

# YESHIVAT MAHARAT

SEMIKHA  
CEREMONY



2019  
תשע"ט



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## VISION

A world in which Judaism is relevant, Jewish communities are educated, and diverse leaders guide individuals to live spiritually engaged lives.

## MISSION

To educate, ordain and invest in passionate and committed Orthodox women who model a dynamic Judaism to inspire and support individuals and communities.

## BANNER

Crossing under our Maharat banner is a central ritual of our semikha ceremony. Crafted by textile artist Heather Stoltz, it reads,

אֲחֵתֵּנוּ, אֵת הַיָּ לְאֶלֶף רַבְּבָהּ  
*our sister, may you become a multitude*  
—Bereishit 24:60.

The image on the banner is of water. It is our hope that the ripple effects of our graduates' Torah knowledge, pastoral training and powerful leadership will have a far reach. As she passes under the banner, she joins the waves of women who have come before her, committed to teaching, guiding, and nourishing the lives of others with her Yeshivat Maharat experience.

## HACHNASSAT SEFER TORAH

Maharat is grateful to Tova Reich for gifting us a unique Torah, which was rescued by her father, Rabbi Dr. Moshe Ha'Kohen Weiss, in the late 1950s on one of his trips back to the Poland of his childhood. He traveled there in order to make contact with the few Jewish survivors of the Shoah who had returned to their home shtetls. The Torah had been buried in Szczecin, on the property of a Polish woman. Rabbi Moshe Weiss purchased the property to rescue the Torah, but its condition was so deteriorated as to render it unusable by a congregation.

At Rabbi Moshe Weiss' death in Jerusalem in 2015, the Torah was passed to his daughter Tova, who, along with her brothers Avraham Weiss (Rav Avi), Mordechai Weiss, and David Weiss, and her sister, Sara Weiss Tov, took on the task of having it restored to full *kashrut*. During the Torah's meticulous restoration, they learned that it had been written in three sections by three different scribes. These had been sewn together over the approximately 150 years of its use by a community that most likely could not afford a new Torah and chose instead to retain the salvageable parts. The congregation that last used this Torah was destroyed in the Shoah.

The children of Rabbi Moshe Weiss, determined to give the Torah new life in a new world, now pass this fully repaired Torah, suitable for being read *b'tzibbur*, to Maharat in recognition of its groundbreaking and courageous commitment to the full halakhic participation and leadership of women in Jewish learning and ritual. In giving the Torah to Maharat, Rabbi Moshe Weiss' family honors their father, who saved it for a future beyond his wildest dreams, as well as those of their mother, Miriam Borenstein Weiss, who would profoundly have understood and rejoiced at the inclusion of women in the full authentic richness of Jewish ritual and spiritual life.

# PROGRAM

Welcome, Abigail Tambor  
President's Message, Rabba Sara Hurwitz  
Graduation Speaker, Zelda R. Stern

## **SEMIKHA CEREMONY**

### FOUR YEAR SEMIKHA TRACK

Rebecca Blady  
Jenna Englender  
Shoshana Gross  
Marianne Novak  
Tali Schaum Broder

Charge to Graduates, Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, Rosh HaYeshiva

### ADVANCED KOLLEL: EXECUTIVE ORDINATION TRACK

Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld  
Aliza Sperling  
Dr. Miriam Udel

Closing Remarks, Rabbi Avi Weiss

Zelda R. Stern is a donor-activist originally from Philadelphia. She is a board member of Yeshivat Maharat, and in addition to forming deep relationships and mentoring many Maharat students and graduates, she has subsidized the initial salaries of many Maharat graduates in shuls in order to incentivize their communities to hire them. A member of the founding board of JOFA, she speaks and writes about using strategic philanthropy to effect change and has been committed to expanding the roles of women in Orthodox Judaism for decades. Zelda is a trained psychotherapist who had a private practice before transitioning to her later work as a member of the Board of Directors of the Harry Stern Family Foundation, where she worked with her five siblings. Zelda has advanced degrees from Temple University, Columbia University and Hunter College.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RABBA SARA HURWITZ

Welcome to Maharat's seventh graduation, and to Maharat's tenth year since its founding! It just so happens that both these numbers—seven and ten—are associated with completeness. Seven days of creation, seven days of the week, seven days of *shiva*, seven days of celebration after a wedding—seven is a complete unit. Ten represents a different kind of complete unit—the ten *ma'amarot*, utterances that brought the world into creation, the ten plagues and the ten commandments. What's the difference between these two ways of valuing the world? I'd like to suggest that the number ten is God's measure of completeness, God's vision of the world. Seven represents what is humanly possible, how we enact God's vision in the world. God's words bring the world, the plagues, and the ten commandments into being. But humans are charged with integrating that vision into being. Indeed, the final word of the creation story is a command to us: “*la'asot*” (Bereishit 2:3)—you now must continue God's work. It is fortuitous that the confluence of seven and ten emerges for this graduating class, who embody the command to integrate God's vision into our world.

Rebecca, Jenna, Shani, Marianne, Tali, Devorah, Aliza, and Miriam—you have each already created so much in this world. You have each brought light, comfort, Torah, yoga, spiritual striving, literature and leadership to your many diverse students. You do so with both humility and awe that you are continuing God's work in this world.

This year we are so thrilled that our board member, donor and activist Zelda R. Stern, will address our graduates. I am grateful for Zelda's commitment to Maharat's vision to support and empower female spiritual leaders. Zelda, your vision to create more equitable communities is inspiring. You work tirelessly to create community that conforms to God's vision of *tzelem elokim*—that all humanity is made in the divine image. I am honored to call you a mentor and a friend.

Day in and day out, the faculty, administration, and lay leaders of Yeshivat Maharat are also doing the work of *kedusha*, of integrating God's vision into the world. Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, Rosh HaYeshiva: thank you for bringing *yirah* (awe) to the *halakha* you teach and the way you live your life. Rabbanit Devorah Zlochower: it is hard to imagine Maharat without your full heart and warmth along with your demand for excellence. Dr. Esther Altmann, Rabbi Dr. Erin Leib Smokler, Rabba Wendy Amsellem, Rabbi Adam Mintz, Maya Bernstein, and Molly Pollack: thank you for bringing a curriculum to life that is imbued with *ruach* (spirit) and intellectual rigor. Amanda Shechter: thank you for directing the team, with an eye towards growth and always with a smile. Jen Vegh, Laura Shaw Frank and Atarah Mark: thank you for making sure that the face of Maharat—both internally and externally—are at its best, ensuring that every aspect of Maharat runs smoothly. Your dedication helps actualize our mission and vision. Rabbi Daniel Sperber: thank you for pushing us to sharpen our Torah learning even further. Rabbi Avi Weiss, who epitomizes the value of courage: without your leadership, vision, integrity and justice, none of us would be here today. Maharat's board, and especially our new board chair, Abigail Tambor: thank you for your constant support and wisdom as we grow continue to grow Maharat, and shepherd it forward to even greater heights. Finally, all of this would not be possible without the divine, whose vision I try to bring into being every day.

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

ABIGAIL TAMBOR

Welcome to Marahat's 7th Ordination Ceremony!

It is with great pride, humility, gratitude and trepidation that I address you today in my new role as Marahat's board chair. My pride stems from the strength and excellence of our beloved institution, which continues to strive for and achieve new heights year after year. My humility acknowledges the many who have had a hand in our continuing success and my gratitude is for the fact that I have the opportunity to work alongside so many dedicated and visionary leaders in this worthy endeavor. My trepidation is for the work that is still to be done, for there is much left to do.

I tip my hat to my predecessor, Ariel Groveman Weiner, who allowed me to take the helm of a robust organization, which she shepherded to a new level of professionalism, seeing us through a successful strategic planning process and elevating our development capacity to new heights. We set many lofty goals for ourselves in this leadership transition year, and it gives me great pleasure to report that we have met and often exceeded them all. We challenged ourselves to once again grow our budget by 35% to just under \$2.4 Million and we achieved this goal thanks to new foundation gifts, new and renewed multi-year donors and individual supporters, many of whom are in this room and we thank you. These gifts have allowed us to roll out the first phases of our strategic plan, delving deeply into our program, expanding our efforts in community engagement and redoubling our efforts in recruitment and placement of our students. As we celebrate our 10th year, we face the new challenges of a more mature institution as our alumnae begin to explore the next stage of their careers and seek second stage opportunities and professional growth. We are there to support and guide them every step of the way.

We are also fleshing out and diversifying our program offerings. We continue to refine our core four-year ordination program, which has broadened to explore entrepreneurship and pedagogy along with traditional text study and pastoral care. We are grateful to the Jim Joseph Foundation for their groundbreaking gift of \$1.1 Million in support of our Executive Ordination Track. This grant will enable us to increase the scope of this vital program over the next five years to accomplish our goal of capturing the market of outstanding learned women seeking ordination who are already educators and leaders in the Jewish community and giving them the very best training and support to help them achieve professional equity.

After tonight's ordination ceremony, there will be 34 Marahat alumnae working in the field, with another 31 students expected next year between the four-year and executive ordination programs. Our faculty and administrative staff has grown to 7 full time and 9 part-time staff members. Our students and alumnae have impacted more than 50 communities world wide and our recruitment and placement efforts for current students are robust and in constant development. We are slowly becoming the multitude for which we have strived since our inception. That vision is now becoming a reality.

Ten years in and we are strong! We are grateful to all of you, our supporters, families and friends, for all you have done to bring us and our graduates to this day. It does not seem very

long ago that all we have accomplished was considered an impossible dream and here it is today, a very solid reality. Thank you to Rav Avi, for your clarity of vision, quiet leadership and strength of will. Thank you to Rabba Sara for your boundless energy, your tireless work and your extraordinary wisdom. Thank you to the students and alumnae for your courage, conviction and for sharing your Torah with us. It has been an honor to have a small part in delivering your dreams to the world. May we all continue to go from strength to strength.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MASMICHIM

With gratitude to the Creator of the World and overwhelming joy, we celebrate the seventh *semikha* of Maharat's graduates. Each of our graduates is a *talmida hakhama*, blessed with extraordinary skills that will help her lead her community.

Rebecca, your deep *neshama* will continue to soar in Berlin and your Torah will no doubt touch all those around you. Jenna, your dedication and commitment to seeking *d'var hashem* is a model for the entire Yeshiva. Shani, your vision, creativity and joy are contagious, your students are blessed to have you as their teacher. Marianne, you weave together the tapestry of life with Torah in all that you do. Tali, you walk with God every step you take, in the beit midrash, at home and in hospitals. Devorah, your scholarship and abiding commitment to truth and ethics marks you as a true leader and representative of the Jewish People. Aliza, your keen intellect and educational insight will continue to inspire your many *talmidim*. Miriam, you carry your poetic pen and spiritual patience with grace, and your students and teachers are the beneficiaries of all you have to offer.

Having successfully completed their studies, the graduates are now ordained to answer questions in *Halakha* (*Toreh Toreh b'Issur v'Heter*) and spiritually lead their respective communities.

There is a clearly identified need for our graduates, as evidenced by the communities who seek to employ them, and who reach out to the Yeshiva for interns, seeking in particular the voice of women in spiritual leadership.

Today our people are searching for meaning, seeking to feel the divine presence. We are in desperate need of spiritual leaders who can teach this message to the Orthodox community, the Jewish people at large, and to humanity. We are confident that with this ordination, Rebecca, Jenna, Shani, Marianne, Tali, Devorah, Aliza and Miriam will do that and much more.

With blessings to the graduates and their families and to everyone who has made this day possible. With thanksgiving that we have been honored to be part of this great moment.

*B'Hatzlaha Rabbah,*

Rabbi Jeffrey Fox  
Rabba Sara Hurwitz  
Rabbi Dr. Daniel Sperber  
Rabbi Avraham Weiss

## D'VAR TODAH

REBECCA BLADY



Rebecca Blady is the Co-founder and Executive Director of *Base Hillel Berlin*, a home-based, pluralistic Jewish community for young Jews in Berlin, Germany. For the past three years, she has worked with Hillel's Office of Innovation, first as a Fellow and then as Program Coordinator for the Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurship. While at Maharat, she completed rabbinic internships at the Prospect Heights Shul and ImmerseNYC. Rebecca holds a B.A. cum laude from Brandeis University and is a certified yoga instructor. A proud granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Rebecca advocates for every individual Jewish story. She lives in Berlin, Germany.



*Judaism is often a lonely, unperceived voice raised against man's converting instrumentals into finals. We are a challenge to the sovereignty of any one value: whether it be the ego, the state, nature or beauty. Judaism has disturbed the inflexibility and isolationism of values, lifting the natural to the moral, dissolving the esthetic in the sacred, seeking to shape the human in the pattern of the divine.*

—Abraham Joshua Heschel

Oh, to be lonely and unperceived. Today, I recall the loneliness of my younger years—struggling to make friends throughout elementary school, discovering my lone identity as a feminist and ideological liberal in high school. Even my desire to own my yiddishkeit placed me alone on the fringes. I thought differently than my peers, and because of that, it was impossible for me to find a religious community I could call my own. Eventually, it became clear that I needed to build one myself.

I entered Maharat from the fringes, and to the fringes I return. I will build community from the diversity within our ranks. I am called to disrupt the status quo in favor of revealing G-d's greater presence in our world – within the very human beings G-d created and beyond.

אִם-אַתָּה לֹא תֵלֶךְ עִמָּנוּ, אַל-תַּעֲלֵנוּ מִדְּבָר.

*"If Thou Thyself dost not go with us, take us not out of the wilderness" (Exodus 33:15). This, perhaps, is the secret of our history: to choose to remain in the wilderness rather than to be abandoned by Him.*

—Abraham Joshua Heschel

In these last four years, I have wandered deep into the wilderness, faced moments of confusion, depression, and sheer overwhelm. I am grateful to G-d, first and foremost, for being a Constant Presence, allowing me to wander forward and providing me with countless blessings.

To my grandparents: Thank you for making me who I am. My Zaidy Leo Rosenson A”H, who in so many ways was the foundation of my yiddishkeit. My Grandmother Irene Blady A”H, who inspired me to be an independent woman. My Grandma Olga Rosenson, who says, “Education is something nobody can take away from you.” My Grandpa Mike Blady, who never stops challenging me to think.

To my parents, Edy and Howard Blady: My mother is months away from completing a full cycle of daf yomi. She models persistence, patience and learning for the sake of knowledge. Thank you for your enduring love and steadfast support. My father has always encouraged me to pursue graduate education, and while rabbinical school may have been a surprising decision, he has been nothing but caring, curious, and supportive. Thank you for providing my kashrus shiur with your wisdom on the functioning of dishwashers. I love you both.

To my inlaws, Rabbi Neal Borovitz and Ann Appelbaum: Your encouragement and wisdom over these years have been invaluable. Thank you, Rabbi Neal, for being a wonderful rabbinic role model, particularly on all matters Haftorah and pastoral. Thank you, Ann, for being a real partner in this endeavor, as both a feminist and a seasoned Jewish professional.

To Rachel, Emily, Samantha, Abby and Mike: I love you all. Thanks for sticking with me when I made this strange decision and for seeing it through with me.

To Dan Smokler, Erica Frankel, and the OOI Team: You’ve gifted me with collegueship, mentorship, a space for creativity, and unparalleled opportunities to design and lead. Thank you, Dan, for investing in me as a rabbinic entrepreneur – it has changed the course of my rabbinate in the best possible way.

To the rabbinic figures in my life who have provided me with real-time inspiration as I have gone through this process: Rabbi Yehuda and Lisa Septimus, Rabbi Peretz and Chanie Chein, Rabbi Sara Luria, Rabbi-Uncle Mark Borovitz, Rabbi Benzion Leser, Rabbi Sam Reinstein and Hannah Dreyfus, Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, Rabbi Jon and Faith Leener and others who I’ve surely forgotten. You are people of profound moral courage whom I admire deeply.

To my chevruta, Shani Gross: Here’s to learning for life – especially the texts we really love. Thanks for being a constant partner and support – I absolutely could not have done this without you.

To my fellow students, faculty, and staff at Maharat: Go forth and build. All the power you need is in the room. Thank you for allowing me to raise my voice among yours.

To my daughter, Hinda: Ask me anything you like, for the rest of our lives, about this and anything else. I will do my best to be open and empower you as I have been empowered. You have been the most brilliant one to enter my life along the way.

To my husband, Jeremy Borovitz: None of this would have been possible without you. Thanks for being the World’s Best Rebbetzin.

## D'VAR TODAH

JENNA ENGLENDER



Jenna Englander most recently served as Director of Outreach and Educational Initiatives at Beth David Synagogue in West Hartford, CT. Before coming to Maharat, Jenna was Assistant Director of Recruitment for the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Jenna is a member of the founding cohort of the Hillel Rabbinic Entrepreneurs Fellowship and is a graduate of the Kevah Teaching Fellowship. Jenna holds a B.A. cum laude from the Gallatin School at NYU and lives in Detroit with her husband, Sam and daughter, Maya.



לְעוֹלָם יִהְיֶה אִדָּם יִרְאֶה שְׂמִימִים בְּסִתְרָא וּבְגִלּוּי וּמוֹדָה עַל הָאֱמֶת וְדוֹבֵר אֱמֶת בְּלִבָּבּוֹ  
*A person should always be God-fearing, in private and in public, acknowledging  
the truth and speaking it in her heart.*  
—*Shacharit Service*

We are called to wake each morning in deep recognition of the power of God, to seek in each moment to understand what is true. This is not a simple task. Our path is deeply complex, filled with moments when we are called to rise up, moments when we are called to stay quiet, days when we must compromise, and days when the path of justice demands more of us than we think we have to give. We are taught that in each of these moments we should pause, search our heart, and make sure that our intentions are true. We must ensure that despite the strength of our own voices, we are still able to hear the soft, murmuring voice of the Holy Blessed One calling us forward.

This path is filled with opportunities to become sidetracked, by power, by the pain of brokenness around us, by the demands of others, by political strife, and by the fear of failure. I wake today, as every day, with a deep gratitude to the Holy One for bringing me to this moment, and with a prayer that I am able to know what God asks of me, to follow the path of Torah, of truth and righteousness and love, as I continue on my journey.

מָה אֲנַחְנוּ מָה חַיֵּינוּ מָה חֶסֶדְנוּ מָה צְדִיקָנוּ מָה יִשְׁעֵנוּ מָה כַּחַנּוּ מָה גְבוּרָתְנוּ?  
*What are we? What are our lives? What is our kindness? What is our righteous-  
ness? What is our salvation? What is our strength? What is our might?*

These words are meant as a moment of humility. Who are we when compared to the awesomeness of God? Yet, they are also a call to action. *Who* am I? *What* am I? What is my sense of justice? What will I bring to the world today? It is in the very place where we can acknowledge our smallness and even our weakness, that our strength and our purpose also

become clear. By admitting our own limitations, the small steps that we *are* able to take are illuminated.

לְפִיכֶן אֵנָּחֵנוּ חַיִּימִים לְהוֹדוֹת לָךְ וּלְשַׁבַּחְךָ  
*Therefore we are compelled to thank You and to praise You*

Therefore, from this place of humility and strength, we are called to thank, to praise God for the blessing of having arrived at this day, able to bring our own small gifts to the world. It is hard to imagine myself worthy of the title being bestowed upon me. I am overwhelmed by the awesomeness of Hashem, of the Torah, of my teachers, family and friends. Each of them has built me and carried me here. What am I but the product of their love and dedication?

My rebbeim—Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, Rabba Sara Hurwitz, Rav Avi Weiss, Dr. Esther Altmann, Rabbi Erin Leib Smokler, Rabbi Adam Mintz, Rabba Wendy Amsellem, Rabbanit Devorah Zlochower, Dr. Miriam Benhaim. You have built together an incredible palace of Torah. Each of you has pushed me, sharpened me, modeled for me. Without any one of you (and the wonderful administrative team that backs you), this project would not be what it is. Thank you.

The teachers who taught me what it means to love Torah—Dr. Josh Rosenzweig, Rabbi Dan Smokler, Rabbi Yehuda Sarna, Dr. Michelle Sarna, Rabba Yaffa Epstein, Rabbi Rahel Berkovitz, Rabbi Meir Schweiger and the entire Pardes faculty. Thank you for setting me on this path.

My fellow 2019 cohort—You have inspired me and been my partners through this journey. I could not have done it without you.

My parents, who taught me everything—Each moment of uncovering Torah feels to me like a moment of returning to the foundation you instilled in me. A foundation of justice, of sharp wit, of passion, and most importantly of unconditional love for my fellow human beings. I cannot express how insanely lucky I feel to be your daughter.

Julie and Shaul—You have become a second set of parents to me. I am so grateful to you for all of your support over the past several years and these past months as you’ve helped us hold together our lives and made it possible for me to find those key studying hours without which I wouldn’t be here.

Sam, my partner in life and in Torah—Thank you for inspiring me to start this journey, and for supporting me as I stumbled my way through it. Thank you for always believing in my abilities and convincing me of them when I needed it. Thank you for our beautiful daughter, who has already taught me a lifetime’s worth of love, laughter, and patience.

Thank you.

## D'VAR TODAH

SHOSHANA (SHANI) GROSS



Shoshana (Shani) Gross is the Assistant Director of Education at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Shani is a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and former Hillel Rabbinic Entrepreneurs Fellowship. Shani served as the Rabbinic Intern at Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim and Hunter Hillel. She was the Director of the Silicon Valley Beit Midrash, a pluralistic center of learning on the West Coast. Shani received her B.A. from Stern College and studied in Batei Midrash in the U.S. and Israel. She can usually be found with her husband Chaim running after their beautiful sons, Elan Zalman and Navon Yosef.



וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ אִם לְעֵת כִּזְאֹת הַנֶּעֱתָ לְמַלְכוּת

*And who knows if it was for this very moment that you have attained royalty?*

—Megillat Esther 4:14

Mordechai urges Esther to beg for mercy from King Achashveirosh to save the Jews from his genocidal decree. When Esther hesitates, Mordecai suggests that all of the events that unfolded until now have led her to this very moment, and that perhaps this was her purpose all along.

However when one examines the events leading up to this encounter, they suggest the exact opposite. Esther is forcibly taken from her home and crowned into a position that lacks any real authority. Indeed, her predecessor Vashti learned the hard way what happens when attempting to exert autonomy as queen, resulting in her banishment and a decree that wives be subservient to their husbands. And now Esther's Jewish identity has also been threatened. How can she possibly expect to champion the cause of the Jewish people?

Yet, this verse is the turning point of the Megillah as the first time Esther's leadership potential is acknowledged and validated. Mordecai incites Esther to recognize that despite signs pointing to the contrary, she has the wherewithal to seize this **עת**, access her power, and take control of her destiny. It is in this moment that Esther finally reorients herself from victim to savior.

G-d has blessed me with countless Mordechai's who have believed in my abilities and encouraged me to seize moments big and small.

To Rabba Sara and Rav Avi—Thank you for daring to dream of an **עת** where women's leadership could flourish, and to work tirelessly to see that dream through.

To my teachers at Maharat, Reb Jeff, Rabba Wendy, Reb Erin, Esther, and Rabbanit Devorah—

Thank you for spreading a Torah that is both rich in content and compassion.

To my mentor Rabbi Mintz—Thank you for cheering me through successes and challenges. If I come away with an ounce of your boundless energy and good sense, it will be enough.

To my mentor and friend Maya—Whether on the balcony or the dance floor, New York or Palo Alto, you have shown me the power that rests behind a thoughtful question and an open mind for what might be.

To my fellow YM students, particularly my 2019 cohort—I could not imagine reaching this point without you all beside me.

Thank you to the Wexner Graduate Fellowship for enriching my rabbinic journey, and to Stefanie Zelkind for modeling what it means to balance strength and vulnerability.

To my teachers and friends on both coasts—Thank you for believing in me every step of the way.

To Rabbi Booth—It was through your encouragement that I taught my first class and I am forever grateful.

To my teachers and colleagues at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies—I am overcome by the Torah of depth and love you espouse to the world, and that each of you embody individually. Being a part of the Pardes team is a dream come true.

To Rabbi DLK—Thank you for collaborating with me through some of the most exciting years of my life.

To my Rebbe, Rabba Yaffa—You are a visionary, plain and simple. I am constantly learning from you what it means to be a good Rabbi, mentor, teacher and friend. May this only be the beginning of our journey building palaces of Torah together.

Moshe is blessed to go down the path of leadership with his brother and sister by his side. G-d has given me eight such siblings: Yigal, Tamar, Simcha, Hillel, Avi, Reuben, Alyssa & Yossi—thank you for grounding me, challenging me, loving me fiercely, and for providing me with delicious nieces and nephews.

To my parents-in-law Aaron & Bebe Stauber—I totally hit the in-law jackpot. Thank you for the individualized love and care you give to us all. We definitely could not be where we are without you.

To my parents Yaakov & Ronit Gross—You gave me a home where Tanach verses quoted from memory was commonplace. It imprinted a love of Torah deep into my bones. I only hope that with your help I can pass this legacy onto my own children.

My sweet Chaim—My chevrotah in mind, heart and soul. How precious is this חיים, that I get to spend it beside you. Building a home and family with you has been the most spiritual endeavor of my life.

Navon Yosef & Elan Zalman—Every moment raising you has been reaping G-d's blessing on this earth. There is no achievement or reward that parallels being your Mama. All that I am is for you.



## D'VAR TODAH

MARIANNE NOVAK



Marianne Novak received her BA in Political Science from Barnard College and her JD from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. She has served as the Endowment Director at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and also helped start the Women's Tefillah Group at Bais Abraham. Marianne then moved to Skokie, Illinois, became a Gabbait for the Skokie Women's Tefillah Group, and taught Bat Mitzvah students. Marianne is an instructor and curriculum developer for the Florence Melton Adult School of Jewish Learning and taught Tanakh at Rochelle Zelle Jewish High School. She has lectured for many Jewish organizations and synagogues, and writes a blog for the Times of Israel. Marianne lives in Skokie with her husband Noam Stadlan and family.



וַיִּקְרְאוּ לְרֵבֶקָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלֶיהָ הַתֵּלֵכִי עִם־הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה וּתֵאמַרְי אֵלָיו׃  
*They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?"*  
*And she said, "I will go."*  
—Genesis Chapter 24:58

"I will go—אֵלָיו" - with this simple word, Rebecca, our mother, decides to leave her family and marry a man she has never met. Rebecca's brother Lavan has tried his best to squeeze even more money out of Abraham's servant and foil the deal. And perhaps, in putting Rebecca on the spot, Lavan was hoping she would refuse, dragging out the negotiations longer and holding out for an even higher bride price. But Rebecca had another idea. She knew she had to get out of immoral environment of her family and join a different family, one ultimately devoted to God and the Jewish people. And while her response—"I will go"—echoes God's command to her soon to be father-in-law Abraham—"לך לך—You shall go"—Rebecca does not need to be told by the Divine what to do. She already knows and she goes.

I wish I could say that my path to serving God and the Jewish people was as clear and elegant as Rebecca's. While I would like to believe that I knew from a young age that this is what I would be doing with my life, it took some encouragement from many important people and maybe even some Divine intervention to finally say "I am going." To all of you, I am eternally grateful.

To the amazing women who started the St. Louis Women's Tefillah Group—for giving me my first chance to be a teacher and leader of Torah under sometimes challenging conditions.

To the Skokie Women's Tefillah Group—my true spiritual home, where my connection to God and the Jewish people is constantly renewed whether I am being a Gabbait, preparing a young woman for Bat Mitzvah, delivering a D'var Torah or simply davening.



To the staff and my beloved students of the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning -- where my love of learning and teaching Torah truly blossomed and where I had an inkling that perhaps I needed to formalize my Rabbinic role.

To my dear father, Rabbi David Novak—who when I told him I was applying to Yeshivat Maharat responded with, ‘That’s the best thing I’ve heard all year!’ and has been and continues to be a constant support and advisor.

To my mother, Melva Novak—who has encouraged this endeavor with the sincere hope that I and my colleagues will change the Rabbinate for the good.

To my Mother-in-Law, Vivian Stadlan—who is my biggest cheerleader. I am able to do this because of you and the pioneering women like you before me who paved the path for women’s leadership.

To my dear children, Zehavya, Batsheva z’l and Hillel.

Zehavya: who pushed me to apply to Yeshiva and “get the show on the road.” Your devotion and hard work to serve humanity through medicine is a constant source of inspiration (and motherly pride).

Batsheva z’l: who as a staunch Jewish Orthodox feminist was always proud to tell people that her Mommy was studying to be a Maharat. I know you are beaming down upon me even more brightly seeing that Mommy indeed finished.

Hillel: who assuaged my parental guilt for being away from home so often these past four years. I will miss you next year when you are in yeshiva in Israel and am a little jealous that you will have a chance to learn Torah full time.

To my dear husband, Noam Stadlan—who is the true hero in this endeavor. Without your constant love and care, I just wouldn’t be here. Thank you for fighting for my honor and showing me that with devotion to God and Torah any challenge or hardship can be overcome.

To the entire Rabbinic staff and members of HIR/The Bayit—who gave me the opportunity to participate in an ideal Jewish community.

To Rav Nati Helfgot and Congregation Netivot Shalom—who have taught me the meaning of doing something *l’shem shamayim*, for the sake of Heaven.

To all my other encouragers and supporters (and I am sure I have omitted many)—Jake, Adar, Jordan and Yael Novak; Liz, Carmi, Joshua, Simcha, Akiva and Shoshana Stadlan, Doron Stadlan, Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, Rolly Cohen, Rav Ari Hart, Jane Shapiro, Amy Kramer, Bethia Straus, Rav Avi Weiss, Caroline Musin-Berkowitz, Shira Eliaser, Jacky Grossman, Diane Halivni, Miriam Gross and last but not least the entire Chicago-based flight and ground crew of American Airlines, especially flight #25.

And finally, to all my teachers and classmates—who taught me formal and perhaps more importantly informal Torah. The Torah I have learned here at Yeshiva, with the people of this Yeshiva, has enhanced my greatest joys and raised me up at times when I thought I could not do so.

So with that—**לך**—I will go, like *Rivkah Immainu*, Rebecca our foremother, but fortunately not alone but with all of you and the entire Jewish community.

## D'VAR TODAH

TALI SCHAUM BRODER



Tali Schaum Broder dreamt of the rabbinate as a teenager at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale - The Bayit. After gap-year study in Israel, Tali made aliyah and earned degrees in Educational Counseling and Tanakh from Bar Ilan University. She studied for two years at the Women's Beit Midrash in Migdal Oz. Tali tutored at-risk youth in Jerusalem and was a guide at the Herzl Museum. She received certification in couples' counseling and teaching Hilkhos Niddah. Tali returned to Riverdale to study at Maharat.

She served as a chaplain intern at Columbia and Weil-Cornell, and rabbinic intern at The National Synagogue and the Bayit. Tali lives in Riverdale with her husband Yechiel, and their daughters, Ayala and Lilach.



אחת שאלתי מאת ה' אותה אבקש

שבתי בבית ה' כל ימי חיי

לחזות בנועם ה' ולבקר בהיכלו

*One thing I ask of the Lord, only that do I seek*

*To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life*

*To gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to visit in His temple.*

What does it mean to both “*dwell* in G-d’s house” and to “*visit* in His temple”? Do we want to be permanent dwellers or to be just visitors?

Rav Chanan Porat, z”l, offers a beautiful reconciliation. He says that our desire is, in fact, to be permanent dwellers in G-d’s house, but with the feeling of being a visitor. The experience of being a visitor can elicit feelings of excitement and newness. Often parts of our lives become habitual; we “*dwell*” in them. Even our relationships, our prayers, learning Torah and doing mitzvot can become rote and no longer imbued with excitement. We need to strive to constantly look at Torah, our relationships, and the world, with “*new eyes*.” Rashi says, commenting on Deuteronomy 26:16, that the mitzvot should always be new in our eyes, as if we are being commanded anew every day. Our goal is to be immersed in the world of Torah and at the same time to be always excited by the newness of our discoveries.

I have been blessed to dwell in many homes of Torah.

R’ Avi, Toby, and the HIR community: The HIR community has been my second home of Torah, unique in its openness, in its unbounded love for humankind, in its passion for Am Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael, in its speaking truth to power, and in its spiritual activism. This is where my ideals of Torah living formed, evolved and matured as I came full circle to Maharat. R’ Avi, thank you also for the personal Torah that was taught in moments at a hospital bedside

and home visits, in songs sung in the sukkah, and in wedding and childbirth phone calls.

R' Joel Cohn, Mrs. Esther Krauss & the faculty at SAR & Ma'ayanot: Thank you for giving me the foundational tools and inspiration for learning. Thank you for the Torah of your ideals, and for transmitting a yiddishkeit in all its positive glory. Mrs. Krauss, thank you for creating a space that treasured us and took our female adolescent minds seriously. Thank you for continuing to inspire me, as I have merited to learn alongside you in the beit midrash of Maharat.

R' Esti Rosenberg, R' Yael Shimoni, R' Yoni Grossman & the Migdal Oz Shana Bet chevra of 5770: The Torah I learned from all of you was a Torah that touched the deepest parts of my soul. It was a Torah of yearning to learn with our whole being, a Torah of deep intensity; of intellectual rigor combined with passionate spiritual ecstasy. It was a Torah of tremendous joy, and spectacular wonder. It was the first time Torah truly felt like mine.

R' Jeff, R' Sara, R' Devorah, R' Erin, R' Wendy, R' Mintz, Dr. Altmann, Dr. Benhaim: Thank you for the Torah you give of your entire selves, taught with immense sensitivity, that inspires and shapes us.

R' Steven, R' Anat, Maharat Ruth BF: Thank you for your Torah of mentorship and for being excellent models of leadership.

R' Naomi Kalish, R' Nathan Goldberg & the amazing pastoral care staff at NYP: Thank you for your Torah of deep compassion which has challenged, embraced, and rooted me in the most fundamental ways.

My amazing Maharat cohort: Thank you for each of your unique Torahs that made our year so special—thank you for the support, the love, the laughs, the learning. May the Torah we've learned with and from each other continue to change the world for the better in new and important ways.

My incredible siblings, and their “spice”—Sim, Rachel, Devo, Avidan, Keren & Avishai: The Torah you have taught me is given over in looks, in song, in laughter and in tears. It is a Torah of unconditional love, of unfettered kindnesses and loving support. It is a Torah steeped in the sweetest of memories and in unfinished dreams. It is Torah that, with G-d's help, we will continue to learn together on our life journey for many more years.

Abba & Ema: You provided me with my first home of Torah. The Torah I learn from you is one of integrity, of balance, of deep spiritual yearning, and of song. The Torah you transmit is one of love, of holiness and goodness, of fun and openness; it is a Torah of wholeness. It is a Torah I live with every day. May the way I continue to transmit Torah make you proud.

Our daughters, Ayala and Lilachi: Your Torah is full of sweetness, purity, uninhibited joy, song, and caring. I hope that you both will find your own unique חלק in Torah.

Yechiel, דודי: I am thankful that your family took me in as a bat bayit, extending warmth and hospitality to me when I made Aliyah. I am grateful for your Torah, for your טוב לב, for the Torat chesed על לשונך and for your wisdom. Thank you for your unwavering support, for pushing me to fulfill my dreams, and for being by my side every step of the way. I thank Hashem that our Torah is one of partnership, and may I be blessed to continue learning with you and from you ad meah v'esrim. My Torah is your Torah.

## D'VAR TODAH

DR. DEVORAH SCHOENFELD



Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld is Associate Professor in the Theology department at Loyola University Chicago, where she teaches Judaism, Bible, Comparative Religion and Jewish-Christian Relations. Her book, *Isaac on Jewish and Christian Altars: Genesis 22 in Rashi and in the Glossa Ordinaria*, compares medieval Jewish and Christian approaches to the akedah, and she has also written on midrash, comparative theology, and dream interpretation. She is a member of Anshe Shalom Bnai Israel in Chicago. Devorah holds an MA in Comparative Religion from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.



וְיָדָע־אִם־לַעֲתָ כִּזְאֹתִי, הִנֵּנִי לְמַלְכוּת.  
*Who knows, perhaps you gained power for a moment like this?*  
—Esther 4:14

Mordechai speaks these words to Queen Esther, begging her to speak to King Ahasverosh on behalf of the Jewish people. The long, circuitous, complex route that Esther has taken, he suggests, has placed her in a position in which she can speak to the King and be heard. Because he believes in the power of her voice, she comes to believe it as well, and finds a way to be heard. When she speaks to the King she speaks powerfully the truth of who and what she is, at great risk to herself. She is heard in a way that makes a difference. It builds the possibility of redemption.

Like Esther, I work primarily among non-Jews. In my work as a theology professor at Loyola University I have come to see the vitality and importance of teaching Torah even outside the Jewish world, and I know that being ordained will only strengthen the Torah I can teach. Like the story of Esther teaches us, a voice sometimes needs the right time to be heard. My route to ordination has been long and complicated and I am grateful to everyone who encouraged my voice along the way.

My Torah teachers and mentors: Avivah Zornberg, Arie Strikovsky, Steve Wald, Mordechai Silverstein.

My mentors in academia: My dissertation advisor Chris Ocker, my mentors Daniel Boyarin, Naomi Janowitz and David Biale, my department chairs Susan Ross and Bob DiVito and all my colleagues in the Loyola department of Theology, my previous department chairs Bjorn Krondorfer and Katharina von Kellenbach and all my colleagues at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

My hevrutas and colleagues, more than I can name, but in particular David Lerner, Havivah Ner-David, Ariel Mayse, Rebecca Wollenberg, Adam Gregerman, Malka Simkovitch, Evangeline Su, Teresa Calpino and Tisha Rajendra. I also remember my important friends and hevrutas Matt Eisenfeld and Sara Duker, z"l.

My three years in the Maharat Kollel have been transformative and I am beyond grateful to Rabba Sara and Rav Jeff for creating this opportunity for women who were not able to be ordained earlier in their careers. Thank you for giving me a chance to develop my voice to become a leader not just in academia but in the Jewish world. I am also very grateful to my teachers R. Hefter, R. Linzer and R. Brill and to my cohort members Aliza Sperling and Miriam Udel for their constant support and camaraderie.

And to my family: My parents Stuart and Joan Schoenfeld who nurtured my love of Torah when I was young. My foster son C who reminds me every day that Torah matters to everyone. Most of all my miracle husband David Dror whose honesty, integrity, generosity, moral vision, and kindness have been my constant support. I am beyond grateful.

## D'VAR TODAH

ALIZA SPERLING



Aliza Sperling teaches Jewish texts and thought in the Washington DC area, and designs curricula and educational programs for various Jewish schools and organizations. She serves as a faculty member of the Wexner Foundation and is the founder of HerTorah, a women's Torah study program in DC. Aliza received her B.A. from Barnard College and J.D. from New York University School of Law. She also studied at Michlalah, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Masoret, MaTaN Jerusalem and MaTaN HaSharon.

Aliza lives in Washington, DC with her husband Josh Milner and their children Moed, Yona, Batya and Orly.



*Rabbi Akiva would say: "Beloved is humanity for we were made in the image of God. And doubly beloved are we for God made it known to us that we are made in his image."*

—Mishnah Avot 3:14

Thank you to the One Above who has made me in the divine image. Thank you to the people in my life who have "made known to me"—through their love, support, and friendship—that I and they are created in the image of God.

My parents, Marlene and Michael Sperling, created a home full of love of Torah, pursuit of *chesed*, love and laughter. Thank you Dad for learning with me and bringing me to classes even when I was the only girl in the room. Thank you Mom for being a role model of kindness and of building a loving Jewish home.

I was so lucky to get an additional wonderful family when I married Josh. Thank you Sara and Stuart Milner for embracing me from the start, and for your dedication to inclusion and to family.

My siblings, Ilana, Dahlia, Shoshana, and Eli, were my playmates as children and are now my friends as adults. I am so privileged to now have additional wonderful siblings: Boaz, Will, Rachel and David, and Jacob and Goldie. I am grateful to my adorable nieces and nephews for bringing so much (loud) joy into my life.

*Chaval al d'abdin v'lo mishtakchin.* Not a day goes by when I do not think of my grandparents a"h, whose love and dedication to Torah and Yiddishkeit were so formative for me. I wish they could be here to celebrate with me today.

I have been so lucky to have precious friends in my life. Thank you for your friendship and love.

I am privileged to live at a time when there are more opportunities for women to learn Torah on a high and deep level. Even in my own lifetime, the opportunities have multiplied. Thank you to the trailblazers who have created oases of women's Torah learning—what would I have done without you? Special thanks to the institutions in which I have had the *zechut* to learn: HALB, Yeshiva University High School for Girls, Michlalah, Masoret Institute, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Matan Jerusalem, and Matan HaSharon.

Rav Avi and Rabba Sara, I am so grateful to you for creating Yeshivat Maharat, a beautiful *makom Torah*. Thank you to Rav Jeff for your humility, erudition and deep concern for your fellow humans, to Dr. Altmann for your devoted and insightful presence, to Rabbi Mintz for always being a *mentsch* and to Rabbanit Devorah for courageously leading the way. Laura, thank you for recruiting me and for your remarkable patience. Amanda, Jen and Atarah--your dedication and hard work make it all happen.

To the Maharat Kollel: one of the unexpected benefits of joining the kollel was getting to know and learn with such impressive, learned women. Thank you especially to the Kollel seniors, Devorah and Miriam, who have been models of *nashim chachamot* in all sorts of ways. To my chevruta Aviva Krauss and my Kollel chevruta Lisa Schlaff—thank you for sharing your wisdom and your beautiful selves with me.

Over the past three years, Rabbi Herzl Hefter's incisive analysis, good humor, and unfaltering quest for meaning have brought me so much joy and have opened up my world. Thank you for your dedication to your ideas and values, and for sharing your journey with your students.

Erica Brown has been a precious friend and mentor to me. She taught me how to teach—and to navigate the world—with heart and soul. I am grateful to her for her friendship, her trailblazing, and always being willing to say it as it is.

Thank you to Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld for building a shul of dedication and openness. Thank you for partnering with me on the Women's Beit Midrash and Makom, and believing in me and my family. Thank you to Maharat Ruth Balinsky Friedman for your pioneering and teaching.

I am grateful to have found my calling as a teacher. Thank you to my students who are my partners in finding meaning in the world around us.

Thank you to my children—Moed, Yona, Batya and Orly—who constantly inspire me and make me laugh. You have each—in your very unique way—taught me to see the world from a new perspective. I am so grateful to be your mother.

Josh, you are astonishingly kind, thoughtful and Xorthonian. I am deeply blessed to be on the same team with you.

## D'VAR TODAH

DR. MIRIAM UDEL



Dr. Miriam Udel is associate professor of German Studies and Jewish Studies at Emory University, focusing on modern Jewish literatures and cultures, especially Yiddish. She holds a BA in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. She's studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum and MaTaN and directed Drisha's Dr. Beth Samuels Summer High School Program. Her first book, *Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque* (University of Michigan Press, 2016), won a National Jewish Book Award. Her anthology of Yiddish children's literature, *Honey on the Page*, will appear with New York University Press in October 2020.



כִּי כֹה אָמַר ה' לְבֵית יִשְׂרָאֵל דַּרְשׁוּנִי וְחִי  
*Thus said the Lord to the House of Israel: Seek Me, and you will live.*  
—Amos 5:4

תָּנָא בְנוֹת צִלְפַּחַד חֲכָמָנוֹת הֵן דַּרְשָׁנוֹת הֵן צִדְקָנוֹת הֵן  
*The Sages taught: The daughters of Zelophehad are wise,  
they are able interpreters, and they are righteous.*  
—Bava Batra 119b

The Biblical Hebrew root ש.ד.ר means to search, seek out, pursue, turn to, or consult; God is its frequent object. In rabbinic Hebrew, the same radical refers to textual interpretation: to examine, question, expound, and teach. When a Talmudic passage characterizes the daughters of Zelophehad as hakhmaniot, darshaniot, and zadkaniot, it embeds their interpretive ability as darshaniot within a larger context of wisdom and virtue. Indeed, the word's shift in meaning over time gestures at how all of our interpretive activity, whether legal or narrative, stems from the motivation to discern and carry out the Divine will.

Through Amos, God promises, "Seek me, and you will live." We might read the verse, "Darshn me, and you shall live!" Indeed our derashot can be a matter of life and death, distancing or drawing close, throwing up walls or laying down bridges.

My years at Maharat have intensified and formalized a lifetime's worth of preparation to assume the title of darshanit: an interpreter of Jewish texts and a seeker of the good, the just, the Godly. In choosing this honorific, I strive to emulate the conviction and humility of Zelophehad's daughters. The sugya goes on to praise these five women's savvy in timing their request; I am inexpressibly grateful that our time has come now.



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Late in his life, the Talmudic hero Honi the Circle Drawer falls asleep for seventy years. Upon waking, he returns home and enters the study hall, only to hear himself praised in the abstract. Yet he cannot persuade the scholars of the new day that he is Honi they so admire, and indeed they accord the old eccentric no distinction. Miserable, he prays for death, prompting the sage Rava to invoke the saying, **או חברותא או מיתותא** “Friendship or death!” The story figures the pain of unrecognition, the loneliness of trying to enter a beit midrash in which you find yourself invisible as yourself. Conversely, it is friendship—and moreover the special friendship of that most sustaining relationship, **חברותא**, that allows us to be seen, manifested, as our fullest selves. I am grateful to all the women with whom I have shared the learning of Torah over decades.

My fellow students in the Kollel program are truly wise, able interpreters and righteous. I have been privileged to spend three years learning alongside Aliza Sperling and Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld. Their purchase on halacha is ethically informed at its very core; their hermeneutic insights astonish and delight me. Devorah, you have given me a master class in reading texts against the grain—with as much compassion as acuity.

So serendipitous have been the pathways whereby I have found my teachers and mentors, that I cannot help but see the work of the Divine hand in arranging my education. I have lapped the life-giving Torah of Professor Isadore Twersky **לצ"ל**, and **יבדלו לחיים**, Professor Bernard Septimus, Rav Herzl Hefter (twice!), Dr. Avivah Zornberg, Rav Jeffrey Fox, Rabbi Adam Mintz, Rabbanit Devorah Zlochow, Dr. Esther Altmann, Rabbi Dr. Erin Leib Smokler, Rabbi Dov Linzer, and my dokter-mame, Professor Ruth Wisse and dokter-feter, Professor Dovid Roskies.

The **מי תורה** of one particular rebbe comes with particular effervescence, not least for being so often accompanied by freshly carbonated seltzer. Rabba Wendy Amsellem’s salutary influence began when I was seventeen, and she has never stopped encouraging, teaching, challenging, and nourishing me—while roping me into adventures.

I am thankful to my parents for setting me on this course. I am grateful that my ordination seems like a natural milestone, if not quite an ordinary one, to my sons. Yitz and Kobi, may I make you as proud as you make me. Manu, I’ve been a rabbinical student for almost your entire life. You know the phrase, “Shh, Mami’s in shiur!” and your *sheyn ponem* is not unknown on the Zoom screen; thank heavens for the “mute” function.

It took untellable generosity of spirit to get everybody transported, fed, read to, homework-helped, and listened to while I was in New York learning, or even busy in Atlanta with shiur or chavrutot. I am the mother and scholar that I am because of your love, Adam Zachary Newton. The youngest of Zelophehad’s daughters married only at forty, Bava Batra 119b recounts approvingly, and her fertility was miraculously prolonged. AZ, we have been blessed beyond measure. Together, we make things grow, and the life we have built with each other fructifies incalculably. Long may it continue to be so!

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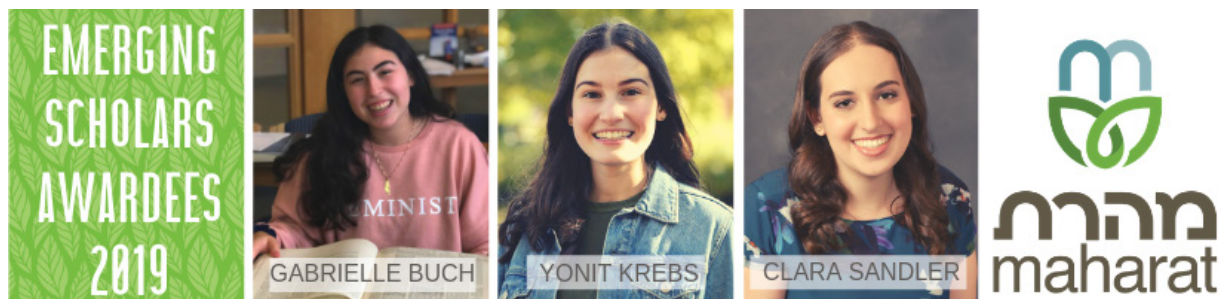
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## MEET THE 2019 INAUGURAL EMERGING SCHOLARS!



The Emerging Scholars Award celebrates young women who are high school seniors excelling in leadership, spirituality and Torah learning. The award acknowledges these young women for their accomplishments and dedication to the Jewish community, while supporting their continued growth.

Awardees receive a \$1000 stipend towards university or gap year education. They will connect with and receive mentorship from other prominent Jewish leaders and Torah scholars, including Maharat faculty, alumnae and students.

Mazal tov to these remarkable awardees who have engaged in deep Jewish learning and shown leadership in a variety of contexts including tefillah, camp, social justice and political environments, and who support their peers and family members in deep and beautiful ways.

**GABRIELLE BUCH**, Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School, Livingston, NJ

**YONIT KREBS**, St. Louis Park Senior High School, St. Louis Park, MN

**CLARA SANDLER**, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, CA

# TRIBUTE SCROLL

Maharat has been blessed by its Sustaining Donors, Executive and Leadership Cabinets, Revava Campaign donors, and Tribute Scroll contributors, each of whom has made this day possible.

Maharat gives special thanks to our Sustaining Donors, Executive and Leadership Cabinets and multi-year donors for their vision and support throughout the year, prioritizing women's spiritual leadership at a high level.

Board members appear in **BLUE**, and faculty, staff, students and alumnae appear in **GREEN**.

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THE BELDA K. LINDENBAUM CENTER FOR 21ST CENTURY RABBINIC LEADERSHIP  
*Mazal tov to this years' musmachot—you are changing the world! With gratitude to Zelda.*

BELZ CENTER FOR HALAKHIC STUDIES  
*Belz Family is very proud of you and the service you will provide for the many congregations and organizations you will enrich.*

THE JIM JOSEPH FOUNDATION

**CHANI** AND STEVE LAUFER/AVIV FOUNDATION  
*Mazal tov to our dear friend Aliza Sperling, to the amazing Maharat musmachot, and to Zelda Stern, whose unwavering commitment to Orthodox women's leadership is a source of deep inspiration to us, and to a generation of women.*

## EXECUTIVE CABINET \$225,000+

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*With gratitude to Zelda Stern for her leadership & commitment*

*Kol hakavod to the inspiring 2019 Semikha graduates*

ARIEL GROVEMAN WEINER AND JOSH WEINER

*In honor of Zelda Stern, who embodies true leadership and whose laser-focused commitment to women's leadership has created a new reality; and in honor of this year's graduates, whose scholarship, talent, and passion is a great blessing to our community.*

AUDREY AXELROD TRACHTMAN & DR. CHAIM TRACHTMAN

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AMBASSADOR ALFRED MOSES

MARIANNE NOVAK AND DR. NOAM STADLAN

*Thank you, Zelda Stern, for your vision, leadership, generosity, support, passion, and friendship. Rabbi Marianne Novak and Noam Stadlan and*

*To our own Rabbi, Marianne Novak, Now you have semikha, and we could not be prouder of you and all of your hard work and all that you have accomplished.*

CAROL AND IRV SMOKLER

ABIGAIL AND SHAI TAMBOR

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*Honoring Zelda R. Stern and Remembering Stanley I. Rosenzweig*

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*Mazal tov to each woman receiving semikha! You are our future!*



FAYE AND HARTLEY KOSCHITSKY

ELENA NEUMAN LEFKOWITZ AND JAY LEFKOWITZ

GLORIA AND BURTON NUSBACHER

TOVA WEISS REICH AND WALTER REICH

*The Weiss family is honored that the Torah rescued from Poland after the Shoah by our father, Rabbi Moshe Weiss, z'l, and given a home by our mother, Rabbanit Miriam Borenstein Weiss, z'l, will now enter a new life at Yeshivat Maharat, inspiring generations of future leaders of our people.*

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*Mazal tov, graduates! The Jewish world will be so blessed by your insight, warmth, compassion, and creativity. Zelda, we cannot thank you enough for your lifetime of leadership and courageous vision. We are all deeply in your debt.*

HARRIET AND MARC SUVALL

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*Congratulations on your visionary accomplishments*

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*Dear Zelda, your passion, vision, and dedication to Yeshivat Maharat are an inspiration to us all.*

SASHA AND ANDREW FOX

*Mazal Tov to the graduates, we are excited to see what the future holds for you. With gratitude to Zelda.*

RONIT AND YAACOV GROSS

RABBA SARA HURWITZ AND JOSH ABRAHAM

*To my mentor, Zelda: thank you for being our magbiah. And to the graduates: welcome to the rabbinate. Mazal Tov!*

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*To Zelda: our pioneer, visionary, and champion—we could not have done it without you, and we are deeply grateful! To our graduates: we are so blessed to have your scholarship, leadership, and light to guide us forward. Mazal Tov!*

SALLY GOTTESMAN

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*Zelda, with immense gratitude for your vision, leadership and strength! Mazal tov to all the graduates! Looking forward to all the great things you each will do!*

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*"We decide tzedakah based on our values and our vision of the ideal world."*

*"Tzedaka is also a force for social change."*

*Zelda, your words and actions inspire us. You truly helped make Maharat happen!*

JULIE AND ADAM GROVEMAN

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AMANDA AND JUDAH SHECHTER

*In honor of the graduates, and Zelda R. Stern who has lit the path for them and for all of us.*

MARLENE AND DR. MICHAEL SPERLING

*Dearest Aliza, Mazal Tov to you and each of your colleagues on becoming a Rabbanit! With love and admiration from your entire family.*

AVIVA AND AARON STAUBER

*In honor of our daughter-in-law Shani, your sincerity and love of learning are truly inspirational to our family. We are so proud of all your accomplishments #MEZNY. We love you, Mumz, Dad, Reuben, Alyssa and Yossi*

AYELET AND JONATHAN WIENER

TAMAR AND REUVEN ZAKHEIM

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*Wishing all the graduates a mazal tov  
and a yasher koach to Zelda Stern.*

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PROFESSORS RUTH LANGER AND

JONATHAN SARNA

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DRS. NAOMI AND MARTIN LEIB

*In honor of Dr. Rabbi Erin Leib Smokler  
for her spiritual wisdom  
and her passionate soul.*

ALIZA LEVINE AND ERIC BROWN

*Mazal Tov to Aliza Sperling and all of the  
Semikha recipients. What an incredible  
accomplishment. Kol hakavod!*

**JUDITH LEVITAN**

*Mazal Tov to the graduates of 2019,  
and in particular Aliza Sperling, Devorah  
Schoenfeld and Miriam Udel. May you go  
from strength to strength in spreading your  
unique Torah to the world.*

CHAYA AND LORNE LIEBERMAN

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OBERSTEIN

LINDA RIEFBERG AND LEE PERLMAN

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SERYL RITTER AND BUDDY SKYDELL

*In honor of the musmakhot and the Maharat  
leadership, faculty, and students. Kol  
hakavod with admiration and affection.*

SHARON AND RUSSELL ROBERTS

TALI ROSENBLATT COHEN AND SENDER  
COHEN

AMY AND ROBERT ROTHMAN

*In honor of Zelda Stern for her tireless  
and inspiring efforts on behalf of Yeshivat  
Maharat*

**RABBA ABBY BROWN SCHEIER** AND  
RABBI ADAM SCHEIER

**LAURA SHAW FRANK** AND RABBI AARON  
FRANK AND FAMILY

*Sending honor to Zelda Stern, treasured  
friend and mentor, and mazal tov to the  
amazing new musmachot of 5779!*

RACHEL SIMES STEIN

AND MICHAEL STEIN

*Mazal tov Marianne! We are Skokie proud!  
May you go from strength to strength.*

**DANIELLA PRESSNER** AND RABBI SAUL  
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*Go from strength to strength,  
for at least 120 years!*

NINA BLACK

**RABBA DINA** AND RABBI NAFTALI  
BRAWER

*Celebrating this year's musmakhots, whose  
Torah has already inspired us*

CAROL AND PAUL BURSTEIN

MARGARET AND CHAIM CHARYTAN

CONGREGATION BNAI ISRAEL

PAM EHRENKRANZ

AND MATT GREENBERG

*Mazel tov to all the graduates. Kol hakavod.*

**RABBA YAFFA EPSTEIN**

*Mazal tov to the amazing graduates of 5779!  
Thank you for leading us!  
With love and blessings!*

SHIRA AND DAVID FISHMAN

DOROTHY AND HERBERT FOX

LESHA AND DR. SAMUEL GREENGUS

DIANE HALIVNI

RACHEL AND JONNY HERLANDS

*In memory of our beloved friend, Stanley,  
and in admiration and honor of his wife,  
Zelda, and their incredible support of  
Yeshivat Maharat, and is with best wishes to  
all the graduates.*

DINA AND MARSHALL HUEBNER

MELANIE AND DR. MERVYN HURWITZ

GAIL KATZ AND MAYER BICK

ADENA AND JONNY KLINEMAN

ESTHER AND RABBI SIMCHA KRAUSS

*Mazal Tov to the dear Graduates, Rabba  
Sara, Zelda Stern and all those who  
contribute to Yeshivat Maharat's success.*

NANCY AND MICHAEL LEVINSON

ALISA MANNIS

DRS. AILENE AND NOEL NUSBACHER

SARAH AND BENJAMIN OSBORNE

**MOLLY ANN POLLAK**  
AND PHILIP M. GASSEL

GABRIELLE PROPP

MICHAEL PHILIP AND HAILEY RAVID

*Mazal tov to Marianne Novak*

**RABBANIT LEAH SARNA**  
AND ETHAN SCHWARTZ

*Mazal tov to my talented colleagues in the  
Semikha Class of 5779! May your Torah  
radiate to every last corner.*

RENA AND RABBI MURRAY SCHAUM

*Tali, ב"ה, a dream fulfilled. May you continue  
to inspire and to be inspired on your chosen  
path. All our love, Ema & Abba*

ELAINE SCHREIBER

RENÉE AND JOE SEPTIMUS

Yael AND MARK SHAYNE

ARLENE AND MICHAEL SMITH

JENNIFER AND MARK SMITH

JOSHUA STADLAN

REGINA TAWIL-SAMSTEIN  
AND JORDAN SAMSTEIN

**RABBANIT ALISSA THOMAS-NEWBORN**  
AND AKIVA NEWBORN

RONN TOROSSIAN

LAURIE AND MILT WAKSCHLAG  
זֶה הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה ה'. נְגִילָה וְנִשְׁמָחָה בּוֹ.  
*Mazal tov to Marianne Novak*

DANIEL WEINER

**RABBANIT DEVORAH ZLOCHOWER**  
AND RABBI DOV LINZER  
*Mazel tov to the musmachot*

AMY ZWAS AND YORAM BITTON  
*Mazal Tov to Marianne Novak  
and to all of the semikha recipients*

### **ASSOCIATE \$360+**

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*Mazal tov to our newest Rabbas.*

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ANNETTE AND GERALD KRANSON

JULIE LIEBER

**ATARA LINDENBAUM** AND JEREMY  
BRESSMAN  
*With love, honor, respect, and gratitude*

AVIVA AND NOAM LOCKSHIN

**RABBA CLAUDIA MARBACH**  
AND DANIEL JACKSON  
*Mazal Tov the graduates. May your Torah be  
heard around the world. Thank you to Zelda  
for your commitment to Maharat and its  
talmidot chachamot.*

SHELLEY AND JOSEF PARADIS

GLORIA AND DR. BERTRAM PARISER

NESSA RAPOPORT AND TOBI KAHN  
*To honor our beloved friends Zelda Stern  
and Stanley Rosenzweig z"l*

DEBORAH SHAPIRA

THE GERSHMAN SILVERBERG FAMILY  
*Mazel Tov Rabbanit Aliza Sperling,  
Love the Gershbergs*

RUTHIE AND JOEL SIMON  
*We are so inspired by the Class of 2019!  
Mazal tov to you all!*

SKOKIE VALLEY AGUDATH JACOB  
SYNAGOGUE  
*Mazal Tov Rabbi Marianne Novak! Your  
Torah and leadership are a blessing to our  
community.*

ESTHER SPERBER AND BRUCE  
GOLDBERGER

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MEENA VISWANATH

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MICHELE AND TODD FRIEDMAN

**RABBANIT HADAS FRUCHTER**

*Mazal Tov to the brilliant women  
receiving smicha and with  
tremendous hakarat hatov to Zelda Stern.*

HARRIET AND ALLAN GELFOND

DRS. LAUREN AND JACK GORMAN

DR. JOSEPH GROVEMAN

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*In honor of Miriam Udel*

ANDREW HOCHBERG AND HOCHBERG  
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SUSANNA LEVIN

RABBI ASHER, RACHEL, SHAYNA, CARA,  
JUDAH AND GIDEON LOPATIN  
*Wishing Mazal Tov to the graduates and  
with great admiration to the staff and faculty,  
lay and professional leadership of Yeshivat  
Maharat! May you continue to go from  
strength to strength to strength!*

TAO MORAN AND JEFFREY SCHIFMAN  
*Kol hakavod to all of the rabbaniot. May your  
work bring blessings to klal yisrael.*

MELVA AND RABBI DAVID NOVAK  
*Congratulations to Marianne Novak  
from her proud parents*

RACHEL PECKERMAN AND MICHAEL  
GURARY

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**RABBA WENDY AMSELLEM**

*ויתן ה' לכן עז ועצמה לגשם  
את שאיפותיכן ותזכו לראות בנחמת ציון וירושלים*

ANSHE SHOLOM B'NAI ISRAEL  
*Mazal tov to Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld and the  
2019 Maharat graduates from Anshe Sholom  
B'nai Israel Congregation.*

SARAH AND MICHAEL AUSTERLITZ

VICTORIA BENGUALID

DR. RACHEL, RABBI YONAH,  
LEV AND ILAN BERMAN  
*We are inspired by your learning and  
dedication to Klal Yisrael. Alu V'hatzlichu*

JANE AND EDDIE BEST  
*Mazel Tov Marianne!*

AARON BILEK

DR. JANICE BISTRITZ MIRSKY AND RABBI  
MOSHE MIRSKY  
*Kol Hakavod Shani, we are very proud of  
you. Aunt Janice, Uncle Moshe and family.*

THE STERN BLADY FAMILY  
*Congratulations Rebecca! With much love  
and pride in your accomplishment.*

CHANI BLOOM AND NATHAN LESSER

JENNIFER AND MARSHALL BREGER

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AURORA CASSIER-SRULOWITZ AND  
SANDER SRULOWITZ

LISA AND JONATHAN CHARNOFF

EDIE AND ALLAN CHERNOFF  
*Mazal tov Marianne—we are so proud of  
you!*

ELLEN R. CHERRICK

CONGREGATION NETIVOT SHALOM  
*Mazal tov to all the musmakhot and  
to Yeshivat Maharat on this wonderful  
occasion. We are especially grateful to our  
past and present rabbinic interns Rabba  
Dina Brawer and Marianne Novak. May you  
all continue to spread Torah and make your  
mark on Klal Yisrael.*

CAROLE DAMAN

DEBORAH DAVID

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RABBANIT ILANA FODIMAN-SILVERMAN  
AND RABBI YAIR SILVERMAN  
*With love and admiration for Rabbanit Aliza  
Sperling, a true blessing for all of Am Yisrael  
to look to you amongst our leaders.*  
אשרי העם שככה לו

MARIAN FRANKSTON AND BURTON  
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PHYLLIS GOLDSTEIN

RABBI LINDA HENRY GOODMAN

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*In honor of Zelda Stern and in memory of her  
forever ezer k'negda Stanley Rosenzweig z"l  
and congratulations to all the graduates.*

JACKY GROSSMAN AND JEREMY FRANK  
*In honor of Marianne Novak*

DR. JAN HACKMAN

KAREN HEILIG AND IVAN CIMENT

RABBI JASON HERMAN

BECKY, IKE, MARTA AND JAYME  
HERSCHKOPF, DAVIDA AND ARI  
ROSENSTRAUCH, AND JUSTIN WERFEL  
*We are so proud of our sister and aunt,  
Zelda Stern, for her keen vision, unwavering  
commitment and pioneering efforts in  
making this day a reality. Mazal tov to all of  
the graduates.*

CAROLYN HOCHSTADTER DICKER

RIVKAH ISSEROFF

LORI KAGAN AND BILL ALTMAN

**RABBI LILA KAGEDAN**

*Mazal tov to all of the graduates and to  
Zelda. The world has been waiting for you to  
serve. Thank you for answering the call.*

TAMAR AND DOV KAHANE

DR. LINDSAY KAPLAN AND AMBASSADOR  
NORM EISEN

ERICA AND SCOTT KAPLAN

CAROL KING AND ALLAN BRILL  
*In honor of our beloved daughter, Jenna  
Englander, who inspires us every single day.*

DANIEL KIRK



DEBORAH AND DOUG KLEIN

JULIE KOPEL

SHANA KRAUSS

AVIVA KRAUSS

FRANCESCA AND NEIL KRITZ

GIORGIO KULP

LUCY AND DAVID KURTZER-ELLENBOGEN

TALYA LADELL

SUSAN, MITCHEL, GABI, DANIEL, AND  
SAM LANG

*Make a tower, Rebecca. We love you!*

VIVIAN AND MATTHEW LAZAR

ORLI LOW AND JEFFREY FEUER

SUSAN MACLAURY

ESTHER MACNER

CHANY AND SHY MARCUS

*Mazel Tov to Shani and the entire Stauber  
and Gross family. Congratulations on this  
amazing accomplishment!*

ATARA MARGOLIES AND MICHAEL SERLIN

SUZANNE AND ALLEN MEYER

SARA AND STU MILNER

*Brilliant, caring, engaging, articulate,  
cherished force to be reckoned with,  
Rabbanit Aliza Sperling, with much pride  
and love from all the Milner Gang*

RACHEL AND JOSHUA NEUMAN

DR. ILANA NOSSEL AND JORDAN KOLAR

PARDES INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES  
*Pardees wishes mazal tov to all the graduates,  
among them our Director of North American  
Programs, Shani Gross, alumna and former  
staff member, Jenna Englender, and alumna  
Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld.*

NANCY PARKES

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THE PRAGER CREW

*In honor of Rebecca Blady*

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AND IDA GULIN

*In honor of Dr. Devorah Schoenfeld, with  
love from Mom, Dad & Bubbie*

MICKY AND DR. ERIC SCHON

DANA SEPTIMUS AND JOSEPH FELDMAN

SARENE SHANUS AND HAROLD TREIBER

RABBA DR. ANAT SHARBAT AND ARIEL  
FREIDENBERG

*MAZAL TOV to the musmachot.*

*Your leadership is going to add a necessary  
voice in the world. Proud of you!  
Anat, Ariel and the girls*

DR. ELIZABETH SHAYNE

AND JOSH LANNIK

NAOMI AND RICHARD SHORE

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YAGODA

ADINA AND AARON STEINBERG

DEVORA STEINMETZ AND RABBI DAVID  
SILBER

JERRY STERN

*In honor of my sister Zelda R. Stern for all  
of her efforts on behalf of Yeshivat Maharat*

AMY STONE

MALKA AND MAYER SUBRIN

ADYNNA SWARZ

JAROSLAV TURICIK

ADINA AND PHIL WAGMAN

BARBARA AND JEFF WEENER

DR. SHAYNA WEISS  
AND DR. RACHEL B. GROSS  
*Zol Zayn Mit Mazel to our teacher  
Darshanit Dr. Miriam Udel*

DR. NORA GOLD AND DR. DAVID WEISS

SALLY AND MARK WENDER

BINA WESTRICH  
*Mazal Tov Reb Shani!!  
With so much love, the Amsels, Friedmans,  
Holzers, Horowitzes, & Reccas*

MERLE WOLFF

YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH  
*Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical  
School wishes a heartfelt mazal tov to the  
musmakhot of Yeshivat Maharat!  
May you go m'chayil el chayil!*

DR. RAMA ZWILLENBERG KOSLOWE AND  
MARK KOSLOWE

## **ADVOCATE 100+**

JORDANA AND GREGORY ASHE

MAHARAT RUTH BALINSKY FRIEDMAN  
AND YONI FRIEDMAN

MELANIE BANDOS

KIRA EPSTEIN BEGAL, BILLY AND ISAAC  
DAVID BEGAL  
*Mazal Tov to Aliza!*

EMILY BLUM AND LEON METZGER

RABBI DAVID BOOTH

DOINA AND DR. LAWRENCE BRYSKIN

FAWN CHAPEL AND ALAN NEMES

CLAIRE AND JOSEPH COHEN

DIANE OSEN COVKIN

DEBRA CRYSTAL

NAOMI BAINE AND RABBI BARRY  
DOLINGER

ANN DUBNER

IVA AND DR. STEVEN DYCKMAN

RABBI MOSHE EDELMAN

JULIE ENGLENDER

JACOB EXLER

DR. SHARON FLATTO AND RABBI  
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KOOLYK

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MIRIAM GEDWISER AND OREN BASSIK

AMANDA GELB

RABBI BARRY GELMAN

IOLA GOLD

TOBA AND ROBERT GOLDBERG

LYNNE GOLDSTEIN

CATHY AND PHIL GOLDSTEIN

DR. FABIAN GORODZINSKY

RABBANIT GOLDIE GUY

RACHELINE HABOUSHA

SUSAN HELLER PINTO

EVELYN AND MITCHELL HIRTH

JUDY AND MARK HOFFMAN

RACHEL AND DAVID JENSEN  
*Mazal Tov, Jenna. We are so proud of you.*

ESTHER AND GLENN KAPITANSKY

JOAN S. KATZ AND HENRY A. KATZ

CHANAN KESSLER

IRINA KOFMAN

AMY KOPLOW

SAMANTHA KUR AND EVAN HOCHBERG

ZOE LANG

DOROTHY LEWIS

ALIZA LIBMAN

RUTH LICHT

LESLIE AND AARON LIPSON

FRAN AND HENRY LONDON

STEVEN LOWENSTEIN

REENA AND DAVID MAKOVER

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OZZIE ORBACH

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KESSLER

RABBI SALLY J. PRIESAND

JENNIFER READ

TEHILLA AND HENRY RIESER

JONATHAN ROSENBERG

DR. BENJAMIN ROSENBERG

SHARON SAMET AND YAAKOV STERN

DELISE AND MICHAEL SANDPEARL

RABBA MELISSA SCHOLTEN-GUTIERREZ  
AND RABBI NAHUM GUTIERREZ

JESSICA SCHWAB

STACEY SCHWARTZ

RABBA RAMIE SMITH  
AND GIDEON COHEN

YEHUDA SMOOHA

EMMA STITCHER

BETSY STRAUSS

LEYA AND DR. MOSHE STRAUSS

AMY AND JUDRY SUBAR

KATE SULLIVAN

FRANCINE AND CAREY TAJFEL

GAIL TWERSKY REIMER AND PROFESSOR  
JOSEPH REIMER

EDWARD AND AARON UDEL  
*Mazel tov to courage and wisdom*

BRENDA AND HAROLD WALT

HILARY AND DR. STANLEY WEINER

RACHEL WEINTRAUB AND SCOTT REITER  
*In honor of Aliza Sperling. So grateful  
that our community's master teacher is a  
Yeshivat Maharat graduate.*

JUDY WEISS JACKSON AND MICHAEL  
JACKSON

MEIRA WELT-MAAREK

ANN WERNER

RACHEL WOLKINSON RUBINSTEIN AND  
JASON RUBINSTEIN

ABBY AND DANIEL WYSCHOGROD

RABBI ELI YOGGEV

## DEVOTEE: TO \$99

CINDY AND DAVID ABROOKIN

MICHAL AND DR. MARK ARKOVITZ

RABBI DANIEL ATWOOD  
SKYLAR BADER  
BAIS ABRAHAM CONGREGATION  
MICHAEL BARON  
SARA BECKERMAN  
LEORA BEJELL  
TAMAR BENELI  
NEESA BEREZIN-BAHR  
KAYLA BLUM  
CARRIE AND JAMIE BORNSTEIN  
GAYLE BOURNE  
MIRIAM BRADMAN ABRAHAMS  
AND DR. DAVID ABRAHAMS  
LAUREN BRODY  
EUGENE BRODY  
RABBI MICHAEL BROWN  
RANDI CARREY  
THE CHAVURAH OF BALTIMORE  
ATARA COHEN  
LINDA MOED COHEN AND DR. HILLEL  
COHEN  
NAOMI WINTER COHEN  
RABBI ALAN COOK  
RUTH COUCH  
GAVIREL DABUSH  
DARCHEI NOAM  
MEIRA DAVIDOWITZ  
ANN DERSHOWITZ  
FLORENCE AND LLOYD DEUTSCH  
ALISA AND ADAM EILENBERG  
JUDITH EISENSTOCK

AMY EISNER AND DANIEL REICH  
DR. TIBOR ENGEL  
RABBA AVITAL ENGELBERG  
AND ASAF ZIDERMAN  
בוגרות יקרות!  
שתזכו להגדיל תורה ולהאדירה.  
שמחות בכל אחת ואחת המצטרפת לרשת  
המאדירה של המהר"תיות.  
חילכן לאוריתא!  
BATSHEVA ENGELBERG-BEHR  
MARLENE AND LARRY ENGELHART  
JENNA AND RABBI SAM ENGLENDER  
TANYA FARBER  
ETHEL C. FENIG  
RABBA RACHEL KOHL FINEGOLD  
AND RABBI AVI FINEGOLD  
*Mazal Tov to all the graduates! May your  
Torah strengthen Am Yisrael!*  
MICHAEL FRAADE  
ALEXANDRA FRACKELTON ALHADEFF  
*In honor of Zelda for her vision and  
commitment, and in memory of Stanley  
who continues to inspire us all.*  
ELLEN FRANK BAYER  
MICHAL FRANKEL  
ARIELLE FRANKSTON-MORRIS  
DEVORAH FREEDMAN  
CARLA AND STANLEY FRIEDMAN  
KEREN FUSS  
RUTH GAFNI  
SARA AND ROBERT GERSTL  
MARLENE GITELMAN  
JASON GOLDBERG  
JAY GOLDBERG

DAVID GOLDENBERG

TALIA GOLDMAN

ELAINE R. GOLDMAN

LESLIE GOLDRESS

BETH GOLDSTEIN AND RAPHAEL FINKEL

CHAYA GORDON BURSTYN AND ALLAN  
BURSTYN

ANNETTE AND RABBI DR. MEL GOTTLIEB

WILHELMINA AND STEFAN GOTTSCHALK

JUDITH AND ROBERT GRAUMAN

RABBI BENJAMIN GREENFIELD

RUTH BROOKS GROSS

HARVEY GROSS

JANICE AND ALLAN GROSS

CORINNE AND JEFFREY GULIN

BELLE GUTTMAN

JUDAH GUY

BARBARA AND DR. MATTHEW GUY

ALAN GUY

CHARLES HALL

FELICE HELFGOTT  
*Congratulations to Darshanit Miriam Udel  
on this very special occasion!*  
שתלכי מחייל לחייל!

LISA HELLER-KLEINMANN AND RICHARD  
KLEINMANN

ANNAMARIE HEPBURN

BONNIE HERNANDEZ

KATHE HERTZBERG

LINDA HIRSCHORN

CHERYL L. HOFFMAN

RABBANIT BRACHA JAFFE

*Zelda—Mentor. Friend. Colleague.  
Supporter. Ally. At Yeshivat Maharat we are  
so blessed to have you on our team.  
To the graduates: It is a joy to welcome you  
with outstretched arms into the ever-growing  
circle of Maharat graduates.*

RICH JANIS

MICHELLE JASPER BRODY

ALISON JORDAN

KAREN JORDAN

BERNARD KABAK

RABBI NAOMI KALISH  
AND RABBI ROBERT SCHEINBERG  
שתלכנה מחיל אל חיל

SARAH KANN

JANICE KEIL EPSTEIN

BARBARA KELLER

ESTHER KLETTER

EVA KNOLLER

MICHAL KOHANE  
*Shkoyech and many thanks and appreciation  
for who you are and what you do (and will  
do)!! Mazal Tov & much Hatzlacha!*

CHAYE KOHL

DR. LILA AND RABBI DR. EUGENE KORN

DEBORAH KOSTER

LAURA LEVINE AND ALAN KRINSKY

PAUL KUJAWSKY

FAYE KULICK

MEGGIE AND DEREK KWAIT

BATYA KENT AND MEIR LAKEIN

JESSICA AND RICHARD LANGER

AMARA LEVINE-REICH

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ROSLYN LEVY-WEINTRAUB  
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MALKA LITTMAN  
DALIA LOCKSPEISER AND RABBI MAX  
DAVIS  
RABBI ERYN LONDON  
BEVERLY LUCHFELD AND JACK  
FLAMHOLZ  
LINDA MARCUS  
CHAYA MARKS  
*In honor of Tali Schaum Broder*  
DENI MARSHALL  
YEHUDIT MAZUR  
RUTH AND EDWARD MEDROS  
MARLENE MERVES  
ALIZA MILNER AND DANIEL KORNFELD  
REBECCA MINTZ  
RACHEL NELSON  
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RABBI DR. JUDAH NEWBERGER  
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SHOSHANA PEYSER AND BOB BRODY  
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SUSAN SAPIRO AND LEWIS POLISHOOK  
SUSAN SCHARF GLICK  
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DR. JANE SHAPIRO

MINDY SHAPIRO AND DR. ALAN  
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IRMA SRAGG

LIZ AND DR. CARMİ STADLAN

JUDY AND ED SUMMERS

MAHARAT VICTORIA SUTTON  
AND ADAM BRELOW

THERA SWERSKY

ALANA TEMAN

SARA TESLER

LIVYA LOUISA TINESTIT

AND ELIEZER WEISS

*Siman Tov Umazal Tov to the graduates!*  
*May your ministry bring blessings to those*  
*you serve and beyond!*

ANNE-MONIQUE VOS RAPOPORT  
AND EDWARD RAPOPORT

ALONA WEIMER

MICHELLE WEINRAUB

YEHUDA WEINSTOCK

RABBI TOBIE WEISMAN

ANDREA AND JONATHAN WEISS

RABBI MARGARET WENIG

ANN-SHERYL & STEVEN WHITE

CHANI WIESMAN

SHOSHANNA LOCKSHIN  
AND RABBI SETH WINBERG

SARA WINKELMAN

AND RABBI HYIM SHAFNER

PAULINE WITRIOL

EDITH AND WARD WOLFF

SHOSHANA  
AND RABBI SHMULY YANKLOWITZ

JOELLE YAVIN

TEDDY ZABB

Z. ZAHF

BARBARA ZAKHEIM  
AND RONALD KLEINFELDT  
*Mazal tov Rabbanit Aliza Sperling*

# THE TENDER: A MASHAL

DR. MIRIAM UDEL

*Mashal: lemah hadavar domeh?* A parable: what circumstance does the situation resemble?

The charts contained our people's everything. They told us where it was possible to go and how to get there. Ancient and difficult to read, they were bound into large folio volumes that we spent years learning to decipher. The very stars, beckoning brightly, were written into those thick books. We would drill each other on the finer points of navigation, hoping to reach a degree of mastery that might allow us to go to sea.

But how to sail, when there were no ship's quarters for us, when there never had been? It was practically only yesterday that we were even permitted to hold the folios in our own hands, to pore over the charts for ourselves instead of being told what was in them. Our mothers had not been able to touch the volumes or to learn the notation in which they were written. Gazing up at the stars in the sky and then poring over the charts in the books should have been enough for our generation. Maybe somebody would eventually put out to sea, but not yet.

Determined to sail, some of us lugged our books to the pier and waited. We had faith: surely our ship would come in.

The books in our valises were very heavy. We stood on the docks, hoping and joking and trading tidbits of what we had learned of them so far. We dreamed about the nights to come, when we would fix our eyes on the stars, consult our charts, and plot a course. Frigates and clippers put in at port; so did barges, yachts and capacious liners. None of them were for us.

Waiting by the docks eventually got tiresome. Impractical. We had lives to live, after all. We felt foolish lingering there, spurned. We drifted away from the pier and found other pursuits and tried to approximate sailing. Many of us sought work within view of the waterfront, with its hubbub of ships coming in and going out to sea, all the would-be sailors carting the same heavy books to lead them by way of the stars. We could just make out a new generation huddled at the pier.

Years passed. Stories reached us. One woman had gone out in a launch on her own. Another had inherited a sloop from her father, with lessons on how to maneuver it. A third had jerry rigged a raft; nobody knew yet whether it would be seaworthy. Working at our dockside jobs, we heard the news: our ship had come in at last and taken aboard the small group of those who stood ready at the pier. They would be sailing the seas together.

We had missed the boat.

We saw one another seldom, but when we caught each other's eyes, we fought back tears. We were thrilled for those setting out to sea, and at the same time, envious that we were not to be among them. We had wanted to sail so badly.

Imagine our joy when word reached us that the ship was sending back a tender to ferry us. That is what the dear little boat is called: *a tender!* They had never meant to leave us behind, just as we would not have wanted to leave behind our mothers. We erupted in whoops and full-throated sobs of joy. We hoisted our valises hastily and skipped to the pier. Or maybe we



walked in more stately fashion because we were older now, beyond skipping age. But our hearts skipped.

It happened so suddenly. Just like that, we were aboard, and while the years of distracted waiting were not quite erased, the pain of them receded with the dry land. We were skimming over the sea, together.

We went to our staterooms to unpack; after all, we would need our charts handy. Opening the valises we had lugged, we found a surprise. We had never noticed that the big, heavy tomes were nestled in soft wadding that varied in color, texture and thickness. Some of the stuffing looked bright and new: woolly, and as bouclé-thick as aspirations. Other books had been wrapped, shawl-like, in the pale, moth-eaten gossamer—passed from grandmother to granddaughter—of dreams deferred. Over the years, while we hadn't been looking, others had tucked a wish or a hope or a wistful benediction into our baggage, filling in the crevices between our star-books with swatches of their stories and the soft fabric of their longings.

Others may seek to scrutinize the design of the new vessel, to compare it to the fleet that has plied the seas for centuries, or to analyze whether the ship we boarded was the right one, the best one.

But this we know: it is extraordinarily convivial on board, with the buoyancy born of adventure, heavenward striving, and mutual devotion. Some might wish to know the exact course our craft has plotted. Nothing is trickier than plotting, as we are learning. How could we have boarded without knowing the destination? How could we know the destination, though, when we had never been to sea? How can any of us yet know where our shared journey might lead? Meanwhile, we can echo our great-grandmothers and say, *mir zenen mit di shifts-shvester; s'iz undz gut*—we are with our ship sisters, and we're fine. We trust that with our charts and our hopes, our rudder immersed in the sea and our eyes upon the stars, we are on our way—together—to somewhere very, very good.







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