

בס"ד

ACADEMY OF JEWISH STUDIES

I SPENT 491 DAYS AS A
HOSTAGE OF HAMAS.
THIS IS MY STORY



WINTER/SPRING
5786 • 2025-2026



YOUNG ISRAEL OF
SCARSDALE





Young Israel of Jewsradale

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Living Inspired. Growing Together.

ב"ה



BE A PART OF OUR LEGACY & JOIN OUR EXCITING YIS EXPANSION W/ THE 200+ FAMILIES WHO HAVE ALREADY GENEROUSLY PLEDGED HELP US BUILD THE FUTURE OF AM YISRAEL!

RABBI MORGENSTERN AND OUR DEVOTED EXPANSION COMMITTEE HAVE SHARED WITH US A COMPELLING CASE FOR HOW AND WHY OUR YIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS SO IMPORTANT, NOT JUST FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY - FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN - BUT ALSO FOR THE FUTURE OF AN ENGAGED, VIBRANT AND CONNECTED AM YISRAEL IN THIS COUNTRY.

WE ARE WORKING ON CREATING ANOTHER EXCITING AND INSPIRING YEAR OF PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPACT AND ELEVATE OUR COMMUNITY.

PLEASE HELP US FULFILL OUR AMBITIOUS GOAL OF \$15,000,000+. SO FAR, THANKS TO THE INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY OF 200+ FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY, WE HAVE ALREADY ECLIPSED \$14,000,000 IN THIS EXCITING CAPITAL RAISE. HOWEVER, THIS INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENT ONLY REFLECTS CLOSE TO 50% OF OUR CONGREGATION, AND WE HUMBLLY CALL UPON ALL OF YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION PROJECT IN A WAY THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU AND TO YOUR FAMILY.

CLICK HERE
TO SEE OUR LATEST DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

NEW "GREAT WALL OF AM YISRAEL:" DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY! INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN JEWISH-ISRAELI HISTORY

*FOR NEW DONORS & THOSE WHO SEEK TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS

WE HAVE BEEN IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INCREDIBLE SHUK GRAFFITI ARTIST, SOLOMON SOUZA, ABOUT ELEVATING SOME OF OUR OUTDOOR SPACES WITH THE SPIRIT AND COLORFUL IMAGERY OF ISRAEL - SPECIFICALLY OUTSIDE OUR SOCIAL HALL AND ON THE NEW OUTDOOR CHILDREN'S VERANDA. THIS PROJECT IS CALLED:

"THE GREAT WALL OF AM YISRAEL: INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN JEWISH-ISRAELI HISTORY"

THESE UNIQUE PIECES OF ART WILL CONSIST OF UP TO 18 PORTRAITS (RAMBAM, RASHI, GOLDA MEIR ETC.) AS WELL AS A ONE-OF-A KIND BEAUTIFUL "GESHER YISRAEL" MURAL, ARTISTICALLY COMMEMORATING THE SPECIAL LINK BETWEEN THE YIS COMMUNITY & AM YISRAEL B'ERETZ YISRAEL. THIS DEDICATION OPPORTUNITY IS OPEN TO NEW DONORS & THOSE WHO WISH TO ENHANCE THEIR EXISTING DONATIONS.

- Historical Figure Dedication - \$54,000/per
- "Geshher Yisrael" Mural - \$100,000

PLEASE CONTACT RABBI MORGENSTERN OR ARI WEINBERGER FOR A LIST OF POTENTIAL HISTORICAL FIGURES

THEODOR HERZL PORTRAIT
GOLDA MEIR PORTRAIT



RAMBAM PORTRAIT



YOUR PLEDGE (WHICH CAN BE PAID OUT OVER 3 - 5 YEARS) WILL SECURE THE JEWISH FUTURE FOR YEARS TO COME IN OUR EXPANDED FACILITY THAT WILL SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE THOUSANDS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HEAR OUR UNIQUE MESSAGE, BE INSPIRED BY OUR SHUL'S DYNAMIC ENERGY AND LIVE OUR JEWISH LIVES IN A WAY THAT PERPETUATES A LOVE OF TORAH, AM YISRAEL AND MEDINAT YISRAEL.



The Young Israel of Scarsdale is going on another Family Mission to Israel in August 2026! We will explore sites from Jerusalem to the Galil, the Dead Sea, and everything in between. We will visit Israel's South & North and remember the Jews and Chayalim who stood strong against our enemies. The mission will once again be led by the talented and insightful YIS guide, Maayan Leshem, along with Rabbi Morgenstern, and will feature an inspiring Shabbat in Yerushalayim. This trip is a beautiful way for our children to explore Israel and create a bond with our homeland. **For more information, please contact Micole Weitzman or Rabbi Morgenstern**

Stay tuned for more information, prices, and a full itinerary!

Click Here Listen To Our Increasingly Popular Array of Shiurim on Spotify, Apple Podcast and YUTorah

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN!

Previously... @ YIS



Rabbi Shay Schachter provides words of inspiration heading into Yom Kippur



YIS Tailgates on Chol HaMoed Sukkot w/ a Sukkah before a big Giants Thursday night win over the Eagles



Eitan Katz Simchat Beit HaShoevah



Meet The Team



R' Ariel Schneider



**Rabbi Jonathan
Morgenstern**



Rabbi Nuriel Klinger

Weekday Shiurim

YIS Daf Yomi via webyeshiva.org

w/ **Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rothstein**



Sunday @ 7:30 am, Monday-Friday @ 6:15 am

We are excited that the Young Israel of Scarsdale has its own Daf Yomi shiur. It is taught by a prolific Rabbinic scholar, Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rothstein on WebYeshiva.org. Rabbi Dr. Rothstein received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University (1991) and his Ph.D. in Medieval Jewish History from Harvard (2003). He has served as a synagogue rabbi, a high school Judaic Studies faculty member at several yeshiva high schools, and an adult educator. He is a highly sought-after speaker and we are so privileged to have him teaching Torah in our community.

Living by The Code... of Jewish Law

w/ **Rabbi Nuriel Klinger**

Sundays @ 7:45am, Live & on Zoom

This class is a serious text study to fuel the day and enhance one's knowledge of Jewish practice and observance. Participants study practical Halacha with the Mishnah Berurah and Aruch HaShulchan, on the Laws of Shabbat.

Men and Women are welcome.

Torat Rav Kook: Insights of Talmudic Tales Relating to Jewish Life and the Jewish Soul

w/ **Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern**

Tuesdays @ 7:30am-8:00am, following 7:00am Shacharit, Live & on Zoom

A fascinating exploration of the famous Aggadot in Masechet Brachot through the unique and insightful lens of Rav Kook. Men and women are welcome.





Just One More Sugya: A Gemara Shiur that's Just Right

w/ R' Ariel Schneider

Wednesdays @ 7:45am, Live & on Zoom

Have you always wanted to learn Gemara, but just looking for the right type of class? Here is your chance to learn Talmudic tomes in more bite-size amounts! Learn Masechet Megillah every Wednesday "Just One Sugya" at a time. Men and women are welcome.

The Weekly Parsha: Uncovering the Hidden Dimension of the Weekly Torah Portion

w/ Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern

Fridays @ 7:30am-8:10am || Between our Shacharit Minyanim

This popular gathering – that continues to grow more and more each year – will delve into the weekly Torah portion through the lens of the *Kli Yakar*, a classical commentary written in the 17th century by R' Shlomo Ephraim Luntschitz. Stay for bagel, eggs & Shakshuka – and truly feel the weekly Parsha come to life. Also available on Spotify and YU Torah. Men and women are welcome.

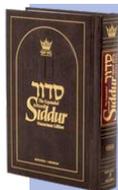


The Short Vort w/ The YIS Rabbis

Fridays via Whatsapp & Shul Emails

Every Friday the Rabbis will share a short insight into the weekly Parsha to get ready for Shabbat. It is sent out via WhatsApp and through the shul email.

Tefillah Schedule



Shacharit

(including Rosh Chodesh)

Sun: 7:00am & 8:30am
 Mon, Thurs & RC: 6:45am & 8:00am
 Tues & Wed: 7:00am & 8:00am
 Fri: 7:00am & 8:10am

Mincha

w/ Sunset



Shabbat Morning

Post-Hashkama Learning Groups

Insights on the Weekly Parsha w/ Steve Gelles
 Mishnah Berurah w/ Dr. Steve Keller

Pirkei Avot, Shabbat Afternoons

in the Spring/Summer
 (40 minutes before Mincha)
 w/ Richard Bienenfeld





Weekly/Monthly Programming

YIS Beit Midrash Program: Tuesday Night Torah

w/ R' Ariel Schneider

Tuesdays @ 8:45pm

Join us on Tuesday nights for an open Beit Midrash learning program. You can learn in a Chabura from 8:45pm-9:45pm using the personalized YIS topical learning program and learn practical Halacha that comes up in your everyday life!

Monthly Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern



Enjoy the finest deli & burgers around, while exploring some of the finest ideas and insights that the Torah has to offer. Please contact Eli Moore, elimoorelaw@gmail.com, if you would like to sponsor a Lunch & Learn session. The first three Lunch & Learn sessions will take place on **November 6th**, **December 11th**, and **January 15th**

Thursday Night Chaburah

w/ The YIS Rabbinic Team & Guest Presenters

Get together with the guys for great food and drinks and be inspired by the wisdom of the weekly Parsha. One Thursday night a month, the YIS Rabbinic Team will share practical and uplifting insights on the upcoming Parshiot, offering ideas you can bring into your heart, home, and Shabbat table.



Weekly/Monthly Programming Continued

Living Room Learning: Open to Men & Women w/ The YIS Rabbinic Team & Guest Presenters

This periodic Chaburah will be a wonderful opportunity to interactively study Torah in a relaxed environment in different homes in the community and will be led by the YIS Rabbis. **If you would like to host or sponsor please be in touch with Caroline Bryk or Russie Berger.**



SHE-IUR: A Women's Learning Forum For Women & Taught by Women

This periodic SHE-IUR will be a wonderful opportunity for women to engage in interactive Torah study in a warm and enjoyable environment, hosted in different homes throughout the community. Led by incredible women scholars around the world, each gathering will offer meaningful insights and inspiration. **If you would like to host or sponsor please be in touch with Lauren Ganz, Rachel Goldschmidt, Leora Horvath, Rifkie Goldberger or Micole Weitzman**

Outstanding Shabbat Speaker Program

Shabbat of Jewish Spirit w/ Michael Rapaport

October 31st - November 1st



Michael Rapaport is an American actor, comedian, and filmmaker known for his dynamic career spanning film, television, and podcasting. Beyond entertainment, he has become a passionate and outspoken advocate for Israel and the Jewish people, using his platform to combat antisemitism and support Jewish pride. Rapaport hosts the popular I Am Rapaport: Stereo Podcast, where his humor and authenticity shine through. His bold voice and unapologetic stance have made him a unique figure at the intersection of pop culture and Jewish advocacy.

YIS Community Shabbat w/ Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Weinberg

December 12th-13th



Rabbi Moshe Tzvi Weinberg serves as Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshiva University and as a rebbe at Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield, New Jersey. Known for his heartfelt Torah, soulful tefillah, and warm approach to avodat Hashem, he has inspired countless students and communities. His teachings blend passion, authenticity, and spiritual depth, guiding others toward meaningful connection and growth.

Shabbat on Campus w/ Dr. Alan Kadish

January 23rd-24th



Dr. Alan Kadish is the President of Touro University and New York Medical College, a distinguished cardiologist, medical researcher, and educator. A graduate of Yeshiva University and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he has authored over 200 scientific papers and is recognized as a leading voice at the intersection of medicine, ethics, and Jewish values. Under his leadership, Touro has expanded globally, combining academic excellence with a deep commitment to Torah and professional achievement.

Shabbat Torat Emet w/ Rabbi Dr. Josh Berman

February 6th- 7th *Co-Sponsored by the Living Torah Fund*



Rabbi Dr. Josh Berman is a professor of Bible at Bar-Ilan University and one of the leading voices in Tanakh study and Jewish thought. A graduate of Princeton University with a Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan, he blends academic rigor with deep faith and insight and is known for bridging traditional Torah and modern scholarship to offer a clear, in-depth understanding of the Torah.



Outstanding Shabbat Speaker Program Continued

Motza"sh Live @YIS Community Comedy Night w/ Dovi Neuberger || February 7th



Dovi Neuberger is a Jewish comedian and producer based in New York, known for his sharp wit and humor rooted in the world of Modern Orthodox life. He brings authentic Jewish experiences to the stage and uses comedy as a bridge to celebrate Jewish identity and connect audiences with the joy and depth of Judaism.

Shabbat of Unpacking Israeli History w/ Noam Weissman Shabbat HaChodesh || March 13th-14th



Dr. Noam Weissman is Executive Vice President of OpenDor Media, where he develops innovative Jewish and Israel education content. A former educator and school leader, he is known for making complex Jewish ideas engaging and relevant for today's generation. He also hosts the popular podcast Unpacking Israeli History, exploring Israel's past with depth and nuance.

Shabbat HaAtzma'ut w/ Rabbi Moshe Taragin & Musical Guest Shulem Lemmer Shabbat Rosh Chodesh || April 17th-18th



Rabbi Moshe Taragin is a senior Ram at Yeshivat Har Etzion, where he has taught Torah for over three decades, inspiring generations of students with his passion for Torah. He makes complex ideas accessible and deeply meaningful. His Torah reaches a global audience through his book Reclaiming Redemption and his widely followed online shiurim. Rabbi Taragin's family has become a source of inspiration to the broader community through their resilience and unwavering emunah following his son Akiva's serious injury while serving in the IDF.



Shulem Lemmer is a world-renowned Hasidic singer and recording artist known for his powerful voice and soulful performances that bridge Jewish and mainstream music. He became the first Hasidic Jew to sign with a major record label. Shulem's music blends tradition and modernity, inspiring audiences worldwide with messages of faith, unity, and hope.





Outstanding Shabbat Speaker Program Continued

UJA Shabbat w/ Glenn Cohen

May 1st-2nd



Glenn Cohen is a former Mossad officer who served as the organization's Chief Psychologist and worked extensively as a hostage negotiator and instructor for Israel's elite special forces. Cohen went from being a Ramaz Day School student to joining the Mossad and serving in the Israeli Air Force for thirty years. Cohen dedicated his career to psychological support and operational debriefing within Israel's security services. Cohen also worked with hostages and victims following the events of October 7, 2023, now lectures and consults internationally on leadership, trauma recovery, and peak performance under pressure.

Shavuot w/ Shaina Trapedo & William Mehrvarz

May 21st-23rd



Dr. Shaina Trapedo is an Assistant Professor of English at Stern College for Women and a Resident Scholar at Yeshiva University. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine, focusing on early modern literature and religious studies. Her research explores the Hebrew Bible and early English drama, and she inspires students by bridging Torah and Western culture.



William Mehrvarz was born in Tehran, Iran, and raised in a devout Muslim family. His spiritual search led him to discover Judaism, which he studied secretly under threat of persecution. In 2017, he fled Iran and sought asylum in the United States, where he formally converted to Judaism and studied at Yeshiva University. Today, Mehrvarz lives in the U.S., works in cybersecurity, and shares his remarkable story of faith, courage, and freedom.

Shabbat Chazon w/ Rabbi Shlomo Brody

July 17th-18th



Rabbi Shlomo Brody is a Torah educator, speaker, and author known for making complex Jewish texts accessible and relevant. He teaches widely on Tanakh, Jewish thought, and practical spirituality, inspiring learners of all ages. Brody is active in writing, publishing essays and articles that explore Jewish ideas in contemporary contexts. Through his public speaking and classes, he brings clarity, passion, and depth to Jewish learning.



Outstanding Weeknight Programming

We are Honored to, Beezrat Hashem, host Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis,
 Chief Rabbi of England
 March 20th-21st



The Light at the End of the Tunnel w/ Eli Sharabi Wednesday, December 3rd @ 7:30pm

Co-Sponsored by Israel Bonds in conjunction w/ Westchester Reform Temple



Eli Sharabi is an Israeli who survived 491 days in captivity after being abducted by Hamas militants during the October 7, 2023, attack on Kibbutz Be’eri. During his captivity in Gaza, Sharabi endured extreme conditions, including starvation, abuse, and isolation, often alongside fellow hostages Alon Ohel and Eliya Cohen. Upon his release, he tragically learned that his wife, daughters, and brother had died in attack or captivity. Sharabi has become an advocate for hostages and the return of bodies held by Hamas, publishing his bestselling memoir *Hostage* and inspiring many with his resilience and courage

The Mad Woman in the Rabbi’s Attic w/ Gila Fine

Tuesday, November 18th @ 8:00pm Co-Sponsored by the Living Torah Fund



Gila Fine is a lecturer of rabbinic literature at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, exploring Talmudic stories through philosophy, literary criticism, psychoanalysis, and popular culture. She is the former editor-in-chief of Maggid Books and has taught thousands of students worldwide. Her book, *The Madwoman in the Rabbi’s Attic: Rereading the Women of the Talmud*, offers fresh readings of six named female figures in the Talmud.





Outstanding Weeknight Programming Continued

Jews & Zionism Throughout History: Then & Now

w/ Rabbi Evan Hoffman

Wednesdays @ 8:00pm, November 5th, 12th, & 19th



Rabbi Evan Hoffman serves as the spiritual leader of Congregation Anshe Sholom in New Rochelle, NY, after previously assisting at Park East Synagogue in Manhattan. He graduated from Yeshiva College (summa cum laude), received semikhah from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, and holds an M.A. in Modern Jewish History from Bernard Revel Graduate School.

Hebrew Ulpan for Adults

w/ The Bnot Sheirut



Have you always wanted to speak Hebrew fluently but weren't sure how to get started? Here's your chance to build your Hebrew skills in a warm, engaging Ulpan designed specifically for YIS adults by our incredible Bnot Sheirut. Learn to speak Hebrew with confidence — one conversation at a time.

Join us on Mondays, November 17th, 24th, December 8th, 15th, 22nd @ 7:30pm



Young Israel of Scarsdale





Outstanding Weeknight Programming Continued

ANTISEMITISM: What Everyone Needs to Know w/ David Harris, A Discussion of His Newest Timely Book Winter/Spring 2026



David Harris served as the longtime CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) from 1990 to 2022, where he became known as one of the most influential voices in global Jewish advocacy. Under his leadership, the AJC expanded its international reach, strengthening ties between the Jewish community and governments worldwide while promoting human rights, combating antisemitism, and supporting Israel's security and legitimacy.

Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik @ YIS Winter/Spring 2026



Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik is a prominent Modern Orthodox rabbi, scholar, and public intellectual, known for his dynamic teaching and writing on Jewish thought, history, and philosophy. He has served as a congregational rabbi, including at Congregation Shearith Israel in New York, and as a faculty member at institutions such as Yeshiva University. Rabbi Dr. Soloveichik frequently lectures internationally and contributes to scholarly and popular publications, addressing contemporary issues through the lens of Jewish tradition. He is also recognized for his deep engagement with both classical texts and modern ideas, making him a leading voice in Jewish education and public discourse.

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Rabbi Soloveichik providing words of wisdom @ YIS last year



MAKE THE MINYAN PLEDGE @ YIS



Help us strengthen our daily Minyanim!

Minyan Pledge

Make a monthly Minyan pledge to join us YIS at Davening or a morning Shiur during the week. As we are now past the Chaggim and fully entering into the new year ahead, enhance your connection to our Community, to Hashem & His Torah and to Am Yisrael. **This is the idea:** whatever date your birthday is on will be the date in each month that you will join us @ Shul (e.g. If your birthday is November 15th, you will make a commitment to join our Minyan on the 15th of every month.



Fill out google form

Fill out our google form that will ask you for basic information, i.e. name, email and birthday. The form will also ask you to "check off" to pledge to come each month to Daven (that day will be based on your birthday)



Reminders

We will send you a monthly reminder 24 hours before the day of the pledge date in order to help you keep this pledge



Chizuk

We will send you Chizuk messages throughout the month to keep you motivated with your pledge.

CLICK HERE TO PLEDGE

עם ישראל חי!

