

The Light Grows

Fri 12/8/2023



My Dear Friends,

The times in which we live require community, inspiration and aspiration. We need moments of coming together to support each other and give voice to our essential mission. For our community, this past week we experienced such a meaningful moment at our evening of music and solidarity at the Hanukkah Dinner.



[Click here](#) or on the image above to watch a recap video

As the course of the week unfolded, when we witnessed the complete abdication of moral leadership by premier universities in the country, the message of the event became even more pronounced.

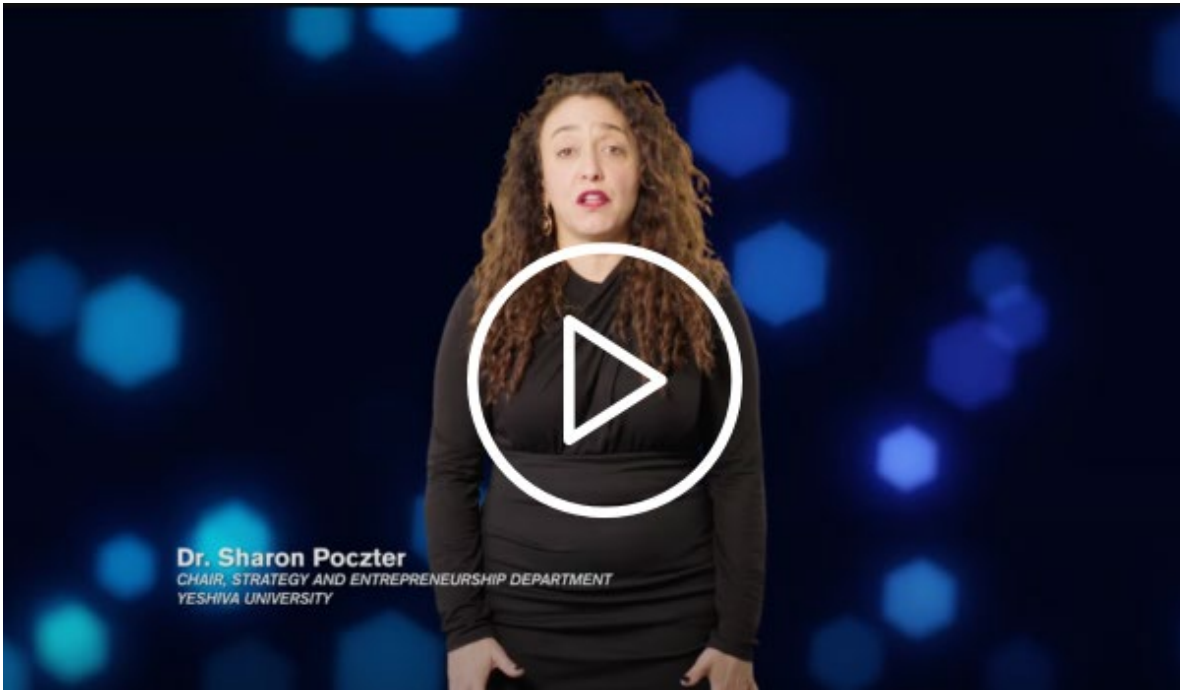
Our community, the Jewish people and our broader society need Yeshiva University today more than ever before as a world class yeshiva and a world class institution of higher education that stands for our values and brings them out into the world.



[Click here](#) or on the image above to watch Rabbi Berman's dinner remarks about this watershed moment in history

During this season, we thank Hashem for the miracles and the victories in times of war. Today, with our soldiers in the midst of fierce battle, our prayers take on greater urgency and meaning. But in addition to the military victory, the holiday of Chanukah also celebrates the determination of the Maccabees to fiercely stand true to Jewish destiny as a people with a message and mission. At this moment in time, Jews in this country and throughout the world feel deeply connected to their Jewish identity and the Jewish people. When hearts are open to exploring Jewish identity, the opportunity right now is to not only create societal protections against hate but to fill the world with meaning and purpose. We must embody and spread our core Torah values - seeking truth, acting with compassion and living a life of faith and service - so that all can recognize the light and love that is inherent in the Jewish tradition.

For us in our worldwide YU community, we draw great inspiration from the multitude of examples of our students, alumni, faculty and Rabbis who are leading with their values during this tumultuous and painful time.



[Click here](#) or on the image above for a video on YU's moral clarity in support of Israel

Now is a time to embrace and showcase our values. To all of our alumni and friends in our global community and especially to those who live in Israel, I thank you for bringing the light into our lives and throughout the world.

Wishing you a holiday of Chanukah filled with the joy and happiness that comes with living a life of meaning and purpose.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
President, Yeshiva University

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