

# MHA/FYOS

**Alumni and Friends**



**Issue 20**

**Highlighting the  
graduating classes  
of 1986-1990**

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This newsletter is dedicated in loving memory of

## **Heather Samuels, z'l**

(MHA '90, FYOS '94).

Additionally, we note the fitting memorial tribute to alumnus

## **Rabbi Abe Sharp, z'l**

(MHA '67)

recently published by his employer, the Chicago Rabbinical Council (CRC).

May their memory forever be a blessing.

## COVER PHOTO



The student cast and crew of the junior high school production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in 1986.

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

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

Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenker, copy editor

Noam Davidovics, technology support

Layout by Ruthie Rashkin • ruthrashkin@gmail.com

**MISSED AN ISSUE?**

## ARCHIVES

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

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).

## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



The past year has been challenging for all of us. Since most of you lived in Memphis at some point in your life, you'll understand when I say that one of my favorite things about this community is that we are a social group. We love to get together

and party! Even our Shabbos morning kiddushes after davening at shul go on and on.

Two years ago, my grandson Eli visited us from Israel for a few weeks; every Shabbos during kiddush he would ask me, "Why does this last so long? Don't these people want to go home?" No, Eli — not until they have touched base with all their friends, caught up on the week's events, made sure everyone is doing well, and greeted every single person. This is Memphis!

I've always loved being outside on Laurie Lane on Shabbos afternoons, when people are returning home from their lunch hosts' houses. Our neighborhood streets are lined with people stopping to chat with friends. We once hosted an out-of-town guest for one of those Memphis weekends when we had three or four events going on. By the third event, she said to me, "I don't get it. You keep seeing the same people!" I thought to myself: That's the beauty of our wonderful community. We love being together.

A couple of years ago, one of our local shuls tried an experiment. On Friday, everyone brought their Shabbos lunch dessert to a designated house. The plan was for everyone to meet at that designated house after Shabbos lunch and have dessert together. I was skeptical; don't most people flop

on the bed for a nap after Shabbos lunch? I was so wrong! Everyone showed up, from newborns to seniors. What's even more remarkable is that everyone stayed until mincha time — and this was after being together at kiddush that morning! We truly are a community that enjoys being together.



The back of our school, with the play area covered with snow.

Last year, when we were told to stay apart for the foreseeable future on account of COVID-19, it was a very hard pill to swallow. We can no longer gather together. We must wear masks, preventing us from seeing each other's smiles. We cannot visit each other's homes. No more kiddushes. No gathering for simchas.

How did we respond? In true Memphis style, we accepted the challenge. We wore masks. We socially distanced. We visited our friends in their driveways, wearing masks and sitting many feet apart. We held simchas via Zoom and curbside drive-bys — or, in the latest innovation, "stay in your car" bar mitzvahs at the Malco drive-in movie theater on Summer Avenue. In cases when community members were exposed to COVID, they quarantined. We complied with all the rules — not only for ourselves, but because we care about each other.

Thankfully, our tight-knit community has seen only a small number of COVID cases. And most importantly,

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## MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

we've been able to keep the doors of our beloved school open. Watching (from afar, of course) the way our community has shown resilience and risen to the challenges of the past year has been a source of much-needed inspiration during this dark time. I am immensely proud of our collective commitment to doing the right thing because of our shared responsibility for one another and for the children of our community. In acknowledgement of these efforts, Rabbi Shuki and Talia Nissan of the Memphis Kollel recently dedicated a local parsha study program "in honor of this incredible community in



FYOS Judaics instructor and head of the Kollel Torah MiTzion Rabbi Yisrael Wende and his family built what might be Memphis' first igloo.

the face of COVID. For the teachers who continue to inspire, the children who continue to learn, the parents who continue to love, and the rabbis who continue to lead. For each and every person for continuing to forge on and hang on in the face of this challenge — you light up Memphis and the world."

However, Hashem recently threw us a curve ball for which we weren't prepared: Memphis got more snow in mid-February than had fallen in the city in decades! If you think back to your time here, you'll remember that even an inch of snow shuts down the city because we have no capability for snow removal. Plows and street cleaning devices are considered unnecessary expenses because snow hardly ever lasts. The joke goes that Memphis' snow removal

system is called spring, and it usually takes just a day or two after a snowfall to arrive.

But this year, in a rare occurrence, it was below freezing for a whole week! Some members of our community were without power, phone service and Wi-Fi for days — a bigger deal than usual with so many people now working from home and using Zoom as their lifeline to the outside world. Plus, we were under a boil water order for over a week, which meant not using tap water without first boiling it.

Somehow, some way, we got through that too. And our ice and snow have melted, giving way to beautiful warm weather. Thankfully, we find ourselves now on the threshold of *Chag HaAviv* — the spring festival of Pesach.

We are also, please G-d, hopefully on the threshold of emerging from this tremendously challenging COVID era. Vaccine administration is finally running smoothly here, and the school was able to arrange vaccinations for all of our hardworking MHA/FYOS faculty and staff.

As we approach this second Pesach in a row in isolation, our thoughts are with you — our treasured alumni. Stay well and safe, and please let us continue to hear from you at [alumni@mhafyos.org](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org).

I hope and pray that we're on the verge of turning a corner. *L'shana ha'ba b'Yerushalayim* – next year, may we all be **together** in Jerusalem!

Wishing everyone a happy and kosher Pesach,

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt

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Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



It's hard to believe that COVID-19 has been with us for a full year. Despite the numerous challenges, I'm proud to report that the MHA/FYOS has continued to flourish during these unprecedented times.

We are so fortunate to have leadership across each of our school divisions that balances the health and safety of our children while ensuring the students continue to receive the very best education possible. As you can imagine, the school spends numerous hours every week on COVID-related matters. We're fortunate to be supported by wonderful medical professionals, including an infectious disease doctor, whom the school consults with frequently. (More on these outstanding advisors below.) None of this has been easy to balance, but our teachers and administrators do so with both patience and tremendous thought — all while being absolutely transparent and creating a strong educational experience that feels as normal as possible, given the pandemic.

Our teachers are not only doing a phenomenal job educating our students, but their talents are being recognized. Dr. Whitney Kennon (general studies principal for the upper division) and Mrs. Rhonda Martin (humanities instructor) have each been awarded the [Abraham Lincoln Teachers Fellowship](#), a new educational initiative of the Tikvah Fund. The program will provide exceptional Jewish day school faculty the opportunity to further their knowledge of American history, including its arts, letters, politics, leading thinkers, and central texts and ideas. Meanwhile, on the education front, our *Chidon*

*HaTanach* (National Bible Contest) program — led by Judaic studies and Hebrew language instructor Moreh Shimshon Soleman — has the largest attendance ever! Our second graders celebrated their [Chagigat HaChumash](#), receiving their very first printed copies of the five books of the Torah, and our first graders received their first prayer books at the [Chagigat HaSiddur](#). Our high school students have been offered six Advanced Placement (AP) courses and have responded with a high level of enrollment. They have also excelled at our ["Shark Tank" economics event](#), participated remotely in Yeshiva University's [National Model United Nations](#), and enjoyed special Zoom sessions with Torah luminaries like Rav Moshe Stav and Rabbanit Shani Taragin, as well as noted guest speakers for life skills. Our school recently celebrated a wonderful — albeit different than usual — [Purim](#), and by the time this goes to print, we will have enjoyed our Pesach play, nights of Torah learning, mock trial and many more programs.

To make all of this possible, we have continued fundraising through an [online auction](#) and safari-themed scavenger hunt and to-go dinner event, led by Rashki Kaplan and Sarah Ardestani, and the annual sweepstakes, led by Deena Davidovics and Emily Lennon.

Looking ahead, what is normally our annual scholarship banquet will this year be a virtual event held Sunday, June 20. Deena and her husband Noam Davidovics will be our guests of honor, and Dr. Sandy Arnold will receive our community service award.

Drawing on her medical expertise, Dr. Deena has provided our administrators with countless hours of invaluable and practical advice regarding the

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt



The March 14 *Chagigat HaSiddur*, where our first graders received their first *siddurim* (prayer books), was held in one of the campus's two new outdoor pavilions that allow programs to continue running safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

complexities of safely keeping our school building open during the pandemic. She has also been a tireless leader of our fundraising efforts for a number of years. Further, Noam single-handedly coordinated our rapid transition to virtual classes last spring when the pandemic forced us to close the school building. Through various grants, Noam has since led the efforts to upgrade the technology within our classrooms, thereby ensuring that students attending virtually can continue to receive a high-quality education. Recently, Noam has extended his volunteer involvement by supporting the technology needs of our alumni newsletter team.



When considering how to safely reopen the building in the fall, our head of school Rabbi Benjy Owen was introduced to Dr. Arnold, the division chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Memphis' Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Dr. Arnold has since guided our administration on ways to minimize the risks and keep students safe, while giving our community a return to the routines we all miss.

Please look out for an email about participating in the virtual event and accompanying ad journal to recognize these outstanding individuals. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity for you to join a school event from any locale. All levels of support are greatly appreciated.

As I start to glimpse the coming summer break and note that this is the final alumni newsletter issue of this school year, I have to thank the dedicated committee — Joanne Kahane, **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97), Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenker, Noam Davidovics and Ruthie Rashkin — for their tireless efforts with this tremendous undertaking.

Wishing you and your family a *chag Pesach kasher vesame'ach* in only the best of health.

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

## Pesach, matzah ball soup and the Martin Luther King riots: A lesson in *derekh eretz*

In 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an angry mob converged on Memphis' Orange Mound district, preparing to let out their frustration on anyone who stood in their way. As stores were broken into and looted, the owners of Evensky's Dry Goods feared the worst. But as the hours went by, their store remained unscathed and it seemed as if they just might ride out the storm. When the riots subsided, the store sustained nothing more than a single rock thrown through a window.

The next day, several Black community members came to the store to offer an apology. Apparently, while the rioting was taking place, word had spread around the Orange Mound district to leave the Evensky store alone: "Mr. and Mrs. Evensky are good, honest people! They treat us fairly!" The rioter who threw the rock into their window did not live in the neighborhood and did not know the Evenskys. These local residents had come to apologize for the damage caused by this individual!

Growing up in Memphis, I was fortunate to spend a lot of time with my Evensky grandparents, who epitomized the concept of *derekh eretz* (moral conduct and respect) — not just to their rabbis, family and friends, but to their customers as well.

Day school students everywhere are taught, "*Derech eretz kadma laTorah* – moral conduct precedes the Torah." This is a basic tenet in Judaism, but what does it really mean? And what is its relationship to Pesach? I would like to share a few thoughts on this topic from my father, **Rabbi Nechemiah (Harry) Kibel, z'l** (MHA '65, YOS '69).

On Pesach, the purpose of the *seder* is fulfilling the *mitzvah d'oraysa* (Biblical commandment) of

"*v'hegadita l'veincha beyom hahu* - and you shall teach your children on that day." The Zohar says there is a special force on the *seder* night that enables parents to give over "spiritual powers" to their children that cannot be given over the rest of the year. What Yom Kippur is to *teshuvah* (repentance), the *seder* night is to teaching one's children. One can bridge the generation gap on Pesach night.

With this background, we can appreciate the dialogue in the Haggadah with the *rasha* (evil son). The *rasha* asks, "*Mah ha-avodah hazos lachem* - What is this service that you are doing?" So, what should you answer this child? You should tell him what you're doing! Yet, what does the Haggadah say? "*Ha-kay es sheenav* - Hit him in the mouth and tell him, 'If you were in Egypt, you would have dropped dead! G-d would never have taken you out of Egypt!'" This appears to be a very intolerant response! The *rasha* asks a question, so he obviously is seeking an answer. Why are we so belligerent toward him?

The problem with the *rasha* is that he speaks without proper respect. Before we can talk about *frumkeit* (observance) or Torah, he must show *derekh eretz*. Now, this *rasha* does not do *aveiros* (sins) publicly; he is still too embarrassed to do that. He only commits *aveiros* privately. He doesn't have enough chutzpah to make an open break with his father, so he shows up to the *seder*, but what does he say? "Dad, you're from the old world. This is old-fashioned. Why are you wasting your time with these outdated rituals?" In other words, he's saying, "I know more than you, and you should listen to me! I'm smarter than you. I have a college degree."

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## D'var Torah

Josh Kibel (MHA '87)

This was quite common among the children of immigrants during the 20th century, who would often question their parents' mode of living. If the *rasha* wants to attend the *seder*, then he should at least keep quiet. Come, but don't make fun. Compliment your mother on the matzah ball soup!

The Sages were not so worried about the *rasha*'s lack of *frumkeit*, but rather his lack of *derekh eretz*. The *rasha* is not embarrassed to imply that he is smarter than his father. In such a situation, it is impossible to lecture the child about *mitzvos*. He will not be receptive to anything his father says since he thinks he is smarter than him. Someone with *chutzpah* will not listen.

What is the response to the *rasha*? "*Ba'avor zeh uhsuh Hashem li* - Because of this Hashem performed for me." In Egypt, we were on the 49th level of *tumah* (spiritual impurity). So why did G-d take us out? When G-d told Moshe to go to the Jews, he was specifically instructed to speak to the elders about the impending redemption. Why were the elders needed here? The answer is that while the Jews may have done every single *aveirah* in the book during the Egyptian exile, they still had respect for their elders; they still had *derekh eretz*. Therefore, G-d told Moshe to take the elders with him to ensure the Jews would listen. So, the message to the *rasha* is, "Why did G-d take me out? Because I had *derekh eretz*, which you do not have!"

The Jews may not have believed in G-d, but if their fathers and elders said something, they listened. Part of the lesson that the parent must teach the child at the *seder* is to be a mensch. If one is not a mensch, then forget the *frumkeit*. G-d took us out because He knew that, despite all the sins we committed, if we had *derekh eretz*, He could work with us.

Let us take this a step further. Pesach really has nothing to do with leaving Egypt. What is the proof?

When Kayin and Hevel (Cain and Abel) brought their sacrifice, it was on the 14th of the month of Nissan — it was a *korban Pesach* (Passover sacrifice)! We also find that Avraham kept Pesach. (When Og approached Avraham to inform him of Lot's abduction, Avraham was baking matzos!) Yitzchok also kept Pesach, for we find Rivka preparing two goats for Yitzchak — one for the *korban Pesach* and one for the *korban chagigah* (festival sacrifice). If Pesach is observed because the Jews left Egypt, how then did Kayin, Hevel, Avraham and Yitzchok keep Pesach many years prior to the exodus?

The answer is as follows: A Jew can do *teshuva* any time during the year. However, the 10th day of Tishrei, Yom Kippur, is set aside as a day especially propitious for *teshuva*.

Why do we mourn on Tisha B'Av? Do we mourn because the Temple happened to be destroyed on that day, or do we mourn because the ninth of Av, the day itself, was the cause for the Temple to be destroyed? When the Jews cried after the report of the *meraglim* (spies), G-d said, "The Jews indulged in weeping without a cause; I will establish this night for them as a time of weeping throughout the generations." The ninth of Av, therefore, is a time set aside for disaster. We aren't mourning the destruction of the Temple per se; we are mourning the fact that this is a disastrous time for the Jewish people. The destruction of the Temple occurred because it was a time of disaster.

After Adam ate from the *eitz hada'as* (tree of knowledge), G-d set aside the days from the 15th to the 21st of Nissan as days on which it is possible to bring Moshiach. The redemption can come during these seven days. What Yom Kippur is to *teshuva*, and what the ninth of Av is to disaster, the 15th of Nissan and the following seven days are set aside for redemption. Kayin and Hevel tried to grab that opportunity to bring the redemption; Avraham

and Yitzchak also tried to grab the opportunity. However, we see that the Jews of Egypt were the best at harnessing these powers of redemption. They succeeded in pulling it off, so we study their methods.

The Haggadah is a handbook on how to bring Moshiach. We do not recount a story that happened 3,000 years ago; rather, we study what they did, so we can bring Moshiach on Pesach night! What did they do? They had respect for their parents. They had *derekh eretz* and *middos tovos* (good character)! If we want to bring Moshiach, we must learn to respect our parents and elders; we must learn *derekh eretz* and develop good *middos*. The *seder* is not merely a commemoration of events. Rather, the goal of the *seder* is to harness these powers of redemption that are present on Pesach, culminating with the arrival of Moshiach at the conclusion of the evening.

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For over a decade after my family moved to Cincinnati in 1989, we continued to return to Memphis to spend Pesach with my Evensky grandparents, whom we fondly called PawPaw and MawMaw. Both *seder* nights, we would be joined by my Bubby Kibel, Uncle Maury and Aunt Sherry Evensky and their children, as well as my Uncle Alvin and Aunt **Emily (Evensky) Steinberg** (MHA '63) and their children. It was one packed house! My father led the *seder* from one end of the table, and across this long table spanning two rooms and (ultimately) four generations, my PawPaw and MawMaw sat beaming with joy! It was from our PawPaw and MawMaw, two Jews born in the early 20th century who had no formal Jewish education whatsoever, that us children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren — all of whom were privileged to receive a Jewish education — truly learned what being a Jew was all about.

Why would a person with no formal Jewish education choose to remain Jewish? Why marry a Jew? Why keep a kosher home? Why educate their children? Questions such as these can only be answered by a person with deep faith in G-d. My grandparents had this faith in G-d and taught it to us. But it was their *derekh eretz*, the moral character they modeled throughout their lives, that enabled their descendants to grow in Torah and learn from their example.

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As I look back fondly at my years growing up in Memphis, it is this concept of *derekh eretz* that truly stands out. Probably more than any of the Judaic or secular subjects taught at the Margolin Hebrew Academy, it was *derekh eretz* that was at the forefront. The school was permeated with *derekh eretz*, as were the local shuls and the wonderful Jewish community. It is something that Memphis should be proud of and continue to exhibit!

Wishing a happy, healthy and kosher Pesach to the entire Memphis community and Jewish people!

**Josh Kibel** (MHA '87) and his wife Elizabeth are the parents of five children and live in South Bend, Indiana, where he works in residential real estate investment. He is the son of **Ranelle (Evensky) Kibel** (MHA '66, YOS '70) and **Rabbi Nechemiah (Harry) Kibel**, z'l (MHA '65, YOS '69).



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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](mailto:alumni@mhafyos.org). Here are some of the responses we received to [Issue No. 19](#).

I want to thank you for all the hard work and tremendous effort that you put into the newsletter. It's so nice to look back on our wonderful years at the Academy/Yeshiva. I can honestly say that the school was our second home; we were all so close.

I get to see **Joel Yormark** (MHA '66), whose *d'var Torah* was featured in the last issue, when I'm in South Bend, Indiana, visiting my son **Josh Kibel** (MHA '87). We reminisce about the many special times we had at the school. I really can't imagine there is any other place like it.

I'm pleased to share that two of my granddaughters recently got married. Unfortunately, due to COVID, I wasn't able to attend my oldest granddaughter Elana's wedding in South Bend in October. My youngest son Baruch shared it on Zoom for us, so at least we were able to feel a part of it.

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

I want to express my utmost appreciation to you and all those who assist with the alumni newsletter. May your efforts and the products of Memphis continue to be a shining light all over the world.

**-Izzy Rubenstein** (MHA '66)

Another beautiful newsletter. Thanks for your hard work!

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

Thanks for the newsletter — very well done. I especially liked the picture that included my grandfather [Joe Margolin, z'l], along with Sam Margolin, William Epstein and Al Thomas. [The photo is reprinted with the trivia answers on page 14 of this issue.] I represented each of them at one point or another during my career.

**-Steve Gruber** (MHA '70, YOS '74)

Another fabulous newsletter! Thanks for all your work keeping up with so many alumni and updating everyone. It keeps the Memphis family alive!

**-Deena (Katz) Yarmush** (MHA '94, FYOS '97)

Thank you for compiling another wonderful edition of the MHA alumni newsletter. It's a great way to showcase the school across a wide geography.

**-Yoel Goldblatt**,  
president of the MHA/FYOS board of trustees

I received my tin of Ricki's Cookies for winning the trivia contest. They were delish! My fiancé Anna, her family and I gobbled them up — save for a few to

share with my brothers. We were so excited to have a taste of Memphis here in cold New York. Thanks again!

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

I read the article you wrote about my mom ["Frances Epstein, first president of the MHA PTA, turns 100"] in the newsletter. Great job! Thanks for the work you do.

-**Carole (Epstein) Folette** (MHA '68)

Thank you for a fabulous newsletter! I really enjoyed it. It's easy to see how much hard work went into publishing it.

-**Esther (Schwartzman) Braunstein** (MHA '67, YOS '70)

## Corrections

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Issue No. 19 included a few errors that we wish to correct here.

- On page 10, we misstated the name of the favorite teacher of **Moshe Blockman** (MHA '07, FYOS '11); it was actually Mrs. Ashley George.
- On page 23, we misspelled the last name of Sherry (Epstein) Lurie, z"l. We appreciate her sister **Carole (Epstein) Folette** (MHA '68) bringing it to our attention.
- On page 28, we stated that the Belz Beis Midrash was dedicated in 1966, at the same time as the Belz Memorial Building. In fact, the Beis Midrash was not dedicated until 1974. Thank you to **Aaron Thomas** (MHA '68, YOS '71) for that clarification.

We sincerely regret these errors, as we always strive for accuracy. Please continue to let us know of any inaccuracies so we can set the record straight.

# TRIVIA ANSWERS 1966-1970

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [19th issue](#).

**Marilyn (Weinreich) Schachter** (MHA '71, YOS '75) correctly answered 9 out of 10 questions and is the winner of our last trivia contest.

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

While he did not win the trivia contest, **Morris Gavant** (YOS '72) provided such informative and entertaining answers that we decided to include many of them here. He, too, will receive a tin of Ricki's Cookies. Thank you, Morris, for making us smile!

*Here are the correct answers to the trivia questions from issue No. 19. How did you do?*

1. On a class trip to Shiloh National Military Park, Mr. Effie Bluestein taught his students that Civil War soldiers were required to have two front teeth. What was the reason for that requirement?

*ANSWER: To open the ammunition pouch while in battle.*

*(MG answer: "To open a bottle of booze?")*

2. Which two entrepreneurial YOS students operated the candy machine in the MHA gym during this period?

*ANSWER: Sam Epstein (YOS '71) and George Wollner (MHA '67, YOS '71).*

3. Where did the girls' high school hold classes before the Goldie Margolin School for Girls building was erected on Conwell?

*ANSWER: The Memphis Jewish Community Center.*

*(MG: "I think the girls' school was in a modular building on the corner of Yates and Shady Grove at the time. I think they moved the building to the current site for use, but I may be wrong. When Baron Hirsch was contemplating moving east from Midtown, they seriously considered using that corner property across from the church as the site of the east branch before buying the Isaac Hayes house a little further down on Shady Grove.")*

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## TRIVIA ANSWERS Questions from Issue 19

4. This photo, taken at a 1967 NCSY convention in Savannah, Georgia, depicts a female student from our school who went on to marry the young man seated next to her and raise a beautiful family. They now live in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem, Israel. Who is this alumna and her future husband?

**ANSWER:** *Elaine (Goldstein) Strajcher (MHA '61) and Rabbi Sholom Strajcher.*

*(MG: "I don't know the answers to many of the questions, but I do know that's Rabbi Sholom Strajcher and his wife Elaine (Goldstein). They lived on Brantford near Conwell, in a house with stonework on the front, when I was going to school and lived in the dorm in 1970-71. I loved getting invited to their house for a Shabbos meal or for Purim seudah. They were always of good humor and really connected with teenagers, both boys and girls. They were a young couple who served as important role models for the young people at their table, demonstrating what a good and happy observant life could be like. Isn't it amazing how Memphis girls make good wives and mothers?"*

*Additional note from Steve Graber (MHA '70, YOS '74): "I recognized Sholom Strajcher immediately, as he was/is one of my all-time favorites."*

*Note: Every alumnus who submitted trivia answers got this one right. This may be the first time that has happened. The Strajchers clearly made quite a lasting impression on our students during that era.*



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

Questions from Issue 19

# 14

5. What famous comedian performed at the school's 18th Annual Scholarship Banquet in 1968?

*ANSWER: Sam Levenson.*

*(MG: "I think it was Rodney Dangerfield. Maybe Red Buttons? I remember that they often brought in Jewish entertainers for the banquet who were notorious for delivering off-color nightclub routines, rather than content more appropriate for the setting. I think they thought that Rodney Dangerfield, with all of his one-liners that he used to use on the 'Tonight Show,' could put on a clean show. Well, they were wrong! They stopped bringing those guys in after that. Plus, they weren't cheap. ")*

*Note: Nobody answered this question correctly. Among the answers received were Rodney Dangerfield, Danny Thomas and Red Buttons.)*

6. In the spring of 1970, the four men shown in this picture got together to review the final plans for a special project that was completed in September 1970. Who are these four community leaders (left to right)? And what was the special project?

*ANSWERS: Joe Margolin, Sam Margolin, William Epstein and Al Thomas. The project was the GMSG building on Conwell.*

*(Steve Graber recognized the artwork behind Joe Margolin as a piece from the office of Rabbi Meir Belsky, z'l, where this meeting must have taken place.*

*MG: "They were likely discussing the plans for the new Goldie Margolin School for Girls' facility to be built or moved on the campus. The great thing about that new girls' school building was that it was built right across the street from the boys' dormitory! The dorm was a regular house at the end of Conwell that hadn't been particularly remodeled at the time, so it had a big picture window in the front. It was a great pastime of the dorm boys to grab breakfast after davening, come back to the dorm, and watch all the girls arrive for school.")*



# TRIVIA QUESTIONS 1986-1990

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. Long before the days of the iPhone, which faculty member/administrator kept index cards in his shirt pocket so he could write notes to himself?
2. Which Judaic studies faculty member had an unusual affinity for cows?
3. Every Chol Hamoed Sukkot and Pesach, Rabbi Yaakov Goldfein, z'l, planned a very special party. What kind of event was it?
4. Which Shakespeare play did the seventh and eighth graders perform at the Memphis Jewish Community Center in 1989?
5. Which teacher regularly hosted a "Read Your Term Paper" dinner at her home?
6. What was the name of the school crossing guard pictured here?
7. In whose memory was the preschool playground built and dedicated in 1986?
8. Our boys' varsity basketball team was not always called the Macs. Under what name did they compete in 1988?



9. What was first grade teacher Mrs. Suzanne Friedman famous for doing to the mouths of her students?
10. What was stored in a cooler by the office of **Rabbi Nechemiah (Harry) Kibel, z'l** (MHA '65, YOS '69) that was occasionally sampled by students?

# 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 and Laura Timmons. Additionally, we thank the alumni and friends who assisted us by supplying photographs, identifying the individuals in those photos, and providing historical background, trivia questions and more, including **Jonathan Epstein** (MHA '82, YOS '86), **David Katz** (MHA '88), Bonnie Goldmeier, **Gary Goldmeier** (FYOS '17), Rabbi Yonason Gersten, **Rachel (Epstein) Wolf** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Rafi Epstein** (MHA '90), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97), **Sarah (Finegold) Newton** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHA '89, YOS '93) and Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff.



## ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

Mazel tov to:

Elisheva Kagan and **Rabbi Simcha Mirvis** (MHA '85) of Tzfat, Israel, on the March 10 wedding of their daughter Leah Nehora to Naveh Tal in Oz V'Gaon at the Gush Etzion junction. The newlyweds are living in Moshav Tirosh. Mazel tov also to the bride's grandparents, David and **Lynnie (Katz) Mirvis** (MHA '62) of Memphis.

Elizabeth and **Josh Kibel** (MHA '87) of South Bend, Indiana, on the Oct. 19, 2020, marriage of their daughter Elana to Shloimy Langsner in South Bend. The happy couple lives in Chicago. The bride is the granddaughter of **Ranelle (Evensky) Kibel** (MHA '66, YOS '70) and **Rabbi Nechemiah (Harry) Kibel, z'l** (MHA '65, YOS '69).

**Davida Gruber** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), daughter of Tova and **Roy Gruber** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis, on her engagement to Alex Loizias. The couple is planning to get married Aug. 29 in Arlington, Tennessee, and will make their home in New York City.

## Dylan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13), son of Aileen and **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81) of Memphis, on his engagement to Anna Cappell. They plan to get married Aug. 22 in New Jersey and will live on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

**Yosef Goldblatt** (YOS '17, son of Chana Dina and MHA/FYOS president Yoel Goldblatt) on his engagement to Annie Silverstein, daughter of Chicagoans Ira and **Debra (Loskove) Silverstein** (MHA '79, YOS '83). They will wed June 7 in Livingston, New Jersey, and plan to live in New York City.

## BIRTHS:

Mazel tov to:

Rabbi Menachem and **Debbi (Brown) Nissel** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Jerusalem, who welcomed two new grandchildren in recent months. Granddaughter Sarah was born Dec. 18 to Noa and Rabbi Dovid Nissel of North Miami Beach, Florida; mazel tov also to big sisters Shevi and Tali. On Jan. 28, grandson Aharon Tzvi was born to Rabbi Yaakov and Dina Nissel of Givat Zeev, Israel. Mazel tov also to siblings Leah, Mimi, Shabtai and Tzippora.

Rabbi Uri and **Chana (Anet Yaffe) Silver** (MHA '76, YOS '80) on the Purim arrival of grandson Azriel Menachem to Rabbi Binyamin and Esti Silver of Long Beach, New York. Mazel tov to big brothers Gavriel and Herschel.

Nancy and **Mordechai (Marty) Wolff** (MHA '80) of Brooklyn, New York, on the Dec. 2 birth of granddaughter Nava Miriam to Shmully and Estee Fleisher of New Jersey. Mazel tov also to big brothers Noam Aaron and Yeshaya Ezra.

Akiva and **Sarah (Katz) Tarkieltaub** (MHA '91, FYOS '95) of Queens, New York, on the Jan. 31 birth of son Aryeh Leib. Mazel tov also to grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69) of Memphis and to siblings Shayna, Chaya, Racheli and Shmuel.

Ariella and **Judah Katz** (MHA '94) of Rechavia, Israel, on the Oct. 11 birth of son Akiva. Mazel tov to big sister Leah and grandparents Malkie and **Larry Katz** (MHA '67) of Wesley Hills, New York.

Ariella and **Hershel Moskowitz** (MHA '03, FYOS '07) of

Woodmere, New York, on the Feb. 26 birth of son William Lev. Mazel tov also to big brother Phillip and grandparents Yaki and **Shirley (Lotterstein) Moskowitz** (MHA '73, YOS '77) of Memphis.

Chaya Miriam and **Yitzky Ehrenkranz** (MHA '06) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the Dec. 5 birth of son Shlomo Zalman. Mazel tov to older brothers Dov and Ezra and to grandparents **Bart** (YOS '77) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Memphis.

Yaakov and **Gabby (Harkavy) Berger** (MHA '06) of Jerusalem, Israel, who became parents with the Feb. 22 arrival of daughter Levana. Mazel tov to new grandparents Diane and **Alan Harkavy** (MHA '77), also of Jerusalem.

Aliza and **Ariel Cooper** (MHA '06, FYOS '10) of New York City on becoming parents Dec. 9 with

the arrival of son Lior. Mazel tov to first-time grandparents Tova and **David Cooper** (MHA '78, YOS '82) of Memphis.

Marnie and **Aaron Rubenstein** (MHA '08, FYOS '12) of New York City on the March 1 arrival of their daughter Maya Rose. Mazel tov to grandparents Marvin and **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72) of Memphis.

Rina and **Rabbi Dov Emerson** (MHA '91) of Bergenfield, New Jersey, on their son Yaakov's Dec. 5 bar mitzvah. Mazel tov to grandparents Donny Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65) of Memphis.

Avri and **Gabby (Vance) Burger** (MHA '92) of Baltimore, Maryland, on their son Riley becoming a bar mitzvah Feb. 21.

Lolly and **Rabbi Yudi Moskowitz** (MHA '97) of Phoenix, Arizona, on the Jan. 9 bar mitzvah of their son Gavriel. Mazel tov to grandparents Yaki and **Shirley (Lotterstein) Moskowitz** (MHA '73, YOS '77) of Memphis.

## BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:

**Mazel tov to:**

Josh and **Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson** (MHA '88) of Memphis on the bat mitzvah of their daughter Rachel, an eighth grader at the MHA.

Cheryl and **Yakir Levin** (MHA '90) of Boston, Massachusetts, on their son Eyal becoming a bar mitzvah Jan. 3.

# MAZEL TOV!

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



# THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1986-1990

## Where are they now?



Epstein family

**Jonathan Epstein** (MHA '82, YOS '86) is the founder and owner of Running Pony, a digital marketing and video production company in Memphis. He and his wife Leslie have two teenage children.

‘82  
‘86

"Going to the MHA — and especially the YOS — was a unique experience," he said. "There's no question that it helped shape who I am today. I cherish many wonderful memories of many colorful characters from my time at the school. Mr. Jack Baxter was truly one of a kind; he made me love writing and language even more. So many teachers made a lasting impact on me, from Rabbi Efraim and Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt, of blessed memory, to Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Abby Johnson. There are far too many to list here."

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**Ilyse Diamond** (MHA '85, YOS '89) lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and works as a finance administrator for a restaurant management company.

**‘85**  
**‘89**

She has fond memories of sitting outside on the front steps of the GMSG building on Conwell and eating lunch with **Renata Sadetsky** (MHA '85, YOS '89), **Ellen (Wolff) Silverman** (MHA '85, YOS '89), **Alyse Harris** (YOS '89) and other fellow students. Her favorite teachers included English and history teacher Mr. Thomas Johnson and French teacher Madame Louisette Palazzolo.



Kutner-Leitman family

**Shifra (Kutner) Leitman** (MHA '86, YOS '90) — daughter of **J. Alan** (MHA '62) and **Barbara (Katz)**

**Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68) — lives in Lawrence, New York, with her husband and children.

‘86  
‘90

She hopes her classmates are doing well and would love to reconnect via email at [leitman.shifra@gmail.com](mailto:leitman.shifra@gmail.com).

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## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1986-1990

Where are they now?

‘87

**Josh Kibel** (MHA '87) — son of **Ranelle (Evensky) Kibel** (MHA '66, YOS '70) and **Rabbi Nechemiah (Harry) Kibel, z'l** (MHA '65, YOS '69) — lives in South Bend, Indiana, and works in real estate investment. He and his wife Elizabeth have five children and one son-in-law.

His *d'var Torah* can be found on page 7 of this issue.



Kibel family



Friedman family

‘87

**Rabbi Josh Friedman** (MHA '87) lives with his family in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, where he teaches Torah and works as an administrator at Yeshivas Neimus Moshe.

His favorite MHA teacher was Rabbi Yaakov Goldfein, *z'l*.

‘88

**David Katz** (MHA '88), son of Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69), works as vice president of operations for Redwood Services, a home services firm focused on investing in HVAC, plumbing and electrical services companies in growing U.S. markets. He lives in Memphis with his wife Michelle (kindergarten teacher at the MHA), and they have five children: **Avi** (FYOS '09), who resides in Israel with wife Rachel and son Aaron Yosef; **Shaya** (MHA '12, FYOS '16); **Daniel** (FYOS '17), who lives in Memphis with his wife Meira; Ezra; and **Pesi** (MHA '19).

"I am thankful to the school and to the Memphis community for laying the foundation for our class and our families for what it means to be Torah-observant members of society," he said. "We were blessed with wonderful rabbis and teachers. On a personal level, it has been a very special experience for my wife and me to take on leadership roles at the school in recent years."

Among his favorite teachers were Mrs. Joyce Casada, who taught junior high and high school math, and Rabbi Efraim Greenblatt, *z'l*.

## THE MHA/YOS CLASSES OF 1986-1990

Where are they now?

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**Ari Sauer** (MHA '90, FYOS '94) lives in Memphis with his wife Hanielle (a pre-K teacher at the MHA) and twin daughters **Lee** (MHA '17, soon-to-be FYOS '21) and **Magen** (soon-to-be FYOS '21). He was recently made a partner at Siskind Susser, an immigration law firm.

His favorite teacher was Mrs. Ann Ivins, of blessed memory, who taught high school science.

Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!**

# ALUMNI REUNITE

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

Even during this difficult era of COVID-19, our alumni still find ways to celebrate each other’s simchas. Our thanks to those who provided these pictures and took time during meaningful occasions to pose with fellow alumni. *Yasher koach* (kudos)!

We hope and pray that the COVID situation will continue to improve, bringing more opportunities for alumni to safely get together and create new memories.

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On Sept. 6, 2020, **Ethan Cooper** (MHA ‘09, FYOS ‘13) married Elisheva Fridman in a beautiful outdoor ceremony on the outskirts of New York City. Mazel tov to the groom’s parents, Aileen and **Pace Cooper** (MHA ‘77, YOS ‘81).



**Ethan** (bottom, right) danced with fellow alumni (clockwise from bottom, center) **Jeremy Cooper** (MHA ‘08, FYOS ‘12 and brother of the groom), **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS ‘13), **Dylan Cooper** (MHA ‘09, FYOS ‘13 and twin brother of the groom), **Yonaton Cooper** (MHA ‘11, FYOS ‘15 and cousin of the groom), **Benzi Kampf** (MHA ‘10, FYOS ‘14) and **Eli Osdoba** (MHA ‘09, FYOS ‘13).



**Ethan** (second from left) with **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS ‘13, second from right) and **Eli Osdoba** (MHA ‘09, FYOS ‘13, far right) and his wife Phoebe.

ALUMNI REUNITE

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**Ethan** (center) with **Benjamin Wachtel** (FYOS '13, far left) and his wife Michal.

**Gary Goldmeier** (FYOS '17) and Danielle Deutsch got married in St. Louis on Jan. 11 and were joined by a number of MHA/FYOS alumni and friends.



(from left) **Mark Fertel** (FYOS '17), **Jeffrey Owen** (FYOS '17), William Goldmeier, **Aharon Marizan** (FYOS '16), **Gary**, FYOS faculty member Rabbi Yonason Gersten and **Bradley Goldmeier** (FYOS '13).

*Rabbi Gersten noted that he was grateful to have received both doses of the COVID vaccine prior to attending this simcha and continued to wear a mask out of an abundance of caution.*



**Gary** (far left, under the tallis) and his father, Dr. Michael Goldmeier (far right), listened as **Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt** (MHA '69, center) read the ketubah under the chupah.

## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

# Ms. Francie Schneider

## 50 years of dedication to the MHA/FYOS



When the 2021-22 academic year begins this fall, the MHA/FYOS's longest-tenured employee — **Francie Schneider** (MHA '68, YOS '72) — will celebrate a remarkable achievement: her golden service anniversary! Throughout the past five decades, Schneider has left a lasting impression on students, parents, faculty and administrators alike, thanks to her loyalty, dedication, resourcefulness and good cheer.

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, she was a child when her father moved the family to Memphis so he could accept a job offer at National Mortgage (owned by the Margolin family). When she was in the fifth grade, she began attending the MHA as a student, along with her younger brother **Michael** (MHA '72). She completed the eighth grade in 1968 and went on to graduate from our girls' high school in 1972.

Following graduation, Schneider decided to share her talents with the school in a new capacity as an employee. During her early years on staff, she worked as a classroom assistant with various teachers, including Mrs. Eva Loskove, Mrs. Miriam Cheruff, z'l and Mrs. Bernice Cooper, z'l. For most of her tenure at the MHA/FYOS, Schneider has worked as an assistant in the school office. The position, she said, enables her to do office work and be around the wonderful children of our community.

"Francie has been the front office of the school for so many years," said former MHA/FYOS administrators Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff, who have known Schneider since the 1980s. "Others have come and gone, but Francie is a stalwart who is always there. She is loyal and faithful, and we could always count on her. She is even tempered and so pleasant to be around. She performs her tasks with alacrity and consistency. Francie is central to the school and a very important person on the staff."

"Ms. Francie is one of the warmest, friendliest and nicest people I've ever met," said Mrs. Sandy Gersten, who has worked with Schneider since 1985. "Right from the time I moved to Memphis, I could see that she was friendly, helpful and caring. Eventually, Francie became the expert on unjamming the copy machine in the office — making her every teacher's best friend! She can often be seen in



Senior year of high school  
(1972)

## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Ms. Francie Schneider

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(from left) Francie with her mother Rita, z'l and sister Ellen on an Alaskan cruise.



(clockwise from bottom-left) Francie; her brother Michael and his wife Barbara; their parents, Rita and David, z'l; and sister Ellen.



Francie (second from right) with (from left) niece Dana, nephew Kenny, mother Rita, z'l, sister Ellen and brother Michael.

the hallways of the school, delivering all kinds of things to the classrooms — envelopes, lunch tickets, newsletters, whatever is needed. She does it all with a smile."

"We are so lucky to have Ms. Francie as part of the MHA/FYOS office team," said **Jessica (Baum) Sukhodolsky** (MHA '99), the school's director of recruitment and marketing. "She is loved by teachers and students alike and always has a smile on her face."

Schneider is also well known for having an outstanding memory. "Francie remembers all of our school's former students and never fails to inquire about everyone's welfare," Gersten said. "She also remembers the birthdays of everyone on the staff and hand-delivers birthday cards to them all."

"Francie has a remarkable memory for names and addresses," the Kutliroffs recalled. "She also knows who is in which class and where to find any student at any time of the day. She never forgets a birthday, and she never forgets to ask about our grown children whenever we meet. We are pleased to count Francie as a friend."

Gersten has fond memories of many Rosh Chodesh Adar celebrations with the Schneider family, who have graciously sponsored the pre-Purim festivities at the MHA/FYOS for years. "We would always dance around Francie and [her late mother] Mrs. [Rita] Schneider," Gersten said. "We couldn't be together this year due to COVID, but hopefully next

# 26

## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

### Ms. Francie Schneider

Rosh Chodesh Adar, we can resume our custom of dancing around Francie."

Reflecting on her upcoming milestone anniversary, Schneider is grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such special teachers and administrators and to have helped Jewish students in our community for so many years. She is happy to continue working — and the MHA/FYOS is happy to have her.

"We are so fortunate to have Francie working at our school," Gersten said. "She is truly Southern sweet!"



Francie (left) and her sister Ellen enjoying the Rosh Chodesh Adar festivities in the MHA gym in 2018.



Observing COVID safety protocols, Francie enjoyed the Parent/Teacher Association's deluxe hot cocoa bar for teachers and staff in honor of Chanukah in December 2020.

# FLASHBACKS 1986 - 1990

## Photographs from the past

GMSG backpacking trip to Tennessee's Fall Creek Falls State Park in November 1989 (from left): **Sheera (Epstein) Sher** (MHA '86, YOS '90), **Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane** (MHS '89, YOS '93), **Sarah (Finegold) Newton** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Rachel (Epstein) Wolf** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Shoni Mirvis** (MHA '89, YOS '93), **Galina (Rutoiz) Ziegler** (YOS '93) and chaperone Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff.



*"This picture reminds me that Mrs. Kutliroff is awesome! The trips she took us on were so much fun, and she had more energy than all of us put together!" -Miriam (Amy Goldstein) Kahane*

Purim circa 1990 (from left): **Sarah (Finegold) Newton** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Rachel (Epstein) Wolf** (MHA '88, YOS '92) and **Sarah (Fink) Wachtel** (MHA '88, YOS '92).

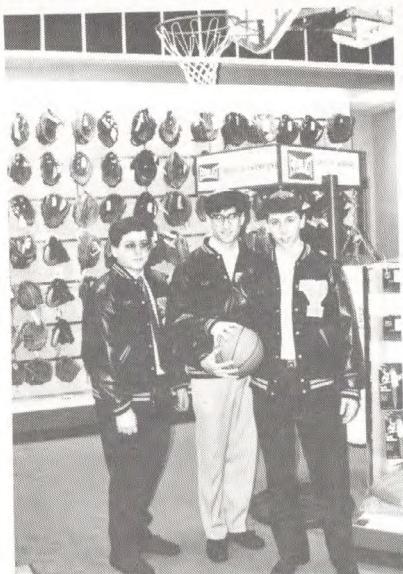


*"The costumes were inspired by a particularly harsh lice infestation that year!" -Rachel (Epstein) Wolf*

*"We always had a great time on Purim. It was fun for the students, and the teachers seemed to have a lot of fun, too. We were at the Finks' house here, and if I recall correctly, we had more than one Purim party at their house. I also have a very distinct memory of a mom bursting into the house, rather annoyed that her daughter was out so late at night. This was long before the days of checking in via cellphone! It's interesting what sticks in someone's memory from so long ago." -Sarah (Finegold) Newton*

In 1990, our boys' high school was in a rebuilding phase. At that time, we had only three students: **Chaim Goldman** (YOS '90), **Daniel Kutliroff** (MHA '86, YOS '90) and **Kevin Rosenberg** (MHA '86, YOS '90). The boys demonstrated their delightful sense of humor by placing this page in the school yearbook.

## Senior Boys



Basketball Team



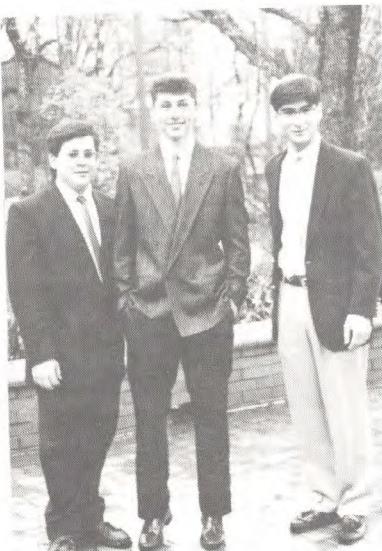
Baseball Team



Football Team



Track and Field Team



Chaim Goldman, Daniel Kutliroff, Kevin Rosenberg



Boxing Team

*"I remember the fishing tournament final against Treadwell where, at the last minute, Kevin pulled a 60-pound bass from the river to win the championship. I remember the 12-round boxing match against Melrose where I knocked out the defending champion to bring the title home. I remember the bowling semifinal against Christian Brothers where Chaim rolled a 300-point game to advance to the finals against East. I also remember during our senior year walking into the mall and passing a sporting goods store, thinking we were so cool in our new school jackets and deciding to take pictures of every imaginable sports team for which there was equipment." -Daniel Kutliroff*

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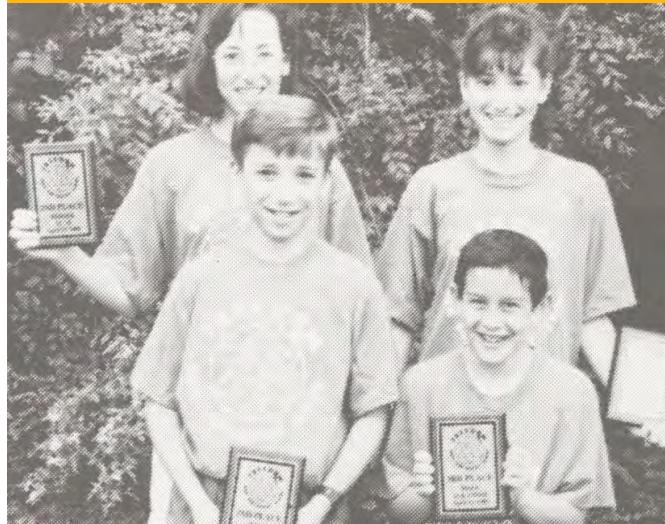
## FLASHBACKS

### Photographs from the past

In the 1980s, the MHA/YOS joined the rest of the Jewish world in fighting for the "refuseniks" of the Soviet Union to be able to emigrate to Israel and other places where they could freely practice their religion. In 1988, our school participated in a citywide rally in downtown Memphis, calling on Prime Minister Mikhail Gorbachev to allow the Jews to leave the Soviet Union.



The Soviet Jewry rally included a 5K run to raise money for the cause. All of the youth winners were MHA students — and three of them were siblings (clockwise from top-left): **Rachel (Epstein) Wolf** (MHA '88, YOS '92), **Sheera (Epstein) Sher** (MHA '86, YOS '90), **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) and **Rafi Epstein** (MHA '90).



*"Wow — a real blast from the past! I remember the Run for Soviet Jewry feeling different than other races we did in those years. There was a sense of urgency and a feeling of being part of history, of something that was larger than us. We felt we were actively answering the 'call of the hour' and took great pride in hearing 'Am Yisrael Chai' sung on the streets of downtown Memphis." -Rachel (Epstein) Wolf*

Members of the MHA student council in 1987 (from left): faculty advisor Mrs. Kathleen Plyler, publicity chair **Shoni Mirvis** (MHA '89, YOS '93), reporter Brian Lurie, treasurer **Ted Friedman** (MHA '87), vice president David Schwartz, parliamentarian **Josh Kibel** (MHA '87) and secretary **Stacy (Zalowitz) Sanderson** (MHA '88).



# IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 21st issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication around Rosh Hashanah. In it, we will highlight the **eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years 2006-2010**. Members of those classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) sometime in July. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature story in that issue will spotlight **Mrs. Anat Kampf**, who has served as a teacher and administrator at the MHA/FYOS for more than three decades. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Mrs. Kampf that you'd 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