



**THE VIEW FROM YU**

**DEC  
2020**

# Hanukkah Dinner

A NIGHT OF 1,000 DINNERS

DECEMBER 6, 2020

[yu.edu/hanukkahdinner2020](http://yu.edu/hanukkahdinner2020)



## A New Vision For a Cherished Tradition

On Sunday, Dec. 6, Yeshiva University was proud to celebrate its 96th Annual Hanukkah Dinner. Reimagined this year as a virtual event, the Hanukkah Dinner featured an interactive program allowing guests to choose their own content. The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Ari Berman**, President of Yeshiva University, followed by *YU Conversations*, six online panel discussions with global thought leaders on ethics, politics and technology.

The new format expanded the reach of the Hanukkah Dinner to over 4,600 registered participants and created a platform to recognize YU's supporters of our scholarship funds. YU's President's Society members—along with Hanukkah Dinner guests, annual supporters, student leaders, faculty and staff—will have exclusive access to view the virtual event through the end of 2020.

As **Dr. Ari Berman** noted, “In a year that has presented unprecedented challenges and opportunities, we are thrilled that our esteemed faculty, rebbeim, thought leaders and lay partners were able to showcase the extraordinary discourse of YU during our virtual event. Our education—which is both Deeply Rooted in our 3,000-year-old tradition of values and Forward Focused in realizing the enormous opportunities of the future—is more necessary today than ever before.”

### SPEAKERS INCLUDED

**Stan Kasten**, President and CEO,  
Los Angeles Dodgers

**Marc Lasry**, Co-owner, Milwaukee Bucks

**Mark Wilf**, Owner/President, Minnesota Vikings

**Shira Yoshor**, Employment Law and Business  
Law Lawyer, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

**Joe Jacobson**, Head of Molecular Machines  
Group, MIT Media Lab

**Anne Neuberger**, Director, Cybersecurity at the  
National Security Agency

**Jeremy Wertheimer**, CEO, Biological  
Engineering Ventures

**Dr. Noam Wasserman**, Dean, Sy Syms School  
of Business, Yeshiva University

**Ambassador Danny Danon**, Israel's former  
Ambassador to the U.N.; Visiting Professor  
in the Department of Political Science,  
Yeshiva University

**H.E. Ambassador Houda Nonoo**,  
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
the Kingdom of Bahrain

**U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman**, Rennert Chair  
in Public Policy and Public Service,  
Yeshiva University

**Dr. Tia Powell**, Director, Montefiore-Einstein  
Center for Bioethics and of the Einstein-Cardozo  
Master of Science in Bioethics Program

**Dr. Edward Reichman**, Professor in the  
Division of Education and Bioethics, Albert  
Einstein College of Medicine

**Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz**, Director, Joseph B.  
Soloveitchik Semikhah Program, RIETS,  
Yeshiva University

**Rav Hershel Schachter**, Rosh Yeshiva, RIETS,  
Yeshiva University

**Christopher Scalia**, Director of Academic  
Programs, American Enterprise Institute, son of  
Justice Antonin Scalia

**Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik**, Director, the  
Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah  
and Western Thought, Yeshiva University





# Values and Leadership

## Social Justice at Wurzweiler

Wurzweiler's Community Justice Fellowship Program prepares leaders among MSW students to address inequities in the criminal justice, juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Three students have been selected to undergo special training and organize events and workshops.

## Kristallnacht Remembered

The Fish Center honored the 82nd anniversary of Kristallnacht with a riveting interview with **Helga Schmitz-Luden** about how her family found sanctuary in the Dominican Republic. Introductory remarks were delivered by **José A. Blanco Conde**, the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, and **U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat**, who represents Washington Heights.



## Cardozo Students Focus on New Yorkers in Need

Students at the Bet Tzedek Civil Litigation Clinic at Cardozo Law School are working to prevent legislative changes that would make it harder for some New Yorkers to receive Medicaid home care services.



## In Memoriam

### **RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS zt"l**

The Yeshiva University community continues to mourn the loss of **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l**, the renowned scholar, teacher and leader who enlightened world Jewry and global leaders. Over the past month, many at YU have voiced their admiration and sadness, including **Dr. Berman** in an address to the undergraduate Torah studies programs; **Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz**, director of semikhah at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, in a shiur on Rabbi Sacks' ideas on gratitude; and **Dr. Daniel Rynhold**, dean of Revel, who spoke to the *Tradition Podcast* about Rabbi Sacks' philosophical and intellectual legacy and wrote about it in *The Jewish Chronicle*.

To honor his legacy, YU, in partnership with the Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America, created a moving tribute to honor Rabbi Sacks' legacy, highlighting his teachings, impact and influence.

"Rabbi Sacks uniquely articulated Yeshiva University's mission to the broader Jewish people and the world at large," said Dr. Berman, who, on Dec. 6, was part of a stellar roster of speakers, including **HRH The Prince of Wales** and **Reuven Rivlin**, President of Israel, among many others, in a tribute organized by the office of Rabbi Sacks and The Covenant & Conversation Trust to mark the completion of Shloshim.



## Science and Technology

### COVID Research

**Drs. Tracy A. Prout, Katie Aafjes-van Doorn** and **Vera Békés** of Ferkauf studied how a machine learning algorithm can identify the strongest predictors of distress during the pandemic.

In separate research, **Mendel Lerner '20K**, a Katz School quantitative economics graduate, showed how a decline in blood-oxygen saturation levels of nursing home residents may be a better early indicator than temperature of COVID-19.

### A Unique Approach to Water Purification

**Dr. Jochen Raimann** of the Biotechnology Management and Entrepreneurship program at the Katz School co-authored a study on how the novel use of a recycled medical filtration system [hemodialyzers] to purify drinking water saved the lives of rural villagers in Ghana.



*Students on the Wilf and Beren campuses are dedicated to their studies and happy to be back.*



## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### Pitch Night in the Lab

The YU Innovation Lab, directed by Dr. Maria Blekher, joined forces with Maccabee Ventures, a VC fund, for a YU first: “Pitch Night in the Lab.” Founders of three early-stage startups pitched to the fund’s General Partners and Sy Syms adjunct professors, Moshe Bellows and Bruce Taragin. Students got an up-close look at how to interview and vet startups from two VC pros.

### Digital Transformation and Innovation

The YU Technology Group presented the Business Potential of Digital Transformation, an in-depth look at how digital technologies are powering businesses through the pandemic and innovating workplace flexibility.



### Marketing Major Turned Entrepreneur

**Ari Solomon '22SB** designs sneakers and cleats for Stadium Custom Kicks, a renowned custom footwear company for professional athletes. Those wearing his designs include Cy Young winner Jacob deGrom and Willy Adames of the 2020 World Series Tampa Bay Rays.



# Great Jobs and Impactful Careers

## Mentoring & Networking Opportunities

In November, the Career Center launched the Women’s Professional Network to help graduate and undergraduate women in all majors set up valuable mentorships with leaders from across industries.

Also in November, the

Center organized two virtual events: the Marketing Mingle connected alumni in marketing with YU students looking at careers in that profession, and the Nonprofit Career Fair showcased employment, volunteer and gap-year opportunities with 22 organizations from social services to health care.

## New Online Master’s

The Katz School is launching an online cybersecurity master’s degree for the spring term. After completing the program’s first course, students can sit for the exam certifying them to become information systems security professionals.

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Dr. Joshua Karlip and Dr. Marnin Young received support from the Drs. Kenneth Chelst, Bertram Schreiber and Fred Zwas Book Grant to complete their books on Soviet Jewry and post-Impressionism, respectively.

Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel has published *Brothers from Afar: Rabbinic Approaches to Apostasy and Reversion in Medieval Europe*. Dr. Kanarfogel has authored or edited 11 volumes.

Dr. Kathryn Krase, associate professor of social work at Wurzweiler, published *Child Welfare: Preparing Social Workers for Practice in the Field* (Routledge, November 24, 2020), co-authored with Dr. Tobi DeLong Hamilton of Brandman University.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI FOCUS

Elana Apfelbaum ’20S assisted Dr. Ran Drori, assistant professor of chemistry, and Dr. Jinzi Deng, a postdoctoral scientist in Dr. Drori’s lab, in publishing a paper on antifreeze proteins in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry B*.

## Katz and Makor Join Student Council for the First Time

Dan Marouni is representing the Katz School on the Yeshiva Student Union for the Wilf Campus. Holding the positions of Katz School President and Vice President for the Beren Campus are Enya Smilovic and

Renee Lisbon, respectively. Akiva Sasson, a second-year student in the Makor program, will serve on the Yeshiva Student Union.

## Chesed Activities

Stern College’s Torah Activities Council, working alongside DOROT, delivered Thanksgiving meals to the elderly on Manhattan’s Upper West Side and are now working with the United Jewish Council of the East Side on a winter clothing drive.

## Maccabees Earn No. 4 Spot

YU men’s basketball, ranked #4 in the country in the preseason rankings, will begin their current season with the wind of a 29-game winning streak at their backs and Ryan Turell and Gabe Leifer as preseason All-Americans at the helm.



Ryan Turell gets ready for practice.



# Upcoming Events

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

## Virtual Chanukah Concert

Performance by Simcha Leiner  
in-person viewing party @ Koch Aud.,  
Beren Campus (seating limited)  
Tuesday, Dec. 15  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

For more info, contact [answers@yu.edu](mailto:answers@yu.edu)

## Who Were the Maccabees, Really?

Crisis and Hope: YU Voices  
Tuesday, Dec. 15  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## Donut Decorating w/Beren Student Council

Kushner Dining Hall  
245 Lexington Ave.  
Wednesday, Dec. 16  
9:30 – 10:30 p.m.

## The Future of Healthcare:

**Behavioral, Medical and Financial**  
YU Wall Street & YU Technology Groups  
in partnership w/ Maccabee Ventures  
Wednesday, Dec. 16  
12 – 1 p.m.

## Mikdash and Memory: A Tale of Jewish Love and Longing

The Straus Center  
Video series  
Launching Thursday, Dec. 17  
7:30 p.m.  
[yu.edu/temple](https://yu.edu/temple)

## What is Wall Street...

**Other Than Investment Banking?**  
YU Career Center  
Monday, Dec. 21  
7 – 9 p.m.

## Open Houses a Huge Success

Stern College's virtual open house on Nov. 15 drew 291 high schoolers, while Yeshiva College's on Nov. 22 attracted 287. (The numbers are about double the 2019 attendance.) Students were able to explore campus life, meet with professors and review undergraduate majors and degree programs.



Yeshiva University