



MAHARAT ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past difficult year, there was a common thread to my exit interviews with each graduating student. In this time of fear and uncertainty, each one spoke about how the Maharat community sustained them. Our students come from diverse backgrounds and religious leanings within the spectrum of Orthodoxy, they are at different life stages, and hail from Israel, Australia, France, London, Switzerland, and across the United States. Despite the uniqueness of each member of our student body, our graduates overwhelmingly express that being a member of the Maharat community is the most powerful part of their experience. Our faculty are superb and the Torah is rigorous, but our students walk out of the Maharat *beit midrash* with a like-minded network, a community of shared purpose.

Much like Bnei Yisrael who were gathered at the foot of Har Sinai in the desert, we are a yeshiva that is made up of distinct tribes. Bnei Yisrael, up until this point in history, have operated as a fractured group, but at this crucial moment, as they are about to receive the Torah, Rashi famously describes them as *k'ish echad, b'lev echad*, "like one person with one heart."

It is this shared bond, this growing network of women, that gives our community the power to soar. Our 75 alumnae out in the field are serving in 10 countries, with over 60 more students coming up through our pipeline. Yeshivat Maharat is blessed with a community of Torah learners who are truly *k'isha achat, b'lev echad*, "like one person with one heart."

B'vracha,



Sarathung

RABBA SARA HURWITZ
PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER

2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

WE ENGAGED

900+ individuals in our public facing and cohort programs

STUDENTS AND
ALUMNAE FROM
10 COUNTRIES
SPANNING
5 CONTINENTS



MAHARAT ALUMNAE PLACEMENTS

12 SENIOR SYNAGOGUE PULPITS

6 ASST. SYNAGOGUE PULPITS

37 EDUCATIONAL POSITIONS

14 COMMUNAL ORGANIZATIONS

8 CHAPLAINCY SITES

2 HILLELS

6000+ individuals via
email



1200+ subscribers to our
weekly parsha blog



33 students, alumnae
and faculty in Israel



SOCIAL AUDIENCE
6700+



[Sign up to receive our e-newsletter](#)



Read the parsha blog
yeshivatmaharat.org/thisweeksparsha

IN & BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Even during this challenging year, students, staff, and faculty came together for learning and community building. Learning Torah provided comfort and togetherness. The **Core Semikha Intensive** took place in October in Riverdale, NY and included 28 students from across the globe. The **Advanced Kollel Intensive** took place in January in Jerusalem, Israel.



The inaugural Irene and Julius Horowitz z"l **Bioethics and Halakha Lecture** on the topic "Wartime Medical Ethics: *Halakha* and International Law" explored the timely ethical challenges of international law during a global conflict. Over 230 people attended the January lecture online and in person and heard from Rabbi Saul Berman and Rabbi Lila Kagedan '15.

The inaugural **Alumnae Retreat** brought together 20 graduates, faculty, and staff at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Maryland for professional development and networking. Session topics included: "Staying Mission Focused and Employee Motivation," "Goal Setting," "Practical Fundraising," and "Demystifying Foundations."




The annual Pastoral Education Yom Iyun, organized by Arielle Krule '25 and Director of Pastoral Education Dr. Esther Altmann, focused on **addiction and the Jewish community**. Maharat partnered with Selah, a community grounded in Jewish tradition for those in recovery and the recovery curious founded by Arielle, to develop a program filled with diverse voices sharing the complexities of addiction.

CENTER FOR LIVED TORAH & ALUMNAE




This year, Maharat launched three different holiday series written by faculty, alumnae, and students.

NEURODIVERGENT TORAH
WITH RABBANIT DR. LIZ SHAYNE



• YOM KIPPUR
• HANUKKAH
• PURIM
• PASSOVER
• TISHA B'AV



MAHARAT HANUKKAH READER
5784



SEFIRA READER 2024
"COUNTING UP, COUNTING DOWN"



What We are Hearing from Communities: Maharat Impact Study by Rosov Consulting



"Alumnae build welcoming and inclusive Jewish communities... grounded in tradition and meaning by prioritizing relationship-building."

"Maharat has a special brand of leadership that is both deeply grounded in Torah and highly relational."

"Alumnae inspire young girls and women and add valuable lived experience in their pastoral roles."



ALUMNAE IN ACTION

- The *Washington Jewish Week* selected Rabbi Atara Cohen '20 as Someone You Should Know.
- Rabba Yaffa Epstein '15 was a recipient of a Covenant Award.
- Rabbanit Tanya Bella Farber '21 was installed as the co-spiritual leader of The Beis Community.
- Rabbi Miriam Lorie '24 was appointed Rabbi at Keshilat Nashira Borehamwood Partnership Minyan.
- Rabbanit Leah Sarna '18 was appointed as spiritual leader of Shaarei Orah and was awarded Hadar's Ateret Zvi Prize in Hiddushei Torah.
- Darshanit Dr. Miriam Udel '19 was selected as the The Covenant Foundation Jewish Family Education Fellow.

The third cohort of **Va'tichtov: She Writes**, Maharat's fellowship for elevating Jewish women's voices in writing, featured 12 women who learned together, shared skills, and motivated one another. The final gathering for the fellowship featured speaker Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt, who inspired over 75 attendees by sharing her own experiences with writing. Work generated from the three cohorts of Va'tichtov has been featured in a wide variety of publications, including *Religion Unplugged*, *Sefaria*, *Urim Publishers*, *Times of Israel*, and *The Forward*.

GRADUATION

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



375

PEOPLE IN
PERSON

370

VIA
LIVESTREAM

11

NEW
MUSMACHOT

75

MAHARAT
GRADUATES

100

MAHARAT
GRADUATES IN 2025



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS:
SEMIKHA
CEREMONY
JUNE 2025



WATCH THE
CEREMONY



ISRAEL ACTIVISM



MAHARAT-JOFA WOMEN'S MISSION

In January, over 35 women joined Maharat and Jofa to travel to Israel to learn about women's experiences on and after October 7. They visited impacted families and evacuees, met with the *tatzpitaniot* (watchers) and other soldiers, and volunteered throughout *eretz* Yisrael.

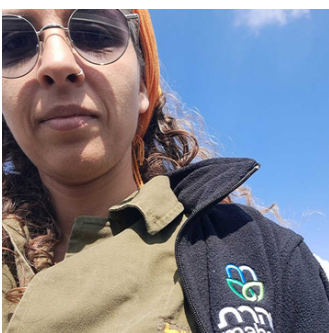
Read Rabba Sara Hurwitz's reflections in the [Jewish Link](#) →



SHOWING UP

Students and alumnae spent the year serving the Israel and the Jewish people through volunteerism, education, and missions to Israel. Maharat distributed \$45,000 in grants supporting travel stipends for the Maharat-Jofa Mission and 19 other projects. Here is a sampling of their impactful work:

- R' Myriam Ackermann Sommer '23 supported her community in Paris by creating a mentally and physically safe space for Jews through enhanced security, a therapist for trauma, and Torah classes.
- R' Dr. Anat Sharbat '15 holds weekly Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah services at the empty table in front of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, serving as a pastoral support and comfort for families of hostages.
- Yali Szulanski '25 coordinated 38 teens who provided support, homework help, childcare, morning support, rides, and more to families in Riverdale, New Rochelle, and Scarsdale whose husbands were called back to Israel to serve.
- R' Alissa Thomas-Newborn '16 organized the Torah of Mental Health Mini-Series, using Torah texts to frame mental health support in this time of trauma, crisis, war, and terror.



GAP YEAR & COLLEGE



EMERGING SCHOLARS AWARD

Three new high school graduates received the prestigious **Emerging Scholars Award**. These exceptional young women demonstrate a commitment to leadership, spirituality, and Torah learning and are part of a cohort offering supplemental programs during their year in Israel. Now in its sixth year, the Award has supported 19 women studying in Israel during their gap year.



ELIANA FROMER



CHARLOTTE MOREEN



AMIT ZOHAR

COLLEGE VISITS



Students, alumnae, and faculty visited eight college campuses to teach Torah and met over **180** future Jewish leaders.

COLLEGE GEMARA

Maharat launched the first cohort of the **College Gemara Fellowship**, a weekly gathering of eight women from the US, Canada, and Australia who learned Talmud with Director of External Affairs and Gemara Faculty Dr. Rachel Rosenthal. Building on its success, the 2024-2025 cohort will welcome 18 fellows into the program.

2023-2024 VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS



SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH

מחרת
maharat

LEARN AT
MAHARAT

ISRAEL:
REFLECTIONS ON
THIS PAST YEAR

GRADUATION
HIGHLIGHT REEL

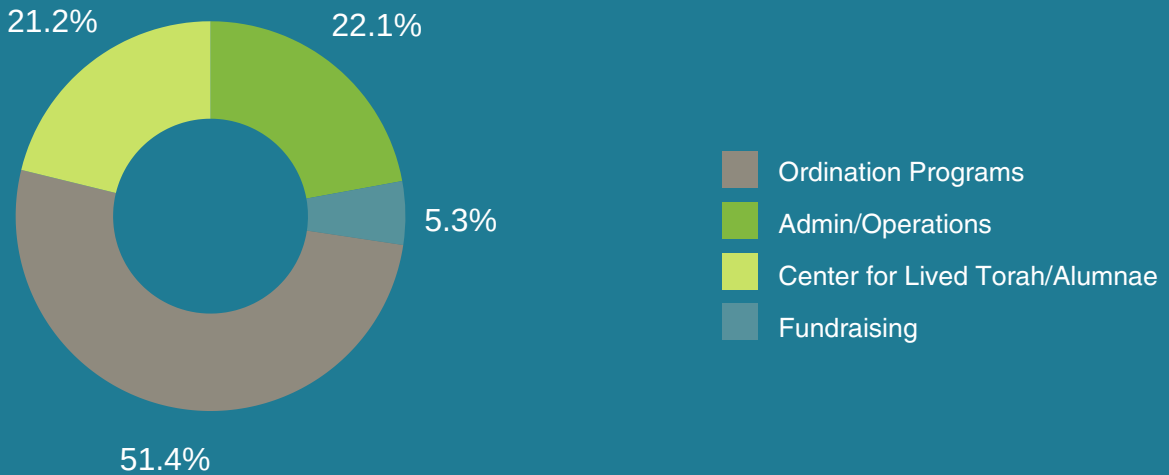
abc 7
CELEBRATE
JEWISH STORIES

RABBA SARA
HURWITZ ON ABC7

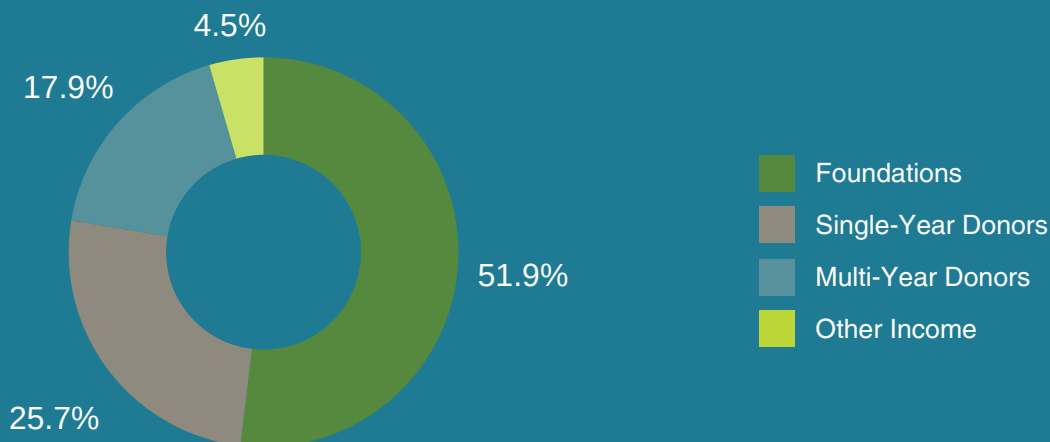
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FINANCES

Maharat's budget supports our core activities: ordination and the growth of our global student body, the outward facing community, and alumnae programming. More than half of Maharat's budget directly supports our ordination programs, which includes the cost of full tuition scholarships and stipends for all students. With 75 graduates, we have also increased funding to support their ongoing professional development and placement, while expanding our community learning opportunities through the Center for Lived Torah.

Expenses - Projected Actuals: **\$3,700,068**



Income - Projected Actuals: **\$3,715,559**



THANK YOU



We are grateful to all our supporters who have made possible Maharat's work educating, ordaining, and investing in passionate and committed Orthodox women who model a dynamic Judaism that inspires and supports individuals and communities. Here is a list of our major donors for fiscal year 2024.

\$500,000 and above

Aviv Foundation

\$250,000-\$499,999

Anonymous
Jim Joseph Foundation
Micah Philanthropies

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Anonymous
Belz Foundation
The Crown Family Philanthropies
The Horowitz Family
Marilyn & James z"l Simons

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Applebaum Foundation
Abbie & Moshe Greenberg
Ambassador Alfred Moses
Rabbanit Gloria & Burton
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\$25,000 to \$49,999

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& Rabbi Dr. Daniel Smokler
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Ariel Groveman Weiner & Josh
Weiner
Wexner Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Eisenstat
Elluminate
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Gloria Kaylie
Phyllis Hammer
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Alisa Robbins Doctoroff
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Laurence Schreiber
Margo & Jack Schwartz
Beth & Kutty Shalev

The SRE Network
Audrey & Dr. Chaim Trachtman
Daniella Fuchs & Jeffrey
Wechselblatt

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Roberts
Rabba Sara Hurwitz & Josh
Abraham
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Melvin Newman
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Lefkowitz
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Noam Stadlan
Abigail Pogrebin
Renee & Joe Septimus
Carol & Irv Smokler
Joyce & Daniel Straus
Toby & Rabbi Avi Weiss



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Faculty & Staff

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Rabbi Avi Weiss, Co-Founder
Dr. Esther Altmann
Rabba Wendy Amsellem '18
Liba Berger
Maya Bernstein
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Rabbanit Tanya Farber '21
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Amanda Shechter
Rabbi Dr. Daniel Sperber
Rabbanit Aliza Sperling '19
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