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MORESHET MAGAZINE

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This issue is donated
In Honor of Rabbi Harold Sutton,
A true teacher, mentor and leader
By alumni of Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim

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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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Haman's Downfall *by Rabbi Edward Benjamin*

The Gemara in Masechet Hullin (139b) asks a very puzzling question, "Where in the Torah (5 books of Humash) do we see Haman?"

The fact that the Gemara expects to see Haman in the Torah is itself quite strange, as he lives about a millennia after the Torah was written. We will come back to this point.

The Gemara answers its question by quoting a Pasuk from Parashat Bereshit after Adam eats of the tree that was forbidden to him and is confronted by G-d- "Did you in fact eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" (3;11). The Gemara's proof is that the word המן "from the" is spelled just like the name Haman and hence, Haman the character is hinted to way back in the story of the first humans.

What could be the deeper connection between Haman the character in the Megila and this Pasuk about Adam eating from the tree and furthermore why would the Gemara even expect for Haman to be found in the Torah?



The commentaries explain that if you look closely at the commandment to Adam to refrain from eating from the Tree of Knowledge, he was, in the same command also given the opportunity, privilege and duty to eat from all the other trees G-d had created. "And G-d commanded to Adam saying- From all the trees of the garden you shall certainly eat. But from the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil you mustn't... (Bereshit 2:16-17)"

The entire world and all the trees therein were there for Adam to enjoy from and yet as the story goes, Adam and Hava were hyper focussed on the one tree they could not have. Their obsession over what they didn't have led to the ultimate downfall. This, say the commentaries, is exactly what plagued Haman. He was second to the king and had everyone in the entire kingdom bowing down to him but, "it is all not worth it for me because anytime I see Mordekhai the Jew sitting at the gate of the king. (Esther 5:13)"

Haman's greed and constant desire for everything leads him to his downfall. This behavior is so irrational, yet so common to so many of us- the rabbis assume there must be some deeper root to this phenomenon in the Torah and find it in the story of the first and most epic downfall. This is a lesson for all of us that is repeated throughout Pirke Abot and the works of Musar- we must quell our unbridled desire so that our pursuit of everything, including that which is not meant for us, does not lead us to actually losing everything like Haman.



Rabbi Edward Benjamin graduated Hillel Yeshiva High School in 2012 and attended Yeshivat Torah Shraga for a year. He then attended and graduated Cuny BA with a degree in Philosophy and Jewish Studies while attending the Sephardic Rabbinical College as a part time student. While working in Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim, Rabbi Benjamin is also pursuing semikha from the Chief Rabbinate in Israel and has to date passed the rabbinic exam on abelut, nidda, and huppa vkiddushin. He also holds a master's degree in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University's Azrieli School of Jewish Education.

Recent Highlights

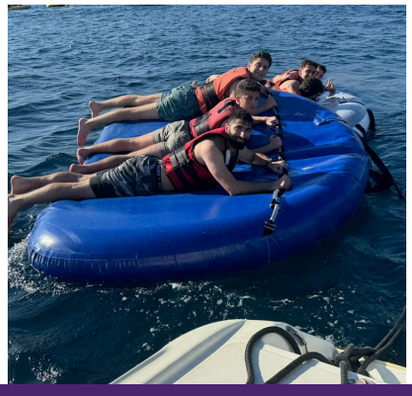
Tiyul to Eilat

Graciously sponsored by The Oved Family








To kick off our annual trip to Eilat, the buses pulled out at 5 AM (yes, 5 AM!) so we could make the most of every minute of our adventure. After arriving, praying Shahrit, and enjoying breakfast at Eli's, we embarked on our first hike. Along the way, we learned about the significance of the land beneath our feet, and some of us even took a leap of faith into its cool waters. After a lunch break, we dove into some creative physical team-building exercises, including rope activities, hula hoops, and plenty of trust in one another. Upon arriving at the hotel that night, we broke into groups for Torah learning and then prayed Minha & Arbit. But wait—there's more! We can't forget about the delicious desert barbecue that included a bonfire, Dibre Torah, and heartfelt singing. To top it all off, we gathered to watch Super Bowl LIX together, learned during halftime, and concluded our incredible day 1 by praying Shahrit together at sunrise. The highlight of day 2 was our 5 hour hike through the deserts of our ancestors. At night we got a chance to catch up on our learning, have fun zip-lining and enjoy indoor ice skating. On the third and final day of our trip to Eilat we got up bright and early to hike to the top of a mountain in time to pray Shahrit with sunrise- overlooking the stunning scenery of our homeland. In the afternoon we had a blast scuba diving and water tubing, before returning to Jerusalem. Special shoutout to Rabbi Tessler for planning this trip A-Z!

Recent Highlights

Tu BiShbat





For our Tu BiShbat Berakhot Seder we learned about the precedence of Berakhot,
and how to check different foods for bugs- and then got to eat from the delicious spread!

Graciously sponsored by Renee & Joey Bawabeh
In honor of Elliott Dweck (Class of '21)- may he continue to bring light and learning into everyone's life and continue in the ways of Hashem every single day!
In honor of Adele Bat Rina & Moshe Ben Rina- may they grow up to be beautiful children with beautiful midot!








We went to the mountains of Hebron to plant fruit trees in memory of
Rabbi Shani's son, Ori Shani HY"D, who was killed protecting our homeland on October 7th, 2023.

Graciously sponsored by Renee & Joey Bawabeh
In memory of Ori Shani HY"D

Recent Highlights

Around the Yeshivah



Mabrook to Yosef Betesh on his Siyum of Mishnayot Seder Moed! Yosef shared a beautiful speech with us. We then ate a special Seuda-and of course celebrated with some dancing!

Siyum & special dinner graciously sponsored by Stefan & Shulamith Betesh in honor of Yosef



Rosh Hodesh Shebat breakfast featured Dibre Torah from our Rosh Yeshivah, Rabbi Harold Sutton.

Rosh Hodesh Shebat Breakfast graciously sponsored in loving memory of Jack A. Terzi, Yaakob Ben Jamila, By Bobby Terzi



Thank you Rabbi Meyer Yedid, Rosh Yeshivah of YDE, sharing Dibre Torah about how important it is to love not just the Jews you don't know, but more importantly the Jews around you all the time.

Dibre Torah graciously sponsored by Ralph Chattah (Class of '18)







At the end of January we had a special farewell breakfast in honor of Eddie Dweck, a student in our Shana Bet program. For the past year and a half, Eddie has been a model student- one that we all look up to. In addition to sharing parting words to us, he also made a siyum on Seder Moed.
We know Eddie will go on to do more amazing things in the future and will visit us again soon!
Special breakfast was generously sponsored by Eddie Dweck



Thank you Gift of Life for coming in to speak with us about how we can save a life!



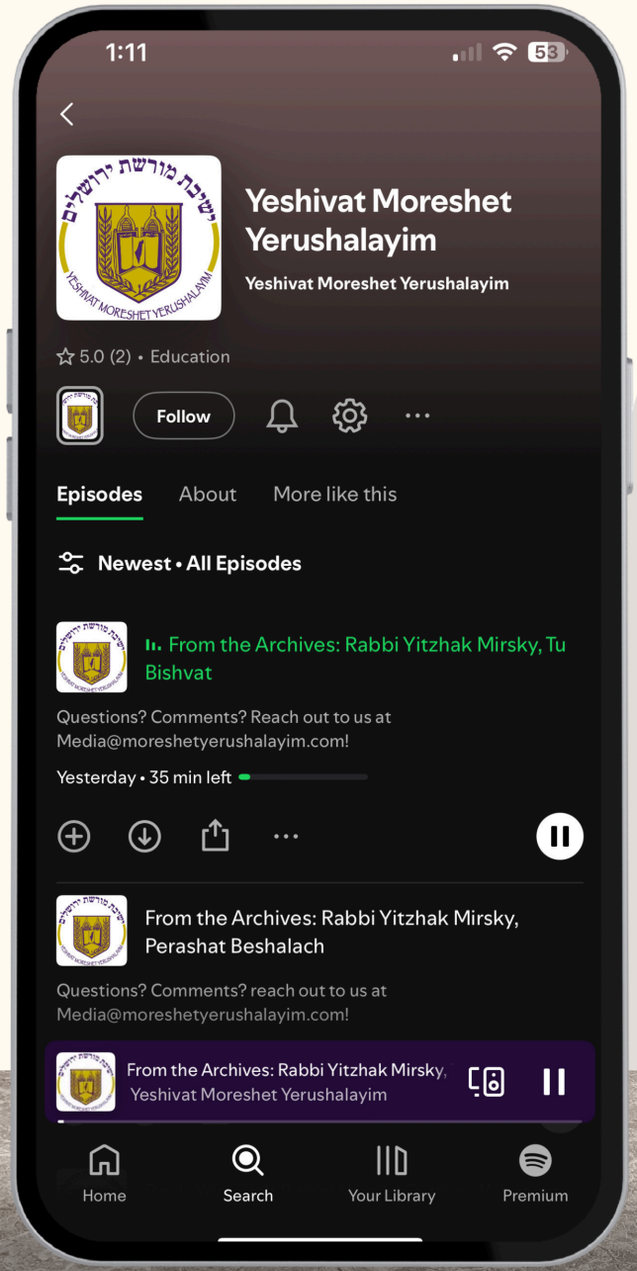
Rabbi Gold's Shiur taking advantage of the Yeshivah's location and the beautiful weather to learn in the park!



Rabbi Benjamin and his night seder class went out for a special dinner celebrating the completion of the 2nd Perek of Masekhet Ketubot!

NOW ON

SPOTIFY



Check out our new Spotify channel for weekly uploads from all your favorite Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim rabbis!

Questions? Comments? Looking to Sponsor? Reach out to us at Media@moreshetyerushalayim.com

Torah By Our Students

True Reward *by Elliot Koren*

Many times in life, we act graciously without seeing a direct reaction from our good deeds. This may discourage us from going out of our way to help others; however we must believe that Hashem is always watching and taking notes of our actions, whether good or bad. This is one of the fundamentals of our religion and the 11th out of HaRambam's 13 principles of faith:

"ושהקדוש ברוך הוא מעניש לרשעים
ומשלם שכר טוב לצדיקים"

In the second perek of Megilat Esther we have the story of Mordekhai thwarting Bigtan and Teresh's plans to assassinate Ahashverosh. This story occurred right after the king threw a 180 day long party celebrating the demise of the Jewish people. Any normal person would have turned a blind eye upon hearing about these plans and just let the situation play out. However, Mordekhai decided to do the right thing and informed Ahashverosh, effectively saving his life. You might think that after saving the emperor of 127 countries' life, you would be rewarded with luxurious gifts and honor. But what did Mordekhai get?

"ויכתב בספר דברי הימים"
"A story that was written down in the chronicles of the times."
Esther (2:23)

Now one might get turned off from helping others after hearing this story. But don't be- as Pirke Abot (2:15) states

"ונאמן הוא בעל
מלאכתך שישלם לך שכר פעלתך"
"Know that your employer can be relied upon to pay you the wages of your work."

This means that although it might not be clear to see, Hashem always rewards you for following His will. This teaching was proven correct in the sixth perek of the Megilah, when everything came together and Mordekhai was rewarded with the honor of riding through the city square in the king's garments and on the king's horse. Then the real reward occurred, with the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman and his plans and the reacceptance of the Torah out of love- "קימו וקבלו."

In Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim, I am currently learning Masekhet Megilah, and on daf 7a, we use this very pasuk "קימו וקבלו" to teach that Megilat Esther was written with Ruah Hakodesh and the story of Purim will be remembered from generation to generation.

So remember, whether people are watching or not- do the right thing, because you have no idea how much reward is waiting for you even from the smallest action.

Hag Sameah!



Elliot Koren graduated from Magen David Yeshivah Joe & Celia Esses High School in 2024 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

The Significance of Moshe's Omission in Parashat Tessave

by Joseph Dana

Parashat Tessave is unique among all the parshiyot. From Moshe Rabbeinu's birth until his passing, it is the only Parashah where his name is left out. His absence is not a coincidence; it is closely connected to when Moshe asked Hashem for forgiveness on behalf of Bnei Yisrael after the Het HaEgel. Moshe cried out to Hashem that if you don't forgive them, "מְחֵנִי נָא מִסִּפְרְךָ," "Erase me from Your book." Despite Hashem's forgiveness of Bnei Yisrael, Moshe's words still had a lasting impact, and ultimately his name was removed from one parasha, Parashat Tessave.

However, what is the reason Moshe specifically chose Parashat Tessave to be the one parasha where his name gets left out?

Hakham Ovadia Yosef explains that Moshe's phrase "מְחֵנִי נָא מִסִּפְרְךָ" contains an extra letter, "ך", which has a numerical value of 20. Tessave is the 20th parasha in the Torah, hinting that this was the parasha where Moshe's name would be absent.

However, there is a deeper reason for why Moshe asked to be removed from this specific parasha. Tessave focuses entirely on the inauguration of Aharon HaKohen to become the Kohen Gadol and his special garments.

This honor was originally meant for Moshe, but because he hesitated to accept Hashem's mission at the burning bush, the Kehuna was given to Aharon instead. Out of humility and respect for his older brother, Moshe requested to remove his name from this so that Aharon could receive the full attention and recognition that he deserves.

Despite Moshe's name not appearing explicitly, his presence in Tessave is still evident. Moshe Rabbenu's birth and passing both fall on the 7th of Adar, which always falls out on the week of Parashat Tessave. Even though his name is not mentioned, his presence is still felt.

From this parasha, we learn two powerful lessons. First, we must be cautious with our words, even when spoken with good intentions. Moshe's statement, despite being selfless, still became reality. This teaches us the importance of thinking carefully before we speak not only to others, but also to ourselves, as words can impact us beyond what we might realize.

Second, Moshe's actions teach us the value of humility. His decision to step aside to honor his brother highlights the importance of respecting and uplifting others. True leadership is about helping others, not about seeking recognition. By embodying the lessons Moshe left behind, we can transform our simple actions into lasting changes in our lives.



Joseph Dana graduated from Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School in 2024 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

Sports Section

Post Season Action Heats Up *by Elliot R. Chalmè*

It's been an exhilarating few weeks for the Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim sports teams, with both the football and boys' basketball squads facing pivotal matchups. The football team competed in a high-stakes play-in game, with the chance to advance to the quarterfinals on the line. Meanwhile, the boys' basketball team wrapped up their season with two crucial games, determined to finish strong and leave it all on the court.

On Tuesday night, February 18th, the Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim boys basketball team, generously sponsored by Norman L. Jemal & Nathan Dweck, faced the Holy Hoopers in a thrilling midnight matchup. Despite playing with only five players, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim kept it close in the first half as Joe Shamah was automatic from the mid-range. On the final play of the first half, Albert Khaski attacked the basket, finishing with a powerful and-1 play, to set the tone for the second half!

After halftime, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim locked down on defense, opening with a 10-2 run, with Moshe Alouf attacking the basket and Joe Dweck knocking down jumpers. However, The Hoopers made a late push, cutting the lead to one. But with under a minute to go, Elliot Chalmè stole the ball and passed it to Shamah, who hit the go-ahead and-1 to seal the victory.



Just two nights later, on February 20th, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim took on the Medrash Mob at 11:00PM. Again, playing with just five players, Shamah continued to hit mid-range shots, Khaski drove to the basket, and Chalmè hit timely threes to keep the game close. In the second half, Dweck and Alouf stepped up with strong defense and clutch scoring, allowing Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim to pull away and secure a hard-fought win to cap off an exciting week.





Now to the turf, with everything on the line, the Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim football team, "Stevie's Boyz 2.0," generously sponsored by Mr. Stevie A. Shalom, delivered a thrilling performance in their play-in game vs. Mevsburgers! We opened strong, capping off their first drive with a wild touchdown as the ball deflected off Albert Khaski's foot into Albert Shalom's hands!

Sports Section

Marty Cohen found Abner Shamah for a toe-tap extra point, giving Stevie's Boyz 2.0 an early lead. Then, Mevsburgers responded with a quick score, but Cohen and Shamah connected again to send Stevie's Boyz 2.0 into halftime up 14-6.

The defense took over from there—led by Steven Benun, Joe Kraiem, Khaski, and Jacob Cayre—locking down the win and punching their ticket to the quarterfinals.

The quarterfinals started in disaster, with Stevie's Boyz 2.0 falling behind 14-0 by halftime. To make matters worse, Khaski went down with an injury, and tensions ran high. But the team refused to back down.

The second half opened with a deep touchdown from Cohen to Khaski, sparking the comeback. The defense stepped up with a critical stop, and the offense struck again—Albert Shalom's spectacular grab set up Abner Shamah for the game-tying score.

Another defensive stand, highlighted by a goal-line sack from Benun, gave Stevie's Boyz 2.0 the ball with minutes left. Cohen led a clutch drive, finding Shalom for the go-ahead touchdown.

With two minutes remaining, the defense sealed the win with a four-and-out, completing an incredible 14-point comeback and sending Stevie's Boyz 2.0 to the semifinals!

With the season heating up, the basketball team is heading into the playoffs, looking to keep the momentum going and make a deep run. Meanwhile, the football squad is one win away from the finals after an insane comeback in the quarters.

Can they pull it off?

Stay tuned for the next edition to see how it all goes down!



Elliot R. Chalmè graduated from Magen David Yeshivah Joe & Celia Esses High School in 2024 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

Mabrook!

Mabrook to Morris Zeitouni (Class of '21) and his wife Gloria on the birth of a baby girl!

Mabrook to Isaac Dweck (Class of '18) and his wife Eileen on the birth of a baby boy!

Mabrook to Daniel Bildirici (Class of '19) & Sara Goldman on their marriage!

Mabrook to Saul Bibi (Class of '22) & Moselle Tawil on their engagement!

Mabrook to Danny I. Massry (Class of '21) & Sarah Benun on their engagement!

Mabrook to Michael Salem (Class of '17) & Marlene Levy on their marriage!

Mabrook to Michael Sutton & Aura Pinhas on their engagement! Mabrook as well to parents Levana & Dr. David Pinhas and Aura & our Rosh Yeshivah Rabbi Harold Sutton!

Mishmar @ Moreshet









On January 30th we had a special Mishmar- Sisit Tying! Rabbi Benjamin and Rabbi Tessler taught our students all about the Misva of Sisit and the different opinions of how to tie them. When they finished, every student got to tie their very own Sisit and keep them for themselves.

Sisit Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Zeke Abraham



On February 6th, our very own Rabbi Tessler shared the story of his Habruta and friend who was killed in a terrorist attack and life lessons in literature that his friend wrote.





On February 13th, morning seder teacher Albert Terzi spoke about the responsibility of young men of the community's obligation to not only learn but to teach and advice for transitioning back in America. We then heard from Rabbi Tokayer from Yeshivah of Flatbush HS who spoke about unity in Eress Yisrael and shared stories and lessons about how a Jew can always find inspiration and return to his roots.

Mishmar was graciously sponsored
By Edward & Etty Azrak in honor of Charles's birthday
Special Menfis Dinner Berakhot Leilui Nishmat Shaul Ben Mazal

Alumni Spotlight

Let Him Cook: Daniel Braha's Journey through Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim and Beyond *by Victor Cohen*

This Edition's Alumni Spotlight is Daniel Braha. Braha went to Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim in 2019-2020 and is a recent graduate of Yeshiva University. Today, he works in Real Estate Development at Redhoek, and runs exclusive catering on the side under the brand DanielBCooking. His story is one of making the most of opportunities, sticking to your passion, and spiritual growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to interview him for this edition's spotlight.

Why Daniel Braha Chose To Go To Israel:

Daniel Braha had a few reasons to go to Israel. He was a Hillel Yeshiva senior, and when looking into Israel, he did his due diligence, asking many people who came back how it was. Everyone told him it was the best year of their lives. "Either everyone's crazy, or this is gonna be the best year of my life," Braha said. "Looks like it was the latter."

Another big factor was the independence involved with making this decision. As he put it, choosing whether to go to Israel or not was one of the first "major" decisions of his life, something which he had the freedom to choose to do or not to do. It was a first step into adulthood.

Finally, religion was always an important piece to his decision. He explained that in high school, his perspective on Judaism was shaped through the lens of tests, assignments, halakhot, and the occasional story. He wanted something more, and what he was hearing about Israel, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim specifically, was that it taught you how to turn Judaism into something lived day-to-day, as you develop your relationship with Hashem. Braha ties everything back to Hashem.

Whenever he thinks of doing something, big or small, he asks "How does this affect my relationship with Hashem?"

Highlights from Braha's Year in Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim:

When Braha got to Israel, he had a few areas of focus. He wanted to get closer to Hashem through learning, and he wanted to develop his skills in the kitchen through cooking. He also wanted to explore the land of Israel itself, and of course, have some fun along the way.

When discussing how he got closer to Hashem, Braha emphasized that his main method of getting closer was to learn about prayer. He and a friend brought copies of *Twerski on Prayer*, a book written by Rabbi Abraham Twerski on the different daily prayers. This was important to him, as he'd be using what he learned here for the rest of his life.



Braha and his friend learned together in a unique manner. "One of us would prepare that morning for that night's lesson." Then, the next night, the other would prepare the next lesson. "We would teach each other." He got through the entire Shahrit using that method. It was a great chance to bond with a friend, and strengthened both of their connections to Hashem.

Braha still carries what he learned back then with him today. In his daily siddur, he has little notes scribbled next to each prayer. “I have a whole binder of notes,” he added.

He reminisced about some of the fun times he had in Israel, with Eilat being a highlight. Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim took them to the AquaKef, a water park built on the ocean. He and his friends were all flying into the ocean, jumping up really high and getting crazy airtime. The hiking was also a lot of fun. “A big thing for me is seeing the history of Israel through actually seeing it, so I loved the hikes and the trips.”

The “Out Shabbats” were also a big highlight. Out Shabbats are weekends where Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim let its students find places to spend Shabbat. Many times, they were amazing experiences. Braha had the opportunity to see how different people lived, experienced great hospitality, and got many good stories.

One Friday night, Braha and a couple of friends went to the Kotel without a plan. They had no idea what they would be doing that night, and walked around, trying to find someone who would host them for dinner. Eventually, they found someone willing to host them, and it was a Shabbat which he and his friends still talk about years later. “It was the most unique Shabbat experience I had, by far.”

The Restaurant Internship:

During Daniel Braha’s year, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim helped students find internships, allowing them to develop important work skills alongside learning Torah. A few students landed jobs in tech startups, but Braha wanted something else. “They asked us in the beginning of the year where your interests are, and I said culinary, I liked cooking.”



Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim looked into many different restaurants and Braha tried out a few different opportunities. He was looking for somewhere respectable, a place where he could learn, and maybe build up the resume a little. Finally, they reached Angelica, a restaurant co-owned by Mr. Joey Harari. Braha thought it was a perfect fit. “It hit all the checkmarks.”

Mr. Harari gave the head chef of Angelica a phone call, and Braha got his chance to start. Once Braha got his foot in the door, he got by with broken Hebrew and eventually worked his way to the chopping station. The job forced him to learn on the fly, and overcome tough obstacles such as the language barrier.. “I forcefully got fluent in kitchen Hebrew,” he said, “I still am.”

Braha began acclimating to the workload, and starting asking for more responsibility, getting into “in-between service,” which was more of an indirect role in the restaurant. From there, he was granted the opportunity to cook something called “The Mishpacha.” The Mishpacha was what the staff ate while on break. This was Braha’s chance to impress the staff with his cooking, which led to increased responsibilities. After that he got onto service, going from the cold station, to the hot station, learning much about cooking along the way. In the end, he got a full crash course in the culinary arts.

Alumni Spotlight

Daniel Braha Today:

"Israel as a whole solidified things in me which I would never give up," Braha explained, referring to both his connection to Hashem and his passion for cooking. DanielBCooking has a 30-person team which Braha calls on a job-to-job basis. He is a rising star in the catering world, and is highly sought after.

To bring things full circle, Braha actually catered Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim's 2024 Annual Alumni Event, where the school's growing class of alumni, prospective students, and school/community rabbis gathered to celebrate how far Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim has come.



The theme of the night was the Shuk, with different types of shawarma and candies, spices, and nuts at stands near the walls. According to Braha, the idea was to create a "warm, familiar environment for alumni, and a welcoming environment for incoming students."

Daniel Braha is a shining example of just how far Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim's alumni can go. He carries what the school taught him every day.



Victor Cohen is a first year student at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and graduated from Baruch College in 2024. He is a graduate of Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim Class of 2022/5782.

On the Horizon

We have so much planned for the coming weeks! If you would like to sponsor any of the available items below in honor or in memory of a loved one please reach out to Mark S. Mosseri at mark.s.mosseri@gmail.com

Note that dates are subject to change

	Dates*	**Sponsor**
Purim Event by Rabbi Gold	March 13th	Available: $1,500.00
Friday Night Oneg Shabbat	March 14th	Available: $201.00
Shabbat Morning Kiddush & Class	March 15th	Available: $360.00
Shabbat Seuda Shelisheet & Shmooze	March 15th	Available: $360.00
Purim Celebration	March 15th	Ralph & Michael Setton
Purim Seuda by Rabbi Sutton	March 16th	Available: $1,500.00
Special Shabbaton	March 22nd	Available: $18,000.00
Rosh Hodesh Nisan Breakfast	March 30th	Joan & Jacob Franco
Issue of Moreshet Magazine	Next Issue	Available: $1,800.00
Week of Learning	Weekly	Available: $3,600.00
Thursday Night Mishmar	Weekly	Available: $500.00 $1,000.00 for Deluxe

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