

Sephardic Newsletter

RABBI ISAAC ELCHANAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SEPHARDIC COUNCIL OF OVERSEERS

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- Sephardic Community Program
- Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies
- Institute of Yemenite Studies
- Dr. Joseph and Rachel Ades Sephardic Outreach Program

IN DEDICATION TO A HERITAGE



Moise Safra to Receive Honorary Degree at YU

Yeshiva University is proud to announce that Moise Y. Safra, 77, will be receiving an honorary degree at Yeshiva University's 88th annual Hanukkah Dinner and Convocation on Sunday, December 16 at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan.



Safra, a philanthropist and an accomplished financier, first developed a relationship with YU when he and his wife, Chella Safra, were honored at the inaugural dinner of YU's newly-formed Sephardic Council of Overseers in 1992. They quickly formed close friendships with Rabbi Norman Lamm, who was president of YU at the time, and Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs, with whom they have always stayed in touch.

"YU is the perfect balance of both Torah and secular education, one that I have always believed in," said Safra, who resides in São Paulo, Brazil. "While Torah studies might be the pillar of Jewish life, secular academics is the second pillar that complements it. Yeshiva University is the ideal place for one to achieve this goal of a well-rounded and complete education."

In 2006, Mr. Safra and his wife, Chella, who are YU Benefactors, established the Chella and Moise Safra Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health at YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine and, in doing so, helped advance important work in the field of women's health.

Mr. and Mrs. Safra have five children: Jacob (and Shari) Safra, Ezra (and Alessandra) Safra, Esther (and Claudio) Szajman, Edmond (and Marielle) Safra, and Olga (and Mauricio) Levitin, and 12 grandchildren.

We congratulate Moise Safra upon receiving this honorary degree, and we salute his many decades of accomplishments in the business world as well as his decades of outstanding leadership and service to the greater Jewish community and his fellow Sephardim.

For information regarding the 88th Annual Hanukkah Dinner to be held at The Waldorf Astoria in New York City on Sunday December 16, 2012, please call 212.960.0850 in order to request an invitation to the event. ♦

Sy Syms School of Business Reaches Out to New Students from the Sephardic Community

The Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University has been completely revamped to include many new and exciting academic programs in the fields of business, finance, accounting, management, marketing and related studies in the area of commerce.

With a new leadership and an under-

graduate honors program focused on entrepreneurship and international business study, as well as a new Executive MBA program at the graduate level, the school is anticipating the final visit from the accreditation board during the current school year.

The Syms School is attracting many new students from a variety of backgrounds and communities as it ushers in

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Associate Dean Strauss greets new Sephardic students during 2012 Orientation.

Ferkauf Honors Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky

Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs, was honored by the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at its 55th Anniversary Gala Celebration in November.

In appreciation and acknowledgment of his help in founding the first Board of Overseers of Ferkauf, Dr. Dobrinsky was presented with the school's Dedicated Service Award by Dr. Beth B. Myers '86, past chair of the Ferkauf Board of Overseers, whose late beloved father, Samson Bitensky, of blessed memory, was founding chairman of the Board. The occasion also marked the establishment of the Dina and Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky Scholarship Fund at the school by gifts made in his honor by current and former members of the Board of Overseers and friends, as well as Dr. Dobrinsky's family.



The special honoree and keynote speaker was Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, who was honored along with his father's memory, the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, in recognition of their work as champions of the Mental Health Parity Bill and their advocacy of mental health services and research.

The Gala was well attended and the warm spirit of the celebration will long be remembered. Its success in establishing much-needed scholarship funds and other priority needs highlighted urgent requirements for the graduate school. For additional information about opportunities to support Ferkauf, please call Doris Holz at 212.960.5393 or email: holz@yu.edu. ♦



Visit to Sephardic Community of London

During the recent spring semester, Rabbi Moshe Tessone was invited to visit the Sephardic community of London. Within a span of four days, Rabbi Tessone delivered five lectures in several different synagogues which are all part of the city's historic Spanish Portuguese community. He was hosted by Rabbi Abraham Levy and visited the local beit din and kollel, as well as the local Sephardic day school and the kashrut organization of the Sephardic community. ♦



SSSB Reaches Out

Continued from Page 1

the new age of business and finance. Its approach embraces today's fast-paced global village of commerce and trade and the high-tech reality of today's economy. In addition to new programs, Syms also features many new and distinguished faculty members who are experts in their respective fields, and who bring business education at Syms to a new level.

Both Dean Moses Pava and Associate Dean Michael Strauss have been instrumental in attracting new talent to Syms and have been very active in recruitment as well. "Our business school at Yeshiva strives to offer a world-class education with particular emphasis on developing a strong sense of entrepreneurship among our students," explained Strauss. "Our graduates are trained and well prepared to

deal with today's fast-paced world economies and the high-tech world of business."

Among this year's Sephardic recruits are students from Hillel Yeshiva of Deal, North Shore Hebrew Academy and Flatbush Yeshiva. Yeshiva University is excited to offer these students a program that both stimulates their specific areas of business interest and prepares them for their respective careers. "The Sy Syms School is especially attractive to students from the Sephardic community who are often raised in a milieu where excellence in business and commerce has been an age-old family tradition," said Rabbi Moshe Tessone, director of the Sephardic Community Program at YU. "For students with these interests, Sy Syms is a natural choice."

YU's undergraduate programs have always been attractive to Sephardic students who strive to pursue a high level college curriculum while simultaneously devoting

time to strengthening their commitment to Jewish studies by engaging in Torah studies every day. "The Sephardim who attend and graduate from Yeshiva oftentimes go on to become the most active and effective lay leaders in their respective communities," said Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President of University Affairs and co-founder of YU's Sephardic Programs. "As we produce more Sephardic graduates from our business school in the coming years, we anticipate that their leadership impact within the Sephardic community will increase commensurately as well." Strauss noted that the diverse group of Sephardic students at Syms enhance the YU campus culturally and intellectually. "These students contribute to the general atmosphere with their business background, and by eventually building their successful future." ♦

Rishon Le'Zion Visits YU

Chief Sephardic Rabbi Hakham Shlomo Amar, the Rishon Le'Zion, delivered a *shiur* [Torah Lecture] at YU's Glueck Beit Midrash on March 28, 2012, the fifth of Nissan 5772, a few days before Passover. He spoke to a packed audience of hundreds of students and more than a dozen roshei yeshiva from YU and the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. As he arrived, a group of Sephardic students greeted his entry into the beit midrash with the collective recitation of a liturgical poem known as "Yaheed E-l Dagool," the traditional song which is customarily recited upon seeing a great Torah luminary.

This was Hakham Amar's third visit to YU in the past four years. His shiur was followed by a special reception in which the Chief Rabbi was greeted by Chancellor Dr. Norman Lamm and Rabbi Yonah Reiss (dean of RIETS) as well as other leading rabbinic scholars who teach at YU including Rabbi Eliyahu BenHaim, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Mordechai Willig and others. ♦



1. Rabbi Amar with Rabbi Hershel Schachter
2. From left, Jack Abraham, Rabbi Amar, Michael Aharonoff, Rabbi Reiss
3. Rabbi Amar with recently ordained Rabbi Shabtai
4. Rabbi Amar with Rabbi Charlof
5. Sephardic students sing in honor of Rabbi Amar

6. Rabbi Amar accompanied by, from left, Nissim Ze'ev, Isaac Dabah, Rabbi Tessone and Dr. Dobrinsky
7. Rabbi Amar with Meyer Laniado, Josh Eliyahuzadeh, Asher Abittan and Rabbi Reiss
8. Rabbi Amar with YU rabbinic students Meyer Laniado, Joseph Venouzio and Rabbi BenHaim

Yeshivat Or HaHayim of Mexico City Visits YU

During the spring semester of 2012, a group of students from Yeshivat Or Hahayim of Mexico City visited YU for a grand tour and a day of activities. They were greeted by the admissions office and were addressed by various rabbis and faculty from YU's Sephardic Program. ♦



YU Arts Festival Brings Live Sephardic Music to Campus



Yeshiva University's annual Arts Festival is comprised of a series of events in performing arts and cultural programs and showcases the talents of YU students and other noted performers and artists.

Under the leadership of Dr. Norman Adler, last year's arts festival brought live Sephardic music to the YU campus for an exciting evening of Ladino and Judeo-Arabic music. The event was open to students, faculty and other distinguished guests.

Opening remarks were offered by Dr. Ronnie Perelis, with performances by Rabbi Moshe Tessone, Rabbi Nissim Elnekave, and various students who performed both as instrumentalists and vocalists. There was also a special guest appearance by Avram Pengas, a leading musician of Ladino and Greek music, who performed on the buzuki and also sang lead vocals in a series of Judeo-Spanish songs. ♦

YU Sephardic Community Program Takes on New Initiatives

Rabbi Moshe Tessone has served as director of YU's Sephardic Community Program (SCP) for more than 12 years, and has helped guide the Sephardic students and YU's Sephardic programs with dedication and commitment. He has also introduced the SCP to dozens of new Sephardic communities throughout America and Europe and made YU's Sephardic presence more accessible to emerging Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewish communities throughout the world.

These communities have blossomed in the recent decade to an extent that would have been unimaginable just 10 or 15 years ago, and they continue to grow as they become more significant in the landscape of today's American Jewry. In order to serve the growing needs of these communities, Rabbi Tessone will be taking on an additional responsibility in his portfolio of duties—as the new director of strategic planning for YU's Sephardic initiatives. His dedicated leadership has earned him this significant promotion. Rabbi Tessone works under the tutelage of Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs and co-founder of the Yeshiva University Sephardic Programs in 1964 who, as consultant, oversees Sephardic Programs. Rabbi Dobrinsky recommended Rabbi Tessone's promotion to President Richard M. Joel and Dr. Morton Lowengrub, provost of YU, which they have endorsed. We wish Rabbi Tessone much success in continuing to serve Sephardic Jewry in this distinguished capacity. ♦

YU Hosts Students From Escola Beit Yaakov in Brazil

Under the leadership of Lyle French, head of school at Escola Beit Yaakov (EBY) in São Paolo, Brazil, nearly 40 students visited Yeshiva University for a day of activities and touring. The students were accompanied by Rabbi Meir Fuksman, their principal for Jewish studies. The students and staff from EBY who attended enjoyed a grand tour of all the Yeshiva facilities at the Wilf Campus. They were greeted and addressed by Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President of University Affairs, and by leadership staff from the admissions office. As a special treat, they also had the opportunity to meet President Richard M. Joel.

Within a few months of the visit to YU, Rabbi Moshe Tessone was invited to visit the Escola Beit Yaakov campus in São Paolo, where he spent several days interacting with the Sephardic community and meeting with students, faculty and school administrators at EBY. During this visit, Rabbi Tessone presented workshops and lectures to the faculty on topics related to Jewish education, teaching prayer, and Sephardic communal work.

After these compelling experiences with the YU, EBY decided to send a delegation to participate in YU's annual Model United Nations program in the spring of 2013. The Model UN event is an offsite student conference that brings together hundreds of Jewish high school students in a competitive and friendly academic environment. Indeed, both YU and EBY staff and students are very excited to greet the EBY Model UN team. ♦



1. Dr. Dobrinsky with Rabbi Fuksman and Lyle French
2. President Richard M. Joel addresses students from EBY at YU
3. Lyle French, Julio Venturelli, Rosely Salim, Esther Safra Dayan, Sarita Kreimer, Matthais Meier, Rabbi Tessone, Rabbi Fuksman
4. President Richard M. Joel with visiting group of EBY students at Wilf Campus



International Students Discover a Home Away From Home at Yeshiva University

“One of the most important aspects of college is diversity,” explained David Levy, a Yeshiva College student who, along with Eddie Nuvakhov of Syms School of Business, produced “The Community,” a short documentary about international students on Yeshiva University’s Wilf Campus.

During a Shabbat meal on campus a few months ago, the two realized that the 11 people seated at their table originated from nine different countries. “We knew then that we had to show the greater YU population the unique community that exists on our campus,” said Nuvakhov, a Sephardic student originally of Bukharian decent.

As of spring 2011, Yeshiva University’s entire undergraduate population consisted of approximately 250 international students on both campuses from some 25 countries around the world. These countries range from Italy, Panama and Brazil to Canada, Tunisia and Uzbekistan. Many of these students are of Sephardic origin.

“I never heard of Stern College for Women before,” said Tsipora Huisman, who hails from the Netherlands. “But during a visit to the States, I sat in on a biology class and a Jewish class and was really impressed that they were both on such high levels. It was really cool to be in a Jewish institution after having grown up in Amsterdam, a place without many Jews.”

Huisman found the Writing Center on the Beren Campus to be helpful in her transition, as well as her various advisers and teachers. “The teachers here treat you as a person and not as a number,” she said. In Huisman’s three years at Stern College, she has not only become a fluent English speaker but has also been a member of the tennis team, a peer mentor, a student ambassador for orientations and open houses,

a Beren Campus tour guide and a two-time winner of YU’s science poster board competition.

“When I first came, I didn’t speak the language and didn’t know anyone,” said Husiman. “Now I have tons of friends, am doing well in my studies and am applying to medical school. I’m not only happy here, I feel comfortable and grounded.”

Sasan Peimani, a business management major at Syms School of Business, escaped Iran with his family when he was 10 years old. “Being a religious Jew and getting a good education in Iran was a very difficult thing to do,” he said. “As a result, my parents decided that it was time for us to move to America so we can start a new life filled with happiness and freedom.”

After the family moved to Florida, Peimani met Rabbi Kenneth Brander, the David Mitzner Dean of YU’s Center for the Jewish Future, who was then rabbi of the Boca Raton Synagogue. After several discussions with Rabbi Brander, Peimani opted to attend YU. “One of my favorite parts about Yeshiva is all of the great friends I have made—friends who I know will be my close friends for many years to come,” he said.

Recruited from Kfar Saba, Israel to play for the Maccabees, YU men’s basketball team, Chen Biron was similarly appreciative of the friends he has made at YU. “I’m happy that there are good people around me because that’s what is most important,” said Biron, a veteran of the Israel Defense Forces and a current Syms School of Business student majoring in international business.

As an Israeli, Biron found aspects of YU he could identify with. “My favorite part about YU, aside from the basketball games, is the chagigot [celebrations]. I love them.

Even in Israel, I didn’t get that experience with everyone dancing with each other and the Israeli flag. It really warms my heart.”

Born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, Ayala Raichlin feels that being a student at Stern College has given her the opportunity to develop her passions. “I came to Stern for the academics, Torah and dance,” said Raichlin, a junior pursuing a possible career in dance therapy. “I was able to get involved in the Stern dance show my first semester and choreograph the Stern musical my second semester. I now head the dance show.”

Raichlin has not only become an active member in the Beren Campus community, she is also involved in the larger Jewish community as a regular volunteer for Chai Lifeline and as an NCSY adviser for the New England chapter.

“Being at Stern has been a positive experience,” said Raichlin. “I’ve learned a lot about myself and what I can achieve. This environment gives you so many opportunities—volunteering in a hospital, choreographing and always meeting new people. YU has given me much more than I would have ever thought was possible.” ♦

President Richard M. Joel at Congregation Beth Torah

During the spring semester 2012, President Richard M. Joel spoke at Congregation Beth Torah, one of the major Sephardic synagogues which are part of the Syrian community of Brooklyn, NY and Deal, NJ. His presentation was part of a series of Saturday night lecture series that were organized by the Beth Torah Community. President Joel spoke on issues related to the future of the Jewish community at large in America, the challenges they face and his vision for the future of Jewish education in America. His informative words and insights touched many and inspired the listeners to think creatively about the future direction of Jewish organizational life and critical decisions that communities will be making in the coming years about managing and improving Jewish education for the next generation. ♦



YU Sephardic Club Great Neck Shabbaton

During the recent fall semester, nearly 50 Yeshiva University Sephardic students of various backgrounds gathered in Great Neck, NY, for a YU Sephardic Shabbaton. Attending the Shabbaton were students from all the Yeshiva University Jewish study programs: I.B.C., Mechina, B.M.P., and M.Y.P. The Shabbaton unified students of many origins, including Iranians, Moroccans, Syrians and others. The students who helped to arrange the event were Asher Abittan, Moshe Aziz, Rabbi Haim Yanetz, Justin Bral and others.

The experience began Friday night at Rabbi Eliyahu BenHaim's Congregation Shaarei Shalom, a prominent Mashadi synagogue. There the students had the opportunity to pray, eat, sing pizmonim and celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Ben Haim and his wife. After the meal, the students were inspired by a special Oneg Shabbat and divrei Torah from the rabbi.

After getting a good night's rest, the students made their way to Congregation Torah Ohr on Shabbat morning. They showed their gratitude to the community by assisting in the tefilla and participating in the Torah reading and the hazzanut. After prayers, Rabbi Avraham Cohen joined the meal, sang, and shared words

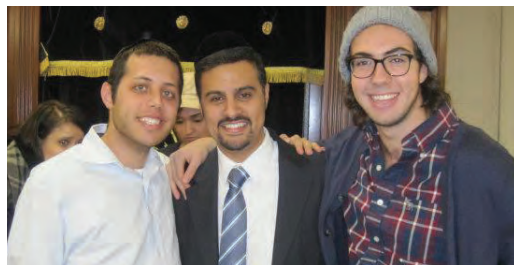
of Torah with the students.

The students enjoyed Seuda Shelishit at the home of Dr. Meir Abittan and family who graciously hosted all 50 students for a lavish meal.

Overall, the Shabbaton was a hit and it gave the students a taste of Judeo-Persian culture and Shabbat spirituality. Everyone went home with great memories and stories about their unique experiences of the Shabbat. The entire Sephardic Yeshiva University student body thanks the Mashadi community, Congregation Torah Ohr, Congregation Shaarei Shalom and the Abittan family for their hospitality and warmth. ♦

Rabbi Haim Levy at YU

Yeshiva University students and alumni enthusiastically joined Sephardic young professionals from around New York who came to YU to meet and eagerly listen to an inspiring talk from a young leader in the Sephardic world, Rabbi Haim Levy. This event took place in Rubin Hall during the fall semester and was organized by YC students Moshe Aziz and Benjamin Lugassy, who serve as the executive leadership of YU's Sephardic Club.



Rabbi Levy is the head of *Go Sephardic*, an organization aimed at uniting and educating Sephardic youth about their heritage. His speech attracted a YU audience and visitors as he urged for more awareness of the unique challenges facing today's younger generation and an appreciation of our Sephardic heritage. ♦

Torah Tours at Sephardic Congregation Torat Moshe of Miami

Last year, Simhat Torah was celebrated with renewed vigor at Congregation Torat Moshe of Miami Beach, as the community enjoyed the exciting *hakafot* [singing and dancing with the Torah], hazzanut, Torah reading and *shiurim* [Torah lectures] all offered and led by a group of Yeshiva University's finest students. The student YU Torah Tours team was comprised of: Meyer Laniado, Yoni Greenberg, Leora Ohebshalom and Nechama Triestman, and they were led and mentored by the incoming community spiritual leader at Torat Moshe, Rabbi Daniel Hadar.

Rabbi Hadar is the newly appointed rabbi of Miami Beach's Turkish-Cuban Sephardic community, and he is energetic about his mission and passionate about bringing this community back to its Judeo-Spanish-Ladino traditions and roots. Both Rabbi Ari Rockoff and

Rabbi Moshe Tessone were instrumental in organizing the Torah Tours team in cooperation with the efforts of YU's Center for the Jewish Future and the Sephardic Community Program.

"We made a packet of Sephardic songs to sing on Simhat Torah and taught them to the community," explained one of the YU students. Rabbi Tessone noted that bringing the most talented YU students to Sephardic communities in places such as Miami Beach is one of the ways in which YU serves different communities. "It enriches their observance of Shabbat and holidays with a heightened sense of spirituality and excitement," he said. The students grow from these experiences, he said. "By participating in such events, fine young men and women learn the importance of serving the community, and many go on to become the leaders of future generations." ♦





Our Students and the Sephardic Community

1. YU students on summer program at YU Israel Campus accompanied by Rabbi Orlian.
2. Laurie Kamhi, Louis Rouso, Dr. Dobrinsky
3. Alex Lavian, Mark Hazzan, Dr. Farshad Shafizadeh, Daniel Lavian, Chairman of the Sephardic Council of Overseers David Eshaghian, George Naim, Shahin Naim
- 4/5. Rabbi Reiss (4) and Rabbi Charlop(5) address students in the Sephardic Beit Midrash at a memorial shiur for Dr. Viviane Ohayon Ryan, a"h
6. Sephardic Council of Overseers (SCO) Chairman David Eshaghian presides over a gathering of the SCO at YU's Israel Henry Beren Campus in Midtown Manhattan, June 2012
7. Bahman Kamali, David Eshaghian, Shmuel Livian, Dr. Dobrinsky, David Cohen, Aaron Cohen
8. Allan Daly, Emil Fattal, Albert Taubi, Rabbi Tessone, David Gabbay, Ronnie Mashaal
9. Prof. Perelis, Nathan Halegua
10. Students from Rabbi Tessone's Halakha class gather to hear a lecture from Dr. Haddad and Rabbi BenHaim
11. Rabbi Hershel Schachter and Rabbi BenHaim gather at YU with community leaders from Great Neck, NY
12. Prof. Daniel Tsadik reviews a Judeo-Persian manuscript with Prof. Menasheer at Gottesman Library
13. Mousa Shaaya with YU President Richard M. Joel
14. Dr. Dobrinsky, Prof. Perelis, Martin Elias
15. Dr. Dobrinsky with Leon Levy
16. Group of lay leaders from Sephardic community of Great Neck, NY, together with Rabbi Azrahian, visit with Rabbi Tessone in the Glueck Beit Midrash of YU



Close Up YU's Seforim Sale

Operated solely by students of Yeshiva University, the Seforim Sale is the largest annual Jewish book sale in North America. The sale attracts more than 15,000 customers from the New York metropolitan



area within the span of three weeks. During this short period of time, total sales from the event approach nearly \$1 million with a retailing distribution of 13,000 different titles.

This year's Seforim Sale was run with great success under the leadership of Isaac Dayan SSSB '12, an accounting major at Yeshiva University's Syms School of Business, who served as chief financial officer of the 2012 sale. Prior to attending

YU, Dayan graduated from Yeshiva of Flatbush High School and then studied for one year at Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Dayan is a tutor in the Syms Peer Tutoring Program, president of the Stone Beit Midrash Program and a member of the fencing team. He has also been awarded Dean's List and the Excellence in Accounting Scholarship by the New York State Society of CPAs.

Dayan is a member of the Syrian Jewish Community of Brooklyn, and hails from a family that operates a retail business that has been serving the community for decades. He was able to fuse his higher education with his "homegrown" business experience, which he gathered while growing up, to help boost this year's sale.

During his junior year of college, Dayan held an internship position with the Seforim Sale in the accounting department and was

then promoted to CFO for this year's sale. Dayan's responsibilities included assisting customers with purchases and performing daily reconciliations of all sales receipts. During his senior year as CFO, he is responsible for overseeing all these tasks and providing all banking, tax and financial reporting needs. "The opportunity for me to act as CFO and director of accounting allowed me to contribute to Yeshiva University's student life and take back a great learning experience," Dayan said. Surely, the business and leadership skills he has acquired as an excellent student at YU and as CFO of the Seforim Sale will benefit him in his professional career and communal affiliations.

With all the hard work that went into making the Seforim Sale a great success, next year's sale promises to be even more exciting. We look forward to seeing all of you there! ♦



1. A group of students from Yeshiva of Flatbush High School, accompanied by Rabbi Ben-Lulu, visited the Seforim Sale

2. Students from the Yeshiva of Flatbush Middle Division also enjoyed the Seforim Sale

3. From left: Seforim Sale CFO Isaac Dayan, Joshua Behar, Seforim Sale CEO Sam Ulrich and Rabbi Simon Besaleli

North Shore Hebrew Academy Visits YU

In January 2012 nearly 40 students from North Shore Hebrew Academy visited the Yeshiva University campus for a day of activities and a grand tour. The group, comprised of many Sephardic students from Great Neck, NY, were greeted by officials from the YU admissions office and were addressed by Rabbi Moshe Tessone, director of YU's Sephardic Community Program, followed by a question and answer session. ♦



Yeshiva High Schools Visit YU

During the spring of 2012, both the Hillel High School of Deal, NJ and Yeshivah of Flatbush High School of Brooklyn continued their annual tradition of sending groups of top students from their junior and senior grades to visit and taste the excitement of YU's undergraduate campuses. This year the visits were led by Rabbi Howard Bald, principal of Hillel High School, and Rabbi Yitchak Rosenblum of Yeshivah of Flatbush High School. ♦





Sephardic Club Launches Iranian Event at Colbeh in Midtown

In a recent student event, YU's Sephardic-Iranian Club asserted its position as a unifying force for current students, alumni, and students from other New York-based colleges as well. This evening event took place at the upscale Colbeh restaurant in Manhattan.

The diverse crowd gathered amid the glow of flickering candles, while a mix of Iranian and Israeli music pulsated in the background. Here, current and former YU students, as well as their network of friends of all ages and Jewish backgrounds from Manhattan, Long Island and the tristate region had a chance to meet, mingle and create new relationships.

The club is led by Lauren Sarah Shavolian and Sarit Bassal. Daniel Maghen from the Wilf Campus also helped this event. Both Sephardic and Ashkenazic attendees enjoyed the festivities and social networking opportunities, and all expressed enthusiasm for future events that help to highlight the proud Sephardic and Judeo-Persian identity of the students at YU. ♦

1. Leora Ohebshalom, Sarah Mansher, Lauren Shavolian, Sarit Bassal
2. John Vahedi, Sharona Sutton, 3 unidentified guests, Talia Saghian, unidentified guest
3. Benjamin Silver, Michael Jones, Eli Malakan, Eli Lebovitz, Siavash Kiumehr
4. Rachel Weinberger, Ionit Cohen, Dina Wecker, Moran Yazdani, Ariana Blum, Elizabeth Goldberger

Planned Giving: A smarter way to support your Sephardic legacy

Want To Know an Efficient Way to Make A Gift To Establish Your Sephardic Legacy at Yeshiva?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could make a meaningful gift or establish a family endowment for YU's Sephardic Community Outreach Program, or for an undergraduate Sephardic student scholarship or perhaps to support the Sephardic Rabbinic Training Program at RIETS with it costing your family very little—or even creating more wealth for them by exploring Planned Giving options at YU to benefit the Sephardic students and the Sephardic Community.

- How may a gift of stock instead of cash help save me money and support my favorite Sephardic program?
- Can a YU Gift Annuity significantly increase my retirement income?
- Can a YU Charitable Remainder Trust help me sell my stock and avoid capital gains tax?
- Can a bequest of my pension funds to support my Sephardic Legacy avoid an ultimate combined income and Estate tax of up to 80%?
- How may I be able to increase my gift 50 to 100 times the amount I contribute by making a gift of insurance to my Family Sephardic Endowment?
- How can I transfer assets to my children, estate tax-free, while at the same time helping to endow my Sephardic Program?

Call Henry T. Rubin, Esq. • YU Director of Gift Planning • Tel: 212.960.0861 • email: Sephardic@yu.edu

We Take Pride in Our Students

GEULAH SARAH BEN-DAVID



Geulah Ben-David recently graduated from Stern College for Women with a bachelor's degree in biology. She is of Moroccan descent; her father was born in Casablanca to the Ben David v'Yosef family and her mother's ancestors were from Lithuania.

Ben-David grew up in Sharon, Massachusetts and also spent many years in Netivot, Israel, the burial place of the Baba Sali. While living in Netivot as a young girl, Ben-David embraced and connected with her Sephardic-Moroccan roots.

As an undergraduate student at Yeshiva University, Ben-David coordinated and served as a volunteer in a tutoring program that she helped initiate at the Norman Thomas High School in New York City. She also co-founded the Neuroscience Club at Stern College for Women, which will merge this year with the Yeshiva College Club to become a unified society on campus.

Her positions at Stern enabled her to spread excitement and passion among her peers for the study of the human brain. Ben-David was also editor-in-chief of YU's 2012 *Undergraduate Research Abstracts Journal*, which records the scientific achievements of YU students. She is currently conducting research in Dr. Josepha Steinhauer's biology lab at YU.

Ben-David is as proud of her Sephardic heritage as she is of scientific achievements. Her unique cultural and religious heritage has taught her to appreciate the variety among Jews and all people alike. In this way, she is a role model to other aspiring young women from the Sephardic community who attend Stern and who may follow in her footsteps to study and excel in the fields of science, medicine and other areas of higher education.

Ben-David plans to attend medical school and to continue her lifelong educational journey to discover more about G-d's wondrous creations. She plans to pursue a career as a pediatrician and to continue her neuroscience research. ♦

YOSEF SHARBAT



Yosef Sharbat was raised in Jamaica Estates, NY, and grew up within the Afghan Jewish community from which he hails. Both he and his parents have been an integral part of that community since its inception.

Prior to entering YU, Sharbat studied for two years at Yeshivat Hakotel in the Old City of Jerusalem. He later graduated with honors from Yeshiva College, where he earned a degree in Jewish philosophy. Sharbat was also the recipient of the Rabbi Judah Feinerman Memorial Award for Excellence in Talmud and the Maybaum Sephardic Fellowship, and showed talent early on in his study of Jewish law and Talmudic scholarship.

While pursuing rabbinic studies at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, he learned under the tutelage of Rabbi Eliyahu BenHaim, Maybaum Chair holder and Sephardic rosh yeshiva at RIETS, and also served as his assistant for three years. Sharbat also taught Talmud at Yeshiva University High School for Boys (MTA) and mentored the 10th grade boys as a sho'el u'meishiv [Talmudic mentor/coach] within the beit midrash. While studying for semikha, Yosef served as a rabbinic intern at Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence, NY, where he was the spiritual leader of the Sephardic minyan within that community under the direction of Rabbi Kenneth Hain.

Sharbat has more recently taken a new position as the assistant rabbi at Ahawat Achim B'nei Jacob and David (AABJD) in West Orange, NJ, where he also serves as the rabbi of the Sephardic congregation. Additionally, Sharbat completed his master's degree in Jewish education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education at Yeshiva University. Sharbat also serves as a teacher of Torah studies in the middle division at Yeshivat Noam in Paramus, NJ. His wife, Batya, teaches at SAR in the Bronx. They are both proud parents of Yael and Moshe. ♦

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Ethan Vaknin
Isay Ildatov

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Amichai Levy

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for Excellence in Bible*
Irving Hanon

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Character*
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Professor of the Year*
Charles Harary

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Ramona Rahimian

*The Shayndel Feuerstein Award
in Literature and Art*
Sarit Bendavid

*History Department Award for
Excellence in History*
Sarit Bendavid

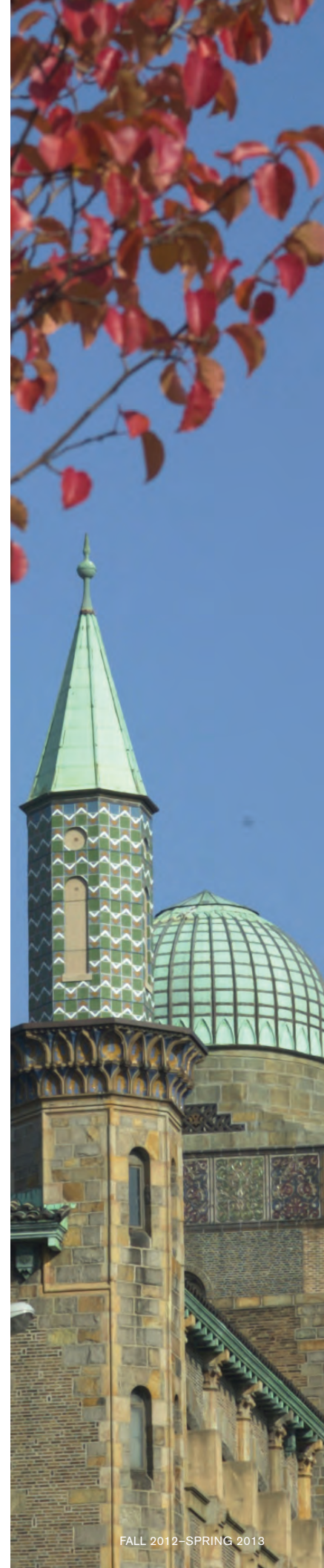
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With Gratitude

We would like to acknowledge with gratitude the generous support of the following families who have taken a lead role in enabling the YU Sephardic Community Program to flourish and for their kind help in providing scholarships that benefit our deserving and needy Sephardic students at Yeshiva University.

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Many Sephardic students from Canada, France, Morocco, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Bukhara and elsewhere are eager to enter Yeshiva University. We are launching an urgent scholarship appeal for these students to raise the necessary funds to accommodate them. The cost for tuition, dormitory and the minimum food plan, plus fees, is \$47,250 per student.

Please complete and detach this form and send it with your tax deductible scholarship gift made out to:

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