YEAR 11, ISSUE 1

MORESHET MAGAZINE

In memory of Shirley & Mike Mamiye A”H
By their children and grandchildren



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Mission Statement

Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim is a Sephardic post-high school yeshivah located in Jerusalem, dedicated to preparing young men for college, business and life with a strong foundation in Torah and misvot. Rooted in the rich traditions of Aram Soba and guided by the timeless Sephardic values of our ancestors, we strive to cultivate future leaders- Bnei Torah- who will carry their experience of living and learning in Eres Yisrael into every aspect of their lives.

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Summer of Growth

Summer Learning Program
In partnership with
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Summer of Growth

Ten-Year Anniversary Dinner

















Summer of Growth

Ten-Year Anniversary Dinner

























Shana Bet
by Gitta J. Neufeld

This year, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim welcomed three Shana Bet (second-year) students, who - in addition to their own intense learning schedules - will serve as role models and mentors to the first-year students. The Shana Bet program offers a special opportunity to learn in a small group with Rabbi Shimon Alouf, focusing on practical application of Halakha, as well as learning with our Rosh Yeshivah, Rabbi Harold Sutton, and deepening both knowledge and skills in Gemara.

Our Shana Bet cohort explained why they chose to take this step:

Joseph Dusi (Yeshivah of Flatbush/Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim) said: "I chose to come back for Shana Bet to build a stronger Torah base for my future. With the opportunity to learn with Rabbi Alouf in front of me – it seemed impossible to pass up. This ties into my future as well because I plan on going to college after and it will be hard to live a life full of Torah without being strongly rooted."



Joseph's brother **Daniel Dusi** (Barkai Yeshivah/ Mitzpeh Yericho) remarked: "I chose to come for Shana Bet because I wanted to continue expanding my knowledge in Torah, and to build connections with community Rabbis. Torah is an integral part of my future and since I want to connect both to the community and to the Kedusha of Eres Yisrael, this was the logical next step."



Charles Savdie (Yeshivah of Flatbush/Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim) said: "I decided to come back for Shana Bet because of the incredible time and growth I had in the first year. Also the time I have to learn now in my life will not be the same in 5 years from now. I really wanted to strengthen my foundation now so it's easier to build on it later, plus the rabbis that you have access to in Brooklyn cannot be compared to the amount of knowledgeable hakhamim in Eres Yisrael."

We are gratified that these stellar young men have chosen to join us, and that they incorporate meaningful Torah learning into their lives and long-term plans for the future.

Mrs. Gitta J. Neufeld is currently Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim's registrar, administrator and - her favorite title- "school grandma."

Recent Highlights

Landed!















Recent Highlights

Learning in Action!

All Torah that is studied at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim is in loving memory of Ovadia Buddy Sutton A"H











Recent Highlights



Ahabat Eres Yisrael Program is graciously sponsored in honor of our parents Ezra & Sharyn Ashkenazi
By their children

For our first tiyul of the year, we went hiking through the Wadi Kelt Springs!



For the final selihot of the season, we went to the Kotel on a Saturday night to join ~150,000 Jews before Yom Kippur!



To celebrate the start of a new semester, we had a barbecue in Gan Saker- just another perk of our amazing location. There's nothing like being in Jerusalem with this park as our backyard!



Rosh Hodesh Series 5787 is graciously sponsored in memory of
Karen Mizrahi A"H

At our MarHeshvan special breakfast we heard Dibre Torah from Rabbi Gold, Josh Aboody & Moshe Alouf



Holiday Experience 5787 is graciously sponsored in honor of Ezra Ashkenazi
By Jack Haddad

On Hoshaana Raba we held a special late night of learning. We had classes by Rabbi Benjamin, Rabbi Tessler and Yehuda Tawil followed by the reading, with ice cream and refreshments served throughout the night.

Hoshaana Raba Learning 5787 was graciously sponsored by The Massry Family

Mishmar at Moreshet

Mishmar Series 5787 is graciously sponsored in memory of Raymond Mosseri A"H רחמים בן מזל
By The Mosseri Family



Rabbi Maxie Sutton

Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Jacob & Mark Mosseri welcoming their brother Michael and this year's class



Josh Aboody

Mishmar was graciously sponsored by alumnus Solly Gadeh



Eli Mizrahi (Class of '24)



Rabbi Yehoshua Shani

Mishmar was graciously sponsored by alumni Zeke Kassab, Joel Nasar and Eddie Dweck



Rabbi Edward Benjamin

Mishmar was graciously sponsored by alumnus Morris Hanan



Moshe Alouf

Mishmar was graciously sponsored by alumni David Cattan, Joe Sultan, Irwin Azar and Joe I. Dweck

After the High
by Daniel Hafif

The first Shabbat in Israel, we started off the year sitting around the table singing pizmonim with our rabbis. No matter what school everyone came from, no matter the state, everyone sang together, and from then on it felt like we were one. I had been looking forward to this for so long, and suddenly I was in it.

The first few weeks were like that. Everything was new and exciting, and every day felt like a gift. That's what a new beginning feels like, and that's exactly what Parashat Noah is about. Noah comes out of the Tebah into a world that has to be rebuilt from scratch. Hashem tells him to go out, to be fruitful, and to fill the earth, and the Torah tells us that Noah went out: "וַיֵּצֵא נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּנְשֵׁי בָנָיו אִתּוֹ." (Bereshit 8:18). That's the real start. Nobody hands it to him, and it's up to him to build.

Then Sukkot came and went, and now we're in the actual year. Those first weeks were us stepping out of the Tebah, our new beginning. But a new beginning is only the start. The real work is what comes after, and that's where Parashat Vayera comes in.

In Vayera, we meet Abraham as a man who's already consistent. He's not having his one big exciting moment. He's just living his values every single day, even when it's difficult.

וַיֵּרָ֖א אֵלָ֣יו ה בְּאֵלֹנֵ֑י מַמְרֵ֔א וְה֣וּא
יֹשֵׁ֗ב פֶּ֚תַח־הָאֹ֔הֶל כְּחֹ֖ם הַיּֽוֹם

Rashi explains that it was the third day after his Berit. Even in pain, even in the heat of the day, he's looking to do hesed. That's not a one-time high. That's a routine he built for himself.

That's what we're trying to do now. We had our new beginning, and now we're working on our consistency. Over half the yeshivah has taken on Shenayim Mikra VeEhad Targum this year. Around twenty boys stay in the Bet Midrash every night after seder to keep learning, and a few more use their lunch and dinner breaks to learn as well. Nobody is telling them to. They're building their own consistency, the way Abraham did.

A year in Israel is not a week-long bar misvah trip, where we feel a high for a few days and then go back to our normal lives. A year in Israel means taking that feeling and turning it into a lifetime. We have the chance to connect to Boreh Olam with fewer distractions. Noah shows us how to start, and Abraham shows us how to keep going. This is our time to do both.

Daniel Hafif graduated from Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School in 2026 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

Student Perspectives

The Opportunity of a Lifetime
by Benjamin Dweck

Throughout my entire life I've always been told how important Torah and my customs are. Growing up with parents who view Torah as a guide on how to live life, I've always wanted to get to that point myself.

I was born in New York but when I was a young kid my family moved to Los Angeles. While living in LA for as long as I can remember, my dad has always made an effort to try to get me to go to Israel, but I would always think, what about working or college and really taking that first big leap into adulthood. So when the conversation of Yeshivah came up with my dad I was super conflicted because obviously I want to learn and grow a connection with Hashem, but at the same time I can get a head start on adulthood and become financially responsible.

After a few more discussions I decided that I would go to Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. When I made the decision to come I was extremely nervous. I was nervous that being on my own would result in me leaving the year early. Also, not knowing so many kids was a super nerve-racking feeling.

Once I got to Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim all of my worries went out the window. Being on my own was like a breath of fresh air. The kids I met are now some of my closest friends- and it's only been a few weeks!

My parents and I had a very clear conversation about what this year will look like for me once I get to Israel. My dad has always been very big on learning and maintaining a close relationship with Hashem and making Him the most important thing in my life.

When I got to Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim I knew that I had a tremendous opportunity to learn under some amazing talmide hakhamim. Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim is a very unique place where we are given the freedom and privilege to open a ספר and that they cater to the Syrian customs and way of learning. I'm very excited to see what opportunities the year brings me and how much I will know when the year is over.

Being in Israel and being able to learn under Rabbi Sutton, Rav Shani, Rabbi Gold, Rabbi Benjamin, Ezra Dweck and Moshe Alouf is genuinely the greatest gift I ever could have received. I get the opportunity to change my life and live a life in the way of God and I also get to learn under people who know a tremendous amount about Torah.

Overall my decision to come to Israel was not an easy decision but now that I'm here, if I chose not to come, I would have missed out on the opportunity of a lifetime. I've been blessed with a great opportunity to come here and learn Torah with friends and some amazing Rabbis.

Benjamin Dweck graduated from Shalhevet High School in 2026 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

Month of Learning – Elul & Tishri

Graciously sponsored in honor of Rabbi Harold Sutton and his team By Joe Sabbagh and Family

Student Perspectives

Running Out of Time
by Baruch Elmann

I don't have any time. And the funny thing is, I'm not sure I'd want it any other way.

When I first arrived at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim, I thought that I would be overwhelmed by the rigorous schedule of praying and learning subjects such as Gemara, Halakha and philosophy. However, now that I've settled in after a month, I've realized that it's not that yeshivah takes up too much of my time. It's that I keep finding more things I want to do with it.

Even with a structured learning schedule, I still find myself wanting to explore new topics and delve deeper into areas of Torah that interest me. Beyond my regular seder schedule, I have been practicing my hazzanut, which has allowed me to serve as hazzan for minyan almost every day, something I had rarely done before.

I have also taken on Mishna Yomi, begun learning daily with new Habrutot I never would have expected to learn with, and committed to Shenayim Mikra, deepening my understanding of the weekly parasha, something I would often find excuses not to do before arriving here.

And the best part? I'm not the only one. I've seen others become increasingly motivated, choosing to spend their free time learning, exploring topics that genuinely interest them, and finding their own ways to connect with Boreh Olam. It's inspiring to see that desire for growth extend beyond the formal schedule, as each person discovers new ways to strengthen their connection to Torah and Hashem.

This isn't a thought that only crosses my mind. I hear it from other students during lunch, on breaks, and in the Bet Midrash. Everyone is so inquisitive, constantly looking for more to learn and explore. It's hard not to feel motivated when you're surrounded by an environment like this. Now, I find myself learning not only from the multitude of books around me, but also from the teachers and fellow students who have so much to teach me.

A month ago, I worried that yeshivah would leave me with no time. Now, a month in, I realize that the real gift of yeshivah is that it has given me more things worth making time for.

Baruch Elmann graduated from Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School in 2026 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

Month of Learning – MarHeshvan

Graciously sponsored by
The Betesh Family

Mabrook!

Mabrook to Shirley Farca & **Elliot Dweck** (Class of ‘22) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Danielle Kraiem & **Robert Soffer** (Class of ‘24) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Erica Lincer & **Alan Mehani** (Class of ‘24) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Camille Mosseri & **Bruce Zekaria** (Class of ‘25) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Frieda Catton & **Isaac Dweck** (Class of ‘24) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Marcy Ashear & **David Laniado** (Class of ‘17) on their engagement!

Mabrook to Jacqueline Mizrachi & **Danny Massry** (Class of ‘21) on their marriage!
Mabrook to Raquel Salman & **Ronnie Sasson** (Class of ’22) on their marriage!
Mabrook to Mazal Tobias & **Joe D. Gindi** (Class of ’24) on their marriage!
Mabrook to Esther Abadi & **Ikey Dweck** (Class of ‘21) on their marriage!
Mabrook to Adrienne Shalom & **Jacob Betesh** (Class of ‘22) on their marriage!

Mabrook to Rivka & **Rabbi Yaakov Tessler** (Director of Curriculum & Student Activities) on the birth of a baby boy!
Mabrook to Margo & **Ikey Betesh** (Class of ’19) on the birth of a baby girl!
Mabrook to Freda & **Irwin Sutton** (Class of ‘21) on the birth of a baby boy!
Mabrook to Stephanie & **Steven Mizrahi** (Class of '19) on the birth of a baby boy!
Mabrook to Mariyah & **Moshe Alouf** (Class of ‘17 and current teacher) on the birth of a baby girl!
Mabrook to Joyce & **Sonny Cayre** (Class of ‘19) on the birth of a baby boy!
Mabrook to Moselle & **Saul Bibi** (Class of ‘22) on the birth of a baby boy!

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In honor of my grandparents Abraham & Barbara Franco and Joe & Eileen Sutton
By Jacob Franco

Hoshaana Raba Learning
The Massry Family

Simhat Torah
Margie & Sammy Saka and Family

Catching Up With Our Alumni

Joshua Catton (Class of '23)

Moreshet Magazine (MM): Thanks for taking the time to speak with us.

Joshua Catton: Of course.

MM: Tell us about yourself before going to Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. Where did you go to high school? What was your connection to learning?

Joshua Catton: I went to Yeshivah of Flatbush, which I loved, but to be honest, I wasn't learning much at that point. I didn't have any kind of learning schedule at nights or anything like that.

MM: How did you hear about Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim?

Joshua Catton: Rabbi Edward Benjamin came to recruit, and then I heard more about it from friends. Usually a friend group chooses a place together, and it felt like everyone wanted to go there, so I went with them.

MM: Why did you choose this school? There are many schools out there. What stood out to you about Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim?

Joshua Catton: So like I was saying before, Rabbi Benjamin came in to recruit and really connected with us, he was very relatable. The location is great too, which is one of the more underrated things about it. And it was smaller and newer. Instead of going to an "established place," I wanted to be a part of paving the way for more kids to come.

MM: Do you have any stories to share about staff going above and beyond for you during your year?

Joshua Catton: I can't say enough about Rabbi Yaakov Tessler. He was the "do-everything" guy. I got sick and went to the hospital, and I didn't really know what I was doing. There was an issue with my insurance and it was about to cost me a lot of money. Rabbi Tessler heard about this, dropped what he was doing, got in his car, rushed to the hospital and handled everything for me from A to Z. He was always that type of rabbi. So much Hesed. I love Rabbi Tessler. He still comes to New York every now and then to meet up with the alumni and I love catching up with him.



MM: Holidays in Israel are next level. If you had to pick one- which was your favorite?

Joshua Catton: All the holidays were great, but the most memorable was Shabuot. We stayed up all night learning and then went to the Kotel to pray at sunrise. It's something I'll never forget.

MM: What about the learning? Tell us about the learning at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

Joshua Catton: For me, I really got an appreciation for Tanakh at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. I remember sitting in the kitchen on Shabbat afternoon, eating some leftovers and just reading Tanakh, getting very into it. That's a great memory for me. I ended up learning several books of Nebiim on my own.

MM: What about when you got back to America? Do you see a difference in Joshua before Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim and Joshua after Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim?

Joshua Catton: 100%. I'm much more knowledgeable- in Tanakh, in Gemara and in general. I also have more of a connection to Israel now that I've lived there for a full year. I was obviously connected before, but now it's even more so.

But more than anything, it gave me the tools I needed in life. October 7th happened soon after my year ended, and it put me on another level religiously. But I don't think I would have been able to take that big of a step without the tools I had from Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. It prepared me.

MM: Anything else you'd like to share before we let you go?

Joshua Catton: Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim is great and I'm very grateful for my time there. The rabbis are great, the learning is great, the location is great- the whole place is great.

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