



Yeshiva University  
Office of Alumni Affairs

## CLASS NOTES JANUARY 2021

### PUBLICATIONS

**Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg '69YC, '74F, '92A** has published and authored a book titled, *Rosenberg Holocaust Siddur: Program Material Preserving the Memory of the Holocaust*. This book can be purchased [here](#).

**Shoshana Golin-Cahn '89S** has published a new book: *Windows of Light and Prayer*.  
About the Book: In 2007, the Young Israel of Hillcrest (Queens, NY) completed the renovation of its main sanctuary culminating in a monumental series of nineteen carved, frosted, and stained-glass windows designed by artist Shoshana Golin. Trained at the NY Academy of Art, Golin's designs respond to the unique character of Hillcrest's community. This book tells how the task of designing the windows fell to Golin, how she experimented with design motifs, and how those ideas were realized in collaboration with the glass artist John Nutter. Splendidly illustrated with full, detail and process photos by Alyssa M. Roth and Danny Bauer, among others, these images explore the use of both traditional stained glass and modern carved glass techniques to convey the aesthetic aims of the windows in their dynamism and meaning. Author website <https://www.shoshanagolin-cahn.com>. The book is for sale at Blurb.com

**Robby Berman '98YC** has authored and published his book titled "*Min Taq Taq: A Collection of Arabic Idioms*"

**Chaya Passow '70S** has authored a book titled *Letters from Planet Corona*. The Covid-19 epidemic exploded in Israel, as well as on the rest of Planet Earth, in mid-March 2020. Trying to make sense of the ensuing insanity Jerusalem resident Chaya Passow soon began to share her thoughts and reflections with friends and family in the form of letters from the newly dubbed Planet Corona, formerly Planet Earth. What began as an attempt at personal catharsis and a quest for meaning grew to a collection of 70 letters covering seven tumultuous months in 2020, culminating in the Jewish High Holidays.

### ARTICLES

**Drew Kopf '64YUHS, '68YC** published a Sedrah Painting and a Biblical Commentary. Please find it [here](#).

**Judy Taubes Serman '86B** wrote an article entitled, "My Father and Birnbaum's Heavenly City" for The Jewish Review of Books. The article is a tribute to her late father, long time YU English professor,

Leo Taubes, and the poet/painter, Uriel Birnbaum, whose works he was translating. The article can be found [here](#).

**Rabbi Dr. Stu Halpern '10BR '13A** Senior Advisor to the Provost, published an article in [Newsweek](#) titled “*Reading Esther in Today’s America*”. Halpern also edited [Esther in America](#) (Maggid Books), which is now available (complete with the text of the megillah itself). Featuring over 25 contributions from leading historians, rabbis and writers, it is the first full-length treatment of the book of Esther’s impact on the political and social history of the United States.

## AWARDS

Congratulations to **Carrie Darsky '02W and Rabbi Yoni Fein '12YC, '14A** who have been chosen to be part of the next class of Wexner Field Fellows. The Wexner Field Fellowship was created in 2013 in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation to focus on developing promising Jewish professionals’ leadership skills while enveloping them in a rich network of Jewish colleagues. Wexner Field Fellows engage in a diverse, cohort-based leadership learning program. Fellows are selected based on their past accomplishments, current motivation and engagement, and exceptional attributes they will contribute to the cohort of 15 diverse Jewish professionals of which they will be a part. Class 5 will start the program virtually and ultimately come together through in-person intensive institutes where they will be exposed to Jewish educational and professional growth opportunities, while addressing their unique needs of career and personal progress.

## CELEBRATIONS

Mazel Tov to **Phil Schiffman '79YC** and **Miriam Maltz Schiffman '80S** on the engagement of their son Avi to Malory Shain, daughter of Brent and Jodie Shain.

**Cantor Simeon Vogel '74YC** and Diane Vogel announce the marriage of their son to Tzvi to Avital Horowitz of Chicago and Israel.

## MILESTONES

Effective this summer, **Ephi Strazynski '07SB, '16W** will become the Executive Director at Yeshiva Har Torah, Queens NY.

## IN-MEMORIAM

**Abraham Sodden '56YC**. Abraham Sodden played for the Yeshiva University Maccabees from 1952-1956 and ranked number 16 on the all time scoring charts for the macs. He was captain in the 1955-1956 season and was named College Division All-American. He was inducted into the Yeshiva University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017.

**Rabbi Yisrael Eleazar Wohlgelernter, '48 YUHS, '52YC, '57R.** Husband of the late Dr. Devora (Kasachkoff) Z"L. Father of Tehilla Roness '99S, Elisheva Gordon '91S, Yaakov Yitzchak Wohlgelernter, Dvarya Katz, Sholom Menachem Wohlgelernter, Temima Fruchter and Chana Wohlgelernter Z"L. Brother of Yossi Wohlgelernter, the late Rabbi Dr. Maurice "The Reb" Wohlgelernter '41YC, '44R, and the late David Wohlgelernter Z"L. Rabbi Israel Wohlgelernter Z"L was Associate Professor of Talmud and Jewish Philosophy at Yeshiva University and Rabbi Emeritus, Young Israel of 5th Avenue (now the 16th Street Synagogue), where he served for over 45 years.

**Aviva Rolnick '90S.** Beloved wife of Paul Rolnick '91SB and beloved mother of Rachel '16S, Eitan '19SB, Atara '21SB, Judah, and Sara.