Torah Umadda Is at Heart of Alumni’s Success

D r. Mark Apfelbaum ‘74YUHS, ‘77YC was part of a team involved in caring for President Bill Clinton earlier this year.

For Apfelbaum, an interventional cardiologist, the opportunity to treat any patient is a dream fulfilled. “For as long as I can remember, I always wanted to be a doctor,” he said. “When anyone asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, that was my answer.”

Apfelbaum came to YU because it was one of the few places where he could follow both his dreams and his faith. “I knew that medical school and life as a doctor were going to be pretty rigorous and wouldn’t leave me a lot of free time to continue with my Jewish studies,” he said. “I saw YU as my last chance for intensive Judaic studies for a while—at least until I was established professionally.”

The dual curriculum prepared him for the strenuous demands of medical school by inculcating in him a habit of study, said Apfelbaum. “I spent the first part of the day studying Talmud, the Bible and Jewish history, philosophy and literature, and then I had a full course load of secular studies including science and labs beginning at 4 or 5:30,” he recalled.

“I think more than anything YU helped shape my analytical abilities.”

“So I was going to school five days a week and getting home late in the night, every night. It taught me early on that I had to structure my time and get things done efficiently or I’d get flooded with work.” When I got to medical school at Columbia University, I remember other students complaining that we had to be in class until 3:30. There were several other YU graduates at Columbia, and we thought it was great—we had all this time we hadn’t had before.”

Among the many YU professors who influenced him was Dr. Moshe Sokolow, who taught a Tanakh class that stayed with him over the years as particularly outstanding. “I’ve often told my wife and children what a great professor I had in Dr. Sokolow,” he said, “and then recently, he was a scholar-in-residence at my synagogue. After hearing him give a talk, my wife turned to me and said, ‘I finally understand what you’ve been talking about all these years. He’s absolutely fascinating.”

President Clinton and Dr. Apfelbaum’s other patients may not realize it, but the intricacies of the Talmud and those of the heart have more in common than they think. “More than anything [else], YU helped shape my analytical abilities,” Apfelbaum said. “Learning Talmud is one of the more difficult things we ever done in any academic segment of my life. It takes sharp critical thinking and analysis, and both of which are also an essential part of a doctor. I learned those skills during my years at Yeshiva.”

Michael (M echo) A. ‘65YUHS, ‘68YC, “I am proud to say that I have been a part of a very special group. Frankel ’65 has each made significant contributions in their fields throughout their long and distinguished careers in civil service. Michael is a physical and has been a leading subject-matter expert on nuclear weapons at the Department of Defense. A former congressional fellow, he served as executive director of the Congressional Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP Commission). His paper “The New Triad: Diffusion, Illusion, and Confusion in the Nuclear Mission” was recently published by Johns Hopkins University. Sheila is a senior computer scientist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. A researcher and government-technical consultant on computer security and IPv6-related matters, she is the author of the book Demystifying the IPsec Puzzle (Artech House), and serves as a member of NIST’s Internet Engineering Task Force. Their five children, Dr. Shosiena Riva Edinger, Sara Malka Longchamps, Dr. Nona Rachel Schubin, Dr. Shoshana Leah Posy ’02, and Aryeh Levi have produced 11 grandchildren. The Frankels live in Silver Spring, MD.

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Shalom (65YC) and Dvora Kidor (70YS) of Jerusalem announced the births of three of their grandchildren: a daughter to Binyo and Navah Thomas, a daughter to Moshe and Shalom Lazarus.

Phyllis Kornspan (65YC) announced the birth of a granddaughter to Rafi and Nechama May, and Yosef May, grandchildren, Yitzchak May, born to Rabbi Yitzchak and Tova May.

Nava Rephun (70YS) presented a program at Congregation Shomrei Torah in Fair Lawn, NJ, on “Enhancing Loving Relationships.” Nava is a licensed clinical social worker and certified image relationship therapist who works with couples and individuals in her New York City practice and leads workshops in the U.S. and Israel.

Rabbi Shalom (70YS), 79B, an outstanding scholar, passed away. Yeshiva Moche Shimshon, named for the late Rabbi Yaakov Moche Lesin z”l, who served as Maschlag Rachani of RITS from 1942–1975.

Aviram and Dana Apelbaum (77YS) of Beit HaEmek, Israel, celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Ayala, to Shmuel and the ambassadors of their youngest daughter, Naama.

Chavi and Rabbi Araya Berzon (79YUHS) announced the marriage of Rabbi Shalom, Chavi, born to Marim Levinas and Baruch Berzon 10E.

Laya and Rabbi Asher Bush (74YC, 81R) announced a granddaughter, Yisroel Zev Bush, born to Dony and Yehudis Bush.

Herby and Faye Debbye (Klaff) (75YC) announced that their daughter, Chaya, to Arnon Weiszach, Mazal tov to their granddaughter Zevulun Chariot 47YUHS, 54B.

Rachel and Dr. Shimona Pick (71YC) announced the marriage of their daughter, Yehudit Ariela, to Gavriel Yaakov and the birth of their first child, to Shaulmei and Shmulik Russ. Pick also published a new novel, Ahavah Shlom, Chovakish Yosef and Rina Elyash and Simmy Friedman.

Rabbi Asher (72YC, 77F, 79R) and Rachela Reichert (80YUHS, 75S) announced the marriage of their daughter, Miriam, to Ari Stiefel.

Mignone (72YUHS, 74R, 80YUHS) announced the marriage of their fifth grandchild, Carmel, born to Hadas and Amichai Rosenfield.

Shava Rudomin (75S, 82W) attended the 77th annual family meeting in San Diego. The family of the first generation, Ayala, to Elia Fischman of Brooklyn. In addition, Rabbi Berzon is regalizing his book, Jewish Ethics and Halakha for Our Time: Sources and Commentary (Leshem Theological Seminary of America, 2010).

Gai and William Hochman (77YC) announced two granddaughters, Beniamin Siona, born to Rebecca (Manuell) Hochman (66YS) and Rabbi Ari Hochman (65SB, 67A, 70R) in Boca Raton, FL, and Shlomo and Mendel Mendel (Mendy), born to Shira and Daniel Hochman in Ramat Hasharon in Israel. Rabbi Shalom was born to parents Avigail and Michael Gordon, and Eilat (Shlomo), born to parents Rachel and Rabbi Josh Waxman ’69R. Mural too also to Eilat Shlomo’s grandparents Lorri and Rabbi Esha Waxman ’79R.

Rabbi Shalom (73YUHS, 79R, 90D) and Bshra Kurz (72YC, 77F) announced the marriage of their son, Elisha, to Rina Weilbich Elana Mosael. Rabbi Shalom, and Rabbi Shosh Moche Goreski ’56Y, 58R of Jerusalem.

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Dr. Eric Levine ’79YUHS, 89W was named rice president for institutional advancement at Temple College following his tenure as senior vice president for development at The Jewish Federations of North America.

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Rabbi Dr. Marc ’79YUHS, 83YC, 94YUHS, 98W and Jacqueline (Kleinman) Mandel ’85YS, 86YS, 88YS celebrated the marriage of their fifth child, Amita Mandel, who were also recently honored by Beth Jacob Congregation in Los Angeles for their 14 years of service.

Rabbi Meyer (79YUHS, 80S, 81R) and Shalome Mantell (Filter) ’78YUHS, 79R shared news that their grandparents, YY and Shulamith Filler z”l, who served as YU’s head basketball coach—’66YC, ’78F as he served his 38th season as YU’s head basketball coach—’66YC, ’70YUHS, ’78S, ’80R announced a grandson, Yitzchak May, born to Rabbi Yehuda and Nechama May, and Yosef May, born to Rabbi Yitzchak and Tova May.

Rabbi Gary (74YUHS, 79R, 81R) and Beatty Meinchel (74YUHS, 77S) announced the marriage of their son, David, to Emily Scherman.

Peuki (73YUHS, 77S) and RETS Yoshivo Rabbi Yaakov Neuberger ’77YUHS, 79R announced the marriage of their daughter, Chaya, to Arnon Weiszach, Mazal tov to their grandson Zevulun Chariot 47YUHS, 54B.

Bluma and Rabbi Joseph Finkelstein (71YUHS, 75R, 80R) recently received the Distinguished Professor Award for Contributions to Psychology and Psychotherapy from the American Psychological Association.

Rabbi Alan Britt (92YC, 97R) has been named vice president of the Jewish Community Center of Houston.

Rabbi David Dervan (89PG) published his most recent book, The YU Student: Essays on Pesach and the Mitzvot (Klein Yerushalmi, 2010).


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Shoshana (Leezil) ('95B) and Steven Arnold ('91YUHS) announced the bar mitzvah of their first child, Yonatan.

Betsy and Jake Arjang ('75YUHS) announce the birth of their first child.

Rabbi Yehuda ('99YUHS, '03R) and Elissa Chamales ('94YUHS) announce the birth of a daughter, Ma'ayan.

Rabbi Ariel ('98YUHS, '05YUHS, '08R) and Yaakov ('95YUHS, '06R) announce the birth of a son, Moshe Yitzhak.

Rabbi Simcha ('98R) and Rina ('98YUHS, '06YUHS) announce the birth of a son, Yaakov.

Rabbi Suellen ('99YUHS, '05BR) and Rabbi Yaakov ('02YUHS, '06R) announce the birth of a daughter, Orin.

Rabbi David ('02R, '04R) and Rabbi Shira ('00YUHS, '03YUHS) announce the birth of a daughter, Batya.

Rabbi Daniel ('03R) and Rabbi Yael ('04R) announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail.

Rabbi Dani ('04YUHS) and Rabbi Elie ('05YUHS, '06R) announce the birth of a daughter, Melo.

Rabbi Adam ('04YUHS) and Rabbi Tzvia ('04YUHS) announce the birth of a daughter, Dina.

Rabbi Mendel ('06YUHS) and Rabbi Jessica ('08YUHS) announce the birth of a son, Shaya.

Rabbi Shira ('07YUHS, '10R) and Rabbi Shlomo ('08YUHS, '10R) announce the birth of a daughter, Dina.

Rabbi Daniel ('09YUHS, '12R) and Rabbi Shira ('10YUHS, '12R) announce the birth of a daughter, Aliza.

Rabbi Shari ('10YUHS, '13R) and Rabbi Shalom ('11YUHS, '13R) announce the birth of a daughter, Moshe.

Rabbi Joshua ('11YUHS, '13R) and Rabbi Shana ('12YUHS, '14R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.

Rabbi Yehuda ('12YUHS, '14R) and Rabbi Shira ('13YUHS, '15R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.

Rabbi Jeremy ('13B) and Rabbi Aviva ('15YUHS, '17R) announce the birth of a daughter, Lila.

Rabbi Daniel ('14YUHS) and Rabbi Shira ('16YUHS, '18R) announce the birth of a daughter, Batya.

Rabbi Joseph ('15R) and Rabbi Shira ('17YUHS, '19R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.

Rabbi Shira ('16YUHS, '18R) and Rabbi Shalom ('18YUHS, '20R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.

Rabbi Shira ('17YUHS, '19R) and Rabbi Shalom ('19YUHS, '21R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.

Rabbi Daniel ('18YUHS, '20R) and Rabbi Shira ('20YUHS, '22R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.

Rabbi Jeremy ('19YUHS, '21R) and Rabbi Shira ('21YUHS, '23R) announce the birth of a daughter, Malka.
We want to hear your ideas for programming in your region. Contact Illana Feiglin at 212.960.5209.

Events from Coast to Coast Bring Alumni Together

YU’s Office of Alumni Affairs was buzzing with activity throughout the spring. From coast to coast, there was plenty of opportunity for alumni to come together to renew their connections with each other and with the University.

REUNION OFFERS A DAY TO REMEMBER

Old friendships were rekindled and new ones were sparked during the reunion for the classes of 1960, 1970 and 1985. Highlights of the day included a tour of the Yeshiva University Museum followed by a celebratory dinner. President Richard M. Joel shared updates with the crowd and enjoyed an open dialogue with Tirtza Spiegel ’11S and Joseph Offenbacher ’10YC, discussing their time at YU and their future plans.

“Thank you, YU, for all of the wonderful memories. Everyone donated generously and we’re so honored to be able to give back to our alma mater.”

Rabbi Abraham “Avi” Robinson ’01YC, ’07A, ’08R, received the Loretaa Smith Scholarship from Boston University School of Law. The scholarship is awarded to a single summer intern at the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, and reserved for a second-year law student with high academic credentials who is committed to public service.

The February 18 edition of JWeekly highlighted Simone Wofl’s 2005 leadership of the San Francisco Shabbat Connection, an organization she started that hosts large Shabbat social events for Jews in their 20s and 30s.

We mourn the loss of the following:

Rabbi Moshe Carmel-Wienerberg, former professor of Jewish studies

Daniel Chernikoff ’85B

Rabbi Bernard “Baruch” Pupako ’39Y, ’41R

Rabbi Samuel W. Rubenstein ’40YC, ’41R

The Spring 2010 edition of Class Notes incorrectly noted the loss of Rabbi David Blum ’95YC. ’95R. Rabbi Blum is alive and well and extraordinarily understanding!

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YU ON THE WEST COAST

In May, a Lag B’omer barbecue hosted by Judy ’01S and Arhy Goldberg ’01SB, and a dessert reception hosted by Helen and Steven Usdan ’92S, launched an L.A. Regional Council. Guests enjoyed the company of their fellow graduates while learning how to get more involved with local alumni efforts.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for an evening of fashion and glamour, hosted by Teri Jon and Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry, in support of the Stern College for Women scholarship campaign.

OCTOBER 12, 2010 • 7 P.M.
Yeshiva University Museum • The Center for Jewish History 15 West 16th Street • New York, NY 10011
For more information call 212.960.5422.

Professor Zev (10YC) and Shari (Shannin) Kolber ’07S announce the birth of a daughter, Aviva Yosef, to grandparents Arhy Goldberg ’01S and Steven Usdan ’92Y.

Dr. Dina and Rabbi Barry Kornblau ’07R celebrate the bar mitzvah of their son, Elan.

Rachel (Kings) ’05SB and Daniel Kravac ’07S announce the birth of a son, Elian.

Elena (101YH), ’14S, and Rabbi Naphtali Lavenda ’43B, ’10R announce the birth of a son, Ethan.

Rachel Gil (1978) and Melissa Perl ’01S, ’10BR announce the birth of a son.

Rabbi Uriel (105V) and Aviva (Srotch) Rabanowitz ’05 announce the birth of a son, Yomalan Shalom.

Ayo Samuels ’81B presented his research and education project at the annual Global Health Consortium conference in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Active with Physicians for Human Rights in Tel Aviv and the West Bank, Ayol received the Distinguished Service Award for her volunteer efforts to coordinate housing for families of patients at Ben-Gurion University’s Soroka University Medical Center in 2009.

Rachel (Coss) ’05R and Rabbi Simcha Schuam ’00H, ’08BR announce the birth of a daughter, Ayadel Rut.

Scott Shulman ’95S of Columbus, OH, married Deena Rendel of Forest Hills, NY.

Rabbi Joshua Shutowitz ’11S, ’15R was recognized in the March 4 edition of The Wall Street Journal for his leadership at Adath Israel in San Francisco. Using outreach efforts like Super Bowl parties, a “Jewish Ethics and the Internet” conference held at the headquarters of Twitter and lunchtime shiurim, his shul’s congregation has more than tripled in size.

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