
NEWS

Rabbi Marc Gitler Launches Charity

In the spirit of the Talmudic idea of giving *tzedakah* to feed the hungry at the end of a fast, Rabbi Marc Gitler (YCT '05) founded [Fast for Feast](#). Fast for Feast gives money to organizations in Israel and the United States who feed those in need. Leket Israel, Tomchei Shabbos of Bergen County, and the Youth Food Pantry and Chagim programs of the Jewish Family and Children's Services of Arizona are some of the organizations that benefit from the work of Fast for Feast.



COMING EVENTS

Righteous Rebel on Television

When: Sunday, July 19, 11:00 PM

Where: Channel 13

[Righteous Rebel: Rabbi Avi Weiss](#), a film by Phil Schneider, will air on Channel 13, New York City's PBS station, this coming Sunday. The film, a chronicle of Rabbi Weiss' life and his "crusading activism," premiered last November to an audience of more than 650 people in a screening that was reviewed by [the Algemeiner](#). The film's Israel premiere took place in December at the Begin Center in Jerusalem. It is currently being submitted to film festivals.

IN THE PRESS

Times of Israel | July 13 | [Let us stop saying Kaddish for living Jews](#)

In response to Rabbi Harry Maryles recent piece, "[Saying Kaddish for Open Orthodoxy](#)", Rabbi Ben Greenberg (YCT '09) calls for unity among observant Jews, and for commentary that positively states the values of the author rather than attacking the values or ideas of others.

Manhattan College News | June 30 | [Holocaust Survivor Fellowship Casts Light on Religious Intolerance in Europe](#)

Manhattan College reports on the YHS Fellowship, a project led by Manhattan College's Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith Education Center. Under the program, YCT and Manhattan College students meet with Holocaust survivors who are part of Selfhelp Community Services to discuss survivors' stories, raising awareness of anti-Semitism in Europe, past and present.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Amir Zinkow

Home Town: Bexley, Ohio

Graduating Class: 2017

Special Interests: Pluralism, Gemara, the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies

About Amir: Though born in San Mateo, California, Amir is a Midwesterner at heart, having lived in both St. Paul, Minnesota, and Columbus, Ohio. He is an alumnus of Ohio State University, where he earned a BA in Cultural Anthropology. After graduating, Amir did what any reasonable, lost young Jew does: he went to Israel for a year. As a volunteer for Project OTZMA, he found real meaning in the opportunities to bring program participants together in Jewish spaces. Amir's career path was soon decided when he realized that this is what rabbis do on a daily basis.

Not wanting to leave Israel, Amir attended the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. He fell in love with traditional Torah learning, and he immersed himself in *halakha*, Gemara, and Tanakh, experiencing Judaism in exciting new ways. Having discovered this love, Amir was awarded an Irving Weinstein Fellowship, allowing him to continue his studies at Pardes for a second year. Though he returned to the United States to attend YCT, Amir continues to strengthen his ties and his dedication to the State of Israel as an AIPAC Leffell Fellow.

Currently preparing to enter his third year at YCT, Amir is excited to continue learning in "the happiest *yeshiva* on Earth." He is also working to develop his leadership skills as a Wexner Fellow and is thrilled about the network he is building for the future, knowing that these will help him bring Torah to Jews of all stripes. Amir believes that all Jews have a place for Torah in their lives, and that there is a place in Torah for all Jews.