from whom they could learn. They wanted a place where they could open their home to any and all — where they could create relationships that were deep, meaningful, and long-lasting. I told them that there were few places better for doing so than Memphis. And then they proceeded to do it better than anyone I've ever seen.

Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger (MHA '09)

Trying to process the devastating loss of Rav Avi Goldberg (HY"D), I am flooded with countless memories and one single mishna:

שְׁמַאי אוֹמֵר:
עָשָׂה תוֹרָתְךָ קִבְעָה;
אָמַר מַעֲט, וַעֲשֵׂה הֶרְבֵּה;
וְהָיָה מִקְבֵּל אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם בְּסֶכֶר פָּנִים יְפוֹת
(אבות א, טו)

Shamai taught us to make our engagement in Torah a fixed and unwavering practice, to be people of action more so than words, and to greet everyone with warmth.



I am confident that Rabbi Goldberg will be remembered for the unmistakable smile that would rarely ever leave his face.

But having been a student of Rav Avi in perhaps the most formative years of my life, I would say that it was his warmth, coupled with his passion for Torah and commitment to action, that left an indelible impression on me and my life moving forward.

Rabbi Goldberg, I remember hearing that you had spent 10 years in Yeshiva before coming to teach (which was eight more than I realized was possible at that point). I remember hearing that you served in a combat unit in the IDF — you, a rabbi with a big beard! I remember a particularly distracted day in class when you were hardly able to cut through the classroom chatter. You raised your voice passionately and said, “Do you not understand what we’re doing here?! Do you not understand that each of your grandparents and their grandparents and their grandparents dedicated their lives to these texts, and if they hadn’t you would not be sitting here today?! Do you not understand that it is your

responsibility to do the same for your children and your grandchildren?!”

I remember staying after school that day to learn Mishna by myself in the Beit Midrash. I didn’t understand it, and I didn’t enjoy it. But I felt I had the responsibility to do it anyway. The understanding and enjoyment developed over time, but that sense of responsibility became the foundation for the next 15 years of my life.

I remember you being the first to call my attention to the personal and spiritual dangers of obsessive cellphone use — famously calling them Yetzer Hara boxes.

I remember when you found out that the high school boys put on a community-wide dinner to fund some of their activities during the year but didn’t give any of the proceeds to tzedaka. The ensuing argument took up most of the class.

I remember hearing that you went to the rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat HaKotel, where you had studied, and where I have now spent the past 13 years, and implored him to accept me despite the fact that I was applying in 11th grade.

I remember hearing about the struggles that you and your wife encountered while trying to introduce Aliyah education to a small Jewish community in Memphis, Tennessee.

I remember how you welcomed me and eventually my wife into your home in Yerushalayim countless times. I remember hearing the words of Torah and the beautiful singing around your Shabbat table. I remember being in awe of the chinuch and shalom bayit that characterized your home and relationship with your family.

I remember you coming to my son's brit mila over 10 years after the last time I had formally sat in your classroom.

If I never properly expressed to you the impact that these experiences had on me and who I am today, I sincerely apologize. I can only hope it is a small comfort to your family and loved ones to know that the values you lived for and have now died for are being carried on by your dedicated students.

Rabbi Avi Goldberg, may your memory be a blessing.

Avi Thomas (FYOS '11)

Hashem only takes the very best.

Rabbi Avi Goldberg was a shining light to anyone who ever met him. I had the extreme honor of being his student in Memphis for three years, although "student" might be a stretch seeing that I rarely participated in class. Nevertheless, Rabbi Goldberg was always there to greet me with a smile and teach me the beauty in Judaism, even when I had a hard time finding it. He let everyone go at their own pace, no matter how religious you were or weren't.

Rabbi Goldberg shares a lot of responsibility for me becoming the person I am today, thanks to the love and kindness he showed my friends and me during our formative years.

Diana and I were so excited when he jumped at the opportunity to officiate our wedding in 2020, and anyone who met him there for the first time was blown away by how warm and fun he was, something not everyone would say for a wedding rabbi.



Rabbi Goldberg made the ultimate sacrifice in Lebanon while fighting Hezbollah terrorists, leaving behind his incredible wife Rachel and eight children. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Rabbi Dov Emerson (MHA '91)

I cannot help but think about Captain Rabbi Avi Goldberg, HY"D, who was tragically taken while defending Am Yisrael as an officer in the IDF. Rav Avi embodied the ethos of *Yeish mei'raboteinu*. As the rosh Kollel of our Torah MiTzion Kollel in Memphis, as a community leader, a master high school rebbe, a doting father of eight, a loving husband, a captain and rabbi in the army, Rav Avi looked at others and



saw only good. It is why in every photo of him that has circulated online since his passing, in every video of him speaking, there remains that ever-present smile. Rav Avi, together with his Eshet Chayil, Rachel, represent the best of Am Yisrael. He had the quality of relentless optimism and positivity that allowed others to naturally connect with him, to want to be with him and be like him.



One of Rav Avi's friends from their Jerusalem neighborhood wrote a letter reflecting on the loss of his friend and mentor. He writes (translated into English from original Hebrew): *"Beyond the engaging content, I'll always remember the way you delivered your words of Torah — with a constant smile. You could deliver an entire d'var Torah without the smile ever leaving your face. I wonder where you got that ability. Even now, during your shiva, I see all the videos people are sending, and there too, you manage to say your words of Torah, smiling the whole way through. Impressive."*

Rav Avi embodied *diracheha darchei noam*, "[Torah's] ways are ways of pleasantness," where the power of a smile, a kind word, playing sweet music in his home together with Rachel, were the tools to bring people along on a spiritual journey with lightness and connection. Through his authentic warmth, a smile that could light up any space, Rav Avi conveyed to everyone he encountered that he cared deeply about them, no matter their background, or who they were. It was real. *Devarim hayotzim min halev, nichnasim....*

The tragedy of Rav Avi's death has reverberated far beyond the usual confines of a family or a neighborhood. This is no doubt due to the significant impact he had on others as a rav, teacher, and leader. Perhaps it is also because our nation is craving his smile — his way of looking at the world with kind eyes and positivity. Friends, neighbors, soldiers, politicians, and rabbis all came to the Goldberg shiva not only to offer their words of comfort, but to connect to the positivity and optimism of Rav Avi, which is a microcosm of Am Yisrael.

We miss our *rabboteinu*. May his impact continue, and with it, bring smiles, light, connection, and ultimately redemption, to our people.

Rabbi Aaron Feigenbaum, former rabbi of Young Israel of Memphis

Truthfully, my head is still swimming, I haven't stopped crying in two days, but I knew Rabbi Avi Goldberg z"l well, and in his honor I share some thoughts. We met the Goldbergs when we both moved to Memphis in 2008. We were coming from

New Jersey; they were coming on *shlichut* from Yerushalayim. We became fast friends, and our families have been friends for 15 years.



The word that best describes Avi for me is radiant. You can see it in pictures of him, even if you've never met him. The glow in his eyes, the smile that was almost always on his face. He was *m'kabeil et kol adam b'sever panim yafot*.

I would add that when I say *kol adam*, I purposefully intend a broad swath of people. Living out of town, in a city like Memphis, you interact with Jews from across the religious spectrum, and Avi had a way with everyone. He could talk in learning with Rav Nota Greenblatt z"l and then later have a long conversation with unaffiliated Jews at the JCC. He told me about his experiences doing weddings through Tzohar with more unaffiliated Jews. He told me that he met couples before their wedding, and that he became their rabbi and primary reference for anything Jewish.

I understood exactly why he was so successful. It was more than a smile, which is why I say he was radiant — he just gave off a positive energy that if you never met him is hard to describe. Avi loved Torah. He was always looking to learn. Every time

we spoke, at some point in the conversation we would talk Torah. I spent Shabbos in the Goldberg home twice in the past two years. We sat at the table — with seforim and our children — for hours.

I have vivid memories of Avi's earlier days in Memphis, trying to teach when his English was not as strong. In those early days, his radiance drew people in and allowed him to form connections with people, he was *ohev et habriot umikarvan l'Torah*. We had a good laugh when we spent Shabbos by him last year, and he asked me to speak in his shul in Hebrew — for all the times I had him speak in English, I owed him at least one in Hebrew.

Avi's radiance shined through his music as well. Avi played the clarinet, his wife Rachel, the violin. I have wonderful memories of them playing together. I have no idea what makes a great musician — Avi was certainly a very capable one — but you could feel that his music was an expression of his soul. Listening to him play you felt his radiance shine through, and it pulled you in.

Avi also wasn't just a bookworm and musician, he was an athlete. We played basketball with the students in Memphis. I don't recall him being Michael Jordan, but he made the game fun; you wanted to play with him. Again, he met the students where they were and drew them into his sphere of influence.

Avi loved Israel. I can't recall how many times we spoke about Aliyah. We actually disagreed a bunch about Aliyah when we lived in Memphis. Avi was always preaching about Eretz Yisroel, and I would try to remind him that we were trying to build the Jewish community in Memphis. He never came around, he was a real shliach in that sense. He

thought it was our duty to be part of the Jewish story that is unfolding in Israel.

Years later, after he was back in Yerushalayim, and we were back in New York, when we were planning our Aliyah, he told me that after living in America, he more greatly appreciated how much of a sacrifice and how large a commitment it is to make Aliyah, and yet he was unmoved about our responsibility to be here.

Speaking of Yerushalayim, Avi loved Yerushalayim. When we were planning our Aliyah, and we were speaking about different communities, I asked Avi if he ever thought about moving. He laughed, he said Yerushalayim is our capital, the home of Dovid HaMelech, where we will rebuild the Beit HaMikdash. Why would he consider moving?!

He also liked to tinker. I remember him building beds, trying to make sourdough. He was interested in things and willing to try something new. I walked away from many of our conversations thinking, "That guy is amazing."

At the levaya, Avi's mother said the world was poorer without him. To my ears, that was an understatement. He was the best of us. He was a Talmid Chacham, a mentsch, a man who understood people, looked to connect with them and spread his mission of progress, avodas Hashem, Eretz Yisroel, and geula. I hope this helps paint a picture for those who didn't know him. *Tihey nishmato tzerura btzrur hachaim.*

Michael Baum (FYOS '22)

Rabbi Goldberg was truly a tzadik. When his family came to Memphis on shlichut, Yehuda, his

eldest son, quickly became a dear friend of mine. I remember being frequently invited by their family to spend time with them and how warm Rachel and the rest of the family always were. Their house was always a beacon of warmth. I still enjoy eating apples with almonds today because that is what Rachel would give us to eat on our playdates. Even after they went back to Israel, our families made an effort to stay connected through Skype.

Rav Avi's deep sense of ahavas Yisroel was truly palpable and evident in everything he did. I remember when my mother and brother were hospitalized during his birth on Purim, Rabbi Goldberg, the gifted clarinet player, and Yehuda came to the hospital to read Megillah, play music, and dance with us to bring us joy during that difficult time. Rabbi Goldberg's pure smile and his incredible chesed have always inspired me.

Rabbi Goldberg was and continues to be an inspiration to all who knew him. I hope the Goldberg family is comforted by how much the Rabbi impacted all of us all.

Jeremy Cooper (MHA '08, FYOS '12)

Rabbi Avi zt"l epitomized the beautiful qualities of Avraham Avinu. He was a constant presence of sincerity, truth, and utmost warmth and hospitality. In the past decade, I can't remember a single time I visited Israel when he, Rachel, and his amazing family didn't proactively welcome me and my family with open arms and הכנסת אורחים the world hasn't seen since the first Avraham.

In the past year, the Goldbergs have hosted my family, siblings, brother-in-law, and countless

members of our Memphis community with excitement, delicious food and song and pure joy — time and time again. There wasn't a time R' Avi's beaming smile didn't radiate in a room, as it did at my wedding and Sheva Brachos, which he and Rachel enhanced with a wonderful musical performance.

R' Avi sent poignantly thoughtful messages and notes for every simcha/accomplishment of mine — big or small — that I will now cherish forever. The world lost its best high school rebbe, father, and friend.

Noah Hazan (MHA '10)

I remember Rabbi Goldberg was playing saxophone during our school's parade around the community. He was having a blast with the school band.

He also helped me fix my tefillin on the Sunday after my bar mitzvah. He noticed I looked uncomfortable and proactively asked if he could fix my tefillin shel rosh. It was very kind, and it helped a lot!

Molly (Brakha) Hagler (MHA '07, FYOS '11)



The Goldbergs hosting a bunch of us during our year in Israel in 2012.



A group of us at Baron Hirsch.

Gabe Address (MHA '10, FYOS '14)

I was devastated to hear about Rabbi Goldberg's death. One thing that always stood out to me about him was how he composed himself during Shemoneh Esrei. You could tell he was concentrating deeply and having a real, meaningful conversation with Hashem. That image of him will always be imprinted in my mind.

One of my favorite memories of him was staying at his house in Baka, Jerusalem, for Sukkos my first year in yeshiva. My old classmate **Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14, if you're reading this, mazal tov on your marriage!) told me he was going, so I called and invited myself too. Eventually, we found out that almost everybody from our graduating class was staying in the neighborhood, so naturally we all converged and spent Yom Tov with the Goldberg family.

They were so happy to have all of us — even the boys from our class who came to school after Rabbi Goldberg left Memphis — and it was probably my favorite Sukkos in Israel during my four years in yeshiva.

Ethan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '14)

I had Rabbi Goldberg as a teacher for Chumash. He was, as many have recounted, an amazing educator and an even better person. I'll give two memories that stand out.

1. Rabbi Goldberg was ahead of his time when it came to seeing the dangers of smartphones. He'd walk into a room full of students on their phones and be utterly bewildered. "Please put away your yetzer harah boxes," is what he'd say. He couldn't fathom why all his students — who were all together in one room — would waste their time on their phones instead of talking to one another. He always had a gift for connecting with people, and he saw smartphones as being antithetical to real human interactions.

2. Admittedly, Hebrew has never been my strength. Rabbi Goldberg's Chumash tests were written in Hebrew. I remember doing pretty poorly on the test because I didn't really understand any of the questions, and Rabbi Goldberg took the time during our lunch break to walk through everything with me and help me out.

Hopefully these two stories provide a quick glimpse of just how amazing he was.

David Gliberman (FYOS '10)

I was devastated to hear about Rabbi Goldberg. He was such a nice person. I also remember the first year he was in Memphis — he made sure that every Kollel Torah MiTzion guy played an instrument. I still have the music they recorded.



Dor L'dor

Tehillim (Psalms 79:13) teaches us, “**From generation to generation**, we will recount your praise.” The MHA/FYOS is blessed with multigenerational families who carry on the traditions of our school and instill the values of our people in their children, grandchildren and beyond. Many of these families had a busy February participating in meaningful school programs with their loved ones.

First Grade Chagigat HaSiddur – February 23, 2025



Yoel Chaim Gibber with his mother, **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), and grandmother, **Amy (Thomas) Epstein** (MHA '71, YOS '75).

“So proud to see Yoel Chaim receive his siddur in the gym where his grandfather **Mike Epstein** (MHA '67, YOS '71) and I spent much of our childhood. We cherish our time there and are sure Yoel Chaim and his sister and brothers will make fond and lasting memories as well.” -Amy (Thomas) Epstein



Joseph Lewis with his parents **Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) and **Richard Lewis** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), brother Aaron and grandmother, **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70).

“Being at Joseph’s siddur play was full circle for me. He received his siddur, just like I did—in the same school, in the same gym, in the same ceremony. The fact that our school is still going strong all these years later brings me tremendous joy and tremendous hope.” -Aviva (Krupp) Lewis



Hadassa Safier and her father, **Rabbi Dovid Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04, and Judaic studies faculty member).



Jacob Weisfogel with his mother, **Dvora (Stein) Weisfogel** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), and grandfather, **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72).



Eitan Plotitsa and his father, **Lenny Plotitsa** (MHA '97).

Second Grade Chagigat HaChumash – February 9, 2025



Kayla Einhorn with her mother, **Bracha (Stein) Einhorn** (MHA '04, FYOS '08), and grandfather, **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72).

"It was an incredibly special day watching my daughter receive her first *chumash* at the same school where I received mine. My entire family felt so much *nachas* from Kayla! We're thankful to be in a wonderful school that cares so much about each individual child. I often notice things Kayla is lucky enough to experience at the MHA that I, too, experienced when I was younger—receiving her *chumash* being one of them. I'd like to express my gratitude to Hashem and acknowledge the wonderful teachers who put so much effort into making each child feel excited about getting their first *chumash*. Mazel tov to the entire second grade class!" -Bracha (Stein) Einhorn



Gavi Bauer and his mother, **Sarah (Harris) Bauer** (FYOS '96).



Ethan Krupp with his father, **Hershel Krupp** (MHA '97), and grandmother, **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70).



Gedalia Mehler with his mother, **Shoshana (Somer) Mehler** (MHA '07, FYOS '11).

FYOS Basketball Senior Night – February 20, 2025



Sarah Kahane (MHA '21, anticipated FYOS '25) with her mother, **Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92), who played for the Lady Macs, and father, **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), who played for the Cooper Macs.



Brooke Sanderson (MHA '21, anticipated FYOS '25) with her mother, **Stacey (Zalowitz) Sanderson** (MHA '88), who played on the MHA girls' team, and father, Josh Sanderson.

"I love basketball! I played in high school, and I love watching it on tv. My two daughters started playing basketball when they were small and each year I look forward to watching them play on the court. It's especially meaningful to me that my girls play for the same team that I played for just a few short years ago. I always say that my favorite season is Basketball Season! Go Lady Macs!" - Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson

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. 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)!

On Dec. 31, **Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) married Dina Raab in New Jersey. Many alumni were there to share in the celebration.



(From left) **Aaron Wruble** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Jeremy Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) and **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13).



(From left) **Yonatan Cooper** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), groom **Benjamin Kampf**, **JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17) and **Jack Kampf** (MHA '22).



(Front row, from left) **Slava Bosin** (MHA '80, YOS '84), **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75), **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **David Winestone** (MHA '74), **Jack Kampf** (MHA '22), **Elliot Wender** (MHA '79, YOS '83), **Ira Thomas** (MHA '70, YOS '74), Cantor Ricky Kampf.

(Second row, from left) **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Bart Ehrenkranz** (YOS '77), Moreh Shimshon Soleman, **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Yael Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), Aileen and **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Joel Weinstein** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Yoni Frieden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), **Justin Wruble** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Alyssa (Wruble) Bardash** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Dena (Rosenberg) Wruble** (MHA '84, YOS '88), **Shira (Osdoba) Schwartz** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92), **Kaylee (Kampf) Stahler** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), **Tamara Schachter** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), Ella Stahler, Avery Stahler, Mrs. Sandy Gersten, **Shirley (Loterstein) Moskowitz** (MHA '73, YOS '77), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), **Shifra (Kutner) Leitman** (MHA '86, YOS '90), Morah Anat Kampf, **Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73), **Pam (Blotner) Thomas** (YOS '79), **Abbe (Seiger) Kaplan** (MHA '71), **Hugh (Freiden) Gordon** (MHA '72, YOS '76).

(Back row, from left) **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Jake Pollack** (FYOS '14), **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82), **Aaron Wruble** (MHA '12, FYOS '16), **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), **Roy Graber** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Raquel (Kampf) Yitzchaki** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Stuart Thomas** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Lee Baum** (MHA '74), Blair Trotz, **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77), **Ephraim Kutner** (MHA '85) and Toby Parker.

The following day (January 1), alumni gathered in Monsey, New York, to participate in the wedding of **Shlomo Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18) and Michal Ambinder.



(Front row, from left) **Jeff Baum** (MHA '80, FYOS '84), **Hugh (Freiden) Gordon** MHA 72, YOS '76), **David Winestone** (MHA '74), **Slava Bosin** (MHA '80, YOS '84), unknown, **Zev Bosin** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), Tzvi Izenberg, **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), Alberto Cevallos.

(Second row, from left) **Pesha (Friedman) Izenberg** (MHA '87, YOS '91), Mrs. Sandy Gersten, **Avi (Bosin) Chowaiki** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Sophie Wruble** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Brittany (Baum) Lindenfeld** (MHA '04).

(Back rows, from left) **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), Aileen Cooper, Rabbi Yonason Gersten, **Anna (Bakulin) Vladi** (FYOS '96), **Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73), **Hershel Moskowitz** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75), **Shayna (Kahane) Lesnoy** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Batya Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Shoshana Silberman** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), ???, **Yael Cooper** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Elise Mendelson** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Rebecca (Brown) Eisenstadter** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Sandra (Loterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Brooke Winestone** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Rachel (Winestone) Liss** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Elana (Krupp) Kahane** (MHA '92), **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Bart Ehrenkranz** (YOS '77), **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77), **Lee Baum** (MHA '74), Rabbi Joel Finkelstein, **Shirley (Loterstein) Moskowitz** (MHA '73, YOS '77) and Morah Anat Kampf.



(From left) **Shoshana Silberman** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Sophie Wruble** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Shayna (Kahane) Lesnoy** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Hershel Moskowitz** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19) and **Joel Weinstein** (MHA '16, FYOS '20).

On Jan. 5, **Ezra Somer** (FYOS '21) married Nomi Spindel in Neve Ilan, Israel. Many friends traveled from near and far to celebrate with him.



(Clockwise from left) **Pinchas Cooperman** (MHA '18), **Nadav Goldkin** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Yosef VanderWalde** (FYOS '24), **Shahar Cahana** (FYOS '22), **Zev Bosin** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Moshe Davidovics** (MHA '17, FYOS '21), **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, FYOS '22), **Dovid Reuven Wogan** (MHA '19, FYOS '23), **Noam Cahana** (FYOS '22), **Aidan Kahane** (MHA '19), **Avi Becker** (FYOS '24) and **Rabbi Dovid Safier** (MHA '00, FYOS '04).



Former school chums **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and **Sidney Goldstein** (MHA '64) enjoyed the CYHSB Alumni Game together on January 18.

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Two special alumni attended the CYHSB Steak Dinner on January 26: **Noam Cahana** (FYOS '22, left) and **Benjamin Siegel** (MHA '18, FYOS '22). Both are currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and received a standing ovation when they were introduced.



Julie (Goldstein) Brown (MHA '76, YOS '80, left) joined **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81, right) at the bris of her grandson in Israel.



In February, former classmates (from left) **Louis Chapman**, **Steve Graber** and **Ira Thomas** (all MHA '70, YOS '74) caught up with each other in New York City during the polar vortex, sharing warm memories and friendships.



In February, members of the Katz family reunited in Memphis to commemorate the first yahrzeit of Izzy Katz, z'l. Posed in front of the iconic mosaic mural at the school Izzy helped to establish are (from left) his son, **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74); his granddaughter, **Deena (Katz) Yarmush** (MHA '94, FYOS '97); and his great-grandson, Yonah Yarmush.

In February, the Cooper Macs varsity team traveled to Detroit for a basketball tournament.



Dovid Krupp (MHA '88, left), who lives in Detroit and has a nephew on the Macs, met up with **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), who came from Memphis to see his son play.



Joining **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) in the Macs cheering section was his sister, **Shirli (Freiden) Gotlib** (MHA '99, FYOS '03), who lives in Detroit.



What are the odds of a group of our alumni running into each other at a hotel in Panama in February? Apparently, better than one would think! (From left) Pammy and **Glenn Graber** (MHA '74, YOS '78), Tova and **Roy Graber** (MHA '76, YOS '80), Debbie and **Rabbi David Finkelstein** (MHA '75), **Bart** (YOS '77) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80), and **Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73) and husband Seth.

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Classmates (from left) **Phillip Paley** and **Alan Rosen** (both YOS '93) caught up in Atlanta in February.



While celebrating her birthday in New York City in December, **Gabrielle (Vance) Burger** (MHA '92, left) dined with longtime friend **Adena Konetz** (FYOS '97).

FLASHBACKS

2006-2010

Photographs from the past



Third grade class of 2000, who became the MHA graduating class of 2006.

(Top Row from the left) **Kevin Wender** (MHA '06), Eliyahu Skaist, **Samuel "Luky" Guigui** (FYOS '10).

(Middle Row) **Ethan Address** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), Courtney Thomas, Naomi Benin, Rayna Exelbierd, **Elisa Barrack** (MHA '06), **Jordana (Wender) Rubin** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), **Gabrielle (Harkavy) Berger** (MHA '06).

(Bottom Row) Hannah Farrel, **Isaac Krupp** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), **Ilya Kats** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), **Yitzchak Ehrenkranz** (MHA '06), **Rachel (Rubenstein) Amar** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), **Menachem Klein** (MHA '06), Aryeh Shachter.

Mrs. Luken's third grade class was a memorable year. Her enthusiasm for learning and care for the students still impresses me and I remember learning about graphs, our puppet book reports and "the Grinch stole the elections" following the 2000 election debacle. - **Menachem Klein**



MSG Gatlinburg Trip, 2009

Seated, from the left: **Raquel (Kampf) Yitzchaki** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Shoshana (Somer) Mehler** (MHA '07, FYOS '11), **Rachel Bacaner** (MHA '07, FYOS '11).

Standing, from the left: **Leah Fleischhacker** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Shira (Hirschfield) Neumann** (FYOS '10), **Naomi (Samberg) Vainer** (MAH '07, FYOS '11), **Ariana Kaufman** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Tzipora (Besser) Rose** (FYOS '09), Mrs. Melissa Perl, **Eliana (Graber) Abbitan** (MHA '05, FYOS '09).

This picture was taken before or after a hike in Gatlinburg in our new MSG sweatshirts.
- **Leah Fleischhacker**

I believe this was from a ski trip MSG shabbaton. Seems like Mrs. Perl was a chaperone — was a blast!! We went on the ski trip every year and I always remember it being an amazing Shabbos and a super fun time!! - **Naomi (Samberg) Vainer**

FLASHBACKS

Photographs from the past



The 2008-09 Mini Macs right after they won the league championship.

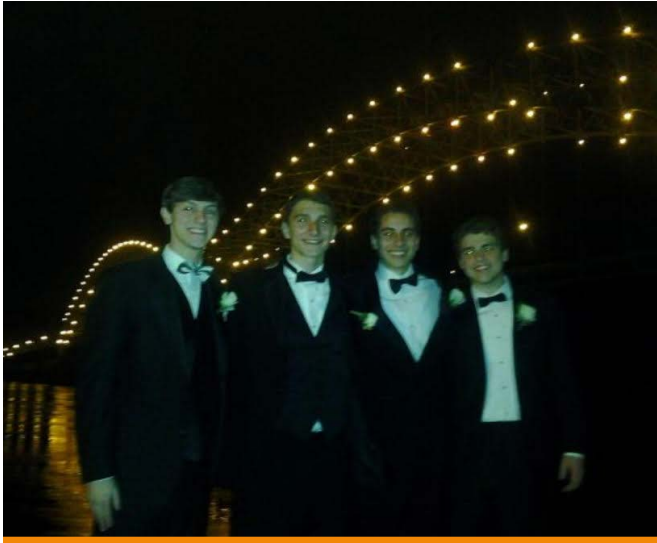
Front row, from the left: **Lee Silberberg** (MHA '09), **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Gabe Goldstein** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Justin Wruble** (MHA '09, FYOS '13).

Middle row, from the left: **Seth Goldstein** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13).

Back row, from the left: **Noah Rapp** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), Coach Austin Carr, **Eli Osdoba** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Asher Silbermann** (MHA '09, FYOS '13).

We took this picture after our 7th & 8th grade team won the league championship. While I am not entirely sure who the competition was (and how steep it was), I remember us taking this picture after the game while we were celebrating! The core of this basketball team was very much the same core as the Varsity team that we fielded in 2012 & 2013, where our team had arguably the best finishes in Sarachek in our school's history (winning Tier 2 in 2012, and finishing in Tier 1 in 2013). Eli Osdoba was very much the star of the team, but the team was balanced with a number of great role players!
- **Ethan Cooper**

Can't tell you what tournament or league this was but glad our Junior High Macs came out victorious! I'll never forget one lesson Coach Austin [Carr] taught us during our Life Skills class: "People can take your ball, your joy, even your peace of mind — but they can't take your integrity. That's yours. Hold on to it no matter what." - **Dylan Cooper**



Attending a formal event downtown in 2010.

From the left: **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Gabe Goldstein** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), and **Jake Pollack** (FYOS '14).

*Had the best time hanging with my best buds downtown back in the day while we were dressed to the nines! - **Isaac Graber***



FYOS Graduating Class of 2009

Simone (Fertel) O'Shea (FYOS '09), **Tzippora (Besser) Rose** (FYOS '09), **Raquel (Kampf) Yitzchaki** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Sara Heshing**, **Eliana (Graber) Abbitan** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Becca (Rosenberg) Near** (FYOS '09), **Elaina (Kaufman) Mittleman** (MHA '05 FYOS '09).

Top row: **Charlie LaVine** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Joel Bowman** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Nate Chertok** (FYOS '09), **Andrew Tavin** (FYOS '09).

*Graduation was the first step to starting a new life. That picture reminds me of a feeling of completion and excitement for the new. - **Charlie LaVine***

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 33rd issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication just before Rosh Hashanah. In it, we will once again highlight the eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years **1976-1980**. Members of these classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) sometime in July. Please return your completed survey promptly so you can be included.

Our feature story in that issue will spotlight **Mrs. Harriet Stein**, who taught at our school from 1974 to 1986. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Mrs. Stein that you would like to share, please send them to Joanne Kahane, alumni chair, at joannekahane111@gmail.com or to her attention at the school mailing address below.

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



Rabbi Dr. Gavriel Brown, Head of School

Mark Kaplowitz, President, Board of Trustees

Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky (MHA '99),
Director of Engagement