

MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends



Issue 18

**Highlighting the graduating
classes of 2011-2015**

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MHA graduating class of 2011 on their eighth grade trip to St. Louis.

Front row, from left: **Ben Silberberg** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Yonatan Cooper** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Asher Finkelstein** (MHA '11), **Joey Stackhouse** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Motti Klein** (MHA '11).

Back row, from left: **Sara (Broniscer) Lent** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Racheli Brakha** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Meryl Musicante** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Lily Harkavy** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Alyssa Wruble** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Alexis Mantell** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Michelle Bouchard** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Emunah Serman** (MHA '11, FYOS '15).

MISSED AN
ISSUE?

ARCHIVES

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

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair

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MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

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Dear MHA/FYOS alumni and friends,



First and foremost, it is my distinct privilege to once again welcome our new graduates, the class of 2020, to our distinguished group of MHA/FYOS alumni! Dear graduates, you should be very proud to be part of this elite group - it is indeed a privilege.

But along with this privilege comes responsibility, as the bar for our graduates is indeed set very high. Please allow us to wish you much *mazal* (luck) and *hatzlacha* (success) in all your endeavors, and please know that we hope that you will always maintain your connections to our beloved school. Each of you will forever be a member of our Academy/Yeshiva family. Venture forward, dear graduates, and change the world. And then come home and tell us all about it!

Our 2020 graduates have already made history, as they graduated amid the global pandemic. These kids persevered, and it was remarkable to watch, as they completed their senior year, produced a yearbook, and graduated, all on Zoom. In addition, we wish *mazal tov* (congratulations) and *yasher koach* (kudos) to all the students who took advanced placement (AP) exams and to the amazing faculty who prepared them for these exams via Zoom. Twenty-one students took a total of 32 AP exams. Nationally, 60% of students score a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP exams. At our school, more than 97% of our students achieved those scores, with a vast majority scoring a 4 or 5. This would be a remarkable achievement during any school year, but with the challenges of this year, it is nothing short of astonishing. Our students and our faculty continually give us reason after reason to beam with pride!

I would be remiss if I didn't share the details of the wonderful and creative Zoom graduation that our administration and staff put together for their dear senior class. The members of the class of 2020 were, understandably, collectively disappointed that our beautiful annual graduation ceremony was not to be. But the school came through and saved the day. On Sunday, June 14, three days before the Zoom graduation, the entire faculty of the high school staged a parade, led by Rabbi Yonason Gersten on a float - dressed as Elvis - with Dr. Whitney Kennon (FYOS general studies principal) and Mrs. Sara Plotitsa (upper school coordinator) dressed in poodle skirts. The float and parade visited the home of every graduating senior, each of whom waited in their driveway, dressed in their graduation regalia. As Rabbi Gersten performed an original Elvis-type song ("It takes some imagination, for a quarantine graduation..."), Dr. Kennon presented each graduate with their diploma. Then, a few days later, on June 17, the actual Zoom graduation took place. All of the aspects that are so unique to our graduation ceremony were replicated on Zoom, including the famous "Rabbi Gersten talks about each student" tradition. Thanks to the efforts and creativity of our amazing faculty and administration, and parent/technology maven Noam Davidovics, our graduates did not feel cheated, but instead felt special and loved. It was a beautiful moment that will stay in my heart forever.

We have all been living through this COVID nightmare for many months now. Personally, I have been sheltering at home for seven months and counting. At this point, MHA/FYOS has reopened for a brand new school year, with every possible safety precaution in place. This is all new and uncharted territory, and we must all *daven* (pray) for strength and guidance.

MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

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The FYOS graduation float, manned by Elvis impersonator Rabbi Yonason Gersten.



Dr. Whitney Kennon (left) and Mrs. Sara Plotitsa (right).



Thanks to the magic of technology, Rabbi Yonason Gersten speaks about **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20), class valedictorian, at the school's Zoom graduation on June 17.

As our regular readers know, our newsletter editor, since the very first edition, has been **Amara Levine-Reich** (MHA '94, FYOS '97). She is an extraordinarily talented writer and editor. She is currently facing her own set of challenges during this pandemic. At my insistence we relieved her of some of her responsibilities for this issue and enlisted some guest editors, without whom we never would have completed this issue. I would like to take a moment to thank these guest editors and writers: Shelley Kutliroff, **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04), Shoshana Cenker, Rachel Schwartzberg, Aviva Hauser and Jen Wise. Thank you, thank you, for giving of your time and expertise so generously.

In this issue, we have included some corona-era stories from our alumni, many of whom are serving on the front lines of defense. As always, our alumni have distinguished themselves both in battling this disease and in dealing with it through courage and *chesed* (kindness).

I also want to take a moment to welcome Rabbi Dr. Josh Wise, who arrived this summer to assume the position of general and Judaic studies principal for grades 1-8. Dr. Wise brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our school, and we are very excited to have him here.

I always see this time of year as a time of new beginnings. If ever we needed a new beginning, it is now. Please know that you are all in my *tefillot* (prayers) during these difficult times. May all of us in the MHA/FYOS family remain safe and strong, and may Hashem speedily bring an end to this deadly pandemic. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Shana Tova,

Joanne Kahane, alumni chair
joannekahane111@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni,



I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself as I begin in my new role as president of the MHA/FYOS board of trustees.

While I grew up in London, England, I have lived in the U.S. for over 25 years, mostly in Teaneck, New Jersey. That is until just over five years ago, when my firm asked me if I'd consider moving to Memphis, Tennessee.

During the summer of 2015, our family made a number of whirlwind visits to Memphis and liked what we saw. My wife and I took a deep breath and made the move south! Since then, we've come to love so much about this wonderful community that many of you have called home at one time or another. Our oldest children, **Yosef** (FYOS '17) and **Alexandra** (FYOS '19), have graduated from the CYHSB and GMSG, respectively, while our younger two children, AJ and Coby, are in the 7th and 11th grades, respectively.

What a wonderful time to be the newly elected president of the MHA/FYOS board of trustees! We had a highly successful [virtual journal ad campaign](#), thanks to our journal committee led by Tracey Mendelson and Sarah Bracha Wogan. As we look ahead, we're celebrating growth in the Memphis Jewish community, a 10% increase in student enrollment, new and exciting members of faculty including Rabbi Dr. Josh Wise, our new Judaic and general studies principal, and we are looking ahead

with excitement to the development of the Mary Pikelny S.T.E.A.M. Center.

While there is the matter of a global pandemic, as well as a recession, it has been inspiring to see our head of school Rabbi Benjy Owen and his team approach the new school year informed, composed and positive as they rise to the challenge of reopening our school building.

At the time of this writing, we're at the cusp of the new school year, and a special thank you must go out to the Reopening Task Force, which has been working tirelessly to create a set of protocols and plans for reopening. In addition, we have a tremendous sense of *hakarat haTov* (gratitude) to our teachers who have been preparing to educate our children in person while adhering to all of the safety protocols and virtual instruction.

I think it's understandable, given the current environment, that I look ahead with some trepidation. However, as the MHA/FYOS moves into its seventh decade, I take comfort in the fact that we have not only survived but continued to thrive, oftentimes against the odds.

I know it has taken many people a tremendous amount of effort to keep the MHA/FYOS open through thick and thin. I recently had a look at some of the events that have occurred during the past 70 years. There have been 11 recessions, the civil rights movement, a multitude of U.S. conflicts, and now a global pandemic along with another recession. I know that we're going to look back at 2020 and say "our world changed then."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yoel Goldblatt

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Since moving to Memphis, I've often remarked that one of the advantages of living in a smaller community is that each person counts and their voice is heard. It takes each one of us to make the community work, and that most definitely includes all of you, our alumni, more so than ever before as we navigate our way through the current crisis.

As we start preparing for the *Yamim Noraim* and our upcoming annual operational campaign, I urge you to please get involved and help ensure the MHA/FYOS continues its mission, especially at this uncertain time. While we value and need the material support, partnering with us is so much

more than financial. I welcome you to please reach out with opportunities, suggestions, introductions and even thoughts and recommendations.

Wishing you and your family a *shana tova u'metukah* – a good and sweet new year – in only the best of health.

Yoel Goldblatt

President, MHA/FYOS Board of Trustees

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D'VAR TORAH

Bradley Goldmeier (FYOS '13)

Hilchos teshuva, literally, means the laws about repenting. But wait, laws about how to do *teshuva* (repent)? Doesn't that concept seem a bit self-contradictory? Let's take a deeper look.

Teshuva very much feels like something that is supposed to be personal, from the depths of one's heart. If someone were to read a script or peruse an instruction manual and repeat the words verbatim while apologizing, wouldn't that take something significant away from the actual apology? And aside from that issue, how can it be that Hashem decrees a law commanding a person to make a total about-face and return to doing the right thing, return to following the law? Shouldn't the laws always be followed? In theory, there shouldn't be a need for a law to command that the laws are followed. Laws are laws for a reason.

This all seems superfluous, and yet, we know that nothing that Hashem does is superfluous, and that there are no extra words in the Torah.

So how can we make sense of all this?

To get an idea of what this might mean, let's take a closer look at Rambam's *hilchos teshuva* and try to come up with some answers, together.

כל מוצות שפטורה בין עשה בין לא פעשה אם עבר
אדם על אמת מהו גיו בזדון בין בשוגה בשייעשה
תשובה וישוב מחייב מחייב מחייב לחייב ה ברוך
הוא שנאמר (במדבר ה) איש או אשה כי יעשה וגוי
(במדבר ה) והחודה את מטהכם אשר עשו זה וכי
דברים. וזה זה מוצות עשה.

The Rambam opens up his *hilchos teshuva* with what seems like a *chiyuv* (obligation) to do *teshuva*, then describes in detail how to do *teshuva*. He has given us an instruction manual, so to speak, which, as discussed above, seems to be philosophically

difficult. The Rambam's steps to do *teshuva* are: *azivat hachet* (letting go of the sin), *kabbalah laasid* (vowing to not repeat it), *charata* (regret) and, last but not least, *vidui* (confession).

However, perhaps we read the first line too quickly. The Rambam says:

בשיעשה תשובה וישוב מחייב מחייב לחייב.

When translated, this reads: "When you decide on your own to do *teshuva* then, and only then, you have a *chiyuv* to do *vidui*." There is no actual command here to do *teshuva*. It's just that when you decide to do *teshuva*, you have to do *vidui*.

We may have answered one big question, but we still need some clarification. It's a bit strange that one of the elements of *teshuva* is also the *chiyuv*. What is more interesting is that *vidui* is fundamentally different from the others. It's the only one that cannot be done in your own head. You actually need to verbalize something.

But why is *vidui* singled out? To find out, let's take a look at the other three steps. One way or another they all seem to be ways of removing yourself from the *aveira* (transgression). The only difference is the time frame: past, present and future. One has to completely rid themselves of the sin, both in time and space. But that still isn't the *mitzvah*. The actual *mitzvah* is the *vidui*. The others are just preparations for the *mitzvah* of *vidui*.

So, if *vidui* is the actual *mitzvah*, then what exactly is *vidui*?

As we noted before, *vidui* is the only step you cannot do inside your own head. It seems like the other three elements are about making you a better person while *vidui* is about fixing the relationship.

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D'VAR TORAH

Bradley Goldmeier (FYOS '13)

A person cannot fix a relationship before working on themselves and removing themselves from the source of what caused the damage in the first place. In chapter 2, the Rambam likens this to one who goes to the *mikvah* while holding onto a *shaarets* (creeping creature). The *mikvah* can't work if one is still holding on to the item that is making them *tamei* (ritually impure).

Doing *teshuva* is not just reading from a script or saying magic words while banging on your chest. *Teshuva* is real work - it requires reflections, changing deeply ingrained ways and habits and doing things differently in the future. And even once all of that is done, there is even more to do - because repairing relationships, whether between oneself and others or between oneself and Hashem, is the real goal of doing *teshuva* in the first place.

Wishing you all a good and meaningful year full of growth.

Bradley Goldmeier (FYOS '13) is currently living in Cleveland, Ohio, with his wife Chelsea (who is in dental school) and his two-year-old son, Yehuda. He currently learns at Kollel Yad Chaim Mordechai in Cleveland.



‘13



D'VAR TORAH

Chaya Klein (MHA '14, FYOS '18)

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As we once again approach the High Holidays, I believe we will all have a new perspective on what this time means for us. While the *Unetaneh Tokef* words of “who by plague...” might hit a bit too close to home this year, I want to draw attention to the sounding of the *shofar* and the power that it has.

Regarding Rosh Hashanah, the Mishnah says, "The *mitzvah* of the day is with the *shofar*." The Baal Shem Tov explains the concept of the *shofar* blast as being like a child who cries out, "Father, father, save me!" However, the main focus is not necessarily the content of the cry, but the cry itself.

We are all different. Therefore the contents of our cries are different, but we all cry out to G-d. We may express it in different ways, but when we truly turn to G-d in times of need, it is from the depths of our souls that we cry. This is what the sounds of the *shofar* are all about: a cry from the depths of our souls. And that is what breaks through the gates of heaven and reaches G-d, our Father.

There is a parable by Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev. It tells of a boy who wanted an apple, but his father didn't want to give it to him. The clever boy quickly said the blessing over fruits, leaving his father with no other choice but to give the fruit to his son, lest the blessing be made in vain.

At times, a father does not want to give in to his child. There are times when he does, but he denies his child's request because he wants to bring out something more from the child. He wants to see how clever he is. Will he find an alternate way to get his wish?

In our case, G-d wants to give to the Jewish people, His children. G-d wants us to serve Him and therefore wants to give us what we need to serve Him.

This is why in the Rosh Hashanah *Musaf* prayer, at the culmination of the verses of *shofar*, we conclude with

the blessing, "Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, Who hears the sound of the *teruah* of Your nation Israel with compassion."

When it comes to saying a blessing with G-d's name, the rule is that if there is any doubt of the blessing's necessity, we don't say it, because we do not want to say His name in vain. Yet here we say, "Who hears the sound of the *teruah* of Your nation Israel," and not only that but He hears it "with compassion." The fact that we are using G-d's name is because it is absolutely certain that G-d hears our *teruah*, the cry from the depths of our souls, and that He hears it with compassion. He will grant us all our needs, especially health and sustenance.

The central theme of Rosh Hashanah is twofold: First, we reach up to G-d, and accept Him as our King, and the yoke of His Torah. Then He, in turn, accepts upon Himself to grant us all the blessings he said He would give us.

This year has been rocky, filled with uncertainty, unrest and suffering. When we sound the *shofar* this Rosh Hashanah, the cry from the depths of our souls, we should know that Hashem will surely grant us what we need, including an end to these uncertain times, as well as good health and a much more positive year to come.

Chaya Klein (MHA '14, FYOS '18) is the daughter of the Chabad of Tennessee's Rabbi Levi and Rivky Klein. She spent this past year working for the Chabad Centers of Chengdu, China, and Playa del Carmen, Mexico, teaching in preschools, establishing Hebrew schools, running community programs and events, and more. She is starting Touro College this fall in New York and hopes to build her own photography business soon.



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‘18

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ALUMNI CHAIR

Community Responses

We welcome your feedback on the alumni newsletter at alumni@mhafyos.org. Here are some of the responses we received to Issue No. 17.

I am so grateful for all of the hard work that goes into this newsletter! The world feels so crazy right now, and reading this issue was a breath of fresh air. I so enjoy seeing what all of my fellow alumni have accomplished with their lives over the years - especially the ones who were in school at the same time as I was. And the pictures just make it that much more fun. Thank you so much for putting together this newsletter. It is so enjoyable!

- **Elana (Sadetsky) Avis** (MHA '93, FYOS '97)

Thanks for another magnificent newsletter and the look-back at cherished memories. I'm so grateful to have spent my "wonder years" at the MHA. May Hashem grant a speedy *refuah* [recovery] to those sickened by the coronavirus.

- **Jesse Schwartzman** (MHA '72)

Thank you.

- **Fred Rabhan** (YOS '75)

I felt compelled to take a minute to say thank you again for the amount of time, love and dedication that goes into the making and creating of the alumni newsletter. It's fabulous!

- **Sally (Rhodes) Baer** (YOS '74)

The alumni newsletter is so wonderful! Thank you!

- **Noson Yanofsky** (YOS '85)

What a great job y'all have done on the alumni newsletter! The world is stressful these days and some MHA/FYOS nostalgia is just what the doctor ordered!

- **Jeff Dlugach** (MHA '80)

I specifically saved reading the newsletter for a day when I had some real time to devote to it. The alumni newsletter is great - as usual. Thank you so much!

- **Naomi (Belsky) Homnick** (MHA '74, YOS '78)

What can I send in to the newsletter to be a part of the party? Can I send in some exciting news for the mazal tov section or perhaps something about our special and beloved Memphis mama, Leah Goldstein, she should live and be well? Be healthy and well!

- **Julie (Goldstein) Brown** (MHA '76, YOS '80)

Response from the editor and chair: Thanks for asking, Julie. There are several things you can do to be "part of the party." Here is a list:

1. *Write a letter to the editor, which you have just done.*
2. *Let us know when there is an engagement, marriage, birth or bar/bat mitzvah in your family.*

3. Send in a picture of you with other alumni for our Alumni Reunite section.
4. Complete the questionnaire the next time we highlight your years.

We look forward to hearing from you again.

I printed out the most recent alumni newsletter edition on Friday and was so happy to have such wonderful, pleasant and uplifting material to read over *Shabbos*. I hope you, your family and the whole MHA family are doing well!

- **Dawn (Posner) Goldstein** (MHA '77, YOS '81)

I just wanted to take a moment to wish good health to you, your family and all of the alumni. I really look forward to the newsletter because it helps us all stay in touch. This newsletter always gives a wonderful feeling of community - thank you so very much for all your efforts.

- **John Winestone** (MHA '93)

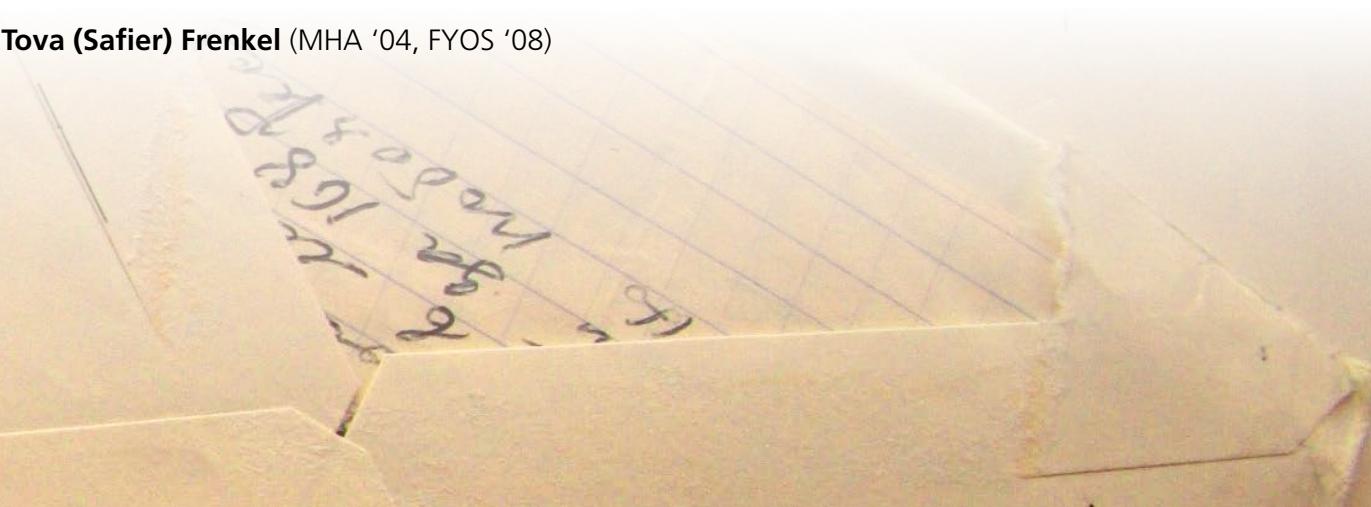
I am always so excited to read the highlights from all the MHA alumni! I hope you know what a great job you do with each newsletter! All the best.

- **Tova (Safier) Frenkel** (MHA '04, FYOS '08)

As I was reading the alumni newsletter, I couldn't help but think of you and the photos that you share in each edition - they mean so much to me. The pictures in the newsletter tell such wonderful stories, and there is often so much more to each picture than meets the eye. It might be an interesting idea for someone in each photo to write a brief review of their thoughts and memories of that time. I miss you and so cherish the memories the newsletter brings with it. A most heartfelt *yasher koach*.

- Shari Schwartz (former Memphis resident)

Response from the editor and chair: Shari, you have such great thoughts. Check out the Flashbacks section. We have tried to incorporate your idea.



TRIVIA ANSWERS 1991-1995

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [17th issue](#).

Rivka (Goldfein) Kramer (MHA '88, YOS '92) correctly answered 7 out of 15 questions and is the winner of our last trivia contest.

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

Here are the correct answers to the trivia questions from issue No. 17. How did you do?

1. Where was the eighth grade class of 1988 (who became the YOS graduates of '92) headed for their graduation trip when their bus broke down? After the breakdown, what did they eat for dinner and where? How did they get back to Memphis?

ANSWER: St. Louis. BBQ ribs in a parking lot. On a school bus.

2. In 1986, the second grade class (who became the MHA graduates of '92) had a special competition whenever hamburgers were served. What was it?

ANSWER: Who could eat the most sour hamburger dill chip pickles at once.

3. What was by far the most popular school lunch during that period?

ANSWER: Sloppy Joes. However, we received many "grilled cheese" responses, so we accepted both as correct.

4. What pitch did the World's Finest Chocolate salesman tell the students to yell out to win a mini chocolate bar from him?

ANSWER: "Granddaddy, I loooooove you!"

5. What punishment did Dr. Jerry Kutliroff give to misbehaving students in lieu of suspending them?

ANSWER: Picking up garbage in the parking lot.

6. To which computer programs did Mr. Lou (Franceschini) introduce students?

ANSWER: Logo Writer and Oregon Trail.

7. What text did Rabbi Yonason Gersten have his students copy when giving out assignments?
ANSWER: Encyclopedia Judaica (he actually checked you were not skipping).
8. In what dangerous playground activity did students engage and the school had to eventually ban?
ANSWER: Jumping off the swing sets from their peak height.
9. How was a kickball “homer” scored on the MHA blacktop?
ANSWER: Hitting the gym roof (also called a roofer).
10. What class activity included culture and taking off three weeks from regular classes?
ANSWER: The Shakespeare plays.
11. What was the most mysterious off-limits part of the school campus?
ANSWER: The upstairs closet behind the stage in the gym.
12. Which room had the nicest bathroom in the school?
ANSWER: The teachers' lounge. (This room initially served as the principal's office, so both answers were accepted.)
13. What was the hardest challenge of the year in Mrs. Cherry Koehler's gym class?
ANSWER: Running a mile from school, up Laurie Lane and down Brantford.
14. What did Rabbi Salid enjoy eating directly from the can during school?
ANSWER: Campbell's vegetable soup.
15. On a GMSG camping/hiking trip to Virgin Falls (located between Nashville and Chattanooga), students decided to unofficially change the name of the park. To what did they propose changing the name, and why?
ANSWER: "Virgins Falling," after a few girls fell into some very cold water.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS 2011-2015

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

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



1. **Seth Goldstein** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) was featured in a *Commercial Appeal* article by Geoff Calkins in response to what event that occurred during an athletic gathering?
2. During the CYHSB's exciting run to win Tier 2 at the Red Saracheck Basketball Tournament, which assistant coach delivered this impassioned speech just before our Macs met Maimonides on the court: "We're from Memphis; we play basketball. They're from Boston; they play hockey"?
3. In what year did the Macs win the Cooper Invitational Tournament, and who won the MVP award that year?
4. Whose son's bris did the boys' high school miss due to issues with the bus on the Gatlinburg trip?
5. Which 2014 MHA graduate was known for being "obsessed with steak"?
6. Which middle school rabbi was known for saying, "Gentlemen, this is your time, not mine"?
7. Who said, "Although the odds were against them, it seems my parents were the only ones to have a girl in 1994." What was the occasion, and why did the person say this?
8. Which teacher was (and probably still is) the most frequently "impersonated"?
9. What was the hottest fashion item in the GMSG during the '12-'13 school year?
10. On the GMSG back-to-school trip in 2011, the girls spent a day in Birmingham, Alabama. What was the purpose of this stop?



ENGAGEMENTS/ WEDDINGS:

Mazel tov to:

Rabbi Yosef and **Julie (Goldstein) Brown** (MHA '76, YOS '80) of Beitar Illit, Israel, who are celebrating two simchas. On Sept. 1, their son Yehuda got married to Michal Navon, with Julie's 94-year-old mother—former Memphian Leah Goldstein—in attendance and dancing with the family. Additionally, the Browns' son Eliyahu is planning a Nov. 3 wedding to fiancé Hodaya Shklar.

Rabbi Eliyahu and **Devorah (Sharon Wolff) Herbst** (YOS '80) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on the engagement of their daughter Chani to Avraham Yitzchak Orlowek. They will marry Oct. 19 in Lakewood, which is where they will reside.

Rabbi Daniel and **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on the marriage of their daughter Yael to Sender Galbut. The couple married in a small backyard ceremony in Lakewood due to the pandemic and plan to live in Israel.

Rena and **Ephraim Kutner** (MHA '85) of Lawrence, New York, on the Aug. 9 marriage of their son Aaron Dovid to Hannah Usher in New Jersey. The newlyweds will make their home in Israel. Mazel tov also to grandparents **Alan (MHA '62) and Barbara (Katz) Kutner** (MHA '64, YOS '68) of Memphis.

Dayna and **Phillip Klitzner** (MHA '92, FYOS '96) on the marriage of their daughter Shani to Ezra Simon. The outdoor wedding took place Aug. 12 on Vashon Island in Puget Sound. The couple will live in Israel.

Mark Kaplan (MHA '00) on his engagement to Lindsey Weinberg. They will get married Memorial Day Weekend 2022 in St. Louis, Missouri, which is where they plan to live.

Elaina Kaufman (MHA '05, FYOS '09) on her Aug. 9 wedding to Gary Mittelman in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (also where the couple resides). Mazel tov also to the parents of the bride, Seth and **Lisa (Wruble) Kaufman** (MHA '73) of Memphis.

Mirav Hazan (MHA '09) on her Jan. 12 marriage to Avi Hollander in New Windsor, New York. The newlyweds are living in Columbus, Ohio.

Efroni Schlesinger (MHA '09) on his engagement to Avigail Bessler. They are planning an Oct. 12 wedding in Jerusalem, which is where they will live. Mazel tov also to the groom's parents, David and **Linda (Ostrow) Schlesinger** (MHA '74) of Memphis.

Noah Hazan (MHA '10) on his Aug. 19 marriage to Sarah Schwartz in Hillside, New York. The newlyweds live in New Hyde Park, New York.

Sarah Belz (MHA '10, FYOS '14) on her engagement to Paul Hess. The couple is planning a May 30, 2021, wedding at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis and will live in New York City.

Bryan Itkowitz (MHA '10, FYOS '14) on his engagement to Tamar Weiss. They will marry Oct. 18 at the Psagot Winery in Israel and plan to live in Givat Shmuel.

Akiva Somer (MHA '10, FYOS '14) on his engagement to Rachel

Gouldner. The couple will wed in Israel in May 2021. They will be living in Be'er Sheva, where they will continue their medical studies.

Shani Braverman (MHA '12, FYOS '16) on her Aug. 20 wedding to Ben Winter at the Memphis Botanic Garden. They plan to live in Far Rockaway, New York. Mazel tov also to the bride's parents Kevin and **Rivka (Katz) Braverman** (MHA '89, FYOS '93) and grandparents Esther and **Allan Katz** (MHA '65, YOS '69).

BIRTHS:

Mazel tov to:

Bill and **Annette (Silber) Eisenberg** (YOS '74) of Memphis on the April 10 arrival of granddaughter Camille, born to Leigh and Jeremy Less of Memphis.

Sylvia and **Erwin "Bubba" Albert** (MHA '71) of Memphis on the March 27 birth of grandson Myles, whose proud parents are Memphians Wendi and Jason Stec.

Bart (YOS '77) and **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA

'76, YOS '80) of Memphis, who recently celebrated the arrival of two grandchildren. Meira and **Yaakov Ehrenkranz** (MHA '98) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, welcomed daughter Sarah Michal on June 5; mazel tov also to siblings Yossef Yehuda, Shmuel Mordechai, Miriam Chana and Batya Shoshana. On Aug. 5, baby girl Faiga Leah was born to Yitzchak and **Shifra (Ehrenkranz) Barer** (MHA '10) of Jerusalem, Israel, making Yosef Yehuda a big brother.

Aviva and **Josh Friedman** (MHA '87) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, on the Jan. 1 birth of son Shmuel. Mazel tov also to siblings Moshe, Yisroel, Yehuda, Reuven, Binyomin, Esther, Liba and Yosef Chaim.

Sean and **Miriam (Eljas) Goldman** (FYOS '96) of Jerusalem, Israel, on the May 14 birth of daughter Emma Nechama. Mazel tov also to big brother Yehoshua.

Josh and **Rebecca (Wender) Chubak** (MHA '99) of Westchester, New York, who on April 9 welcomed son Henry. Mazel tov also to siblings Olivia and Jacob and grandparents Sally

and **Mark Wender** (MHA '70, YOS '74) of Memphis.

Rivka and **Benjamin Rubenstein** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) of Baltimore, Maryland, on the May 23 birth of baby girl Tzvia Malka. Mazel tov also to siblings Aliza and Rafi and grandparents Marvin and **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72) of Memphis.

Travis and **Stephanie (Barrack) Davidson** (MHA '04) of Atlanta, Georgia, who became parents with the Aug. 21 birth of daughter Hadley Michelle. Mazel tov also to grandparents Jon and **Cindy (Califf) Barrack** (MHA '75) of Memphis.

Esther and **Avishai Schlesinger** (MHA '04, FYOS '08) of Givat Shmuel, Israel, on the April 30 birth of their first child, son Nate. Mazel tov also to grandparents David and **Linda (Ostrow) Schlesinger** (MHA '74) of Memphis.

Alex and **Naomi (Samberg) Vainer** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) of Brooklyn, New York, on the Aug. 10 birth of son Meir Eliyahu. Mazel tov also to big brothers Yehuda and Yosef Chaim and

grandparents (and former MHA faculty members) Cantor Aryeh and Adina Samberg of Memphis.

Shiran and **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) of Givat Shmuel, Israel, on the Sept. 2 arrival of their daughter Talia Rochel. Mazel tov also to grandparents Jonathan and **Abbe (Seiger) Kaplan** (MHA '71) of Memphis.

Ruvi and **Jamie (Epstein) Gibber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14) of Memphis on the May 29 arrival of baby boy Dovid Avraham. Mazel tov also to siblings Shaindy and Yoel and grandparents **Mike** (MHA '68, YOS '71) and **Amy (Thomas) Epstein** (MHA '71, YOS '75), also of Memphis.

BNEI/BNOT MITZVAH:

Mazel tov to:

Aviva and **Josh Friedman** (MHA '87) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, on the July 4 bar mitzvah of their son Yehuda.

Rabbi Elie and **Naama (Aviner) Weinstock** (MHA '90, FYOS '94) of New York City on the July 26 bat mitzvah of their daughter Yakira.

Fraidy and **Elisha Kutliroff** (MHA '93) of Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel, on the July 11 celebration of their son Eliyahu David becoming a bar mitzvah. Mazel tov also to the paternal grandparents, former MHA/FYOS administrators Dr. Jerry and Shelley Kutliroff.

Josh and **Amanda (Mack) Gurock** (FYOS '98) of Albany, New York, on the Aug. 3 bar mitzvah celebration for their twin sons, Jacob and Max.

Benny and **Esther (Schachter) Friedman** (MHA '96) of Modi'in, Israel, on their son Yedidya becoming a bar mitzvah on May 29. They celebrated with a Torah reading in the park. (The bar mitzvah boy's father previously worked at the MHA as a member of the Kollel Torah MiTzion.) Mazel tov also to grandparents Mendy and **Marilyn (Weinreich) Schachter** (MHA '71) of Cleveland, Ohio.

MAZEL TOV!

SEND US YOUR ALUMNI NEWS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE AT ALUMNI@MHAFYOS.ORG.



THE MHA/FYOS CLASSES OF 2011-2015

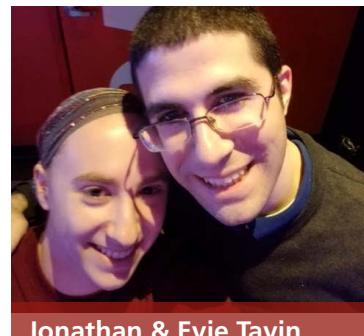
Where are they now?

Moshe Blockman (MHA '07, FYOS '11) lives in New York City, working in business development at Taboola. His favorite memory from MHA/FYOS is all the extracurricular activities he participated in: basketball, steak dinner, Purim videos, school play and high school yearbook. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Ashley George.

‘07
‘11

‘07
‘11

Jonathan Tavin (MHA '07, FYOS '11) is an assistant controller at Centers Healthcare in New York. His wife Evie, from Dallas, Texas, is a fourth-grade teacher in a nearby public school. Jonathan can be reached at jrtavin@gmail.com.



Jonathan & Evie Tavin



Sade & Jonathan

Sade Cooper (MHA '08, FYOS '12) lives on the Upper West Side in New York City with her husband Jonathan Etra. They were married two years ago. Sade works in health care consulting at Crossix, and Jonathan is in real estate development.

"It's hard to pick one favorite teacher," she said, "but I have really fond memories of math classes with Mrs. Karin Schmitt and Mr. Dana Vaughn; history classes with Dr. Whitney Kennon and Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff; and *chumash* with Mrs. Melissa Perl."

Cooper also loved weekly Box Mania with Rabbi Sheftel Skaist in elementary school. "I am so grateful for all of the wonderful teachers I had at the MHA," she added, "and I always look forward to reading the alumni newsletter for a walk down memory lane!"

‘08
‘12

Gidon Feen (FYOS '13) came to MHA/FYOS as a dorm student from St. Louis, Missouri, though his family now lives in Atlanta. For the past two-and-a-half years, he's served as a director at SAFE, a think tank based in Washington, DC, where he lives. "SAFE operates at the intersection of transportation technology, energy security and national security policy," he said. "Our leadership council is co-chaired by Fred Smith (founder of FedEx), keeping my Memphis connection strong. Among many projects, I recently authored a 50-page report, 'Fostering Economic Opportunity through Autonomous Vehicle Technology.' Think of it as autonomous vehicles + economic opportunity + policy solutions."

'13

Feen has also maintained a strong connection to the DC Jewish community, being active in Jewish Federation's Ben-Gurion Society and the B'nai Brith Young Leadership Network. "Recently I was selected by the Japanese government to travel to Japan and represent young Jewish American leaders as part of their Kakehashi program," he said. "Additionally, on behalf of Eshel, I speak internationally to universities and Jewish communities on the value of LGBTQ acceptance in the Orthodox community. In the fall, I will be moving to London to begin a master's program in international studies and diplomacy."

"My family moved to Atlanta four years ago. One sister of mine is currently working and living in New York, with the next about to begin college, and the other two at Atlanta Jewish Academy."

He'd like to tell the Memphis community that he has tremendous *hakaras haTov* (gratitude) for his years spent at MHA/FYOS. "As a dorm student, I remember being apprehensive about starting school so far away from home," Feen said. "Yet, the community could not have made me feel better or more welcome. I still look back with such fondness at my years spent in Memphis."

Of those fond memories, there are just "too many to recount — including the time we 'kidnapped' Rabbi Uriel Lubetski while camping and tied him to a tree," he remembered. "But a highlight for me was getting to attend the YU Model UN conference, giving me an early taste of the international affairs world."

Another wonderful memory is that of his favorite teacher, Mrs. Abby Johnson. "I have always loved literature and writing, and Mrs. Johnson unlocked new ways of thinking for me through her teaching," he said. "I enjoyed every minute of her classes." And finally, to his classmates, who made his time in Memphis so special, he suggests they stay engaged in their communities.



Feen family

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THE MHA/FYOS CLASSES OF 2011-2015

Where are they now?

‘09

‘13

Ethan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13) just wrapped up a two-year stint in investment banking at Lazard in New York, where he lives. He'll be joining a private equity firm in NYC this fall.

Cooper says "it's truly hard to pick one" favorite memory from attending MHA/FYOS. "The school trips (from Gatlinburg to the canoe trip), basketball tournaments, school plays and debate competitions were all really well organized and super fun," he noted.

"Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff and Dr. Whitney Kennon stand out as two great teachers and role models of mine," Cooper said. "They are both super engaging as educators, and they both take a great deal of pride in their students' development and successes.

"I have always been impressed by the caliber of students and friends in my grade," he added. "We had an incredibly large and dynamic grade of 18 boys. Even today, I am still in touch with at least a dozen of my classmates. I hope we can continue to hold on to the strong bond that we have and remain close as time goes by."



Ethan & Elisheva, who got married Sept. 6

Dylan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13) lives in Long Island, New York, and is a second-year student at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. "We're transitioning back to in-person learning after a few months of remote learning," he said. "Anatomy lab is quite different over Zoom."

At MHA/FYOS, his favorite teachers were Dr. Whitney Kennon, Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff, Mrs. Talya Tsuna and Rabbi Yonason Gersten.

"I loved how many opportunities there were available outside the classroom in high school," Cooper said of his time at MHA/FYOS. "I appreciated the high school administration's flexibility in setting up each student's academic schedule to help achieve his or her learning goals."

‘09
‘13

Gabriel Address (MHA '10, FYOS '14) lives in Jerusalem, learning at Yeshivas Toras Moshe. Married to Matti (formerly Fuld) from Teaneck, New Jersey, the couple has a one-year-old daughter named Rachel.

Address' favorite memory from MHA/FYOS is being in the school play, "The Government Inspector," his freshman year. "It was so much fun to be part of such a hilarious (and controversial) play," he said, "and to put it in director Dr. Jerry Kutliroff's words, 'The boys really directed themselves.'"

‘10**‘14**

He says selecting a favorite teacher is really a tough choice. "I can think of more than a handful of honorable mentions, but I have to name Mrs. Shelley Kutliroff," Addess said. "She was the most informative, impartial and personal teacher I had, both inside and outside the classroom, and I feel like I gained the most from her as early as middle school."

His message to our community is thanking everyone for letting him indulge in his creative side while he was growing up. "Whether it was writing for the school newsletter, performing on multiple occasions in the school band, or contributing to the annual steak dinner video, I really felt like I was able to find myself in an honest way before entering adulthood," he said. "Almost all of my teachers and fellow community members really supported and encouraged me throughout the whole way."

As for his message to classmates: reach out! "I would love to be in contact with you," Addess said, "and catch up to find out what you're up to." His email is gabriel.addess@gmail.com.

**Gabe & Matti**

Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK! 

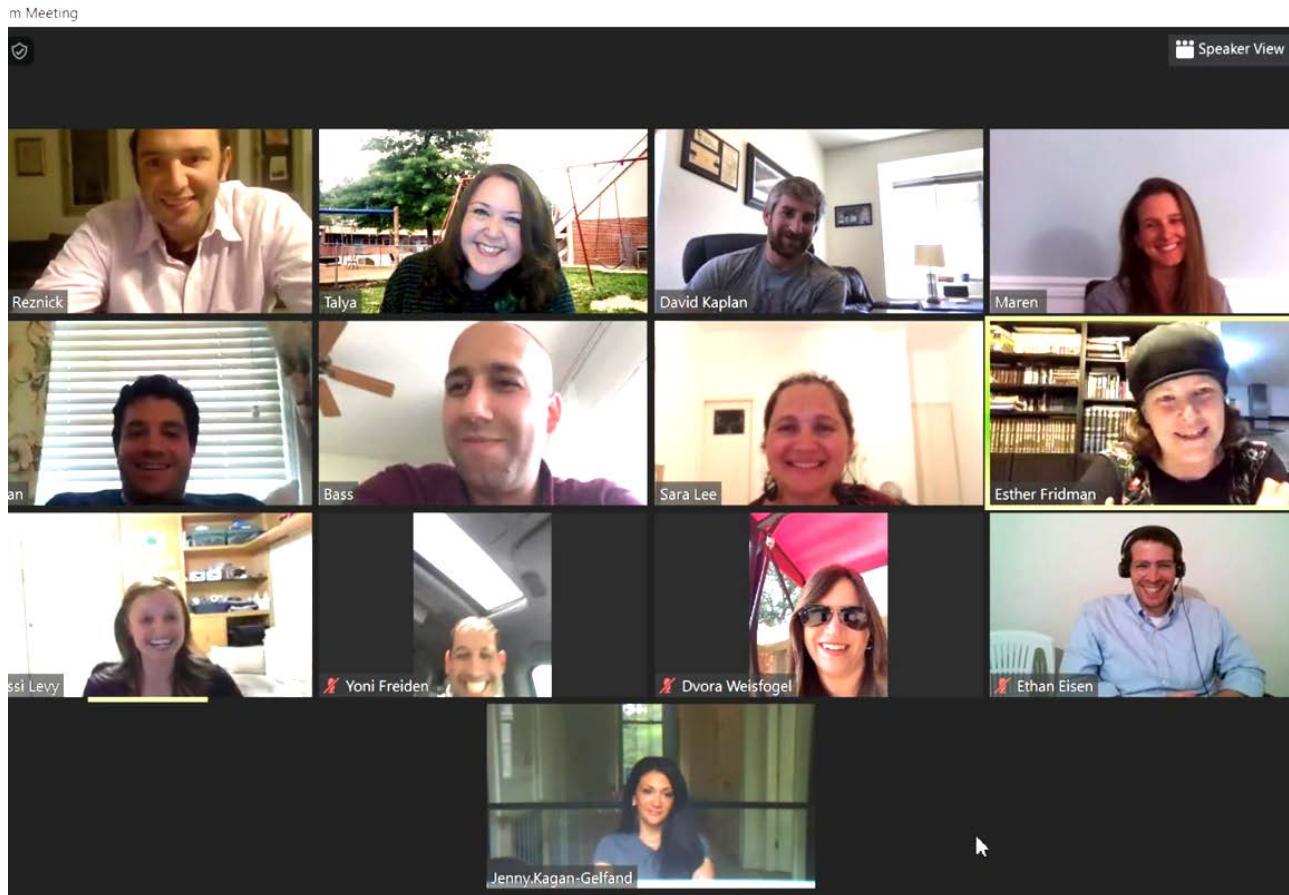
ALUMNI REUNITE

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

Any time two or more alumni get together—whether a *simcha* (celebration) or otherwise—we would love to get a photo. While this has been one of the most popular features of our newsletter, we believed that COVID-19 would force us to omit it from this issue. Once again, we underestimated our amazing alumni.



Barbara (Katz) Kutner (MHA '64, YOS '68) reunited with her brother **Larry Katz** (MHA '67, far right) and his son **Dovy Katz** (MHA '92) on Aug. 9. The occasion was the wedding of Aaron Dovid Kutner, her and **Alan Kutner**'s (MHA '62) grandson. The groom's father is **Ephraim Kutner** (MHA '85).



On May 27, the FYOS class of 2000 held a virtual 20-year reunion via Zoom. The organizers reached out to everyone who was part of the class at any time.

Top row, from left: **Elchanan (Ari) Reznick** (FYOS '00), **Talya Levin** (MHA '96, FYOS '00; note her nostalgic virtual background!), **David Kaplan** (MHA '96), **Maren (Harrison) Magid** (MHA '96).

Second row, from left: **Brian Wender** (MHA '96), **Ronen Bass** (FYOS '00), **Sara (Smith) Lee** (FYOS '00), **Esther (Schachter) Fridman** (MHA '96).

Third row, from left: Dassi (Sigel) Levy, **Yoni Freiden** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), **Dvora (Stein) Weisfogel** (MHA '96, FYOS '00), **Ethan Eisen** (MHA '96).

Fourth row: **Jenny (Kagan) Gelfand** (MHA '96).



This picture was sent in by **Sara Beth (Frager) Kahn** (MHA '75, YOS '79). Her class had planned a 45th reunion at **Rabbi David Finkelstein's** (MHA '75) Camp Shoresh in Frederick, Maryland, but Hashem had other plans with the pandemic. They went with the flow and set up a May 3 reunion via Zoom. "We were thrilled with the response and had a great time reconnecting virtually," Kahn said. The participants (listed below) were treated to a surprise visit by Rabbi Finkelstein's mother, Mrs. Naomi Finkelstein (pictured bottom row, right), a beloved member of our school family who worked in the office as an administrative assistant—and so much more—for 27 years.

Top row, from left: Rabbi Finkelstein, Kahn, **Beth (Kipper) Pasternak** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Marc Katz** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Jeff Roberts** (MHA '75).

Second row, from left: **Judy (Yormark) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Joel Banes** (MHA '75), **Steve Baer** (MHA '75), **Julie (Brown) Roll** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Stuart** (MHA '75, YOS '79) and **Pam (Blotner) Thomas** (YOS '79).

Third row, from left: **Sid Scheinberg** (MHA '75), **Yitzi Greenblatt** (MHA '75), Mary Ellen (Weiss) Weissman, **Elise (Slutsky) Meyer** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Rebecca (Winestone) Gerber** (MHA '75).

Fourth row (left): **Brad Freiden** (MHA '75, YOS '79).

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Mrs. Lisa Luiken A World Class Teacher

Written by: Shelley Kutliroff



Since its founding more than 70 years ago by some true visionaries, the MHA has been fortunate to attract outstanding educators – teachers, both religious and secular, who, in their individual ways, have impacted our students and their families so positively. Teaching is both an art and a skill; and the most successful teachers have been able to

incorporate their innate talents and personalities into the classroom and the subject matter they are responsible for conveying. Without a doubt, one of the most beloved MHA teachers, recognized by students, parents, faculty colleagues and administrators, is Lisa Luiken, a recipient of the MHA Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Mrs. Luiken has become synonymous with MHA's third grade. She was the general studies third grade teacher for 20 years, until her recent retirement.



Mrs. Luiken in 1999 with her first class of MHA third graders.

Top row, from left: Luiken, Jessica Belz, Elizabeth Belz, Joel Moss, **Raquel Kampf** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), Morah **Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80).

Middle row, from left: **Eliana (Graber) Abittan** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), Eitan Gruber, Eliyahu Ungar, Joshua Belz.

Bottom row, from left: **Molly Pocrass** (MHA '05), Leah Toledano, **Elaina (Kaufman) Mittelman** (MHA '05, FYOS '09), **Charlie LaVene** (MHA '05, FYOS '09).

"I remember loving her and gaining so much from her as a child," said **Gabe Addess** (MHA '10, FYOS '14). "She was really a friendly, understanding, patient, and above all, world-class teacher. I was so sad to hear that she retired and that a future generation won't have the same teacher I had growing up."

Mrs. Luiken's effervescent, positive and upbeat personality drew her students into her warm and nurturing classroom. She had an immediate rapport with all of her students. Each one felt her warmth and caring and returned it to her, making the atmosphere of her classroom primed for learning.

"Mrs. Luiken was my third grade teacher," said **Shayna Kahane** (MHA '16, FYOS '20). "The year I entered third grade, my uncle **Isaac Krupp** (MHA

'06, FYOS '10), who also had Mrs. Luiken as a third grade teacher, left for his gap year in Israel. In order to surprise me, he told me he would not be coming home for Pesach...however, he did come home. And on the day he arrived in Memphis, he came directly to the school and marched into Mrs. Luiken's class to surprise me. I was so excited to see him and leaped from my seat to give him a big hug. As soon as I wrapped my arms around him, I felt Mrs. Luiken wrapping her arms around us both."

Students delighted in receiving praise from their teacher and it was graciously forthcoming. Students are willing to work hard and achieve for themselves and their parents, but also for their



Mrs. Luiken has maintained a friendship with Mrs. Deborah Parks (left), who taught fourth grade at the MHA.

teachers. A student's bliss can be triggered by a few encouraging words and a broad smile from their teacher, and that is what Mrs. Luiken was always ready to bestow. Her reputation grew as the years went by. Older siblings would smile at their younger siblings and say, "Just wait until you get

Mrs. Luiken. She's the best!" or "How lucky you are. You are in third grade this year and you will have my favorite teacher, Mrs. Luiken." As she took on more teaching duties, she also became a junior high math teacher. Her former third graders, now "grown up" into seventh graders, anticipated her class with eagerness and excitement.

"Mrs. Luiken came for a 'tryout' class when I was in fourth grade, and we were her first students when she arrived to teach at the beginning of my fifth grade year," said **Leba (Ehrenkranz) Friedman** (MHA '03). "She was an absolutely fabulous math teacher - always, always crystal clear, patient, and best of all, chipper and positive. She created incentive programs which motivated us, gave us prizes - which showed how much she cared - talked about her children a lot (which we loved), and took an interest in us, our Judaism, our school, our lives. I very vividly remember looking forward to Mrs. Luiken's class each day. I also remember being overjoyed to hear that I would get to enjoy having her as a teacher all over again."

A number of our alumni were tutored outside of school by Mrs. Luiken in math, her self-proclaimed favorite subject to teach. Students never lost contact with her. This type of relationship is one of the most endearing and pervasive qualities of the MHA.

"I feel so fortunate to have had such a strong positive influence from her from such a young age, and even more fortunate that we were able to maintain our relationship throughout elementary and

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Mrs. Lisa Luiken

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high school, as I would pop into her room the week of Thanksgiving to make paper turkeys with her class, or just go to say 'hi' and catch up," said **Eliana (Schlesinger) Hornstein** (MHA '13, FYOS '17).



A recent picture of Mrs. Luiken, her husband, her children and her grandchildren.

Mrs. Luiken's influence pervaded the school. Her bright smile, fashionably coiffed hair and outfits added a sense of cheer to her colleagues as she walked the halls to and from class. She befriended all and developed deep relationships that she still maintains today. She was always willing to discuss teaching techniques and make suggestions for dealing with students. Teachers were impressed with her ability to maintain order and interest in her classroom and even as her students walked the halls.

Mrs. Luiken was born in Garland, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Even as a youngster she knew she wanted to be a teacher. Her mother kept a newspaper clipping of fifth grade Lisa volunteering to help out with a class of kindergarteners. Both of her parents were

teachers as well. In her senior year of high school she entered the Junior Miss Pageant and won the title of Miss Garland and went on to the state pageant. After high school she attended the University of North Texas in Denton, where she majored in elementary education and minored in math. After marrying Dave Luiken, she taught second, third and fifth grades in the San Antonio public schools, as well as serving as a reading specialist, until her husband received a job opportunity in Memphis.

"Mrs. Luiken was an avid NBA fan who held a particular love for the San Antonio Spurs," said **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13). "She and my aunt **Morah Cindy (Cooper) Ehrenkranz** (MHA '76, YOS '80) made a strong third grade teaching team. I wish Mrs. Luiken, her husband and her children (whom she always spoke of very highly) a future full of health and happiness."

In Memphis, Mrs. Luiken looked into public school teaching, but was not satisfied with the system, so she began to consider the private school option. That's when she noticed an ad in the paper for a part-time position at a private sectarian school in East Memphis. Although she was not sure that this would be the perfect job for her, it had its appeal, despite the fact that the MHA calendar did not always coincide with the public school calendar. Part-time teaching meant that she would still be home part of the day for her youngest daughter. By this time, Mrs. Luiken had three children: Grant, Lindsay and Caroline. East Memphis was not such a long commute. Although she had her heart set on

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Mrs. Lisa Luiken

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An aerial view of the Luikens' retirement cabin.

teaching in the morning, she finally was persuaded to take a chance and start in the afternoon, and the rest is history and fortuitous for the MHA. As her children grew, she shared stories about them with her students, who loved to hear those stories. Half-day teaching kept Mrs. Luiken energized for her family and her students. Over the years she fell into a comfortable routine. She was always grateful to the administration for understanding that at times she might have to take off to deal with her family, but she always acted judiciously and respectfully in these matters.

"I definitely have great memories of Mrs. Luiken," said **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12). "She was always very upbeat and positive, and I remember always looking forward to her class. I also remember I loved hearing about her kids who were similar ages to us."

Mrs. Luiken was completely taken with the school community. She valued the role that the parents

played in the school and their involvement with their children. She greatly appreciated the trust and confidence she felt from the administration. She could develop her own curriculum and teach important morals, skills and lessons.

She could introduce novels to her third graders and develop a new approach to teaching about Tennessee state history, that in fact led to the development of the state fair projects that other teachers undertook.

Coming from a small town in Texas and a strong Christian background, the MHA was a totally different experience and she treasured it. One of her fondest memories is of *Rosh Chodesh Adar* her first year of teaching. No one had prepared her for what was about to happen. All of a sudden she heard raucous singing from a band of high school boys, stopping at her door and virtually "abducting" her students. She followed them to the auditorium, where the entire school gathered for singing and dancing, and of course, food. She was swept away and this celebration remained one of her favorites of the year. Another outstanding memory for her was greeting Gov. Bill Haslam, who paid a visit to the school. Her class, of course, was chosen to be the greeters at the front door. She is not sure who was more excited: she or her students.

Mrs. Luiken is slowly coming to terms with retirement. She had lots of family issues to deal with, a consideration that led to her retirement. Her mother had passed away from cancer and her

father passed away as well. She was in the midst of building her “dream home” in Sewanee, Tennessee, where she owns an 11-acre plot of land surrounded by mountains, forests and streams. She selected this site because it is close to all of her children and grandchildren. Her son Grant is a lawyer in Nashville and has two children. Her daughter Lindsay lives in Chattanooga, where she is a stay-at-home mom who cares for her four-year-old. Lindsay is also a certified Christian counselor. Caroline, her youngest, works for the CDC in Atlanta. Her dream house is a work in progress with plenty of room for her growing family. There will be suites and a bunkroom for the little ones. Her husband hopes to erect a cabin in the woods. Mrs. Luiken looks forward to gardening, both vegetables and flowers. All of these plans and traveling back and forth keep her busy. She is grateful for this since the coronavirus has interfered with other plans and hobbies, like yoga and volunteer work, which she looks forward to pursuing as things return to normal. She also excitedly anticipates returning to the MHA as a substitute

teacher. The MHA will be equally excited to welcome her back to campus.

“In my first week of third grade, Mrs. Luiken taught us what it meant to be ‘resourceful’ and how it could help us in any situation, not just in school,” Hornstein said. “She taught us how to think, be creative and adaptive and always challenged us to do so. For years after, anytime I was in a difficult or unplanned situation where I knew I had to be resourceful, I would immediately think of Mrs. Luiken.”

The view from the Luikens’ retirement cabin.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Rabbi Benjamin Wolmark, *z'l*



Earlier this year, the Memphis community lost a beloved longtime former teacher at the MHA/FYOS with the passing of Rabbi Binyomin Wolmark.

Born in Poland in 1930, Rabbi Wolmark spent his childhood and early adulthood amid the pioneers of some of the greatest yeshivas of the 20th century.

He and his parents were part of the Mir Yeshiva's escape and relocation from Poland to Shanghai, China. After spending his teenage years in China, Rabbi Wolmark made it to New York. In America he became a student of the illustrious Rabbi Yitzchok Hutner, from whom he received *semicha* (rabbinic ordination), and one of the founding students of the famous Bais Medrash Govoha, started by Rabbi Aharon Kotler in Lakewood, New Jersey.



Rabbi and Mrs. Wolmark on their wedding day in 1952.

When he was 22 years old, Rabbi Wolmark traveled to Israel as one of just a handful of foreigners forming the resettled Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem. It was there that he would marry Israeli native Avigail Barg. They lived in Jerusalem for about four years. When the Suez Crisis broke out in 1956, the couple moved to the United States.

Rabbi Wolmark secured a job in New York as a rebbe at Mesivta of Eastern Parkway. But soon his own rebbe, Rabbi Hutner, approached Rabbi Wolmark about helping out a small community day school in the Mid-South that needed an elementary school teacher. The position would last for a year, after which Rabbi Wolmark could return to his job in New York.



Rabbi and Mrs. Wolmark with their children (from left) Rachel, Mordechai and Zev in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1963.



(from left) Mrs. Wolmark, Mordechai, Asher, Rachel and Rabbi Wolmark at Mordechai's bar mitzvah in the MHA gym in 1971.

Rabbi Binyomin and Avigail Wolmark arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1957 and would remain there for 54 years. In the process, their home became a mainstay of hospitality and Torah scholarship.

They first lived in a duplex on Brown Street, a block away from the old Baron Hirsch synagogue building, before renting a house on Sheridan Street. As the Orthodox community moved to East Memphis so did the Wolmarks, buying a home on Meadowcrest Circle, very close to the school, and where the couple and their four children could finally enjoy the luxury of a second bathroom.

Jewish members of the U.S. military stationed at area bases would often join the Wolmarks for *yamim tovim* (holidays), sometimes spreading out on the floor of the house in sleeping bags, such as on Pesach seder night.

"I remember how, at the bar mitzvah for my brother **Zev** (MHA '69) in 1967, my mother joined a group

of women cooking turkeys in the Academy kitchen's large ovens," **Rabbi Mordechai Wolmark** (MHA '72) reminisced. "In those days, all food in the community had to be made from scratch. Alex Katz—Sidney Katz's father—was a butcher, and he carved the turkeys himself." The bar mitzvah celebrations for Mordechai and **Asher** (MHA '81, YOS '85) also were held at the school (in 1971 and 1980, respectively), with the women of the community once again doing all the cooking.

In addition to their hard work in contributing to the community's physical welfare, the Wolmarks would leave a very enduring impact on people's souls. The first year Mrs. Wolmark attended Baron Hirsch on the High Holidays, she began to weep during the *davening*, overwhelmed with emotion at the seriousness of the day. Some of the other women rushed over to ask the Israel native (who didn't yet speak much English), "Are you okay? Did someone just insult you?" Though at the time Morah Avigail, as she would later become known during her own decades teaching in the school, could barely communicate with them, it would be



Rabbi and Mrs. Wolmark at a grandchild's wedding in 2004.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Rabbi Benjamin Wolmark z'l

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Rabbi Wolmark, engaged in his favorite pastime.



Rabbi Wolmark shaking hands with Rabbi Meir Bergman, son-in-law of Rav Shach, in 2010.



Rabbi Wolmark with Asher and his children in 2018.

one of her earliest of many powerful imprints on the community's sensitivity to meaningfulness.

Together the Wolmarks had an impact on scores of families in the community. Rabbi Wolmark taught in the elementary school for 28 years, during which time he would make an effort to make the experience of learning about Torah enjoyable for his young students. This included ensuring that the classroom was a place where students felt comfortable enjoying lighthearted moments and being able to talk about the world at large, beyond covering important educational material. By keeping things positive, Rabbi Wolmark helped hundreds of students form a happy relationship with their Judaism.

Rabbi Wolmark later served as a part-time rabbi in Greenwood, Mississippi, about two hours south of Memphis. At Sunday school there, he taught reading skills, bar mitzvah lessons and the basics of Judaism. Through his teaching and making the trip for some *Shabbosim* and all the High Holidays, Rabbi Wolmark ensured that for years the community would still have the staples of a Torah lifestyle. He would bring kosher food from Memphis for *Yom Kippur* breakfast, which served as an incentive for many locals to complete the fast altogether.

Throughout his life, Rabbi Wolmark's focus was not only teaching but also learning Torah. For decades, night after night he would study at the yeshiva *beis midrash*. He rose at 5:00 a.m. every morning to learn for two hours, often in a voice so impassioned his children would complain they had trouble sleeping



Rabbi Wolmark with his great-granddaughter Abby (Zev's granddaughter), named for his beloved wife Avigail. (2018)

in because of their father's learning aloud. When his sons came home from yeshiva, Rabbi Wolmark insisted they maintain a daily hours-long commitment to Torah study. Among those who would join the Wolmark children in the program their father created for them (a "chaburah" of sorts) were **Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt** (MHA '69), Sam Kipper and **Lee Hanover** (MHA '69). Rabbi Nathan Greenblatt would always give *shiurim* to the group on *yomim tovim*.

At a school dinner, Rabbi Wolmark once delivered remarks asking why the Torah was given in a desert instead of a more seemingly glorious location, such as Jerusalem. He gave the answer that had the Torah been given in a particular city - and especially Jerusalem - future generations would claim that in order to engage successfully in mastering Torah one has to be in a notably holy place. Since it was in fact given in the desert, this cannot be claimed, and everyone understands that excellence in Torah scholarship is available to anyone interested in working at it.

For over half a century, Rabbi Wolmark and Morah Avigail served as examples of how a couple and family living a life steeped in Torah values can impact so many people around them, no matter where they are. The MHA/FYOS community is a richer place for their contributions. *Yehi zichram baruch* - may their memories be forever blessed.

*The MHA/FYOS community expresses its deepest condolences to Rabbi Wolmark's children: Zev, Mordechai, Asher and **Rachel (Wolmark) Deutsch** (MHA '73, YOS '77).*

*Thank you to **Binyamin Ehrenkranz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) for his help in preparing this story.*



Many of those privileged to know Rabbi Wolmark will always remember him like this.

Note from Alumni Chair: The following article appeared in the CYHSB Weekly in March 2019. I was so impressed with what Dylan had to say that I knew I had to include this in the next issue where we highlighted his years. I know that our alumni will be able to relate to his experiences. JK



Looking back now, I realize that I learned just as much, if not more, outside the classrooms of the CYHSB as I did inside of them.

I don't write that out of spite, and, disclaimer, it may not be true. Generally speaking, my

CYHSB classes were fantastic. My classmates and I were well attuned to the wavelengths of our teachers. The breadth of my education spanned from AP Art History with Dr. Whitney Kennon, to the Fundamentals of Torah with Rabbi Yonason Gersten (both of whom are still teaching, B"H); from covering the expanse of engaging humanities seminars to thought-provoking Judaic studies courses and beyond.

But when I look back at my footprints from Meadowcrest Cove to the real world, it's the time I spent outside the confines of classrooms with fellow students and East Memphis community members that prepared me best for what was to come.

The CYHSB fosters a culture of industriousness within its student body that is unique and unparalleled. In addition to the 7:25 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. weekday schedule (with the exception of Fridays, which were the best), I was expected to return to the MHA campus for practice, *mishmar*, club meetings, gala dinners (which we catered, waited on, and cleaned up)... you name it, we did it. If you do the math, I probably spent nearly 50% – maybe more – of my weekday life at the MHA.

Between all that extra time spent at school, I developed a toolkit of skills that I've kept with me over the past several years.

The first night I arrived at Yeshivat Har Etzion as an Israeli student, I hit the ground running by beginning a Rambam *chavrutah* in Hebrew. The many conversations and *chavrutot* I shared with Torah MiTzion *bachurim* learning during *mishmar* at school galvanized me to learn in Hebrew with Israeli students in the Gush *beit midrash*.

In high school, the best leadership opportunity I encountered came from being one of the *gabbaim*, alongside **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), of the daily minyan. Then-principal Rabbi Uriel Lubetski challenged us to recruit every CYHSB student to the *bimah* to serve as *chazzan*, which, with the help of a "special breakfast" incentive, we did. Twice.

Competing against the MUS JV Mock Trial team year after year at the Shelby County Courthouse taught me that it was okay to lose, even if it's to the same team four years straight. With our knowledge of law limited to our collective viewership of "Law & Order: SVU," we always managed to shrug off our losses and gear up for the following year.

Not many high school students can say they played both varsity basketball and acted in plays like Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and Gogol's *The Government Inspector*. Under the direction of seismologist/thespian extraordinaire Dr. Jerry Kutliroff, I remember discovering the freedom of expression that came with modernizing old plays and overcoming the jitters of performing in the spotlight. By living the Troy Bolton fantasy of both participating in basketball and singing in the school play (thanks to Cantor Aryeh Samberg for the voice lessons, though I could've used a couple more), I learned that my personality can shine through in varying contexts and environments.

REFLECTIONS OF AN ALUMNUS

Dylan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

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Being a student at the CYHSB was so much more than just going to school. Sure, students here take classes just like any other high school. But there is one thing that distinguishes the CYHSB from the handful of Modern Orthodox yeshiva high schools across the country as well as local private schools: the capacity for student empowerment once the final bell has rung.

Delivering extemporaneous speeches at YUNMUN (Yeshiva University National Model United Nations); meeting after school, planning trips and activities as a member of student government; reigniting a trend of high school journalism that has only improved since the days of the "Cooper Chronicle"; volunteering with the school at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab; taking over local shuls with both *tefillah* and student *drashot*; producing snarky Purim videos and clever ads for community businesses and practices...

The list goes on.

The MHA's ability to evoke a sense of confidence and love for community in its students is both deep and meaningful, and I wouldn't trade my experience for any other.

Dylan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13) is a second-year medical student at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. He worked at Lenox Hill Hospital this past summer. He graduated as a Neuroscience & Behavior major with honors from Columbia University. He was grateful to reunite with his family in Memphis for a few months during the COVID-19 pandemic.

THANK YOU

We express our deepest appreciation to all those who gave of their time to help us publish this issue. First, thank you to the staff of the MHA/FYOS, most especially Erica Stoltz, Amanda Minner and Laura Timmons. Second, thank you to the alumni and friends who assisted us by supplying photographs, identifying the individuals in those pictures, providing historical background, trivia questions and more, including: **Ethan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Dylan Cooper** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Jonathan Tavin** (MHA '07, FYOS '11), **Ethan Eisen** (MHA '96), **Sara Beth (Frager) Kahn** (MHA '75, YOS '79), **Gidon Feen** (FYOS '13), **Chaim Gersten** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Leib Wiener** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Efraim Wiener** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), Rabbi Yonason Gersten, Talya Tsuna, **Asher Wolmark** (MHA '81, YOS '85) and Chaim Wolmark.

ALUMNI IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

The spread of the coronavirus pandemic has affected our world in immeasurable ways over the past several months. At press time, there were more than 27 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 across the globe and nearly 900,000 related deaths. Millions of other individuals have endured the downstream economic impact and remain socially isolated in order to curb the spread of the virus.

Like schools everywhere, the MHA/FYOS team spent the summer developing a plan to get students back to learning in-person while keeping faculty, students and their families safe and healthy. (Our school's comprehensive return-to-campus planning efforts are documented at mhafyos.org/covid19.) Life at the MHA/FYOS may look a bit different right now, but thankfully the 2020-21 school year is off to a great start!

Earlier this year, we asked our alumni to share their perspectives on the coronavirus pandemic and how it's personally affected them. We've also been keeping tabs on the heroic accomplishments of our alumni, who continue to impress us with their work on the front lines of this public health crisis and their support for others in need during these uncertain times. We thank all those who submitted responses and are proud to include a sampling here.

We continue to pray that COVID-19 is just a memory by the time we publish our next issue. As gastroenterologist **Dr. Gary Wruble** (MHA '77, YOS '81) aptly said, "Hopefully a therapy or vaccine will be discovered soon and we can all return to our usual activities. In the meantime, I hope everyone stays safe and healthy and follows the guidelines the expert health professionals have put in place."



As a GI specialist, Dr. Gary Wruble has dealt with COVID patients presenting with digestive disorders.

THE FRONT LINES OF THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS

Dr. Yakov (Daniel) Addess (MHA '02, FYOS '06) recently completed his residency in neurology and is now a fellow in electromyography (EMG) at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, which was at the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak plaguing New York City this spring. He was frequently called to the

emergency department for consults because many COVID-19 patients presented with confusion and altered mental states.

"When this first started, I was calm and confident that I could handle whatever would happen," Addess said. "However, during the peak days of the COVID insanity, I was often in a state of panic. We were surrounded by patients nonstop, with stretchers lining the hallways. Every department was backed up, and staff was spread very thin. We also didn't have enough N-95 masks to go around, so we were wearing tight-fitting surgical masks as protection. I had to shave off my beard so my mask would fit tighter."

"It was a very sobering experience to watch them wheel out dead bodies all day long. The ambulance sirens seemed to never stop. Even at 3 a.m., you could hear the sirens. It felt like Brooklyn was on fire."

Advice from his mother, Tania Addess, a longtime nursing supervisor in Memphis, helped him get through those dark days. "She told me to speak to each patient with a positive outlook and always reassure them that everything would be okay," he said. "It was so difficult seeing people dying all alone, with only the hospital staff to talk to. I made a point to spend time talking with every patient of mine, letting them know how hard we were working to make them better and that they were never out of my thoughts, even when I wasn't in the room with them. I hope these words of encouragement helped to lift their spirits and calm their fears."

Addess was scheduled to work at the hospital on *Pesach*, as every doctor was needed to meet the abundant need. He had resigned himself to being away from his wife and baby daughter for *yom tov*—but then he contracted the virus and remained at home until he was cleared to return to the hospital. "When I came back, they treated me like Superman, believing I have immunities," Addess said.

Regrettably, he was not the only one in his family to get COVID; his wife's grandmother also contracted it, and she ultimately succumbed to the virus. "I went from being a doctor trying to cure COVID patients to burying a family member who fell victim to COVID," he said.

"I know I'm a very young doctor, but every doctor of every age that I've spoken to agrees on one thing: these experiences will forever be the defining moments of their careers," Addess said.



Dr. Yakov (Daniel) Addess was on the front lines dealing with the pandemic during the peak time in Brooklyn.

Dr. Paul Katz (MHA '78), an internal medicine physician in Memphis, has "felt overwhelmed and at times anxious about the uncertainty of all that has been going on," he said. "We are fighting an enemy we can't see or have much control over, and we're having a hard time predicting the future. A lot of people seem to think this is no big deal, but when you have a patient or a loved one die from the virus, it really gives you a new perspective."

"To be a doctor requires a certain resilience and sacrifice that often shine brightest in the worst of times," said **Dr. Tamara (Freiden) Goodman** (MHA '03, FYOS '07), a pediatric hospitalist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. "I feel extremely proud of my profession always—but all the more so now. My heart goes out to my friends, classmates and colleagues, who are essentially sacrificing their own health at times to fight the good fight against COVID."

"I believe the human spirit is good and kind, and I see that in my job every day. During this pandemic, with so much uncertainty and fear, people's true colors have been shining bright: the meal deliveries to critical health care workers, those who have recovered from COVID donating plasma, the willingness to give up precious PPE [personal protective equipment], distant friends messaging me a thank you, and even all the discounts for front-line workers. During this time, I see people wanting to help, do acts of kindness, and bring joy to others—whether they're in the health care profession or not. My job has taught me not to take these things for granted, as they are the rays of hope necessary to get people through the most difficult of times."

RESILIENCE AND SUPPORT

Our alumni have found creative and constructive ways to make the best of the current situation and to help others through these challenging times.

For **Ronnie Katz** (MHA '70, YOS '74), "the most memorable event for me during this ordeal was having a *Pesach seder* all alone [due to COVID-related social distancing and travel restrictions]," he said. "While it was daunting to think about and not what I would have ordinarily planned, looking back, it turned out fine and was very fulfilling—albeit a little lonely. I performed a three-hour *seder*, saying everything out loud, singing



Dr. Tamara (Freiden) Goodman works in the area of clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health.

the songs, and hiding the *afikoman*. During *chol hamoed*, I video-chatted with my granddaughters Yael and Hadar [whose mother is **Deena (Katz) Yarmush** (MHA '93, FYOS '97)] and rehid my *afikoman*. The girls searched by instructing me where to look. Of course, the present has already been sent."

Another first for Katz was being unable to perform the *birkat kohanim* (priestly blessing recited during holiday synagogue services), in which he began participating at the age of 11. "Before *yom tov*, I posted a [video of hope on Facebook](#) and did a quasi *birkat kohanim* from my home in Dallas," he said.

One alumna, who asked to remain anonymous, felt that she "really needed to stretch and find some type of meritorious activity to commit to, beyond checking in on my neighbors," she said. "I took the plunge and joined [Partners in Torah](#) as a mentor. I am now studying *mussar* (spiritual development) by phone with a woman looking to expand her Jewish knowledge, and I'm proud of the commitment I've made. I was pushed to accept the challenge because of having extra time due to the pandemic and the desire to do something worthwhile. Kudos to Partners in Torah COO Moe Mernick [son of **Judy (Yormark) Fruchthandler** (MHA '75, YOS '79)]."



Rena Mashinsky, founder of Tie-Dyed in Tennessee



Although Ronnie Katz was by himself for the seders, he set a full table to make it more festive and less lonely.

Rena Mashinsky (MHA '14, FYOS '18), daughter of **Deena Thomas** (MHA '76, YOS '80), was in her freshman year at Barnard College in New York City when COVID-19 broke out, so she returned home to Memphis. "With the luxury of being able to remain at home, I found myself wanting to help in whatever way I could," Mashinsky said. Channeling her "passion for crafts and creativity," she founded [Tie-Dyed in Tennessee](#). Since the spring, Mashinsky has made tie-dye apparel, accessories and home goods, donating many of the proceeds from her sales to providing PPE to hospitals across the U.S. She was featured on Memphis' [News Channel 3](#) for her good work.

Davida Gruber (MHA '03, FYOS '07), daughter of Tova and **Roy Gruber** (MHA '76, YOS '80), has also found a way to use her artistic talents for good during the pandemic. She has asked friends to send her

photos of their loved ones, dressed in PPE while working on the front lines, and then paints watercolor portraits of them. In lieu of accepting payments for these custom pieces, Gruber has had her friends donate to charities of their choosing. "It's a little side *tzedaka* [charity] project I started while I've been working from home, and I hope it brightens people's day," she said.

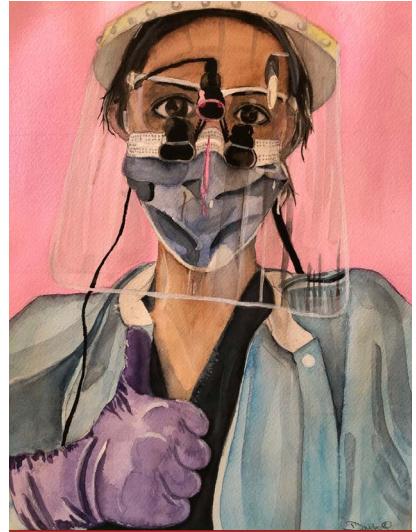
Davida Gruber has kindly offered to create a custom painting for anyone interested (cost: \$360) and donate a portion of the money to the MHA/FYOS! If you would like to commission a painting, please email davida.gruber@gmail.com. Thank you, Davida, for generously supporting your alma mater!

LASTING LESSONS

Dr. Katz volunteers to share his medical expertise as a member of the health task force at Baron Hirsch Congregation in Memphis. "Giving input to the shul on dealing with COVID-19, I've been impressed with how responsive all the local clergy have been in adopting these strict guidelines to protect our congregations and families and the broader community," he said. "It appears there has been an unprecedented level of cooperation between all the different streams of Judaism. Hopefully, we will learn that it is important for us all to look past our level of observance and use this as a starting point to continue to work together for the good of the Jewish community as a whole—both locally and globally."

Dr. Shamai Grossman (MHA '77), associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and vice chair of health care quality for Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians, published an essay in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine* that, he said, "was written for universal consumption but strongly based in Torah as well as in the values of my father [Rabbi Rafael Grossman, z'l, former senior rabbi of Baron Hirsch]." He wrote:

It's hard to think anything good can come out of a plague, especially one as devastating as this one... We still must look for meaning in what seems to be a dark abyss filled with only sorrow and destruction. Perhaps we can already begin to formulate what this meaning might be... I think all of us, whether we are health care workers or haircutters, sanitation engineers or bankers, may once again view the value of human life as sacred.



This portrait of Dr. Brittany Baum (MHA '04) was painted by Davida as part of her *tzedaka* project.



Dr. Shamai Grossman, professor of emergency medicine at Harvard, has attempted to find meaning in this life experience.

FLASHBACKS 1991 - 1995

Photographs from the past

Thursday night *mishmar* raffle, circa 2014. Counterclockwise from top-center: Rabbi Yonason Gersten, **Chaim Gersten** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), **Bradley Goldmeier** (FYOS '13), **Avi Katz** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Daniel Katz** (FYOS '17), **Gabe Addess** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), Aharon Finkelstein, **Shlomo Bosin** (MHA '14, FYOS '18), **Efraim Wiener** (MHA '13, FYOS '17), Asher Stein and Zev Lee.



"I had a blast preparing for and listening to the various shiurim by the school/community rabbis every week. The pan of chicken wings afterwards was a nice bonus." -Chaim Gersten (MHA '13, FYOS '17)

Two high school students enjoying lunch with three of the Bat Ami girls and one of the Torah MiTzion bachurim (from left): Michal, Sendl Gross, **Leib Wiener** (MHA '11, FYOS '15), **Chaya Ross** (FYOS '15), Lital Vatkin and Einat Katan.



"My family was very close to Einat, and we maintained a relationship with her after she went back to Israel. My brothers and I enjoyed a couple of Shabbat experiences at her family's home in Beit Shemesh during our gap years in Israel." -Leib Wiener (MHA '11, FYOS '15)

CYHSB end-of-the-school-year celebration in June 2012. Clockwise from top of the slide: **Isaac Gruber** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Gabe Addess** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Akiva Somer** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), Rabbi Yonason Gersten, **Benjamin Kampf** (MHA '10, FYOS '14), **Yaakov Kaplan** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), **Natanel Brakha** (MHA '09, FYOS '13) and **Justin Wruble** (MHA '09, FYOS '13).



"Looks like a standard day at the CYHSB! Everyone knows Gabe Addess (orange striped shirt) had flawless bouncy slide technique back in high school, and I was on a mission that day to replicate it." -Isaac Gruber (MHA '10, FYOS '14)

Commencement exercises for the FYOS class of 2012 at Baron Hirsch (from left): **Leah Fleischhacker** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Carmit Soleman** (FYOS '12), **Ariana Kaufman** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12, standing at podium), **Avi Kirshtein** (FYOS '12) and **Lavi Tsuna** (MHA '08, FYOS '12).



Gidon Feen (FYOS '12) and **Aaron Kirshtein** (FYOS '15) enjoying the Torah MiTzion booth at the ASBEE Kosher BBQ Contest in 2012.



The female members of the MHA eighth-grade class of 2008 (from left): **Leah Fleischhacker** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Sade Cooper** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Ariana Kaufman** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Aviva (Katz) Fink** (MHA '08, FYOS '12), **Chana (Joffre) Goldstone** (MHA '08), **Charlotte Harkavy** (MHA '08) and **Alexa (Wender) Futter** (MHA '08, FYOS '12).



*"We were a great class! I remember teachers saying that we were the class that teachers looked forward to teaching each year! Although we did not all continue through high school together, we kept in touch throughout the years which, I believe, says a lot about our camaraderie." -**Alexa (Wender) Futter** (MHA '08, FYOS '12)*

Twins **Dylan** (left) and **Ethan Cooper** (both MHA '09, FYOS '13) performing in the 2010 production of "Twelfth Night."



"I often tell people how lucky we were to be able to participate in so many amazing extracurricular activities—from debate to mock trial to basketball, but also our school plays and theater productions. I vividly remember being Sebastian in Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night.' In the scene pictured here, I am speaking with my twin brother Dylan, who played Antonio. I recall how special it was to act alongside my brother, as we also acted together in 'The Government Inspector' the following year. Dylan played Dobchinsky and I played Bobchinsky (twins!). Dr. [Jerry] Kutliroff did a masterful job putting these productions together! They were truly a blast."

-Ethan Cooper (MHA '09, FYOS '13)

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 19th issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication sometime around Chanukah. In it, we will highlight the **eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years 1966-1970**. Members of those classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) sometime in October. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature story will spotlight **Rabbi Eliyahu Hartman**, who served as a high school teacher, and then dean of the school, from 1967 to 1976. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Rabbi Hartman that you'd like to share, please send them to Joanne Kahane, alumni chair, at joannekahane111@gmail.com or to her attention at the school's mailing address below.

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



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