

I N A U G U R A L
G R A D U A T I O N
C E R E M O N Y

Yeshivat Maharat

“...לעת כזאת הגעת למלכות”

“...For just such a moment you have risen to leadership”

– MEGILLAT ESTHER 4:14

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2013

8 TAMMUZ 5773

MORRIS AND IDA NEWMAN

EDUCATIONAL CENTER

RAMAZ UPPER SCHOOL

INAUGURAL
GRADUATION
CEREMONY

Yeshivat Maharat

ABOUT YESHIVAT MAHARAT

YESHIVAT MAHARAT is the first institution to ordain Orthodox women as spiritual leaders and *halakhic* authorities. Through a rigorous curriculum of Talmud, *halakhic* decision-making (*psak*), pastoral counseling, leadership development, and internships, our graduates are prepared to assume the responsibility and authority to be *Poskot* (legal arbiters) for the community.

Maharat is a Hebrew acronym for *Manhiga Hilkhaitit Rukhanit Toranit*, one who is a teacher of Jewish law and spirituality.

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PROGRAM

WELCOME Abigail Tambor, *Graduation Co-chair*

D'VAR TORAH..... Rabbi Jeffrey S. Fox

FILM Produced by Elena Neuman Lefkowitz, *Neuman Films*

REMARKS TO THE GRADUATES Rabbi Avi Weiss

ORDINATION CEREMONY

GRADUATES' RESPONSES Rachel Kohl Finegold
Ruth Balinsky Friedman
Abby Brown Scheier

BLESSING..... Rabbi Daniel Sperber

CLOSING REMARKS Rabba Sara Hurwitz

With gratitude to Chani and Steven Laufer for sponsoring our Inaugural Graduation

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GRADUATES



RACHEL KOHL FINEGOLD will be joining Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal as the Director of Education and Spiritual Enrichment. She previously served for six years as the Education & Ritual Director of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago. Rachel is a graduate of Yeshivat Maharat, received her B.A. in Religion from Boston University, and completed the Scholars Circle program at the Drisha Institute in New York City. A founding member of the Orthodox Leadership Project, Rachel was named one of Chicago's JUF 36 Under 36. She lives in Montreal with her husband, Rabbi Avi Finegold, and their two daughters.



RUTH BALINSKY FRIEDMAN is delighted to be joining Ohev Sholom: The National Synagogue this August to serve in the position of Maharat. She graduated from Barnard College, and then spent 2 years studying at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. Ruth has planned educational social justice programming through her work at Or Tzedek and Uri L'Tzedek, and taught at a variety of locations in New York and Chicago. As a supporter of dialogue and pluralism, Ruth participated in the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College's Retreat for Emerging Jewish and Muslim Leaders and the CLAL Rabbis Without Borders student fellowship, and is currently a JCRC Community Connections Fellow. Ruth serves as the Congregational Intern at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, and interns at the Center for Jewish Living of the JCC in Manhattan. She lives in Washington Heights with her husband Yoni, where she teaches private chatan and kallah classes.



ABBY BROWN SCHEIER is a community educator in the larger Montreal community. She holds a degree in Religious Studies and Humanities from York University and pursued an M.A. in Bible at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As a popular Judaic Studies educator in Montreal, she teaches students for conversion, marriage, the International Bible Contest, and Bat Mitzvah. Abby established and serves as principal of a supplementary education Hebrew high school, initiates study sessions for young parents, and opens her home for spiritual gatherings. Abby also teaches weekly Torah classes in her home and at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, the synagogue where her husband, Adam, is the Senior Rabbi. They have four daughters.

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATES

Graduating from Yeshivat Maharat is a momentous occasion in our lives. We are all excited, a bit nervous, and eager to enter this new stage. As we reflect on our journey, we recognize that this would never have been possible without the support and hard work of so many. It is only appropriate that we use this space as an opportunity to say thank you.

A *mishna* in *Pirkei Avot* 4:5 teaches us:

”רבי ישמאל בנו אומר הלומד על מנת ללמד מספיקין בידו ללמוד וללמד
והלומד על מנת לעשות מספיקין בידו ללמוד וללמד לשמור ולעשות.”

Rabbi Ishmael the son of Rabbi Yossef would say: One who learns Torah in order to teach, is given the opportunity to learn and teach. One who learns in order to do, is given the opportunity to learn, teach, observe and do.

At Yeshivat Maharat, we not only learned Torah in order to teach; we learned Torah in order to serve the Jewish community. We had many dedicated teachers, both inside and outside of the classroom, who prepared us to reach this point. It is because of their wisdom and guidance that we are here today.

Today Rabbah to Rabbi Avi Weiss, who had the vision and courage to create this institution. Thank you for continuing to stand up publicly for the Yeshiva and its students.

Today Rabbah to Rabbi Daniel Sperber, who ensured that our learning prepared us for the task at hand.

Today Rabbah to our Dean, Rabba Sara Hurwitz, who started Yeshivat Maharat so others could share her dream. Her warmth, knowledge and dedication to *Am Yisrael* keeps us focused on the goals of the Yeshiva, empowering us to go out into the community in order to teach and serve the Jewish people with love.

Today Rabbah to Rabbi Ysoscher Katz who had the courage to teach us that first year, and who challenged us to think about *halakha* in ways we never had before.

Today Rabbah to Rabbi Jeffrey Fox who made the bold move of becoming our Rosh Yeshiva and who has not stopped working since. Thank you for the meticulous and thorough teaching of *halakha*, and for reminding us each step of the way to be as sensitive to the text as to the people we are teaching.

Today Rabbah to our *gemara* teachers, Devorah Zlochower and Smadar Ben-David, who continue to push us to delve into the details.

Today Rabbah to our incredible pastoral team, Dr. Esther Altmann and Erin Leib Smokler, for their insightful guidance and practical training.

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Todah Rabbah to our mentors at our jobs and internships, who took time out of their very busy lives to help us grow outside of the classroom.

Todah Rabbah to the many guest speakers who shared their skills and helped develop and inspire us to be confident leaders.

Todah Rabbah to the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, who devoted hours of valuable work behind the scenes to build Yeshivat Maharat as an institution.

Todah Rabbah to our fellow students for their support. It has been amazing to watch the Yeshiva grow, and it means so much to be on this journey with all of you.

Todah Rabbah to our families for their love, encouragement, and support.

Tov le'hodot l'Hashem!

We give thanks to the people who made Yeshivat Maharat possible and to God who enabled us to reach this point in our lives.

RACHEL KOHL FINEGOLD
RUTH BALINSKY FRIEDMAN
ABBY BROWN SCHEIER

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Yeshivat Maharat

A MESSAGE FROM *Rabba Sara Hurwitz, Dean*



During *Birkat Hakohanim*, there is a custom to read the refrain: *Chalom chalmati, v'ayni yodayha ma hu* – I dreamed a dream, but I do not know what it means.

Chalom chalmati – I dreamed a dream, and it has surpassed my expectations.

On the occasion of this Inaugural Graduation, I am filled with joy and wonder at how Yeshivat Maharat has flourished. Four years ago, Rabbi Weiss and I sent out a call for applications for a new yeshiva, intent on ordaining Orthodox women as spiritual leaders. Today we are thriving, with fourteen students enrolled, a brilliant faculty, committed executive and advisory boards, and financial supporters willing to dream with us. On this momentous day, we are sending off our first three graduates, Rachel, Ruth, and Abby, to inspire and touch the lives of countless people. Yeshivat Maharat is no longer a dream. It has become an essential component of the Jewish landscape.

This dream has emerged with help from several very special people. To Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, our Rosh Yeshiva and my partner in shaping and growing Yeshivat Maharat: Your smiling demeanor and deep knowledge of *halakha* combined with compassion for humanity, make you a true role model for our students. To the Yeshivat Maharat faculty, Dr. Esther Altmann, Erin Leib Smokler and Devorah Zlochower, you are each an amazing combination of scholarship and sensitivity. You helped us craft a curriculum that is both traditional and innovative, didactic and practical, professional and personal. To Dalia Miller, you have become my right hand. Your “can do” attitude and optimistic spirit amaze me, and have allowed Yeshivat Maharat to soar. To Dr. Sharon Weiss Greenberg, thank you for helping share our mission with hundreds of potential candidates, and for modeling Torah scholarship with spiritual striving.

To the Yeshivat Maharat Board of Directors, you are the few courageous leaders who saw Yeshivat Maharat's potential. You knew, better than I did, that this day would come. Thank you for standing by me. To my Angel supporters, you more than anyone, have dreamed with me, and are now able to share in our successes. Thank you! To the graduation event committee, led by my dear friend and mentor, Robin Bodner, you have created a beautiful event that is a true testament to this historic moment. Thank you!

To Rabbi Daniel Sperber, thank you for your guidance through this process, and for your authentic and unique halakhic scholarship that drives your every decision.

To Rabbi Avi Weiss, this is your dream that you have given me the space to to build. It is your leadership, vision, and deep sense of integrity that has enabled Yeshivat Maharat to flourish.

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Yeshivat Maharat

To my Yeshivat Maharat students, it is because of your dedication to and love for the Orthodox community, for our Torah and tradition, and for *Hakodesh Baruch Hu*, that you pioneered this arduous, world-historical path. Thank you for building the Yeshivat Maharat community and for laying the groundwork of such rigor and respect.

I cannot let this moment pass without giving my heartfelt *hakarat ha-tov* to my role model, Blu Greenberg. You had the fortitude to dream about this day before anyone, and your humility, patience and drive for justice has kept me on this path. Thank you for believing in me, and encouraging me every step of the way.

Chalom Chalamti. I dreamed a dream, and it has become a reality because each of you – students, supporters, and advocates – who dreamed alongside of me of an Orthodox community where men and women could lead as full members of the clergy. Let us all celebrate this new, equitable epoch in Jewish history!

B'ahava,

RABBA SARA HURWITZ

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Yeshivat Maharat

A MESSAGE FROM
Rabbi Weiss, Rabbi Fox, and Rabbi Sperber



With gratitude to God and overwhelming joy, we celebrate the first ordination as clergy of Yeshivat Maharat's first three graduates. Each graduate is a *talmidah hakhamah*, blessed with extraordinary skills that will help her spiritually lead her community.

Ruth Balinsky Friedman served as an intern at the Bayit, the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, inspiring her congregants with her talks and classes.

Rachel Kohl Finegold served as rabbanit of Anshe Sholom in Chicago, where she has touched the lives of countless many.

Abby Brown Scheier, as a seasoned Jewish educator, has already impacted powerfully on *Am Yisrael*.

Having successfully completed their studies, these women are now ordained to answer questions in *halakha* (*ve-hus'mekha le-horot ho'ra'ah*) and be spiritual leaders for their communities.

We have clearly identified a need, as each of our graduates has assumed an important position. Other congregations and Jewish institutions have reached out to the Yeshiva for interns, seeking in particular the voice of women in spiritual leadership.

Today our people are searching for meaning, for *d'var Hashem*. We are in desperate need of spiritual leadership who can teach this message to the Orthodox community, to the Jewish people at large, and to humanity. We are confident that Ruth, Rachel and Abby will do that and more.

With blessings to them and their families; with blessings to everyone who has made this day possible; with thanksgiving that we have been blessed to be part of this great moment.

B'hatzlahah rabbah,

RABBI JEFFREY FOX
RABBI DANIEL SPERBER
RABBI AVRAHAM WEISS

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Yeshivat Maharat

A MESSAGE FROM
Hannah Kehat

Founder and Director of KOLECH - Religious Women's Forum

Dear Friends,

From Jerusalem the Holy City, we, the members of *Kolech*, the Orthodox Feminist organization, would like to send our warm congratulations, with deep admiration for the new *Rabbot*, Ruth Balinsky Friedman, Rachel Kohl Finegold, and Abby Brown Scheier, who will be ordained by Rabbi Avi Weiss, and will become spiritual leaders in the Jewish world. We pray today that “from Maharat will go forth Torah, and the word of God will reach Jerusalem.”

”כי ממחרת תצא תורה ודבר ה' לירושלים.”

The Torah that goes forth from Maharat is Torah of women, of great vision, and of Tikkun Olam.

“Our sister, may you become myriads of thousands” (Bereishit 24:60)

”אחותנו את היי לאלפי רבבה” (בראשית כד:ס)

B'vracha,

HANNAH KEHAT

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Yeshivat Maharat

A MESSAGE FROM *Leah Krakinowski, Board Chair*



There is something about being first; about breaking new ground; about forging a previously unheard of moral and spiritual path for others to follow.

Today, Yeshivat Maharat makes history as it becomes the first institution to ordain Orthodox women as spiritual leaders and *halakhic* authorities who are bona fide members of the clergy.

Ruth Balinsky Friedman, Rachel Kohl Finegold, and Abby Brown Scheier, represent our “firsts” to take on religious and spiritual leadership positions in synagogues and in communities across North America. They do so with the responsibility, authority, and humility to be *Poskot* (legal arbiters) for the Jewish community. With this step comes the understanding that Yeshivat Maharat has paved the way for young women around the world to make their voices heard as spiritual leaders.

We are fortunate that many others have joined us in our Journey of Firsts, and we are forever grateful to those who believed in Yeshivat Maharat from the beginning. Since Rabbi Avi Weiss and Rabba Sara Hurwitz founded Yeshivat Maharat in 2009, more than a million dollars has been raised to help nourish and sustain our inspirational faculty and growing student body. We are supported by individual donors and illustrious organizations and foundations such as the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA), Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York, The Hadassah Foundation, *Bikkurim*, and *Targum Shlishi*. These and others have linked arms with us; stood shoulder-to-shoulder during trying times; and they continue to spread their enthusiasm for our mission in their communities, synagogues, and college campuses.

Today, we celebrate our graduates’ accomplishments and thank their families – and our supporters – for such unending and visionary support. *Mazal Tov* to our graduates!

B’hatzlacha,

LEAH KRAKINOWSKI

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Yeshivat Maharat

YESHIVAT MAHARAT'S LEADERSHIP

EVENT CHAIRS

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Abigail Tambor

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Tamar Major
Carol Kaufman Newman
Daniel Perla

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Rabba Sara Hurwitz, *Dean*
Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, *Rosh Yeshiva*
Dr. Esther Altmann, *Director of Pastoral Training*
Erin Leib Smokler, *Director of Spiritual Development*
Devorah Zlochower, *Talmud Chair*
Dalia Miller, *Assistant Director*
Dr. Sharon Weiss Greenberg, *Director of Recruitment*

STUDENTS

Rachel Kohl Finegold, Class of 2013
Ruth Balinsky Friedman, Class of 2013
Abby Brown Scheier, Class of 2013
Rori Picker Neiss, Class of 2014
Victoria Sutton, Class of 2014
Lila Kagedan, Class of 2015
Miriam Gonczarska, Class of 2015
Dr. Anat Sharbat, Class of 2015
Ramie Smith, Class of 2016
Alissa Thomas, Class of 2016
Dasi Fruchter, Class of 2017
Dr. Carmella Abraham, Class of 2018
Kayla Arons Avraham, Class of 2018
Chava Evans, Class of 2018

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Yeshivat Maharat

TRIBUTE SCROLL

Yeshivat Maharat has been blessed by its Founding supporters, Meah Campaign donors, and Tribute Scroll contributors, each of whom has made this day possible.

BENEFACTOR \$100,000+

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM

CHANI AND STEVE LAUFER

Mazal tov to the graduates and to Rabba Sara! A wonderful day for women and for the entire Jewish community.

BELDA AND MARCEL LINDENBAUM

We congratulate our three musmachim and wish them success in their communities.

BUILDER \$50,000+

BARBARA DOBKIN

MARSHA AND HENRY LAUFER

ZELDA R. STERN AND STANLEY I. ROSENZWEIG

With awe and gratitude to Rabba Sara Hurwitz and to Ruth, Rachel, and Abby for this historic day.

PACESETTER \$25,000+

DR. GITI AND JACK BENDHEIM

BIKKURIM

LEN FASSLER

SEYMOUR KESSLER

In memory of my wife Hilda Kessler, Hinde Yael bat Yosef v'Chaya z"l

SUSTAINER \$15,000+

DR. SUSAN FOLKMAN

JEWISH WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF NEW YORK

CAROL KAUFMAN NEWMAN AND

MEL NEWMAN

We salute the vision of Rabbi Avi Weiss and Rabba Sara Hurwitz. Our warmest congratulations to the three graduates. May they go from chayil to chayil.

ABIGAIL AND SHAI TAMBOR

LEADER \$10,000+

ANONYMOUS

RELLA FELDMAN

TAMAR AND ERIC GOLDSTEIN

ABBIE AND MOSHE GREENBERG

SALLY MENDELSON AND DAVID LOWENFELD

LINDA MIRELS

ANN AND JEREMY PAVA

HARRIET AND MARC SUVALL

AUDREY AXELROD TRACHTMAN AND

CHAIM TRACHTMAN

CHAMPION \$5,000+

RABBA SARA HURWITZ AND JOSH ABRAHAM

Mazal Tov to Maharat Ruth, Rachel and Abby. I am privileged to call you my colleagues.

ROBIN AND ALLEN BODNER

Mazal tov Rabba Sara on this historic occasion. You dreamed the dream and made it a reality. Yasher kokhaken to Rachel, Ruth and Abby for achieving this milestone. You are an inspiration to us all.

SALLY GOTTESMAN

DIANE TRODERMAN AND HAROLD GRINSPOON

ELISA AND ALAN PINES

TARGUM SHLISHI, A RAQUEL AND ARYEH

RUBIN FOUNDATION

MARGO AND JACK SCHWARTZ

LEAH KRAKINOWSKI AND ANDREW SILBERSTEIN

For our mothers, who broke new ground in their own quiet ways.

ELLEN AND JEROME STERN

ARIEL GROVEMAN WEINER AND JOSH WEINER

PILLAR \$2500+

JENNIFER PEPPER AND JED BERGMAN

HINDA AND ARNOLD BRAMNICK

YITZ AND BLU GREENBERG

On this momentous occasion, in honor of Rav Avi, Rabba Sara and the Maharat faculty and graduates, who had the courage to create history.

THE HADASSAH FOUNDATION

PHYLLIS HAMMER

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Yeshivat Maharat

PILLAR, continued

JUDY HEICKLEN

MELANIE AND DR. MERVYN HURWITZ
*Congratulations graduates and Rabba Sara Hurwitz
on a historic achievement*

MAVERICK CAPITAL

MARTIN AND JUDY MORITZ
*Darling Sara, may you and your team go from strength to
strength and through you may you all grow in wisdom
with Torah Knowledge. Love you and very very proud,
Uncle Martin and Aunty Judy*

VALERIE ALTMANN AND DANIEL PERLA

DANIELA AND LAURENCE SCHREIBER

TOBY AND RABBI AVI WEISS

PATRON \$1800+

DR. MAYIM BIALIK

ESTHER ALTMANN AND RICHARD CANTOR
*In honor of Abby, Rachel, Ruth and all of the YM students
for your passion, courage, creativity, dedication and wisdom*

SHARON AND MATTHEW COHEN

DOROTHY AND HERBERT FOX

MARCIE HEMMELSTEIN

INA AND DAVID TROPPER

GUARDIAN \$1000+

ALIZA LEVINE AND ERIC BROWN
*Mazal tov (Congregation Ohev Sholom,
Washington, DC)*

SANDRA LISS FRIEDMAN
*Mazel tov to my amazing daughter-in-law Ruth Balinsky
Friedman. Keep making waves!*

DR. MARC GALANTER

JULIE SHUGARMAN AND ILAN GEWURZ

JUDY AND SHMUEL KLITSNER

DRS. NAOMI AND MARTIN LEIB
*In honor of Erin Leib Smokler - the personification of a
spiritual and passionate leader*

SHARI AND NATHAN LINDENBAUM

JENNIFER AND MARK PEARLMAN

DR. REZA GREEN AND RABBI MOSHE SILVER
Mazal Tov to the graduates- "Pi-ha patcha b'chochma"

ATARA MILLER AND RABBI BENJAMIN SHILLER

SUPPORTER \$500+

DR. MYRA RAPOPORT AND RABBI MICHAEL
BALINSKY
*Mazal Tov to our daughter Ruth. May you teach Torah well.
We are grateful to all your teachers.*

MARGARET AND CHAIM CHARYTAN

CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM
*We congratulate Abby Brown Scheier, Rachel Kohl Finegold,
and Ruth Balinsky Friedman on their respective ordinations
from Yeshivat Maharat. May They Go From Strength To
Strength in Avodat Hakodesh.*

MARTINE AND STANLEY FLEISHMAN

BETH PEPPER AND RABBI JEFFREY FOX

RABBI AARON FRANK AND LAURA SHAW FRANK
ATERET, YANNIV, DAVI AND NERI

AMY FOX GRIFFEL AND MARTIN GRIFFEL
May you go from strength to strength!

SHOSHANA RAZEL GORDON, FIONA, STEPHIE,
CHLOE, CHARLOTTE, AND JOEY GUEDALIA
*In honor of Rabba Sara, Rabbi Avi, the graduates, and the
faculty, students, administrators, visionaries, activists and
donors who made this historic holy moment possible!*

RACHEL HERLANDS
In honor of Zelda Stern and all the great work she does

NEERA AND MICHAEL KAUFMAN

CARMELLA, STEVEN, RANI, REFAEL AND
KEREN KUBERSKY
בכרי אתה כחי וראשית אוני
Kol HaKavod to Ruth, Rachel and Abby for leading the way!

SUSANNA LEVIN

RABBI ASHER LOPATIN AND ANSHE SHOLOM
B'NAI ISRAEL
In honor of Rachel Kohl Finegold

MICHELE AND DAVID MORSE

RORI PICKER NEISS AND RUSSEL NEISS
*In honor of Abby, Rachel and Ruth: friends, classmates,
colleagues and role models.*

GLORIA AND BURTON NUSBACHER

EVE PERKAL

LAUREN AND MILTON WAKSCHLAG

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Yeshivat Maharat

ASSOCIATE \$360+

THE HEBREW INSTITUTE OF RIVERDALE -
THE BAYIT

*Mazal Tov to the three outstanding graduates, especially
our Intern Ruth Balinsky Friedman. To our beloved
Rabba Sara - Mazal Tov on this momentous occasion -
The Bayit Staff and Community*

RACHEL AND MATTHEW BERKE

*In memory of Joyce Annenberg, Yehudis Michla Bat
Avraham Yitzchak v'Shayndel.*

SHIFRA BRONZNIK

CAROLE DAMAN

DARKHEI NOAM

MATI AND AARON FRIEDMAN

FRANKSTON-MORRIS-GASNER FAMILIES,
HARRISBURG, PA

*And In Your Majesty Prosper, Ride On, On Behalf Of
Truth and Humility And Righteousness And Let Your Right
Hand Teach You Awesome Things. Psalms 45:4*

DANIEL HELD, ARIELLE BERGER, AND REVA HELD

DINA AND MARSHALL HUEBNER

ANDREA FASTENBERG AND MARCEL KAHAN

NANCY LEREA

DIMITRI OFFENGENDEN

RAMIE AND THE SMITH FAMILY

*Ruth, Abby and Rachel - Wishing you a tremendous
Mazal Tov! May you continue to inspire those around
you as you have inspired me.*

LINDA BELFER WEINER AND BERNIE WEINER

In honor of all the graduates

SPONSOR \$250+

KAYLA ARONS AVRAHAM AND DAVID AVRAHAM

RABBI YONAH AND DR. RACHEL BERMAN

*Maharats Ruth, Rachel and Abby and the dedicated
administration, teachers and staff of Yeshivat Maharat:
You inspire us. L'ela ul'ela!*

RUTH FAGEN

SHIRA GORDON

LISA AND ERIC HALPERN

RACHEL SLUTSKY AND WILLIAM KAPLOWITZ

CHAYE KOHL

*Rachel Kohl Finegold: With joyful, tearful awe, I wish
you much Hatzlacha; you blaze new paths! Love, Ema*

ESTHER AND RABBI SIMCHA KRAUSS

DEVORAH ZLOCHOWER AND RABBI DOV LINZER
May you go from strength to strength

BARBARA MAZOR

MIRIAM AND IRA PARNES

BARBARA AND DR. JOEL RASCOFF

ELAINE AND TOBIAS ROBINSON

DR. ELANA ZION GOLUMBIC AND RABBI

MISHAEL ZION

*In honor of Am Yisrael motivating this historic moment,
and the men and women who got us here. Mazal Tov!*

FRIEND \$180+

JED ABRAHAM

In honor of Josh Abraham and Rabba Sara

ANONYMOUS

In honor and memory of Prof. Hana Safrai

RENEE, TED, PHILIP AND MAX BALTUCH

*In honor of the graduation of our rebbetzin Abby Brown
Scheier and Maharat Rachel Kohl Finegold.*

ILANA BENSON

JUDY AND MARK CAPLAN

*May you continue to be a source of learning and
inspiration to us all*

ELLEN CHERRICK

TEACHERS AND FRIENDS AT DRISHA

*"Ride on in the cause of truth and righteousness and let
your right hand lead you to awesome deeds." Psalms 45:5*

BEVERLY AND ANDREW DRUCK

May you go from strength to strength, Yashar Kochechem

SHIRA BILLET AND RABBI STEVEN EXLER

ADINA AND STEVEN FREDMAN

TOBA AND ROBERT GOLDBERG

*In honor of Rabba Sara Hurwitz and in memory my
mother, Harriet Weitz*

ZELLA AND GLENN GOLDFINGER

IN MEMORY OF PAULINE SIMON

ILANA AND GIL GOLDSCHNID

*Mazel Tov Abby, a true Bat-Torah and a dear friend.
With love*

BETH HAIT

NINA BLACK AND AVERY HART

JOFA (JEWISH ORTHODOX FEMINIST ALLIANCE)

*To the first Maharats: JOFA wishes you all much strength
and success in your historic journeys. Ta'alu v'tatzlichu!*

LILA KAGEDAN

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CEREMONY

Yeshivat Maharat

FRIEND, continued

NESSA RAPOPORT, TOBI KAHN, JOSH, MATTIE AND DORIA
To honor our chalutzah, Ruth Balinsky Friedman, from her very proud family. With love

ERICA AND SCOTT KAPLAN
Rabba Sara, this is an amazing accomplishment and we are so proud of you.

DR. LYNN AND RABBI DR. ALEXANDER KAYE
In honor of the graduates, Rabba Sara Hurwitz and Rabbi Avi Weiss, Mazal Tov!

KAREN KOLODNY
In honor of Dr. Esther Altmann

INNA AND DMITRY KORENBLIT AND FAMILY
*Mazel Tov, Abby! We are really proud of you!
May this be just the beginning of your many successes.*

LUCY AND DAVID KURTZER-ELLENBOGEN

EVE LANDAU
Congratulations graduates and Rabba Sara Hurwitz on a historic achievement.

DAVID, VICKY, IAN, JULIA AND HAYLEY
LANGLEBEN
Best wishes

SOL AND KAREN LISS
Mazel tov to our niece, Maharat Ruth Balinsky Friedman, and to all the graduates.

RABBI ASHER, RACHEL, SHAYNA, CARA, JUDAH AND GIDEON LOPATIN
Mazel Tov to Ruth Balinsky Friedman and Abby Brown Schier and especially to our own Rachel Kohl Finegold!

DAVID MANN

JILL MIROWITZ MOGIL AND DAVID MOGIL

DRS. AILENE AND NOEL NUSBACHER

SHANI COHEN AND GIL ORBACH

LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN
Kudos to these three brilliant scholars and feminist pioneers

RABBI SALLY PRIESAND
To our ordinees - May you find as much satisfaction in serving the Jewish people as I have.

RABBI SANDY EISENBERG SASSO
May your teaching be a new song for our people. Mazal Tov!

SHANI AND DAVID SCHWARTZ

DEVORA STEINMETZ AND RABBI DAVID SILBER
RUTHIE SIMON

CHARLES HALL AND PAULA SINCLAIR
We salute Chaye Kohl, mother of Rachel Kohl Finegold, for her decades of service to the Jewish community.

ERIN LEIB SMOKLER AND DANIEL SMOKLER
Mazel Tov to the graduates! It has been a profound privilege to accompany you on this tremendous journey.

ANN WIMPFHEIMER AND EDDIE SNYDER
Mazel Tov to Yeshivat Maharat's First Graduates Ruth, Rachel and Abby. May you go from strength to strength as you serve Klal Yisrael.

ROBERT SPIEGEL AND DR. BARBARA
GAIMS-SPIEGEL
In memory of Ruth Gordon Gaims, Evelyn Koppke Spiegel, and Rose Gordon Bergman

SHARON SAMET AND YAAKOV STERN

ADINA SHOULSON AND TODD STERN

MICHELLE STONE

BOB AND SURIE SUGARMAN
*Sorry we can't be with you on this historic occasion.
Mazel Tov to you all!*

RABBI DIDI, MARK TANNIN, AND ALISSA THOMAS
(CLASS OF '16)
Thank you Reb Jeff, Rav Avi, and Rabba Sara for leading the way for Orthodox women!

ADRIENNE AND MICHAEL TUROK

SUSAN HOLZMAN WACHSSTOCK

JONATHAN WAITMAN

WOMEN'S TEFILLAH GROUP OF RARITAN VALLEY
Mazel Tov to the Yeshivat Maharat graduates; an important step for women and Judaism.

THE MONDAY MORNING TORAH INSTITUTE AT
SHAAR HASHOMAYIM, MONTREAL
Mazel Tov on your incredible achievement of becoming a maharat, we are so proud of you!

FROM THE STUDENTS AT YESHIVAT MAHARAT
In honor of all the women who came before us and forged the path that we now walk.

ADVOCATE \$100+

WENDY AMSELLEM
Mazel Tov! It has been a pleasure to learn with you.

JENNIFER BREGER

MICHAEL BROWN

LYNN AND BOB COHEN

RABBI YONATAN COHEN AND FRAYDA
GONSHOR COHEN

CAROL CUNRADI

YEHUDIT ROBINSON AND SAM DAITCH

CLAIRE DIENSTAG

INAUGURAL
GRADUATION
CEREMONY

Yeshivat Maharat

ADVOCATE, continued

RABBI MENASHE AND DONNA EAST AND
THE MOUNT FREEDOM JEWISH CENTER,
RANDOLPH, NJ

NANCY STERN SCHOLEM AND RABBI MOSHE
EDELMAN

REB MIMI FEIGELSON

SHIRA FISHMAN

DANNY AND SALLY FRANKEL

RUTH BALINSKY FRIEDMAN AND YONI
FRIEDMAN

RENA AND HAROLD FRUCHTER

RICHARD GOLDBERGER

ESTHER AND JACK GOLDMAN

CAROLYN AND HOWARD GRAYBOW

DRS. MILAGROS AND MICHAEL GREENBERG

SIMA AND ALLAN GREENBERG

JENNIFER GROSBERG

RUTH BROOKS GROSS

PAIGE KLOTZ AND RICHARD GROSSMAN

DR. JAN HACKMAN

AVIGAYIL HALPERN

RACHEL HEISLER

RABBI JASON HERMAN

ELLEN HERTZMARK

ROBERTA AND BERNARD HOROWITZ

ARIEL AND RABBI DAVID INGBER, ROMEMU

BRACHA AND DAVID JAFFE

EVELYN JAKABOVICS

KAREN JORDAN

Congratulations to the first graduating class of Yeshivat Maharat.

LOUISE KAHN

DEBORAH YASINSKY AND RABBI DAVID KALB

ELANA KATZ

DR. SHARON FLATTO AND RABBI YSOSCHER KATZ

ABBY AND MORDY KEHAT

MICHAEL KELLMAN

DEBORAH KLEIN

DR. FRANCES FLUG AND REUBEN KOOLYK

JESSICA AND RICHARD LANGER

*In honor of HIR Intern & Maharat Graduate
Ruth Balinsky Friedman*

JEAN-CHARLES LE BRUN

In honor of Abby Brown Scheier upon her graduation

KAREN AND NORMAN LERNER

NECHAMA AND BILLY LISS-LEVINSON

RUTH LICHT

CHAYA AND CHAIM MARKS

DALIA MILLER

CECILY AND ELI OBERSTEIN

OBOELER FAMILY

BEA AND JAY PEARL

BROOKE AND RABBI YOSHI POLLAK

JUDITH KAPLAN AND LAWRENCE POLSKY

*In honor of the pioneering graduates and the visionaries,
leaders and teachers who have enabled their achievements.*

TOBY AND MAURICE REIFMAN

LIANE FELDMAN AND HILLEL ROSEN

*In admiration of Abby Brown Scheier as a role model
and leader. Yasher Koach!*

RIVKA WEISER AND TED ROSENBAUM

JANET AND DR. ALAN ROSENTHAL

In honor of Rabba Sara

RACHEL WOLKINSON RUBINSTEIN AND
JASON RUBINSTEIN

LAMELLE AND ROB RYMAN

*Mazal tov to graduates, faculty and visionaries of Yeshivat
Maharat! Thank you to Rabba Sara for her love, wisdom,
and courage.*

NIGEL SAVAGE

RABBI HANAN SCHLESINGER

PHIL AND JEAN SCHNEIDER

MICKY AND ERIN SCHON

YAIRA FRANKEL-SCHROEDER AND JOSHUA

SCHROEDER

ELLEN AND MARK SCHWARTZ AND JAMIE
SCHWARTZ

JANE SHAPIRO

RUTH SLATER

SARAH GERSHMAN AND DANIEL SILVERBERG

ERICA AND ZEV SKOLNICK

SUSAN AND ROBERT SMITH

AMY STONE

ANTONIA TAMPLIN

AMY AND JOEL WOLFSON

NORMA AND RABBI DAVID L. WOOLFSON

INAUGURAL
GRADUATION
CEREMONY

Yeshivat Maharat

DEVOTEE: TO \$99

RIVA ALPER

ANONYMOUS

TRISHA ARLIN

BAIS ABRAHAM CONGREGATION

ANNE BERGMAN

JOYCE AND ISAAC BEN-EZRA

RABBI ROBYN FRYER BODZIN

M B BORDMAN

STEPHANIE BRESLAW

RUTH AND HOWARD BROMBERG

CHAYA AND ALLAN GORDON BURSTYN
Congratulations to the graduates

DEBORAH CHARGOIS

STACEY GUTHARTZ COHEN

MARILYN AND ROBERT DAMAST

RABBI AMY EILBERG
Mazel tov v'shefa berachot to my sisters in the rabbinate.

YEDIDA EISENSTAT

TIBOR ENGEL

JOSIE AND WILLIAM ENGLEHART

RACHEL KOHL FINEGOLD AND RABBI AVI
FINEGOLD

JOYCE FISHMAN

RABBI CHERIE KOLLER-FOX AND PROFESSOR
EVERETT FOX

MARILYN AND ROBERT FRIED

DASI FRUCHTER

ELISHA AND SAMUEL GECHTER

BONNIE GELLER-GELD AND ISAAC GELD

LISA GILBERT

ANN GLAZER

GLORIA GOLBERT

PHILIP HOWARD GOLD

LESLIE GOLDRESS

SHAWNA GOODMAN

JUDITH AND ROBERT GRAUMAN

PAM EHRENKRANZ AND MATT GREENBERG

RABBI GABE GREENBERG

DEBORAH BRAVERMAN AND HILLEL GROSSMAN

MELISSA SCHOLTEN-GUTIERREZ AND DUSTIN
GUTIERREZ

TAMARA HALLE

RABBI NATHANIEL HELFGOT AND CONGREGATION
NETIVOT SHALOM, TEANECK, NJ

WENDY GOULSTON AND LARRY HELIGMAN

RABBI TYSON HERBERGER

RICHARD HIRSH

DARIA AND YECHIEL HOFFMAN

MARILYN AND RICHARD JEDWAB

HAINA AND BERNARD JUST-MICHAEL

BUNNY AND ARNIE KAPLAN

CAROLE KAUFMAN

STACEY AND WILLIAM KELLAR

AMICHAÏ KINSBERG

ANN KIRSCHNER

DOUG AND DEBRI KLEIN AND FAMILY
*Mazel Tov and Yashar Kochach to Ruth Balinsky Friedman.
We are very proud of you.*

AMY KOPLOW

EVAN KRAMÉ

FRANCESCA AND JOSHUA KRANZBERG

ARWEN KUTTNER

MICHELLE LEVINE

JUNE AND ROSE LEVINE

DINA EPSTEIN AND EITAN LEVISOHN

RACHEL LIEBERMAN

RABBI ARI HART, BECCA LINDEN AND
HODY LINDENHART
In honor of Ruth Balinsky Friedman

ALLISON AND SETH LYONS

ROBIN MADER (SHAAR HASHOMAYIM)

ERNESTINA OSORIO

JENNY MEDINA AND JOSH PASHMAN
*In honor of the graduates and Reb Mimi from whom our 9
month old daughter Elsa will learn so much. We are grateful.*

ANNE PFEFFER

DANIELLA PRESSNER AND RABBI SAUL STROSBERG,
COLE, AMALIA, AND RAVITAL PRESSNER
*Abby - Mazel Tov on this incredible accomplishment.
Your embodiment of courage, intellect, sensitivity, and
stamina is humbling. We are so sorry we could not be there
with you to celebrate. MAZEL TOV!*

INAUGURAL
GRADUATION
CEREMONY

Yeshivat Maharat

DEVOTEE, continued

FELICE HELFGOTT AND ESTHER ROLLHAUS
Mazal tov to three exceptional women.

JILL AND THOMAS SACKS

PAUL SAIGER

THE SANTORIELLO FAMILY
*In honor of Rabba Sara and her work at the HIR,
thanks for your support of our family*

LUCY AND JAMES SCHMEIDLER

SHELLEY AND JONATHAN SCHNEIDERMAN
Mazal Tov to Abby and Rachel.

ADINA SEGAL

SARA WINKELMAN AND RABBI HYIM SHAFNER

PHYLLIS AND JACK SHAPIRO

SHAYNA SHEINFELD

JACOB SIEGEL

ALLIE ALPEROVICH AND DR. JEREMY SIMON

BETH SNIDER

JUDITH AND DR. GERALD TELLER
In honor of Ruth Balinsky Friedman

SARA SUSSWEIN TESLER AND DAVID TESLER

JENNIFER AND RABBI ZACHARY TRUBOFF

SUSAN WEISBERG

DEBORAH WENGER

RABBI SETH WINBERG

SUSAN WOLMAN

DRS. ALI AND ARI YARES

NAOMI ZASLOW



"Our sister, may you become a multitude." (Genesis 24:60)

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