

New YU President Rabbi Ari Berman Meets Sephardic Leaders



During the spring 2018 semester, YU President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman met Sephardic lay leaders at an evening event hosted by the Sephardic Council of Overseers (SCO) at YU's Beren Campus.

The SCO is a lay leadership council under the aegis of YU's Sephardic Community Programs and includes representatives from the Syrian, Persian, Iraqi, Moroccan, Judeo-Spanish, Spanish-Portuguese, Bukharain, Yemenite, and other Middle Eastern communities who are active in their respective communities in leadership roles in the various synagogues and Jewish day schools throughout the Sephardic enclaves of NY and NJ.

Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs and co-founder of Yeshiva's Sephardic Programs in 1964, introduced Rabbi Berman before his keynote presentation to the

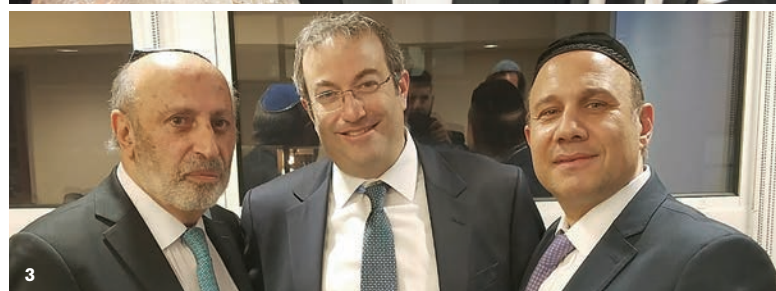


gathered group of leaders. Rabbi Berman talked warmly and engagingly about the Sephardic students on campus. He also fielded questions and comments from the group regarding his vision for YU as he takes the helm of Yeshiva's leadership into the next exciting era in YU's growth.

Rabbi Moshe Tessone, Director of YU Sephardic Community Program at Yeshiva, also addressed the distinguished gathering and reported on the astounding growth of Sephardic populations in North America in the recent two decades and the impact that demographic reality has had on the Sephardic enrollment at Yeshiva University. He added that YU is using all the resources available to serve this growing Sephardic student community within the general YU population. Both Dr. Dobrinsky and Rabbi Tessone have been very committed during their years at

Yeshiva to serving the Sephardic world at large, and the Sephardic campus community, which is literally a parallel microcosm of the Sephardic population throughout the world.

Dr. Dobrinsky as well as Rabbi Berman and Rabbi Tessone all expressed their excitement at the efforts to grow the partnership with Sephardic leaders and to help to find new ways to promote and strengthen the ties to the Sephardic world. They all encouraged the leaders in attendance to help ignite new and creative opportunities for collaboration that will help promote and provide expanded facilities and additional Sephardic Torah scholars to teach the increasing number of undergraduate Sephardic students at YU, both men and women, who hail not only from the NY/NJ region but the US, Canada and South America, and beyond.



1. YU President Rabbi Ari Berman addressing Sephardic leaders.

2. Chella Safra, Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky and Rabbi Ari Berman.

3. David Eshaghian (SCO Chairman), Rabbi Ari Berman and Rabbi Moshe Tessone.

4. Gathering of the Sephardic leaders with Rabbi Ari Berman.

5. Dr. Dobrinsky, Jonathan Hizghiya, Allen Hakim, Rabbi Berman, David Eshaghian and Rabbi Tessone.

6. SCO members: Shahin Naim (SSSB 07), Marc Harary, Nathan Halegua and Ruvane Villinsky.

Rabbi Mordekhai Benhaim Joins YU Faculty



In the recent year, Rabbi Marc Penner, Dean of Undergraduate Torah Studies at Yeshiva University, and Rabbi Moshe Tessone, Director of the Sephardic Community Programs, undertook a national search for a Sephardic rabbinic scholar to teach Talmud at Yeshiva alongside our current Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Eliyahu Benhaim. After a long search, in June of 2018, they announced that Rabbi Mordekhai Benhaim will begin teaching Talmud at YU in September of 2018 under the aegis of RIETS and YU Sephardic Programs.

Upon making this exciting announcement Rabbi Moshe Tessone stated: “We look forward to augmenting our Sephardic staff at Yeshiva, with such an authentic Torah scholar who also carries with him the culture of the Sephardic world in which he was raised...” He continued: “Rabbi Benhaim will convey that high standard of Talmud and Halakha study to our students here at Yeshiva.”

Rabbi Penner expressed that “Rabbi Mordekhai Benhaim will work alongside our current Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Eliyahu Benhaim, and be a source of Sephardic scholarship and a guiding figure to our talmidim at YU who aspire to excel in Talmud and also grow in their commitment to the minhagim of the Sephardic community.”

Rabbi Mordekhai Benhaim was born into an illustrious rabbinic family of Toledano and Benhaim, tracing back to Meknes, Morocco and Spain of the Golden Era. His father, Rabbi Avraham Benhaim, served as a rabbi of Sephardic communities in New York for over 40 years, and also taught in Yeshiva University during the 1980’s. Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky, co-founder of YU’s Sephardic Programs in

1964 and VP of University Affairs, expressed: “We remember having Rabbi Benhaim’s father teaching at YU, and now years later, Rabbi Mordekhai will be able to continue his father’s early work of shaping the generation of tomorrow by teaching our Sephardic youngsters at Yeshiva.”

After graduating from SAR Academy in Riverdale, Rabbi Mordekhai Benhaim went on to learn in The Mirrer Yeshiva of Brooklyn for eight years, including years under the tutelage of the late Roshei Yeshiva, Rav Shmuel Berenbaum *a’h*, and Rav Shraga Moshe Kalmanowitz, *a’h*. During this time, he also developed a close teacher/student relationship with the late revered Rabbi Avigdor Miller, *a’h*.

At age 22, upon marrying his wife Sharona, he was appointed as Magid shiur at Yeshivat Ohel Simcha in Queens, by his father-in-law, Rabbi Yigal Haimoff. Since then, Rabbi Benhaim has been teaching high school and post H.S. boys, developing many students into leaders and Rabbis of their communities. He currently resides in Cedarhurst NY, where he serves as Rav of Sha’are Emunah, a Sephardic Congregation in The Five Towns.

SEPHARDIC STUDIES ACTIVITIES

Highlight on: Professor Daniel Tsadik



To mark the annual commemoration of the departure and expulsion of Jews from the Arab countries and Iran, Yeshiva University’s Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and YU’s Sephardic Community Program, in partnership with the Consulate General of Israel in New York, presented a lecture and discussion on the cultural dimensions of modern Jewry in Arab lands and Iran, held in Koch Auditorium on the Israel

Henry Beren Campus in midtown Manhattan.

The event was chaired by Dr. David Berger, Dean of the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and by Rabbi Moshe Tessone, with opening welcoming words delivered by Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky and an address from Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Dr. Daniel Tsadik, associate professor of Sephardic and Iranian studies at Yeshiva University, delivered the keynote lecture on the cultural life of Jews throughout the Arab world, highlighting Jewish participation in literature, theater, cinema and sports.

“The Jews influenced the indigenous culture, and were influenced by it,” said Tsadik. “They were part of the society, which made the departure from their homeland even more painful. On one level their cultures have disappeared. But on another level, many elements have persisted over time and space, and have been successfully introduced and transplanted to other countries in the region, and way, way beyond.”

Dr. Tsadik’s research focuses on the modern history of Iran, Shi’a Islam, and Iran’s religious minorities. On January 4, 2018, he participated at the program on Iranian Jews broadcasted by the Israeli “Hidabroot” channel.

During the fall semester of 2017, he began teaching Modern Standard Arabic at Revel. The course is open to undergraduates as well.

In the past few years, Daniel Tsadik has been working on a new book titled *The Jews of Iran and Rabbinic Literature; New Perspectives*, due to be published by Mosad Ha-Rav Kook (Jerusalem) in the near future. In addition, Dr. Tsadik is co-editing another book, titled *Iranians and Jews; Aspects of Symbiosis and Conflict*, based on the conference “Israel and Iran: From Cyrus the Great, to the Islamic Republic”, held at the Yeshiva University Museum in 2010.



1. Mr. Zargari, Faraj Benji, Unidentified, Shaharm Delefray, Michael Shavolian (YC 17) and Farzin Simhaee.

2. Prof. Daniel Tsadik, Dr. David Berger (Dean BRGS, YU) and Ambassador Dani Dayan (Consul General of Israel in NY).

3. Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky (YU Vice President for Univ Affairs, Founder YU Sephardic Pgm) addresses Sephardic leaders.

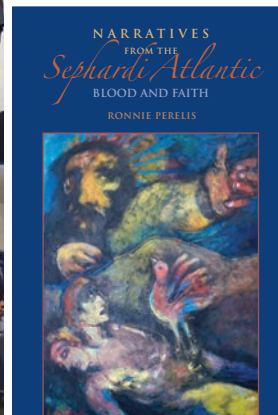
Highlight on: YU's Sephardic Chair holder Professor Ronnie Perelis



- From the pearls of Hebrew poetry written by Yehuda HaLevi and Shmuel HaNagid, to the heroism and spiritual audacity of Jews persecuted by the Inquisition, our students, men and women, on both campuses, have an opportunity every semester to explore the rich tapestry of Sephardic history with courses taught by Professor Ronnie Perelis, the Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Abraham and Jelena (Rachel) Alcalay Associate Professor of Sephardic Studies at YU.
- In addition to his teaching, Professor Perelis has organized exciting cultural and scholarly events. In the Fall of 2017 he partnered with the Sephardic Community Program and the Center for Israel Studies and presented a night of Sephardic Music at the Wilf Campus. Rabbi Tessone performed traditional Judeo-Arabic and Judeo-Spanish liturgical compositions with a Middle Eastern ensemble to a packed room of students and community members who came out to attend an event entitled “Elul: A Sephardic Musical Journey.” The diverse audience enjoyed an exquisite musical tour of the Sephardic tradition which served as an inspiration just days before the high holidays.
- This spring, as part of the YU Festival of the Arts, Professor Perelis gave an interactive talk, “The Siren’s Call: Classical Hebrew Poetry in a Musical Key” exploring how contemporary musicians are transforming classical Hebrew poetry into genre-bending rock and roll.
- In the Fall semester of 2016 Professor Perelis published his book, *Narratives from the Sephardic Atlantic: Blood and Faith*, which studies the role, of family and faith in the lives of three Jews living under

the Inquisition. Perelis was invited to present his research at leading national and international universities: Hebrew University (November 2016), Hofstra (March 2017), UC Irvine (May 2017), Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City (July 2017), The Jewish Museum of South Florida (February 2018) Vanderbilt University (April 2018) and The University of Texas at Austin, this coming October.

- This summer he begins his next project, a critical edition of the religious writings of Luis de Carvajal manuscripts which were recently re-discovered. His research will take him to Mexico City where he will give a seminar related to this new project.
- Professor Perelis has also taught in a variety of Jewish communities throughout the country: Temple Moses of Miami Beach, Bnai David of Los Angeles, Kohelet of Philadelphia and Shearith Israel in Manhattan.
- This spring Professor Perelis was invited by the President’s office to join a university-wide panel discussion on “Immigration and Identity” where he brought examples from the life of Maimonides and the Amsterdam Sephardim to illuminate the dynamic of inclusion into a tight-knit community.
- Most recently Professor Perelis was named the director of the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Program for International Affairs of Yeshiva University.



1. Prof. Ronnie Perelis (Sephardic Studies Chair, YU) speaking at YU event.
2. Prof. Perelis delivers informal lecture outdoors at YU Wilf Campus.
3. Avram Pengas (Ladino Musician), Rabbi Tessone and Dr. Steven Fine (Director of The YU Center for Israel Studies).
4. Avram Pengas accompanies Rabbi Tessone.
5. Prof. Ronnie Perelis with Dr. Steven Fine.
6. Rabbi Tessone with musical ensemble.
7. Michael Straus (Dean, SSSB), Rabbi Tessone, David Eshaghian, Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky and Prof Perelis addressing the SCO.

Prominent Rabbis From Around The World Visit Yeshiva University



1. Rabbi Messas and Dr. Dobrinsky.
2. Rabbi Tessone, Dr. Dobrinsky and Rabbi Isaac Sacca (Grand Rabino Sephardic Community of Buenos Aires, Argentina).
3. Rabbi Tessone and Rabbi Isaac Sacca.
4. Rabbi Yitzhak Cohen (Grand Rabino Sephardic Community of Caracas, Venezuela) being greeted by Dr. Dobrinsky at Yeshiva.
5. Rabbi Yitzhak Cohen, Dr. Dobrinsky and Rabbi Tessone.
6. Dr. Dobrinsky greeting Rabbi Negrin at Yeshiva University.
7. Rabbi Tessone, Dr. Dobrinsky and Rabbi Gabriel Negrin (Chief Rabbi of Sephardic Community of Athens, Greece), Isaac Choua.

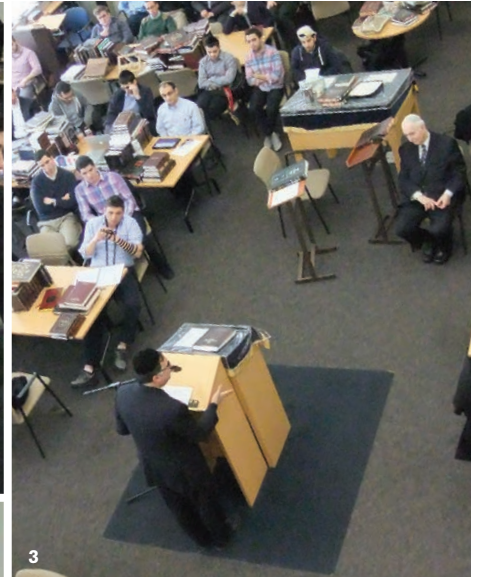
Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Panama Visits YU

During the spring semester of 2018 Rabbi David Peretz, Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Panama visited YU, accompanied by Mr. Max J. Harari, a lay leader from the Syrian-Halabi community of Panama City. During his visit Rabbi Peretz interacted with many students and met with Rabbi Dobrinsky, Rabbi Tessone, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, and other rabbis and educators from the YU faculty.



1. From (L to R) Max J Harari, Jaime Gutt, David Harari, Simon Truzman, Meir Cohen, Armando Chocron, Rabbi David Peretz (Grand Rabino Sephardic Community of Panama), Alberto M. Harari, Nessim Hafez, Aharon Benchimol, Alberto Benhamu, Arie Gatenio and Avraham Peretz.
2. YU Rosh Yeshiva Harav Herschel Schachter greets Rabbi David Peretz at Yeshiva University.
3. Max J Harari, Rabbi Peretz, Dr. Dobrinsky and Rabbi Tessone.
4. Arie Gatenio, Rabbi Avraham Farjun, Nessim Hafez, Jack Dayan and Alberto Harari
5. Dr. Dobrinsky addresses group of students from Latin America. (L to R) Arie Gatenio, Meir Cohen, Nessim Hafez (standing), Alberto Harari and Jack Dayan.
6. Rabbi Tessone, Dr. Dobrinsky, Rabbi Peretz and Max J Harari.
7. Max J Harari greeted by Rabbi Tessone at Yeshiva University.
8. Rabbi Nachman Cohen greets Rabbi Peretz at Yeshiva U.

Rabbi Mansour Speaks in Glueck Beit Midrash And Meets YU Rabbis



1. Rabbi Tessone introduces Rabbi Eli Mansour to YU students.
2. Rabbi Mansour being greeted by students at Yeshiva University.
3. Rabbi Mansour addresses the students in YU's Glueck Beit Midrash.
4. Rabbi Penner introduces Rabbi Mansour to YU Roshei Yeshiva: Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rabbi Herschel Shachter, Rabbi Moses Tendler, Rabbi Eli Mansour, Rabbi Tessone, Rabbi Penner, Dr. Dobrinsky and Rabbi Eliyahu BenHaim (Sephardic Rosh Yeshiva, YU).

Yeshiva University Sephardic Basketball Star Eli Maman



1. Linda Bruno (Skyline Conference Commissioner), Eli Maman.
2. Eli Maman, Elliot Steinmetz (Head Basketball Coach), Benjy Ritholtz (Asst Coach) and Daniel Tamir (Asst Coach).
3. Eli Maman and Shmuli Goldis (Baseball Team Captain).
4. From (L to R) Yoav Deutsch, Eli Maman, Michael Hayon, Tal Gweta, Michael Bixon, Simcha Halpert, Justin Hod, Dani Katz, Sammy Mandel, Gabe Leifer, Kevin Boker, Ethan Gipsman and Tyler Hod.

Your Endowed Scholarship Will Guarantee an Excellent Education & Career for Deserving And Needy Students at Yeshiva University

Scholarship funds are urgently needed to help many Sephardic students be able to attend Yeshiva University undergraduate and graduate schools. The ever growing interest of Sephardic students in Yeshiva University, which is considered as one of the top 50 colleges in America, that enables a student to enter our undergraduate schools for men and women, respectively; Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women, the Sy Syms School of Business on both our Uptown Wilf Campus in Washington Heights, and on the Beren Campus of Midtown Manhattan's East Side, as well as our graduate schools: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and The Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology both on the Resnick Campus in the Bronx, or the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law on Fifth Avenue of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, or; The Wurzweiler School of Social Work, the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, the Bernard Revel School of Jewish Studies, and the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in Washington Heights on the Wilf Campus. All are in attractive facilities with Residence Halls

on their respective campuses. And all of the above institution's students from throughout North America and throughout the world, receive an excellent academic education to meet their career aspirations.

All of the above represents a high annual operating budget in addition to spending approximately \$46 million in scholarship grants and is imperative for Eighty Percent (80%) of our student population who are in absolute need of substantial scholarship aid.

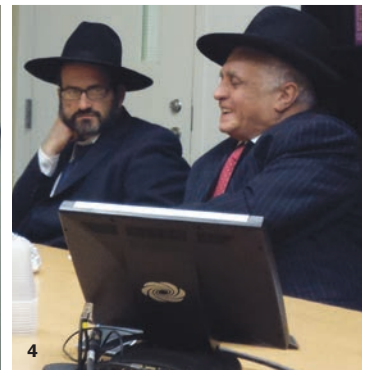
Contributors are acknowledged by each of Yeshiva University's many schools which are dependent upon the generosity and support of its alumni, parents, and communities who appreciate the double curriculum in our Torah U'Maddah mode which provides Jewish studies and professional studies under the auspices of world class professors, scholars and staff. **THERE IS ONLY ONE YESHIVA UNIVERSITY** even though its graduates go on to additional institutions that endeavor to emulate the values and studies of their alma mater.

Donors of ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS with a minimum gift of \$50,000 or a blended

Scholarship gift of \$100,000 for a Blended Scholarship that endows \$50,000 in perpetuity and allows spend down amounts to assist students who require more than the five percent annual allocation for the endowed scholarship which is decided upon by the Yeshiva University Board of Trustees. Donors of \$100,000 or more, but less than \$1,000,000, are designated as YU GUARDIANS and donors of more than \$1,000,000 are designated as BENEFACTORS.

Donors in the Sephardic Community or others who wish to provide scholarship assistance for Sephardic Students are requested to contact Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs and Co-Founder of all of YU's Sephardic Studies and Sephardic Community Programs. He is also available to discuss and implement Planned Gifts and Estate Gifts as he was trained and certified as a Planned Gifts Officer, and established the first Planned Giving Program of Yeshiva University and its schools. He can be reached by phone at 212-960-0850 or email at dobrinsk@yu.edu.

Rabbi Yedid Visits Yeshiva University



1. Rabbi Meir Yedid, spiritual leader of Cong. Shaare Zion, & Rosh Yeshiva of YDE school (seated alongside Rabbi BenHaim), delivers words of Torah to YU's Sephardic students.

2. Rabbi Tessone, Rabbi Penner and Dr. Dobrinsky.

3. Rabbi Yedid, being greeted by Rabbi Meir Goldwicht.

4. Rabbi BenHaim and Rabbi Avraham Sarfaty.

Significant Contribution From Martin Elias Expands Research And Teaching Staff in Sephardic Studies



Dr. Dobrinsky, Prof. Perelis and Marty Elias.

Yeshiva University's Sephardic Studies Program wishes to acknowledge with profound appreciation a generous gift from our esteemed long-time friend and supporter of our Sephardic Programs, Mr. Martin Elias, through the Ike, Molly and Steven Elias Foundation.

Mr. Elias and the University's leaders of Sephardic

Studies made a determination that this contribution will fund research by an outstanding Sephardic scholar, a graduate of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, to complete a doctoral research dissertation that will relate to the greater understanding of Sephardic Jewry.

It will also provide funds to enable a well-known rabbinic Sephardic scholar to join our faculty to augment the Sephardic teaching staff who serve the hundreds of Sephardic students enrolled at Yeshiva to inform them about their own noble religious heritage.

We are sincerely grateful to Martin Elias for partnering with Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs and Co-founder of the Sephardic Studies and Sephardic Community Programs in 1964, and to Rabbi Tessone and Rabbi Marc Penner, for helping to provide scholars and rabbis that inspire, teach and prepare our undergraduates for careers in Jewish education and other professions. In addition, the gift also provides for activities of the Sephardic Community Programs under the leadership of Rabbi Moshe Tessone.

May the memory of Martin Elias' family, in whose name this gift is given, ever continue as a source of blessings for him and his loved ones. His leadership in support of our Sephardic Programs hopefully will inspire others to emulate his admirable example.



1. Leon Levy, Martin Elias, David Moreno, Jeff Beja and Maurice Bigio.

2. Rabbi Tessone, Leon Levy (seated), Dr. Dobrinsky and Martin Elias.



Dr. Dobrinsky, Prof. Perelis, Martin Elias and Rabbi Tessone.

STUDENT EVENTS: ON CAMPUS

SEPHARDIC CLUB FALL KICKOFF EVENT

During the first week of classes the students gathered in the Sephardic Beit Midrash for an evening of welcome and ushered in the new school year. They chanted festive pizmonim (Sephardic liturgical songs) while distributing Middle Eastern hors d'oeuvres. Rabbi Dan Cohen, the Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiah at Yeshiva University, delivered opening remarks and an inspirational message to all the students in attendance.

PRE-HIGH HOLIDAY SELIHOT NIGHT AT YU

The month of Elul is a time of awe as it leads into Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Judgement. It is a time to reflect on the previous year and to make resolutions for the upcoming year. Rabbi Dan Cohen, The Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiah, initiated a series of weekly shiurim during the month of Elul, featuring a different speaker each week.

The speakers were Rabbi Dan Cohen; Rabbi Moshe Weinberger, Mashpiah at Yeshiva University; Rabbi Benny Rofeh, Mashgiah, Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies; and Rabbi Moshe Tessone, Director of The Sephardic Community Program at YU.

During the week that preceded Yom Kippur, the Sephardic Club and the Women's Sephardic Club at Stern College hosted the annual YU Sephardic Selihot, which took place in the Rubin Shul on the Wilf campus. The event was open to all of the members of the Sephardic community at Yeshiva University and others, both men and women, and the room was filled to capacity, with more than 200 students participating. Kevin Kashizadeh, Sephardic Club President, opened the evening with brief introductory remarks. Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, the Joel and Maria Finkle Visiting Israeli Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva University, presented an animated lecture. Services were led by Jonathan Livi, Hazzan Avraham Hayoun, and other students.

SEPHARDIC CLUB HOSTS SEDER TU B'SHVAT

The 15th day of the month of Shevat marks the New Year for the Trees and produce of the Land of Israel. It is traditional to celebrate this festival by setting a table with a variety of fruits and nuts, particularly the seven species of the land of Israel, and making blessings over the fruit to express appreciation for the bounty granted by The Almighty.

Rabbi Dan Cohen, the Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiach at

Yeshiva University, invited the entire Sephardic student body to his home near YU's Wilf Campus in order to celebrate the holiday in this Sephardic fashion. The event was well attended and gave the students an opportunity to recite customary blessings over various produce and delicacies.

YU SEPHARDIC ALUMNI IN MEDICAL FIELD PRESENT

Pre-med students at Yeshiva University have a schedule filled with long lectures, labs, many readings, difficult exams, and, of course, long hours studying in the library. To help them meet the challenges they face as they prepare to enter the medical field, the YU Sephardic Club, in collaboration with Rabbi Dan Cohen, organized a panel discussion with two YU alumni who hail from the Sephardic community and are now successful medical doctors. Dr. David Simai and Dr. Farshad Shafizadeh provided a very helpful presentation on the path from college to medical school.

RABBI DR. ARI BERMAN VISITS TO THE SEPHARDIC BEIT MIDRASH

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman has recently been welcomed as the fifth President of Yeshiva University. As a leader who embodies the values of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Berman is primed to move our community forward into its next great era. During the months prior to his appointment, Rabbi Dr. Berman lived on campus in Morgenstern Hall, which is next door to the Sephardic Beit Midrash. Rabbi Dr. Berman would attend the minyanim on a regular basis. On one occasion, Rabbi Dr. Berman volunteered to speak for a few minutes. He expressed his admiration for Sephardic culture and the spirit that YU's Sephardic community shares with the university.

BAKASHOT NIGHT

On February 22, some 20-plus students led the chanting of traditional Sephardic liturgical hymns and supplications. These liturgical readings are known to many as Bakashot, and are a tradition that is observed with melody and merriment by Sephardim from varied backgrounds. This religious-cultural activity was led by the students and enabled many others to participate and be inspired by Sephardic cantillation.

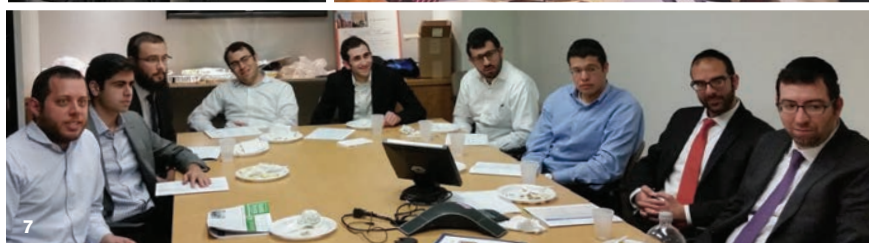
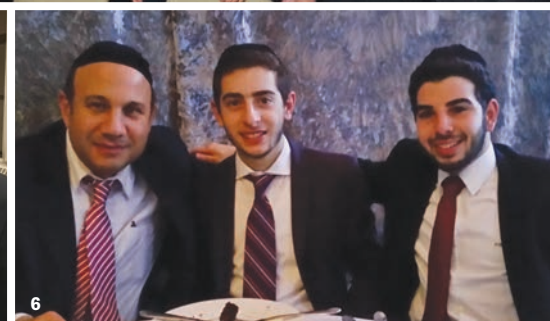
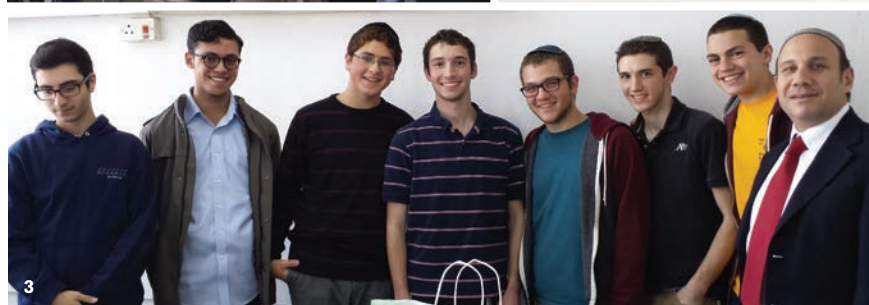
SIHAT MUSSAR NIGHT

During the spring semester, Hakham David Pinto delivered the weekly ethical discourse known as Sihat Mussar. Hakham Pinto is well known Sephardic Rabbinic figure who has inspired numerous Jews to adopt a life of Torah and mitzvot.

The Sihat Mussar has been held at Yeshiva University for decades, on the subjects of self-improvement of character traits. Typically offered by YU staff and faculty, the talk regularly attracts hundreds on a weekly basis and has always been one of the more popular programs at YU. Rabbi Pinto discussed his upbringing in Morocco, France, and, eventually, Israel. He inspired those in attendance to strive for greatness.

SPRING END-OF-YEAR SEPHARDIC CLUB EVENT

During the last week of the Spring semester, the Sephardic Club organized an end-of-year event to celebrate and appreciate students' personal accomplishments as well as communal accomplishments of the Sephardic program over the past year. Though students had already mostly entered "final exam mode," over 50 students attended. Rabbi Dan Cohen and student Nathan Israelian presented a humorous and touching video presentation that the students all enjoyed.



1. Rabbi Dan Cohen with large gathering of students for Selihot at YU.

2. Dr. David Simai (YC 1996) and Dr. Farshad Shafizadeh.

3. Rabbi Tessone visits with students in YU's S. Daniel Abraham Israel Pgm, this group is in Yeshivat Birkat Moshe (Ma'aleh Adumim).

4. Rabbi Bronstien, Dr. Dobrinsky, Rabbi Charlap, with Maybaum Fellows: Rabbi Dan Cohen, Avraham BenHaim, Rabbi Moshe Aziz, Shalom Stitou, Josh Azar, Jonathan Drory, Dubbin Hanon, Rabbi Yonah Hazan and Rabbi Haim Yanetz.

5. Alberto Silvera and Rabbi Tessone.

6. Rabbi Tessone, Alberto Harari and Alberto Btsh.

7. Maybaum Sephardic Fellows: Rabbi Moshe Aziz, Avraham BenHaim, Shalom Stitou, Josh Azar, Jonathan Drory, Rabbi Yonah Hazan, Dubbin Hanon, Rabbi Dan Cohen and Rabbi Haim Yanetz.

8. David Lugassy, Eliyahu Ebrani, Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Tessone, Elie Takhalov, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov and Yaakov Sultan.



- 1.** Top Row: Meir Cohen, Shalom Stitou, Rabbi Yanetz, Yaakov Sultan, Rabbi Gad Bouskila, Nathan Tzur
Bottom Row: David Sattakhov and Alberto Silvero.
- 2.** YU Sephardic Learning program in Fort Lee: Top row: David Orenbuch, Yossi Olsen, Jeremy Perlow, Betzalel Fishman, Adam Abergel and Jo Abergel.
Bottom Row: Shmuel Kresch and Rabbi Netanel Weiderblank.
- 3.** Rabbi Tessone visits with Sephardic students in Rabbi Ely Allens class at Lev Hatorah (Rabbi Allen is to the far left).
- 4.** Uriel Setareh, Rabbi Asher Waknin and Rabbi Tessone.

- 5.** Rabbi Ben Haim accompanies his students to tour the Eruv in Washington Heights, NY.
- 6.** Unidentified, Unidentified, Liel Avraham, Yosef Adjami, Rabbi Negrin and Isaac Choua.
- 7.** Rabbi Tessone and Rabbi Cohen.
- 8.** Rabbi Ari Berman delivers class in the Sephardic Beit Midrash.
- 9.** Morning services (shaharit) in the Sephardic Beit Midrash.
- 10.** Rabbi Kalinsky, Nadav Menashi and Rabbi Cohen.

- 11.** Rabbi Goldwicht with Rabbi Cohen and Sephardic students, after a night program in Sephardic Beit Midrash.
- 12.** Rabbi Moshe Weinberger (YU Mashpia), alongside Rabbi BenHaim.
- 13.** Rabbi Tessone delivers shiur in Sephardic Beit Midrash.
- 14.** Students in Sephardic Beit Midrash after a campus Shabbaton.
- 15.** Yosef Karduner sings at a Sephardic Club Event.
- 16.** Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Ilan Acoca, surrounded by YU students and congregants following a YU Sephardic Shabbaton at the Sephardic Congregation of Fort Lee, NJ.





1. Yair Torenheim, Rabbi Tessone and Ezra Marcos.

2. Rebecca Harari, Rabbi Sion Setton, Sam Sutton, Mrs. Sutton, Jo Varon and Shlomo Kovarsy.

3. Members of the SCO (Sephardic Council of Overseers), join together to honor Rabbi Myron Rackowitz A'H, at YU, who faithfully served the Sephardic Congregation of Canarsie for more than 40 Years.

4. Rabbi Tessone and Isaac Btsh.

5. Sr. Alberto Attie and Rabbi Tessone.

6. Rabbi Tessone and Mr Adjmi sit alongside Rabbi Benhaim during one of his Talmud Classes at YU.

7. Vitaly Ruvinov (Pres. Kavkazi Cong), Rabbi Tessone, Alex Yusupov and Victor Abaev.

8. Rabbi Dr. Avraham Umberto Piperno, who was ordained at RIETS, welcomed back to his alma mater by Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, who mentored him during the six or more years he was a student at RIETS and Yeshiva University. He serves as the Kosher Food Consultant Rabbi of Naples and Southern Italy.

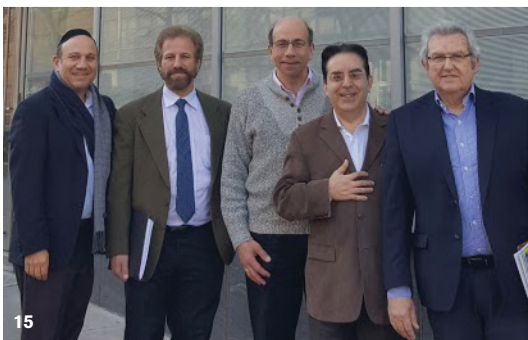
9. Harry Adjmi, Dr. Dobrinsky.

10. Rabbi Tessone, Jo Jo Chehebar and Dr. Dobrinsky.

11. Rabbi Tessone, Ronnie Mashaal, Dr. Dobrinsky and Dr. Fred Bilbul.

12. Dr. Dobrinsky and Jo Abergel.

13. Morris Levy, Rabbi Tessone and Albert Laboz.



14. Dr. Dobrinsky, Salo Smeke and Dean Michael Strauss.

15. Rabbi Tessone, Jeff Beja, Dr. Jo Halio, Rabbi Elnekave and Isaac Nasi.

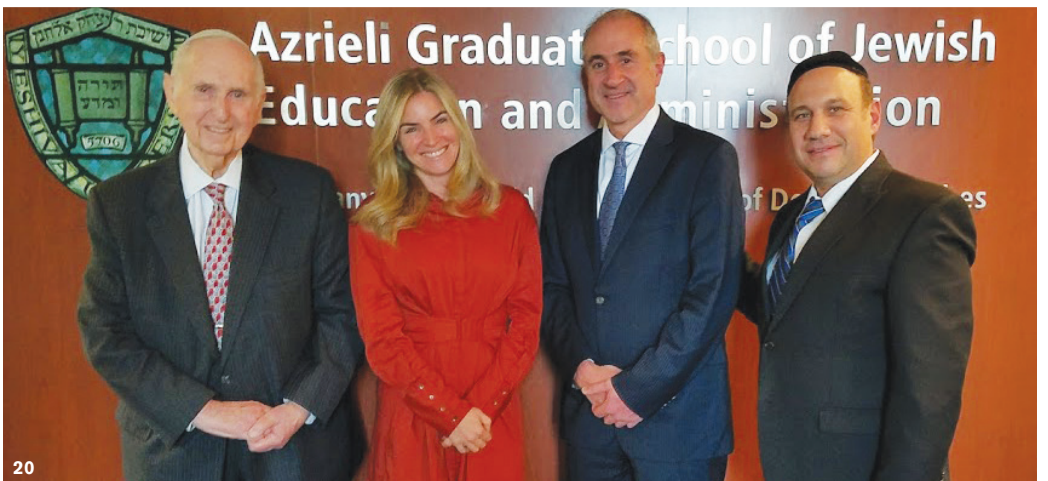
16. Eva Hefter, Esq, Harvey Feldman (Principal, YDE), Eddie Esses, Joey Esses and Lew Esses.

17. Eddie Esses and Rabbi Tessone.

18. Dr. Dobrinsky and Joseph Cohen.

19. Harry Adjmi, Richard Joel, Dr. Dobrinsky, Isaac Cheera and Gabe Zeitouni.

20. Dr. Dobrinsky, Gladys Hadad, Joey Tawil and Rabbi Tessone.





1. Rabbi Dobrinsky, Minos Moysis (Pres of Jewish Community of Athens) and Rabbi Tessone.
2. Unidentified, Carl Zekaria, Alan Shamah, Unidentified, Rabbi Tessone and Alan Tabush.
3. Members of the SCO.
4. Rabbi Cohen
5. David Eshaghian and Asher Zamir.
6. Rabbi Penner, Rabbi Tessone and Jack Abraham.
7. Dean Strauss (seated next to Dr. Jack Doueck) participating in a career night at YDE in Brooklyn.
8. SCO meeting at Beren Campus.
9. Unidentified, Unidentified, Simon Zareh, David Eshaghian and Mrs. Zareh.

Stern College for Women Sephardic Activities



1. Young Ladies from Stern College visit the Sephardic Home during Purim.
2. Rabbi Tessone and his students from Stern College visit the Sephardic Home on Hannuka.
3. Mrs. Carol Basri with students from Rabbi Tessone's class at Stern College for Women.
4. YU students enjoy a lecture from Mrs. Tessone on Persian Jews.
5. Young ladies from Rabbi Tessone's class speaking with a resident from the Sephardic Home.

MAJOR SUPPORT TO YESHIVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

BENEFACTOR LEVELS

We thank the following Sephardic BENEFACTORS of Yeshiva University's affiliated undergraduate and graduate schools for support of programs of their choice. BENEFACTORS are donors of one million dollars or more. The BENEFACTOR listings go back to the early 1900s. Some of these are supportive of the Yeshiva University Sephardic Studies Program or Sephardic Community Programs founded in 1964. In addition to these names there are several BENEFACTOR funds established by non-Sephardim whose proceeds are to support Sephardic Studies since 1964. We are extremely grateful to ALL BENEFACTORS for their support of, ANY, AND ALL, of Yeshiva University schools or designated Sephardic Programs.

SEPHARDIC BENEFACTORS

Dr. Joseph and Rachel Ades

Chief Rabbi Dr. Isaac Abraham Alcalay and Jelena (Rachel) Alcalay

Estate of Naumi Alcalay

Ambassador Roland and Dawn Arnall

Col. And Mrs. Jehiel R. Elyachar

Ebrahim Ben Davood Eliahu Eshaghian

Gela, Leon and Michael H. Maneli Foundation

Marco and Louise Mitrani

Selma and Dr. Jacques Mitrani

Julia and Eli L. Rousso

Louis E. and Dora Rousso

The Family of Chella and Moise Safra

Edmond J. Safra/Republic National Bank of New York

YU/RIETS Sephardic Rabbinical Students

IKE SULTAN



Ike Sultan grew up in West Orange, NJ in a large Jewish community with a thriving Sephardic minyan, where he attended Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy Elementary School and the Frisch School. At Frisch, Ike ran the Sephardic minyan, serving as gabbay, shaliach tzibbur, baal koreh, and president. Soon after his high school graduation, Ike celebrated his completion of studying the entire Talmud, an incredible accomplishment. He continued his Torah studies at Yeshivat Shaalvim in Israel for two years. When Ike returned, he followed

his six brothers and one sister, all of whom attended YU or its graduate schools, and chose to attend Yeshiva University, where he studied in Rav Hershel Schachter's shiur and served as his shiur assistant for two years. Ike earned a master's in computer science and a minor in mathematics (Spring 2014), went on to earn his rabbinic ordination/semikhah at RIETS (July 2017) while completing a master's in Jewish Education at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Currently, as a Wexner Kollel Elyon Fellow, Ike is furthering his rabbinic training on a track to receive Yadin Yadin advanced ordination, which will qualify him to serve on a rabbinic court.

Ike is passionate about learning and teaching Torah, and developed Halachipedia.com with his brother Daniel in 2009 as an online halakhic resource to enable people to find practical halachot quickly and easily. "Whenever I consider my opportunity to learn in YU," he says, "I am appreciative to those who enabled me to have such a great opportunity and look forward to continue to live my dream of learning Torah and spreading its messages to the world."

MORDECHAI DJAVAHERI



Mordechai Djavaheri grew up in the Persian community in the North Shore of Long Island, where he attended HANC High School, graduating with honors as valedictorian of Jewish Studies. Following high school, Mordechai studied at Yeshivat Shaalvim, before attending Yeshiva College, where he majored math and computer science.

Mordechai is now a rabbinical student at RIETS to earn rabbinic ordination/semikhah ('20). He feels privileged to have been a student of Rabbi Hershel Schachter for five years, and his assistant for two of them. He enjoys the intersection of history and halakhah in study. Among his various activities, he periodically lectures in various synagogues on Long Island, contributes to Halachipedia.com, an online encyclopedia of Halakhah, and is preparing a second edition of *Birkat Rivka: Highlights of the Jewish Wedding and Sheva Berachot*. He has also developed a poster summarizing the understudied halakhot of birkat Kohanim (available on birkaskohanim.com), which received the approval of the Rishon LeTzion, HaRav Yitzchak Yosef.

Yeshiva University Undergraduate Student Profiles

Yeshiva College

AVRAHAM KOHANZADEH



Avi Kohanzadeh grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada to parents who escaped post-revolutionary Iran in 1987. After graduating from Yeshivat Or Chaim, a Bnei Akiva High School in Toronto, he studied in Israel for one year at Yeshivat Lev HaTorah. As an athletic kid who grew up playing many competitive sports, Avi was drawn, in part, to Yeshiva University to play for the Maccabees, YU's men's volleyball team, in Division III of the NCAA, which he later captained for a year. Avi excelled at

YU. He majored in biology, making Dean's List every single year and earning multiple awards for academic achievement. He received the Professor Meyer Atlas Memorial Award for Excellence in Biology at graduation in Spring 2018. He also co-founded the Random Acts of Kindness Project at YU to inspire positive social change on campus and help develop the organization to a global level. After graduation, he'll be working as an associate for clinical cardiovascular research in New York City with plans to attend medical school the following year.

ALBERTO I. BTESH



Of Syrian-Lebanese heritage, Alberto I. Btsh grew up in the Syrian-Sephardic community of Panama City, Panama, where he attended and graduated from Instituto Alberto Einstein for high school. He chose to attend Yeshiva University for multiple reasons, including the dual curriculum, YU's ranking as a top tier school, and the chance to study in New York City, the business capital of the world. He majored in business administration and marketing, and participated in

the Sephardic minyan at YU and events held in the Sephardic beit midrash, where he showed leadership and initiative in campus social and cultural life. As he graduates with the class of 2018 (SSSB, Spring 2018), Alberto reflects that at YU he had the opportunity to get to know and be part of a network of students who are poised to be the active Jewish leaders of the future. He is preparing to move to Brazil where he will be taking on a new job in wealth management and pursue a career in finance in South America.

Stern College for Women

IRENE RAZI



Irene Razi grew up in the Iranian community in Los Angeles, California. She attended YULA Girls High School, and then Shaalvim for Women in Jerusalem for a year. At Stern College for Women, Irene majored in biology, and she excelled in her studies, making Dean's List every semester. She was also heavily involved in campus life, heading multiple clubs as co-president, including the Physician Assistant's Club, Coffee Club, and Random Acts of Kindness Club. As co-president

of the Sephardic Club, she aimed to create a sense of home for the Sephardic students on campus as well as to educate the student body about Sephardic culture. "It was our responsibility to create events, fun activities, and to host Shabbatot for students to feel at home, especially when many students are from all over the world and don't have the option to go home," Irene explained. "Even though it is a lot of responsibility, being one of the largest clubs on campus, I take much honor and pride in being part of the club." Irene plans to pursue graduate studies in pharmacy school.

ELAYNE GINDI-TAWIL



Elayne Gindi-Tawil is an active young Sephardic leader in her hometown community of Deal, New Jersey. Elayne attended Hillel Yeshiva's elementary and high schools. Throughout her high school years, Elayne volunteered with the Sephardic Bikur Holim and served as their president for two years. Her involvement with their work continues during her time at Yeshiva University, where she is majoring in marketing at the Sy Syms School of Business (Spring '19). She also

interned at Handcraft Manufacturing, where she designed children's clothing sold worldwide in retailers such as Target and Walmart.

Max Candiotty and Sandy Candiotty Celebrate His 95th Birthday with YU's Sephardic Program by Enrolling as Yeshiva University Guardians



Max Candiotty at his Daylin office.

Max Candiotty is a highly esteemed leader of the Los Angeles Jewish community. He is also revered as a champion of Jewish Day School education, and as the first President of the magnificent Sephardic Temple Tiferet Israel on Wilshire Boulevard, among the many significant causes he espoused. His concern for Jewish education caused him to become the Chairman of the Los Angeles Bureau of Jewish Education and enabled him to fund Jewish schools and programs that linked his fellow Jews in the US to Israel. He initiated scholarship endowments to help Jewish children attend Jewish day schools. While he was anchored to Sephardic and Ashkenazic synagogues in Los Angeles, he fought to maintain his bona fide Sephardic and Ladino traditions, and he subsidized some 50 books about Judaism, especially to promote and preserve his Sephardic heritage.

His generosity and benevolence is especially spectacular when we recognize that his parents, who left Gallipoli in Eastern Turkey and settled in New York City's Lower East Side to escape the antisemitism against the "Turkinos" who were Jews who spoke Ladino and had pride in their original Sephardic heritage in Spain before the expulsion of Jews in 1492, were very poor financially. They struggled to earn a living by becoming peddlers of fruits and flowers in the streets of New York.

Max Candiotty served in the US Armed Forces, earned degrees at UCLA, and was a graduate accountant and lawyer. He emerged as a fantastic business leader and together with two colleagues founded Daylin Inc., a major conglomerate that was a great success and he became a major philanthropist and a respected friend of U.S. presidents.



Max and Sandy Candiotty on their wedding day in Israel.

Daylin Inc. went public in 1964 and in the same year Yeshiva University's President Dr. Samuel Belkin, and The Hakham Rabbi Dr. Solomon Gaon, *a'h*, Ivan and Sophia Solomon, *a'h*, and Rabbi Herbert C. Dobrinsky established the Sephardic Studies and Sephardic Community Programs, which came to the attention of Max Candiotty and he became a great friend and a supporter. Daylin Inc. had already made major donations to four Israeli institutions and Yeshiva University in New York was slated to be the next recipient. It did not happen because in the mid-1970s the terrible gasoline shortage caused the Daylin Conglomerate to lose its former success and the Daylin company was dissolved. Nevertheless, the friendship between Rabbi Dobrinsky and Max Candiotty remained very close and Rabbi Dobrinsky always called Max on every Jewish holiday, and when he travelled to LA, they and their wives socialized and became genuine friends. He always told Rabbi Dobrinsky that he loved him and thought of him every day due to the fact that on one occasion at a dinner in New York Rabbi Dobrinsky gave Max Candiotty a Sephardic Siddur as a gift and Max prays from that siddur every day and thinks of him daily ever since that time.

On the recent occasion of YU's Day of Giving, Max and Sandy Candiotty enrolled as YU Guardians in celebration of Max's 95th birthday. That commitment was an expression of love and admiration for all that we have accomplished for Sephardic Jewry's renaissance in North America and abroad will, we pray, justify their support of YU's Sephardic Programs for many years to come. We thank them and wish them long life.

Honor's Lounge Dedication For Stephen and Renée Levy, *a'h*

Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky recently announced that the late Mrs. Renée Levy, *a'h*, and her son, Morris Levy, had made a significant gift to dedicate the Honor's Lounge that will be constructed in the Mendel Gottesman Library, which has just been refurbished, in memory of the late and beloved husband and his father, respectively, Stephen Levy, *a'h*.

Mr. Stephen, *a'h*, and Renée Levy, *a'h*, are YU Guardians. Stephen Levy was a scholarship donor in the past. His wife Renée, *a'h*, was the daughter of the late revered former trustee of Yeshiva University, Dr. Joseph and Rachel Ades, YU Benefactors, who were major philanthropists who supported Yeshiva University and many important institutions in New York and Israel. Their children are all significant donors to our institution who continue the wonderful legacy of their parents and grandparents.

A large number of YU's undergraduates on the Wilf Campus are Honors students who will enjoy the Stephen, *a'h*, and Renée Levy Honors Lounge when it is constructed.



Renée and Stephen Levy, *a'h*

Remembering The Great Sephardic Hakhamim at YU

HAZKARA (MEMORIAL) FOR HAKHAM OVADIA YOSEF, A'H

The Third day of the month of Heshvan marked the Hazkara (memorial date) of the greatest Sephardic Rabbi of this generation, Hakham Ovadia Yosef, a'h. The event took place in the Sephardic Beit Midrash and was attended by over 60 men and women, including several members of YU administration, among them Rabbi Marc Penner, the Max and Marion Grill Dean of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Undergraduate Torah Studies, and Rabbi Dr. Yosef Kalinsky, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Torah Studies. Rabbi Dan Cohen, the Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiah at Yeshiva University, welcomed the attendees and noted the importance of sharing stories about our role models of yesterday. He introduced the honored speakers who both shared personal connections with Hakham Ovadia Yosef. Rabbi Ilan Meirov is the founder and director of Chazaq. Rabbi Meirov was followed by Ezra Dweck who is a great-grandson of Hakham Ovadia himself, as well as a student at YU. Ezra shared with the audience what it was like to live with Hakham Ovadia, as he did for some time during his childhood.

HILLOULA FOR THE BABA SALI

The YU Sephardic student population hosted a Hilloula (memorial) event in honor of the late revered Baba Sali, Rabbi Yisrael Abuhasera, on January 31. This event was led and organized by Rabbi Dan Cohen, the Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiah at YU, where the students celebrated with singing, Divrei Torah, and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

With the Sephardic Beit Midrash at YU filled

wall to wall, Rabbi Dan Cohen began the event by speaking of the uniqueness of the Baba Sali as one who lived his life with a burning love for other Jews. Rabbi Moshe Tessone, Director of the YU Sephardic Community Program and member of the rabbinic faculty at Yeshiva University, addressed the gathering with inspirational words of Torah, and then introduced Rabbi Gad Bouskila, Hazzan and Rabbi of Congregation Netivot Yisrael, one of the leading Moroccan Rabbis in North America. Rabbi Bouskila spoke extensively on the life and legacy of the Baba Sali, whom he merited to see in Morocco during his younger years.

Rabbi Bouskila also led the group in singing special *Pizmonim* that were particularly associated with Baba Sali, and he concluded by blessing all those in attendance with much health, wealth, happiness, and success in their studies, both in Torah and secular subjects.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE HILLOULA FOR THE BEN ISH HAI

Early in the fall semester, YU commemorated the passing of Hakham Yosef Haim of Baghdad at a Hazkarah (memorial) in 1909. It is customary to celebrate the date of passing of rabbinic luminaries as a means of sharing their life's work after their passing. Hakham Yosef Haim, popularly called the Ben Ish Hai after his most famous work, remains one of the leading rabbinic figures in all Sephardic communities. His works are studied to this day.

This event was organized by Rabbi Dan Cohen, the Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiach at Yeshiva University, where the gathered students and community members in attendance totaled close to 50. The featured speaker was

Rabbi Yaakov Menashe, the Rabbi of Midrash Ben Ish Hai in Great Neck. Rabbi Menashe spoke about the unique blend of Halakha and Kabbalah that Hakham Yosef Haim achieved and mastered during his lifetime, a feat that very few rabbis have accomplished. As the event marked the start of the fall semester, Rabbi Dan Cohen took the opportunity to encourage those present to start off the semester with focus and to stay ahead of their coursework.

RABBI ZION LEVY, A'H MEMORIAL

Rabbi Zion Levy, a'h, served as Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Panama for over 50 years and is a patriarchal figure for many of the Panamanian students at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Levy was one of the most well respected rabbis in his time and a contemporary of the world-renowned Hakham Ovadia Yosef. His son, Dr. David Levy, is a graduate of Yeshiva College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He was recruited to attend Yeshiva University by Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky on the first of his two visits to the Panama Jewish community and the Caracas, Venezuela Jewish community, as well.

To commemorate his memory, Rabbi Dan Cohen, the Edmond J. Safra Sephardic S'gan Mashgiach at Yeshiva University, organized an event inviting the entire Sephardic student body. The event took place during the Fall 2017 semester at the Sephardic Bet Midrash which was filled to capacity. Rabbi Zion Levy's grandson, Noam Levy, a student at Yeshiva College spoke about Rabbi Zion's experiences and accomplishments in Panama as spiritual leader of the Sephardic community, and shared lessons that everyone can learn from his life.



1. Rabbi Yaakov Menashe alongside Rabbi Cohen, delivered a Torah Class to the Sephardic students.
2. Rabbi Gad Bouskila, and Rabbi Tessone with Sephardic Students at YU.
3. Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Yanetz, Rabbi Tessone, Rabbi Bouskila and Nathan Tzur.
4. Rabbi Bouskila delivers shiur at YU.
5. Rabbi Eliyahu Benhaim speaks at hazkarah for Hakham Ovadia Yosef.

Hanukkah And Purim at YU With The Sephardic Students

SEPHARDIC HANUKKAH EVENTS

Hanukkah in the Sephardic Beit Midrash is an opportunity to spend many of the eight days in a most spiritual manner, filled with holiday inspiration.

Here are some of the highlights from last Hanukkah:

- On the fourth night of Hanukkah, the Sephardic community at YU welcomed Rabbi Meir Gavriel Elbaz, Rabbi of Shaare Zion of Great Neck. Rabbi Elbaz showcased his expertise in Halakha and motivated those in attendance to seek spiritual growth even while pursuing their degree. The inspiring evening came to a close with a communal lighting of the menorah and the singing of “Maoz Tzur.”
- The Sephardic daily minyan throughout the days of Hanukkah was followed by a distribution of Sufganiyot and pastries. The Sephardic student body enjoyed exceptionally nice holiday-style prayers led by the beautiful voices of student hazzanim Ezra Dweck, Eliyahu Ebrani, and others. The tefillot were followed with a special breakfast in honor of Hanukkah and featured Divrei Torah from Rabbi Dan Cohen.



SEPHARDIC PURIM EVENTS

Purim is a time when the students at Yeshiva University express a wonderful display of jubilation. This is especially true among the Sephardic community. The holiday began with an explosive turnout for the Megillah reading, which was read as Shabbat came to an end. With close to 100 men and women (students, alumni, and members of the community) participating, the minyan was forced to move to a bigger beit midrash. David Rubinstein, a student with Mexican origins, read the Megillah to perfection with a beautiful Sephardic-Yerushalmi (Jerusalem) melody.

After Arbit, a group of students came to Rabbi Cohen's home to kick-start their Purim celebrations. In a span of an hour, Rabbi Cohen led the students with Divrei Torah and songs, finishing with Mishnayot Masechet Megillah as is the custom. Rabbi Cohen then accompanied the students to the Yeshiva-wide Purim celebration in the gym where they joined hundreds of other students, alumni, and faculty members.

To accommodate the large crowd, there were two minyanim of Shaharit; the first at sunrise and the second at 9 a.m. Throughout the day the students were busy running around and giving Mishloach Manot to their peers and Rabbis. Following Mincha, some 40 students, all dressed up in humorous costumes, came to Rabbi Cohen's home to have their Seudat Purim. The Seuda was a big hit as students were singing, dancing and enjoying the catered food.



Rabbi Shlomo Amar Attends Hag Hasemikha at YU & RIETS Dinner

During the week of festivities that preceded the Hag Hasemikha in Spring of 2017, Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem visited YU, addressed the students, and partook in completing a Sefer Torah at YU, while also attending the Hag Hasemikha and the RIETS Dinner. Hag Hasemikha at YU is a celebration of the Rabbinic Graduates, which traditionally has been held once in four years, and more recently being observed once every three years.





1. Rabbi Amar speaks in Sephardic Beit Midrash.
2. Rabbi Tesson, Rabbi Amar and Dr. Dobrinsky.
3. Rabbi Hershel Schachter looks on as Rabbi Amar writes letter in new sefer torah.
4. Rabbi Eliyahu Benhaim, Rabbi Amar and Rabbi Goldwicht.
5. Rabbi Ari Berman, Rabbi Schachter (seated), Rabbi Willig and Rabbi Amar.
6. Rabbi Amar meets with Rabbi Schachter.
7. Rabbi Amar greeted by Dr. Dobrinsky.
8. Rabbi Amar greeted by Dr. Norman Lamm.
9. Rabbi Amar and Alberto Harari.
10. Rabbi Amar speaking at Hag Hasemikha.

ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Doctor of Medicine

as of May 24, 2018

Jonathan Aviv Golani
BA, University of California, Santa Cruz

AZRIELI GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Master of Science

Joseph R. Dana

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW

Master of Laws

as of May 29, 2018

Luana Irmene Bijaoui Dahan
Shlomo Ouria Elhadad
Shachar Hadar
Victoria H. Levy

Juris Doctor

as of May 29, 2018

Leeor Amsalem
Alexa L. Bakhash
Joseph J. Erdos
David Yerushalmi

BERNARD REVEL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH STUDIES

Master of Arts

as of January 31, 2018

Esther Fortuna Varon

Master of Arts

as of May 31, 2018

Isaac Choua
Susan Joy Kasavi
Eitan Hertzal Khaldar

FERKAUF GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Master of Arts

as of June 30, 2018

Rachel Stephanie Kashan

Master of Science

as of June 30, 2018

Erica Baruch

WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Master of Social Work

as of May 31, 2018

Rina Ashley Ben-Benjamin
Yaara Ester Ohana
Maayan Zohari

Certificate in Social Work Practice with the Military

as of May 31, 2018

Maayan Zohari

SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS Wilf Campus

Bachelor of Science

as of January 31, 2018

Yaakov Shlomo Loboda
Samuel Rafael Moses

Bachelor of Science

as of May 31, 2018

Daniel Betsalel Azran
Ralph J. Betesh
Natanel Brakha

Alberto Isaac Btsh
Daniel Estrugo
Daniel Maimon Fedida
Yosef Chaim Kerendian
Joshua Kohan
Jeremy Mosheh Livi
Levi Yitzchak Saada
Abraham Victor Shalom
Jeremy Alan Shevach

Bachelor of Science

as of September 28, 2018

Amram Amselem
Raphael S. Benchabbat
Rotem Ben Simon
Benyamin Besalel
Menahem Dahari
Igal Moshe Elmaleh
Jonathan Mordecai Gabay
Refael Shlomo Hizami
Eli Jacob Mamann
Matthew Eliazer Saghian
Isaac David Salem
Nathaniel Joseph Shavolian
Chananel Yosef

SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS Israel Henry Beren Campus

Bachelor of Science

as of January 31, 2018

Jasmine Razi

Bachelor of Science

as of May 31, 2018

Leeron Chalamish
Shany Hava
Yael Saban

Bachelor of Science

as of September 28, 2018

Yaara Elimelech

Master of Science in Accounting

as of May 31, 2018

Natanel Brakha
Michael Joseph Levy
Ariel Sachmechi
Maor Shoshana

Master of Science in Taxation

as of September 28, 2018

Elhanan Y. Moryoussef

STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Associate in Arts

as of January 31, 2018

Yulia Zeldi Addes
Eden Malka Bessaleli
Mina Sara Hematian
Natalie Sabti
Maya Malka Saketkhov
Diana Yakobov

Associate in Arts

as of May 31, 2018

Risa Lynn Abittan
Rebecca Eliana Aryeh
Alynn Batia Azouly
Gabriella Ben Hutta
Sabrina Esther Benmoha
Frieda Jaclyn Benun
Ariel Louise Bitas
Leeron Chalamish
Ayala Cohen
Paulette S. Franco
Rachel Haber
Shany Hava
Shana Horn

Lior Levy
Sharona Raquel Levy
Victoria Yael Levy
Gail Mazal Mosseri
Jasmine Sogol Naim
Rachel R. Nassimi
Nechama M. Neren
Yael Nissanoff
Evane Raymonde Ohayon
Tali Paknouch
Simcha Peretz
Gabriella Rachel Rahimzada
Celia Rayek
Irene Tova Razi
Orlee Leah Rebibo
Stephanie Joy Roffe
Yael Saban
Jessica Esther Sabbah-Dery
Maor Samouha
Sara Aviva Shkedy
Nora Rachel Shokrian
Yasmine Shokrian
Yael Sima Shoushan
Raquel Melanie Tebele
Raquel F. Terzi
Ariella Yahav
Lital Alis Yarimi
Miriam Zami

Associate in Arts

as of September 28, 2018

Michal Ayelet Alge
Yael Arshadnia
Hanna Chicheportiche
Sarah Rachel Couzens
Yaara Elimelech
Lauren Rose Ibgui
Elizabeth M. Kassai
Ariella Kerendian
Jordanna Rehany

Bachelor of Arts

as of January 31, 2018

Yulia Zeldi Addes
Mina Sara Hematian
Rachel Ruimy
Natalie Sabti
Maya Malka Saketkhov
Erin Ivette Shama
Diana Yakobov

Bachelor of Arts

as of May 31, 2018

Risa Lynn Abittan
Grace Golda Aharon
Elisa Leora Alweis
Leah Aviva Azhdam
Alynn Batia Azouly
Gabriella Ben Hutta
Frieda Jaclyn Benun
Ariel Louise Bitas
Camille Raquel Bivas
Inbar Boker
Ayala Cohen
Paulette S. Franco
Michaela Michelle Kadashev
Sharona Raquel Levy
Victoria Yael Levy
Jordana Kayley Maged
Chaya Emuna Menasse
Gail Mazal Mosseri
Jasmine Sogol Naim
Rachel R. Nassimi
Yael Nissanoff
Irene Tova Razi
Orlee Leah Rebibo
Jessica Esther Sabbah-Dery

Maor Samouha
Sara Aviva Shkedy
Nora Rachel Shokrian
Yasmine Shokrian
Yael Sima Shoushan
Raquel Melanie Tebele
Raquel F. Terzi
Ariella Yahav
Lital Alis Yarimi
Miriam Zami

Bachelor of Arts

as of September 28, 2018

Yael Arshadnia
Hanna Chicheportiche
Lauren Rose Ibgui
Elizabeth M. Kassai
Ariella Kerendian
Jordanna Rehany

Master of Arts in Biblical and Talmudic Interpretation

as of May 31, 2018

Victoria Elizabeth Chabot

UNDERGRADUATE TORAH STUDIES PROGRAMS

Associate in Arts

as of January 31, 2018

Rafael Irlaslan Angel
Jacob Aaron Bergel
Elias Cohen
Daniel Israel Gul
Yaakov Shlomo Loboda
Yonaton Ohr Mehrzadi
Samuel Rafael Moses
Dean Pienica
Ariel Shalom Rafael Rafie

Associate in Arts

as of May 31, 2018

Adam Aaron
Jacob Ethan Abittan
Louis Ades
Avraham Moshe Amon
Shalom Dov-Ber Anatian
Judah J. Avner
Daniel Betsalel Azran
Ari Baratz
Eliyahu Barrocas
Israel Ben-Porat
Ralph J. Betesh
Natanel Brakha
Alberto Isaac Btsh
Joseph Cohen
Daniel Dilamani
Mark Daniel Elbaz
Nathaniel Adin Raphael Elkaim
Daniel Estrugo
Daniel Maimon Fedida
Yosef Hassid
Samuel Aryeh Isaacs
Aaron Robert Ishida
Yosef Chaim Kerendian
Joshua Kohan
Avraham Kohanzadeh
Samuel Yonah Levy
Jeremy Mosheh Livi
Or Mossaiov
Joshua Rabanipour
Levi Yitzchak Saada
Abraham Victor Shalom
Morris Sitt
Max Harvey Steinberg
Michael Tawil
Alan Menasheh Yomtobian
Michael Abraham Yomtobian

Associate in Arts

as of September 28, 2018

Ariel Aminov

Amram Amselem

Solomon Barayev

Raphael S. Benchabbat

Rotem Ben Simon

Benyamin Besalel

Menahem Dahari

Igal Moshe Elmaleh

Jonathan Mordecai Gabay

Refael Shlomo Hizami

Jason Khaniail Iloulia

Eli Jacob Mamann

Harry Salomon Ohana

Omer M. Raviv

Matthew Eliazer Saghian

Isaac David Salem

Nathaniel Joseph Shavolian

Chananel Yosef

YESHIVA COLLEGE

Bachelor of Arts

as of January 31, 2018

Ofir Azran

Elias Cohen

Yonatan Ohr Mehrzadi

Ariel Shalom Rafael Rafie

Bachelor of Arts

as of May 31, 2018

Jacob Ethan Abittan

Louis Ades

Shalom Dov-Ber Anatian

Eliyahou Barocas

Israel Ben-Porat

Joseph Cohen

Daniel Dilamani

Mark Daniel Elbaz

Nathaniel Adin Raphael Elkaim

Yosef Hassid

Aaron Robert Ishida

Joseph Brian Jubas

Avraham Kohanzadeh

Samuel Yonah Levy

Or Mossaiov

Joseph Jeff Ohana

Joshua Rabanipour

Joshua Marc Rub-Okanina

Morris Sitt

Michael Tawil

Alan Menasheh Yomtobian

Bachelor of Arts

as of September 28, 2018

Ariel Aminov

Jason Khaniail Iloulia

Leor Yehuda Leben

Harry Salomon Ohana

Omer M. Raviv

Daniel Jonathan Shemen

AWARDS AND HONORS

VALEDICTORIANS

Stern College for Women,

General Studies

Golda Aharon

SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Dean's Award for Service

and Character

Refael Hizami

Dean's Award to Student

Council President

Yael Saban

STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Lea and Alfons Blau Award

for Excellence in Chemistry in

conjunction with the American

Institute of Chemists Award

Sara Shkedy

The Lea and Alfons Blau Award for
Excellence in Chemistry in conjunction
with Macmillan Publishing Book Award

Alynn Azouly

Jason Botnick Memorial Award

for the Pursuit of Graduate Studies

in Jewish Education

Miriam Zami

Chemistry Department Award
for the best essay on the theme
"Creativity in Chemistry and its
contributions to Society"

Lior Levy

Sol and Sarah Friedland
Memorial Award for Excellence
in Hebrew Literature

Golda Aharon

Morris and Esther Kermaier
Memorial Award for a student pursuing
the field of Jewish Education

Ayala Cohen

Jacob and Katie Lashin
Memorial Award for Creativity
in the Biological Sciences

Lior Levy

Rabbi Chaim Levine Memorial Award

for Excellence in Jewish Studies

Gabriella Rahimzada

Miriam Zami

The Dean David and Sarrah Mirsky
Memorial Award for Best Critical Essay

Miriam Zami

The Edward A. Rothman Memorial
Award for the Best Paper on Issues
in Judaism in Practice

Miriam Zami

Gilda R. S. Silverman Memorial
Award for Excellence in Mathematics

Golda Aharon

Jasmine Naim

Speech Pathology & Audiology

Department Award for Service

to the Department

Camille Bivas

Speech Pathology & Audiology

Department Award for Excellence

in Speech Pathology & Audiology

Raquel Terzi

Office of Student Life Student

Leadership Award

Yael Saban

Monis and Chaya Zuckerman

Memorial Award for Best Research

Paper in Jewish History

Rebecca Zami

JAMES STRIAR SCHOOL OF GENERAL JEWISH STUDIES

Isaac Araten Memorial Award

for Excellence in Talmud

Mark Elbaz

Manfred and Mignon Siegbert Fischel

Memorial Award for Excellence in

Jewish Studies and Character

Daniel Estrugo

Professor Solomon Wind Memorial

Award for Excellence in Jewish Studies

Rafael Ilarslan Angel

YESHIVA PROGRAM/MAZER SCHOOL OF TALMUDIC STUDIES FOR EXCELLENCE IN TALMUD

Rabbi Oscar and Shirley Fleishaker

Award for Excellence in Talmud

Daniel Dilamani

Nathaniel Elkaim

Max and Sophie Manicoff Memorial

Award for Excellence in Talmud

Israel Ben-Porat

Jonathan Gabay

Yosef Hassid

Leor Leben

Rabbi Solomon Polachek Memorial

Award for Excellence in Talmud

Ariel Rafie

Frank Shavitz Memorial Award

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Samuel Levy

ISAAC BREUER COLLEGE OF HEBRAIC STUDIES

Eliyahou Barrocas

Michael Tawil

Milton Cooper Block Memorial Award

for Excellence in Hebrew Education

Rifael Hizami

Dr. Hyman B. Grinstein Memorial

Award for Service and Dedication

Joseph Jubas

Benjamin Hurwitz Award

for Excellence in Talmud

Avraham Kohanzadeh

Morris Sitt

Rosalie and Jacob Singer Memorial

Award for Excellence in Bible

Avraham Amon

Or Mossaiov

YESHIVA COLLEGE

Professor Meyer Atlas Memorial

Award for Excellence in Biology

Avraham Kohanzadeh

Dean Isaac Bacon Award

for Excellence in the Humanities

and Jewish Studies

Israel Ben-Porat

Daniel Ladell Memorial Award

for Excellence in Chemistry

Yosef Hassid

Sidney P. Rosenblum Award

for Excellence in the Study

of Jewish History

Nathaniel Elkaim

Morris and Gilda Silverman Memorial

Award for Excellence in History

Israel Ben-Porat

Leor Leben

Elliot Steinberger Memorial Award

for Excellence in the Study of Torah

and Sciences

Yosef Hassid

Departmental Award for Excellence

in Computer Science

Avraham Amon

Departmental Award for Excellence

in Economics

Samuel Levy

WURZWEILER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dean's Award

Rina Ben-Benyamin





Yeshiva University

Jacob E. Safra Institute of Sephardic Studies
Sephardic Community Program
500 West 185th Street, BH 312
New York, NY 10033-3201
www.yu.edu

With Gratitude

We would like to acknowledge with gratitude the generous support of the following provided in the year 2017–2018 families who have taken a lead role in enabling the YU Sephardic Students Community Program to flourish and for their kind help in providing scholarships that benefit our deserving and needy Sephardic students at Yeshiva University.

The Joseph Ades Family Foundation
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Mrs. Annette Basri
Mr. Max and Mrs. Sandy Candiotty
The Chehebar Foundation
Martin Elias and the Ike, Molly and Steven Elias Foundation
The Elyachar Family Foundation

Simone and David Eshaghian
The family of Rachel and the late Jack E. Gindi, *a'h*
The Leon Levy Family Foundation
The Renée Levy and Morris Levy Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Sutton
Debra and Asher Zamir

Beatrice Levy Scholarship Fund
Fran and Leon L. Levy
The Families of the late Joseph E. and Sam Maleh, *a'h*
The Maybaum Brothers Memorial Fund for Fellowships, Scholarships, and Professorships
The Mitrani Foundation

Chella and the late Moise J. Safra, *a'h*
The Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation
The Sephardic Jewish Center of Canarsie

תזכו לשנים רבות נעימות וטובות

May you merit many years in good health and happiness.

Urgent Appeal for Scholarship Aid for Immigrant and North American Sephardic Students

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 \$59,000 per student.

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

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY SEPHARDIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

c/o Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Yeshiva University • 500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033-3201

Credit card contributions will also be accepted. Please call 212.960.0850, FAX 212.960.0067

NAME _____
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CONTRIBUTION

Please indicate the amount of your scholarship gift for Sephardic students at Yeshiva University:

One Year Full Expendable Scholarship (For Domestic Students): ☐ \$55,650

Personal Endowed ☐ \$60,000 Blended Scholarship ☐ \$120,000

Partial Scholarships:

☐ \$36,000 ☐ \$26,000 ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$2,600 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$101

☐ \$18,000 ☐ \$5,200 ☐ \$1,800 ☐ \$501 ☐ Other _____

Contributions of \$60,000 or more will establish a personal endowed scholarship or blended scholarship for \$120,000 (half expendable and half endowed) in your name that will be listed in all appropriate University publications in perpetuity.

Yeshiva University will be pleased to discuss Planned Gifts with you that can be part of your estate plans. Please contact Rabbi Dr. Herbert C. Dobrinsky who is a certified planned giving officer. We have the ability to establish charitable remainder trusts to meet your needs.