



YESHIVAT HAKOTEL

A COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE

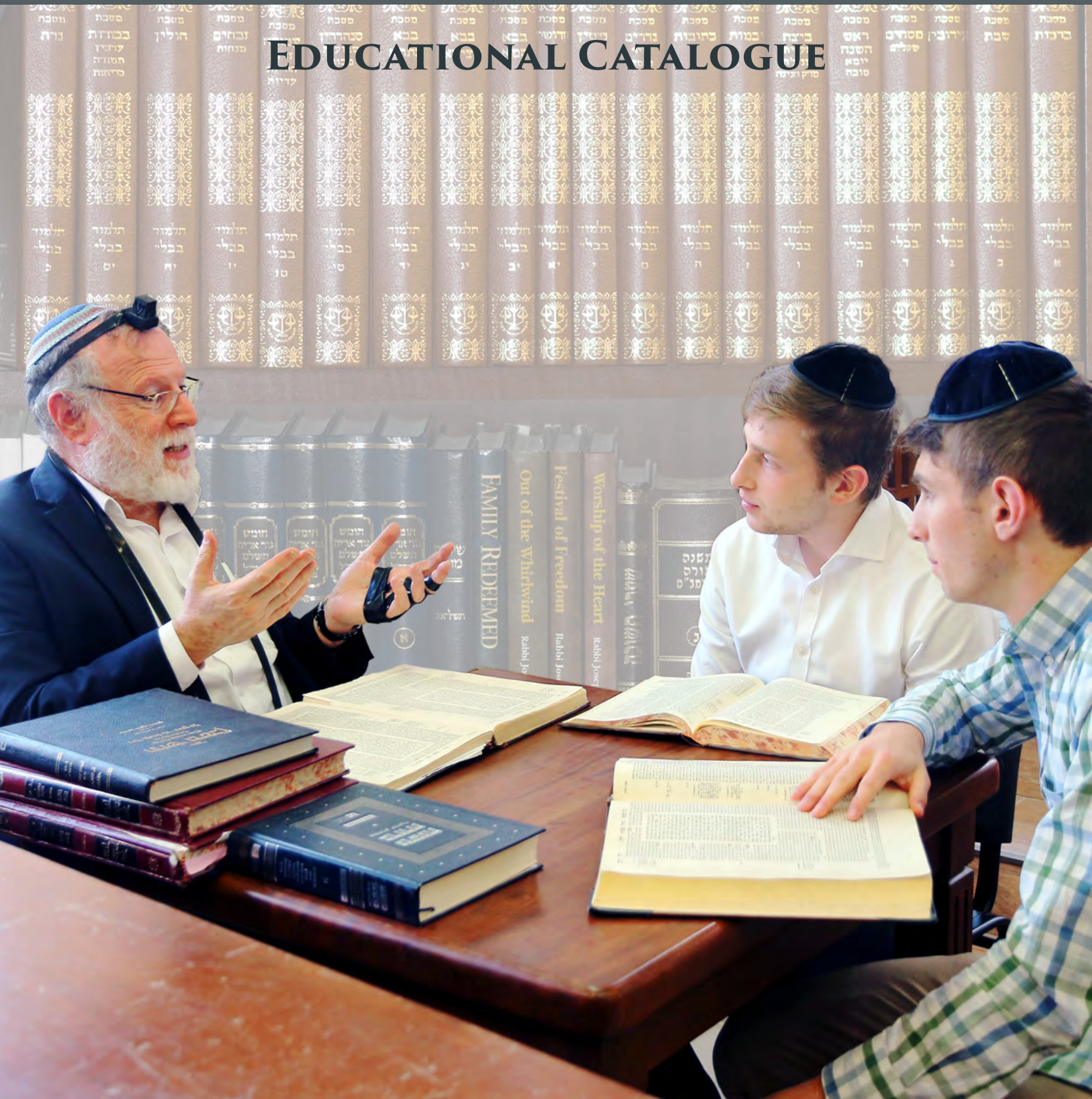
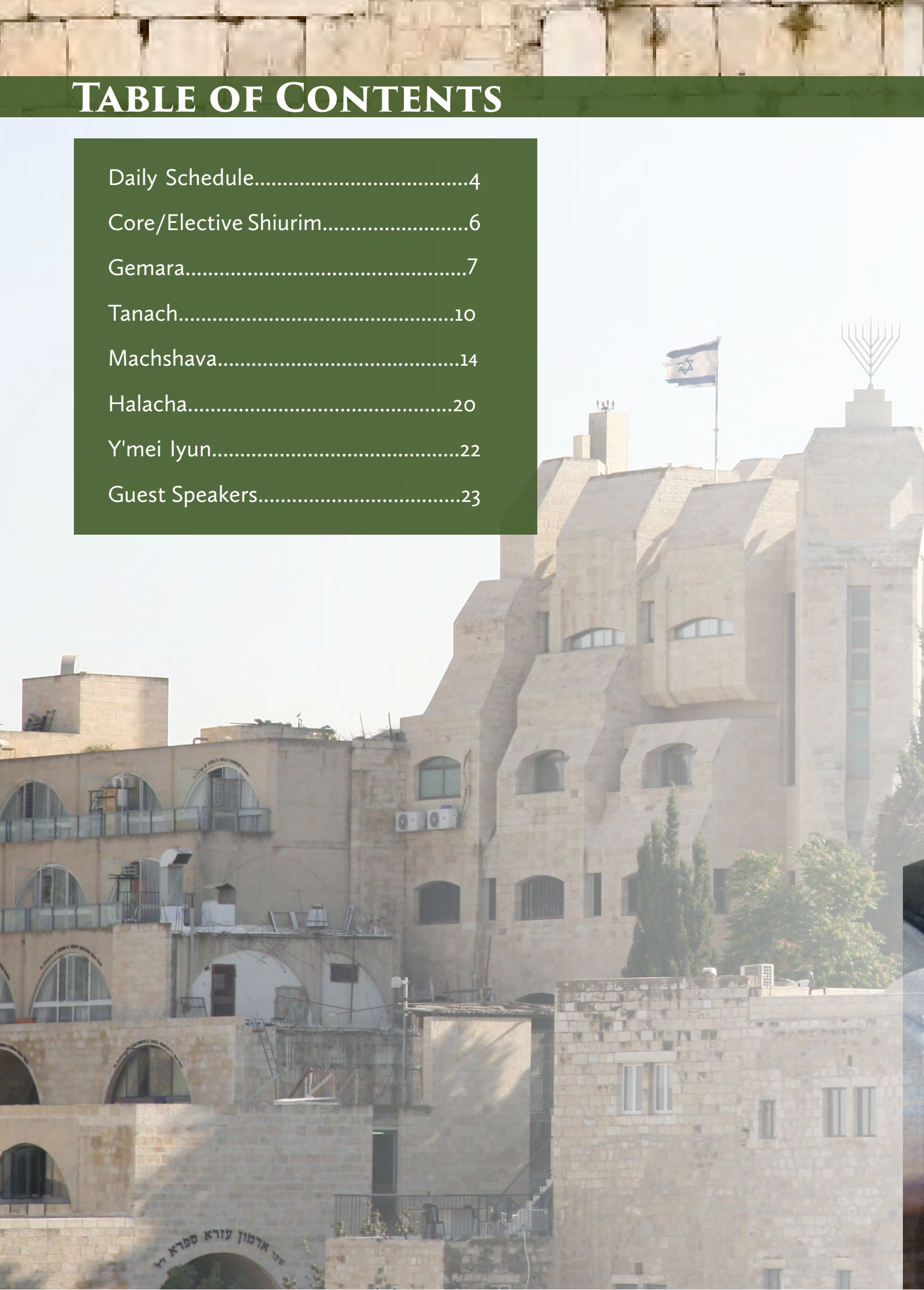


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INTRODUCTION

The time in Israel can be a springboard for long-term meaningful Talmud Torah and educated Halacha observance.

Accomplishing this hinges on familiarizing oneself with the Torah and on acquiring the skills that enable meaningful independent study.

Yeshivat Hakotel acquaints talmidim with Torah in the broadest sense of the word and facilitates your future study of each of its areas on the deepest level.

The following booklet delineates how these goals are accomplished through a methodic, comprehensive, and expansive program of shiurim and independent study in the four basic areas of Torah study: Gemara, Tanach, Machshava/Hashkafa, and Halacha.



DAILY SCHEDULE

SAMPLE AFTERNOON SHIURIM 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM

TOPIC	SUNDAY	MONDAY
TANACH	PARSHA RAV JESSE HORN	NEVI'IM RISHONIM RAV ARI HELLER
MACHSHAVA	BASICS OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHY RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER	MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY RAV JASON KNAPEL
HALACHA	CONTEMPORARY HALACHA RAV SHMUEL HERSCHLER	HILCHOT SHABBAT RAV JESSE HORN
MUSSAR	MESILAT YESHARIM RAV DOVID MILSTON	RAV HIRSCH RAV TZVI GOLDSTEIN

SAMPLE NIGHT SHIURIM 10:30 PM

TOPIC	SUNDAY	MONDAY
TANACH	SEFER IYOV RAV REUVEN TARAGIN	TREI ASAR RAV ARI HELLER
MACHSHAVA	THE WORLD OF MACHSHAVA RAV SHAMMAI SISKIND	EMPOWERING YOUR TEFILLAH RAV BINNY DAVIS
HALACHA	SEPHARDIC HALACHA RAV AHARON MOREH	BUSINESS ETHICS RAV SHMUEL HERSCHLER
MUSSAR	AVODAT HAMIDOT RAV ARI CUTLER	LEARNING FROM OUR GEDOLIM RAV CHANOCH TELLER

LATE AFTERNOON SHIURIM (HEBREW) 6:45 PM

חמישי	רביעי	שלישי
תהילים רב טוביה ליפשיץ	עיוני פרשה רב אברהם ריבלין	נביאים אחרונים רב ארי הלר
כתבי מהר"ל רב יונתן גלינסקי	חסידות רב חננאל אלרן	רמב"ם-יסודי התורה רב ציקי ברלין
רמב"ם-הל' בית הבחירה רב אביגדור נבנצאל	אורח חיים רב אהרון מורה	סוגיות אקטואליות בהלכה רב ישעיהו שטיינברגר
אורות התחיה רב אבנר ששר	מאמרי הראיה-הרב קוק רב ברוך וידר	שמונה פרקים לרמב"ם רב אבנר ששר

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
NEVIIM ACHRONIM RAV URI GOLDSTEIN	KETUVIM RAV REUVEN TARAGIN	LEADERSHIP LESSONS ON PARSHA RAV ARI CUTLER
RAMBAM'S 13 IKARIM RAV YESHAYAHU SHTEINBERGER	RAV KOOK RAV GADI SHLEVIN RAV ARI HELLER	PHILOSOPHY OF RAV SOLOVEITCHIK DR. CARL HOCHHAUSER
HILCHOT KASHRUT RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER	PRACTICAL HALACHA RAV JESSE HORN	5000 YEARS OF TORAH HISTORY RAV DOVI FISCHER
CHASIDUT RAV ARI HELLER	EMUNA AND MUSSAR RAV SHLOMO KIMCHE	PRACTICAL HASHKAFAT RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
VAAD AT THE HOME OF THE ROSH YESHIVA	SEFER YESHAYAHU RAV SHMUEL HERSCHLER	5 MEGILLOT RAV REUVEN TARAGIN
CHASSIDIC GEMS RAV CHANANEL ELRAN	PSYCHOLOGY AND TORAH DR. CARL HOCHHAUSER	PHILOSOPHY OF THE RAMBAM RAV JESSE HORN
40 COMPREHENSIVE HALACHIC TOPICS RAV DOVI FISCHER	HALACHIC AND HASHKAFIC TOPICS RAV TZVI GOLDSTEIN	HILCHOT TEFILLAH RAV ARI CUTLER
13 PRINCIPLES OF FAITH RAV YESHAYAHU SHTEINBERGER	UNDERSTANDING TEFILA RAV ARI CUTLER	ALEI SHUR RAV TZVI GOLDSTEIN

נושא	ראשון	שני
תנ"ך	שיחות פרשת שבוע רב אביגדור נבנצאל	נביאים ראשונים רב טוביה ליפשיץ
מחשבה	סוגיות במחשבה ישראל לדורותיה רב גדי שלזין	כוזרי רב גדי שלזין
הלכה	הלכות שבת רב אביגדור נבנצאל	מדרשי הלכה ואגדה רב רוני קלופשטוק
מוסר/השקפה	בנין אמונה רב גדי שלזין	דרך ה' רב שלמה טובול

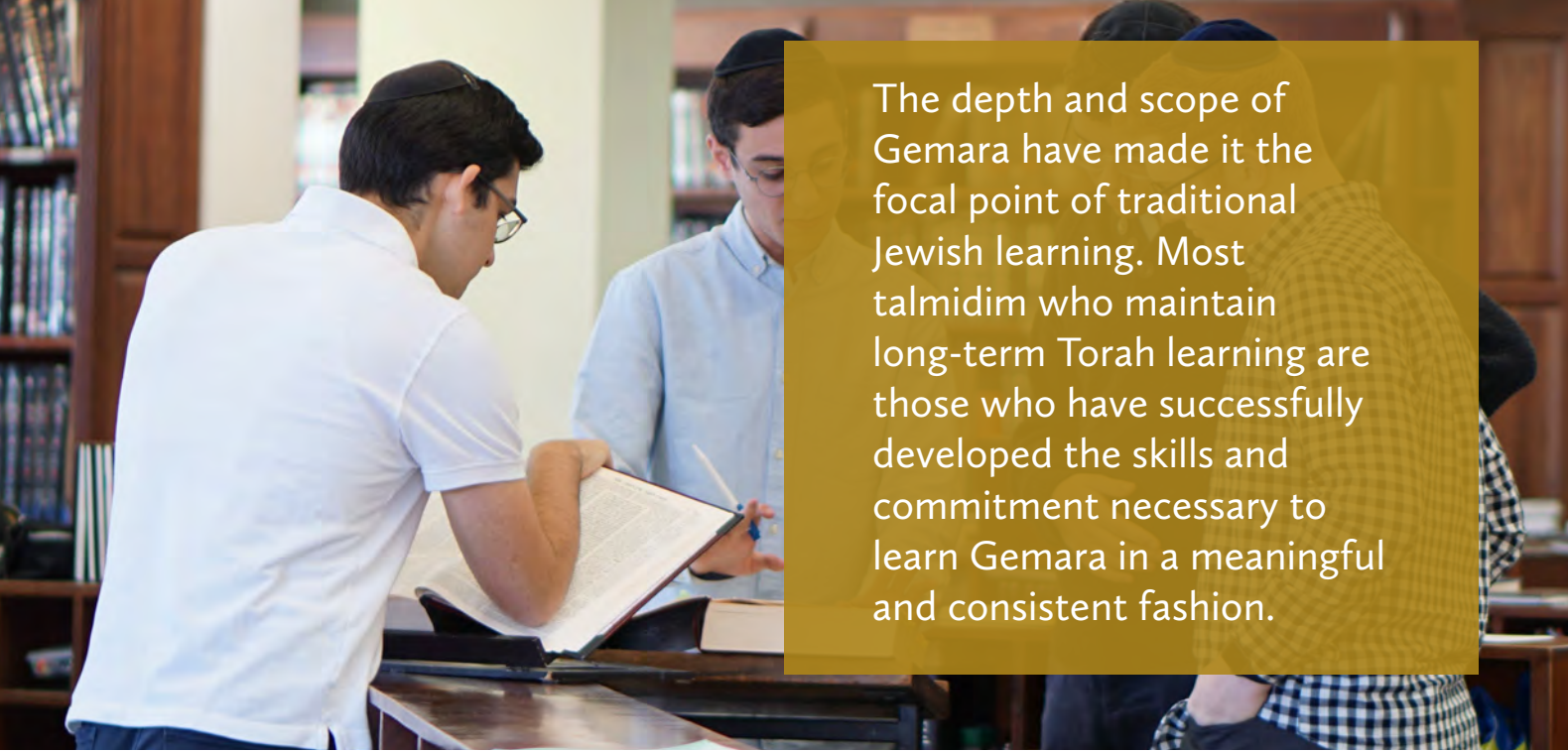
CORE/ELECTIVE SHIURIM

In addition to a carefully balanced core curriculum, Hakotel also ensures that there are shiurim offered in topics that may be less fundamental, but are of interest to individual talmidim.

Different talmidim have affinities for diverse areas of Torah or for alternate methods of studying the same area. In recognition of Chazal's assessment that individual perspectives are as different as individual faces, Hakotel offers a variety of shiurim in each area of Torah study. This variety ensures that each talmid finds a number of shiurim in whatever areas he chooses to focus on.

Hakotel's program consists of a basic core curriculum in each of the four areas of Torah study enhanced by additional elective options.





The depth and scope of Gemara have made it the focal point of traditional Jewish learning. Most talmidim who maintain long-term Torah learning are those who have successfully developed the skills and commitment necessary to learn Gemara in a meaningful and consistent fashion.

Some do not initially enjoy learning Gemara because they lack the textual skills necessary to read and comprehend the Gemara and/or the conceptual skills that facilitate appreciation of the complex ideas inherent within the learning.

To address these challenges, Hakotel devotes the majority of the day to Gemara study. Success in yeshiva hinges on one's ability to invest the hours and maintain the focus necessary to become a Gemara *lamdan*.

The central segment of each of the yeshiva's three sederim is devoted to Gemara learning. Each of these segments develops different skills.

Hakotel talmidim develop strong gemara skills. These skills express themselves in all talmidim's ability to prepare and deliver chaburot by Channuka (within three months of study at the yeshiva) on a gemara topic they prepare independently.

Most talmidim also make a siyum on at least one Mesechet in the course of the year.



MORNING SEDER teaches the skills necessary to analyze a *sugya* (piece/topic) independently. The seder consists of guided chavruta study which culminates with a shiur that demonstrates how the *sugya* may be comprehensively understood. The shiurim are skills-oriented and tracked to ensure that each talmid develops the textual and conceptual skills needed for his level of learning.

Though all the shiurim teach conceptual skills, they differ in the degree and type of reading skills they address. The beginner's shiur works on developing proper gemara reading and comprehension skills. The intermediate shiur assumes these skills and focuses on the skills needed for proper learning of Rishonim. The advanced shiur assumes strong reading skills and focuses primarily on conceptual/analytical skills.



During **AFTERNOON SEDER** a two-hour slot is devoted to b'kiut learning. The goals of b'kiut learning are to strengthen reading skills and expand topical scope. To assist the development of reading skills Hakotel arranges reading groups in which talmidim review what they have learned independently with rebbeim/meishivim who correct and comment on textual nuances. These small groups (4-6 talmidim) ensure that each talmid's skills develop properly.

NIGHT SEDER begins with a chavruta with an older talmid which further enhances development of skills and familiarity with Gemara learning. In addition, learning with an older chavruta offers the opportunity to receive advice from one who has recently faced similar challenges. Night seder Gemara can be either b'kiut or iyun oriented, or a combination. Each option is overseen by a night seder rebbe who helps review the material.



TANACH

Tanach is the direct word of Hashem (Torah) and eternally relevant prophecies (Nach). Sadly, many talmidim are not well versed with Nach or even with parts of the Torah and are often unfamiliar with the tools needed to learn Tanach properly.

Hakotel's program develops both familiarity with and the ability to learn Tanach in a meaningful way. The core shiurim include shiurim in each area of Tanach (Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim). Talmidim interested in further Tanach learning can participate in one or more of the additional elective shiurim.



CORE OPTIONS

PARSHA K'PSHUTO

Rabbi Reuven Taragin

The goal of this methodological shiur is to develop both familiarity with and the ability to independently analyze parshiyot. The shiur relates to the most basic textual level and focuses specifically on how structure, word usage, and parallels develop the message of both stories and mitzvot. Although preparation is not required, a booklet of guiding questions that enhance preparation of the parsha is provided.

SHNAYIM MIKRA

Rabbi Ari Cutler

There is a chiyuv to learn the weekly parsha with Onkelos, Rashi, or other mefarshim. The booklet given out helps deepen one's weekly independent study of the parsha by identifying the central themes of the parsha and familiarizing talmidim with the parshanim and their chiddushim.

NEVI'IM RISHONIM

Rabbi Ari Heller

The shiur covers Nevi'im Rishonim, which includes Yehoshua, Shoftim, Shmuel Aleph, Shmuel Bet, Melachim Aleph, and Melachim Bet, both b'kiut and b'iyun. The shiur summarizes each perek and focusing on its place in the overall structure of the sefer. Talmidim acquire a clear outline of each sefer which both crystallizes their understanding of the material and serves as a reference guide for future chazara. In addition to the overview, the shiur focuses on the major 'sugyot' of each sefer and includes:

- 1) an in depth analysis of the main themes and messages of each sefer, and those which run throughout the sefarim as a unit,
- 2) a literary analysis of the text by comparing it with, and contrasting it to, other stories in its specific sefer and throughout the Tanach.

The shiur's method of study also helps talmidim acquire both thematic and literary methodologies of studying Tanach.



NEVI'IM ACHRONIM

Rabbi Shmuel Herschler

This shiur teaches the sefarim of the last of our Nevi'im which includes a number who lived in the period when Am Yisrael returned to Eretz Yisrael. The shiur seeks to identify the messages we can learn for the similar period in which we live. The shiur helps talmidim develop methodology for their own independent study.

KETUVIM

Rabbi Tuvya Lifshitz

Ketuvim include a number of philosophical sefarim (Tehilim, Mishlei, Iyov, Kohelet) and a number of historical sefarim (Ezra, N'chemya, D'veri Hayamim). This basic shiur offers an overview of both areas of Ketuvim.



TORAH

PARSHANUT HAMIKRA

Rabbi Ari Cutler

This shiur discusses the following topics:

- 1) What is parshanut and why is it necessary?
- 2) Differing types of parshanut- particularly p'shat vs. d'rash.
- 2) Targumim (Onkelos, Yonatan, and Yerushalmi) and other early parshanut.
- 3) Medieval commentaries- Rashi, Rashbam, Ibn Ezra, Ramban, Seforno, B'chor Shor, Abarbanel...
- 4) Modern and contemporary parshanut- Malbim, Ha'emek Davar, Shadal, Nechama Leibowitz...

The shiur shows how the period in which each parshan lived and the issues he faced shaped the style and content of his commentary.

SUGYOT B'PARASHA

Rabbi Jesse Horn

This shiur identifies textual, philosophical, and theological issues that form a *sugya* in the parsha and shows the difference between the approaches of different classical mefarshim. The shiur highlights personalities throughout Tanach along with the challenges they face in their lives.

PARASHA THEMES

Rabbi Binyamin Yaeger

This shiur, given by the noted author, teaches how to identify and develop central themes in each parsha based on Midrashei Chazal and their development by later commentaries.

MITZVOT IN THE PARSHA

Rabbi Dovi Fischer

This shiur develops a familiarity with and appreciation of the mitzvot found in the weekly parsha. The shiur emphasizes the context in which the mitzvah appears within the parsha and also teaches how to present the mitzvot studied as part of a Shabbat d'var torah.

"BIBLICAL PERSONALITIES: A CREATIVE WAY OF UNCOVERING WHAT CHAZAL SAW IN TEXT"

Rabbi Jesse Horn

This Shiur, using Chazal's prism, looks at a different Biblical Character each shiur, trying to uncover the roots of and source for Chazal's perspective.

MIDRASH IN DEPTH

Rabbi Uri Goldstein

What does the Midrash mean? This shiur gets to the core of some famous-and some less famous-Midrashim and statements of Chazal to try and answer two major questions: How did Chazal want us to understand difficulties in the text of Chumash, and how can their approach illuminate both the Pshat and our perspective on the Torah?

NEVI'IM

TREI ASAR

Staff

Will the house of Eisav burn like lit hay at the hands of the house of Yaakov as foreseen by the navi Ovadia? Will the town of Ninveh hear the call to repentance of the reluctant navi Yonah? Will the the Beit Mikdash in Yerushalayim be rebuilt as foreseen by Chagai, Zecharia and Melachi? Will the Jewish dispersion be in-gathered by the merciful G-d of the navi Amos?

Trei Asar is a collection of concise visions communicated to the great sages, perfectly suited to today's sound bite generation. Yet the words of Trei Asar remain a mystery to many Jews.

This shiur brings talmidim in contact with the text, the historical context, and the traditional understanding of the message therein and gives them a chance to offer their own explanations.

HAFTAROT

Rabbi Shmuel Herschler

This shiur teaches an in-depth understanding of the weekly Haftorah. The messages relayed from the nevi'im to Klal Yisrael are talmidim are brought to appreciate perakim which are often only glanced at briefly.

DAVID HAMELECH- IYUN B'SIFREI SHMUEL/MELACHIM

Staff

David HaMelech is the most developed character in all of Tanach. The shiur develops a deeper appreciation of David by beginning in the middle of Shmuel Aleph where we meet him as a young shepherd and continuing through all of Shmuel Bet where he builds a large empire and the beginning of Melachim Aleph where he is passes on the kingship to his son Shlomo. The shiur shows how he related to other characters - Michal, Shaul and Yoav - and see how Chazal and mefarshim related to him.

KETUVIM

FIVE MEGILOT

Rabbi Reuven Taragin

The shiur covers the five megilot read on different yamim tovim. It begins with Sefer Kohelet which proves the religious understanding of the meaning of life by raising and refuting the alternatives. The shiur also covers Megilot Esther, Ruth, and Eicha as they are read through the year.

SHIR HASHIRIM

Rabbi Ari Cutler

The shiur uses both the p'shat and Chazal's historical interpretation of Shir Hashirim to help appreciate and develop our interpersonal relationships and our relationship with Hashem. In addition, the shiur shows how Rav Soloveitchik (in U'vikashtem Misham and Fate and Destiny) used the sefer to enhance our understanding of Medinat Yisrael and d'veikut with Hashem.

SEFER MISHLEI

Rabbi Tziki Berlin

This shiur studies the themes of the timely and timeless life lessons taught in Mishlei. Using mekorot from Chazal as the background, the shiur examines the teachings of Shlomo Hamelech through topics presented in the various perakim.

The shiur covers a perek each week and gains a deeper understanding of the motive behind the choice of parables and their logical progression.

SEFER TEHILIM

Rabbi Tuvya Lifshitz

Based on insights from classical and modern commentators, the shiur teaches different perspectives of understanding Biblical Poetry through Sefer Tehilim.

Using literary analysis and classical commentaries, the shiur shows how the different perakim of Tehilim were understood in the past and how we can understand them today. The shiur also deals with hashkafic issues surrounding Tehilim as well as issues surrounding the modern academic approaches to Tanach study.

SEFER IYOV

Rabbi Reuven Taragin

Sefer Iyov addresses the question of human suffering by telling of Iyov and his friends' attempts to explain his suffering. The shiur uses the discussion to deal with the broader issue of reward and punishment in this world.

MEGILAT RUTH

Staff

This shiur reveals the deeper meaning of the Book of Ruth as seen through Midrash and Aggadic Literature. Talmidim are encouraged to think through textual anomalies and create their own homiletical interpretations in a Torah-true creative environment.



MACHSHAVA (JEWISH PHILOSOPHY)

Machshava is an endless world of study. That being said, Hakotel's core shiurim teach the basic classical and contemporary approaches to the central issues of both philosophy and hashkafa.

Talmidim interested in further Machshava learning can participate in one or more of the additional elective shiurim offered by topic, sefer, and/or author.



CORE

BUILDING A TORAH PERSONALITY

Rabbi Baruch Weider- Rosh Yeshiva

The Rosh Yeshiva's weekly sicha, delivered to the entire Yeshiva, focuses on timely and relevant issues in the life of a Ben Torah. Based upon the teachings of Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook and Rav Tzvi Yehuda Kook, the Rosh Yeshiva helps Talmidim develop a Torah perspective on day-to-day issues and challenges, including approaches to Talmud Torah, midot, technology, life in Yeshiva, the significance of life in Medinat Yisrael and many more.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger

This shiur fosters a better understanding of Jewish values and beliefs by addressing topics such as Religious Zionism, Torah u'Mada, Jewish ethics, and relations with non-Jews. Sources are drawn from the writings of the greatest rabbonim of the twentieth century including Rav Kook and Rav Soloveitchik.

MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Rabbi Jason Knapel

This shiur delves into the core issues of Jewish Philosophy as expressed in the writings of Modern-Day Gedolim and pre-eminent philosophers. Topics complement discussions in other Modern Philosophy Shiurim.

HASHKAFA 101

Rabbi Reuven Taragin

Hashkafa means outlook and is the term used to refer to section of Jewish Philosophy that deals with how we should view our lives and missions in this world. This shiur presents the major sources that pertain to central hashkafic issues in an organized fashion and helps talmidim develop a clear understanding of our hashkafa on life.

FOUNDATIONS OF JUDAISM

Rabbi Tzvi Goldstein

We often find ourselves without the answers to the many of Judaism's most basic questions. This is because the answers are either unknown or not fully understood.

This shiur strengthens the understanding of Judaism's central beliefs and develops the skills necessary to properly explain them to others.

SURVEY OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHERS

Staff

This shiur offers an overview of the teachings of the giants of Jewish thought responsible for Jewish Philosophy as we know it today.

The shiur covers the rational thinking of the Rambam, the mysticism of the Ramban and the Ramchal, and the revolutionary ideas of more contemporary philosophers such as Rav Kook and Rav Soloveitchik.

THE 13 PRINCIPLES OF FAITH

Rabbi Yeshayahu Shteinberger

The Rambam established what have become widely accepted as the 13 basic principles of faith. This shiur examines the sources behind (both in the Rambam and beyond) and implications of each of these principles.

RISHONIM

"30 MAJOR DILEMMAS: THE THOUGHT THAT SHAPED JEWISH HASHKAFAT"

Rabbi Jesse Horn

This Shiur grapples with the great philosophical and ideological questions asked throughout our Philosophical and Ideological History, including; "Why Hashem created the World," "Why Hashem chose a Nation," and "Who gave the Rabbis the Religious Power they seem to Use."

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE RAMBAM

Rabbi Ari Heller

Many believe that since Moshe Rabbeinu there was no individual who impacted Judaism as significantly as the Rambam. He is known as one of the greatest, most systematic, and, perhaps, most influential of Jewish Philosophers.

This shiur presents the Rambam's views and the disagreements they generated on central hashkafic-philosophic topics such as creation of the world, free will and Divine Knowledge (determinism), reward and punishment, after-life, t'chiyat hameitim, t'shuva, prophecy, development of Torah Sheb'al Peh, understanding aggadot Chazal, the ideal man, the balance between individual growth and contributing to the community, perfection of midot, Talmud Torah, relating to a materialistic world, the destiny of Am Yisrael, and y'mot hamashiach.

MOREH NEVUCHIM

Rabbi Aharon Moreh

This shiur studies the most important Jewish philosophical text- Rambam's Moreh Nevuchim. Topics include the role of philosophy in emunah, ta'amei ha-mitzvot, and the esoteric teachings of the Torah. The shiur also explores other central issues in Rambam's thought found in his other writings.

SHEMONA PERAKIM

Rabbi Avner Sheshar

This shiur delves into the philosophy of the Rambam regarding the topic of 'torat hanefesh' (the nature of the soul) as presented in his introduction to Pirkei Avot. The shiur focuses on the human soul, source of life and its parts, and physical/spiritual maladies and the ways to heal them.

SEFER HAKUZARI

Rabbi Yigal Chabshush

The 'Kuzari' was written by Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, a talmid of the Ri"ף (Rav Yitzchak Alfasi) and a friend of the Ibn Ezra as a dialogue between a Jew and the king of the Khazars who was searching for the truth. The sefer presents Judaism's most basic principles and is, therefore, crucial to developing one's understanding of Judaism. The shiur focuses on the central themes of the sefer and their implications for developing ourselves properly.





PHILOSOPHY OF THE MAHARAL

Rabbi Yoel Rosenberg

The Maharal, one of the greatest Jewish Philosophers, concretized a system of Jewish thought that synthesized the approaches of the rationalists and kabbalists that predated him. His philosophy served as the cornerstone for those who came after him until today.

The shiur introduces talmidim to the basic tenets of the Maharal's philosophy by studying his most basic sefarim.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE RAMCHAL

Rabbi Shlomo Tubul

This shiur studies the philosophy of the Ramchal who is one of the most important figures in Jewish Philosophy. The shiur focuses on a number of the key differences between his opinions and those of the Rambam regarding issues such as Olam Hazeh, Olam Haba'a, T'chiat Hameitim and Y'mot Hamashiach.

DERECH HASHEM

Rabbi Shlomo Tubul

Derech Hashem deals with the foundations of emunah in an methodical and in- depth fashion and enables one to strengthen his emunah and serve Hashem with a deeper understanding and true simcha. In the sefer, the Ramchal, who was a great talmid chacham and kabbalist, presents deep kabbalistic concepts in a simple and clear fashion. The shiur uses the sefer to present a clear, organized understanding of Judaism's basic principles.

ACHRONIM

THE PHILOSOPHY OF RAV SOLOVEITCHIK

Dr. Carl Hochhauser

What makes Rav Soloveitchik one of last generation's most important Jewish philosophers?

This shiur explores the Rav's writings on a range of topics, including teshuva, the nature of the religious experience, tefilla, Zionism, suffering, and love. Particular attention is paid to how Rav Soloveitchik used traditional sources as well as general philosophy to build his unique worldview and to the continued relevance of his ideas.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF RAV KOOK

Rabbi Yoel Rosenberg

Rav Kook was the rabbi most identified with the return to Eretz Yisrael in the 20th century. He identified the moment as one Hashem had chosen for the beginning of the geula process and formulated the principles that became the philosophical underpinnings of the Religious Zionist worldview. This shiur introduces talmidim to the central tenets of Rav Kook's philosophy and personality and how these are meant to impact our outlook on Medinat Yisrael and our relationship with it.

NEFESH HACHAYIM

Rabbi Roni Klopstock

Nefesh Hachayim was written by Rav Chaim Volozhin as the manifesto of the modern yeshiva movement he began by founding the Volozhin yeshiva. The sefer explains the philosophy and kabbalistic significance of the yeshiva system and its focus on Talmud Torah. The shiur focuses on the central themes of the sefer and their implications for b'nei yeshiva.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF RAV HUTNER

Rabbi Roni Klopstock

Rav Yitzchak Hutner was one of the major roshei yeshiva of the 20th century. He is known for his deep philosophical ideas/essays built off the philosophy of the Maharal and traditions of the beit midrash of the Gr"za.

This shiur goes through the Sefer Pachad Yitzchak with the aim of giving students a deeper understanding of the Thought of Rav Yitzchak Hutner Zt"l through this ten volume work on Jewish thought and philosophy. Passages are studied inside the original text each week where students are encouraged to delve deeper into Rav Hutner's worldview.

PORTRAITS OF GEONIM & RISHONIM

Rabbi Dovi Fischer

While we spend all day learning and analyzing what they say, we often don't get an opportunity to get to know who they really are. These great sages have opinions, analyses and books which form the backbone of any Talmudic or Halachic topic and discourse and it is incumbent upon all of us to get to know them as people as well. This shiur teaches about their lives and their famed works all while providing participants with a more substantive perspective of not only Jewish History, but Torah History.

PEARLS OF THE MAHARAL

Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger

The Maharal is among the most influential Jewish thinkers in history. His numerous works either illuminate a particular work in Machshava or collect various sources to illuminate a particular concept or idea. His writing style is lengthy and difficult both linguistically and conceptually. We highlight several key pieces of the Maharal, clarify his thought, and elaborate on his ideas.

CHASSIDUT

WORLD OF CHASSIDUT

Rabbi Ari Heller

This shiur provides a gateway to the vast world of Chassidut. 'Yisrael, Hakadosh Boruch Hu, and the Torah are one (Zohar).' Who am I? What is my neshama's mission in this world? How am I meant to achieve this mission – practically? What does it mean to be 'one' with G-d? How do I develop my intimate relationship with G-d in a real way? How does the Talmud Torah that I am so engrossed in on a daily basis fit into the equation? The shiur deals with Chassidut's answers to these questions and more.

INTRODUCTION TO CHASSIDIC THOUGHT

Rabbi Chananel Elran

This shiur analyzes a wide variety of Chassidic texts written by the greatest Chassidic masters including the Ba'al Shem Tov, Rebbe Elimelech of Lyshansk, Rebbe Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, Rebbe Nachman, the Ishbitzer, and the Piaseczner.

The shiur focuses on core issues in Chassidic thought and practice such as faith, prayer, study, kavana and teshuva, as well as Chassidic insights into the various chagim and approaches to parshanut.

RAV NACHMAN MIBRESLOV'S STORIES AND PHILOSOPHY

Rabbi Reuven Taragin

Rav Nachman MiBreslov was the great-grandson of the Ba'al Shem Tov (the founder of Chassidut) and the founder of Breslov Chassidut. He used stories as a medium to relay his message about the simple truths of life and the need to focus on the positive.

This shiur uses Rav Nachman's other writings to reveal and explain the messages of his stories.



SEFER HATANYA

Staff

Sefer HaTanya is the cornerstone sefer of Chabad (Lubavitch) Chassidut. This shiur teaches the basic themes of the sefer which analyzes the nature of the Jewish soul as a basis for understanding our mission in this world.

B'NEI YISSACHAR

Staff

The B'nei Yissacher is unique in that it is considered central by all the different Chassidic sects. It is known for its deep symbolic concepts.

This shiur studies pieces that raise thought provoking ideas related to each parshat hashavua.

NETIVOT SHALOM

Rabbi David Milston

The previous Slonimer Rebbe wrote on a variety of subjects, including faith in G-d, t'fila, parshat hashavua, Chagim, and recent events in Jewish history such as the Holocaust. Most importantly, he opened the world of Chassidut to those without chassidic background by simplifying complex issues and explaining them in a way that is both fascinating and inspiring to every student.

The shiur studies the rebbe's essays while also drawing on other sources from the world of chassidut.



MUSSAR

Mussar is essential to our ability to reach higher ethical and moral standards. Each evening first year talmidim spend a half hour learning mussar with an older talmid. The yeshiva has a topical curriculum that covers the most central mussar issues faced by post high school boys. In addition, we offer a number of shiurim dedicated to mussar sefarim and themes.

AVODAT HAMIDOT

Rabbi Ari Cutler

This shiur focuses on the different midot a ben torah is meant to develop and teaches how each of them can be developed properly.

MESILAT YESHARIM

Rabbi David Milston

The twenty-seven perakim of Mesilat Yescharim are a compendium of wisdom and real understanding of life.

The shiur covers the first section of the sefer which deals with personal behavior and conduct. By intense study and introspection, the shiur shows the author's suggested path to a fulfilling and meaningful life.

LEARNING FROM OUR GEDOLIM

Rabbi Chanoch Teller

'Gadol shimusha yoteir m'limuda-' one learns more from the lives of the gedolim than from the learning of Torah. This shiur, given by the world renowned magid, exposes talmidim to the personalities of the paramount gedolim of the last one hundred years. Story-rich and directional- intensive, each talk imbues a profound understanding of the goals, unique challenges, and life lessons taught by each gadol.

AISH KODESH

Staff

Aish Kodesh consists of the derashot of the Piaseczna Rebbe who was martyred in the Warsaw Ghetto. It covers topics such as evil, suffering, faith and doubt, meaning amidst radical absurdity, and anti- Semitism. While learning the sefer, the shiur also deals with the question of whether the Holocaust can be understood as Divine punishment. In this context it also compares Aish Kodesh to the writings of other Holocaust theologians. The shiur helps talmidim emerge with a stronger commitment to faith which helps confront life's challenges and difficulties.

IYUN TEFILA

Rabbi Ari Cutler

This shiur improves tefila by relating to three of its aspects:

- a) The philosophy of tefila- How does tefila work? The shiur studies many of the writings of Rav Soloveitchik, Rav Kook, and others on the topic.
- b) The meaning of tefilot- The shiur analyzes many tefilot, including Shema, Shemoneh Esreh, and Birkot Hashachar, in order to improve understanding of the tefilot.
- c) Hilchot tefila- The shiur covers halachot starting from the Gemara through the contemporary responsa literature.

MIDNIGHT MUSSAR

Ramim

Thursday night mishmar is highlighted by a (post) midnight sicha from one of the yeshiva's ramim followed by a Thursday night preview of the Shabbat cholent.

TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

We live during a special period of Jewish history during which much of Am Yisrael has had the privilege of returning to Eretz Yisrael and living under Jewish sovereignty.

Great rabbonim of the twentieth century, such as Rav Kook and Rav Soloveitchik, began explaining the hashkafic significance of this reality. We offer a number of shiurim that present these writings from multiple perspectives.

OROT HATORAH

Rabbi Baruch Wieder - Rosh Yeshiva

In Orot HaTorah, Rav Kook teaches how to intensify one's personal learning and his influence on his learning environment.

The Rosh Yeshiva uses the shiur to expose talmidim to the hashkafa of Rav Kook who taught how one's learning of Torah should be part of his connection to Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael.

TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

Rabbi Yonatan Galinsky

This shiur studies the major beliefs of and issues facing Religious Zionism by addressing both the halachic and hashkafic topics faced by the State of Israel.

Through a diverse set of sources and articles, the shiur helps appreciate an ideology many identify with without fully understanding.

Topics covered include: the roots of Religious Zionism, atchalta d'geula, land for peace, army service vs. Yeshiva learning, and Torah v'avoda.

TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

Rabbi Gadi Shlevin

Learning Torah in Eretz Yisrael adds a dimension to both concepts. This shiur helps understand this interface by studying the writings of Rav Kook and Torat Eretz Yisrael in general.

This shiur enhances the experience of learning Torah in Eretz Yisrael as talmidim deepen their understanding of the uniqueness of Torat Eretz Yisrael.

LIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS ZIONISM

Rabbi Ari Heller

Rav Kook's 'Orot' (Lights) teaches how to see the world through spiritual lenses by "lighting up" all the details and relating to them as pieces in the puzzle of Hashem's master-plan.

'Orot Hamilchama' is the section of Orot that focuses on the inner dimensions of war by showing its alignment with the spiritual war that began with creation and will iy"H culminate with the ultimate geula of Am Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael.

The shiur completes the sefer inside which familiarizes talmidim with Rav Kook's writing style and uses this section of the sefer as a window into understanding the Religious Zionist hashkafa. The discussions focus both on the philosophical perspective as well as the practical application of the ideas to our generation.

HALACHA

Halachic observance is the most basic expression of our commitment to Hashem's Will. We are often unaware of the halachot we need to observe and lacking the skills needed to determine them.

Hakotel has halacha seder after shacharit. We recommend using our suggested curriculum which covers the most commonly confronted areas of halacha.

In addition, we recommend attending a core shiur where these and other areas are addressed by one of our rabbanim (either Ashkenazic or Sephardic).

Those interested in learning these areas in more depth or other areas of halacha are encouraged to attend one or more of the additional shiurim offered.



CORE

ASHKENAZIC PRACTICAL HALACHA

Rabbi Jesse Horn/ Rabbi Ari Cutler/ Rabbi Dovi Fischer

This shiur, jam-packed with information, provides intensive study in a broad range of fundamental halachic topics.

The topics are presented from the Gemara through the Rishonim and the Poskim. Topics include: Chagim, Shabbat, Kashrut, Tefila and B'rachot, issues between men and women, and sefer Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzah.

SEPHARDIC PRACTICAL HALACHA

Rabbi Aharon Moreh

Sephardic halachic decisions differ in many important ways from Ashkenazic ones. This shiur, offered by one of our Sephardic rabbis, teaches halacha from a Sephardic perspective according to the Sephardic tradition.

ELECTIVES

HILCHOT SHABBAT

Rabbi Jesse Horn

This shiur offers a broad survey of halachic topics including in Hilchot Shabbat. It begins by focusing on the mitzvot asef during Elul, continues with the 39 melachot during Zman Choref, and finishes with topics such as muktza and amira leAkum in Kayitz.

HILCHOT KASHRUT

Rabbi Ari Heller

This shiur focuses on topics with foundations in Massechet Chullin and Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah. Topics include: In-Depth Basar B'Chalav, Ta'aruvot, Shechita & Melicha, Tevilat Keilim and checking for bugs. It gives students a comprehensive overview of what is typically learned to receive Semicha while at the same time allowing a more interactive setting to learn at an appropriate pace.

CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL TOPICS

Staff

What significance does Judaism attribute to secular studies? When are organ donations permissible? How does Halacha respond to technological developments and social revolutions?

This shiur explores different Halachic topics that have explicit ideological and philosophical implications. It uses extensive sources to show how Halacha helps develop a Jewish worldview.

Topics covered include Judaism & science, medical ethics, gender issues, Torah u-madda, and interaction with non-Jews. Particular attention is paid to the development of halacha and the halachic process.

40 COMPREHENSIVE HALACHIC TOPICS

Rabbi Dovi Fischer

This shiur, jam-packed with information and Mekorot, provides a clear, intensive study in a broad range of fundamental Halachic topics from the ground up-All of the Pesukim, Gemarot throughout Shas, Rishonim, Achronim and ultimately how the Poskim decide Halacha L'Maaseh. Topics covered include: Hilchot Chagim, Berachot, Shabbat, Kashrut, Yichud, Geirut, Hilchot Sefer Torah/Tefillin/Mezuzah and Life Cycle Events.

HALACHA/ETHICS IN THE WORKPLACE

Dr. Carl Hochhauser

Halacha is meant to be observed not only in the Beit Midrash, but also in the workplace. This shiur focuses on the challenges of keeping halacha at work and interacting with the 'outside world' in general. The shiur relates to professions like medicine, psychology, law, and education.

It addresses questions that are both general and specific including:

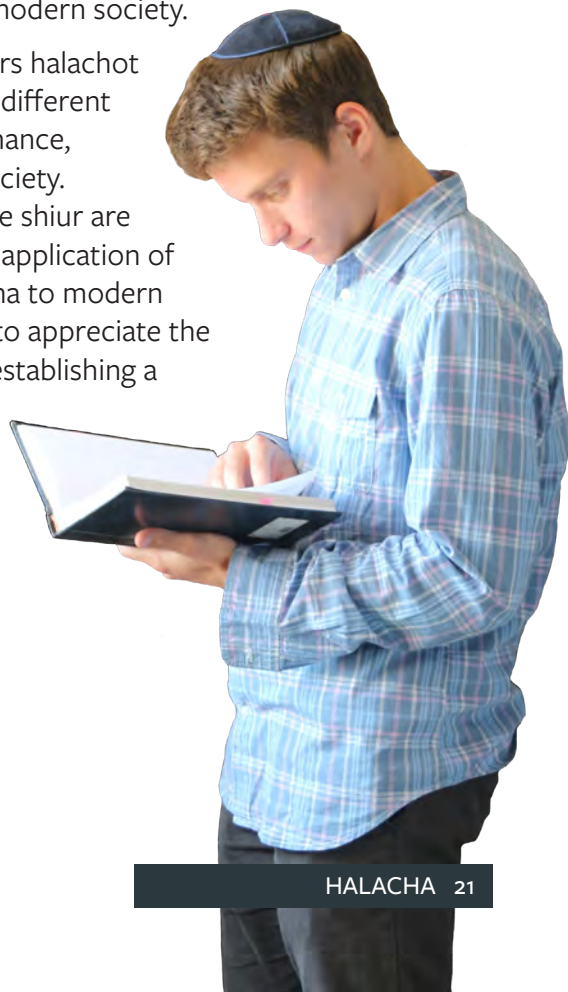
- May you shake hands with a female client?
- What if your patient asks you to end their life?
- Can you appear in a court that is not a halachic beit din?
- Are you allowed to punish students who cheat on tests?
- What do you do if the company goes out for dinner to a non-kosher restaurant?
- May you take coffee from a non-kosher cafeteria?
- May you be alone in the office with a female client?
- May one perform cosmetic surgery?

HILCHOT MEDINA

Rabbi Shmuel Herschler

We live in historical times, in the first unified Jewish sovereignty in Israel since the times of David and Shlomo. With the creation of the state, we have the opportunity to experience a whole new application of Halacha to modern society.

This shiur covers halachot that pertain to different areas of governance, security and society. The goals of the shiur are to observe the application of timeless Halacha to modern situations and to appreciate the complexity of establishing a Halachic State.





Beyond the regular shiurim, Yeshivat Hakotel offers tens of Afternoon Y'mei Iyun that relates to Chagim/special days as well as Important Topics.

CHAGIM/SPECIAL DAYS

Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Tu B'Shvat, Rosh Chodesh, Shabbat, Purim, Pesach, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Lag Ba'omer, Yom Yerushalayim, Shavuot

IMPORTANT TOPICS

AM YISRAEL

(How) Is Ahavat Yisrael Possible?, How To Achieve Achdut Yisrael, Am Yisrael and Our Time, Am Yisrael through the Eyes of Chabad, The Nation of Israel in its Land, Learning From Our Differences, K'ish Echad B'lev Echad

CHASSIDUT

The Chassidic Mindset- Understanding the (Re) Chiddush of Chassidut, Changing the World through Chassidut, Radzin, Izhbitz, and the Peshischa Dynasty in Chassidus, The Soul of the Land, An introduction to Chassidut, What If I am Not a Chassid?

DATING AND MARRIAGE

The Creation of Man and Woman as a Marriage Model, Who is the Right Girl?, Modern Dating 101, When Am I Ready?, Shidduchim: Reflections and Recriminations, Bat Gilo or Bechirat Libo: Who Chooses and How?, Know When to Say When, Sanctified Sexuality, Married Life, The Halachot of Being a Married Couple, The Wedding Planner, Attack of the Clones?, Family Planning: Genetic Testing Birth Control and Fertility Issues, Getting Ready for Father's Day

THE DIVINITY & IMPORTANCE OF TORAH

The Nature and Development of Torah, Darchei Limmud of the Rishonim, The 7 Major Concepts of Torah Shebaal Peh, Why Learn Gemara if I Am Not Going To Be a Rabbi, Women's Torah Learning, The Authenticity of Torah SheBaal Peh, The History and Differences between Slobodka and Nevardok

LIFE AFTER YESHIVA

Multiple y'mei Iyun - see information guide for

EMUNA

What We Believe, Why Believe, Understanding the 13 Principles of Faith, How The Chachmai HaMesorah Prove Hashem's Existence, Emunah in and after the Holocaust, How Faith can Make or Break Us, The Miracle of Jewish History, "Forget about G-D, Who Am I?"

JEWISH HISTORY

The Miracle of Jewish History, Personalities of the Tanaim, Overview of the History of Torah in 45 Minutes, The Evolution of the Brisker Derech, Different Approaches to Learning: Sefardic and Ashkenazic Rishonim, The History of Pshat and Drash, The Development of Yeshivot- From Volozhin till Today, Modern Jewish History, The History of Chassidut

PERSONAL GROWTH/DERECH ERETZ

Derech Eretz Kadma LaTorah, Being a Good Guest, Getting Along with Your Chavruta, Dan L'kaf Zechut, Centrality of Chessed

PRACTICAL HALACHA- Kashrut in Food Production, Mila, Orla, Sha'atnez, Shechita and Kashering Meat, Shevi'it, Sta'm (Sefer Torah, Tefilin, Mezuzah), Terumot/Ma'asrot, Tzitzit (Creation and Techelet)

THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The Religious Significance of The State of Israel, The Halachic Implications of Having a State, The Religious State of the State of Israel, The State of Israel as Atchalta D'Ge'ula, Creating a State of Reaction, The Remarkable Privilege of a Modern State of Israel

In line with the Mishnah in Avot (4:1), Yeshivat Hakotel emphasizes the importance of learning from all people. We offer many guests speakers in the course of each year to broaden the experience of our talmidim. Below is a list of those who have spoken in the past few years.

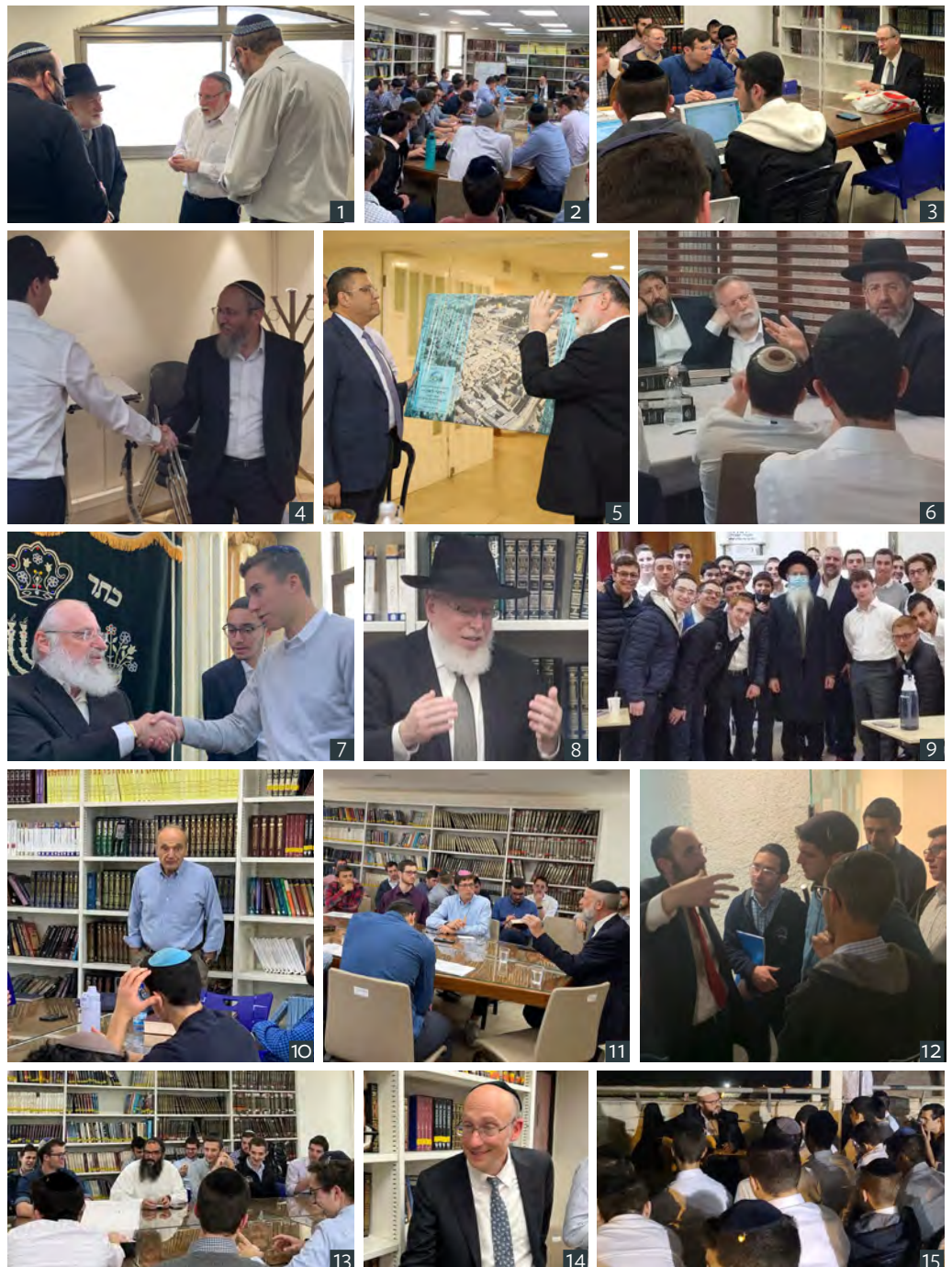
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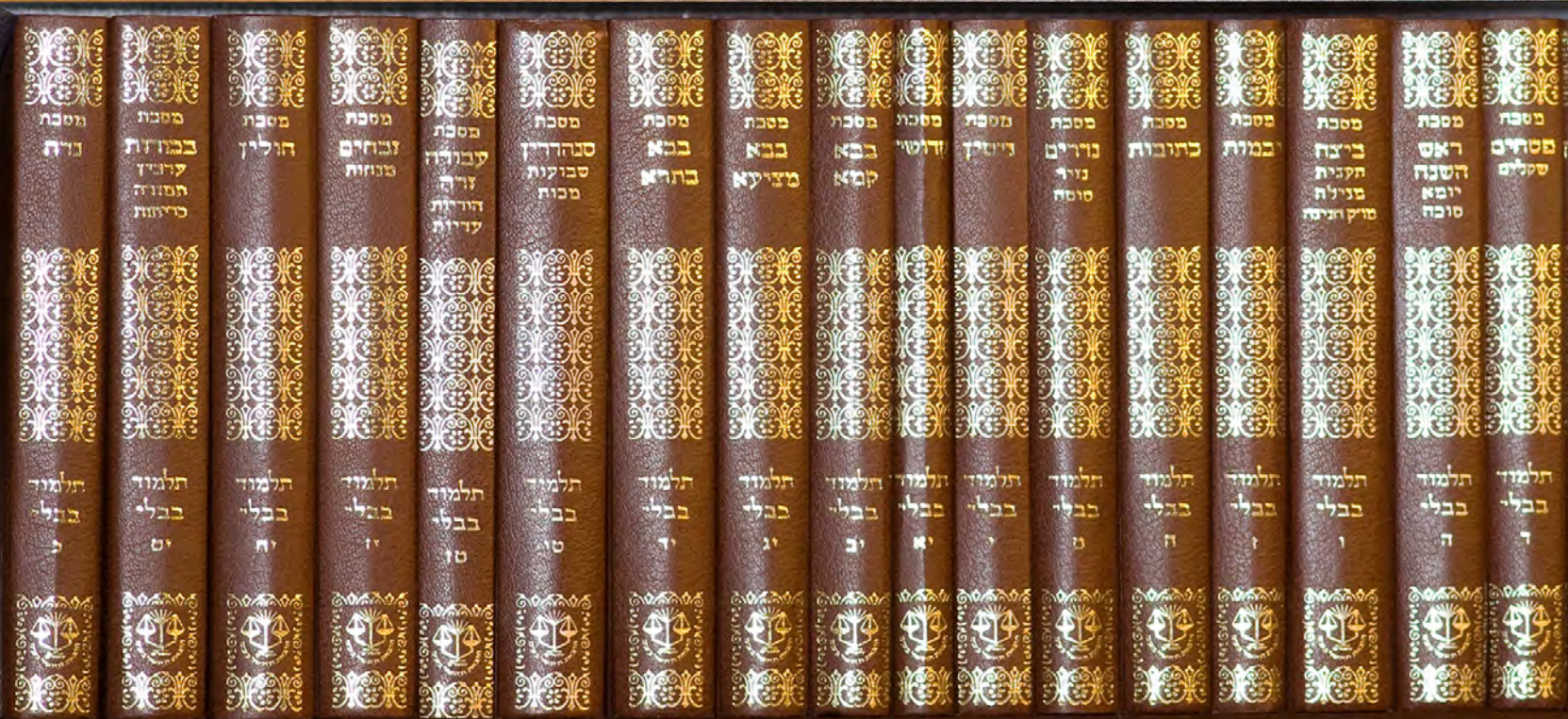
1. Rabbi Herschel Schachter
2. Rabbi Mordechai Willig
3. Rabbi Michael Rosensweig
4. Rabbi Yosef Tzvi Rimon
5. Mayor Moshe Lion
6. Chief Rabbi David Lau
7. Rabbi Asher Weiss
8. Rabbi Yonasan Sacks
9. Rabbi Eliezer Melamed
10. Professor Gerald Schroder
11. Rabbi Efreim Goldberg
12. Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveitchik
13. Rabbi Judah Mischel
14. Rabbi Tzvi Sobolofsky
15. Rabbi Shlomo Katz

- Rabbi Yaakov Glasser
 Rabbi Hillel Ven Leeuwen
 Rabbi Lavi Geenspan
 Rabbi Shlomo Aviner
 Rabbi Tani Cohen
 Mrs. Stephanie Strauss
 Rabbi Daniel Feldman
 Rebbetzin Shani Taragin
 Rabbi Yisroel Kaminetsky
 Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz
 Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef
 Rabbi Steven Burg
 Rabbanit Hadari
 Rabbi Mayer Twersky
 Rabbi David Aaron
 Rabbi Shalom Baum
 Rabbi Moshe Benovitz
 Rabbi Avi Berman
 Rabbi Eli Ciner
 Dr. Hillel Davis
 Rav Chaim Druckman
 Mr. Michael Eisenberg
 Rabbi Zvi Engel
 Rabbi Eytan Feiner
 Rabbi Baruch Felberman
 Rabbi Dovid Fendel
 Rabbi David Fohrman
 Rabbi Binny Friedman
 Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel
 Dr. Joshua Golding
 Rabbi Yamin Goldsmith
 Rabbi Yehoshua Hartman
 Pres. Richard Joel
 Rabbi Nachman Kahane
 Rabbi Moshe Kempinski

- Dr. Yisrael Levitz
 Rabbi Moshe Lichtman
 Rabbi Mordechai Machlis
 Dr. David Pelcovitz
 Rabbi Marc Penner
 Rabbi Doron Peretz
 Mrs. Naomi Peretz
 Rabbi Shalom Rosner
 Mr. Kurt Rothschild z"l
 Rabbi YY Rubinstein
 Rabbi Naftali Schiff
 Rabbi Barnea Selavan

- Rabbi JJ Shachter
 Rabbi Andrew Shaw
 Rabbi Eliezer Shenvald
 Rabbi Shmuel Silber
 Mrs. Channah Spiegelman
 Rabbi Moshe Stavsky
 Dr. Akiva Tatz
 Mrs. Anita Tucker
 Mrs. Esther Wachsmann
 Rabbi Steven Weil
 Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Weinberg
 Rabbi Moshe Weinberger





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