

THE VIEW FROM YU



Wolfgang Sobotka,
President of the
National Council of
Austria, welcomes
Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
to Vienna

APR 2022



From the President

Dear Friends,

Now that Pesach is over, we are reminded that the holiday not only symbolizes freedom, but it also unites Jews around the world in a common purpose. As a free and proud people we share our values and traditions at YU.

Going into this important holiday, YU students and schools took part in a variety of projects that helped make it rich, meaningful, and inspirational. Among them were the production of a new Azrieli Haggadah, whose theme was gratitude, and the Beren Campus Haggadah, produced by students for students. Activities on and off campus included an online food drive as well as shiurim by our esteemed YU roshei yeshiva, including Rabbis Schachter, Rosensweig, and Lebowitz.

As we reconnect with the national narratives that fill our lives with purpose and meaning, we consider how we can best share our values and traditions with the generations to come and with the broader society. In this issue of **View from YU**, you'll read about how we are doing just that through our four strategic pillars.

Exemplifying **Values and Leadership**, YU hosted a Yom Iyun to celebrate the official launch of the Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-Herenstein Center. To confront the situation in Ukraine, our students brought humanitarian aid to refugees in Vienna while our faculty held incisive panel discussions and Rabbi Avraham Wolff, currently in Odessa, gave us a crucial inside view of the conflict via Zoom. I had the honor of accompanying our students on the humanitarian mission to Vienna, where we were thanked by Austrian National Council President Wolfgang Sobotka for helping Ukrainian refugees, as illustrated on the cover of this edition.

The spirit of **Entrepreneurship and Innovation** shone brightly as the finalists in the six-week-long YU Innovation Challenge pitched their concepts to industry experts while Sy Syms Honors students learned from Martin Geller, founder of Geller & Company and a minority owner of the Philadelphia 76ers of the NBA, how being the child of Holocaust survivors inspires the way he conducts business.

Science & Technology was front and center at YU's annual Hackathon, a 24-hour programming challenge to improve an aspect of health care technology. YU's student-run SURGE club invited Nobel laureate Dr. Harvey Alter to discuss his discovery of the hepatitis C virus.

Advancing its exceptional work in securing **Great Jobs and Impactful Careers**, the Shevet Glaubach Center hosted a range of workshops and panel discussions focused on networking, résumé building and internship opportunities.

Special congratulations go out to chemistry professor Ron Drori, Ph.D., who was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

And last, in what signifies as a return to normal, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society was back on stage in a production of the *Oldtimers Game* by Lee Blessing—to the delight of enthusiastic audiences.

As we now look toward the holiday of Shavuot, when we will celebrate the giving of the Torah, let us also look toward an evermore meaningful, impactful, and joyous future.

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
President, Yeshiva University



Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman and Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian Council (center), stand with YU students in Vienna.

Torat Chesed Mission to Ukraine

From March 13 to March 20, twenty-seven YU undergraduates, along with Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, President of Yeshiva University, went to Vienna as part of the Torat Chesed Mission organized by Dr. Erica Brown of the Sacks-Herenstein Center to provide humanitarian relief to Ukrainians fleeing the war. Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian National Council, welcomed President Berman to speak at the Hofburg Palace, the seat of the Austrian government, and later commended YU students on their charitable work. To continue the work of the mission, the students have raised over \$100,000 to help the community, inspiring Center founders Terri and Andrew Herenstein to match what our students collected.

[READ MORE](#)

Special Ukraine Programs

The breadth of YU faculty's expertise was on display in a series of programs analyzing the war and its ramifications:

- Five panel discussions with YU historians, political scientists and psychologists
- A Fish Center event with Ruslan Kavatsiuk, Deputy CEO of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, and Natan Sharansky, a board member of the Memorial Center
- A Zoom meeting with Rabbi Avraham Wolff, currently in Odessa
- A Q&A at Shenk Shul with Rabbi Levi Raices and Rabbi Chaim Levinson from Chabad of Kharkov

[READ MORE](#)



Sacks-Herenstein Center Officially Launched

On April 3, the YU community was invited to a Yom Iyun for the opening ceremony of The Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-Herenstein Center, featuring Dr. Ari Berman; Center founders Terri and Andrew Herenstein; Dr. Erica Brown, Center director; and *New York Times* columnist Bret Stephens. Gila Sacks, Rabbi Sacks' daughter, and Alan Sacks, his brother, shared memories of Rabbi Sacks' Pesach seder and his powerful lessons on freedom and moral responsibility. [READ MORE](#)



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

And the Winners Are

On April 4, six student teams presented their startup proposals to a panel of venture capitalists as the YU Innovation Challenge, a six-week entrepreneurship initiative organized by the YU Innovation Lab and the Shevet Glaubach Center, held its grand finale. First-place winners David Price '24SB, Miriam Fried '22S and Charlie Grill '23YC wowed the judges with RELiVE, which looks to revolutionize the EV car battery market by recycling lithium-ion batteries. [READ MORE](#)



(l-r): Michael Strauss (associate dean), Miriam Fried, Charlie Grill and David Price

Fireside Chats at the Sy Syms School of Business



The Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program hosted a fireside chat on March 8, with Martin Geller, founder of Geller & Company and

a minority owner of the Philadelphia 76ers of the NBA. He discussed how being a child of Holocaust survivors affected his personal and professional lives, his investment style and his philanthropic career. [READ MORE](#)



In another Sy Syms-sponsored fireside chat on March 22, Prof. Laizer Kornwasser interviewed Indra Nooyi, former CEO and chairman of PepsiCo. Nooyi was the first woman to lead the soft-drink and snack-food giant and one of only 11 female chief executives of a Fortune 500 company. Topics ranged from the challenges women face at the executive level to using design thinking to change a corporate culture.

[READ MORE](#)

A Founder in Fashion

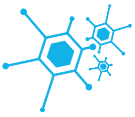


Majoring in marketing and minoring in strategy and entrepreneurship, Shirley Estrin Cohen '22SB has followed her passion for fashion by founding Nashi Swimwear. The Venezuelan native produces her swimwear in Colombia, considered one of the best manufacturers of bathing suits in Latin America.

Staking a Claim in the VC World



On April 6, eight Sy Syms students from the Fund Formation and Administration and Management course taught by Moshe Bellows and Bruce Taragin, founders of Maccabee Ventures, presented their in-depth analysis and assessment of the fund's portfolio at the Limited Partners and Stakeholders Meeting. The students discussed all aspects of the fund as well as how their involvement gave them vital real-world experience as future participants in the venture capital industry.



Science and Technology

NOBEL LAUREATE MEETS WITH STEM STUDENTS

YU's student-run SURGE club invited Dr. Harvey Alter to discuss his discovery of the hepatitis C virus. (Dr. Alter is the 2020 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine). In a fascinating hourlong talk on April 5, Dr. Alter shared his career journey as a translational research scientist who transformed discoveries made in the laboratory into new medical treatments to improve human health.



Student Hackathon Returns

HACKYU22, YU's seventh annual hackathon, convened on April 9, at the Heights Lounge on Wilf Campus. The challenge for the 24-hour long programming marathon, now a must-attend for computer science students and budding technologists across the University, was to improve some aspect of health care technology. The winning project: an advanced sensor to improve the insertions of IVs. This year's event was generously sponsored by Cross River.

Diving into the Gene Pool

On March 2, students in the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College for Women welcomed Dr. John Greally for a discussion about genomics, a field of biology focusing on the evolution, structure, function, editing and mapping of genomes. Dr. Greally is director of the Center for Epigenomics and professor and chief of computational genetics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a clinical geneticist at Children's Hospital at the Montefiore Medical Center. [READ MORE](#)



Great Jobs and Impactful Careers

Exploring Career Paths

Over April, the Shevet Glaubach Center presented a networking evening with YU alumni in Israel (April 3); an inside look at the fashion industry with celebrity stylist Rob Zangardi (April 5); a panel discussion on career paths for women in finance

(April 5); a McKinsey & Company-led workshop on consulting in the energy sector (April. 10); a data analytics information-gathering and networking event (April 11); and a talk with associates from Waterfall Asset Management on hedge fund internships (April 12).

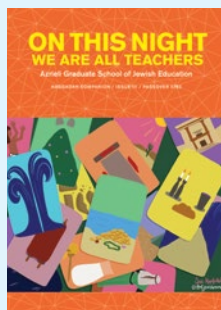
PESACH AT YU



The YU community honored this important holiday with a variety of activities. Beginning on April 1, the Office of Student Life and the Yeshiva University Women's Organization hosted their first-ever pre-Pesach

Shabbaton. Over 300 students celebrated Shabbat with an all-star lineup of 12 Torah Studies faculty. Additionally, from the beginning of April until Pesach, shiurim [lectures] were held by YU's esteemed Roshei Yeshiva, including Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Dr. Michael Rosensweig and Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz.

From Monday, April 4, through Thursday, April 14, YU organized a community food drive with the Masbia Soup Kitchen Network to help families in need celebrate Pesach.

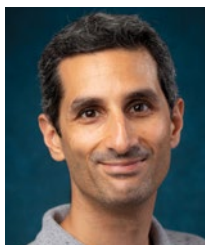


YU announced the publication of five Haggadot produced by the Torah Activities Council at Stern College for Women, the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration,

the Sacks-Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership, the Straus Center and YU alumnus Tzachi Rosman '03YC. [READ MORE](#)



Faculty and Programs



Dr. Ran Drori, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, received a grant of \$274,000 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the U.S. Department

of Agriculture to develop new imaging methods that will limit the damages of ice growth in food. [READ MORE](#)



Dr. Jeffrey Gonzalez, professor of psychology at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology and director of the New York Regional Center for Diabetes Translation Research

at the Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and his fellow investigators were recently awarded a five-year, \$4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support their research.

Congress Calls on Cardozo Professors' Expertise

On March 8, **Prof. Myriam Gilles** testified before the Senate Committee on Banking,



Housing and Urban Affairs on the use of mandatory arbitration in financial service products. On March 31, **Prof. Alex Reinert** testified about qualified

immunity before the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Educating Next-Generation Psychologists and Therapists

Frontiers in Psychology is a new joint program among the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women that helps undergraduates prep for their careers by exploring the graduate-level psychology programs YU offers. [READ MORE](#)



Student Life

Park Cleanup – Part 2

With rakes and brooms in hand, student volunteers came to clean up Washington Heights' Highbridge Park on March 25, as part of an ongoing partnership with the Northern Manhattan Division of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Pitching into help were Assemblymember Manny De Los Santos (District 72) and New York City Councilwoman Carmen De LaRosa (District 10).



Exploring New York

During March and April, YU students had plenty of opportunities to enjoy New York City.

Stern College for Women Student Council and the Yeshiva Student Union gave undergrads free tickets to some of the city's most popular attractions throughout the month of March, including the Museum of Illusions, Color Factory, the Intrepid, SpyScape, the Museum of Modern Art and a trip to Brooklyn to watch the Nets play.



On March 31, students from Beren and Wilf campuses spent the afternoon at the Bronx Zoo and learned about the efforts of the Wildlife Conservation Society.



Students at Bialystoker Synagogue

On April 3, students from Stern College's S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program explored Jewish New York on a two-hour walking tour conducted by the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy.



A scene from *Oldtimers Game*

Yeshiva College Dramatics Society Back on the Boards

After a three-year hiatus, the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society returned to the Schottenstein Theatre stage in a production of *Oldtimers Game* by Lee Blessing that ran from April 4 through April 10. [READ MORE](#)



Upcoming Events

Visit yu.edu/events/all for more information on YU programming.

PLEASE NOTE: Events may be subject to change as we continue to monitor CDC guidelines, city and state regulations and recommended best practices, based on the current public health situation.

TEDx Yeshiva University

April 26 | 6:45 p.m.

“As We Testify”

Yom Ha'Shoah 2022

April 27 | 7 p.m.

Kollel Elyon

Conference:

Beyond Agriculture

May 1 | 7:45 a.m.

Sy Syms Gala Awards Dinner

May 2 | 5:30 p.m.

Spring 2022 Virtual Finance Meet & Greet

May 2 | 7 – 9 p.m.

Yom HaZikaron

May 3 | 7:53 p.m.

Yom HaAtzmaut

May 4 | 7:54 p.m.

Yom HaAtzmaut

Shuk Experience

w/performance

by Nissim Black

May 5 | 2 p.m.

Remembering the Holocaust with Izik Mais

May 8 | 4 p.m.

2021 – 2022 Athletic Awards Dinner

May 11 | 6:30 p.m.

Titans of Tech Consulting

May 11 | 7 p.m.

RIETS Torah -Thon

May 15 | 12 p.m.

Sacks-Herenstein Center Values Conference

May 16

2022 Celebrate Israel Parade

May 22 | 10 a.m.

NINETY-FIRST ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The Yeshiva University 91st Annual

Commencement Ceremony will be celebrated in person on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Arthur Ashe Stadium at the USTA Billie Jean King Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens, New York. The ceremony will be recorded for those unable to join us in person.

See below for dates of commencement exercises.
Find out more at yu.edu/commencement

Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education & Administration

May 9 | 7 p.m.

Katz School of Science and Health

May 16 | 9:30 a.m.

Wurzweiler School of Social Work

May 17 | 1:30 p.m.

Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology

May 18 | 12 p.m.

Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies for Women

May 23, 10:30 a.m.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

May 25 | 2 p.m.

Yeshiva University 91st Annual Commencement

May 26 | 1 p.m.

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

May 31 | 3 p.m.

Wurzweiler School of Social Work Summer Commencement

July 21 | 1:30 p.m.



RISE UP

THE YU SIYUM & CONCERT

Ribo in Concert!

Ishay Ribo, the acclaimed Israeli singer, will perform on **May 26 at 7:45 p.m.** at a special Siyum and concert open to the community at **Arthur Ashe Stadium as part of YU's commencement events.** All these events are aimed at honoring YU's 2022 graduating class and celebrating the unity and creative strength of the Jewish people.

[READ MORE](#)

Visit yu.edu/ribo and yu.edu/siyum for more information.



Yeshiva University