



MORE CHOICES

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HOW TO REGISTER

Registration Timeline:

- **Sun Aug 20:** we email you a username and password. You log in to make sure they work.
- **Sun Aug 20:** the same day, we also email you this semester's amazing course catalog... which you are currently reading!
- **Mon Aug 21:** we email you our registration FAQ
- **Thu Aug 24:** we email you the schedule so you can see days & times & plan your schedule
- **Sun Aug 27:** registration opens 9:00am Eastern Time: 48 hrs to select your courses & weekly "Rakezet" meeting
- **Tue Aug 29:** registration closes 9:00am Eastern Time

Steps in the Process:

On August 20, 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 20 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 27, 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 20, we'll have emailed you this course catalog for Fall 5778! 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 your unique goals and needs. Make sure to choose what's right for you. 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 24) 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 Thu Oct 19 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 _____, and 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 Sep 3, when courses begin, come with an open mind, ready to **consider making 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 Thu Oct 19 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:
 - 1st hour of every day (10am Sun, 9am M-Th)
 - Nights 7:30 – 9:20 (Monday nights free!)
- You need a total of 37 hours...
 - ...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)
 - Shiur Klali, Monday @ 3pm

Registration Day:

Once registration begins on Sun Aug 27 at 9:00am Eastern Time, you have 48 hours to log in and select your courses. Registration closes Tue Aug 29 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 Thu, Oct 19, **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 5778 is gonna rock Midreshet!

– _____ begin Sunday Sep. 3 at 10:00am!

THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE...

A - M - A - Z - I - N - G!

CAN’T WAIT!

אמונה

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 ? How can religious Jews support a secular Jewish State? In-depth pros and cons of aliyah – is it for you?

Datiyyim, Chilonim, Charedim: Where are they each coming from? Is 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 the Charedi anti-Zionists. Through lectures, discussions, and songs (Israeli culture, folk, and shirei neshamah), you will examine our historical time period and take your 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 20th 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 ,

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 , understanding the uniqueness of our generation, parent-child relationships, what makes Eretz Yisrael unique, understanding and connecting to the , 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 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

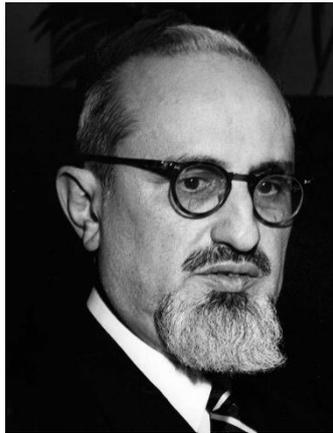


of antisemitism; the rise of the Nazi party; the reaction of the world; what did we know and when did we know it; what is a ghetto and were all ghettos the same; the transports and camps; rescue and resistance; leadership and youth during the war years; theology of the Sho'ah; the end of the war – when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

Thought of Rav Soloveitchik

RAV JASON KNAPEL

What is a human being, and what is his task in his lifetime? Since God doesn't need our praise and already knows what we need, what is the purpose of tefilah? From the Torah's perspective, why are family relationships so crucial in our lives? How does a Jew continue to connect with the God who sat by and allowed the Holocaust to happen? 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.



Discovering and Developing Your Soul

RAV MATITYAHU KAHN



We talk a great deal about the "soul" or "neshamah," and it's often assumed that we all know what that means. Is it our "essence"? A "piece of God"? The part of us that lives into the next world? But far more troubling than that, most of us are not aware of our *own* souls

– we go through life unaware of our unique spiritual identity, power, needs, and goals. We literally do not know ourselves. In this course, guided by Rav Kook, we will explore how a Jew can discover and connect to her own soul, become aware of its needs and desires, develop its inner powers, and express it in her daily life. We will understand the connection between our soul and creativity, the role of the soul in relationships, how a soul can achieve kedushah, how a soul connects us to God. In addition to achieving a deeper understanding of the soul, we will use weekly introspection to help us bring our insights down to earth and implement them through growth in our daily lives as we progress through the year.

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 to look not only outside, but also deep within, a year to truly study and discover yourself, searching the depth of your 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.



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?



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 20th 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 it happens; 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 facing the chosen people in the 21st century: the role of women in Judaism today;



the differences between Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox; coping with university campus life; archeology and Tanach; and more.

TIP: Your schedule reflects your unique goals and needs. Make sure to choose what's right for you. 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...

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.

The Discussion Club

RAV ZVI RON / SHANA BET

Join us as we first read articles on fascinating contemporary topics before class, and then meet to discuss them over coffee each week. What are the ideal roles for men and women in Judaism? Is Modern Orthodoxy a legitimate path to , or just another name for big compromises in ? Is Zionism dying, both in Israel and America? Is Orthodoxy “shifting to the right,” and if so, why? We will prepare beforehand by reading, and then meet together to discuss the articles to understand how their ideas relate to us personally and as a community.



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?”

Zionism & the Jewish State

RAV AHARON WEXLER

An intensive study of the political history that brought about a Jewish State in . 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-year ? What happened in the 19th century to bring Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people?



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-the-scenes” 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

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.



EMUNAH SECTION II: CLASSICAL JEWISH THOUGHT

Pirkei Avot

MALKA HUBSCHER



The moral lessons, profound psychological insights, and philosophical teachings of the *Tanna'im*, the rabbis who composed the *Mishnah* almost 2,000 years ago, remain 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”)? If 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 _____ 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 _____, or go on to _____? And what is _____ anyway? Does _____ mean you have to believe everything will always turn out OK? We will explore



fascinating topics in medieval and contemporary thought which have always made people wonder. Limited to 25 students.

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 _____ . 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 themitzvot; the unique nature of Torah; the definition of “mazel”; the question of free will; the sin of _____; 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 what if I have questions? What do we do with stories like David and Batsheva, or Yaakov taking the berakhah 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 really three when she married – and if not, what lesson were hinting to us by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be’s pillow? Are teaching us history with

these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of

; what goals 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 " " and " " as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the you learn each week when studying .

Shiviti Hashem

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

No one person can actually keep all 613 mitzvot – some are just for kohanim, others just for kings, and so on; and even the mitzvot we can keep, we perform only whenever they actually come up, which tends to be now and then, here



and there. But there are a unique few mitzvot that we can do every second of our lives, commandments which should be constantly on our minds and help us stay always focused on God. What are these mitzvot, and why were these special few chosen from all the others? Since these mitzvot address our hearts and minds, we must ask: How can we be commanded to have (or not have) certain thoughts and feelings? We will learn all about these mitzvot, how to keep them, and how their significance can enhance our everyday lives.

See You at Sinai

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.

Talmudic Tales

NEIMA NOVETSKY

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. Why does Hashem bring rain just because Choni refuses to leave

his circle? If God Himself declares that one rabbi is correct, how can the other rabbis insist he’s wrong? Was the Beit HaMikdash really destroyed just because Bar Kamtza wasn’t invited to a party? How can Moshe Rabbenu visit Rabbi Akiva’s classroom and not understand a word? Come find out!

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!

Topics in Jewish Philosophy

R. ASSAF BEDNARSH / SHANA BET

Joint Shana Bet Shiur at Gruss Campus Sponsored by Yeshiva University.



The first half of this course will explore the following topics, through a careful reading of primary sources taken from the and some : free will, theodicy, afterlife, resurrection and messiah, Divine providence, prayer, ethics and . The second half of the course will explore, in a similar fashion, topics in the philosophy of : Pluralism – “ ”; reason vs. revelation – “ ”; rabbinic legislation – “ ”; stringency and leniency – “ ”. Grades will be based on participation and a final exam at the end of the .

“By Way of Introduction”

RAV JASON KNAPEL / SHANA BET

This shiur will focus on the part of the book that usually gets skipped, but often gives the greatest insight into the author’s worldview. We will look at introductions to great Torah works and learn about the authors as well as many important ideas for



our day: According to Rav Moshe Feinstein, what is the source of a posek’s authority? Given how many there already are, why did the Chafetz Chaim think he needed to write another book of daily halachah? What was the purpose of the Rambam’s Mishneh Torah? These are just some of the gems we will find as we explore hakdamot together.

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

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 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 Chanukah, 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.

Meaning in the Mitzvot

BRACHA KROHN

Do you want to appreciate mitzvot, enjoy them, and better understand the "why"? Each week, we will explore a selected mitzvah – birkat hamazon, kibbud av v'em, and teshuvah, to name a few – in several ways that will add meaning to your mitzvah observance and help you truly connect. We will find each mitzvah in its original Torah source and context; do a brief halachic overview to give the basic outline of what the mitzvah requires and lay the ground for you to learn more; explore reasons for the mitzvah that have been proposed throughout Jewish history so we can learn new ways to connect and finally, we will study midrashim about the mitzvah and stories in the Gemara related to its observance. This course will be fast-paced and full of interesting and inspiring learning to give you a relationship with mitzvot like you've never experienced before!



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 day-to-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 self-esteem 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 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 newfound independence, strength and confidence that you will begin to experience as we explore these topics and more. This is your ticket to a more successful 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 learn about my 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 through personal experiences, 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, 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 self-awareness 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 our own selfhood. Often, however, it doesn't seem self-explanatory 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 by your parents 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 gratitude? 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 be 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.

"Darchei No'am": More Successful Interactions

DENA TEREBELO

The year in Israel is a time to accumulate Torah knowledge and work on your connection with Hashem. But sometimes, our personalities remain kind of rough around the edges, and our interactions with others are not what



they should be and what we want them to be. How do I treat the girl in the room next door whose guests are keeping me awake? Or the waitress at a cafe who messed up my order or is taking a long time? Or a madrichah who asks *me* to please keep the noise down? How should people be greeted? What happens when I'm just shy or busy and don't greet someone or don't notice them? Am I coming across to others as the friendly person I see in the mirror, and if not, how can I change that image? Of course it matters to me what people think of me, but when do I show flexibility, and when do I stick to what's important to me personally? How can I better intuit the needs of those around me so that I can be more sensitive? How can I better communicate my needs to others so that they don't need to guess as much? How can I think ahead and put myself in others' shoes to avoid causing pain with my speech? How can I more successfully give others the benefit of the doubt instead of assuming the worst of them and judging them harshly? Join us as we seek more successful and pleasant interactions with friends and family, at home, school, and work.

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 human brain 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.

“Honorable Mentschen”: Developing Midot Tovot

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 is not merely a drawback, but a 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 very 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? Passing the class means a significant edge in the struggle to be an "honorable mentsch" and acquire success in life morally, professionally and socially.

TIP: make a plan for what to do in each of your CnC periods so you don't just space out...

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?

's answer is , a which maps out a specific path toward , 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 in depth and discuss how these ideas can be applied in our lives.

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



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 ' to become more introspective about our service of Hashem.

The Joy of Being a Jew (“JOB AJ”)

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL 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!

What Does God Want From Me?

RAV MATITYAHU KAHN



Being an observant Jew can be not only very challenging, but also emotionally confusing – what exactly is the point of this lifestyle of demands and commands? What are we supposed to “get” out of it, and what does Hashem “get” out of it? Are we trying to make *this* world a better place

through our mitzvot, or are the mitzvot here to enable us to earn our place in the the *next* world? We hear a lot about “getting closer to Hashem,” but what does that actually mean, and how do mitzvot make it happen? Relationships with others can be deeply fulfilling, yet also complicated; if that’s true even with other human beings, how much more challenging it can be to relate to Hashem, who – besides being invisible, intangible and mostly silent – somehow combines being our King, our Dad, our

spouse, and, perhaps, the core of our own souls? We hold up for high admiration the idea of sacrificing to Hashem what is precious to us, and observant life has us constantly sacrificing our own desires, our money, and our freedom in order to do the will of Hashem. But is the core of Judaism giving things up for God, or is there way to look at our lifestyle which helps us see how these sacrifices benefit not God, but us? Join us to explore these exciting questions through the prism of Tanach, Chazal, and great thinkers through the generations.

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 20th 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 YITZCHOK LERNER / SHANA BET

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

" by Rabbi Shalom Noach Brozovsky, the Slonimer Rebbi, we will gain insight into



the weekly and 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-the-scenes" 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.

Discovering and Developing Your Soul

RAV MATITYAHU KAHN

We talk a great deal about the "soul" or "neshamah," and it's often assumed that we all know what that means. Is it our "essence"? A "piece of God"? The part of us that lives into the next world? But far more troubling than that, most of us are not aware of our *own*



souls – we go through life unaware of our unique spiritual identity, power, needs, and goals. We literally do not know ourselves. In this course, guided by Rav Kook, we will explore how a Jew can discover and connect to her own soul, become aware of its needs and desires, develop its inner powers, and express it in her daily life. We will understand the connection between our soul and creativity, the role of the soul in relationships, how a soul can achieve kedushah, how a soul connects us to God. In addition to achieving a deeper understanding of the soul, we will use weekly introspection to help us bring our insights down to earth and implement them through growth in our daily lives as we progress through the year.

TIP: every single tefilah shiur is completely different. Many girls take two!

Themes of the Mo'adim

ALIZA SCHWARTZ

As we approach 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.

Hashkafic Concepts in Tefilah

RAV ELI WAGNER



Join us to examine how the deep and inspirational hashkafah behind our tefilot and which directs not only *what* we say, but also *how* and *when*. Is tefilah required by the Torah, or is it only rabbinic – and more importantly for us, what does each of those possibilities reveal about what tefilah truly is on a deep level? 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 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?

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 by learning the theme of each . We will study the structure of the daily , the of , and methods to enhance .



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 this "hallelukah" that makes it different than the ones that came before and the ones that come next? 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, lacking 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.

Shemoneh Esrei

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM



Join us to understand the overall significance of *tefilah*, the meaning of each *berachah*, and how to connect each *berachah* with your life.

Shemoneh Esrei *PLUS*

MICHAL PORATH ZIBMAN



We will engage in a deep study of the themes of the various ברכות of the nineteen that we say daily. By focusing on a different ברכה every week, we will seek not only a better understanding of the meaning of the ברכות themselves, but

also to enhance our כוונה during this תפילה. 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...
Yaaaaawwwwn. "—



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 growth-oriented, 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, and philosophical teachings of the



Tanna'im, the rabbis who composed the *Mishnah* almost 2,000 years ago, remain 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 class is designed to your open your mind and heart to have a healthy Jewish perspective on interesting and applicable topics to our every day 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

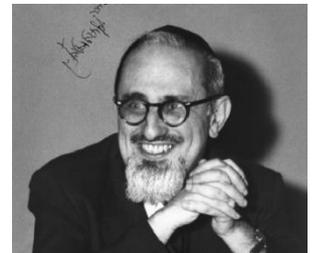


certain way, what does God expect of me? And much more!

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 of Matan Torah and 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.

Midot Workshop

RABBI MEYER BERGLAS / SHANA BET



Join us to be inspired and learn how to make everyday life more precious as we highlight topics like: The joy inherent in life; the value of gratitude; the dignity of humanity; the values of decency, respect, and obedience; overcoming faults such as laziness, anger, prejudice, and preconceptions; and the necessity

for constant growth. The *Sichot Musar* of Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz, the Rosh Yeshiva of Mir, were delivered to hundreds of students and have been treasured in print by thousands more, with an inspiring style which helps the reader internalize and implement them.

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 means "rebuke" or "telling someone they've done the wrong thing," "mussar" is really just 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 to step back from your life, reflect, consider, focus, and decide on your path this year and in life.

Shiur Klali

"TAG-TEAM" OR ROTATION:

RABBI MEYER BERGLAS, BRACHA KROHN, RAV EITAN MAYER

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 either in rotation or 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 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

Did They Do the Right Thing?

Analyzing Halachah in Historical Situations

RAV ELI WAGNER / MEETS SUN + THU NIGHTS

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 we 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.

Zionism & the Jewish State

RAV AHARON WEXLER



An intensive study of the political history that brought about a Jewish State in . 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-year ? What happened in the 19th century to bring Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people?

Nevu’ah in the News

RAV MICHAEL UNTERBERG

We live in an unprecedented and exciting time in Jewish History, where the 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 ways have the predictions for the end of days manifested today, and what warnings do we still need to take to heart? Side by side we will study the texts of various neviim, along with contemporary Israeli media. Together we will experience the concept of nevuah 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?
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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.

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 vs. America

RAV URI COHEN

Many Jews worldwide visit Israel often and think of it as their homeland, a place where they can not only be safe, but even feel at home. At the same time, they often notice that things in Israel work “differently” than they did back home... and not always for the



better. First, there's the manners: Ever wait on a line in Israel and wonder why everyone “cuts” (or why there doesn't seem to be a line at all)? Why are Israelis so infamously rude – does it have something to do with the country's history? Then there's religious life – how are you supposed to navigate all the confusing hashgachas so you know what to eat, and why can't it be simple, like it is back home? Why does there seem to be so much more tension here between different kinds of Jews, like religious and secular, Sephardi and Ashkenazi, Charedi and non-Charedi? Is the “Modern Orthodox” of your home country basically the same as Israel's “Dati Leumi”? Also, is Israel a cutting-edge tech superpower, or is it a backward, socialist banana republic with such lousy healthcare that you'll need to fly home just to get a cavity filled? Finally, there's politics: Why does it seem like the Israeli government falls to pieces so often, resulting in new elections, instead of the more stable systems we know from other countries? Why doesn't Israel have Costco? Why does milk come in plastic bags here? And why are the showers designed to let water go everywhere? Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at what makes Israel real and which will help make this “foreign country” feel more like home.



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 the Land of 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 a greater knowledge 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, 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...



S H A N A B E T

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.



תנ"ך

TANACH SECTION I: TOPICS IN TANACH

Dysfunctional Families in Tanach

NEIMA NOVETSKY

We often look to Tanach for role models how we should live our lives. When it comes to relationships, however, Tanach seems to have many more examples of what we should not imitate than what we should. Polygamy, 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 Hoshea 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.



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!

Philosophical Issues in Tanach

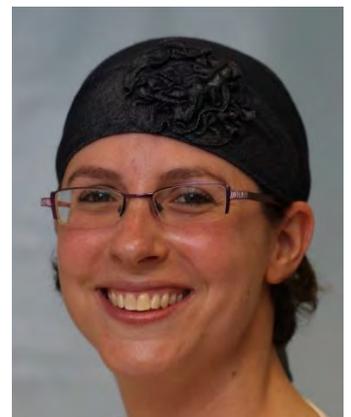
NEIMA NOVETSKY

"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 what if I have questions? What do we do with stories like David and Batsheva, or Yaakov taking the berakhah from Esav, which show our leaders making morally problematic choices? How about mitzvot

Unlocking the Midrash

BRACHA KROHN

Was really three when she married – and if not, what lesson were " hinting to us by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be 's pillow? Are " teaching us history with these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of ; what goals " 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 " " and " " as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the you learn each week when studying .

“Supporting Actors” in Tanach

MALKA HUBSCHER



We often feel we understand the “famous” characters in Tanach, people like Avraham and Sarah, Yehoshua or King 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 story. 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

Moshe Rabbeinu 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 fights 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 appears in the Torah, taking a fresh “ ” 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 instead of – is a who reveals dimensions entirely hidden to us before.



Hero/ines in Tanach

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM / SHANA BET

The people who appear in Tanach are our role models, people we should aspire to become and push ourselves to emulate. So what makes them noteworthy?



Together, we will learn why Mashiach would come from a woman who dressed up as a prostitute; why Eishet Chayil was written about Bat-Sheva; why Miriam is the only female character we get to know from Dor Hamidbar; and much more.

Nevu’ah in the News

RAV MICHAEL UNTERBERG

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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? Side by side we will study the texts of various neviim, along with contemporary Israeli media. Together we will experience the concept of nevu'a le'dorot as a living reality. Questions which will be addressed in this course:

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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 a coincidence when specific words repeat themselves in different stories,

creating a bridge ("hyperlink") between the characters involved. Why 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 Haftarat? 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!

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 to the parshah?” “Did you learn anything interesting on the parshah?” “Can you share a Devar Torah with us?” These are questions 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, 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 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 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 our chance! In this shiur, we will prepare the parshah together – reading, thinking and questioning so that we can understand what the Torah is telling us. Along the way, we will develop skills in creating Divrei Torah, which will come in handy for Shabbat during the year and beyond.



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 to fruit? Why was Avraham’s first test connected to leaving his land? Why does the Torah tell us scandalous stories like 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 Canaan 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 " "











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 to mark your

progress (the schedule is posted). (Note: this isn’t a course you “sign up” for.)

Spiritual Reflections on the Parshah

MICKEY FLAUMENHAFT / SHANA BET

Each week, we will explore the weekly parshah, analyzing its text and themes through the eyes of interpreters such as Rav Kook, Rav Nachman of Breslov, the Ba'al Shem Tov, Nechama Leibowitz and others, to see how these stories are not only relevant to current events, but also speak to each and every individual and will guide us on our spiritual journey.

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 and – but nearly everything we learned in school is ! An entire “hidden” Torah remains to be discovered in ...



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 as the first man to begin with, and have the “chosen one” from the very beginning?

The Torah tells us clearly that was chosen for his righteousness. But why was chosen, and why does the Torah completely hide the answer from us?

If was so obviously evil, how could 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 . Join us for an exploration which will forever change how you look at the Torah and make clear that means anything but “the simple meaning”!

Sefer Shemot: From Slavery to Sinai

MALKA HUBSCHER

We all know Bnei Yisrael were slaves for generations,



but why did they “need” to be enslaved to begin with? Of all the people who could have saved the nation, why does Hashem specifically choose someone who was raised in Paroh’s house? Does this make Moshe a better or worse leader? Did Bnei Yisrael actually

see Hashem at Har Sinai, and if so, how could they worship an idol so soon afterwards? Sefer Shemot tells the fascinating story of Am Yisrael's roller-coaster journey from _____ to _____, the transformation of a nation of slaves into a nation of God. With the aid of both classical and modern mefarshim, we will explore these and many more issues, developing both our textual and analytical skills.

Leadership in Sefer BeMidbar

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

When we think of Bnei Yisrael's desert generation, we often think about a generation of complainers. But why 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 plagues, to the splitting sea, to seeing God Himself at Sinai, to collecting the ir 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.

Life of Moshe Rabbeinu

RAV EITAN MAYER / SHANA BET



Moshe Rabbeinu 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 fights 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 _____ appears in the Torah, taking a fresh " _____ " 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 _____ instead of _____ – is a _____ 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: Trouble in Paradise

ADELE CHABOT

After forty exhausting years in the desert, the Jewish people might expect to be able to start their "happily ever after" in the promised land, right? Wrong! The Book of Joshua recounts the great challenges faced by Bnei Yisrael as they enter, conquer, and settle Israel. This course will explore both the words of the Navi and modern archaeological finds to examine the issues faced by the people as they fought to possess their new land. They must overcome their own fears

and weaknesses, confront hostile enemies on the battlefield, struggle with new cultural values, and make the difficult transition to a settled lifestyle. Students will be fascinated as the parallels between their first year in the Promised Land and Bnei Yisrael's first year dance before their eyes.



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 more time on the background stories than we will on Tehilim itself.)

Sefer Melachim: Prophecy for Today

ADELE CHABOT



Ever wish that we had a prophet nowadays, someone to explain to us what God is thinking, shed light on society and current events, and offer us guidance? If only someone could tell us where everything is going! Look no further:

No book is more relevant to today's world stage than Sefer Melachim, with power struggles between mighty rivals, ambitious empires bristling to expand and conquer, cultures clashing and conflicting, and the struggle for peace. In this course, students will learn how to view today's news through the eyes of the prophets and gain insight into the direction in which society is headed. Students will also be hearing from the very stones of Israel themselves, with archaeological discoveries helping us experience ourselves what the people behind the pesukim felt, saw, and did.

The Best of Trei Asar

DANIELLA GRODKO / SHANA BET



As you flip through Tanach and reach the end of Nevi'im, you'll come across a bunch of names that probably don't sound very familiar. There was a prophet named Tzephaniah, and another named Chabakuk? In this course, we will explore

highlights of these short books, commonly known as "Trei Asar" (meaning "twelve," since there are twelve short books) and the bold things they did and said in attempt to return the people to God. These twelve נביאים prophesied over the course of 350 years, from the first Beit Hamikash all the way to the early years of the second Beit Hamikdash! We will explore the ever-changing circumstances of the Jewish people over this long period of time and the powerful messages these נביאים shared that still resonate today.

Chamesh Megilot

MALKA HUBSCHER

What is a megilah? How is it different from other books in Tanach? What are the connections between _____ and _____? Why does _____ sound so depressed in _____? How do we understand what the passionate love songs of _____ are doing in Tanach? How



are _____'s descriptions of the destroyed, desolate Jerusalem still relevant today? We will address what is unique about each of the five _____, studying the text and historical context of each _____; the themes unique to each; and uncovering new insights into these already well-known _____.

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 _____ and attempted 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.

The Wisdom of Mishlei

BRACHA KROHN / SHANA BET

A special hour focusing on the wisdom in *Sefer Mishlei*, topic by topic. Each week, we will learn *pesukim* relating to a theme and discuss that issue's relevance in our lives, looking at classic and contemporary sources. Shlomo ha-Melech's insight will blow you away!

הלכה

HALACHAH SECTION I: CONTEMPORARY HALACHAH

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 co-workers if they are going out to a non-kosher restaurant? Can I eat anything? 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 co-worker (if

ever)? This class will deal with practical issues that will arise in college and beyond and prepare you for that eventuality.

Did They Do the Right Thing?

Analyzing Halachah in Historical Situations

RAV ELI WAGNER / MEETS SUN + THU NIGHTS



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 we 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.

Alternatives in the Halachic Family

RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER

From as early as biblical days, the Jewish family has often been far from simple – even in the families of the Avot, we encounter half-siblings, divorce, kids who go "off the derech" or marry out, converts joining from the outside, and much more (not to



mention polygamy...). For observant Jews today, these situations are complex not only emotionally and interpersonally, but also halachically. For example:

My cousins are Reform, and they're having a Bar Mitzvah this Shabbat at their Reform temple. Can I daven there? Can I accept an aliyah to the Torah? What do I do about kashrut? How about the electronic key-cards, the automatic doors, and

the video cameras at the hotel? How do I work out kiddush and hamotzi?

My grandparents are having their 60th wedding anniversary at a treif restaurant. Can I attend, and if so, what can I eat?

My brother and his wife aren't observant, but my family wants to give them and their kids as much of a Shabbat experience as we can. Knowing they're going to drive, can we invite them? Can you give food to a Jew if you know she won't make a berachah?

My sibling (or my child, or my friend) is marrying someone who converted non-Orthodox, so halachically, their future spouse isn't necessarily Jewish. What do I do?

Intermarriage is the ultimate red line, but what other limits does halachah place on our relationships with non-Jews (and why) – can I give a birthday present to my non-Jewish friend, boss, or lab partner? Can I wish him a Merry Xmas? Can we have a glass of wine together after work? Can I go out to eat with my coworkers or classmates? What are the complexities in inviting non-Jews to my house for Shabbat or Yom Tov?

Your seminary teacher says something that makes you realize your mother's conversion by a Conservative rabbi twenty years ago might be questionable. Now you feel your Judaism is in question. How do poskim decide whether to require another conversion just to be safe?

Your seminary teacher says something that makes you realize your parents' marriage way back when might not be halachically valid (!) because no one at the wedding was Shomer Shabbat. What does this mean for them and for you?

It's common knowledge that Kohanim can't marry divorcees, but can they marry converts? What issues come up in a Kohen's marrying a woman who wasn't always observant?

What halachic issues come up with step-parents and step-siblings?

Join us to cover these issues and more, as we explore how halachah guides us with sensitivity through complex situations.



Jewish Medical Ethics

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

. Is abortion ever permitted – for

example, in cases of rape, a diseased or disabled fetus, or

severe financial difficulty – or is it like murder and always forbidden? When is

the precise moment of death, after which organs may be removed for

donation and patients may be detached from life support? Can a doctor ever help a suffering patient

die more quickly? 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? We will explore these topics and many more as we learn how

halachic decisions are made in today's world.



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 whatsaps? 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.

Ask the Rabbi:

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 to answering your pre-submitted-via-Whatsapp questions (enabling Rav Jason to research them); part to discussing questions from people all around the world; and part to handling the questions that come to you during the 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

Shiviti Hashem

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

No one person can actually keep all 613 mitzvot – some are just for kohanim, others just for kings, and so on; and even the mitzvot we can keep, we perform only whenever they actually come up, which tends to be now and then, here and there. But there are a unique few mitzvot that we can do every second of our lives, commandments which should be constantly on our minds and help us stay always focused on God. What are these mitzvot, and why were these special few chosen from all the others? Since these mitzvot address our hearts and minds, we must ask: How can we be commanded to have (or not have) certain thoughts and feelings? We will learn all about these mitzvot, how to keep them, and how their significance can enhance our everyday lives.



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 get to bottom-line practical halachah.

- **Kashrut:** We will cover practical topics in 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 “ ”; how long to wait between meat & milk; and many other topics. We will also relate to cleaning & kashering for ; how to kasher utensils (we’ll actually kasher things together to see how it’s done); what “glatt kosher” and “mehadrin” really mean; 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 Halacha

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? When can I tell someone something about someone, and when is it lashon hara? In this class, we will cover many of the halachos that come up in our 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. All killer, no filler!

The Jewish Life Cycle

RAV JASON KNAPEL

Ever wonder why people put all their jewelry around the baby at a pidyon haben? Do you say “Baruch She-petarani” on a Bat Mitzvah? Wonder why 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 do!



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; kol ishah; 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 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 Chanukah, 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.

Meaning in the Mitzvot

BRACHA KROHN



Do you want to appreciate mitzvot, enjoy them, and better understand the "why"? Each week, we will explore a selected mitzvah – birkat hamazon, kibbud av ve-em, and teshuvah, to name a few – in several ways that will add meaning to your mitzvah observance and help you truly connect. We

will find each mitzvah in its original Torah source and context; do a brief halachic overview to give the basic outline of what the mitzvah requires and lay the ground for you to learn more; explore reasons for the mitzvah that have been proposed throughout Jewish history so we can learn new ways to connect and finally, we will study midrashim about the mitzvah and stories in the Gemara related to its observance. This course will be fast-paced and full of interesting and inspiring learning to give you a relationship with mitzvot like you've never experienced before!

Hilchot Shabbat

RAV YITZCHOK LERNER / TWO SECTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

How do I navigate the kitchen on – 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 , or is there an alternative? How do I open packages in a permitted manner? When can I ask a non-Jew to do for me – and do I need to hint? How do I light candles in a hotel or dorm? What is considered proper dress for ? 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



example, many 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, guided



chavruta before each shiur will sharpen our skills and teach us 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 non-Jews to perform 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. And to lighten things up, every other week we'll cook together a favorite Shabbat food... and then enjoy eating it! Bring your appetite and your favorite recipes...

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" a real halachah, and does anyone really observe it? What is "yichud," and when do we have to worry about it? Are elevators and deserted parks considered 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

RAV JASON KNAPEL / ADVANCED

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 *minhag*, 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 all of those times when you realize you were doing things wrong all along because this

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 of those 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.

See You at Sinai

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

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.



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 *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. All killer, no filler!

backbone of all of Torah She-be-al Peh. We will be touching on topics that affect our daily Jewish lives.

Advanced Gemara

LEORA BEDNARSH

Seeking the greatest intellectual challenge in the world of ? Want to truly understand how



halachic thinking works and get inside the minds of the people who built our whole system? If so, this shiur may be for you. Join us as we enter the minds of Chazal, following their sophisticated logic as they develop halachah and establish its rules. As we improve our textual skills with chavruta, we will also

learn how to ask the right key questions when approaching a new topic; how to make meaningful analytical distinctions; and how to brainstorm creative solutions to challenging problems. We will be exploring Masechet Bava Kama.

Introduction to Gemara

RAV JASON KNAPEL

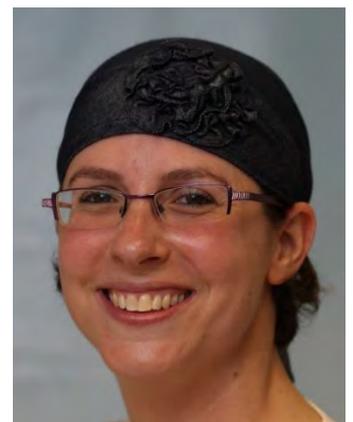
Have you ever wanted to open up a Gemara to find out what it’s all about, but thought it would be too hard or out of your comfort zone? In this shiur, we will become familiar with the text of the Gemara as we also learn how to think like the Gemara, the



Unlocking the Midrash

BRACHA KROHN

Was really three when she married – and if not, what lesson were hinting to us by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about



which one should be _____'s pillow? Are _____ teaching us history with these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of _____; what goals _____ 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 " _____ " and " _____ " as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the _____ you learn each week when studying _____.



Talmudic Tales

NEIMA NOVETSKY

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. Why does Hashem bring rain just because Choni refuses to leave his circle? If God Himself declares that one rabbi is correct, how can the other rabbis 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? Come find out!



"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.



CnC

“CHAVRUTOT & CHABUROT”



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 ☺, 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 Wednesday mornings at 10:00, 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 experience!

Late-Night Beis

Regular "Night Seder" ends at 9:20, but the Rambam teaches us that night-time learning is the highest-quality 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!

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 “*Netivot Shalom*”, a contemporary chasidic work written by Rabbi Shalom Noach Brozovsky, the Slonimer Rebbe, we will gain insight into the weekly and 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 *Chofetz Chaim*, one of the great 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 **mitzvot**, but do we know what they are? As we go through the **parsha**, we will become familiar with the main aspects of many of the 613 **mitzvot**. From there, we will jump off to other sources to explore the **halacha** for each **mitzva** 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.

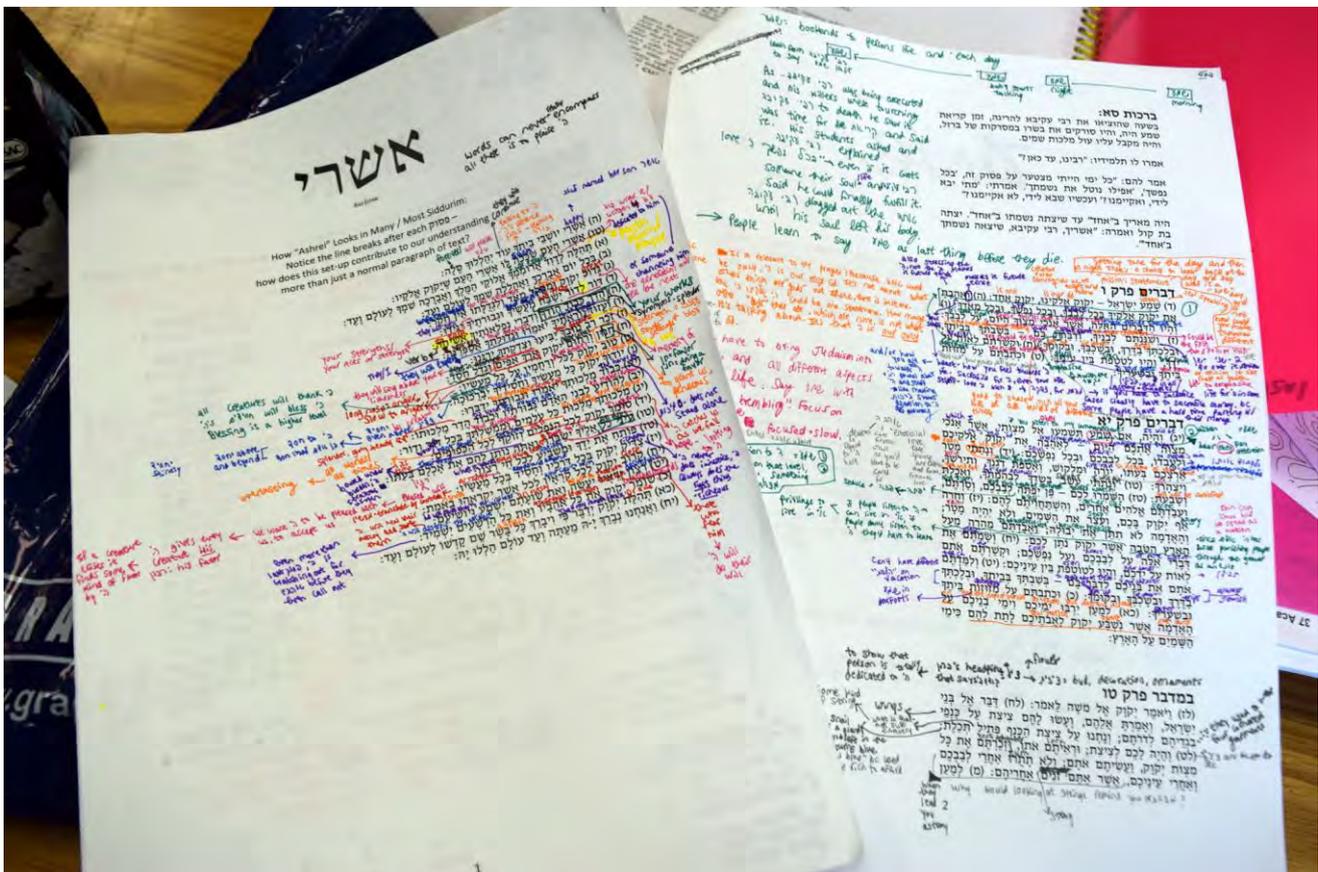
Pirkei Avot

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 תפילה 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 Beren Kollel 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 Mizrahi 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.



Ms. Adele Chabot's passion is teaching Tanach and helping students discover the joy of learning. Adele adds a unique perspective to all of her lessons with her knowledge of history and archaeology. Adele taught at Barkai Yeshivah in Brookyn and teaches at Horev boys' elementary school in Jerusalem. She also has experience in informal education, running an Israeli leadership and development program for teens for the past four years. Adele attended the Allegra Franco School of Educational Leadership, earned a BA in Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, and completed a Masters Degree in General Education and Special Education. In 2013, she became a published author with the launch of an inspirational and humorous book, *The Best Secret Revealed: A Year in Israel*, about her experiences in Israel for the year. Adele lives in Jerusalem.



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-be-missed. 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.



Dr. Aviva Goldstein 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.



Ms. Daniella Grodtko teaches Tanach and Jewish Thought. Daniella's pedagogical vision is to create a learning experience that engages her students' minds as well as their souls, being genuine and honest with the text while striving to understand its meaning and depth. It is very important to her to foster a language of religious thoughtfulness and to encourage curiosity and, most importantly, laughter. Daniella has taught at Nishmat and has broad experience in various informal educational roles. Daniella earned a BA in Philosophy and Jewish Studies at Stern College and is completing a Teacher's Certificate at Herzog College in Jewish Philosophy and an MA in Talmud at Bar Ilan. She is always available to have personal conversations about anything related to a student's personal growth and learning. Daniella lives in Tel Aviv.



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 Hilkhos 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 Hanoch Teller is a world-renowned storyteller and lecturer, known to many through his inspirational speaking in communities around the world and his 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 Zion 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 Yerushalayim.



Rabbi "Y.Y." Wenglin teaches Chasidut and Jewish Thought. Rav Wenglin's ultra-high-energy delivery, deep familiarity with Western culture, creativity and self-effacing 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 yeshivot 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...

FOOD PACKAGING:

Chasdei Naomi
Yad Ezra V'Shulamit
Pantry Packers

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Darkaynu: Learning in our Beit Midrash with students from Darkaynu
 ALEH: Working one-on-one with children with severe disabilities
 Shutaf: Prep for kids' activities, office work
 Siach Sod: working with special needs students
 Meshi: center for children with disabilities
 Weingarten HS: tutoring disadvantaged kids
 Or Meir U'Bracha: working with victims of terror and their families
 Kiruv Chavruta with Midreshet Rachel (Ba'alot Teshuvah)
 Kedma Medical Clowns
 WIZO: Volunteering with women and children at WIZO's center/shelter
 Kedma Student Volunteer Corps
 Nofei Yerushalayim Home for Elders / Elders of Beit Ha-Kerem
 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!

