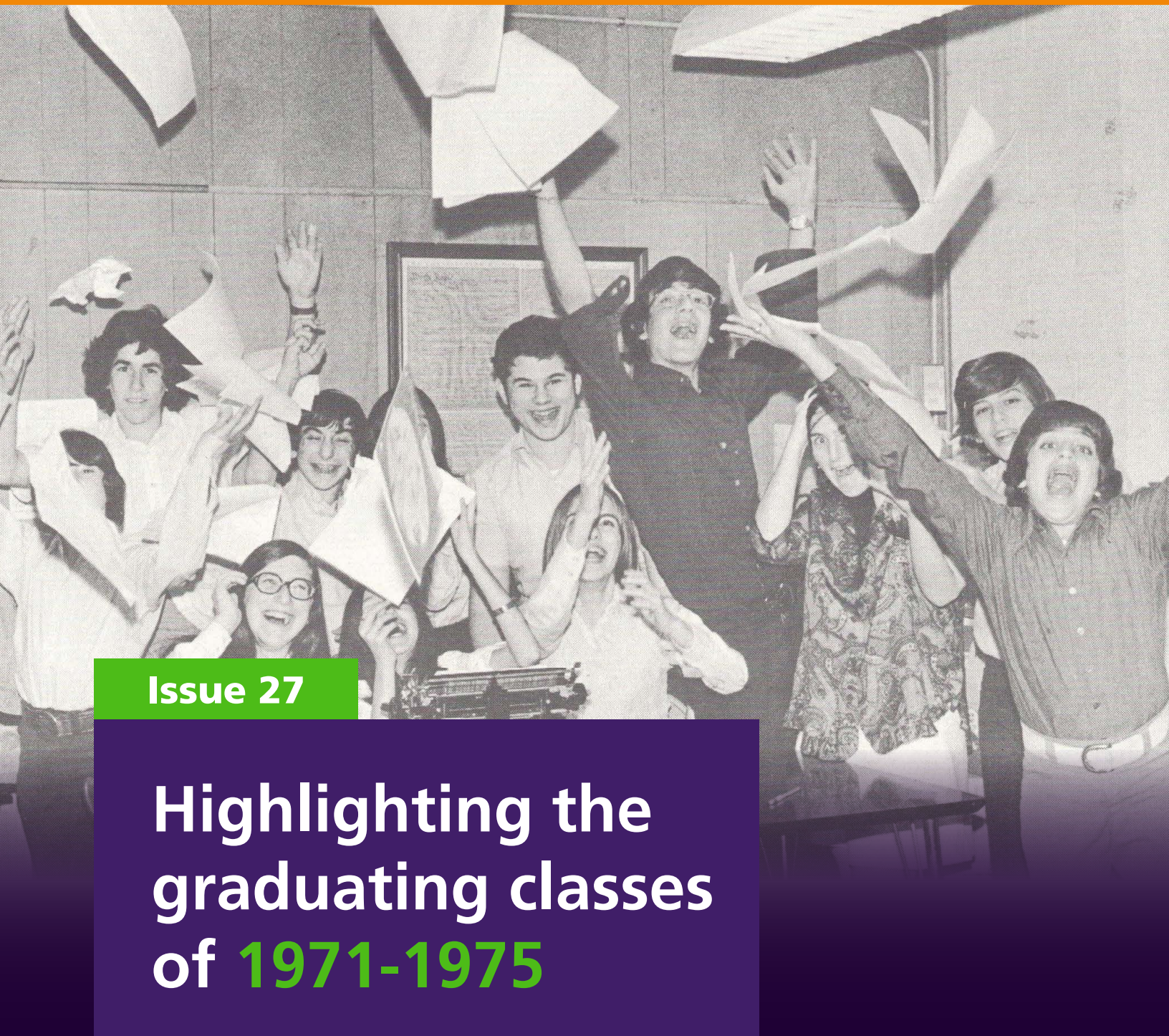


MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 27

Highlighting the
graduating classes
of **1971-1975**

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This issue is dedicated in loving memory of the school's 1971-75 graduates who are no longer with us:

Menachem Carl (YOS '74)

Mark Elster (MHA '74)

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Sidney Gontownik (MHA '70, YOS '74)

Michael Parker (MHA '67, YOS '71)

Steven Posner (MHA '71)

Marcia (Thomas) Fama (YOS '72)

Mark Wender (MHA '70, YOS '74)

May their memory forever be a blessing.

**MISSED AN
ISSUE?**

ARCHIVES

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

COVER PHOTO



Extra, extra! Read all about it! Members of the school newspaper staff celebrate putting another issue to bed in 1974. Seated (from left) are **Naomi (Belsky) Homnick** (MHA '74, YOS '78), **Chaya (Terry Wollner) Fuchs** (MHA '74, YOS '78) and **Dvora (Posner) Gottlieb** (MHA '74). Standing behind them are (from left) **Brad Wolf** (MHA '74), **David Buring** (MHA '74), **Gary Makowsky** (MHA '74), **Inda Rosenberg** (MHA '74), **Eddie Siegel** (MHA '74), **Morris Thomas** (MHA '74), **Brenda Bowman** (MHA '74), **Daryl Lansky** (MHA '74) and **David Winestone** (MHA '74).

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

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

Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenko, copy editor

Noam Davidovics, technology support

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

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MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

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Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



As is tradition in our annual Rosh Hashanah issue, I have the honor and privilege of welcoming the eighth and 12th grade graduates of 2023 to the elite ranks of MHA/FYOS alumni. We are so proud of you and all you have achieved during your years at

our school! You now enter a new phase in your life and join an exclusive group of outstanding individuals — our alumni family. Over the past 75 years, MHA/FYOS alumni have dispersed around the globe, building communities and changing the world wherever they settle. You are now a part of that legacy of excellence. Accept the challenge and march boldly toward your dreams. We will always be here to cheer you on!

For the benefit of our “new” alumni (and as a refresher for all of our readers), I would like to review how you can participate in our alumni newsletter:

1. When we highlight the years that include your graduating class, be sure to respond to our questionnaire in a timely way.
2. Submit your Mazel Tov events (engagements/marriages, birth of a child, bar/bat mitzvahs, etc.) to alumni@mhafyos.org.
3. If you find yourself with a fellow alum, take a picture together and submit it for our Alumni Reunite feature. (Also, check to be sure they are receiving the newsletter. If they are not, please get their email address so we can add them to our list.)
4. Write in with any comments, suggestions, feedback or memories regarding the newsletter.

We hope you will join the hundreds of MHA/FYOS alumni with whom we connect through this newsletter.

Additionally, I want to remind all former attendees of our school about the opportunity to participate in the Alumni Dedication Wall project. Dedicating a tile on the wall is a meaningful way to leave a permanent mark on the MHA/FYOS campus and to stand with your fellow alumni in leaving a lasting legacy for future generations of students. Please see page 27 of this issue or mhafyos.org/alumniwall for details, and we hope you will sign up to be part of this beautiful initiative.

Since my middle school years, my favorite poem has been “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost. As you probably know, the poem is about a person standing at a point where the road ahead diverges in two different directions. They must make a choice as to which road to take. The poem follows the person’s thought process as they decide to take the one that’s “grassy and wanted wear.” The poem concludes with this observation:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by
And that has made all the difference.

Dr. Joel Siegel, former president of the school’s board of trustees and the person most responsible for initiating our formal alumni relations program, reached out to us last spring with a new idea for the newsletter. He pointed out that some of our alumni follow a less-traveled path in pursuing their goals and suggested we feature these unique stories. We’ve decided to begin including a feature article once each year — in the Chanukah issue — to showcase some alumni who have taken roads less traveled.

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MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

In the upcoming Chanukah issue, our inaugural “Road Less Traveled” feature will highlight MHA/FYOS alumni who served in the Israel Defense Forces. If you have served or are currently serving in the IDF, please [reach out to me](#) so I can send you a brief questionnaire to help us learn more about your choices and experiences. These stories will be included in our next issue.

I wish the entire MHA/FYOS family a *shanah tovah u'metukah* — a good and sweet new year. May Hashem continue to shower His blessings on our small Southern community and on all those we send out into the world.

Please continue to let us hear from you.

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair
joannekahane111@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deena Davidovics

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Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends:



By the time you read this, we will be entrenched in a new and exciting school year. Here, I'd like to reflect on all we've experienced in the past few months at the MHA/FYOS.

The 2022-23 school year was a time of transition as Rabbi Yisroel Weiner's inaugural year as our head of school. It was also a year of tremendous learning and growth. Our talented students showcased their knowledge in nights of learning; lights of Torah programs; *siddur*, *chumash* and holiday plays, the science expo, world's fair and more. We enjoyed the CYHSB steak dinner and the MSG gala dinner, and our students broadened their horizons with amazing trips and extracurricular activities. While we tend to highlight the activities and events outside the classroom, these only complement the daily in-class learning, enabling each student to reach their potential and achieve new heights in Torah and general studies. The steady dedication of our teachers, staff and administration knows no bounds.

The events of this summer were truly unprecedented. Memphis experienced a freak July storm, which caused damage to our campus and a prolonged power outage, displacing our Camp Shemesh summer program and requiring quick action to prevent further damage. Our incredible executive director, Brandy Flack, was on-site mere minutes after the storm to assess the damage and coordinate with contractors to ensure our school would be patched up as soon as possible. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and our friends at Baron Hirsch saved the day when they [opened their](#)

[doors](#) without hesitation to house our camp for the rest of that week. We are so incredibly grateful! When Camp Shemesh had to close earlier than planned, Young Israel of Memphis stepped up to make sure that campers had options on their site for the remaining days. It is times like these when we can fully appreciate the beautiful giving and cohesive nature of our community.

Just when we thought we were back on track after the storm, our school made national headlines. While we hear about gun violence on a daily basis and practice active shooter drills, it is surreal when we ourselves are faced with real and present danger of this kind. Once again, our executive director, Brandy Flack, sprang into action. Though facing the danger on campus herself, she ensured that all authorities were immediately notified and safety protocols were activated. Thanks to recent security grants, our main school building has updated doors, locks and cameras, and we are so grateful that our security features stood up to the test.

In the local, national and international news forums, there has been nothing but praise for our school's secure campus and response in the face of this event. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all of the school and community leaders who have worked over the years to hone our security protocols and ensure that our campus has the most up-to-date security features, as well as to our Jewish community security partners and the Memphis Police Department. We are the only Jewish organization in Memphis that has received three consecutive Homeland Security grants, and we can again thank Brandy Flack for her diligence and persistence in seeking all avenues of funding and prioritizing our school's safety.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deena Davidovics

While we feel reassured by our school's security protocols, we must pause and recognize the traumatic event we faced. We are thankful to Hashem that no students were in the building at the time and that no one at the school was harmed. TV personality Mr. Rogers once said: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" We never want to see ourselves in the news for this reason, but this event brought out the helpers from our community and well beyond. We have received messages and offers of support from far and wide, and it is very heartwarming. But for us here in Memphis, this is natural, for we are inherently a community of helpers.

In the *Yekum Purkan* prayer, we say:

יְקַל מִי שְׁעוֹסִקִים בְּצָרְכֵי צְבוּר בְּאַמוּנָה. הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא
יְשַׁלֵּם שַׁכְרָם וְיִסִּיר מֵהֶם כָּל מַחֲלָה וְיִרְפָּא לְכָל גּוֹפֵם וְיִסַּח לְכָל
עוֹנָם. וְיִשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם עִם כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל
אָחֵיהֶם

"All those who faithfully engage with the needs of the community — may Hashem give them their reward and remove from them all illness. May Hashem heal their bodies and forgive their sins. May Hashem send blessings and success to all that they do, together with all of Israel their brethren."

In this *tefillah*, we pray for the healing of those who work on behalf of our communities and for their transgressions to be forgiven; those who do this work are only human, and none of us are perfect. We all give of ourselves and try to use our resources and our best judgment for the betterment of our communities. The prayer ends with a request of

Hashem to help us succeed in our efforts together with our *acheinu Yisrael*, our Jewish brothers and sisters, for we are all one family.

This reminds us of the moment in *Parshat Vayishlach* when Yaakov receives the name Yisrael. Yaakov had split his family into two camps and sent them ahead as he feared Eisav who was approaching. It says:

וַיִּתֵּר יַעֲקֹב לְבַדּוֹ וַיֵּאבֶק אִישׁ עִמּוֹ עַד עֹלוֹת הַשָּׁחַר

"Yaakov was left alone and encountered a man who fought with him until morning" (*Bereshit* 32:25).

When dawn was breaking, the man blessed him as follows:

וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא יַעֲקֹב יֵאמָר עוֹד שְׁמֶךָ כִּי אִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי-שָׂרִיתָ עִם-
אֱלֹהִים וְעִם-אָנָשִׁים וַתִּגַּל

"You will no longer be called Yaakov, but rather Yisrael, for you have struggled with the divine and with mortals and have prevailed" (*Bereshit* 32:29).

We, too, have struggled and prevailed, and we have learned that we are never alone. We have faith in Hashem and all of *Bnei Yisrael* as one family, and we are so much stronger for it. As we look to the year ahead, we strive to grow from the challenges of this past year, build on our successes, and reach new heights for our school and community. We thank all of you who have answered the call to help this past year and hope that even more alumni will step up this coming year, as every one of you truly makes a difference. Among our school's greatest strengths is the unique dedication of our lay leaders

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deena Davidovics

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and volunteers, who inspire us all and assure the continued success of the Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone Yeshiva of the South as the foundation of the Memphis Jewish community.

We have many plans for this year, including new committees and fundraising ideas. We have formed a head of school support and evaluation committee and a board accreditation advisory committee to bolster and support our administrative team. Our operational campaign is already underway, and we are planning other fundraisers with fresh perspectives. As we talk about appreciation for community helpers, this year we are planning to dedicate a *sefer Torah* in memory of Rav Nota Greenblatt, z'l, a founder and pillar of our school and community. This is just a small window into the many ways each and every one of you can get involved and make an impact on our school this year.

We are entering the academic year with some significant and much-needed campus improvements completed over the summer — most notably our new roof. Work is well underway on the expanded parking lot, fencing and enhanced entranceway projects.

I will end by circling back to the *tefillah* that Hashem grant us **בְּרַכָּה וְהַצְלָחָה בְּכֹל מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵינוּ** — blessing and success in all our efforts this year at the MHA/FYOS. May we work together as one family — **עַם כֹּל — יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶחָיוֹ** — so we can prevail for the school and community that depend on us.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year!

Deena Davidovics

President, MHA/FYOS board of trustees

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

Community Responses

We welcome your feedback on the alumni newsletter at alumni@mhafyos.org. Here are some of the responses we received to [Issue No. 26](#).

Wow! I LOVE how the Spotlight article (starting on page 33) turned out. Thank you very, very much. Every time I read it, I get a good laugh from the comment by **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02) about seeing me do some great coaching from his seat on the bench.

This really is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me. Wishing you all the best.

-Robert "Coach Jake" Jacobson,
former MHA/FYOS faculty member

Thank you for the great newsletter. Reading it brings back so many wonderful memories of 1965-66 for me. It makes me smile to see in the newsletter the names of students who attended the MHA that same year.

I knew Mr. Al Thomas, z'l, back then. His daughter **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) was in my class. What a great man. He was so supportive of the MHA and the community. May his memory forever be a blessing.

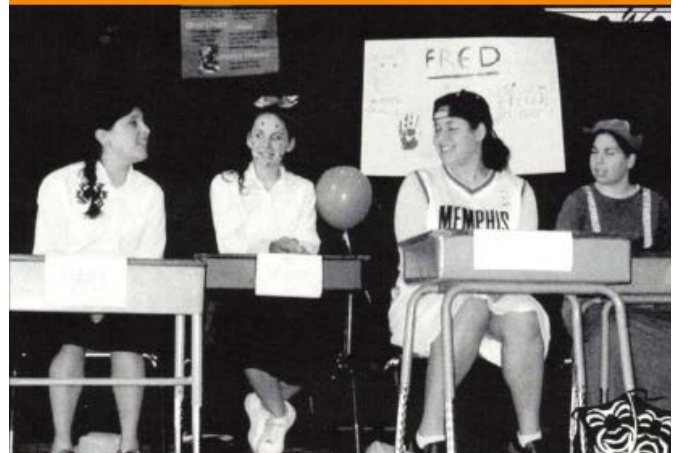
-**Jan Starr** (MHA '66)

Thank you for all your hard work in putting these newsletters together! I do remember the play you asked about in Flashbacks (page 45 and reprinted

below). Every year, the theater arts class would put on a play for the elementary school students, and "Laffin' School" was the show we put on in 2005. I hope that helps.

-**Tamara Schachter** (MHA '01, FYOS '05)

We found this picture in the MHA/FYOS files from 2005's theater arts activities. The caption reads, "Laffin' School." However, none of the ladies pictured here — (from left) **Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Jerilyn (Pocrass) Oppenheimer** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Cheftzi Ben Ishai** (FYOS '06) and **Shoshana Kolodny** (FYOS '06) — could identify the event.



Thanks so much for your tremendous effort in doing this. I love reading each issue.

-**Rabbi Michael Whitman** (MHA '72)

I read the newsletter from cover to cover and truly enjoyed it. You covered some of the years I volunteered on the girls' school Shabbaton trips, hosted Shabbos meals for dorm students, and spent



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

Community Responses

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many hours at the girls' dorm on Laurie Lane — and I recognized all of the students!

The articles on Al Thomas, z'l, and Coach Jake were wonderful. I especially enjoyed reading "Where are they now?" and celebrating the successes and growing families of those who were raised and educated in our community.

Memphis truly exemplifies the concept that "it takes a village to raise a child." Our dedicated rabbis and rebbetzins, educators, staff, neighbors, donors and friends continue to make a significant impact on our children's lives, as well as on the out-of-town students who dorned in Memphis.

Wishing the MHA/FYOS, its alumni and the entire Memphis community continued success in *chinuch* (Jewish education) and *avodah* (service of Hashem).

-Tania Address, proud parent of

Daniel (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Ethan** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) and **Gabriel Address** (MHA '10, FYOS '14)

We always look forward to receiving your newsletter. It's a nice pre-Yom Tov highlight.

-**Moshe (Morris) Gavant** (YOS '72)

The newsletter is very nice!

-**Betty (Freiden) Gulko** (MHA '99, FYOS '03)

Thanks for doing the newsletter. I enjoy it very much.

-**Burt Podhurst** (YOS '72)

I just got off the phone with a guy in Lakewood, New Jersey, named Yaacov Hanover. He told me that Mrs. Adele Hanover, who used to work in the MHA front office, was his grandmother. What a small world!

-**Rabbi Josh Friedman** (MHA '87)

Response from the editor and alumni chair:

Thanks for sharing, Josh. MHA and Memphis connections are indeed everywhere!



TRIVIA ANSWERS

2001-2005

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [26th issue](#).

The winner of our trivia contest from that issue is **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02), who correctly answered six out of 12 questions.

Reuven's holiday season will be enhanced by a tin of goodies 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 26. How many did you know?

1. Who achieved notoriety by doing the best-ever impression of Rabbi Yonason Gersten in a Purim shpiel?
ANSWER: **Josh Zeitlin** (MHA '99, FYOS '03).
2. Which two rabbis from this time period often played basketball with their students during recess?
ANSWERS: Rabbi Yonason Gersten and Rabbi Ben Zion Ungar. As noted by one alumnus, "Rabbi Gersten would play in his dress shoes and still make every shot."
3. What did Rabbi Yonason Gersten famously serve for "breakfast" on a shabbaton?
ANSWERS: Entenmann's donuts and ice cream.
4. Name one (or both) of the movies regularly shown to MHA elementary school classes by substitute teachers. (Remember the TV/VCR cart that was wheeled into the room for such an occasion?...)
ANSWERS: "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and "Richie Rich" (both accepted).
5. From which book were students required to copy while serving detention in the office of Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff?
ANSWER: The book of codes regarding the American flag. (Note from the alumni chair: In attempting to confirm this answer with Mrs. Kutliroff, she did not recall requiring students to copy this publication. She asked who submitted the question, and when she was told the name of the alumnus, she responded, "Oh yes, he was given many different writing assignments during his time in my classes." Consequently, any answer was accepted.)

6. Shortly before Purim each year, a local rabbi was chosen to give a special lecture to the community in memory of a beloved alumnus. What was the title of the *shiur* (class)?

ANSWER: The Dovid Menachem Brown memorial *shiur*, sponsored annually in loving memory of **David Brown, z'l** (MHA '81) by his parents, Lorraine, z'l, and Larry Brown.

7. In 2003, the Cooper Macs varsity basketball team achieved something they had never done before and have not done since. What was it?

ANSWER: Win the Tier 3 championship at the Sarachek basketball tournament at Yeshiva University.

8. Math teacher Mrs. Karin Schmitt had an annual tradition of bringing in a special treat for her students on a particular day. What was the treat, and which day of the year was it?

ANSWER: Pie, in honor of Pi Day (3.14) on March 14. As highlighted earlier this year on the MHA/FYOS Facebook page (as shown at right), the tradition continues today in Mrs. Schmitt's memory.

9. Who comprised the dynamic triumvirate that produced the 2003 CYHSB yearbook on their own? ANSWERS: **Benjamin Rubenstein, Dovid Safier** and **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (all MHA '00, FYOS '04).

10. A messy "war" broke out during the 2003 GMSG kidnap. What was the nature of this "war"?

ANSWER: Shaken up soda bottles.

11. What article of clothing did Mrs. Sandy Gersten wear that showcased her creative side?

ANSWER: Crazy patterned leggings.

12. What song did MHA students sing in the choir, led by Cantors Aryeh Samberg and Ricky Kampf, at the school's 50th anniversary scholarship banquet?

ANSWER: "When You Believe," from the film "The Prince of Egypt."



TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1971-1975

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. The GMSG had students from the western, central and eastern regions of Tennessee in 1972. Besides our Memphis belles, who were the female high school students from Nashville and Chattanooga that year?
2. Who was the high school boys' dorm counselor in 1971-1972? *(Note: There is a lack of consensus among two of our alumni regarding the correct answer to this question, so either will be accepted.)*
3. What three-word mantra best typified the Torah learning motivation in the high school during this era?
4. French teacher Mr. André Suffren threatened to send students with poor conduct who disrupted class to which nearby town that housed a mental institution?
5. What kind of car did math and science teacher Mr. David Cotton drive to school?
6. Which student from this era was famous for their inability to keep a secret?
7. How many times did the boys' dorm catch fire between 1971 and 1974?
8. In 1974, the school held a special celebration weekend to dedicate a new wing of the building. (It's since been used for special-purpose classrooms and instruction space for junior high and, later, elementary school.) For which beloved community member was this wing named?
9. Who worked at the school's front desk during this era?

10. Which local caterer planned the school lunch menus, supervised the kitchen, and cooked for special events during this era?
11. What happened to the tadpole aquarium in the back of the lab in Mr. Evan Purdue's biology class that caused a disturbance and made the rallying cry "Save the tadpoles" popular at our school?

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 **Francie Schneider** (MHA '68, YOS '72), **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), Amanda Davidson and Erica Stoltz. Second, 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 **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68), **Moshe (Morris) Gavant** (YOS '72), **Burt Podhurst** (YOS '72), **Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Erwin "Bubba" Albert** (MHA '71), **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75), **Judy (Lebovits) Lillien** (MHA '72), **Daniel Yormark** (MHA '72), **Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77), **David Winestone** (MHA '74), **Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83), **Sarah (Harris) Bauer** (FYOS '96), **Adena Konetz** (FYOS '97), **Franny (Kaplan) Waisman** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) and Michelle Katz.

Get on the Camel

When our forefather Avraham died almost 75 years after the events covered in the Torah portion read on Rosh Hashanah, he was accompanied to burial by his two sons. They were half-brothers: Yishmael, whose mother was Hagar, and Yitzchak, whose mother was Sarah.

As a young boy, Yishmael exhibited unacceptable traits of cruelty and violence. Sarah, fearing for her son's well-being, instructed Avraham to banish Yishmael and Hagar from their home. Reluctantly, Avraham sent Hagar and Yishmael away, never to see or hear from them again. So how is it that, when Avraham died almost 75 years later, Yishmael was again beside his half-brother Yitzchak, paying honor to their father Avraham?

We don't know. The Torah is silent on this subject. After Avraham sent Yishmael away, his name is not mentioned in the Torah until Avraham's funeral.

While I'm not certain, I do know this story, as told by the rabbis in the Midrash. It may be the answer, as suggested by Rabbi JJ Schacter. It definitely provides crucial insight that is directly related to every one of our lives.

Our rabbis tell us that Avraham never reconciled to sending away his son — notwithstanding Sarah's order to do so and notwithstanding Avraham's own knowledge that Yishmael was a dangerous presence in his household. But the boy was still his son, whom he loved and missed. After three years had passed, Avraham could not bear the boy's absence any longer. He traveled across the desert to see

Yishmael. Sarah strenuously objected, so Avraham offered her a compromise. He swore to her that when he reached Yishmael, he would not dismount his camel, and he would then return.

When Avraham arrived, he met Issa, Yishmael's wife, whom he had never seen and who clearly had no idea who this elderly man was.

He called out to her from atop his camel, "Where is Yishmael?" She replied, "He is with his mother, collecting dates from the desert." He said, "I am exhausted from traveling. May I have a bit of bread and water?" And she said, "I don't have any bread or water to give you."

Avraham then said, "When Yishmael returns, please tell him of our conversation. Tell him, 'An old man came from Canaan to see you and tell you to change the threshold of your home.'" This was meant to be a message that only Yishmael would understand — Avraham had come to visit, and Yishmael's wife did not act with the hospitality and kindness Yishmael learned from his parents.

When Yishmael returned, Issa gave him the entire message. Soon after, Yishmael divorced her, and he later married another woman named Patumah.

Three more years passed, and again Avraham yearned for his absent son and wanted to visit. Again, Sarah objected, and again, Avraham made Sarah the same promise that he would not dismount his camel.

When Avraham arrived, he met Patumah, Yishmael's new wife, whom he had never seen and who clearly had no idea who this elderly man was.

He called out to her from atop his camel, "Where is Yishmael?" She replied, "He is with his mother, guiding the camels through the desert." He said, "I am exhausted from traveling. May I have a bit of bread and water?" Patumah then brought out food and water for Avraham to enjoy.

At that moment, Avraham turned to G-d and prayed on behalf of his distant son that his house should be filled with all manner of good and blessing.

When Yishmael returned, Patumah told him everything that had happened. Yishmael realized that all this time, his father had been thinking of him and loving him and wishing him every blessing. When Avraham died, Yishmael went home and mourned the father who had never stopped loving him, never stopped thinking of him, and never stopped caring about him.

This is one of the powerful themes of this holy season. We go through our lives, and oftentimes we feel that our parent, G-d, is distant from us, has forsaken us, is absent from our lives and doesn't care about the pain we suffer. But it is not true. Even if we don't see G-d, this narrative reminds us, now, to be aware that G-d never forgets us, G-d never forsakes us. *K'rachem av al banim* — as a father and a mother always have compassion and tenderness for their children, so does G-d feel for us.

There is an even more crucial and practical lesson each of us should learn from this story. Today we suffer from a growing epidemic of painful, deep rifts

within our families — between parents and children, brothers and sisters. In how many of our families has someone been sent away or chosen to leave and never return? In how many families is one member not speaking to another? For many people, this can be one of the most difficult aspects of life that we face. Confronting this immense pain, our story contains a solution.

Notice that Avraham, when missing his son, does not say, "Why doesn't Yishmael contact me? After all, I'm the father." Or, "Yishmael was sent away for good reason." Alternatively, why doesn't Avraham send for his son to come back home to reconcile?

This is what Avraham teaches us: He initiated. Avraham took responsibility for reconciling. Avraham got on the camel. And he got on the camel again, even though there was no response the first time. He also teaches us that not receiving a response did not absolve him of the responsibility to keep trying, and trying and trying.

And it wasn't easy. Sarah argued with him. He did not succeed in even seeing his son. The first journey was depressingly unsettling, seeing the poor choices Yishmael had made. But Avraham got on the camel. He took the initiative and made the first move — even though he was older, even though he was the parent, even though he didn't cause the rift. Even if someone else should have, Avraham got on the camel.

He shouldn't have had to. It's not right, it's not fair and it's not just. But Avraham teaches us that it was the only way. He had to get on the camel; there was no other way.

16

D'VAR TORAH

Rabbi Michael Whitman (MHA '72)

I see firsthand how widespread this crisis is among us. So, I want to make a suggestion: *You* get on the camel. In this time of introspection and repentance, *you* make the first move. *You* get in your car, or on your computer, or on your phone and reach out to your father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother or friend and tell them what they mean to you. Tell them you have never stopped loving them and thinking about them and caring about them, regardless of what has happened. And then, if necessary, do it again. And again, and again — even if there is no response.

There is no other way; you have to do it. Please, don't wait until the funeral.

Rabbi Michael Whitman (MHA '72) lives in Montreal, Canada, where he serves as spiritual leader of ADATH Congregation and adjunct professor at McGill University Faculty of Law. He and his wife Marci have four children and six grandchildren.





ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

Mazel tov to:

Former faculty member Lisa and **Jonathan Frisch** (MHA '77, YOS '81) on the May 28 wedding of their daughter Caroline to Ryan Kashfian in Memphis. The newlyweds live in Los Angeles. Additionally, their daughter Dena is engaged to Franklin Edrich; the couple is planning an Aug. 17, 2024, wedding in Memphis, which is also where they will live.

Greta and **Jeff Baum** (MHA '80, YOS '84) of Boca Raton, Florida, on the Aug. 28 marriage of their son Sammy to Sylvie Weinstein in New Rochelle, New York. The happy couple lives in Riverdale, New York.

Dovid Krupp (MHA '88) on his May 29 wedding to Karen Gormezano in Detroit, Michigan, where the couple also lives. Mazel tov to the groom's parents, Mike and **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70) of Memphis.

Jonathan and **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92) of Beit Shemesh, Israel, on their son Jacob's June 18 wedding to Meira Gitt in Kiryat Ekron. The couple

is living in Beit Shemesh. Mazel tov also to grandmother **Gerry (Margolin) Fink-Platsky** (MHA '59) of Jerusalem.

Zachary Wender (MHA '03) on his engagement to Jamie Padell. They are planning an Oct. 22 wedding in Brooklyn, New York, and will live in New York City. Mazel tov to the groom's parents, Penina (former MHA faculty member and administrator) and **Elliot Wender** (MHA '79, YOS '83).

Parker Mantell (MHA '06) on his Aug. 20 wedding to Ariana Feder in New York City, which is also where the happy couple is living. Mazel tov also to the groom's parents, **Julie Parker** (MHA '70) of New York City and Gary Mantell of Memphis.

Jamie Levy (MHA '11, FYOS '15) on her engagement to Azi Farr. They will marry Oct. 15 in Memphis and will make their home in Los Angeles.

Meira Braverman (MHA '14, FYOS '18) on her Aug. 24 wedding to Avi Rubin in Arlington, Tennessee. They are living in Bayswater, New York. Mazel tov to the bride's

parents, Kevin and **Rivka (Katz) Braverman** (MHA '89, YOS '93), grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69) and great-grandfather Izzy Katz, all of Memphis.

Gila Miriam Karasik (FYOS '18) on her engagement to Mordechai Twersky. The couple plans to marry on Jan. 15 in the New York City area and to live in Queens.

BIRTHS:

Mazel tov to:

Rick and **Sally (Rhodes) Baer** (YOS '74) of Memphis on the June 18 arrival of grandson Hudson. The proud parents are Melissa Baer and Julian Spector of Los Angeles, California.

Tommy and **Rebecca (Winestone) Gerber** (MHA '75) of Memphis on the May 31 birth of granddaughter Tully Merit. Her parents are Suzanne Hanover and Josh Zide of Teaneck, New Jersey.

Rabbi Uri and **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the Aug. 3 birth of granddaughter Yocheved. Her proud parents are Bracha and Yaakov Adler of Beitar, Israel. Mazel tov to siblings Tzvi Meir,

Shimon Yehuda, Chaya, Baila Shoshana and Menachem.

Eliyahu and **Devorah (Sharon Wolff) Herbst** (YOS '80) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on the May 24 arrival of granddaughter Chava. Mazel tov to parents Bracha and Dovid Zagelbaum and siblings Esther and Menachem, also of Lakewood.

Nancy and **Mordechai (Marty) Wolff** (MHA '80) of Brooklyn, New York, on the birth of two grandchildren. On March 13, their children Baruch and Nechama Leah Fogel of Lakewood, New Jersey, welcomed son Tzvi. Mazel tov also to siblings Esther, Henny, Rochel, Rivka and Aryeh Leib. On July 26, Shmuel and Henny Wolff, also of Lakewood, celebrated the arrival of their daughter, Yael Miriam. Mazel tov also to siblings Aviva and Aryeh Leib.

Dusten Levinson (MHA '83) and **Josh Thomas** (MHA '83), both of Memphis, on becoming grandparents with the May 14 arrival of grandson Leor. Mazel tov to new parents Shannon Paaymans and Noah Thomas of St. Louis, Missouri.

Michael and **Aliza (Levin) Segal** (MHA '87) of Beit Shemesh, Israel, on the July 6 birth of granddaughter Lotem. Mazel tov to parents Shana and Amichai Segal and big brother Matan, also of Beit Shemesh.

Aryeh and **Dana (Chafetz) Berlin** (MHA '92, FYOS '96) of Passaic, New Jersey, who became grandparents with the July 27 arrival of baby girl Chaya, born to their children Elana and Yehoshua Zyskind in Passaic.

Meira and **Yaakov Ehrenkranz** (MHA '98) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, who welcomed daughter Renah Yehudit on June 18. Mazel tov also to siblings Yossef Yehuda, Shmuel Mordechai, Miriam Chana, Batya Shoshana and Sarah Michal and grandparents **Bart** (YOS '77) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis.

Head of school Rabbi Yisroel and **Suri (Samberg) Weiner** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) of Memphis on the April 14 arrival of daughter Bas-Sheva Miriam. Mazel tov also to siblings Yossi, Malka, Chana, Dena, Aviva, Shoshana and Gila, as well as to grandparents

Cantor Aryeh and Adina Samberg (former MHA faculty members) of Memphis and Mordechai and **Devorah (Adler) Weiner** (YOS '82) of Providence, Rhode Island.

Molly and **Marcus Moss** (MHA '00) of Memphis, who became parents with the April 8 arrival of son Buddy Aaron.

Ruchama and **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) of Hollywood, Florida, on the May 25 birth of their daughter Maayan Ruth. Mazel tov to big brother Benjamin and grandparents Teri and **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75) of Memphis.

Shira and **Shlomo Gersten** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) of Dallas, Texas, on the June 4 arrival of daughter Kaylee, making Lily a big sister. Mazel tov to grandparents and longtime MHA/FYOS faculty members Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten.

Shelley and **Josh Baum** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) of Woodbridge, Connecticut, on the April 24 birth of their son Teddy. He was named for his great-grandfather, longtime MHA/FYOS supporter Ted Winestone, *z'l*. Mazel tov

to siblings David and Pearl and grandparents **Lee** (MHA '74) and **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77) of Memphis.

Nossi and **Leba (Ehrenkranz) Friedman** (MHA '03) of Jerusalem, Israel, who welcomed baby boy Reuven Mordechai on June 9. Mazel tov also to siblings Esther, Aharon, Batsheva, Tova, Chana and Devora and to grandparents **Bart** (YOS '77) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80).

Tehila and **Meir Samberg** (MHA '03) of Yavniel, Israel, on the Aug. 13 birth of daughter Dvora. Mazel tov to siblings Hadassah, Yonah and Yosef and grandparents Cantor Aryeh and Adina Samberg.

Rachel and **Meir Gersten** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) of Far Rockaway, New York, who on April 26 welcomed daughter Ayelet Dina. Mazel tov to big sister Aliza and grandparents Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten.

Alex and **Davida (Graber) Loizias** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) of Short Hills, New Jersey, on the April 13 arrival of their first child, daughter Anna Evelyn. She was named for her great-grandmother,

longtime MHA supporter Evelyn Graber, z'l. Mazel tov also to grandparents Tova and **Roy Graber** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis.

Aliza and **Ariel Cooper** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) of Boston, Massachusetts, on the May 27 birth of daughter Sivan (Sisi), making Lior a big brother. Mazel tov to grandparents Tova and **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82) and great-grandparents and former FYOS faculty members Barbara and Rabbi David Radinsky of Memphis.

Robby and **Jordana (Wender) Rubin** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) of Memphis on the June 29 birth of their first child, son Teddy Paul. Mazel tov also to grandparents Penina and **Elliot Wender** (MHA '79, YOS '83).

Erin and **Ethan Address** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) of Hollywood, Florida, on the June 8 arrival of son Ezra Yisroel. Mazel tov to grandparents Tania and former FYOS faculty member Jeff Address of Boynton Beach, Florida.

Sharona and **Moshe Blockman** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) of Boulder, Colorado, on the March 18 birth

of their first child, daughter Kaia Joyce. She was named for great-grandmother Joyce Blockman, z'l, who avidly supported the school for many years. Mazel tov also to grandparents Nina and **Sandy Blockman** (MHA '71, YOS '74) of Memphis.

Michal and **Shmuel Somer** (MHA '09) of Haifa, Israel on the June 13 birth of baby boy Dov Shabtai, making Miriam a big sister.

Shiran and **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) of Givat Shmuel, Israel, on the May 19 arrival of their son Eitan Chaim. Mazel tov also to big sister Talia Rachel and grandparents Jonathan and **Abbe (Seiger) Kaplan** (MHA '71) of Memphis.

Binyamin and **Zahava (Gersten) Majowka** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) of Riverdale, New York, on the June 26 birth of their first child, son Zacharia Eliezer. Mazel tov to grandparents Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten.

Gefen and **Mirel Nechama (Samuels) Ben Tovim** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) of Jerusalem, Israel, who became parents with the June 20 birth of daughter Yakira.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Mazel Tovs & More

BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:

Mazel tov to:

Avi Rosenschein and **Yedida Lubin** (MHA '91, FYOS '95) of Jerusalem, Israel, who celebrated the bat mitzvah of their daughter Adi on May 13.

Baruch and **Mariam (Levitanus) Berzon** (MHA '93) of Modi'in, Israel, on their son Rafi becoming a bar mitzvah in March.

Rabbi Yisroel and **Suri (Samberg) Weiner** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) of Memphis on their daughter Dena celebrating her bat mitzvah Aug. 29. Mazel tov to grandparents Cantor Aryeh and Adina Samberg of Memphis and Mordechai and **Devorah (Adler) Weiner** (YOS '82) of Providence, Rhode Island.

MAZEL TOV!

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



THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1971-1975

Where are they now?

'72

Moshe (Morris) Gavant (YOS '72) is married to his "teenage sweetheart," **Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant** (MHA '70). They currently live in Baltimore, Maryland, and have four sons: **Josh** (MHA '94), **Aaron** (MHA '97), Yonasan (Jonathan) and Judah. He retired last year from a 40-year career as a radiologist.

Gavant came to the YOS for two years from Atlanta, Georgia. "My roommate during my first year was **Reuven (Randy) Chapman** (MHA '69, YOS '72) from Houston, Texas," he said. "We slept in the kitchen in the old dorm! He and I got reacquainted when my family moved to Baltimore, where he already resided. Our dorm counselor was Perry Miller, who came to Memphis to go to optometry school.

"My second year (1971-72), I 'graduated' to the den, and my roommates were Charles Jacobs, z'l, from Charleston, South Carolina, and **Jesse Schwartzman** (MHA '72) from Houston. I have such warm and appreciative memories of my in-town and out-of-town classmates. Congratulations to all of us on successfully negotiating our middle age and getting to this side of our lives!"

Gavant says he will always be grateful for the education and role models the Yeshiva provided him during his teenage years. "When Ann Ellen and I returned to the community and raised our boys there [for nearly 20 years], I tried in some small measure to repay the kindnesses shown to me as an out-of-towner when I attended the YOS," he said.

His favorite memory from his days at our school? "Well, I did wind up marrying the girl I was supposed to be helping with her geometry," Gavant joked. "I guess 48 years of marriage, four sons and 15 grandchildren are the result of pretty good memories spent in the Blockman home for many a Shabbos meal."

Among his favorite teachers were Mr. Effie Bluestein, who taught social studies and guided the thespian club, along with Mrs. Lillian Feldman, z'l, and Mrs. Phyllis Wahl, z'l, who were both "superb teachers that demanded excellence."

Gavant admits he may have been too young or inexperienced at the time to appreciate the depth and sophistication of Rabbi Meir Belsky's *shiur* (class). "But, being exposed to such



Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant (MHA '70) and **Moshe (Morris) Gavant** (YOS '72).

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THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1971-1975

Where are they now?

a serious approach, with a desire for clarity and excellence, led to my love of Torah learning later in life. I was amazed at his surgical-like precision in opening a discussion, taking it down level-by-level to the point that really needed explanation, and then returning step-by-step to close the case. Really, just like a surgeon."

Burt Podhurst (YOS '72) and his wife, Debbie, live in Delray Beach, Florida.

'72

"She is a physician, and I am semi-retired from most things," he said. "I was a teacher, investor and debate coach on a wide range of socio-economic and political matters. We have a daughter, who is a lawyer in St. Petersburg, Florida."

His favorite teacher at the YOS was Mr. Effie Bluestein.

"I hope everyone from my class is doing well, and I thank the Memphis community for making that part of my life wondrous and compelling," Podhurst said. "I owe special thanks to Rabbi Chaim Seiger, z'l, who made my journey to Memphis possible."



The Podhursts



Burt Podhurst (YOS '72) and his other "children," Charley and Buckley.



The Podhursts' daughter, Paley.

'73

Rabbi Yitzchok Mitnick (YOS '73), who came to Memphis as a dorm student from Brooklyn, New York, now lives in Lakewood, New Jersey. He is engaged in the writing, editing, and printing of *seforim* (Torah books) through the [Avodah Berurah Institute](#), which has a team of 26 colleagues and has published 41 volumes to date.

Rabbi Mitnick recently became a great-grandfather when his granddaughter gave birth to a baby girl in Israel. He sincerely hopes he can visit his great-grandchild very soon.

THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1971-1975

Where are they now?

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He implores FYOS students to spend a year or two after high school studying in Israel. "Don't make the same mistake I did," Rabbi Mitnick said. "You'll never regret going; you'll only regret not going."

He would love to hear from his classmates and friends at rabbimitnick@gmail.com.

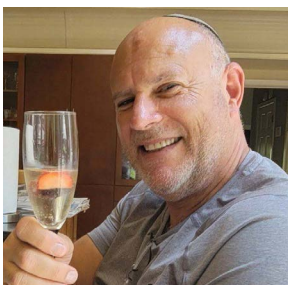


Louis Chapman (MHA '70, YOS '74) came from Houston, Texas, to attend our school. Today, he is an attorney who lives in Passaic, New Jersey, with his wife, Elaine. They have four children and five grandchildren, all of whom live within 10 miles of them.

"I am so appreciative of the warmth and friendly hospitality the community extended to me and others, especially when the dorm suffered two fires in the span of a few years," Chapman said. "When I was in eighth grade, **Jesse Schwartzman** (MHA '72) and I stayed with Rabbi Yaacov Goldfein, z'l, and his family for the spring semester. Later, during the restoration of the dorm, my friend and classmate **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74) and his family were gracious enough to take me in.

"I often think of my classmates and all the memorable times we shared as we were growing up together. I have wonderful memories of the friendships I made and maintained with my fellow students."

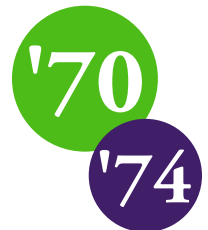
Among Chapman's favorite YOS teachers was Mr. Effie Bluestein. "He taught us to say, 'G-d bless Mr. Bluestein' for when we were in college and realized how well prepared we were in American history because of him."



Ronnie Katz
(MHA '70, YOS '74)

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

His favorite teacher was Mrs. Lillian Feldman.



Ira Thomas (MHA '70, YOS '74) and his wife, Wendy, are the parents of five children, including three alumni: **Tami (Thomas) Radinsky** (MHA '92, FYOS '96), **Nathan Thomas** (MHA '95) and **Nicole (Thomas)**

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THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1971-1975

Where are they now?

Makovsky (MHA '98). They live in Far Rockaway, New York, and he works as an attorney, with a professional photography business on the side.

"When I look back, the years in the Academy and Yeshiva under the direction of Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, were truly a time to cherish," he said. "I didn't appreciate it until I got a few years older, with college under my belt, and looked back to reflect on the education and religious foundation the school gave us. Memphis was lucky to have someone like Rabbi Belsky found the Yeshiva, which to this day remains a true attraction to the city and without which Orthodox Judaism as we know it would not exist there."

He encourages the Memphis Jewish community to stay strong. "Be proud of everything the city has: an Orthodox day school, yeshiva, kollel, multiple shuls and most of all, Ricki's Cookie Corner [owned by his sister **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70)], which truly has a national reputation," Thomas said.

He has fond memories of the MHA lunch program, the great sports teams in elementary and high school, and the lifelong friendships forged with his classmates. His favorite teachers were Rabbi Efraim Greenblatt, z'l, Mrs. Joyce Casada, Mr. David Cotton and Mrs. Lillian Feldman.

'70

'74

'71

'75

Larry Graber (MHA '71, YOS '75) lives in Memphis with his wife, Memphian Teri (Petrovsky) Graber. Their blended family includes **Richard** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) and **Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) and their four children in Memphis; Ruchama and **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) and their two children of Hollywood, Florida; Ahuva Graber and Peter Winik and their two children of Riverdale, New York; Joel and Jessica Graber and their two children of Stamford, Connecticut; and **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), a second-year medical student in Memphis.

His best advice for his classmates is to "live life fully, eat healthy, exercise and maybe you'll get lucky."



Graber family (from left): Teri Graber, Ruchama Lewis, Ahuva Graber, Reva Graber, **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Isaac Graber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), Peter Winik and **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75).



Graber's son Joel and granddaughters Lola (left) and Marley.

THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1971-1975

Where are they now?

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He vividly remembers two field trips from his days at the MHA: one to the Fineberg meatpacking facility to learn about *shechitah* (kosher slaughtering) and the other to the penal farm to witness a prisoner-led group therapy session.

Graber's favorite teachers were Mrs. Joyce Casada and Mr. David Cotton.

Amy Silberberg (MHA '72) is a retired graphic designer who previously worked for Elvis Presley Enterprises and other corporations.

'72

Now divorced, Silberberg lives in Memphis and is glad to have her married daughter and 2-year-old granddaughter living nearby. "My brother, **Marc** (MHA '70), and his family are also here in Memphis, and my sister, Sharon Hanover, and her family live in Florida," she said.

Some of her best memories from the MHA are of Shabbos parties with Rabbi Mordechai Yormark, z'l. Her favorite teachers were Rabbi Yormark, Rabbi Benjamin Wolmark, z'l, and Mrs. Betty Reed.



The Whitmans

Rabbi Michael Whitman (MHA '72) and his wife, Marci, live in Montreal, Canada. He serves as spiritual leader of ADATH Congregation and adjunct professor at McGill University Faculty of Law. They have four children and six grandchildren.

'72

His favorite teacher at the MHA was Rabbi Efraim Greenblatt, z'l.

'73

'77

Mashie (Marsha Greenblatt) Langsam (MHA '73, YOS '77) and her husband live in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem, Israel. She works as student coordinator at Chemdas Bais Yaakov, a women's gap-year seminary program for post-high school students from around the world.

"Last summer, we married off our last son, Daniel, to Noa Shlomi, and they just gave birth to a baby girl, Adina," she said. "We are blessed to have all 12 of our married children living in Israel. Although most of them have never been to Memphis, they certainly know all about it and about my special feelings towards the school I went to, the city I grew up in and the legacy built there by my amazing parents, Rabbi Efraim and Morah Miriam Greenblatt, z'l."

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THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1971-1975

Where are they now?

"I have such fond memories of our school days. We were blessed to have a real childhood with great friends, so thank you for being part of those wonderful years. As this is the Rosh Hashanah issue, let me take this opportunity to wish every one of my classmates a happy and healthy new year — one filled with only good in every way."

She can be reached at mashielangsam@gmail.com.



Langsam family, at the 2022 wedding of their son Daniel (additional grandchildren have been born since).

Jill (Wender) Friedman (MHA '73, YOS '77) currently lives in Riverdale, New York.

'73

'77

Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler (MHA '75, YOS '79) now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

'75

'79

"Our eighth grade class of '75 had a reunion several years ago, and we have an active class WhatsApp group that we enjoy. It's a great way to stay in touch," she said.

"I carry my Memphis background with me wherever I go. I'm always seeking out those old Memphis connections — and there are so many! We Memphians have certainly made our mark in the world."

Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK! 

ALUMNI DEDICATION WALL

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

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

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

Lee Baum (MHA '74)

Shelby (Winestone) Baum (MHA '77)

Julius Besser

Dylan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

Elan Cooper (MHA '13, FYOS '17)

Ethan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

Jeremy Cooper (MHA '08, FYOS '12)

Laurie Cooper (MHA '65)

Pace Cooper (MHA '77, YOS '81)

Serena Cooper (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

Yael Cooper (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

Moshe Davidovics (MHA '17, FYOS '21)

Bart Ehrenkranz (YOS '77)

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

Denah Emerson (MHA '01, FYOS '05)

Rabbi Dov Emerson (MHA '91)

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

Yoni Freiden (MHA '96, FYOS '00)

David Friedman

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

Aidan Kahane (MHA '19)

Elana (Krupp) Kahane (MHA '92)

Josh Kahane (MHA '93, FYOS '97)

Shayna Kahane (MHA '16, FYOS '20)

David Katz (MHA '88)

Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman (MHA '73)

Aaron Kirshtein (FYOS '15)

Asher Kirshtein (FYOS '19)

Avi Kirshtein (FYOS '12)

Zevi Kirshtein (FYOS '22)

Hershel Krupp (MHA '97)

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

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

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

Richard Lewis (MHA '99, FYOS '03)

Brittany (Baum) Lindenfeld (MHA '04)

Chaim Lubin (MHA '93, FYOS '97)

Shmuel Lulky (FYOS '18)

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

Benjamin Mendelson (MHA '17, FYOS '21)

Elise Mendelson (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

Jacob Musicante

Meryl Musicante (MHA '11)

Robert Musicante (MHA '05)

Robin (Friedman) Musicante (MHA '82)

Evan Rosenthal (FYOS '17)

Talia (Kaufman) Sand (MHA '03, FYOS '07)

Ari Sauer (MHA '90, FYOS '94)

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ALUMNI DEDICATION WALL

Rina Soffer (FYOS '19)

Akiva Somer (MHA '10, FYOS '14)

Ezra Somer (FYOS '21)

Rafi Somer (MHA '20)

Shmuel Somer (MHA '09)

Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky (MHA '99)

Suri (Samberg) Weiner (MHA '99, FYOS '03)

Jered Weinstein (MHA '14, FYOS '18)

Joel Weinstein (MHA '16, FYOS '20)

Sara Weinstein (MHA '18, FYOS '22)

Jonathan Wogan (MHA '94)

Aaron Wruble (MHA '12, FYOS '16)

Alyssa Wruble (MHA '11, FYOS '15)

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

Emma Wruble (MHA '20)

Gary Wruble (MHA '77, YOS '81)

Justin Wruble (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

Sophie Wruble (MHA '16, FYOS '20)

**as of Aug. 27, 2023*

Please join us in this exciting endeavor so we can add your name to our growing list of alumni supporters. To reserve your tile on the Alumni Dedication Wall or to learn more about the project, visit mhafyos.org/alumniwall or email jessica.baum@mhafyos.org.

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

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE



Morah Eva Loskove

Nurturing two decades of MHA kindergarteners



During his tenure as dean of the MHA, Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz, z'l, hired a new kindergarten teacher he'd never even met. Some may have questioned that decision at the time, but it turned out to be a very wise choice. Throughout her 22 years at the MHA (1969-1991), Mrs. Eva Loskove demonstrated a great deal of caring, devotion, teaching prowess and love for Judaism. Over the course of more than two decades, she established herself as one of the school's most beloved faculty members and a teacher her young students would never forget.

Mrs. Loskove's journey to the MHA began far to the north of Memphis. Born and raised in Canada, she earned her degree in education from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. While staying with friends in Chicago, she met native Memphian Marvin Loskove, who was in town visiting his sister. They married shortly thereafter and ultimately settled in his hometown.

"Memphis was a wonderful place to live," Mrs. Loskove said. "The people were very friendly and accepted me with open arms."

Mrs. Loskove quickly became a fixture in the community and was known for her good cheer and caring smile. Her students, now long into adulthood, still remember how special she made them feel at the age of 5.

"Mrs. Eva Loskove is the embodiment of nurturing education," said **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81). "She always had a smile on her face. She brought



Mrs. Loskove (back left) with her kindergarten class in 1973.

the energy of a proud parent, wanting to provide her students with the warmth she wished her own children would receive from their teachers. She was extremely devoted to making kindergarten a special experience. The combined one-two punch of having Morah Eva Loskove for kindergarten and her dear friend, Morah Miriam Greenblatt, z'l, for first grade was a sure-fire entrée of excellence to the MHA experience."



Art time in Mrs. Loskove's kindergarten classroom in 1975.

"I fondly remember Mrs. Loskove," said **Asher Wolmark** (YOS '85). "Every morning, as we came into our classroom one by one, we were greeted with her warm and bright smile that made me (and, I imagine, everyone) feel like we were in for another great day of kindergarten. Mrs. Loskove never disappointed! She was kind, caring, thoughtful and always made each one of us feel uniquely special."

The foundational lessons in Judaic and general studies that Mrs. Loskove taught to hundreds of children throughout her career helped them thrive years down the road.



Mrs. Loskove leading kindergarten in the daily recitation of the pledge of allegiance in 1981.

"Mrs. Loskove was one of my most favorite teachers," said **David Katz** (MHA '88). "Being married to the current MHA kindergarten teacher [Morah Michelle Katz], I can now truly appreciate the patience and love Mrs. Loskove had for us. As the famous book title suggests, we truly did learn everything we needed to know in her kindergarten class."

"Kindergarten was quite a long time ago for me, but I have clear memories of Mrs. Eva Loskove," said

Yedida Lubin (MHA '91, FYOS '95). "Our weekly Shabbat parties in school instilled in me a love of Shabbat. She always told the story of the angels who would arrive as we sang *Shalom Aleichem* and bless all the houses that were honoring Shabbat. Mrs. Loskove was a top-notch educator, and I am grateful to her for giving me such a strong basis for my Judaism and love of Israel."



Celebrating Chanukah in Mrs. Loskove's kindergarten classroom in 1985.

"I loved going to kindergarten and still have such vivid and wonderful memories from that year," said **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHA '89, YOS '93). "Mrs. Loskove was so caring. Every day, she set up our little mats on the floor for rest time. She took us out to play for recess and always wanted us to have a good time. I will never forget how Mrs. Loskove taught us the alphabet using letter books! I can still picture the letter books and how she helped us with such kindness and calm. She made learning so fun and enjoyable. I feel blessed to have been the recipient of her love and teaching."

Beyond the four walls of her classroom, Mrs. Loskove created enriching opportunities for her students to perform on the stage in the MHA gym



Mrs. Loskove leading a model Pesach seder in her classroom in 1987.

and to share their enthusiasm and love of learning with the community.

“Mrs. Loskove put on wonderful productions,” Lubin recalled. “The year I was in kindergarten (1983) was when Israel was honored by Memphis in May. Mrs. Loskove dressed the whole class like a scene out of Mea Shearim [an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem]. It was very fun to wear a *tichel* [headscarf]! The best production of all was, of course, our kindergarten graduation at the end of the year.”

“The highlight of my kindergarten year was preparing for graduation,” Kahane said. “Mrs. Loskove made us feel like stars! She was truly a phenomenal teacher.”

In addition to being a dedicated faculty member, Mrs. Loskove was also the proud parent of three MHA students — **Rachelle (Loskove) Bernstein** (MHA '73), **Michael Loskove** (MHA '78, YOS '82) and **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA

'79, YOS '83) — and a devoted volunteer for the Parent-Teacher Association. (Her husband Marvin also served as president of the school's board of trustees.) During her tenure as president of the PTA in 1971, Mrs. Loskove wrote in the annual scholarship journal:

“It is of extreme importance that every child in our school be the seed and the strong roots of future generations of our city. Our children should have the highest priority, for they are the symbol of hope that keeps our community moving forward. ... With tenderness and love, and in the spirit of the Torah, we at the MHA have planted, nurtured and cared for our children, praying all the while that our harvest will be even richer and more blessed.”



Mrs. Loskove and her students proudly showing off new puzzles purchased by the PTA for the kindergarten classroom in 1978.

Mrs. Loskove retired from her teaching career in 1991. “I loved every minute of teaching kindergarten,” she said. “I adored the kids and what I was able to do every day. Each year brought new

challenges, which I looked forward to. The MHA was a wonderful place to work.”

In 2001, the Loskoves moved to Chicago — where their story began — to be closer to their children who were living there. They’ve since been enjoying retirement and spending valuable time with their family, which now includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



The Loskove family (from left): **Michael Loskove** (MHA '78, YOS '82) and his wife **Randi, Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83), **Marvin and Eva Loskove**, and **Rachele (Loskove) Bernstein** (MHA '73) and her husband Paul.

“I didn’t have Mrs. Loskove as a teacher, but I run into her regularly in Chicago,” said fellow Illinois resident **Naomi (Belsky) Homnick** (MHA '74, YOS '78). “She always greets me (and everyone else, for that matter) with a huge smile! She epitomizes the teaching from *Pirkei Avos*: ‘*Hevei mekabel es kol ha’adam b’sever panim yafos* [greet everyone with a smile].”

Two years ago, the Loskoves renewed their MHA/ FYOS connection when their granddaughter Annie Silverstein married **Yosef Goldblatt** (FYOS '17),

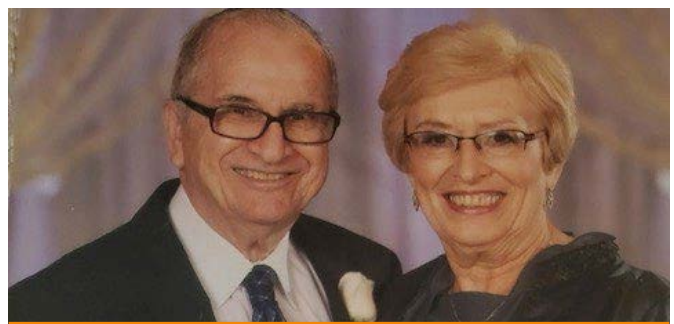
whose family lived in Memphis for seven years. “The Goldblatts have been keeping us up to date on what’s happening at the school and in Memphis,” Mrs. Loskove said.



In June 2021, the Loskoves’ granddaughter Annie Silverstein (center) married **Yosef Goldblatt** (FYOS '17, second from left). Pictured with the bride and groom are grandparents Marvin (far left) and Eva Loskove (far right) and mother of the bride **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83, second from right).

Reflecting on her legacy as a Jewish educator, Mrs. Loskove said, “I hope I instilled in my students a love of *Yiddishkeit* [Judaism] and a love of learning. I hope they found success in their college experiences and beyond and in their pursuit of Torah. I wish my former students all the success in the world.”

In light of the abundant kindness, patience and passion she shared with MHA kindergarteners for more than two decades, we say — mission accomplished.



Mr. and Mrs. Loskove at a recent family *simcha*.

ALUMNI REUNITE

We continue to be impressed by the submissions to our “Alumni Reunite” feature. This might be our most robust one yet!

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)!

During a wintertime visit to Israel from their home in Baltimore, Maryland, **Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant** (MHA '70) and **Moshe (Morris) Gavant** (YOS '72) reconnected with a number of fellow alumni and other members of the extended MHA/FYOS family.



The Gavants (at right) visited the home of **Lisa (Epstein) Garfunkel** (MHA '70, YOS '74) and her husband Nathan (at left) in the Shomrei Emunim neighborhood of Mea Shearim in Jerusalem.



Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant (right) got together with classmate **Gitti (Belsky) Thomas** (MHA '70, YOS '74) in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem.

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ALUMNI REUNITE

While in Jerusalem, the Gavants even had a couple of chance encounters with graduates of our school, including **Yitzi Ehrenkranz** (MHA '06, far right in left picture) and **Jon Wogan** (MHA '94, at left in right picture).



The Gavants also spent time with former MHA/FYOS faculty members who now live in Israel.



Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant with Chavi (Nayowitz) Katz, who attended our school and taught first grade for many years.



The Gavants (left) enjoyed dinner in Ramat Beit Shemesh with former faculty members Rabbi Rob and Mrs. Miriam Meyers and their daughter.



They also dined out with former faculty Rabbi Ari and Mrs. Aviva Katz (at left).



Moshe (Morris) Gavant with former MHA/FYOS teacher Rabbi Ben Zion Ungar.

While visiting Jerusalem in February, **Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79) ran into a couple of fellow alumnae.



Fruchthandler (left) with **Gerry (Margolin) Fink-Platsky** (MHA '59).



Fruchthandler (right) with **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72), who was also visiting Israel.

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On May 21, alumni from near and far joined hundreds of MHA/FYOS supporters at the MHA's 73rd annual scholarship banquet.



(from left) Deena Davidovics, president of the MHA/FYOS board of trustees; Rabbi Yisroel Weiner, head of school; brothers **Roy** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Glenn** (MHA '74, YOS '78), **Larry** (MHA '71, YOS '75) and **Steve Graber** (MHA '70, YOS '74), who accepted the Legacy Tribute honoring their late parents, Evelyn and Marlin Graber, z'l; and **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81).



The Katz family came together to celebrate Mrs. Michelle Katz (fourth from right), longtime MHA faculty member and volunteer, receiving the Eishet Chesed award. With her are (from left) Rachel and **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15); **Daniel Katz** (FYOS '17) and his wife, Meira; **Pesi Katz** (MHA '19, FYOS '23); **David Katz** (MHA '88); Ezra Katz; and **Shaya Katz** (MHA '12, FYOS '16) and his wife, Tehilla.



Sarah Bracha and **Jonathan Wogan** (MHA '94, first and second from left) were the evening's Guests of Honor in recognition of their service to the MHA/FYOS. They were joined at the event by loved ones (from left) **Shelby (Winestone) Baum** (MHA '77) and **Lee Baum** (MHA '74) and Rabbi Ilan and **Masha (Marcia Wogan) Ginian** (MHA '92, FYOS '96).



Also in attendance to pay tribute to the Grabers were (from left) **Julia (Yehudit) Graber** (MHA '93), **Laura Graber** (MHA '98) and **Adena Konetz** (FYOS '97).



Schoolmates (from left) **Adena Konetz** (FYOS '97), **Sarah (Harris) Bauer** (FYOS '96) and **Masha (Marcia Wogan) Ginian** (MHA '92, FYOS '96) reunited at the banquet.



While visiting Israel, **Ariella (Freiden) Schwartz** (MHA '01, FYOS '05, second from left) got together with classmates (from left) **Rebecca Zeitlin** (MHA '01, FYOS '05), **Cheftzi (Ben-Yishai) Tirosh** (FYOS '06) and **Franny (Kaplan) Waisman** (MHA '02, FYOS '06).



On June 18, Jacob Wachtel, son of Jonathan and **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92, pictured second from left) married Meira Gitt in Israel. Joining her for the celebration were (from left) **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Deena (Fink) Tagger** (MHA '83, YOS '87), **Anna (Fink) Kaminetsky** (MHA '84, YOS '88) and **Pesha (Pamela Friedman) Izenberg** (MHA '87, YOS '91).



On June 26, **Rabbi Yitzy Greenblatt** (MHA '75, pictured third from left) celebrated his son getting married in New York City. Attendees of the simcha included (from left) Mrs. Beth Russ (former MHA first grade teacher) and Rabbi Herbert Russ (former MHA dean), **Goldie (Greenblatt) Kenigsberg** (MHA '72), **Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77) and **Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68).



Also reuniting at the June 26 wedding were alumnae (from left) **Rachelle (Greenblatt) Lapidés** (MHA '68), **Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77), **Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Goldie (Greenblatt) Kenigsberg** (MHA '72) and **Sherry (Rosenberg) Ganz** (MHA '68, YOS '72).



While visiting the U.S. from her home in Israel, **Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77, center) reunited with classmates **Sara (Finkelstein) Schacter** (MHA '73, left) and **Dauida (Eskenazi) Tropper** (MHA '73, YOS '77) in Baltimore, attending the kindergarten graduation of their grandsons.



"Of course, I wouldn't make a visit to Baltimore without seeing Mrs. Naomi Finkelstein," Langsam said. (Mrs. Finkelstein served as administrative assistant in the MHA front office for 27 years. She is still beloved, and not only because she kept candy in her desk drawer.) "She looks and is amazing — so much how I remembered her from when I was growing up!" Pictured are (from left) Mrs. Finkelstein, **Langsam** and **Sara (Finkelstein) Schacter**.



In June, alumni (from left) **Rabbi Jacob Greenblatt** (MHA '72), **Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77) and **Julie (Brown) Roll** (MHA '75, YOS '79) reunited while paying a visit to Roll's father, longtime MHA/FYOS supporter Larry Brown.



On July 13, former basketball teammates **Rafi Epstein** (MHA '90) and **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) found themselves on the same flight to Israel — giving them plenty of time to catch up.

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ALUMNI REUNITE



In August, schoolmates (from left) **Aviva (Krupp) Lewis** (MHA '02, FYOS '06), **Meirah (Freiden) Weiss** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) and **Gabrielle (Graber) Gold** (MHA '02) met up at the Maccabi Games in Florida.



After several years of study and preparation, alumna and former faculty member **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80, center) completed her master's degree in social work in the spring. When she visited Memphis in August, friends held a "graduation simulation" to mark her achievements. The graduate is pictured (center) with former classmates **Judy (Baum) Green** (left) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (both MHA '76, YOS '80).



Alumna and former faculty member **Deena (Katz) Yarmush** (MHA '94, FYOS '97) stopped by the school with her son Yonah while visiting Memphis in July. (Alumni wishing to see the latest enhancements to the school's campus can schedule a visit by emailing jessica.baum@mhafyos.org.)

FLASHBACKS

1971-1975

Photographs from the past

Presenting "Ringside" (from left): **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Sam Finkelstein** (MHA '70), **Herbie Rosenberg** (MHA '70) and **David H. Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74).



"The photo you sent brought a smile to my face. I have very fond memories of junior high school at the MHA. The four of us in this photo were cast as a barbershop quartet in an MHA variety show directed by our teacher, Mrs. Joanne Feldman (I believe she's since passed away). If memory serves me, we sang 'While Strolling Through the Park One Day.' By looking at the smiles on our faces, we had a great time performing (although I'm not sure why I didn't button my coat). It was a labor of love by our parents (mostly our mothers), who I seem to recall sewing our jackets (using sewing machines at home), and Mrs. Feldman was a great director and teacher." —David H. Katz

Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant (MHA '70, left) with faculty member Mrs. Joanne Feldman, who wrote and directed "Ringside" (shown at left).



High school students at the MHA annual scholarship banquet in 1973 (from left): **Morris Loterstein** (MHA '68, YOS '72), **Sari Friedman** (YOS '73), **Leah Malka Cheruff** (MHA '70, YOS '73), **Tova (Theresa Hochdorf) Yarmush** (YOS '73), Eileen (Thomas) Exelbierd, **Brenda (Silverman) Pritzker** (MHA '70, YOS '73) and **Penina (Seiger) Insel** (MHA '70).



"I have to admit: I do not remember this event at all! I can tell you I was very happy to be graduating (early) and starting Memphis State, before continuing on to Stern College."
—**Brenda (Silverman) Pritzker**

"What a great picture! Events were not so separate according to gender in those days. Great memory ... I'd forgotten I was ever that young!" —**Penina (Seiger) Insel**

Rabbi Sholom Strajcher (top, third from left) teaching the middle school boys in 1971. Pictured are (clockwise from bottom left) **Marshall Lebovits** (MHA '73), **Avromal Kivelevitz** (MHA '73), Steven Posner, z'l, **Mark Roberts** (MHA '71), **Larry Graber** (MHA '71, YOS '75), **Michael Whitman** (MHA '72), **Henry Rubenstein** (MHA '71), **Sandy Blockman** (MHA '71, YOS '74), **Erwin (Bubba) Albert** (MHA '71), Scott Sapett, **Mark Mendelson** (MHA '72), **Mark Drucker** (MHA '71), **Jack Hackerman** (MHA '71), **Jacob Greenblatt** (MHA '72), **Daniel Yormark** (MHA '72) and **Michael Schneider** (MHA '72).



"I realize now there are two sixth graders and only part of the seventh and eighth grades in this picture. I don't recall why we were grouped like that. Rabbi Strajcher was very warm, chilled and interesting. The very setup, or lack thereof, of the desks demonstrates the relaxed atmosphere of his class. It was so enjoyable to listen and learn in his class." —**Daniel Yormark**

The Yeshiva of the South boys' high school graduating class of 1974 (from left): **Mark Wender, z'l** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Jonathan Finegold, z'l** (YOS '74), **Steve Graber** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Lee Eskinazi** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Menachem Carl, z'l** (YOS '74), **Louis Chapman** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Sandy Blockman** (MHA '71, YOS '74), **Sidney Gontownik z'l** (MHA '70, YOS '74), **Ira Thomas** (MHA '70, YOS '74, seated), **David H. Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74) and **Denis Freiden** (MHA '70, YOS '74).



*"This was our senior class picture, taken across the street from the Yeshiva building for reasons I cannot fathom today. These men are the best and brightest of the generation, present company excluded. We had no idea how fortunate we were and how much we benefited from each other, the school, the community and the city. Several class members are no longer with us, which causes intense pain, but their memories are for me and, as importantly, everyone else, a blessing. These are the GOATs (greatest of all time) — individually and particularly to our families, who had the faith to see us through what was clearly an experiment that succeeded. This was the best of times, and these are the best guys. Period." —**Steve Graber***

*"We were a close-knit unit. It's sad to reflect on our class, as four of our classmates passed away at a very young age. They were four upstanding men who added to the history of our great Yeshiva and have since passed on to their Creator. I grew up with two of them since birth, with another since our early years in the Academy and the fourth through our development years in the Yeshiva. I kept up with three of the four until the days of their passing. I often reflect on the great times we had growing up and still find it hard to believe that they are no longer with us. Each had his distinct style and was special in his own way. They are all missed but will never be forgotten by myself and my other classmates. The lifelong relationships developed with your classmates are among the most beautiful things about growing up in a smaller Jewish community. May their memories be a blessing to us all." —**Ira Thomas***

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 28th issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication around Chanukah. In it, we will once again highlight the eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years 1991-1995. Members of these classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) some time in October. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature article in that issue will spotlight **Rabbi Jay Salid**, who taught Judaic studies at our school from 1987 to 2000. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Rabbi Salid 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's mailing address below.

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

Finally, for all alumni who served or are currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), please reach out to [Joanne Kahane](#) so we can include you in the first feature in our series called "The Road Less Traveled" (see message from the chair, page 3, for details). Thank you!



Rabbi Yisroel Weiner, head of school
Deena Davidovics, president, board of trustees
Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky (MHA '99),
marketing and recruitment director