

ATHAVAS  
ACTIVIM  
UNIVERSITY

INSPIRE



5778

# ADMIRE

INVEST IN **TORAH**. INVEST IN **YOURSELF**.  
INVEST IN **AHAVAS ACHIM UNIVERSITY**.

Ahavas Achim University sponsorship is not something we **REQUIRE**, but by supporting our many adult education programs, you will be among the generous individuals we gratefully **ADMIRE**.

You **INSPIRE** us to continue providing the types of programs described in this catalog. Please consider the sponsorship levels described below and return the enclosed sponsorship card to the shul with your check made out to Ahavas Achim, or pay online through PayPal.

## **SAPPHIRE**

above **\$2000**

Includes reservations for a full table at the Friday night Musical Seudah with The Maccabeats on Shabbat Chanukah, December 15

## **EMPIRE**

**\$1000**

Includes reservations for 6 at the Friday night Musical Seudah with The Maccabeats on Shabbat Chanukah, December 15

## **SUREFIRE**

**\$613**

Includes reservations for 4 at the Friday night Musical Seudah with The Maccabeats on Shabbat Chanukah, December 15

## **LIVEWIRE**

**\$360**

Includes reservations for 2 at the Friday night Musical Seudah with The Maccabeats on Shabbat Chanukah, December 15

## **ESQUIRE**

**\$250**

Receive free admission to our opening night lecture and wine tasting (November 14, see p. 6)

## **SPITFIRE**

**\$100**

Receive free admission to our opening night lecture and wine tasting (November 14, see p. 6)



## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

The Gemara on Megillah 6b that perfectly captures how we must go about studying Torah:

ואמר רבי יצחק  
אם יאמר לך אדם  
יגעתי ולא מצאתי - אל תאמן  
לא יגעתי ומצאתי - אל תאמן  
יגעתי ומצאתי - תאמן.

Rabbi Yitzchak said, if one tells you

**"I have struggled and could not find [success in learning]," do not believe him.**

**"I have not struggled and I did find [success]," do not believe him.**

**"I have struggled and I have found [success]," believe him.**

We normally associate inspiration with passivity. We wait to "be inspired" by people or events instead of pursuing inspiration on our own. We ask ourselves when that "aha" moment is coming. But Rabbi Yitzchak is teaching us that inspiration is the product of rigorous work and intellectual toil. The Torah nowadays is revealed to us through human effort, not prophecy.

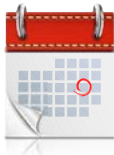
We encourage you to consider the many ways you can learn with us at Ahavas Achim University, and to push yourself to take on a shiur or lecture you have not previously considered. Please use this catalog of programs to whet your appetite for the year of study ahead, and **please become a sponsor of AAU 5778** to enable us to make these opportunities available to the community. Don't wait to be struck by an epiphany.

In other words, **PERSPIRE**.

**Rabbi Steven Miodownik**

## WEEKLY SHIURIM

### Monday-Thursday



after 9:30 pm  
Maariv  
**CHUG MISHNAYOT**

### Tuesday

8:30 am  
**TORAH GEMS**  
Rabbi Moshe  
Goldberger

9:30 am  
**MISHNAH KERITUT**  
Rabbi Yehoshua  
Weitzner  
Ahavas Achim  
Men's Retirees Kollel

8:45 pm  
**New!**  
**PRACTICAL  
HALACHA**  
Rabbi Yehoshua Lewis

### Wednesday

1:15 pm  
**SEFER SHOFTIM**  
Woman's Shiur with  
Rabbi Miodownik



### Thursday

8:30 am  
**GEMARA BRACHOT**  
Rabbi Eli Reisman  
Ahavas Achim  
Men's Retirees Kollel

9:00 pm  
**PARSHAT  
HASHAVUAH**  
Rabbi Yissocher Frand  
via Torah Conferencing  
Network

### Shabbat

after 7:00 am  
Shacharit  
**KITVEI HARAMBAN  
CHABURAH**

before Mincha  
**DAF YOMI**  
Judah Abraham

Shabbat after  
Mincha  
**LEARNING  
SEUDAH SHLISHIT**  
— 3 simultaneous  
sessions

### Saturday Night

**NAVI**  
Rabbi Yisroel Reisman  
via Torah Conferencing  
Network



# INQUIRE

**PRACTICAL HALACHA SERIES** with **Rabbi Yehoshua Lewis**  
**Tuesday nights, 8:45-9:30 pm** beginning November 7

**New!**

*This new learning opportunity is generously sponsored in memory of Joel Cohen, z"l and is free and open to the public.*



Ahavas Achim University proudly introduces a new weekly class in which we will journey through the world of halacha with an eye toward the practical laws that guide us on a daily or weekly basis. Topics to be covered will include:

**The Laws of Tefillah**  
**The Positive Commandments of Shabbat**  
**The Prohibitions of Shabbat**  
**The Kosher Kitchen**  
**and others...**

Rabbi Yehoshua Lewis is the Director of Mesorah NJ and a well-respected Torah personality in our community renowned for his warmth and scholarship.

## SPECIAL LECTURES

**RIVER RIDGE LECTURE** with Rabbi Miodownik  
**Friday Night, January 5**  
30 S. Adelaide Avenue, Community Room

**NORTH SIDE LECTURE** with Rabbi Miodownik  
**Shabbat Afternoon, June 23**  
9 Manor Court, Edison

**WOMEN'S SHABBAT AFTERNOON LECTURE SERIES**  
**March 17, April 28, May 26, June 16, July 14**  
Various Homes

# DESIRE

## The Wine of Torah: Learning Paired with Wines of the World Weeknight Lecture Series

*Seven evenings of regional wine tastings inspired  
by Jewish History and Law*

Admission: **\$10/lecture, \$50/series subscription**  
Lecture admission without wine tasting: Free

All programs begin with lecture at **8:00 pm** and  
conclude with wine tasting from **9:00 pm - 9:30 pm**  
facilitated by **Joshua Abrams**

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**Tuesday, November 14 — France**

**Professor Elisheva Baumgarten**, The Hebrew University  
*Sefer HaMa'asim: Tradition & Culture in Medieval Northern France*

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**Monday, November 27 — Spain**

**Rabbi Steven Miodownik**  
*The Golden Age of Spain at Your Shabbat Table*

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**Tuesday, December 26 — Australia/New Zealand**

**Rabbi Alex Maged**, AA Rabbinic Intern  
*The International Date Line in Halacha*

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**Monday, January 29 — Chile/Argentina**

**Rabbi Alex Maged**, AA Rabbinic Intern  
*The Southern Hemisphere in Halacha*

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**Monday, February 19 — Italy**

**AJ Berkovitz**  
*Azariah de Rossi and the 16th Century Defense of Torah U'Madda*

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**Monday, March 12 — Pacific Northwest**

**Rabbi Steven Miodownik**  
*Tehillim 104: The Jewish Environmentalist Manifesto?*

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**Monday, April 16 — Israel**



## Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence

# RABBI MENACHEM PENNER

November 10-11



**R**abbi Penner is an inspirational and dynamic speaker charged with producing the future rabbinic leaders of the American Jewish community. Join us for the following learning opportunities:

**Friday Night at 8:30 pm**

Lecture followed by Oneg Shabbat

**WHAT THE AVOT (AND THE YANKEES)  
CAN TEACH US ABOUT TEFILLAH**

*Friday Night program sponsored by Barry and Debbie Leskowitz; Steven and Carrie Leskowitz; Rhona and Michael Eserner in commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Leon Leskowitz z"l*

**Shabbat Morning** in the Main Sanctuary

Drasha before Mussaf

**FINDING MEANING IN SHABBAT MUSSAF**

**Shabbat Afternoon 4:45 pm**

at Seudah Shlishit

**DISABILITIES IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:  
ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY**

Rabbi Menachem Penner is the Max and Marion Grill Dean of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary at Yeshiva University and the Men's Undergraduate Torah Studies programs at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Penner received his semikha from RIETS in 1994 and his BA from Yeshiva College in 1991. The parent of a child with special needs, he speaks across the country on issues of children with disabilities.



## Shabbat Chanukah Experience featuring

# THE MACCABEATS

December 15-16

**T**he Maccabeats will lead Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv on Friday night, followed by a musical Seudah (by reservation only and for AAU sponsors) and Oneg Shabbat for the entire community. On Shabbat day, they will lead Shacharit and Mussaf and conclude the day with a musical Seudah Shlishit followed by a very Maccabeats Hadlakat Nerot and Havdalah. This will be a very special Shabbat Chanukah for the entire family.

Originally formed in 2007 as Yeshiva University's student vocal group, the Maccabeats have emerged as both Jewish music and a Capella phenomena, with a large fan base, more than 20 million views on YouTube, numerous TV appearances, and proven success with four albums. Since the release of "Candlelight," a Chanukah themed parody video which garnered international attention and coverage by the major news outlets, the Maccabeats have been approached and emailed time and time again with the same message: that their music has provided for the expression of an enthusiastic and ambitious Judaism that one isn't afraid to wear on his or her sleeve. They have played sold-out shows to thousands at JCCs, shuls, Chabads, Hillels, jazz clubs, festivals, conventions, and theaters across five continents and over thirty states and provinces. They have been invited to join reggae superstar Matisyahu and Jewish music superstar Yaakov Shwekey on stage, to Gracie Mansion by NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg, and to the White House by President Barack Obama. But on Chanukah 5778, they will finally make it to the pinnacle of fame with an extraordinary musical Shabbat experience at Ahavas Achim.



## Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence

### RACHEL FRIEDMAN

February 2-3

*Sponsored by Harry and Fran Glazer,  
as a Hakarat Hatov for Fran's promotion at NYIT*



**M**s. Friedman's Shabbat at Ahavas Achim University will be devoted to exploration of Tanach, with Friday night and Shabbat morning lectures. We hope you will join us for this special learning opportunity.

Rachel Friedman is the dean of Lamdeinu, a renowned adult education institute in Teaneck, and for many years the Associate Dean and Chair of Tanakh at Drisha Institute in New York City. Ms. Friedman is a noted author and lecturer in Tanach, liturgy and parshanut. She has served as a scholar-in-residence at shuls, schools and other venues throughout North America and beyond. She earned an MA in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School at Yeshiva University and a JD from Columbia University School of Law.

# ACQUIRE

## Shabbat Eretz Yisrael

### RABBI HOWARD JACHTER

April 20-21



**J**oin Ahavas Achim University for Shabbat Eretz Yisrael with Rabbi Jachter who will offer many shiurim related to the halachic complexities of life in Israel, especially the halachic and ethical quandaries faced by soldiers serving in the IDF.

Rabbi Howard Jachter is a popular and highly regarded teacher of Gemara, Tanach, and Halacha at the Torah Academy of Bergen County (TABC) and is the rabbi at the Sephardic Congregation of Teaneck. Rabbi Jachter serves as a Dayan on the Beth Din of Elizabeth and has acquired an international reputation of excellence in the area of Get administration. He has published dozens of articles in Torah journals both in America and Israel. His weekly columns on Halacha and Tanach are read by thousands worldwide in TABC's weekly Kol Torah publication ([www.koltorah.org](http://www.koltorah.org)), of which he is the faculty advisor.

Rabbi Jachter published four volumes entitled Gray Matter, focusing on contemporary halachic issues, and is currently preparing a fifth volume.

# OVERTURE

## Ahavas Achim Shavuot Experience

### RABBI MENACHEM LEIBTAG

May 18-21

*Sponsored by Barbara and Ken Strassman in memory of their beloved parents, Edmund and Elaine Kaiser and Hilda and Alfred "Buddy" Strassman לברכה זכרונם, in commemoration of Buddy's yahrtzeit occurring on סיון 1*



**J**oin Ahavas Achim University for a Shavuot Experience — a four-day extravaganza of learning. Enjoy numerous opportunities to learn from Rabbi Leibtag as he takes his complete command of Tanach and opens our eyes to the depth and significance of Pesukim, Yamim Tovim, and Halachot.

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, an internationally acclaimed Tanach scholar and pioneer of Jewish Education on the internet, is well known in the Jewish community for his essays on the parsha. His vibrant thematic-analytical approach blends the methods of modern academic scholarship with traditional Jewish approaches to the Biblical text. He is best known for his ability to teach students how to study rather than simply read Biblical passages.

In Israel, Rabbi Leibtag teaches at Yeshivat Har Etzion, Yeshivat Shaalavim, Midreshet Lindenbaum, and at Yeshiva University's Gruss Center. He also routinely lectures around the globe, primarily as a Scholar in Residence in communities in North America; and is a regular guest lecturer for students at universities such as Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, NYU, Penn, and Brandeis.

THE GOLDSTEIN  
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and maintain reverence  
for Jewish tradition.*

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