



INSIDE YESHIVAT OR CHAIM

2020-2021 • 5781



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Yeshivat Or Chaim is to inculcate within our students an appreciation for and a commitment to Torah observance and values. Yeshivat Or Chaim, founded in 1973, was established in Toronto with several specific goals in mind:

- To create a *yeshiva* environment where religiously committed Jewish boys will be able to grow intellectually, socially, emotionally, and religiously in a vibrant Jewish setting.
- To offer a dual curriculum of Judaic and General Studies that will arm our students with the methodological tools needed to become self-reliant in classical Jewish texts and give them a broad-based secular grounding in the classical world disciplines.
- To deepen and strengthen the centrality of Eretz Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael as a fundamental element of our Torah beliefs and to this end, to stress the importance of *lashon hakodesh* as a manner of achieving these goals.
- To encourage and fervently support the notion of our students continuing their Judaic studies at *yeshivot* in Eretz Yisrael and in other institutions of higher Jewish learning.



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Henry Koschitzky

Saul Koschitzky

Michael Lax

Bessie Orfus ז"ר

Kurt Rothschild

Phil Schwartz

Jack Weinbaum ז"ר

SCHOOL HISTORY

For over four decades, Bnei Akiva Schools has been developing outstanding Bnei and Bnot Torah who are immersed in *Ahavat Yisrael, Derech Eretz*, and social responsibility towards the Jewish and secular communities in Canada and around the world.

Whether attending Yeshivat Or Chaim or Ulpanat Orot, the schools are places where boys and girls can grow intellectually, emotionally and religiously in a vibrant Jewish setting. In keeping with the maxim of the worldwide Bnei Akiva organization, *Am Yisrael b'Eretz Yisrael al pi Torat Yisrael* (the Nation of Israel living in the Land of Israel according to the Torah of Israel), Zionism is an integral part of the school's philosophy and is deeply rooted in the curriculum.

Back in the early 1970s, all this was just a dream. At the time, parents in Toronto's Modern Orthodox community had just two options for their children entering high school: a co-ed Jewish high school comprised of students from varying backgrounds and levels of religious observance, or a traditional dormitory-style yeshiva for boys with Judaic studies taught in English.

Among those parents were Saul and Mira Koschitzky. With Saul's eldest son about to graduate elementary school, he discussed the idea of starting a high school based on Bnei Akiva principles with his neighbour Phil Schwartz, Nachman "Mr. Mizrachi" Sokol ז"ר and Aron Frankel ז"ר.

The old Torah Va'Avodah building on Vaughan Road became the first home for the school. The founders hired Rabbi Yehuda Felix as Rosh Yeshiva and Dr. Sol Burak as Principal of General Studies.

"Our goal was not to create rabbis, but *baalei batim* who go to university, who stand on their own feet, and who have responsibility for Klal Yisrael," recalls Saul. "We wanted them to connect to Israel."

The next important step was fundraising. The Orfus family donated \$100,000 in memory of their patriarch Chaim Orfus – hence the name, Or Chaim – and the other founding members jointly matched the donation. Once the school established

itself as a vital institution within the community, important funding came from UJA.

Yeshivat Or Chaim officially opened in September 1973 with 29 students in Grades 10, 11 and 12. Two years later, the boys and their teachers headed north to the school's current location on Almore Avenue. In 1993, the community celebrated the addition of a new Beit Midrash with a Hachnasat Sefer Torah and the building was renamed the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Torah Centre to honour Saul and Henry's parents. Recent additions include a state-of-the-art gym built in 2006 featuring a regulation-sized basketball court, a new multi-purpose room and a re-modeled 21st century science lab. In 2017, a new Sephardi Beit Midrash was dedicated. A Fitness Centre was added in 2019.

But what about the girls? Shortly after Yeshivat Or Chaim opened its doors, Phil Schwartz began yearning for a similar version to accommodate his eldest daughter, Adrienne. So did Aron Frankel, whose daughter Esty was also about to enter high school.

"I couldn't envision my sons getting a Religious Zionist education while my daughters would have to go to a charedi-type high school where secular studies were an afterthought," says Phil. "That's why Aron and I began pushing for a girls' school similar to Or Chaim's model."

Ulpanat Orot opened its doors in September 1974 in a house in Thornhill with 23 girls enrolled in grades 10 and 11. The girls – many of them now parents and grandparents – still laugh about davening in the living room and attending classes in the master bedroom with its sunken bathtub. Two years later, the girls moved to the school's current location on Canyon Avenue. In 1980, a new wing was built, featuring additional classrooms and a gym. Recently, the science lab has been re-modeled, as has the Beit Midrash.

As word spread of Toronto's new Modern Orthodox high school, parents and students from across Canada and the United States started to take notice of the schools' important role beyond the Toronto community. Bnei Akiva Schools is a private school, inspected by the Ontario Ministry of Education,

and affiliated with UJA Federation's Centre for Jewish Education. Combined enrollment currently stands at over 265 students, including children of early graduating classes.

After graduating Bnei Akiva Schools, our over 1600 graduates have continued to thrive. Almost all graduates choose to spend a year or more studying in Israel after high school, with most attending yeshiva or seminary to solidify the Jewish education they received in Toronto. Some of these students enlist in the Israel Defense Forces or volunteer for Sherut Leumi where they devote a year or more of service to *Am Yisrael b'Eretz Yisrael*.

All of our graduates apply to university or college and are accepted into one of their top choices. Graduates are successfully employed as rabbis, teachers, accountants, architects, doctors, entrepreneurs, fitness trainers, journalists, lawyers, nurses, paramedics, real estate agents, social workers, and a host of other professions. One-in-four graduates – about 400 students – have made Aliyah.

Rabbi Dr. Seth Grauer holds the role of Rosh Yeshiva and Head of School. Rabbi Grauer joined our schools after over a decade as a distinguished educator in New York. He previously served as teacher and Rav at Ramaz Upper School, Assistant Principal at Yeshiva University High School for Girls and Associate Rabbi at the prestigious Fifth Avenue Synagogue.

"Bnei Akiva Schools has a rich tradition of Roshei Yeshivot in whose footsteps I now have the honour of following," says Rabbi Grauer. "The buildings are filled with excellent,

hard-working educators who use their unique talents and strengths to excite and enrich their students daily. The rabbanim and Judaic Studies faculty strive to find new ways to encourage positive religious growth towards living lives of learning Torah and observance of mitzvot, with a strong emphasis and unwavering commitment to our founding principles of instilling within our students a love for Religious Zionism."

Rabbi Grauer works with his team of administrators and teachers with a keen focus on professionalism, current educational practices and academic excellence, while simultaneously ensuring that Bnei Akiva Schools maintains its warm and welcoming environment.

Though the founders originally thought small, they are extremely proud of how far the school has come and are delighted that the next generation of parents and students are committed to taking Bnei Akiva Schools from strength to strength.

"The school has achieved everything we dreamed about," says Saul. "Our graduates have remained *dati*, excelled at university, succeeded in their professions, and many have made Aliyah. Bnei Akiva Schools has strengthened Modern Orthodoxy in Toronto. Though it wasn't easy getting a new school off the ground 40 years ago, one look at our graduates and there is no doubt that we made the right decision. Henry, Phil and I are so very proud of them, and I know that Aron ז"ל and Nachman ז"ל would feel the same."



ADMINISTRATION



RABBI DR. SETH N. GRAUER

Rosh Yeshiva and Head of School

Rabbi Seth Grauer has been the Rosh Yeshiva and Head of School since 2013. Since joining Bnei Akiva Schools, Rabbi Grauer has overseen increased enrollment, significant building improvements, the creation of a mega endowment, and the growth of our educational offerings and religious programming. He also serves as the Honorary President of Mizrahi Canada. Rabbi Grauer previously served as the Assistant Principal at Yeshiva University High School for Girls ("Central") in New York and was a leading educator for nine years at Ramaz Upper School in Manhattan. Rabbi Grauer worked with teenagers at various summer camps for eight years, and served for five years as the Associate Rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan. Rabbi Grauer studied at Yeshivat Har Etziva in Israel for two years, served as their Director of Alumni Affairs for nearly five years, is a member of their Board of Directors and is the current Chair of their Rabbinic Committee. He was honoured as their Alumnus of the Year in 2010. Rabbi Grauer received his B.A. in History (honours) from Yeshiva University, his semicha from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) of Yeshiva University, and his doctorate in Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration at Yeshiva University. He also earned a J.D. from Fordham Law School and served as editor of the Environmental Law Journal. Rabbi Grauer was a Rabbinic Court Intern at the Beth Din of America and a Legal Intern at the New York State Supreme Court and the New York State Office of the Attorney General. Rabbi Grauer lives in Toronto with his wife, Leba, and their four children, Yonina, Yosef, Gila and JJ.



MR. MORDECHAI SABETI

Executive Director

Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools, Mr. Mordy Sabeti served as Head of Mathematics at TanenbaumCHAT. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Science (Pure Mathematics), a Bachelor of Education (Secondary Education) and a Master of Education (focus on mathematics learning, technology integration and teacher education) from York University. He also holds a Graduate Diploma in Mathematics Education, as well as Honours Specialist Qualifications in Mathematics Education. Mr. Sabeti mentored teacher candidates from York University and the University of Waterloo, and has led professional development workshops and seminars in the areas of student assessment, technology integration, and pedagogy at the middle school, high school and university level. Mr. Sabeti oversees institutional operations at both Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot.



MR. HILLEL RAPP

Director of Education

Mr. Hillel Rapp joined the Bnei Akiva Schools administration in 2016 with an extensive background in both Jewish education and finance. Previously in education, Mr. Rapp was the Dean of Students at Ramaz Upper School where he oversaw co-curricular programming featuring more than 80 after school activities. He also designed curricula and taught courses in Economics, Business, History and Philosophy. In finance, Mr. Rapp managed business development and investor relations, specializing in hedge fund and private equity investments, at Dunbar Capital Management in New York City and Exigent Alternative Capital in Israel. Mr. Rapp holds a B.A. in Psychology from Yeshiva University where he also worked as a Project Manager for YU's Center for the Jewish Future. Mr. Rapp and his wife, Racheli Meister ('01), have three children, Jack, Keira and Aiden.



MR. JONATHAN PARKER

Assistant Principal

Mr. Jonathan Parker was born in Buffalo, New York, and has been teaching in Toronto since 2003, when he began at Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot as an English teacher. He has undergraduate degrees in English and History from S.U.N.Y. Binghamton, a Master's Degree in Teaching English from Boston University, and is a graduate of the Senior Educators Program at Hebrew University where he wrote his thesis on Tanakh education. After four years of teaching English at Bnei Akiva Schools, Mr. Parker taught Judaic Studies at Associated Hebrew Schools. Following that, he taught Social Sciences at TanenbaumCHAT and was the Dean of Students, in addition to being the volleyball coach, Advanced Placement Program coordinator, and supervisor of the Duke of Edinburgh award. Mr. Parker received his Principal's Qualification from York University, and oversees Yeshivat Or Chaim's day-to-day operations, focusing on attendance, discipline and the smooth running of the school-wide systems.



MR. GERALD LAZAR

Dean of Students

Mr. Gerald Lazar has worked at Bnei Akiva Schools since 2007. He has overseen Student Life at Yeshivat Or Chaim since 2010. Currently, his role involves overseeing the school's guidance department, coordinating admissions and supervising student activities. In previous years, Mr. Lazar supervised the yearbook committee and the Model UN team. Mr. Lazar has an Honours B.A. in History and Religious Studies, a B.Ed., and an M.A. in History. He also has a certificate from Yeshiva University's Lead course and has Guidance Specialist certification from Queen's University. Known for its welcoming environment, Mr. Lazar's office is often full of students working on multiple projects.





RABBI NOAH SONENBERG

Director of Judaic Studies

Rabbi Noah Sonenberg has been teaching at Bnei Akiva Schools since 2003 and has taught Torah, Halacha, Philosophy and Gemara. He developed a four year Gemara curriculum which works on developing the students' ability to learn independently. Rabbi Sonenberg has a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a focus on genetics, and studied in Yeshivat Bircas Hatorah in Israel after completing his university degree. Rabbi Sonenberg is passionate about learning and teaching Gemara, and also teaches adult Gemara classes in the community. Rabbi Sonenberg is married to Mrs. Rifka Sonenberg, who teaches at Ulpanat Orot, and together they have three children, Tamar, Boaz and Yishai.



RABBI NOAM HOROWITZ

Mashgiach Ruchani

After spending six wonderful years in Denver with the Denver Academy of Torah community, Rav Noam, Yael, Emunah, Orly, Ziva and Amiel excitedly joined the BAS family in September, 2019. Before Denver, Rav Noam was a rebbe for four years at Rambam Mesivta in NY and the Horowitzes were youth directors at Congregation Bachurei Chemed in Long Beach, NY. Rav Noam has a tremendous passion for learning and growing with others. He loves a good question, especially when he does not have the answer. He also enjoys connecting through music, sports, and the outdoors. The Horowitzes live in Thornhill, where Rav Noam is the Rabbi of Congregation Ayin L'Tzion.



MRS. MIRIAM KLEIN

Director of Educational Support

Mrs. Miriam Klein has worked as a teacher and student support staff member for over 15 years. Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools, she worked in Netivot HaTorah Day School in various grades, both in General and Judaic Studies. Mrs. Klein received her degree in Education and Special Education from the University of Toronto and is an active member of the Ontario College of Teachers. She believes strongly in student support and ensuring the students can meet with success academically, socially and emotionally. Mrs. Klein works closely with the students, parents and faculty at Bnei Akiva Schools to ensure an inclusive environment for all types of learners.



The teachers in Or Chaim facilitate learning in their classroom and a school atmosphere of growth and comfort. Our classes are warm, inviting, and well structured, thanks to our caring teachers. Or Chaim truly is a family and our second home!

JACOB KESLASSY, '18

SHLICHIM AND SHLICHOT



RABBI EITAN AVINER

Director of Judaic Advancement

Since making Aliyah 15 years ago from New Jersey, Rabbi Aviner has been involved in many institutions of higher education. He received Smicha from RIETS and Advanced Smicha from The Chief Rabbinate of Israel. For the past six years he has been a fellow in the Manigut Toranit Program, a joint venture of World Mizrahi and Eretz Hemdah. Following his passion for science, he earned a B.Sc. in Applied Physics and Medical Engineering from Machon Lev, and is completing a M.A. in Science and Halacha from Bar Ilan University.



MRS. RACHEL AVINER

Judaic Studies

A Toronto native, Mrs. Aviner has been living in Israel for over a decade, learning and working in both Jewish education and psychotherapy. She holds a BEd with a double major in Tanach-Toshba from the Michlala and an M.Sc. from the University of North Texas, with a focus in clinical work. When she's not at work, Mrs. Aviner enjoys being a full-time mother of four.



MRS. EFRAT BURKIS

Judaic Studies

Mrs. Efrat Burkis joins us on Shlichut from Raanana and has a B.Ed. in Education and English from Levinsky College of Education. She has taught at the Yavneh School in Raanana and the Noam School in Elad. She was a Bnei Akiva madricha in Kfar Yona, and for her national service, she volunteered at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre and served as a shlichah in California.



RABBI MENACHEM BURKIS

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Menachem Burkis joins us on Shlichut from Raanana and studied law at the Academic College in Kiryat Ono. He has extensive experience in technology and digital media. Rabbi Burkis previously served as a Shaliach in Italy.



RABBI HILLEL HOROVITZ

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Hillel Horovitz joins us on Shlichut from Raanana and has an MA in Clinical and Educational Child Psychology from Hebrew University and a BA in Psychology and Tanach from Bar Ilan University. Rav Hillel isn't new to Toronto, having served as part of Beit Midrash Zichron Dov from 2011-2013. He was a paratrooper in the IDF, where he took part in Operation Cast Lead.



MS. ORTAL MUADA

Judaic Studies

Ms. Ortal Muada joins us on Shlichut from Zufim settlement in the Shomron. She has a B.Ed. in special education and teaching English from Orot College of Education, Elkana and an M.Ed. in Special Education from Bar Ilan University. She has taught Hebrew and Kodesh studies at the Bilu School in Ra'anana. She was a chanicha and madricha at Bnei Akiva in Zufim. For her national service she volunteered at a youth home in Ganei Tikva and as a "Komonarit" in Bnei Akiva in Beit Dagan.



MS. NETAAYA SCHWARZ

Judaic Studies

Ms. Netaaya Schwarz joins us on Shlichut from Ra'anana and has a B.Ed. and M.Ed. in Education and Kodesh studies from Michlala Jerusalem College of Education. She's researching and studying for her PhD in the field of Chazal Thought at Bar Ilan University. She has taught at the Bilu School in Ra'anana and the King Solomon School in Kfar Hayarak – Ramat Hasharon. She was a Scouts madricha and Rakezet in Ra'anana, and for her national service, she volunteered as a Hebrew and Kodesh teacher in Ashdod schools.

BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL OFFICES



MRS. ESTHER MENDLOWITZ

Manager, Business Administration

Originally from New York, Mrs. Esther Mendlowitz moved to Toronto in July of 2012 upon her marriage to a native Torontonionian. Esther has a Bachelors of Science and a Master's of Business Administration. Her previous work experience was in the financial industry in insurance and financial management. Since June 2013, Mrs. Mendlowitz has served as the Manager of Business Administration at Bnei Akiva Schools. In that capacity, she manages the operations of the school, overseeing the business office, general operations, tuition and subsidy matters.



MRS. GEOULA OSIPOV

Controller

Mrs. Geoula Osipov graduated with honours from business schools both in Israel and in Canada. Bringing over twenty years of experience in the accounting field, she joined Bnei Akiva Schools' business office as controller in the spring of 2011. Mrs. Osipov lives in Thornhill with her husband, is the mother of two adult children, and is a proud grandmother of four!



MRS. BASIA CHARNEY

Office Manager



MRS. GABRIELLA GREEN

Administrative Assistant



MRS. ROSANA SALAMA

Administrative Assistant

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



MS. TAMARA COLODNY

Development Coordinator

Ms. Tamara Colodny Velichover joined the Development Office in 2016. With a keen attention to detail and a passion for coordinating special events, Tamara is excited to support the generous donors of Bnei Akiva Schools. Her role includes managing fundraising events such as the IKO Charity Golf Tournament, as well as processing donations and pledges. Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools, Tamara worked in marketing and public relations roles for the past 13 years. Tamara and her husband, Lior, live in Thornhill and have two children.



MS. RONIT BENDAYAN

Development Associate

Ms. Ronit Bendayan was born and raised in Montreal. She graduated from Beth Rivka Academy and upon graduation went to Midreshet Eshel Seminary in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem. After her year in Seminary, Ronit enrolled into John Molson School of Business at Concordia University in Montreal and received her Bachelor of Finance in 2019. Upon obtaining her degree, she began a position at Canadian National Railway until recently moving to Toronto to join her husband and settle in Thornhill's vibrant and flourishing Jewish community. Ronit is happy to now join Bnei Akiva Schools' growing family as a Development Associate, where her role includes assisting in managing donations and fundraisers, as well as managing dedications and pledges to the Beit Midrash Zichron Dov.



MR. DANIEL GOFINE

Special Projects

Mr. Daniel Gofine is an alumnus of Yeshivat Or Chaim, graduating in 2011. Following high school, Daniel studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and enlisted in the Israel Defense Forces in March 2014. Upon finishing his service, Daniel completed a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Psychology and minor in Business from Yeshiva University. Daniel is a former Rosh Moshava of Camp Moshava Ennismore, a Birthright Israel Fellow, and staff member on the Szarvas Summer Fellowship. Daniel is very excited to have returned to Bnei Akiva Schools, where he promotes the continued growth of our school. After two years as Director of Engagement & Development, Daniel remains part of our Development team part-time as he pursues his MBA at the Schulich School of Business.



MS. ILANA LAZAR

Development Associate

Ms. Ilana Lazar is a recent graduate of the Concurrent Education program at York University and holds a B.A. in Sociology and a B.Ed in Intermediate/Senior Education. She has qualifications in French, Social Sciences, Special Education and Junior Education and is an active member of Ontario College of Teachers. During her time at York, Ilana was actively involved in her campus Hillel and with OU-JLIC where she worked to strengthen the campus Jewish community through holiday events, chess and community outreach. She was elected to represent the undergraduate students on the University Board of Governors and interacted with leaders from all parts of the York community. Ilana is very excited to bring her energy and experiences to the Bnei Akiva Schools family.



MRS. SOHEILA SABETI

Executive Assistant to Rabbi Grauer and Development Associate

Mrs. Soheila Sabeti is an educational administrator with 22 years of experience in the Jewish Day School system in Toronto. Mrs. Sabeti has held senior positions in Admissions, Marketing, Operations and Educational Management and worked in both Elementary and High School levels. She joined Bnei Akiva Schools as a Development Associate in 2018, working on community outreach projects and publications. Mrs. Sabeti holds a B.Sc. and an M.D. in Family Medicine. She is married with three adult children and two grandchildren.



MR. DANIEL SAFRAN

Graphic Designer and Communications Associate

Mr. Daniel Safran is a proud Yeshivat Or Chaim alumnus, graduating in 2012. Following high school Daniel studied for two years at Yeshivat Hakotel in Jerusalem’s Old City. Upon returning to Canada, Daniel enrolled in the Graphic Communications Management program at Ryerson University, graduating with his Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) in 2020. While completing his degree, Daniel worked with many Jewish organizations across the GTA, most recently overseeing marketing and development for OU-JLIC Toronto. Since November 2018, Daniel has been the layout designer of *Tzurba M’Rabanan*, a learning program with over 20,000 learners in communities all over the world.



MRS. RACHELI SPIEGEL

Special Projects

Mrs. Racheli Spiegel focuses on strengthening alumni ties to Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot. As an alumna of our schools, having graduated in 2011, Racheli studied at Midreshet Lindenbaum and completed Sherut Leumi as a madricha at Midreshet Darkaynu. After completing her Bachelor of Arts at York University, she spent one year in New York as a Joel Daner Yachad Fellow. Most recently, she completed a Post-Graduate Certificate in Human Resources Management from George Brown College. Racheli has been thrilled to connect and reconnect with alumni in her previous role as Alumni Coordinator; she remains part of the development team part-time as she pursues her MSW at the University of Toronto.



MS. MAYA WASSERMAN

Alumni Coordinator

Ms. Maya Wasserman graduated from Ulpana in 2016 and studied Kinesiology at York University. While at York, she was very involved with OU-JLIC Toronto, planning many events and getting to know the student community. Maya graduated from York in 2020 and is thrilled to have returned to Bnei Akiva Schools as the Alumni Coordinator.

FACILITIES STAFF



MR. MORRIS BRAND

Information Technology Manager



MR. STEVE HYSTEK

Building Maintenance



MR. ALKET NICKA

Custodian

JUDAIC STUDIES FACULTY



RABBI NISSAN APPLEBAUM

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Nissan Applebaum grew up in Winnipeg. He received semicha from Rabbi E. Wolfe z"l, Rosh Kollel Dirshu. After living in Israel for twenty years, he returned to Canada and has since been inspiring young minds in our community. Rabbi Applebaum taught at CHAT for 9 years and at Or Chaim for 12 years as Mashgiach Ruchani. He is thrilled to have returned to Or Chaim for a new generation of students to experience his warmth, enthusiasm for learning and sharp sense of humour.



RABBI MESSOD AZOULAY

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Messod Azoulay was born and raised in Toronto and is a graduate of Or Haemet Sephardic School and Yeshivat Ner Israel, Toronto. Post high school, Rabbi Azoulay studied in various Yeshivot and Kollelim in Eretz Yisrael while living there for nine years. He received his Semicha from Dayan Hacham Amram Assayag of Toronto and from the Posek, Rabbi Yitzchak Kaufman of Yerushalayim. Rabbi Azoulay served as the Assistant Rabbi of the Sephardic Kehila Centre for three years, and is currently the Rabbi of Magen David Congregation.



RABBI AKIVA DANZINGER

Judaic Studies and Arts

Rabbi Akiva Danzinger was raised in both Israel and Toronto. He attended yeshivot in France, Israel, and the United States. He received his rabbinical ordination in Venice, Italy. Rabbi Danzinger has a Masters of Education from Brandeis University and is a Legacy Heritage Teacher Leader Fellow. He has taught a range of Judaic subjects in a number of Toronto Jewish day schools, including The Toronto Heschel School, Associated Hebrew Schools and TanenbaumCHAT. Rabbi Danzinger promotes the advantages of a *chevruta*-style of learning and is passionate about fostering his students' higher-order and critical thinking. When not analyzing arcane Jewish legal responsa of contemporary rabbinic sages, Rabbi Danzinger enjoys camping, scuba-diving and horseback riding. He lives in Toronto with his wife and their three children.



MR. EZER DIENA

Judaic Studies and Science

A local Torontonian, Mr. Ezer Diena attended Ner Yisrael Yeshiva for high school, and studied in Israel for two years at Yeshivas Toras Moshe under Rabbi Michel Shurkin, a premier student of Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik. Mr. Diena returned to Toronto to study at York University, where he received his B.Sc. (Honours Chemistry) and B.Ed., and obtained OCT certification to teach Math and Science at the high school level. Upon graduation, while teaching part-time at Yeshivat Or Chaim, Mr. Diena joined Beit Midrash Zichron Dov, where he served as an Avreich, as well as BAYT, where he served as Rabbinic Assistant. He is married to Thornhill native Chaya (Benmergui), and they have a daughter, Hudi.



MRS. SARA ERLICH

Ivrit

Mrs. Sara Erlich graduated from Telma Yelin School with a degree in Musical Studies, and obtained her Bachelors degree in Hebrew Literature and Philosophy from Tel Aviv University after completing her military service. Prior to working at Bnei Akiva Schools, Mrs. Erlich taught literature and language to Grades 7–10 in Israel. Mrs. Erlich has been teaching Ivrit at Bnei Akiva Schools since 2006. Over the past few years, Mrs. Erlich has further developed the Ivrit curriculum. Mrs. Erlich has a great passion and devotion for the Hebrew language which she enjoys passing on to her pupils, emphasizing the language to be a fundamental requirement at Bnei Akiva Schools. She has had many students contact her from Israel thanking her for the level of Hebrew mastery that she has been able to instill.



RABBI ZVI KAMENETZKY

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Zvi Kamenetzky comes to YOC with over 30 years of successful chinuch experience, including a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Loyola University in Chicago and extensive teacher training and certification through Torah UMesorah. He has a reputation for implementing innovative teaching methodologies and excels in administrative management and community relations. During the 22 years he has been a Rebbe, he has combined his academic background with his natural warmth and sensitivity to instill in his students a love for Torah learning and a deep appreciation for Jewish values as they relate to the world in which they live. Previously, Rabbi Kamenetzky served as the Menahel of The Toronto Talmud Torah and The Joe Dwek Ohr HaEmet Sephardic School. Through his professionalism, exuberance, and vision, Rabbi Kamenetzky rapidly positioned these schools as top choices for quality Judaic and secular education. Under his guidance, these schools experienced dramatic and sustained growth in both numbers and spirit. Rabbi Kamenetzky encourages his students and others to appreciate and reinforce their connection to the past thus ensuring their legacy for future generations.



RABBI YOSEF KURTZ

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Yosef Kurtz is a graduate of Yeshivat Or Chaim and has been teaching at Bnei Akiva Schools since 2015. After graduating from Yeshivat Or Chaim, Rabbi Kurtz studied at Yeshivat Hakotel for two years and completed his degree at York University. While at York, he discovered his passion for Jewish education and began working with NCSY Canada. Rabbi Kurtz has been teaching Jewish Philosophy, Religious Studies and Jewish Ethics at Torah High for the past nine years. While working for NCSY, he completed an MBA at the Schulich School of Business, specializing in Marketing and Finance. In addition to teaching, Rabbi Kurtz supervises the school's JUMP team. Rabbi Kurtz lives in Toronto with his wife Stephanie and their daughter.



My teachers across the board encouraged me to push myself, whether it be in Science, Gemara, English or Machshava. They gave me the skills to allow me to pursue my interests, and guided me to become a critical thinker and self-motivated learner.

SHIMMY NAUENBERG, '17



MS. LEA NEW-MINKOWITZ

Judaic Studies and Social Sciences

Almost five years ago, Lea made the move from Brooklyn, New York to Toronto. Lea is thrilled to be teaching at both YOC and UO this year, after several years teaching Tanach and Jewish History at Ulpana. Her prior classroom experience runs the gamut of Jewish day school education, ranging from Chabad institutions to pluralistic community schools. After spending a year in seminary in Tzfat, Lea graduated summa cum laude from Stern College for Women with a B.A. in history. She also holds a dual M.A. in Hebrew & Judaic Studies and Education & Jewish Studies from New York University, where she studied as a Wexner Fellow and Jim Joseph Foundation Fellow.



RABBI PINI SACK

Judaic Studies

Originally from the UK, Rabbi Pini Sack studied for several years in yeshivot both in England and Israel. He received his semicha from Dayan Gershon Lopian zt"l of London in 2002. With 17 years of teaching experience, Rabbi Sack was a senior lecturer at the Lauder Yeshiva in Berlin, where he taught Chumash, Talmud and Halacha. From 2004–2008, Rabbi Sack directed a highly successful education programme in London for young professionals called “Central & City,” where he taught several subjects, including Business Ethics, Jewish Philosophy and Law at a host of venues, including Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse and Barclays Capital. Rabbi Sack is extremely excited to be teaching at Bnei Akiva Schools, where he hopes to share his passion for the eternal truth of the Torah in a modern, relevant and meaningful way.



RABBI DOVID SAPIRMAN

Judaic Studies

Rabbi Dovid Sapirman is a former *talmid* of the Philadelphia, Ponevezh, and Lakewood Yeshivos. Over the course of his career in *chinuch*, he has been a *melamed*, *maggid shiur*, *mashgiach ruchani*, author and public speaker. He is passionate about offering *chizuk* in *emunah* to *bnai Torah* of all ages and backgrounds.



RABBI JEFF TURTEL

Judaic Studies

Born and raised in Toronto, Rabbi Jeff Turtel has been involved, formally and informally, in Jewish education for over two decades. Most recently, he taught Talmud and Torah Shebe'al Peh at TanenbaumCHAT, where he served as Department Head and developed curriculum. Post high school, Rabbi Turtel studied for several years at Yeshivat Sha'alvim in Israel and upon his return to Canada, he attended the University of Toronto, specializing in Computer Science and Economics. After working as head computer programmer for a prominent investment firm, Rabbi Turtel decided to follow his passion for Torah learning and went to study at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (the Yeshiva arm of Yeshiva University). At Yeshiva University, he received S'micha and completed a Masters degree in Education. Currently, in addition to teaching high school, Rabbi Turtel delivers community Shiurim and runs an investment firm – BEMCO Financial Services Ltd. Rabbi Turtel and his wife, Orly (Karoly '00) have five children, Kobi, Ahuva, David, Rachella and Elisha. Rabbi Turtel is excited to be part of the Yeshivat Or Chaim team where he hopes to share his love for Torah and Judaism.

GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY



MRS. RACHEL BELZBERG

Science

Mrs. Rachel Belzberg has been teaching Science and Math at Bnei Akiva Schools since 2011. After earning an Honours Bachelors of Science from York University, she went on to complete a Masters of Science in Education. Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Belzberg enjoys cooking and various outdoor activities. Mrs Belzberg's calm and caring nature combine with her high expectations to help students achieve success in the classroom and after high school.



MRS. MONICA CHOCRON

Science and Mathematics

Mrs. Monica Chocron earned a summa cum laude Licentiate of Education degree from the University Andres Bello (Caracas, Venezuela) with a specialization in Physics and Mathematics. For the first 14 years of her teaching career, Mrs. Chocron taught at the Colegio Moral y Luces Herzl-Bialik in Caracas (where she studied) teaching in the classroom and working as the Physics Department Chair. She received a special recognition for uninterrupted service and a prize for excellent teacher's performance given by Keren Chinuch Caracas. In 2002, she and her family moved to Canada, and she worked for seven years at Associated Hebrew Schools. Since 2009, Mrs. Chocron has been teaching Science, Physics, and Mathematics at both Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot. Over the past five years, her Physics students won the Weizmann Safe Competition in Canada three times and competed in the finals in Israel.



MRS. DINA GEORGIE

Mathematics

Mrs. Dina Georgie studied Mathematics for education where she earned an Honours Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education at York University. Before joining Bnei Akiva Schools, she worked at Associated Hebrew Schools as a math enrichment coordinator, Math teacher and Science teacher. Mrs. Georgie enjoys challenging her students in math and helping them succeed in her class.



MRS. NADIA GLICK

Mathematics

Mrs. Nadia Glick studied Mathematics and Business at the University of Western Ontario and later pursued a teaching degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools, she taught a variety of Math, Business and Science courses at TanenbaumCHAT and Associated Hebrew Schools. Mrs. Glick aims to create a classroom that is inclusive, well-structured and inviting. She likes to challenge her students to their full potential and aims to meet the needs of various types of learners.



MS. DEVORAH JACOBS

Mathematics

Ms. Devorah Jacobs graduated from York University in 2015 with an Honours Bachelor of Science in Psychology and more recently, studied Data Analytics at Ryerson University. As an Ulpana graduate herself, she is excited to teach Data Management to the Grade 12 classes at Or Chaim and Ulpana. In addition to teaching, Ms. Jacobs works at a bankruptcy trustee corporation as an insolvency administrator and IT specialist.



MRS. NICKY KAGAN

English

Originally from South Africa, Mrs. Nicky Kagan has lived in Toronto for over 30 years. She has taught at Yeshivat Or Chaim since 1999, and held an administrative role from September, 2006 until June, 2019. Mrs. Kagan has principal certification and guidance qualifications. In 2006, she received a Teacher of Excellence Award. In previous years, she has also taught History, coordinated the Model UN team and overseen the yearbook committee. We are thrilled to continue to have Mrs. Kagan's legendary teaching impacting students at Or Chaim in the classroom after her retirement from administration.



MRS. LEORA KASPER

Mathematics

Mrs. Leora Kasper, a graduate of Ulpanat Orot, is excited to have returned to Bnei Akiva Schools where she began her teaching career in 2005. She has also taught at Associated Hebrew Schools and at various schools in the York Region District School Board after graduating from York University with a B.Ed. and an Honours B.Sc. in Mathematics. Mrs. Kasper has her intermediate and senior Math qualifications from York University and OISE. She also holds a Master's degree in Mathematical Finance from the University of Toronto and worked as a quantitative analyst in an investment group at a bank in the U.S. for a few years before returning to Toronto. Mrs. Kasper has successfully tutored many students in Math at both the High School and University level. Her first passion is teaching math and she does so with clarity, conviction and compassion. She believes all students have the potential to succeed in math and strives to facilitate this goal.



DR. SHLOMIT LEVY

Science

Dr. Shlomit Levy has taught Science at BAS since 2008 and has passionately engaged in science education for the last twenty years. Prior to her move to Toronto, she taught Pathology and Anatomy in the New York/American Program at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine in Tel-Aviv University. Dr. Levy received her B.Sc. with honors from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Honors M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Anatomy and Pathology from Tel-Aviv University, M.B.A. with distinction from Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, and authored articles in peer reviewed journals. During her postdoctoral studies at Mount Sinai Hospital, in Toronto, she was the recipient of the Samuel Lunenfeld Award and The Kidney Foundation Award. Dr. Levy aims to inspire the next generation of scientists by making science exciting, relevant and fun.



MRS. ROCHELLE LIPSON

Art

Mrs. Rochelle Lipson has been teaching Visual Arts at Ulpanat Orot since 2007 and is excited to now be teaching at Yeshivat Or Chaim as well for the last two years! She received her Specialized Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from York University. Mrs. Lipson has also taught various courses at Eitz Chaim Schools. She initiated and has continued to organize the Bnei Akiva Schools Art Exhibit since 2009. Mrs. Lipson has also overseen joint creative projects with other schools. She continues to educate herself and works with various art media in order to grow artistically and pass that knowledge and creativity on to her students.



MRS. YAEL LIPSON

English

Mrs. Yael Lipson has been working in education since 2013. Born and raised in Toronto, she is a product of the Jewish Day School system, and is passionate about the continuity of Jewish education and community. Yael graduated summa cum laude from York University with an Hons. B.A. in History. She then received her Bachelor of Education from OISE, University of Toronto. She has been teaching subjects ranging from English to Jewish History in the Jewish Day School system. Yael and her husband Michael ('08), have four children.



DR. JANNA NADLER

English

Dr. Janna Nadler teaches English at Bnei Akiva Schools and is also the Staff Yearbook Advisor. She has a Ph.D. in English from McMaster University and a B.Ed., Honours B.A., and M.A. from York University; all degrees were supported by merit-based scholarships. Before teaching at Bnei Akiva Schools, Dr. Nadler taught Canadian Literature and Children's Literature at McMaster University and the University of Toronto. Dr. Nadler is also a well-known speaker and book reviewer for book club groups throughout the G.T.A. She is the creator/director of Book Clubs by Janna (www.bookclubsbyjanna.com). Dr. Nadler and her husband, Michael, have three children, Maya, Jordan and Aliza.



MR. EFI PALVANOV

Science

Mr. Efi Palvanov studied Biology and Chemistry at York University, earned his Bachelor of Education at the University of Toronto, and learned at Aish HaTorah Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Before joining Bnei Akiva Schools, Mr. Palvanov taught at Ner Israel Yeshiva of Toronto for seven years and was the head of its science department. Mr. Palvanov is also a curriculum developer and has built a number of unique high school courses in science, philosophy, history, and Jewish studies. He is the author of several books and two popular blogs. Mr. Palvanov has a passion for Jewish mysticism and for adventure. He has traveled extensively around the world and has served in the Canadian Armed Forces.



MR. TANI REISS

Social Worker

Tani Reiss is a Yeshivat Or Chaim alumnus. He received his MSW from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work. After graduating from Yeshivat Or Chaim, he served as a Combat Engineer in the IDF, then returned to Toronto to complete his degree in Psychology at the University of Toronto. He comes to the school with more than 10 years of social service and youth work experience, including youth justice, complex mental health and behavior management, and developmental programming experience across multiple provincial sectors. He believes strongly that every individual is unique, with their own strengths and weaknesses, and is dedicated to working with our youth in all their diversity.



MRS. ARLENE RIPSMAN

Mathematics and Coding

Since 2007 Mrs. Arlene Ripsman has been a member of the faculty at Ulpana and Or Chaim, where she teaches Mathematics and Computer Science. Mrs. Ripsman earned her Honours B.Sc. in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Toronto. Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools, she worked for an actuarial consulting firm for seven years before returning to university to study Computer Science. Mrs. Ripsman received her Honours B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Computer Science from York University. Over the course of her academic career, Mrs. Ripsman had an opportunity to teach at both the University of Toronto and York University. It was through these activities that Mrs. Ripsman discovered her passion for teaching. She brings this passion for teaching to her day to day responsibilities at Bnei Akiva Schools.



MR. ELI SCHNEIDER

English

Mr. Eli Schneider believes that all learners have the capacity to succeed regardless of background. Throughout his career, he has combined his roles as teacher, leader, and coordinator of general and special education programs to create engaging learning environments for both students and teachers. Mr. Schneider is originally from the Boston area and received his professional education in New York City. Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools, he served as a classroom teacher in the humanities and social sciences and in special education coordinator and grade leader positions in New York City public high schools as well as at Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto. Mr. Schneider holds a BA in Religion from Vassar College and an MS in education from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. He has earned a Special Education Needs Distributed Leadership fellowship and subsequently graduated from Bank Street College of Education with an advanced Ed.M in Leadership for Educational Change.



MR. ERIC SALTSMAN

Director of Special Projects / English and Social Sciences

Mr. Eric Saltzman has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Studies and Classics from Dalhousie University and a Master of Teaching degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at U of T. Mr. Saltzman's approach to education is centred around demonstrating how subject matter can be used in real-world application and he constantly finds ways to appeal to the interests of his students. He believes that the age-old adage, "you learn something new every day" is a remarkable understatement. Since joining in 2016, Mr. Saltzman has enjoyed exploring the nuances of the English language with the bright young minds at Bnei Akiva Schools.



MR. GORD SKAROTT

Physical Education

Mr. Gord Skarott has been a Physical Education teacher and Athletic Director at Or Chaim since 2002. A graduate of Brock University, Mr. Skarott emphasizes fitness and exercise in his classes and his personal life. He has worked as a personal trainer and regularly competes in long distance endurance events such as marathons and triathlons, including three Ironman events. Mr. Skarott takes his enthusiasm and love of physical activity into each class and finds new ways for his students to have fun while being active. He is also involved in extra-curricular activities, acting as the coach of Or Chaim's cross country running team, soccer team in each of the last 12 years and has added tennis and flag football when our schedule has allowed. He enjoys being a positive element in his students' day and hopes the skills they learn in his class will stay with them into adulthood.



MS. LEORA STERLIN

Social Sciences

Ms. Leora Sterlin is a trained lawyer who received her law degree from the University of Western Ontario, and her Masters of Law from the London School of Economics. In 2002 she switched careers and went to York University to complete a Bachelors of Education. She taught at Bialik Hebrew Day School for many years, and then in 2012 combined her passion for law and for teaching, and moved to teach law at TanenbaumCHAT. Ms. Sterlin has been teaching at Bnei Akiva Schools since 2016.



MR. MICHAEL TEVERSHAM

Social Sciences

Since 2003, Mr. Michael Teversham has been sharing his knowledge and sense of humour with students at both Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpana Orot, teaching History and other Social Sciences. Educated at the University of Toronto, the University of Southern California and State University of New York, Mr. T enjoyed a screenwriting career prior to teaching, working on a variety of television shows now only found on YouTube or in Germany. Mr. T strives to instill a love of learning in his students, improve their verbal and written skills and make the classroom experience as fun as it can be. When not in the classroom, the girls enjoy discussing current events with him in the hallway, and the boys enjoy playing basketball intramurals alongside Mr. T.



Bnei Akiva Schools provided me with a foundation of skills and values that have enabled me to achieve success in university and various internships. They taught me the importance of working hard, treating others with respect and staying true to my personal values.

JOSH MAYER, '15



MRS. KENDRA THOMPSON

Mathematics and Social Sciences

After 13 years physically teaching at Bnei Akiva schools, Mrs. Thompson continues as an online instructor after returning home to New Brunswick. Prior to joining Bnei Akiva Schools in 2006, Mrs. Thompson taught for eight years in the middle school at Netivot HaTorah and one year in New Brunswick. While at Bnei Akiva Schools, Mrs. Thompson taught a variety of subjects including English, Math, Drama and History. She has a B.A. and B.Ed. with honours from the University of New Brunswick, an Honours Specialist qualification in history from OISE and an Intermediate Math qualification from York University. Mrs. Thompson created a girls' running team at Ulpanat Orot that competed in the 5K Hannukah Hustle in Hamilton and the Sporting Life 10K in Toronto.



MR. BRYAN WEINBERG

Social Sciences

Mr. Bryan Weinberg is thrilled to be Bnei Akiva Schools' online instructor for Issues in Canadian Geography. Mr. Weinberg has also taught General Studies and Physical Education at Bialik Hebrew Day School in Vaughan. Mr. Weinberg graduated from York University with an Honours Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology as well as an Honours Minor in History. Following his undergraduate studies, Mr. Weinberg received his Master of Teaching degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Mr. Weinberg strives to develop his students' critical thinking skills by challenging them to consider multiple perspectives and draw connections to issues in Canada and the world abroad. Incorporating technology is a staple of Mr. Weinberg's teaching style, allowing for strong student engagement and an enhanced learning experience.





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The teachers at Or Chaim develop a special environment for their students, creating an atmosphere that makes students feel like they are academically supported while also being able to have a personal connection to the teachers.

JACKSON BERKEL, GRADE 12



RABBI MORDECHAI TORCZYNER

Rosh Beit Midrash

Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner has been the Rosh Beit Midrash since its founding in August 2009. Rabbi Torczyner received his B.A. (Comp Sci) from Yeshiva University in 1993, and studied toward a Masters (Comp Sci) at New York University while learning for the rabbinate in YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He specializes in blending different areas of knowledge with Torah, and utilizing diverse methods to develop curricula in Jewish history, Tanach and Jewish law. Rabbi Torczyner lives in Thornhill with his wife, Caren, and their four children.



RABBI SAMMY BERGMAN

Sgan Rosh Beit Midrash

Rabbi Sammy Bergman grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey. After finishing high school at Rav Teitz Mesivta Academy in Elizabeth, Rabbi Bergman studied in Yeshivat Sha'alvim for two years. He then attended Yeshiva University, where he was a member of the Masmidim Honors Program, and he received a B.A. in Accounting from the Sy Syms School of Business. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, where he was a fellow of the Wexner Semichah Honors Program. Always looking to utilize his talents to teach and inspire others, Rabbi Bergman has served as a Rabbinic Intern for the Riverdale Jewish Center, the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates, and Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood, NJ. After completing ordination, Rabbi Bergman taught at both Rambam Mesivta, and North Shore Hebrew Academy high school. Rabbi Bergman is married to Dr. Ahuva Bergman, who works as a pediatrician. Together, they have a daughter, Miriam. They are excited to become members of the Shaarei Shomayim community, where Rabbi Bergman will serve as a Rabbinic Assistant.



RABBI ALEX HECHT

Avreich

Rabbi Alex Hecht grew up in Westchester County, New York. He received a B.A. in Judaic Studies and History from the University of Arizona. Upon graduation, Rabbi Hecht studied at Yeshiva Darchei Noam in Jerusalem before returning to the United States to serve as the Director of Student Engagement at Eastern Michigan University's Hillel. Rabbi Hecht is the Rabbinic Assistant at Clanton Park Synagogue.



RABBI NETANEL KLEIN

Avreich

Rabbi Netanel Klein is originally from Elizabeth, New Jersey. An ardent Zionist, he made Aliyah with his family at age three, settling in Ramat Gan. Rabbi Klein grew up in a Bnei Akiva environment and proudly participated in his local snif as a madrich and guide to younger chanichim. His involvement with Bnei Akiva didn't stop there; Rabbi Klein worked as a madrich at Camp Moshava Ennismore for several summers. Rabbi Klein joined the Hesder program at Yeshivat Hakotel, where he learned for a year and a half before serving an extended period of two years of combat service in the IDF. Upon finishing his army service, Rabbi Klein spent another year and a half as an avreich at Yeshivat Hakotel, concentrating his learning on contemporary halachic topics.



RABBI CHAIM METZGER

Avreich

Rabbi Chaim Metzger grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey, where he was actively involved in his shul's Youth Minyan and served as a group leader. After graduating from Torah Academy of Bergen County, Rabbi Metzger studied for two years in Yeshivat Har Etzion. Afterwards he enrolled in Yeshiva University, completing a B.A. in Physics and Mathematics, an M.A in Mathematics from the Katz Graduate School, and an M.A. in Bible from Bernard Revel Graduate School. He received his rabbinic ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. Upon completion of his studies at YU, Rabbi Metzger returned to Yeshivat Har Etzion and studied in the Kollel Gavohah for three years. Rabbi Metzger has long sought to bring serious academic rigor to his Torah learning, incorporating his knowledge of Mathematics in teaching at Mesivta Rabbi Shimshon Rafael Hirsch, and utilizing his knowledge of Machine Learning to create a predictive neural network for Taamei Hamikra (the cantillation notes of the Torah reading). While in Yeshivat Har Etzion, Rabbi Metzger was involved with the American program, teaching and mentoring Gap Year students.



RABBI DR. MOSHE YERES

Director, Adult Seder Boker

Rabbi Dr. Moshe J. Yeres served as Principal for Jewish Studies at TanenbaumCHAT. He leads a popular Shabbat morning class at the Thornhill Community Shul Hashkama Minyan, and teaches in various venues in the community. He has many years of leadership experience as an educator, administrator, and religious leader. Rabbi Yeres is an enthusiastic teacher and an articulate speaker and presenter who combines professional executive skills with learning and scholarship. He works well with adults and youth to convey a strong sense of Jewish identity, Torah study and ahavat yisrael. Rabbi Yeres received his Semicha, Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. from Yeshiva University.



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