



The Yeshiva University

# OBSERVER

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## New YU Apparel To Hit Stands This Week

**RACHEL DELIA BENAIM** In consonance with the university's ongoing "reimagination" process, a group of students created a new line of official YU apparel. This apparel will be hitting stands later this week and will be available for purchase at all major events for the rest of the semester.

The brainchild of YC junior Aaron Robinow, the YU Apparel Club is a completely student-run undertaking and an official club under Sy Syms Student Council (SYMSSC). Funded by both the

purchase trendy Yeshiva apparel is sure to increase excitement amongst the student body. I think that it's important for YU students to be able to buy cool YU apparel, just like any other University. We have a huge alumni base that has made requests for YU apparel so we are happy to offer this product to both the students and alums. We look forward to growing our product line for every single student to be able to purchase something."

While both the Club and SYMSSC refuse to comment as of yet on the pricing of the apparel, Nathanson assures students that "we are working with the school to cut the best cost for our students."

According to Robinow, the YU Apparel Club "hopes to expand the program in the future with

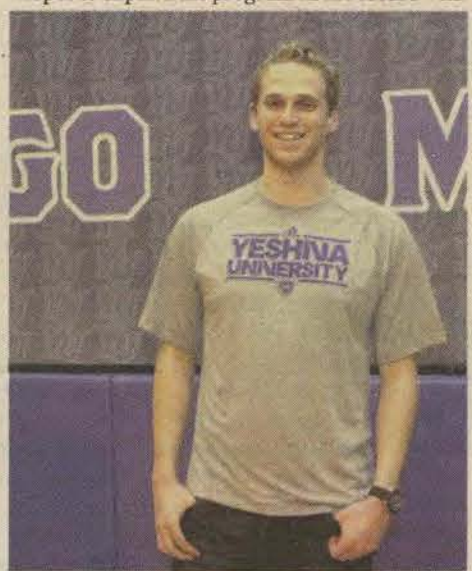


Ilan Regenbaum

SYMSSC and the Office of Student Life, the YU Apparel Club was founded with the sole purpose of bringing professional sports gear like that of other major universities to YU.

Partnering with Adidas, the YU Apparel Club has thus far designed two t-shirts and one sweatshirt. Adidas is known for its high quality product and exceptional design. The apparel designs are a product of this partnership.

This new YU Apparel serves to create a sense of school pride. According to Jesse Nathanson, president of SYMSSC, "the ability for students to



Ilan Regenbaum

fuller product lines. Our ultimate goal is to have a full-service on-campus store to sell swag." The club is currently working out a system where students can buy the new apparel any time—whether that be through a website or perhaps an in-house YU store is yet to be determined.

Any feedback, design ideas, and/or encouragement should be directed to Aaron Robinow of the YU Apparel Club.

## Students Showcase Pro-Israel Advocacy At AIPAC Policy Conference in DC

**AARON ROBINOW** Nearly twenty Yeshiva University students joined over 12,000 other pro-Israel activists at American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)'s annual Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 2nd through 5th. The conference aims to further the mission of AIPAC – strengthening the United States-Israel relationship – by encouraging political activism. The conference is designed to be both educational, through various informative sessions, and inspirational. Conference highlights include speeches from Vice President Joe Biden, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu (via satellite), and a handful of members of Congress. The trip culminates with delegates traveling to Capitol Hill to lobby their members of Congress. For the very first time in the conference's history, AIPAC delegates met with every single Senator and Representative on the same day to lobby for the support of Israel.

The YU students were just a small fraction of the two thousand college students who attended the conference. Students from all fifty states were afforded scholarships as part of AIPAC's initiative to bring pro-Israel activism to college campuses. Many of the delegates from YU were awarded scholarships as part of the Friedman Scholars Program, made possible by Howard and Chaya Friedman of Baltimore. Howard Friedman is a current AIPAC Board Member and former President of the organization. Students also received scholarships as part of the Geller Student Government Association.

Students have the unique opportunity as part of AIPAC Policy Conference to interact with policy makers and influential leaders. Walking around the Senate halls, I ran into Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). I introduced myself and we shook hands. When I informed him that I'm a student at Yeshiva University, he told me

*continued on page 3*



Judith Frankiel

## LIKE This? Facebook Self-Sabotage

**HANNAH DREYFUS** I'm about ready to un-friend Facebook.

Think about it: if you had a friend who prattled on relentlessly about other people and their lives - every gory, finicky detail - wouldn't you get sick of it too?

Yes, we've all heard Facebook trashed and blamed for the downfall of mankind before. Social networking sites have been targeted for systematically denigrating the state of human relationships, atrophying our communication skills, and slackening our interpersonal intuitions irrevocably. And that's just a start.

But the focus of this article is not on how our new online mode of existence is destroying our relationships with others. I want to write about how we're letting this new medium destroy the relationship we have with ourselves.

You sit down on your bed, exhausted after a long afternoon. When, in days of yore, one might have spent the well-deserved break reading the

newspaper, perusing a book, or flipping through the channels on that now archaic talking-box, today



we have different relaxation rituals. Laptops or iPhones are adroitly whipped out of crisp cases,

and downtime is often spent scrolling numbly through other people's lives.

Let's be quite honest. How does perusing pictures of your ex's successful new relationship

or job make you feel? Her vacation looked awesome, didn't it? Feel like you missed out on that party you skipped because you had a paper—looks like you did. And, all those grad school acceptance letters your college buddies are receiving, while you're still anxiously awaiting your own—makes you feel downright peachy, don't it?

Now, I'm not accusing you of being an emotional miser. I do believe that someone is capable of being truly and whole-heartedly happy for another person. While it is a challenging emotional feat, especially for those things we most achingly and earnestly desire for ourselves, we can find the strength and faith within to smile sincerely for another, quietly reassuring ourselves that success is not a limited commodity, and life no race.

But it's not easy. And choosing, of our own volition, to constantly and religiously expose ourselves to the intimate details of others' lives seems, quite frankly, to be ruthless self-sabotage.

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## In Loving Memory of Sara Lamm Dratch

**RACHEL DELIA BENAIM** Good spirited. Fun. A warm smile. An infectious laugh. These are all terms used to describe the late Sara Lamm Dratch, a"n, who passed away on February 28th.

All those who encountered her knew Sara had an unparalleled and inspiring zest for life, and faced everything with a smile. As her husband, Rabbi Mark Dratch '79YC, '82RE, '82FG, mentioned at her levaya, for Sara, "life needed to be warm and fun," and she "met all challenges b'simcha."

The late Sara was loved by all those who knew her. Everyone had a kind word and a fun or funny memory to share about her. There were certain points at her levaya, which took place on Friday March first at the Young Israel of West Hempstead, where the attendees were actually cracking up because of certain "Saraisms" and memories that were hilarious, that they would miss.

Within a week of her passing, 686 people "liked" the Facebook Page "In Loving Memory of Sara Lamm Dratch" and were sharing funny and touching stories, pictures, and memories of Sara-- Sara in High School, Sara in Stern, Sara in Morasha, and just...Sara being Sara. As pointed out on the page by Sandy Weiner, "The irony of having a memorial page on Facebook for Sara Lamm Dratch is that she could barely figure out how to use Facebook!"

As a tribute to her and everything she's contributed to



Michael M Cohen

our larger community, we wish to pay tribute here to the woman who inspired us:

### In Stern

Daughter of previous YU Rosh HaYeshiva and current chancellor, Rabbi Dr. Norman '49YC, '51RE, '66BR, and Mindy Lamm, Sara had strong ties to the YU community. She herself was a SCW graduate of the class of 1982. A few classmates shared memories from that time on the Facebook group.

As we can all relate to, the dorm elevators are a nightmare. Well imagine this-- Arlette Cee recounts that once, she and Sara got stuck in the dorm elevator, sitting on the floor we ate ice cream & drank diet soda. "Sara's only worry was wondering which of our friends could lower more ice cream into the elevator through the trap door while they waited!" Anyone else would have been annoyed, but not Sara--she just had fun with it!

In Morasha, anu bnei morasha, ba- bababa

Sara also had deep roots in Camp Morasha as do many Stern and YC students. She spent quite literally almost every summer since she was born there. She met her husband, Rabbi Mark Dratch, there too. Sara was very much a pivotal member of the Morasha family. She personally made my Morasha experience as well as many of my contemporaries' experiences what it was, and we'd like to share w few of those memories here.

Becca Eckstein, a SCW senior fondly recalls, "Coming down to the lake was always exciting. Seeing Sara sitting in her chair and using the megaphone and cracking everyone

up was always a highlight of my day."

Allison Liebman Rubin fondly remembers her summer working on the life guard staff: "I worked with Sarah on the Girls waterfront, and I will always remember her with a huge smile, a contagious laugh, enabling kids to have fun. She used to drive the motorboat so campers could go tubing and banana boating, and it was no surprise that tubing became the campers' favorite activity."

Ariella Perl fondly recalls how Sara brightened up her summers: "The only word that comes to mind when I hear Sara Dratch is amazing. She was an all around amazing person. I knew Sara from camp Morasha. From when I was a camper all the way through my staff summers, I remember Sara having always made the Girls Waterfront a place where everyone wanted to hang out. Sara had the best job in camp-- she got to drive the motorboat! Sara was also always dressed up in some costume or another and was always having just a generally good time, always smiling and laughing."

I had the privilege of having her daughter, Yolly Dratch, as my camper, and I have to say, like mother like daughter. Yolly was the life of the bunk always making everyone crack up. I could tell from the few interactions I had with Sara as her daughter's counselor that she was so proud of her.

Sara, Camp Morasha will miss you."

As recounted by Juliet Gerber, a fellow Morasha'er, "Each summer as campers in Camp Morasha, we encountered the vivaciousness and humor of Sara Lamm Dratch each day on the waterfront. Despite our debilitating fear of the lake and what lies beneath, we always found comfort in Sara seated nearby in her beach chair encouraging scared swimmers to keep trying. Seven or so years later, as upgraded from campers to staff, Sara would treat us to rides on the motor boat with her and take us out on the banana boat into the lake. We've grown older and wiser since then but memories of Sara and her family in Camp Morasha will always be a part of us. Upon hearing the news, we collectively felt the sadness and loss that the entire Morasha family will always feel. Yehi Zichrah Brucha."

As a member of that Sports' Staff, I can attest to Sara's contribution to Morasha. Sara was fun. She was joyous. She was always happy. Always walking around with the biggest smile on her face was enough to brighten anyone's day.

My first summer at Camp Morasha as a nitzki, I was 8 years old and didn't know anyone else going to camp. I was, naturally, nervous beyond belief. I was shy. Everyone seemed to know each other already...and that just made me even more nervous. Our first activity on our first day at camp was swim. At the lake. Now, for those of you unfamiliar with the Morasha Lake, it's FREEZING, gooey, and generally awesome. We were given the general introduction to the waterfront by Chaye, as Sara just kind of sat there, smiling, watching us.

Then Sara got up and told us we were going to be broken up for swim tests to be placed into our swim groups for the summer.

I was in Sara's test group.

"Rachel Benaim," she read off of the list. She looked at me and just laughed--is your father from Gibraltar!? She exclaimed. I stammered, uh, yes... "Chaye, Chaye come here!" she called. They preceded to spend the next 5 minutes reminiscing about memories they had with my father when they were all in YU. They told me about his "outrageous yet stylish" hats, his "weird" minhagim like carrying the matzah over his shoulder (with which I was all too familiar), and general funny stories.

That was my first taste of Morasha --even in a place completely foreign to me, Sara made me feel at home. She made me feel welcome. Even through all my nerves and worries, she made me laugh. I made friends at the waterfront that day because of Sara, because she made me finally crack a smile.

I have to say, it's because of that, the fact that she broke

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Founded by the women of Yeshiva University's Stern College in 1953, *The Observer* is the official newspaper representing the student body of Stern College and Yeshiva University. *The Observer* is an independent student publication, self-funded, and published on a monthly basis throughout the academic year. Views expressed in *The Observer* are those of the writer's and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board or the student body, faculty, and administration of Yeshiva University. All *Observer* content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted without permission.



## Egypt And Israel Plagued By The Eighth Plague

**YAELE LASSON** The first week in March was reminiscent of the eighth plague from the Passover story as locusts swarmed into Israel from Egypt in biblical proportions.

The country was put on locust alert as the bugs, sometimes bird-like in size, crossed the Egyptian border in droves. The swarms of insects first appeared in Cairo on March 2nd and have been passing through to Israel ever since. The locusts first hit Qadesh Barnea, the site where the Jews encamped after they left Egypt. Israel's Negev desert was most heavily attacked, but the locusts have traveled with the wind and reached central and northern Israel, even as far as Herzliya, Caesarea, and the Golan Heights.

The agricultural devastation is the foremost concern. Farmers are most concerned about the effect that the locusts can have on their crops, potentially causing millions in damage. The Agriculture Ministry immediately sent employees to spray pesticides to kill the locusts both by air and by ground in an effort to prevent any further damage. Hotlines have been set up for farmers to report swarms and address any questions they have about dealing with the insects and all of the repercussions for their harvests. In the Sinai Region, both Egypt and Israel are concerned with the aftermath of the infestation. "One swarm of locusts can gobble up 100,000 tons of crops," projected Nader Nouredin, an agricultural expert in the area, which is "an amount sufficient to feed 500,000 people for a whole year." While the pesticides should be a beneficial preventive measure, many fear the heavy spraying will adversely affect the wildlife in the process.

However, while many see the locusts as a timely second wave of a plague, others have been enjoying the insects as edible delicacies. Eccentric chefs and locust enthusiasts have argued that the bugs are kosher and have been serving them up in

obscure, gourmet dishes such as salads, risottos, and pastas. Many Rabbis have spoken out against the recent trend claiming that although there is precedent in Jewish texts that locusts were once eaten, the practice is controversial because there is no confirmation that these are the same insects from that time. "We are not familiar with their names and marks and have no clear tradition regarding it," Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef said on Wednesday. "Communities with a tradition of eating locusts allow it but most of the people in Israel don't and we cannot rely on the marks, even when it's called locust."

While the Agriculture Ministry has reassured all farmers and citizens of the affected areas that everything is under control, many still cannot fathom the irony of the timing and geographic details of the locusts swarms. With Pesach approaching, many may read the Haggadah and feel disconnected from the events that occurred. As the commandment goes, "one must see himself as though he left Egypt." It is most definitely hard to imagine slavery, wild frogs, and intense darkness, but the locusts currently invading Israel may help many fulfill this commandment at their seder by vividly experiencing an element of the eighth plague.



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# NEWS

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## Changes in Make-Up Exam Charge Policy

**MELISSA ADLER** Students who had been charged twenty dollars for each final make-up exam they took in January were pleasantly surprised by an email from the Stern College administration just a few weeks ago. The email informed them that they are being refunded for their payment of multiple exams and are now only being charged a flat rate for their tests. The policy moving forward will be a flat rate per student, even for those taking multiple make-up exams. For this past semester, the rate was twenty dollars, although the administration is considering reducing the rate to its previous price of fifteen dollars.

According to Dr. Katz, the administration reevaluated the policy, because it was seen by students as a hardship. "The policy was never meant to be punitive or in some way overly burdensome. It was just a token of the extra administrative effort," said Katz, continuing, "If it is imposing an undue hardship--and for a student taking 3-4 make up exams this can most certainly be the case--then the policy needs to be reconsidered in light of what was originally intended."

In recognizing that the additional fees make a difference for people taking more than one exam and hearing complaints about the fees, the administration reevaluated this policy. They also found older forms indicating that the policy had once been a flat rate, and decided to revert back to the original.

A new document is in the process of being formalized that will have space for students to

list all of the exams they will need to make up. In order to streamline the process, students with minimal make-up exams will be given a date to take the test, and in order to ensure academic integrity, multiple students taking the same make-up exams will be required to take it at the same time.

Orly Benaderet, SCW '13, made up five finals last semester and so was happy to receive a refund for the multiple exams she had to make up. She also appreciates the timely manner in which the issue was dealt with. "After the article came out and people were informed, a week later, we received emails to pick up refunds. I was happy that the university did really care about the situation and that it didn't go unheard. The fact that the newspaper publicized this issue that students weren't aware of helped the problem be solved in a more positive light," explained Benaderet.

The fact that YU students are reading school newspapers and expressing concerns about issues that affect the student body helps spread awareness and can create change.

According to Dean Bacon, the newspaper is very valuable, because it is "a vehicle for information. Often people aren't aware of opportunities that are available and of the goings-on in which they can be involved." With an overload of information and announcements, Dean Bacon believes that students are more inclined to read what other students have to say, and the newspaper serves the important function of "student-to-student communication."

## Student Life Tweets

**ESTIE HIRT**, Student Life Liaison for Communications and Public Affairs

Repulsed by and scared about the smell in the Beit Midrash? #pesachcleaning #carpetshampoo #hopeitsNOTmold #kavodtorah

Don't worry, only the Starbucks coffee prices have gone up! #cheapcoffee245 #midtermsinsomnia #needCOFFEE #weallmakemistakes

Internet is spotty because of Sandy - but improvements are on their way! #thanksITS #5monthsago #stormneverends

Waitresses WILL be paid! #payday #shoppingspree #somuchchulent

Feminine products to be placed in the bathrooms of both buildings! #girlproblems #thankshousing #nomoresurprises #wegotyouback

Congratulations to the Career Center on their award! #womeninbusiness #couldntbeprouder

17 passenger shuttle is back! #localsarelocals #shidduchshuttle #nomoresubway

## Students Showcase Pro-Israel Advocacy At AIPAC Policy Conference in DC



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that on his recent visit to Israel just a few weeks ago he met Americans studying at Yeshiva University's Israel campus in Jerusalem. We shared experiences about our time in Israel, in which he remarked, "I could live in Tel Aviv," but as the dialogue ensued, he retraced in favor of Jerusalem. I encouraged him to continue to lead the pursuit of pro-Israel policy in Washington and we took a quick photo. This was only one of many student interactions with congressional members.

A large majority of delegates at the conference are not Orthodox; many delegates are not Jewish at all. AIPAC has taken the initiative to attract Americans of all sorts to join the pro-Israel lobby. The spectrum of delegates gave YU students the opportunity to interact with others and learn about Israel support outside of their typical network. This year AIPAC recruited and ran sessions specifically targeting the Evangelical, African-American and Latino communities. Friedman Scholar Malkie Krieger (SCW, '13) commented, "The turn-out of non-Jewish supporters

at this past policy conference astounded and amazed me. Their sheer numbers and their outspoken voices made me, as a religious Jew, so much more hopeful for the future of Israel."

AIPAC has a record of ensuring that their stance on policy and support for Israel remains a bipartisan effort. AIPAC drew criticism for its resolve to remain bipartisan and stay silent on Former Senator Chuck Hagel's nomination for Secretary of Defense. Republicans have criticized Chuck Hagel for previous remarks on Israel and AIPAC itself.

Perhaps the toughest critic of Hagel who showcased his discontent for Hagel was Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) who spoke in a panel about AIPAC's American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), that sends key leaders to visit Israel. Upon one questioner's commandment of Cruz's tough stance on the Hagel nomination, Cruz received a full minute-long standing ovation from the crowd. Cruz shared a common sentiment conveyed by Republicans over the weekend that they are "hopeful" Hagel is successful in his new post yet remain concerned.



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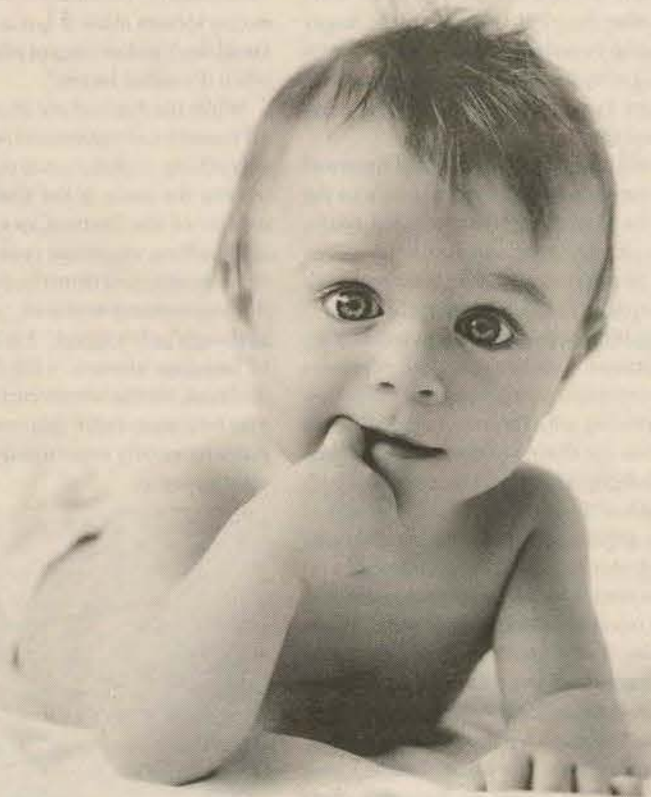
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## A Legend In Our Midst: Student Profile of Helen Unger

**Yael Farzan** Helen Unger, a graduating senior renowned for her research in biology, was recognized on December 16th, 2012 as one of Yeshiva University's eight 2012 "Points of Light." Unger, hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, took a few minutes to sit down with The Observer and reflect on this experience.

She graciously sat behind the cash register working at the 29th street cafeteria store from 7 PM until midnight as we sat and chatted. "Still gotta pay the bills!" she laughed.

We spent a few minutes discussing the gala affair, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, at which she received the award, where the eight "Points of Light" (who, in the words of President Joel, "shine brightly" as the "exemplars of the past, present and future of Yeshiva University") were honored in front of approximately 500 guests. Bedecked in a flowing purple gown, Unger was invited on stage by President Richard Joel to light the symbolic first candle of the menorah alongside her research mentor, Dr. Marina Holz.

Just a few highlights from Unger's impressive resume include working at Sloan-Kettering, where she investigated cytokine interactions of Natural Killer cells as part of the 2012 Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), interning at Bar-Ilan University to investigate alternate genetic expression in of the bacterium *P.aeruginosa*, and working in the Department of Otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to research the epigenetic regulation of prostate cancer.

Although Unger's presence as a young scientist has graced labs all around the world, her first—and one of her longest—research involvements has been at the laboratory in her own backyard: Yeshiva University. Under the esteemed tutelage of Dr. Marina Holz, Unger has been studying the molecular mechanisms of breast cancer for three academic years. She started her research experience within a month of coming to the Stern



*blogs.yu.edu*

campus, at age seventeen. "One of the coolest things about Stern, and one of the reasons I'm so happy that I came here, is that the faculty are just so approachable," she commented. For my benefit, she described her work in laymen's terms: "In our research, we're attempting to answer two questions about breast cancer: What drives breast cancer proliferation and survival? And what makes it resistant to conventional therapies? Once we answer these questions and realize what's abnormal about these breast cancer tumors, we can design therapies, drugs, and treatments to fix it."

The recipient of the 2010 Toby Eagle Memorial Scholarship in Cancer Biology, as well as the American Association for Cancer Research's Thomas J. Bardos Award, Unger has published her notable findings in prestigious scientific journals such as *Oncogene* and presented her work at the 2012 AACR Annual Meeting. "I love research," Unger explains, "because I really like the idea of asking a question and devising a plan in order to be able to answer the question yourself."

Unger is also the first ever YU student to receive the Thomas Bardos Science Education Award for

Undergraduate Students.

Though Unger, in my eyes at least, seems like the next Albert Einstein, I immediately sense her down-to-earth attitude and friendly nature within just a few minutes of observing her interact with the myriad of students craving midnight snacks. I silently watched as the energetic girl in a denim skirt and no-nonsense ponytail sat with her laptop at the cashier's desk, chatting with customers.

"I love your new hair color," Unger complimented a blonde friend, and they engaged in animated chatter as Unger rang up her two sodas, gum, and some candy. Another girl commented on the ring glinting on Unger's finger, and it is only then that I realized that Unger was, among other noteworthy things, engaged. I congratulated her enthusiastically, and she gave me a wry grin. "President Joel decided to announce my engagement on stage in front of all the dignitaries last night, and he especially remembered to proudly mention that it was to a YU alum." She rolled her eyes but smiled. Her fiancé, she explained, is a Yeshiva University graduate who is currently completing his Masters in Computer Science at Columbia University.

Overhearing the interview-turned-roundtable conversation, another shopper stops to join in. "I saw you in the paper," she calls out to Unger. "With your picture and everything!" Unger, clearly not realizing the extent of her fame even within the walls of YU, stops ringing up the girl's candy and widens her eyes. "Are you serious? Really? Where?" The girl nods, whips out her smartphone, and starts reading from the article on the YU blog ("Points of Light Shine") detailing the notable honorees at the Chanukah dinner. Unger is incredulous. "Wow," she said. "Oh my gosh; is this on the YU homepage?!" Another petite sophomore nods vigorously. "When I read it, I was like, 'Hey! This is Unger from the caf store!' You're famous!"

Hoping to re-grasp some semblance of a formal interview, I ask Unger to tell me a little about her background. Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, Unger grew up in a Reform environment until she became Orthodox on her own in high school. As an early-admissions "true" freshman, her new religious values were in harmony with that of the Stern student body and administration, an environment, which she was happy to be part of.

"I wanted to go somewhere where I could be myself and be more Jewish," she says of her decision to choose Yeshiva University. In fact, to her, her remarkable journey as a baalat teshuva is equally—if not more—significant in her life than her many scientific accomplishments. Unger—modestly covered in a maroon sweater, black shell, and skirt, explained, "When I came to Stern, I barely knew how to read Hebrew. Now, though, it's so empowering for me to sit in class and be able to discuss the scholarly disparities between Rambam and Raviya, and Bavli and Yerushalmi, when I barely knew an alef from a bet just a few years ago."

I then asked about her favorite classes at Stern. "In the Judaic Studies department," she responded, "Women in Halacha: I learned so much about halachic discourse and the disparities between chachmei Ashkenaz and chachmei Sefarad, so it was an incredibly eye-opening and enriching experience."

Her favorite secular class, on the other hand, is Organic Chemistry.

Unger hopes to pursue her PhD in Molecular Biology, and thus far has been accepted to three prestigious New York City programs. Unger and her fiancé, to be wed this summer, will surely have another big decision to make when the decision deadlines roll around, but there is no doubt that any and ever of Unger's options are admirable.

We look forward to see Unger's greatness flourish.

# FEATURES

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## A Password Free Future?

**JACKIE BENAYOUN** The era of passwords is coming to a close. Researchers at Google are exploring new authentication technologies for email, and for other password-requiring media. Perhaps for those of us who have had our emails hacked in the past, this stirs more interest. Regardless, companies are working towards employing better technologies for protecting our data, until one day the password will become as archaic as the BlackBerry.

At the same time, security experts and analysts believe that the future beyond password technology won't be completely devoid of passwords. The password will continue; it just won't be the sole means of security. According to Jeremy Grant, the head of the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace, a government organization, "Most people will move away from relying on passwords as the only means of authentication."

In the future, analysts predict, emails will require a two-step authentication system, which combines a password and a constantly changing code sent via-text. Possibly though, authentication might contain a more personalized component, depending on the type of information we're trying to protect. But the password will still be present.

The question is how fast this new system will spread. It may be more tedious for the average user to remember extra codes and figures. It will definitely be more time consuming; although for some, the hassle is worth the protection it provides. Because of the perceived annoyance, it might take longer for the multi-step authentication to be accepted. Phone verification via text doesn't sound too far off though. Most people always have their cell at hand, and smartphones are pretty secure with touch screen codes of their own. The possibilities, however, extend beyond texting. Google, for example, has an Authenticator app that generates the code needed for the second part of authentication, changing the password every 10 seconds. Other companies are working with push notification technology, the alerts that pop up on smartphones. "You enter a username, the app pops up on your phone, asking you to push the green button or to push the red button," Grant explained. "Suddenly instead of having to carry an extra card, it's just an app on your smartphone."

Another possibility revolves around the computer's ability to recognize its user. "The system to just be able to recognize that you're exhibiting behavior that is you," said Grant. Banks already have a similar system in place, alerting the account owner and blocking the credit card if a transaction was made from an unfamiliar location.

"There are companies that have been out there for years, looking at things like key strokes as biometrics," mentions Grant. For example, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is researching that "keystroke dynamics" idea, an idea that relies upon an individual's unique manner and rhythm for typing. Measurements available from virtually every keyboard can be recorded to determine Dwell time (the time a key pressed) and Flight time (the time between "key up" and the next "key down"); and the recorded keystroke timing data is then processed to determine a primary pattern for future comparison. "Or with touch screens, you might have a certain pattern that you tend to use," Grant adds. Instead of an

app, companies might require a voice, facial, or eye-scan recognition.

Just like we carry keys to our house, we may begin to need something more tangible - like a card - to access our online data. At least that's the future that the Google inventors foresee; "The primary authenticator will be a token like this or some equivalent piece of hardware." Of course the idea isn't too radical; these types of authentication already exist. For government jobs, employees are often required to use a card to sign-in. The major problem would naturally be, what would happen if you lose it? That might mean being temporarily cut-off from accessing any online data.

In any case, passwords are still the first step. So even in what seems like a promising "password-less future," there is still no complete escape from the password. Now that that's established, here are some important tips on selecting the "right password" and protecting your data from professional hackers. These tips are brought to you by Alex Horan, a product manager for CORE Security:

1) Choose unique passwords for the important stuff, like bank accounts. Choose a different password for each account, and compartmentalize them so they're easier to remember.

2) Forget about choosing a password, come up with a passphrase. A password may seem hard to guess, because it combines a well-thought out series of letters, numbers and symbols. The truth is, such passwords aren't impenetrable, especially if a computer program does hyper speed password guessing in a "brute force attack." A passphrase, on the other hand, consists of a string of words, like song lyrics or book titles. For longer passphrases, "brute force attacks" are much less of an issue, since each additional character makes it exponentially more difficult for a computer to crack. For example, on average, it takes 306 days for an eleven character password to be cracked but 18,976.5 days for a twelve character password to be cracked. Longer may be better, but harder to remember if you're using a nonsensical code. That's why passphrases work - because they're more memorable.

3) Rethink usernames. Hackers don't generally search for multiple email addresses that have the same password, but hope the username-password combo match elsewhere. So don't think passwords, but rethink usernames. For example, for LinkedIn, have linkedin.Yourname@gmail.com, instead of the standard YourName@gmail.com.

4) Use Gmail because it allows it to appear as if you have multiple email addresses when you don't. For example, the email address YourName@gmail.com can also use the following logins: YourName+LinkedIn@gmail.com and YourName+facebook@gmail.com and YourName+Twitter@gmail.com, etc. All those email address will work, and they will all come to your inbox.

5) Don't trust random websites; it's like locking important stuff up behind something that's about as secure as childproof medicine caps. If you're not sure about the authenticity of a website, don't enter your valuable information in it. No coupon or free movie download is worth identity theft. Better to be safe than to have your info hacked.



## The New MCAT (And Why You Should Care)

**KATE ROSENBLATT** Starting in the year 2015, pre-medical students will be taking the new MCAT. Pre-medical advisors, faculty, and students are just beginning to learn about the contents of the new exam, which will be 2.5 hours longer than the current one, for a total of 6 hours of testing. The new exam includes a section on the social and behavioral sciences, called "Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior." This portion of the exam is intended to increase awareness within the medical community of the social, cultural, and behavioral factors that profoundly influence health, prescribed treatments, and disease outcomes. The new exam will also include biochemistry in the biological sciences section, as well as a wider range of topics from the social sciences and humanities in the verbal reasoning section, which will have a new name, "Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills." Additionally, the Writing Sample section will not be included in the exam, a decision that has already been implemented for the 2013 MCAT.

For students, the only information here that is probably not unnerving is the absence of the Writing Sample. However, the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) website provides helpful suggestions that will prepare students for the additional knowledge required to perform well on the new exam. First-semester biochemistry, introductory psychology, and introductory sociology are strongly recommended. While some students may find this especially daunting to complete on top of the required pre-medical courses, it is helpful to realize that many medical schools currently require or strongly recommend these courses for admission. Additionally, these courses can fulfill social science or elective requirements for the undergraduate degree.

As far as taking the MCAT goes, all these changes do not affect me at all. I have already taken the MCAT and I have already applied to medical school. However, the implications of the new exam profoundly affect all physicians and physicians-to-be regardless of the stage they are up to in pursuing their medical careers. As a former pre-med student that majored in Psychology, I have taken a keen interest to the addition of the behavioral sciences section on the new exam.

Behavioral science is the study of the activities and interactions among organisms, and includes the studies of psychology, sociology, and biology. A look at the AAMC's "Preview Guide for the MCAT 2015 Exam" reveals that the "Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior" section covers a wide range of topics in the behavioral sciences. Similarly to the biological and physical sciences sections on the MCAT, the behavioral sciences section will have free-standing questions as well as several passages followed by passage-based questions. In the "Preview Guide," Sample Passage 1 of the behavioral sciences section discusses a study that was performed to assess patients' perceptions of vulnerability to acquiring skin cancer when older. Students should understand that a study such as this one may help the medical and scientific community determine people's tendency to exercise preventative health measures and adhere to prescribed treatments and lifestyle changes. Sample Passage 2 discusses the combined influence of genes, hormones, and socio-cultural patterns on alcohol dependence, while Sample Passage 3 discusses the effects of social Internet contacts on health-related behaviors such as maintaining a "diet diary." Subsequent passages and free-standing questions address topics of memory, classical conditioning, Weber's Law, social change and upward mobility – the list goes on and on.

As a physician, it is crucial to realize that health is influenced by biological, behavioral, psychological, social, socioeconomic, religious, and cultural factors, which may vary from one group to another, and from person to person. Cultural contributions to various disease processes, patient perceptions of illness, and prescribed treatments became profoundly obvious to many American physicians during the late 19th and early 20th centuries when millions of people from all over the world gained passage to America through Ellis Island and other ports throughout the country, according to Alan M. Kraut in his book, *Silent Travelers*. America continues to grow more and more diverse, increasing the importance placed on addressing both biological and non-biological factors when making a diagnosis and prescribing a course of treatment.

The importance of addressing both biological and non-biological influences are introduced in an introductory psychology course where students learn that possessing a Type A personality, characterized by hostility and impatience, increases the risk of cardiovascular disease. Among a host of illnesses, cardiovascular disease has also been linked to epigenetics, a situation of altered gene expression in response to environmental signals. According to Moises Velasquez-Manoff in his book, *An Epidemic of Absence*, the Dutch Hunger Winter of 1944-'45 demonstrates this phenomenon quite dramatically. During the Dutch Hunger Winter, Nazi forces blockaded the

western Netherlands, causing famine in the region. Women who were pregnant during the mass starvation tended to birth smaller babies, who later had an increased risk for developing obesity and cardiovascular disease in adulthood. Scientists concluded that expression of genes coding for certain metabolic regulators was increased in these "famine fetuses" in order to prepare them for a world of scarcity. However, the conditions expected by their epigenome were not the plentiful conditions that they, in fact, encountered, predisposing this particular group to certain diseases. Not only is it important for physicians to address more immediate factors when assessing disease risk, such as physiological conditions or even personality characteristics, but it is also important to gather relevant information about the patient's environmental history.

Cultural factors can also influence diagnosis and treatment of disease. For example, culture is one factor that affects a patient's expression of pain according to the National Institutes of Health. Certain ethnic groups have a propensity for expressing pain more dramatically, while other ethnic groups are more prone to suffer silently. The Pokot people of Kenya are, perhaps, the most striking illustration of this point. They believe that stoicism in the face of pain is most honorable, while expression of pain is demoralizing and shameful. Female genital mutilation, performed on adolescent girls as a mark of womanhood, is a common practice within the Pokot community. Although this violent ritual is extremely painful, the Pokot women are strongly encouraged to show endurance and conceal their pain, something I learned during a speech delivered by a former classmate in "Speech Communication." While this is an extreme example, expression of pain still varies between different cultures, and there is a risk that patients may go untreated depending on how pain is expressed by the patient and perceived by the physician. Physicians should be aware of these cultural differences to ensure that their perceptions are true to what the patient is actually experiencing.

The ability to cultivate a successful therapeutic relationship and effectively treat different populations requires an understanding that different cultures perceive health and disease processes differently. For example, according to the National Institutes of Health, dementia is perceived differently among various cultural groups. African Americans tend to attribute dementia to lifelong hardship and stress, whereas Asian cultures tend to perceive the disease as a result of "internal imbalances" and "lack of harmony." The Asian perception of disease causation may stem from religious beliefs, according to one study that investigated the Asian patient population. According to Taoism, a philosophical and religious tradition that has influenced many Asian cultures, everything in the universe, including the human body, is composed of two forces, the yin and the yang. Asian groups influenced by Taoism tend to view disease as a result of imbalances between these two forces. A physician who understands religious and cultural differences in perception of disease origin is more likely to cultivate the therapeutic relationship that is necessary for successful treatment.

This point became more apparent to me after I recently spoke to a primary care physician who treats many Hasidic patients in a Brooklyn clinic. He wanted to prescribe a particular medication to a young, married, Hasidic woman. Knowing, however, that the medication could be harmful to a fetus, the physician asked her if she was pregnant. She refused to answer the question. According to the doctor, she was reluctant to reveal the pregnancy as that would violate the Hasidic code of personal modesty. Nearly all Hasidic sects view secular education as a threat to their traditional values. In order to protect their children from its harmful influences, they have established their own schools where secular studies are offered, but hardly given equal importance to the religious subjects. There is careful supervision and censorship of textbooks in the classroom to ensure that subject matter does not conflict with religious beliefs. In addition to the heavy constraints placed on secular education in Hasidic schools, the overwhelming majority of Hasidim do not pursue any form of higher education. Without any solid background in secular education, the Hasidic patient naturally chose traditional beliefs over common medical protocol. As a physician, it is important to recognize the influence of religion on perceptions of health and illness and to respond appropriately to a diverse population of different belief systems.

There are many other psychological and behavioral factors that affect health and disease such as depression, chronic stress, and risk behaviors such as tobacco use and alcohol consumption. It is crucial that physicians elicit information during the medical interview regarding such factors when assessing a patient's health. It might be necessary to refer the patient to other professionals more equipped to treat these aspects of health with psychological therapy, recommendations for appropriate lifestyle changes, or methods of behav-

ioral modification such as conditioning. Physicians should also be aware that affective disorders are often accompanied by physical pains, aches, and fatigue, a phenomenon known as somatization. According to the National Institutes of Health, anxiety and depression are among the most common affective disorders that go undiagnosed by physicians who fail to make this mind-body connection.

A solid background in psychology, sociology, and behavioral science is clearly a tremendous asset to any physician's practice of medicine. However, a solid background is not enough. Studies suggest that a physician's attitude toward psychosocial contributors to health will determine the quality of care they provide. A physician who disregards the influences of stress, family values, job-related pressures, or racial and ethnic differences may risk an ineffective and uncomfortable therapeutic relationship as well as neglect of some important aspects of the patient's health.

The new MCAT, particularly the behavioral sciences section, is designed to impress upon students that treating the physical symptoms of disease go hand-in-hand with addressing the patient's emotions, concerns, behaviors, and surrounding environment. While many students may view the new MCAT as another obstacle in the way of achieving their professional goals, it is worthwhile to approach the new version of the exam as an opportunity to learn the ways of being a better physician.

## Healthy And Enjoyable?

**SHLOMIT KAHAN** Whenever there is food around, you are bound to hear one person announce that he or she is on a diet. They may have a good reason to be on a diet. However, this gets everyone else thinking that they need to go on a diet as well. This can often cause people to become paranoid about what they eat. This significantly detracts from the enjoyment of eating. They will be nervous to eat anything that has too many calories, or too many carbs etc., and their diet will then consist of foods that they do not enjoy eating. Elyn Satter, a registered dietician, believes that when enjoyment is taken out of eating, nutrition deteriorates. On her website she writes, "Surveys show that when the joy goes out of eating, nutrition suffers." Nutrition is about eating right, but it is also about enjoying what you eat. Satter suggests a few ways to maintain a healthy diet while not becoming too paranoid about food. She says that every individual should eat until they feel satisfied. This can be achieved by having set eating times, cooking something you will enjoy eating, and paying attention while eating.

Another way of maintaining a healthy diet without becoming paranoid is by having planned snacks throughout the day, not just the rigid three meals a day. Without snacks, one may overeat at those meals, since they starved themselves the rest of the day. Having healthy snacks spaced throughout the day enables a person to enjoy eating the entire day.

These snacks should be planned ahead of time. When thinking of a snack to eat, one automatically assumes that it is a food item that can be eaten on the go. This method of "eating on the go" takes away from the enjoyment of the food. If one has a snack that requires them to sit down and eat it, they will be able to focus on their food and further enjoy what they are eating. Examples of these kinds of snacks are apples and peanut butter, cookies and milk, and carrots and hummus. Sitting down and making a mini-meal out of snacks creates great enjoyment.

How do you get kids to enjoy the healthy foods they should eat? The parents are the examples for the rest of the family; once someone learns to enjoy what they eat, they should pass the skill on to their family. If they eat the foods on the table, their children might want to mimic them and eat those foods as well. There should be a few different options at every meal. It is preferable to have at least one dish from each food group on the table. If a child refuses to eat something, forcing them to eat the food is counterproductive. Satter writes, "Children generally need to be offered a food five to twenty times- or even more- before they learn to enjoy it."

Paying attention to what you eat can be both good and bad. Focusing too closely can cause resentment towards eating. Paying attention to calories causes a lot of unnecessary stress, reducing the joy of eating. It's important to remember that while eating a healthy meal or snack, it is important to take time to enjoy. Enjoyment should not sit on the sideline!

(Information adapted from [elynsatter.com](http://elynsatter.com))



# The Two State Solution: A Different Kind Of Dream

**TALIA FELMAN** Just a few days after the Israeli victory in the Six Day War in June 1967, Amos Oz, still in army uniform, strolled down the newly captured streets of East Jerusalem. While most of his fellow fighters were reveling in their triumph, Oz was already entertaining the idea of advocating for a two-state solution. He could not celebrate because he believed the pre-1967 borders would be the home of peace for Israelis and Palestinians. Often in the chase after something, we end up running far away from it. In the chase after peace in 1967, Oz has long said that the Israelis ended up running in the opposite direction.

Forty-six years later, Amos Oz still believes that the very borders Israel tried to shed in the Six Day War will one day be their salvation. Now one of the most famous and controversial Israeli novelists and intellectuals, Oz continues to campaign for his genre of peace. However, unlike in his younger days when he fought with a machine gun, Oz has matured to use an arguably more powerful weapon: his words. After going to the army, Oz began to write. Since then, he hasn't stopped.

The thrust of Oz's political conviction is this: forcing enemies to live together in one state is like forcing a dysfunctional family to share the same roof. It will not lead to peace. Thus, the key to the locked doors of peace is to divide the house into two smaller ones. Oz believes that the current realities necessitate a compromise. Yes, compromise is difficult, and Oz understands that.

"There is no such thing as a happy compromise," Oz says. But, as unhappy as compromise may be, it is realistic just the same. Thinking that refusing compromise will result in peace would be a fantasy; the alternative to compromise is doom.

Politicians don't realize that the alternative to compromise is not idealism and integrity. In a short anecdote, Oz shares, "I live in the desert in Arad. Every morning at 5 a.m., I start my day by taking a walk before sunrise. I inhale the silence. I take in the breeze, the silhouettes of the hills. I walk for about 40 minutes. When I come back home, I turn on the radio and sometimes I hear politicians using words like 'never' or 'forever' or 'for eternity'- and I know that the stones out in the desert are laughing at him." Nature understands man's transience better than man ever will. Conflict that begins in the hearts and minds of people will not be solved beyond the horizon in some valley of vanishing Arabs, but rather in some ground in the middle, in compromise.

As a novelist, Oz's basic doctrine is that of the open-endedness of humans, which is to say that besides for being able to surprise others, humans are most apt at surprising themselves. As an optimist, Oz still has hopes for the Israeli government. The boldness of humanity can bring peace. Israel was a dream, Oz notes. Now, Israel is a realized dream, a dream our grandparents never would have imagined. It is the same dream that currently prods us to end the fixation on the ideal and become more concerned with reality.

Oz concludes, "The disappointment is not in the nature of Israel, it is in the nature of dreams."

Oz's liberal form of Zionism may run counter to the beliefs with which many of us have grown up. As Jews, we are a people who dare to believe, to defy logic, and have faith that if we sacrifice enough, dreams can come true. Liberal Zionism, however, teaches us something different about the nature of dreams. Israel has justified her battle wounds and emotional scars of the wars since the Six Day War by the hope of achieving the impossible: one state, indivisible, and peaceful. There is a reason, however, that they say that only in his dreams can man be truly free. It's because the limitations of this world will always find their way to infringe upon our boundless visions. Unless we have the courage to dream within the confines of our reality, we are not giving our dreams a fair chance. Perhaps, for Zionists, the

dream of a Jewish homeland has already been achieved, and now it is time to sacrifice not for the sake of fantasy, but for the sake of compromise.

In light of the recent elections, President Obama's upcoming visit to Israel, and our ongoing fight for peace, it may be worth taking a moment to ponder Oz's perspective. Even if we do not fully embrace his vision, Oz begs us to ask a serious question: Can dreams really come true?

Maybe not, but they sure can be convincing

## Puzzle Corner:

One of the major projects I have before Pesach is to clean my dorm room. Of course, considering the normal state of my room, this project is easier said than done. In order to be more organized about it, I made a list for myself of the different places in my room which I should check. Unfortunately, my roommate found the list and decided to make things more difficult for me, putting my list into code. Thankfully, she told me that each letter represented the letter that comes seven before it in the alphabet. Can you help me fix my list, so that everything can be cleaned before the dorms close? Happy solving!

- ILK
- KYHDLY
- ZOLSM
- JSVZLA
- KYLZZLY
- ZPUR
- TLKPJPUL JHIPULA
- NHYIHN
- L JHU
- WVJRLAZ
- MSVVY
- ZOVDLY

## In Loving Memory of Sara Lamm Dratch

*continued from page 1*

the Morasha tension for me, that I came back to Morasha the next summer and came to love Morasha.

Another memory that strikes me is two summers later, I remember one day we didn't have swim for whatever reason and a slip n slide was set up on the hill on girl's campus for us instead. All the staff members would walk by and

As Dodi Lee Lamm remembered on the FB group, "Need to find a good book to read? Sara always had a cache of books in her head to advise you and if she had it, she would lend it with open hands and open heart?" Because of my staff summer in 2008, I am able to attest to this memory. That summer, because of books, I really bonded with both Sara and Rabbi Dratch. Every week, I would go into the library to take out

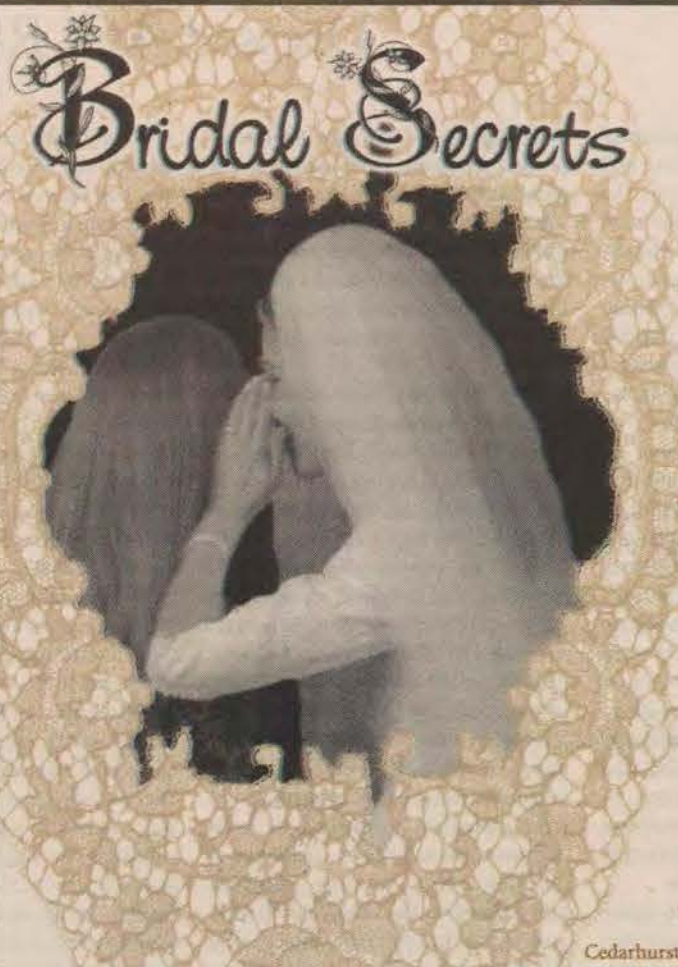


Yolly Dratch, Chaye Lamm Warburg, Peninoli Lamm, Lauren Dambro, Joshua Lamm -- having a fun day paintballing at Camp Morasha

half chuckle half smirk and us little girls slipping and sliding—and getting rather muddy in the process. Unlike all the other staff members, Sara got right into line and slipped and slid with us! She got all muddy and wet and loved every minute of it. She was cracking up as were all of us—sttilis at the time. That memory was definitely a highlight for my bunk that summer—remember when Sara Dratch slid down the slip and slide with us!?, we would all exclaim and then burst out in euphoric laughter.

another 7 books and as became ritual every week, they would have another list of recommendations for me. I will never be able to hear about Rabbi Elisha Ben Abuaya without thinking of As a Driven Leaf, a book that we discussed at length that summer.

Sara is survived by her four children, Tova, Yolly, Sam, and Bobby. What we're trying to say is on behalf of the YU Community, the Morasha Family, and everyone Sara has touched; we will miss you and won't forget you.



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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## In Search Of True Painting: A Matisse Review

**AIMEE RUBENSTEEN** I followed an expert around the exhibition of "Matisse: In Search of True Painting" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This tour guide was a bit shorter than usual and probably a few decades younger than I had expected. Her pigtailed emphasized her playfulness, but her comments noted her seriousness about Matisse, even though she was probably no older than nine.

This child's acuity is exactly the lens that artists like Matisse would have tried to look through when creating, viewing, and experiencing art. Her attention to the color's sensation and vibrancy was right on point. She explained that the early Matisse work reminded her of her paint dot markers. Even though she did not know the names of Cezanne, Signac, or Seurat, she could still experience what the artists tried to produce with their techniques. Whether the red dots and blue dots mixed in her vision to create purple was irrelevant. She was experiencing the sensation of painting, the true painting that Matisse strived to create his entire life.

Henri Matisse (1869–1954), an acclaimed painter in France, continually and repeatedly explored his artistic process. He challenged his own paintings by exploring different color and stylistic elements. The Met focuses on Matisse's progression by displaying his completed canvases as tools and opening up the galleries to the visual experience of the viewer. Unlike numerous other galleries that display many more paintings, this exhibit showed only forty-nine canvases, with up to just

four works spread out on each wall. The space enabled the paintings to breathe and speak to each other and to the viewer. This special attention to each canvas is the type of examination that Matisse would have demonstrated in his own studio. Each canvas showcases Matisse's intention, especially with the help of didactic wall texts.

When the child walked into the second gallery, she was confronted with three larger-than-life canvases of *Le Luxe*. Standing before three images of a naked woman, she was asked whether the sketch, second, or final version was her favorite. Disregarding their unclothed status, the little girl could not decide. She examined the three compositions and kept telling her mother which colors and lines she preferred from each painting, rather than choosing one in particular. As information provided by the Met states, Matisse "presented his ideas in a radical new way.

He had little interest in 'anatomical exactitude' and instead sought to convey the essential qualities of his figures." Matisse paid more attention to the form rather than the anatomy of the woman's body. I was convinced that the curatorial frame-

work enabled viewers to view the succession of images as a work of art inasmuch as each piece functioned independently. Like the child, I bonded with the image despite any inaccuracies in proportion, scale, and form.

The most impressive part of the exhibit was in the sixth gallery. When turning the corner, the room at first seems disjointed with the rest of the exhibit. Why are there photographs on a pedestal? Why is there a large blue skirt displayed? Why is there only one

Matisse painting in the entire room?! In dedicating a gallery to Matisse's progression of work for painting *The Large Blue Dress* (1937), the Met

reveals the important history during the painter's search for true painting. The museum information explains that Armenian photographer Matossian was hired to photograph and record Matisse's painting process. Each photograph renders a different stage in the process of painting his final version. Each stage differs slightly in both the rendering of details and the choice of shapes. Matisse "used the photographs as he worked, comparing them to the evolving painting in order to see whether he had advanced or regressed." It is especially interesting to note the detail Matisse had originally given to his model's skirt. The large blue skirt was sewn by his own model and assistant, Lydia Delectorskaya, and is displayed in the room. In making the skirt, Delectorskaya chose Matisse's favorite shade of blue. And yet, Matisse depicts the skirt in a different shade in the final canvas, and uses mere pencil-like lines to accentuate the cotton lace-trimmed ruffle. After closer observation of the skirt and photographs, the viewer can see the *The Large Blue Dress* painting through the eyes of the artist.

The exhibition successfully emphasizes the importance of Matisse's process, not only through the included writings, but also by enabling the viewers to experience it themselves. Matisse had a fervor that poured into his bold and bright paintings. While most may not have the opportunity to view the exhibit through the eyes of a child, every viewer is privy to observe the artistic process with the zest of a painter.



Aimee Rubenstein

## Dressed And Ready To Impress

**MICHAL KAPLAN NADEL** With a name like "Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity," the new exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art had a tall order to fill. After all, some Monet, gorgeous dresses, and a vague-yet-appealing term like "modernity" should be a pretty great combination. The title gave the exhibit a lot of hype and a lot to live up to, but somehow it far exceeded any of my expectations.

The exhibit, which opened on February 6th and is on its second stop after Paris before heading to Chicago, explores the closely-related ties between fashion and art. It is an extensive tour of Parisian fashion during the 19th century at a time when the fashion scene was erupting - the department store was on the rise, magazines began popping up, and ready-to-wear clothing was introduced. Each piece prominently displays the trends of the period, and the artist's care and precision in detailing the Parisian men and women's wardrobes; the works highlight the role fashion played during this time.

Encased in the middle of the multi-room exhibit is a total of 14 dresses that reflect those in the paintings, often matched by every intricate embroidered

detail and stitch. Although the dresses provide a tangible complement to the paintings, they did not captivate my attention as much as I thought they would. Instead I was drawn to the way the female subjects wore the gowns in the paintings, bringing them to life and modeling them with their grace and beauty.

More than just an emerald ball gown here and a patterned scarf there, the role of clothing was celebrated by the artists and was central to their work. "Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity" brings a constellation of outstanding Impressionist paintings to New York, and it seeks to situate them with a distinctively new context," comments Dr. Marnin Young, Assistant Professor of Art History at SCW. Young is taking his Impressionism Seminar students to the exhibit later in the month. "By focusing on the clothes worn in the pictures, and by juxtaposing them with historical examples of such costumes, the exhibition enriches our understanding of the subjects represented in the paintings. It also points to the broader significance of the paintings themselves within modern visual culture."

What is truly remarkable about this exhibit, and what will keep you there long past when you planned on staying, is the extensiveness of the collection. Starting in the countryside with Monet's two paneled *Luncheon on the Grass* and ending eight rooms later in the city with Caillebotte's *Paris Street; Rainy Day*, every aspect of French fashion is touched upon. In between, many other greats make an appearance - Tissot, Manet, and Degas among others. With a room devoted to white dresses, another solely to black ones, and another to menswear, there are no loose threads left hanging. A room with accessories displays corsets, slippers, and hats, among other staples that completed a woman's stylish appearance. Quotes on the walls mixed in among the paintings are insightful bits that, along with displays of fashion books of the time, provide a well-rounded view of the way fashion has a hand in guiding history.

The paintings and clothing displays will whisk you away on a journey--one fashionable woman at a time--that will leave you wanting to tie your corset, grab your parasol (some gorgeous black lace ones are featured) and stroll the

streets of Paris circa 1880. Your expectations will not be let down. Go catch this exhibit before May 27th and let yourself be taken over by those three powerful words--Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity.



Suzanne Dechillo



## Hendrik Kerstens: The Daughter With The Pearl Eyes

**JOANNA ROSS TASH** To photograph a family member, whether recreationally or artistically, is not a foreign practice to those behind a lens. For the Dutch photographer Hendrik Kerstens, photographing his daughter Paula has been the body of his work for the past 17 years. The project has been widely seen and well-received across the globe. The images of his daughter are strikingly simple and not easily forgotten. Kerstens' photography reflects a clear dialogue between the art of painting and the art of photography. He makes this clear bridge between the grand historic past and present art world by producing photographs in the style of an old Dutch master painting. Kerstens is clear about his intentions with his work. He states, "It's a way for me to shake up the concept of time. I'm taking someone today with modern tastes and portraying her in the style of 17th-century artists." In much of the collection, Paula is seen in a three-quarters view, showing only her torso. In almost every photograph, Paula is wearing some sort of head covering and taking on a type of character resembling the work of an old Dutch master. Each photograph takes on a dark and dramatic tone, but finds humor in the use of costume.

Chiaroscuro is the treatment of light and dark in painting and drawing. Certain painting masters such as Rembrandt are known for their skillful rendering of this technique, especially in the genre of portraiture. Kerstens' photographic endeavor takes on the effect of classical Dutch subject matters with a focus on strong chiaroscuro to produce painterly effects. He effectively finds the tension of two mediums to demonstrate fluidity between the past and present. Kerstens adorns his daughter in dark clothing and places her in front of a similarly dark background. He illuminates her face through manipulated studio lighting, revealing her milky skin and blue eyes. Paula stares, deadpan, out at the viewer. Her look is unforgettable. Her head coverings take on the spirit of the Dutch masters' portraits in their styled form. Instead of finding an old costume hat, Kerstens has Paula wear anything from a plastic bag, foil, and even bubble wrap. These synthetic materials shape their way into a humorous interpretation of the classical Dutch headpiece worn in the old masters' portraits. No matter the silliness of the material, Paula wears each headpiece with the same serious facial expression, giving the captured moment in time

a hilarious dignity. Her face calls to mind one specific expression in art history, the face of the girl in Johannes Vermeer's painting *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Her expression never changes, even though her clothing and hats do. There are a few works taken earlier in the project that simply display moments of her youth. She is clothed and unclothed, childish in these early years, yet the facial expression never changes. Her face and body matures, but the look remains consistent. The large Kerstens prints of Paula were on display last month at the Danziger Gallery in Chelsea. When inspecting the prints up close, the work demonstrates a certain power that can only be experienced in person. The moistness of Paula's eyes is portrayed in detail just as clear as each crinkle in her foil headpiece. Her gaze becomes even more inescapable through the crispness. Kerstens' career brings together the art of the past with current technologies and fashions. In the past decade his influential images aligned with the visionary designer Alexander McQueen. In 2009, McQueen based his collection on the image of Paula and the plastic bag head covering, using the image as the invitation to his show. His influential images extend beyond the



www.hendrikerstens.com

contemporary photographic art world into visceral realms of fashion and even music (Elton John is a known fan). Kerstens provides his viewer, famous or not, with a playful encounter with art history, while introducing his daughter as the theme's perfect subject.

## Scarlett Johansson's Confident Maggie In *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*

**HANNAH DREYFUS** In the 2013 Broadway revival of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, written by Tennessee Williams and directed by Rob Ashford, Scarlett Johansson's performance as the frustrated, cat-like Maggie lent a bold, confident new dimension to the role. While Johansson's deliberate and neatly tailored performance effectively delivered the vivid, restless life force of the complex female character, the more flighty, whimsical, feminine side of Margaret was lost in translation. Maggie's "musical" voice, mentioned several times by Williams in his stage directions, is an essential part of her inexplicable charm. Dominating the dialogue in the play's first scene, the rich, husky tone of Johansson's voice was immediately distinguishable, and deeply affected her rendition of the character. While her delivery of Maggie's rambling monologues was smooth and easy on the ears, her rich tone lent a dominating air to the character. Maggie's vulnerability, so central to her role and ethos, was decipherable only through the

telling dialogue, rather than the delivery itself. Johansson's powerful body language, however, aptly captured the vulnerability and nervous energy her verbal delivery lacked. A particularly compelling moment was after Big Mama accused her of not doing her part to capture Brick's interest in bed. After Big Mama dramatically exited through the glass doors, which were swinging open and slamming shut throughout the production, Johansson fell to her knees on the floor, crying in faltering tones, "That's not fair! That's not fair!" In that moment—shoulders heaving silently, head bowed—the fragile, broken nature of Maggie's character was more directly communicated to the audience than through any of the preceding dialogue. Additionally, Johansson's confident and masterful usage of the large white bed, standing as the centerpiece of an otherwise relatively minimalist set, added a deeper hue of frustration to her Maggie. Attempting to provoke a reaction from the other-

wise painfully apathetic Brick (Benjamin Walker), Maggie mentions Skipper, Brick's homosexual best friend who, after confessing his secret to Brick, was driven to suicide by Brick's cold and seemingly unsupportive response. Brick, who drinks to avoid the poignant guilt he feels for the death of his friend, is roused to anger only upon Maggie's mention of Skipper. He jumps onto the bed after Maggie, and holds his crutch to her neck. "I could kill you, kill you with this crutch," says Brick. For the first time, his physical power, previously slackened in his drunken, apathetic state, becomes sharply evident. Maggie, back arched, arms spread, seems to revel in the moment of danger and climactic emotion. "I'm alive, alive, alive..." says Maggie, and Johansson's defined, graceful body movements, full of aggravated tension, longing and vivacity, could not communicate the words more vividly. Maggie's role was to transform, before her audience, into a cat on a hot tin roof: a trapped and yet

determined, irrationally hopeful creature. Though Johansson's overwhelming confidence and almost too-polished articulation in the first act left somewhat to be desired, Johansson, in the play's third and final act, was at last able to strike the full, ironic multidimensionality of the role. "I lied to Big Daddy, but tonight we're going to make the lie true, and when that's done, I'll bring the liquor back here and we'll get drunk together, here, in this place that death has come..." says Maggie near the play's close, left once again alone with Brick and the large, conspicuous, pleading white bed. With this final delivery, the tender desperation of Johansson's Maggie is fully exposed. "Nothing's more determined than a cat on a hot tin roof—is there? Is there Baby?" and with the concluding, teetering question, the audience is left with the image of a delicate but unyielding cat, refusing to jump, even though she has the ability, within her agile, dexterous form, to make one clean jump, and be gone.

## Walking Tours: Midtown Bigtown

**AIMEE RUBENSTEEN** Sometimes staying in the city is an adventure of its own.

Venture out to the Whitney Museum of American Art and explore the darker side of Pop Art at the "Sinister Pop" exhibit. Featuring Ed Ruscha's gunpowder piece and Jasper Johns' discolored American flags, the exhibition shocks the senses and asks the viewer to reconsider the mass-production, consumption, and commercialization that fueled the red lollipop and kelly-green color scheme.

whitnymuseum.org



The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 945 Madison Avenue.

Then walk west to a nearby gallery or to Matsart Auctioneers

and Appraisers. At their sales preview, before the Tel-Aviv auction, Matsart presented Jewish art ranging from paintings of the Temple Mount to abstract expressionism. There is something to satisfy every type of Jewish palette. I recommend taking a closer look at Tomer Ganihar's *Shuk Scene*; his chromogenis print characterizes the kinetic movement so characteristic of the market in Jerusalem.

Matsart



Tomer Ganihar, *Shuk Scene*, 2006

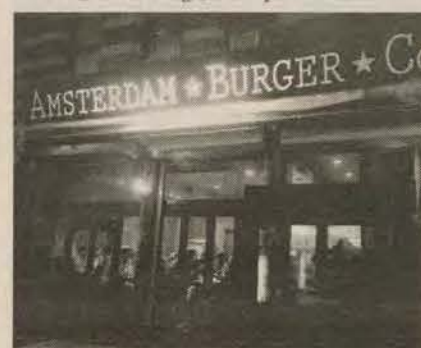
Matsart Auctioneers and Appraisers is located at 444 West 55 Street (between 10th and 11th Ave).

Grab a big bite at Amsterdam Burger or try Blossom du Jour if you're not a meat-eater. Get the Breakfast Burger at Amsterdam and feast your eyes and stomach on the meatiest, juiciest burger

topped with a sunny-side up egg, potatoes, and fried pastrami. If you are feeling more like an herbivore, hop over to Blossom du Jour, a vegan hot spot brimming with healthy (and hearty) choices. Order the Skyscraper Burger, complete with a burger, soy bacon, cheese, onion rings, and special sauce.



blossomdujour.com



Amsterdam Burger is located at 654 Amsterdam Avenue.

Blossom du Jour is located at 174 9th Avenue.

yeahthatkosh.com



# SPORTS

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## Impressive Sarachek Turnout

**LINDSAY WESS** School pride is what brings a student body together. Attending games allows students to bond as a whole for the sole purpose of supporting their school team.

This past March, the annual YU Sarachek Tournament brought 20 yeshivot together from around the country in the hopes of bringing back the first place title and trophy to their high school. From Los Angeles to Miami, family and friends flew into Manhattan to support their teams.

The stands were filled to capacity with YU students wearing their high school jerseys and gear. Some showed up with painted faces with their school's colors. Many sang their classic high school cheers. This all seems normal for any university, as in most colleges it's typical for students to go to sports games supporting their team, sporting their school colors. Yet, seeing the stands at the YU basketball gym overflowing with fans is unfortunately a rare site for many people to see during a game. Ironically, many YU students made more of an effort to show up for their high school team's game than their own college games during the year.

It's common for the stands to be practically empty at most home games, whether it is a women's volleyball game at Baruch College, which is only ten blocks away from the Beren campus, or the YU gym, which is conveniently connected to the Wilf campus.

Oddly, students were not surprised by the large turnout at the high school tournament, while taking into account the minimal amount of YU fans

throughout the year. Student athletic staff member and volleyball player, Jackie Berger, said, "As much as I would love to see our school mates support us at our games, I completely understand why everyone gets so hyped up about Sarachek." Reminiscing about her high school days, Berger went on to say "There is a certain feeling of excitement you get when you reconnect with your [high school] team and friends that is different from your college team."

Although it is standard for the gym to be filled with friends and family during the Sarachek tournament, Berger hopes that future YU games can gain more YU students cheering them on as well. She says, "I believe that the YU teams are more likely to succeed with a bigger fan base." With school emails constantly sent out about upcoming games, it was still disappointing for Berger to see the high school college ratio of fans. She went on to say, "I have to admit that it was kind of sad to see so many people show more support for their high school than for their college team."

However, many YU students turned out specifically to support younger siblings. Senior Sara Yitzhaky explained, "my brother Aaron will be going to Israel next year, and he may not play on a school team again." While Yitzhaky said that she has never attended a YU game, she said, "It's really difficult to make the time to go, and even though I went to see my brother, I know that there is still time for me to go to a YU game. Sarachek only comes once a year, and I didn't want to miss it."



**SARA OLSON** Tim Morehouse, an Olympic Fencer, initially signed up for middle school fencing classes in order to be excused from gym class. Little did he know that fencing would turn into a lifelong career and philanthropic pursuit. Morehouse, who fenced for four years at Brandeis University, decided to take fencing to the next level after college, honing his skills all the way to a silver medal win at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Tim Morehouse, however, is more than just an athlete. He is also an engaging person with a sense of commitment to the community. Hoping to spread recognition of fencing and – more importantly – to increase health among children, Morehouse founded a non-

## NCAA All-American Rebecca Yoshor: Exclusive Interview

**SARA OLSON** On Tuesday, February 19th, 2013, Rebecca Yoshor of Stern's Lady Macs basketball team was named to the Second Team of Capital One's NCAA Division III Academic All-America® women's basketball teams for the current academic year. As Yoshor put it, "It's an award for a combination of athletics and academics." The news made history in the YU Athletics Department, Yoshor being the first student-athlete at Stern to be awarded this honor. The Stern community may know her name and recognize her face, but who is the young woman behind the headlines who has achieved such a great personal triumph?

"Basketball is something of a family thing; both of my brothers also play," explains Yoshor. "I began playing in sixth grade and I really liked it; I've been playing ever since."

Like any player in competitive sports, Yoshor has experienced moments that are the makings of a good comedy.

"This is a great one," she said with a laugh. "It was in sixth grade. I was only on the team because all of my friends were – they were like, 'We should all play, it will be so much fun,' etc. So I joined. It was a really big team so the coaches were rotating players, subbing people in at intervals so that everyone would get a chance to play. I didn't really understand the rules so well, so I didn't know that you can only score in one basket...so I scored in the wrong basket. After that, the coach explained the rules to me. There was actually another girl who also did that [shot in the wrong basket], but she missed so no one remembers it."

People may remember silly slip-ups, but they also have a good memory for those proud moments when they achieved something great.

"My proudest moment? I'm still waiting for it," joked Yoshor. "I mean, I've never had an amazing buzzer shot, but I've had a lot of good little moments. But yeah, there hasn't been like one big

final moment. I don't know how many people really get that in real life. I've won tournaments and stuff though, and that's always a good moment."

Of course, there are always times when the sport seems more trying than triumphant.

"I do get mad – and literally, it's so ridiculous," she added emphatically, "there is really no reason for this because it's just a game – but I get really mad sometimes when someone will beat up on me, but it isn't counted as a foul. Many times it has happened that the referee will sort of overlook the action because basketball is a physical sport and I'm so tall. If I do something wrong, I definitely get extremely frustrated. One of my friends can always tell when I do something wrong because of the expression on my face. I guess I should work on my poker face," she added with a grin.

Given that basketball is a very physical sport, there is certainly a potential for injuries that could set an athlete back.

"I've gotten little injuries – I twist my ankles all the time – but nothing major," said Yoshor with a shrug. "I also get bruised all the time, especially on my arms, but so does everyone else, so I can't complain."

One of Yoshor's greatest accomplishments is the fact she balances a rigorous basketball schedule with a six class course load.

"Budget your time well – it's really that simple," she explained. "There are lots of people who are involved in extra-curricular activities at Stern. You also drink lots of coffee – coffee for the mornings and soda for the afternoons. The guy at the convenience store knows me so well. After every practice I'll go over and get a giant orange soda. And now, even though the season is over, I still don't have time! I wonder, 'How did I have time to do [basketball]? It doesn't make sense.'"

And what a season it has been, with Yoshor being honored as an All-Amer-



ican, the first in Stern history.

"The award is a big honor and it looks good on your profile. It's on all of my applications for this summer, and almost every essay I have to write [for those applications] comes back to it," she admitted. "Obviously, it does mean a lot to me. It especially means a lot because it never would have happened without the help of the athletics staff at both Stern and YC. Obviously, I met the requirements, but if they hadn't done such a good job of advocating for me, it never would have happened. They really deserve a lot of the credit." "I also want to add," she continued, "that I'm really lucky that I have such great parents and teachers who coordinated using Optimal PTC (Parent Teacher Conferences), an online program used to schedule conferences between parents and teachers for optimal communication. It's also a great program that you can use it to schedule conferences with coaches."

Of course, becoming an All-American is not the be-all-and-end-all for Yoshor's aspirations.

"Overall, the future looks very bright," Yoshor remarks. "I'm currently a junior, majoring in English. I'm trying to do public relations and advertising." With her head in the game – both in terms of school and basketball – it looks like Yoshor is shooting for the win.

## Improving Physical and Mental Health Through Fencing

profit organization called Fencing in the Schools. Inspired by Morehouse's athletic and philanthropic achievements, Yeshiva University fencer Deena Gilboa noted, "Fencing is fortunate to have great role models like Tim Morehouse. Through Fencing in the Schools, Morehouse does an excellent job conveying the importance of athletics for children's physical and mental health."

Fencing in the Schools is a six-week program, initiated by a fencing tutorial delivered by an Olympic fencer, which focuses on teaching students basic fencing training and Olympic ideals of "excellence, respect, and friendship." Due to fencing equipment costs, each school is required to pay \$130 for each child's fencing kit. Yet, no school will be turned away because of financial difficulty. The organization helps fundraise to bring the program to underprivileged schools, most notably at its March 13th "Fencing in the Schools Launch" to which Morehouse gave five VIP tickets to Student Athletic Advisory Committee president, Yitzy Frankel. Yeshiva University Student-Athletes who attended the event were Yitzy Frankel, Oliver Sax, Channah Esan, Kayla Ross, and Deena Gilboa.

Yeshiva University Women's Fencing captain, Kayla Ross, excitedly described her experience at the launch. "Last night, I had the pleasure of attending the Launch for Fencing in the Schools. I was able to meet men and women on the U.S. Olympic Fencing team and watch them compete." After a pause, Ross adds the hope that Morehouse's pursuits and dedication to the sport "will demonstrate the intricacies and athleticism involved in fencing and its potential to help children and adults of all ages become more active."

Initially skeptical regarding the athletic nature of fencing, senior

soccer player Channah Esan admits, "As many people know, I am bit of a cynic when it comes to athletic ability involved in sports other than soccer. After watching Olympians fence, however, I gained a new appreciation for the sport of fencing."

Morehouse believes that many other Americans would also gain a new appreciation for fencing if only they could watch the sport. Despite being told that fencing would never be televised in the United States, Morehouse has successfully televised three fencing competitions on national television, including the match at the Launch.

The Fencing in the Schools Launch, which was organized as a way of spreading recognition of the sport and awareness of the non-profit organization, also raised money for bringing fencing to financially challenged schools. Morehouse hopes that Fencing in the Schools will reach 10,000 students by the 2013-2014 school year and 1,000,000 by 2023. In fact, Yitzy Frankel reveals, "We are working with Morehouse to bring fencing to New York area Jewish high schools in the hopes of starting a Yeshiva fencing league."

Morehouse's motivation to bring fencing to children stems from his sense of obligation to the community. Esan notes that she now recognizes what true athletes represent. "They are not merely athletic men and women who have mastered a sport, but rather, they are so much more. Being the ideal athlete is about achieving excellence, while recognizing your unique position to affect change in a community. Tim Morehouse and his fellow fencers exemplify the perfect athlete – one who excels in athletics but also gives back to the community at every opportunity."



# OPINIONS

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## Half Shana Bet: Is It Worth It?

**ELANA KOOK** "Wait, there's dairy dinner in the 215 caf?"

"There are shuttles that can take me around within campus?"

"Huh? What's an sstud? And why are they taking over my YU inbox?"

These are just a few of the questions perplexing the approximately 50 students who have just arrived at Stern this semester. The Shana Bet experience is a unique, religiously enlightening, and intense growing experience. Contrary to what many may think, Shana Bet is far from just a continuation of Shana Aleph. However, returning back to Stern, and being the "new girl" in an environment where most of your friends have already had first semester to acclimate, can be challenging.

After spending a year in Migdal Oz, it was obvious to me that I wanted another semester to learn and be in Israel. Having been in the Israeli mindset, I felt no pressure to start college immediately. Although my parents were wary about letting me stay, knowing that Stern would give me credit for my extra semester was the ultimate deal maker.

It was the perfect compromise. I would get my extra semester, while technically getting a semester worth of credit from Stern. What could be better? Friends warned me that coming to Stern halfway through the year was difficult. But I did not care; the prospect of getting to stay another half a year in Israel seemed undeniably worthwhile.

My first week in Stern was disorienting. My friends seemed to have "the whole college thing" completely dialed in and were settled. They made new friends, were involved in new clubs, and everyone seemed to be on a set academic trajectory.

However, I was the new girl. I wandered in the hallways with a schedule clutched in my hand, while asking random girls if they could point me in the direction of the right classroom. Each time I saw a girl who I knew had also just gotten back

from Shana Bet, we would exchange the same understanding look. No matter how amazing we knew Stern could be, we wanted to go back to Israel.

I missed my makom in the Beit Midrash, the Israeli friends I left behind, and the warm familiar community that surrounded me. Upon entering my first few classes, it became extremely evident that I had lost studying and writing abilities, along with my attention span.

There were so many event invites sent to my email, and so many flyers flashing weird unidentifiable club acronyms all over the walls. After leaving High School I had felt invincible. Now, I was suddenly finding myself scrambling to just get from class to class on time. Being in this new world, I soon started losing sight of the amazing experience I had in Israel. I found myself asking the question I had never thought I would ask: was it really worth it?

As the weeks pass, I am starting to come to an important realization. Entering this dramatically different environment only two weeks after I got back from Israel, had made it seem as though my prior experience was part of the past.

However, those experiences and lessons I learned in Israel can be incorporated into an integral part of my time in Stern. Due to those powerful experiences, I have a different perspective and sharpened passions. The unique experience of staying in Israel will only continue to enrich further my experience in Stern. Maybe, what I need to help smooth the transition is to find a way to take my prior experience and utilize it in the many resources Stern has to offer. Maybe by joining a club? Maybe by taking a class in a subject I really loved to learn in Israel? Either way, I have options.

Leaving Israel was hard. And every new beginning has its challenges. But the next time someone asks me, "Hey, how's Stern going?" I can hold my head up and answer, "Right now it's hard, but I know it is going to be great."

## Banning The Right Books: A Response

Dear Tali,

I understand your argument and you make some important points, especially about the need to refine our educational methods. At the same time, I do not think it was right to condemn a pedagogical system which has the goal of helping others lead more halakhic lives.

Personally, *The Magic Touch* changed my life.

I, too, attended a Modern Orthodox high school. Yes, shomer negiah was always one of those controversial topics—the ubiquitous subject raised on shabbatonim, in class, and on NCSY events. Some girls feared the topic while other girls loved to talk about it, but my reaction, whenever it was brought up, was just apathy. I simply didn't see the big deal. "Being shomer" was not something I wanted to involve in my life at that point in time.

Then, in 11th grade, Gila Manolson came to my high school to give a lecture. At first I was defensive, and tuned her out. My 16 year-old-self told me not to care. But gradually I heard her convincing arguments.

I listened to the real, practical examples she brought. I heard the explanations behind the ideas in her book: why it was important to be "shomer," what the beauty behind the commandment was, and what some of the practical benefits were of keeping this halakha. Slowly, gradually, her speech made me reexamine the topic as a whole.

As Manolson writes in her book, "Judaism wants physical relationships to be special. True specialness is two people sharing something that neither one has experienced before. Since a physical relationship draws most of its strength from your feelings for one another, the more singular these emotions are, the more unique and powerful any intimacy—starting with touch—will be." (39)

I decided I would have to stop treating touch as something insignificant and worthless. Manolson's speech did not make me feel like I

was a disgusting person for not being shomer. Her book did not scare me. It brought the halakha down to my level, and made me look at shomer negiah from a practical perspective. Yes, I had an uncomfortable decision to make after reading the book. But it was that decision that has helped shape much of my spiritual growth.

In your article you speak about the "anti-religious" arguments of educators like Manolson, arguments that "dehumanize their subjects, rather than affirming their dignity as human beings." You write that you wish Orthodoxy would promote approaches that instead emphasize "mutual respect and the clear recognition of the humanity of one's partner." Interestingly, I felt that *The Magic Touch* actually accomplished the latter. It was exactly these points about shomer negiah's ability to encourage a "mutual respect" between partners that helped me make the ultimate decision to start adhering to this halakha.

The majority of the book is a sincere attempt to portray the stringent laws in their most positive light. For example, when Manolson relates an anecdote with one of her students, Andy, she shares the beautiful things he told her after deciding to undergo a touch-free relationship: "The really incredible thing is that I have never respected a woman so much in my life. What's more, I've never felt so much for anyone in such a short time. I can honestly say that I love her... And I still don't know what she looks like under that baggy dress. And I don't even care." (35)

Even the title of the book reveals the author's intent to intentionally refrain from employing negative, "fear-inducing" approaches to the mitzvah of shomer negiah. The vast majority of the book shows the beauty of choosing to keep the halakhot of shomer negiah. There was—there is—so much positivity imbued within that book. I chose to focus on the positive.

Your Fellow Classmate,  
Samantha Klein

## Warmed By The Light

**BEQUI FRANKEL** As a former student of SCW participating in the joint nursing program with NYU, I have had the shocking and enlightening experience of quickly transitioning from one of the most conservative, right-wing institutions to one of the most liberal. I smiled to myself, pondering this humorous juxtaposition, while my professor spent the first moments of his lecture showing the class photographs of himself and his husband, which he proudly included in his slideshow presentation.

It was my first time in a classroom with people who did not share my religious beliefs. I felt disoriented and alone. I did not doubt that I had something in common with them, but I had no clue how to even begin discovering what that thing could possibly be. How was I to relate to these people? And how can it be that this is the very first time in my life that I

needed to deal with this situation?

"Hi, what's your name?" Surprised, I turned to my left. A black man smiled and held out his hand. "Rebec...Becky," I stammered, shaking his hand as I unintentionally shook my voice. "Nice to meet you! Nervous for Pathophysiology?"

I wasn't. I was caught off guard. I couldn't remember the last time I was greeted like that—such a wonderful balance of professionalism and friendliness. I instantly felt pathetic and puerile both for having never experienced this type of greeting before and for not thinking to have initially done the same. And yet, his welcoming demeanor made me feel confident and wanted.

"Ivan," he said. "What?" He repeated his name. "Oh, nice to meet you."

While Ivan shifted his focus to the professor and his lecture, I shifted mine to my experience. Had that really

been so unusual? Unfortunately, I concluded that it had been. I had spent all my other first days of school as a citizen of the island of desks that I and my other few friends from previous years had colonized together, isolating ourselves from the other islands. There was little to no conversing between citizens of other islands. We were satisfied. Content with the friends we had, we felt no need to make more. No one asked me my name, nor I anyone else's.

Ivan was not the only one that day to whom I responded "Becky". I did the same to Nicole, Trusha, Foday, Jose, and Isabella. They were friendly. Genuinely friendly.

I would like to think and hope that the stark contrast that I experienced between my encounters with my Jewish classmates of my past and those with my current non-Jewish ones is merely a coincidence, but after meeting

Hakim, Jasmin, and Chen, I am beginning to arrive at a much more distressing conclusion.

We refer to ourselves as the light to these people, but frankly, I have been a recipient of much more warmth from their light than from ours. I am very proud my religion, and I find myself sharing that aspect of my life with many of my new classmates. Impressed does not even begin to express how I feel about the immense accomplishments that Jews all over the world have achieved to help make this world a bit brighter. However, I fear that perhaps many of us have forgotten some basic techniques for showing care and respect. Being in the presence of so many individuals who seem to constantly keep these techniques at the forefront of their minds has revealed to me how I have forgotten them, as well.

I am not sure why or how it is that a

people that repeatedly emphasizes the need to treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated has managed to fall so short in this department. Perhaps it has to do with the "small world" of which we are all part. Maybe we see no excitement in meeting someone to whom we can assume we are already somehow connected. Or perhaps the relatively homogenous appearance of our fellow peers squelches any curiosity we may have had to discover the person to our left. Whatever the reason, there is no excuse.

Thanks to my amiable and conversationally generous classmates, I no longer feel alone in the lecture halls at NYU.

I smiled at Ivan, watching as he intently listened to the professor's lesson, and I turned to my right to introduce myself to Racheli.



# Why I Wanted To Be a Fellow In The First Place

## LIKE This? Facebook Self-Sabotage

*continued from page 1*

A sure way, if ever there was one, to torpedo the battle for inner contentedness and satisfaction with self.

We all know: Facebook is the most efficient way to track and trace the movements of others. We spend hours of our own day, during class, evenings, or otherwise, monitoring the updates, accomplishments, tribulations, and milestones of other people. Privacy having become a seeming relic of the past, we have become a generation of followers.

Something else we all know: comparing yourself to other people is a foolproof way to avoid happiness. Google any study on happy people. Perceived inequality and an unwavering focus on others is one bona fide way to assure you'll never become one of them. Being happy with what you've got is a message pervading our earliest childhood memories and neatly moralizing fairytales.

It's what your mom told you that day you came home crying because she had prettier shoes, or he could throw the ball much farther. And it's what you began telling yourself, what you had to begin telling yourself, when you got older, and she got the job you wanted. He got the girl you wanted. She got the internship you wanted. The marriage you wanted. The car. The kids. The recognition.

We all stumble upon life's seeming unfairness at one point or another. It's the grappling with this recognition that takes time; the learning how to deal with this reality that often takes years, and maybe even the rest of our lives, to swallow.

Why, then, have we rushed to embrace a pastime that barrages us constantly with grueling comparison? Why are we so willing, and wanting, to challenge ourselves incessantly in this manner? Facebook, unabashed in its goal to press our curious little noses up against the glass of others people's lives, can easily create an aching, throbbing dissatisfaction with self. It is a dissatisfaction potent enough, I dare say, to affect even the most secure, confident, self-possessed individuals.

But it goes further. We don't only trot along dutifully after other people's lives, Facebook posts and status updates serving as the faithful breadcrumbs. We have let the incessant focus on others infect our very self-definition.

Proof: no one goes on Facebook to peruse his or her own profile—unless it is to ensure that what other people see is acceptable and up-to-date. We take pictures, post-statuses, even select our own 'likes'—with other people in mind. What will they think when they see this? When I post this? When I comment on that? Will they think me sophisticated, savvy, snarky, cool? Facebook has not only trained us to hungrily scrounge after the lives of others; it has changed the way we view ourselves. By increasingly defining ourselves based upon what others will think, say, and comment, we have tacitly agreed to cede a precious piece of our personal autonomy.

Why have we voluntary agreed to subject ourselves to this tyranny? Why do we continue scrolling and clicking, when we know it's not good for us? When we know it won't make us happy?

Many answers could be given. Curiosity. Distraction. Sincere interest. Go ahead—give me an answer. Feel free to be polemical. Wax poetic. But, while you do, just remember—Facebook doesn't need your passionate defenses. It's doing quite well on its own.

Instead of an insufficient answer, I pose a question much bigger than any pragmatic, defensive, or sheepish explanation you could offer me: is it worth it?

Now, I am not so puritanical, hypocritical, or naïve as to think this article will convince you to shut down your Facebook account right here and now. Nor do I think it necessarily should (I personally don't plan on it). Facebook has many excellent qualities, primary of which is your ability to take an interesting article, press like, and ignite a dynamic, important conversation (go for it).

But what I do hope this article inspires is a serious appraisal, at least, of how our obsession with the lives of others has affected our own lives. The constant, grating comparison available at our fingertips has the ability to erode anyone's self-confidence, contentedness, and ultimate happiness with self.

So, be an informed Facebook user. At least realize, recognize, and name the recipe for dissatisfaction we are voluntary imposing on ourselves.

If you're going to smoke, at least read the surgeon's warning label, right?

**TIKKI DULITZ** Every year, an elite group of graduating students applies to spend their first year post-college working for various YU offices around Yeshiva University. A highly coveted position, the Yeshiva University Presidential Fellowship Program has many applicants, all fighting for (varying year-to-year) about 15-20 spots.

The Yeshiva University Presidential Fellowship, run by the Office of the President, was initiated by President Richard Joel in 2004 and is run by Vice President Rabbi Josh Joseph with the assistance of Allison Rubin. The program is both enriching and beneficial. With thrice yearly retreats, a generous paycheck, and weekly seminars on leadership, all participants are sure to glean a great deal of skills and experience.

This year, when an undisclosed amount of students applied for the Fellowship, it was many of their top choices for their gap year. Applications were submitted. First round interviews were had in a room of five interviewers per one interviewee. And then there was nothing to do but wait.

I was one of these applicants to the Presidential Fellowship program this year. One day, about two weeks after my interview, I received the email titled "Presidential Fellowship Update". I held my breath as I clicked it open, and still as I read the first line.

*"Dear Tikki (Kate),  
We are pleased to inform you that you have been selected from an incredible number of extremely high quality applicants as a finalist for the 2013-14 Presidential Fellowship..."*

I was ecstatic. My husband was next to me, and I screamed the news to him. We jumped around and hugged, and celebrated my coming one step closer to receiving the job I so badly wanted. I called my parents who were equally as happy. A few minutes later though, I received another email:

*"Dear Tikki,  
We regrettably are unable to offer you a position in the 2013-14 Presidential Fellowship at this time.... On behalf of Yeshiva University, we would like to thank you for your interest, and wish you all the best in your future endeavors..."*

I was confused. My husband and I stared blankly at the screen, unsure of how to react. To add even more confusion yet, a few minutes later, I received another email recalling the previous email. But which previous email? I emailed the sender, Ms. Rubin, asking her to clarify the situation. I was told that the second email (the rejection) was the

correct one.

Her response simply read: "I am sorry- the latter email is the correct one. We have an issue with the email system. Wishing you the best..."

Understandably, I was taken aback. When contacting my friends who, too, applied for the Fellowship, I found that the same thing happened to them. However, the difference between our situations was twofold: for those of whom were accepted to "round two," they simply received an acceptance email, a retraction, and another acceptance email. They were confused, but didn't think twice. The others who, too, received rejection emails, however, had an even worse experience themselves. Many did not email Ms. Rubin requesting a clarification—they simply assumed the rejection (which was sent later) was the correct email. These applicants did not even have the comfort of receiving the offhand apology that I did. Nothing was done to rectify the unprofessional—not to mention upsetting—situation that those who received an acceptance and then retraction letter had to endure. There was no formal apology.

Situations like this have happened before; it's not unheard of. A well-known incident at UC San Diego occurred, in which rejected students were mistakenly sent acceptances. A sincere apology was issued. At Minnesota State University Moorhead this happened too; applicants who received an incorrect acceptance were actually given a second chance for their troubles, and the university offered to admit them if they participated in an academic success program. Vassar College sent a formal apology, and called the other schools the students had applied to and explained the situation to help get them in there. It, too, has occurred in NYU, Columbia, and many other places. People have been fired over these colossal and heartbreaking mistakes. (That is not to say I agree with the termination of those who are at fault; human error does happen.) This is unfortunately common, but even in schools where the bare minimum was done, those schools recognized the fault as their own and sent out humbled apologies.

It's not the fact that this happened that displays a lack of professionalism, these situations are fairly common as displayed above; however, what's more disheartening was YU's way of handling it. There was an utter lack of consideration on behalf of the students who were rejected. The fact that this happened and that there was no sincere apology just adds insult to injury.

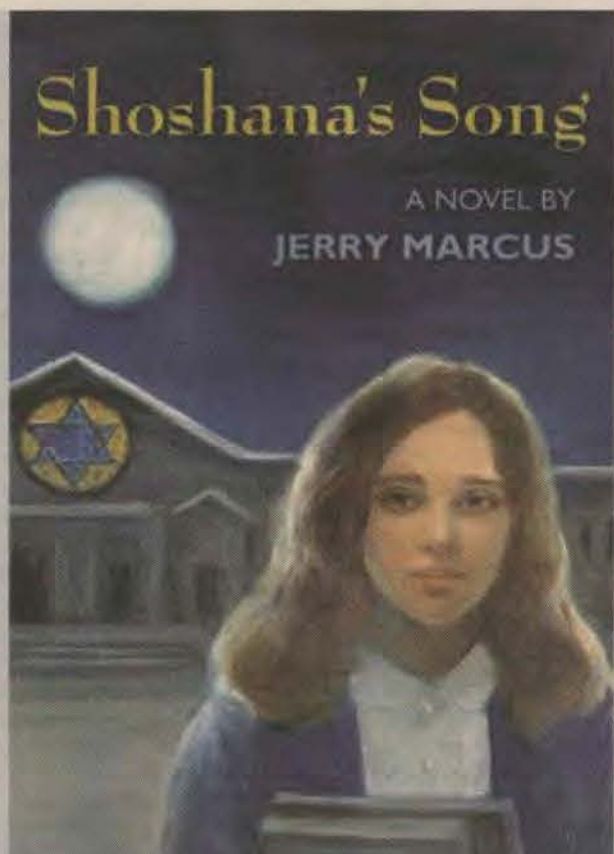
This situation and YU's lack of response only reminds me of why I wanted to be in the fellowship to begin with: to make Yeshiva University a better place. To make it a place where students are treated respectfully, like they are important to the school. To treat the students with dignity and to make them feel comfortable in their environment. I wanted to make Yeshiva University a place where things like this don't happen, and if they do, they are responded to appropriately. In no other college would this response- or lack thereof- have been deemed acceptable. YU needs to own their mistake, and send out an apology. It's the only right thing to do. And, since I will not be fulfilling my wish of making the school more put together and respectful of students, I leave my hopes in the hands of the capable Fellows of 2013-2014.

For more information on this faux pas in other schools please visit:  
<http://www.valleynewslive.com/story/21526080/230-students-get-acceptance-letters>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/31/nyregion/after-mistake-a-mea-culpa-from-vassar.html>  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2012/0411/Lesson-in-UCLA-error-Make-sure-that-acceptance-letter-is-for-real>

*"The spring flowers were doing their best to engage my mind with thoughts of new beginnings. But those thoughts frightened me, even as I knew it was time for me to blossom. Like flowers waiting to bloom, my lungs needed to breathe fresh air while my mind yearned to be free."*



In *Shoshana's Song*, Jerry Marcus' fifth novel, he brings readers a perceptive and unforgettable story of how a young woman faces the clashes between her faith, freedom of thought, and observing the traditions she loves. Marcus uses his storytelling skills to portray Shoshana's difficult choices with charm, humor, understanding, and dignity—all contributing to her spiritual growth, and the power of the story.



When Orthodox Jewish teen, Shoshana Rosen, rejects her father's demand for an arranged marriage, she feels compelled to leave New York for Chicago and seek intellectual freedom and a career. Joined on the journey by her Chicago roommate—Kate Shannon, an Irish Catholic—they search for professional fulfillment balanced with an intense desire to keep their respective faiths and traditions. Shoshana did not believe that freedom of thought was the enemy of religion. She never imagined that the prayers she recited out of love could lead to her becoming the victim of an arranged marriage.

*She wanted to be a literate person, to be important someday.*

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A Novel by  
**JERRY MARCUS**