

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, glasses, and a face mask is gesturing with their right hand raised. They are standing in front of a blurred audience. The background is a light-colored wall with horizontal lines. The entire image has a halftone dot pattern.

THE VIEW FROM YU

**JAN
2021**



Welcome Back to a New Semester

Spring semester 2021 kicks off with students ready to take part in the unique on-campus experience that distinguishes YU as a place of learning and connection. Through online and in-person orientation sessions, including campus tours, new undergraduates learned more about the resources needed for a successful semester.

Our ability to return to campus and resume the academic year is due to the efforts of dedicated rebbeim, faculty, students and staff. We thank them all for their hard work and leadership.

Welcome back!

Learning Continues During Intersession

During YU's annual intersession break after final exams, Torah learning continued in full swing through the *Yeshivas Bein HaSemesterim* program where students focused on spiritual growth and Judaic studies.

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Ambassador Danny Danon addresses YU students in 2018.

YU's New Visiting Professor

Ambassador Danny Danon, Israel's former representative to the United Nations, has joined YU's Department of Political Science where he will lead seminars, mentor students, lecture and write about his experiences of promoting the welfare of Israel and the Jewish people in the United Nations and throughout the world.

Book Launch

The Straus Center has organized a promotional campaign for *Esther in America*, edited by **Rabbi Dr. Stu Halpern**, which tracks how the Book of Esther influenced and impacted American democracy since its inception.

New Israel Gap-Year Platform for High School Seniors

YU and the schools affiliated with its S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program have launched IsraelNextYear, a virtual recruitment platform designed to be an information and engagement hub for high school seniors to explore Israel gap-year programs.

Care Café

Wurzweiler's Care Café hosted a Chanukah sing-along for the elderly and presented a workshop on substance abuse prevention for the parents' association at the High School for Health Careers and Sciences in Washington Heights.

New Classroom Technology

Forty classrooms (16 on Beren and 24 on Wilf) have been outfitted with new educational technology that provides a more interactive teaching and learning experience for those inside and outside the classrooms.



Values and Leadership

Cardozo Law Announces Gates Scholars Program

Cardozo Law's new initiative, The E. Nathaniel Gates Scholars Program, helps students from underrepresented backgrounds throughout their law school years. Rooted in the belief that community drives success, the multifaceted program offers new opportunities throughout law school for support, networking and more.

In the Vanguard

The Uptown-West Bronx Vanguard, a coalition of academic, political and business leaders in Washington Heights/Inwood will partner with the Sy Syms School of Business, YU's Career Center and Office of Government Affairs to help further the development of local small businesses and non-profits. The vehicle is a mentorship program in which YU student volunteers will assist business owners and heads of nonprofits in



applying for the current round of Paycheck Protection Program funding disbursed by the federal government.



YU students hard at work at one of Beren Campus' science labs.



Science and Technology

KATZ STUDENTS DESIGN SYSTEM TO INDEX HATE SPEECH

Jacob Goodman '20K, Qihua Zhu '20K and Jeeho Bae '20K have used their data analytics training to design an intelligent system identifying and indexing hate speech on the web. Their efforts can help research institutions, universities and local governments understand how to combat online hate speech.

FERKAUF RESEARCH CITED IN SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Research conducted by Ferkauf faculty and students into the psychological effects that COVID-19 has had on parents, children 6-12 years of age, therapists and the general population has been cited in the prestigious science publication, *Scientific American*.



Faculty and Staff News



Dr. Lauren Fitzgerald (Yeshiva College) received the Maxwell Leadership Award from the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing.

Dr. S. Abraham Ravid (Sy Syms) co-published papers in *Management Science*, *Journal of Cultural Economics* and *Journal of Corporate Finance*.

Dr. Akiva Perlman (Wurzweiler) co-authored a paper in the *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work* on Orthodox Jewish social workers.

Dr. Roe Holtzer (Ferkauf/Einstein) published a study in *Psychology and Aging* on cognitive activity and exercise in older adults.

Dr. Shalom Holtz (Yeshiva College) co-edited *Contextualizing Jewish Temples* for the Brill Reference Library.

Dr. Sara Asher has been named assistant dean of students for the Beren Campus. She will oversee housing, student life and other aspects of the student experience.

Sy Syms: New Teachers, New Classes

J. Philip Rosen, real estate legal expert and member of the YU Board of Trustees, is debuting the Titans of Real Estate speakers series in the Mitzner M.S. in Real Estate graduate program.

Dr. Nachman Shai, a former member of the Israeli Knesset, is teaching Marketing in Politics.

Matt Williams, the Orthodox Union's head of research, will teach Non-Profits v2.0, an Honors Program course on communal leadership and the future of nonprofits.

Straus Center Presents New Course

In Ten Zionist Arguments, a new course from the Straus Center, **Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik** and **Dr. Neil Rogachevsky** along with **Liel Leibovitz**, *Tablet* senior writer, will explore the arguments defining Zionism.



Student and Alumni Focus

Learning Torah Together Again

Former classmates **Abigail (Abby) Klein Leichman** '81S and **Cheryl Ruben Vogel** '80S have deepened their 40-year-old friendship by rekindling their dedication to learning Torah with a weekly chavruta session. Reunited by the pandemic, Leichman and Vogel, who live in Massachusetts and Israel, respectively, have been online study partners since August.

Maccabees Ready to Play

The YU men's basketball team is back in action in January! The Macs, which ended last season on a school-record 29-game-winning streak, is the preseason No. 4 team in the nation. All-Americans **Gabriel Leifer** and **Ryan Turell** return to lead a talented team primed for a second consecutive

appearance in the NCAA Divisions III men's basketball tournament. For game schedules, visit yumacs.com



Macs player Oren Betesh '22K at practice.



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

HELPING PEOPLE BREATHE EASIER

Dr. Jonathan Feldman, with appointments at both Ferkauf and Einstein/Montefiore, is working with **Dr. Sunit Jariwala** and **Dr. Marina Reznik**, both of Einstein/Montefiore, to develop an app that will help young people manage their asthma. Funded with a substantial grant from the Price Family Foundation, the app, called ASTHMAXcel Perception, will be available in mid-January.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON THE FRONTLINES



Stefano Pessina

Stefano Pessina, CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA), presented an hour-long lecture about entrepreneurial leadership to Sy Syms students taking the Kukin Entrepreneurial Leadership Honors Course, highlighting the skills and attitudes required for success in the corporate world. WBA is the first global pharmacy-led health and well-being enterprise, with a presence

in more than 25 countries and employing more than 440,000 people.



Great Jobs and Impactful Careers

By the Way, What is Wall St.?

The Career Center hosted its annual “What is Wall Street?” event, where six industry professionals, five of whom were YU alumni, described the many other career opportunities available on “the street” besides investment banking. Their suggestions spanned the gamut from managing IT operations and auditing analytics to handling personal client relationships and retail sales.

Industry Advice and Counseling

The Career Center, in conjunction with the Office of the Provost, is forming an Industry Advisory Council to help inform students about companies, salary trends by discipline and career paths.

A Journey in Children’s Publishing

Chana (Freiman) Stiefel ’90S, the celebrated children’s book author, talked about her career in a lively lecture that traced her path from Stern College student to Scholastic Books editor to successful writer.





Upcoming Events

Visit yu.edu/events/all to register for the programs listed here, unless otherwise noted.

Spring 2021 New Undergraduate Orientation

Sunday, Jan. 17, Monday, Jan. 18
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Five-Hour Job Search in 45 Minutes

YU Career Center
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7 – 8 p.m.

Holocaust Education Around the World

Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center
for Holocaust and Genocide
Studies Webinar Series
Sunday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m.
(runs every other Sunday thru May)

Building Your Interview Skills

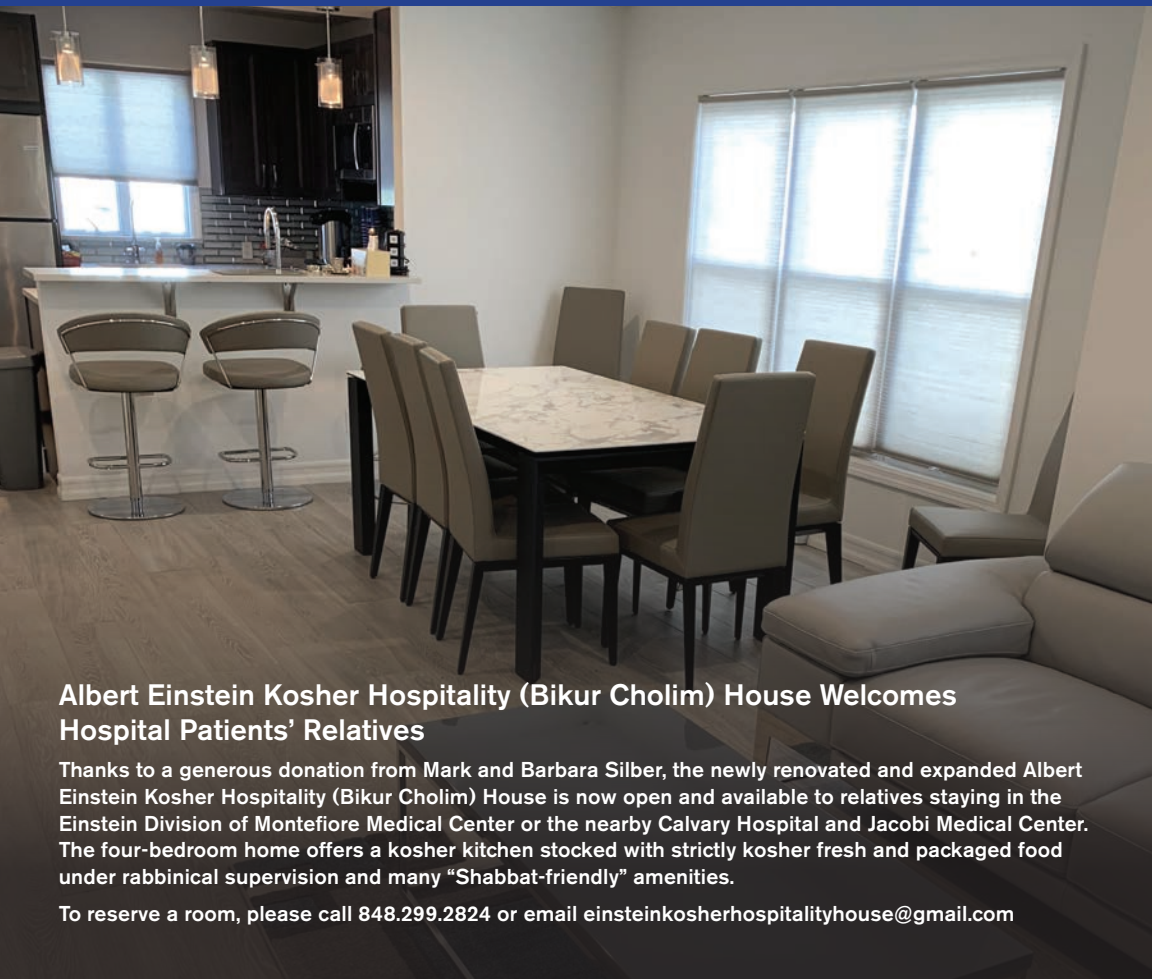
YU Career Center
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7 – 8 p.m.

YUNMUN XXXI

Sunday, Feb. 14

Stomp Out the Stigma

YU Counseling Center and
Active Minds
Wednesday, Feb. 17



Albert Einstein Kasher Hospitality (Bikur Cholim) House Welcomes Hospital Patients' Relatives

Thanks to a generous donation from Mark and Barbara Silber, the newly renovated and expanded Albert Einstein Kasher Hospitality (Bikur Cholim) House is now open and available to relatives staying in the Einstein Division of Montefiore Medical Center or the nearby Calvary Hospital and Jacobi Medical Center. The four-bedroom home offers a kosher kitchen stocked with strictly kosher fresh and packaged food under rabbinical supervision and many "Shabbat-friendly" amenities.

To reserve a room, please call 848.299.2824 or email einsteinkosherhospitalityhouse@gmail.com



Yeshiva University