



# About Our Students 2011-2012

**YESHIVAT** | **ישיבת**  
**CHOVEVEI** | **חובבי**  
**TORAH** | **תורה**

*Setting the standard  
in rabbinic education*



### > **David Bookbinder**

**Hometown:** Chatsworth, CA

**Education:** BA, Religious Studies, UC Santa Barbara; Pardes Institute

**Interested in** world religions, veganism, furthering equality in ritual through the *halakhic* system, global hunger, poverty, and trying to make the world a better place

**Enjoys** technology, building computers, reading, and theatre

**Rabbinic Aspirations:** Working for a Hillel to help college students realize the potential they have to change this world for the better

### > **Aaron Braun**

**Hometown:** Champaign, IL

**Education:** BA, Religious Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign;  
Yeshivat Bat Ayin

**Director, Jewish Youth Encounter Program** at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, NY

**Enjoys** snowboarding, cooking, and carpentry projects

**Dreams of** helping to cultivate a family-like community, which is deeply rooted in Torah and fully active in society

### > **Joel Dinin**

**Hometown:** West Hills, CA

**Education:** BA, Religious Studies/Hebrew and Yiddish Languages, Indiana University; Jewish Studies, University of Prague; Pardes Institute

**Enjoys** linguistics, comparative religion, singing, drama and collecting books

**Recipient of The National Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Teaching**

**Dreams of** opening a post high school yeshiva in Los Angeles

### > **David Fried**

**Hometown:** Plainview, NY

**Education:** Yeshivat Har Etzion; BA, Mathematics and Psychology, Brandeis University; MS, Applied Mathematics, Stony Brook University

**Enjoys** Jewish Philosophy, arguing about politics and exploring the outdoors

**Rabbinic Intern,** Congregation Shaarei Tefillah, Newton, MA

**Wants to show** what it means to live a life that is intellectually rigorous, passionate in its commitment to Torah and fully engaged with the modern world

**Looks forward to** teaching Torah to college students

### > **Koby Geller**

**Hometown:** Teaneck, NJ

**Education:** BA, Political Science/Jewish Studies, University of Maryland; Pardes Institute

**Recreational interests** include reading legal thrillers, politics, Israel advocacy, professional sports, board games, and singing zmirot

**Rabbinic Aspirations:** Campus or synagogue work

> **Gabriel Greenberg**

**Hometown:** Newton, MA

**Education:** Yeshivat Hamivtar; Pardes Institute; BA, History, Wesleyan University

**Rabbinic Intern** at the New School in Manhattan

**Director**, Kayam Farm Summer Kollel

**Talmud instructor**, Fifth Avenue Synagogue

**Looks** to help people live meaningful Jewish lives

> **Mordechai Harris**

**Hometown:** Schenectady, NY

**Education:** Yeshivat Bat Ayin; BA, Political Science and Legal Studies, University of Rochester

**Youth Rabbi and Rabbinic Intern** at the Hebrew Institute of White Plains, NY

**Enjoys** coaching high school wrestling, guitar and spending time with his wife and baby girl

**Looks forward to** leading a unified community focused on personal growth and the ability to foster a unique relationship with Hashem

> **Ari Hart**

**Hometown:** Evanston, IL

**Education:** Yeshivat Hakotel; Pardes Institute Kollel; BA, Music Theory and Composition, Grinnell College

**Co-Director of Uri L'Tzedek:** The Orthodox Social Justice Organization

**Rabbinic Intern**, Yale University Hillel

**Enjoys** playing music, running and volunteer work

**Wants to be a Rabbi** that helps to infuse the personal and communal life of his congregants with kedusha, tzedek and chesed

> **Bradley Hercman**

**Hometown:** Great Neck, NY

**Education:** Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalyim; BA, Psychology/Jewish History and Civilization, New York University; PsyD Candidate School-Child-Clinical Combined Program, Yeshiva University

**Rabbinic Intern**, NYU Hillel

**Enjoys** snowboarding, board games, and Israel-related activities

**Rabbinic Aspirations:** Campus or synagogue work

> **William Keller**

**Hometown:** Palo Alto, CA

**Education:** BA, Psychology/Jewish Studies, University of Oregon, Pardes Institute

**Enjoys** traveling and community service

**Rabbinic Aspirations:** Informal and formal Jewish youth education

### > **Samuel Klein**

**Hometown:** London, England

**Education:** Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh; Yeshivat Darche Noam; BA, MA, Theology, University of Cambridge; MA, History of Art, University College London; Post-graduate Certificate, Psychotherapy & Counseling Psychology, Regent's College; Post-graduate Certificate, Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Birkbeck College

**Recreational interests** include contemporary art, dance, theatre and cooking

**Hopes to discover** how collaborations in visual culture and the performing arts might contribute to a meaningful engagement with the Jewish tradition

### > **Noah Leavitt**

**Hometown:** New York, NY

**Education:** Yeshivat Hamivtar; Yeshivat Darche Noam; BA, History, Columbia University/Jewish Theological Seminary; MA, Jewish Philosophy, Yeshiva University

**Rabbinic Intern,** The Jewish Center, NY; Bais Abe Congregation, St. Louis, MO

**Enjoys** discussing politics, learning about history and playing ice hockey

**Looks forward** to serving a community on the East Coast

### > **Jonathan Leener**

**Hometown:** Chevy Chase, MD

**Education:** BA, Communications/Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Pardes Institute

**Enjoys** watching movies, listening to music, and studying Torah

**Dreams of** building a global Jewish camp in Israel

### > **Aaron Lerner**

**Hometown:** Houston, TX

**Education:** BA, Business, University of South Carolina; Yeshivat Bat Ayin; Pardes Institute

**Wexner Graduate Fellow**

**Recreational interests** include scuba diving, running and piano

**Volunteers** his time as a Tav HaYosher Compliance Officer

**Rabbinic Aspirations:** Campus or Community Day School

### > **Simon Livson**

**Hometown:** Kuopio Province, Finland

**Education:** Yeshivat Hamivtar; BA, Business Administration, Helsinki Business Polytech

**Rabbinic Intern,** Beth David Synagogue, West Hartford, CT

**Fluent in Finnish, Swedish, Hebrew and English**

**Training to become the Chief Rabbi of Finland**

> **Raif Melhado**

**Hometown:** Urbana, IL

**Education:** BA, History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Yeshivat HaKibbutz Hadati (Ein Tzurim); Pardes Institute

**Recreational interests** include Bibliophilia, learning about Sephardic history and minhagim, and antique home restoration

**Dreams of** helping to foster an intellectually vibrant, compassionate and inclusive Orthodox Judaism on the model of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals

> **Daniel Millner**

**Hometown:** Glencoe, IL

**Education:** BA, Jewish Studies/Religious Studies, University of Indiana; Yeshivat Hamivtar

**Rabbinic Intern**, Congregation Brothers of Joseph, Norwich CT

**Enjoys** playing bluegrass and folk music, and researching interfaith matters

**Dreams of** developing a music therapy program for Jewish patients

**Plans to become** a chaplain

> **Avram Mlotek**

**Hometown:** Teaneck, NJ

**Education:** BA, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies/Creative Writing, Brandeis University; Yeshivat Hadar

**Teacher** Workmen's Circle of Westchester, NY

**Enjoys** singing niggunim and Yiddish folk songs, helping create meaningful tefillah experiences and spending time with grandparents and family

**Volunteers** alongside his wife visiting the elderly

> **Daniel Passow**

**Hometown:** Bala Cynwyd, PA

**Education:** BS, Engineering, The Cooper Union; Yeshivat Maale Gilboa

**Rabbinic Intern**, Columbia/Barnard Hillel

**Volunteers as Director of Tav HaYosher**

**Enjoys** juggling, bike riding and tutoring in Math and Science

**Hopes** to serve a diverse community in the U.S. or Israel, dedicated to living life with intention and meaning

> **Aaron Potek**

**Hometown:** St. Louis Park, MN

**Education:** BS, Industrial and Operations Engineering, University of Michigan; Pardes Institute; Yeshivat Har Etzion

**Rabbinic Intern**, Congregation Beth Israel, New Orleans, LA

**Enjoys** tennis, comedy and making cholent

**Volunteers** his time coordinating Israeli-Palestinian dialogue

**Hopes to serve** a diverse Jewish community on a University campus

> **Haggai Resnikoff**

**Hometown:** Berkeley, CA

**Education:** BA, History, University of California at Berkeley; HaKibbutz Hadati (Ein Tzurim), Pardes Institute

**Intellectual interests include** Philology, Redaction of Talmud and Comparative religion

**Dreams of** enriching the orthodox world's ability to learn Torah with a critical but loving eye

> **Benjamin Ricciardi**

**Hometown:** Henderson, NV

**Education:** BA, Philosophy, Jewish Studies, Arizona State University; The Conservative Yeshiva

**Recreational Interests:** Board games, fantasy and science fiction, computers

**Rabbinic Aspirations:** Campus work, teaching, combining rabbinics with philosophy

> **Andrew Scheer**

**Hometown:** Woodmere, NY

**Education:** Yeshivat Sha'arei Mevaseret Zion; BA, Jewish History and Civilization, New York University

**Recreational interests** include bicycling, baseball and public radio

**Volunteers** with Caring Community Meals on Wheels

**Plans to become** an army chaplain

> **Brachyahu Schonthal**

**Hometown:** London, England

**Education:** Chabad schools; Sorbonne Universites

**Hobbies:** reading, cycling and programming

**Looks forward to** invigorating a community in France

> **Daniel Shibley**

**Hometown:** Takoma Park, MD

**Education:** BA, Sociology/Jewish Studies, Clark University; Yeshivat Hadar; Pardes Institute

**Enjoys** cooking and wine, politics, team sports, documentaries, Israel

**Dreams of** building bridges from Israel to the United States; strengthening the ties between Jews, their Judaism, and their land

> **Aaron Shub**

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA

**Education:** BA, Theater Arts, University of California Santa Cruz; MA in Jewish Education, University of Judaism

**Chaplain Intern**, Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY

**Enjoys** martial arts, languages, and cooking

**Dreams of** starting an interdenominational lay led Yeshiva in Northern California

> **Daniel Silverstein**

**Hometown:** London, England

**Education:** BA, Social/Political Sciences, Pembroke College - University of Cambridge;

MA, International Relations, University of Warwick; HaKibbutz Hadati, Yeshivat Shvilei HaTorah

**Hobbies:** Singing, rapping, writing and performing poetry, yoga, tai chi, meditation, hiking, Muslim-Jewish relations

**Dreams of** helping the Jewish People continue to engage with and evolve our beautiful tradition so we can give the world our much-needed gifts

> **Michael Stein**

**Hometown:** Englewood, NJ

**Education:** Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh; BA, American History, New York University, Candidate, MA, American Studies, Columbia University

**Enjoys** music, film and sports

**Envisions** a heterogeneous, socially conscious, open-minded and intellectually honest Jewish community that is strongly committed to *halakha* and to making a positive impact on the amazing world in which we live

> **Joshua Strosberg**

**Hometown:** Schenectady, NY

**Education:** BA, Religion, University of Rochester; Yeshivat Darche Noam; Sh'or Yoshuv Institute

**Rabbinic Intern,** The Atria Senior Living, Riverdale, NY

**Enjoys** jazz piano, film and science fiction

**Looks forward** to leading a community where all members can find their unique voices and participate in dialogue

> **Ari Weber**

**Hometown:** Milwaukee, WI

**Education:** BA, Social Welfare/Hebrew, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Machon Meir, Ner Yisrael

**Recreational Interests:** Sports, hiking, card collecting

**Volunteers with** Youth Futures for youth at risk, The Jewish Agency - Tiveria; Livnot U'Lihibanot

**Plans to become** an army chaplain