

# On this Chanukah, Invest in Your Future

12/3/2023

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My Dear Friends,

We are at a watershed moment in Jewish history and American history. The aftermath of October 7th with the war in Israel and the rise of a global wave of antisemitism forces us to confront an uncertain future. There are two ways this story can turn. This could be the beginning of the end in which the story of the Jewish people in America and America itself begins its descent. Or this could be the end of the beginning in which we emerge into a new phase in which our core Torah values and American values move to the forefront of the national agenda.

And if the Maccabees and the holiday of Chanukah have taught us anything, it is that we do not wait to see how this unfolds – we work to determine the ending of this story. In the central prayer for the holiday of Chanukah we thank God for the miracles, the salvations, the victories that occur בימים ההם בזמן הזה – “in those days, in these time.” This is such a peculiar phrase: if it is in “those days,” why is it “these times?” Is the prayer referring to the past or the present? The lesson of the prayer, I would suggest, is that the story of Chanukah is recurring. It is not a moment of history, it is our current reality.

This week is Chanukah. Not just on the calendar, but in our lives.

We are not celebrating the Maccabees, we are living the Maccabees. We are not commemorating the past, we are in the midst of the story. There are moments when history sends you an invitation. There are moments when we are invited to participate in the unfolding of history itself. And this, my friends, is such a moment.

Yeshiva University is the campus base for the pro-Israel community, nurturing and inspiring the next generation of leaders to live lives of influence and impact. Our students are the leaders of tomorrow who carry the mission of bringing our core Torah values out into the world. We stand at the crossroads between heritage and pioneering, as the essential bridge that connects the past with the future, Jews with each other, and America to Israel.

As we navigate this inflection point in history, the spirit of Chanukah compels us to bring forth light. Your support and partnership are the driving force behind Yeshiva University's leadership, courage, and commitment to educating the leaders of tomorrow. This is not a time to retreat but a time to invest in the future.

## Donate Today

I am proud to share that over 500 people came together tonight at our 99th Hanukkah Dinner to celebrate and honor our heroes - our chayalim, our students, our Faculty, lay leadership and Rabbis who are leading our community during these times.

This year, more than other years, the importance of YU has never been more clear. This year more than others, our needs have never been so high. With the need for additional scholarships, increased security and mental health support, programming for Israel and against antisemitism, we need your partnership in order for us to continue to rise.



[Click here](#) or on the image above for a video on YU's student-led efforts to support Israel  
Invest in your future by contributing today.

My deepest thanks in advance for your partnership and support.

Warmest regards,



Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman

President, Yeshiva University



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