

# MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 22

**Highlighting the  
graduating classes  
of 1976-1980**

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This issue is dedicated in loving memory of the school's 1976-80 graduates who are no longer with us:

**Darrell Cohen** (MHA '80)

**Jonathan Finegold** (YOS '74)

**Lois (Ostrow) Goldberg**

(MHA '77, YOS '81)

**Nathan Herskowitz** (YOS '78)

**Deborah (Bernheim) Novak**

(MHA '77)

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](http://mhafyos.org/alumni).

## COVER PHOTO



The MHA volunteer safety patrol in 1977: (front row, from left) **Shmuel Cheruff** (MHA '79, YOS '83), **Marty LeVine** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Jeff Rabinovitz** (MHA '77), **Victor Shine** (MHA '79, YOS '83); (back row, from left) **Debbie (Bernheim) Novak**, z'l (MHA '77), **Beryl Thomas** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Marc Hanover** (MHA '77), **Ilene (Brown) Kravetsky** (MHA '78, YOS '82), **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Chaya Finegold** (MHA '78, YOS '81) and **Cheryl Kaplan** (MHA '78, YOS '82).

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

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

Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenker, 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](mailto: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 the air outside wraps itself in the chill of the winter months, we all retreat back into our homes, hoping that by next winter we will be free to safely gather indoors with abandon. The spring, summer and fall months enabled us to once again enjoy each other's company outdoors: kiddushes, classes, visits with our neighbors and more. We now head back inside with the fervent hope that we can soon bid a fond farewell to this pandemic and once again fully share in each other's lives.

Thank G-d, our school has done pretty well amid the COVID-19 conditions this year. We saw a series of positive cases during the first two weeks of school, so our students convened on Zoom until after Sukkot break. Since then, things have gone smoothly, with just an isolated case here and there and very little community spread. As always, we credit the guidance of our leaders and the diligence of our community members. We have much to be grateful for.

As you can see from our Alumni News pages, the "slowing down" of COVID has opened the gates for many wonderful alumni simchas. We could barely keep track of all the exciting emails we were receiving. Many people postponed their simchas on account of the pandemic, and we are so grateful that these celebrations are now starting to happen.

On a sad note, Memphis recently mourned the loss of Marilyn Califf, z'l, the artist who, along with Barbara Shankman, z'l, created two memorable

mosaics in our school: the mural on the way to the lunchroom/gym and the one featuring the *bracha* of *al netilat yadayim* above the handwashing sinks. (On page 30 in the [Chanukah 2020 issue](#) of our newsletter, we featured Mrs. Califf and her artwork and highlighted her visit to the MHA that September.) Along with Mrs. Shankman, Mrs. Califf created iconic pieces that have adorned our school for over 50 years; with Hashem's help, they will be



The mural, created in 1966 by Mrs. Califf and Mrs. Shankman based on students' artwork, has delighted generations of MHA students, faculty and friends.



Mrs. Califf (center) visited the school in September 2020 to meet with Rabbi Benjy Owen, head of school (far left), and Yoel Goldblatt, president of the board (far right), and to see how her artwork had fared during the campus renovations.

## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

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enjoyed for generations of children yet to come. We send our deepest condolences to the Califf family and hope they can take comfort in knowing that her spirit will forever reside in the hallways of our school. May her memory always be a blessing.

I wish all of you a joyous Chanukah season. Please continue to be safe, and as always, let us hear from you soon.

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



Many MHA students learned to recite the *bracha* for washing their hands from Mrs. Califf's beautiful mosaic.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



Another school year is well and truly underway! With minimal time between the start of school and Rosh Hashanah, our teachers did a very admirable job preparing our students for the *chagim* by creating special artwork, singing songs, and learning all about the holidays.

Rosh Hashanah also marked the start of our 2021 operational campaign. As ever, a tremendous thank you goes to Dr. Larry Wruble, **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82) and **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), who once again coordinated these efforts, which are critical to the school's financial sustainability.

Meanwhile, the PTA, led by Sarah Bracha Wogan, has coordinated a number of highly successful activities, including Rosh Hashanah gift baskets, community Sukkah hops, teacher appreciation activities (in the plural) and the second annual [PTA Thanksgiving Virtual Family Fun Run!](#)

For over seven decades, we've had the wonderful fortune of great leaders at the MHA/FYOS. Our current head of school, Rabbi Benjy Owen, is one of these valued leaders. Thus, it's with mixed emotions that I share that Rabbi Owen has informed me and the board he has decided to move back to his hometown of Seattle to assume the head of school position at the Seattle Hebrew Academy, effective for the 2022-23 academic year.

During Rabbi Owen's tenure and under his leadership, the MHA/FYOS has hired a number

of outstanding teachers and administrators and improved the faculty culture; our enrollment has increased; our facilities have improved; and our school community has been blessed with a sense of stability, critical during these tumultuous times. Most recently and most notably, Rabbi Owen led the MHA/FYOS through the immense challenges associated with COVID-19, keeping our community safe and our students in school. I want to thank Rabbi Owen for his dedication, leadership, partnership and success in the education of our children and the enhancement of our school. We will miss Rabbi Owen and wish him much *hatzlacha* (success) as he embarks on the next stage of his career.

In light of this news, we have formed a search committee to identify and hire the next great leader of the MHA/FYOS: an experienced and passionate educator who will continue to build on our school's record of success and guide our students and faculty to many more years of growth and development. To the extent you have an ideal candidate in mind, please direct information to our dedicated email address, [search4mha@gmail.com](mailto:search4mha@gmail.com).

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and no truer words have been spoken regarding the children of the MHA/FYOS. I'd like to take the opportunity to close with thanks to all those who do so much for our school. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Wishing you all a happy Chanukah!

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



Want to know some secrets we can tap into on Chanukah? Let's look a bit deeply and see what we can "shed some light on"!

In Mark Twain's famous 1899 piece "Concerning the Jews," he commented on the great empires of the past that have "faded to dream stuff ... they sit in twilight or have vanished." Then he spoke of the Jews, who "saw them all, beat them all ... all things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. *What is the secret of his immortality?*"

Twain asked wisely: What IS the secret of our immortality? I suppose there are lots of answers to this important question, but let's see what is illuminated for us within the history of Chanukah.

Around 2,200 years ago, the Syrian-Greek king Antiochus Epiphanes IV tried to hellenize the Jews by forbidding certain Jewish practices, such as learning Torah, *bris milah* (circumcision), keeping Shabbos, and celebrating Rosh Chodesh. There was a spiritual war going on. He was trying to pry the Jews away from our connection to eternity.

Today, we face seemingly more sophisticated challenges. Take, for example, a current discussion about the concept of our souls. Paul Bloom, a psychology professor at Yale University, says, "The quality of mental life that we associate with souls, are purely corporeal — they emerge from biochemical processes in the brain." Steven Pinker, a professor of psychology at Harvard, writes, "What we conceive of the soul is nothing more than activity of the brain." Where is G-d in all of this?

Two events evolve in the Chanukah story that enlighten us on how to deal with these current events: the actions of the Maccabees and the search for untainted oil that remained sealed.

**The war.** What was going on with the Maccabees/*Chashmonaim*? How could they think to fight the mighty Greek army? Let them stay in the walls of their *beis midrash* (study hall) and continue to learn Torah! They would not be affected by what was going on in the culture of the time. The assimilation/hellenization was far from their camp! But they didn't need to fight.

**The oil.** True, everything in the *Beis Hamikdash*/Holy Temple was in shambles. Everything had been smashed and desecrated, including all the jars of oil for the menorah, which were sealed and pure. We know they searched until they found one sealed jar of oil, which lasted for all eight nights, and the rest is history. But they didn't need to do that.

These actions are actually one and the same point. They teach us much.

The *Chashmonaim* wouldn't stand for what was going on! They wanted to stand up for G-d, His honor and His Torah. They wanted everyone to live on the highest rung of the ladder, not on a lower one involving some assimilated version of Judaism. Against all odds, they went out and fought, and they won.

Regarding the oil, there is a *halacha* in Jewish law called *tumah hutra b'tzibbur*. It means that if you are doing a communal mitzvah for the good of the group, using something that is second tier — in this case, impure oil with a broken seal to light the menorah — is permissible. But they wouldn't stand for that. They wanted to serve G-d with the highest standards, even in the disheveled mess of the Temple. Once they got back in, they wanted the service to be perfect.

Both of these acts convey a deep message to us. Our service of G-d should be on a high level. We should be proactive Jews, not reactive Jews. Everything we do should be pure *emes* (truth) and without compromise.

In my teaching, I often use the Latin phrase *carpe diem* (seize the day). It was first used by the Roman poet Horace to express the idea that people should enjoy life while they still can. But there are deep, Jewish concepts in the understanding of these two words.

In Latin, *carpe* has an agricultural theme to it. The connotation is that something is growing but is not yet ripe. It's not ready to be utilized or eaten. It's there, but only in potential. Then it grows and becomes actualized. It becomes ripe for the picking and can be eaten and enjoyed. So, really we should be saying "pluck the day," but it sounds much nicer to say "seize the day"!

This is truly a Jewish message that each of us can internalize. In Hebrew, we call it *m'koach l'poel* — to actualize our potential. Life is precious and priceless! With every moment of life we are given, we can work to actualize our potential and seize the day.

Chanukah is a time of year when we can infuse ourselves with the holy light of the menorah, dispel some of the darkness, and see more of G-d in our lives. Just as the *Chashmonaim* rededicated the Holy Temple, we can rededicate ourselves to purer service of G-d, even in some small way. The spiritual sparks

are there for the taking! We can dig deep and ask ourselves whether we are truly playing the game of life or just watching from the bleachers. In our heart of hearts — truth be told, in our soul of souls — how do we really want to be, and who do we really want to be? *Carpe diem*; go for it!

So, what is the secret of the Jews' immortality? It is us! It's you and I seizing the day, wanting to live a Jewish life. Not settling for mediocrity, but rather tapping into the incredible deeds of those who came before us. They taught us to go for the gold, stretch ourselves, and connect to G-d moment to moment by actualizing our potential and creating eternity as we go — baby step by baby step, one thought, one act, one word at a time, as we continue on our priceless journey of life.

There's a war going on right now. Whose side are YOU on?

**Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) is an inspirational Torah educator who teaches at several seminaries in Israel and speaks to communities around the world. She is also a clinical mental health counselor, dating coach and marriage adviser. She has led educational trips to Poland and across Europe for over 15 years. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband, Rabbi Uri Silver; they have three children and eight grandchildren.



We welcome your feedback on the alumni newsletter at [alumni@mhafyos.org](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org). Here are some of the responses we received to [Issue No. 21](#).

Thank you for all the work you put into the newsletter! I have such fond memories of my years in Memphis and at the MHA. It was a magical place and time! Whenever I come back to town and run into classmates, I find that the bonds remain. It is a very special feeling.

-**Devora (Kipper) Gradon** (MHA '77, YOS '81)

Thank you very much for your efforts with this newsletter. You do a wonderful job reconnecting alumni to the school. *Kol ha'kavod* [kudos]!

-**Jonathan Frisch** (MHA '77, YOS '81)

Many thanks for keeping up this great newsletter. I enjoy each and every issue!

-**Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77)

I always enjoy the alumni newsletter and am grateful to you for taking me back home! I am part of an ongoing chat with **Melissa (Freiden) Friedman** (MHA '79, YOS '83), **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83) and **Elaine (Weinreich) Katz** (MHA '79), and the newsletter comes up every so often in our discussions. Thank you for all that you do.

My family and I now live in Cedarhurst, New York. My husband established a school in nearby Far Rockaway called Bais Yaakov Ateres Miriam;

it's named after my mother, former MHA faculty member Mrs. Miriam Yormark, z'l. Every so often, someone with a Memphis connection joins the school, and that is always very exciting! My husband also directs an overnight summer camp. This past summer, one of the Belskys was the camp PA, and several great-grandchildren of my mother's friends came as campers and staff. It's so special for me when things like that happen.

I also want to mention that my daughter Nechama (Neuman) Quinn works for alumnus **Rabbi Michael Kahane** (MHA '91, FYOS '95) at Chedvas Bais Yaakov in Jerusalem! She speaks so highly of him and the work that he does, and she really enjoys working there. I bumped into his wife **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHA '89, YOS '93) during one of my visits to Israel — what a treat!

On Shmini Atzeret, we enjoyed the company of **Gitti (Belsky) Thomas** (MHA '70, YOS '74), who was visiting her daughter in Woodmere. No matter where I roam, my Memphis roots always remain close by.

-**Lisa (Yormark) Neuman** (MHA '79, YOS '83)

*Reply from the editor and chair:*

*Lisa, thank you for writing in and sharing your many Memphis "encounters." We have only one question: Why didn't you take any pictures?! We look forward to receiving a picture of the next time you bump into fellow alumni so we can include it in our "Alumni Reunite" feature.*



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

### Community Responses

I'm enjoying the current alumni newsletter. However, I have trouble reading the white letters on the yellow background used as the style for most of the edition. In future editions, perhaps you could select a darker color to contrast with the yellow for these old eyes?

-Morris Gavant (YOS '72)

#### *Reply from the editor and chair:*

*Morris, thanks as always for your support of our efforts. We appreciate the feedback so we can continue to improve our publication. We've shared your suggestion and those of other readers with "old eyes" with our dedicated graphic design volunteer, Ruthie Rashkin (who has very young eyes). You should notice a difference in the color contrast, beginning with this issue.*

The last issue of the newsletter said that Mrs. Suzanne Friedman started teaching at the school in 1973. However, she was my first grade teacher during the 1972-73 school year. I seem to recall that she started teaching at the school in the 1969-70 school year.

-Jeff Dlugach (MHA '80)

#### *Reply from the editor and chair:*

*Thank you, Jeff. We always strive for accuracy and appreciate when our readers help us achieve that goal. Mrs. Friedman didn't remember exactly when she started teaching at our school, so we referred to the yearbooks and looked for when her first picture appeared. The first issue in which we found her listed was the 1973 ad journal. However, we neglected to account for the fact that the journal comes out each spring and that the academic year begins in the prior calendar year. So, it is likely that your first grade class (1972-73) was her first at the school. If she taught in any prior years, it was not noted in the journals. Thank you for your careful eye and for keeping us honest.*



# TRIVIA ANSWERS 2006-2010

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [21st issue](#).

**Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) correctly answered 10 out of 15 questions and is the winner of our last trivia contest. *Yasher koach* (kudos) to Dylan, who is now a three-time contest winner! (Perhaps medical school has taught him to retain lots of trivial information.)

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

*Below are the correct answers to the trivia questions from Issue 21. How many did you know?*

1. Which MHA '05, FYOS '09 alumnus was mistaken for a chaperone on a school trip to St. Louis?  
*ANSWER: Joel Bowman (MHA '05, FYOS '09).*
2. In what year did the CYHSB achieve its only first-place victory in the Cooper Invitational Basketball Tournament? *Bonus question: Who was awarded the title of Most Valuable Player that year?*  
*ANSWERS: 2008. Isaac Krupp (MHA '06, FYOS '10).*
3. Which member of the FYOS class of '07 broke his arm during the Yeshivat Rambam Willner Basketball Tournament in 2005?  
*ANSWER: Meir Gersten (MHA '03, FYOS '07).*
4. What was unique about the homemade menorah contest held during Chanukah in 2010?  
*ANSWER: The menorahs had to be edible.*
5. So many members of the MHA class of 2010 got injured during their eighth grade year that the students formed an unusual club. What was it called?  
*ANSWER: The Cripple Club.*
6. In 2000, the fifth grade boys (who eventually became MHA '03, FYOS '07) held a special type of race that had swept the country and was designed to promote healthy eating. What was the race called?  
*ANSWER: The Lunch Box Derby.*

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## TRIVIA ANSWERS Questions from Issue 21

7. Which MHA '04, FYOS '08 alumna raised the most money (\$810) for St. Jude through the Math-A-Thon at our school in 2000?

*ANSWER: Haley Kaplan (MHA '04, FYOS '08).*

- Who is the sixth grader (pictured here) dressed as Mrs. Sandy Gersten on "Dress Like Your Favorite Teacher Day" in 2007?

*ANSWER: Mrs. Gersten's daughter Zahava Gersten (MHA '09, FYOS '13).*



9. How much time was left on the clock when **Meir Gersten** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) scored a full-court basket in the Yeshiva University Saracheck basketball tournament?

*ANSWER: Less than one second.*

10. What was the highest book point value on Mrs. Linda George's 10-question book test?

*ANSWER: 500.*

11. What food vendor was available outside the school for several weeks during the 2008-09 school year?

*ANSWER: An ice cream truck. The story goes that the CYHSB students in Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff's history class spotted an ice cream truck outside their window one afternoon. She permitted them to call out to the vendor through the window, letting him know they would be available to purchase ice cream in 30 minutes. When they went after class to buy ice cream, Rabbi Yonason Gersten called the boys back inside for mincha (afternoon prayers). He sent **Ethan Addess** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) to ask the ice cream vendor to come back again shortly. For weeks thereafter, the ice cream truck showed up after mincha.*

12. What play was Ms. Grace Korzekwa (Sullivan) supposed to direct but too many people dropped out?

*ANSWER: "The Caine Mutiny."*

*David Gleberman (FYOS '10) brought to our attention that, in Issue 21, we misstated that Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff was supposed to serve as director of the play. Because of our error, we decided not to count this question in the scoring of the trivia contest. We regret the mistake and appreciate alumni like David helping us set the record straight.*

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

Questions from Issue 21

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13. What was Mr. Dana Vaughn's answer when he was asked where he lived?

*ANSWER: In a box.*

14. What was Rabbi Yonason Gersten's favorite activity during school basketball games?

*ANSWER: Reading a Gemara (volume of Talmud).*

15. What theatrical production (pictured below) did the GMSG perform in 2010?

*ANSWER: "The Diary of Anne Frank."*



# TRIVIA QUESTIONS 1976-1980

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

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



1. Where did the MHA class of '77 travel on their eighth grade trip?
2. How did the girls in middle school begin mincha when Mrs. Naomi Starr was principal?
3. When the female students of **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel, z'l** (MHA '65, YOS '69) needed a break from class (or the class needed a break from them), what did he send them to do?
4. Which member of the kitchen staff famously fainted, prompting an ambulance to come to school?
5. What did "local" kids do on Shabbos mornings while their parents davened at the Yeshiva?
6. Back in the day, who was the "grooviest" administrator?
7. What certificate did Rabbi Yosaif Silverman, z'l, award to students for memorizing the *Oz Yashir* prayer?
8. In the Purim broadcasts by Rabbi Yosaif Silverman, z'l, where did Vashti finish in the "horse race"?
9. Who was the editor of the school newspaper during this period?
10. Which musician was **Stuart Rabinowitz**'s (YOS '78) favorite?
11. Who wrote the answers to Mrs. Harry Krieger's biology mid-term on the chalkboard in transliterated Hebrew?

## 1976-1980 TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Win a tin of Ricki's Cookies

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12. Who coached the 1975-76 flag football team?
13. Which Memphis school provided the impressive, double-sided sets for the 1977 production of "Fiddler on the Roof"?

# THANK YOU

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We express our deepest appreciation to all those who gave of their time to help us publish this issue. First, thank you to the staff of the MHA/FYOS, most especially Erica Stoltz, **Francie Schneider** (MHA '68, YOS '72), Amanda Minner, Laura Timmons and **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99). Second, thank you to the alumni and friends who assisted us by supplying photographs, identifying the individuals in those pictures, and providing historical background, trivia questions and more, including **David Gleberman** (FYOS '10), **Jeff Dlugach** (MHA '80), **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Judy (Yormark) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Sara Beth (Frager) Kahn** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Jeff Baum** (MHA '80, YOS '84), **Leigh Ann (Katz) Brenman** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Cheryl Kaplan** (MHA '78, YOS '82), **Scott Vogel** (MHA '77), **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Naomi (Belsky) Homnick** (MHA '74, YOS '78), **Dvora (Denise Posner) Gottlieb** (MHA '74), **Lee Baum** (MHA '74), **Steven Geller** (YOS '79), **Chaya (Terry Wollner) Fuchs** (MHA '74, YOS '78) and Sandy Gersten.

**ENGAGEMENTS/  
WEDDINGS:**

Mazel tov to:

Esther and **Rabbi Eliyahu (Elliot) Yormark** (MHA '68, YOS '71) of Brooklyn, New York, on the Nov. 7 marriage of their son Mordechai Aryeh to Shaina Baum in Lakewood, New Jersey. The newlyweds live in Brooklyn.

Elisheva and **Rabbi Simcha Mirvis** (MHA '85) of Moshav Sdeh Ilan, Israel, on the engagement of their son Yedidya to Hodya Katz. The couple is planning a Jan. 20, 2022, wedding in the Arava desert in Israel and will be travelling for a while before they settle into a permanent home. Mazel tov also to the groom's grandparents, David and **Lynnie (Katz) Mirvis** (MHA '62) of Memphis.

Former MHA/FYOS executive director Shimon and **Anna (Fink) Kaminetzky** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Atlanta, Georgia, on the engagement of their daughter Jessica to Yehuda Ordan. The happy couple will wed in January in New York, which is where they will live.

**Zahava Gersten** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) on her engagement to Binyamin Majowka. Mazel tov also to the bride's parents, longtime MHA/FYOS faculty members and administrators Rabbi Yonason and Sandy Gersten.

**Sophie Ostrow** (FYOS '15) on her engagement to Daniel Silberstein. They are planning to wed in early July 2022 in Memphis and will settle in Columbus, Ohio.

**Simi Clapman** (FYOS '18) on her Nov. 14 wedding to Eli Bursztyn in Lakewood, New Jersey. The newlyweds live in Jackson, New Jersey.

**BIRTHS:**

Mazel tov to:

Robert and **Joanne (Wener) Cohen** (MHA '64) of Memphis on the Aug. 21 birth of grandson Asher to Adam and Sally (Cohen) Hendin of St. Louis, Missouri. Mazel tov also to big brother Ellis.

Seth and **Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73) of Memphis, who celebrated two new grandchildren in recent months. On Sept. 9, Aryeh and

**Talia (Kaufman) Sand** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) of New York City welcomed daughter Millie, making Max a big brother. On Nov. 5, Gary and **Elaina (Kaufman) Mittelman** (MHA '05, FYOS '09) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, became parents with the birth of daughter Amalia Channa (Hannah).

Dinah and **Gary Makowsky** (MHA '74) of Memphis on the recent arrival of two grandsons. On Nov. 2, Murray Solomon was born to Sharon Makowsky and Stephen Flug of New York City. On Nov. 18, his cousin Levitt Dylan was born to Ellen Makowsky and Abe Jacobs of Los Angeles, California.

**Bart** (YOS '77) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis, who recently celebrated the births of two grandsons. On Oct. 3, Nina Leblanc and **Rabbi Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) of London, England, became

parents with the arrival of Yehuda Simcha. On Oct. 5, Adina Bayla and Mordechai Ehrenkranz of Queens, New York, welcomed baby boy Alexander (Zisha Meir). Mazel tov also to siblings Esti, Ezra, Naftali, Betzalel, Yisrael Zev, Yosef Shalom and Dovid.

Rabbi Nissim and **Deena (Fink) Tagger** (MHA '83, YOS '87) of Jerusalem on the Sept. 13 birth of twin grandchildren Dovid and Avigail. The proud parents are Yonni and Simcha (Tagger) Valenci of the Bayit Vegan neighborhood in Jerusalem, Israel. Mazel tov to big brother Reuven and great-grandmother **Gerry (Margolin) Fink-Platsky** (MHA '59) of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Daniel and **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on the Oct. 13 arrival of grandson Baruch Tavi, born to Yael (Roth) and Sender Galbut of Jerusalem.

Michael and **Aliza (Levin) Segal** (MHA '87) of Beit Shemesh, Israel, who became grandparents with the Oct. 31 birth of baby boy Matan Yerachmiel. The proud parents are Shana and Amichai Segal, also of Beit Shemesh.

Tehila and **Meir Samberg** (MHA '03) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the Nov. 10 birth of son Yosef Yitzchok. Mazel tov to siblings Hadassah and Yonah and grandparents (and former MHA faculty members) Cantor Aryeh and Adina Samberg of Memphis.

Shua and **Neima (Schreiber) Hochstadter** (MHA '04) of Baltimore, Maryland, who welcomed daughter Talia on March 22. Mazel tov also to siblings Ariel, Chaya and Yehuda and to grandparents Brachie and Rabbi Nosson Schreiber (former dean of MHA/FYOS) of Far Rockaway, New York.

Noam and **Rachel (Rubenstein) Amar** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) of Lod, Israel, on the Oct. 4 birth of son Roi Simcha, making Kedem Yishai a big brother. Mazel tov also to grandparents Marvin and **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72) of Memphis.

Ellin Mitchell Cooper and **Jeremy Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) of New York City, who became parents with the Oct. 14 arrival of their son Ariel Leib. Mazel tov also to new grandparents Aileen and **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81) of Memphis.

Oren and **Sarah (Brown) Dayan** (FYOS '14) of Queens, New York, on the Nov. 3 birth of their son Netanel Moshe.

Max and **Sarah (Broniscer) Lent** (MHA '11, FYOS '15) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the June 9 birth of their first child, son Aharon Yeshaya.

## BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:

Mazel tov to:

Leslie and **Jonathan Epstein** (MHA '82, YOS '86) of Memphis on their daughter Meredith's Sept. 25 bat mitzvah.

Shimon and **Anna (Fink) Kaminetzky** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Atlanta, Georgia, on the Aug. 20 bar mitzvah of their son Sam. The celebration in Atlanta included a *hachnasat sefer Torah* (inauguration of a new Torah scroll). The bar mitzvah boy is named after his great-grandfather Sam Margolin, z'l, one of the namesakes of our school. Mazel tov also to grandmother **Gerry (Margolin) Fink-Platsky** (MHA '59) of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Daniel and **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on their son Shimon Mendel becoming a bar mitzvah Oct. 16

Simon and **Gila (Graber) Livi** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) of Great Neck, New York, on the Oct. 16 bar mitzvah celebration for their son Aiden. Mazel tov to grandparents Tova and **Roy Graber** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis.

Baruch and **Elana (Sadetsky) Avis** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on their daughter Amalia becoming a bat mitzvah Oct. 24.

# MAZEL TOV!

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



# THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

## Where are they now?

‘73  
‘77

**Mashie (Greenblatt) Langsam** (MHA '73, YOS '77), daughter of legendary MHA teachers Rabbi Efraim and Miriam Greenblatt, z'l, lives in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem, Israel, with her husband. (Fellow alumnae **Debbi (Brown) Nissel** and **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (both MHA '76, YOS '80) live just down the street.)

She is grateful that all of her children (most of whom are married with children of their own) have settled in Israel.

"Although none of them has ever been to Memphis, they all know what a special place it holds in my heart," Langsam said.

For the past 23 years, she has worked at various seminaries for overseas students. She currently serves as a student adviser at Chemdas. "I was once working with a student from Baltimore and told her, 'You won't believe it. For many years, I sat in shul at the Anshei [Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation] in Memphis with your grandmother.' She shyly responded, 'Mrs. Langsam, that was my GREAT-grandmother.' Nothing like aging 50 years in a matter of seconds," Langsam joked. (The student's great-grandparents were longtime MHA/FYOS supporters Harry and Ida Sauer, z'l.)

"I think of my classmates often and wonder how you and your families are doing," she said. "I would love to hear from you and what you're up to. Please reach out at [mashielangsam@gmail.com](mailto:mashielangsam@gmail.com)."

**Naomi (Belsky) Homnick** (MHA '74, YOS '78) lives in Chicago, Illinois, and teaches at a local Jewish school. She is grateful that her married son and wonderful grandchildren live near her!

Homnick fondly remembers MHA field days and classes with Rabbi Mordechai Yormark, z'l, and math teacher Mrs. Joyce Casada.

She thinks it would be fun to reconnect with friends from her school days.



The Langsams with all of their children and their spouses



The Langsams with all of their grandchildren

‘74  
‘78

# 19

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

**Chaya (Terry Wollner) Fuchs** (MHA '74, YOS '78) lives in Jackson, New Jersey, with her husband **Issar Mordechai (Edward) Fuchs** (YOS '75). She is an RN and works as a school nurse at a Bais Yaakov in Lakewood. Additionally, she is the author of the recently published children's book "[Chaim Zalman and His Best Friend Kalman](#)."

‘75

They are the parents of eight married children. Their oldest son is *mashgiach* (spiritual supervisor) at the yeshiva founded by Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, in Israel; their youngest son is married to Rabbi Belsky's granddaughter and tutors at the yeshiva. "Being that we are Memphis graduates, we feel very blessed," she said. "We are also proud grandparents of many beautiful grandchildren."

"I have only the most pleasant memories of our times together," Fuchs said of her classmates. "Color war, *Rosh Chodesh seudah* [festive meals to welcome the new month], the classes we attended and others we skipped, wonderful pie maps with my then-teacher and now dear friend Shari Schwartz, skits and stories with Mr. Jack Baxter, being taught Navi by my future *machatenister* [co-in-law], trying (unsuccessfully) to learn French from the adorable Madame Palazzolo, finding out that Mrs. Wahl was not the scary lady we thought she was in elementary school but was really a great, friendly principal. Being one of the editors of the school newspaper was a riot! (However, when I eagerly read the papers I found years later in a closet, I didn't understand a single thing written; inside jokes long forgotten.) It was all great fun!"

"Over the years, I discovered that it was also a great education. Several years ago, I attended a Torah class with a group of women who had gone through the New York Bais Yaakov system. I was surprised to find that I was able to contribute deep, fundamental ideas to the discussion. We didn't always realize it at the time, but the foundation we received in school was way above what is generally taught."

"Memphis was truly a great place to grow up. We had a beautiful community in such pleasant, comfortable surroundings. The Yeshiva of the South was really a home to my husband and me, and we were so fortunate to have studied there." Thanks to Fuchs' aptitude for reading and writing, her favorite class was English, taught by Mr. Baxter.

‘74

‘78



Issar Mordechai and Chaya Fuchs with their children



The entire extended Fuchs family (minus one daughter-in-law)

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

20

One of her most special memories is of traveling to Detroit with her classmates to attend the Bais Yaakov convention. "The trip was a fun adventure," she recalled. "We arrived with our Memphis version of winter clothes; we were freezing! Then, 20 inches of snow trapped us overnight at the JCC. But meeting so many other girls was thrilling. Great memories!"

She also fondly remembers being approached by classmates to plan a surprise birthday party for her best friend **Naomi (Belsky) Homnick** (MHA '74, YOS '78). "Unbeknownst to me, they had also approached Naomi about planning a surprise party for my birthday, since we both celebrate in May. Basically, we were planning the same surprise party for each other! When we walked into the room full of girls yelling 'surprise,' we were totally confused."

That birthday party wasn't the only celebration Homnick planned in secret for her best friend. "After I got engaged in 12th grade (gasp), Naomi arranged a surprise bridal shower for me on our school trip to Natchez Trace State Park," Fuchs said. "She and other friends showed up early to load everything for the shower onto the bus before I got there. I was completely taken by surprise! It was so thoughtful and amazing; I've never forgotten it."

After many years in Toronto, **Judy (Yormark Mernick) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79) moved to Brooklyn, New York, when she got remarried three years ago. She is a busy mother and grandmother of a blended family and works as a freelance editor.



"Memphis ties remain strong, and it's always a treat to see a fellow Memphian or to make a connection to one," she said. "Our eighth grade class of 1975 has a WhatsApp group so we can stay connected. We are there for each other, even after all these years!"

Her favorite teacher was her beloved father, Rabbi Mordechai Yormark, z'l.

‘79

**Steven Geller** (YOS '79) attended the boys' high school as a dorm student from New Orleans. He now lives in Cedarhurst, New York, and works as a commercial mortgage broker. His blended family includes children and stepchildren (five of whom are married), as well as grandchildren.

"I hope all of my classmates are healthy, happy, successful and enjoying their lives and families," he said. Geller has fond memories of Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, and the entire YOS faculty. His favorite teacher was **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel**, z'l (MHA '65, YOS '69).

# 21

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

‘76  
‘80

**Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80) and **Bart Ehrenkranz** (YOS '77) met when he came to Memphis in 1973 as a dorm student from Connecticut. They got married in 1982 and have lived in Memphis ever since. She is retired from her teaching career at the MHA, and he is an independent insurance broker. They have children living in the U.S., Israel and U.K. and are blessed with many grandchildren.

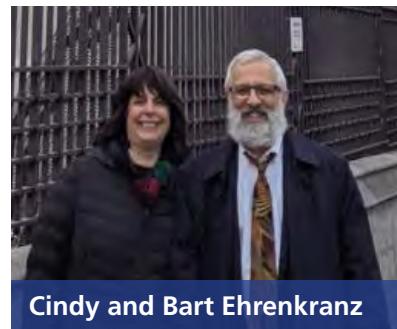
Her favorite teacher was **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel**, z'l (MHA '65, YOS '69). His favorite teachers were Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, and Mr. **Irvin Skopp** (MHA '69), who taught math.

‘77

"We are grateful to the school and Memphis Jewish community for educating us and our children," they said. "We are always proud to connect with the many Memphians we meet around the world."



At the *pidyon haben* of baby Yehuda Simcha Ehrenkranz (from left): **Bart and Cindy Ehrenkranz**, new parents Nina (Leblanc) and **Rabbi Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) and uncle **Yaakov Ehrenkranz** (MHA '98)



Cindy and Bart Ehrenkranz

**Debbi (Brown) Nissel** (MHA '76, YOS '80) lives in Har Nof in Jerusalem, Israel, with her husband, former MHA/YOS faculty member Rabbi Menachem Nissel. They have devoted their careers to Jewish education and are blessed with children and grandchildren.

‘76  
‘80

"My husband has always said that, even though the rest of the world doesn't know it, Memphis is actually the center of the world," she quipped. "Thanks for all the memories!"

Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Phyllis Wahl, z'l.

**Julie (Goldstein) Brown** (MHA '76, YOS '80) lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, where she teaches *kallah* classes to brides and is a practitioner of emotionally focused therapy (EFT).

"My husband and I moved to Israel over 40 years ago and raised our family here," she said. "We are blessed with married kids and a bunch of grandkids. Our first grandchild is soon getting married, please G-d. We are so proud of our children — all gifts from Hashem!"

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

22

Brown's favorite memories from the MHA/YOS include trying to learn French, playing volleyball, and Mrs. Naomi Finkelstein supporting her when she became an aunt at the age of six. She fondly recalls classes with Rabbi Efraim Greenblatt, z'l, as well as a general studies teacher she had in fifth or sixth grade whose name she can't recall and who was tragically killed in a car accident one summer. (If you remember this teacher's name, please [let us know](#).)

"I am grateful to the Memphis Jewish community for 'raising' me alongside my dear parents, Earle, z'l and Leah Goldstein," Brown said. "I would love to reconnect with my classmates by email and share photos."



Brown Family



Graber Family

**Roy Gruber** (MHA '76, YOS '80) lives in Memphis. He and his wife have four married daughters (all of whom are MHA/FYOS alumnae) and 10 grandchildren. He owns a technology solutions company.

Gruber is grateful for the outpouring of support he has received in recent weeks following the passing of his father, longtime MHA supporter and lay leader Marlin

Gruber, z'l. "So many members of the school community have reached out to me — including students, rabbis, teachers, administrators and board members from my elementary and high school years," he said. "Then and now, the MHA is much more than a school; it's a community that cares for a lifetime."

‘76  
‘80

‘76  
‘80

**Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) lives in the Har Nof area of Jerusalem, Israel, with her husband. She is a Torah teacher, inspirational lecturer, clinical mental health counselor and leader of tours to Poland and other parts of Europe. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

# 23

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

### Where are they now?

"It continues to be an extreme privilege to have grown up with all of you," she said of her classmates. "What special people you were then and continue to develop into as we all move along on the journey of life! I have such incredibly fond memories of our days and years together. We had a special thing going with our wonderful group."

"In high school especially, we were all so close. It's amazing to think that, when I was in ninth grade, I was very friendly with the girls who were in 10th, 11th and 12th grades. It was such a warm place! The classes, the fun extracurricular activities — it was very special indeed."

"I am so thrilled that my roots are completely tied to Memphis," she said. "It is such an honor to be from there — born and bred — and *zoche* [have the merit] to come back and spend 12 years there as an adult as part of the community and helping to build it then. It is really an exclusive club to be from Memphis; whenever someone hears that's where I am from, it always sparks such good conversations. People seem to have high esteem for Memphians! My family would not be the family that they became without the school! I truly have no words; 'thank you' seems too small."

Her favorite teacher was **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel**, z'l (MHA '65, YOS '69). "He encouraged me so very much in so many ways after I experienced a near-death car accident, which ultimately helped to change the course of my life. It should be an eternal *zechus* [merit] for him."

Her d'var Torah can be found on page 6 of this issue.



Chana and her husband, Rabbi Uri Silver



Chana and her daughter Ahuva



Family of Bracha (Silver) Adler



Family of Rabbi Binyamin Silver



**Barbara (Lebovits) Moskowitz** (MHA '77) lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, Mark (who attended the MHA for third and fourth grade). They have two sons, ages 17 and 25, who enjoy visiting Memphis to see family and friends. After years of working in information technology, she is currently a "full-time wife, mom and volunteer," she said.

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

24



Moskowitz Family

"I have so many wonderful memories of the Hebrew Academy, having attended from kindergarten through eighth grade," she said. They include playing kickball on the blacktop, eating pizza in the cafeteria, singing in the choir and performing in various plays and at the annual school banquets.

She is grateful to the "many outstanding teachers and administrators" who made her time at the MHA so enjoyable and meaningful.

**Jonathan Frisch** (MHA '77, YOS '81) lives in Memphis with his wife, former MHA faculty member Lisa Frisch. They have two daughters in their 20s. He works as an employee benefits broker.

"I'm thankful that my parents had the foresight to enroll me in an institution whose teachers cared about each of us in a loving way," Frisch said. "I may not have been the best student, but I felt every teacher cared about me. I never attended any other educational institution where I had the same feeling. My time at the MHA has guided my life in a very significant way."

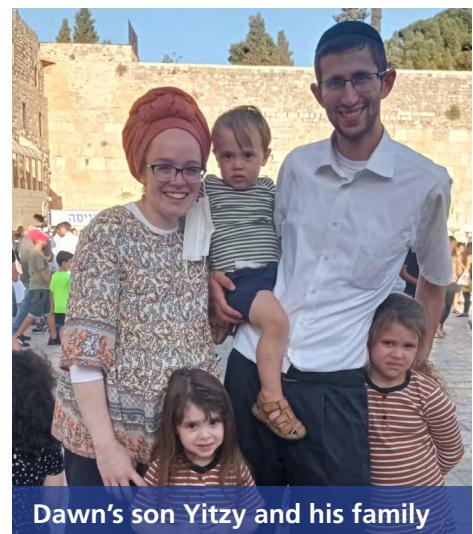
Among those caring teachers who left an indelible impression on him were Mrs. Suzanne Friedman (featured on page 34 in this issue), Mrs. Emily Whitman, Rabbi Mordechai Yormark, z'l, Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz, z'l, and Rabbi Yosaif Silverman, z'l.

His favorite memory from school is the camaraderie among his large class. "Most of my closest friendships were formed on the MHA playground," he said. "For that, I'm eternally grateful."

‘77  
‘81

**Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (MHA '77, YOS '81) and her husband live in Far Rockaway, New York, where she works as an occupational therapist. Four of their five children are married with growing families. "Our son Yitz is a rabbi at Yeshivat Shaalvim in Israel, so tell your sons who learn there to say hi and make a Memphis connection," she said.

Goldstein views her Memphis heritage as a badge of honor. "It is with great pride that I say I'm from Memphis, even if it's been so many years since I actually lived there," she said.



Dawn's son Yitz and his family

# 25

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

Because of her giving nature and proximity to JFK Airport, she's helped many traveling Memphians over the years. "Be in touch if we can ever help with pizza, a place to stay overnight before a connecting flight or any type of airport rescue," she kindly offered. "Or, come visit when you or your children are passing through!"



**Devora (Kipper) Gradon** (MHA '77, YOS '81) lives in Baltimore, Maryland, and works as a special education tutor at a girls' high school.

"Every time I read this newsletter, it brings back so many fond memories," she said. "They were very special times. Thank you for everything!"

**Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81) is a retired teacher living in North Miami Beach, Florida.

Earlier this year, Lehrfield returned to the school to see her grandson **Benjy Heller** (FYOS '21) graduate from 12th grade. "I had a lot of *nachas* [pride] that day, and it was surreal to be back in the building again," she said. "It was like nothing had changed. I even found some of the carvings we etched into the walls of the building outside the gym under the eaves all those years ago!"

Several teachers left a lasting impact on her. "Rabbi Yosaif Silverman, z'l made a huge impression on me by the efforts he put into his artwork," Lehrfield said. "Rabbi Mordechai Yormark, z'l was the most amazing teacher who brought a deep love for *Eretz Yisrael* [the land of Israel] to the class. And of course, **Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel**, z'l [MHA '65, YOS '69] changed all our lives in ways too many to enumerate."

Among her favorite memories of her school days are Rabbi Silverman's closet of coloring pages, using clackers on the playground before they were recalled, doing flips on the low bar attached to the wooden swings, and playing kickball. "I miss everyone," she said of her classmates.



**Jeff Miner** (MHA '78) lives in St. Louis, Missouri, with his partner of 25 years. He is a professor of medicine in the division of nephrology at the Washington University School of Medicine, where he oversees a laboratory studying a genetic disease called Alport syndrome that causes kidney failure. His latest claim to fame is that, during his Ph.D. program at Cal Tech, he helped train a fellow student who became one of this year's Nobel Prize winners in physiology and medicine!

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1976-1980

Where are they now?

# 26



Extended Miner Family

His favorite memory of attending the MHA was playing Perchik opposite **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81) as Hodel in the school's 1977 production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

"I was certain that **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81) — a natural Tevye — was destined for greatness in the theater," Miner said.

"I enjoyed and respected all my teachers during my second-through-eighth grade tenure at the MHA, but **Mrs. Gerry (Margolin) Fink-Platsky** (MHA '59) deserves extra credit for instilling 'I've gotta

be me' into our class," he said. "This was emphasized by her gift to us of Ziggy pin-on buttons. Of course, she also introduced us to Shakespeare, poetry and a very timely theme in literature — that the end justifies the means."

Miner is also especially grateful to his fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Barbara Segal Hellman, who became a dear friend of his mother, Elaine; she has been a huge source of support to the family since his father, Fred, passed away from COVID-19 in July 2020.



**Ivan Silverman** (MHA '80) lives in Woodmere, New York, and works in advertising technology. He and his wife have four children and one grandson, born earlier this year.

'80  
Among his favorite memories from his days at the MHA are recess and color war. ("I was a very serious student," Silverman joked.) He also wants to know who borrowed his Bic tri-colored pen and when the class reunion is.

"I am grateful to the school and its supporters in the community for providing us with a solid, well-rounded education," he said. "And hopefully by now you have discontinued serving sloppy Joes." He struggled to choose a favorite MHA teacher but said, "Many made lasting impressions on me that I continue to reflect upon to this day."

Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?  
**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!**

# ALUMNI REUNITE

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

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

On Aug. 22, **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) married Anna Cappell in New Jersey. The groom's father, **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), was kind enough to organize a photo of the many Memphis attendees.



(front row, from left) **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) and his wife Elisheva, **Serena Cooper** (MHA '18), **Yael Cooper** (MHA '18), **Pace Cooper** and his wife Aileen, bride Anna and groom **Dylan Cooper**, **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65), Stacy Vogel, **Debbie Cooper** (MHA '68, YOS '72), MHA faculty member Anat Kampf, **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Tami (Thomas) Radinsky** (MHA '92, YOS '96), **Scott Vogel** (MHA '77); (back row, from left) Ze'ev Leib (former member of the Torah MiTzion Kollel in Memphis and now married to Debbie Cooper's daughter Nomi), **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91), Dr. Donnie Emerson, **Bentzie Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **JJ Kampf** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), Pat Chafetz, **Isaac Gruber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), Yoel Goldblatt (president of the MHA/FYOS board), Chana Dina Goldblatt (who is partially hidden behind...), **Aaron Katz** (MHA '78, YOS '82), **Ariel Cooper** (MHA '06, FYOS '10), **Jeremy Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82), **Elan Cooper** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Ezra Cooper** (MHA '15, FYOS '19), **Yonaton Cooper** (MHA '11, FYOS '15) and Rabbi Joel Finkelstein of Memphis' Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth.

# 28

## ALUMNI REUNITE



At the June 22 wedding celebration for **Leib Wiener** (MHA '11, FYOS '15) and Rachel Meyer, alumni **Yonaton Cooper** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Jeremy Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) and **Isaac Gruber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) performed some Memphis Grizzlies-themed shtick.



**Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81) joined in on the Grizzlies shtick with his nephew **Yonaton Cooper** (MHA '11, FYOS '15).



Alumni (from left) **Jason Schubert**, **Lee Sauer**, **Ruthie Kaplowitz** and **Benjamin Mendelson** (all MHA '17, FYOS '21) met up for a mini-reunion during their gap year in Israel



Former classmates **Marty LeVine** and **Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (both MHA '77, YOS '81) caught up at his nephew's June wedding in New Jersey. Mazel tov to Marty and his mother, Mrs. Faye LeVine.



Since Rabbi Uriel Lubetski (former FYOS principal) and his family have made aliyah, they've graciously hosted our alumni at their home in Israel. In October, they welcomed MHA '16, FYOS '20 graduates who are spending a second gap year in Israel: (from left) **Shayna Kahane**, **Yehudis Tova Samuels**, **Sophie Wruble**, **Chani Karasik**, **Esti Samberg** and **Avi Bosin**. Rabbi Lubetski is shown with his wife Shani and their children Rivka, Yaakov and Yehuda. (Son Dovid took the picture.)



Relaxing at the Lubetski home after Shabbos were (from left) **Yehudis Tova Samuels**, **Shayna Kahane**, **Chani Karasik**, **Avi Bosin**, **Esti Samberg** and **Sophie Wruble** (all MHA '16, FYOS '20).



On June 7, **Yosef Goldblatt** (FYOS '17) married Annie Silverstein, daughter of alumna **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83) in New Jersey. Pictured above with the bride and groom are Debra Silverstein (second from right) and maternal grandparents Marvin Loskove (past president of the MHA board of trustees) and Eva Loskove (retired MHA kindergarten teacher).

# 30

## ALUMNI REUNITE



On Nov. 14, **Simi Clapman** (FYOS '18) married Eli Bursztyn in Lakewood, New Jersey. (The bride's maternal grandparents are Rabbi Ephraim and Shaindy Weingot, who lived in Memphis for a number of years; Yocheved, the mother of the bride, attended our school). Close friend **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20) traveled in from Israel to help Clapman celebrate her special day.



Three generations of alumni were represented at Clapman's wedding: (from left) **Chaya (Terry Wollner) Fuchs** (MHA '74, YOS '78), **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), **Pezz Berezin** (FYOS '16) and **Ari Sauer** (MHA '90, FYOS '94).



Classmates (from left) **Adena Konetz** (FYOS '97) and **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97 and editor of this publication) caught up with former FYOS faculty member Rabbi Ari Katz, who was in Memphis for the High Holidays as a scholar-in-residence at Baron Hirsch Congregation. The impromptu reunion was held at the home of **Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73), who took this photo.

ALUMNI REUNITE

31



On Aug. 29, **Davida Gruber** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) married Alex Loizias in Arlington, Tennessee, just outside of Memphis. Pictured here are the groom and bride with her father, **Roy Gruber** (MHA '76, YOS '80).



Friends celebrating the Gruber-Loizias wedding included former MHA attendees **Kaylee (Kampf) Stahler** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), **Tamara (Freiden) Goodman** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), Brittany (Thomas) Prero and Miriam Moss.



Other alumni in attendance were (from left) **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) and **Daniel Lewis** (MHA '01, FYOS '05).

# Alumnus Victor Shine locates missing child during widespread search and rescue

This past August, many of us heard the frightening story of a seven-year-old boy who went missing from a Jewish day camp in Brooklyn, New York. Thankfully, the boy was found unharmed after a seven-hour search. The person who located the boy was none other than **Victor Shine** (MHA '79, YOS '83).

Initially, Shine wasn't sure about joining the search and rescue efforts. "I debated whether I should go," Shine said. "It was overcast that day. I'm an older guy; what difference could I make?" But Shine thought about his own six-year-old grandson and realized that, if it was a member of his family who had gone missing, he'd want every single individual to help.

Shine quickly drove from his Brooklyn home to the search command center but had to park blocks away due to the hundreds of people who were already engaged. Dozens awaited instructions from the Flatbush Shomrim safety patrol as the team mapped out a search grid. In his desire to help, Shine grew impatient and decided to go out on his own. With two flashlights and a pair of binoculars, he headed toward the beach on foot. Shine traipsed through the marsh underneath the Belt Parkway bridge, calling out for the missing boy: "Yosef, Yosef! Come, we have pizza and ice cream for you! We're looking for you!"

For an hour and a half, Shine received no response. On account of his own health, he began to doubt whether he should still be out there. With the sun setting and the threat of serious rain looming closer, Shine turned around to go back to his car. Then, he

suddenly noticed a dirt path he hadn't seen before. When he pursued that trail, he heard a child calling out for his father.



As the backup teams arrived to rescue the child from the marshland, an exhausted but relieved Shine took a selfie to mark the moment.

Because of the flurry of activity in the area, it took 18 minutes of Shine frantically calling, texting, and sending WhatsApp messages to get through to the police. They quickly sent units down to the marsh and rescued Yosef.

On the way back to his car in the pouring rain, Shine heard an eruption of joyful singing coming from the command center. Despite the torrential downpour, hundreds of members of the search party danced in circles at the news of Yosef being rescued safely.

Shine's main takeaway from the experience is how any one person can make a monumental difference. His friend in the New York Police Department (one of the people he called during those 18 minutes) reached out to offer his thanks. "He said they were

starting to lose hope when it began to rain," Shine said. "The child was exposed to the elements for seven hours, with nothing to eat or drink. They thought that was it. He said my call was the turning point in the search and rescue efforts.



Back at the command center, searchers sang and danced joyously in the pouring rain. Shine (bottom left) is circled in the photo.

"Who am I? Just some 56-year-old guy," Shine said jokingly. "Apparently, my being there made a difference — right when they were giving up hope, right when the sun had already set and the rain was coming down in buckets, eliminating any trail. You just keep going. You just do, and you don't worry about looking stupid or feeling stupid. You just do. That's what my mom [Marsha Shine, z'l] would always say: 'Go and do.'"

Shine also marvels at the broadscale rescue efforts. "The whole community quickly came together," he said. "Jews from all backgrounds were out there searching, because every member of *Klal Yisroel* [the Jewish people] matters. There were also thousands of people around the world praying for his safe return."

Following the event, Shine became a bit of a celebrity, appearing in local newspapers and

magazines and on New York radio and TV. Not willing to rest on his laurels, Shine has used his 15 minutes of fame to promote awareness of the Jewish community's "shidduch crisis" and to help Jewish singles find their *bashert* (soulmate). "If you want to be a real hero, start thinking about what we can do to help those in our community who are not married. Everyone knows people who are single," the volunteer *shadchan* (matchmaker) said.

One popular matchmaking website, [10kBatayYisroel.org](http://10kBatayYisroel.org), was established in memory of a couple tragically killed right before their wedding. The site encourages users to track how many match suggestions, first dates and engagements they arrange. As of press date, the site has yielded more than 15,800 match suggestions, resulting in more than 2,500 first dates and nearly 200 engagements! "Most of these were made by regular people who stepped a bit out of their comfort zone to change the lives of others," Shine said.

Additionally, a new app called [Strike the Match](#) is currently under development, and many synagogues and Jewish organizations have their own initiatives for singles. Shine urges his fellow alumni to get involved and make a difference. "The rewards are priceless and everlasting," he said.

Reflecting on the past few months, Shine feels a sense of gratitude. "I am so thankful that I got to be part of this story," he said. "I'm thankful the boy is okay and his family is okay. *Klal Yisroel* is going to be okay."

*If you are single, divorced or widowed and looking for a shidduch, or know someone who is, feel free to email Shine at [victorshine18@gmail.com](mailto:victorshine18@gmail.com).*



## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

# Mrs. Suzanne Friedman



## Demonstrating care and instilling a love of reading

How many people can honestly say their career choice was directly guided by a suggestion from the First Lady of the United States? Among those select few are Mrs. Suzanne Friedman, a beloved member of the MHA faculty in the 1970s and '80s.



Newlyweds Charles and Suzanne Friedman in 1960.

When New York City native Friedman was 16, she attended a summer camp in the town of Hyde Park — famously, the home of Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt. One day that summer, she was recruited to babysit for the Roosevelts' young granddaughter while the First Lady delivered a speech. Friedman gladly accepted the assignment and played with the girl for a short while.

Upon returning from her speaking engagement, Mrs. Roosevelt said to her, "Young lady, you are just wonderful with children. No one else has been

able to keep this child well under control. I strongly suggest that you consider a career in teaching."

Friedman followed the First Lady's wise advice, earning a degree in education from Queens College. For several years, she taught in public schools in the Bronx and then in New Hyde Park, on the border between Queens and Long Island.

At her sister's wedding, an aunt visiting from Mississippi convinced her of the many eligible bachelors waiting to meet her down South. On one of her first nights in Memphis, she met Charles Friedman. Three months later, they were engaged; three months after that, they were married.

After having three children, Mrs. Friedman was ready to embark on her teaching career in Memphis. A couple of friends who worked at the MHA suggested she apply for a job there. "At the time, we lived on Juniper, right across the street from the school," she said. "I walked over, and Mrs. Phyllis Wahl hired me to teach in the elementary school."

During her MHA tenure, Mrs. Friedman taught mostly first, second and third grades general studies. For a few years, she taught English in the fifth and sixth grades. "My main thrust was always teaching my students a love of reading," she said. "I still adore children's authors like Dr. Seuss and Patricia Polacco."

## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Mrs. Suzanne Friedman

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Mrs. Friedman teaching phonics in 1972.



Mrs. Friedman teaching first grade in 1972.



Democracy in action! Along with Mrs. Fiona Page, Mrs. Friedman (center) coordinated a mock presidential election on Nov. 7, 1972. (This photo was previously featured on the cover our [16th issue](#).)

Thanks to her winning combination of tough love, genuine care and ability to connect with children, Mrs. Friedman was respected and adored by both students and parents.

"Mrs. Friedman taught us how to read and write," said **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81). "I still remember the really fat pencils and tablets with dotted lines that she used for teaching us writing and spelling."

"Mrs. Friedman was a wonderful teacher," said **Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (MHA '77, YOS '81). "She was strict, but I always knew she cared about us. She really nurtured my love for reading and my understanding of what school was all about. Mrs. Friedman got me off to a great start, and I finally get to say how much I appreciated her as a teacher."

"Mrs. Friedman was my teacher in first and third grades," said **Rabbi Michael Kahane** (MHA '91, FYOS '95). "One April Fools' Day, I decided to play a trick on her. My mom wrote a note saying that we were moving to California and that day would be my last one at school. We thought it would be funny, but her eyes filled with tears when she read the note. I realized then how much she loved each of her students. I felt really bad about playing this not-so-funny trick when I saw how losing even one member of her class would make her so sad."

"I was thrilled to see that Mrs. Friedman would be highlighted in this issue," said **Emily (Evensky) Steinberg** (MHA '63 and mother of three alumnae).

"My daughter **Penina (Rebecca Steinberg) Simon** (MHA '91) had the most amazing first grade year with Mrs. Friedman. For years afterwards, I enjoyed seeing her in the locker room at the JCC. I wish my other two daughters had had the opportunity to be taught by this wonderful educator."

After more than a decade of teaching at the MHA, Mrs. Friedman transferred to the Memphis public school system. She took a leave of absence to care for her husband, who became ill and ultimately passed away. She later returned to the classroom, earning honors as Teacher of the Year at Richland Elementary School. Mrs. Friedman had the unique and memorable opportunity to travel to Japan to teach educators there about some of the pedagogical methods used in the U.S. — including a heavy emphasis on reading.

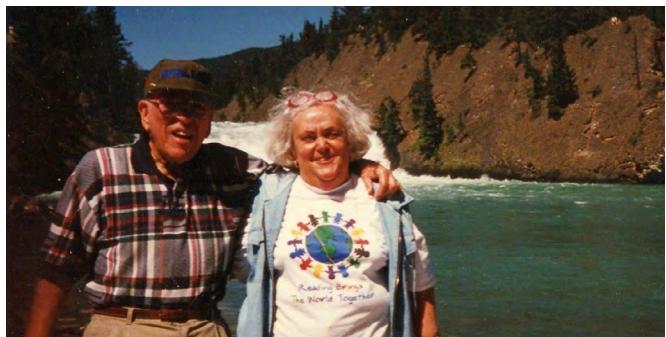
Now in her 80s, retired and residing in an assisted living facility in East Memphis, Mrs. Friedman is immensely proud of her legacy as an educator.

"Some of my top students from the MHA are prominent and successful professionals in the community," she said. "I even have a couple of them as my own doctors! One teases me at my appointments about whether he can go to recess. Another reminds me of a classroom game we used to play called 'A E I O you sit down' and how she was always the first; we laugh about it now."

"I'm always glad to meet and hear from my past students. I hope they know that I loved them all, and I hope they're still reading."



Mrs. Friedman teaching first graders to read in 1975.



Mr. and Mrs. Friedman on a trip to Alaska, circa 1995.



Mr. and Mrs. Friedman with their children (back row, from left) Sam, Michelle and Sandy in 1996.

# FLASHBACKS 1976-1980

## Photographs from the past

The GMSG freshman class in 1977: (front row, from left) **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Sandra (Lotterstein) Osdoba** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Debbi (Brown) Nissel** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Devorah (Sharon Wolff) Herbst** (YOS '80); (back row, from left) **Judy (Baum) Green** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Chasi Silverman** (MHA '76), **Julie (Goldstein) Brown** (MHA '76, YOS '80), **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) and **Deena Thomas** (MHA '76).



*"These are my dear classmates. I look at this picture of beautiful young ladies and feel proud and grateful that we have grown up to be wonderful women! As a ninth grader, I remember looking up to the senior class and idolizing them! I felt so little."*

**-Julie (Goldstein) Brown**

*"I feel so blessed to have had such good friends during a very impactful period in my life. I am happy to relay that, when we meet each other, I can still feel the warmth and closeness of those times."*

**-Debbi (Brown) Nissel**

The MHA student government officers in 1979: (front row, from left) treasurer **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83), president **Michelle Shapiro** (MHA '79), vice president **Robin Kimmelman** (MHA '80), publicity chair **Lauren Fineberg** (YOS '84), secretary **Maxine Spiegler** (MHA '80); (back row, from left) faculty adviser Mrs. Emily Dropkin, parliamentarian **Victor Shine** (MHA '79, YOS '83), sergeant-at-arms **Jeff Baum** (MHA '80, YOS '84) and faculty adviser Mrs. Gloria Hagen.



*"Boy, was I short!" -Jeff Baum*

The kindergarten graduates of 1969, who went on to become the eighth grade class of 1977. (A special note of thanks to the seven alumni who had to think back 50 years to help us identify everyone pictured!)

(front row, from left) Rebecca Yarrow, Mindy (Kaufman) Smith, **Devora (Kipper) Gradon** (MHA '77, YOS '81), Yisroel Goldfein, **Jennifer (Whitman) Lehrfield** (MHA '77, YOS '81), Lisa Barras, **Leigh Ann (Katz) Brenman** (MHA '77, YOS '81); (middle row, from left) **David Cassius** (MHA '77), Michael Manis, Diane (Rosenberg) Wilner, **Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Barbara (Lebovits) Moskowitz** (MHA '77), **Gary Wruble** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Scott Vogel** (MHA '77); (back row, from left) **Roger Messinger** (MHA '77), **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Beryl Thomas** (MHA '77, YOS '81), **Marc Reisman** (MHA '77), **Alan Harkavy** (MHA '77), Lee Sacharin and Marty Weil.

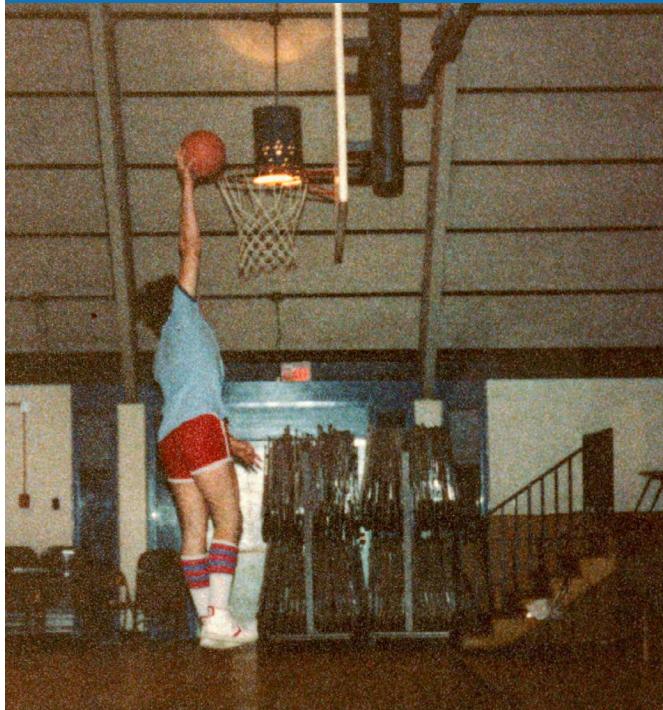


Brothers **Howard** (YOS '81) and **Shlomo Seidenfeld** (YOS '76).



*"My brother and I were just being silly and spontaneous."* -**Shlomo Seidenfeld**

**Steven Geller** (YOS '79) playing basketball in the gym.



*"This was in 1978 in the MHA gym, at the basketball goal near the stage. I had been practicing that shot for two years and was very excited to finally make it happen."*

-**Steven Geller**

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 23rd issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication around Pesach. In it, we will (for the first time) highlight our youngest alumni, **the eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years 2016–2020**. Members of those classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) sometime in February. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature story in that issue will spotlight **Dr. Whitney Kennon**, who currently serves as general studies principal at the FYOS. She has worked at our school since 2006, so many alumni know her well (some may remember her as Ms. Huey). If you have any stories, photos or memories of Dr. Kennon that you would like to share, please send them to Joanne Kahane, alumni chair, at [joannekahane111@gmail.com](mailto:joannekahane111@gmail.com) or to her attention at the school's mailing address below.

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



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