

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 3, 2014 | Section 2

News, Events, and More

NEWS

Rabbi Ysoscher Katz Named Director of Lindenbaum Center for Halakhic Studies



YCT is pleased to announce that Rabbi Ysoscher Katz has been named Director of the newly formed Lindenbaum Center for Halakhic Studies.

Under Rabbi Katz's stewardship, the Center, generously funded by Belda and Marcel Lindenbaum, will enrich Modern Orthodoxy's religious and spiritual discourse, promoting advanced Torah scholarship by providing concrete *halakhic* resources to Orthodox Jews throughout the world.

Rabbi Katz received *semikha* in 1986 from Rabbi Yechezkel Roth, *dayan* of UTA Satmer. He studied in Brisk and in Yeshivat Beit Yosef, Navaradok, for over ten years. A graduate of the HaSha'ar program for Jewish educators, Rabbi Katz has taught at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School, SAR High School, and is currently the Educational Director of Judaic Studies at Luria Academy of Brooklyn.

Rabbi Katz will continue to serve as Chair of the Talmud Department at YCT.

12th Annual Yemei Iyun a Rousing Success

The 12th Annual YCT Yemei Iyun on Bible and Jewish Thought has come to a successful close, and we thank all of those who attended for their camaraderie, their good cheer, and the shared learning. This year's event, sponsored by Tamar and Eric Goldstein, was held at the

Manhattan Day School (MDS) on the Upper West Side on June 29 and 30. Aably organized by Rabbi Nati Helfgot, Chair, Departments of Bible and Jewish Thought and Director of Continuing Jewish Education, and Sara Levee, Public Relations and Events Assistant, many of the sessions drew over-capacity crowds. Speakers included Rabbi Hayyim Angel, Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom, Dr. Steven Fine, Rabbi David Fohrman, Rabbi Jeffrey Fox, Rachel Friedman, Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot, Rabbi Jonathan Kelsen, Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, Dr. Michelle Levine, Rabbi Dov Linzer, Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Rabbi Elchanan Samet, Dr. David Shatz, Rabbi Avi Weiss, Dr. Yael Ziegler.

You can find audio from past Yemei Iyuns on our website by clicking [here](#).



Rabbi Ari Leubitz (YCT '06) and OHDS Awarded Jewish Education Innovation Challenge Grant

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Ari Leubitz (YCT '06) and the Oakland Hebrew Day School (OHDS) for being awarded the 2014 Jewish Education Innovation Challenge (JEIC). As one of two winners announced at the organization's 2014 Innovators Retreat, held May 21-22 in Bal Harbour, Florida, OHDS will receive a \$50,000 grant to establish the Workshop Based



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YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH RABBINICAL SCHOOL

Beit Midrash (WBBM).

According to OHDS, the WBBM is a learning environment and approach in which students, guided by teacher facilitators, have the opportunity to take ownership of their Jewish learning through self-directed study and individualized learning portfolios. The approach of the WBBM follows the pedagogy and practice of paired learning, *chevruta*, employed in the traditional study of Jewish texts. The aim is to cultivate intellectual and relational skills in students, deepening their content knowledge and promoting stronger connection between the student and Judaism.

To learn more about the JEIC and the 2014 Innovators Retreat, click [here](#). You can also watch Rabbi Leubitz's presentation as a grant finalist at the retreat [here](#).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Aryeh A.
Leifert

Home Town:

Teaneck,
New Jersey

**Graduating
Class:** 2006



Position: Teacher in a “school on wheels”

About Aryeh:

“... The land that we traversed and scouted is an exceedingly good land” – Bamidbar 14:7

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams and springs and fountains issuing from plain and hill... a land... where you will lack nothing...” – Devarim 8:7, 9

Born into a family of Jewish educators, Rabbi Aryeh A. Leifert has been involved in transmitting and teaching Jewish stories and values since his youth. It was only natural that he become a rabbi. After receiving

his *semikha* from YCT in 2006, Rabbi Aryeh headed down to San Antonio, Texas, where he served for three years as Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Rodfei Sholom, and as Director of Judaic Studies at the Eleanor Kolitz Academy, San Antonio's community school.

Rabbi Aryeh's parents also inculcated in him a love of Zionism, *Medinat Yisrael*, and *Eretz Yisrael*, and in 2009, the Leifert family made *aliyah*, moving to Mazkeret Batya. Since then, Rabbi Aryeh has served as a licensed Israel tour guide, operating WalkingIsrael (www.WalkingIsrael.com). The position affords him the opportunity to combine his loves of teaching, travel, and the Land of Israel as he introduces families, school groups, synagogue communities, and Birthright students to the country through what he calls, “my school on wheels.” He has also developed Virtual Israel Touring, where students around the world can, via web-conferencing, “virtually visit” sites around Israel related to their studies of *Tanakh* or modern Israel.

Rabbi Aryeh and his wife Michal are thrilled to be raising their five children – Yonah, 9; Ahuva, 7; Maayan, 5; Aderet, 2; and Reuven, 2 months – in the homeland of the Jewish people.

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