



**THE VIEW FROM YU**

**APR  
2021**



Sarri Singer, founder and director of Strength to Strength, delivers the keynote speech during the Tekes Ma'avar [transition ceremony] held at the Max Stern Athletic Center on the Wilf campus.



## Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom Ha'atzmaut

This year's events marking Israel's major national holidays were somber, celebratory and historic.



**Dr. Ari Berman**, President of Yeshiva University, spoke at Dubai's Crossroads of Civilizations Museum in an interactive Yom HaShoah ceremony, the first Holocaust commemoration event held in an Arab country. Other speakers included **Ahmed Obaid Al-Mansoori** (pictured), founder of the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum, **Rabbi Yehuda**

**Sarna** '01YC, '05R, Chief Rabbi of the UAE, and **Rabbi Elie Abadie** '84YC, '90BR, '90R, senior rabbi of the Jewish Council of the Emirates. The event also marked the opening of a new exhibition at the museum documenting the atrocities of the Holocaust and highlighting stories of Muslim courage during WWII.



**April 7:** The Student Holocaust Education Movement (SHEM) and Office of Student Life hosted a virtual Yom HaShoah commemoration. The moving event included a video interview with Emil A. Fish, co-founder of the Fish Center, from Names, Not Numbers™ as well as the film "Third-Generation Speakers," produced by SHEM, that featured the grandchildren of survivors speaking about the importance of keeping their ancestors' memories pertinent and powerful.



**April 14:** Hundreds attended a Tekes Ma'avar ceremony, both virtually and in person, which began with Yom HaZikaron commemorations followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.



**April 15:** Yom Ha'atzmaut programming continued with a Yom Iyud followed by a Seudat Hoda'ah, [meal of thanks] and concluding with social activities throughout the afternoon.



## Values and Leadership

### Crisis and Hope

**Daniel Shapiro**, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel, spoke with **Rabbi Yosef Blau**, mashgiach ruchani at RIETS, about his experience in the Obama administration. The event was supported by the Dr. Joseph and Faye Glatt Program on Israel and the Rule of Law and hosted by Crisis and Hope: YU Voices, a project of Judaic Studies @ YU, The Center for Israel Studies, the Schneier Program for International Affairs and Revel Graduate School.

### Vaccinating the Public

New York City accepted YU's offer of using Weissberg Commons on the Wilf Campus as a new NYC vaccination site. The site became operational on April 7, 2021, and will run through June.

### A Win for Cardozo

Competing for the first time, Cardozo's ADR Competition Honor Society's team beat 26 other teams among 18 schools to win "Best Negotiation" and "Best Overall" at this year's UCLA Transactional Law Competition.

### Saving Lives for 30 Years

The 30-year partnership between YU and the Gift of Life Marrow Registry has generated 20,000 registrants and 167 matches, a fact noted in a panel discussion with **Dr. Ari Berman**, **Jay Feinberg** (Gift of Life founder and transplant recipient), **Dena Fantle** and **Sammy Intrator '22YC**. Intrator is the first Ethan Lax Fellow, an honor named after **Ethan Lax '15SB z"l**, whose stem cell donation saved **Dena Fantle's** life in 2013.



Students taking part in Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut programming on campus.



## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### And the Award Goes to...

**Benjamin Plotkin '21SB** was awarded \$12,500 as a finalist in the Fashion Scholarship Fund



for developing an innovative strategy for the Champion brand to transform their wholesale business into a vertically integrated retail and direct-to-consumer brand.

Plotkin also started his own direct-to-consumer sportswear business in 2020.

### A Solution Worth \$5,000

Starting in fall 2021, the Shevet Glaubach Center and Sy Syms will host an annual pitch competition where students can offer solutions to fix a challenge they experienced with the Career Center. Winners will receive a \$5,000 budget to implement the solution.

### Social Impact Entrepreneurship

YU Innovation Lab hosted a presentation by **May Piamenta**, CEO and founder, and **Amit Pinto**, product manager, of the Israel-based startup Vee, an all-in-one volunteer management platform that helps people and organizations join and lead initiatives to increase their social standing.



## Science and Technology

### Getting Ahead in Math

**Dr. Gabriel Cwilich**, professor of physics, brought together four recent YU graduates to discuss engineering/applied math: **Sean Bokor** (physics research assistant, Technion); **Zvi Goldstein** (electrical engineering at Columbia); **Joseph Jubas** (project manager for drone security, Easy Aerial); and **Daniel Lazarev** (pursuing a math Ph.D. at MIT).

### Titans of Tech

The Shevet Glaubach Center presented a panel of YU computer science alumni, tech professionals and recruiters from Accenture and Avanade to discuss life in a top firm, how alumni can get jobs at these firms and an overview of the recruiting process.



### We Mourn the Loss of DR. MORDECAI D. KATZ

A committed philanthropist whose generosity and leadership have transformed Yeshiva University and the Jewish world, Dr. Katz served as a Trustee of Yeshiva University for over 25 years, most recently as its co-vice chairman. Together with his wife, Dr. Monique C. Katz, co-vice chairman of the Stern College for Women Board of Overseers, the Katzes' most recent major gift launched the **Katz School of Science and Health**, which created new portals of entry into Yeshiva University for students of our community.

- Please join us for the **Dr. Mordecai Katz Shloshim Memorial**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 25 / 12 – 1 p.m. / [yu.edu/drkatzshloshim](http://yu.edu/drkatzshloshim)**



## Great Jobs and Impactful Careers

### The MBA Program Goes Virtual

Starting in fall 2021, the Sy Syms two-year MBA program will be delivered fully online (with optional in-person opportunities) and is designed to allow students to complete the program in as little as 15 months.

### Katz Launches PA Program

Beginning this summer, the Katz School will offer a 28-month M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies grounded in evidence-based medicine, a case-based approach to patient care, interprofessional practice and community health.



### SUMMER OF OPPORTUNITY 2021

As a follow-up to last year's Summer of Opportunity internship project, Sy Syms and the Shevet Glaubach Center are launching the YU Israel Summer Internship program in partnership with the Israeli startup incubator MassChallenge Israel. Students will prepare in the United States before going to Israel, then will complete seven-week internships with companies that graduated from MassChallenge's program. The students will be housed at the YU Israel campus in Jerusalem.



## Faculty and Staff News

**Dr. Steven Fine**, professor of Jewish history, will have his book *The Arch of Titus: From*



*Jerusalem to Rome—and Back* coming out April 22, where an international array of scholars explores the Arch in all of its complexity. The volume is

the final statement of the Yeshiva University Arch of Titus Project, following an exhibition mounted at the Yeshiva University Museum from fall 2017 through summer 2018.

**Dr. Shalom Holtz**, professor of Bible and associate dean for academic affairs at Yeshiva College, and **Dr. Aaron Koller**, YU professor of Near Eastern Studies, contributed letters to *American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters*, part of a nonpartisan campaign to send one-page letters from a diverse range

of religious scholars to President Joseph Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and members of the 117th Congress for the first 100 days of their administration.

**Tova Fish-Rosenberg**, director of Hebrew Language and Special Programs at the Yeshiva University High Schools, won a 2021 Wilbur Award from the Religion Communicators Council for her Holocaust documentary project, *Names, Not Numbers™*. Past winners include Oprah Winfrey, Jane Pauley and *The New York Times*.

In the wake of the Georgia shooting that killed six Asian women, **Prof. Ekow Yankah**



of Cardozo Law School spoke on WNYC about whether hate crime laws can effectively address acts of prejudice against people of color and other marginalized groups.



## Student and Alumni Focus

### Students Give Back

Students participated in two community projects organized by YU's Office of Student Life and Student Councils: an online Passover food drive with City Harvest, bringing food to needy families, and a clean-up effort at Fort Tryon Park in Inwood with NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.



### YU Alumni Working in Israel

As part of the "YU Alumni Working in Israel" program, the Shevet Glaubach Center held an educational panel featuring four alumni who, having made aliyah, detailed their journeys, discussed the differences between working in the United States and Israel, and offered tips for making a successful aliyah.

### YU Students Organize NYC Mayoral Forum

The Yeshiva University Political Action Club and the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society organized a debate among Democratic mayoral candidates **Eric Adams, Kathryn Garcia, Ray McGuire** and **Scott Stringer**. Over 300 students signed up for the livestreamed event.



# Upcoming Events

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

**Spring 2021 Virtual Career Fair and YU Grad School Expo**  
Friday, April 23  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Dr. Mordecai Katz Shloshim Memorial**  
Sunday, April 25  
12 – 1 p.m.  
[yu.edu/drkatzzshloshim](https://yu.edu/drkatzzshloshim)

**RIETS Virtual Gala**  
Tuesday, April 27  
7 – 8 p.m.

**Hack YU 2021**  
Sunday, May 1 –  
Monday, May 2  
9:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Book Launch**  
*The Rabbi of Buchenwald:  
The Life and Times of  
Herschel Schacter*  
Sunday, May 2  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Sy Syms School of Business Dinner**  
Monday, May 3  
5 – 9 p.m.

**Magefah: Pandemics Throughout Jewish History**  
Revel Graduate School  
Wednesday, May 5  
8 – 9 p.m.

**Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, zt"l  
The First Yahrzeit:  
Appreciating the Reach  
of His Intellectual Legacy**  
YU and The Jewish Center  
Wednesday, May 19  
8:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
[yu.edu/drlamm](https://yu.edu/drlamm)



**36 HOURS  
OF  
GIVING**

**April 21 – 22 / 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. / [giving.yu.edu](https://giving.yu.edu)**

The YU community will come together for 36 hours to support student scholarships, accomplished faculty, investment in our campuses and COVID-related expenses. The goal: to raise critical funding and engage our alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff and students to strengthen YU for today and position us for future success.



Yeshiva University