YEAR 10, ISSUE 3

# MORESHET MAGAZINE

A Publication 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.

## Leadership


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# Staff Spotlights



## RABBI TEDDY BERMAN

NIGHT SEDER

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Rabbi Teddy Berman attended Yeshivah of Flatbush. After graduating high school, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Macaulay Brooklyn College and worked as a financial analyst. He also earned a Master's in Social Work from Yeshiva University Wurzweiler. He made Aliya with his wife in 2023 and they live together in Nachlaot. He teaches and coaches during the day at Rabbi Barry Klein's Habura as well at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim at night.





## RABBI YEHOSHUA SHANI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rabbi Yehoshua Shani, a resident of Kiryat Arba, studied at Yeshivat HaKotel and graduated from the Lifshitz Teachers' College. He previously served as principal of the Orot Etzion School in Efrat, and later as principal of the Reishit Chochma School in Moscow. He also served as Rosh Yeshiva of Barkai Yeshivah in New York. Since its inception, he has been the Executive Director of Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.





## EZRA DWECK

AFTERNOON SEDER

Ezra Dweck grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where he attended Barkai Yeshivah Elementary School and DRS High School. He then spent three years studying at Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Ma'ale Adumim, followed by four years as a madrich at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim, during which he earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Machon Lev. Afterward, he served as a software engineer in the IDF. Ezra currently lives with his wife in Nachlaot, Jerusalem, where he teaches at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim



***All of Ezra Dweck's Shiurim this year have been graciously sponsored by***

***David Azar and Family***



## RABBI YITZCHAK MIRSKY

MORNING SEDER RABBI

Born in Jerusalem, Rabbi Yitzchak Mirsky was a student of Rabbi Yechezkel Sarna of Yeshivat Chevron. Rabbi Mirsky served as Rosh Yeshiva of BMT and was a longtime educator of many students from the Sephardic community. In 2003, he moved to Brooklyn, where he served as Rosh Kollel of the Sephardic Rabbinical College and taught Semicha students, many of whom are practicing members of the Rabbinate today. He returned to Israel in 2014, where he continues to dedicate himself to educating youth. Rabbi Mirsky is the author of the well-known series Hegyonei Halacha, Haggadat Hegyonei Halacha and Haggadah leSepharadim. Currently, Rabbi Mirsky lives in Jerusalem, where he continues to write and teach in Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.



***All of Rabbi Mirsky's Shiurim this year have been graciously sponsored by***

***The Cayre Family***

*Tebet 5786*
*Month of learning is generously sponsored*

**By**
**Joan & Jacob Franco**

# Recent Highlights

## Hanukkah 5786



Several days before Hanukkah we went mountain-biking through the hills of Bet Shemesh, followed by a tour of the Bar Kokhba tunnels- learning about Hanukkah!





For the 1st night of Hanukkah, we went to Rosh Yeshivah, Rabbi Harold Sutton's, home to light candles, followed by a Hanukkah Message by Rabbi Shaul Kassin. We then went to Rabbi Gold's home for a Hanukkah party!







For the 2nd night of Hanukkah, we had a delicious Chalati dinner followed by a grab bag exchange, a jeopardy game (shoutout to the winning team: Joe Dusi, Jack Benjamin, Charles Cohen, Maurice Douek, Nathan Hasson and Charles Savdie) and a dreidel contest that came down to the wire (shoutout to winner Zev Kanik), all led by Moshe Alouf!

**Graciously sponsored by James Haddad in honor of Steven Morano & Seuda לעילוי נשמת חיים בן צופיה, אסתר בת ויקטוריה ריינה ע"ה**



Another night, another EPIC Hanukkah party! Thank you to Rabbi & Mrs. Tessler for opening up their home to us to celebrate the 3rd night of Hanukkah!



For the 4th night of Hanukkah, Mrs. Aura and Rabbi Harold Sutton graciously opened their home to host a delicious Hanukkah meal for the boys. We were privileged to hear Dibre Torah from Rabbi Sutton, alumnus Bobby Falack (Class of '25) and current students Jacob Escava, Joseph Catton and Jack Benjamin followed by pizmonim and dancing outdoors!







To celebrate the final day of Hanukkah, we had a special breakfast this morning, followed by Dibre Torah from Moshe Alouf and our first siyum of the year- Sam Setton who finished Masekhet Makkot! In honor of the siyum, we were treated to a Burgers Bar Seuda for dinner and ended the night off with dancing!

**Breakfast graciously sponsored by David Barnathan and Family**
**Special Sufganiot graciously sponsored by The Setton Family**
**Burgers Bar Seuda graciously sponsored by Cynthia & Albert Setton**

# Recent Highlights

## Thanks for visiting!



Rabbi Joseph Dana




Rabbi Elliot Beraja



Rabbi Joey Soffer



Rabbi Jack Savdie





Family members of the Jacob Eida Bar Misvah trip prayed with us one morning followed by a special breakfast.
**Special breakfast graciously sponsored by the Dweck family**
**In memory of Frieda bat Bahia A"H**

## Taanit Dibur







On December 31st, many students participated in a תענית דיבור, where they didn't speak besides for learning Torah.
Those who completed it were treated to a delicious Burgers Bar Seudah for dinner.
**Learning and seuda were graciously dedicated in memory of Raymond Mosseri A"H רחמים בן מזל**
**By The Mosseri Family**

# Recent Highlights

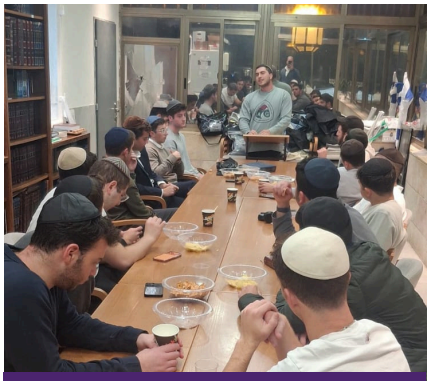


At our Rosh Hodesh Shebat breakfast we heard Dibre Torah from Rabbi Mirsky!

**Graciously sponsored by Nathan Betesh**



One of the highlights of Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim's Shana Bet program is the opportunity to learn daily with Rabbi Shimon Alouf!



Eli Mizrachi (Class of '24) speaking to our students about the importance of consistently learning and putting yourself in the best situations for success.



Joe Shamah (Class of '22) and Rabbi Yaakov Tessler have been learning together Masekhet Abodah Zara over the phone, 15 minutes a day, consistently, for the past two and a half years. They then made a siyum in the yeshivah followed by a special dinner and dancing!

**Special Seudah graciously sponsored by Joe & Katie Shamah**






Several weeks ago we had an amazing tiyul in the Arad Area of Israel where we got to take part in planting trees for a new neighborhood. We then attended an MMA training session where we learned self-defense techniques.

**Tiyul graciously sponsored by Morris Hidary and Family**

## Packing for the Needy








Our students packed vegetables for needy families at Tachlit Warehouse.

**Hesed Activity sponsored by Cynthia & Albert Setton for Refua Shelama of their beloved aunt Smadar bat Rivka**

**5786 Hesed Program is graciously sponsored by Norman & Jennifer Jemal**

**In honor of Elliott Betesh for his tireless work for the yeshivah**

# Standing for What Is Right
## *by Joseph Catton*

At the beginning of Sefer Shemot, Pharaoh commanded The Midwives, to kill every Jewish newborn. As the pasuk states, "וַתִּירֶאן הַמְיַלְּדֹת אֶת־הָאֱלֹקִים," "the midwives feared G-d", and instead kept the babies alive. This raises an important question. Who exactly were these Meyaledot? Were they Jewish or Egyptian? And how does that impact what we can learn from them?

On a simple level, they seem to be Jewish midwives. As Rashi explains, Shifra and Puah were Yokheved and Miriam. Logically, though, this is difficult to understand. Why would Pharaoh appoint Jewish midwives to kill Jewish babies? Would it not have made more sense to hire Egyptian midwives?

Because of this, many mefarshim interpret the pasuk differently. They were not Jewish midwives, but rather midwives of the Jews, and were actually Egyptian. According to this explanation, their actions become even more striking. If the midwives were Egyptian, living in a corrupt society and under Pharaoh's command, they still chose to do what was right. This leads to a broader question raised by HaRambam. In the Berit Ben HaBetarim, G-d tells Abraham that Bnei Yisrael will be enslaved for four hundred years. If this suffering was part of G-d's plan, how could the Egyptians be punished for it?

HaRambam answers this in Hikhot Teshubah, explaining that although the enslavement was decreed, each Egyptian had free will. As he writes, "אִלּוּ לֹא רָצָה לְהָרַע לָהֶם הָרְשׁוּת בְּיָדוֹ." Each individual had the choice to harm or not harm the Jews. Therefore, the Meyaledot, despite the pressure and corruption around them, chose good and were rewarded. As the pasuk says, "וַיֵּיטֶב אֱלֹקִים לַמְיַלְּדֹת"- G-d did good to the midwives.

The story of the Meyaledot teaches us that a person is judged as an individual, not as part of a society or system. Even in a corrupt environment, they chose to act with Yirat Hashem, expressing the significance of remaining committed to core Torah values- even when it is difficult or unpopular.



This message is especially meaningful here at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. In its tenth year as a yeshiva, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim prepares us not only to learn more, but to think independently, take responsibility for our actions and strengthen our Yirat Hashem as we prepare for adulthood. Like the Meyaledot, we are taught to become Bnei Torah and to stand by what is right, regardless of the pressures around us.



Joseph Catton graduated from Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School in 2025 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

## Moreshet Psychoos Push Top Teams to the Limit in Recent Thrilling Stretch

*by Aron Hasbani*

Since the last update, the "Moreshet Psychoos" have gone through a stretch filled with high-intensity football, competing in multiple thriller matchups against some of the league's strongest teams. Despite a mix of wins and narrow losses, Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim has proven it can go toe-to-toe with the best, bringing its overall record to 4–5.

The Psychoos picked up a hard-fought 19–6 win over the Ashreinu Babies, followed by another defensive battle in a 12–6 thriller against the Portnoy Papayas. One of the most exciting wins came against RJFL Teaneck, where Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim secured a 27–19 victory in a fast-paced matchup that showcased the team's offensive firepower and late-game composure.

While the Psychoos came out on top in several close games, they also faced two of the league's top teams in AM Media and Mevsburgers, falling in tight, highly competitive matchups that were decided by small margins. Those games highlighted just how competitive Moreshet is, as they pushed two powerhouse teams to the limit and proved they belong in the same conversation.





On offense, quarterback Joe Dweck continues to lead with confidence, now totaling 20 touchdowns on the season. He's been well-protected by Steven Benun, who has consistently shut down pass rushers and allowed the offense to operate smoothly. Jacob Escava has remained a reliable weapon, scoring 6 receiving touchdowns, while veteran tight end Ezra Dweck adds leadership and 3 touchdowns of his own.

Defensively, the Psychoos have been anchored by elite play across the field. Victor Shalom has locked down receivers and recorded 5 interceptions, while Jesse Leventer has made an impact everywhere, tallying 6 sacks and 4 interceptions. In the trenches, Jack Mugrabi has delivered 6 sacks and constant pressure, complemented perfectly by Aron Hasbani, who has added 4 sacks and multiple batted-down passes, with the duo controlling both sides of the quarterback.

With multiple thriller wins and close battles against top-tier opponents, the Moreshet Psychoos are proving they're far better than their record shows. This team's resilience, toughness, and talent make them a threat every time they step on the field.




Aron Hasbani graduated from Hillel Yeshiva High School in 2025 and is currently a student at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim.

# Mishmar @ Moreshet

*Mishmar Series 5786 is graciously sponsored in memory of Raymond Mosseri A"H רחמים בן מזל*
*By The Mosseri Family*

On Dec 11th, we heard from Mr. Ness Bailey who shared with us what success means and how to attain it while connecting it to the perashah.

**Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Max M. Shalom in honor of Morris and Hymie Shalom**





On Dec 25th, we heard from our very own Moshe Alouf about his transition moving from America to Israel.

**Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Abie Mosseri (Class of '22)**

On Jan 1st, we heard from Rabbi Yaakov Tessler who spoke to us about how to make major life decisions with our intellect, rather than with just our emotions.

**Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Joe D. Gindi (Class of '24) in honor of his brother Ronny (Class of '26)**



# Mishmar @ Moreshet

*Mishmar Series 5786 is graciously sponsored in memory of Raymond Mosseri A"H רחמים בן מזל*
*By The Mosseri Family*



On Jan 8th, we had the zekhut to hear from Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, a Rosh Yeshivah of Yeshiva University. He spoke about the importance of believing in ourselves.

**Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Steven Morano (Class of '25) in honor of this year's Shana Bet students Steven Benun & Morris Sutton**

On Jan 15th, we heard from Rabbi Ricky Cohen who spoke to us about the importance of reading pesukim correctly and how even the smallest dagesh can sometimes make all the difference in the meaning of the pasuk.

**Mishmar was graciously sponsored by Elliot R. Chalmè (Class of '25)**



# Families

*As Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim marks its tenth year, "Families" shines a light on parents who have chosen the yeshivah for more than one son. Their experiences capture the consistency, care and confidence that have defined Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim since its founding.*

## The Dweck Family

**Moreshet Magazine (MM):** What are the names of your children that attended Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim and what years did they attend?

**Dweck Family (DF):** Morris in 2022, Lawrence in 2023 and Joseph in 2025.

**MM:** Why did you decide to send to Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim?

**DF:** We loved the opportunity to have our boys learn with Rabbi Harold Sutton and Rabbi Alouf and all the other wonderful teachers and rabbis in the school. And we were also very impressed with the alumni.

**MM:** What do you mean by that? What about the alumni impressed you?

**DF:** Many of the boys that attended came out back with a love of learning and a desire to give back to the community in a very positive way.

**MM:** Tell me about how you saw the school grow from when Morris went back in 2022 to how it is now, when Joseph is attending.

**DF:** I'll tell you this- Each year is different because each year the student body is different. It's beautiful to see how well the rabbis evolve each year to meet the needs of that years' students. They really do a great job of understanding the student body, seeing where they are, accepting them where they are and then helping them grow to get to the next level. They get to know the kids on a personal level and they connect with them.

**MM:** So what you're saying is that it's not the type of place that just sticks to the same curriculum and approach each year simply because that's what was done in previous years.

**DF:** Yes I think it's always changing. But at the same time, there's a standard and a level of education that's uncompromising.

**MM**: Tell me about the growth of your children. Did you notice a difference between your children before and after their time at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim?



**DF:** I think my children just discovered more about who they are individually and as part of am yisrael and what they want in life and that includes making torah study part of their every day.

**MM:** As a parent, what do you love most about the school?

**DF:** I love that it's our rabbis. I love that I personally know the people that are teaching our children. I love that it's our way of learning. There's different ways of learning and this school does it in the way of our heritage and I think that's very important. I don't think you could find that anywhere else. It's important to continue in the great ways of the people that came before us; to know that we stand on their shoulders as we do our best to grow into the future. I think Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim encourages this strong connection to our ancestors and appreciation of deep and rich heritage.

**MM:** My last question is what's your message to the teachers, the admin and the whole team on celebrating their 10th year?

**DF:** My message is appreciation. Appreciation of all of their hard work, determination and perseverance without which this could never have been possible. Through toil and sacrifice they've developed and established an incredible school for our children in our homeland that Be'ezrat Hashem will flourish and produce amazing things!

# Alumni Visits














## The Ultimate Friend: Jack Massry
*by Victor Cohen*

What are the qualities in a good friend? Firstly, a good friend has to be a good person, as it's not really possible to be a good friend to someone without being a good person. Next, a good friend would ideally be supportive, he would have strong values, and would know how to have fun. Finally, a good friend would inevitably have a strong connection to Hashem and Torah, and would try to push you yourself to be a better person, infused by those values. Decent friends possess some of the above qualities. Good friends possess many of the above qualities. Jack Massry has them all.

Besides those listed above, Jack is also a unifying force for his friends. It's at his house that everyone goes to on Friday nights for board games. It's usually Jack who helps get basketball games going or gets people to go to Torah classes. That mentality of not leaving others behind and sticking by your friends is what defines Jack, and it is what makes him so beloved by those of us who are lucky to count him as one of theirs.

Below, we'll go into why Jack chose to attend Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim, go into some of what he did in his time there, and where his life is today.

**Why Jack Massry Attended Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim:**

Jack Massry grew up in Deal, NJ and was always close with his friends. As things began to shape up near the end of high school, many of his friends chose to join him in attending Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. This was part of what motivated him to stick with his decision to attend, as it gave him the chance to get closer to his friends.

The other side of it was an interest in taking the next step in Judaism. While Jack had liked Torah and liked learning, he wanted to grow to love Torah and love learning. Jack saw Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim as the place to help him reach that next step, and ultimately to build a real, lifelong interest in learning Torah.

**Jack Massry's Learning in Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim:**

"I had the pleasure to learn with plenty of Rabbis," Jack said, as he went through his busy daily schedule at Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim. Jack always had a packed morning. After waking up, he'd review his learning of Masekhet Makkot from the night before with his cousin Alex Dweck. Then, he had the chance to learn with Rabbi Gershon, who primarily taught Sefer HaHinukh, a book that went through the entirety of the 613 misvot of the Torah. Afterwards, he was an active participant in Rabbi Cabessa's morning seder, learning Masekhet Ketubot in depth.

In the afternoon, he learned Masekhet Megillah with Rabbi Joey Mizrahi, and at night spent time learning with Louis Franco, "who's incredible," Jack remarked. Finally, after everyone else was asleep, Jack continued his studying of Masekhet Makkot late into the night, listening to the way Rabbi Eli Mansour taught it via his Daf Yomi recordings.



# Alumni Spotlight

On top of all that, he spent a lot of time learning with his Habruta, Steven Rabih. Jack and Steven would review Masekhet Haggigah almost every Shabbat, and even completed a siyum on said Masekhet. But although they completed Haggigah, they kept at it, and kept reviewing it to ensure that the knowledge stayed fresh within their minds.

During his year, Jack Massry was always known as the one who had the most notes on his gemara. That's because Jack wanted to make sure he completely understood every single concept before moving forward. That important skill of diligence has served him well ever since.

**The Highlights of Jack Massry's Year:**

Jack described a key memory he had of his time in Israel. Half the Yeshiva went to Safed and visited the so-called sound cave. "We went Shabbat night," Jack said, and "we couldn't see anything in the cave. But when you reached the end we saw some Israelis sitting there."
"We didn't know them. We could barely see their faces! Nonetheless, we know they were our brothers, and in this dark, gloomy cave, we sang songs and united as one."



**What Jack Massry Is Up To Today:**

Jack continues his strong routine today. He wakes up every day for 7:30 minyan in Congregation Magen David of West Deal. After prayers, he learns from 8:15-9:00 with Rabbi Goldman. After that, he goes to work at Diamond Appliance Group. He then finishes off his schedule by learning Masekhet Berakhot at night, and attends Rabbi Mansour's weekly class. He also attends various classes by Rabbi David Esses, Rabbi Joseph Dana and others.

Jack Massry is a genuinely good man and an even better friend. I myself am lucky to have him as a friend. He's truly one of Yeshivat Moreshet Yerushalayim's strongest alumni, and he will certainly see continued success in the years to come.



Victor Cohen is a 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.

# Mabrook!

Mabrook to Esther Manopla & **Joe Sultan** (Class of '22) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Or Asulin & **Aharon Elmaleh** (Class of '21) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Victoria & **Rabbi Teddy Berman** (Night Seder Rabbi) on the birth of a baby boy!
Mabrook to Merle Kassab & **Lawrence Dweck** (class of '23) on their engagement!
Mabrook to Yvonne Tobias & **Elliot Soffer** (Class of '24) on their engagement!

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