

Dear Students,

You are about to begin an incredible year of Torah learning, growth, connection to Israel and to our wonderful staff and your fellow students.

We have put together a rich and diverse set of choices for you, as you learn Gemara, Tanakh, Machshava and Halakha here in the Beit Midrash of Midreshet Lindenbaum. We have added even more options for taking classes along with your Israeli counterparts in Tochnit Hadas. These choices are indicated by an Israeli flag on the schedule – among them a class taught in English, one in elementary Hebrew, and a number in advanced Hebrew, allowing you to choose the level of challenge as you get to meet new people and learn different perspectives. There are also slots for beit midrash time throughout the afternoons and evenings, to allow you to explore sefarim and topics that interest you, with a friend or with a teacher.

Please read the instructions and the course catalogue carefully as you choose from the array of shiurim in all the different areas of Torah learning. Feel free to try more classes than are required; you can always adjust as you settle into life at the midrasha.

Please feel free to be in touch with any questions. Can't wait to greet you here in August, be'ezrat Hashem!

Kol tuv, Rabbanit Sally Mayer Rosh Midrasha

Rabbanit Nomi Berman Rosh Beit Midrash

- 1. The following courses will appear on your schedule, with no need to register for them:
  - a. Gemara shiurim (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings)
  - b. Women and Halakha (Monday/Wednesday)
  - c. Halakha B'Iyun (Sunday/Thursday)
  - d. Chessed (Tuesday)
  - e. Sicha Klalit (Thursday) & Seder Erev (Thursday).
- 2. Every student is encouraged to choose a slot for a chavruta with a Darkaynu student.
- 3. Please read the course catalogue carefully. You are required to choose:
  - a. Tanakh, Sunday/Thursday morning: 8:45 10:40am
  - b. Tanakh/Beit Midrash, Sunday afternoon: 2:45 5:00pm (you may choose beit midrash here or on Wednesday afternoon, but not both time slots)
  - c. Tanakh/Machshava/Halakha/Beit Midrash, Wednesday afternoon: 2:45 - 5:00pm (you may choose beit midrash here or on Sunday but not both time slots)
  - d. Bekiut, Sunday/Wednesday evening: 8:00 10:00 pm
  - e. Machshava/Beit Midrash, Monday/Thursday afternoon: 2:45 5/5:20pm
  - f. Seder Erev/Torah Seminar, Tuesday evening: 8:00 10:00pm
  - g. Plus at least 2 hours of elective classes (any day from 5:10 7:00pm, Daf Yomi or Tochnit Ora)

You will be able to switch classes during Elul Zman, and to add or drop electives, so feel free to choose more than two hours of electives and see what works for you. We are here for any questions!

### Sunday and Thursday, 8:45-10:40am

### Sefer Melakhim

### **Rav Alex Israel**

Sefer Melakhim is an exciting and important sefer because it tells the story of the Beit Mikdash from its inception to its demise.

Although a challenging book to learn due to a plethora of names and lists, we shall find its drama and pulse, meeting powerful characters like Shlomo Hamlekh, Yerovam, Achav and Izevel, Eliyahu and Elisha, King Hizkiyahu, and understanding pivotal events of our national history. We will study both the narrative episodes, and make sense of the technical details, while learning the ebb and flow of the first Temple period.

### פרשנות (Elementary HEB)

### Rav Shmuel Klitsner

We will examine Sefer Breishit and other Biblical texts with the classic parshanim as well as with modern literary commentaries. The aim of this course will be to attune the reader's ear to the sophisticated deployment of subtext, context, and inter-text (allusions), as well as to the artistic use of ambiguity, repetition, key words, and wordplay. A greater appreciation of Tanakh as literature will lead to a more profound religious connection to Tanakh as kitvei kodesh.

### **Portraits of Leadership**

### **Rabbanit Rivky Krestt**

Leadership. It is a modern buzz word but not a new concept. In a world that increasingly seems to lack strong leaders, we will consider: What is leadership? What does it look like? How did Avraham convince an entire generation to believe in monotheism? What went wrong with Reuven's attempt at leadership, and what were the consequences for the Jewish people? What made Moshe the one person uniquely qualified to lead Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt? Through this study, we will think about implications for our lives as well.

# HALAKHA

### Sunday and Thursday, 10:50am-12:40pm

### Halakha B'Iyun Rav David Brofsky, Rabbanit Dena Freundlich

This class, co-taught by our outstanding Halakha faculty, will enable you to study the central and most practical laws of Shabbat, the Chagim, Kashrut, and other relevant and contemporary halakhic issues. Our goals include developing a methodology of learning Halakha, acquiring a familiarity with important Rabbinic figures and texts, improving textual and analytical skills, and gaining a greater understanding of the practice of Halakha.

### Sunday and Wednesday, 2:45pm - 5:00pm

## Sefer Shemot: From Slavery to SinaiRav Yitzchak BlauSunday & Wednesday, 2:45pm-5:00pm

This shiur will combine two powerful approaches to *Tanakh*. On the one hand, we will study *Shemot* with the best of our traditional commentaries and gain religious and moral insight from Ramban, Ibn Ezra, Seforno, Netziv and more. At the same time, we will utilize the techniques of the modern literary approach, such as key words, intertextuality, and type scenes to appreciate the literary beauty and psychological wisdom of our scriptures. In this way we will appreciate one great aspect of Chumash - how each reading inspires novel insights and fresh appreciation.

### ספר ירמיהו (HEB) Sunday & Wednesday, 2:45pm-5:00pm

### **Rav Shlomo Brown**

In this class we will study Yirmiyahu, the prophet of the churban. His prophecies begin in the reign of King Yoshiyahu and continue until the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash.

We will study the prophecies chronologically, which is different from the order in which they appear in the sefer. We will also learn the parallel perakim in Sefer Melakhim and in Divrei HaYamim in an attempt to understand the prophecies from a more encompassing perspective. In addition we will study central concepts of prophecy, the nevuot hahakdasha, the symbolic acts performed by Yirmiyahu, the prophet's prayer, and others.

### Parsha with Darkaynu Sunday 2:45pm - 3:45pm

### Merav Edrei

(Followed by beit midrash time 3:45-5pm)

A wonderful opportunity to have a havruta with Darkaynu students, closing with a short shiur on the parsha.

### **Five Megillot** Wednesday, 2:45-5:00pm

### **Rabbanit Nomi Berman**

These shiurim will provide an introduction to the world of Ketuvim while focusing simultaneously on skills of textual analysis and sensitivity to religious thought. In the fall semester, we will explore the presentation of philosophical outlooks of existentialism in Kohelet, delve into the "love story" between Hashem and Am Yisrael as told allegorically in Shir Hashirim, and mourn the churban with the moving poetry of Eichah.

In the spring semester, we will meet the colorful characters of Megillot Esther and Ruth respectively; we will feel their losses, celebrate their victories, and be inspired by their stories. Students will gain a newfound appreciation of familiar and less familiar works as we engage in a comparative study of texts to understand and incorporate their respective messages into our lives.

### (HEB) הלכה

### הרב ברוך גיגי

### Wednesday 2:45pm - 5:30pm

This shiur will focus on Sefer Mada and Sefer Ahava in the Rambam. During hevruta time, students will have the opportunity to gain experience with the fundamental works of Halacha. The goal of the shiur will be to enrich our understanding and connection to the mitzvot of kri'at shema and tefilla as well as gaining depth of understanding into the concepts of ahavat and virat Hashem

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

### (HEB) מחשבת ההלכה Wednesday 2:45pm - 5:30pm

### הרב איתיאל אורון

Through chavruta study and class discussion, we will investigate classic and contemporary halakhic issues from the Gemara through modern sources, with a focus on understanding the meaning and ideas behind them.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

### **Beit Midrash**

Sunday or Wednesday, 2:45pm - 5:00pm

Open Beit Midrash time is a wonderful opportunity to learn a sefer you're interested in, or to investigate an issue that is on your mind. A teacher will be there during each beit midrash slot and will be happy to help you as you explore topics, gain skills, and make the beit midrash your home.

### Sunday and Wednesday, 8:00pm- 10:00pm Bekiut

### **Bekiut Tanakh**

### **Rabbanit Nomi Berman**

In this course we will speed-learn the major books of Jewish history in the Land of Israel. We will struggle with Yehoshua as he leads us to conquer the land (or not); follow the downhill trend during the time of the Shoftim; immerse ourselves in the political intrigues of Shmuel; and cringe while we prepare ourselves for the train-wreck at the end of Melakhim. Finally, we will follow Ezra and Nechemia as they lead us back to rebuild the Beit Hamikdash! Students will learn all of the material in chavruta, and in shiur we will discuss the "big ideas." By the end of the year you will have a clear grasp of how our nation coped with their political and military challenges while creating a social and religious identity.

### Bekiut Gemara Rabbanit Rachel Leshaw Sunday and Wednesday, 8:00pm-10:00pm

Through learning all of Masechet Rosh Hashana, students will improve their independent Gemara learning skills, while also gaining a wider exposure to different types of Talmudic conversations. We'll focus on targeting chavruta skills and using shiur time to enrich our understanding of the topics being discussed. If you're ready to invest time in growing as a Gemara learner, this is the class for you.

# הרבנית שלומית שבות (HEB) בקיאות גמרא Sunday and Wednesday, 8:00pm-10:00pm

Through a combination of chavruta preparation and class instruction, students will develop skills to prepare a Gemara text independently while gaining a deeper understanding of Talmudic methodology. We will study and complete המסכת ברכות.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

TANAKH

MACHSHAVA

### Bekiut Halakha Rav Yoni Rosensweig Sunday & Wednesday, 8:00pm - 10:00pm

In our Bekiut Halakha class, we will explore a single halakhic issue each class session, with the goal of understanding how and why various halakhic authorities rule differently on the same question. Furthermore, we will gain an understanding of who the main halakhic authorities of the last 500 years were, and how their time periods may have at times also affected their rulings.

### (HEB) בקיאות מחשבה

### הרב אביעד סנדרס

In this course, we will take a broad look at classic sefarim of Jewish Philosophy, including the Kuzari by Rabbi Yehuda HaLevi, the Rambam's Moreh HaNevukhim, Tanya in the realm of Chasidut, and works by Rav Kook and Rav Soloveitchik. Join us to learn these famous and fundamental sefarim of machshevet yisrael.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

### Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday mornings, beit midrash and shiur

There is no need to register for these classes; they will appear on your schedule.

Gemara - Rav David Brofsky, Rabbanit Dena Freundlich, Rav Yoni Rosensweig Monday mornings 8:45am - 11:40am Tuesday mornings 8:45am - 12:15pm Wednesday mornings 8:45am - 11:40am

We will begin the year with Masekhet Rosh Hashana, preparing during Elul for the Yamim Nora'im. After Succot, we will delve into Masekhet Avoda Zara, learning about how we live as Jews within a non-Jewish society, navigating the challenges and opportunities that reality presents. Gemara meets three mornings a week, with the time divided between chavruta preparation and shiur time. Your Ra'm is with you both in the beit midrash and in the classroom, helping you develop and hone your ability to decipher the Gemara and consider the conceptual underpinnings and practical and hashkafic implications of the topic at hand.

### Monday & Wednesday mornings, 11:50am-12:40pm

In this source-based course, we will explore the wonderful world of women in halakha - women and mitzvot, issues of sexuality, women in leadership positions, and more. We will understand where the halakhot come from, what the debates are all about, and discuss how this all relates to our lives.

### Monday and Thursday afternoons, 2:45pm-5:20pm

### Pirkei Avot B'iyun Rabbanit Sally Mayer Monday 2:45pm-3:45pm & Thursday 3:30-4:20pm

"If not now, when?", "The reward for a mitzva is a mitzva," "Judge everyone favorably" - these famous lines and so many others come from Pirkei Avot, a masekhet often read through quickly and without much thought. Join us as we delve into the wisdom of Chazal, seeking new insight into their statements, and grow from their teachings about middot and attitudes that shape our outlook on life.

### The Thought of Rav Soloveitchik Monday, 2:45pm-3:45pm & Thursday 3:30-4:20pm

### **Rav Johnny Solomon**

Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik (1903-1993), known reverentially as "the Rav", was one of the greatest Talmudic scholars of the 20th century. His lectures were attended by thousands, and his writings which continue to be published posthumously - play a central role in contemporary discussions concerning Jewish thought and Jewish law. In this course we will read, analyze and discuss a number of Rav Soloveitchik's essays and, through doing so, discover his unique approach to topics including: repentance, community, redemption, prayer & the significance of the Modern State of Israel.

# Letters Through the AgesRabbanit Davina Wanderer-KrielMonday 2:45pm - 3:45pm &Thursday 3:30pm - 4:20pm

This course will explore important moments in the development of Jewish Thought through the analysis of a weekly 'letter' to be used as a base-text. Considered today as a 'lost art,' we will delve into the rich and interesting medium of 'letter writing' – placing letters in their historical and philosophical context and trying to understand how their themes and content could be relevant to a committed Jew in the twenty-first century. Our journey across time will allow for encounters with an array of different Jewish thinkers, such as the Rambam, the Ramban, Spinoza, the Besht, R' SR Hirsch, R' Kook, Nechama Leibowitz and more.

### Beit Midrash Monday 2:45pm - 3:45pm & Thursday 3:30pm - 4:20pm

Open Beit Midrash time is a wonderful opportunity to learn a sefer you're interested in, or to investigate an issue that is on your mind. A teacher will be there during each beit midrash slot and will be happy to help you as you explore topics, gain skills, and make the beit midrash your home.

### Tefilla Monday 4:00pm-5:00pm & Thursday 4:30pm-5:20pm

Rav Tuvia Kaplan

Tefilla is one of the basic paths to relate to Hashem. How can we make tefilla a meaningful and inspiring experience? What do the words mean and what is their deeper significance? We will "learn" the siddur, going through our daily tefillot and we will discuss what we are saying about ourselves as we pray, what we are saying about Hashem, and what relationship we are trying to create.

### Subjectivity in Halakhic Decision-Making Rav Johnny Solomon Monday 4:00pm-5:00pm & Thursday 4:30pm-5:20pm

Is Halakhic decision-making a science or an art? Does the subjective worldview of the posek play a role in the decisions they render? And to what extent should the existence of Medinat Yisrael affect halakhic rulings today? In this course we will answer these questions by studying and discussing some landmark rulings of modern-day poskim including Rav Kook, Rav Ben-Zion Uziel, Rav Yitzchak Herzog, Rav Shlomo Goren and Rav Moshe Feinstein, while also exploring the factors that contribute to a halakhic ruling as explored by thinkers such as Rabbi J. D. Bleich and Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein.

MACHSHAVA

### Philosophy of Halakha 4:00pm-5:00pm & Thursday 4:30pm-5:20pm

### **Rav Shmuel Klitsner**

What are the philosophical underpinnings of the halakhic system? In what sense does the term Torah min Hashamayim (revelation) apply to ongoing halakhic development? How would a modern Jew find the balance between authority and autonomy? What are the boundaries and parameters of pluralism within halakhic debate? What are the mechanisms through which a timeless Torah remains timely and relevant? We will analyze primary sources, (Gemara, midrash, exegesis and responsa literature) in order to uncover a vibrant debate on the nature and function of halakha. We will not shy away from asking difficult questions, and each student will be encouraged to begin forming her own sophisticated relationship with halakha.

Beit Midrash Monday 4:00pm-5:00pm & Thursday 4:30pm-5:20pm

Open Beit Midrash time is a wonderful opportunity to learn a sefer you're interested in, or to investigate an issue that is on your mind. A teacher will be there during each beit midrash slot and will be happy to help you as you explore topics, gain skills, and make the beit midrash your home.

### Tuesday afternoons, 2:45pm - 5:00pm

### Chessed

We work with several partner organizations in Yerushalayim who welcome our students as volunteers a few hours per week. In previous years, students have become "Big Sisters" for One Family, an organization that provides support for victims of terror and their families, helped at the local chapter of Friendship Circle, volunteered at Shalva, the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, or made weekly visits to Beit Sababa, a local nursing home. We are working creatively to see what options will be open to us given the health crisis; we know that chessed is necessary now more than ever, so we will find the ways that we can be helpful!

### Tuesday afternoon: 5:15pm - 10:00pm

There are two options for Tuesday evenings.

I. The first is our classic **Torah Seminar** class taught by **Rav Menachem Leibtag**. The class is from **5:15 – 10:00 pm** with a break for supper.

This seminar class will study Torah by methods of textual analysis. Through extensive study of medieval commentaries we will examine the major themes of each sefer and their connection to the details of the individual narratives.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

# II. The second is Seder Erev with Rabbanit Sally Mayer from 8:00 – 10:00 pm.

**Seder Erev** enables you to learn a topic / sefer of your choice together with a chavruta or to use the time to review material that you are studying. Rabbanit Sally will be with you in the beit midrash for help and guidance.

\*8-9pm is one of the three potential slots for a **chavruta** with a **Darkaynu** student.

### Chavruta: Midreshet Darkaynu

This is a unique in-house opportunity to combine learning and chessed. Join a Darkaynu student for a weekly chavruta. This meaningful experience will enhance your year by enabling a friendship with someone with special needs.

There will be three opportunities per week to register for a Darkaynu chavruta – we encourage each student to find one that fits into your schedule. They are: Sunday 2:45-3:45pm, Tuesday 8-9pm, or Thursday 5:30-6:30pm.

### Seder Erev in the Beit Midrash Thursday 8:00pm - 10:00pm

### Cheryl Burnat, Rabbanit Dena (Freundlich) Rock, Rabbanit Rivky Krestt

At seder erev, you get to learn a topic / sefer of your choice together with a chavruta or to use the time to review material that you are studying. There will be faculty in the beit midrash for help and guidance. It's a wonderful atmosphere of Torah learning at night!

### ISP: Individual Spiritual Plan - half an hour in your schedule

Each student at Midreshet Lindenbaum has a faculty mentor, who is there for you to meet with once every two weeks - to discuss questions, have a chavruta on a topic that you're interested in, or talk about an issue in Torah or hashkafa that is on your mind. A wonderful opportunity to have a faculty mentor dedicated to your growth and progress, at your pace.

### **ELECTIVES**

Electives are another opportunity to customize your learning experience at Midreshet Lindenbaum. Students must choose at least two hours of electives per week - feel free to choose as many as you would like to try out, you can see what you enjoy most and find the right rhythm for your day.

### Daf Yomi Rabbanit Sally Mayer הרב שוקי רייך (HEB) Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 1:30 – 2:30pm

Are you interested in covering a lot of ground in Gemara in a short time? Join us for a fast-paced, fun experience as we make siyum after siyum together! A great and easy way to improve your Gemara skills and learn lots of halakhic concepts and meaningful stories in a short time. No prior Gemara experience necessary. Rabbanit Sally's class will begin with Masekhet Ta'anit, a tractate full of amazing stories and life lessons. Rav Shuki's class will learn Masekhet Nedarim.

\* Rabbanit Sally's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:30 – 2:30pm and will be taught in English.
\*Rav Shuki's shiur will meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:30 – 2:30 and will be taught in Hebrew.

GEMARA

### Sunday: 5:10 – 6:00 pm Modern Orthodoxy

This course will expose the student to the issues of Jewish Theology and Philosophy confronting Am Yisrael in the 21st century. The focus of the course will be on hot button issues like the move to the 'Right', the role of women, evolution, Biblical criticism and the real differences between the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements. These and many more issues challenge the Chosen People in a global village; discussing them will prepare the student to take her part in the conversation going on amongst the Jewish People.

Sunday: 5:30 – 7:00 pm ארון הספרים היהודי (HEB)

הרב חנן גפני

This course is for anyone who would like to feel at home in the Jewish library. We will learn about the authors of the fundamental texts of our canon, understand how these works build upon one another and work in tandem, and learn to feel comfortable with the texts themselves.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

### Sunday: 6:10 – 7:00 pm Rambam

Dr. Tamar Ross

**Rav Aharon Wexler** 

In this course on Maimonides' philosophical system, we will introduce the major problems of Jewish philosophy, including science and religion, concepts of God, Divine revelation, miracles and free will.

### Monday 5:10-6:00pm Mussar Rav Tuvia Kaplan

We will discuss ideas and practices we can use to deepen our commitment to Torah and experience our relationship with God in a more intense and personal way.

### Monday: 5:30 – 7:00 pm אתגרי האמונה בדורנו (HEB)

הרב צבי קורן

We will study the foundations of Jewish belief as we explore topics such as the purpose of man's existence, faith in God particularly in times of crises, the nature of man's character and expressions of belief. We will raise questions and seek answers through classical and modern Jewish philosophy. The goal of our learning is to engage, internalize, and transform the philosophical ideas into our pragmatic Torah lives for now and for years to come.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

MACHSHAVA

### Monday: 7:30 – 10:00 pm Tochnit ORA

### **Rabbanit Dena Freundlich**

Tochnit ORA is for students who are dedicated to doing more... more learning, more exposure to great Torah scholars, more quality time with faculty, more thought-provoking conversation... Each week, we will visit the home of a guest speaker, alternating between Midreshet Lindenbaum faculty and other Torah scholars in the greater Jerusalem area. Speakers in the past have included Dr. Yael Ziegler, Rabbi Chaim Brovender, Dr. Avivah Gottleib Zornberg, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Rav David Stav.

### Matmidot

Matmidot Scholars will participate in Tochnit ORA, leadership training, and Torah Seminar and/or Daf Yomi. They will also work throughout the year on a research and writing project, under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

### Wednesday 5:10pm - 6:00pm The Aggada as a Source of Wisdom & Inspiration Rav Yitzchak Blau

In the history of Talmudic study, the halakhic sections of Gemara have often received more attention than the aggadic sections. This shiur will explore aggadic (non-legal) portions including stories about the Sages and about Biblical figures, ethical maxims, and psychological advice. We will discover that the Sages used this medium to convey profound messages in a subtle and powerful fashion. The shiur will provide exposure to the best aggadic commentaries of our rabbinic tradition (Maharsha, Maharal, Rav Kook etc.) as well as to some contemporary trends in aggadic study. In addition, we will explore literary questions such as the use of symbols and the meaning of details.

### Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00pm

### טעמי המקרא (HEB)

### הרבנית יוכבד רענן

We hear the reading of the Torah and haftara every Shabbat in shul, but many of us are not familiar with the function of the ta'amei hamikra, the notes that guide the kri'ot. In this course, we will learn what these ta'amim are, how they sound, and how they affect the understanding of the pesukim.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.

MACHSHAVA

#### Wednesday 6:10pm - 7:00pm Tehillim - Song of the Soul Study perakim of Tehillim that w

### **Rav Alex Israel**

Study perakim of Tehillim that we recite in our tefilla. Become empowered in prayer and explore some exciting and challenging Biblical poetry.

### Thursday 5:30 - 6:30pm Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, Medinat Yisrael Rav Ari Shvat & The Thought of Rav Kook

This course deals with the most relevant issues facing the individual Jew and the State of Israel in our historic, exciting and complex generation - in an intellectual, inspiring, and practical way. We will study various writings of Rav Kook, the "Spiritual Father of Religious Zionism," considered among Jews and non-Jews alike to be one of the most original thinkers of the century. Topics include: Can we be sure that the modern State of Israel is really the atchalta d'geu'la and not just another false messiah? How can we, as religious Jews, support a secular Jewish State? Are we a religion, a nation or a what? Tzahal (the Israeli army) - victories, dilemmas and halachic questions; Aliya, Israeli politics - The Right, Left, and the Chareidim; "The Focus on Israel"- why is the world preoccupied with us?

### Thursday 5:30-7:00pm התלמוד במבט היסטורי (HEB)

### הרב חנן גפני

We immerse ourselves in Gemara study and gain so much from both the halakhic and aggadic portions. This course will take a step back and look at the historical context of the Talmud – the personalities, their towns, their livelihoods and even the food they ate.

This course is cross-listed on the Israeli program schedule.