



# MORE CHOICES

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# HOW TO REGISTER

## Registration Timeline:

- **Sun Aug 22:** we email you a username and password. You log in to make sure they work.
- **Sun Aug 22:** we distribute our registration FAQ
- **Sun Aug 22:** you receive this semester's amazing course catalog... which you are currently reading!
- **Mon Aug 23:** you receive this semester's schedule so you can see days & times & plan your schedule.
- **Mon Aug 23, 5pm:** Registration! Select your courses & weekly "Rakezet" meeting

## Steps in the Process:

On Aug 22, our registration system emailed you a username and password. If you've changed your email address from what you used for your seminary application, please immediately email our secretary, Ariella, at [midreshetoffice@gmail.com](mailto:midreshetoffice@gmail.com) to notify her, since **the email address we have for you** is where we'll be sending your username and password. Many of you were using a school email for college applications and may now be using a different email, so please let us know ASAP. If on Aug 22 you didn't receive an email with a username and password, please first check your spam folder; if it's not there, please email Ariella at [midreshetoffice@gmail.com](mailto:midreshetoffice@gmail.com) and she will have one sent to you.

Once you receive the email containing your username and password, please **immediately test** that your login works by going to [www.midmorechoices.com/students](http://www.midmorechoices.com/students) and logging in. Please report any difficulties immediately to Ariella at [midreshetoffice@gmail.com](mailto:midreshetoffice@gmail.com). We're asking you to test your login info right away so that by the time registration officially opens (Aug 23), we will have solved any problems so you can register. (Bookmark that website on your phone, since you'll use it to make all changes to your schedule.) While you're there, please update your personal info.

On Aug 22, we'll distribute this course catalog for Fall 5782! Your first step in registering is to browse through this **amazing** catalog, reading the course descriptions, circling everything that looks interesting, and being wowed by all of the incredible learning being offered this semester, including many new courses. We don't say "More Choices" for nothing!

## A Little Friendly Advice:

- Carefully read the course descriptions in the catalog; **don't just go by the course names!** This will save you from signing up for the wrong courses just because the names sounded interesting. Also, many girls take more than one tefilah shiur or more than one parshah shiur, since each one is so different... as the course descriptions will show you.
- Your schedule reflects your unique goals and needs. Make sure to choose what's right for you. Registering along with friends will not produce the right schedule for you and will get in the way of your branching out and making new friends... Don't be the girl who wakes up in December and realizes she's different from her friends and needs her own unique schedule!
- After going through the catalog, on Thursday evening you'll receive the schedule to see what day and time each course meets, and you'll start to make your schedule! Remember to check on the schedule whether your courses meet once or twice a week.
- If you're having trouble deciding between conflicting courses, just choose one of them for now and make a note to yourself to try the other course too. Once you've tried both, you'll decide which course is best for you. You'll have all the way until Thu Sep 30 to make switches as often as you like until you get it perfect.
- Make sure to sign up for the number of "CnC" periods ("Chavrutot & Chaburot," see the section in this catalog all about it) that makes sense for you – enough time to do prep work for your shiurim, **review what you're learning** in your courses, do a few "chaburot" with teachers, and your own independent projects, like parshah. And **make a plan** for what to do in each of your CnC periods so you don't just space out... The maximum number of CnC's without special permission is 8.
- "Late CnC" at 9:30pm is for the "shtark" and the night owls. If you're a girl who's going to step off the plane ready to "shteig," this is where you'll connect with other girls who feel the same!

- Look carefully at your balance of תנ"ך, הלכה, and אמונה to see if it's what you want.
- At first, you might want to take more than the minimum of 37 hours, so you can try out more courses; then, once you've decided which courses to keep, you can drop down to fewer hours and schedule some breaks so you don't burn out.
- Think of your initial schedule as just your "rough draft" of what to try out first. Naturally, you don't know the teachers yet, and your goals for the year are still developing. So when learning begins, come with an open mind, ready to **make switches**. Sometimes girls are just afraid of changing their schedule, even when they realize it's not what they want. Make sure that doesn't happen to you! You have until Thu Sep 30 to switch around freely. Make changes until you're happy!
- All in all, make sure to put together a schedule which will enable you to achieve the most you can this year. Think frequently about whether to change your schedule as your goals and learning level change.
- This is *the* year to work on your tefilah and your basic knowledge of what's in the Torah. It's not an official "requirement," but our advice is that **everyone should take at least one tefilah course** which helps you understand what you're saying and connect with it, **and at least one parshah course** so that you gain greater familiarity with the Torah (and have a Devar Torah for when you go places for Shabbat and they ask you for one!).

## Requirements:

- Required hours:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> hour of every day (10am Sun, 9am M-Th)
  - Nights 7:30 – 9:20 (Monday nights free!)
- You need a total of 37 hours...
  - ...8 hrs of which need to be afternoon hours
  - ...and something each afternoon.
  - Tip: In the first weeks, when you're trying out courses, you may actually want to sign up for more than 37 hours, just so you can try out all the courses you're considering. Then you'll know which to keep and which to drop.
- Required courses:
  - Hilchot Shabbat (R. Lerner, R. Rafi, R. Eitan)
  - Shiur Klali, Monday @ 3pm

## Registration Day:

Once registration begins on Mon Aug 23 at 5pm, you have an hour to log in and select your courses. Registration closes at 6pm. (**Students who are not financially clear will not be able to register** – please contact Ruthie now at [office@midreshetmoriah.org](mailto:office@midreshetmoriah.org) to clear up any remaining financial issues.) Log in, click "Register for Courses," and select your courses!

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

## Make Changes Until You're Happy:

Until Thu Sep 30, **the system will open each night for to to change your schedule freely as often as you like (no changes during the day)**. Until then, you'll be trying out classes all day. So your registration is actually just a "rough draft" to work on for the first few weeks until you get it the way you want it. Tried a class and it's not for you? Just log in and switch. Have a schedule problem and not sure what to do? Come see Rav Eitan or Bracha and we'll sit down to solve it together.

Class of 5782 is gonna rock!

THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE...

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

CAN'T WAIT!

# תנ"ך

## TANACH SECTION I: CHUMASH

**TIP:** The way we do Chumash at Midreshet Moriah is *completely different* from what you've done before. Try it out!

### From Adam to Avraham

RAV EITAN MAYER

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



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

- Why does the Torah tell two versions of the creation story – and how can they conflict?!
- Why does the Torah tell the whole story of

the Tower of Bavel and the punishment suffered by those who built it, but never tells us what they did wrong! There's more to the story in *peshat*...

- Since Adam sinned and No'ach failed as well, why not create Avraham as the first man to begin with, and have the “chosen one” from the very beginning?
- The Torah tells us clearly that No'ach was chosen for his righteousness. So why was Avraham chosen, and why doesn't the Torah tell us?
- If Yishmael was so obviously evil, how could Avraham be so blind as to want him to be his successor? There's more to the story in *peshat*...

In this textual shiur, designed for the student who loves mind-blowing surprises and thinking, we will meet the hidden Torah of *peshat*. Join us for an exploration which will forever change how you look at the Torah and make clear that “*peshat*” means anything but “the simple meaning”!

### Sefer Shemot: From Slavery to Sinai

MALKA HUBSCHER

We all know Bnei Yisrael were slaves for generations, but why did they “need” to be enslaved to begin



with? Of all the people who could have saved the nation, why does Hashem specifically choose someone who was raised in Paroh's house – and does this make Moshe a better or worse leader? Did Bnei Yisrael actually see Hashem at Har Sinai, and if so, how could they worship an idol so soon

afterward? Sefer Shemot tells the fascinating story of Am Yisrael's roller-coaster journey from גלות to גאולה, the transformation of a nation of slaves into a nation of God. With the aid of both classical and modern mefarshim, we will explore these and many more issues, developing both our textual and analytical skills.



## Life-Changing Rashis and Rambans

RAV JONNY FRIEDMAN

Yosef has been gone for decades, missing in action and presumed dead. So when he decides to reveal



himself and needs to make his father Yaakov believe he is actually still alive, why does he send wagons to his father – what do they mean? After Yaakov wrestled with (and beat!) the angel, why was the angel so

reluctant to reveal his name to Yaakov? When Hashem first appeared to Moshe, why was it specifically in a thorn bush, of all things? We often hear, “ma’aseh avot siman la-banim,” that events which occur in the lives of the Avot are similar to events which will occur to their descendants. But why, and what does this mean? We’ve all heard someone mention a “famous” Rashi or Ramban that we are all supposed to know... but it wasn’t famous to us! If that’s you, this class is for you! Of all the commentators, Rashi and Ramban are most known for the most crucial interpretations, ones which shape not only the way we understand a certain pasuk, but which serve as indispensable foundations for Jewish values and Jewish life. Join us to extract deep meaning which will impact our lives today!

## Life of Moshe Rabbeinu

RAV EITAN MAYER / SHANA BET

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



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

Mishkan to the Egel, through all of his triumphs and every frustrating rebellion – and we will learn to love our greatest teacher like never before. We will begin with Moshe Rabbeinu’s unusual personality: He seems to be constantly interfering with other people and getting himself into trouble, first with the two

fighting Jews, and later with the shepherds harassing Yitro’s daughters. Why can’t he just mind his own business? Why are these stories so crucial that they are the only stories told about Moshe until age 80? Hashem argues with Moshe at great length to force him to go back to Egypt and save his people. But why does Hashem need Moshe anyway, since the real power behind the plagues is Hashem? What makes Moshe Rabbeinu the right leader to take the nation out of slavery and to deliver the Torah? We will analyze many sections in which Moshe Rabbeinu appears in the Torah, taking a fresh “*peshat*” perspective in order to deeply understand the background and personality of the greatest leader in Jewish history. What emerges – as always happens when we learn *peshat* instead of *derash* – is a Moshe Rabbeinu who reveals dimensions entirely hidden to us before.

## Matan Torah Today

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN / SHANA BET

One of the most extraordinary events that ever happened to the Jewish people was the experience of *Matan Torah* and receiving the *Aseret Ha-Dibberot*. The

Torah provides great detail about the events leading up to the actual revelation. In addition to the commandments themselves, how can the lessons of that back story apply to us today? How do we



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

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



the original stories, leaves out crucial details (and whole stories) which are in the originals, and far more problematically, its stories often *conflict* with the original versions and its explanations of events often seem alien to the original context. But if *Sefer Devarim* is not a review, then what is it? How do we explain its lack of chronology and its many conflicts with the first four *chumashim*? Why would we need a review anyway, since we can always just turn back to the original stories? Each *chumash* has its own themes, its particular personality, its own special concerns and perspectives. Join us to uncover the mystery of *Sefer Devarim*.

## Discover Yourself:

### Sefer BeMidbar

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

Let's face it: When we think of Bnei Yisrael in the desert, we often think, "constant complainers." Many of us complain a lot too -- how can we stay focused on the great things ahead for us and not get bogged down in negativity and anxiety? How do we explain why the same people who witnessed the greatest open miracles in history – the plagues, the splitting sea, seeing God Himself at Sinai, collecting their daily meals straight from the sky – found themselves constantly questioning whether Hashem was with them, and how can we ourselves stay inspired in our own lives? Watching Bnei Yisrael try to transition from taking orders as slaves to deciding everything for themselves as free people, how do we successfully make that same transition in our own lives, from the dependency of childhood to the autonomy of being adults? We can all see how the fear of change and of the unknown stopped Bnei Yisrael in their tracks, but how do we avoid the same fate ourselves? Join us for a journey to independence and adulthood, personally and as a nation.



### The Mystery of Sefer Devarim

RAV EITAN MAYER / ADV.

If you ask most educated people what *Sefer Devarim* is all about, they'll tell you that it reviews what happened in the first four *chumashim*. (Some people might also know this is why *Devarim* is also known as "Deuteronomy" or "Mishneh Torah," both of which mean review). But even a casual look inside the *sefer* shows that this view is wrong. *Devarim* does not do what we would expect a review to do. It does not begin at the beginning. It does not retell what happened in the same order it took place originally, instead skipping around erratically. It adds details (including many new *mitzvot*) which are missing from



# TANACH SECTION II: PARSHAT HA-SHAVU'A

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

## Midrash of the Week

RAV ZVI RON

How did No'ach manage to feed all of those animals on the Ark? Who was his wife, the mysterious Mrs. No'ach? Did the Flood really cover the entire world? Why was Eisav so hairy? Why do Chazal think that blessings only work on hidden things? What is the secret reason for sneezing? How did Moshe find the secret spot where Yosef was buried in Egypt? Every week, we will learn classic and not yet classic midrashim related to the parshah. The source material for all Torah commentaries and divrei Torah is right here! We will study the midrashim together and extract the insights and lessons encoded within. All of your midrash questions answered and lessons learned!



chance to improve your knowledge, skills and understanding of the parshah, focusing on characters and themes. Each meeting will leave you with deeper understanding of the texts and life lessons and something great to say on Shabbat!

## Parshah Insights

RAV JASON KNAPEL

We are the people of the "Book," but so many of us



have never really gone through the "Book." Now is our chance! In this course, we will prepare the parshah together, reading, thinking and questioning so that we can understand what the Torah is telling us. Along the way, we will develop skills in creating Divrei Torah,

which will come in handy for Shabbat during the year and beyond.

## Parshah

MALKA HUBSCHER

"So, you're in seminary, learning all week long – what's this week's parshah?" "Did you learn anything interesting on the parshah?" "Can you share a Devar Torah with us?" These are questions seminary students are often asked by friends, family, and often, their Shabbat hosts as well. Why wait until then to delve into the beauty and depth of the parshah? This course will give you the



## Inspiration in the Parshah

RAV ELIE WAGNER

We will discover the most inspiring, instructive, informative and uplifting elements the weekly



parshah has to offer. No texts or source sheets required, just an open mind and an open heart!

## Peshat in the Parshah

RAV EITAN MAYER

Ready for something really eye-opening? Join us for a very different point of view on the parshah than what you've heard so far. Why was Adam's one and only test connected specifically to fruit? Why was Avraham's first test connected to leaving his land? Why does the Torah tell us scandalous stories like Yehuda's taking Tamar for a prostitute? What *really* happened between Dina and Shechem? Why did Hashem need to take Moshe by surprise, jumping out at him from behind a burning bush like some kind of prank? What is the real (but secret!) function of the Aron in the Mishkan? If the nations of Canaan were so strong, how did Moshe fail to anticipate that the spies would return with such a frightening (and honest!) report? Each week, we will creatively develop a theme from a "peshat" perspective and take it to unexpected places. Leave your preconceptions at the door and prepare to expand your perspective on characters you thought you knew!

## Halachah in the Parshah

RAV ELIE WAGNER

Each week, we will explore a highly relevant area of practical halachah connected to the parshah (whether the parshah itself contains mitzvot or just stories). You will arrive at Shabbat each week not only with something interesting to share at the table, but also with practical halachic knowledge you can put to use.



# TANACH SECTION III: SEFARIM IN NACH

## “Trei Asar”

RAV ASHI TARAGIN / SHANA BET

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



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

## Tehilim

MICHAL PORAT ZIBMAN

*Sefer Tehilim* is the *sefer* that is the most closely integrated into our daily lives, since much of what we say when *davening* is actually from *Tehilim*. David Ha-Melech's poetic masterpiece enables us to express ourselves to God at our lowest moments, at our greatest moments, at moments of gratitude and at moments of intense seeking. Join us on this



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

## Tehilim in Tefilah (Adv)

RAV EITAN

If the whole *Pesukei De-Zimrah* (the section between *Baruch She-Amar* and *Yishtabach*) is basically just praise, why does it need to be so long – do we really need five “*hallelukot*” that all say basically the same thing? What's actually so special about *Ashrei* that it's the centerpiece of *pesukei de-zimrah*? What does “*Mizmor shir le-yom ha-Shabbat*” actually have to do with *Shabbat*, since it doesn't talk about resting or creation? What are we trying to say in *Kabbalat Shabbat*, since barely anything there even mentions *Shabbat*? Is *Shir Ha-Ma'a lot Mi-Ma'amakim* really the best choice for whenever something is worrying us? We will analyze and uncover the real story behind *pesukei de-zimrah*, *Kabbalat Shabbat* and more and understand why we say them when we do.



## Chamesh Megilot

MALKA HUBSCHER

What is a *megilah*? How is it different from other books in Tanach? What are the connections between

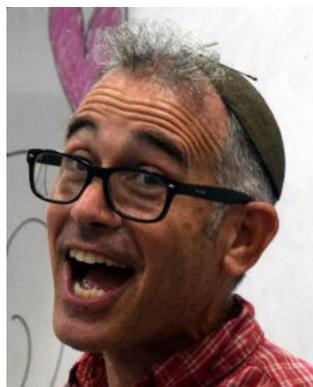


*Rut* and *Esther*? Why does Shlomo Ha-Melech sound so depressed in *Kohelet*? How do we understand what the passionate love songs of *Shir Ha-Shirim* are doing in Tanach? How are *Eichah*'s descriptions of the destroyed, desolate Jerusalem still relevant today? We will address what is unique about each of the five *Megilot*, studying the text and historical context of each *Megilah* and the themes unique to each, and uncovering new insights into these well-known *sefarim*.

## Sefer Ezra

RAV ZVI RON

Do these sound familiar: a high intermarriage rate; massive ignorance of Torah and Hebrew; widespread Shabbat desecration; and antagonistic neighbors in Eretz Yisrael? Sound eerily like Jewish life today? Learn about the challenges faced by Bnei Yisrael as they returned from decades of exile in Babylonia and attempted to restart Jewish life in Israel. We will see how Ezra and Nechemyah led the Jewish people in a new era and dealt with problems that we still face today.



## Kohelet: Why Are We Here?

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

In 500 years from now, not only will no one remember you and me, but in fact, the odds are that it will make no difference at all that we ever lived. Nothing we do during our lifetime will remain for long, and we, along with pretty much everyone else, will fade into oblivion and be utterly forgotten. If so, what's the point of our having lived? Join us to explore *Kohelet*, the sefer in Tanach which asks all



the hard questions and pulls no punches in its search for the meaning of our lives.

## Iyyov: God's Role in Our Lives

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

*Sefer Iyyov* begins with sudden terrible tragedies which strike Iyyov, who loses almost everything for the sake of what seems to be a bet between God and Satan! Through textual and philosophical analysis of selected conversations that make up the bookends of *Sefer Iyyov*, we will seek clarity on some of the burning questions of human and Jewish existence, such as why bad things happen to good people and why there is evil in the world.



## Sefer Daniel

RAV ZVI RON

The most mysterious, strange, and esoteric book of Tanach... it's *Sefer Daniel*! Join us to enter the fiery furnace and the den of lions to defend your beliefs! Struggle with Daniel over how to make it in a country where everyone considers him super-talented, but he can't even eat the food! Puzzle with him over the mysterious "writing on the wall" no one can figure out (kind of reminds us of Yosef, hmmm?). Experience with Daniel what it feels like to have an angel take command of your body in order to share with you a message from God. Peek with us into the dreams of Nevuchadnetzar and others – bizarre imaginary beasts, prophecies about the end of the world, fun Aramaic words – all this and more, taught by the Master of the Mysterious, the Sultan of Strange, the Wizard of Weird... Rav Ron!!!

**TIP:** If you're having trouble deciding between conflicting courses, just choose one of them for now and make a note to yourself to try the other course too.

## Sefer Mishlei

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

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



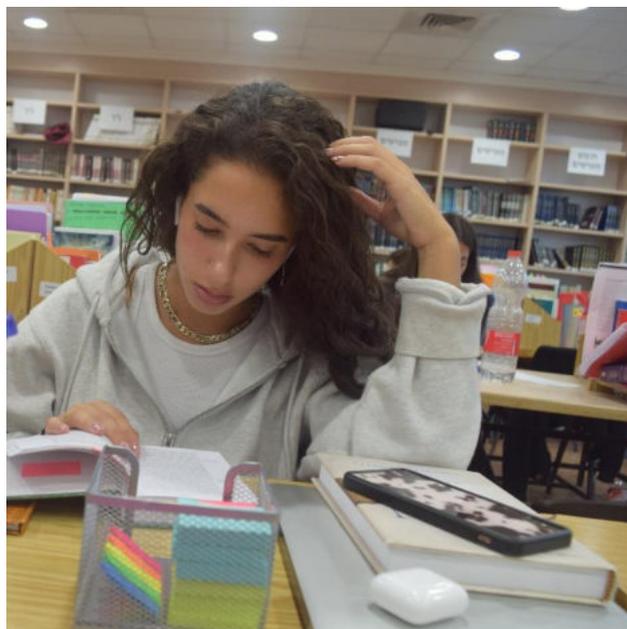
individual pieces of a larger story or halachic section, are actually self-contained observations on life or pieces of advice all on their own. This means that the sefer is

jam-packed with meaning, with every single *pasuk* its own new world of ideas and reflections. It also means *Mishlei* can be a challenging *sefer*, since every *pasuk* stands on its own and requires analysis. Perhaps this should come as no surprise in *Mishlei*, since it was written by Shlomo Ha-Melech, the smartest person ever. Join us to increase your “wisdom quotient” and improve your character, exploring the messages that Shlomo is hinting to us across the centuries.

## The Wisdom of *Mishlei*

BRACHA KROHN

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



# TANACH SECTION IV: TOPICS IN TANACH

## Dysfunctional Families in Tanach

NEIMA NOVETSKY

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



however, Tanach often seems to have many more examples of what we should not imitate than what we should – polygamy, fratricide (brothers killing each other), incest, rape, intermarriage – it's all there. How are we to understand all these

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

## Understanding Hashem's Ways (Adv.)

NEIMA NOVETSKY

The course will look at stories and mitzvot in Tanach which raise deep questions. "Hashem hardened Paroh's Heart" – so do we always have free will, or does Hashem sometimes push us in a certain direction, as He seems to have done with Paroh? What does the story suggest about the opportunities for teshuvah – are the gates of teshuvah always open, or does Hashem sometimes lock them? Tanach is filled with cases of collective punishment; Hashem Himself says that He "visits the sins of the parents on the children." But how is that just? Should we not each be punished for our own sins? "Anochi Hashem" – we are expected to believe in Hashem, but what if I have questions? What do I do when there are mitzvot that don't fit with my personal understanding of right and wrong? When does Hashem intervene in our lives, and when does He leave us to "nature"? Would we not be better off if

we still lived in an era of miracles, where "yad Hashem" was much more visible? We will tackle these topics and more, exploring how our parshanim throughout the ages have struggled with and attempted to answer these questions. Students are very encouraged to question and debate, and all request for topics to discuss are very welcome.

## What Midrashim Really Mean

BRACHA KROHN

Some *midrashim* really make us wonder: Was Rivkah really three when she married Yitzchak? If not, what



lesson were Chazal hinting by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be Yaakov's pillow? Since the Torah tells us exactly what the "man" actually tasted like, how can the *Midrash* say it tasted

like whatever you wanted? Are Chazal in the *Midrash* teaching us historical facts in these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of *midrashim*; what goals Chazal had in mind when composing them; and how to unlock the deeper meaning behind these well-known legends. In this course, you will explore the difference between interpretation and homiletics as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the *midrashim* you learn each week when studying *parshah*.

## "Supporting Actors" in Tanach

MALKA HUBSCHER

We often feel we understand the "famous" characters in Tanach, people like Avraham and Sarah, Yehoshua or King David. But what about the lesser-known heroes and villains, those who play "supporting" roles in stories throughout Tanach – who was "Bat Shu'a," the Cana'inite woman who became Yehuda's first wife, and what did he see in her to make him cross every line in the family book



and marry a Cana'anite? What about Bilhah, whom Ya'akov married just as a "surrogate mother" so that Rachel could have children through her – what was Bilhah's actual relationship with Ya'akov really like? How about Avishag, who was brought into David's life in his old

age to literally keep him warm – how did they relate to one another? These supporting actors are not only interesting, they are often the key to understanding an entire biblical story. In this course, we will delve into stories in Tanach, focusing on the development and personalities of the "supporting actors" and discovering who they really were.

many more. Doing so will yield practical lessons on how to be the best women we can be.

## Pirkei Avot in Tanach

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

Each time we meet, we will begin with a few lines from *Pirkei Avot* and then learn a story in Tanach which illustrates and deepens the message of the *Mishnah*. We will learn stories from Tanach and see how each story brings to life the lessons of the



*Mishnah* and the ideals by which we should shape our own personal lives today.

## "Sketchy" Women in Tanach

NOMI ZANJIRIAN



When it comes to women in Tanach, sometimes we get a full-color portrait, but other times all we have is barely even a "sketch." For example, we've grown up hearing a great deal about our Imahot, Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, and Leah, whose

characters are generously developed in the Torah. But what about THEIR mothers – do we know anything about them? We all remember the image ("sketch") of Lot's wife turning into a pillar of salt, but who was she in life? Avraham seems to have come straight out of nowhere, discovering God for himself and founding our religion, but who was his mother, and how did she influence his later path? There are many male characters that we feel we know so well, but what about their wives – who were the wives of Noach, Yosef, Aharon, Moshe, Yonah, and others, and what can we learn from them? Come along as we explore the Midrash and add color to the "sketch" outlines of these mysterious women of Tanach, plus

## Learning from Mistakes

NEIMA NOVETSKY

Aharon Ha-Kohen appears to err pretty badly with the sin of the Golden Calf (Hashem has to be dissuaded from killing him!), yet he still merits to be the Kohen Gadol. Why? What about David and Batsheva – after apparently committing both adultery and murder, he still manages to remain both the king and the the father of



mashiach. How? Is Shimon and Levi's reaction to Dina's rape in Shechem (yup, they massacre every man in town) an overreaction or a fair response? Yaakov appears to take advantage of Esav to buy the birthright. Why is that OK? This course will look at stories in Tanach where biblical figures appear to make mistakes and poor decisions or otherwise act improperly. Is it OK to say that our leaders made mistakes? How did they move beyond their errors, and how can we learn from them to do the same? As we study these stories and others, we'll look both at how our parshanim have understood them and what we can learn from them about our own shortcomings, how to correct them, and how to move forward after failure.



## Life of Moshe Rabbeinu

RAV EITAN MAYER / SHANA BET

Do you love Moshe Rabbeinu? We all *know* Moshe Rabbeinu, we all respect him, we all appreciate him, but do we love him to the degree that every year, when we read on Simchat Torah of his death, we have tears in our eyes? In this course, we will accompany Moshe Rabbeinu scene-by-scene, from his watery cradle to Pharaoh's castle, from slavery to Sinai, from the Mishkan to the Egel, through all of his triumphs and every frustrating rebellion – and we will learn to love our greatest teacher like never before. We will begin with Moshe Rabbeinu's unusual personality: He seems to be constantly interfering with other people and getting himself into trouble, first with the two fighting Jews, and later with the shepherds harassing Yitro's daughters. Why can't he just mind his own business, and why are these stories so crucial that they are the only stories told about Moshe until age 80? Hashem argues with Moshe at great length to force him to go back to Egypt and save his people. But why does Hashem need Moshe anyway, since the real power behind the plagues is Hashem? What makes Moshe Rabbeinu the right leader to take the nation out of slavery and to deliver the Torah? We will analyze many sections in which Moshe Rabbeinu appears in the Torah, taking a fresh "*peshat*" perspective in order to deeply understand the background and personality of the greatest leader in Jewish history. What emerges – as always happens when we learn *peshat* instead of *derash* – is a Moshe Rabbeinu who reveals dimensions entirely hidden to us before.

## Puzzling Personalities in Tanach

RAV EITAN MAYER

David Ha-Melech first appears to us as the brash, bright-eyed young man who fearlessly faces down Goliath, offended for the honor of Hashem and Am Yisrael. How can this be the same person who, once king, impulsively commits adultery with his married neighbor, Bat-Sheva, and then, to cover his tracks, sends her husband to his death? And you're telling me the same person wrote Tehilim, which made it into Tanach and from which we draw so many of our tefilot? Is David one of the good guys – or the bad? Miriam first appears to us at the Nile's edge, watching worriedly over baby Moshe and using her smarts to arrange for him to spend his first years at home with his family. A pretty devoted sister, right? Can this be the same sister who later goes behind that same brother's back and, unprovoked, accuses him – the most humble person in the world – of being arrogant? What happened to all that sisterly devotion? Join us to take a close look at complex figures in Tanach whose personalities and actions often puzzle and perplex us, including Shlomo Ha-Melech, Esther, Eliyahu, and the entire generation of Jews who left Egypt. We will come away with a deeper understanding of human nature and of ourselves.

## Hyperlinks in Tanach

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

Since we were kids, we have heard that the Torah is extremely careful about every word used, and we've been trained to be sensitive to their significance. So it's not a coincidence when specific words repeat themselves in different stories, creating a bridge ("hyperlink") between the sections involved. Why is Haman referred to as "Haman Ha-Agagi," and the only family reference for Esther is that she comes from Kish – what do these hints reveal? Why do both references bring us back to Sha'ul? Who exactly was Lot – is the Torah comparing him to Avraham, or to Orpah? What is the hidden connection between Rachel and Michal, both of whom are trying to save their husbands from their fathers? As we learn to become more sensitive to the language of Tanach, we will see



how one story in Tanach functions as a commentary on another story!

Do you wish you understood some of the famous *Haftarot*? In this course, we will learn together a selection of the most famous, often-quoted *nevu'ot* throughout Tanach. We will study the text on the level of *peshat* as well as exploring how the messages of these prophecies remain relevant even in today's world.

## Tanach's "Greatest Hits"

MALKA HUBSCHER / SHANA BET

Have you ever been in a *shiur* where the teacher refers to a "very important and well known *nevu'ah*," and you had no idea what they were talking about?



# הלכה

## HALACHAH SECTION I: CLASSIC TOPICS IN HALACHAH

### Urban Myths of Halachah

RAV KALMAN FLAKS

“Respecting your parents means always doing what they tell you” – so if they tell you what career you



must pursue, which city to live in, how many children to have, you must obey? “It’s assur to talk to boys” – where is the line between being normal and polite, and crossing a halachic boundary? “It’s assur to give tzedakah to goyim!” – is there any

truth to this? “Women can’t say Kiddush or learn Gemara” – what do the sources say? “Studying kabbalah is forbidden until age 40,” “Movies are assur,” “If you get a tattoo you can’t be buried in a Jewish cemetery.” Some of what we know is actually true, and other things are “fake news”! Which “common knowledge” statements are really just common misconceptions? Come join us and find out. Many of the topics we explore will come from your ideas and suggestions.



berachah do I make? Potatoes are pareve, but do the fries from Burgers Bar make you meat anyway? Why is Israeli Kashrut SOOOO confusing, and how do I navigate the added factor of Shemittah this year? When I do netilat yadayyim, do I wash each hand twice or three times (and why isn’t once enough?), and do I make the berachah before washing, while washing or while drying off? Judaism’s laws guide our lives, and there’s a lot to know. You may have been doing things all your life, but now’s your chance to fill in all your blanks. In this course, we will learn how to apply the most common halachot we face on a daily basis.

### What’s a Jew Supposed to Do

RAV ELI WAGNER

What do I do if I’m in the middle of Shemoneh Esrei and suddenly everyone’s saying “Kadosh kadosh kadosh”? Do I really need to “hop” three times at the end of Shemoneh Esrei? Can I eat breakfast on Shabbat, or do I need to first make Kiddush? Sushi contains rice (mezonot), but the main thing in it is fish (shehakol) or vegetables (ha-adamah) – so what

### How to Be a Jew in Israel

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

Living in Israel is a tremendous “zechut” which Hashem has restored to us in our time, and also a great opportunity for a more complete life of mitzvot! There are many mitzvot you can accomplish only here; some have become practical only recently, and others are still waiting for Mashiach or other crucial events. Just imagine: These mitzvot have been just theory and dreams for the past two thousand



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

## Practical Berachot and Kashrut

RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER

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



- **Berachot:** If I start eating in my dorm room and then go take a walk but continue munching, do I need a new *berachah*? If I take little sips from my water bottle all day, do I just make one *berachah* in the morning and I’m good-to-go all day? (And do I just make one *borei nefashot* at night after my last sip?) Surprised to hear that *ha-motzi* doesn’t actually cover everything during the meal, and curious to know what’s not included? Tuna salad for lunch – which *berachah*? Crackers with cheese and tomatoes for a snack – what do I say? It’s pizza time – *mezonot* or *ha-motzi*? These questions and many more come up every day of our halachic lives. We will explore the

sources and get to bottom-line practical *halachah*.

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

## Interpersonal Halachah

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

You’ve decided to daven at the Kotel every week. Amazing! The only problem is that every time you go there, you end up giving away a small fortune in *tzedakah* money. Are you obligated to give every single person that asks for money? If so, how much must you give them? Can you lie and say you don’t have any money? Is there ever a time that you are allowed to lie? Can I ever tell a friend that a mutual friend of ours has a lying problem? When can I tell someone something about someone, and when is it *lashon hara*? In this course, we will cover many of the *halachot* that come up in our daily interactions with other people.



## Introduction to Gemara

RAV JASON KNAPEL

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



## Advanced Gemara

RAV JASON KNAPEL

Seeking the greatest intellectual challenge in the world of Torah? Want to truly understand how halachic thinking works and get inside the minds of the people who built our whole system? If so, this course may be for you. Join us as we enter the minds of Chazal, following their sophisticated logic as they develop *halachah* and establish its rules. As we improve our textual skills with *chavruta*, we will also learn how to ask the right key questions when approaching a new topic; how to make meaningful analytical distinctions; and how to brainstorm creative solutions to challenging problems.



## The Jewish Life Cycle

RAV JASON KNAPEL

Ever wonder why people put all their jewelry around the baby at a *pidyon ha-ben*? Do you say “*Baruch She-petarani*” at a Bat Mitzvah? Wonder why a *kallah* walks around the *chatan* seven times? In this course, we will explore the reasons, *halachot* and *minhagim* of all the major life-cycle events so that when they happen to you, you will know what and why we Jews do what we do!

## Reason for the Season

RAV ELI WAGNER / SHANA BET

We're taught to eat symbolic foods on *Rosh Ha-Shanah* – honey so that we'll have a sweet year, pomegranate seeds so that we'll have plentiful *mitzvot* this year... beets, fish heads, the list goes on and on. But isn't it just superstition to think that eating certain foods will somehow change our future? Besides actual repentance, the *Yom Kippur* season also seems to bring amazing “repentance shortcuts” which achieve forgiveness with much less work – “*tashlich*” leaves our sins at the bottom of a lake, “*kapparot*” transfers our sins to a chicken of our choosing... do these methods work, and if so, how and why? What does authentic atonement look like on *Yom Kippur*, and why should it work if we go back to our routines the next day? Is there any connection between the *mitzvot* of *lulav* and *sukkah*, or do they just happen to share the same holiday? On *Chanukkah*, we celebrate our victory over the “Hellenized” Jews, who believed in mixing together Torah and the contributions of other cultures – but isn't that pretty much who we are too? What's with the drinking controversy that surrounds *Purim*? The holidays are much more than family reunions. There is a reason why we celebrate, when we celebrate and how we celebrate. This course will clarify our *halachot* and *minhagim* and their hashkafic implications.



## Meaning in the Mitzvot

BRACHA KROHN / SHANA BET

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



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

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



## Hilchot Shabbat

RAV YITZCHAK LERNER / TWO SECTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

How do I navigate the kitchen on Shabbat – preparing salad, making tea, and warming up food – without running into trouble? What happens if I'm tying my shoes and I accidentally make a knot? If I forgot to unscrew the fridge light, am I facing a hungry Shabbat, or is there an alternative? How do I open packages in a permitted manner? When can I ask a non-Jew to do *melachah* for me – and do I need to hint? How do I light candles in a hotel or dorm? What is considered proper dress for Shabbat? And what about cosmetics? Discussion and clear bottom-line halachic conclusions on a very wide range of Shabbat topics.

## Hilchot Shabbat

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

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

many people (like me) enjoy putting *challah* into their soup Friday night. Is that allowed, or will the hot soup cook the *challah*?

What about those people (me again)

who don't love tomatoes – can I take them out of a salad? How about building a tent from couch cushions (one of my favorite things to do with my kids) – would that be allowed? What should you do if a fly is in your house and you want to get rid of it – are you allowed to kill it? What if it's a mosquito, or a bee? In this course, you will learn the answer to these questions and cover many, many other topics. We will cover topics starting from preparing before Shabbat all the way to making *havdalah* after Shabbat, and everything in between.



## Hilchot Shabbat (Adv)

RAV EITAN MAYER

In this textual course on *Hilchot Shabbat*, we will sharpen our skills and learn the principles behind the *halachah* so we'll know what to do in similar cases. We'll cover the most applicable and practical topics: *muktzeh*, cooking and warming, *borer* (sorting & separating), *kiddush*, asking non-Jews to perform *melachah*, and more, based on student preferences.

We'll learn each topic in depth rather than covering as many topics as possible, coming away from each topic with better skills and clear bottom-line halachic conclusions. (And just for fun, every few classes we'll cook some Shabbos food and eat it!)

## Women in Jewish Law



BRACHA KROHN

What does Judaism have to say about relationships between the sexes? Does Judaism believe in platonic friendships? Is “being *shomer*” a real *halachah*, and does anyone really observe it? What is “*yichud*,” and when do we have to worry about it? Are elevators and deserted parks considered *yichud*? Why do some married women wear kerchiefs practically to their eyebrows, while others show much more hair? Can a woman make *kiddush* for everyone at the whole Shabbat table? Which *tefilot* is a woman obligated to *daven*? Can women be rabbis? Can they “*lain*” the Torah? Are men really not allowed to hear women sing, no matter what song or tune it is? When and why do we need a *mechitzah*? Can women say *kaddish* in front of men? Why do some women enthusiastically learn *Gemara*, while others shy away? In this one-semester course, we will see the sources behind these interesting, important and very relevant *halachot*. You will finally know why you do what you do (and what you have to do) and what everyone is talking about. Lively discussions and

debates await us as we answer these questions and more.

## Minhagim

RAV ZVI RON

Learn about customs you're familiar with and others that you never heard of, and why we do them: The secret reason we dip apple in honey; do we need fish to be in the water for *Tashlich*, and why; when did people begin playing *dreidel* on *Chanukkah*; why people began waiting to give boys haircuts; who invented *hamentashen* and why; why do we light bonfires on *Lag Ba-Omer*; what was the original *karpas* and why did it change; the differences between Sephardic and Ashkenazic customs; and much more!



## Har Sinai in Hashkafah and Halachah

RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever wonder what really happened at Har Sinai – besides being pretty terrifying, what was it like to experience God appearing right before us? How do we know the whole thing really took place? If we were all there, as tradition tells us, why don't we remember anything? How could an entire nation of laypeople, few of them trained as prophets, many of them just children, spontaneously become prophets? If the whole thing was so impressive, how could our ancestors turn back to idol worship just forty days later? Turning to the content of what was



said at Sinai, why were these ten commandments chosen out of all 613? (Would you have chosen “Do not covet your neighbor’s house”?) What does it mean to believe in God (“I am God...”)? Is abortion categorized as murder (“Do not kill...”)? Can adultery ever be justified (“Do not commit adultery...”)? What is the Torah’s view on illegally downloading music and movies – is it stealing (“Do not steal...”)? Can God command us to feel certain emotions (“Do not envy...”)? In this course, we will explore the significance and relevance of the Sinai experience and the importance of the Ten Commandments as a unit and individually, both hashkafically and halachically.



## Laws and Meaning of Tefilah

RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER

I really want *tefilah* to be part of my daily routine, but to be honest, I really don’t know the meaning of what I’m saying and the rules which should guide me. Do women need to pray anything formal, or may they make do with just a few *berachot* each day? Do I need to say *Minchah*? When is the latest time I can still say *Shacharit* and *Minchah*? If I missed a *tefilah*, can I make it up? Do I answer “*amen*” or “*kedushah*” if I’m in the middle of another *tefilah*? Should I catch up during Torah reading, or listen to the reading? Is there any difference whether I pray at home or with a *minyán*? If I’m late or fall behind, what can I skip in order to catch up? Is it better to say less but with more *kavanah*, or say everything I can? Can I take a jog before *tefilah*, or study for a test, or take the train, or have breakfast? The year in Israel is prime time to take your *tefilah* to the next level so that you can continue a strong connection with Hashem in college and beyond. Can there be any kind of real relationship without good communication? In

addition to knowing what we’re saying and learning how to focus, there is also a lot to know about the what, the when, the how, and the why of *tefilah*, and even if we’ve been “*davening*” for years, we still may not know. Join us to examine these questions and more, starting with *Modeh Ani* all the way to *Aleinu*.

## Tefilah: Meaning and Halachah

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM / SHANA BET

You just woke up, you’re starving, and you have a million things to do. But what activities are permitted before *tefilah* in the morning? Can you go for a jog? Does it matter if you can’t concentrate without your morning coffee? At shul, you’re in the middle of *davening* and someone asks you a question – can you answer? You finished your *Shemoneh Esrei* and you realize that you forgot “*Mashiv Ha-Ru’ach*” – what now? You’ve taken on *davening Minchah*, but you accidentally forgot today – is there anything to do? In this course, we’ll cover the topics needed to answer these questions and many more, in addition to exploring the content of the *tefilot* themselves.



# HALACHAH SECTION II: CONTEMPORARY HALACHAH

## Halachah on Campus & at Work

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

What should I do if my college roommate isn't Jewish, but it's Shabbat and she just turned the light on in our room? What if she *is* Jewish? Can I join my co-workers if they are going out to a non-kosher restaurant? Can I eat anything? Can I buy non-kosher food for a non-Jewish colleague (or my boss!)? Can I submit my friend's research paper as my own (halachically)? What if my friend did that – should I say something? When am I allowed to be alone at work with a male co-worker (if ever)? What are the red lines, if any, about socializing with non-Jewish co-workers? This course will deal with practical issues that will arise in college and beyond and prepare you for many eventualities.

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

RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever been to Masada and learned about the mass suicide? What about the false messiah, Shabtai Zvi,



who convinced thousands of Jews that he was the “real thing”? (For that matter, when the “real thing” does arrive, how *will* we be sure?) If you fall in love with an Ethiopian, can you marry him – where did he come from? What is his history and halachic status? Have you ever learned

about a fascinating episode in history and thought, “What would I do in that situation?” or “What would the Torah want me to do?” Often, when learning about either history or *halachah*, we focus solely on one and neglect the other. Each week in this course, we will choose a significant event in our history and analyze a halachic challenge it presents (including episodes nominated by participants in the course). The skills gained and lessons learned through our analysis of each topic will allow us to put ourselves in



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

## Jewish Medical Ethics: “Beginning of Life” Issues

RAV URI COHEN

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

technology meet our eternal system of *halachah*. Under what circumstances is contraception allowed? Is it permitted to take advantage of modern techniques to choose your baby's sex (or eye color, height, or intelligence)?



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

## Medicine and Halachah

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

Hashem has granted each of us an amazing, sophisticated body, and today, thanks to modern



medicine, we can take care of it better than ever. But what happens when the options granted to us by medicine and *halachah* don't match up? When does life begin in the womb, and how does that affect whether and when abortions may be performed? Stem cell research and genetic

manipulation are in the headlines every day – does the Torah allow us to tinker with the code for life? If one woman provides an egg but another carries the fetus to term, who is the halachic mother? Does *halachah* ever allow euthanasia, or must we prolong even a life filled with suffering? Tattoos are normally taboo, but what if a tattoo is used as part of reconstructive surgery? Are there Torah guidelines for animal experimentation? Can a doctor treat her own parents? Together, we will learn the medical and halachic perspectives on each topic to enable us to live a healthy, spiritual, happy long life.

## Co-Ed Halachah

RAV YITZCHAK LERNER

What is the halachah – why are some schools single-sex and others coed? And why do some have English and math together, but not Torah? I've heard all



about "Shomer Negi'a," but is this a real thing, or is it just for super-Jews? I need to see the sources! Is it OK to be friends with boys? How about dating when it's not for marriage? Mixed swimming seems to be a no-no, but can I just sit by the beach or pool and tan, as long as I

stay out of the water? When I'm dating, and my BF and I want some alone time, how do we do that while still keeping the laws of "yichud"? How do I avoid yichud problems when a male colleague and I are the only ones in the office? If these are some of your

questions and you want to look at the sources and discuss these issues, then this class is for you.

## Shiviti Hashem

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM / SHANA BET

No one person can actually keep all 613 mitzvot – some are just for kohanim, others just for kings, and

so on; and even the mitzvot we can keep, we perform only whenever they actually come up, which tends to be now and then, here and there. But there are a unique few mitzvot that we can do every



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

## "Bottom-Line Halachah"

RAV LERNER

What do I look for when buying a מזוזה? What exactly is everyone saying under the chuppah? Who can marry a כהן? What do I do first when I wake up in the morning? What happens at a Brit, and what am I supposed to say at each point? What are the different parts of a funeral, and what is my role there and in a house of mourning? We will look at halachic topics with a focus on the "bottom line." Rather than looking at many different sources, we will move



quickly through topics to get to practical, bottom-line halachic know-how. [Extra sources will be available for independent study for interested students.]

## Halachah in the Parshah

RAV ELIE WAGNER



Each week, we will explore a highly relevant area of practical halachah connected to the parshah (whether the parshah itself contains mitzvot or just stories). You will arrive at Shabbat each week not only with something interesting to share at the table, but also with practical halachic

knowledge you can put to use.

## Halachic World

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

Is there anything wrong with going to a magic show? What do I do (if anything) if I have a bad dream? Can I go into a church? How about a mosque? Can someone with a tattoo be buried in a Jewish cemetery? What should I do if I am traveling and I want to eat bread, but I don't have water? What if there is a sink, but I don't have a cup? Can a woman shoot a gun? Can a man look in a mirror? Can I gamble? If I wanted to go skydiving (sounds amazing), would there be anything wrong with that? What about skiing? What can I do before davening in the morning? Can I go for a jog? What about checking my email and messages? If you are interested in



learning more about these topics and other similar topics, this course is for you. We will cover a different topic every class by looking at the primary sources and then looking at some of the contemporary sources.

## Hot Topics in Halachah

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

We are lucky to live in a hi-tech age that has given us the Internet, cell phones, medical advances that would seem like pure magic to people from the time of Tanach... not to mention the State of Israel. But how does halachah handle questions that couldn't possibly have been discussed by the Torah 3,300 years ago, or even 1,500 years ago in the Gemara? Examples of the questions we'll explore together:



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

## “Good Talk”

BRACHA KROHN

Do you sometimes regret saying something? (Who doesn't!) Do you sometimes wish you *had* said something, and wonder why you didn't? Have you ever wondered why someone else's words hurt you or matter so much to you? (“Sticks and stones might break my bones but names will never hurt me” – just not true, right?) In this course, we will discuss the power of speech and the way our words affect others and even ourselves. Going way beyond just “lashon ha-ra,” we will learn about many different mitzvot



that relate to speech and examine stories in Tanach where speech changed the course of history. If you want to feel inspired and motivated to use your words more kindly and responsibly, and feel stronger and less affected by others' destructive words, this course is for you! The learning we do each week will be relevant immediately and give you something to think about and work on until we see each other again.

## Ask the Rabbi: "עשה לך רב"

RAV JASON KNAPEL

Join in each week for a freewheeling, every-question-goes extravaganza! Each week, we'll meet to discuss your questions on anything and everything. We'll devote part of each class to answering your pre-submitted-via-WhatsApp questions (enabling Rav Jason to research them); part to discussing questions from people all around the world; and part to handling the questions that come to you during the class itself. This is the time to clear up all those questions you've always wanted to ask...

## Ask the Rabbi

RAV YY WENGLIN

Join in each week for a freewheeling, every-question-goes extravaganza! Each week, we'll meet to discuss your questions on anything and everything. We'll devote part of each shiur to answering your pre-submitted questions; part to discussing questions



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



# מדרש ותלמוד



## Introduction to Gemara

RAV JASON KNAPEL

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

## Advanced Gemara

RAV JASON KNAPEL

Seeking the greatest intellectual challenge in the world of Torah? Want to truly understand how halachic thinking works and get inside the minds of

the people who built our whole system? If so, this course may be for you. Join us as we enter the minds of Chazal, following their sophisticated logic as they develop *halachah* and establish its rules. As we improve our textual skills with *chavruta*, we will also learn how to ask the right key questions when approaching a new topic; how to make meaningful analytical distinctions; and how to brainstorm creative solutions to challenging problems.

## What Midrashim Really Mean

BRACHA KROHN

Some *midrashim* really make us wonder: Was Rivkah really three when she married Yitzchak? If not, what lesson were Chazal hinting by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be Yaakov's pillow? Since the Torah tells us exactly what the "man" actually tasted like, how can the *Midrash* say it tasted like whatever you wanted? Are Chazal in the *Midrash* teaching us historical facts in these stories,



or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of *midrashim*; what goals Chazal had in mind when composing them; and how to unlock the deeper meaning behind these well-known legends. In this course, you will explore the difference between interpretation and homiletics as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the *midrashim* you learn each week when studying *parshah*.

## Midrash of the Week

RAV ZVI RON

How did No'ach manage to feed all of those animals on the Ark? Who was his wife, the mysterious Mrs. No'ach? Did the Flood really cover the entire world? Why was Eisav so hairy? Why do Chazal think that blessings only work on hidden things? What is the secret reason for sneezing? How did Moshe find the secret spot where Yosef was buried in Egypt? Every week, we will learn classic and not yet classic midrashim related to the parshah. The source material for all Torah commentaries and divrei Torah is right here! We will study the midrashim together and extract the insights and lessons encoded within. All of your midrash questions answered and lessons learned!



**TIP:** "Late CnC" at 9:30pm is for the "shtark" and the night owls.

## Seriously Strange Stories

NEIMA NOVETSKY

Once, when there was a terrible drought, a man named "Choni" drew a circle around himself and swore he would not leave it until Hashem brought rain. Down came the rain! But why? And can we try the same thing before our next big math test? Another time, the rabbis were arguing (as usual), and when one rabbi asked Hashem to settle it and Hashem sided with him, the other rabbis decided to ignore Hashem! And when Hashem saw that, He just smiled! What were these rabbis thinking, and what does Hashem find funny about the situation? Chazal tell us that the *Beit HaMikdash* was destroyed because this random guy named "Bar Kamtza" showed up at a party and was asked to leave. Are you serious? We've had no Mikdash for the last 2,000 years because someone crashed a party and the host didn't like it?! The Midrash says that Moshe Rabbeinu once time-traveled so he could visit Rabbi Akiva's classroom. So far so good. But how could it be that Moshe Rabbeinu, source of all of Torah, could sit in a shiur and not understand a word? The *Gemara* is filled with really provocative (and some truly strange) stories. In this course, we will study some of the most famous and intriguing of these stories. Each week, we will look at a new story, raising questions and exploring its lessons.



## Pirkei Avot

MALKA HUBSCHER

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



## Pirkei Avot

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

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



Rabbi Akiva and Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai – communicate directly and personally with each one of us, guiding us in our efforts to try to become the best people we can be. *Pirkei Avot* allows these usually halachic figures to express themselves on more

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

## Pirkei Avot in Tanach

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

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



# אמונה

## EMUNAH SECTION I: MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

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

RAV ARI SHVAT

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



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

Tzahal (the IDF): victories, dilemmas & halachic issues (like drafting girls into the Israeli army). Are we a religion or a nation? What's the relationship between nationalism, individualism and globalism? If Israel is ours just because we have history here, weren't there other people here before us, and other people here once we left to exile? In addition to classic & contemporary sources, we will also analyze the sources cited by Chareidi anti-Zionists. Through lectures, discussions, and songs, we will examine our historical time period and take our relationship with *Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael* and *Medinat Yisrael* to the next level.

### Thought of Rav Kook (Adv.)

RAV ARI SHVAT

What is whole point of life? How do we achieve *emunah* in Hashem? Since Hashem controls everything, and since all of us have limits of many kinds, what does free will really mean? How can evil people succeed if Hashem is watching and in control?

Is the State of Israel significant only for Jewish pride and as a refuge for us, or does it have a messianic dimension? Is *teshuvah* basically negative, a depressing look at our mistakes and an attempt to do better, or is there a positive approach to *teshuvah*? How do we balance intellect against emotion in our relationship with Hashem and Torah? Is there room for the theory of evolution in the Torah? Rav Kook is considered one of the most original thinkers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continues to inspire even today. His optimistic, inspiring, holistic approach deals with just about every question we face today, and has given meaning and direction to an entire generation in Israel.



### Backstage with the Gedolim

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

Often, we think of Chazal as people who taught us what to do: halachah. But Chazal also shared their life stories and life experience. How did our sages treat their parents? How did they cope with suffering in their own lives? What did they see in their dreams? What



business dilemmas did they face? Learn about the Shabbat cow, Rabbi Akiva's chicken, and many more as we delve into the stories Chazal passed down to be remembered for all time.

## Questions in Emunah

RAV ARI SHVAT

What is the goal of life? Why did God create the world? How does *tefilah* work – if Hashem gives me



whatever is in my best interest, why should He “change His mind?” Can we be sure that Zionism is not just another “false messiah”? What is the difference between “the world to come,” and “the revival of the dead,”

and “*yemot ha-mashiach*,” and where do heaven, hell and reincarnation come in? What about those *mitzvot* that seem a little “outdated”? How do we know that there is a God? Anything which might prevent us from wholeheartedly identifying with the *mitzvot* and serving Hashem should be brought to the fore and dealt with in the most straightforward fashion. Join us for an open discussion in which all questions are welcome.

## Sho’ah ve-Emunah

RAV JASON KNAPEL

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



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

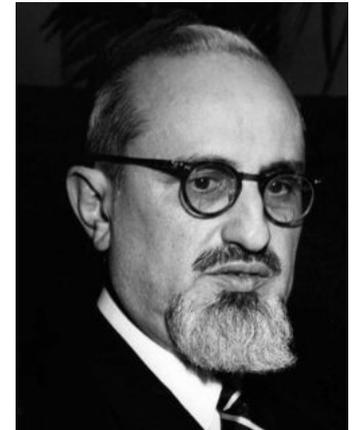
were all ghettos the same; the transports and camps; rescue and resistance; leadership and youth during the war years; theology of the *Sho’ah*; the end of the war – when did it really end for the Jews, and how does it continue to echo even today.

## Rav Soloveitchik’s Lonely Man of Faith

RAV JASON KNAPEL

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

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



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

## Netivot Shalom

RAV JASON KNAPEL

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

to *Medinat Yisrael*, or to Torah or to new friends... the list goes on. But the year in Israel is a time to look not only outside, but also deep within, a year to truly study and discover yourself,



searching the depth of your personality and thinking clearly about your connection to Hashem and Judaism. We will use the truly inspirational *Netivot Shalom*, written by the Rebbe of Slonim, to illuminate our path toward these goals.



## Sho'ah ve-Emunah

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

Undeniably the most painful event of modern Jewish history, the *Sho'ah* continues to frighten, inspire, and perplex us. We will study the key events surrounding the before, during and after, as we also try to delve into the world of the religious Jew during those times. In addition to understanding what was done to the Jews as victims, we will also explore how they reacted, including some extraordinary questions that ordinary people asked, such as how they could keep kosher while starving in the ghetto, or keep Shabbat in Auschwitz, or whether one may redeem a loved one if another Jew will be taken in their place. We will also ask the questions the Jewish world has asked since the Holocaust: Where was God? Do we look at the Holocaust as a punishment for the Jewish people, and if so, for what sin(s); or was it unrelated to anything that *Am Yisrael* had done, and if so, how do we understand how Hashem stood by and allowed it to happen?

## Michtav Me-Eliyahu

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

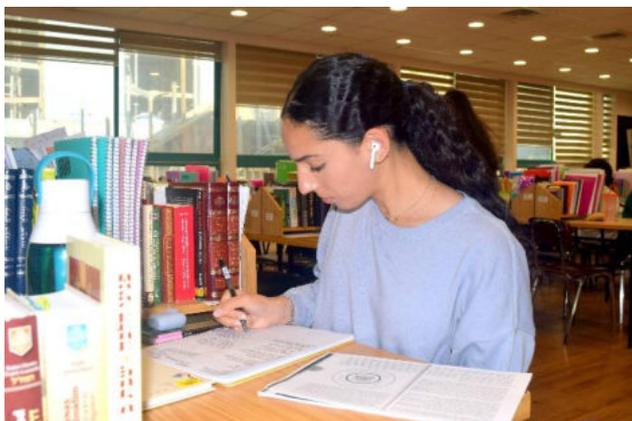
If Judaism says that love isn't just about attraction, what is it about, and how does one go about achieving true love? Does everyone have the same amount of free will, and do we ourselves have the same amount at all points of our lives? What is true happiness? How much time and effort do I need to invest in my career, and how much should I just rely on Hashem? Some people claim that we see miracles every day – but where are they, and how should this affect my life? Rav Eliyahu Dessler was born in Europe right before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and became one of the youngest students ever to be accepted to the famous Yeshiva of Kelm. He left an immense impact everywhere he went, including England and, at the end of his life, Eretz Yisrael. Join us as we look at Rav Dessler's approach to many different issues, exploring how he built upon earlier sources and how other Gedolim approached these topics.

## Philosophical Issues in Modern Society

RAV JASON KNAPEL

In this course, we will deal with the major (philosophical) challenges you will encounter when you leave your "Jewish Comfort Zone." We will deal with issues such as doubt in Hashem – what to do when it happens; Biblical Criticism – was the Torah really written by Moshe; evolution – can science be wrong? Denominations – will the real Judaism please stand up...? The goal of this course is not to answer all the questions that will arise through the next few





years of your life, but to discuss the issues in a non-threatening way and develop approaches to dealing with hard-hitting questions.

## 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Judaism

RAV AHARON WEXLER

This provocative course will engage the major issues facing the Jewish people today. Serious students will



develop tools to take an active role in the conversations going on in the Jewish community about “hot-button” issues facing the chosen people in the 21st century: The role of women in Judaism today; the differences between Reform, Conservative, and

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

## Rav Soloveitchik on the Jewish Family

MALKA HUBSCHER

Want to improve your relationships with your siblings, parents or grandparents? Maybe already thinking about how to have a great marriage and how to be a good mother? The time to become the person you would like to be... is now. The Jewish family has always been the backbone of our nation; family relationships define, shape and influence us throughout our entire lives. They can be very loving, positive and enriching, and at the same time complex and stressful. In this course, using Rav Soloveitchik’s “Family Redeemed” and other selections from his

writing, we will learn from this world-class *gadol*, modern philosopher, and deeply sensitive, sympathetic, and wise observer of human and Jewish nature how to improve the dynamics within our own families.

## Greatest Hits of Rabbi Soloveitchik (Adv.)

RAV EITAN MAYER

Like literally no one else, Rabbi Soloveitchik gets to the heart of our struggles and our experiences with depth, nuance and complexity. When reading his works, you feel like he’s speaking for you, articulating things you’ve always deeply felt but could never find a way to express. For many, however, these writings remain inaccessible due to Rabbi Soloveitchik’s sophisticated style



and, frankly, his really long, complicated sentences :-), not to mention his dictionary-mandatory vocabulary. Upon the death of Rabbi Soloveitchik, it was discovered that he had left behind a vast collection of never-published writings. Pure gold for all of us! The community of Rabbi Soloveitchik’s students and admirers hungrily devoured these new/old pieces. Join us to sample the best of “The Rav” and to seriously deepen your thinking and your Judaism on topics as broad as tefilah, parenting, romantic love, sexuality, the human obsession with constant novelty, the hypnotic quality of beauty, the challenge of choosing generosity over greed, what it really means to be freed, dignity, how we can best handle our fear of uncertainty and of death, and what redemption means both in our daily individual lives and for our nation as a whole.

## Zionism & the Jewish State

RAV AHARON WEXLER

Join us for an intensive study of the political history that brought about a Jewish State in *Eretz Yisrael*. Who were these secular and religious men and women who, with the help of God, brought about a complete change in Jewish affairs after a 2000-year *galut*? What happened in the 19th century to bring Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people?

# EMUNAH SECTION II: CLASSICAL JEWISH THOUGHT

## Har Sinai in Hashkafah and Halachah

RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever wonder what really happened at Har Sinai –



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

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

## The 13 Core Beliefs of Judaism

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

How do you know you picked the right religion? Why should we believe in Hashem without direct personal proof? Why don't we have prophecy today? What will happen at *techiyyat ha-metim* and at the times of *Mashiach*? What is *Gan Eden*, and is the afterlife the reason we do all we do? How does being Jewish affect our view of the world – for example, how do we understand the role of all the other nations, and

what role should physical life play in our quest for holiness? Did you realize that "Adon Olam" and "Yigdal" are actually summaries of our most basic beliefs, in song form?

What is problematic for us with Reform Judaism – can't we just "live and let live" and love all Jews and Judaisms the same? Why don't we believe in Jesus? Together, we will explore our core beliefs and compare Judaism to other religions, such as Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Greek mythology, deepening our understanding and connection to our identity. Strengthening these beliefs will enhance our *kavanah* in *tefilah* and *mitzvot* and our *emunah* in day-to-day life.



## Pirkei Avot

MALKA HUBSCHER

The moral lessons, profound psychological insights, and philosophical teachings of the *Tanna'im*, the rabbis who composed the *Mishnah* almost 2,000 years ago, remain immediately relevant and deeply meaningful today. We will use them as a guide to inspire us to

reach new heights in both our *avodat Hashem* and *midot ben adam la-chavero*.



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









## Ultimate Questions

RAV EITAN MAYER

This provocative course is for students interested in struggling with some of the basic questions of life: Is everything in your life from God, as people so often say (“There’s no such thing as coincidence”)? If



Hashem’s doing it all for you, where is there room for your free will – does He choose your career, your shoes, your friends, your favorite ice cream? Does He sometimes just watch without getting involved? How can we tell when it’s God’s hand and when it’s just life happening? What’s the ultimate purpose of your life – is it like a big maze, with *Olam Ha-Ba* at the end as a prize, or is there some other goal? Does God have feelings like we do – anger, sadness, happiness, love – or is He above it all? Can it be that He really cares about all those tiny little halachic details? What will happen at the “End of Days” – will people live forever on Earth after *techiyyat ha-metim*, or go on to *Olam Ha-Ba*? And what is *Olam Ha-Ba* anyway? Does *bitachon* (“trust in Hashem”) mean you have to believe everything will always turn out OK? We will explore fascinating topics in medieval and contemporary thought which have always made people wonder.

## Pirkei Avot

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

*Pirkei Avot* is where the sages of the *Mishnah* from 2,000 years ago – giants like Hillel and Shammai, Rabbi Akiva and Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai – communicate directly and personally with each one of us, guiding us in our efforts to try to become the best people we can be. *Pirkei Avot* allows these usually halachic figures to express themselves on

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



## Pirkei Avot in Tanach

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

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

## Derech Hashem:

### Answers from the Kabbalah

RAV ZVI RON

Kabbalah is a lot more than just “mysticism” – it’s a whole way of looking at life, which has its own unique answers for all of Judaism’s most important questions. We will study the kabbalistic thought of Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato (Ramchal) in his work, *Derech Hashem*. We will cover all the main issues of Jewish philosophy:



How *tefilah* works; the meaning and effects of the *mitzvot*; the unique nature of Torah; the definition of “*mazal*”; the question of free will; the sin of *Adam Ha-Rishon*; the nature of *nevu’ah*; the afterlife; *mashiach*; magic; reincarnation; and more, to comprise a comprehensive approach to Judaism. We will also study the approaches of those Jewish thinkers who disagreed with Ramchal.

## Understanding Hashem's Ways (Adv.)

NEIMA NOVETSKY

The course will look at stories and mitzvot in Tanach which raise deep questions. "Hashem hardened



Paroh's Heart' – so do we always have free will, or does Hashem sometimes push us in a certain direction, as He seems to have done with Paroh? What does the story suggest about the opportunities for teshuvah –are the gates of teshuvah

always open, or does Hashem sometimes lock them? Tanach is filled with cases of collective punishment; Hashem Himself says that He "visits the sins of the parents on the children." But how is that just? Should we not each be punished for our own sins? "Anochi Hashem" – we are expected to believe in Hashem, but what if I have questions? What do I do when there are mitzvot that don't fit with my personal understanding of right and wrong? When does Hashem intervene in our lives, and when does He leave us to "nature"? Would we not be better off if we still lived in an era of miracles, where "yad Hashem" was much more visible? We will tackle these topics and more, exploring how our parshanim throughout the ages have struggled with and attempted to answer these questions. Students are very encouraged to question and debate, and all request for topics to discuss are very welcome.

## Sefer Iyyov and the Meaning of Life

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

*Sefer Iyyov* begins with sudden terrible tragedies which strike Iyyov, who loses almost everything for the sake of what seems to be a bet between God and



Satan! Through textual and philosophical analysis of selected conversations that make up the bookends of *Sefer Iyyov*, we will seek clarity on some of the burning questions of human and Jewish existence, such as why bad things happen to good people and why there is evil in the world.



## Secrets of the Kabbalah

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

What is a neshamah? What happens to our soul after we die? What is Gan Eden? Is there such a thing as Gehenom? Do we believe in reincarnation? What effect does kaddish have for souls that have passed? Do we have any contact with souls that have left this world? What are the questions that all of us will be asked in heaven? Do demons exist, and how can we protect ourselves from them? Who or what are angels? How could the Maharal create a "golem"? We will discuss secrets of Torah from Kabbalah, the Zohar and beyond. Join us for a taste of the hidden Torah.

## Kohelet: Why Are We Here?

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

In 500 years from now, not only will no one remember you and me, but in fact, the odds are that it will make no difference at all that we ever lived. Nothing we do during our lifetime will remain for long, and we, along with pretty much everyone else, will fade into oblivion and be utterly forgotten. If so, what's the point of our having lived? Join us to explore *Kohelet*, the sefer in Tanach which asks all the hard questions and pulls no punches in its search for the meaning of our lives.





## What Midrashim Really Mean

BRACHA KROHN

Some *midrashim* really make us wonder: Was Rivkah really three when she married Yitzchak? If not, what lesson were Chazal hinting by saying she was? Why should it matter to us that 3,500 years ago, some stones argued about which one should be Yaakov's pillow? Since the Torah tells us exactly what the "man" actually tasted like, how can the *Midrash* say it tasted like whatever you wanted? Are Chazal in the *Midrash* teaching us historical facts in these stories, or do they have something deeper in mind? Come learn about the different types of *midrashim*; what goals Chazal had in mind when composing them; and how to unlock the deeper meaning behind these well-known legends. In this course, you will explore the difference between interpretation and homiletics as you develop skills for understanding and appreciating the *midrashim* you learn each week when studying *parshah*.

## Seriously Strange Stories

NEIMA NOVETSKY

Once, when there was a terrible drought, a man named "Choni" drew a circle around himself and swore he would not leave it until Hashem brought rain. Down came the rain! But why? And can we try the same thing before our next big math test? Another time, the rabbis were arguing (as usual), and when one rabbi asked Hashem to settle it and Hashem sided with him, the other rabbis decided to ignore Hashem! And when Hashem saw that, He just

smiled! What were these rabbis thinking, and what does Hashem find funny about the situation? Chazal tell us that the *Beit HaMikdash* was destroyed because this random guy named "Bar Kamtza" showed up at a party and was asked to leave. Are you serious? We've had no Mikdash for the last 2,000 years because someone crashed a party and the host didn't like it?! The *Midrash* says that Moshe Rabbeinu once time-traveled so he could visit Rabbi Akiva's classroom. So far so good. But how could it be that Moshe Rabbeinu, source of all of Torah, could sit in a shiur and not understand a word? The *Gemara* is filled with really provocative (and some truly strange) stories. In this course, we will study some of the most famous and intriguing of these stories. Each week, we will look at a new story, raising questions and exploring its lessons.



## Topics in Jewish Philosophy

R. ASSAF BEDNARSH / SHANA BET

Joint Shana Bet Shiur at Gruss Campus

Sponsored by Yeshiva University.

Join us to explore fascinating topics and see what the greats of all generations actually said about them:

Free will; the suffering of the righteous; what is the afterlife; resurrection and mashiach; Divine intervention in our lives; how prayer "works"; halachah and ethics. We will also explore topics in our tradition like



how there can be multiple legitimate opinions; the rabbis' power to create new laws and change old ones; and what is a "chumrah" and when does it make sense to adopt one.

## The Wisdom of *Mishlei*

BRACHA KROHN



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

## Sefer Mishlei

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

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



individual pieces of a larger story or halachic section, are actually self-contained observations on life or pieces of advice all on their own. This means that the sefer is jam-packed with meaning, with every single *pasuk* its own new world of ideas and reflections. It also

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

## Reason for the Season

RAV ELI WAGNER / SHANA BET

We're taught to eat symbolic foods on *Rosh Ha-Shanah* – honey so that we'll have a sweet year, pomegranate seeds so that we'll have plentiful *mitzvot* this year... beets, fish heads, the list goes on and on. But isn't it just superstition to think that eating certain foods will somehow change our future? Besides actual repentance, the *Yom Kippur* season also seems to bring amazing "repentance

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



## Meaning in the Mitzvot

BRACHA KROHN

We always talk about 613 *mitzvot*, but did you know that only 194 of them can be performed nowadays? Let's get busy studying them so you can be sure you know what you need. We will study the *Sefer Ha-Mitzvot* of the

"Chafetz Chaim," which lists and succinctly explains each *mitzvah*. Each week, we will explore a few selected *mitzvot* – *Birkat Ha-Mazon*, *Kibbud Av Ve-Em*, *Teshuvah*, and *Hashavat Aveidah*, to name a few, finding each *mitzvah* in the



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

# EMUNAH SECTION III: PERSONAL GROWTH

## Inspiration Everywhere

RAV KALMAN FLAKS

How do I daven with true divine consciousness? When I learn Torah, how can I feel Hashem is speaking to me personally? I like singing, but how can song be a way to tap directly into my soul? Eating is so physical – is it possible to eat in a way which is at the same time holy, spiritual, and also joyful? How can I give tzedakah with a profound awareness of the divine image of the recipient? These are some of the practical spiritual topics we will explore together. Rather than merely an intellectual exploration, our goal is to live these teachings throughout our week and have a lot of fun along the way! Each week we will study inspiring teachings from our Chasidic and Musar masters.



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## What Does It Mean to be Jewish

RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER

What does it mean to be Jewish – do we think we're better than everyone else? Why would God need one special nation anyway? Imagine God came to you and asked you to found a new religion to spread monotheism and be a light unto all other nations. Most people would expect "I am God, creator of the heavens and the earth"; or maybe you'd expect Him to tell you to spread His name to the world, behave in an exemplary fashion, or to follow the Ten



special nation anyway? Imagine God came to you and asked you to found a new religion to spread monotheism and be a light unto all other nations. Most people would expect "I am God, creator of the heavens and the earth"; or maybe you'd expect Him

to tell you to spread His name to the world, behave in an exemplary fashion, or to follow the Ten

Commandments. But when God has this exact interaction with Avraham, all He said was: "Go to Israel." *Understanding why is the key to answering Judaism's biggest questions.* Judaism is much more than a list of demands for a small group of people; it's the recipe for a nation with a unique mission in this world. What exactly is that mission? We'll explore this idea in depth and answer the fundamental questions about what it means to be the Jewish Nation.

## Loving What We Do

RAV EFRONI SCHLESINGER

Why does Judaism have so many laws? If the mitzvot are so important, and especially if they're the basics of being a good person, why aren't non-Jews obligated in them as well? How should I daven so that my prayers will be answered? What's the value in following mitzvot to which I don't connect? The Torah demands so much from us every single day, and while many of our mitzvot seem deep and meaningful, like tefilah or loving others, some sound strange or even difficult to our modern sensibilities, like brit milah or korbanot. In this course, we'll address these topics and many more as we look to deepen our understanding of the mitzvot and the important role that they play in our everyday lives.

## Living in the Presence of Hashem

RAV JONNY FRIEDMAN

There's nothing more physical than eating, which explains why we don't eat on super-spiritual days like Yom Kippur, right? On second thought, eating *can* be spiritual, since it enables us to serve Hashem with energy. But can the act of eating *itself* be a way of serving Hashem, right then and there as we eat?



Do we sleep just because we're tired (or love napping), or there is also a way to sleep like a Jew? Does "simchah" mean literally being ecstatic all the time? And why is simchah so vital to our relationship with Hashem? We all have physical desires with which we struggle throughout our lives, either to resist forbidden desires or to minimize desires for things which are permitted but distract us from what's important. How do we build the strength to beat these urges? This course will engage topics like these in real-life spirituality, helping us to build a life of kedushah and inspiration.

## Living the Empowered Life

BRACHA KROHN

Do you want to feel more empowered in your own life? Do you feel anxious, unsure, or overwhelmed at moments of transition or decision? Would you like to feel more positive, confident and effective in your day-to-day choices? Is it hard for you to put yourself first even when you know you should? Then this course is for you! We will learn the thoughts and tools needed to strengthen our confidence and self-esteem when life gets overwhelming, to put ourselves first when necessary, and to quiet the feelings of worry and anxiety that slow us down or hold us back. Learn the areas in our lives where we can bring change! You will learn about the value the Torah places on our need to make choices in life, be proactive and chart our own destinies. We will focus on the ways we can develop ourselves spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. Join us to learn about being independent in your Torah learning, forgiving yourself and others, navigating through challenges



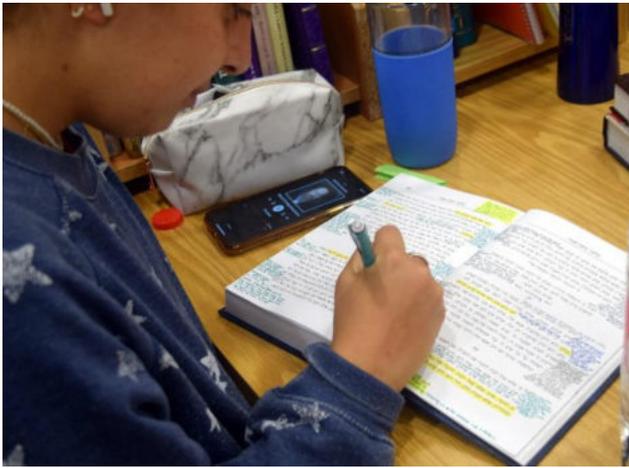
that overwhelm you, choosing role models and mentors, finding and making meaningful friendships with people who bring out the best in you, and creating inspiration for yourself so you don't have to wait around for it! You will be happily surprised by the new-found independence, strength and confidence that you will begin to experience as we explore these topics and more. This is your ticket to a more successful YOU in all areas of your life... and to a more successful year, taking full advantage of all the opportunities that seminary offers.

## Building Great Relationships

DR. AVIVA GOLDSTEIN

How can I maximize my role as a daughter or step-daughter? What does friendship mean to me? What kind of spouse do I want to be, and what do I need to find in my own spouse? How do I imagine myself as a mother? What can I learn about my relationship with siblings, or from my only-child status? How can I nurture emotional intimacy in a way that is empowering? What do I do once I recognize dysfunction in my relationships? What is the connection between my own self-awareness and self-confidence on one hand, and the health of the relationships in my life on the other hand? This course will be a journey through personal experiences, analysis of contemporary social research and immersion in relevant Jewish texts that can inform the social decisions in our lives. Reflecting on our own relationships and learning from sources, we will explore the universal undercurrents of human relationships and learn how to enhance our relationships and their impact on our lives. We will analyze communication and compatibility and recognize patterns in our own social experiences, and through a broad collection of Jewish texts and psychology resources, we will seek a deep self-awareness and healthy, enriching relationships.





## Growth Instruction Manual

RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER

The seminary year is focused on learning and growth – in our relationship with Hashem, with other people, and in our own selfhood. Often, however, it doesn't seem self-explanatory how that growth is supposed to happen. Some examples:

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

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

## The Deeper Shabbos

RAV KALMAN FLAKS / SHANA BET

What do we really mean when we talk about the extra Shabbat soul ("neshamah yeteirah"), and how do we access it? Food is such an important part of

Shabbat, but how can even the way we *shop* for that food transform our Shabbat? We all know we need to clean ourselves up for Shabbat, but what is the deeper kabbalistic significance of trimming your nails for Shabbat? On a practical level, Shabbat



candles provide light, but what is their spiritual significance? Many people enjoy singing, but what are Shabbat zemirot really about? Havdalah seems to be about making a clear break between the time when work is forbidden and when it becomes permitted, but what is its deep inner meaning, one which can lead us into the week with inspiration? Besides regular learning, we will also have "assignments" :-), like "shuk shopping li-chvod Shabbat," "Shabbat food tasting seminars," and "Kabbalat Shabbat song meditation." We will IYH end with a wonderful Shabbat together, celebrating what we have learned and experiencing it together. Our learning will lean heavily on Chasidut and Rav Shimshon Pinkus's sefarim on Shabbat.

## Jewish Childhood and Parenthood

BRACHA KROHN

You are now at the age where you are reflecting on how you were raised and what values you received from home. You might be thinking about how your parenting will be similar to, but also different from, your own parents' ways. As you move into adulthood, your relationship with your parents will change, which is both exciting and scary. If any of this is on your mind, this course will be for you! We will learn about the issues of being children to our parents, and parents to our children, through topics such as:



- How do we define *kibud av ve-em*? How can we make sure to feel and express all the gratitude we feel (or should feel) for our parents? As children, how do we relate respectfully and lovingly to parents whose values differ from ours? Are there

halachic requirements for parents about how to treat their children?

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

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

## Torah Horoscopes

NOMI ZANJIRIAN

Can a regular Jew – meaning someone like you and me, not a prophet – actually predict the future?



What role does astrology play in Jewish thought? We all probably know that Rosh Ha-Shanah is in the Fall (Tishrei), Pesach is in the Spring (Nisan), and Tishah Be-Av is in the Summer... but why? What is the real spiritual reason why *these* times of the year are the right times for these chagim, and how can that help us

understand the unique power of each of these months? In this fascinating course, we will look at the Jewish approach to time. We will explore the unique potential of each Jewish month, and you will discover practical insights that will enable you to tap into the spiritual power of each time of year.

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

DR. AVIVA GOLDSTEIN

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



## Difficult Midot Situations / Breaking Bad Habits

RAV HANOCH TELLER

How can we stop assuming the worst of people and begin to judge them favorably? How can we handle difficult conversations with friends, parents, and roommates, sensitively making ourselves heard while also hearing others and finding ways to work



out tough issues? How can we waste less time? Be more thoughtful, considerate, appreciative, respectful, resilient, mature, and spiritual? How can we actualize our potential? Simple, straight forward and compellingly logical; the method works!

## Michtav Me-Eliyahu

RAV HANOCH TELLER

Twenty years ago, I approached one of the great gedolim of our generation and told him that a seminary student revealed to me that her year in Israel was almost over and she still really wished to grow. What should she learn? Without hesitation, he replied, "Instruct her and assist her to learn Rav Dessler, for he speaks to our generation." Join us to explore topics in Rav Dessler's Michtav Me-Eliyahu, full of inspiration, guidance, and keys to growth.

## Mesilat Yeshtarim

RAV ZVI RON

Many people want to improve themselves, but where do we start? Once we get beyond just feeling that we'd like to be better, what path do we follow? Is there an order, a series of steps which build on



each other, and which we can follow toward real religious growth which will last? Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato's answer is Mesilat Yeshtarim, a *sefer*

which maps out a specific path toward *kedushah*, including detailed recommendations, a step-by-step plan, and even warnings about the obstacles along the way which can block our progress. We will study this classic *sefer* in depth and discuss how these ideas can be applied in our lives.

## Olam Ha-Midot

RAV YITZCHAK LERNER

Would you like to become a more truthful person? Achieve a more sincere level of motivation in everything you do? Do you wish you could be less jealous, leave anger behind, and more easily find fulfillment, calm, and happiness? Do you want to be more kind? *Sefer* "Olam Ha-Midot," by Rav Moshe



Kestenbaum (author of smash musar hit "Olam Ha-Avodah") will help you get there. This *sefer* is all about refining your midot. Join us to challenge yourself to take things to the next level.

## Alei Shur

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

We will study the inspiring teachings of one of the greatest giants of our generation, Rav Shlomo

Wolbe. Rav Wolbe was renowned for being able to encourage and inspire Bnei and Bnot Torah to grow spiritually by first recognizing the reality of living in a material world and then providing them with advice and a roadmap on the journey of



elevating themselves. The ultimate goal is to enable us as "*avdei Hashem*" to become more introspective about our service of Hashem.

## Find Your Personal Hashkafah

RAV JASON KNAPEL / SHANA BET

"Ideas, Personalities, Books and *Hashkafot* Every Shana Better Needs To Know"

There are so many people and *sefarim* that have shaped the



way Jews have thought and lived throughout our history – Rav Kook, Ben Gurion, Natan Scharansky, the Chatam Sofer, the Minchat Chinuch, the Torah Temimah, the Mishnah Berurah.... Here is your chance to be exposed to the vastness of our *mesorah* – religious and non, right wing and left. In addition to meeting great people, we will be exploring diverse *hashkafot*, ideas and views within our tradition, all geared toward helping you, the “Shana Better,” arrive at your own *hashkafah* and world view as you transition from Sem into “Real Life.”

## The Joy of Being a Jew (“JOB AJ”)

RABBI YY WENGLIN / TWO SECTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

Let’s face it: It’s simply more exciting to go to a concert or a ballgame or a party than it is to *daven*



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

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

## Michtav Me-Eliyahu

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM

If Judaism says that love isn’t just about attraction, what is it about, and how does one go about achieving true love? Does everyone have the same amount of free will, and do we ourselves have the same amount at all points of our lives? What is true happiness? How much time and effort do I need to invest in my career, and how much should I just rely on Hashem? Some people claim that we see miracles every day – but where are they, and how should this

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



## “Good Talk”

BRACHA KROHN

Do you sometimes regret saying something? (Who doesn’t!) Do you sometimes wish you *had* said something, and wonder why you didn’t? Have you ever wondered why someone else’s words hurt you

or matter so much to you? (“Sticks and stones might break my bones but names will never hurt me” – just not true, right?) In this course, we will discuss the power of speech and the way our words affect others and even ourselves. Going way beyond just “*lashon ha-ra*,” we will learn about many different mitzvot



that relate to speech and examine stories in Tanach where speech changed the course of history. If you want to feel inspired and motivated to use your words more kindly and responsibly, and feel stronger and less affected by others’ destructive words, this course is for you! The learning we do each week will be relevant immediately and give you something to think about and work on until we see each other again.

## Netivot Shalom

RAV YITZCHAK LERNER / SHANA BET

How does one work practically on *emunah* in Hashem and *Yirat Shamayim*? What is *simchas ha-*



*chaim* and how does one achieve it? What steps can I take to improve my *tefilah*? Using “Netivot Shalom”, by Rabbi Shalom Noach Brozovsky, the Slonimer Rebbe, we will gain insight into the weekly *parshah* and *chagim* and take personal lessons from

his work. We will explore ideas ranging from belief in God to self-improvement.

## What Is a Jew?

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL WENGLIN

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

with your life? Have you seen one of those videos or documentaries that go “behind-the-scenes” of really cool stuff or that show “the way things work”? This text-based course will go “behind the scenes” of physical reality to

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



## Meaning in Tefilah

MALKA HUBSCHER

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



## Tefilah GPS (Adv.)

RAV EITAN MAYER

When we pray, even if we know what the words mean (which, let’s be honest, we often don’t), we don’t always know where we’re *going* with each *tefilah* (isn’t this paragraph just more praise?) and what makes it unique. For example, everyone always says “*Ashrei*” is so special, but actually, it sounds a lot like everything else we say – so what’s the big deal? What are we trying to say with each “*hallelukah*” that makes it different than the one before and the one after? The *berachot* before and after *Shema* (*Yotzer Or*, *Ahavah Rabbah*, and *Ve-Yatziv*) are full of praise, but they seem to have nothing to do with each other, and nothing to do with *Shema*! Where are we going with all of this? What are we trying to say? How do we connect and feel what we’re saying on a deep and personal level? Naturally, if we lack a sense of where we are and where we’re headed, we often feel disconnected and bored, which then chips away at our motivation to pray in the first place. We need a

“Tefilah GPS”! In this textual course, we will carefully learn select *tefilot*, exploring their meaning, structure, and specific themes, so that we truly know what we’re saying and can fill our words with meaning and connection. We will look at daily *tefilah* and *tefilot* we say on special occasions.

## Shemoneh Esrei

MICHAL PORATH ZIBMAN

We will engage in a deep study of the themes of the various *berachot* of the nineteen that we say daily. By focusing on a different *berachah* every week, we



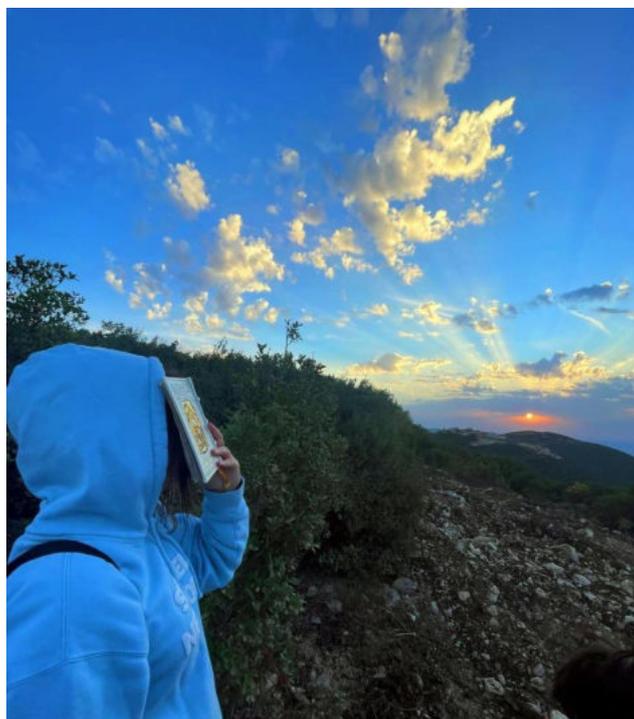
will seek not only a better understanding of the meaning of the *berachot* themselves, but also to enhance our *kavanah* during this *tefilah*. In addition to *Shemoneh Esrei*, just as *tefilah* has been part of the Jewish life experience since time immemorial, so too,

people have written about the *tefilah* experience since then. Scholars and sages, from the early biblical commentators throughout Jewish history, Chasidic masters, and contemporary rabbis and community leaders, both men and women, have put their thoughts down for their generation and generations to come. We will examine some of these great works on *tefilah* and various specific *tefilot* in our *Siddur*, gaining ideas and insights each week that will enhance the way we serve Hashem.

## Tehilim in Tefilah (Adv)

RAV EITAN

If the whole פסוקי דזמרה is basically just praise, why does it need to be so long – do we really need 5 “hallelukot” that all say basically the same thing? What’s actually so special about “אשרי” that it’s the centerpiece of דזמרה? פסוקי דזמרה? What does “מזמור שיר” actually have to do with *Shabbat*, since it doesn’t talk about resting or creation? What are we trying to say in קבלת שבת, since barely anything there even mentions *Shabbat*? Is שיר המעלות ממעמקים really the best choice for whenever something is worrying us? We will analyze and uncover the real story behind פסוקי דזמרה, Kabbalat *Shabbat* and more and understand why we say them when we do.



## Sefer Tehilim

MICHAL PORATH ZIBMAN

*Sefer Tehilim* is the *sefer* that is the most closely integrated into our daily lives, since much of what we say when *davening* is actually from *Tehilim*. David Ha-Melech’s poetic masterpiece enables us to express ourselves to God at our lowest moments, at our greatest moments, at moments of gratitude and at moments of intense seeking. Join us on this journey to learn select chapters of this timeless classic that will enhance not only our routine *tefilot*, but also those spontaneous moments where we feel a desire (or a desire for a desire) to call out to God and to connect with Him.

## Laws and Meaning of Tefilah

RABBI YITZCHAK LERNER

I really want *tefilah* to be part of my daily routine, but to be honest, I really don’t know the meaning of what I’m saying and the rules which should guide me. Do women need to pray anything formal, or may they make do with just a few *berachot* each day? Do I need to say *Minchah*? When is the latest time I can still say *Shacharit* and *Minchah*? If I missed a *tefilah*, can I make it up? Do I answer “amen” or “kedushah” if I’m in the middle of another *tefilah*? Should I catch up during Torah reading, or listen to the reading? Is there any difference whether I pray at home or with a *minyan*? If I’m late or fall behind, what can I skip in order to catch up? Is it better to say less but with more *kavanah*, or say everything I can? Can I take a jog before *tefilah*, or study for a test, or take the



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



you forgot “*Mashiv Ha-Ru'ach*” – what now? You've taken on *davening Minchah*, but you accidentally forgot today – is there anything to do? In this course, we'll cover the topics needed to answer these questions and many more, in addition to exploring the content of the *tefilot* themselves.

train, or have breakfast? The year in Israel is prime time to take your *tefilah* to the next level so that you can continue a strong connection with Hashem in college and beyond. Can there be any kind of real relationship without good communication? In addition to knowing what we're saying and learning how to focus, there is also a lot to know about the what, the when, the how, and the why of *tefilah*, and even if we've been “*davening*” for years, we still may not know. Join us to examine these questions and more, starting with *Modeh Ani* all the way to *Aleinu*.

## Knocking on Heaven's Door

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL WENGLIN

Three steps back, three steps forward. Bow... Bow... Potch. Potch... Yawn, yawn, yawn. Bow... Bow... Three steps back. Again. Three steps back. Three steps forward. Bow... Bow... Potch. Potch... Yaaaaawwwwn. “—Wait, where am I? Oh, right....” Bow... Bow... Three steps back. Again... Every day. For the rest of your life. If this captures your prayer experience, then this course may be for you. We will look to change the game completely by learning about *davening* from the basic to the deep, drawing from select Chasidic and Kabbalah-based sources. In addition to regular *shiurim*, the course will sometimes be more of a workshop, using tools of group discussion, writing, role-playing, and

## Tefilah: Meaning and Halachah

RAV RAFI ROSENBLUM / SHANA BET

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



meditation exercises to help you experientially internalize the information we learn. In the process of changing the *davening* experience, the course aims to also change the way you experience *yourself*, both in terms of your self-identification and your *midot* (character traits). But a bit of a warning: This course is for mature audiences only. The ideal student for this course is one who is focused and growth-oriented, willing to contemplate new ideas, to participate in the exercises and discussions, and in general, to increase her connection to Judaism and Hashem. If you take this course, after all is said and done, you might actually not be in such a hurry to take those last three steps back!

## Orchot Tzadikim

BRACHA KROHN / MEETS SUN + TUE

Each week, we will learn from “Orchot Tzadikim” (“Pathways of the Righteous”) about a *midah* that we



encounter in ourselves and others. We will learn about the roots of the *midah*, its positives and negatives, and how to actively and consciously improve our thoughts and behaviors relating to happiness, jealousy, generosity, humility,

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



## Pirkei Avot

MALKA HUBSCHER

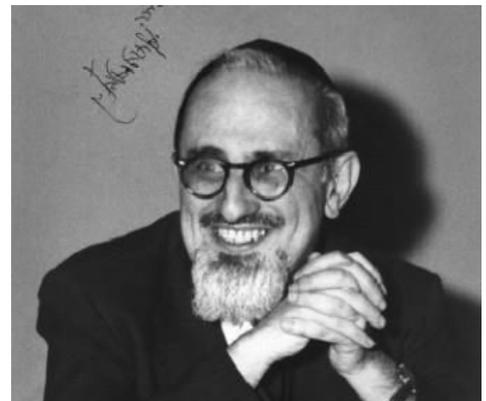
The moral lessons, values, profound psychological insights, and philosophical teachings of the *Tanna'im*, the rabbis who composed the *Mishnah* almost 2,000 years ago, remain immediately relevant and deeply meaningful today. We will use them as a guide to inspire us to reach new heights in both our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



## Rav Soloveitchik on the Jewish Family

MALKA HUBSCHER

Want to improve your relationships with your siblings, parents or grandparents? Maybe already thinking about how to have a great marriage and how to be a good mother? The time to become the person you would



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



## Matan Torah Today

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN / SHANA BET

One of the most extraordinary events that ever happened to the Jewish people was the experience of *Matan Torah* and receiving the *Aseret Ha-Dibberot*. The Torah provides great detail about the events leading up to the actual revelation. In addition to the commandments themselves, how can the lessons of that back story apply to us today? How do we understand the first of the Ten Commandments, “I am Hashem, your God” – is it a command, or just an introduction to the commands? How can God command us not to be jealous? While it’s certainly important not to “bear false witness,” why is it such a significant part of our core value system that it should make the ultimate “top ten” list of mitzvot? Through the eyes of classic *parshanim*, Chasidic Rebbes, and other commentators, we will delve into a textual journey that will enrich our own life experiences and *avodat Hashem*.

## “Intense” Mesilat Yesharim (Adv)

RAV EITAN MAYER

Rav Moshe Chaim Luzzato’s “Path of the Righteous” is the first “*musar*” *sefer* I ever learned, and it changed my life. More than anything else, this is a book that helps you to step back from your life and *think*. While many people who haven’t learned “*musar*” think it means “rebuke” or “telling someone they’ve done the wrong thing,” “*musar*” is really just the kind of learning which is meant to impact us personally rather than just intellectually. *Mesilat Yesharim* begins by asking us what each of us personally is here for in this world, which is a startling



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

## The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Jews

SEPHA KIRSHBLUM

All of us have habits which get in our way. We procrastinate work, errands, and phone calls; we say “yes” when people ask us for favors even when we should say “no”; sometimes FOMO keeps us up until crazy hours even when we know we’ll be at less than our best the next day. What positive habits can we establish to replace our dysfunctional ones?



Steven Covey, author of bestseller “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,” teaches us about seven habits he believes can help us develop into our best selves. For example: How to best listen to people; how to prioritize our time (including knowing when to say no); how to stop procrastinating and get things done; how to work best alone and with a team; and how to always be seeking to improve ourselves and grow. In this course, we will learn these habits in detail from a Torah perspective, incorporating Jewish ethics and philosophy as well as the teachings of specific *mitzvot* that can help us fully develop these positive habits and become highly effective people and Jews.

## Kohelet: Why Are We Here?

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

In 500 years from now, not only will no one remember you and me, but in fact, the odds are that it will make no difference at all that we ever lived. Nothing we do during our lifetime will remain for long, and we, along with pretty much everyone else,

will fade into oblivion and be utterly forgotten. If so, what's the point of our having lived? Join us to explore *Kohelet*, the sefer in Tanach which asks all the hard questions and pulls no punches in its search for the meaning of our lives.

## “Hashem Wants the Heart”

### The Torah of Chasidut

RABBI YAAKOV YISROEL WENGLIN / SHANA BET

We all know that ideally, we want to do everything in life with a full heart. Yeah, go ahead and say it: “With all of our heart and soul!” We want to be “into it” when we do things in life, whether we’re talking about marriage or children or career or personal growth or acts of kindness or even just chilling out. And, of course, we want to be fired up for Torah and *mitzvot*. And it all starts (and ends) with your heart. In this course, we will learn some classic Torah from the world of Chasidut to help us give Hashem what He wants from us – our hearts.

### Shiur Klali

“TAG-TEAM”: BRACHA, RAV EITAN, AND RAV JASON

The entire student body comes together for a weekly “shmooze” hosted by our administrators. We’ll begin with the week’s brief but important announcements and update you about upcoming events in our calendar, including *tiyyulim* and *shabbatonim*. Then, working as a tag-team, we’ll address timely matters in the year in Israel as they come up. For example: How can you make a strong beginning in your seminary year? How can you identify your goals for the year and then translate them into a concrete personal to-do list? How do you handle challenging interpersonal situations? How do you decide what to take on in the year in Israel without thinking overly

much about how this is going to work outside seminary? And then how do you successfully take your growth back into the world outside? How can you best prepare for challenges like vacations, the summer, college, and a busy life full of distractions? “Shiur Klali” will help provide you with a sense of direction for the year and reflections that will take you beyond.



# History and Society

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

RAV ELI WAGNER

Ever been to Masada and learned about the mass suicide? What about the false messiah, Shabtai Zvi,



who convinced thousands of Jews that he was the “real thing”? (For that matter, when the “real thing” does arrive, how will we be sure?) If you fall in love with an Ethiopian, can you marry him – where did he come from? What is his history and halachic status? Have you ever learned about a

fascinating episode in history and thought, “What would I do in that situation?” or “What would the Torah want me to do?” Often, when learning about either history or *halachah*, we focus solely on one and neglect the other. Each week in this course, we will choose a significant event in our history and analyze a halachic challenge it presents (including episodes nominated by participants in the course). The skills gained and lessons learned through our analysis of each topic will allow us to put ourselves in the shoes of Jews through the ages and view history and *halachah* in a new light.

## Zionism & the Jewish State

RAV AHARON WEXLER

Join us for an intensive study of the political history that brought about a Jewish State in *Eretz Yisrael*. Who were these secular and religious men and women who, with the help of God, brought



about a complete change in Jewish affairs after a 2000-year *galut*? What happened in the 19th century to bring Zionism into the hearts and minds of the people?

## Supporting Israel on Campus

SHARON WAGNER-ZAUDER

Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in negativity toward Israel on college campuses. Using the latest multimedia educational resources, including film and video, this course will feature interactive workshops and guest speakers and use current events as the backdrop for class discussion. Topics include:

- The Occupation Allegation
- Refugees
- The Palestinian Narrative
- The Jewish Right to the Land of Israel
- Developing your Personal Narrative
- The Physical Dimension
- The Moral Dimension
- The Apartheid Allegation
- Jerusalem
- Israel Inside – the Israel you don’t hear about
- And more...

## Backstage with the Gedolim

RAV ASHI TARAGIN

Often, we think of Chazal as people who taught us what to do: halachah. But Chazal also shared their life stories and life experience. How did our sages treat their parents? How did they cope with suffering in their own lives? What did they see in their dreams? What business dilemmas did they face? Learn about the Shabbat cow, Rabbi Akiva’s chicken, and many more as we delve into the stories Chazal passed down to be remembered for all time.

# Sho'ah ve-Emunah Program

IN MEMORY OF RABBI AVRAHAM AND MIRIAM JUNGREIS  
& REBBETZIN ESTHER JUNGREIS

## Sho'ah ve-Emunah

MICHAL PORATH-ZIBMAN

Undeniably the most painful event of modern Jewish history, the *Sho'ah* continues to frighten, inspire, and perplex us. We will study the key events surrounding the before, during and after, as we also try to delve into the world of the religious Jew during those times. In addition to understanding what was done to the Jews as victims, we will also explore how they reacted, including some extraordinary questions that ordinary people asked, such as how they could keep kosher while starving in the ghetto, or keep Shabbat in Auschwitz, or whether one may redeem a loved one if another Jew will be taken in their place. We will also ask the questions the Jewish world has asked since the Holocaust: Where was God? Do we look at the Holocaust as a punishment for the Jewish people, and if so, for what sin(s); or was it unrelated to anything that *Am Yisrael* had done, and if so, how do we understand how Hashem stood by and allowed it to happen?



## Sho'ah ve-Emunah

RAV JASON KNAPEL

In this course, we will explore one of our greatest tragedies through the lenses of history, *halachah* and *hashkafah*. Topics that will be discussed are:

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



# C<sub>N</sub>C

“ C H A V R U T O T & C H A B U R O T ”

In almost every hour in our schedule, you'll see an option called "Chavrutot and Chaburot" or "CnC." (We also call it a "Beit Midrash period.") Why should you sign up? When you sign up for a period of "Chavrutot & Chaburot" (maximum 8 per week without special permission), you are joining a tradition pioneered by students through centuries of Jewish history and continued today in every yeshiva all around the world.

Our Beit Midrash is the heart of Midreshet Moriah. It's the place where you'll find your very own "makom," a permanent place for the year where you

can keep your personal *sefarim* and do your learning. It will help you feel a sense of belonging, connection and ownership and facilitate your learning and your tefilah.

**The keys to success in CnC are a) putting your phone in the basket so it doesn't distract you and b) choosing a project so that you don't waste time every week trying to decide what to do (or just space out...).** The teachers staffing the *Beit Midrash* will have lots of suggestions for what you could learn, whether it's Tanach, *halachah*, Jewish thought, working on your Hebrew, or anything else.

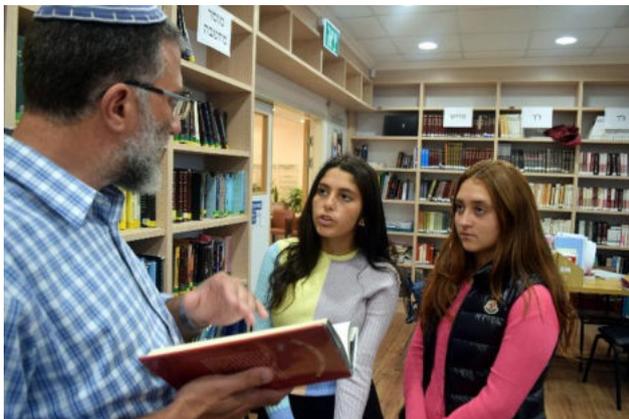


**TIP: make a plan** for what to do in each of your CnC periods so you don't just space out...

## You have the following options:

### Review Time:

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



### Prep time:

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

### Personal Projects:

Need time to review the *parshah* (and write a *Devar Torah*) or learn more about a topic which interests you? Interested in doing *Nach Yomi* or Bracha's "*Beki'ut Parshah*" sheets? Want to learn *be-chavruta* with another girl or with a *madrichah* or teacher?



CnC is the time to do it! More than any other kind of learning you'll do at seminary, working on your own or with a *chavruta* in the *Beit Midrash*, armed with a dictionary and making progress through a *sefer* you thought was beyond you, is the way you'll gain skills which will last you a lifetime and help you in all the learning you do. Challenge yourself!

### "Chaburah":

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

## SPECIAL CNC'S

### "All Together Now"

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

### Your Special Chavruta from Midreshet Darkaynu

MICHAL PORATH ZIBMAN

Midreshet Darkaynu is a seminary for young women with 'light' special needs. On Sunday evenings at 7:30pm, you will have an opportunity to do a different form of *chesed* and get to know them through a relationship of learning Torah together. Each week, we will learn various topics together (including *midot*, *lashon hara*, *chesed*) in either



*chavruta* or *chaburah* style. No previous experience in special needs required – the only skills you need are patience, sensitivity, and a big heart 😊. Join us and become an exciting part of their (and your) *Beit Midrash* experience!

## “Nach Yomi” Program

COORDINATOR: TBA

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

## Late-Night Beis

Regular “Night Seder” ends at 9:20, but the Rambam teaches us that night-time learning is the highest-quality learning there is and that someone who wants to grow in learning should never waste a night! So... on Sun, Tue, and Wed nights, we’re staffing the *Beis* until 10:20 with faculty who will be offering you *chaburot* and more. Looking for the crowd who’s



most “into” learning? Come join us in the Late-Night *Beis*! (Yes, Late-Night *Beis* counts as an “hour” in your total number of hours!)

## “Mishmar”:

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



## “Weekly Parshah Quiz”

BRACHA KROHN / LISHMAH & PRIZES! 😊

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

## SAMPLE CHABUROT

### “Kol Dodi Dofek” Chaburah

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



## “Eish Kodesh” Chaburah

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

## Kohelet

Join us to explore the meaning of life with the wisest man who ever lived – Shlomo Ha-Melech. In *Kohelet*, we’ll follow along as Shlomo asks the emunah



questions we often wonder about but don’t always know how to handle.

## Rambam Chaburah

The best way to get a quick “handle” on many Torah concepts is to go through the Rambam, who organizes everything beautifully for us. All day, you’ll find yourself connecting things you learn in your other courses with what we learn here!



## Em Ha-Banim Semeichah

Rabbi Yissachar Teichtal, a Satmar *chasid* who lived in Hungary during the Holocaust, realized the error of his anti-Zionist *hashkafah* and the disaster it had brought upon *Am Yisrael*. He devoted his last years to writing this *sefer*, in which he passionately argues from a hashkafic and halachic perspective for the necessity of building a Jewish homeland in Israel. We will be studying selected readings from his *sefer*.

## “Hegyonei Halachah”

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

## Igeret Ha-Ramban

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



# SHANA BET LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



RAV JASON KNAPEL, SHANA BET DIRECTOR

Shana Bet at Midreshet Moriah is much more than “Shana Aleph continued.” Our Shana Bet is a specially designed program of its own, complete with its own dedicated roster of exclusive Shana Bet courses and a full program of special Shana Bet shabbatonim and tiyyulim. Our Shana Bet students benefit from the academic, personal, and religious guidance provided by our Shana Bet Director, Rav Jason Knapel. Shana Bet is not just “more learning” in quantity; it is a qualitatively different experience, enabling our Shana Bet students to accomplish more during this half-year program than many of them accomplished in their entire Shana Aleph. If Shana Aleph enables our students to discover their own independent, adult connection to Torah, Shana Bet deepens that bond with maturity, sophistication, passion and focus.



# The “Rakezet” at Midreshet Moriah:

# Your Personal Faculty Mentor...

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



# Administration & Faculty

## Administration



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

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



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

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



**Rabbi Eitan Mayer**, Menahel. "Rav Eitan" is known both for his wry sense of humor and his shiurim in Tanach and Machshavah, which emphasize creative thinking and personal grappling with Torah and its implications for our lives. Rav Eitan is always available for personal

advice, halachic questions, and discussions on emunah. Rav Eitan learned at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, received Semikhah at RIETS as a Wexner Graduate

Fellow, and continued his learning in the Beren Kollel Elyon. He earned a BA in English Literature and an MA in Jewish Education at Yeshiva University, and is completing an MA in Jewish Philosophy and an EdD in Jewish Education at Yeshiva University. Rav Eitan taught at the Graduate Program for Women at Yeshiva University and served as Assistant Rabbi at The Jewish Center on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Rav Eitan lives in Neve Daniel with his family.



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

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



**Hodaya Stark** is Eim Bayit and thinks of our seminary and its students as a second family. As an alumna herself, as well as a prior madricha and rakezet, she has a unique ability to understand the girls' experience

and be there as a helping hand throughout this pivotal year. With warmth and enthusiasm, Hodaya is able to create lasting relationships with the students and impact their experience. Hodaya received her B.A. in psychology from Excelsior College and is eager to use all the skills she's learned to help the students adjust comfortably and optimize on this year. Hodaya really enjoys learning and teaching musar, emunah, and chasidut. She is always available for "heart to hearts" and "chilling," as well as offering chaburot and chavrutot with the students. Hodaya lives with her family in Jerusalem

(a few minute walk from the residence!) and looks forward to being a second home for the students.

## Faculty



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

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



**Rav Kalman Flaks** teaches Halachah, Chasidut and other inspirational topics, keeping his classes fun, interactive and practical. He started an organization called "The Simcha Center" to bring (you guessed it)

simchah and holy Shabbos meals to Anglos in Jerusalem and works as a tour guide, helping spread love of Eretz Yisrael. Rav Kalman is involved in shidduchim, and his passions include Ultimate Frisbee and power dancing at the Kotel on Friday Nights. He has traveled far and wide on various "shlichuyot," spreading Torah values to "lost tribe" Jews in various countries, but his main passion is helping Jews learn to love Yiddishkeit and helping people with a smile. Rav Kalman attended Bar Ilan University, majoring in Tanach, and studied Semichah while teaching at Yeshivat Orayta. He lives with his wife Dena in the Old City.



**Rav Jonny Friedman's** positivity, joyful humility and contagious smile allow him to connect easily with all types of students, and his enthusiasm and motivating nature energize their learning

experiences. He has taught at Midreshet Eshel, Yeshivat Orayta, Lev Hatorah, Midreshet Amit, and the Kemach Institute. Rav Jonny received Semichah from Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg and an MS in Jewish Education from Azrieli Graduate School. Along with his passion for Torah, he started a

business creating Judaica from wood and resin. Rav Jonny lives in Jerusalem with his family.



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



**Mrs. Malka Hubscher** teaches Tanach. Malka, as our students call her, is known for her great sense of humor, her ability to make any and all learning exciting, her down-to-earth wisdom and good advice, and the intensity and focus of her shiurim. Malka learned at Michlalah

and earned a BA in Jewish Studies and an MA in Bible at Yeshiva University. She lives in Efrat with her family.



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

notice is the astounding breadth of his knowledge and his rare gift to make everything he says sound fascinating! His shiur on the thought of Ramchal, “Derech Hashem,” is among the most beloved. Rav Ron has published numerous articles in both Hebrew and English in The Jewish Bible Quarterly, Hakirah, Tradition, Sinai, haMaayan and The Journal of Jewish

Music and Liturgy and has published a book, *Katan ve-Gadol*. Rav Ron learned in Yeshivat Sha'alvim's Hesder Program and Kollel, received Semichah from the Israeli Rabbanut, and earned a BA in Psychology at SUNY and a PhD in Jewish Theology at Spertus University. He served as Rabbi in Richmond, Virginia, from 1994 to 2004. He lives in Neve Daniel with his family.



**Rabbi Rafi Rosenblum** teaches halachah and Jewish Thought. Rav Rafi earned a BA and semichah at Yeshiva University, where he also spent four years as a member of the Wexner Kollel Elyon. Rav Rafi has taught at Rambam Mesivta in Lawrence and the Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls in Hewlett, and many seminaries and yeshivot in Israel. Rav Rafi made aliyah in 2010 and lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with his wife and four adorable kids who love it when students join them for Shabbos.



**Rav Efroni Schlesinger** teaches Machshevet Yisrael and Religious Zionism. Rav Efroni's shiurim are very source-based, and he looks to cover popular topics in breadth as well as depth. He runs the Shana Bet Program in Yeshivat Hakotel, where he has been learning under Rabbi Reuven Taragin for the last ten years. Rav Efroni served as a First Lt. in the IDF, after which he received Semicha from Rav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg and his Masters in Education from YU's Azrieli Graduate School. During the summer, Rav Efroni co-runs the Beit Midrash Program in Moshava IO. He also hosts a Philosophy Podcast, "Exploring Jewish Thought." Rav Efroni lives in Jerusalem with his wife Avigail.



**Mrs. Aliza Schwartz** is a Rakezet and teaches Jewish Thought and Tanach. Herself an alumna of Midreshet's Shana Aleph and Shana Bet programs, Aliza has a "been there myself" sense of how to relate to our students. She spends a lot of time in our Beit Midrash, offering chaburot (group chavrutot), learning one-on-one, and helping girls find something to learn on their own. Aliza's warmth, passion, genuineness and sincerity help her connect to the girls, and being one of the younger staff, she is a powerful role model for her students. Aliza holds a BA from Stern College in Tanach and Jewish Law. She and her husband live in Jerusalem.



**Rav Ari Shvat** teaches Jewish Thought and is the founding Rosh Midrashah and senior lecturer at Orot Israel College in Elkana. Rav Ari's shiurim, infused with the inspirational and spiritual Torah of Rav Kook, are beloved by our students. Raised in Riverdale, NY, he did Hesder at Ohr Etzion and Kiryat Arba, where he received semichah. Rav Ari is a popular international lecturer and has published many ideological and halachic articles, including the first scholarly book on the Israeli flag and the mitzvah to speak Hebrew. He holds a B.A. in Tanach from Michlelet Herzog and an M.A. in Jewish History and Talmud from Touro College. He enjoys utilizing his music as an educational medium and has produced three albums of original compositions, including a tune for Al HaMichya taught in the dati schools in Israel. Rav Ari has run various programs internationally for Bnei Akiva, as well as teaching at Midreshet HaRova, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Sha'alvim for Women and the Israeli Air Force. In addition, he is in charge of the archives of Rav Kook at Beit HaRav and is featured on the Yeshivat Beit El website. Rav Ari lives in Kochav HaShachar with his family.



**Rav Asher Taragin** teaches Halachah and Tanach. "Rav Ashi," as our students call him, is unique in his educational breadth and life experience. He is currently studying Medicine at Hebrew University, Law at Bar Ilan University, and co-directs the Israeli Army's "Netiv" program that prepares soldiers for conversion to Judaism. After reaching the rank of Commander in the Nachal Brigade, Rav Taragin received semichah from Rav Zalman Nechemya Goldberg and completed a Teachers Degree, B. Ed. in Tanach and Gemara, and a Tour Guide's Course at Herzog College. Rav Taragin learned at Yeshivat Har Etzion, where he was a close talmid of Rav Aharon Lichtenstein and a member of the Kollel Gevo'ah, and at Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh, where he became close with Rav Mendel Blochman. Rav Taragin is also a trained Sofer, Shochet, Mohel, and scuba diver. Rav Ashi lives in Lod with his wife and son.



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

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



**Mrs. Dena Terebelo** is a Rakezet. Her signature warmth, humor and genuineness help her serve as a "mother away from home" to her girls. Her outgoing and caring personality helps her connect with every type of girl and makes her easily approachable. Dena was our (fantastic!) Em Bayyit for a number of years before joining our Rakezet team, has extensive experience working with young women over the past twenty years, and is also a life coach. She lives in Yerushalayim with her family, within walking distance of Midreshet Moriah, and her home is open to everyone.



**Rabbi Eli Wagner** teaches Halachah. Rabbi Wagner learned at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, Yeshivat Derech Ha-Talmud, and in Rav Michael Rosenweig's shiur as a member of the YU Masmidim Honors Program. He earned a BA in psychology at Touro College and is studying towards an MA in Industrial Organizational Psychology at Touro University while he continues his learning at YU's Gruss Kollel. Rabbi Wagner has also taught at Yeshivat Sha'alvim, Sha'alvim for Women, and Yeshivat Torat Shraga. He and his family live in Yerushalayim.



**Rabbi "Y.Y." Wenglin** teaches Chasidut and Jewish Thought. Rav Wenglin's ultra-high-energy delivery, deep familiarity with Western culture, creativity and self-effacing humor enable him to share and inspire with provocative, life-changing concepts in emunah, midot, and connecting to God. Rav Wenglin earned a BA in History and Literature at Harvard University and a JD at the UCLA School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review -- and a lead performer in the law school musical -- all three years. After law school, Rabbi Wenglin joined the Manhattan law firm of Paul, Weiss as a corporate associate in mergers and acquisitions. But then he put all that on hold in order to learn more about his Jewish roots. He moved to Jerusalem, where he started taking introductory classes at Aish HaTorah,

and the rest is history... Rabbi Wenglin teaches at yeshivot and seminaries and serves as a guest speaker for kiruv programs on campuses and communities all over. He and his family live in Ramat Beit Shemesh.



**Rav Aharon Wexler** is beloved by our students for his passion for Israel and the Jewish people and for his exciting, thought-provoking shiurim. He made aliyah from New York after high school and studied in Yeshivat HaKotel. After Yeshiva and his service in the IDF, Rav Aharon earned a BA in Archeology and then went back to Yeshivat HaKotel for Rabbinic Ordination. Rav Aharon went on to receive an MA in Jewish History, and is now a Doctoral Candidate studying Jewish Philosophy. He is also a licensed tour guide, and when not teaching or touring, makes his home in Efrat with his family.



**Mrs. Nomi Zanjirian**, originally from Rochester, New York, brings her "out-of-town" warmth to Midreshet Moriah. She is excited to join our faculty and bring her love of Tanach and all Torah topics to the post-high school level. Nomi earned an MS in Education at Azrieli Graduate School and taught at HANC High School, where she served as Director of Religious Programing and Junior grade Mechanechet, and taught Navi, Chumash, and an array of elective courses to all grades. She lives in Yerushalayim with her husband and family.



**Mrs. Rina Zinkin** is a Rakezet. Rina, as our students call her, is gifted with the kind of gentle personality and warmth which make it easy for students to talk to her and seek her advice. Her deep spirituality, empathy, patience, humility, and rare midot tovot make her a personality our students strive to emulate. Rina learned at Midreshet Lindenbaum and Michlalah, earned a BA in Judaic Studies and Speech Communication Disorders at Yeshiva University, and an MA at Brooklyn College in Speech Language Pathology. Rina lives in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Eshkol with her husband and children.

# WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING

"Thanks for giving my daughter an absolutely amazing wonderful experience that she will never forget!!! We thank you for your care and expertise and love. We know that she will remember this beautiful experience forever!"

"Her enthusiasm, yiddishshkett, smile, love for TORAH, and the land of Israel and much more emanates as she shares so much of her fond memories. As a parent, one always worries and prays that their children's experiences so far away will be filled with independence, growth, Torah, values, friendships and much more. It was for her!"

"To say that this was a great year for her would be an understatement; it was a seminal, life impacting one."

"We really can't believe she will be finishing up at Midreshet Moriah in a few days. I don't think we knew how it would go beyond our expectations - she was so happy like I have never seen her be."

"The knowledge that she has gained will stand her in good stead in all of her future endeavors. The experiences which included all of the many trips that she participated in, has benefitted her tremendously. On her return home, we have found her well rounded, well versed and it appears that she has been given the tools that will be invaluable for the future."

"I have been totally thrilled with everything."

# WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"I am so thankful that I came to Midreshet Moriah this year."

"Your warmth and guidance has helped me to grow in ways I never thought I would. My progress over the year amazes me...I've loved every moment!"

"I always liked my Judaic classes in high school, but now I can actually say that I love learning. And I am proud of that. I am so thankful to you that you have helped me form a foundation of Torah learning and ahavat Hashem."

"You really taught me how to love learning Torah!"

"I have learned a new way to look at Torah: it's not only to teach me about my history and role models, it's to teach me about myself and my own relationship with Hashem."

"I will never be able to thank you enough for all you have shown and taught me. Thank you for making me feel special and important."

"When I think of the last year and a half, I think about how amazing the school was for me. I've loved every single second about being in Israel and in Midreshet..."

"I will forever have hakarat hatov to my teachers in Midreshet who taught me what it means to love and live Torah".

"Thank you for believing in me, in turn allowing ME to believe in ME!"



# “MVP”: The Moriah Volunteering Program

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

## SPECIAL NEEDS:

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

## FOOD PACKAGING:

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

## GENERAL:

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

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



