

THE COMMENTATOR

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Sivan Rahav Meir Comes to YU, Bridging Two Cultures

By SARAH BEN-NUN

Renowned Israeli Torah scholar and journalist Sivan Rahav Meir is joining Yeshiva University as a lecturer and staff member for the next 10 months. Throughout the year, she plans to deeply connect to and understand the YU community through spreading *Torat Eretz Yisrael* and uniquely contributing to the campus environment, and to the rest of the community at large.

"I want to learn from them," Rahav Meir says about the students. "I think we can learn something from young, professional, smart, sophisticated, modern people who [learn Torah] in Manhattan. I'm impressed."

Rabbi Dr. Stu Halpern, the Senior Program Officer of YU's Straus Center, assured that her schedule is packed with events and lectures for the YU community. In fact, these events have already begun.

On the evening of Sept. 3, approximately 150 people settled into the Koch auditorium for a panel featuring Rahav Meir and Bari Weiss of the New York Times, moderated by Tablet journalist Liel Leibovitz. The evening was titled "Days of Awe, Days of Anti-Semitism: The High Holidays and the Challenges of our Era."

The bridging of Israel and America was

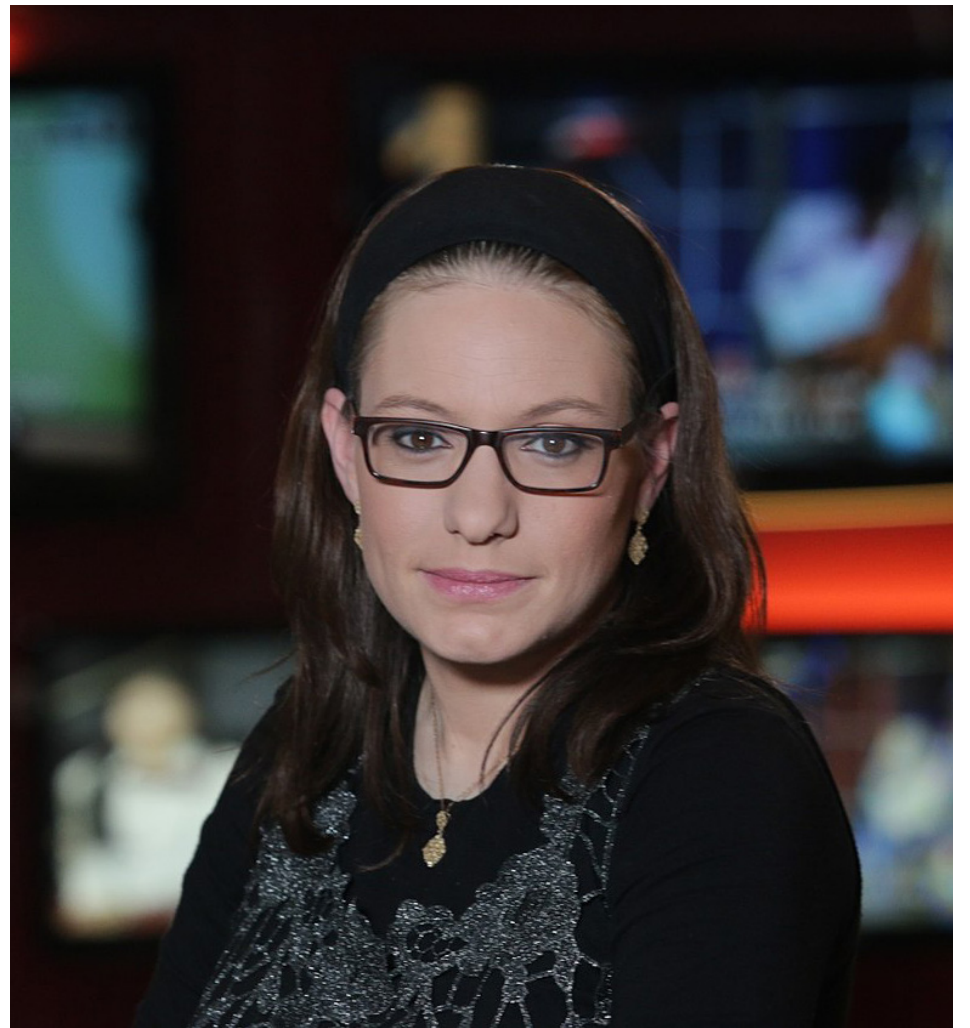
a recurring theme throughout the evening, and it is something Rahav Meir is eager to deepen. "I know how important it is to study Torah in Eretz Yisrael," she said. "I see it as a challenge [to learn from people] who know how to be Torah people, in the American society ... although we have a Jewish state, we still need Jewish communities."

Rahav Meir and her husband, Yedidya, are *shlichim* from the World Mizrachi organization. World Mizrachi partners with other organizations to form the Religious Zionist Shlichut Center, an umbrella organization that sends emissaries to Diaspora communities all over the world.

"When World Mizrachi approached us with an idea to bring Sivan and her family on shlichut to the US for the year," said Stephanie Strauss, executive director of YU Israel, "it was clear to us that such a collaboration would be the perfect way for Sivan to engage the U.S. Jewish community." Strauss was one of the initiators in this partnership. "Having a successful career woman share *Torat Eretz Yisrael* with her unique, charismatic approach is an exciting gift to share with the YU community," Strauss added.

Currently, office hours are being set up

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Sivan Rahav Meir on television

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Neo-Nazi Forum Posts Photos of YU Students and Staff

By COMMENTATOR
STAFF

Editor's Note: This article was originally published online on August 30.

Photos featuring hundreds of former and current YU students and faculty members were published on the Vanguard News Network (VNN) forum, a white supremacist platform that identifies as an "uncensored forum for whites." YU Campus Security called the content "appalling and offensive" and informed students that they had found "no direct threat to the individuals appearing in the photos or to Yeshiva University."

While the discussions on the forum generally revolve around mocking Jews, a handful of pages are dedicated to ridiculing members of the YU community alone. The discussion thread concerning YU students and staff started around May 2018, and the pictures appear

to have been taken from public sources, such as YU's Flickr page.

VNN is run by Alex Linder, a former member of the neo-Nazi organization National Alliance. Linder is a known leader of

"Security team has investigated and found no direct threat to the individuals appearing in the photos or to Yeshiva University."

YU Campus Security

white supremacist protests and was arrested in 2007 for attacking a police officer during a neo-Nazi rally. VNN's motto, "No Jews. Just Right.," mirrors

the anti-Semitic sentiments of the forum, as Jews are referred to as rat-like and blood-thirsty beings, and popular tags on the forum include "Jewish nose" and "Jews inbreeding." One user on the forum called the international Hillel organization "a group of Jewish supremacist thugs," and another referred to a Holocaust survivor as an "alleged Shlomocaust survivor."

The Commentator discovered these photos after receiving a tip from a staff writer who works for The Justice, Brandeis University's independent student newspaper. According to The Justice, Brandeis Police are working with the FBI to investigate the matter and reported that there is no immediate threat to the community. The Justice reported that "the investigation into the posts is ongoing and Public Safety is monitoring the forum."

Shortly after the Brandeis investigation became known to the public, VNN forum users

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College Dems Plan Uptown March for LGBTQ Rights

By ZIPPY SPANJER

The YU College Democrats plan to hold a march in Washington Heights demanding LGBTQ equality on Sunday, Sept. 15 in conjunction with Eshel, Jewish Queer Youth and other related activist organizations. Slated to begin with a demonstration at Bennett Park, the march to the uptown Wilf Campus will be followed by a rally in front of the Gottesman Library.

Organizers and student activists are demanding that President Berman condemn and investigate homophobic comments and actions on YU campuses, the Office of Student Life refrain from rejecting LGBTQ-related events and speakers, an administrator be appointed to oversee diversity and inclusiveness on campus, an orientation session be held on LGBTQ tolerance and a clearly-identified Gay-Straight Alliance Club be allowed to open on campus.

"LGBTQ+ students have decided to host this rally to raise awareness towards the lack of dignity, visibility, and respect granted towards

the LGBTQ+ community at YU," said Molly Meisels, president of YU College Democrats. "They have been denied a LGBTQ+ club/organization, are limited in hosting LGBTQ+-oriented events, and have no resources. This has isolated LGBTQ+ community members, having them fear the repercussions of appearing openly LGBTQ+. This march is designed to show that LGBTQ+ students do not happen to attend YU, but *are* YU."

The speaking lineup for the rally includes Rabbi Steven Greenberg, director of Eshel; Dr. Joy Ladin of SCW's English Department; Justin Spiro, a social worker and LGBTQ advocate; and Courtney Marks, a current SCW student and member of the LGBTQ community.

Dr. Ladin, a long-time professor at Stern College, believes that this march is a turning point for the university. "When I began teaching at Stern in 2003," remarked Ladin, "not only was such an event unimaginable; it was years before I was aware there were any LGBTQ students at YU. It takes tremendous

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THE COMMENTATOR

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reflection of Yeshiva student life to the broader
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Your Voice is Vital to the Success of YU

By AVI HIRSCH

At the heart of our mission at The Commentator lies the fundamental belief that an informed and engaged student body is necessary to the success of our university. When students take an active role in reading, discussing and contributing to the news and opinions found in this paper, their voices have the potential to be heard by those with the power to cause positive change.

Our readers' vested interest in YU's success, as well as our own, is born out of our shared experiences at this school, our desire to see ourselves thrive in this environment and our recognition of and gratitude for the good YU has done for us. And it is this shared interest that ought to compel us, as concerned "citizens" of this university, to involve ourselves in our school's affairs in whatever ways we can, with the goal of bettering this institution.

But when students at YU care enough to try to change it, they are often faced with a challenging task. YU is not perfect. It can be stubborn and reluctant to change. Initiatives that seem simple and straightforward are slowed to a crawl by layers of bureaucracy, while administrators that sit in buildings a short walk from each other can waste months trying and failing to communicate their views on a plan of action with one another. It is this bleak picture that leads many students to give up hope of ever making meaningful progress in fixing the parts of YU they see as broken.

Last year, while researching an article on the state of recycling at YU, I spent months searching for answers to a few basic questions: Does YU recycle? Where is the recycling stored? I spoke with administration members ranging from housekeeping staff to the heads of facilities and operations at the university.

I had planned for the article to be written in a week or two; it ended up taking months to complete. I don't know if the numerous contradictions I was told were caused by a failure of communication

between those responsible for recycling on campus, or if they were intended to hide the dismal state of recycling from my prying eyes; either way, the process dragged on.

But I noticed something strange happening as the piece was nearing completion. A NYC recycling sticker appeared on a bin in the basement of Belfer Hall where recycling was supposed to have been stored. Bags of cardboard began to be stored in that same area, and a week after the article was published, a sign read-

individual demands, this protest, like many others in YU history, comes after a long and arduous process for those students who cared enough to speak up about what they saw as an injustice. There is no guarantee that the march will be any more successful than their past efforts. But there is already evidence that the administration feels pressured to do *something*. In an interview with The Commentator (page 11), President Berman announced the formation of a dedicated team of "rabbis and educators," led by Senior Vice President

Dr. Josh Joseph, to address "matters of inclusion ... which includes LGBTQ+." For the march organizers, this is only a small step forward, but it comes after months of constant pressure and dialogue with the YU administration.

Generating change at YU isn't easy, but the challenges inherent in shaping YU into a better place make it so much more important for all students, not just student leaders, to be involved in this process. YU is supposed to support freshmen as well as seniors; it ought to facilitate the success of a philosophy major as much as a marketing major, a JSS student as much as a rabbinical student. As such, every student ought to play a role in representing their own interests at YU, whether by meeting privately with administrators to express their perspective or by passionately speaking out for real and meaningful change.

The Commentator's mission is, in part, to serve as a platform for all students at YU to make their voices heard. But this platform is just *one* tool that students can take advantage of as part of the continuing process of pushing YU forward. Lasting results most often come about through purposeful, long-term, concerted efforts. Staying resolute in the face of pushback can be tough, but it is ultimately vital to the success of YU.

ing "GARBAGE ONLY NO RECYCLE" was fastened to the trash compactor's gate.

These admittedly minor changes happened because of the constant pressure exerted on those who had the power to change things. This is the most effective avenue for progress. Complaints exchanged between friends in the university cafeteria, usually directed at the abstract concept of "YU," do nothing but increase resentment for this institution. Scathing opinion pieces can be cathartic and often generate controversy, but are also, more often than not, counterproductive — angering those in charge and generating tension between the administration and the student body that hinders progress.

Internal pressure will not always be effective. Over the course of last year, members of student council pressured President Berman and other administrators to release a statement addressing LGBTQ+ issues on campus. Despite months of dialogue, the effort was ultimately fruitless. The upcoming "March for LGBTQ+ Representation," organized by the YU College Democrats, was the next step for students frustrated by inaction on this front. Five demands, issued by the march organizers, point to specific ways they believe YU can be made a more inviting place for those LGBTQ+ students who feel unwelcome.

Putting aside the merits of their

*Complaints exchanged between friends in the
university cafeteria, usually directed at the
abstract concept of "YU," do nothing but increase
resentment for this institution.*

1 Welcome BBQ

Shoutout to the guy who wrote "Please sit with the opposite gender!" on the pavement. #solvethecrisis

2 "Coming out" on the Confessions page

I've always wanted to meet Gedalia. If this is my only chance, I'll take it. #mazaltov

3 The G7 summit

Trump and Merkel bRoKE ShoMeR NegiAh! Melania gazed at Justin! This summit is almost as bad as miXeD daNcinG!

4 AJR

Just some quality *bochrim* who sing *gevaldige* tunes such as "*Shvach*," "Wow, I'm Not Meshugge," "Break My Ponim," and "100 Schlechte Teig."

5 Floor 3a

Will never be the same without its trusty Kenneth G. Bosbrowe. I miss that guy.

6 Holocaust survivor receives over a thousand cards from all over the world for his 100th birthday

I guess social media is not such a bad thing after all

7 Brazilian Gang Leader Attempts to Escape Prison Disguised as His Daughter

Fundamentals of How to Reach the Back Lounge in Brookdale. Fall 2019, YC.

7 UP 7 DOWN

BY ELISHEVA KOHN

1 "So sorry, I'd rather not give a quote to The Commentator"

... because it will shatter my shidduch prospects.

2 Missionary Alert on Ave J

Shkoiach, Vosizneias, for the quality reporting on breaking news. Maybe this column will make you realize we exist? It's not like our real articles got your attention...

3 The Sound of Music

Ja, I've heard of it. Nein, I don't want to sing with you.

4 Identity Crisis

Shoutout to all the Elisheva Cohens out there, as well as Eli Cohn, Elli Kohn, Eli Cohen, Sasha Baron Cohen, Elisabeth Kohn, and Lizzie #help

5 New Shuttle App

It's almost like the *Beresheet* of YU, only it's pink and caused more disappointment.

6 Pope Francis Gets Stuck In Elevator For 25 Minutes, Arrives Late For Sunday Address

I didn't know His Excellency went to Stern?!

7 I lost the game

Yes, it may be connected to game theory, but it will always represent the epitome of stupidity to me. Also, y'all just lost the game. Muahahahahahaha..

LGBT RIGHTS,
continued from Front Page

courage and integrity to come out, be visible, and still remain part of a community, an institution, and a religious tradition, in which binary gender and heterosexuality are not only norms but celebrated as sacred. I hope this march will show other LGBTQ YU students and Orthodox Jews that they are not alone and that they don't have to choose between affirming their identities as Jews and being true to their gender identities and sexual orientations. That is a powerful teaching for everyone: that we can be true to all of who we are, to all of what we are created to be."

While both Ladin and Marks ascribe to the LGBTQ community, Marks is one of the few "out" students on campus. "When I first came to Stern, I felt alone and alienated because I felt there was no space for me," Marks said. "Being so visibly out is never easy, but especially being out and hearing people make comments or professors/rabbis saying there is something wrong with people like me. I always say I don't want a girl or guy or anyone in between to come here in a decade and wonder why no one fought for them."

But not all students are in favor of the march. One student, commenting on condition of anonymity, stated that "while every person has a right to think for themselves, one does not have the right to force one's ideas upon others and forcing a Torah-observant institution to endorse conduct which is unambiguously condemned in the Jewish tradition flies in the face of the respect for Torah and the very authority of Halacha which should be expected of an event which the university is asked to support."

*"I always say I don't want a girl or
guy or anyone in between to come
here in a decade and wonder why no
one fought for them."*

Courtney Marks (SCW '21)

Another student, who also commented on the condition of anonymity, stated, "People have the right to express their views. That being said, people should make sure to have respect for an Orthodox *yeshiva* as well as make sure not to disrupt others."

Though the march is being spearheaded by the YU College Democrats, it is not sanctioned by the university. "The march was planned independently of the University and didn't follow the protocol for events on campus," said Doron Stern, YU's vice president of communications. "Yeshiva University has a responsibility to all its students to ensure they feel safe and welcome and that our campuses are places where each student's individuality is respected."

"While the march testifies to tremendous progress at YU, I know that we still have a long way to go before we embrace and support LGBTQ students," Ladin said. "But I think — I hope — that we will look back one day and see that this march was a turning point. I feel honored to be part of it."



The Glueck Center on the Wilf Campus

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*SIVAN RAHAV MEIR,
continued from Front Page*

for students to have one-on-one time to connect with Rahav Meir, communicated Rabbi Dr. Halpern via email. Additionally, her famed weekly *parsha shiurim* will be broadcast live from the Stern Beit Midrash, in both English and Hebrew.

The *parsha shiur* is broadcast live on the internet where Rahav Meir reaches over 179,000 followers. Zahava Fertig (SCW '21) was present at Rahav Meir's first U.S. based

weekly shiur. "I had previously heard Sivan speak while I was in seminary for the year," she explained. "I knew she was a well known, well respected and intelligent person and

I was interested in hearing what she had to say."

Drawing crowds from in and out of YU, the *shiur* focused on repetitive words in the

"They [the students] are involved, in a very deep way, in American culture, in Western thought, yet really serious when it comes to Judaism. I want to listen to their story."

—
Sivan Rahav Meir

parsha which allowed her to illuminate a profound understanding of the *parsha*. "She is an excellent orator," said Chana Weinberg (SCW '20). "She kept on referring to relatable situations. It was full of a clear passion for *Torah* and *Yahadut*."

"They [the students] are involved, in a very deep way, in American culture, in Western thought, yet really serious when it comes to Judaism," Rahav Meir said. "I want to listen to their story."

*NEO NAZI FORUM,
continued from Front Page*

started posting comments mocking the institution. One user commented, "We're just shaking in our socks, Juden!!!!!!"

Pictures of the YU community appeared after numerous pages that were dedicated to posting photos of the faces of Jews. Users primarily targeted women for looking "too manly." The debate revolving Jews' physical appearance was sparked by an article posted in The Jewish Chronicle, in which a Jewish journalist expressed her horror when her plastic surgeon explained that he could make her nose "more beautiful, less Jewish and unattractive." In response to this article, VNN users proceeded to post various pictures they could find online that featured Jewish women. A number of users also added information about these women, such as their profession and academic background.

VNN users targeted members from all corners of the YU community. The forum features photos of MTA and Central students, as well as Presidents Berman and Joel. Jews of all ages were subject to VNN's mockery; there are countless photos of babies, couples and the elderly on the thread.

Students who discovered their pictures online were very distressed by what they saw. One Stern student featured on the forum commented that "it is very concerning that something like this is developing so quickly, especially in the United States." Being featured on a neo-Nazi website made her feel "vulnerable and small." As a proud Jewish American, she was disturbed that she was being "targeted" as a member of "a people and a religion."

YU Campus Security issued a public statement on Aug. 30 in which they informed the student body that the "Security team has investigated and found no direct threat to the individuals appearing in the photos or to Yeshiva University." Security urged students to "ignore the site and not seek it out or visit it since experts advise that individuals of this nature seek attention."

Dr. Jess Olson, an Associate Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, noted, "These comments on images of individuals in our community are sadly and unacceptably a well-worn motif historically in anti-Semitic rhetoric and iconography. It is an embarrassment to our country that we have arrived at a place that such ideas are flaunted with impunity."

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, a SCW Professor and expert in American Jewish History and religion in America, maintains that he is not "overly concerned about what this means for Jews in the long run." He emphasized his trust in university officials and advised that students and faculty be "vigilant" while they go about their "business in studying and learning."

An FBI spokesman declined to issue a statement on the matter. As of press time, representatives for the NYPD and Manhattan District Attorney's office did not return The Commentator's requests for comment on the matter.



Yeshiva University's Wilf Campus

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

University Sued by Nearly 40 Former Students Alleging Abuse

By YITZCHAK CARROLL

Editor's Note: This article was originally published online on August 25.

Yeshiva University was sued by 38 former students who alleged they were sexually abused by school staff, as administrators turned a blind eye. The lawsuit — filed on the heels of a one-year look-back window provided by a new state law — names YU, its Marsha Stern Talmudic Academy (MTA) High School for Boys, board of trustees, former Chancellor Rabbi Norman Lamm and former Vice President Rabbi Robert Hirt as defendants.

Filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, former MTA students Mordechai Twersky, Barry Singer, Jay Goldberg, David Bressler and Zachary Belil, as well as 33 anonymous plaintiffs alleged inappropriate sexual contact by former principal Rabbi George Finkelstein and former teacher Rabbi Macy Gordon, among other MTA staff members. The 120-page complaint also claims that YU and MTA officials knowingly covered up the abuse and failed to protect its students.

Finkelstein and Gordon have both denied the allegations against them. Gordon died in 2017, and Finkelstein currently resides in Israel.

A similar lawsuit against YU was dismissed by an appeals court in 2014, which

ruled that the suit was brought following the expiration of the statute of limitations. However, the Child Victims Act, which was passed by the New York State Legislature earlier this year, expands the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse cases,

The 120-page complaint also claims that YU and MTA officials knowingly covered up the abuse and failed to protect its students.

while also providing a one-year “look-back window” to bring claims that had been previously barred under the prior law. The lawsuit, which was filed on Aug. 22, comes nearly one week after the look-back window opened on Aug. 14.

A YU spokesperson declined to comment on the matter, citing the nature of pending litigation.

As reported by The Commentator in the spring, Rockland County-based attorney Kevin Mulhearn is representing the plaintiffs. As of press time, Mulhearn did not respond to The Commentator’s request for comment.



Governor Cuomo with the signed chapter of the Child Victims Act, which makes it easier for child sexual abuse victims to sue their abusers.

NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

Aleeza Katz Elected SCWSC President in Second Redo Election

By YOSHI ZIMLOVER

Aleeza Katz (SCW ‘20) was elected Stern College for Women Student Council (SCWSC) President on Thursday, Sept. 5 in the second redo of the Spring 2019 elections. The original election on May 2 was first postponed to May 6 “due to a lack of clarity in campaign policy,” according to the Canvassing Committee. That special election yielded no results after both candidates were disqualified.

Although they were allowed to run again, the two previously disqualified candidates

“I decided to run for the position of SCWSC President because I want to be a leader in creating a more welcoming environment that serves our needs and allows us to feel at peace in our home away from home.”

Aleeza Katz, SCWSC President

declined to run in this election, and Katz ran unopposed. The election was administered by the Office of Student Life under parameters that did not fall under the old or

newly-ratified Beren student Constitution, The Observer reported, since the new Constitution will only go into effect after the conclusion of the SCWSC presidential

election.

In the other result of the election, Nina Anina (SCW ‘23) was elected SCWSC Freshman Representative.

Katz commented, “I decided to run for the position of SCWSC President because I want to be a leader in creating a more welcoming environment that serves our needs and allows us to feel at peace in our home away from home.” She added that she is “excited to work with the other members of SCWSC to plan exciting events that will bring Stern students together on various occasions throughout the year.”

Career Center Creates New Opportunities for Students

By TZIONA KAMARA

The Career Center at Yeshiva College has announced new programs and initiatives for this year. CAPS, which stands for “Connections and Partnerships for Success,” is the overarching Career Center initiative dedicated to ensuring that students have a place to turn to for leadership opportunities and to become a part of an ever-growing network that will guide their career path. Susan Bauer, executive director of the Career Center, explained that the ultimate goal is to “create opportunities to build future leaders.”

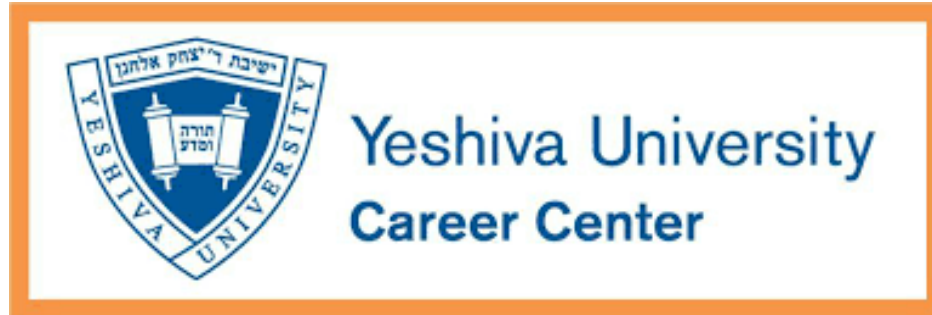
Currently, YU-MVP is in the testing phase, with the help of a controlled group of sophomore finance students.

It is with this goal in mind that the Career Center has developed a number of new programs to be launched soon. One such program is YU-MVP. MVP is a Mentoring Volunteer Program that aims to connect students with alumni who can advise them and help them find internship

and career opportunities. To do this, the Career Center has adopted an online platform, PeopleGrove, on which students and alumni fill out a profile about themselves, and an algorithm finds a number of alumni that students can connect with. Before a student can be entered into the system, they must attend an hour-long onboarding session, which will be held once a week on both the Beren and Wilf campuses, where they will learn how the system works and the proper

The Career Center also hopes to launch a similar program for current upper-level students to advise first time on campus peers in September 2020.

Another new program, which is slated to be launched this November, is the Employer-in-Residence (EIR) program. Each month, the Career Center will choose two employers from an industry, one for the Beren campus and one for the Wilf campus. The chosen industry will be based on student interest.



The YU Career Center

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

protocol for correspondence.

Currently, YU-MVP is in the testing phase, with the help of a controlled group of sophomore finance students. The testing will end in November and the program will be launched to all Sy Syms, Stern College and Yeshiva College students in early 2020.

The employers from the selected industry will be available for a portion of the day on campus to meet personally with any students who would like guidance and to learn more about that industry.

Additionally, programs are being developed to give current students more

opportunities to play a unique role in the Career Center. One such program is the Career Liaisons program, which will train students to help fellow students with essential career-related tasks, such as writing resumes and cover letters and creating a LinkedIn profile. This program is designed to create an environment of “students leading students to success,” as Bauer puts it.

Similarly, the new Student Ambassador program will enable students to help not only themselves but other students as well. Inspired by a student who was appointed to lead a group of students on a site visit to Google, the Career Center is allowing students to apply to be Student Ambassadors. If accepted, a student will work with the Career Center to plan a site visit related to their field of interest. Student Ambassadors have an incredible opportunity to build meaningful professional connections, and even to land a job, while also extending this opportunity to fellow students.

With these new programs, all under the CAPS initiative, the Career Center hopes, as its executive director says, “not just to find jobs and internships for students, but to connect students to people and opportunities that can help them build their own futures.”

YU President, Senior Executive Salaries Released

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

Editor's Note: This article was originally published online on May 26.

Yeshiva University's 2017 Form 990 was submitted to the IRS and obtained by The Commentator. The form disclosed the compensation of Dr. Ari Berman for his first calendar year as president of the university, marking the first available disclosure of his salary since he entered office on July 1, 2017.

Dr. Berman's total compensation was listed as more than \$582,000. A precise salary figure could not be obtained because the reported amount of \$582,000 was for the 10-month period from March 2017 until December 2017. The form further states that “Berman is provided with the use of a home as a parsonage and to properly discharge his required duties.” The house is located in Teaneck, New Jersey and was purchased in June 2018 for \$1.8 million.

Dr. Berman's approximate compensation ranks him among the top 100 highest paid university executives, according to a 2018 report from The Chronicle of Higher Education. This is in contrast to former President Richard Joel's salary, which averaged \$1.16 million between 2009 and 2016. In 2013, Mr. Joel was paid \$2.5 million, which rendered him the fourth-highest-paid executive among private colleges that year.

This year's form still includes former President Richard Joel and the remainder of his deferred compensation, which totaled slightly more than \$2.1 million. A university spokesperson explained that “deferred compensation is a common part of compensation packages for university presidents. Each year the annual deferred compensation amounts were reported in our previous Form 990 filings. IRS Form 990 reporting requires that deferred compensation be reported twice – double counted – once in the year it was

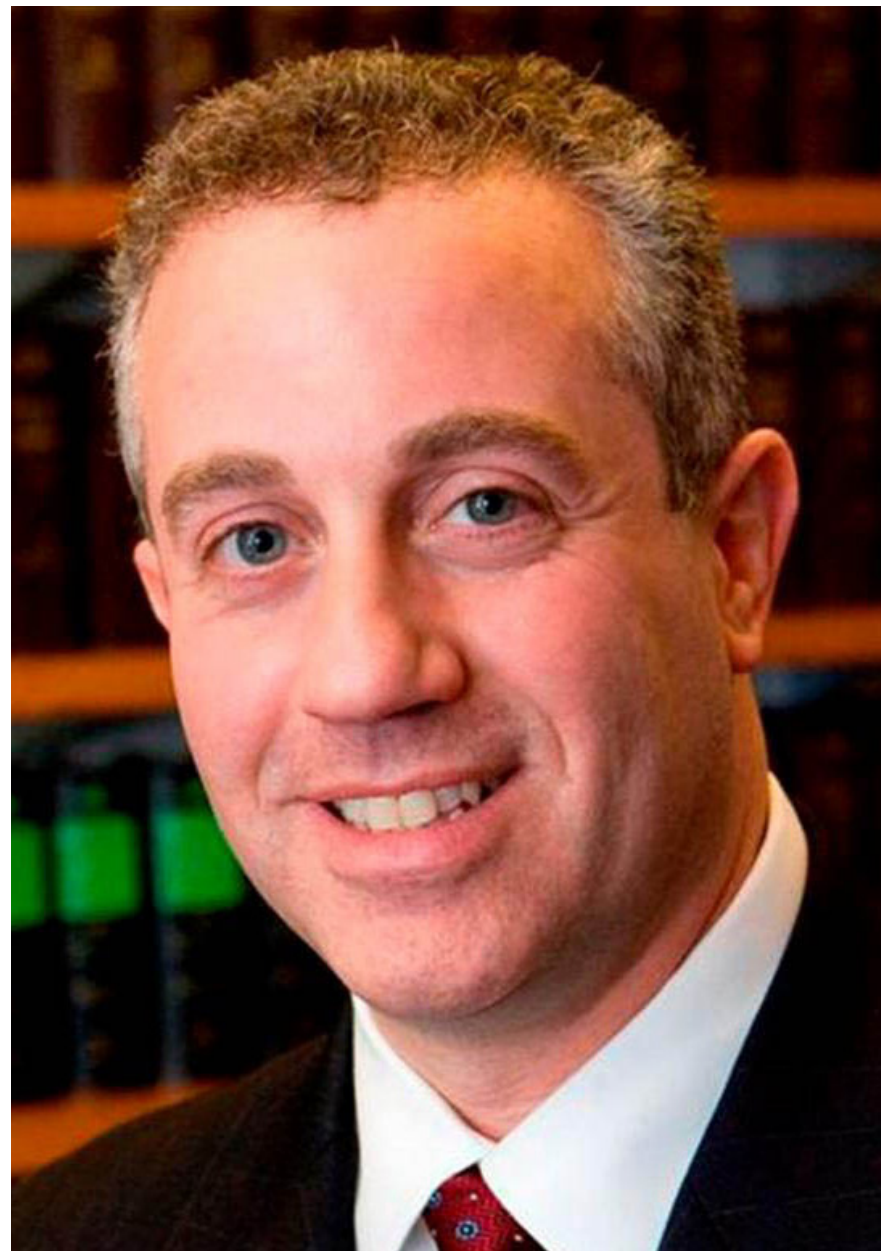
earned and then again when it vests.”

Other officers listed on the form include Senior Vice President Joshua Joseph, who earned a total of \$474,949, including a “parsonage allowance” of \$61,022.

“Dr. Berman's approximate compensation ranks him among the top 100 highest paid university executives, according to a 2018 report from The Chronicle of Higher Education.”

Jacob Harman, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Business Affairs, received compensation totaling \$588,065. Provost Selma Botman was paid \$360,016. Alyssa Herman, the former VP of Institutional Advancement, was paid \$195,771, and Andrew Lauer, Vice President for Legal Affairs, Secretary and General Counsel, took home \$751,971 in compensation. Notably, Albert Einstein College of Medicine executives were only partially included in this year's filing as they are now primarily paid from a different entity as part of YU's Joint Collaboration Agreement with Montefiore Health System.

YU's annual Form 990 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and running until June 30, 2018 was submitted to the IRS on May 15. The Form 990 is an IRS document that is required to be filed by all 501(c)(3) organizations to publicly disclose their finances. All Form 990s are available publicly and are posted online after processing by the IRS. Form 990s are also available for public inspection pursuant to IRS regulations.



Vice President for Legal Affairs Andrew Lauer took home more than \$750,000 in compensation, according to YU's tax records.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY SPEAKERS BUREAU

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Yeshiva University

Katz School Rebrands, Mulls New PA Program



Katz School Dean Dr. Paul Russo

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

By YITZCHAK CARROLL

YU's Katz School has rebranded and expanded, and is now considering adding a physician assistant program, The Commentator has learned.

Katz, formally known as the Katz School of Science and Health to reflect its hands-on approach to learning, has launched several new masters programs in cybersecurity as

internships to clinical externships to research opportunities. "Last semester, 10 Katz graduate students from data analytics, quantitative economics and mathematics participated in a proprietary research project for Standard & Poor's Global to identify early signs of financial market disruptions, while a dozen of our speech-language pathology students traveled around Brooklyn and the Bronx diagnosing and treating early childhood and adolescent speech disorders," Russo said.

The Commentator also discovered job postings online seeking a program director to lead a new graduate physician assistant program at the Katz School.

well as digital marketing and media. The school's data analytics and visualization program has been moved to an online platform to better service working professions, according to Katz School Dean Dr. Paul Russo, who also serves as Vice Provost at YU.

The Commentator also discovered job postings online seeking a program director to lead a new graduate physician's assistant program at the Katz School. Two-year physician's assistant graduate programs are a sought-after opportunity for students interested in pre-health professions. Russo declined to comment on the program.

Katz's programs will emphasize "learning by doing" in a variety of areas — from

Additionally, a virtual cadaver lab, as well as labs specializing in activities of daily living and the internet of things systems, are in the works. This fall, the cybersecurity program is launching a new "cyber range" to provide realistic simulation training in defending against cyberattacks, in partnership with an Israeli-based startup.

The new graduate programs, which The Commentator previously reported on in the spring, come on the heels of Katz's expansion. Katz's Pathways Program grants graduating YU students a half-tuition scholarship, while in some cases, allowing current YU seniors to take Katz graduate courses.

Stern's Jewish Studies Anticipating Major Changes

By SRULI FRUCHTER

After over 30 years of running SCW's Jewish Studies Department, Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel has stepped down. Dr. Deena Rabinovich, professor of Jewish Education at SCW, was appointed to fill his position.

Rabbi Kanarfogel is the founding director of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at Stern College and currently serves as the department's chair. In a statement to The Commentator about his departure, Rabbi Kanarfogel explained, "Dean Bacon and I had begun a while back to discuss the possibility of my stepping away from the administrative side of things in order

to allow me to expend my fullest efforts on the other weighty and demanding aspects of what I am privileged to do."

Students take three Jewish Studies courses per semester which are then averaged as one grade on the transcript.

Over time, the Jewish Studies department has garnered its appropriate credence, but given the recent turnover in leadership, the current system could be anticipating dramatic change.

According to the SCW website, "The Jewish Studies requirement on campus consists of six semesters of Core studies and fourteen additional credits in a medley of Bible, Hebrew, Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy and Judaic Studies courses."

While Dr. Rabinovich formally assumed the role of Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at the beginning of the semester, she has been working on other elements of the program throughout the summer. As the new chair,

Dr. Rabinovich said, "At some point soon, there will be a change to 'core' — the system which organizes most of the Jewish studies requirements at Stern — and that will necessitate some major changes. What changes will be made will be something I will be working on this year together with the administration and faculty." Dr. Rabinovich confirmed that Hebrew courses will no longer fulfill Core requirements.

According to Dr. Rabinovich, Stern students can expect a smooth transition that accommodates their varying skill and learning levels. She remarked that she is "looking to develop a scope and sequence for the classes," explaining that she is "working with the faculty to help articulate the different levels so that it will help streamline the movement from one level to the other. The levels have existed, but by defining what content and skills are necessary components for each level it will help students as they transition from one to the next."

Additionally, SCW has created a new position of Associate Dean of Torah & Spiritual Life in order to unify the various departments that attend to the Jewish element of Stern; a more detailed description can be found on the career page of Yeshiva University. According to Dr. Rabinovich, the dean would make programming "more cohesive" between the Jewish Studies department, Graduate Programming in Advanced Talmudic Studies, Director of Spiritual Guidance and the campus' Rabbinic Couple. The search committee for filling this position is still in the process of interviewing candidates, but Dr. Rabinovich said she is looking forward to "collaborating with the new dean to help strengthen the Beren campus in terms of its Torah study."



Stern College for Women

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President Berman shared his vision for the new year with Commentator staff.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Interview with President Berman

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

Editor's Note: The Commentator was given an opportunity to conduct an email interview with President Berman at the beginning of the new school year. Our questions, with Dr. Berman's written responses, can be found below.

What improvements have you made to the university for the upcoming school year that should excite the student body as they return to class?

It is an exciting time at YU with lots of new developments.

I am happy to announce the creation of the Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Through a major gift by Holocaust survivor and distinguished philanthropist Emil A. Fish, the Center will serve as the central hub for the wide expanse of Holocaust education resources throughout the University, and will feature a certificate program and interdisciplinary master's degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, incorporating history, Jewish studies, literature, law, philosophy, and social work.

We are also excited to launch the expanded and enhanced Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought through a major new gift by Zahava and Moshael Straus. The Center, led by its distinguished director Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveitchik, will provide new opportunities for our students to be enriched by our current YU faculty, as well as learn from distinguished visiting faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and guest lecturers, including — on the Beren Campus this semester — world-renowned scholar and best-selling author

Dara Horn.

In the areas of science and tech, we are constantly advancing new opportunities for our students, including enhancing our graduate pathways and programs. We have restructured our school of graduate studies into the Katz School of Science and Health and have been opening new Master's programs in the most attractive fields, giving our undergraduate students the ability to accelerate their studies and leave here market ready, primed for success.

Together with our faculty and student body, we are working on growing our educational offerings.

This semester, we are launching a Master's program in Cybersecurity. This Master's degree will be distinguished in particular through YU's deep, unique connections with the culture and industry of the State of Israel. Cybersecurity highlights how leveraging our YU-Israel Superhighway provides our students with a competitive advantage, as some of Israel's most elite cybersecurity specialists have been working with us to shape a top-flight curriculum. The opening of the Mitrani Digital Lab on the Beren Campus this semester is another expression of our deep commitment to tech in general and Computer Science specifically for our undergraduate students, ensuring they have the skillset to excel in the marketplace of the future.

Our business school is ready to begin its first semester under the helm of leading

entrepreneurship expert and first-rate exemplar of our values, Dr. Noam Wasserman. Under his guidance, we are launching a new course in which students have the opportunity to advise the managers of a multi-million-dollar VC Fund which has been established by key supporters of YU. In addition, our newly inaugurated Innovation Lab under the guidance of Dr. Maria Blekher is ready to open its first semester, providing our students from diverse undergraduate and graduate programs hands-on experience helping grow startups in the Israeli startup ecosystem.

For our future educators, new excellent programs are launching across the University. The new fellowship for Constructivist Education in the Azrieli Graduate School of Education primes the next generation of Jewish educators, while the new Special Education Master's programs at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work will actively equip our graduates to improve the lives of their future students, schools, communities and families.

All of these programs have contributed to the growth in graduate school enrollment, and prepare our graduates to become leaders in their respective industries. These are just some of the highlights of YU's new forward momentum. Additional wonderful new developments — from major Israeli media personality Sivan Rahav Meir joining our faculty as a visiting professor, to bringing in Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz as a powerful presence in our beit midrash, and more — are continuously underway. We are committed to gathering the top caliber rabbis and academics to best prepare our students for a life of meaning, success and purpose. This is a tremendously inspiring time to become a YU student.

Looking back on your first years as president, are you satisfied with your accomplishments thus far? Do you have any regrets?

The goal since I began my presidency has been to reset YU's financial structure based on an educational vision which capitalizes on the new opportunities of our changing world and prepares our students to be leaders of tomorrow. This, of course, is a marathon, not a sprint. We have made great forward progress, but there is still much more that needs to be done.

Wins over these past years include identifying and bringing in top caliber faculty and administrative personnel who can help spearhead Yeshiva University's transformation for the next generation; launching a new communications and marketing plan to expand the footprint of the institution, and facilitate the publishing of faculty articles and interviews across media channels; developing a new team and strategy for fundraising, including engaging new potential major donors for YU; shifting YU's financial model to strengthen our sustainability by identifying new markets of students and new revenue streams. Most of these are in areas that the undergraduate student would not readily see, but are crucial for YU to succeed in the future.

In a short span of time, we have seen these directions pay off with growth in net tuition revenue, especially from our graduate schools, and growth in philanthropic commitments, including several new multi-million dollar, multi-year gifts.

We still have a distance to travel and we are not yet out of the woods. And there are

Continued on Page 11

*PRESIDENT BERMAN INTERVIEW,
continued from Page 10*

still more areas where we have great aspirations, such as renovating and upgrading our facilities. In sum, we are moving in the right direction and are laying the groundwork for long-term success by working on the fundamentals of the institution. An important element of that long-term success is acknowledging the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff. As such, we have also begun to redress some of the issues in the faculty and professional compensation lines.

The areas more visible to undergraduate students have been subject to much attention as well. The most important area for us is, of course, our education. Together with our faculty and student body, we are working on growing our educational offerings. A number of successes are already underway, as I outlined earlier. But this is an iterative, ongoing process. Towards this end, some of the questions we are discussing include the way our education gives greater insight into the human condition, transmits values to our students, and inspires them to lead lives of impact and leadership.

Student life and experience has also been

Events like our Day of Giving on September 18th are very important for us to create greater accessibility to our unique and impactful educational model, and we need students to help generate excitement, as well as alumni support to help us ensure its success.

an important focus with significant student input. Much work has been done, for example, in developing excellence in our athletics, and in enhancing the Shabbat experience. At the Beren campus, the introduction of Rabbi Jacob and Penina Bernstein as the rabbinic couple has been transformative. These are works in progress and we continue to work on and grow in these areas.

While over the past two years, I of course have made and learned from a number of mistakes, one regret is that I have not yet successfully worked into my calendar time to teach. Throughout my educational career, I have greatly enjoyed my time in the classroom and the relationships that are built upon interactions with students. When I first arrived at YU, I lived in the Morgenstern dorm for three months before I officially began my position, so my conversations with students were very organic. Now it requires more consciousness and scheduling. I hope to return to the classroom, but even before that, we will be scheduling opportunities for me to meet throughout the year with a cross-section of the student body.

What have you found to be the biggest challenges you have faced in your role as president so far, and how do you plan to overcome them moving forward?

One challenge is positioning YU so that its value proposition is correctly understood by prospective students and parents. Many people have mentioned to me that YU is crucial today for it provides a safe and secure place for our next generation to study. As the climate on other college campuses become less comfortable for a pro-Israel public Jewish life and parents come to better understand the obvious risks that other college environments pose to their children's Jewish future, people are naturally looking to us. But the case for YU is much greater than that. With our distinct model that integrates profound Jewish learning with a top quality

education, YU is a place for our students to flourish and be educated with the Jewish values and market-ready skills to lead lives of enormous impact.

Some of the great rabbinic minds, Jewish educators and top scholars make YU their home. There is simply no other experience in the higher education sphere that even approaches what YU offers its undergraduate students. And it could not have come at a more critical time in our students' lives. These undergraduate years are the most formative years in a person's life which will shape who you are, what you want to do, who your friends are going to be, who you will marry, and what kind of community you're going to live in. These are the informative years during which parents' investment in their children's Jewish future is most critical. So how do we move forward? The first step is spreading our message vigorously — across all channels — that Yeshiva University is the best institution in the world for educating our children to go out in the world, embody the Jewish values we cherish, and achieve great personal and professional success.

We need to showcase our enormous strengths, such as our unparalleled group

of rabbinic leadership and Jewish educators, led by such giants in the field as Rabbi Herschel Schachter and Rabbi Michael Rosensweig. At the same time, we have a responsibility to give our stellar faculty the tools and resources to develop their departments even further to meet the needs of a new era. This is why, for example, we have been emphasizing key areas like science, tech and entrepreneurship, which will empower our graduates with the skills and competencies they will need to find great professional success in the marketplace of tomorrow. Or, why we have been revamping our Career Services department, fusing it together with our Alumni Affairs department in order to help our students connect to our large network of alumni and friends who will care deeply about them and help them build great, impactful careers. Through these initiatives and many more we are vastly elevating YU's value proposition.

What efforts, if any, have you taken of late to make YU more affordable for the student body?

I am pleased to say that we have already successfully raised a number of multi-million-dollar gifts towards undergraduate scholarships and we are working on more. Ensuring YU's affordability is a big issue — not just for prospective students and parents, but for the Jewish people at large.

Our goal is to educate and inspire our students to become people of impact. As our graduates are deeply rooted in Jewish texts and ideas, ardent Zionists, and culturally conversant and successful in the broader world, they are particularly qualified and primed to be the Jewish leaders in the next generation. Our unique integrated education which prepares our students for a life of purpose and service must be open to all qualified students regardless of means. We need them and the Jewish people need them.

Scholarships will continue to be a significant feature in our fundraising efforts.

Events like our Day of Giving on September 18th are very important for us to create greater accessibility to our unique and impactful educational model, and we need students to help generate excitement, as well as alumni support to help us ensure its success. These are the events that enable a YU education to shape your lives as students, and can literally alter the lives of future students, and the future of the Jewish people. I encourage our students to participate, and our entire community to give generously, and spread the word when the time comes.

In the aftermath of last year's coed Shabbaton, will similar events be allowed uptown this year?

When it comes to coed activities on campus, it is helpful to consider them in the context of the YU student body as a whole. Students who come to Yeshiva University have made an affirmative choice to come to this kind of college, which itself demonstrates an inherent commonality amongst our student body. In this very select student community, it is only natural that there should exist some differences in their visions and expectations for their campus experience.

Our goal at YU is for us to cultivate a consciousness of our commonalities and shared values, even while giving space for different kinds of campus experiences. Specifically, when it comes to coed events on campus, the students at YU have done an impressive job in navigating the divide between those who prefer coed activities on campus, and those who prefer a more classic yeshiva and seminary style environment. Every night — on both the Wilf and Beren campuses — there are activities and spaces that cater to both of these groups.

One issue that has been a flashpoint of heightened sensitivity is the concept of a coed shabbaton in Washington Heights. I know the administrative leadership is working on addressing this in a way that considers the interests of the entire student body, and I look forward to seeing positive directions forward.

I have asked Senior Vice President Dr. Josh Joseph to lead a team of our rabbis and educators to address matters of inclusion on our undergraduate college campuses, which includes LGBTQ+.

Can you share any information about how YU plans to handle the child abuse lawsuits it is being faced with under the recently enacted Child Victims Act?

At this time, I cannot comment on these matters as they are the subject of ongoing litigation.

What do you believe the role of the Roshei Yeshiva is, and ought to be, with respect to the university administration?

This is a great question that I remember thinking about myself when I was a student here, and I know is on the mind of many current students. While this is not the forum for a comprehensive presentation, I will sketch out the model.

Responsibility for decisions are naturally placed in the hands of those who are accountable for them, as they have a more comprehensive perspective than others on the full range of factors and ultimately bear the burden of the decision. Somewhat ironically, their very accountability might also slant their views towards the practical, and the Rabbi and moral guide coming from a

different perspective serves as an important corrective and source of wisdom. Somewhere within this earnest conversation between the two sides is the right course of action.

This is the reasoning behind the well-known dictum of R. Yehoshua ben Perachiah, *aseh lekha rav* (Mishnah Avot 1:6), which directs each individual to establish for oneself a teacher, a spiritual and halakhic guide, to whom one can turn throughout one's life for inspiration and guidance. I myself regularly turn to my own *rabbeim* for matters of guidance, and I encourage our students and community to do so as well.

Are there any plans to expand or improve Stern College's Judaic Studies program and/or Jewish life on the Beren Campus this year?

Yes. The complete access to Jewish learning for women today is one of great berakhot of our times. We at YU are not only proud to have launched this effort with the first gemara shiur of Rav Soloveitchik in Stern College, but to continue and further it with the ongoing growth of Torah learning and Jewish life on our Beren Campus. We already have a great team in place at the Beren campus and they have worked together with the students to create a vibrant, dynamic Jewish life experience. Some of my personal highlights of being President include the shabbatot I spent on campus and my interactions with our students after delivering shiurim there.

In an effort to advance Jewish life and learning at Beren even further, we are uniting the different Jewish programs, including the Jewish Studies department, GPATS, Office of Spiritual Life and the rabbinic couple, together within a new portfolio: the Associate Dean for Torah Studies. This Associate Dean will be a member of the senior administration of Stern College working in collaboration with the Dean of the College and the Associate Dean for Operations. She will work with the directors of each of the Jewish programs and directly with the students to help galvanize all of the great Jewish resources in midtown and advance the educational and

experiential Jewish opportunities for our Beren students. The search process for this position is underway, with further updates to come.

Can you comment on the state of LGBTQ+ inclusion on campus? Is there anything you would like to see change this year in this regard?

I have asked Senior Vice President Dr. Josh Joseph to lead a team of our rabbis and educators to address matters of inclusion on our undergraduate college campuses, which includes LGBTQ+. He has brought in Rabbi Yaakov Neuberger, Dr. Rona Novick, Dr. Yael Muskat and Dr. David Pelcovitz to work with him. Over the course of the next number of months, they will be meeting with students, faculty, educators, Roshei Yeshiva and other faith-based institutions of higher education. They will work on formulating a series of educational platforms and initiatives that will generate awareness and sensitivity, and help our students develop a thoughtful, *halakhic*, value-driven approach to their interactions with the wide spectrum of people who are members of our community.



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Back to School 2019: Look Your Best, Feel Your Best, Be Your Best



PIXABAY

By **SHMUEL “SJ” TANNENBAUM**

With a new school year now underway, students will worry about many things: What will my classes be like? Will I be able to hang out with my friends as I have in the past? Will I still be able to participate in my favorite extracurricular activities? While I may not be able to give expert advice in these areas, there is an area where I am confident I can help the average male student take the weight off his shoulder by enabling him to dress and feel his best on campus.

Hi. My name is Shmuel “SJ” Tannenbaum. I am the founder and President of the YU Menswear Club, one of YU’s newest and fastest-growing clubs on campus, currently with over 70 members. One of our goals is to help educate the YU community on “how to dress their best for less.” I – along with the Menswear Club Board, our members, and many around the world – believe that how one dresses can truly affect their personality, confidence, productivity, and overall quality of life for the better. Therefore, I wanted to make some quick recommendations of clothing items I personally love that

will make you look and feel great without breaking the bank. If there are items that you like that are not on the list below and that you feel should have been included, please shoot me an email and let me know about them! You can reach me at jtannen3@mail.yu.edu.

Here are some quick definitions before we get started: Clothing that has **moisture-wicking** fabric, sometimes referred to as **cool-tech**, will deflect perspiration away from the wearer, thus keeping you cool and dry whether you’re chasing down the shuttle or hurrying to your next class. A great example of such a fabric being incorporated are dry-fit clothes. **Microfiber** clothing, which contains materials such as polyester, spandex and rayon, among others, is another example of moisture-wicking clothing. **Mesh** is a material that features large evenly spaced holes, often found as the inner-lining of mens’ bathing suits. A shirt that is **seamless** does not have a visible outlining or border around the collar. Where pants and underwear sit on the wearer’s waist is known as the garment’s **rise**.

– Uniqlo, a popular Japanese brand, offers a collection of undershirts, tank tops, underwear and polo shirts called the “AIRism” collection. These products are extremely lightweight, super stretchy, feature anti-odor technology and are made with moisture-wicking fabric. The undershirts come in a wide range of colors, styles (crew neck, v-neck, seamless) and fabrics (mesh, seamless and a smooth, silky texture). Each individual undershirt will set you back \$9.90. This may sound like a lot but Uniqlo routinely sends out many discount codes to those who sign up for their email list. Believe me, even without the discounts, products from the “AIRism” Collection are well worth the \$10 a pop.

2) UNDERWEAR

Uniqlo AIRism Collection – Underwear from the AIRism Collection come in a boxer brief style and a variety of colors and rises. They are made from a polyester/spandex blend, which features all of the aforementioned dry-fit properties. They also cost \$9.90 each.

The Essentials

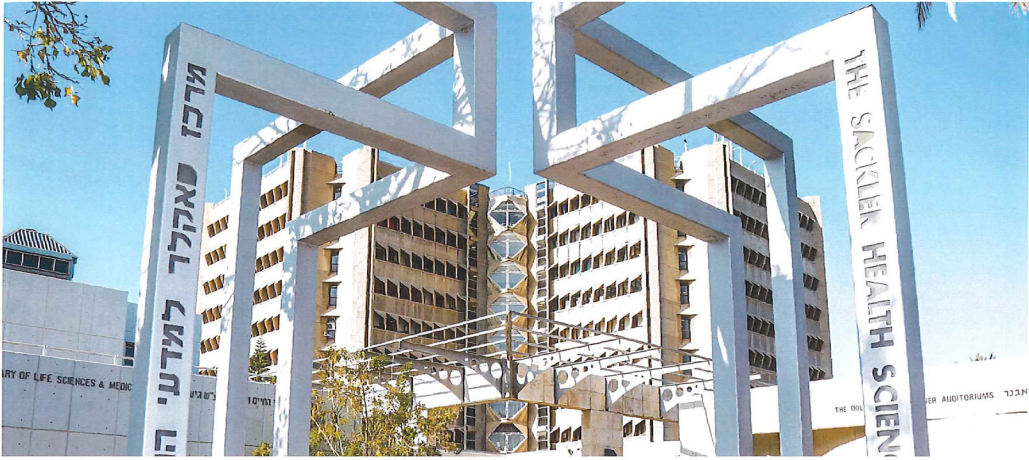
1) UNDERSHIRTS

Uniqlo AIRism Collection

Continued on Page 14



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*LOOK YOUR BEST,
continued from Page 13*

Calvin Klein Men's Comfort Microfiber Boxer Brief 3 Pack – These boxer briefs from Calvin Klein are great if you love getting your underwear in multi-packs. Additionally, they also come in trunk and brief styles. They come three in a pack and are made in a microfiber option, as well as cotton (very soft). Personally, I prefer the microfiber ones because I think they offer more to the wearer than the cotton ones. Either way, a three pack of these will cost you \$44.50 from Macy's. There is, however, a three-pack of the underwear that's on sale on Macys.com for only \$26.70 (40 percent off) and can be reduced even 20 percent further with the discount code WKND, bringing your total to \$21.36 – a steal for underwear of this quality! With this pack, you get the choice of Mulberry, Dizzle Stripe, and Grey Heather or Provence, Shoreline, and Cayenne as colors. But if you don't like these colors, Macy's always lowers the prices of their products, so it is almost certain that there will be a sale on a three pack with the styles that you love. Be sure to grab yourselves a few of these three-packs before they're sold out!

The Wardrobe

3) DRESS SHIRTS

Dandy and Son Extreme Cutaway Collar Dress Shirts – Dandy and Son is a Norwegian dress shirt brand that specializes in very wide spread dress shirt collars. They call their most wide spread collars “extreme cutaway,” followed by “cutaway” and “wide-spread.” Their shirts are made from extremely soft fabrics, come in a variety of colors and designs, and are machine washable. Their shirts range in price from \$49 to \$79, but thanks to your Menswear Club prez, YU students get a special 15 percent discount when using the code “YUMENSWEAR15”. How cool is that?! These shirts may not be the cheapest out there, but I have four myself; they are some of the best looking and feeling shirts that I own. Pair one of these shirts up with a nice Windsor tie knot and a well fitting suit and you'll be sure to ace your next interview!

Uniqlo Men Super Non-Iron Slim-Fit Long-Sleeve Shirt – Uniqlo offers many shirts of different styles, fits, colors, fabrics and features. My favorite shirt of theirs, however, is their Super Non-Iron Slim Fit Dress Shirt. It's a simple, minimalist dress shirt, with a wide spread or button tab collar that fits close to the body for a nice, trim fit. It is very soft and comfortable, easy to care for due to its 100 percent cotton machine washability and comes in light blue, white, black and pink. For a dress shirt of its quality, its \$29.90 price tag is basically a steal.

Twillory “Deal Room” Shirts – Twillory is a relatively new dress shirt brand that is competing heavily in the performance-wear fabric market. They make dress shirts that feature the industry standards

– moisture-wicking, cool tech, non-iron, four-way stretch fabrics – and can be bundled to cost around \$30 a shirt. Their shirts are stylistically similar to Charles Tyrwhitt dress shirts. I, however, find Twillory's shirts to be much better in terms of their stretch, feel, and moisture-wicking ability. When you go to Twillory's website, check out their Deal Room tab at the top of the homepage to see the best deals on some of their most popular shirts. There's sure to be a style and fabric for everyone.

H&M Slim Fit Easy-iron Shirt – H&M should be at the top of the list for those whose top priority in buying clothing is saving money. They offer a slim fit “easy-iron” dress shirt for only \$14.99 in a very wide range of colors and combinations that include white, black, light blue, grey, dark blue, burgundy, blue/white-striped and more! The shirt is made of 65 percent polyester and 35 percent cotton so it shouldn't shrink too much on you either.

4) PANTS

Perry Ellis Portfolio Tech Pants – Of all the pants I have ever worn, these are my favorite, period. They offer a comfort-fit flex stretch gripper waistband that will hold your shirt in place while also allowing the pants to have a comfortable grip. They come in a variety of fits and styles, ranging from very slim to classic fit, and come in solid colors as well as patterned designs. Additionally, they are made from polyester and have a mechanical stretch fabric that makes them quite flexible and very good at wicking away moisture and water! They also offer a zipper pocket within the right side pocket so you can store more items. I love pants that offer additional pockets aside from the conventional four (two on the sides and two in the back). They are also machine washable, so you don't have to worry about dry-cleaning them. These pants cost \$42.50 on Perry Ellis' website but you can get them for less from Macy's.

Tommy Hilfiger Men's TH Flex Dress Pants – These are one of the most comfortable and stretchy pairs of pants I have ever owned. They're not great at wicking away moisture but if you want a pair of dress pants that stretch like Adidas track pants, these are the ones for you. They're machine washable, made from a rayon/nylon/spandex combination and fit slim. These retail for \$95 but you can get them for around \$40 from Macy's.

“I – along with the Menswear Club Board, our members, and many around the world – believe that the way one dresses can truly affect their personality, confidence, productivity, and overall quality of life for the better.”

Haggar H26 Mens Slim Fit No Iron Stretch Trousers – I have not yet had the pleasure of wearing these pants. However, I've heard great things and have checked them out myself. They offer a slim profile, have fair stretch to them and even have a waistband that can expand up to two inches in case you

up to eight items sent directly to your door for a seven day try-at-home period. You can keep what you want and return what you don't with free shipping! It's a fantastic service that everyone should take advantage of. Try it out with their free 30-day trial.

Shoe Brands – Instead of

recommending a few pairs, some shoe brands I would recommend for the general YU community are Cole Haan, ALDO and New Republic. These brands have shoes that can be worn dressed up or casually and won't cost you a fortune. If you're more into casual style, Reebok sneakers have been making a comeback in the streetwear industry. I have a few pairs of them myself. For specific pair suggestions, feel free to contact me.

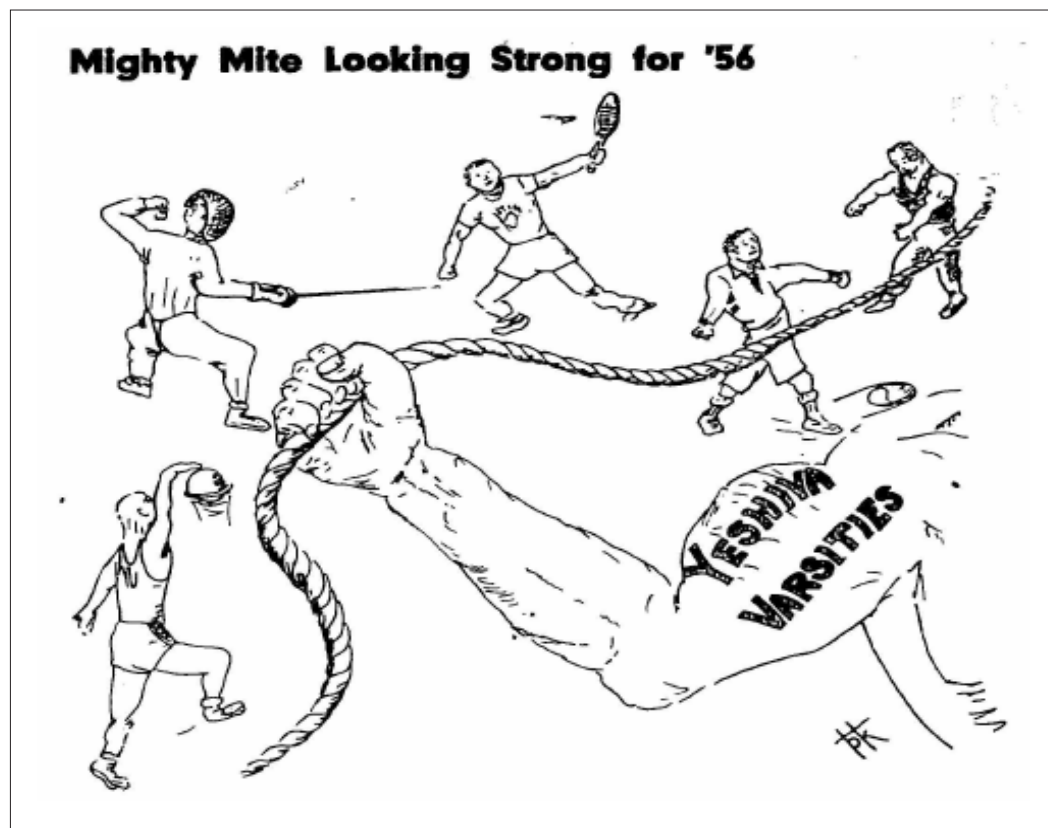
The Utilities

6) BACKPACKS/ MESSENGER BAGS

Uniqlo 3-Way Bag – Uniqlo offers a unique bag that you can use in three different ways: as a backpack, as an over-the-shoulder messenger bag, or by holding its handle as a suitcase. It is water repellent, so it keeps everything in-

side dry regardless of the weather. Additionally, it has many zippered pockets to keep all your pens, tablets, laptops, notebooks, earbuds, snacks and other supplies secure and organized. The bag comes in two colors – black and navy blue – and is extremely light and durable. The bag costs \$39.90. I got one for

Flashbacks



“Mighty Mite Looking Strong for ‘56”

January 4, 1956; Volume 21 Issue 7

FROM THE COMMIE ARCHIVES

Editor's Note: For the first issue of Vol. 85, The Commentator has decided to reprint the following articles on the role of secular Zionism at Yeshiva University and Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's stance regarding the issue.

From the Commie Archives (December 2, 1959; Volume 25 Issue 4) — Rav Soloveitchik and the Student Zionist Organization

By COMMENTATOR STAFF

Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik has advised Student Council not to sponsor a Student Zionist Organization chapter at Yeshiva. Student Council had passed by a 10-4 margin a resolution chartering the chapter, after more than five hours of heated debate. Benjamin Hirsch '60, president of Student Council, pointed out that enactment of this resolution would pend a decision by Rabbi Soloveitchik, professor of Talmud in R.I.E.T.S.

Rabbi Soloveitchik was approached by a S.C. committee consisting of Mr. Hirsch, Henry Book '60, Steven Riskin '60, and Joshua Levy '61. Rabbi Soloveitchik strongly advocated a religious Zionist organization at Yeshiva College. However, he suggested that this organization be founded within the Yeshiva framework rather than be associated with any non-religious organization.

S.Z.O.A. Controversy

For the past few years the question of affiliation with S.Z.O. has been a great controversy in Student Council. Student Council had, by narrow decisions, maintained that since

S.Z.O. is non-religious, its views don't coincide with that of Yeshiva, and, consequently S.Z.O. has been voted down.

Last year a Religious Zionist Club was formed instead of the proposed chapter. Joseph Lifschitz '61, last year's R.Z.C. president, stated that as the club had not been successful in attracting student membership, it would request the formation of an S.Z.O. group.

After deciding that S.C. should not decide on a basic philosophy for affiliation with national Jewish organizations, S.Z.O.'s chapter was approved.

The Commentator

Official Undergraduate Newspaper of Yeshiva College

NEW YORK CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1959

No. 4

Mites Oppose Drew

s "Mark Craze" ng with Students

Students, Faculty Use Fleisher Report As Discussion Base

College education is forgotten in the Dr. Isaac Bacon, dean of Yeshiva

Torah Scholar Advises Against S.Z.O. Chapter

Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik has advised Student Council not to sponsor a Student Zionist Organization chapter at Yeshiva.

The Commentator archives

THE COMMENTATOR

From the Archives (December 2,1959; Volume 25 Issue 4) — Advice and Consent

By LAWRENCE HALPERN and the COMMENTATOR GOVERNING BOARD of 1959-60

Rarely has an issue stirred up as much debate among the students as the recent Student Zionist Organization controversy. Many impassioned speeches were delivered at the last Student Council meeting over this very problem. The trouble with impassioned speeches is that each party ends up farther apart after debate than before. And so it happened. Some felt that the idea of joining a secular Zionist group intruded into the realm of *Halacha*. Others felt that despite its shortcomings, an S.Z.O. chapter on campus would encourage Zionist sentiments at Yeshiva College. This controversy split the students into two camps.

Acting on behalf of Student Council, the Executive Council brought the problem to Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, professor of Talmud at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Rabbi Soloveitchik advocated the reestablishment of a religious Zionist

organization and advised against an S.Z.O. chapter at Yeshiva.

The issue is now dead. We have heard the advice of a *Gadol Ha'Dor* and we must abide by it.

One excellent result of this controversy has been the reawakening of student interest in Zionist affiliation. Frankly, in recent years this has been a sore spot at Yeshiva. Several attempts have been made at organizing a religious Zionist club. None of them have been very successful.

One cannot say that desire for Zionist affiliation is lacking. Discussions of the past three weeks have shown otherwise.

There is no sense in wasting time with further discussion. Both camps must forget their differences, join hands and form an active three-dimensional Zionist organization — an organization which will unite the entire student body in a common desire to see the land of Israel prosperous and secure under the supreme law of the Torah in Israel.

From the Archives (December 2,1959; Volume 25 Issue 4) — The President Speaks: Our Guide to Action

By BENJAMIN HIRSCH

A successful organization must have a philosophy of purpose. Unfortunately, many organizations flounder about with no set direction, no goal, no purpose and no such philosophy. My aim in Council this year is to establish a sound *raison d'etre*. Our purpose must be to show by virtue of our actions the true meaning of traditional Judaism.

Our University is the citadel of orthodoxy in America. We all believe in the idea — that's why we are here and not at Columbia, Harvard, or Yale. We must show ethically and spiritually the superiority of our mode of life. This is our purpose, our *raison d'etre*. This is not a religious revival, rather it is the reawakening of our responsibility to the Jewish community. This is the reason for Council's stand on the pool hall, cheating and religious responsibility, and this was the reason why a Student Council committee was sent to Rabbi Soloveitchik for his advice on the S.Z.O. controversy. No longer will S.C. shirk its

responsibilities. We can no longer be silent and yet truly represent you. Our work is too important. The letters, phone calls and congratulations that I have received from various Jewish leaders leave no doubt that this work must be continued. The Orthodox Jewish Community want us to join them in asserting the superiority of traditional Judaism. This we must do.

Program of Religious Zionism

It follows that if we accept the above philosophy we must accept Rabbi Soloveitchik's advice. We must bring to Yeshiva College a dynamic, living program of religious Zionism. We must still the cynics cries of "it can't be done; why waste time?" We must do it with hard work and dedication to our ideals.

Religious Zionism is a single concept, it is the only Zionism. Our claim to Israel stems from the Torah, and if we accept this principle of Torah we must accept all the responsibility that goes with it. No cynic can tell me that Zionism is dead at Yeshiva, here,

where three times a day we voice our belief that God shall return us to Zion.

Religious Zionism must become a living Principle that takes hold in our minds and our hearts. We need no social organization, no pompous speaker, no elaborate budget to tell us of *Artzaynu Ha'Kadosha*. All student leaders have pledged to me that they will actively campaign for a Religious Zionist Club and we will, please God, make it a reality.

There has also been much talk of "breaking down the walls of the ghetto — becoming more like the other people." I'm always reminded of the story of four Jewish boys who were walking in the street, and some rowdies yelled "Jew" in a derogatory fashion. One boy said, "They're insulting us," the second said, "Let's fight," the third said, "They want to hit us; let's run," but the fourth said, "No, they're complimenting us; they realize we're Jews." This attitude must be ours; we must always be proud of our heritage. Throughout life we must have this dual honor and responsibility.

From the President's Desk: Make the Most of YU

By **CHAYIM MAHGEREFTEH**

In my three years on campus and as the President of the Sy Syms Student Council, I have taken advantage of a variety of opportunities here at YU. These opportunities included growing (both educationally and spiritually), preparing for my career, and building a network of inspiring students who are determined to succeed. I'd like to mention some of the ways new students can make the most of their time at YU and reflect on my own experiences of making friends and building my own network.

What makes YU special is all the amazing professors, rabbis, and mentors who help their students become more knowledgeable and achieve their goals. These leaders in YU are a fantastic source of information and are more than happy to help new students grow. I found the rabbis to be extremely loving and caring towards their students and I'm happy I built close relationships with some of them. Coming back to America after a year of *yeshiva* in Israel, I wanted to continue taking Torah-learning seriously, and my rabbis in YU were always by my side helping me grow. A great way for students to learn and grow is by meeting with their rabbis in-person and attending their professors' office hours. I gained a lot from those personal meetings and would not have had the same success without them. It can be overwhelming to have to meet so many new people upon your arrival at YU, and creating a bond with a rabbi or professor can be a great way for new students to have a guide through that process.

There are many different resources in

YU to help students prepare for their careers, most notably the Career Center. The advisors there can be extremely helpful in perfecting resumes, advising students on how to improve their interview skills, and helping students navigate different job opportunities. I've been a frequent visitor of the

myself to just my small group of friends, so I decided to branch out and try to build relationships with as many students as I could. Fortunately, that was one of the smartest decisions I made at YU. I met different types of students from all over the world and built lots of lasting relationships. There are plenty

of friends to support you at YU. Not only can they be emotionally comforting during stressful times, but they can also help you achieve your biggest goals and aspirations. I never would have been elected as Syms President without my large number of supporters, many of whom I didn't know coming into YU. I am honored to have this position and excited to work alongside my fellow council members, Deans Wasserman and Strauss, and the Office of Student Life to serve our special student body and enhance everyone's time here.

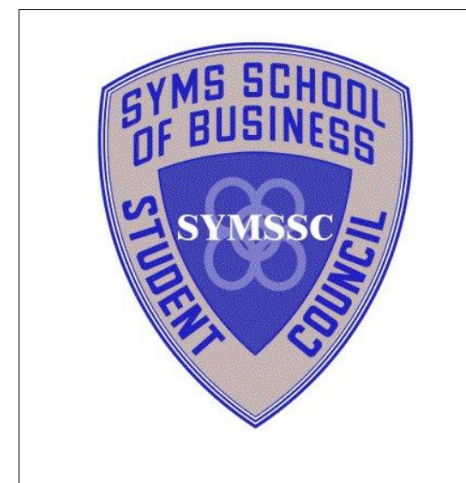
Editor's Note: If you'd like to speak with Chayim about something, you can reach him at cmahgere@mail.yu.edu. He wishes everyone a successful year!

The Club Fair, hosted by the undergraduate student councils, will be held on September 10th, and all undergraduate students are invited to see some of the amazing clubs being represented there.

Career Center, and as a result, I have become a lot more professional and competent in the job recruitment process. The Career Center also organizes many events where professionals (many of whom are alumni) come to YU to talk about their experiences, starting from when they were in college up until their current roles as employees at large firms or small startups. These events, which are normally formed as panels, are a great way for new students to figure out what they want to do with their careers. I often introduce myself to the panelists at the end of the event and ask if I can reach out to them in the future if I ever need their advice. They almost always provide me with their email address or business card, which I have taken to my advantage. If you want to learn from people who were recently in your shoes, then get to know older students who successfully got their dream job. YU students love helping their peers succeed. Coming to YU, I didn't want to limit

of ways new students can make new friends, and one of the best ways is to join one of the countless clubs on campus. These clubs are a great way to meet people who share the same interests. Clubs are required to have a minimum of two events per semester, so each semester there are hundreds of events and opportunities to meet new people on campus. The Club Fair, hosted by the undergraduate student councils, will be held on September 10th, and all undergraduate students are invited to see some of the amazing clubs being represented there. It is a perfect opportunity to join existing and new clubs on campus.

The connections you make during your time in college will very likely stay with you for the rest of your life, and you never know when and how they might be of help. Although college can at times be very difficult and stressful, I overcome these difficulties through my supportive group of friends. I recommend that you find your own group



Chayim Mahgereteh is president of this year's Sy Syms Student Council.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Changes to Dining Plan Include Flat Fee

By **JACOB STONE**

With the new school year, YU's Department of Dining Services has changed the structure of the cafeteria plans that on-campus students are required to buy. Under the new structure, students enrolled in the dining plans must pay a flat \$675 fee per semester to become members of the cafeteria. Members are given discounts between 35 and 40 percent on food items compared to non-members who have not paid the initial membership fee. Purchases at restaurants that participate in the dining plan are not discounted for cafeteria members. The changes affect undergraduate students at both the Wilf and Beren campuses.

Last year, students were given the choice between three tiers of dining programs: A \$2000-per-semester plan which included \$100 of free funds with the purchase of the plan, a \$1750-per-semester plan, and a \$1400-per-semester plan.

For undergraduate men in the Spring 2019 semester, approximately 13 percent were enrolled in the most expensive plan, 31 percent were enrolled in the medium plan, and 12 percent were enrolled in the cheapest plan.

The remaining 44 percent of undergraduate men lived off-campus and were enrolled in the \$400-per-semester basic plan. These students are not affected by this year's changes and remain non-members

under the new plan structure.

This year, students on both campuses were offered two plans. The "Standard" plan costs \$1750 per semester, of which \$675 goes towards the membership fee. Of the remaining \$1075, \$250 is available in "Flex" dollars — formerly known as OMNI funds — which may be spent in participating restaurants. The "Reduced" plan costs \$1500 per semester, of which \$675 goes towards the membership fee. Of the remaining \$825, \$150 is available in "Flex" dollars.

Notably, students on the "Reduced" plan this year pay the same \$675 enrollment fee to join the cafeteria but have less money to spend on discounted items. This initial membership fee is 45

percent of their total plan price, while a sample of new food prices sent out by the university reveals the average discount to be slightly less than 40 percent per item. Students on this plan who do not add any additional funds will not recoup the initial fee paid for cafeteria membership.

Under the new structure, students enrolled in the dining plans must pay a flat \$675 fee per semester to become members of the cafeteria.

Even students on the "Standard" plan may be negatively affected by the recent changes to the dining plan structure. The initial enrollment fee amounts to 38.5 percent of the "Standard" plan price, but any money spent on purchases at restaurants will not be subject to discounted prices. Thus, if a student on the "Standard" plan were to spend all of her "Flex" money in restaurants, she would not recoup the initial membership fee. She would need to spend approximately \$200 of her "Flex" dollars in the cafeteria to break even on the initial membership fee cost.

Students are also able to add money to their accounts throughout the semester. Because the membership fee is a fixed cost and the cafeteria discount applies to all added funds, students who add more money to their plans will receive more value from additional funds spent in the cafeteria if they are members.

Randy Apfelbaum, Chief Facilities and Administrative Officer and one of the administration members that orchestrated the changes, remarked: "The University Operations department has been reviewing many of the YU operations to make them more responsive to student concerns and needs ... Several focus groups with students were convened last year on both Wilf and Beren campuses. The student comments were incorporated into the plan, resulting in the current offerings." Additionally, Apfelbaum commented, "Students will see more options and better service," while warning that "the non-member prices may fluctuate from last year due to the costs the university pays for food."

Overall, the changes to the cafeteria pricing structure reward students who spend more money on plans and students who spend money in the cafeteria instead of the restaurants that participate in the dining plan.



Workers in the cafeteria preparing to serve students

THE YU COMMENTATOR

On the Nature of Right-Wing Anti-Semitism

By YOSEF LEMEL

Over the past few years, there has been a noticeable uptick of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States. These attacks have, in my opinion, been fueled by radicals on both the left and right-wing sides of American politics. Yet, the focus of this article will be on the growth of right-wing anti-Semitism.

The primary reason for this focus is two-fold. First, that anti-Semitic rhetoric (in various statements and overtures) by Democratic congressmen such as Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib have been covered *ad nauseam*, whereas it would be difficult to find such brazenly anti-Semitic statements by Republican congressmen and leaders. This leads me to focus on a different sort of anti-Semitism, namely, by members of the right-wing political sphere.

Second, there have been a number of recent incidents of right-wing anti-Semitism, one of which directly impacted the students of Yeshiva University.

For the purposes of this piece, I wish to make a distinction between three types of right-wing

anti-Semitism, and delineate the various steps that we, as a community, can take to combat it. Of course, this is not a definitive list; there are numerous forms of anti-Semitism. I choose to mention the following forms of anti-Semitism that are most relevant and evident, in light of recent events.

First, there is a type of “anti-Semitism” — if it even merits being called that — that is caused by insensitivity and, perhaps, ignorance of the Jewish experience. It is important, in this case, to separate actions from people. The individual might not be anti-Semitic, yet his conduct may display an unconscious harmony with anti-Semitic behavior. Take, for example, President Trump. Within the past month, Trump accused American Jews who vote for the Democratic Party of “disloyalty.” The meaning of disloyalty in this context is unclear. What is clear is that Trump considers the act of a Jew not voting for him to be a moral flaw. This is analogous to Barack Obama’s statement during the 2016 election cycle that he would consider it an “insult” to his “legacy” if African Americans failed to show up to vote for Hillary Clinton in the 2016

election. In both cases, politicians have arranged ethnic demographics in a category they perceive to be a given: Jews for Trump and African Americans for Clinton. I don’t believe that Donald Trump is any less anti-Semitic than Barack Obama is racist. However, there is a noticeable lack of sensitivity to the idea of individuality within

Regarding judicious and measured speech, it would be quite hopeless to ask the president to take some time to review his tweets before hitting the send button. I would not be the first to propose that solution, nor will I be the last. However, I believe that it is incumbent on the Jews to carefully evaluate all statements they make about Judaism

community is necessary before the condemnation of said community.

The final type of anti-Semitism is one in which both the language and the individuals who utilize such rhetoric are anti-Semitic. This was most recently expressed by the posting of hundreds of pictures of members of the YU community on an online white supremacist

The general tendency of news coverage is to report all of the facts, as objectively as possible. And yet, when the result of this reporting may lead to a sense of victory and potential radicalization among enemies of the Jewish community, it might not be wise for newspapers to report “the facts” in such a fashion.

ethnicities.

I have diagnosed the first problem as that of ignorance and insensitivity. The simple solution would be a combination of education on the community level and the use of judicious speech on the individual level. On the educational front, President Berman deserves special praise for the establishment of the Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies to spread awareness of anti-Semitism.

and its relationship to Israel, especially in the presence of non-Jews. Even if a Jew is loyal to the state of Israel — which may, indeed, be virtuous — he should not voice support for Israel in a way that makes non-Jews believe he is apathetic about America and its interests.

The second form of right-wing anti-Semitism is the use of inflammatory language against a Jewish community for reasons which stem from internal problems within the community. For example, the Rockland County Republican Committee (RCRC) recently posted — and later took down — on social media a sensationalist political advertisement targeting a Hasidic Democratic legislator, Aron Wieder, and accused him of plotting a political “takeover” by overdeveloping Hasidic areas and redistricting to his community’s advantage at the expense of the non-Jewish community. The RCRC called on their supporters to “take back control” and said: “If they win, we lose.”

Some might see this sort of rhetoric as a callback to actual anti-Semitic regimes that accused Jews of forcefully taking control of government. Unfortunately, however, there is some truth to the sentiment expressed in the ad. The overdevelopment of Hasidic areas would radically change the cultural makeup of Rockland County to that of an Eastern European export. Many Hasidim dress differently, speak a different language and share almost none of the customs which typically define the American community. Anecdotally, I have witnessed many Modern Orthodox and *yeshivish* Jews who reside in Monsey raise concerns regarding the rapid spread of Hasidism, and for many good reasons. Indeed, one cannot but demur the cynicism towards modern innovations — such as vaccines — which displays itself in certain Hasidic and Haredi circles, and have led to the onset of measles in such communities.

The non-Jewish community must be educated to stay away from borrowing past tropes that have been used against Jews by actual anti-Semites. Even if the intentions of RCRC were pure and they wished to solve a legitimate problem, a cognizance of the social history of the Hasidic and Jewish

forum and the demeaning comments which accompanied it. This sort of anti-Semitism is, obviously, pure, unadulterated evil. There is an unbridgeable chasm between morality and their beliefs. They believe — for whatever reason — that the Jew is endemically inferior by virtue of his genetic makeup.

A public statement released by YU Campus Security encouraged students to “ignore the site and not seek it out or visit it since experts advise that individuals of this nature seek attention.” Through attention, their abominable ideology may spread. I and many other YU students had never heard of this website before the news story was published. If an individual who is ideologically predisposed towards racism comes across this forum as a result of news coverage, he may become even more radicalized.

As a result of media attention, neo-nazis see themselves as having accomplished something by having successfully “triggered” a group of people. Indeed, when I accessed the neo-nazi website, all I saw was an endless mass of hate; no good came of it.

These reasons are essentially why publications such as The Daily Wire or media personalities like Anderson Cooper have refused to publicize the names and faces of mass shooters.

In light of this, news coverage of anti-Semitic incidents may merit a re-evaluation. The general tendency of news coverage is to report all of the facts, as objectively as possible. And yet, when the result of this reporting may lead to a sense of victory and potential radicalization among enemies of the Jewish community, it might not be wise for newspapers to report “the facts” in such a fashion. A simple solution would be to report on what was said and posted on the site without mentioning it by name or providing a link to it.

There are ever-growing dangers posed to the Jewish community by recent manifestations of anti-Semitic rhetoric, whether the rhetoric is unintentional or intentional. However, there are practical steps that we — either as a community or as individuals — can take to curb such bigotry.



The yellow badge: a visceral symbol of anti-semitism

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Read Receipts and the Evolution of Conversation

By ELIMELEKH PERL

We've come a long way in the field of long-distance communication. The "History of Messaging," as explored in a cute educational slideshow provided by simpletexting.com, tells an incredible story of human ingenuity and progress. Early civilizations relied on smoke signals to send messages from village to village. Later, the written word was disseminated through creative vehicles such as message-in-a-bottle, carrier pigeon, or balloon mail. These methods, while conveying more specific information, were still unreliable for ensuring delivery to a particular

The cell phone seemed to have finally achieved what thousands of years of innovation had sought. Normal human conversation between individuals, as it occurs face to face, could now occur in

You can "text" over one of multiple instant messaging platforms; today's most popular platform is Whatsapp. From 2011 to 2018, the number of worldwide Whatsapp messages sent daily has increased

unilaterally by the recipient. As a result, the interpretation is all-too-often subject to unconscious bias and misunderstanding — totally irrespective of the sender's original intent. When important real-world

However, Whatsapp Read Receipts robs texting of this distinction. From a practical perspective, it is very helpful to know the status of a sent message. But from a human perspective, blue checks promote the very misuse of technology that plagues the texting generation. Knowing your message has been read brings with it a nagging anticipation of a quick reply — one that is not always possible or preferable for the recipient to oblige. This breeds an expectation for text conversations to function with the same level of responsiveness and engagement as a verbal conversation. These expectations reinforce the perception that texting is synonymous with talking,

Blue checks promote the very misuse of technology that plagues the texting generation. Knowing your message has been read brings with it a nagging anticipation of a quick reply - one that is not always possible or preferable for the recipient to oblige.

real-time, irrespective of the participants' location. The distance between speaker and listener had been reduced from thousands of miles across the globe to mere mil-

from 1 billion to an astounding 65 billion.

Nearly everyone is familiar with Whatsapp's Read Receipts system — the little gray checks that in-

conversations are conducted via text, miscommunications abound.

Email is a perfect example of instantaneous electronic messaging (usually) used properly. Most



PIXABAY

recipient. The discovery of electricity in the mid-18th century brought with it a wave of innovation in communications technology. The invention of the telegraph and telephone in the 19th century enabled the instantaneous transfer of written information — and even oral conversation — across great distances. An amazing feat, to be sure, but such an interface was limited by the immobile restrictions of the telegraph and telephone devices.

These restrictions were only overcome in the second half of the 20th century. The development of the pager in 1949 meant that for the first time in human history, information could be passed between two people almost instantly, at any time and in any place. However, the crown jewel in the History of Messaging only came in 1973, with the invention of the cellular phone.

limeters between face and phone. One could imagine that the apex of long-distance communication had finally been reached, and could no longer be improved further.

But history has proved that assumption wrong.

The first Short Message Service (SMS), or text, as we know it today, was delivered to a cell phone on December 3, 1992. Due to phones' limited capabilities, texting was originally reserved for exchanging basic information, while a phone call remained the go-to for conversation. But with advances in cell phone keyboards, touch screens, predictive text and autocorrect, texting has morphed into what many consider a suitable replacement for verbal communication. According to a study conducted by OpenMarket, 75% of Millennials would choose a text-only phone over a voice-only phone.

forms the sender if their message has been successfully sent and delivered. This is a standard instant messaging feature. What makes Whatsapp unique, however, are the blue checks that denote whether or not the message was read by the recipient. This feature can be toggled on or off, depending on the user's personal preference.

Here's why you should turn it off.

Texting may have effectively replaced verbal conversations, but there are elements of conversation that texting is simply ill-equipped to replicate. While face to face interactions are obviously ideal, even a phone call allows for basic cues such as inflection and tone of voice to clearly communicate more nuanced messages, with both participants actively engaged in the interaction. The information in a text, on the other hand, is processed

often utilized in a professional setting, emails are sent to convey basic information, which is typically absent from sensitive emotional undertones. The recipient is free to check their inbox at their leisure, and confirm receiving an email at their own discretion. Dodging replying to an email will typically prompt the sender to follow up with a phone call or some other means of communication, wherein a response is more guaranteed.

To some degree, texting should function similarly. Because messages are committed to permanent text form and sit waiting in a chat thread, the recipient is free to read and respond at their leisure. A message that requires immediate confirmation should either itself be labeled as such, or be delivered through a different method that inherently demands confirmation — like a phone call.

while its dangerous interpersonal shortcomings remain unaddressed.

So turn off your Read Receipts. Don't let the implicit social pressure of blue checks dictate how you text. The truth is, we could all learn to live with a little waiting. And if you really need an immediate response, thankfully, we've developed incredible technology to make that happen: just pick up the phone and call. A real conversation never killed anyone.

Netflix's 'The Spy' is an Inspired Piece of Television

By ELAZAR ABRAHAMS

Sacha Baron Cohen's Emmy campaign starts now.

In Netflix's "The Spy," the comedic actor best known for his over-the-top characters portrays Eli Cohen, the heroic Israeli agent who successfully infiltrated Syria in the 60s under the alias Kamel Amin Thaabet. The six-episode miniseries launched on September 6 and is unlike anything the "Borat" star has done before. Baron Cohen, who also executive-produced the series, gives an incredibly compelling performance. While it's jarring at first to see him in a dramatic role, his subdued and emotional candor quickly makes you forget

you're watching the guy from "The Dictator" try to be serious.

Unfortunately, it takes a while for the show to click. The first three episodes are mediocre spy fare, nothing too special. We need to get through Eli being recruited, his mission explained, and him building his cover to get to the action. There are exciting moments to be sure, like when Syrian officials are suspicious of this friendly businessman who has suddenly appeared in their lives. These scenes are tense but can't carry an episode. You might be disappointed at first.

Things pick up in the back half of the series when Eli is already

deep in his cover. He's gained the trust and respect of Syrian military leaders, and they've offered him an advisory position in the Ministry of Defense. In fact, he's become so comfortable as "Kamel"

Sacha Baron Cohen's Emmy campaign starts now.

that when he gets the rare chance to visit his wife Nadia back in Bat Yam, he finds it hard to separate his two lives. As he rises in rank, he continues to supply Israel with information that will aid them in the Six Day War, but the whole time, you'll be braced for the tragic ending you know is inevitable.

The supporting cast is what really makes the show work. In particular, Noah Emmerich, trading in his FBI badge from "The Americans" for a role as a Mossad official, gives a great performance as Dan Peleg, who befriends Nadia while Eli is away in Syria for months at a time. (He also puts on a surprisingly convincing Israeli accent!) While the bulk of the series follows Eli infiltrating the Syrian government, scenes back at home are just as important. Eli's absence takes a toll on Nadia, who is raising their child on her own. She also has growing suspicions about what her husband is really up to — he seems unable to give detailed answers about his time "abroad." It raises an important question: What is the

balance between patriotism and personal responsibility?

For those who have a connection to the story, I highly recommend checking out "The Spy." It's all too rare nowadays to find media where the Jewish state is unequivocally the good guy. It's undeniably cool to see 1960s Israel recreated on screen, from a shopping mall to the Golan Heights. Plus, learning about a Jewish hero? You've never had a better excuse for a binge-watch.



Netflix's 'The Spy' starring Sacha Baron Cohen premiered Sept. 6.

NETFLIX



I would posit that constructive criticism tries to understand where the other side is coming from and work from there; destructive criticism takes the critic's way of looking at things for granted.

The Difference Between Constructive and Destructive Criticism

By YEHUDA DOV REISS

Earlier last year, the editor of *The Commentator* published an article defending the fact that the newspaper often critiques various aspects of Yeshiva University and its Roshei Yeshiva. He argued that it is important for the paper to be a “check on the system”, and that exposing faults can be a catalyst for growth. Indeed, the editor has remarked how several critical articles that appeared in *The Commentator* have arguably influenced the institution for the better.

It is important to recognize, however, the difference between constructive criticism and destructive criticism. Constructive criticism focuses on actions and ideas; destructive criticism focuses on people. I would posit that constructive criticism tries to understand where the other side is coming from and work from there; destructive criticism takes the critic's way of looking at things

for granted. Constructive criticism crafts an argument in a way of respect and meticulousness in order so that it should promote change; destructive criticism is primarily concerned with complaining and bashing the other side as much as possible.

The *Chofetz Chaim* particularly emphasized the importance of offering constructive criticism while avoiding destructive criticism when he wrote about the

Commentator, which speak about so many controversial topics in such a public fashion, must be particularly cognizant of this fine line and exhibit the utmost fear of Heaven when publishing.

Of course, some will claim that a lack of “checks on the system” is bad; if someone makes a mistake, it is the job of a newspaper to hold them accountable, by whatever means necessary. It is precisely the of truth in this argument that

it's presented, in order to ensure that it's accomplishing something productive — not simply giving a narrow-minded view or being unnecessarily derisive.

Publishing unnecessarily derisive articles is not only unproductive and sinful, but it also diminishes the author's ethos — anyone reading it sees that the author is coming from a perspective that does not respect those they disagree with. According to

others, we generate rejection and activate criticism. This phenomenon is known as “self-disowning.”

It is one thing to prefer a particular viewpoint; it is entirely another thing to delegitimize or ridicule other viewpoints. I do not mean to point fingers at any individual students for slander; everyone means well and is struggling to arrive at truth. Nor do I discourage the expression of controversial opinions when done appropriately. Rather, I want to raise awareness of an issue, namely a basic lack of respect for our elders and mentors, that permeates our culture, erodes the foundation of Judaism, and often serves as an impediment towards truth. Suffice to say that every movement in history that broke away from Orthodoxy was a result of a lack of this trait. Let us all strive, both in our public and personal encounters, to recognize our place and appreciate our teachers.

An argument must be carefully checked, both in terms of its validity and in how it's presented, in order to ensure that it's accomplishing something productive — not simply giving a narrow-minded view or being unnecessarily derisive.

paramount *requirement* to say *Lashon Hara* when it is *L'Toeles* (for a purely constructive purpose), but the grave severity of saying it when it is not. While this is true regarding all forms of communication, media outlets such as The

compels me to emphasize the difference between constructive and destructive criticism. I am not advocating for censorship in the slightest. Rather, that an argument must be carefully checked, both in terms of its validity and in how

exploringyourmind.com, ...*by criticizing the same thing over and over we are reflecting what we dislike about ourselves. We project our fears and insecurities. In fact, when we do not accept our flaws and instead look for them in*

Sivan Rahav Meir and the Synthesis of Spirituality and Professionalism

By NINA SIEGEL

On the Yeshiva University website, the mission statement for Stern College states: “We bring wisdom to life by combining the finest, contemporary academic education with the timeless teachings of Torah. It is Yeshiva’s unique dual curriculum, which teaches knowledge enlightened by values, that helps our students gain the wisdom to make their lives both a secular and spiritual success.” The emphasis on striving for concurrent religious and secular success is part and parcel to the Stern College and greater Yeshiva University experience, but it is difficult to transfer this concept from theory into actuality.

Spiritual and secular success is often portrayed as an ideal — get a degree, and make strides to foster spiritual growth and connection. However, the implementation of the ideal is never as simple or attainable as the ideal portrays it to be. We all register for a dual curriculum, take more classes than your average college student, and dash from a political science course in one building to a Jewish philosophy class in another. For many, the fusion of both ideals exists on the schedule, but not in life. We see and support the importance of implementing Judaism into our academics, but how many of us actually develop tools to concretize this spirituality when we continue into our professions?

For this academic year, Yeshiva University, the Center for Israel Studies and the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought are welcoming Sivan Rahav Meir as the World Mizrahi Distinguished Visiting Lecturer. Sivan Rahav Meir is someone who has excelled and is continuing to excel in her various fields. She is a noted media personality and lecturer in Israel. She works for an Israel Television News Company, Channel 2 News, writes a column for Yediot Aharonot newspaper, and hosts a weekly radio show on Galei Zahal. She is a secular success by any account. But she does not just succeed secularly. Rahav Meir exemplifies a religious woman who is at the pinnacle of career prowess, but that prowess is rivaled by religious fervor and growth.

While her news broadcasts are watched broadly, her weekly Torah *shiurim* became wildly popular as well, with hundreds of people in attendance. Her Facebook page, where the *shiurim* are posted, has over 170,000 likes. She has a *sefer* on the *parsha*. Rahav Meir uses her career in journalism as a springboard for her illustrious career in Torah teaching.

For a student of Stern College, it is a tremendous privilege to have Rahav Meir visit for the year. It is incredible to see someone who takes the ideal and makes it practical and attainable. Often the balancing act is portrayed as an act: something difficult to maintain,

and the true potential of both the secular and the spiritual are losing out. We’re taught to value the

spirituality is on the back burner. One can be focused on their spirituality and involved in their work

We see and support the importance of implementing Judaism into our academics, but how many of us actually develop tools to concretize this spirituality when we continue into our professions.

spiritual, but when it comes to joining the workforce and placing our career efforts, we see the secular taking the spotlight between the values. That’s not to say that

— that is not a novel idea. But using the skills from one’s career and turning them into Hashem’s work with equal if not more passion is hard.

For Rahav Meir, journalism is her profession and passion. But instead of having them exist separately from her religious efforts, she uses those strengths to ennoble her religious efforts, creating her own unique brand of religious work. In Stern College, it is immensely beneficial to be surrounded and inspired by women like this. Women who make the ideal of sanctifying the secular actual. Rahav Meir shines a light onto making the act actual, making both sides work in tandem, existing strongly separately, but being even stronger in unison.



Rahav Meir exemplifies a religious woman who is at the pinnacle of career prowess, but that prowess is rivaled by religious fervor and growth.

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Tips For Landing an Internship Next Summer

By AVI LEKOWSKY

Internships are a way to explore career choices and help you get experience in either your major or a related field. You can get these experiences working for companies big and small, and while some pay, others might just hand you a t-shirt and call it a day. Don't worry though! While a paid experience is always nicer, internships offer you the chance to gain more knowledge in your career area—and could help you get a higher-paying job when you graduate. Here are three ways to help improve your internship search for the upcoming summer.

2. Broaden Your Horizon

One reason why choosing a career seems so daunting is that there are so many different kinds of jobs available in your chosen major. Sure, marketing may sound interesting, but then you have to decide: which field of marketing do you want to go into? Communications or analytics? How about accounting? Do you want to go into the private or public sector? Finance? Investment banking or equity research? The list can go on, but sometimes you feel that you don't even know where to start. If you're not landing any interviews in your initial area, try applying for a different field. This way, you'll have an understanding of something

internship outside of the tri-state area. New York is a pretty popular place, so it makes sense that people all over the world want to come and work here over the summer. This makes applications a lot more competitive! A large tech company I applied to mentioned to me that there were over 2,000 people that applied for one position. Companies in other places get overlooked, simply because

people don't associate opportunities with them. Take my hometown for example — Des Moines, Iowa. You wouldn't know it, but there are many large companies here with the same opportunities as what you'd find in New York. There are other big organizations here specializing in insurance, fintech, marketing, computer science, and plenty more that are much less competitive to get into.

My qualifications are probably not much more than anyone else who has successfully landed a summer internship, but I've had these on my mind for a while now — applying to dozens of places and countless visits to the Career Center will do that to you. Judging by how stressful my search was, hopefully you'll take these tips and makes yours a bit easier. Good luck!

Internships offer you the chance to gain more knowledge in your career area – and could help you get a higher-paying job when you graduate.

1. Keep Working on Your Resume

As your resume is the initial distinguisher between you and other candidates, make sure that your resume is current. Additionally, make appointments with the Career Center to help you articulately list past work experience and achievements. Keeping updated resumes on LinkedIn, Indeed, and WayUp are important tools to obtain your internship as well. This way, you can attract attention to the maximum amount of recruiters.

outside of your major, which can give you advantages in the future and increase your overall value to a company.

3. Stay out of town!

Admittedly, if you're from the tri-state area, this piece of advice might not be so relevant. However, for the out of towners among us, seriously consider an internship in your home town. We all know the main perks of being an out-of-towner: Less traffic, nicer people, space to breathe, etc. One thing that isn't so commonly talked about is how much easier it is to get an



Working hard or hardly working? Internships provide students a way to explore the career field of their choice.

PIXABAY

The Inverted Yield Curve

By YAAKOV METZ

One of the most consistent recession indicators peaked out its head from the white pillars of the U.S. Treasury, and here is what you need to know. There have been 7 major U.S. recessions since 1960, and all were preceded by a common pattern in the U.S. economy — the inverted yield curve.

An inverted yield curve means that a short-term U.S. treasury is paying a higher interest rate than long-term U.S. treasuries. The inverted yield curve was first coined as a recession indicator by financial economist Campbell Harvey of Duke University in 1986. During the 1980s, many economists researched the stock market to see if it had predictive properties regarding the U.S. economy, but after seeing the failure of his fellow colleagues, Harvey decided to study a less volatile system, the ultra-safe U.S. bond market.

A yield curve represents the different interest rates that are paid to people who own bonds by each of the U.S. Treasuries. A bond, in general, is an agreement stating that if you give an entity money (such as a government or a corporation) they will pay back the original coupon plus interest. If the government holds on to your money for a longer amount of time then you will be paid more. For example, owners of the 30 year U.S. treasury are paid more than owners of a

3-month treasury. This is because the more time money sits in a bond, the higher the risk of the investment failing and therefore one is compensated for allowing that risk.

Imagine if a friend told you that he wanted you to lend money to his company. The terms are simple; 1.5 percent interest paid back in 2 years or 1.4 percent interest paid back in 10. It is clear that something is seriously wrong with your friend's business proposition. What if I told you that your friend is the U.S. treasury and his company is the entire U.S. economy, just as of a week ago.

Part of what makes the inverted yield curve so mesmerizing is the very mystery surrounding it.

Now does this mean we are going into a recession because of this inversion and all the stocks that your Bubbe gave you are going to crash? Well, many economists express skepticism about an upcoming recession today because the Federal Reserve has been one of the biggest buyers of long-term U.S. Treasuries for roughly the last decade. They did this in order to stimulate economic growth after the last economic crisis in 2007. Essentially they are stacking the deck of the U.S. economy and hoping to play a better

hand. This is not a bad thing, but it may result in the distortion of the U.S. bond market. This usually contributes to the making of an inverted yield curve and gives the public false signals about the future of the U.S. economy.

The yield curve is not causative in nature. It does not create recessions, rather it is a representation of how we the people view the future of the U.S. economy. If the general premonition is that a recession is near, investors will flock to the safest financial asset, the U.S. bond. If there are many buyers for long term treasuries in a relatively short period of time, the U.S. can lower interest rates for long-term treasuries, even below the interest rates of short-term treasuries.

Although just a theory, it has held true for the past 6 decades and 7 recessions, with only one false positive. What is important to realize is that there are notable economists and scholars on both sides of this issue. There is no absolute answer. Part of what makes the inverted yield curve so mesmerizing is the very mystery surrounding it. It could be one of the greatest foreshadowing tools in the hands of the general public, and although it has been on a winning streak for the past 70 years, it is important to note that it is not infallible.



Hoping the markets go up

PIXABAY

A Week in Review: August 25, 2019 - August 31, 2019

By EITAN LAVIAN

Editor's Note: The following stories have been summarized from the Wall Street Journal.

Top Stories:

August 25: Deutsche Bank and UBS, Germany and Switzerland's biggest lenders, are willing to form an unusual alliance of investment banking operations. This would help both struggling investment banks compete globally and defend themselves from encroachments of bigger U.S. rivals on their home grounds. Although both sides have failed to reach common grounds, one person involved in multiple deliberations said that talks have been on and off but never fully off of the table.

August 26: At the beginning of this year, Bristol-Myers Squibb, a biopharmaceutical company, agreed to buy its rival, Celgene Corp., for approximately \$74 billion. This would combine the two leading sellers of cancer drugs, however, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission raised concerns about clearing the merger due to anti-competitive concerns. Amgen recently agreed to buy Celgene's psoriasis medicine, Otezla, clearing anticompetitive concerns and giving Bristol-Myers a major leap in allowing them

to close their largest deal ever.

August 26: Ever since the early 2000s, more than 2,000 opioid abuse cases have been brought up, and local municipalities believe drug makers and retail pharmacy chains are to be held accountable. The first case to go to trial was in Oklahoma and was solely focused on American multinational corporation Johnson & Johnson. An Oklahoma judge ordered the company to pay \$572 million for contributing to the state's opioid-addiction crisis. Other notable companies involved in this lawsuit include drugmakers Purdue Pharma LP and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. Johnson & Johnson also face other lawsuits alleging harms from its signature baby powder, pelvic mesh, and hip devices as well as a handful of pharmaceutical products.

August 30: Among two of the smaller players going on the defense in the opioid epidemic, Endo International PLC and Allergan PLC have agreed to settle. Endo International, an Irish pharmaceutical company that generated over 93% of 2017 sales from the U.S. healthcare system, reached a \$10 million settlement earlier this month. Allergan, another Irish pharmaceutical company that acquires, develops, and markets brand name drugs, has agreed to pay \$5 million. In 2017, Allergan generated 80% of net sales from the U.S. healthcare system.

The company stated it would pay 1.9 million to Summit County, Ohio, and \$3.1 million to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, the two plaintiffs whose claims were chosen to serve as leaders in the litigation over the opioid epidemic.

The stock market bounced back in the final week of August, snapping a four-week losing streak.

Markets:

DJIA: 26403. **28 S&P 500:** 2926.46 **U.S. 10 Yr.:** 1.5% **Crude Oil:** -0.56% **Euro:** 1.0991

August 26: US stocks started off strong after President Trump said he wants to reach a trade agreement with China, signaling a potential de-escalation in previous tensions. Markets have swung wildly over the past few days, especially after China stated the week before that they would impose retaliatory tariffs.

August 27: Although President Trump was optimistic in working out a deal with China, investors and analysts still had skepticism which led to the slip of stocks, and

accelerated the buying of bonds, gold, and other "safer" assets.

August 28: Major indexes fluttered between small gains and losses throughout the morning, however, this bounced high ultimately pushing the DJIA up more than 250 points. No major economic reports were released, and trading was relatively quiet on Wednesday.

August 29: News on a face-to-face talk between the U.S. and China in Washington were reported helping U.S. stocks advance on Thursday creating a renewed hope for progress in the "trade war." Both the DJIA and S&P 500 added 1.4%, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite rose 1.6%. The Chinese ministry noted that the U.S. needed to remove the latest tariffs announced by President Trump last week to prevent further escalation and proceed with trade negotiations.

August 30: The stock market bounced back in the final week of August, snapping a four-week losing streak and ends just a few percentage points below their all-time high. The S&P 500 managed to pare its loss for the month to 1.8%. Although stocks bounced back, safe-haven assets, like Gold, closed August up 6.5% and an overall gain of 19%.



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