

Richard M. Joel Takes Office Ushers in New Era at YU

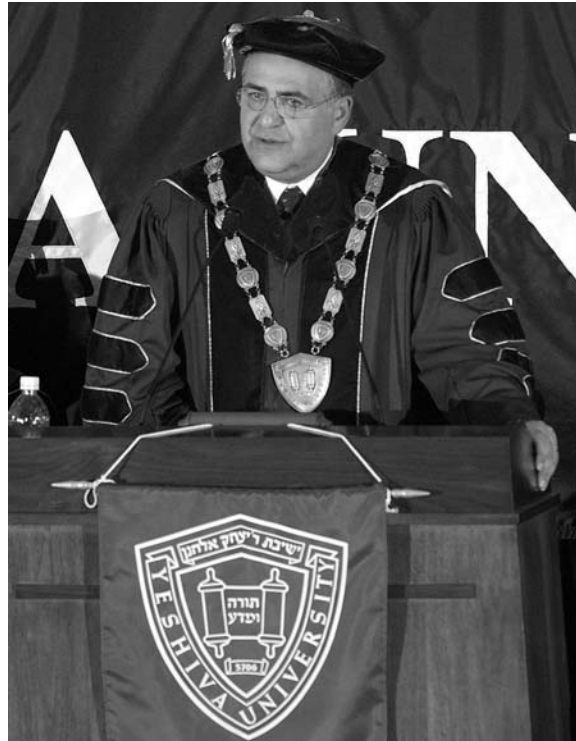
On a brilliant September day, under azure skies, Richard M. Joel made Yeshiva University history when he became its fourth president in 117 years. President Joel joined the ranks of three leading lights of world Jewry, Dr. Bernard Revel, Dr. Samuel Belkin, and Dr. Norman Lamm. Some 1,800–2,000 dignitaries, faculty, students, alumni, and communal leaders watched the torch passed from Dr. Lamm, YU chancellor, to President Joel. Thirty-one university presidents and delegates from around North America in Israel participated in the festivities.

The Investiture, webcast live on www.yu.edu, allowed alumni and supporters both here and abroad to observe the celebrations. An academic procession of nearly 300 people marched from the Gloria and Jesse Weissberg Commons to Nathan Lampport Auditorium in the David H. Zysman Hall where dignitaries such as New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Daniel Ayalon, Israel's US ambassador, addressed a packed assembly and overflow audience in the adjacent beit midrash and Weissberg Commons.

Mayor Bloomberg, a 2003 recipient of a YU honorary doctorate, congratulated President Joel "on behalf of 8 million people."

"Today is a great day for Yeshiva University, for New York City, New York State and the world. Yeshiva University is such a vital part of the city's academic community and has always been at the forefront of making this a better world," the mayor said.

In his remarks, Dr. Lamm recalled his own investi-



ture in August 1976. "Dr. Belkin passed away before I was elected, but I have the *zechut* (privilege) to address my successor with affection and respect." Dr. Lamm noted that he had been entrusted with a precious treasure. "I pass it on to Richard Joel at the cusp of a new era for Yeshiva University."

Offering greetings on behalf of the "community of universities" was Stephen J. Trachtenberg, president

of The George Washington University.

"I have known Richard Joel for many years, admired his work, and thought him the perfect choice for the presidency of Yeshiva University," said President Trachtenberg. "He has the kind of practical understanding that will foster the University's fortunes and both Jewish and academic life in New York and beyond for many years. I welcome him to the brotherhood and sisterhood of presidents in the University of the United States and look forward to his contributions that will benefit all of us."

Other speakers included Karen Bacon, the Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean of Stern College for Women, who spoke for administration, staff, faculty, deans, directors, and alumni; a Yeshiva College student; and a graduate of Stern College, now studying at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. A musical interlude was performed by flautist Contessa Nyree, CSL '05 and the Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music choir.

President Joel's inaugural address laid out his vision (excerpts on page 3). He emphasized the university's commitment to "quality and excellence in education, sacred and secular, to challenge the Yeshiva, the undergraduate and graduate schools to take ownership of Torah Umadda." Passionately, he urged his audience to "resolve to fashion a Yeshiva University that ennobles students in purpose, and enables them to dream and to fulfill those dreams for self and humankind."

The benediction was offered by Avery Joel, President's Joel's son, a student at YU's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. ■



YU executive committee chairman Burton P. Resnick and Robert A. Belfer, chairperson of the Einstein board of overseers, watch RIETS board chairman Julius Berman present the RIETS charter to President Joel.



Left to right: President Joel, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and Israel's US Ambassador Daniel Ayalon.



President Jehuda Reinharz of Brandeis University (left) and NYU President John Sexton, two of the 31 presidents and delegates who attended the Investiture.



Avery, Nachum, Penny, Noam, Kira, and Ariella share the celebration with their parents, Esther and Richard Joel.



Morton Lowengrub, vice president for academic affairs, and Michael Jesselson, chairman of the Investiture Committee, lead the academic procession up Amsterdam Avenue.

Investiture Events Illustrate YU's Academic Breadth



At an Einstein symposium on Sept. 16 are, left to right, President and Esther Joel and Einstein's Dominick P. Purpura, MD, Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean.



Attending the rededication of Cardozo's lobby on Sept. 24 were three former deans of the school, together with current dean David Rudenstine. Left to right: Paul R. Verkuil, Dean Rudenstine, Frank Macchiarola, and Monroe E. Price.



Author and Stern alumna ('71) Barbara Kessel presents a copy of her latest book to President Joel at an alumni reception at Yeshiva University Museum on Sept. 22.

Campus-wide events celebrating President Richard M. Joel's Investiture underscored Yeshiva University's stature in science and medical ethics, Torah, Israel advocacy, and law, reaffirming the rich diversity of academic life.

Weeklong activities kicked off with a Sept. 16 symposium, "The Jewish Genome: Fact or Fancy," hosted by Albert Einstein College of Medicine at its Resnick Campus. Discussions by four leading Einstein scientists covered the role of Jewish genetics in research, including the effects on family dynamics, as when parents and health professionals adjust to thinking about family not just as flesh and blood, but flesh and blood and genes.

The Shabbat experience was joyously observed at a Sept. 19-20 Shabbaton for undergraduate men and women. Some 300 students joined President Joel's family and YU faculty at the Stern College-Sy Syms Midtown

Campus for *shiurim* (Torah lectures), prayers, singing, and communal meals.

In his inaugural address, President Joel stressed Israel's centrality "to the future vision of the Jewish people" and "the Yeshiva University community." Middle East scholar Daniel Pipes brought home that centrality in the annual Lena and Harry Cabakoff Lecture entitled, "Activism for a New Middle East." The talk highlighted a *Yom Iyun* (day of educational programming), sponsored by the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikha Honors Program, including workshops on activism held at Weissberg Commons.

The Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School has gained national prominence as one of the nation's most accomplished, youngest law schools, attracting outstanding students and faculty. That stature was celebrated Sept. 24 at dedication ceremonies for Cardozo's completely redesigned and newly constructed



President Joel shares a light moment with Cardozo Law Professor Barry Scheck, left, and Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, husband of Justice Dianne Renwick, CSL '86.



Daniel Pipes delivers the annual Lena and Harry Cabakoff lecture on Sept. 23.

home at 55 Fifth Avenue. Viewing the new lobby, the Jacob Burns Moot Court Room, as well as the school's library and renovated classrooms were New York First Lady Libby Pataki, Cardozo Dean David Rudenstine, and President Joel. YU and Cardozo trustees and alumni also attended.

Delivering the 19th Annual *Kinus Teshuva* High Holidays lectures, Sept. 30 in New York, were Rabbi Moshe D. Tendler,

Rabbi Isaac and Bella Tendler Professor of Jewish Medical Ethics at RIETS, among the nation's leading medical ethicists. Speaking in Israel was

Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, Rabbi Henschel and Sarah D. Berman Professor of Talmud at YU's Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute in Jerusalem. ■

Undergraduate and Graduate Schools, and Affiliate Divisions

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|---|---|
| 1896 Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary
Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, MA
Max and Marion Grill Dean | 1956 James Striar School for General Jewish Studies
Michael D. Shmidman, PhD, Dean |
| 1916 The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy
Yeshiva University High School for Boys
Rabbi Michael Hecht, JD, Dean | 1957 Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology
Lawrence J. Siegel, PhD, Dean |
| 1917 Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies
Michael D. Shmidman, PhD, Dean | 1957 Sue Golding Graduate Division
of Medical Sciences
Dominick P. Purpura, MD
Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean |
| 1928 Yeshiva College
Norman T. Adler, PhD, Dean | 1957 Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Sheldon R. Gelman, PhD
Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean |
| 1937 Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies
Arthur Hyman, PhD, Dean | 1970 Yeshiva Program/Mazer School
of Talmudic Studies
Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, MA
Max and Marion Grill Dean |
| 1945 Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education
and Administration
David J. Schnall, PhD, Dean | 1973 Yeshiva University Museum
Sylvia A. Herskowitz, Director |
| 1948 Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University
High School for Girls
Rochelle Brand, MA, Principal | 1976 Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
David Rudenstine, JD, Dean |
| 1954 Stern College for Women
Karen Bacon, PhD
Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean | 1978 Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies
Dominick P. Purpura, MD
Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean |
| 1954 Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music
Cantor Bernard Beer, Director | 1987 Sy Syms School of Business
Charles J. Snow, PhD, Dean |
| 1955 Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Dominick P. Purpura, MD
Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean | 1995 Irving I. Stone Beit Midrash Program
Michael D. Shmidman, PhD, Dean |

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To Ennoble and Enable

Excerpts from Yeshiva University President Richard M. Joel's inaugural address
September 21, 2003

'A Yearning For All That Is Sacred'

For me, this is a moment of hope and joy, of fear and trembling. For you have entrusted to me the destiny of Yeshiva University, a unique life force whose very existence represents a yearning for all that is sacred in our humanity and all that is human in our sanctity. I come before you standing on the shoulders of giants, who persevered in dreaming dreams, and willed them into reality.

That I have been given such an opportunity is due to the historic and heroic efforts of my wonderful predecessor, Dr. Norman Lamm. His legacy is a university of strength and security, constantly challenged by him to live by standards of Torah UMadda, the sacred confrontation of Torah and secular wisdom. He would have me tell you that his work was the continuation of the life labors of our two revered predecessors, Dr. Samuel Belkin and Dr. Bernard Revel, of blessed memory. And Yeshiva would not be Yeshiva without the profound impact of the mind and soul of the Rav, R.Yosef Ber Soloveitchik, zecher tzadik livracha.

We all know that their success would not have been realized without the very real partnership of legions of extraordinary leaders, with names of Samuel Levy, Max Stern, Max Etra, Herbert Tenzer, Ludwig Jesselson, Hermann Merkin, David Gottesman, Robert Beren, Ronald Stanton, and the passionate people who shared their dreams.

'Nobility of Purpose'

A great university must refocus on the exploration of the value of values, must expose the young to the freedom of commitment, to the nuance of ideals firmly held, while protecting the rights of others. A great university must rebuild a spirit of free inquiry, while embracing the immutability of life values that are non-negotiable. It must teach the skills of navigating the terrain, while reaching for the cosmos. Its challenge is not to defend western civilization, but to advance western civilization. A great university is great scholars and great students.

Yeshiva University stands poised to lead...with well-developed schools and pro-

grams, functioning successfully. We all know the significant accomplishments of Yeshiva. We also know that Yeshiva University is a wonderful work in process. As with any new administration, there is now a moment to reflect, to listen and learn; to build on and renew the vision that is Yeshiva.

The time is now to reemphasize our commitment to a community of trust and caring... The time is now to reemphasize our commitment to quality and excellence in education, sacred and secular, to challenge the Yeshiva, the undergraduate and graduate schools to take ownership of Torah Umadda. We must not only espouse Torah Umadda, we must live it, and challenge our students, in whatever school, from whatever place, to live it. We must take time to ask hard questions, of how we teach and model integrity, how we provoke leadership, service, and learning.

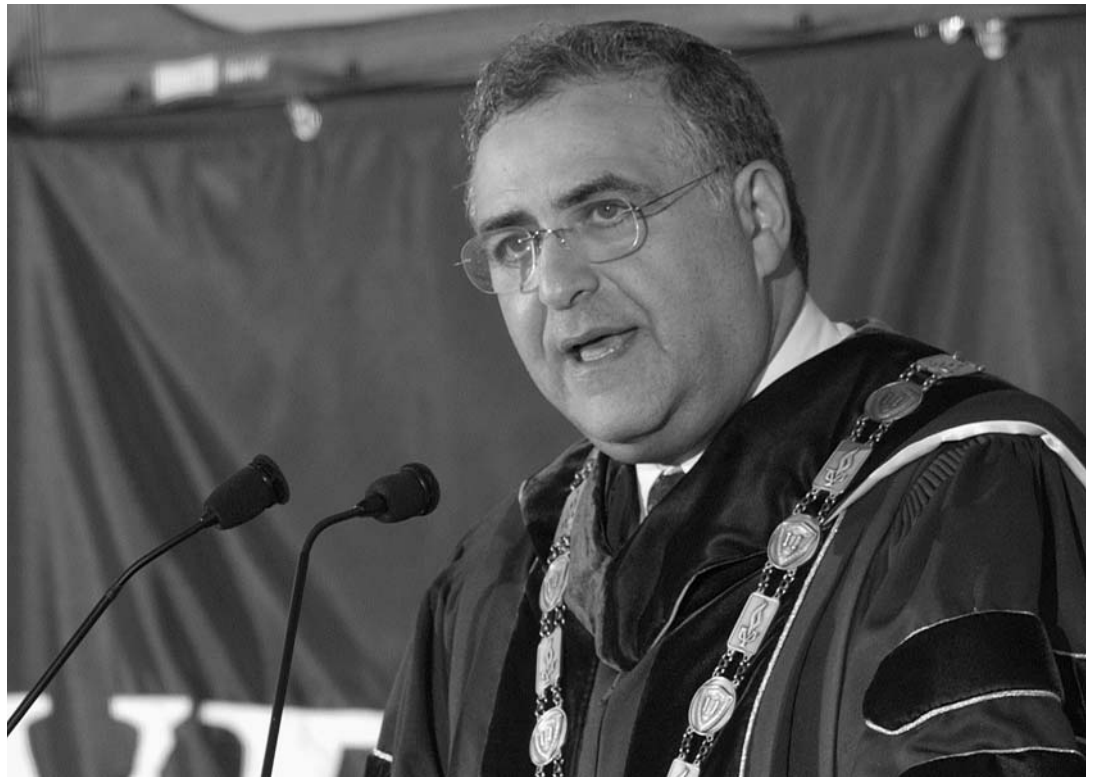
We are a small enough school to be personal. Somehow, sometimes, we make ourselves impersonal. We too much mirror the anonymity of society. We need to strengthen our culture of nobility. To improve civilization, we must model civility. We must tear down walls between the people and institutions that are Yeshiva University.

'Pursuit Of Excellence'

Our commitment to Excellence must be real and must be nourished, or it becomes pedestrian. Every university president speaks of excellence. As we look forward, we must ask, how do we make our constellation of schools places of choice for the serious student.

Our undergraduate schools are quality institutions. Yet our faculty is overburdened with high course loads and inadequate research support. We have unmet curricular needs.

We have so much to offer at YU. For students who seek an experience in a Torah Umadda context, their decision to choose Yeshiva should be a no-brainer. We have turned our three relatively small undergraduate schools into a great strength. These gems must be polished to shine. We must build on what we have. What would it take to enhance the faculty, the curriculum, and



the academic environment so that our undergraduate schools are schools of choice, treasures of teaching and research excellence. Our curriculum should be so rich that our students look to stay for additional years.

How do we strengthen the professional training components of RIETS so they complement the quality of the learning, even as we support and strengthen our outstanding Yeshiva? What's our plan for making Azrieli the premier school of Jewish Education? How do we encourage the continuing achievement of Cardozo and its premier faculty?

At the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, we are just now embarking on an historic project to build a center for research in genetic and translational science, a key building block in the incredible scientific research being conducted. As we expand the Resnick Campus, we are also concentrating on enhancing the quality of student life.

We are strong enough to offer challenges to all of our graduate schools, Jewish Studies, Social Work, Psychology, to chart a course of excellence.

'Israel Advocacy'

The land of Israel and the State of Israel are central to the future vision of the Jewish people, and have always been central to the reality of the Yeshiva University community. Over 2000 alumni now live in Israel. We have a philosophy of life—an approach of

Torah UMadda that is unique, and could contribute significantly to bridging the corrosive gaps in Israeli society. It is time we concretized our commitment in terms of the university's agenda. Over 600 students enrolled as Yeshiva undergrads spend their first year studying at Israeli institutions. We offer a first-rate graduate Talmudic Institute on our Gruss campus in Jerusalem. Here, in New York, our undergraduates constitute the largest body of pro-Israel students on any campus outside the State of Israel. And yet, we have not articulated a coherent Israel agenda here or in Israel.

'Community—A University Without Walls'

If we are serious about being a premier educational enterprise that ennobles and enables our world, we must see ourselves as a university without walls. Yeshiva University lives throughout the world. We are the people who have defined the concept of a lifetime of learning. This global community hungers for an ongoing relationship with us. And we owe the community to serve as its educational resource.

We will explore how we offer continuing educational opportunities, though distance learning, through an educational speakers bureau, making accessible the great Torah knowledge and wonderful scholarship that resides in our faculty. We must offer

valuable in-service programs to support the educational institutions and communal agencies. We must partner with the global communal organizations to offer our resources. We will invite the community to our campuses to share in the great celebration of learning that is Yeshiva.

We must assume responsibility for the ongoing inspiration of both the Jewish community and the professional networks that emanate from Yeshiva University. That's what it means to advance civilization. That business must be our business. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes Yeshiva University to inform the global village.

The goals we set forth are ambitious. We will formulate the plans, school by school, division by division, and will present them to our Boards and then the community at the end of this academic year. We will offer you our best efforts joyously. Will you join in this historic effort? Dare we dream? Dare we not?

I stand before you with hope and commitment, because my life has been informed by the loving guiding force of my best friend, Esther. Her family has inspired me. Our friends have been my teachers. And our children, Penny, Avery, Ariella, Noam, Nachum and Kira illumine our lives and inspire our tomorrows. ■



Scenes From the Investiture



President Richard M. Joel delivers his Inaugural address.



Avery Joel, who delivered the Investiture benediction, shares a moment with his father.



Ice sculpture of YU shield accentuates enticing banquet tables at the reception.



President Joel, marching with YU Chancellor Norman Lamm, chats with a student during the academic procession.



YU board chairman Ronald P. Stanton, Mordecai D. Katz, board chairman Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, and Professor Moshe Kaveh, president of Bar-Ilan University.



First ladies of Yeshiva University: Mindy Lamm, Esther Joel, and Abby Belkin