

# THE VIEW FROM YU



# MAR 2021



Dr. Ari Berman, President of Yeshiva University, and Shoshana Schechter (l), associate dean of Torah Studies and Spiritual Life, greet students on Beren Campus.



## Looking Back on a Year of Unprecedented Challenges

On March 4, 2020, as COVID-19 spread throughout the country, Yeshiva University became one of the first universities to shut down. The year since then has reminded us that our Jewish values, deeply rooted in a 3,000-year-old tradition, teach us not to ask “why” but to ask “what now.” So, despite being in uncharted waters, the University always faced forward, leading by example and providing assurance that we would emerge from these challenges even stronger.

### A Discussion on Jewish Identity

In a lively give-and-take, **Dr. Ari Berman** and **Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel** discussed the core topic of Jewish identity in Dr. Kanarfogel's new book, *Brothers from Afar*. Their online conversation held on Feb. 10 before 500 people traced the ceremonies apostatized Jews followed to re-enter the community.

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### Care Café at the Frontlines

**Dr. Orlee Hauser**, director of Wurzweiler's Care Café, moderated a fascinating discussion about redemption and compassion on Feb. 28 between Pardeep Singh Kaleka, executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and the Zeidler Group, and Arno Michaelis, a former white nationalist.

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### Commemorating Black History Month

**Feb. 16:** Crisis & Hope: YU Voices presented a lecture on how Guilford College, a Quaker-based school in North Carolina, is coming to terms with its historical connection to slavery.

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**Feb. 22:** Cardozo Law School honored Billie Holiday with a tour of the 10th and 11th floors of the Cardozo campus at 55 Fifth Avenue, the former home of Columbia Records where Holiday made many of her iconic recordings. [READ MORE](#)

**Feb. 23:** U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume spoke to YU students about the important relationship between the Black and Jewish communities. [READ MORE](#)

**Feb. 28:** Members of Wurzweiler watched and discussed *13th*, Ava Duvernay's documentary about the 13th Amendment and mass incarceration in the United States.



## Values and Leadership

### Cardozo Earns an A

*PreLaw Magazine* gave Cardozo Law School “A” grades in their winter 2021 issue for two categories: International Law and Public Policy Law. Cardozo also earned an A- in Legal Technology

### Wurzweiler on the Move

Wurzweiler students participated in Student Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill (March 11) and in Legislative Education & Advocacy Day in Albany (March 2). At each event, students and social workers met with legislators to advocate for policies and programs.

### *Covid-19 & Chinuch*

**Dr. Rona Novick**, dean of Azrieli, has announced the publication of the first volume of *Covid-19 and Chinuch*, a three-volume essay collection written by educators and Azrieli and YU faculty. This first volume explores how COVID-19 prompted changes in teaching and learning in Jewish education. Volumes two and three are slated for publication in April and May. [READ MORE](#)



Students on Wilf and Beren Campuses celebrate Purim.



## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### YU STUDENTS WORK WITH PROMISING STARTUPS



Twelve top-tier early-stage startups have joined the **Yeshiva**

**University Innovation Lab's** Spring 2021 cohort. Each was chosen because of the unique value they offer to the U.S. market. Working

closely with the startups' founders, the Innovation Lab's eighty students will help validate and develop a range of business and marketing strategies.

The dynamic lineup includes Consolto, DigiPals, Smart Learning, Ajoby, PossAbility World, Flambu, WePic, Savings Jar, SPLUTY, Pudding.ai, QuantumLeap and MICA AI Medical.

### INNOVATION IN HEALTH CARE

From the physical sciences to bioengineering, Ariella Cohen's curiosity for innovation has led her to the field of mechatronics. As an electromechanical engineer at LifeLens Technologies, the 2016 Stern alumna is helping to revolutionize health care by designing devices for personal health monitoring. [READ MORE](#)





## Science and Technology

### Katz's AI Program

The Katz School's M.S. in Artificial Intelligence is a practice-based degree accompanied by a strong theoretical education in learning applications and business drivers of AI and in the ethical dilemmas faced by society. Students will bridge AI and machine-learning models, such as supervised and unsupervised learning, deep learning and neural networks, and reinforcement learning, with engineering best practices.



### From Math Major to Drone Engineer

**Joey Jubas** '18YC parlayed his academic experience as a math and computer science major into becoming

a drone engineer with Easy Aerial, where he designs a variety of vertical take-off and landing drones and researches new components for future drone models. [READ MORE](#)

### Medical Ethics in the Pandemic

The Annual YU Student Medical Ethics Conference was held on March 7. This year's theme was *From Darkness to Light: A Panoramic View of the Pandemic*. [READ MORE](#)



## Great Jobs and Impactful Careers



### Gathering the Data for Career Success

YU students discovered what a career in data analytics entails in a virtual panel discussion and networking event on Feb. 24 hosted by the University's Data Analytics Club and the Shevet Glaubach Center for Career Strategy and Professional Development. Industry professionals, including YU alumni from China, discussed the educational credentials, skills and foundational work experiences needed to establish a presence in this dynamic field.

In addition to the Career in Data Analytics program, The Shevet Glaubach Center invited students to join them in March for events on networking and job opportunities in seven areas (medicine, accounting, journalism, finance, computer science, marketing and education). [READ MORE](#)

### Emmy-Winning Producer Comes to Sy Syms

At a fireside chat presented by the Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program and moderated by



*Ilana Wernick Berenson*

actress and writer Leah Gottfried '14S, Emmy winner Ilana Wernick Berenson discussed being an Orthodox Jew while also being a writer and producer for over 20 years on sitcoms like *Modern Family*, *The King of Queens* and *Mom*.



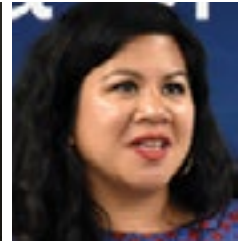
## Faculty and Staff News

**Dr. Wonjun Lee**, assistant professor of artificial intelligence at the Katz School, is the co-recipient of a major three-year grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, to use artificial intelligence to create better soil moisture forecasting models for agricultural producers.

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**Dr. F. Patricia Medina**, assistant professor of computer science at Yeshiva College, received two grants related to the study of artificial intelligence, one from Google and one from the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics.

**Gary Stein**, professor of social work and director of the gerontology and palliative care program at Wurzweiler, has received two new grants to address discrimination and improve training in aging and palliative care. [READ MORE](#)



Two new awards established at Sy Syms—the Pava-Ravid Research Prize and the Dean’s Award for Teaching Innovation and Excellence—honored **Dr. Henry Huang** and **Dr. Jannine Lasaleta**, respectively.

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On March 2, Human Resources hosted a celebration for YU staff who have achieved important service milestones in 2020. Among the honorees was **Zvi Erenyi**, reference librarian at the Gottesman Library, who marked 50 years of service. [READ MORE](#)



## Student and Alumni Focus



### YU Athletics: Back in Action

After a string of victories over the University of Saint Joseph and Stevens Institute of Technology, the No. 5-ranked men’s basketball team has tied the second-longest winning streak in Division III men’s basketball history at 36 games.

Returning this semester are the women’s basketball team; the University fencing programs; men’s volleyball, baseball, softball; and men’s/women’s tennis and golf.

### Stomp Out the Stigma

An empowering message of unity and empathy was at the heart of the annual Stomp Out the Stigma event held on Feb. 17, organized by Active Minds and the YU Counseling Center. More than 300 attendees gathered online to hear the courageous stories of four YU undergrads who have overcome mental health challenges. [READ MORE](#)

### ALUMNI EVENTS

Over the past month, the Office of Alumni Affairs offered programs on privacy and data protection, a wine tasting with Israeli alumni as well as a fireside chat, co-hosted with the Fish Center, featuring **Nancy Spielberg**, executive producer of *Who Will Write Our History*. The documentary chronicles Oyneg Shabes, a group of Jews who preserved the history of the Nazi-occupied Warsaw ghetto even as they lived it.



# Upcoming Events

Visit [yu.edu/events](http://yu.edu/events) to register for the programs listed here, unless otherwise noted.

## City Harvest Passover Online Food Drive

Office of Student Life  
Now through Thursday,  
March 25, 10 p.m.

## A Taste of Yeshiva University for Pesach

Now through March 18  
Two shiurim each night  
8 p.m.  
[yutorah.org/taste-of-yu](http://yutorah.org/taste-of-yu)

## The Evolution of Marketing Financial Institutions

YU Wall Street and YU  
Marketing Groups  
Wednesday, March 17  
12 – 1 p.m.

## Networking Success Stories: Gabe Maron

Shevet Glaubach Center  
for Career Strategy and  
Professional Development  
Wednesday, March 17  
8 – 9 p.m.

## Crisis and Hope: YU Voices Ambassador Dan Shapiro and Rabbi Yosef Blau in Conversation

Bernard Revel Graduate  
School of Jewish Studies  
Wednesday, March 17  
12 – 1 p.m.

## Injustice in the Incarceration System: Elliot Spillers of the Equal Justice Initiative

Office of Student Life  
Thursday, March 18  
9 – 10 p.m.

## Holocaust Remembrance Around the World: Dominican Republic

Fish Center  
Sunday, March 21  
12 p.m.

## New York City Mayoral Forum

Office of Student Life  
Monday, March 22  
6 – 8 p.m.

## Tech Consulting Town Hall

Shevet Glaubach Center  
for Career Strategy and  
Professional Development  
Tuesday, March 23  
8 – 9 p.m.

## Virtual Tour of the Synagogue of Mexico City

Bernard Revel Graduate  
School of Jewish Studies  
Tuesday, April 6  
10 – 10:30 a.m.

## Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Office of Student Life  
Wednesday, April 7  
8:15 – 9:45 p.m.

## Q&A with Boxing Champion Yuri Foreman

Office of Student Life  
Wednesday, April 7  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

## Investing in Infrastructure

YU Wall Street Group  
Wednesday, April 14  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.



## PASSOVER AT YU

Events and activities in advance of Passover have occurred throughout the month of March, including a Torah Activities Council student-produced Beren Campus Haggadah, an online Passover food drive with City Harvest and a Taste of Yeshiva University for Pesach, in which YU's various schools present a series of shiurim each night.

For Passover-related programming, visit [YU Events](#), [A Taste of Yeshiva University for Pesach](#) and [Pesach To-Go](#)



Yeshiva University