

# EALL 5779 ( 2018 - 19



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### How to **Register**

#### **Registration Timeline:**

- Sun Aug 12: we email you a username and password. You log in to make sure they work.
- Sun Aug 12: the same day, we also email you this semester's amazing course catalog... which you are currently reading!
- Mon Aug 13: we email you our registration FAQ
- Thu Aug 16: we email you the schedule so you can see days & times & plan your schedule
- Sun Aug 19: registration opens 9:00am Eastern Time: 48 hrs to select your courses & weekly "Rakezet" meeting
- **Tue Aug 21:** registration closes 9:00am Eastern Time

#### **Steps in the Process:**

On August 12, our registration system emailed you a username and password. If you've changed your email address from what you used for your seminary application, please immediately email Ariella at midreshetoffice@gmail.com to notify her, since your original email address is where we'll be sending your username and password. Many of you were using a school email for college applications and may now be using a different email, so please let us know ASAP. If on Sunday Aug 12 you didn't receive an email with a username and password, please first check your spam folder; if it's not there, please email Ariella at midreshetoffice@gmail.com and she will have one sent to you.

Once you receive the email containing your username and password, please immediately test that your login works by going to www.midmorechoices.com/students and logging in. Please report any difficulties immediately to Ariella at midreshetoffice@gmail.com. We're asking you to test your login info right away so that by the time registration officially opens on Aug 19, we will have solved any problems so you can register. (Please bookmark that website on your phone, since you'll use it to make changes to your schedule once you arrive.) While you're there, please update your personal info.

Also on Aug 12, we'll have emailed you this course catalog for Fall 5779! Your first step in registering is to browse through this amazing catalog, reading the course descriptions, circling everything that looks interesting, being wowed by all of the incredible learning being offered this semester, including many new courses. We don't say "More Choices" for nothing!

#### A Little Friendly Advice:

- Carefully read the course descriptions in the catalog; don't just go by the course names! This will save you from signing up for the wrong courses just because the names sounded interesting. Also, many girls take more than one tefilah shiur or more than one parshah shiur, since each one is so different... as the course descriptions will show you.
- Your schedule reflects <u>your</u> unique goals and needs. Make sure to choose what's right for <u>you</u>. Registering along with friends will not produce the right schedule for you and will get in the way of your branching out and making new friends... Don't be the girl who wakes up in December and realizes she's different from her friends and needs her own unique schedule!
- After going through the catalog, turn to the schedule (we'll be sending that Thu Aug 16) to see what day and time each course meets, and start to make your choices! Remember to check on the schedule whether your courses meet once or twice a week.
- If you're having trouble deciding between conflicting courses, just choose one of them for now and make a note to yourself to remind you to try the other course too. Once you've tried both, you'll decide which course is best for you. You'll have all the way until Mon Oct 8 to make switches as often as you like until you get it perfect.
- Make sure to sign up for the number of "CnC" periods ("Chavrutot & Chaburot," see the section in this catalog all about it) that makes sense for you enough time to do prep work for your shiurim, review what you're learning in your courses, do a few "chaburot" with teachers, and your own independent projects, like parshah. And make a plan for what to do in each of your CnC periods so you don't just space out...
- "Late CnC" at 9:30pm is for the "shtark" and the night owls. If you're a girl who's going to step off

the plane ready to "shteig," this is where you'll connect with other girls who feel the same!

- Look carefully at your balance of תנ"ך, הלכה, and אמונה to see if it's what you want.
- At first, you may want to take more than the minimum of 37 hours, so you can try out more classes; then, once you've decided which courses to keep, you can drop down to fewer hours and schedule some breaks so you don't burn out.
- Think of your initial schedule as just your "rough draft" of what to try out first. Naturally, you don't know the teachers yet, and your goals for the year are still developing. So on Sun Aug 26, when courses begin, come with an open mind, ready to make switches. Sometimes girls are just afraid of changing their schedule, even when they realize it's not what they want. Make sure that doesn't happen to you! You have until Mon Oct 8 to switch around freely.
- We'll review your registration before you arrive, and if we really think you're missing out on something, we may recommend you try it out. If you try a course we recommend and you don't like it, it's simple – you just log in and switch.
- All in all, make sure to put together a schedule which will enable you to achieve the most you can this year. Think frequently about whether to change your schedule as your goals and learning level change.
- This is the year to work on your tefilah and your basic knowledge of what's in the Torah. It's not an official "requirement," but our advice is that everyone should take at *least* one tefilah class which helps you understand what you're saying and connect with it, and at *least* one parshah class so that you gain greater familiarity with the Torah (and have a Devar Torah for when you go places for Shabbat and they ask you for one!).

#### **Requirements:**

- Required hours:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> hour of every day (10am Sun, 9am M-Th)
  - Nights 7:30 9:20 (Monday nights free!)
- You need a total of 37 hours...
  - o ...8 hrs of which need to be afternoon hours
  - ...and at least one shiur or CnC each afternoon on Sun, Mon, Tue, & Thu.
  - Tip: In the first weeks, when you're trying out courses, you may actually want to sign up for

more than 37 hours, just so you can try out all the courses you're considering. Then you'll know which to keep and which to drop.

- Required courses:
  - Hilchot Shabbat (with Rav Lerner, Rav Rafi, or Rav Eitan)
  - o Shiur Klali, Monday @ 3pm

#### **Registration Day:**

Once registration begins on Sun Aug 19 at 9:00am Eastern Time, you have 48 hours to log in and select your courses. Registration closes Tue Aug 21 at 9:00am Eastern Time. (Students who are not financially clear will not be able to register – please contact Ruthie now at office@midreshetmoriah.org to clear up any remaining financial issues.) Log in, click "Register for Courses," and select your courses.

When you finish choosing your courses, go back to the "Main Page" and click "Reserve Rakezet Slot." On that tab, you will see the "Rakezet meeting slots" which are open for you. This is the time you'll meet one-on-one every week with your Rakezet (Faculty Mentor) to learn or schmooze. Each Rakezet will be making available a number of these time slots, and the earlier you register, the more choice of slots you'll have. Slots which are already taken by other students will be invisible to you; slots which are still open but which conflict with your schedule will appear in grey so that you can decide whether to go back and change your schedule in order to accommodate a Rakezet slot you prefer. Working your Rakezet meeting into your schedule may mean making some changes to your schedule – yet another reason to consider your schedule just a "rough draft."

From when you arrive until Mon, Oct 8, you can change your schedule freely as often as you like by just logging in each night and making changes. Until then, you'll be trying out shiurim all day. So your registration is actually just a "rough draft" to work on for the first few weeks until you get it the way you want it. No stress if your Rakezet, Bracha, or Rav Eitan suggests trying out a shiur you hadn't planned on – try it, and if it's not for you, just log in and switch.

- Class of 5779 is gonna rock Midreshet!
- שיעורים begin Sunday Aug. 26 at 10:00am!

THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE...

A - M - A - Z - I - N - G! Can't wait!

# 

#### Emunah Section I: Modern Jewish Thought

#### Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael U-Medinat Yisrael

RAV ARI SHVAT

What is the ideal lifestyle – learning Torah all day or working for a living? How do we know whether the



modern State of Israel is really the start of the גאולה? How can religious support Jews а secular Jewish State? In-depth pros and cons of aliyah - is it for you? Datiyyim, Chilonim, Charedim: Where are they each coming from? ls there a solution?

Tzahal (the IDF): victories, dilemmas & halachic issues (like drafting girls into the Israeli army). Are we a religion, nation, or what? What's the relationship between nationalism, individualism and globalism? Our claims vs. the Arab claims to Eretz Yisrael. In addition to classic & contemporary sources, we will also analyze the sources cited by Charedi anti-Zionists. Through lectures, discussions, and songs (Israeli culture, folk, and shirei neshamah), we will examine our historical time period and take our relationship with Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael to the next level.

#### **Thought of Rav Kook**

#### **RAV ARI SHVAT**

Rav Kook is considered one of the most original thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His optimistic, inspiring, holistic approach deals with just about every question we face today, and has given meaning and direction to an entire generation in Israel. Topics will include: What is the goal of life, achieving אמונה,

what free will really means, a new understanding of evil in the world, the messianic meaning of the State

of Israel, religious / non-religious relations, the positive approach to תשובה, understanding the uniqueness of our generation, parent-child relationships, what makes Eretz Yisrael unique, understanding and connecting to the מצוות, balancing intellect vs.



emotion, love and awe of God, evolution, vegetarianism, morality, education, nationalism and universalism, and more.

#### Sho'ah ve-Emunah

RAV JASON KNAPEL

In this course, we will explore one of our greatest tragedies through the lenses of history, halachah and

hashkafah. Topics that will be discussed are: The uniqueness of the Sho'ah; the life that was – understanding what was lost; the history and theology of antisemitism; the rise of the Nazi party; the reaction of the world; what did we know and when did we know it; what is a ghetto and



were all ghettos the same; the transports and camps; rescue and resistance; leadership and youth during the war years; theology of the Sho'ah; the end of the war – when did it really end for the Jews, and how does it continue to echo even today.

#### **Thought of Rav Soloveitchik**

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

What is a human being, and what is our task as humans in our lifetime – from God's perspective,



what is our purpose? Since God doesn't need our praise and already knows what we need, what is the purpose of tefilah? Family is obviously crucial for all people, but what unique perspectives does the Torah add? How does a Jew continue to connect with the God

who sat by and allowed the Holocaust to happen? How should a Jew making her life in chutz la-aretz look at the State of Israel and at Zionism? These are just some of the issues we will encounter as we explore the thought of one of the greatest Torah giants of the last generation – the one person who, more than anyone else, influenced the growth of Modern Orthodoxy in America.

#### **Netivot Shalom**

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

Thousands of young people come to Israel every year seeking to connect: to connect to Eretz Yisrael, to Am



Yisrael, to Medinat Yisrael, or to Torah or to new friends... the list goes on. But the year in Israel is a time look not only to outside, but also deep within, a year to truly study and discover yourself, searching the depth of vour personality and thinking clearly about

your connection to Hashem and Judaism. We will use the truly inspirational Netivot Shalom, written by the Rebbe of Slonim, to illuminate our path toward these goals.

> TIP: every single tefilah shiur is *completely* different. They're so different that many girls take two!

#### Sho'ah ve-Emunah

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

Undeniably the most painful event of modern Jewish history, the Sho'ah continues to frighten, inspire, and

perplex us. We will study the key events surrounding the before, during and after, as we also try to delve into the world of the religious Jew during those times. In addition to understanding what was done to the Jews as victims, we will also



explore how they reacted, including some extraordinary questions that ordinary people asked, such as how they could keep kosher while starving in the ghetto, or keep Shabbat in Auschwitz, or whether one may redeem a loved one if another Jew will be taken in their place. We will also ask the questions the Jewish world has asked since the Holocaust: Where was God? Do we look at the Holocaust as a punishment for the Jewish people, and if so, for what sin(s); or was it unrelated to anything that Am Yisrael had done, and if so, how do we understand how Hashem stood by and allowed it to happen?

#### **Michtav Me-Eliyahu**

#### RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

If Judaism says that love isn't just about attraction, what is it about, and how does one go about

achieving true love? Does everyone have the same amount of free will? What is true happiness? How much time and effort do I need to invest in my career, and how much should I just rely on Hashem? Some people claim that we see miracles every day – but where are they,



and how should this affect my life? Rav Eliyahu Dessler was born in Europe right before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and became one of the youngest students ever to be accepted to the famous Yeshiva of Kelm. He left an immense impact everywhere he went, including England and, at the end of his life, Eretz Yisrael. Join us as we look at Rav Dessler's approach to many different issues, exploring how he built upon earlier sources and how other Gedolim approached these topics.

#### Philosophical Issues in Modern Society

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

In this class, we will deal with the major (philosophical) challenges you will encounter when



you leave your "Jewish Comfort Zone." We will deal with issues such as doubt - what to do when happens; it Biblical Criticism - was the Torah really written by Moshe; evolution – can science be wrong? Denominations - will the real Judaism please stand up...? The goal of

this class is not to answer all questions that will arise through the next few years of your life, but to discuss the issues in a non-threatening way and develop approaches to dealing with hard-hitting questions.

> TIP: Carefully read the course descriptions; don't just go by the course names!

#### Am Segulah

#### **RAV AHARON WEXLER**

These provocative shiurim will engage the major issues facing the Jewish people today. Serious



students will develop the tools needed to take an active role in the conversations going on in the Jewish community about "hot-button" issues chosen facing the people in the 21st century: the role of women in Judaism today; the differences between Reform,

Conservative, and Orthodox; coping with university campus life; archaeology and Tanach; and more.

#### Rav Soloveitchik on the Jewish Family

#### MALKA HUBSCHER

Want to improve your relationships with your siblings, parents or grandparents? Maybe already

thinking about how to have a great marriage and how to be a good mother? The time to become the person you would like to be... is now. The Jewish family has always been the backbone of our nation; family relationships define, shape and influence us throughout our entire lives. They can



be very loving, positive and enriching, and at the same time complex and stressful. In this course, using Rav Soloveitchik's "Family Redeemed" and other selections from his writing, we will learn from this world-class gadol, modern philosopher, and deeply sensitive, sympathetic, and wise observer of human and Jewish nature how to improve the dynamics within our own families.

#### What Is a Jew?

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL WENGLIN

Did you ever wonder what life is really about, what your purpose is, or what you're supposed to be doing

with your life? Have you seen one of those videos or documentaries that go "behind-thescenes" of really cool stuff or that show "the way things work"? This text-based class will go "behind the scenes" of physical



reality to reveal the way things work in spiritual reality, thereby answering the two questions above and many more. We will draw from two holy sefarim – Nefesh HaChaim and Tanya – to offer you greater clarity on the structure of reality as Hashem created it and the structure of your soul as Hashem created you. We will follow these texts to learn that you are in this world in a relationship with Hashem, and that you can deepen and strengthen that relationship by tapping into the spiritual power of your neshamah. You may also find out that the Jews really do "control" the world at the highest levels... just in a way that you may not have expected. Rather than "*Who* Is a Jew?" (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, etc.), we will focus on the question of "*What* Is a Jew?"

TIP: Your schedule reflects <u>your</u> unique goals and needs. Make sure to choose what's right for <u>you</u>. Registering along with friends will not produce the right schedule for you and will get in the way of your branching out and making new friends...

#### Zionism & the Jewish State

**RAV AHARON WEXLER** 

An intensive study of the political history that brought about a Jewish State in ארץ ישראל. Who were these secular and religious men and women who, with the help of God, brought about a complete change in Jewish affairs after a 2000-גלות? What vear



happened in the 19th century to bring Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people?

#### Emunah Section II: Classical Jewish Thought

#### Har Sinai in Hashkafah & Halachah

RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever wonder what really happened at Har Sinai -



besides being pretty terrifying, what was it like to experience God appearing right before us? How do we know the whole thing really took place? If we were all there, as tradition tells us, why don't we remember anything? How could an entire nation of laypeople, few of them trained as prophets, many of

them just children, spontaneously become prophets? If the whole thing was so impressive, how could our ancestors turn back to idol worship just forty days later? Turning to the content of what was said at Sinai, why were these ten commandments chosen out of all 613? (Would you have chosen "Do not covet your neighbor's house"?) What does it mean to believe in God ("I am God...")? Is abortion categorized as murder ("Do not kill...")? Can adultery ever be justified ("Do not commit adultery...")? What is the Torah's view on illegally downloading music and movies – is it stealing ("Do not steal...")? Can God command us to feel certain emotions ("Do not envy...")? In this course, we will explore the significance and relevance of the Sinai experience and the importance of the Ten Commandments as a unit and individually, both hashkafically and halachically.

#### The 13 Core Beliefs of Judaism

**RAV ASHI TARAGIN** How do you know you picked the right religion? Why should we believe in Hashem without direct personal proof? Why don't we have prophecy today? What will happen at תחיית and at the times of משיח? What is גן עדן, and is the afterlife the reason we do all we do? How



does being Jewish affect our view of the world – for example, how do we understand the role of all the

other nations, and what role should physical life play in our quest for holiness? Did you realize that "Adon Olam" and "Yigdal" are actually summaries of our most basic beliefs, in song form? What is problematic for us with Reform Judaism – can't we just "live and let live" and love all Jews and Judaisms the same? Why don't we believe in Jesus? Together, we will explore our core beliefs and compare Judaism to other religions, such as Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Greek mythology, deepening our understanding and connection to our identity. Strengthening these beliefs will enhance our kavanah in tefilah and mitzvot and our emunah in day-to-day life.

#### Pirkei Avot

#### MALKA HUBSCHER

The moral lessons, profound psychological insights,



philosophical and teachings of the Tanna'im, the rabbis who composed the Mishnah almost 2,000 remain years ago, immediately relevant and deeply meaningful today. We will use them as a guide to inspire us to reach new heights in both our avodat Hashem and midot ben adam la-

chavero.

#### **Ultimate Questions**

RAV EITAN MAYER

This provocative course is for students interested in



struggling with some of the basic questions of life: Is everything in your life from God, as people so often say ("There's no such thing as coincidence")? lf Hashem's doing it all for you, where is there room for your free will - does He choose your career, your shoes,

your friends, your favorite ice cream? Does He sometimes just watch without getting involved? How can we tell when it's God's hand and when it's just life happening? What's the ultimate purpose of your life – is it like a big maze, with עולם הבא at the end as a prize, or is there some other goal? Does God have feelings like we do – anger, sadness, happiness, love – or is He above it all? Can it be that He really cares about all those tiny little halachic details? What will happen at the "End of Days" – will people live forever on Earth after עולם הבא or go on to ביטחון? And what is עולם הבא Does עולם הבא anyway? Does Lurn out OK? We will explore fascinating topics in medieval and contemporary thought which have always made people wonder.

#### Pirkei Avot

**RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM** 

Pirkei Avot is where the sages of the Mishnah from 2,000 years ago – giants like Hillel and Shammai,

Rabbi Akiva and Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai –

communicate directly and personally with each one of us. guiding us in our efforts to try to become the best people we can be. Pirkei Avot allows these usually halachic figures to express



themselves on more personal topics, such as midot and the methods that we need to perfect them. Because each brief mishnah offers a different area to focus on, there is no shortage of topics to cover, and as an added bonus, we will go straight from the start to the end, giving us the opportunity to complete an entire sefer.

#### **Classic Hits of Jewish Philosophy**

RAV ELI WAGNER

Join us to explore the following topics and more, through a careful reading of sources: whether we have free will and how we know, why bad things happen to good people, the afterlife, resurrection and the messiah, Divine providence, prayer, ethics and הלכה We will



look at sources ranging back to the Talmud and

medieval philosophers and ranging down to thinkers living in our own times.

#### **Derech Hashem:** Answers from the Kabbalah

**RAV ZVI RON** 

Kabbalah is a lot more than just "mysticism" - it's a whole way of looking at life, which has its own unique



answers for all of Judaism's most important questions. We will study the kabbalistic thought of Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato (Ramchal) in his work, Derech Hashem. We will cover all the main issues of Jewish philosophy:

How tefilah works; the meaning and effects of the mitzvot; the unique nature of Torah; the definition of "mazal"; the question of free will; the sin of אדם הראשון; the nature of nevu'ah; the afterlife; mashiach; magic; reincarnation; and more, to comprise a comprehensive approach to Judaism. We will also study the approaches of those Jewish thinkers who disagreed with Ramchal.

#### Philosophical Issues in Tanach

**NEIMA NOVETSKY** 

"God hardened Pharaoh's heart" – so do we always have free will, or does Hashem sometimes force us in



one direction. as He seems to have done to Pharaoh? If He already knows what we're going to choose, then isn't our choice already predetermined? "Anochi Hashem..." we are expected to

believe in Hashem, but

- I

what if have questions? What do we do with stories like David and Batsheva, or Yaakov taking the berachah from Esav, which show our leaders making morally problematic choices? How about mitzvot that don't fit with my own personal understanding of right and wrong? Other topics include Tanach's perspectives on: Why bad things happen to good people; the nature of yemot ha-mashiach; prophecy; and much more. As we look at a selection of "troubling texts" from Tanach, each will lead us into a larger discussion of related theological or philosophical issues that many of us find difficult to grapple with. The class will also have a beit midrash component, allowing students to study with one another and argue out the text and accompanying issues on their own!

#### Kohelet: Why Are We Here?

#### **RAV ASHI TARAGIN**

In 500 years from now, not only will no one remember you and me, but in fact, the odds are that

will it make no difference at all that we ever lived. Nothing we do during our lifetime will remain for long, and we, along pretty much with everyone else, will fade into oblivion and be utterly forgotten. If so, what's the point of our having lived? Join us to explore Kohelet,



the sefer in Tanach which asks all the hard questions and pulls no punches in its search for the meaning of our lives.

#### Unlocking the Midrash

#### **BRACHA KROHN**

Was Rivkah really three when she married Yitzchak - and if not, what lesson were Chazal hinting by

saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be Yaakov's pillow? Are Chazal teaching us historical facts with these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different



types of מדרשים; what goals Chazal had in mind when composing them; and how to unlock the deeper meaning behind these well-known legends. In this course, you will explore the difference between interpretation and homiletics as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the

gou learn each week when studying פרשת השבוע.

#### Har Sinai in Hashkafah & Halachah

**RAV ELI WAGNER** 

Ever wonder what really happened at Har Sinai besides being pretty terrifying, what was it like to



experience God appearing right before us? How do we know the whole thing really took place? If we were all there, as tradition tells us, why don't we remember anything? How could an entire nation of lavpeople, few of them trained as prophets, many of them just children, spontaneously

become prophets? If the whole thing was so impressive, how could our ancestors turn back to idol worship just forty days later? Turning to the content of what was said at Sinai, why were these ten commandments chosen out of all 613? (Would you have chosen "Do not covet your neighbor's house"?) What does it mean to believe in God ("I am God...")? Is abortion categorized as murder ("Do not kill...")? Can adultery ever be justified ("Do not commit adultery...")? What is the Torah's view on illegally downloading music and movies - is it stealing ("Do not steal...")? Can God command us to feel certain emotions ("Do not envy...")? In this course, we will explore the significance and relevance of the Sinai experience and the importance of the Ten Commandments as a unit and individually, both hashkafically and halachically.

#### **Talmudic Tales**



**NEIMA NOVETSKY** 

Why does Hashem bring rain just because Choni refuses to leave his famous circle? If God Himself declares that one rabbi is correct, how can the other rabbis still insist he's wrong? Was the Beit HaMikdash really destroyed iust

because Bar Kamtza wasn't invited to a party? How can Moshe Rabbeinu visit Rabbi Akiva's classroom and not understand a word? The Gemara is filled with stories about Torah and the chachamim, Hashem's world and His ways. In this class, we will study some of the most famous and intriguing of these stories. Each week, we will look at a different text, raising questions and exploring its lessons.

#### **Topics in Jewish Philosophy**

R. ASSAF BEDNARSH / SHANA BET

Joint Shana Bet Shiur Gruss Campus at

Sponsored by Yeshiva University.

The first half of this course will explore the following topics, through а careful reading of primary sources: free will; the suffering of the righteous; what is the afterlife; resurrection and mashiach; Divine



intervention; how prayer "works; halachah and ethics. The second half of the course will explore, in a similar fashion, topics in the philosophy of halachah: multiple legitimate opinions ( אלו ואלו דברי אלקים חיים); reason vs. revelation ("לא בשמים היא"); the rabbis' power to legislate new laws ("לא תסור"); and stringency and leniency ("חומרה").

#### **Reason for the Season**

**RAV ELI WAGNER / SHANA BET** 

We're taught to eat symbolic foods on Rosh Ha-Shanah - honey so that we'll have a sweet year,

pomegranate seeds so that we'll have plentiful mitzvot this beets, fish year... heads, the list goes on and on. But isn't it just superstition to think that eating certain foods will somehow change our future? **Besides** actual repentance, the Yom Kippur season also seems to bring amazing "repentance shortcuts" which achieve



forgiveness with much less work - "tashlich" leaves our sins at the bottom of a lake, "kapparot" transfers our sins to a chicken of our choosing... do these methods work, and if so, how and why? What does authentic atonement look like on Yom Kippur, and why should it work if we go back to our routines the next day? Is there any connection between the mitzvot of lulav and sukkah, or do they just happen to share the same holiday? On Chanukkah, we celebrate our victory over the "Hellenized" Jews, who valued mixed together Torah and the contributions of other cultures - but isn't that kind of who we are too? What's with the drinking controversy that surrounds Purim? The holidays are much more than family reunions. There is a reason why we celebrate, when we celebrate and how we celebrate. This course will clarify our halachot and minhagim and their hashkafic implications.

know what you need. We will study the Sefer Ha-Miztvot of the "Chafetz Chaim," lists which and succinctly explains Each each מצוה. week, we will explore few selected а mitzvot – Birkat Ha-Kibbud Av Mazon. Ve-Em, Teshuvah,



and Hashavat Aveidah, to name a few, finding each mitzvah in the Torah, exploring reasons for the mitzvah, and doing a bottom-line halachic overview. This course will be fast-paced and full of interesting, inspiring and practical learning to give you a relationship with mitzvot like you've never experienced before!

#### **Bottom-Line 613**

BRACHA KROHN We always talk about 613 mitzvot, but did you know that only 194 of them can be performed nowadays? Let's get busy studying them so you can be sure you

**TIP:** You may want to sign up for more than 37 hours just so you can try out more shiurim.

#### Emunah Section III: Personal Growth

#### Living the Empowered Life

#### BRACHA KROHN

Do you want to feel more empowered in your own life? Do you feel anxious, unsure, or overwhelmed at



moments of transition or decision? Would you like to feel more positive, confident and effective in your dayto-day choices? Is it hard for you to put yourself first even when you know you should? Then this class is for you! We will learn the thoughts and tools

needed to strengthen our confidence and selfesteem when life gets overwhelming, to put ourselves first when necessary, and to quiet the feelings of worry and anxiety that slow us down or hold us back. Learn the areas in our lives where we can bring change! You will learn about the value the Torah places on our need to make choices in life, be proactive and chart our own destinies. We will focus on the ways we can develop ourselves spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. Join us to learn about being independent in your Torah learning, forgiving yourself and others, navigating through challenges that overwhelm you, choosing role models and mentors, finding and making meaningful friendships with people who bring out the best in you, and creating inspiration for yourself so you don't have to wait around for it! You will be happily surprised by the new-found independence, strength and confidence that you will begin to experience as we explore these topics and more. This is your ticket to a more succesful YOU in all areas of your life... and to a more successful year, taking full advantage of all the opportunities that seminary offers.

#### **Building Great Relationships**

DR. AVIVA GOLDSTEIN

How can I maximize my role as a daughter or step-



daughter? What does friendship mean to me? What kind of spouse do I want to be, and what do I need to find in my own spouse? How do I imagine myself as a mother? What can I about learn mv relationship with siblings, or from my only-child status? How can I nurture

emotional intimacy in a way that is empowering? What do I do once I recognize dysfunction in my relationships? What is the connection between my own self-awareness and self-confidence on one hand, and the health of the relationships in my life on the other hand? This course will be a journey personal experiences, through analysis of contemporary social research and immersion in relevant Jewish texts that can inform the social decisions in our lives. Reflecting on our own relationships and learning from sources, we will explore the universal undercurrents of human relationships and learn how to enhance our relationships and their impact on our lives. We will analyze communication and compatibility and recognize patterns in our own social experiences, and through a broad collection of Jewish texts and psychology resources, we will seek a deep selfawareness and healthy, enriching relationships.

#### **Seminary Instruction Manual**

**RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER** 

The seminary year is focused on learning and growth



- in our relationship with Hashem, with other people, and in own selfhood. our Often. however, it seem doesn't selfexplanatory how that growth is supposed to happen. Some examples:

• My friend seems to make such a

connection when she prays. Why am I not feeling it, and how can I connect like she does?

- A year of growth is great, but it also makes me more conscious than ever of all of my imperfections and inadequacies. How do I figure out where I need to grow without coming away feeling depressed and low?
- I feel like I'm a nice person, but I get the sense that somehow, I project being NOT super nice. How can I come across to others the same way I feel inside?
- Halachah seems so demanding. Does God really care about all of these details?
- My sister/cousin/friend was a superstar in seminary and came back "amazing." How can I make that happen for me?
- I really want to grow, but I don't want everyone (friends / family) thinking I'm "so frum." How do I stay balanced? How do I explain myself to them? And how do I keep this growth going?

If these are some of your questions, this course may help you. Every week, we will study a fresh text from a contemporary rabbi addressing these issues. We will include pieces from Michtav Me-Eliyahu, Netivos Shalom, Rav Pinkus, Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz, and many more, to inspire us each week and guide us through this transformational year.

#### Jewish Childhood and Parenthood

Bracha Krohn

You are now at the age where you are reflecting on how you were raised and what values you received

from home. You might be thinking about how your parenting will be similar to, but also different from, your own parents' ways. As you move into adulthood, your relationship with your parents will change, which is both exciting and scary. If any of this



is on your mind, this course will be for you! We will learn about the issues of being children to our parents, and parents to our children, through topics such as:

How do we define כיבוד אב ואם? How can we make sure to feel and express all the gratitude we feel (or should feel) for our parents? As children, how do we relate respectfully and lovingly to parents whose values differ from

ours? Are there halachic requirements for parents about how to treat their children?

- In a multi-tasking world, how do we avoid being that parent who's always distracted? As children, how do we communicate what kind of attention we need from parents?
- As children, we hate when parents hover and micro-manage; as parents, we want our children to achieve independence from us and confidently face challenges on their own. How do we avoid the "helicopter parenting" that has become so widespread, which trains children to depend on parents and to experience anxiety when they face challenges alone? As children, how do we respectfully "declare our independence" when parents continue to do for us what we need to being ourselves?
- As children approach adulthood, parents naturally share more information with them.
   Some parents even think of their children as best friends, confide in them and depend on them for emotional support. But being a parent is different than being a friend, and sharing too much puts undue pressure on our children. How do we find the balance?
- How do we develop in our children gratitude, honesty, self-confidence, optimism, patience, empathy, humility, loyalty, persistence, resilience, tolerance, and many other qualities? How do we teach them to focus on the right things in life?

In each class, we will use Torah sources as well as contemporary psychology to help us clarify who we are as someone's child, and who we will be as someone's parent.

#### Positive Psychology & Judaism: The Science and Torah of Happiness

#### DR. AVIVA GOLDSTEIN

Positive psychology is a relatively new field dedicated to understanding the scientific and psychological



dynamics of wellbeing, happiness and life satisfaction. Scientists and psychologists have spent the last two decades making fascinating discoveries about the brain human and human emotions, with striking similarity to the writings of Judaism throughout millennia. This course will discuss the definition of happiness, the implications of gratitude and empathy, and the impact of mindfulness. We will question if optimism and resilience can be learned (spoiler alert: they can!) and how individuals can grow in self-awareness. We will explore individual character development through the prisms of both Torah and psychology in order to more fully understand happiness and wellbeing in our daily lives.

#### **Practical Midot Workshop**

#### RABBI HANOCH TELLER

Judaism teaches that good character – being a "mentsch" – is not merely a virtue; it is the goal of

life. If you're not more compassionate and considerate at 20 than you were at 17, then it merely is not а drawback, but а failure. "The purpose of life is to strive to break bad habits and improve oneself. Otherwise, what is life for?" (Gaon of Vilna). The way to become good people is to do



good things, not by thinking good thoughts, and the more good we do, the more it becomes part of our nature. In this class, we will learn how to inculcate this "good nature" into our lives with vivid stories and pertinent examples. How does one act as a good guest? What habits of sensitivity and consideration does our tradition compel us to observe when using a cell phone? What are the halachic guidelines and advice concerning visiting the sick? May one cut a line? How do we break the "me-first" approach? This course will try to provide you with a significant edge in the struggle to be an "honorable mentsch" and acquire success in life morally, professionally and socially.

#### **Mesilat Yesharim**

#### RAV ZVI RON

Many people want to improve themselves, but where do we start? Once we get beyond just feeling that we'd like to be better, what path do we follow? Is there an order, a series of steps which build on each other, and which we can follow toward real religious growth which will last? Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato's answer is Mesilat Yesharim, a sefer which



maps out a specific path toward

kedushah, including detailed recommendations, a step-by-step plan, and even warnings about the obstacles along the way

which can block our progress. We will study this classic sefer in depth and discuss how these ideas can be applied in our lives.

#### Midot Workshop

**RENA COREN** 

In this class, we will learn practical, hands-on tools so that we can become healthier and holier people.



Some of the topics that will be covered include: Ayyin Tovah: learning to look for the good in ourselves and others, including developing a higher tolerance for differences between ourselves and others and the ability to learn from people who aren't perfect (who is, right?); Simchah:

learning how to maintain an optimistic, positive outlook on life despite the inevitable ups and downs; Kavod: learning how to respect ourselves and others despite the fact that we all have flaws; Savlanut: learning how to be patient and forgiving of ourselves and others; developing the ability to notice the needs and problems of those around us and the sensitivity to reach out to them; and many other crucial midot.

#### Alei Shur

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN We will study the inspiring teachings of one of the greatest giants of our generation, Rav Shlomo Wolbe. Rav Wolbe was renowned for being able to encourage and inspire Bnei and Bnot



Torah to grow spiritually by first recognizing the reality of living in a material world and then providing them with advice and a roadmap on the journey of elevating themselves. The ultimate goal is to enable us as "avdei Hashem" to become more introspective about our service of Hashem.

#### **Find Your Personal Hashkafah**

RAV JASON KNAPEL / SHANA BET "Ideas, Personalities, Books and Hashkafot Every Shana Better Needs To Know"

There are so many people and sefarim that have shaped the way Jews have thought lived and throughout our history – Rav Kook, Ben Gurion, Natan Scharansky, the Chatam Sofer, the Minchat Chinuch, the Torah Temimah, the Mishnah Berurah....



Here is your chance to be exposed to the vastness of our mesorah – religious and non, right wing and left. In addition to meeting great people, we will be exploring diverse hashkafot, ideas and views within our tradition, all geared toward helping you, the "Shana Better," arrive at your own hashkafah and world view as you transition from Sem into "Real Life."

#### The Joy of Being a Jew ("JOBAJ")

RABBI YY WENGLIN / TWO SECTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM Let's face it: It's simply more exciting to go to a concert or a ballgame or a party than it is to *daven* 

Shacharit. Or to take challah. Or to keep Shabbos. Or to... You get the point. In this class, we will start with some basics of Jewish hashkafah and then progress to deeper ideas of Kabbalah/Chassidus to help us understand



ourselves and our relationship with Hashem. We will gradually learn to look at the world as a place filled with His holiness and wisdom, one-hundred percent suited for intense closeness and attachment to Him. Anticipated topics include truth, our deep desires in life, self-esteem, spiritual reality, emotions, *davening*, *Shabbos*, and much more. Once a Jew more fully appreciates and internalizes deeper ideas in Judaism, her joy from being Jewish increases proportionately. Who knows, you might even walk away from this class knowing how to make an "*asher yatzar*" with the same *simchah* and passion as if you had won America Idol!

#### Michtav Me-Eliyahu

#### RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

If Judaism says that love isn't just about attraction, what is it about, and how does one go about



achieving true love? Does everyone have the same amount of free will? What is true happiness? How much time and effort do I need to invest in my career, and how much should I just rely on Hashem? Some people claim that we see miracles every day – but where are they,

and how should this affect my life? Rav Eliyahu Dessler was born in Europe right before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and became one of the youngest students ever to be accepted to the famous Yeshiva of Kelm. He left an immense impact everywhere he went, including England and, at the end of his life, Eretz Yisrael. Join us as we look at Rav Dessler's approach to many different issues, exploring how he built upon earlier sources and how other Gedolim approached these topics.

#### **Netivot Shalom**

RAV YITZCHAK LERNER / SHANA BET

How does one work practically on emunah in Hashem and Yirat Shamayyim? What is simchas ha-chaim and how does one achieve it? What steps can I take to improve my tefilah? Using "Netivot



Shalom", by Rabbi Shalom Noach Brozovsky, the

Slonimer Rebbi, we will gain insight into the weekly parshah and chagim and try to take personal lessons from his work. We will explore ideas ranging from belief in God to self-improvement.

#### What Is a Jew?

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL WENGLIN

Did you ever wonder what life is really about, what your purpose is, or what you're supposed to be doing

with your life? Have you seen one of those videos or documentaries that go "behind-thescenes" of really cool stuff or that show "the way things work"? This text-based class will go "behind the scenes" of physical



reality to reveal the way things work in spiritual reality, thereby answering the two questions above, and many more. We will draw from two holy sefarim - Nefesh HaChaim and Tanya - to offer you greater clarity on the structure of reality as Hashem created it and the structure of your soul as Hashem created you. We will follow these texts to learn that you are in this world in a relationship with Hashem, and that you can deepen and strengthen that relationship by tapping into the spiritual power of your neshamah. You may also find out that the Jews really do "control" the world at the highest levels... just in a way that you may not have expected. Rather than "Who Is a Jew?" (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, etc.), we will focus on the question of "What Is a Jew?"

#### The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Jews

#### Sepha Kirshblum

All of us have habits which get in our way. We procrastinate work, errands, and phone calls; we say "yes" when people ask us for favors even when we should say "no"; sometimes FOMO keeps us up until crazy hours even when we know we'll be at less than our best the next day. What positive habits can we establish to replace our dysfunctional ones? Steven Covey, author of bestseller "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," teaches us about seven habits he believes can help us develop into our best selves. For example: How to best listen to people;



how to prioritize our time (including knowing when to say no); how to stop procrastinating and get things done; how to work best alone and with a team; and how to always be seeking to improve ourselves and grow. In this class, we will learn these habits in detail from a Torah

perspective, incorporating Jewish ethics and philosophy as well as the teachings of specific mitzvot that can help us fully develop these positive habits and become highly effective people and Jews. triggered by time, why isn't it considered "zeman geramah" and therefore something from which women are exempt? The Gemara teaches us that the three daily prayers parallel both the three daily Temple offerings, as well as the three daily prayers instituted by the Avot; but why are both of



these models needed, and what do they each reveal about the deep nature of our communication with God? Join us to examine the deep and inspirational concepts behind our tefilot which direct not only *what* we say, but also *how* and *when*.

#### Themes of the Mo'adim

ALIZA SCHWARTZ



As we approach the Yamim Nora'im, do you understand how teshuvah works? If I really regret what I did and commit to changing, does God automatically forgive me? If not, what else does it depend on? And let's be realistic – does He really believe I'll

never sin again? (Do I believe it?) Why is Sukkot called zeman simchatenu – what am I so happy about? Is there more to Purim than a silly day of dressing up or a boorish day of drinking? Together, we will explore the deeper meanings and themes of the Jewish holidays that lead us through unique spiritual times in the calendar. We will come to appreciate the incredible spirituality found in our mo'adim and learn to apply the lessons to experience more meaningful chagim.

#### **Inspirational Concepts in Tefilah**

#### RAV ELI WAGNER

How are we meant to prepare for each tefilah, and what do these preparation guidelines teach us about the nature of what we are about to do? What kind of kavanah (awareness and focus) during tefilah is so crucial that without it, tefilah is no longer tefilah; and on the other hand, what other kind of kavanah is ideal but negotiable? Since tefilah is so clearly



#### Meaning in Tefilah

MALKA HUBSCHER

Been davening for years, but never really sure of what you're doing? Sort of know what to say when, but not always? Or maybe you know what to do technically, but you're looking to enhance your tefilot by learning the theme of each tefilah. We will study the structure of the daily tefilot, the halachot of tefilah, and methods to enhance kavanah.

#### Tefilah GPS

**RAV EITAN MAYER / ADVANCED** 

When we pray, even if we know what the words mean (which, let's be honest, we often don't), we're seeking a real grasp of where we're *going* with each tefilah and what makes it unique. Everyone always says "Ashrei" is so special, for example, but actually, it sounds a lot like everything else we say – so what's



the big deal? What are we trying to say with <u>this</u> "hallelukah" that makes it different than the one before and the one after? The berachot before and after Shema (Yotzer Or, Ahavah Rabbah, and

Ve-Yatziv) are full of praise, but they seem to have nothing to do with each other, and nothing to do with Shema! Where are we going with all of this? What are we trying to *say*? How do we connect and feel what we're saying on a deep and personal level? Naturally, if we lack a sense of where we are and where we're headed, we often feel disconnected and bored, which then chips away at our motivation to pray in the first place. We need a "Tefilah GPS"! In this textual class, we will carefully learn select tefilot through chavruta and shiur, exploring their meaning, structure, and specific themes, so that we truly know what we're saying and can fill our words with meaning and connection. We will look at daily tefilah and tefilot we say on special occasions.

#### **Modern Tefilah**

RABBI AARON GOLDSCHEIDER Watching people at prayer, you can see most people looking for inspiration inside a book, the siddur, but



not always finding it there. But perhaps we need to look outside to find Hashem - how can the beauty of nature and the world around us awaken our senses to connect with our Creator? Or perhaps we need to look deeper within how do we use meditative techniques

to heighten our kavanah? Each of us is looking to make the tefilah experience more moving and elevating. This course is designed to help make our davening richer, more filled with meaning and depth. We will learn from some of the greatest modern thinkers, including Rav Soloveitchik, Nechama Leibowitz, Rav Kook, and others, absorbing their insights and techniques regarding how to make tefilah work for us.

#### Shemoneh Esrei \*PLUS\*

#### MICHAL PORATH ZIBMAN

We will engage in a deep study of the themes of the various berachot of the nineteen that we say daily.

By focusing on a different berachah every week, we will seek not only a better understanding of the meaning of the berachot themselves, but also to enhance our kavanah during this tefilah. In addition, just as tefilah has been part of the Jewish life



experience since time immemorial, so too, people have written about the tefilah experience since then. Scholars and sages, from the early biblical commentators throughout Jewish history, Chasidic masters, and contemporary rabbis and community leaders, both men and women, have put their thoughts down on paper for their generation and generations to come. Through chavruta and discussion, we will examine some of these great works of tefilah, gaining different ideas and insights each week that will enhance the way we serve Hashem.

#### **Knocking on Heaven's Door**

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL WENGLIN

Three steps back. Three steps forward. Bow... Bow... Potch. Potch... Yawn, yawn, yawn. Bow... Bow...

Three steps back. Again. Three steps back. Three steps forward. Bow... Bow... Potch. Potch... Yaaaaawwwwwn. "— Wait, where am I? Oh, right...." Bow... Bow... Three steps back. Again... Every day. For the rest of your life. If



this captures your prayer experience, then this class may be for you. We will look to change the game completely by learning about davening, from the basic to the deep, drawing from select Chasidic and Kabbalah-based sources. In addition to regular shiurim, the class will sometimes be more of a workshop, using tools of group discussion, writing, role-playing, and meditation exercises to help you internalize on an experiential level the information that has been taught in the shiurim. In the process of changing the davening experience, the class will, God willing, also change the way you experience *yourself*, both in terms of your self-identification and your midot (character traits). But a bit of a warning: This class is for mature audiences only. The ideal student for this class is one who is focused and growthoriented, willing to contemplate new ideas, to participate in the exercises and discussions, and in general, to increase her connection to Judaism and Hashem. If you take this class, after all is said and done, you might actually not be in such a hurry to take those last three steps back!

#### **Orchot Tzadikim**

BRACHA KROHN / MEETS SUN + TUE



Each week, we will learn from "Orchot Tzadikim" ("Pathways of the Righteous") about a midah that we encounter in ourselves and others. We will learn about the roots of the midah. its positives and negatives, and how to actively and

consciously improve our thoughts and behaviors relating to happiness, jealousy, generosity, humility, laziness, and more. The experience of working on ourselves makes us happier people with better, healthier and deeper relationships with Hashem, friends and family. At this exciting point in your life, as you mature into an independent adult headed for new relationships with roommates, bosses and spouses, you will learn some of what it takes to be successful in all of these areas.

#### Pirkei Avot

MALKA HUBSCHER The moral lessons, values, profound psychological insights, philosophical and of teachings the Tanna'im, the rabbis who composed the Mishnah almost 2,000 remain years ago, immediately relevant and deeply meaningful today. We



will use them as a guide to inspire us to reach new heights in both our *avodat Hashem* and *midot ben adam la-chavero*.

#### Hashkafah 101

Rena Coren

Culled from a wide range of sources, this course is designed to your open your mind and heart to have

а healthy Jewish perspective on interesting and applicable topics to our everyday lives, such as: What is the special ko'ach that every Jewish woman has? What are the fundamental tools to building healthy relationships? Since I was born into a certain environment and



raised in a certain way, what does God expect of me? And much more!

#### Rav Soloveitchik on the Jewish Family

MALKA HUBSCHER

Want to improve your relationships with your siblings, parents or grandparents? Maybe already

thinking about how to have a great marriage and how to be a good mother? The time to become the person you would like to be... is now. The Jewish family has always been the



backbone of our nation; family relationships define, shape and influence us throughout our entire lives. They can be very loving, positive and enriching, and at the same time complex and stressful. In this course, using Rav Soloveitchik's "Family Redeemed" and other selections from his writing, we will learn from this world-class gadol, modern philosopher, and deeply sensitive, sympathetic, and wise observer of human and Jewish nature how to improve the dynamics within our own families.

#### Matan Torah Today

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN / SHANA BET One of the most extraordinary events that ever happened to the Jewish people was the experience



receiving the Aseret Ha-Dibberot. The Torah provides great detail about the the events leading up to the actual revelation; in addition to the commandments themselves, how can the lessons of that back story apply to us today? How do we understand

the first of the Ten Commandments, "I am Hashem, your God" – is it a command, or just an introduction to the commands? How can God command us not to be jealous? While it's certainly important not to "bear false witness," why is it such a significant part of our core value system that it should make the ultimate "top ten" list of mitzvot? Through the eyes of classic parshanim, Chasidic Rebbes, and other commentators, we will delve into a textual journey that will enrich our own life experiences and avodat Hashem.

#### "Shirah Chadashah": Avodat Hashem Through Song

#### **MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN**

Have you ever sat through a beautiful kumzitz, tisch, or se'udah shelishit and been inspired by the



beautiful singing? Found yourself swaying back and forth with your eyes closed... and then realized that you aren't exactly sure what those words mean... and you're not even sure what the words even are? Some of the most meaningful experiences we have

throughout the year in Israel and later on come from singing Jewish songs together. Join us as we explore a different song each week, learn to understand what the words mean and delve into the greater context of where these words appear. Through midrashic, chasidic, Chazal, and contemporary sources, we will arrive at a better appreciation of the songs we sing and a greater understanding of song as its own unique approach in avodat Hashem.

#### "Intense" Mesilat Yesharim (Adv)

#### **RAV EITAN MAYER**

Rav Moshe Chaim Luzzato's "Path of the Righteous" is the first "mussar" sefer I ever learned, and it

changed my life. More than anything else, this is a book that helps you to step back from your life and think. While many people who haven't learned "mussar" think it "rebuke" means or "telling someone they've done the wrong thing," "mussar" is really just the kind of learning which is meant



to impact us personally rather than just intellectually. Mesilat Yesharim begins by asking us what each of us personally is here for in this world, which is a startling question and a real wake-up call. The sefer continues by demonstrating the importance of taking time each day to think about "how we did" that day, what we're proud of and where we have work to do. It then presents a "path" (hence the title) which guides us as we seek to spend our time well here in this world. Join us for a highly practical, highly personal, highly intense journey towards stepping back from your life, reflecting, considering, focusing, and deciding on your path this year and for life as servants of Hashem.

#### Kohelet: Why Are We Here?

**RAV ASHI TARAGIN** 

In 500 years from now, not only will no one remember you and me, but in fact, the odds are that

will make it no difference at all that we ever lived. Nothing we do during our lifetime will remain for long, and we, along with pretty much everyone else, will fade into oblivion and be utterly forgotten. If so, what's the point of our having lived? Join us to explore Kohelet,



the sefer in Tanach which asks all the hard questions and pulls no punches in its search for the meaning of our lives.

#### **Shemirat Ha-Lashon**

RENA COREN / SHANA BET What is it about lashon ha-ra that we find so tempting and so difficult to control? Why should it



please and entertain us so much to share negative information about others? What is it about lashon ha-ra that is so destructive that the Torah forbids it in such a sweeping and severe manner what could be so wrong with repeating something which actually is true? What the difference is

between lashon ha-ra, rechilut amd motzi shem ra? What strategies can we adopt as individuals, families, and communities in order to improve the way we use our power of speech? If lashon ha-ra is truly so corrosive, under what conditions is it permitted or even proper to share it - how about for shidduchim or roommate purposes? What do I do when someone starts talking lashon ha-ra to me? Is it permitted to share lashon ha-ra about non-Jews, and even if it is technically permitted, is it ethically proper? May I speak lashon ha-ra about myself, and if not, why not - doesn't my reputation belong to me? We will use Sefer Shemirat Ha-Lashon and Sefer Chafetz Chayyim to learn inside the hashkafah and halachah of shemirat ha-lashon, along with practical tips to make this mitzvah part of our everyday lives, in all situations that we find ourselves.

#### Shiur Klali

"TAG-TEAM" OR ROTATION:

BRACHA KROHN, RAV EITAN MAYER, RAV JASON KNAPEL The entire student body comes together for a weekly "shmooze" held by our administrators. We'll begin with the week's brief but important announcements and update you about upcoming events in our calendar, including tiyyulim and shabbatonim. Then, working as a tag-team, we'll address timely matters in the year in Israel as they come up. For example: How can you make a strong beginning in your seminary year? How can you identify your goals for the year and then translate them into a concrete personal to-do list? How do you handle challenging interpersonal situations, like tension with a roommate or an old friend who's nervous about your new friends? How do you decide what to take on in the year in Israel without thinking overly much about how this is going to work outside seminary? And then how do you successfully take your growth back into the world outside? How do you communicate your seminary experience to parents, siblings, and friends who aren't here to see what you see and feel what you do? How can you take all that you're learning and make sure you remember it after seminary? How can you best prepare for challenges like vacations, the summer, college, and a busy life full of distractions? "Shiur Klali" will help provide you with a sense of direction for the year and reflections that will take you beyond.





History and Society

#### **News Feed**

#### RAV URI COHEN

While your year in seminary is meant to focus on Torah and personal growth, it's important to remain



aware of what's happening in the world outside. That's become harder in today's media world, when many of us get our "news" from pretty sketchy sources like our Facebook feed, Whatsapp groups, websites of questionable

reliability.... And let's

be honest – some people may be nervous that they don't know what's going on, but also maybe just a little too lazy to spend the time finding out :). Whatever your reason, join us each week for a fastpaced catch-up on what's happening: Are those "fire kites" still drifting over from Gaza, and do they pose a real danger to Israel? What is President Trump tweeting about Iran this week? Rumors are flying that Israel's government is about to "fall" because of drafting charedim (and what does it even mean for the government to "fall")? Join us to keep up to date on the news in ארץ לארץ as well as giving you glimpses of Israel beyond the walls of Midreshet Moriah.

#### **Did They Do the Right Thing? (Adv) Analyzing Halachah in Historical Situations** RAV ELI WAGNER

RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever been to Masada and learned about the mass suicide? What about the false messiah Shabtai Zvi, who convinced thousands of Jews that he was the "real thing"? (For that matter, when the "real thing" does arrive, how will <u>we</u> be sure?) If you fall in love with an Ethiopian, can you marry him – what is his history and halachic status? Have you ever learned about a fascinating episode in history and thought, "What would I do in that situation?" or "What would the Torah want me to do?" Often, when learning about either history or halachah, we focus solely on one and neglect the other. Each week in this course, we will choose a significant event in our history and

analyze a halachic challenge it presents (including episodes nominated by participants in the course). The skills gained and lessons learned through our analysis of each topic will allow us to put ourselves in the shoes of Jews through the ages and view history and halachah in a new



light. (No prior historical knowledge is needed for this course.)

#### Zionism & the Jewish State

**RAV AHARON WEXLER** An intensive study of the political history that brought about a Jewish State in ארץ ישראל. Who were these secular and and religious men women who, with the help of God, brought about a complete change in Jewish affairs after a 2000-גלות? vear What



happened in the 19th century to bring Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people?

TIP: If you're having trouble deciding between conflicting courses, just choose one of them for now and make a note to yourself to remind you to try the other course too. Once you've tried both, you'll have an easier time deciding which course is best for you.

#### Nevu'ah in the News

RAV MICHAEL UNTERBERG

We live in an unprecedented and exciting time in Jewish history, where biblical prophecies are coming



true before our very eyes. Using Tanach as a template, we will consider the relevance of the prophetic social message in the modern world. The words of the prophets echo throughout the generations as we delve into issues of Israeli society. In what have ways the predictions for the

"end of days" manifested today, and what warnings do we still need to take to heart? We will study the texts of various neviim side by side along with contemporary Israeli media. Together, we will experience the concept of nevu'ah le-dorot as a living reality. Questions which will be addressed in this course:

- How do the words of the nevi'im apply today?
- Which prophecies have been fulfilled? Which have not?
- How did prophecy work? What is it? How were the prophets so insightful?
- Who are the modern "prophets"?
- Where does Israel need to improve its quest for tzedek and social justice?
- How will Israel realistically become a "Light to the Nations"?
- What do the nevi'im have to say about modern aliyah, poverty, governmental power, religious tolerance, and many other topics?
- What aspects of Israeli society critically need to be solved to bring redemption?

Join us to apply the ancient wisdom and inspiration of the Nevi'im to our own lives today.

#### Sho'ah ve-Emunah

#### MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

Undeniably the most painful event of modern Jewish history, the Shoah continues to frighten, inspire, and perplex us. We will study the key events surrounding the before, during and after, as we also try to delve into the world of the religious Jew during those times. In addition to understanding what was done to the Jews as victims, we will also explore how they reacted, including some extraordinary questions that ordinary people asked, such as how they could keep kosher while starving in the ghetto, or keep Shabbat in Auschwitz, or whether one may redeem a loved one if another Jew will be taken in their place. We will also ask the questions the Jewish world has asked since the Holocaust: Where was God? Do we look



at the Holocaust as a punishment for the Jewish people, and if so, for what sin(s); or was it unrelated to anything that Am Yisrael had done, and if so, how do we understand how Hashem stood by and allowed it to happen?

#### Sho'ah ve-Emunah

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

In this course, we will be explore one of the greatest tragedies of Jewish history through the lenses of

history, halachah and hashkafah. Topics that will be discussed are: The uniqueness of the Shoah; the life that was – understanding what was lost; the history and theology of antisemitism; the rise of the Nazi party; the reaction of the world; what did we know and when did we



know it; what is a ghetto and were all ghettos the same; the transports and camps; rescue and resistance; leadership and youth during the war years; theology of the Sho'ah; the end of the war – when did it really end for the Jews, and how does it continue to echo even today.

#### Israel Activism on Campus: Knowledge, Activism, & Leadership

#### RAV MICHAEL UNTERBERG

Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in negativity toward Israel on American college campuses. This course is intended to help students confront this challenge by instilling in them a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The students will also gain leadership & activism skills to effectively make the case for Israel. The course is divided into four segments:

- The Jewish people's connection to Israel
- Understanding the Arab-Israel conflict
- The fundamentals of effective activism
- Leadership development & personal growth



The goal of this course is not simply to leave students with а knowledge greater and understanding of Israel and the conflict, but also to provide them with the skills necessary to step up for Israel on their campuses and within their communities. To that end, a significant emphasis will be

placed on developing students' leadership potential and on empowering them to view themselves as actors in Jewish history with the ability to make a meaningful impact in the world. Using the latest multimedia educational resources, including film and video, this course will feature interactive workshops and guest speakers and use current events as the backdrop for class discussion. Topics include:

- The Occupation Allegation
- Refugees
- The Palestinian Narrative
- Fundamentals of Advocacy
- The Jewish Right to the Land of Israel
- Developing your Personal Narrative
- Interview Workshop
- Elevator Pitch
- The Physical Dimension
- The Moral Dimension
- The Apartheid Allegation
- Jerusalem
- Israel Inside The Israel you don't hear about
- The iEngage Model
- Strategic Programming & Campus Mapping Techniques
- And more...

#### **Israel Inside!**

MICKEY FLAUMENHAFT / SHANA BET

Learn about modernday Israel – its culture, political parties, hi-tech industry, and leading innovations. Hear firsthand personal experiences from a combat soldier during the second Lebanon war. How did Israel become a leading force in several industries



such as agriculture, medicine & biotech? Despite how much Israelis complain and how much conflict we experience in the Middle East, how does Israel continuously rank in the top ten happiest countries in the world? What are the secrets behind all of Israel's success?









## SHANA BET LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

RAV JASON KNAEPL, SHANA BET DIRECTOR

Students who return for a second year at Midreshet Moriah represent the future leaders of our community. This program will give you additional exposure to issues of social, national, and religious importance to the Jewish people. This exposure will broaden your horizons, enhance your abilities to take initiative and exhibit leadership, and encourage and empower you to take active roles on your college campuses, communities, and hopefully in the future in Eretz Yisrael.







# **1"11**

Tanach Section I: Topics in Tanach

#### Learn ALL OF TANACH with "929"!

Rav Eitan

Jews are supposedly the "People of the Book," and everything in our lives is based on Tanach, yet many of us are a little fuzzy about what's in the Torah, and



sadly, most will never even read through Tanach! Here's where "929" comes in... "929" is an amazing world-wide project

(www.929.org.il/lang/en/today) in which thousands of Jews learn the same perek of Tanach each day – kind of like "Daf Yomi" for Tanach. After 929 days, you've learned the entire

Tanach! (The official "929" program learns Sun-Thu, but since we're starting a month late, we'll also do Friday and Shabbat until we catch up.) The 929 website and app offer amazing resources to help you: The perek in text and audio, insights, comments, perek podcasts, a Hebrew word of the day, and a summary of the major points of the perek. (Whoa!) We'll have our own 929 Whatsapp group too... Each week during class, we'll review the week's perakim (on Monday we'll review the Thu-Sun perakim, and on Thursday we'll review the Mon-Wed perakim). Join together with Jews world-wide and enjoy the amazing feeling of making a "siyyum" on a new sefer every month as your Tanach knowledge hits new highs for the seminary year and beyond! We'll all finish together on 2/2/22!

#### **Dysfunctional Families in Tanach**

#### NEIMA NOVETSKY

We often look to Tanach for role models for how we should live our lives. When it comes to relationships,

however, Tanach often seems to have many more examples of what we should <u>not</u> imitate than what we should – polygamy, fratricide (brothers

fratricide (brothers killing each other), incest, rape, intermarriage – it's all there. How are we



to understand all these dysfunctional relationships? Why does the navi Hoshe'a marry a prostitute? How can Yiftach offer his daughter as a sacrifice? What's up with Shimshon's falling for Philistine women, or with angels marrying humans? How does the protective older sister Miriam become a jealous gossiping sibling? Each week, this class will explore a different relationship and try to unravel what is going on and what we are supposed to learn from the story.

#### **Villains in Tanach**

#### SHOSHANA GRAD

You've probably laughed at some point during your life, right? Well, Yishmael laughed too, and for some reason, although the Torah never reports <u>anything</u> negative at all about Yishmael, we are taught that

this laughter shows he was an evil person, worthy of being expelled from home by his own father! Why?



Tanach is full of stories with villains and heroes, but despite what we were taught as children, the Torah itself very rarely passes explicit judgment on these characters, so it's not simple to decide who's who. What's more, Chazal teach us to always judge favorably and look for the good...

which means even the villains have their good points! How do we find them, and how does that affect whether they're "good guys" or "bad guys"? For example, why do we view Eisav so negatively – isn't it understandable that he hated Yaakov after he stole his berachah? And didn't Eisav show wonderful kibud av? Could Bil'am "the Rasha" really have been so wicked if we begin our daily tefilot with the berachah he gave to the Jewish people ("Ma Tovu")? Through our study of various "villains" in Tanach, we will attempt to understand how each character received such an unfavorable reputation and whether it is deserved, while we also uncover the more complex character that lies within him.

#### Philosophical Issues in Tanach (Adv)

#### NEIMA NOVETSKY

"God hardened Pharaoh's heart" – so do we always have free will, or does Hashem sometimes force us in



one direction, as He seems to have done to Pharaoh? If He already knows what we're going to choose, then isn't our choice already

predetermined? "Anochi Hashem..." – we are expected to believe in Hashem, but what if I have

questions? What do we do with stories like David and Batsheva, or Yaakov taking the berachah from Esav, which show our leaders making morally problematic choices? How about mitzvot that don't fit with my own personal understanding of right and wrong? Other topics include Tanach's perspectives on: Why bad things happen to good people; the nature of yemot ha-mashiach; prophecy; and much more. As we look at a selection of "troubling texts" from Tanach, each will lead us into a larger discussion of related theological or philosophical issues that many of us find difficult to grapple with. The class will also have a beit midrash component, allowing students to study with one another and argue out the text and accompanying issues on their own!

#### **Unlocking the Midrash**

#### Bracha Krohn

Was Rivkah really three when she married Yitzchak – and if not, what lesson were Chazal hinting by saying

she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be Yaakov's pillow? Are Chazal teaching us historical facts with these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the



different types of מדרשים; what goals Chazal had in mind when composing them; and how to unlock the deeper meaning behind these well-known legends. In this course, you will explore the difference between interpretation and homiletics as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the פרשת you learn each week when studying השבוע .

#### "Supporting Actors" in Tanach

#### MALKA HUBSCHER

We often feel we understand the "famous" characters in Tanach, people like Avraham and Sarah,

Yehoshua King or David. But what about the lesser-known heroes and villains who play "supporting" roles in stories throughout Tanach – who was "Bat Shu'a," the Cana'anite woman who became Yehuda's first wife, and what did he see in her to make him cross every



line in the family book and marry a Cana'anite? What about Bilhah, whom Ya'akov married just as a "surrogate mother" so that Rachel could have children through her – what was Bilhah's actual relationship with Ya'akov really like? How about Avishag, who was brought into David's life in his old age to literally keep him warm – how did they relate to one another? These supporting actors are not only interesting, they are often the key to understanding an entire biblical sotry. In this class, we will delve into the stories in Tanach, focusing on the development and personalities of the "supporting actors" and discovering who they really were.

#### Life of Moshe Rabbeinu

RAV EITAN MAYER / SHANA BET Do you love Moshe Rabbeinu? We all know Moshe Rabbeinu, we all respect him, we all appreciate him,



but do we love him to the degree that every year, when we read on Simchat Torah of his death, we have tears in our eyes? In this course, we will accompany Moshe Rabbeinu scene-byscene, from his watery cradle to Pharaoh's castle, from slavery to Sinai, from the Mishkan to the Egel,

through all of his triumphs and every frustrating rebellion - and we will learn to love our greatest teacher like never before. We will begin with Moshe Rabbeinu's unusual personality: He seems to be constantly interfering with other people and getting himself into trouble, first with the two fighting Jews, and later with the shepherds harassing Yitro's daughters. Why couldn't he just mind his own business, and why are these stories so crucial that they are the only stories told about Moshe until age 80? Hashem argues with Moshe at great length to force him to go back to Egypt and save his people. But why does Hashem need Moshe anyway, since the real power behind the plagues is Hashem? What makes Moshe Rabbeinu the right leader to take the nation out of slavery and to deliver the Torah? We will analyze many sections in which Moshe Rabbeinu appears in the Torah, taking a fresh "פשט" perspective in order to deeply understand the background and personality of the greatest leader in Jewish history. What emerges – as always happens when we learn פשט instead of דרש – is a Moshe

Rabbeinu who reveals dimensions entirely hidden to us before.

#### Nevu'ah in the News

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true before our very eyes. Using Tanach as a template, we will consider the relevance of the prophetic social message in the modern world. The words of the prophets echo throughout the generations as we delve into issues of Israeli society. In what ways have the



predictions for the "end of days" manifested today, and what warnings do we still need to take to heart? We will study the texts of various nevi'im side by side with contemporary Israeli media. Together, we will experience the concept of nevu'ah le-dorot as a living reality. Questions which will be addressed in this course:

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- What aspects of Israeli society critically need to be solved to bring redemption?

Join us to apply the ancient wisdom and inspiration of the Nevi'im to our own lives today.

#### "Pirkei Avot Siman La-Banim"

#### Sepha Kirshblum

Each time we meet, we will begin with a few lines from Pirkei Avot and then learn a story in Tanach which illustrates and deepens the message of the Mishnah. We will learn stories from Tanach and see how each story brings to life the lessons of the Mishnah and the ideals by which we should shape our own personal lives today.

#### **Hyperlinks in Tanach**

#### SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

Since we were kids, we have heard that the Torah is extremely careful about every word used, and we've



been trained to be sensitive to appreciate their significance. It therefore is not а coincidence when specific words repeat themselves in different creating stories, а bridge ("hyperlink") between the sections involved. Whv is Haman referred to as "Haman Ha-Agagi,"

and the only family reference for Esther is that she comes from Kish – what does this hint reveal? Why do both references bring us back to Sha'ul? And who exactly was Lot – is the Torah comparing him to Avraham or to Orpah? What is the connection between Rachel and Michal, both of whom are trying to save their husbands from their fathers? As we learn to become sensitive to the language of Tanach, we will be able to see how one story in Tanach functions as a commentary on another story!



#### Tanach's "Greatest Hits"

Malka Hubscher / Shana Bet

Have you ever been in a shiur where the teacher refers to a "very important and well known nevu'ah,"

and you had no idea what they were talking about? Do you wish you understood some of the famous Haftarot? In this class, we will learn together a selection of the most famous, often-quoted nevu'ot throughout Tanach. We will study the text on the level of peshat as well as exploring how the



messages of these prophecies remain relevant even in today's world.



#### Tanach Section II: Parshat Ha-Shavu'a

TIP: every single parshah course is completely different. Many girls take two!

#### Rav Kook on Parshah and Mo'adim

#### **RABBI AARON GOLDSCHEIDER**

You've probably heard of Rav Kook, and perhaps you connect his name with Zionism and spirituality, but



there's so much more. Ever wonder why the Jewish people has returned to their Holy Land at *this* specific point in history? How will this return change the Jewish people and the entire world? We often talk about loving everyone, but there are good people and unfortunately also bad

ones, so how can we find love for every single soul? What is Hashem's plan in history not only for us, His people, but for redeeming all of mankind - what does the future hold for the entire world? Rav Kook was not only the first Chief Rabbi of Israel, but also one the the most remarkable teachers of Torah in modern times. His unique perspective and spiritual outlook speak to the modern person like almost no one else's, giving us a sense of what Hashem might be up to and what role we might play. Learning from him right here in Jerusalem, where he lived his life, is a special opportunity. Each week, we will bring his poetic words to life and see how they apply personally to each of us in our spiritual journey. What a poignant way to prepare for each Shabbat in Israel with depth and joy!

the weekly parshah, using both midrashim and classical mefarshim. You'll have a great Devar Torah ready to share at the Shabbat table, and more importantly, you'll come away from every class inspired and uplifted to apply new lessons to your own life.

#### Parshah & Haftarah

MALKA HUBSCHER

"So, you're in seminary, learning all week long – what's this week's parshah?" "How about the

haftarah – how is it connected the to parshah?" "Did you learn anything interesting on the parshah?" "Can you share a Devar Torah with us?" These are auestions seminary students are often asked by friends, family, and often, their Shabbat hosts as well. Why wait until then to



delve into the beauty and depth of the parshah and haftarah? This class will give you the chance to improve your knowledge, skills and understanding of the parshah and haftarah and the connections between them, focusing on characters and themes. Each meeting will leave you with deeper understanding of the texts and life lessons and something great to say on Shabbat!

#### Parshah

RABBI MEYER BERGLAS Spending the whole week learning all day, but still finding you don't have a great, inspiring, creative Devar Torah to share at the Shabbat table? This course is designed for you! We will explore themes in





#### Parshah Insights

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

We are the people of the "Book," but so many of us have never really gone through the "Book." Now is



year and beyond.

**Inspiration in the Parshah** 

**RAV ELIE WAGNER** 



We will discover the most inspiring, instructive. informative and uplifting elements the weekly parshah has to offer. No texts or source sheets required, just an open mind and an open heart!

which

will

Yehuda's taking Tamar for a prostitute? What really happened between Dina and Shechem? Why did Hashem need to take Moshe by surprise, jumping out at him from behind a burning bush? What is the real (but secret!) function of the Aron in the Mishkan? What is the real reason for the deaths of Nadav and Avihu and for the terrible punishment Moshe receives for simply hitting the rock? If the nations of Cana'an were so strong, how did Moshe fail to anticipate that the spies would return with such a frightening (and honest!) report? Each week, we will creatively develop a theme from a "פשט" perspective and take it to unexpected places. Leave your preconceptions at the door and prepare to expand your perspective on characters you thought you knew...

#### "Weekly Parsha Quiz"

BRACHA KROHN / LISHMAH & PRIZES! ©

Study the who, what, when, where, why and how of every parshah during your Beis time or with a friend, and then do a weekly quiz to earn prizes! Each student who succeeds in making a siyyum of a sefer in Chumash will be given a gift certificate to Pomeranz Book Store. Join the excitement as students independently learn through the Torah parshah by parshah "bekiut-style," taking a simple weekly quiz every Sunday on 1-3 פרשיות to mark your progress (the schedule is posted). (Note: this isn't a course you "sign up" for.)

#### Peshat in the Parshah

**RAV EITAN MAYER / ADVANCED** Ready for something really eye-opening? Join us for



a very different point of view on the parshah than what you've heard so far. Why was Adam's one and only test connected specifically to fruit? Why was Avraham's first test connected to leaving his land? Why does the Torah tell us scandalous stories like



























#### Tanach Section III: Chumash

#### From Adam to Avraham

RAV EITAN MAYER

We've all learned Bereishit before, but you've never learned it this way! We're taught that there is both



but nearly everything we learned in school is learned in school is "דרש" An entire "hidden" Torah remains to be discovered in ש...

Why does the Torah tell two versions of the creation story – and how can they conflict?!
Why does the Torah bother to tell the story of the Tower of Bavel

and the punishment suffered by those who built it, if it's going to keep their sin so mysterious?

- Since Adam sinned and No'ah failed as well, why not create אברהם as the first man to begin with, and have the "chosen one" from the very beginning?
- The Torah tells us clearly that נח was chosen for his righteousness. But why was אברהם chosen, and why does the Torah completely hide the answer from us?
- If ישמעאל was so obviously evil, how could אברהם be so blind as to want him to be his successor?

In this textual shiur, designed for the student who loves surprises and is willing to think and work to get to them, we will meet the hidden Torah of נפשט. Join us for an exploration which will forever change how you look at the Torah and make clear that "פשט" means anything but "the simple meaning"!

#### Sefer Shemot: The Birth of a Nation

#### SHOSHANA GRAD

We're all thankful not to be slaves today, but we left Egypt over three thousand years ago! Besides, we've been enslaved and redeemed so many times since then... so why do we still make such a big deal about the "Exodus," remembering it every day in our tefilot and dedicating a whole holiday to reliving it? How did 210 years as slaves prepare us to better worship God? Why are the intricate details of every one of the

makkot so crucial for us today? And why did God need to split the sea and drown our enemies in it after He had already decimated Egypt with ten terrifying, deadly plagues – hadn't He already kind of made His point? Personally, how should "yetziat Mitzrayyim" affect me



on a daily basis? By delving into the first seventeen perakim of Sefer Shemot, we will understand how this extraordinary event is not just ancient history or just another redemption, but was the key to creating a powerful and influential nation that would be dedicated to God and his Torah for the rest of eternity.

#### Leadership in Sefer BeMidbar

#### SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

When we think of Bnei Yisrael's desert generation, we often think about a generation of complainers.

But whv would Hashem write a whole book about them if that was the whole message? How did the very same people who witnessed the greatest open miracles in history - from the the plagues, to splitting sea, to seeing God Himself at Sinai, to collecting their daily



meals straight from the sky – become so bitter and so faithless? How was the leadership of that generation different than any other time period? We will learn what made that generation and its specific characters so special and how we can grow from all of their challenges.
# Sefer BeMidbar: Your Journey

MICKEY FLAUMENHAFT

Sefer BeMidbar is the story of Bnei Yisrael's journey from Har Sinai to their Land, a trip that should have



taken just days, but in fact took them forty years. How did they get so "lost" on the way? What did they fail to "pack" before their journey which then derailed their progress so completely? What were the pressures and predicaments that squeezed out of them

behavior so poisonous that we never would have anticipated it the same people who had eagerly accepted the Torah at Sinai? We will join them on their journey, exploring the challenges they faced, feeling their human doubts and petty struggles, trying to understand what happened to them and how we can learn lessons for our own personal life journey.

# Life of Moshe Rabbeinu

RAV EITAN MAYER / SHANA BET

Do you love Moshe Rabbeinu? We all know Moshe Rabbeinu, we all respect him, we all appreciate him,



but do we love him to the degree that every year, when we read on Simchat Torah of his death, we have tears in our eyes? In this will course, we accompany Moshe Rabbeinu scene-byscene, from his watery cradle to Pharaoh's castle, from slavery to from Sinai, the Mishkan to the Egel,

through all of his triumphs and every frustrating rebellion – and we will learn to love our greatest teacher like never before. We will begin with Moshe Rabbeinu's unusual personality: He seems to be constantly interfering with other people and getting himself into trouble, first with the two fighting Jews, and later with the shepherds harassing Yitro's daughters. Why couldn't he just mind his own business, and why are these stories so crucial that they are the only stories told about Moshe until age 80? Hashem argues with Moshe at great length to force him to go back to Egypt and save his people. But why does Hashem need Moshe anyway, since the real power behind the plagues is Hashem? What makes Moshe Rabbeinu the right leader to take the nation out of slavery and to deliver the Torah? We will analyze many sections in which Moshe Rabbeinu appears in the Torah, taking a fresh "פשט" perspective in order to deeply understand the background and personality of the greatest leader in Jewish history. What emerges – as always happens when we learn פשט instead of דרש – is a Moshe Rabbeinu who reveals dimensions entirely hidden to us before.







# Tanach Section IV: Sefarim in Nach

#### "24"

#### BRACHA KROHN

How many of the 24 books in Tanach have you learned? What do you really know about each of



them – Why did Yehoshua take over for Moshe instead of one of Moshe's sons? If the tribe of Yehuda is supposed to have kingship, why was Sha'ul (from Binyamin) chosen as the first king? Sefer Yonah is an exciting story, but since it's really about a

prophet's interactions with a non-Jewish nation, why is it in Tanach? Why is Kohelet, a book that claims "everything is worthless," included in Tanach? Why do we have Divrei Ha-Yamim if it seems to just repeat Sefer Melachim? Why do some books overlap? Who wrote each book, and how can you sum up its message? What determines which books and characters are included in Tanach, and what is the theory behind the order? Join this class for a whirlwind tour of all 24 books of Tanach, as we go over the major characters, setting and themes for each book. A few books per class! By the end of the semester, this "bekiut"-style course will give you the "411" on each sefer, from Bereshit through Divrei Ha-Yamim, spark your curiosity to learn each one in depth, and provide the basics to get started. This is the kind of class you came to seminary for!

#### Sefer Yehoshua

#### MALKA HUBSCHER

Change is often hard, and not always welcome. If this is hard for individuals, imagine how wrenching it is for an entire nation. The Torah traces our transformation from slaves to free Jews, but it is left to Sefer Yehoshua to bring us into the Promised Land, and it turns out that Eretz Cana'an is a land of both promise and problems. How do we handle change as a people, evolving to face the challenges of a new environment and new realities? As we look for guidance at a time like this, who is an ideal leader for the Jewish people – do we need more spiritual guidance to keep our values strong, or do we need a pragmatic leader who will help us face unfamiliar

situations? As we consider our own picture of perfection, what do we really want - is the ideal life one of pure spirituality and reliance on God, like in the desert, or a life of physical selfsufficiency, like in Eretz Yisrael? We will study Yehoshua and attempt to understand the changes that occurred



in the nation and its leaders as they went from life in the desert to life in the land of Israel. As we learn the peshat of these sefarim, we will attempt to apply to our own lives the lessons learned for both individuals and the nation. If time allows, we will continue on to Sefer Shoftim.

# **Biblical Romance: Shir Ha-Shirim**

#### SHOSHANA GRAD

While there are many love stories in Tanach, the most romantic, passion-filled and exciting love story

is undoubtedly Shir Ha-Shirim. On the surface, Shir Ha-Shirim is a beautiful story of two lovers separated, longing to reunite, daydreaming about one another and sharing their longings with one another and with us. Not exactly the everyday stuff of Tanach! Of course, the



reason this romance is in Tanach is because on a deeper level, it's about the bond between Hashem and us. But how do we get from this story, in which the lovers linger over each detail of one another's physical bodies, to our spiritual relationship with Hashem? In what way is romantic love between people really supposed to be our model for our connection to Hashem? Is this kind of physical infatuation a good model even for our relationship with our own human romantic partner, not to mention Hashem? Through our study of both the literal and allegorical meanings of Shir Ha-Shirim, we will learn how to improve our relationship with ourselves, with others, and ultimately with God.

#### **David's Diary**

#### SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

During challenging times in our lives as well as during joyful times, we often turn to Sefer Tehilim to help us



express to Hashem how we feel. Most people who turn to Tehilim do so simply because its content helps them express their joy, sadness, thanks, despair, or need. But did you know that David Ha-Melech wrote many of the chapters of Tehilim to reflect actual events in

his own life, both the high points and the lows? Together, we will look at specific perakim and connect them to the backstory of David's life to try to understand the challenges and triumphs that he lived through and how his unwavering faith in God help sustain him through it all. (We will spend a lot more time on the background stories than we will on Tehilim itself.)

#### Survey of Nevi'im Achronim

(Yeshayahu, Yirmiyahu, Yechezkel, and Trei Asar) **RAV ASHI TARAGIN / SHANA BET** 

Most of us are pretty familiar with "Nevi'im



Rishonim," books like Sefer Yehoshua and Sefer Shmuel, which continue the story line once the Torah ends. But that's all about our *past*. Where in Tanach can we read about our future? "Nevi'im Achronim" – so much inspiration, so many secrets, our entire future is to be found there! What does

Yeshayahu tell us will happen before Mashiach comes? What are Tanach's instructions to actually bring Mashiach? What do we know about the third Beit Ha-Mikdash - will we have kohanim and sacrifices? Does Yechezkel really predict World War III? Ever wonder why the menorah is the symbol of Israel? Why will we one day celebrate Tishah Be-Av as a great holiday? What can we learn from the twelve short prophecies of "Trei Asar"? Together we will delve into these less-known stories, with the help of our commentators. You will gain the skills to learn Tanach on your own so that you can continue next year!

#### Sefer Tehilim

**MICHAL PORAT ZIBMAN** 

Sefer Tehilim is the sefer that is the most closely integrated into our daily lives, since much of what we

say when davening is actually from Tehilim. David Ha-Melech's masterpiece poetic enables us to express ourselves to God at our lowest moments, at our greatest moments, moments of at gratitude and at moments of intense seeking. Join us on this



journey to learn select chapters of this timeless classic, that will enhance not only our routine tefilot, but also those spontaneous moments where we feel a desire (or a desire for a desire) to call out to God and to connect with Him.

#### **Chamesh Megilot**

MALKA HUBSCHER What is a megilah? How is it different from other books in Tanach? What are the connections between אסתר and רות? Why המלך does שלמה sound so depressed in קהלת? How do we understand what the passionate love songs of שיר השירים are doing in Tanach? How



of the destroyed, desolate Jerusalem still relevant today? We will address what is unique about each of the five מגילות, studying the text and historical context of each מגילה; the themes unique to each; and uncovering new insights into these already wellknown ספרים.

#### Sefer Ezra

#### RAV ZVI RON

Do these sound familiar: a high intermarriage rate; massive ignorance of Torah and Hebrew; widespread



Shabbat desecration; and antagonistic neighbors in Eretz Yisrael? Sound eerily like Jewish life today? Learn about the challenges faced by Bnei Yisrael as they returned from decades of exile in Babylonia attempted and to restart Jewish life in

Israel. We will see how Ezra and Nechemia led the Jewish people in a new era and dealt with problems that we still face today.

#### Kohelet: Why Are We Here?

**RAV ASHI TARAGIN** 

In 500 years from now, not only will no one remember you and me, but in fact, the odds are that



will make it no difference at all that we ever lived. Nothing we do during our lifetime will remain for long, and we, along with pretty much everyone else, will fade into oblivion and be utterly forgotten. If so, what's the point of our having lived? Join us to explore Kohelet, the

sefer in Tanach which asks all the hard questions and pulls no punches in its search for the meaning of our lives.

#### Sefer Daniel

#### RAV ZVI RON

The most mysterious, strange, and esoteric book of Tanach... it's Sefer Daniel! Join us to enter the fiery

furnace and the den of lions to defend your beliefs! Stuggle with Daniel over how to make it in a country where everyone considers him supertalented, but he can't even eat the food! Puzzle with him over the mysterious



"writing on the wall" no one can figure out (kind of reminds us of Yosef, hmmm?). Experience with Daniel what it feels like to have an angel take command of your body in order to share with you a message from God. Peek with us into the dreams of Nevuchadnetzar and others – bizarre imaginary beasts, prophecies about the end of the world, fun Aramaic words – all this and more, taught by the Master of the Mysterious, the Sultan of Strange, the Wizard of Weird... Rav Ron!!!

#### Sefer Mishlei

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

Mishlei is unique among the 24 books of Tanach in that the majority of its pesukim, rather than being

individual pieces of a larger story or halachic section, are actually self-contained

observations on life or pieces of advice all on their own. This means that the sefer is jampacked with meaning, with every single pasuk its own new world of ideas and reflections. It also



means Mishlei can be a challenging sefer, since every pasuk stands on its own and requires us to analyze what it has in mind. Perhaps this should come as no surprise in Mishlei, since it was written by Shlomo Ha-Melech, the smartest person ever. Join us to increase your "wisdom quotient" and improve your character, exploring the messages that Shlomo is hinting to us across the centuries.

# "Nach Yomi" Program

#### COORDINATOR: TBA

Our "Nach Yomi" program enables you to gain familiarity with all of Nach, as you go through it one perek a day. Many Midreshet students continue beyond their year in Israel and do a o'II on all of Nach! See Rav Eitan for details on when the program will begin.

# The Wisdom of Mishlei

BRACHA KROHN / SHANA BET



Mishlei, topic by topic. Each week, we will learn pesukim relating theme to а and discuss that issue's relevance in our lives, looking at classic and contemporary sources. Shlomo ha-Melech's insight will blow you away!











# HALACHAH SECTION I: Contemporary Halachah

#### How to Be a Jew in Israel

**RAV ASHI TARAGIN** 

Living in Israel is a tremendous "zechut" which Hashem has restored to us in our time, and also a



great opportunity for a more complete life of mitzvot! There are many mitzvot you can accomplish only here; some have become practical only recently, and others are still waiting for Mashiach or other crucial events. Just imagine: These mitzvot have been just theory and dreams for the past two thousand

years, and you are now living at a time when these opportunities have returned! Some examples: Now that "Har Ha-Bayyit be-yadeinu," can we visit the Temple Mount and walk around, and if so, where are the limits? What makes the land special - is it just the emotions aroused by history, or is this land somehow actually different? Is there an obligation to live in Israel, or is it just an option or a good thing? Does the Torah require Jews to enlist in the Israeli army, or is that just something the Israeli government requires? Compared to chutz la-aretz, is there "more" to every mitzvah when you do it in Israel? What can we learn from archaeology about how mitzvot were kept long ago? How do we keep Shemitah today, and what are 'Orlah' and 'Neta Revai'? Lastly, we will hands-on practice the mitzvah of Terumah and Ma'asrot and other mitzvot, so you can feel like a true spiritual Jew living in Eretz Israel!

## Halachah on Campus & at Work

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

What should I do if my college roommate isn't Jewish, but she just turned the light on in our room?

What if she is Jewish? Can I join my coworkers if they are going out to a nonkosher restaurant? Can I eat anything? Can I buy non-kosher food for а non-Jewish colleague (or mv boss!)? Can I submit my friend's research paper as my own (halachically)? What if



my friend did that – should I say something? When am I allowed to be alone at work with a male coworker (if ever)? What are the red lines, if any, about socializing with non-Jewish co-workers? This class will deal with practical issues that will arise in college and beyond and prepare you for many eventualities.

#### **Did They Do the Right Thing? (Adv) Analyzing Halachah in Historical Situations** RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever been to Masada and learned about the mass suicide? What about the false messiah, Shabtai Zvi, who convinced thousands of Jews that he was the "real thing"? (For that matter, when the "real thing" does arrive, how will <u>we</u> be sure?) If you fall in love with an Ethiopian, can you marry him – where did he come from? What is his history and halachic status? Have you ever learned about a fascinating episode in history and thought, "What would I do in that situation?" or "What would the Torah want me to do?" Often, when learning about either history or halachah, we focus solely on one and neglect the



other. Each week in this course, we will choose a significant event in our history and analyze a halachic challenge it presents (including episodes nominated by participants in the course). The skills gained and lessons learned through our analysis of each topic will allow us to put ourselves in the shoes

of Jews through the ages and view history and halachah in a new light.

# Jewish Medical Ethics: 'Beginning of Life" Issues

**RAV URI COHEN** 

Join us to investigate the fascinating, dramatic world of medical ethics, where life-and-death questions



and cutting-edge technology meet our eternal system of הלכה. Under what circumstances is contraception

allowed? Is it permitted to take advantage of modern techniques to choose your baby's sex (or eye color, height, or intelligence)? When

one woman provides the egg but another woman carries the fetus to delivery, who is the real mother? In this semester, we will explore beginning-of-life many other medical topics as we learn how halachic decisions are made in today's world.

#### Halacha and Ethics of Medicine

**RAV ASHI TARAGIN** 

Hashem has granted each of us an amazing, sophisticated body, and today, thanks to modern medicine, we can take care of it better than ever. But what happens when the options granted to us by medicine and halachah don't match up? When does life begin in the womb, and how does that affect whether and when abortions may be performed?

Stem cell research and genetic manipulation are in the headlines every day – does the Torah allow us to tinker with the code for life? If one woman provides an egg but another carries the fetus to term, who is the halachic mother? Does halachah ever allow euthanasia, or must we prolong even



a life filled with suffering? Tattoos are normally taboo, but what if a tattoo is used as part of reconstructive surgery? Are there Torah guidelines for animal experimentation? Can a doctor treat her own parents? Together, we will learn the medical and halachic perspectives on each topic to enable us to live a healthy, spiritual, happy long life.

#### Halachic World

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

Is there anything wrong with going to a magic show? What do I do (if anything) if I have a bad dream? Can

I go into a church? How about a mosque? Can someone with a tattoo be buried in a Jewish cemetery? What should I do if I am traveling and I want to eat bread, but I don't have water? What if there is a sink, but I don't have a cup? Can a woman shoot a gun? Can a man look in



a mirror? Can I gamble? If I wanted to go sky diving (sounds amazing), would there be anything wrong with that? What about skiing? What can I do before davening in the morning? Can I go for a jog? What about checking my email and messages? If you are interested in learning more about these topics and other similar topics, this class is for you. We will cover a different topic every class by looking at the primary sources and then looking at some of the contemporary sources.

## **Hot Topics in Halachah**

**RAV ASHI TARAGIN** 

We are lucky to live in a hi-tech age that has given us the Internet, cell phones, medical advances that



would seem like pure magic to people from the time of Tanach... not to mention the State of Israel. But how does halachah handle questions that couldn't possibly have been discussed by the Torah 3,300 years ago, or even 1,500 years ago in the Gemara? Examples of the questions we'll

explore together: Digital ownership - it's easy to download music, books, and movies from the Internet without paying. But is it OK? Privacy - what are the red lines when it comes to reading and forwarding people's emails, chats, posts, and pix? State of Israel - how do we handle the kidnapping of our soldiers and a demand to free terrorists in exchange? Do we try to convert non-Jewish Israelis (like the many from Russia), or leave them as non-Jews? Can and should women be soldiers? Shabbat -Can you go to the Kotel on Shabbat, or any other place where there are surveillance cameras? In addition to getting answers to today's most fascinating halachic questions, you will also learn how to use resources to research your own questions.

# Ask the Rabbi: "עשה לך רב"

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

Join in each week for a freewheeling, every-question-



goes extravaganza! Each week, we'll meet to discuss your questions on anything and everything. We'll devote part of each שיעור to answering your pre-submittedvia-Whatsapp questions (enabling Rav Jason to research part them); to discussing questions

from people all around the world; and part to handling the questions that come to you during the wיעור itself. This is the time to clear up all those questions you've always wanted to ask...

> TIP: From when you arrive until Thu, Oct 19, you can change your schedule freely as often as you like by just logging in and making changes.



# Halachah Secton II: Classic Topics in Halachah

#### **Practical Berachot and Kashrut**

#### **RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER**

This will be a crash course in Berachot (first part of the semester) and Kashrut (second part of the semester):



• Berachot: If I start eating in my dorm room and then go take a walk but continue munching, do I need a new

berachah? If I take little sips from my water bottle all day, do I just make one berachah in the morning and I'm good-to-go all day? (And do I just make one borei nefashot at night after my last sip?) Surprised to hear that ha-motzi doesn't actually cover everything during the meal, and curious to know what's not included? Tuna salad for lunch - which berachah? Crackers with cheese and tomatoes for a snack what do I say? It's pizza time - mezonot or ha-motzi? These questions and many more come up every day of our halachic lives. We will explore the sources and bottom-line practical halachah. get to

• Kashrut: We will cover practical topics in Kashrut to enable you to run your own kosher kitchen: How to properly bake something "milk" in a "meat" oven; checking food for insects; how to deal with a microwave whose status is problematic; blood spots in eggs; how and when to separate "challah"; how long to wait between meat & milk; and many other topics. We will also relate to cleaning & kashering for Pesach; tevilat keilim; how to kasher utensils (we'll actually kasher things together to see how it's done); what "glatt kosher" and "mehadrin" really mean; halachot related to food cooked by a non-Jew; how to find kosher food when traveling far from a Jewish community or on a cruise; and more.

#### **Interpersonal Halachah**

#### **RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM**

You've decided to daven at the Kotel every week. Amazing! The only problem is that every time you go there, you end up giving away a small fortune in tzedakah money. Are you obligated to give every single person that asks for money? If so, how much must you give them? Can you lie and say you don't have any money? Is there ever a time that you are

allowed to lie? Can I ever tell a friend that a mutual friend of ours has a lying problem? can I tell When someone something about someone, and when is it lashon hara? In this class, we will cover many of the halachot that come up our in daily interactions with other people.



# Mishnah Mania

#### RAV ZVI RON

The Torah was given at Har Sinai over 3,300 years ago (!). How did we get from the Bible to the *very* 

different and very detailed laws of the Shulchan Aruch (the Code of Jewish Law), written close to 3,000 years later? The missing link is called the Mishnah, and your first step in understanding everything we do



today (and becoming a real "talmidah chachamah") is tackling the Mishnah, the most fundamental text of the Oral Torah! We will plow through mishnayot with depth and yet also with speed, finishing one "masechet" after another (making a delicious "siyyum" each time), sharpening our textual skills, and broadening our Torah knowledge. Participate fully in exciting, diverse, challenging yeshiva-style learning of these bite-size blasts of Torah wisdom. Hone your reading and learning skills as you actively participate in explaining the mishnayot from Masechet Yoma (Yom Kippur!) and Sukkah (Sukkot!). All killer, no filler! Festive siyyumim and vast Torah knowledge await you!

#### Practical Topics in Talmud (Adv.)

LEORA BEDNARSH

The Torah commands us to "correct" or "rebuke" our fellow Jew ("tochahah"), but in today's live-and-let-



live society, does that have mitzvah any chance of working out well? Bikur Cholim is not just a nice practice, it's a halachah; but what are its rules? Is there any case in which you should not visit someone? The Torah prohibits acting in a which causes way someone to violate the Torah, but does that

mean you can't serve food to people who won't make a berachah, or that you can't invite people over for a Shabbat meal if they will drive? In this course, we will take on fun, exciting, relevant Talmudic topics, learning the Gemara and tracking the halachah as it develops towards the bottom-line guidance we follow in our daily lives. the parshah or connected to it. Topics will include shaitels: wonderful or problematic?; do younger

siblings really need to wait for older siblings to get married; the halachot of bikur cholim; is it OK to give your children non-Jewish names?; given changing styles and standards, how do we define "beged ish" and beged ishah"? Join us for practical halachic knowledge you can put to use!



#### Women in Jewish Law

LEORA BEDNARSH

In this one-semester textual course, we will explore sources relating to women's obligation in mitzvot. Some of our topics: Yichud (being alone with a man); kol ishah; covering hair; should/may women learn Gemara; should women go to shul, and if so, is it a big deal what time they arrive; how hard should women try to observe the mitzvot from which they are exempt, like sukkah; and much more. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the primary sources



and building textual skills.

#### **Reason for the Season**

RAV ELI WAGNER / SHANA BET

We're taught to eat symbolic foods on Rosh Ha-Shanah – honey so that we'll have a sweet year, pomegranate seeds so that we'll have plentiful mitzvot this year... beets, fish heads, the list goes on and on. But isn't it just superstition to think that eating certain foods will somehow change our

# The Jewish Life Cycle

**RAV JASON KNAPEL** 

Ever wonder why people put all their jewelry around the baby at a pidyon ha-ben? Do you say "Baruch



a kallah walks around the chatan seven times? In this class, we will explore the reasons, halachot and minhagim of all the major life-cycle events so that when they happen to you, you will know what and why we Jews do what we

She-petarani" on a Bat Mitzvah? Wonder why

do!

#### The Weekly Halachah

Rav Eli Wagner / Shana Bet

Each week, we will explore a highly relevant area of practical halachah, often something mentioned in

future? Besides actual repentance, the Yom Kippur season also seems to bring amazing "repentance



shortcuts" which forgiveness achieve with much less work -"tashlich" leaves our sins at the bottom of a "kapparot" lake, transfers our sins to a chicken of our choosing... do these methods work, and if so, how and why? What does authentic atonement look like on Yom Kippur, and

why should it work if we go back to our routines the next day? Is there any connection between the mitzvot of lulav and sukkah, or do they just happen to share the same holiday? On Chanukkah, we celebrate our victory over the "Hellenized" Jews, who valued mixed together Torah and the contributions of other cultures – but isn't that kind of who we are too? What's with the drinking controversy that surrounds Purim? The holidays are much more than family reunions. There is a reason why we celebrate, when we celebrate and how we celebrate. This course will clarify our halachot and minhagim and their hashkafic implications.

#### **Bottom-Line 613**

#### **BRACHA KROHN**

We always talk about 613 mitzvot, but did you know that only 194 of them can be performed nowadays?



Let's get busy studying them so you can be sure you know what you need. We will study the Sefer Ha-Mitzvot of the "Chafetz Chaim," which lists and succinctly explains each mitzvah. Each week, we will explore a few selected mitzvot

- Birkat Ha-Mazon, Kibbud Av Ve-Em, Teshuvah, and Hashavat Aveidah, to name a few, finding each mitzvah in the Torah, exploring reasons for the mitzvah, and doing a bottom-line halachic overview. This course will be fast-paced and full of interesting, inspiring and practical learning to give you a relationship with mitzvot like you've never experienced before!

#### **Hilchot Shabbat**

RAV YITZCHAK LERNER / TWO SECTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM How do I navigate the kitchen on Shabbat – preparing salad, making tea, and warming up food –

without running into trouble? What happens if I'm tying my shoes and I accidentally make a knot? If I forgot to unscrew the fridge light, am I facing a hungry Shabbat, or is there an alternative? do 1 open How packages in а permitted manner?



When can I ask a non-Jew to do melachah for me – and do I need to hint? How do I light candles in a hotel or dorm? What is considered proper dress for Shabbat? And what about cosmetics? Discussion and clear bottom-line halachic conclusions on a very wide range of Shabbat topics.

#### **Hilchot Shabbat**

**RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM** 

Over the course of a Shabbat, many questions arise that we might not even know are questions. For

many example, people (like me) enjoy putting challah into their soup Friday night. Is that allowed, or will the hot soup cook the challah? What about those people (me again) who don't love tomatoes - can I take them out of a salad? How about building a



tent from couch cushions (one of my favorite things to do with my kids) – would that be allowed? What should you do if a fly is in your house and you want to get rid of it – are you allowed to kill it? What if it's a mosquito, or a bee? In this course, you will learn the answer to these questions and cover many, many other topics. We will cover topics starting from preparing before Shabbat all the way to making havdalah after Shabbat, and everything in between.

# Hilchot Shabbat (Adv)

RAV EITAN MAYER / ADVANCED

In this textual class on Hilchot Shabbat, we will sharpen our skills and learn the principles behind the



halachah so we'll know what to do in similar cases. We'll cover muktzeh, cooking and warming, borer (sorting & separating), kiddush, asking nonperform Jews to melachah, and more, based on student preferences. We'll learn each topic in depth rather than covering as many

topics as possible, coming away from each topic with better skills and clear bottom-line halachic conclusions.

#### Women in Jewish Law

#### BRACHA KROHN

What does Judaism have to say about relationships between the sexes? Does Judaism believe in platonic



friendships? Is "being shomer" а real halachah, and does anyone really observe it? What is "yichud," and when do we have to worry about it? Are elevators and deserted considered parks yichud? Why do some married women wear kerchiefs practically to their eyebrows, while

others show much more hair? Can a woman make Kiddush for everyone at the whole Shabbat table? Which tefilot is a woman obligated to daven? Can women be rabbis? Can they "lain" the Torah? Are men really not allowed to hear women sing? No matter what song or tune it is? When and why do we need a mechitzah? Can women say kaddish in front of men? Why do some women enthusiastically learn Gemara, while others shy away? In this one-semester course, we will see the sources behind these interesting, important and very relevant halachot. You will finally know why you do what you do (and what you have to do) and what everyone is talking about. Lively discussions and debates await us as we answer these questions and more.

## Mitzvot of the Mo'adim (Adv)

#### **RAV JASON KNAPEL**

What is the real meaning behind the sound of the Shofar? Why do we sometimes say the whole Hallel,

and other times just half? What is the hidden meaning behind the lighting of the Menorah? Is it a mitzvah to get drunk on Purim? In today's day and age, why do we still "lean" at the Seder to show freedom? Through deep analysis of the traditional sources,



we will not only understand the halachah, but also the philosophical background of the chagim and how the very details of the halachah help connect us with the spirit of the day. We will try to cover the events in sync with the calendar, but because we are taking an in-depth view, we will not always work according to "schedule." The course will include Gemarot, Rishonim, and Achronim.

#### Minhagim

#### **RAV ZVI RON**

Learn about customs you're familiar with and others that you never heard of, and why we do them: The

secret reason we dip apple in honey; do we need fish to be in the water for Tashlich, and why; when did people begin playing dreidel on Chanukah; why people began waiting to give boys haircuts; who invented hamentashen and



why; why do we light bonfires on Lag Ba-Omer; what was the original karpas and why did it change; the differences between Sephardic and Ashkenazic customs; and much more!

# **Everyday Halachah**

LEORA BEDNARSH / SHANA BET

You know those times when you realize you've been doing things wrong because a particular halachah



wasn't covered in your classic halachah class? Here is your chance to clear up those misunderstandings,

ask your questions, and learn about all the details that give us daily opportunities to add kedushah to our everyday lives. In addition to learning Berachot from the

basics (what's the berachah on avocado?) to the more complicated cases (what's the berachah on steak salad or an ice cream sandwich?), we will learn halachot related to the time of the year – fast days and holidays – and things that we encounter regularly, like tefilat ha-derech, bikur cholim, tzedakah, rules relating to borrowing things from friends, keeping a kosher kitchen, and all sorts of other halachic issues you've always wanted more clarity about. Our main source will be the Peninei Halachah.

# Har Sinai in Hashkafah and Halachah

#### RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever wonder what really happened at Har Sinai – besides being pretty terrifying, what was it like to



experience God appearing right before us? How do we know the whole thing really took place? If we were all there, as tradition tells us, why don't we remember anything? How could an entire nation of laypeople, few of them trained as prophets, many of them just children, spontaneously

become prophets? If the whole thing was so impressive, how could our ancestors turn back to idol worship just forty days later? Turning to the content of what was said at Sinai, why were these ten commandments chosen out of all 613? (Would you have chosen "Do not covet your neighbor's house"?) What does it mean to believe in God ("I am God...")? Is abortion categorized as murder ("Do not kill...")? Can adultery ever be justified ("Do not commit adultery...")? What is the Torah's view on illegally downloading music and movies – is it stealing ("Do not steal...")? Can God command us to feel certain emotions ("Do not envy...")? In this course, we will explore the significance and relevance of the Sinai experience and the importance of the Ten Commandments as a unit and individually, both hashkafically and halachically.

#### **Hilchot Tefilah**

**RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER** 

The year in Israel is prime time to take your tefilah to the next level so that you can continue a strong

connection with Hashem in college and beyond. Can there be any kind of real relationship without good communication? But besides knowing what we're saying and learning how to focus well, there is also a lot to know about the what, the when, the how, and the why of



tefilah, and even if we've been "davening" for years, we still may not know. Do women need to pray anything formal, or may they make do with just a few berachot each day? Do I need to say Minchah? When is the latest I can still say Shacharit and Minchah? If I missed a tefilah, can I make it up? When can I answer "amen" or "kedushah" if I'm in the middle of another tefilah? Should I catch up during Torah reading, or should I be listening to the reading? Is there any difference whether I pray at home or with a minyan? When and how do I bow during Shemoneh Esrei? If I'm late or I fall behind, what can I skip in order to catch up? Is it better to say more but with less kavanah, or say less but with more kavanah? Can I take a jog before tefilah, or study for a test, or take the train, or have breakfast? Join us to examine these questions and more.

#### **Hilchot Tefilah**

#### RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM / SHANA BET

You just woke up, you're starving, and you have a million things to do. But what activities are permitted



before *tefilah* in the morning? Can you go for a jog? Does it matter if you can't concentrate without your morning coffee? At shul, you're in the middle of davening and someone asks you a question – can you answer? You finished your Shemoneh Esrei and you realize that

you forgot "Mashiv Ha-Ru'ach" – what now? You've taken on davening Minchah, but you accidentally forgot today – is there anything to do? In this course, we'll cover the topics needed to answer these questions and many more. Chafetz Chayyim to learn inside the hashkafah and halachah of shemirat ha-lashon, along with practical tips to make this mitzvah part of our everyday lives, in all situations that we find ourselves.



#### Shemirat Ha-Lashon

**RENA COREN / SHANA BET** 

What is it about lashon ha-ra that we find so tempting and so difficult to control? Why should it



please and entertain us so much to share negative information about others? What is it about lashon ha-ra that is so destructive that the Torah forbids it in such a sweeping and severe manner what could be so wrong with repeating something which actually is true? What the difference is

between lashon ha-ra, rechilut amd motzi shem ra? What strategies can we adopt as individuals, families, and communities in order to improve the way we use our power of speech? If lashon ha-ra is truly so corrosive, under what conditions is it permitted or even proper to share it – how about for shidduchim or roommate purposes? What do I do when someone starts talking lashon ha-ra to me? Is it permitted to share lashon ha-ra about non-Jews, and even if it is technically permitted, is it ethically proper? May I speak lashon ha-ra about myself, and if not, why not – doesn't my reputation belong to me? We will use Sefer Shemirat Ha-Lashon and Sefer





# מדרש ותלמוד

#### Mishnah Mania

#### RAV ZVI RON

The Torah was given at Har Sinai over 3,300 years ago (!). How did we get from the Bible to the *very* 



different and verv detailed laws of the Shulchan Aruch (the Code of Jewish Law), written close to 3,000 years later? The missing link is called the Mishnah, and your first step in understanding

everything we do today (and becoming a

real "talmidah chachamah") is tackling the Mishnah, the most fundamental text of the Oral Torah! We will plow through mishnayot with depth and yet also with speed, finishing one "masechet" after another (making a delicious "siyyum" each time), sharpening our textual skills, and broadening our Torah knowledge. Participate fully in exciting, diverse, challenging yeshiva-style learning of these bite-size blasts of Torah wisdom. Hone your reading and learning skills as you actively participate in explaining the mishnayot from Masechet Yoma (Yom Kippur!) and Sukkah (Sukkot!). All killer, no filler! Festive siyyumim and vast Torah knowledge await you!

#### Introduction to Gemara

#### **RAV JASON KNAPEL**

Have you ever wanted to open up a Gemara to find out what it's all about, but thought it would be too hard or out of your comfort zone? In this shiur, we will become familiar with the text of the Gemara, as we also learn how to think like the Gemara, the backbone of all of Torah She-be-al Peh. We will be touching on topics that affect our daily Jewish lives.

#### Practical Topics in Talmud (Adv.)

#### Leora Bednarsh

The Torah commands us to "correct" or "rebuke" our fellow Jew ("tochahah"), but in today's live-and-let-

live society, does that mitzvah have any chance of working out well? Bikur Cholim is not just a nice practice, it's a halachah; but what are its rules? Is there any case in which you should not visit someone? The Torah prohibits acting in a way which causes someone to violate the



Torah, but does that mean you can't serve food to people who won't make a berachah, or that you can't invite people over for a Shabbat meal if they will drive? In this course, we will take on fun, exciting, relevant Talmudic topics, learning the Gemara and tracking the halachah as it develops towards the bottom-line guidance we follow in our daily lives.

#### **Unlocking the Midrash**

**BRACHA KROHN** Was Rivkah really when she three married Yitzchak - and if not, what lesson were Chazal hinting by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued which about one should be Yaakov's pillow? Are Chazal



teaching us historical facts with these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of מדרשים; what goals Chazal had in mind when composing them; and how to unlock the deeper meaning behind these wellknown legends. In this course, you will explore the difference between interpretation and homiletics as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the מדרשים you learn each week when studying פרשת השבוע.

#### **Talmudic Tales**

#### NEIMA NOVETSKY

Why does Hashem bring rain just because Choni refuses to leave his famous circle? If God Himself



declares that one rabbi is correct , how can the other rabbis still insist he's wrong? Was the Beit HaMikdash really destroyed just because Bar Kamtza wasn't invited to a party? How can Moshe Rabbeinu visit Rabbi Akiva's classroom and

not understand a word? The Gemara is filled with stories about Torah and the chachamim, Hashem's world and His ways. In this class, we will study some of the most famous and intriguing of these stories. Each week, we will look at a different text, raising questions and exploring its lessons.

#### "Pirkei Avot Siman La-Banim"

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM Each time we meet, we will begin with a few lines



today.

from Pirkei Avot and then learn a story in Tanach which illustrates and deepens the message of the Mishnah. We will learn stories from Tanach and see how each story brings to life the lessons of the Mishnah and the ideals by which we should shape our own personal lives









In almost every hour in our schedule, you'll see an option called "Chavrutot and Chaburot" or "CnC." (We also call it a "Beit Midrash period.") Why should you sign up? When you sign up for a period of "Chavrutot & Chaburot," you are joining a tradition pioneered by students through centuries of Jewish history and continued today in every yeshiva all around the world.

Our Beit Midrash is the heart of Midreshet Moriah.

It's the place where you'll find your very own "makom," a permanent place for the year where you can keep your personal sefarim and do your learning. It will help you feel a sense of belonging, connection and ownership and facilitate your learning and your tefilah.

# During each CnC period, you have the following options:

#### **Review Time:**

Looking at your schedule for the week, you may find that you have twenty courses or more! It's great to have the chance to learn so much, but if you also want to take that learning with you, the ONLY way is to review. But when? Easy: CnC periods. Schedule in the number of CnC's you'll need to: a) go over what you learned, b) make sure you understand it, c) clarify your notes, d) make lists of questions to go back to ask your teachers. Welcome to the rest of your learning life <sup>(i)</sup>, where the good news is that there are no tests, but the bad news is that all the responsibility to review and solidify what you've learned falls on you. Don't fall into the trap of spending every moment learning something new. As the Gemara teaches us, "Learning without reviewing is like planting and never harvesting."

#### **Prep time:**

Teachers in your various shiurim throughout the week may assign preparation for you to complete before the next shiur. Other teachers may casually throw out challenges for those who want more depth. When do you do it? CnC! You'll have teachers around in the Beis so you can get help if you have questions.

## **Personal Projects:**

Need time to review the parshah (and write a Devar Torah) or learn more about a topic which interests you? Interested in doing Nach Yomi or Bracha's "Bekiut Parshah" sheets? Want to learn be-chavruta with another girl or with a madrichah or teacher? CnC is the time to do it! More than any other kind of learning you'll do at seminary, working on your own or with a chavruta in the Beit Midrash, armed with a dictionary and making progress through a sefer you thought was beyond you, is the way you'll gain skills which will last you a lifetime and help you in all the learning you do. Challenge yourself!

# "Chaburah":

Led by a teacher, a "chaburah" is a "group chavruta" which meets in the Bet Midrash around a table to learn a sefer together. A chaburah provides a great opportunity to form a real connection with your teachers because it's a small group and creates a more personal atmosphere. It also means that if you really wanted to learn a certain sefer this year and then found it wasn't on our schedule of classes, you can arrange with a teacher to give a Chaburah on the topic – and now your sefer is on the schedule!

# SPECIAL BEIT MIDRASH TIMES

#### "All Together Now"

Tuesday & Wednesday nights at 8:30, we're all together in the "Beis" to create a huge "Kol Torah" and enjoy the energy of a dynamic Bet Midrash! The place will be packed with teachers giving exciting Chaburot!

# Your Special Chavruta from Midreshet Darkaynu

#### MICHAL PORAT ZIBMAN

Midreshet Darkaynu is a seminary for young women with 'light' special needs. On Tuesday afternoons at 5:00, you will have an opportunity to do a different form of chesed and get to know them through a relationship of learning Torah together. Each week, we will learn various topics together (including middot, lashon hara, chesed) in either chavruta or chaburah style. No previous experience in special needs required – the only skills you need are patience, sensitivity, and a big heart ©. Join us and become an exciting part of their (and your) Beit Midrash experien ce!

#### Late-Night Beis

Regular "Night Seder" ends at 9:20, but the Rambam teaches us that night-time learning is the highestquality learning there is and that someone who wants to grow in learning should never waste a night! So... on Sun, Tue, and Wed nights, we're staffing the Beis until 10:20 with faculty who will be offering you Chaburot and more. Looking for the crowd who's most "into" learning? Come join us in the Late-Night Beis! (Yes, Late-Night Beis counts as an "hour" in your total number of hours!)

#### "Mishmar":

Thursday nights at 9:30 PM, come to the Beis for the very last shiur of the week – an inspiring, informal shiur stocked with plenty of nosh and delivered by a rotation of teachers and guest speakers. This is purely lishmah – you can't sign up for it, you don't get credit for it, but you do get lots of nosh and there's no better way to end your learning week!

**TIP:** "Late Beis" at 9:30pm is for the "shtark" and the night owls. If you're a girl who's going to step off the plane ready to "shteig," this is where you'll connect with other girls who feel the same!



# THE CHABUROT BELOW ....

...have taken place in recent semesters and offer you a sense of some available options. Speak to the teacher in each Beit Midrash period so you can decide together what your chaburah should be about!

## **Olam Ha-Yeshiva**

#### MICHAL

Join us to learn from the "Netivot Shalom" as he provides guidance and advice specifically for someone going through the yeshiva experience!

## **Netivot Shalom**

#### MICHAL

We will explore ideas ranging from belief in God to self-improvement. Using"נתיבות שלום", a contemporary chasidic work written by Rabbi Shalom Noach Brozovsky, the Slonimer Rebbi, we will gain insight into the weekly פרשה and try to take personal lessons from his work.

## "Kol Dodi Dofek" Chaburah

VICKY

Join us for Rav Soloveitchik's perspective on the historic opportunities presented to the Jewish people by the founding of the State of Israel.

# "Eish Kodesh" Chaburah

VICKY

Join us to learn the Torah of Rav Klonimus Kalman of Piacezna, known as the אש קודש, one of the great אש קודש who wrote his Torah from inside the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust.

#### Kohelet

#### RAV EITAN

Join us to explore the meaning of life with the wisest man who ever lived – Shlomo Ha-Melech. In Kohelet, we'll follow along as Shlomo asks the emunah questions we often wonder about but don't always know how to handle.

#### **Rambam Chaburah**

#### RAV EITAN

The best way to get a quick "handle" on many Torah concepts, both halachic and hashkafic, is to go through the Rambam, who organizes everything beautifully for us. All day, you'll find yourself connecting things you learn in your other shiurim with what we learn here!

#### Em Ha-Banim Semeichah

VICKY BERGLAS / SHANA BET

Rabbi Yissachar Teichtal, a Satmar chasid who lived

in Hungary during the Holocaust, realized the error of his anti-Zionist hashkafah and the disaster it had brought upon Am Yisrael. He devoted his last years to writing this sefer, in which he passionately argues from a hashkafic and halachic perspective for the necessity of building



a Jewish homeland in Israel. We will be studying selected readings from his *sefer*.

# "Hegyonei Halachah"

BRACHA

Join us to explore the themes behind the halachah on topics such as the Chagim and Shabbat.

# "Chovat Ha-Talmidim"

MICHAL

Join us to learn from the author of the "Eish Kodesh" what it truly means to be a student of Torah.

# Sha'arei Avodah Chaburah

Rina Zinkin

Divrei mussar, hashkafah and hitorerut based on Divrei Chazal, Rishonim, and Chachamim including Gedolim of our generation, compiled by Rav Binyomin Forst. Teshuvah, kibud horim, insights into birchat hashachar, simcha, shabbos, tefillah, Torah, kedusha and tznius, brachot, derech eretz, shmirat halashon.

# Mussar Va'ad

Rabbi Lerner

Join us for inspirational, honest mussar on topics you will find very directly relevant.

# Igeret Ha-Ramban

Rabbi Berglas

Join us to take a close look at one of the most important letters ever written – a letter from the Ramban to his son, instructing him how to learn Torah and how to be the best Jew he can be.

# **Taryag Club**

MICHAL

We all know that there are 613 אצוות, but do we know what they are? As we go through the ספר , we will become familiar with the main aspects of many of the 613 אצוות. From there, we will jump off to other sources to explore the טעמי מצות for each מצוה we encounter. We will focus mostly on those which are relevant in today's world.

# **Rav Nevenzahl on the Parshah**

For girls interested in building Hebrew skills and learning a bit about each week's Torah portion.

#### **Rav Hirsch on Tefilah**

#### RENA COREN

The writings of Rav Hirsch were written for a generation that was spiritually confused and disconnected. Combining a fresh outlook, brilliant ideas, a passionate heart and an eloquent style of expression, Rav Hirsch succeeded in reintroducing the beauty of Torah to generations of Jews, from the mid 1800's to today. In our chaburah, we will learn Rav Hirsch's classic commentary on the siddur and learn to connect to the tefilot in a deep and meaningful way.

# Pirkei Avot

Are you looking to improve your relationship with your roommates and friends? Do you find yourself questioning your path in life? Do you find it hard to have faith in God when going through challenging times? These are just some of the many topics we will be discussing as we learn Pirkei Avot, and we see just how applicable the lessons of our forefathers are to us today in building our character.

# She'arim Bi-Tefilah

LEORA BEDNARSH

The ספר "She'arim Bi-Tefilah" by Rav Shimshon Pinkus has been called the "Mesilat Yesharim" of our day. This moving study of the different modes of will help us to reach out to Hashem through תפילה.





# The "Rakezet" at Midreshet Moriah: Your Personal Faculty Mentor...

The year in Israel is a time of intense personal reflection, and it's important to have someone you can always turn to who knows you and has time for you. At Midreshet Moriah, your "Rakezet" will be your personal faculty mentor, meeting with you one-on-one every week throughout the entire year. You get to use this time however you prefer: learning with your Rakezet any topic you choose; reflecting on a personal topic of concern to you; and much more. You'll spend Shabbat at your Rakezet's home too!







# **Administration & Faculty**

## **Administration**



**Rabbi Meyer Berglas**, Founder and Dean. Rabbi Berglas's warm smile, gentle manner, and deep wisdom have made him a beloved mentor to decades of students, and his shiurim play a central role in shaping the character and values of our

students. Every year, a few students are privileged to learn with Rabbi Berglas be-chavruta as part of Midreshet's unique commitment to the growth of each individual student. Rabbi Berglas, a student of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, received Semikhah and an MHL from RIETS and an MA at Columbia University. Rabbi Berglas lives in Neve Alizah, the community he founded with his wife, Vicky.



**Mrs. Vicky Berglas**, Director. Vicky's warmth and empathy make her a much sought-after confidant and chavruta, and the sounds of laughter with the joy of learning always accompany her "chevrah" in the Bet Midrash. Vicky's class in

"Sho'ah and Faith" is one of our students' favorites, combining the study of the Holocaust with religious and halachic writings from that time. When Vicky leads our students on the annual Heritage tour of Poland, they are treated to her unique perspective, which combines encyclopedic historical knowledge with a deep connection to the great personalities of our past and the conviction that the Holocaust can inspire us toward meaning and accomplishment in our personal own lives. Vicky also serves as a guide at Yad Vashem. She earned a BA in Psychology and Judaic Studies at Yeshiva University and an MA in Jewish History at Haifa University. Vicky lives in Neve Alizah, the community she founded with her husband, Rabbi Meyer Berglas.



**Rabbi Eitan Mayer**, Menahel Chinuchi and Assistant Dean. "Rav Eitan" is known both for his wry sense of humor and his shiurim in Tanach and Machshavah, which emphasize creative thinking and personal grappling with Torah and

its implications for our lives. Rav Eitan is always available for personal advice, halakhic questions, and discussions onemunah. Rav Eitan learned at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, received Semikhah at RIETS as a Wexner Graduate Fellow, and continued his learning in the BerenKollel Elyon. He earned a BA in English Literature and an MA in Jewish Education at Yeshiva University, and is completing an MA in Jewish Philosophy and an EdD in Jewish Education at Yeshiva University. Rav Eitan taught at the Graduate Program for Women at Yeshiva University and served as Assistant Rabbi at The Jewish Center on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Rav Eitan lives in Neve Daniel with his family.



**Mrs. Bracha Krohn**, Director of Student Affairs. Bracha teaches Tanach, Midrash, and Rabbinic Thought. Bracha, as her students call her, has an enthusiasm for learning which permeates the classroom. Her dynamic teaching

style encourages participation and fosters a strong desire to learn, and her openness and genuineness create an environment for thoughtful, honest questioning. She has a special way of identifying with students and showing them her authentic care and concern. Bracha learned at Michlala, was Jewish Studies valedictorian and earned a BA at Stern College in Jewish Studies and English Literature, and is completing her MA in Bible at Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School. She taught for seven years at the Fuchs Mizrachi School and the Women's Beit Midrash in Cleveland, before making aliyah in 2008. Bracha currently serves on the educational staff of Camp Stone, where she returns each summer with her family. She lives in Efrat with her husband and three children.



**Mrs. Dena Terebelo**, Eim Bayit. Dena's signature warmth and genuine nature helps her serve as a "mother away from home" to the girls. Her outgoing and caring personality helps her connect with every type of girl and makes her

easily approachable. She focuses on making every girl feel at home. Dena has extensive experience working with young women for over 15 years, and is also a life coach. She lives in Yerushalayim with her husband and four kids, within walking distance of school, and her home is open to all of the girls.

#### Faculty



**Mrs. Leora Bednarsh** loves to teach Gemara and Halakhah, and the enthusiasm and warmth she brings to Torah are infectious. In her shiurim, she not only teaches our students Torah and love of Torah, she also gives them the

research skills to learn more and the presentation skills to give their own shiurim. Leora earned a BA in Psychology & Linguistics at Princeton University, completed the Scholars' Circle program at Drisha Institute, and is certified as a Yo'etzet Halakhah of the Keren Ariel Program at Nishmat. She taught at Yeshiva of Flatbush High School and serves as a Yo'etzet Halakhah on Nishmat's Halakhah Hotline. She lives in Alon Shvut with her family.



**Rabbi Uri Cohen** ("Rav Uri") teaches halakhah and Jewish Thought. Rav Uri's vast knowledge, infectious curiosity and love of learning, broad grasp of contemporary Jewish and popular culture, and warm smile and sense of humor all endear him

to our students and make his shiurim not-to-bemissed. Rav Uri learned at Yeshivat Shaalvim and Yeshivat Hamivtar and received Semikhah from RIETS and the Joseph Straus Seminary at Yeshivat Hamivtar. He earned a BA in Jewish Studies, an MA in Medieval Jewish History, and an MS in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University. Rav Uri has served as a teacher and Rabbi at Princeton University. He lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with his wife, Dr. Yocheved Cohen.



**Mrs. Rena Coren** teaches Machshavah. Rena, as our students call her, approaches all of her students with love, warmth, smile, and intuitive understanding. Her humor, spirituality, optimism, and deep belief that each student is

gifted with great potential all make her the ideal address for students looking for guidance, inspiration, help with a problem, or just someone to listen. Rena earned a BA at Michlalah and has completed studies toward an MA as well. She lives in Jerusalem with her family.

**Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider** teaches Jewish Thought. Rabbi Goldscheider received semichah at Yeshiva University and has devoted the past 25 years to teaching Torah and reaching out to the less affiliated, serving synagogues in Jacksonville and New York. He



recently published two books, 'The Night That Unites Haggadah' (Urim Press) and 'Layla Shel Achdut' (Yediot Achronot Press), which highlight the teachings of Rav Soloveitchik, Rav Kook and Reb Shlomo Carlebach. Rav Goldscheider oversees the

Outreach Training Program at Yeshiva University's Gruss Campus, teaches at the OU Israel Center, and teaches for the Ministry of Diaspora in small communities in the United States. Together with his family, he lives in Jerusalem.



Goldstein Dr. Aviva is an educational consultant and family counselor whose research, counseling and teaching focus on the intersection of positive psychology, family cohesion, and Judaism. She teaches positive

psychology to both college students and educators, weaving together what research and Judaism teach about happiness and a life well-lived. Fascinated by the science of resilience, empathy and gratitude, she particularly enjoys teaching gap-year students at a critical moment in their lives. In her private practice, she works with individuals and families and specializes in parenting, adolescence and child development. Aviva holds a doctorate in education from Yeshiva University. She made aliyah from Riverdale, New York, and lives in Jerusalem with her family.



**Shoshana Grad** teaches Tanach. Through her genuine love for Torah and care for every individual, Shoshana strives to bring to life the words of Tanach for all of her students. In addition to formal teaching, Shoshana also has a

passion for informal education. As Associate Director of Israel NCSY and a bus director on NCSY GIVE, Shoshana has the opportunity to inspire and impact the young Jewish community outside of the classroom walls. Shoshana earned a BA in Judaic Studies at Stern College, an MA in Jewish Education at Azrieli Graduate School, and completed the Matan Bellows Eshkolot program for Tanach and Jewish

Studies. Shoshana made Aliyah four years ago and lives in Jerusalem.

**Mrs. Malka Hubscher** teaches Tanach. Malka, as our students call her, is known for her great sense of humor, her ability to make any and all learning exciting, her down-to-



earth wisdom and good advice, and the intensity and focus of her shiurim. Malka learned at Michlalah and earned a BA in Jewish Studies and an MA in Bible at Yeshiva University. She lives in Efrat with her family.



**Mrs. Sepha Kirshblum** teaches Tanach and Jewish Thought. Sepha, as our students call her, has a genuine love for both her students and Torah, especially Tanach. She tries to create a balance of creativity, fun, humor and kavod

Ha-Torah in the classroom to help her students love learning as much as she does. Before making aliyah, Sepha taught Tanach at the Ramaz Upper School, where she was also Senior Grade Advisor, Israel Advisor, and involved in extracurricular programming. Sepha received her BA from Stern College with a Major in Judaic Studies and a Minor in Psychology. She received a dual Masters in both special and regular Education from Hunter College. Sepha lives in Jerusalem.



**Rav Jason Knapel** ("Rav Jason") is beloved as a mechanech for both his fascinating and inspiring shiurim as well as his easy approachability and warmth as a mentor to our students. He served as Director of Informal Education, Director of

Judaic Studies and Assistant Principal at Hillel Yeshiva High School in Deal, New Jersey for many years. Subsequent to his aliyah, he was Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshivat Shvilei HaTorah and teaches at Shaalvim for Women. Rav Jason was ordained at RIETS and received his BA from Yeshiva College and an MS from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. He lives in Beit Shemesh with his family.



**Rabbi Yitzchak Lerner** teaches Halakhah and Jewish Thought. Rav Lerner is known for his high-energy teaching style, his fiery passion for Torah and mitzvot, his personal warmth as a mentor, and his outstanding shiurim in Hilkhot

Shabbat and Mussar. Whether in shiur or in personal conversations, Rav Lerner's transformative impact on his students remains with them for years to come. Rav Lerner learned at Yeshivat Midrash Shmuel and received Semikhah from Rav Zalman Nechemyah Goldberg. He earned a BA in Political Science at Concordia University. Rav Lerner lives in Betar with his family.



**Mrs.** Neima Novetsky teaches Tanach. Neima creates a unique environment in her shiurim – setting a high standard of learning, she also embraces her students with personal caring, shares her own enthusiasm for learning, and in

every shiur, gives over some of her own love for Torah. Neima's unique approach not only excites and inspires with insights into the topic being learned, but also leaves her students with a sense of method, "learning how to learn," so that they can go on to learn further on their own. Neima holds a BA in Religion and a Certificate in Language and Culture from Princeton University and an MA in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. Before making aliyah, she founded and directed the Advanced Tanakh Beit Midrash Program at Manhattan's Lincoln Square Synagogue. She lives in Yerushalayim with her family.



Mrs. Michal Porat-Zibman teaches Jewish Thought. Michal, as our students call her, is a teacher of great charisma and passion, inspiring her students with her exciting shiurim in Mussar and Machshavah, learning individually

with them in chaburot (small groups) and chavrutot in the Bet Midrash, and devoting countless hours to personal conversations and one-on-one shmoozes. Michal's famous sichot at Thursday night Mishmar, accompanied by piles of nosh, are the perfect inspirational ending to the week of learning. Michal also guides groups at Yad Vashem and leads groups touring Poland on the Heritage program. She has served as Educational Director at Camp Moshava and has worked at Moshava's Mach Hach Ba-Aretz and Camp HASC. Michal earned a BA at Bar Ilan University in Jewish History and lives in Neve Daniel with her family.



**Mrs. Batsheva Reinitz** is a Rakezet. Since Batsheva spent her own Shana Alef and Shana Bet at Midreshet Moriah years ago, she can relate to what girls are experiencing in a unique way. Batsheva is easy to talk to, putting girls at ease immediately

and making it comfortable for them to speak honestly about their questions, friendships, courses, and their experience in Israel. Batsheva supports, encourages and strengthens girls through the learning and growth they enjoy throughout the year, bringing out their best and ensuring their success. Batsheva has been involved in informal education for nearly fifteen years, working on Bnei Akiva's Mach Hach Baaretz and as Director and Program Coordinator of NCSY's GIVE summer program. She also served as Eim Bayit for NCSY's Michlelet and GIVE summer programs and as Director of Student life at Midreshet Yeud. Batsheva holds a degree from Machon Lander Jerusalem. She and her husband Zevi live in Ramot, Jerusalem with their children.



**Rabbi Dr. Zvi Ron** teaches Jewish Thought and Halakhah. While the first thing our students usually notice about Rav Ron is how amazingly laid-back and fun his shiurim are, the next thing they

notice is the astounding breadth of his knowledge and his rare gift to make everything he says sound fascinating! His shiur on the thought of Ramchal, "Derech Hashem," is among the most beloved. Rav Ron has published numerous articles in both Hebrew and English in The Jewish Bible Quarterly, Hakirah, Tradition, Sinai, haMaayan and The Journal of Jewish Music and Liturgy and has published a book, Katan ve-Gadol. Rav Ron learned in Yeshivat Shaalvim's Hesder Program and Kollel, received Semikhah from the Israeli Rabbanut, and earned a BA in Psychology at SUNY and a PhD in Jewish Theology at Spertus University. He served as Rabbi in Richmond, Virginia, from 1994 to 2004. He lives in Neve Daniel with his family.



**Rabbi Rafi Rosenblum** teaches halachah and Jewish Thought. Rav Rafi earned a BA and semichah at Yeshiva University, where he also spent four years as a member of the Wexner Kollel Elyon. Rav Rafi has taught at Rambam Mesivta in

Lawrence and the Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls in Hewlett, and many seminaries and yeshivot in Israel. Rav Rafi made aliyah in 2010 and lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with his wife and four adorable kids who love it when students join them for Shabbos.



**Mrs. Aliza Schwartz** is a Rakezet and teaches Jewish Thought and Tanach. Herself an alumna of Midreshet's Shana Aleph and Shana Bet programs, Aliza has a "been there myself" sense of how to relate to our students. She spends a lot of

time in our Beit Midrash, offering chaburot (group chavrutot), learning one-on-one, and helping girls find something to learn on their own. Aliza's warmth, passion, genuineness and sincerity help her connect to the girls, and being one of the younger staff, she is a powerful role model for her students. Aliza holds a BA from Stern College in Tanach and Jewish Law. She and her husband live in Jerusalem.



**Rav Ari Shvat** teaches Jewish Thought and is the founding Rosh Midrashah and senior lecturer at Orot Israel College in Elkana. Rav Ari's shiurim, infused with the inspirational and spiritual Torah of Rav Kook, are beloved by our students. Raised in Riverdale, NY, he

did Hesder at Ohr Etzion and Kiryat Arba, where he received semichah. Rav Ari is a popular international lecturer and has published many ideological and halachic articles, including the first scholarly book on the Israeli flag and the mitzvah to speak Hebrew. He holds a B.A. in Tanach from Michlelet Herzog and an M.A. in Jewish History and Talmud from Touro College. He enjoys utilizing his music as an educational medium and has produced three albums of original compositions, including a tune for Al HaMichya taught in the dati schools in Israel. Rav Ari has run various programs internationally for Bnei Akiva, as well as teaching at Midreshet HaRova, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Yeshivat HaKotel and the Israeli Air Force. In addition, he is in charge of the archives of Rav Kook at Beit HaRav and is featured on the Yeshivat Beit El website. Rav Ari lives in Kochav HaShachar with his family. Rav Ari lives in Kochav HaShachar with his family.



**Rav Asher Taragin** teaches Halachah and Tanach. "Rav Ashi," as our students call him, is unique in his educational breadth and life experience. He is currently studying Medicine at Hebrew University, Law at Bar Ilan University, and co-directs the Israeli Army's "Netiv" program

that prepares soldiers for conversion to Judaism. After reaching the rank of Commander in the Nachal Brigade, Rav Taragin received semichah from Rav Zalman Nechemya Goldberg and completed a Teachers Degree, B. Ed. in Tanach and Gemara, and a Tour Guide's Course at Herzog College. Rav Taragin learned at Yeshivat Har Etzion, where he was a close talmid of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein and a member of the Kollel Gevo'ah, and at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh, where he became close with Rav Mendel Blochman. Rav Taragin is also a trained Sofer, Shochet, Mohel, and scuba diver. Rav Ashi lives in Lod with his wife and son.



**Rav Hanoch Teller** is a worldrenowned storyteller and lecturer, known to many through his inspirational speaking in communities around the world andhis many books on a wide range of topics and Jewish values. He has also produced two award-winning

films. Rav Teller is able to bring gedolim to life for his students by recounting not only their Torah, but also their personal greatness in their midot and private everyday behavior. His unique course is a primer for life as to how to lead a courteous life of moral sensitivity. Rav Teller earned his undergraduate degree at Yeshiva University and continues to learn in the Mirrer Yeshiva.



**Rabbi Michael Unterberg** teaches Israel Advocacy and Jewish Thought and Philosophy. Rav Michael was a founding member of the Torat Tzion Kollel movement in Cleveland, where he taught in and helped create the curriculum of the Fuchs Mizrachi School. He was the

lead educator for ICNext, an Israel advocacy training program for the broader Jewish Community in Cleveland, and also a creative consultant to the Cleveland Playhouse. Rav Michael studied philosophy at and received semichah from YU. Rav Michael and his family live in Efrat.



**Rabbi Eli Wagner** teaches Halachah. Rabbi Wagner learned at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, Yeshivat Derech Ha-Talmud, and in Rav Michael Rosenweig's shiur as a member of the YU Masmidim Honors Program. He earned a BA in psychology at Touro College and is studying

towards an MA in Industrial Organizational Psychology at Touro University while he continues his learning at YU's Gruss Kollel. Rabbi Wagner has also taught at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, Sha'alvim for Women, and Yeshivat Torat Shraga. He and his family live in Yerushalayyim.



**Rabbi "Y.Y." Wenglin** teaches Chasidut and Jewish Thought. Rav Wenglin's ultra-high-energy delivery, deep familiarity with Western culture, creativity and selfeffacing humor enable him to share

and inspire with provocative, life-changing concepts in emunah, midot, and connecting to God. Rav Wenglin earned a BA in History and Literature at Harvard University and a JD at the UCLA School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review -and a lead performer in the law school musical -- all three years. After law school, Rabbi Wenglin joined the Manhattan law firm of Paul, Weiss as a corporate associate in mergers and acquisitions. But then he put all that on hold in order to learn more about his Jewish roots. He moved to Jerusalem, where he started taking introductory classes at Aish HaTorah, and the rest is history... Rabbi Wenglin teaches at veshivot and seminaries and serves as a guest speaker for kiruv programs on campuses and communities all over. He and his family live in Ramat Beit Shemesh.



**Rav Aharon Wexler** is beloved by our students for his passion for Israel and the Jewish people and for his exciting, thought-provoking shiurim. He made aliyah from New York after high school and studied in

Yeshivat HaKotel. After Yeshiva and his service in the IDF, Rav Aharon earned a BA in Archeology and then went back to Yeshivat HaKotel for Rabbinic Ordination. Rav Aharon went on to receive an MA in Jewish History, and is now a Doctoral Candidate studying Jewish Philosophy. He is also a licensed tour guide, and when not teaching or touring, makes his home in Efrat with his family.



**Mrs. Rina Zinkin** is a Rakezet. Rina, as our students call her, is gifted with the kind of gentle personality and warmth which make it easy for students to talk to her and seek her advice. Her deep spirituality, empathy, patience, humility, and

rare midot tovot make her a personality our students strive to emulate. Rina learned at Midreshet Lindenbaum and Michlalah, earned a BA in Judaic Studies and Speech Communication Disorders at Yeshiva University, and an MA at Brooklyn College in Speech Language Pathology. Rina lives in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Eshkol with her husband and children.



# "MVP": The Moriah Volunteering Program

#### EXAMPLES OF THE KINDS OF VOLUNTEERING OUR PROGRAM HAS OFFERED ...

#### **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

- Darkaynu: Learn in our Beit Midrash with students from Darkaynu
- Shalva: volunteer at Shalva school
- Yachad: Buddy program or vocational center
- Meshi: center for children with disabilities

#### FOOD PACKAGING:

- Chasdei Naomi
- Yad Ezra V'Shulamit
- Pantry Packers

#### **GENERAL:**

- Kiruv Chavruta with Midreshet Rachel (Ba'alot Teshuvah)
- Adopt-a-Bubby: visit an elderly English-speaking lady
- "Gan": help out in a childcare center
- Childcare: help out a mother with her children
- Tutoring English to Israeli students at Emunah
- The Lone Soldier Center: bake / cook at the center
- Friendship Circle: hang out with a child with special needs
- Zichron Menachem: help out at the home of a cancer patient
- Machlis Family: helping this amazing family prepare the Shabbat meals they open up each week to hundreds of guests
- EACH YEAR'S ORGANIZATIONS VARY, STAY TUNED FOR THIS YEAR'S!

...Or free time – the choice is yours!



