

2018 / 5779 - ROSH HASHANAH

MHA/FYOS

Alumni and Friends

Issue 12

**Highlighting the
graduating classes
of 1957-1965**



IN THIS ISSUE

Message to Alumni

Joanne Kahane

President's Message

Aileen Cooper

Dvar Torah

Rabbi David Greenblatt

(MHA '65)

Dvar Torah

Allan Katz

(MHA '65, FYOS '69)

Alumni News

Mazel Tovs and more

2011-2015 Trivia Answers

Answers to the questions in Issue No. 11

Spotlight on

Rabbi Alfred Fruchter

Founding Principal of the MHA

1957-1965 Trivia

Win a tin of Ricki's Cookies

Alumni Basketball Game

Join us for MLK Weekend

MHA Memories

Lynnie (Arlynn Katz)

Mirvis (MHA '62)

Beis Medrash

Nears Completion

Progress report

Our Charter of

Incorporation

The MHA "Birth Certificate"

MHA Banquet 2018

Honoring our 1968 Graduates

The Classes of 1957-1965

Where are they now?

Flashbacks

Photographs from the past

This newsletter is dedicated
in loving memory of

George Conroy (MHA '58)

Steven Epstein (MHA '59)

Gerald Kibel (MHA '64)

Rabbi Harry (Nechemiah) Kibel

(MHA '65, YOS '69)

Jacob Rubenstein (MHA '63)

Harry Schaffer (MHA '58)

We also mourn the recent passing of:

Rabbi Yosi Eisen (MHA '94, FYOS '97)

Jonathan Finegold (YOS '74)

May their memories be a blessing.

Joanne Kahane, alumni committee chair

Amara Levine-Reich (MHA '94, FYOS '97), editor

Shoshana (Yaffe) Cenker, copy editor

Eric Schubert, technology support

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Feinstone Yeshiva of the South

COVER PHOTO: Rabbi Alfred Fruchter
with the kindergarten class of 1951.

Front row (from left): Reva Kaplan, **Gerry**
(Margolin Fink) Platsky (MHA '59),
Debbie (Fruchter) Robinson.

Back row (from left): [unknown], **Paul**
Harrick (MHA '59), Stephen Kendrick,
[unknown], **Barry Riesenber**g (MHA '59).



MISSED AN ISSUE? ARCHIVES

Click on each link to enjoy past issues!

Issue 1, Chanukah 2014

Issue 2, Pesach 2015

Issue 3, Rosh Hashanah 2015

Issue 4, Chanukah 2015

Issue 5, Pesach 2016

Issue 6, Rosh Hashanah 2016

Issue 7, Chanukah 2016

Issue 8, Pesach 2017

Issue 9, Rosh Hashanah 2017

Issue 10, Chanukah 2017

Issue 11, Pesach 2018



Dear MHA/FYOS alumni:

As we embark on a new Jewish calendar year and a new school year, let me begin by congratulating the 2018 graduates of the MHA

and FYOS and officially welcoming them to the elite and distinguished ranks of our school's alumni. As you spread your wings and venture all over the globe, always remember that you carry with you the message of Torah commitment, love and pride instilled in you in our building on South White Station Road. You will, without a doubt, do great things and change the world, as our alumni have been doing for more than 50 years. We hope you'll spread our message in the process.

That more than a dozen Orthodox couples and families made the decision to [move to Memphis](#) from other communities in the last year is a testament to our message reaching far and wide. Three of them even have deep Memphis roots: Sarah and **Natanel Brakha** (MHA '09, FYOS '13), son of Menashe and **Ronit (Sauer) Brakha** (MHA '83); Eli and **Chana (Joffre) Goldstone** (MHA '08), daughter of Linda and **Michael Joffre** (MHA '69); and Noa and Rabbi Dovid Meir Nissel, son of Rabbi Menachem and **Debbie (Brown) Nissel** (MHA '76, YOS '80). The younger Nissels are the fifth member family in the [Memphis Kollel](#). All of the recent additions to our community have brought a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm to

our school and an appreciation for the unique education we offer.

I've mentioned in previous issues that I view the period around Rosh Hashanah as a time of new beginnings. In this issue, however, we celebrate an "older" beginning—namely, the origins of our school. In conducting our research for this issue, I could not help but be inspired by the courage and commitment of the trailblazing men and women who met in Rose and Jack Gold's living room in 1949 and decided to start a Jewish day school in Memphis. It could not have been easy. Yet, here we are, nearly 70 years later, still reaping the benefits of their courage. During these *yamim noraim* (awe-inspiring days), let us draw inspiration from these community pioneers and pay tribute in our *tefillah* (prayers) to their sacrifices.

May the new year be one of peace and inspiration for all of *k'lal yisrael* (the Jewish people), and may Hashem continue to shower His blessings on our little school on South White Station Road in Memphis.

Shana tova,

Joanne Kahane
joannekahane111@gmail.com

Dear MHA/FYOS alumni,



Since assuming the presidency of the school this past summer, many have asked why I chose to take on this challenging role. I've watched the wheels turning in their minds, wondering if I'm trying to break the glass ceiling, diffuse the "good old boys" network, and prove the vital importance of women in our community. Or, they're wondering, am I doing it to show my thanks for the incredible school in our small Jewish community that has done so much for my husband (**Pace**, MHA '77, YOS '81) and our children (**Jeremy**, MHA '08, FYOS '12; **Dylan** and **Ethan**, MHA '09, FYOS '13; **Elan**, MHA '13, FYOS '17; and **Serena** and **Yael**, MHA '18 and, please G-d, FYOS '22)?

The real reason I'm taking on this role is that I believe in our school! I've observed my sons' progress from preschool through 12th grade, and then on to yeshiva in Israel, achieving incredible results and contributing to religious Jewish life in college, and ultimately securing excellent jobs after graduation. I've watched my daughters play in our Pre-K classrooms and develop over the years into bright and thoughtful young women.

And I've studied you, our esteemed alumni. I've seen so many of you transform from shy children on the sidelines into strong, articu-

late and determined young adults, ready to conquer Israel and college and eventually becoming heads of schools, shuls and community organizations. It's been magical to watch how you've taken what you learned at the MHA/FYOS and brought it with you across the world in your roles as corporate leaders, rabbis, teachers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, parents and so much more.

One of the many special things about our school is that we focus on each and every child, making sure they develop individually in every aspect of life. We take the quiet child and teach them to speak in front of a classroom or present words of Torah at community events. We help the non-athletic child determine where they can excel, in such sports as cross country, basketball or even golf. We take exceptionally bright students and push them to their intellectual limits by offering many Advanced Placement courses, online learning opportunities and a host of stimulating extracurricular activities. Going far beyond the notion of "no child left behind," our mission is for each student to maximize their full potential.

At the MHA, every child is cared for and pushed to do their best. There is a passion and a desire to promote each child's welfare. Our teachers and administrators dedicate themselves to ensuring that our students excel. The success and religious commitment of our alumni are, in many ways, the fruits of their labor.

Our school has an incredible history and legacy to draw upon, and if we work hard, we are poised for an even more impactful future. So many members of the Memphis Jewish community make great sacrifices for our wonderful school, and we need the ongoing commitment of our alumni as well. Together, we can ensure that the MHA/FYOS name is synonymous with excellence, innovation, honor, integrity and outstanding quality. We must instill in our students and alumni the importance of Torah learning and Torah living with a love of G-d, the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Our goal is for each student to become a meaningful contributor to society. If our esteemed alumni are any indication, we've been doing many things right.

None of the success I've described comes without sacrifice. It truly takes a village to raise each child, and alumni are a critical part of our MHA/FYOS village. I hope we can count

on you to help our organization continue to thrive. We need you to tell those locally and beyond our immediate circle how lucky we are to be associated with a unique day school in a wholesome Jewish community where children are nurtured and each student shines. We

need alumni to support our fundraisers and hope you'll say yes when asked to donate to your alma mater.

I look forward to working with the school's administration, faculty, board members, parents, alumni and friends as we face whatever challenges may come. May Hashem bless

our school, bringing us always closer to Torah, and may we all go from strength to strength in the months and years ahead.

Wishing you all a *shana tova u'metukah* – a good and sweet New Year,

Aileen Cooper

President, MHA/FYOS Board of Trustees

aileencoop@aol.com

**At the MHA,
every child is
cared for and
pushed to do
their best**

6

DVAR TORAH

By **Rabbi David Greenblatt** (MHA '65)

APRECIATION

In *Sefer Devarim* (the book of Deuteronomy), court judges are warned not to accept bribes. The Talmud in *Kesuboth* (105b) explains that Torah scholars in the era of the Talmud were extremely diligent regarding this prohibition. Even if someone did a small favor for them, like brushing a feather off of them or paying their rent early, they would consider themselves ineligible to be a judge for them.

Rav Avraham Yaakov Pam, z'l, questioned whether these rabbis were so sensitive that they were affected by such small favors. Don't people do small things for us all of the time, yet we do not consider ourselves biased toward them?

Rav Pam explained that we need to work on our *hakarat ha'tov*—showing appreciation. If we had the appropriate level of appreciation when others did favors for us, we would, in fact, feel biased toward them! He explains that even when someone is paid for their service, we must show our appreciation to them.

Rav Moshe Mordechai Epstein, z'l, a great scholar of the last century, once wrote a particularly warm recommendation letter for someone. When asked why he was so effusive in the letter, he explained that he had been “bribed” by the man’s kindness to him. He explained that the man had helped him up the stairs to his apartment as he was going to write the letter!

The month of Elul that precedes Rosh Hashanah is a time of Jewish introspection. Every one of us has an opportunity to grow in our *hakarat ha'tov*, or expressions of appreciation. We all must be cognizant to show greater appreciation to our parents, spouses, relatives, friends and business associates.

**Every one
of us has an
opportunity
to grow in our
expressions of
appreciation**

This wonderful newsletter celebrates our connection to the MHA. As alumni, we must show our appreciation to the outstanding institution that gave so much to us and our families. I seem to recall my father, Rabbi Nathan Greenblatt, once telling me that for many of the school’s first 15 years of exis-

tence, there was no formal tuition. Many of the expenses were borne by righteous men and women who volunteered tirelessly to arrange events that funded the school. How special! How much do we all owe these wonderful people.

May our concern and efforts to be become better Jews be a merit for all of us so that Hashem will bless us with a wonderful New Year.

Rabbi David Greenblatt (MHA '65), son of Rabbi Nathan and Miriam Greenblatt, comes from a long line of illustrious rabbis. He has taught for a number of Jewish outreach organizations for more than 30 years and founded

and administrates several large charity funds. Additionally, he is an accomplished executive with expertise in voice over internet protocol (VoIP) who authored "The Call Heard 'Round the World." He and his wife Debbie live in Lawrence, New York. They are the proud parents of nine children and many grandchildren.



Rabbi David Greenblatt teaching Torah in the Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva, decimated by the Nazis and now rebuilt.

FINDING MEANING IN OUR LIVES

It's been more than a half-century since I graduated from the eighth grade at the Academy. As I look over my life—seven careers, three children and 13 grandchildren later—the question I pose to myself is: What do I have to give to find more meaning in my life? After all, I can define myself by what I do for a living (human doing) or as a human being, making a difference in the world.

The holiday of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, is upon us. As an eighth grader, I thought of Rosh Hashanah in terms of apples and honey and asking Hashem for what I wanted Him to give me (health, wealth, etc.). But Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler teaches us in *Michtav MeEliyahu*, “Be a giver, not a taker.” What do we give Hashem?

When a person feels he has everything he needs, what does he ask for? We cannot rule ourselves. As hard as we try, we have no control over the future. On Rosh Hashanah, we choose Hashem as our King. As Rabbi Eziel Tauber says in *Choose Life*, “Only when a person submits himself to the rule and will of the Creator can he hope to free his spirit. It means

making G-d's will our will, instead of the other way around.”

The *Gemara* (Talmud) in Tractate Rosh Hashanah says that the Jewish New Year is the ideal time for *teshuvah* (repentance). Just as Rosh Hashanah commemorates the beginning of the creation of the world out of nothingness,

so too is it a propitious time for a person to regenerate and recreate himself.

When I first met my future in-laws at Lou G. Siegel's in Manhattan years ago, my father-in-law asked me what I was going to do for a living. I told him I was going to be an accountant,

just like my father. That almost happened! I worked for my father for a few years and moved on to start a computerized bookkeeping service, sell ads in the Yellow Pages and own the Fiddler Restaurant. I then embarked on a 30-year career in marketing, owning a direct marketing and printing company. However, none of these endeavors brought meaning to my life.

It wasn't until 2009 when, at the age of 58, I decided to go back to school to get a master's degree in counseling. I have since found meaning in my life, helping others with seri-

**What do we
have to give
to find more
meaning in
our lives?**



ous mental health issues such as addiction, trauma, depression and anxiety. It wasn't until I became a giver instead of a taker that I was able to feel a sense of purpose and meaning in life, a spiritual awakening of true inner peace.

Back in the late '60s, my *rosh yeshiva*, Rabbi Shlomo Freifeld, z'l, spoke about the world of darkness in which we live. In his book *In Search of Greatness*, Reb Shlomo says, "The human being's natural origin and position in this world is in darkness. He is caught up in conflict, a constant struggle. And if you live, if you exist in the world and have no access to Torah, then you are headed for disaster. Without Torah, you will stumble, and when you do, the great holiness that is imbedded in the core of the human being, the exaltation that enables us to rise higher and higher will all be lost."

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, I marvel at my *rebbe's* prophetic words, at how lost we can get in the pursuit of material things rather than our dreams. Even more so in this generation, we so often reach out into the darkness

without feeling a sense of fulfillment and purpose.

May this season of *yamim noraim* (high holidays) help us focus on making Hashem our King. I pray that we find the light of Torah illuminating us and our communities with purpose and meaning.

Allan J. Katz (MHA '65, YOS '69) is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Sex Addiction Therapist with Rediscovery Counseling and Coaching in Memphis. He is the author of two books: "Addictive Entrepreneurship" and "Experiential Group Therapy Interventions with DBT: A 30-Day Program for Treating Addictions and Trauma." He also runs a hotline for Orthodox Jewish people in conjunction with GuardYourEyes.com to help couples with betrayal and intimacy issues. He and his wife Esther are the parents of three MHA alumni.



'65

'69



Births: Mazel Tov to...

Rabbi Meyer and **Yehudis (Julia Cohn) Schiller** (MHA '65) of Monsey, New York, on the July 29 birth of a great-granddaughter, Nechama Dreizel. Mazel tov also to parents Naftali and Rivka Schiller, grandparents Casriel and Shoshana Schiller and big sister Malka, all of Monsey.

Ephraim and **Anna (Thomas) Kotkes** (MHA '65, YOS '69) of Far Rockaway, New York, on the birth of two great-grandchildren. (1) Baby girl Michal Sara, born to Elimelech and Atara (Levine) Sperling of Far Rockaway, arrived June 13. Mazel tov also to big brother Boruch Simcha and to grandparents Charles and Rivka (Kotkes) Levine, also of Far Rockaway. (2) Baby boy Shalom Schachna was born July 31 to Archie and Elisheva (Guggenheim) Rabi of Lakewood, New Jersey, making Rena a big sister. Mazel tov also to

grandparents Ephraim and Aliza (Kotkes) Guggenheim.

Leon and **Marilyn (Silverman Bensinger) Schwartz** (YOS '70) of Pomona, New York, on the April 26 birth of a grandson, Noah, to Regina and Sam Bensinger of Teaneck, New Jersey. Mazel tov also to big brother Moshe.

Essie and **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72) of Memphis on the birth of two grandsons. Yaakov Lev, son of Raanana and **Reuven Stein** (MHA '98, FYOS '02) of Chicago, Illinois, arrived June 27; his proud big sisters are Allie, Dana, Rayli and Libby. On July 10, Ari and **Dvora (Stein) Weisfogel** (MHA '96, FYOS '00) of Hillside, New Jersey, welcomed son Shlomo Yaakov; mazel tov also to siblings Eli and Ava.

Wendy and **Ira Thomas** (MHA '70, YOS '74) of Far Rockaway, New York, on the June 29 arrival of granddaughter Taylor Reese, born to Avram and Megan (Thom-

as) Klein of Woodmere, New York, making Cooper a big brother.

Murray and **Dvora (Denise Posner) Gottlieb** (MHA '74) of Savannah, Georgia, on the July 4 birth of grandson Aharon Tzvi. His parents are Russy and Gavi Gottlieb of Lakewood, New Jersey.

Barbara and **Scott Klazmer** (MHA '74) of Memphis on the arrival of grandson Ryan Levi. He was born July 23 to Martin and Jamie Klazmer of Memphis, making Averi a big sister.

Nancy and **Mordechai (Marty) Wolff** (MHA '80) of Brooklyn, New York, on the April 6 arrival of granddaughter Aviva. Her proud new parents are Henny and Shmuel Wolff of Lakewood, New Jersey.

Magda and **Ben Goldstein** (MHA '91, FYOS '95) of Gush Etzion, Israel, on the May 22 birth of their son, Ilan Reuven. Mazel tov also to



siblings Rachel, David, Joseph and grandfather **Sidney Goldstein** (MHA '64).

Eli and **Rebecca (Rubenstein) Gutman** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Baltimore, Maryland, on the June 7 arrival of son Michoel Dovid. Mazel tov also to big brothers Josh and Sam and grandparents Marvin and **Karen (Katz) Rubenstein** (MHA '69, YOS '72).

Avi and **Sarah (Emerson) Helfand** (MHA '95, FYOS '98) of Los Angeles, California, on the May 15 arrival of daughter Zelda. Mazel tov also to siblings Ezra, Shoshana and Noam and grandparents Donny Emerson and **Laurie Cooper** (MHA '65) of Memphis.

Yehudit and **Aaron Gavant** (MHA '97) of Chicago, Illinois, on the July 24 birth of son Adir Menachem. Mazel tov also to siblings Noa, Ami, Tani and Ariella and grandparents **Morris** (YOS '72) and

Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant (MHA '70) of Baltimore, Maryland.

Miriam and **Anshel Kaplan** (MHA '98, FYOS '02) of Teaneck, New Jersey, on the May 21 birth of baby boy Yaakov Noam, making Judah a big brother.

Michelle and **Josh Zeitlin** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) on the birth of son Noah Sam.

Matan and **Elana (Mallov) David** (MHA '01, FYOS '05) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the July 18 birth of their first child, daughter Binah.

Aaron (FYOS '06) and **Sophie (Bacaner) Leach** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) of Memphis on the May 18 birth of son Judah Leor, making Benji a big brother.

Evyatar and **Franny (Kaplan) Waisman** (MHA '02, FYOS '06) of Efrat, Israel, on the July 20 birth of son Erez Hillel. Mazel tov also to big brothers Yotam, Adam

and Dvir and grandparents Jonathan and **Abbe (Seiger) Kaplan** (MHA '71) of Memphis.

Alex and **Naomi (Samberg) Vainer** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) of Brooklyn, New York, on the June 4 birth of son Yosef Chaim, making Yehuda a big brother. Mazel tov also to grandparents (and former MHA faculty members) Cantor Aryeh and Adina Samberg of Memphis.

Adam and **Maddie (Tavin) Zimilover** (MHA '07, FYOS '11) of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, on the Aug. 27 arrival of their first child, son Yehoshua Tzvi.

Engagements/ Weddings: Mazel Tov to...

Tommy and **Rebecca (Winstone) Gerber** (MHA '75) of Memphis on the engagement of her daughter, Suzanne Hanover, to Joshua Zide. The couple will marry Sept. 22, 2019, in Memphis and will



make their home in New York City.

Judy (Yormark) Mernick (MHA '75, YOS '79) on her engagement to Ephraim Fruchthandler. The couple will wed sometime in the fall and will live in New York City.

Vicky and **Ivan Silverman** (MHA '80) of Woodmere, New York, on the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Moshe Hirsch. The wedding will be held Oct. 23 in New York City, and the couple will live in Far Rockaway, New York.

Nancy and **Mordechai (Marty) Wolff** (MHA '80) of Brooklyn, New York, on the

engagement of their son Yaakov Yisroel to Sorala Rothstein. The couple will marry Nov. 13 in Monsey, New York, and will live in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Rabbi Daniel and **Lauren (Chafetz) Roth** (MHA '84, YOS '88) of Lakewood, New Jersey, on the Aug. 16 marriage of their daughter Nava to Matis Zelman in Lakewood. The couple plans to live in Israel.

Yaakov (Daniel) Address (MHA '02, FYOS '06), son of Tania and former FYOS faculty member Jeff Address of Mem-

phis, on his Aug. 19 marriage to Tzippy Breier in Monsey, New York. The newlyweds are living in Brooklyn, New York.

Stephanie Barrack (MHA '04), daughter of Jon and **Cindy (Califf) Barrack** (MHA '75) of Memphis, on her engagement to Travis Davidson. The couple plans to marry March 17, 2019, at Baron Hirsch Synagogue in Memphis and will live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Andrew Tavin (FYOS '08) on his engagement to Liz Zharovsky. The couple will





wed in May 2020 in Vancouver, Canada.

Ethan Address (MHA '06, FYOS '10) on his engagement to Daniela Malabad. The couple will marry on Nov. 5 in Memphis and will reside in Miami, Florida.

Uzi Milevsky (MHA '08) on his June 6 wedding to Ahuva Goldfeder. The couple married in Baltimore, where they also live.

Shmuel Somer (MHA '09) on his engagement to Michal Weissberg. They will marry Nov. 22 in Shfayim, Israel, and plan to live in Jerusalem.

Bnei/Bnot Mitzvah: Mazel Tov to...

Lori and **Steven Weiser** (YOS '86) of Denver, Colorado, on the April 14 bar mitzvah of their son, Seth.

Chanah and **Eli Freiden** (FYOS '96) of Boca Raton, Florida, on the Aug. 16 bar mitzvah of their son, Ezra. Mazel tov also to grandparents Pam and **Jeff Freiden** (YOS '72) of Memphis. The family traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the milestone occasion.

Julia and **Dovid Schachter** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Savannah, Georgia, on the March 17 bar mitzvah of their son, Benny. Mazel tov also to grandparents Mendy and **Marilyn (Weinreich) Schachter** (MHA '71) of Cleveland, Ohio.

Sarah Bracha and **Jonathan Wogan** (MHA '94) of Memphis on the May 26 bar mitzvah of their son Dovid Reuven, an eighth grader at the MHA.

Yehudit and **Aaron Gavant** (MHA '97) of Chicago, Illinois, on the May 6 bat mitzvah celebration of their daughter, Noa. Mazel tov also to grandparents **Morris** (YOS '72) and **Ann Ellen (Blockman) Gavant** (MHA '70) of Baltimore, Maryland.

Yudi and **Roni (Epstein) Berkowitz** (MHA '00, FYOS '04) of Chicago on the June 10 bat mitzvah of their daughter, Shaindy. Mazel tov also to grandparents Eileen Segal and **Sam Epstein** (YOS '71) of Memphis.

Mazel tov!

Send us your alumni news for the next issue at alumni@mhafyos.org.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

FROM
ISSUE 11

2011-2015

Thanks to everyone who sent in responses to the trivia questions featured in our [11th issue](#).

The winner of our trivia quiz is **Jonathan Tavin** (MHA '07, YOS '11).

Jonathan got just
3½ out of 12
correct answers.

He will receive his tin of goodies from [Ricki's Cookie Corner](#)—owned and operated by **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70)—in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Here are the answers to the trivia questions from Issue 11.

1. When the Cooper Macs won the Tier II basketball championship at Yeshiva University's Red Sarachek tournament in 2012, which team did they beat?

ANSWER: Jewish Educational Center (JEC), Elizabeth, New Jersey.

2. In what year was the Kroger at Sanderlin and Mendenhall renovated?

ANSWER: 2008. (Note: The store is currently under renovation yet again!)

3. Which FYOS last-period elective class met in Rabbi Uriel Lubetski's office?

ANSWER: World domination.

4. After a Torah scroll was vandalized in Jackson, Tennessee, during the boys' high school trip in 2013, the students spent the night in Murfreesboro before heading where?

ANSWER: Skiing outside St. Louis, Missouri.

5. Who was the infamous chemistry teacher (and former IRS employee) during the 2010-11 school year who experienced some of the toughest pranks in recent school history?

ANSWER: Dori Short.

6. When Rabbi Yonason Gersten “lost his glasses,” where were they most likely to be found?

ANSWER: On his head. (Editors’ note: Jonathan answered “in his hand”; we gave him half a point for being on the right track.)

7. On what surface did **David Gleiberman** (FYOS ’10) often fall asleep during Gemara class after he calibrated the smartboard?

ANSWER: The handle of his backpack.

8. What pseudonym did **Seth Goldstein** (MHA ’09, FYOS ’13) frequently use to help him avoid getting in trouble?

ANSWER: Phillip (as in Phillip Seth).

9. What senior prank carried out at the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year had Rabbi Noam Stein directing traffic on Conwell Road with a megaphone? (Bonus question: What was the “punishment” for those who executed the prank?)

ANSWER: The seniors used their cars to block the parking lot. (As “punishment,” they had to meet Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl, then head of school, at Kroger at 6 a.m. to buy breakfast for the high school girls.)

10. What did Rabbi Josh Spodek do in 2008-09 to help maintain decorum the CYHSB student lounge?

ANSWER: Removed the door.

11. Who did the CYHSB class of 2012 (with the help of the juniors) inadvertently injure during their canoe trip “kidnap”?

ANSWER: William Weinstein (former CYHSB student who later moved to Philadelphia).

12. Which member of the eighth grade class of 2007/twelfth grade class of 2011 wore a black hat?

ANSWER: **Avi Goldstein** (MHA ’07, FYOS ’11).



Rabbi Alfred Fruchter: Founding Principal of the MHA

By Gila Golder

When my husband Rob and I moved to Memphis in August 2015, joining several other Orthodox Jewish families who had moved in that summer as part of the [100 New Families recruitment initiative](#), we were “walking in Memphis” for the first time in our lives— but also closing the circle on a family legacy.

My grandfather, Rabbi Alfred Fruchter, z”l, lived in Memphis from 1945 to 1954 and took on a significant leadership role in the Orthodox Jewish community during that time. In December 1947, he married my grandmother, Jeannette Fruchter, z”l, who likewise became a communal leader. My Zaidy was the congregational rabbi of Beth El Emeth (before its merger with Anshei Sphard) and was instrumental in the establishment of the first Jewish day school in Memphis, known at that time as the Memphis Hebrew Academy.

Zaidy was approached by a Beth El Emeth congregant, a woman whose son was engaged to be married to a non-Jewish woman who refused to convert to Judaism. The mother, crying over her son’s pending intermarriage, begged Zaidy to do something to combat the

scourge of assimilation. (Apparently, she cried so much that she developed blocked tear ducts, which required surgery.) In some ways, the time was ripe for a Jewish day school to be established; Rabbi Seymour Kutner and Rabbi Nathan Greenblatt noticed the same trend and were equally concerned. However, other community leaders were skeptical.

My aunt, Debbie (Fruchter) Robinson, recalls her parents telling the dramatic story of communal resistance to Zaidy’s push to establish a school. He announced at a Beth El Emeth board meeting that he and others wanted to open a Jewish day school. As the story goes, the board told him that “Jews are not supposed to stick out” and that he would be fired from his pulpit if he went ahead with the plan. Undaunted, he declared, “Fire me if you wish, but we will still build this school.”

His courage to defy the board, risking his livelihood, is all the more remarkable given that my Bubby was pregnant with Debbie at the time. Ultimately, he kept his job but faced much backlash from community members opposed to the school. One prominent rabbi even said,

"You see how much hair grows on the palm of my hand? That's what will become of your school! *Gornisht!*" (The rabbi later apologized once he saw that the school had become a success.)

While the idea of opposing the founding of a Jewish day school seems strange today, Rabbi Kutner recalled, "People didn't know what day school was. They were afraid children would grow up to be ignorant of what goes on in America." The day school model was still new. Observant families at that time sent their children to public school and Hebrew school; a few sent their high school age boys to study in yeshiva in New York.

Nevertheless, the Memphis Hebrew Academy became a reality in the fall of 1949, operating out of a house owned by Anshei Sphard. Zaidy agreed to serve as the school's first principal and Rabbi Nathan Greenblatt as the Judaic studies teacher. Neither drew a salary, as the school was still hard-pressed for funds. Rabbi Kutner recalls that not only did they work without pay, but they also gave contributions to the school. The Fruchters' growing family subsisted on Zaidy's income from Beth El Emeth, as well as a small inheritance Bubby had received from her father.

Zaidy would go straight from morning *minyan* (prayer services) to the school to greet the students as they came off the bus. Bubby would bring him his breakfast to eat at school. Likewise, he would stand outside in the afternoons to say goodbye to the students as they boarded the bus to go home. Small kind-

nesses like this endeared him to the students. In a phone interview with my Aunt Debbie, **Rabbi Jacob Rubenstein** (MHA '63), *z'l*, a member of the school's inaugural first grade class, recalled that "Rabbi Fruchter was the tallest man I ever saw, and the

nicest man I ever met." Rubenstein's parents were Holocaust survivors, and they confided in Zaidy that they couldn't afford to keep him in the school after the first grade year. Zaidy immediately reassured them he would raise the funds for his tuition.

In 1952, the Academy held a gala banquet. The Ladies' Auxiliary was given the task of selling tickets. Each woman was given 10 tickets at a time to sell. Bubby, who was from Brooklyn and had never learned to drive, walked door-to-door selling tickets. She kept coming back for more tickets and ultimately sold the most of all the women.



Legendary Memphis musician Elvis Presley (far right) and his cousin (far left) with Harold Fruchter and Debbie (Fruchter) Robinson. Photo courtesy of the Fruchter family.

In an article titled “Rabbi Alfred Fruchter Turned a Mother’s Nightmare into a Dream Come True,” **George Conroy** (MHA ‘58), z’l, quoted Louis Epstein, the school’s president, in a speech given at the banquet in 1952:

I personally have a deep sense of pride in my two close friends, Rabbi Fruchter and Rabbi Greenblatt, who, knowing that the school was handicapped for funds, refused any compensation for their efforts. They were among the first contributors as charter members of the Memphis Hebrew Academy. Recompense for such selfless labor of love does not come from the hands of mortal man.

“Dad could never have done this job alone,” my Aunt Debbie acknowledged. “But it is only due to Dad’s courage, foresight and leadership that everything in Memphis today was able to grow.”

As the youngest of the five Fruchter children, my mother Hannah (Fruchter) Heller was the only one not born in Memphis. In addition to

their leadership roles in the community, Bubby and Zaidy are more popularly known as the family who employed a teenage Elvis Presley as their *Shabbos goy*—to which my mother is fond of responding, “I can’t take credit for that; I wasn’t born yet!”

But that’s a story for another time.

Gila Golder, the granddaughter of Rabbi Alfred and Jeannette Fruchter, z’l, lives in Memphis with her husband Rob and their son Tzemach Yaakov (pictured in an MHA onesie). She works as a community impact associate for Jewish Community Partners. She hopes Tzemach can, G-d willing, someday attend the MHA.



Note from the editor: More on Elvis Presley’s relationship with the Fruchters is available online [here](#).

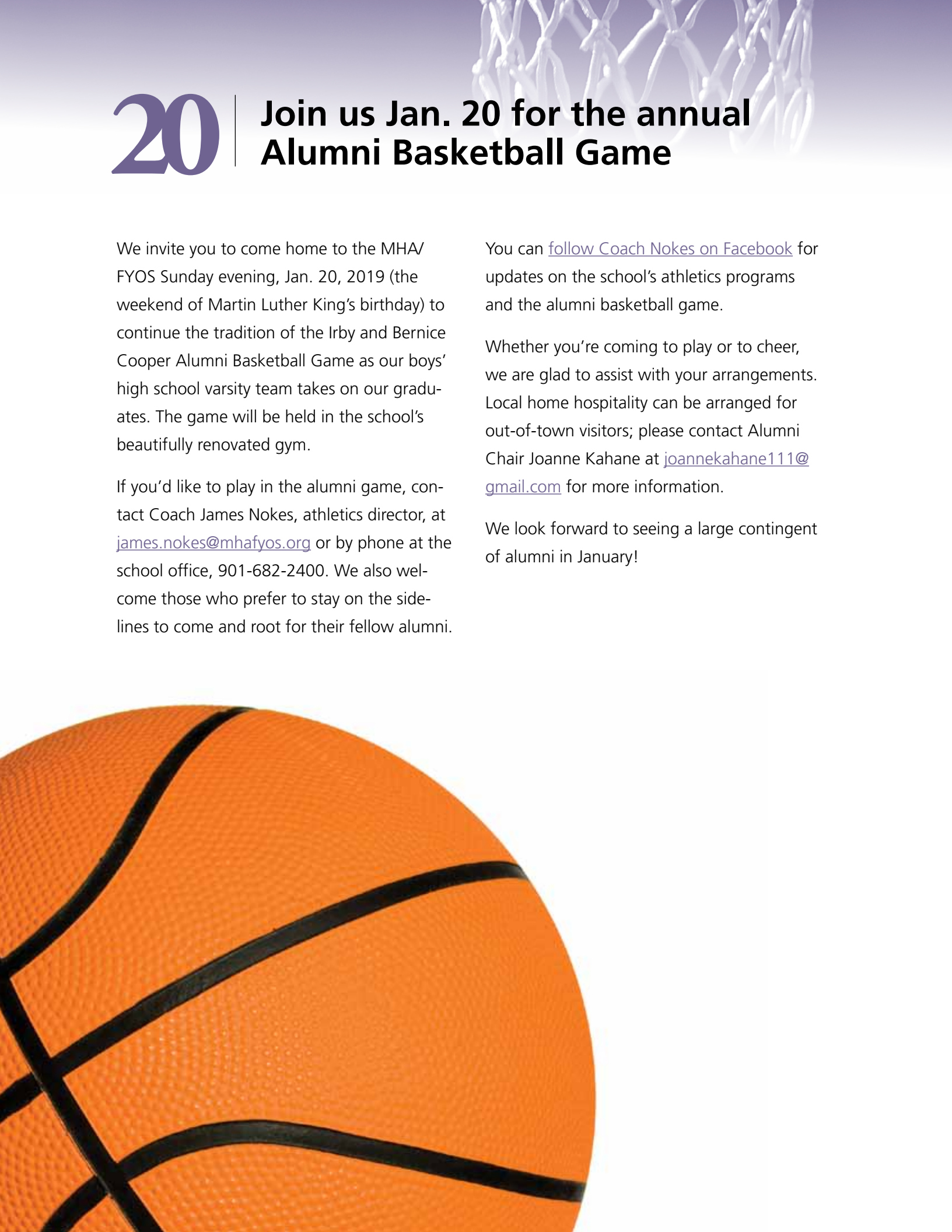
1957-1965

TRIVIA

Regardless of when you graduated, have some fun with these trivia questions. Please send your answers to joannekahane111@gmail.com. The person who gets the most answers correct (or, in case of a tie, the earliest respondent) will win a tin of Ricki's Cookies, made by **Ricki (Thomas) Krupp** (MHA '66, YOS '70). Good luck!



1. What distinguished Memphian volunteered to drive the school bus during the early years of the MHA?
2. What teacher directed the eighth grade girls of 1963 in building a replica of the *mishkan* (tabernacle)?
3. Which English teacher let his students chew gum in class, as long as they gave him a piece?
4. Which two first graders were considered to be quite an "item"? (Spoiler alert: They eventually married other people.)
5. Who was the school cook known for the expression "chili today, hot tamale"?
6. Which teacher led the school choir that performed annually at the scholarship banquet?
7. Who were the three members of the MHA class of 1957, the school's first graduates?
8. On what Memphis street was the first home (and we do mean a house) of the MHA?



20

Join us Jan. 20 for the annual Alumni Basketball Game

We invite you to come home to the MHA/ FYOS Sunday evening, Jan. 20, 2019 (the weekend of Martin Luther King's birthday) to continue the tradition of the Irby and Bernice Cooper Alumni Basketball Game as our boys' high school varsity team takes on our graduates. The game will be held in the school's beautifully renovated gym.

If you'd like to play in the alumni game, contact Coach James Nokes, athletics director, at james.nokes@mhafyos.org or by phone at the school office, 901-682-2400. We also welcome those who prefer to stay on the sidelines to come and root for their fellow alumni.

You can [follow Coach Nokes on Facebook](#) for updates on the school's athletics programs and the alumni basketball game.

Whether you're coming to play or to cheer, we are glad to assist with your arrangements. Local home hospitality can be arranged for out-of-town visitors; please contact Alumni Chair Joanne Kahane at joannekahane111@gmail.com for more information.

We look forward to seeing a large contingent of alumni in January!

Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz was our principal—
 young, enthusiastic—so many ideas—learning as he went—
 asking us questions, making us think—
 growing a day school—a new experience in an America that
 valued the melting pot—
 and he walked around and smiled at us
 and did jumping jacks with us when we moved out East—
 every morning in the front , we'd raise the Israeli and the
 American flag—
 the old building was like a cavern and my mother
 made curtains for my first grade class—a bright spot.
 In Sheila Abraham's kindergarten class—I colored and colored
 and colored big murals with my friends—she would smile
 and then Miriam Ross (Cheruff) made the Shabbos parties
 —soft little challah rolls, candles and grape juice—and
 we'd lie on the floor--and listen to records—stories—I
 remember Aladdin and the Magic Lamp..
 Open Sesame—
 and my first grade teachers, Celia Lefkowitz, who took us to
 her house and we picked pecans from her trees and had hot
 cocoa and Libby Nayowitz who spoke and
 wrote Hebrew sentences on the board and I was thrilled I
 could read them...
 and Miriam Greenblatt my second grade teacher – oh the
 stories and the game s—and dancing and singing —
 "Achshav b'erezt Yisroel!! heh!

and my special ashrei pasuk—'close is the one who calls on
 Hashem in truth'— she gave it to me — we all had our own to be
 ready to recite out loud—and Mr. Fisher—in 3rd and 4th grade
 —his class was filled with music— I loved his choir and singing
 'Lighly row—o'er the hills and dales we go'....
 and he chose me to be the Statue of Liberty—'Give me your
 tired—your poor'—and Rabbi Ephraim Greenblatt—6th grade—
 his stories—oh his stories of fighting for Israel during the War
 of Independence—we were there—with him—all the way—
 and Rabbi David Rebibo—4th -9th—Ani Maamin, Ha Palmach,
 Kinneret, oh the Jewish music he taught us—in the choir—
 Shabbos at the school—we all spent the night together—
 giggles, food, davening—walks and talks—
 the love for Hebrew—for Torah—he made us
 keep a journal
 and answer two questions every day—
 'What is the most important thing you learned today? How will
 you apply it to your life?—I still have mine—
 and his brother came from France and taught us French and
 Algebra—we all had French accents from then on—and
 Rabbi Nata Greenblatt taught us Talmud—ancient texts—within reach—
 and Joyce Shankman—
 she read Shakespeare to us out loud—the whole play—'Much
 Ado about Nothing" she was every character—we saw
 ourselves—we learned about the world—we had been
 together for so many years—read Exodus—my class—many
 children of Holocaust Survivors—never spoken about until
 that year—and then in slant—
 and we had to write and write
 and read and read and speak and listen—
 and we were in plays every year—operettas—
 music, color, costumes, words, and pictures and the light of
 Torah.

FYOS *beis midrash* nears completion



By Asher Kirschstein, 12th grader at the CYHSB

Just before Pesach, our school received a new *aron kodesh* (holy ark to hold Torah scrolls), the crown

jewel of our gloriously renovated *beis midrash* (Torah study and prayer space).

Students, teachers, alumni and community members have eagerly awaited the arrival of this *aron kodesh* for months, and the wait was clearly worth it. We'd heard rumors about

what the *aron* might look like, but no one could have expected the greatness and beauty that would come. The morning it was delivered, every CYHSB student had the same reaction; our jaws hit the floor when our eyes fell upon the beautifully gilded wood of the CYHSB *aron kodesh*.

When the truck carrying our *aron* pulled up to the school,

the CYHSB students surrounded the 18-wheeler for a chance to glimpse the magnificent structure. As assembly of the *aron* reached the final stages, students snuck out of class to monitor the progress. Upon its completion, the *simcha* (joy) in the air was palpable, as our *beis midrash* finally felt complete from top to bottom.

Once the new *aron* was installed, students and teachers alike revered it as if it was the *Kotel* (Western Wall in Jerusalem). People were opening all the drawers to look inside and running their hands along its sides to feel the elaborate patterns on the various cabinet doors. There were smiles all around because the final piece of our *beis midrash* was finally in its place.



Entering the new *beis midrash*



The amud*



The bima*



New custom-designed furniture

We now have a wonderful *beis midrash*, where everyone feels at home in their learning and *tefillah*.

This beautiful space heightens everyone's desire and eagerness to study Torah. We are ever so grateful for the *aron* and everything it represents, and we look forward to many years of continued inspiration in our now-completed *beis midrash*.

Note from the alumni chair: Many of you have inquired about an official dedication of the new beis midrash. We greatly appreciate your continued interest and hope to have all the information available—including opportuni-

ties for seforim (book) dedications—by the time we publish our Chanukah issue. As described above, all of the beis midrash furniture has been installed; however, we are still awaiting the arrival of the custom-made ner tamid (eternal flame).

The scheduling of the dedication ceremony is contingent on the delivery of the ner tamid.



*The paroches (curtain over the aron) was designed by **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97).*



*Custom-designed glass windows on the eastern wall. These windows were designed by **Josh Kahane** (MHA '93, FYOS '97)*

*The *aron*, *bima* and *amud* were designed by **Pace Cooper** (MHA '77, YOS '81)

According to our tradition, two distinct yet complimentary forces lie beneath all progress and development in the world.

We see references to these processes in the *Shemoneh Esrei*. There we find two *brachas* that relate to the *geulah*, the redemption: "Blessed are You, Hashem, who builds Jerusalem" and "Blessed are You, Hashem, who causes salvation to grow."

The first blessing refers to our national aspiration for a physical construction of the city of Jerusalem while the second refers to our individual aspirations for personal spiritual growth so that we will merit the coming of the *Mashiach*.

Growth is a natural, organic process. Seeds placed in soil will sprout on their own and in their own ways.

Our job is to plant the right seeds and provide the appropriate nutrients for healthy and productive growth. In contrast, construction is deliberate. It requires scope and sequence, method and process. Building requires a clear plan — step by step from foundation to completion — to achieve success.

PLANTING AND BUILDING AS TOOLS IN JEWISH EDUCATION

In this same way, we must appreciate the processes of *growth* and *construction* in Jewish education. If we desire for our children to become people committed to *Torah* learning and *Torah* living, we must plant in them the seeds of *Torah* and the passion for *mitzvos* so

that their growth will follow such a worthy trajectory. And if we desire for our children to become learned scholars we must educate them in our holy *Torah* and build within them a solid foundation for both appreciating and understanding our faith and practices.

It is the sacred responsibility of this school to provide our children both the *koach ha-tzemichah* and the foundational building

blocks that come only from of an authentic Jewish education. We are obliged to provide our children with both the seeds to grow and the building blocks needed to cultivate each's unique spiritual potential.



והגית בו יומם ולילה

THE DESIGN

The new paroches that adorns our *aron kodesh* reflects both of these values. Front and center are the holy words "*Ahava Rabba Ahavtanu*," the precursor to the four windows that adorn the eastern wall of the *beis midrash*. The "*Ahava Rabba Ahavtanu*" provides our children with a constant reminder of the love that *Hashem* has given to his chosen people through transmission of his holy *Torah*. The words "*Ahava Rabba Ahavtanu*" are embroidered with a Swarovski crystal laden border and sit upon an open *sefer*. The open *sefer* links the two Torah scrolls engraved in wood on either side of the *aron kodesh*. The *sefer* is the quintessential symbol of this school - a place of education that prepares the next generation of committed Jewish people.

The background of the *paroches* is comprised of black, chocolate and navy appliques and multicolored fluid waves which emerge from the *sefer* and extend upwards through the *paroches*. The fluid waves, though controlled and symmetrical, are free flowing and extend from the *sefer* upwards towards the heavens. These waves and the various colors from which they are made reflect the process of *growth* - which each student in his or her own way - will achieve through Jewish education. But at the same time, hand placed clusters

of square and rectangular Swarovski crystals form "bricks" which likewise emanate from the *Sefer* and flow neatly together towards the top of the *aron kodesh*. These bricks reflect the deliberate process of constructing the foundation transmitted to each and every student through the Jewish education he or she receives in this school.

Both the fluid waves and the bricks flow seamlessly into the engravings of the *aron kodesh* ultimately exploding out of the top as a statement of the uncapped potential of our Jewish children.

Our *beis midrash* epitomizes that for which our school and community stands— *lilmud v'lasos*, to learn and to do. Our newly renovated *beis midrash*, but mere stone and mortar itself, has been fashioned and employed as a citadel of learning where our children may become richly endowed with the ethics and spiritual values of our people and prepared for future commitment to Jewish life and leadership in our Jewish community.

May this sacred room always provide the inspired foundation for our children to grow.

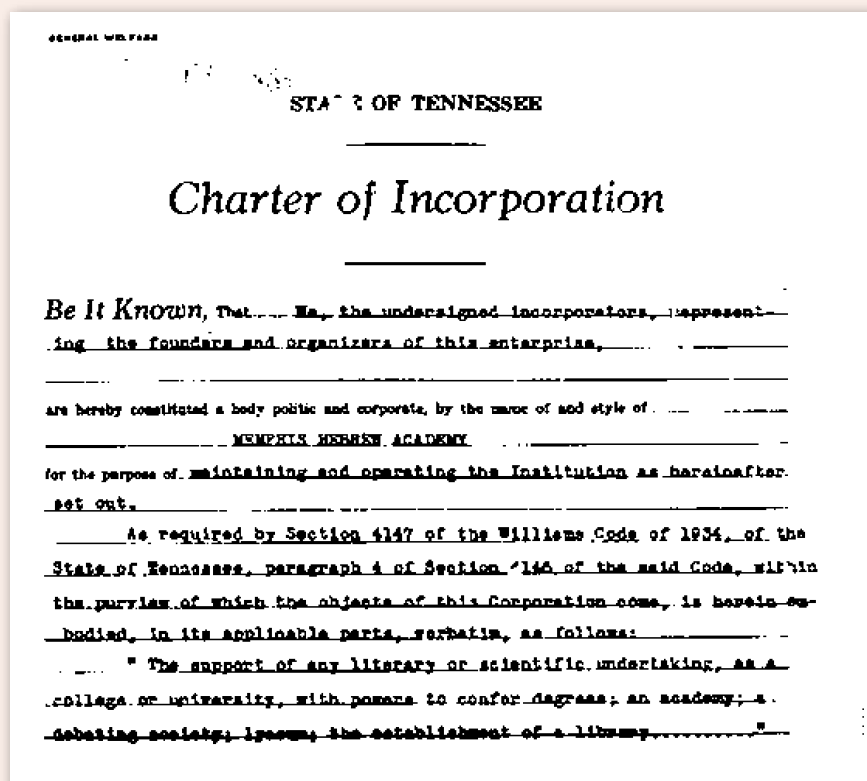
The explanation of the design has been posted on a sign outside of the beis midrash.

As we revisit the history of the earliest years of our school, we are pleased to share pieces of the MHA's original charter of incorporation. We received a copy of the document from **Steve Gold** (MHA '85), whose father, **Samuel "Brooksie" Gold** (MHA '57) was one of the three members of the school's very first graduating class.

According to Steve Gold, the very first meeting to discuss the formation of a Jewish day school in Memphis was held at the home of his grandparents, Jack and Rose Gold. Mrs. Gold is among the signers of the charter. The charter is a testimony to the brave men and women who sacrificed and fought for Jewish education in Memphis when many Jews preferred to hide their faith in the post-World War II era.

The document reveals that the school's official birthday is July 14, 1949. Another noteworthy detail is that the notary who witnessed the charter's signing was a young Sam Margolin, one of the three brothers for whom the school was eventually named.

We thank the Gold family for providing us with this treasure, as well as for the role they played in the establishment of the MHA.



(Certificate of Probate for Subscribing Witness if not acknowledged by all of the Incorporators)

STATE OF TENNESSEE, COUNTY OF SHELBY

Personally appeared before me SAM J. MARGOLIN
of said County, the within named ARTHUR KUTNER
the subscribing witness and incorporator, with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowl-
edged that he executed the within application for a Charter of Incorporation for the purposes therein
contained and expressed, and the said ARTHUR KUTNER subscribing
witness to the signatures subscribed to the within application, being first duly sworn, deposed and said
that he is personally acquainted with the within named incorporators, LOUIS EISEN,
HERMAN LYBIN, SYLVIA KUTNER, MAYER PLAZER, SAM
BRANDBERG, RABBI SEYMOUR KUTNER, MRS. JACOB GOLD
and they did in his presence acknowledge that they executed the within application for a Charter of
Incorporation for the purposes therein contained and expressed

Witness my hand and official seal at office in MEMPHIS Tennessee, this 12
day of JULY 1949

Sam J. Margolin
(Notary Public)

(If Notary Public) My commission expires 8 day of MAY 1951
Clifford T. Baker

2274

State of Tennessee

Charter of Incorporation
of
MEMPHIS HEBREW ACADEMY

RECEIVED FEE, \$ 3.00
RECEIVED TAX, \$
TOTAL, \$ 3.00

James H. Blount
Secretary of State

MAIL TO
SAM MARGOLIN
1678 N. HAWKWOOD

STATE OF TENNESSEE
SHELBY COUNTY
JUL 19 1949
126 Pages 56 and was recorded
JUL 20 1949
FRANCIS ANDREWS, Register

Witness our hands this, the _____ day of _____

SUBSCRIBING WITNESS:

Arthur Kutner

Sam J. Margolin
Sam J. Margolin
Sam J. Margolin
Sam J. Margolin
Sam J. Margolin
Sam J. Margolin
Sam J. Margolin

STATE OF TENNESSEE, COUNTY OF

68th Annual Scholarship Banquet Honors '68 graduates

Since the earliest days of the MHA, one of the school's major fundraisers and most anticipated evenings of the year has been the scholarship banquet. On June 6, 2018, the MHA/FYOS held its 68th annual banquet at Baron Hirsch Synagogue. This year's event was particularly noteworthy for two reasons. First, the school honored Rabbi Nathan and Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt with a well-deserved tribute for their half-century of service to the Memphis Jewish community.

The other distinguishing moment of this year's banquet was the recognition of the MHA and YOS classes of 1968 to mark the 50th anniversary of their graduation from our school. The tribute was es-

pecially noteworthy because 1968 saw the Yeshiva of the South graduate its very first high school class. Alumnus **Mike Stein** (MHA '68, YOS '72) represented the classes of '68 well as

their designated speaker at the event. Class members present at the banquet received a commemorative paperweight from the school in honor of their 50th anniversary;

those unable to attend received their gifts by mail after the event.

Honoring longtime supporters like the Greenblatts and our graduates from 50 years ago highlights our school's rich and storied history. Many thanks to our alumni from near and far who attended the banquet and contributed to the scholarship



Rabbi Nathan Greenblatt shared words of Torah and personal thoughts with banquet attendees



*A gift from the school was presented to Rabbi Nathan and Miriam Greenblatt by their nephew, **Rabbi Menachem Greenblatt** (MHA '69)*



Mike Stein (MHA '68, YOS '72) spoke on behalf of the alumni



A commemorative paperweight was presented to members of the classes of 1968

The MHA/YOS Classes of 1957-1965 *Where Are They Now?*

Samuel "Brooksie" Gold (MHA '57) lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, with his wife, Raenell. They are the proud parents of Myra Gold and **Steve Gold** (MHA '85) and have two grandsons. He is the owner of Dixie Waste Paper Co.

"The first meeting to start the Hebrew Academy was held at the home of my parents, Jack and Rose Gold, of blessed memory, in 1949," he said. "I was in the first kindergarten class, as well as the expansion of the school through the eighth grade." Gold joked about his pride in graduating third in his class of three people.

His greatest memories of the MHA include Mr. Bob Fischer taking him to basketball games at Memphis State (now called the University of Memphis), Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz, z'l, treating his students like adults, and Georgia's salmon croquettes on Fridays. Mr. Fischer and Rabbi Nayowitz were his favorite teachers.

Emily (Evensky) Steinberg (MHA '63) lives in Memphis with her husband, Alvin. She is a retired cytotechnologist who now spends her time volunteering at Baron Hirsch Synagogue and helping out at Holy Cow, the kosher restaurant in the lobby of the Memphis Jewish Community Center. Steinberg frequently travels to the northeastern U.S. to visit her three daughters—**Penina (Rebecca Steinberg) Simon** (MHA '91) of Cedarhurst, New York; **Rene (Steinberg) Blitz** (MHA '93, FYOS '97) of Baltimore; and **Jenny (Steinberg) Sved** (MHA '99, FYOS '03) of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania—and their children.



"My class was the last one to graduate eighth grade from the MHA before they started adding on a high school grade each year," Steinberg said. "We were a very close-knit group, and we got along very well. I hope all my classmates are doing well." Her fondest MHA memories include being a page in the Cotton Carnival, the wonderful plays and talent shows, and Sunday dinners and Shabbatons at the school.

'63

30

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduates of 1957-1965

Her favorite MHA teachers were Mrs. Miriam Cheruff (who at the time was Miss Miriam Ross), Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt, Rabbi Benjamin Wolmark and Rabbi David Rebibo.

"Our school and our community are very unique," she said. "We are lucky to have this school in Memphis."

Steve Katz (MHA '64) is a professional pianist and professor emeritus of music. He now teaches private piano lessons in Memphis. Steve and Bob Schwarz own three Toy Aussies—Noodle, Farfel, and Sofi. They have previously raised Welsh ponies, miniature sheep, and miniature donkeys.

"Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz, of blessed memory, loved all of us and made us feel happy to be Jewish," Katz said. "Rabbi Efraim and Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt, of blessed memory, taught us with their every word, gesture and smile. I truly miss these wonderful *tzadikim* [righteous individuals]."



Katz's favorite teacher was Mrs. Phyllis Wahl. "She was strict, organized and truly brilliant," he said. "She had high expectations of us, and so we met them. She was probably my best teacher ever, anywhere."

Katz's email address is SteveKatzPiano@gmail.com.

Yehudis (Julia Cohn) Schiller (MHA '65) lives in Spring Valley, New York, with her husband, Torah educator and author Rabbi Mayer Schiller. They have two sons, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Their growing international family includes in-laws from Belgium, Spain and the U.K. She works for an alarm service company.

Schiller attended the YOS until 11th grade, when she left to attend Bais Yaakov in Baltimore.

"My parents were Eugene and Doris Cohn, z'l, longtime supporters of the MHA," Schiller said. "They used to direct the plays in the first years of the school." Her favorite MHA memories include standing outside the school by grade on Fridays and exercising with Rabbi Joseph Nayowitz, z'l. Among the teachers most dear to her were Rabbi Efraim and Mrs. Miriam Greenblatt, z'l.



Want to connect with other MHA/FYOS alumni?

JOIN US ON **FACEBOOK!** 



These buses transported the MHA's first students to and from school



The first eighth grade graduates of the MHA (from left): **Lester Lit** (MHA '57), **Rabbi Nachum (Herbert) Lansky** (MHA '57) and **Samuel "Brooksie" Gold** (MHA '57)



The MHA kindergarten graduates of 1953. (Front row, from left): Stuart Rothenberg, **Elaine (Goldstein) Stryker** (MHA '61), **Paulette (Goldstein) Mitchell** (MHA '61), [unknown], **Michael Diamant** (MHA '61), Stanley Lansky, **Edie (Ida Sharp) Davis** (MHA '61); (second row, from left): **Jerry Epstein** (MHA '61), Jerry Samuels, **Phillip Rubenstein** (MHA '61), Tina Sauer, [unknown], **Ira Machefsky** (MHA '61), Hinda Silber; (third row, from left): Louis Safier, **Lynnie (Arlynn Katz) Mirvis** (MHA '62), Ann Kibel, Steve Schiffman, **Bracha (Barbara Cohn) Whiter** (MHA '61), [unknown]; (back row, from left): Ida (Prince) Schechtman z', **Gary Goodman** (MHA '61), Karen Cohn, Stuart Zalowitz, Fay Oks, Ira Weinreich, **Michael Kibel** (MHA '62)

flashbacks



Do you recognize this first grade teacher from the MHA's earliest years? It is none other than Rabbi Nathan Greenblatt, who still works tirelessly on behalf of our school



Rabbi Alfred Fruchter, z'l, with some of the earliest students at the MHA. If you recognize yourself or someone else in this photo or in the one of Rabbi Greenblatt's classroom, please let us know!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The 13th issue of our newsletter is scheduled for publication around Chanukah. In it, we will highlight the eighth and 12th grade graduates from the years 1991-95. Members of those classes will receive questionnaires by email (or regular mail) in October. Please return your completed survey promptly so that you can be included.

Our feature story in that issue will spotlight Rabbi Yonason Gersten, who has been a fixture at our school for more than 30 years. If you have any stories, photos or memories of Rabbi Gersten that you'd like to share, please send them to Joanne Kahane, alumni chair, at joannekahane111@gmail.com or to her attention at the school's mailing address below.

Also, be sure to submit your "Mazel Tov" events so we can include them in the Alumni News section of our next issue. Thank you!

