



The Yeshiva University OBSERVER

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SPECIAL INVESTITURE ISSUE

Yeshiva Ushers in Fourth President in University History

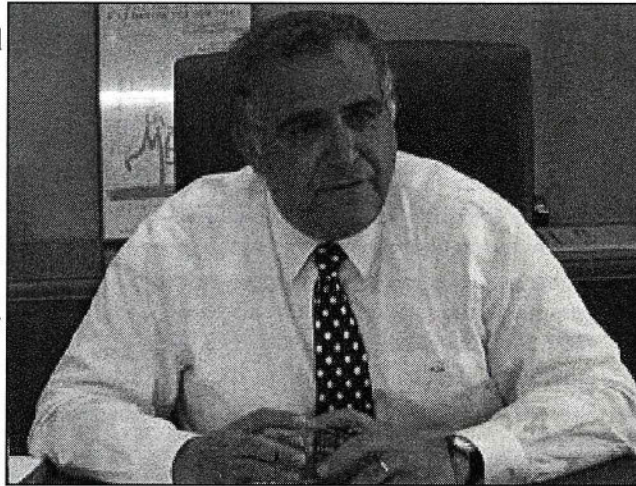
By Rachel Horn

Over 1800 people crowded Yeshiva University's campus. A new president was invested after a search that had taken a year. In some ways, the beginning of Rabbi Norman Lamm's tenure at Yeshiva shared similarities with incoming President Richard Joel's inauguration, scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 2003.

However, the marked differences that adorn the milestone Investiture ceremony that will render Joel the fourth president of Yeshiva in 117 years, indicates the substantial growth of the university.

When Lamm was invested in 1976, the most pressing item on his agenda was the financial survival

of Yeshiva University. Joel's Investiture points to the major strides made by Yeshiva since it teetered on the brink of financial ruin in the '70s.



Joel sits at his desk in Presidential Suite

With a \$900 million plus endowment and Yeshiva's five year \$400 million campaign goal already having reached \$375 million after only three years, the university is at a far more secure place than when Lamm took over.

According to Hillel Davis, the vice president for university life, Joel's new administration will initially focus on building relationships and community. In striving towards this goal, the Investiture ceremony will focus

on the administrations commitment to pursuing these goals. "It is a celebration of the past, and a vision for the future," said Davis. "Yeshiva is a good place. Our commitment is to make it better by enhancing relationships in the uni- continued on page 4

Joel Administration Takes Shape

By Shifra Landowne

One of the latest buzzwords on the eleventh floor of Belfer Hall this summer has been user friendly, a term which sums up the major goals of Richard Joel's new administration at Yeshiva.

Since taking the helm as president of Yeshiva University earlier this summer, Joel has brought in a new staff and is building an administration which aims to promote communication in order to increase productive problem solving

and make the administrative bureaucracy more seamless.

"We are creating an administrative team that focuses on kavod habriot," said President Joel. The two most significant factors in Joel's equation are Hillel Davis, the Vice President of University Life, and Edward Fox, who will serve as Deputy to the President. Both were appointed by Joel.

Davis, who has been in office since this past May, was coined by Joel as "Vice President of kavod habriot. He left a

position at the IDT Corporation to serve on Joel's team. His administrative functions span from handling issues relating to general quality of life on campus to student life and faculty considerations. "The concept is to make this a more user friendly environment for students as well as staff," said Davis.

Fox hails from the Moriah School in Englewood, New Jersey, where he served as an administrator for eighteen years. He crossed paths with Joel working in the Registrar's continued on page 2

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office at Yeshiva twenty years ago when Joel served as assistant dean of students at Cardozo Law School. His job as advisor to the president includes helping to "guide the president in scheduling his life and focusing on his goals here. There are many people anxious to spend time with him, and he needs to prioritize," said Fox. He describes himself as a "vehicle for getting information from the YU community to the president, and out to the constituency." He is also involved in making sure that the

"We are creating an administrative team that focuses on kavod habriot," said President Joel.

President's projects move along on schedule and are followed through, managing the office, and helping to project an image of "professionalism and warmth to the YU community and beyond."

Joel's new cabinet has been working on a number of projects over the summer and anticipates that students will reap the benefits of some of the more physical efforts as soon as they arrive on campus in the fall. "Students will see a fresh look in certain areas," says Fox, "there has been construction at the uptown campus, as well as at Stern and Cardozo."

Most of the projects that have already begun are illustrations themselves of the focused, productive agenda that Joel's administration is being born under. A chief complaint of YC students has been the elevators in the Mendel Gottesman library, which limit easy access to all parts of the library, and Joel's team zeroed in on the problem. "We have worked on increasing the access to the Gottesman library, making the stairs more available, creating more study space," said Davis. Other projects have included wiring the Independent Housing Program for internet access, and the construction of a new lobby in the 215 Lexington building on the midtown campus.

The renovations of Joel's office on the eleventh floor in Belfer Hall have also been designed to impress the message of warmth that is so vital to the new administration. Joel has put in a multimedia conference room, added a small student cafeteria nearby on the twelfth floor,

and hopes to decorate the bare walls with some student work and testaments to student achievements. Joel also explained that since September 11, the halls in Belfer has signs that read "entrance only," and "exit only." Joel has had the "only" removed from the signs, a gesture that he feels is indicative of his tenure here, making his space more open as a symbol of his open administration. As part of this vision, Joel hopes to spend time in his office on the seventh floor of the 245 Lexington building. He plans on holding periodic town meetings, as well as

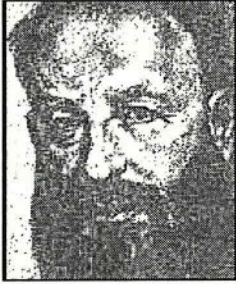
lunch with students and sit in on classes. He is also encouraging students to attend his investiture on September 21st.

More than anything else, the new Joel administration is working on feeling out their new surroundings and learning as much as they can. Both Fox and Davis note that they have been working closely with many of the senior administrators and gaining insight from their past experiences. "My short term goal now is to learn a lot," said Fox, "We want to try to build on the warmth that already exists in the University." Davis agrees; "Mine is a new position," he said, "and the concept is to work with the president, the vice president for academic affairs, the business and finance office, senior staff. We should all be a team that together manages the university on a day to day basis. We want to create a team across the disciplines to manage the university, and we plan to spend a lot of time together."

Joel noted that he is working closely with the existing administration to reach his goals, and that Dr. Lamm is an active participant in the creation of a new administration. "Dr. Lamm and I are working on fashioning his chancellorship as well as my presidency."

President Joel plans to outline more of his vision and some of his long term goals at his September nineteenth investiture, but for now, says Davis, "I want enhance the management of the university, I want to make it better, to help people take more pride in the school."

A Glimpse into the Past Yeshiva's Presidents



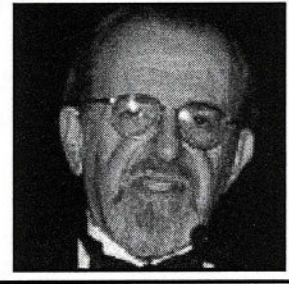
Rabbi Dr. Bernard Revel

As the first president of Yeshiva College, founded in 1928, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Revel established the objectives that Yeshiva maintains even today. His mission statement spoke of imbuing within students knowledge of the sciences, arts and modern culture and establishing dedicated and well informed Jews living in a modern society.



Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Rabbi Dr. Samuel Belkin took the helm as Yeshiva president in 1943. In addition to coining the term Torah U'Madda as Yeshiva's modus operandi for its students, Belkin advanced Yeshiva's standing from college to university status.



Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm

World renowned for his lectures and writings, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm is recognized as one of the most influential Jewish thinkers of modern times. Inaugurated in 1976, he has maintained leadership through a 26-year tenure that put Yeshiva on the map. His teachings exemplify the Torah U'Madda ideology that embodies Yeshiva.

Richard Joel: A Biographical Glance

By Shayndi Raice

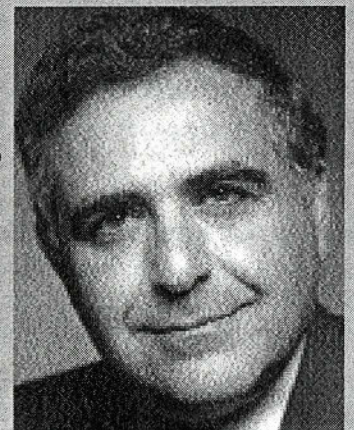
Richard M. Joel will be inaugurated on Sunday, September 21st as the fourth president of Yeshiva University. Although this encounter with Yeshiva is monumental, it is not his first.

Joel attended the Marsha Stern Talmudic Academy and the Benjamin N. Cordozo School of Law, both Yeshiva institutions. He also served as associate dean and professor at Cordozo. It was in this position that Joel earned his, now famous, reputation for building a rapport with college students.

Joel demonstrated his savvy leadership skills in his capacity as president and international director of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. His vision transformed Hillel from a small presence on college campuses to a major organization responsible for groundbreaking programs and activities that reach thousands of Jewish lives.

His wife, Esther, is an alumna of Yeshiva's Ferkauf School of Psychology. Three of Joel's six children are Yeshiva graduates as well.

After a tense eighteen months, Yeshiva's search committee found Joel and the Board of Trustees voted him to the position of president. Joel took office at the beginning of the academic year.



*Incoming President
Richard M. Joel*

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versity, mutually problem solving, creating an environment more conducive to cooperation and growth."

Joel is expected to articulate his goals for Yeshiva in his Investiture speech. "He has been sharing his ideas with the deans, boards and students" said Senior University Dean of Students Ephrem Nulman, chairman of the Investiture. "But he will lay out what his priorities are and his intents on Sunday."

Aside from the opportunity for Joel to address the university, the occasion will act as a show-piece for Yeshiva University in both the Jewish and academic worlds. "It is an opportunity to bring people to campus and set the tone for what the future will be,"

said Nulman.

Presidents of over 20 universities plan to attend, including Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Brandeis, NYU and Barnard. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Daniel Ayalon, ambassador of Israel to the United States, will greet the audience.

Joel will utilize the Investiture celebrations as a method of involving all facets of Yeshiva. "Our goal is to have as many constituent groups participating as possible," said Nulman. "We want to give each constituency the opportunity to be involved in this historic moment for the university."

Thus an academic procession featuring an array of student government delegates, roshei yeshiva, faculty, deans, dignitaries and boards will commence the

inauguration. The Belz School of Music will provide a musical interlude. After the initial inaugural ceremony, a tent will be set up for students to showcase their numerous accomplishments.

Along with a special Shabbat program for undergraduate students hosted at the Midtown campus, events will be held on the various Yeshiva campuses in honor of the investiture throughout the ensuing week.

After Joel's appointment this past December to the position of president, he asked Nulman to begin planning the service. The investiture will be modeled in part after Rabbi Lamm's own investiture ceremony and in part by investitures performed by other universities.

Schedule of Investiture Events

Thursday, September 16th, 1:30-4 p.m. *Lecture*

The Jewish Genome: Fact or Fancy, at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Resnick Campus.

Friday-Saturday, September 19-20. *Shabbaton at Stern College for Women*

The Midtown campus of Yeshiva University will host the The Joel family, who will be joining approximately 300 Yeshiva College and Stern College students as well as various Faculty.

Sunday, September 21, 2pm *Investiture Ceremony*

Richard Joel's official inauguration will commence on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Nathan Lamport Auditorium at the Wilf Campus.

Tuesday, September 22, 9:15am-8pm *Yom Iyun*

A day of learning will be held in Weissberg Commons at Belfer Hall, 2495 Amsterdam Avenue at 184th St. This day of study will include workshops on activism, the highlight of the event being a lecture by Dr. Daniel Pipes. The noted Middle East scholar will speak at 8pm in Lamport Auditorium on "Activism for a New Middle East."

Wednesday, September 30, 8pm *Kinus Teshuva Lecture*

In New York and Jerusalem respectively, Rabbi Moshe D. Tendler and Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein will deliver the 19th Annual Kinus Teshuva lectures for the High Holidays. Rabbi Tendler, one of the nation's leading medical ethicists, is a professor of biology at Yeshiva College and rosh yeshiva at RIETS. Rabbi Lichtenstein, one of Israel's prominent Torah Scholars, is director of RIETS' Caroline and Joseph Gruss Institute in Jerusalem.